

# Mist-Birkenfeld Fire District reception says "Thanks" to FEMA

Bureaucrats get a lot of brickbats and complaints, but Saturday, Jan. 15, was a day for residents of the Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire Protection District to express gratitude to representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Administration and the State Office of Emergency Management.

The floods of 1996 caused considerable damage to the district's main fire station on Banzer Road. Though they fixed it up as much as possible, it was obvious that they needed

a new location for the main station—not an easy task for a district with a large geographic area and a small population.

Fire Chief Dave Crawford started on the job using every contact he could find. Among the people and organizations who provided major help to the district were FEMA and OEM. Some of the help was in financing; some was in contacts and organization. It was all important; it was all needed.

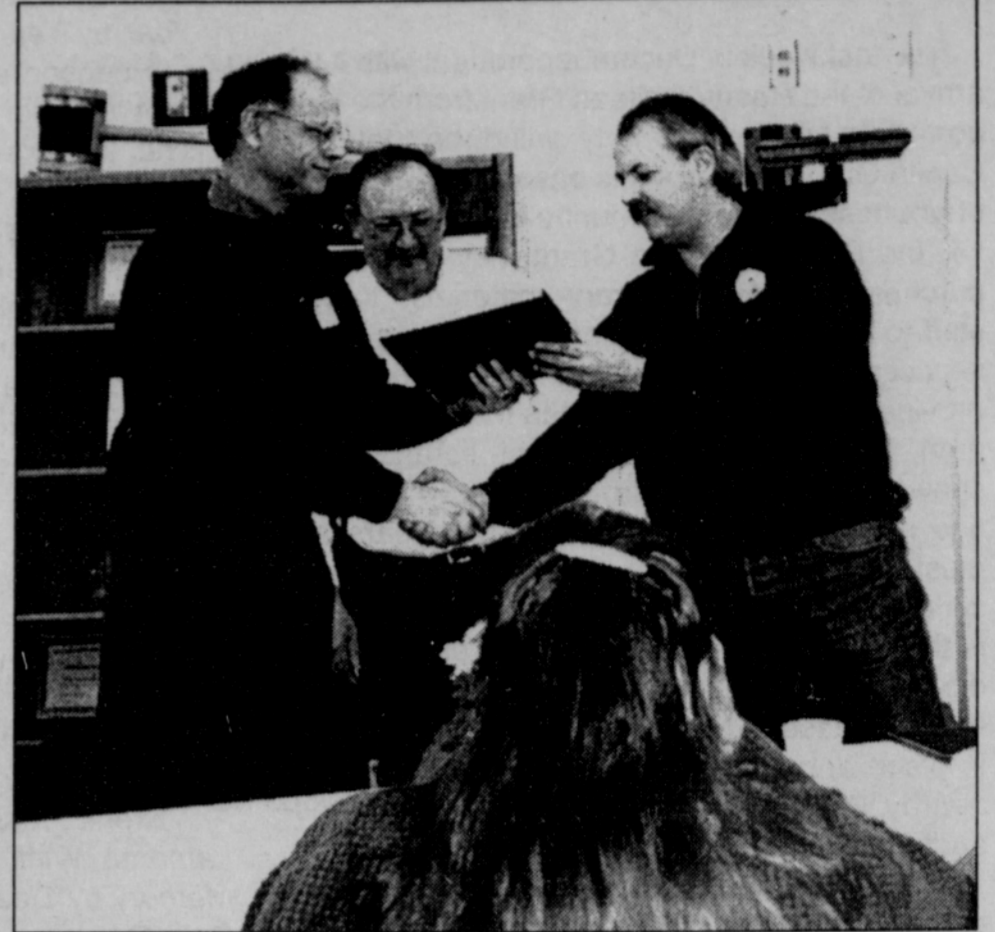
Following a tour of the new facility, Crawford and Fire District Chairman Randy Hansen

presented FEMA and OEM with Certificates of Appreciation.

"These aren't much," the chief said, "but they are presented with heartfelt gratitude for all of your help. We couldn't have done it without you."

Also singled out for thanks were Columbia County Commissioner Tony Hyde and Ann Richardson, who was on the staff of former Congresswoman Elisabeth Furse and now works for Congressman David Wu.

It was a day of smiles, good feelings and gratitude. Not a complaint was heard.



David L. de Courcy, FEMA Regional Director, accepts a certificate of appreciation from Randy Hansen, chairman of the Mist-Birkenfeld Board of Directors, as Fire Chief Dave Crawford looks on.



Fire Chief Dave Crawford, second from right in white shirt, discusses the process that determined how the new fire station was designed. The group in the equipment bay includes Columbia County Commissioner Tony Hyde, representatives from Congressman David Wu's office, the state Office of Emergency Management and FEMA.

## Kids will join Chamber Singers

The Grove Room at the Forest Grove School District Office, 1278 Main Street in Forest Grove, will be transformed on Thursday, Jan. 20 at 7:00 pm, when 50 students from Harvey Clarke Elementary School join forces with members of the Pacific University Chamber Singers for a joint performance. The second and third graders in Barbara Barker and Ruth Anne McCullough's classes have been working since November with volunteers Lisa Godsil and

Kellie Binney of the Chamber Singers to learn two songs to perform.

This unique performance includes the students traveling in a time warp to return as famous people over the years, including Martin Luther King Jr. Each student will share what each person did for mankind before the group breaks into the songs "We Shall Overcome" and "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing."

For more information, call Lisa Godsil at 503-359-4962.

## 47J School Board hears audit, extends two contracts

The annual audit report was presented to the Vernonia School District Board of Directors at their Jan. 13 meeting. The report, by Pauly, Rogers and Co., P.C., of Tigard, indicated no financial problems other than those already recognized, which have been addressed. The report did include some recommendations for improved record keeping in certain areas. The board accepted the auditor's report.

An overnight trip to OMSI for sixth graders was approved.

Matt Thorne was hired as an instructional assistant in the Youth Corps program.

Malin Wilson was hired to replace Cristin Caubin in junior

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