

Fire Department remains ready

By Maxine Wheelan
Staff Writer

Fire Chief Neal Young will soon be coming up on three years as Harrah's Fire Chief.

He had been a volunteer for 31 years.

The Fire Department is manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and they're ready for any emergency.

There are currently seven full-time firefighters, including the chief, 22 volunteers and a group of four new recruits. Young is looking forward to working with them and stated they would indeed be a blessing to the fire department.

The department is very proud of their ISO rating as it is one way that they are able to help lower home owner's insurance rates. It takes good help and good equipment with



Dennis Bluhm, Connor Kinsey and Fire Chief Neal Young.
PHOTO BY MAXINE WHEELAN

a lot of training to achieve that designation, explained Young.

The Harrah department has mostly medical emergency calls, at least 80 percent more than fire calls.

They are getting a new 2017 Ford Brush Truck to combat the many grass fires they are called to assist with. They hope to also get another rescue truck to be added soon.

Chief Young and his wife Shelley have three children, two girls Amee and Janie with several grandchildren. Their son, Robert is also a volunteer for the fire dept.

The Fire Department is located on NE 23rd Street where the big white silo says "Welcome to HARRAH."

The Harrah Fire Department is dedicated to keeping the residents of Harrah safe as well as being ready to work with areas nearby when called on.

Swan Metro Library, a place for learning

By Maxine Wheelan
Staff Writer

The Swan Metro Library was named for Elizabeth Swan and dedicated by her husband who used to have the bank at the current location.

Jo Nita White, Access Specialist II has been with the Library since 1981 and has been at this location since 1991.

Jo Nita's husband Bill worked for an oil company and is now retired. Their son Michael is manages the call center for XL Auto Parts in Oklahoma City.

Jo Nita loves her job and knows the library is a place for everyone to learn.

The Library is a learning center

and offers many learning and planning programs each month for children of all ages as well as programs for adults as well as seniors.

October will have a Lego Club, Catch'em All Pokeman Club and a Family Gamefest for all ages.

Book Club for grade-schoolers and Escape the Dark Circus.

They have Estate Planning Awareness Week in October as well as Family Craft Night. Terrell Monks will be presenting an Estate Planning Workshop on October 24 at 10:30 a.m. for all seniors.

The Library is located at **1930 Church Avenue** in Harrah.

Doors are open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. most days and closed on Sunday.

For more information contact Jo Nita Jo at 405-454-2001.



Jo Nita has been at work at Harrah's Swan Library since 1991.
PHOTO BY MAXINE WHEELAN

ST. TERESA CHURCH PARISH HISTORY: The parish was founded by 10 Polish families who were dissatisfied with the land in Marche, Arkansas where they had originally settled. They participated in the land rush of 1891 to secure new homesteads. In comparing the 1880 US Census records it appears Blochowiak, Chicoraske, Jorski and Malaske families were among those from Marche.