



YREKA CITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 11

November 30, 2009

Yreka Salutes College of the Siskiyous for their New Rural Health Institute

The new COS Rural Health Sciences Institute, funded by Siskiyou County voters in 2005 as part of Measure A, is now open on the Yreka Campus and will be a resource for the community to access a wide variety of healthcare information and classes. This new building on Campus Way houses not only the Nursing Program, but includes several other healthcare career programs including Pharmacy, Pre-Medical, and Business Focused Programs. Its state of the art e-learning technology will allow long distance learning opportunities including video conferencing for students outside of the Yreka area. There are currently thirty Registered Nursing, sixty Licensed Vocational Nursing, and thirty Certified Nursing Assistant students taking advantage of the learning opportunities. This program will be a great help in improving the health care in Siskiyou County by providing the health care professionals needed to sustain the effort. The City donated a parcel of land for their parking lot and City staff helped secure the approvals from the state regulatory agencies for storm drainage across Greenhorn Park property.



Important Numbers

City Hall/
Water Division
(530) 841-2386

Fire Department
(530) 841-2383

Police Department
(530) 841-2300

Public Works
(530) 841-2370

Senior Program
(530) 841-2365

Elected Officials

Tom Amaral
Mayor

Jim Griffin
Mayor Pro Tempore

Rory McNeil
Councilmember

David Simmen
Councilmember

Jason Darrow
Councilmember

Liz Casson
City Clerk

Michael Pavlik
City Treasurer



A Season for Sharing in Fire Safety

Each year fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400 people, injure 1,650 more, and cause over \$990 million in damage. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), there are simple life-saving steps you can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday. By following some of the outlined precautionary tips, individuals can greatly reduce their chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

Preventing Christmas Tree Fires

- **Christmas Tree Fire Hazards** A live Christmas tree can quickly become fully engulfed in flames. Special fire safety precautions need to be taken when keeping a live tree in the house. A burning tree can rapidly fill a room with fire and deadly gases.
- **Selecting a Tree for the Holiday** Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.
- **Caring for Your Tree** Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.
- **Disposing of Your Tree** Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or woodburning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

Holiday Lights

- **Maintain Your Holiday Lights** Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

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A Season for Sharing in Fire Safety (continued from page 1)

- **Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets** Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch.
- **Do Not Leave Holiday Lights on Unattended**

Holiday Decorations

- **Use Only Nonflammable Decorations** All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.
- **Never Put Wrapping Paper in a Fireplace** It can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers and may result in a chimney fire.
- **Artificial Christmas Trees** If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Candle Care

- **Avoid Using Lit Candles** If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.
- **Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree** Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame - candles, lighters or matches.

Finally, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help. And remember to practice your home escape plan.

What Are Furloughs and Why Are City Offices Closed for Furloughs?

REVENUE	Operating Budget 08/09	Adopted Budget 09/10	Difference
Property Tax	\$925,000	\$851,000	(\$74,000)
Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT)	575,000	575,000	0
Sales Tax	1,400,000	1,400,000	0
Franchises	245,000	230,000	(15,000)
Business Licenses	80,000	80,000	0
Animal Licenses	20,000	25,000	5,000
Building Permits	35,000	35,000	0
Motor Vehicle License Fees	540,000	496,800	(43,200)
Triple Flip In Lieu Sales Tax	550,000	460,000	(90,000)
Interfund Transfer (ICA)	253,281	270,000	16,719
Other Revenue	408,550	327,725	(80,825)
	\$5,031,831	\$4,750,525	(\$281,306)

EXPENSES	Operating Budget 08/09	Adopted Budget 09/10	Difference
Police & Animal Control	\$2,246,521	\$2,149,293	(\$97,228)
Public Works	549,528	439,115	(110,413)
Fire	253,979	239,568	(14,411)
Parks & Pool	406,453	308,178	(98,275)
Finance & Info Technology	288,711	362,793	74,082
City Council Administration	356,790	342,296	(14,494)
Insurance, Elections & Other	302,518	286,374	(16,144)
Building & Planning	292,983	275,606	(17,377)
Legal	203,762	198,195	(5,567)
Comm Promotion, Airport, Library	180,346	155,600	(24,746)
Sr Program, Channel 4, DARE	101,350	151,611	50,261
Community Center & Theater	152,085	129,434	(22,651)
	\$5,335,026	\$5,038,063	(\$296,963)

Each fiscal year, the Yreka City Council has faced and met its challenges in setting local budget priorities to meet the ongoing needs of our community. But fiscal year 2009-2010 was of particular significance as the General Fund, the primary operating fund for the City, had an initial \$1.3 million budget shortfall.



Although there is nothing new in allocating revenue resources to provide various municipal services, what distinguished this year from all others has been the cooperation of each employee and the volunteers of the Yreka Volunteer Fire Department (YVFD) in solving the problem.

With the guidance of the City Council, employees voluntarily agreed to take 96 hours of furlough, or an equivalent of 4.6% in pay reduction and the YVFD, as partners with the City, agreed to \$25,000 in emergency callout stipend reductions. A furlough can be defined as a temporary layoff from work.

Nearly every department within the general fund made cuts to salaries, supplies, and capital outlay narrowing the budget gap to \$118,536 between anticipated revenues and projected expenses.