



Vicki Orford announces retirement from TRH Board

Effective Dec. 31, 2019
SUBMITTED BY JENNIFER BEST,
TRH BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
COORDINATOR

BREWSTER -- After nearly nine years serving on the Three Rivers Hospital Board of Commissioners, Vicki Orford submitted her resignation effective December 31, 2019.

"I've enjoyed it a lot, but I'm ready to move on," Orford said at the board's regular meeting on December 4. "The board is a really great board. It's great to know that we're all going toward the same goal as far as what we want this hospital to be."



Vicki Orford served nearly nine years on the TRH Board.

"On behalf of the public hospital Board of Commissioners, administration and staff of this medical facility, and the people of our public hospital district, I would like to thank Vicki Orford for her many years of service, dedication, and leadership," Chairman Mike Pruett stated during the meeting. Orford was presented with a certificate of appreciation, flowers, and a card from the administrative team.

"Vicki has helped to guide our district and hospital through times of struggle and through many major accomplishments," Pruett added. "Her advocacy and leadership style have helped to bring consistency and direction to both the hospital and the governing board. All of us are grateful for the time and energy she has brought to her positions."

Orford was appointed to the board on February 28, 2011 and was re-elected to a six-year term in 2017. She took the helm as board chair in January 2014 and continued until January 2019, when Pruett was elected to the role. In turn, she was elected as vice chair.

Longtime commissioner and board secretary Tracy Shrable credited Orford with introducing changes for the better at the hospital. "She didn't come on [to the board] quietly," Shrable said. "The hammer fell, and that was instrumental. It needed to be done and Vicki did it. From then on, changes started to happen. Thank you."

Orford said she accomplished the goals she set out to do when she first joined. She began her service by encouraging the board and administration at the time to address areas that were not sustainable. Over the years, she has championed being responsible stewards of public funds and encouraged board

SEE ORFORD ON PAGE A2

Scores enjoy Pateros Christmas in the Park



A refreshments table provided free snacks and beverages for visitors.

New building is a hit

BY MIKE MALTAIS
STAFF WRITER

PATEROS -- Fun and festivities had downtown Pateros hopping last Friday, Dec. 6, as Christmas in the Park and

Christmas tree pickups at Sweet River Bakery combined to draw scores of families to share the evening.

The new multi-use building that houses the city well No. 4 was the center of attention with the new Christmas light display decorating the sur-

SEE PARK ON PAGE A2



Mike Maltais/QCH

Santa and Mrs. Claus patiently accommodated every youngster.

Power on for Brewster's Christmas tree



Mike Maltais/QCH

Brewster city and Chamber of Commerce officials threw the switch on Nov. 30 to light the big fir tree in Legion Park decorated for the holiday season.

Pateros city council approves 2020 fee schedule, budget

BY MIKE MALTAIS
STAFF WRITER

PATEROS -- In a special session on Dec. 4, the city council approved a resolution relating to the city's 2020 fee schedule. Per the new schedule city water and sewer rates will raise 3.2 percent "which is the CPI (Consumer Price Index) rate with an additional increase that will be divided between two years to cover the water loan and needed sewer repairs," the agenda notes said.

Garbage city administrative fees went up \$2 per customer to cover administrative wages. Zippy Garbage charges will be adjusted in May 2020.

A sampling of next year's fees includes animal licenses and fees that range from \$2 for a replacement identification tag to a high of \$100 daily for animal control boarding fees for repeat-offender dogs.

Chicks are legal in the city now, but not free. An application fee will set you back \$50, plus a \$15 fee for 1-3 chickens and \$30 for 3-6 chickens.

Residential garbage range from \$20.70 for a single 64-gallon can to \$32.10 for a single 96-gallon tote.

