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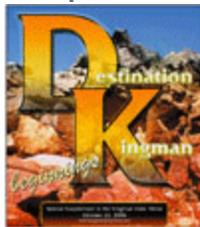
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Businesses step up to help Pinion Pine Fire Department

Aaron Royster
 Miner Staff Writer

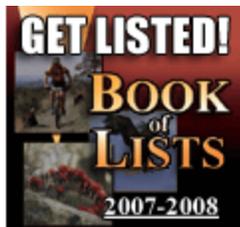
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While it may take a village to raise a child, it definitely requires a community to build a rural fire station.

The Pinion Pine Fire Department came one step closer to finishing its second station when Brown Drilling and A-1 Well Service donated a well and pump.

"It would have taken us several years down the road to raise the funds to put that in," Pinion Pine Fire Chief Joe Jackson said. "The fire department appreciates those folks getting involved and donating back to the fire department."

The installation of the well and water pump at the Pinion Pine Fire Station No. 2, 6095 Fire Grounds Road, had been in the works for a year, Jon Kaufman said.

The idea was hatched by A-1 Well Service and Pinion Pine Fire District Board Member Lynn Pile and former Brown Drilling owner Dave Brown. Jon and his sister, Amanda Kaufman, decided to continue with the project when they took over the local drilling company from Brown in June.

"Everything they've done, they've done themselves," Amanda said about construction of the station.

"They could use some more community involvement."



Brown Drilling employee Theo Siaperas drills a well for Pinion Pine Fire Department's Station No. 2, 6095 Fire Grounds Road. The well and its pump were donated by Brown Drilling and A-1 Well Service. AMANDA KAUFMAN/Courtesy

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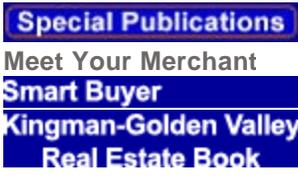
Jon, prior to owning the business, worked as a volunteer firefighter. He said his experience helped him recognize the challenge facing the primary volunteer fire department in building a new station.

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"I remember how much we depended on donated time, donations and contributions," Jon said.

Brown Drilling spent Nov. 13 and 14 working on establishing the well and its depths are exceeding their expectations.

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Amanda said they had hoped to reach water around 500 feet, the depth a well approximately 200 feet away had been drilled to reach water. Brown Drilling donated the \$18,000 for the cost of the 780-foot deep well. The company made a similar donation to the Hualapai Valley Fire Department. They donated the total cost of drilling the well at the site, \$8,500, for the station that opened in 2006.

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David Butchko, the supervisor for A-1 Well Service, said the donation has been a good experience for the business. He added it also helps Pile, who lives in the fire district.

A-1 Well Service donated the cost of installing the pump on Nov. 21, a total of \$7,000. The well pumps at a rate of 18 gallons a minute for an estimated 12,000 gallon a day. The next step for the PPFd is securing a water tank for the station.



The department's first and only other station is located in the Hualapai Mountains. During severe weather seasons - from floods during monsoons to icy roads during the winter - the fire department had to leave a truck at the intersection of Interstate 40 and DW Ranch Road for emergency response.

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Being left in the elements takes its toll on the vehicle and equipment, Jackson said. The four-bay fire station located off of I-40 and DW Ranch Road serves the highway area, as well as the neighboring community.

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For that reason, Jackson said they have spent the last seven years trying get a station closer to I-40 and Highway 93. Because of their high response area, the fire department looked for a long-term solution to responding to calls.



The land for the station was donated by Hubby Grounds. The firefighters erected the steel building during the summer and will just house equipment there until it is fully functional.

Donations from the community and local business have been a big part of the station's development.

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"We didn't want to go into long-term debt," Jackson said concerning financing for the station.

He added that Scott Fisher, a local business leader and developer, has helped raise close to \$24,000 for the fire district.

The fire chief said they have already put \$100,000 into the station so far. There is still more work that needs to be done, including electrical wiring, Jackson added. Businesses or individuals interested in donating can contact the fire department at 757-1207.

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