



# The High Prairiean

"All the news that's print to fit."

Volume Ten, Number One

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March 2010

## NOTICES

April 11 – 18  
Roadside Cleanup

April 17 and 18  
Dumpster



May 15 and 16  
Annual Firehouse / Community Sale

**Fire Volunteers** meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Hall for equipment maintenance and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday for training.

**Fire Commissioners** meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Hall.

**High Prairie Community Council** meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Taylor's church building, 876 Centerville Highway.

**Lyle School Board** meets the next to last Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Boardroom, Lyle High School.

**High Prairie Book Club** meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 7:00 p.m. Contact Lozetta Doll for location and book recommendations, 365-0010.

**High Prairie Needlers** meet every Monday at 10:30 a.m. to work on projects and crafts, swap ideas and "network" over a sack lunch. Contact Judi Strait: 365-5288 or Lozetta Doll: 365-0010.

**When requesting medical assistance or reporting a fire CALL 911**

## ELEVENTH FIREHOUSE RUMMAGE SALE IS A GO!

Barb Parrish/Gwen Berry

High Prairie's biggest annual event will take place once again, on the 15th and 16th of May. An enthusiastic Co-Chair, several new features and our second annual Silent Auction Gallery promise to make the eleventh year a special one. Sharon Aleckson has once more agreed to captain the rummage sale project along with Penny Rutledge. A full roster of committee heads will take charge of all the separate aspects of the sale.

The location of the sale will again be at the Alecksons' hay barn. This is a great location with more room, a larger sheltered space and more parking available.

The Silent Auction Gallery will take place again this year. Last year's Silent Auction proved to be very successful, bringing in \$2,500.00. Our high-ticket item last year was a Remington Rifle that generated \$800.00 of that total. At this time a new DR Road Grader, valued at \$1,500.00, has been donated as one of the high-ticket items. Other high-ticket items are also needed. Sale organizers are collecting donations of local goods and services such as therapeutic massage, a guided fishing trip, a basket of wine, or a load of manure for the garden. Donations can be quite creative and come from both individuals and businesses. This is a good way for a business to get its name in front of many people, and get a tax write-off to boot. Call Barbara Parrish (365-4117) or Myrt McKercher (365-9576) if you can offer a silent auction item or if you have a suggestion for one.

Many things will carry over from years past, including the food booth featuring Myrin's famous bratwurst and lots of homemade goodies. The High Prairie Needlers will be raffling another of their wonderful quilts. As usual, the sale will go from 9:00 to 5:00 on Saturday and 9:00 to 3:00 on Sunday.

*continued, page 4*

WELCOME to the Prairie — Ray and Julie Dalbey on Schilling Road.

## NEXT BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

Lozetta Doll

The following books have been selected for upcoming meetings: *East of the Mountains* by David Guterson for the April meeting; *The Castle in the Forest* by Norman Mailer for the May meeting; and *I Should Be Extremely Happy* by Brian Hall for the June meeting.

The book club normally meets the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. You may call Lozetta Doll (509) 365-0010 or Sharon Aleckson (509) 365-4429 for information as to where the next meeting will occur. Anyone is welcome.



### The High Prairian

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The High Prairian can also be viewed on the High Prairie  
web site: <http://www.highprairie.us>

## BOOKMOBILE REMINDER

Martha M. Hamil

Again this year the Bookmobile will stop at the High Prairie Firehall on Centerville Highway every other Tuesday during June, July, and August beginning Tuesday, June 1st. Stops last from 9:45 until 10:20. The library staff conducts a Story Time for youngsters during the stop and a Summer Reading Program for anyone up to age 18. Story Time consists of crafts and story telling.

Participants in the Summer Reading Program receive rewards based on the number of hours they read. The prizes range from small bought items for younger children to theater tickets or gift certificates for the older ones. The gift certificates will be from such places as bookstores and fast food joints.

Do you have a STORY to tell?

Or NEWS  of interest to denizens of  
HIGH PRAIRIE?

How about a POEM, a RECIPE  or a  
GARDENING TIP  to share?

Or just want to see your NAME in print?