Business license fees start at \$55 and run to \$75 for businesses with 40 or more persons. Temporary permits

SEE FEES ON PAGE A2

Pateros School Board Considers Fire District 15 proposal

BY MIKE MALTAIS
STAFF WRITER

PATEROS -- The school board took a proposal under consideration at its Nov. 25 regular meeting to sell a portion of its Methow School property to Okanogan-Douglas Fire District 15. The fire district wants to expand the

Methow Fire Hall and approached the school district about purchasing a portion of the Methow School property to proceed with the expansion.

School superintendent Greg Goodnight briefed the board about the proposal. Goodnight said he will share the documents provided by the school district's legal counsel with

the fire district and report back to the board at its regular December meeting. A public hearing would be held in January 2020 before the proposal is referred to the school board for a vote.

In other board business a timeline was outlined for installation of irrigation and seedling preparation on the

eight-acre property that will be the site of new athletic fields. Athletic director Marcus Stennes will help the board determine what type of athletic he recommends as the highest priority.

For academic excellence for the quarter, Principal Mike Hull's report identified eight students with perfect

4.0 GPAs, 26 who made the Superintendent's List, 20 on the Principal's List, and 36 Merit Scholars.

The board approved hiring Tom Asmussen as the high school girls' assistant basketball coach and accepted the resignation of Darryl White as high school girls' assistant softball coach.



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INSIDE THIS WEEK

Community	A1-3	Church Directory	A4
Okanogan & Douglas Sheriff/EMS/Fire	B4	Business & Services Directory	B4
Births, Obituaries, Death Notices	A4	Classified Index	
Community Bulletin Board	A4	Classifieds	B3-B4
School Sports	B1	Public Notices	B4
Letters	A2		

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Mike Maltais/QCH

The multi-purpose well house building provided an ideal venue for the outdoor Christmas event. More photos at qcherald.com



Mike Maltais/QCH

Pateros by night during the Christmas holidays has taken on a new look with the completion of the new multi-use well house and surrounding landscaping.



Warming fires kept patrons warm and brightened the holiday mood.

PARK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

rounding grounds and Mr. and Mrs. Claus holding court in the amphitheater. The Claus couple arrived courtesy of the Pateros Fire Department and warming fires dotted the grounds to keep patrons warm and brighten the holiday mood.

Youngsters in numbers too numerous to count lined up to await their turn to sit on Santa's knee and recite rehearsed gift wishes. Gifts were handed out to each. A table of refreshments and warm beverages helped combat the cold that really was moderate for an early December evening.

City Administrator Jord Wilson opened the back of the building that houses the pump, piping and apparatus that will soon come online to help provide the city with more than adequate clean and safe water. Mayor Carlene Anders, Fire Chief Keith Zweigle, city council members and city staffers were on hand to share in the fun and make sure every detail was addressed.

Keeping the lights on in Pateros



Mike Maltais/QCH

A crew from Midland Electric installs one of several new lamp posts around the new multi-use well house in Pateros.

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ORFORD
 CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

members to become involved with the communities and key hospital functions in order to make more informed decisions.

"The rest of the stuff has kind of fallen into place because everybody else could see, too, that it needed to be done," Orford said.

Along with Shrable, she served throughout her tenure on the hospital's Finance Committee. She also introduced board education at their monthly meetings. Topics have ranged from internal processes to Open Public Meetings Act training and Three Rivers Hospital's rural health care advocacy efforts on state and national levels.

"Vicki was faithful, active, and uncompromising in her support of TRH," said board member Leslie McNamara, who was appointed in 2017. "Her leadership was inspiring and goal-oriented, meeting and surpassing even her own benchmarks. As a person who was not afraid to voice her opinions or concerns, I respected her input as well as her model as board chair. She will be greatly missed as a member of our board."

Chief Executive Officer J. Scott Graham said he's sorry to see Orford go, and he thanked her for her unwavering support since he was hired in April 2014.

"I really have appreciated working with Vicki," Graham said. "She was the board chair when I came on and has been super supportive of me, and she is responsible to a large degree for my development here at the hospital... because of her leadership and drive and desire for the hospital."

Three Rivers will soon be seeking letters of interest from residents in the hospital district who would like to serve on the Board of Commissioners.