Fire district’s new training building now open

BY CAREY CHAPUT

The time finally arrived to open the doors to the Applegate Valley Fire District’s new 6,400-square-foot Training Center. This construction project was designed to handle the district’s expanding training requirements and also to serve our community. You have trusted this fire district to serve you in times of need, and we feel honored to fulfill your request for a building that can serve all of us for years to come.

The fire district purchased a five-acre vacant lot adjacent to the headquarters’ fire station in March 2004. The two lots were joined, and construction of the new training center began in the spring of 2014. We were able to use local contractors as well as in-house personnel to complete the construction in October 2015. This project came to fruition only through the dedication and generous support from you, our constituents, and many fire district personnel. The Applegate Valley Fire District would like to thank volunteer firefighter Bob Zagler for his many hours of welding expertise and excavation. A big thank-you goes to Tim Van Leerwen for his many hours laying vinyl and carpeting throughout the building as well as firefighter Gary Sicinski and Richard Goodnough for their labor during the framing portion of construction.

The grand opening took place on Saturday, October 10, 2015. The Applegate Lion’s Club provided barbecued hot dogs and hamburgers, and firefighters gave an exciting demonstration by cutting two wrecked cars apart using the jaws of Life. During the open house, people were able to view the large meeting room designed to accommodate all community events. The training room has been outfitted with high-quality audiovisual equipment designed to engage an audience. The commercial kitchen, spacious bathrooms, and training room are the heart of the building that will be used by the public and firefighters alike.

Fire district personnel and their families will soon have access to the new exercise room with equipment to increase stamina, physical ability and overall health.

For more information on how you can become a volunteer with Applegate Valley Fire District or to request use of the new facility, please visit the website at www.applegatefd.com.

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$300,000 in matching funds and $300,000 in a loan from the Oregon Department of Transportation were also provided. The new fire station doubles the fire district’s training capacity and provides more opportunities for firefighters to maintain their skills. The fire district day and night. The station also serves as a community center.

This project was a joint effort among the board of directors and staff of the fire district. It was a successful joint effort. We are proud to have this building and thank all those who contributed to its construction.

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Friends of Ruch Library (FORL) will host their Holiday Book Sale featuring quality books of all genres on December 1, 3, and 5 at the Ruch Library Community Room during open hours (Tuesday 10 am to 5 pm, Thursday 1 to 7 pm, and Saturday 11 am to 4 pm). What a great way to shop locally for the holidays!

FORL has lined up some great programs, starting December 7. From 2 to 4 pm with Dave Baker’s “Mostly Penguins,” a lecture with photos and video and fun for the whole family. Penguins can swim faster than many fish, dive deeper than any other bird, and survive in both temperate and polar climates. We have only very recently understood how penguins survive. Dave Baker first visited Antarctica in 1956 while in the navy, and more recently with National Geographic expeditions in 2006 and 2010.

Join us on Saturday, January 16, at 2 pm for a Folk Music Sing-Along with Chris Bratt and Larry Francis, two of Applegate’s finest folk musicians, who are sure to get you tapping your toes and joining in on old favorites. Bring the Riu ap Singing songbook if you have it.

More about this in the spring edition of the Applegate.

Be sure to visit Ruch Library to find books on decorating, gift making, and baking for the holiday season. For more information, contact branch manager Thalia Truesdell at 541-899-7438 or ttruesdell@jcls.org.

Happy Holidays!