If so, submit your offerings for  
PUBLICATION in

### THE HIGH PRAIRIAN

Contact Doug Taylor:

**[highprairie@gorge.net](mailto:highprairie@gorge.net)**

or

**365-3242**

*All the news that's print to fit.*

## IN MEMORIUM

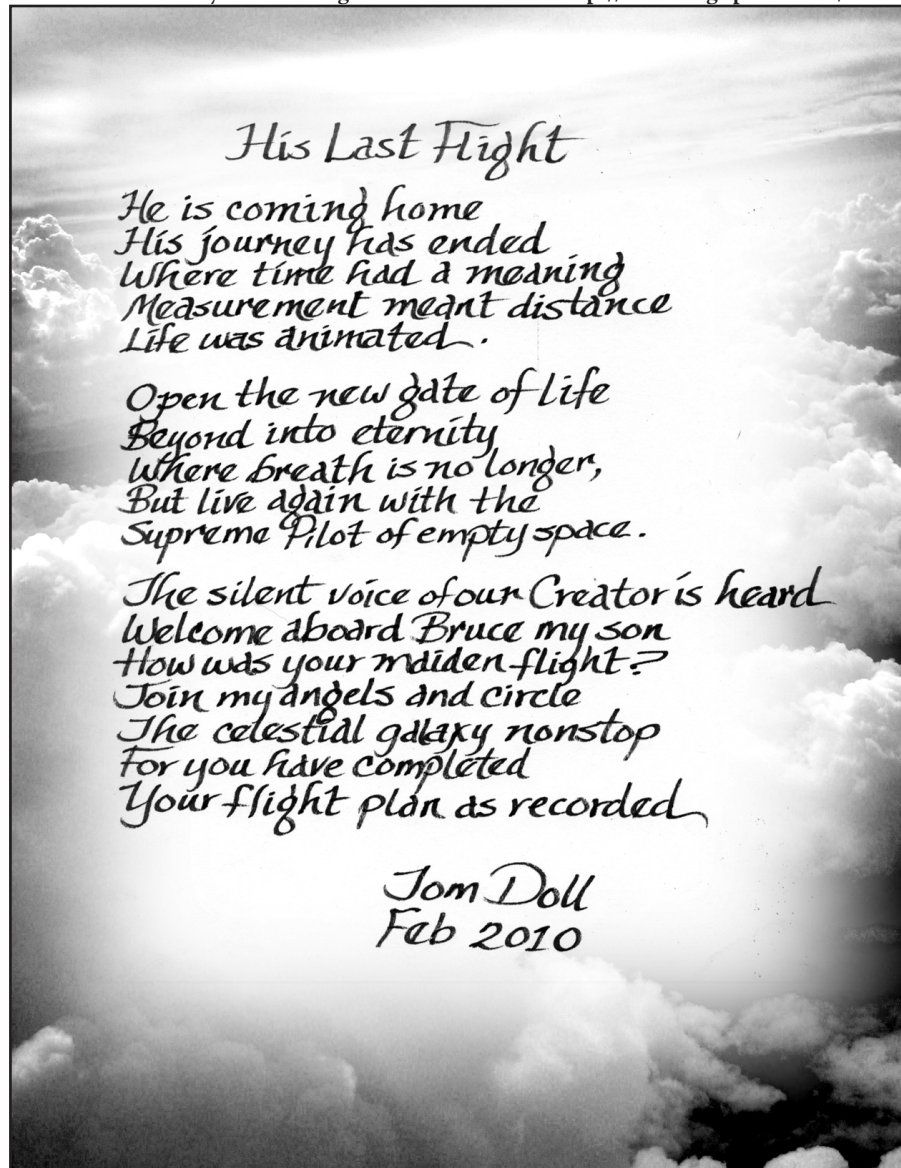


ARLEN BRUCE BUCHANAN (78)

We are saddened by the loss to our community of Bruce Buchanan, who lost his battle to cancer on February 18. His Celebration of Life was held February 26 at the First Presbyterian Church of Yakima, Wash. He lived with his wife Karron on Schilling Road. Karron was the president of the HPCC last year and they were both involved in many community functions during the relatively short time they have been our good neighbors.

Bruce was an extraordinary person, flying many military and commercial airplanes. He loved the ranch life, and had many experiences with cattle ranching and farming. He was a quiet man but would relate many of his experiences, which we all enjoyed immensely. We are going to miss you, Bruce, and we send our deepest sympathies to Karron and their family.

You may find the full obituary on the High Prairie website: <http://www.highprairie.us/buchanan>





FIREHOUSE SALE — *from page 1*

The food booth will open at 8:00 on both days, serving a morning menu of coffee and cinnamon rolls, etc.

