

Help from above... the Karen Holland story IEF to hold annual fundraising dinner and auction

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By Gwen Adams of the Mountain Times

What must it be like to live on top of a mountain and above the trees? Karen Holland can answer that question. She has spent 35 summers working and living on fire towers in Oregon and New Mexico. The Sacramento tower's elevation is 9,590 ft and measures 13'x13' at the top. Not exactly your average home.

She works and lives in this tower six days a week with Thursdays off to do all her shopping, catch up on errands, meet and have dinner with her husband. He is a retired school teacher, who now works in the James Canyon Fire Tower. It's a family affair!

Her career began quite by accident, when one of the forestry supervisors accepted her joking about working in fire towers and offered her the job for the summer. Since this provided an unexpected income, she accepted, and 35 years later finds herself in the beautiful Sacramento Mountains watching over the Southeastern Lincoln National Forest. By the way, she still has the dining room table she bought with her first pay check.

During her years living in fire towers in Oregon and New Mexico, she raised four children who recently shared with her their appreciation for the life experiences her profession afforded them. Her stories about their exploits with wild animals, electrical storms, and hunters came to an end with her playing the omniscient and singing the "Smokey Bear" song. What a treat!

Her most terrifying moments were spent awaiting word from her husband who was trapped while fighting a 22,000 acre fire. He survived without a scratch. Her husband later began a new career on top of a mountain and above the trees. Humm, that sounds familiar!

Fond memories include the first day in her first fire tower standing for hours on boards held up by glass bottles as insulation from lightning storms, being told that the only water was DOWN by the spring, and finding the instruction manual on "How to be a Lookout" in the bottom drawer of the tower! What a start! But she adds, "what a

life!" Karen shared the secret of her success in five words - "you have to like yourself." She definitely is a success and a delightful person who has saved many acres of our forests from devastating fire. Her dedication in spite of freezing cold, sickness, and years without electricity has benefited thousands of people who never knew she was watching over them. The solitude provides plenty of time for reading, carving, painting, puzzles, music, animal watching, and hosting visitors from around the world. The most distant traveled from Russia. Hunters seek her out for information about wildlife movement, most times with no concern for their physical appearance or fragrance. After all, hunters aren't usually fresh out of the shower, are they?

Her visitors also include those with four legs. Held hostage by a stair climbing porcupine and a rather large rat in the stove pipe, she recounted the hours spent trying to extricate these uninvited guests from her tower home.

Karen has spent 22 years working the first half of each summer on the Sacramento Fire Tower and the second half on the Madison Butte fire tower in her home state of Oregon. Over the last nine years, Karen has worked exclusively in the Sacramento tower, leaving in July or August, depending on the monsoons. If you get an opportunity to visit with Karen before she leaves, ask her about the blue grouse, how she recovered from triple by-pass surgery in the 67 1/2 foot high tower, her wood wizards, the tattered flags that hang from the ceiling, and by all means... ask her to sing the "Smokey Bear" song for you.

At night the light from the tower can be seen for miles. The next time you look up and see that light remember Karen's on watch. Thank you, Karen, for your dedication, concern for the safety of those who live under your watchful eyes, and your delightful spirit which welcomes everyone to your mountain top home.

Sacramento Fire Tower Facts:
Air conditioning consists of 1 open door and 1 open window.
Recently it got to minus 2 degrees outside, that equals 32 degrees inside with 1/2" ice on the inside windows... and with all available heat

sources ON.
Lightening strikes with a loud boom and causes electrical pluses to dance on the steel posts and I-beams, and at night the tower turns blue.

Stools are fitted with glass insulators for feet because of the lightning storms.
From the Sacramento Tower a person can see El Paso lights, Dell City fireworks, Pt. Bliss, White Sands, newborn fawns and endless trees.
There is good reception from 14 TV stations using only a "built-in" antenna.
The tower was surrounded by the Danley Fire in 1962. The tower was evacuated during the Scott Able Fire... Karen had to be ordered out!

