



## **L. A. Thomas Gymnasium Renovation Project**

Kimberly School District ~ Kimberly School Foundation  
141 Center Street W. Kimberly, Idaho 83341  
208-423-4170 www.kimberly.edu

The community of Kimberly wants to finish a project started 70 years ago during the Great Depression. Patrons have a goal to renovate and complete the iconic L. A. Thomas Gymnasium-Auditorium – the school district’s most utilized building for both school and community events.

The multipurpose building was approved as a Works Project Administration project in November 1941, just before Pearl Harbor was attacked and the United States entered WWII. By 1943, all WPA projects were halted so manpower, materials, and machinery could be directed to the war effort. Kimberly’s partially-constructed gym had most of the needed materials, but lacked equipment and manpower to complete the project.

School superintendent L. A. Thomas rallied the community to finish the building. Local businesses contributed labor and materials, and several high school students worked on the construction crew. The building opened in 1944 and has been in constant use ever since. While the interior was completed, resources were never made available to finish the exterior.

Total renovation costs are estimated at \$800,000 and include: replacing windows; upgrading heating/ventilation/air conditioning; upgrading restrooms to ADA compliancy; installing stucco to the exterior; replacing sidewalks; and making general repairs. Improvements will occur in phases as funds are available.

The school district was awarded a \$32,200 matching grant from the Seagraves Family Foundation to replace the windows and install window coverings for the aged structure. **A Dinner & Auction is set for Saturday, November 10, to raise the needed matching funds.** Organizers are seeking sponsors and gathering donations for the event. Any form of donation you wish to make – cash, gift certificates, merchandise, or services – is appreciated. Dinner tickets are \$25 per person or \$150 per table. There are a limited number of table sponsorship opportunities.

Make checks payable to: Kimberly School Foundation, noting L. A. Thomas Gymnasium Project. Gifts to the Foundation are considered tax-deductible donations and are eligible for a State of Idaho Income Tax Credit.\* Send correspondence to the Kimberly School Foundation, in care of the Kimberly School District, at 141 Center St W. Kimberly, ID 83341.

Thanks for considering this request. Your support will help keep this landmark structure useable for generations to come. For information, please contact event coordinator Pam Seibel at 734-5510 or 420-0091.

Sincerely,

*Luke Schroeder*

Luke Schroeder  
Superintendent  
Kimberly School District

*Scott Plew*

Scott Plew  
Project Chairman  
L.A. Thomas Gymnasium Renovation

Organized by Supporters of the L. A. Thomas Gymnasium Renovation in association with the Kimberly School District and the Kimberly School Foundation. The Kimberly School Foundation is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit, public charity. Both federal and Idaho tax law allow a deduction for contributions made to Idaho foundations operated in direct support of public schools. In addition to this deduction, Idaho taxpayers can receive an Idaho state income tax credit equal to one half of the contributed amount of up to \$500 per year for individuals, \$1000 for those filing jointly and \$5000 for corporations.\*