

Nearing completion, Tri-City fire station blends history and utility

Tri-City Rural Fire District Chief John Schlegel sees light at the end of the tunnel for the completion of the new 16,000



Photo by Judy Hill

Fire Chief John Schlegel directs attention to the entryway roofline of the new Tri-City Fire Station, which echoes the architecture of the scout cabin on the adjacent lot.

square foot fire station in Banks, expected to be occupied by the end of March this year. A volunteer in the district from 1970-1992, and salaried as fire chief to the present, Schlegel has had to function out of cramped and makeshift quarters over the years.

The old fire station, which was torn down in April 1999, had been a garage and machinery shop at the turn of the last century. Since April, the district's office has been sharing building space with Banks City Attorney Jim Lucas and housing its vehicles in a barn behind the Brown Derby Restaurant.

The new building, located

waiting only for inspection for the interior finish work to begin. The tour begins with a look at the dormitory which is designed to accommodate nine men and women, looking forward to the day when there will be full time personnel living here. There are shower and locker rooms, a spacious kitchen and a day room. A 1900 square foot training room and a communications room for emergency operations, computer training, maps, HAM radio and other state-of-the-art equipment round out the less public areas of the station. The apparatus room contains five drive-through bays and can house ten emergency vehicles.

building which echoes Banks' history. For example, the main entrance roofline follows that of the historic scout cabin just next door. And special exterior materials such as hardyplank, a composite of concrete, resin and fiber, will resist all kinds of deterioration and is, of course, fireproof. The dark green metal roof will be extremely long-lasting.

Head contractor 2KG Contractors, Inc., of Milwaukie, supervised by Gary Folker, and all the subcontractors have done a great job, Schlegel said. "Everyone involved has contributed. This has been a real good group that has had good ideas all the way through.

School board approves trip to Anaheim for Banks softball team

At their regular meeting January 10, Banks School District Board of Directors approved an important trip for the Banks High School Varsity Girls' Softball team. Coaches Jerry Mattee and Chris Herb will be able to take 13 players to Anaheim, Calif., during part of spring vacation, March 19 to 24, where the team will play against those from two much larger high schools.

"The trip is partly a reward for winning the 1999 state championships. The bulk of the core group of this year's players were on the winning team last year," said Mattee. "In addition, the trip will be a unique experience for fun, team building, unity and provide some challenging practice games."

The trip will cost about \$500 per student, including airfare and an excursion to Magic

Mountain, according to Mattee. The students are paying their own way. Six parents will accompany the team and coaches to Anaheim.

The Board also approved the hiring of Linda Hedlund for an interim clerk position, and accepted the resignations of clerk Julie Gregg, and junior high counselor Laurie O'Harrow.

The annual Audit Report was presented by David Kuykendall, of Kent and Snow, Oregon City. The audit report was positive, with no surprises, according to Superintendent Marilyn McGlasson.

McGlasson and Business Manager Tim Collier reported on the District's financial status. The report shows the four-year debt-reduction plan is on or ahead of target.



Photo by Judy Hill

Chief John Schlegel, architect Scott Robert Thayer, and construction supervisor Gary Folker look forward to completion of the new fire station.

on the site of the old fire station, represents a quantum leap forward for the district and is representative of millennial changes in the Banks area. "This is a 50-year building which has been designed to meet the needs of the community well into the new century," said Schlegel.

With obvious pride and enthusiasm, Schlegel points out the features of the new space, now defined by framing and

The office and reception area in the front of the building includes extra offices and a conference room for future needs.

Schlegel is quick to point out built-in safety and emergency features such as the gravity-fed water supply, emergency generators and several decontamination stations.

Architect Scott Robert Thayer of Ankrum Moisan Associated Architects, Portland, planned a functional yet elegant

We've had real teamwork."

Planning for the project began in March of 1997 with the first meeting of the building committee, and in November, 1998, voters approved a special bond of \$1.79 million to build the new station. Construction began in July, 1999, and the project is on time and on budget, Schlegel said.

"We hope to be moved in by early April," Schlegel added with a smile.

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