Grant wins Eddi Skow Net Championship

The Willow Creek Ladies Club Champion and Eddi Skow Net Championship golf tournament was held on Tuesday, Sept. 6 and Wednesday, Sept. 7. Originally 14 Willow Creek Country Club ladies were signed up to participate in the 36-hole tournament.

Pat Edmundson won WCCC Ladies Club Champion and Virginia Grant won the Eddi Skow Net Championship for 2005. Additional recognition was given to second low gross, Loa Henderson; second low net, Sandi Hanna; third low gross, Eva Kilkenny; and third low net, Janice Paustian.

Additional prizes were given for individual events on Tuesday. Henderson took least putts; Paustian and Kilkenny tied for mystery score; Hanna took long drive; and Lynnea Sargent took longest putt. Day prizes for Wednesday included a tie between Grant and Kilkenny for least putts; Paustian took the mystery score; and Grant also took long drive and longest putt.

Additional recognition was given to Closest to Pin (KP) on holes #2 and #11 and #4 and #13, with 10 players being recognized. Five chip-ins were made by the players present with Lorrene Montgomery making a 63-yard chip-in on hole #9. The only birdie made during the two days of play was made by Grant.

Luvilla Sonstegard took the door prize for the event and Jackie Allstott won the money pot drawing.

Refreshments, provided by the various ladies present, were served on both days.

IEF to hold annual fundraising dinner and auction

The Ione Education Foundation will be holding their annual meeting followed by a social hour and dinner on the evening of Saturday, Sept. 24 in Ione. The annual meeting will be held at the Ione American Legion Hall at 5:30 p.m., followed by a 6 p.m. social hour and dinner at 7 p.m. The foundation will be raffling a shotgun and spa package, as well as auctioning Ione School memorabilia, oak school chairs, tables, desks, a piano and other items from the old Ione School building plus other items such as a UO package, a wine tasting package, grain feed beef, a 1984 Chevy one-ton dually flatbed pickup and many more items.

The dinner menu consists of prime rib, crab, shrimp, baked potato, bread, salad and dessert. The meal includes two beverages, with choice of beer, wine or soft drinks. Dinner ticket prices are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children ages 12 to 7. Children six and under are free. Ticket sales will be limited to 250 adults and may be purchased in advance at the Bank of Eastern Oregon in Ione. Tickets will

be sold at the door if available.

For all who attended this event last year, there will be the same great food. The live auction will be limited to around one hour. Plans are being made to showcase the foundation's accomplishments with a slide show and musical entertainment. Last year's dinner and auction was a huge success, allowing the foundation to fund many Ione Community School programs.

The Ione Education Foundation has approved a Tier One grant worth \$30,000 to Ione School District for the 2005-06 school year. The grant will be used to fund a music teacher. With your continued support, the foundation plans to provide a similar grant to the Ione Community School each year.

In addition to the Tier One grant, the Ione Education Foundation has made all dues collected available to the school in the form of Tier Two grants. For the current school year through December 2005, grants totaling \$12,600 are available. These grants are available for teacher/student learning projects. Over the

past year, Tier Two grants have been used to fund a robotics program, to purchase 20 graphing calculators for advanced math classes and to purchase software and materials for the STAR reading program, which provides computerized reading assessments for elementary and middle school students. Tier Two grants also helped to fund the Artist in Residence program and funds are still available for additional needs this fall.

The Ione Education Foundation annual dinner and auction is the primary income source for the Tier One grant that helps to fund the music program. If you had a chance to attend the winter or spring music performances, you will want to come and participate in funding a truly wonderful program.

The Foundation appreciates the continuing support of Wheatland Insurance, MCGG Bank of Eastern Oregon and ICABO, as dinner sponsors.

The Board of Directors of the Ione Education Foundation hopes you can join them on Sept. 24 for a wonderful meal and a fun auction in support of a worthy cause.