The Firehouse Sale is High Prairie's once-a-year giant fundraiser. The proceeds from this sale go to support Fire District 14 and the High Prairie Community Council. The money will be used for special projects such as buying needed equipment or expenses related to finishing and furnishing the new Fire Station/Community Center. Last year's sale netted approximately \$10,000.00.

The success of an event this large depends on the help of a great many people. In addition to Co-Chairs Sharon and Penny and their phalanx of committee heads, people will be needed to put up signs and flyers, set up tents and tables, unpack and price sale items, bake pies and cookies, direct traffic, take money and much more. Just like at the barn raising, "many hands make light work." Everyone is encouraged to find some part of the event they can help with. Sharon says, "Don't be shy! We are an Equal Opportunity Employer—no experience required. Many "THANKS" goes to all of our dedicated community members who have given so generously of their time in years past. Without you, this fundraiser would not be possible.

Besides the big-ticket items, we are also in need of a wide variety of smaller items. Plants are popular, so it is suggested to start seeds or cuttings now to sell in May. Also needed are tables, sawhorses or other supports, doors and plywood to set up for displaying merchandise. Bring rummage sale goods directly to the sale location during the week of May 9th. A storage container will be on site at the Aleckson's to store donations until set-up and display begins.

Please call Sharon (365-4429) or Penny (365-2700) if you are unable to deliver a large item and arrangements will be made for pick up during the week before the sale. Also, please call if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns about the sale. Let us make our Eleventh Firehouse Sale the best ever!

### GET WELL WISHES

We extend our get well wishes to **Dorothy Kemp** who is seriously ill; and to **Gwen Berry, Bob Fraley** and **Steve Bird** on their recent operations or hospital stays. Get well to **Bev Edwards**.

## IT'S ROAD CLEANUP TIME!

Audrey Bentz

And don't we all want our roads to look well kept, so as not to detract from the beautiful views (and people!) of High Prairie?!

Every spring for the past several years a week has been set aside as Road Cleanup week. Parties of neighbors have scoured the edges of roads on High Prairie (except Centerville Highway) and picked up the trash that's been blown or thrown there. The County has provided pick-up bags and safety equipment, and at the end of the week the resulting pile of trash was hauled away. We were beautiful again!

Road Cleanup week is coming up, and we're hoping for many hands to make light work. If most everyone takes a segment of road by their residence during the week of April 11–18, the usual ones who have done it in the past won't have to cover as much area. For fun, plan a little get-together with neighbors you haven't seen in a while. And just think of how the exercise and sunshine will rejuvenate us all after the winter!

**Please call coordinators Ted or Myrt McKercher** (365-9576) as to what area you will be doing. (No use duplicating one stretch and missing another.) You can pick up the designated sacks (and road markers/vests/etc.) at the Taylor Church. Be sure to return the safety equipment the same day for others who may need it next. Bring filled trash bags to the old Firehouse. At week's end they'll go into the dumpsters that will be available on April 17–18 for your trash.

So mark your calendars for the second full week in April as we "spiff" up High Prairie! ∞

## COMMUNITY CENTER PAINTED

The Paint Committee; Sharon Aleckson, Barb Parrish, Dona Taylor, & Martha Hamil, Chair.

On Friday and Saturday, March 5th and 6th, High Prairie volunteers gathered to paint the interior of the new Community Center. The High Prairie Community Council provided the paint, roller covers, blue tape, caulk, and spackle. The painters did the hard work. And, a beautiful job it is!

The Paint Committee would like to especially thank Nance Carter for her consultation on colors and paint, Tom McMackin for providing his scaffolding and the painter's paper to cover the floors, and Bob Fraley for loaning us his scaffolding. Plus, a great big THANK YOU to everyone who came and helped with the set-up, painting, taping, and take-down. ∞

## HAIR!

Ted McKercher

No this is not a retake on the popular Broadway show, "Hair." There will be no nudity unless it happens to be the bare lines the editors of this fine paper may eliminate.

Got a haircut last week that started my peculiar thought process again.

When I was young, Mom combed my hair and parted it on the left side. Most of the time she slicked it down with water but on special occasions a little oil was added. "Brilliantine," if I remember correctly.

Later I learned to comb my own hair and add oil myself. Not quite quarts but enough that my school work papers had a translucent appearance where I had touched them after running my fingers through my hair.