Morrow County and Heppner Schools shine on AYP

By Wade A. Smith, Morrow County School District Assistant Superintendent

Morrow County School District administration and staff recently learned that all qualifying schools met adequate yearly progress (AYP) for the 2004-2005 school year. AC Houghton Elementary School, Irrigon Elementary, Sam Boardman Elementary, Windy River Elementary, Heppner Elementary and Heppner Jr/Sr High School all met the rigorous Federal AYP standards set for Oregon schools. Riverside Jr/Sr High School and the newly formed Irrigon Jr/Sr High School were both exempt from this year's AYP designations due to excessive population changes from the transfer of students out of Riverside and into Irrigon. Both schools will receive AYP ratings next year.

The No Child Left Behind Act requires that states provide their constituents with an "...annual determination of whether [their] schools, districts and state have made adequate yearly progress toward the goal of having all students meet rigorous state academic standards by the 2013-2014 school year. Each year, the performance of all students in the school and district, as well as subgroups of students, is

measured against annual performance targets. In a school, if all groups meet the statewide academic achievement targets in English/Language Arts and mathematics and the school meets the targets for either attendance in elementary and middle schools or graduation rates for schools with grade 12, the school is designated as 'Meeting AYP.'

As shared with the public during the Sept. 12 school board meeting, Morrow County School District administration, staff and students have a lot to be proud of. Elementary school scores were extremely strong. As detailed during the school board meeting, 98 percent of all eligible students were tested district-wide in language arts and math, scoring 17 percent and 32 percent respectively above state standards, with impressive attendance rates approaching 95 percent. Middle school performance district-wide, although not as strong as the elementary scores, narrowly missed state expectations in language arts but exceeded the state benchmark in mathematics for all students. District-wide high school results, which included student scores from Riverside and Irrigon, revealed a 19 percent growth in language arts, surpassing the state benchmark. However, students narrowly

missed high school expectations for mathematics. Superintendent Mark Burrows and the Board of Directors have set rigorous academic goals for the 2005-06 school year to improve middle and high school performance in all core content areas.

Locally, Heppner Elementary and Heppner Jr/Sr High School individual AYP results were extremely promising as both schools far-surpassed AYP expectations. Language arts scores at Heppner Elementary were 32 percent above state standards and 44 percent above state standards in mathematics with a remarkable student passing rate of 93.7 percent. A strong attendance incentive program paid off with an average attendance rate of 94.5 percent, nearly 1 percent above the 2003-04 rate. Heppner Jr/Sr High School, one of only a handful of high schools in the surrounding area to meet AYP, performed extremely well. Student scores were well above the state standards by 14.4 percent in language arts and 21.2 percent in mathematics. Language arts scores revealed a 16 percent improvement over 2003-04 scores and a remarkable 27 percent improvement in mathematics over the previous year.



By DAVID SYKES
REALTOR

DECORATOR AGREEMENT

You have just signed an agreement to purchase a home. You don't want to move in before settlement, but you would like to paint and fix up prior to the closing. If the property is empty, why not?

In this situation, sellers are likely to want a pre-settlement decorator agreement, a contract which allows the buyer to paint and repair the property, but not occupy it. Such agreements routinely call for the buyer to pay utilities and sometimes a weekly fee.

Decorator agreements are often easy to obtain before a closing because they routinely have a "got ya" clause. Such forms usually provide that in exchange for early access, not only will buyers pay a fee and underwrite utility costs, but that purchasers also accept the property in "as-in" condition. In effect, such wording may mean that in exchange for early access to the property, the buyer's right to demand repairs and warranty work can be lost or limited.

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Hanna from Norway, 16 yrs.
Likes skiing, swimming, dancing and art. Hanna hopes to join a drama club while in the USA.




Klaus from Germany, 17 yrs.
Loves camping and playing soccer. Klaus' dream has been to spend a school year in the USA.

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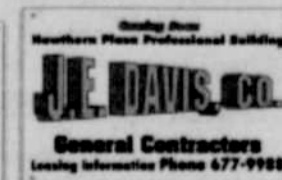
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ASSE International Student Exchange Program is a public benefit, non-profit organization.

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