When "D.A.'s" and "Ducktails" were popular, I upgraded from oil to grease. "Pomade" was the goo of choice. It was just a couple of degrees short of axle grease, a kind of "Vaseline" with color and fragrance.

Hair styles for me cycled between "Ducktails" and "Flat Tops" (a crewcut-like trim that seemed more fitting on my blockhead).

With hair so fine "Flat Tops" would not stand up unless helped, another strength-in-a-tube had to be used. That was OK until it warmed up and then the "Flat Top" became a "Flop Top."

Alum bars then became the answer. The fine hair stood at attention but looked as dry as August grass on High Prairie. Oh the trials of a teenager!

I later tried "Brylcream" but a "little dab" did not do me!

From a hair standpoint, military life was easy. You were required to wear a head covering most of the time and fifty cents bought a "B.M.T." (Basic military trim, I believe) at the base barbershop.

"D.D. 214" in hand, I left the "B.M.T." behind and struck a new relationship with coiffeur contamination until the Seventies when no slick-em or stick-em was required for free flowing manes that often touched my collar.

The post disco era came with styled cuts that approached twenty-five dollars every four weeks or so and were dried with a blower and sprayed with a lacquer. Stylists should have warned clients not to stand too close to candles.

Nineties results brought "spiky" while using fingers for combs and adding gel to maintain the look.

Retirement has brought the absence-of-additive-attitude. "3 and 5 on the clipper settings" is the request now and an almost daily washing works with more scalp showing and less hair to be concerned with.

Good news though; my nose and ears have taken up the challenge in support of my thinning pate! ☞

## JUST AS HE DID

I give his dog a biscuit in her little bed at the foot of his.

I pull off the sheet, draped like a shroud against dust,

turn back my father's deep down comforter

and crawl into the flannel envelope,

just as he did hundreds of times.

I groan, pleasure in the firm softness of the nest,

his next to last rest,

reach over my head to the solid black pin

switch at the heart of his old lamp,

nailed to a dusty log of the house he built.

The plastic pin snaps to the other side, light to dark,

a sound both solid and hollow.

In the morning when I wake I will see

just as he did,

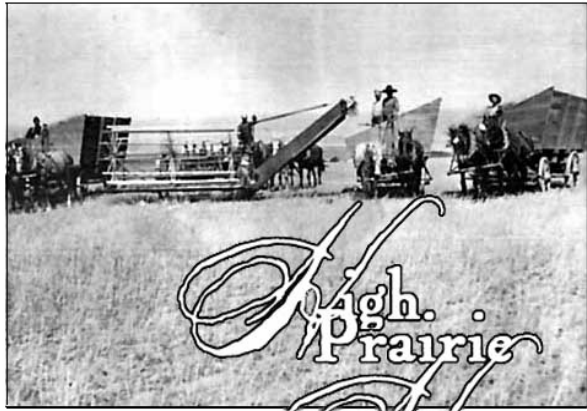
through his bedroom door and beyond the kitchen window

the ancient poplars towering over his Japanese garden.

Leaves flashing powdered silver to dusty grey-green,

the pond and waterfall dry now,

the grasses advancing on the stone paths.



Douglas Taylor

## FIRE DISTRICT FORMATION

(originally published in June 2002)

Part I – The 20th Century

*Note: At the end of 2009, fire commissioner Doug Taylor retired from the fire district after 26 years of service to the High Prairie community. The community has asked that this High Prairian article, originally published in June of 2002, be republished so that we could be reminded of Doug's accomplishments and how our community has benefited from his many contributions.*

— Cal Edwards, High Prairie Fire Commissioner

In the summer of 1983 a call came for a grass fire at a local residence. As was the custom all local residents were notified by telephone or noticed the smoke and if they were available they came with their gunnysacks and shovels. Shortly after all were assembled Lyle and Centerville Departments responded each with a truck and crew helping to make short work of the fire.

After the fire was controlled Tom Amery and myself was discussing the probable improvement of starting a fire district as we were the last area in Klickitat County without a protection district, at the time we were unaware of this situation. We discussed forming a district with neighbors and found almost unanimous acceptance.

We took the matter up with the Auditor's office on how to form a district. They were unsure but willing to find information for us. We then had to appear before the county commissioners of Claussen, Spaulding and Holly. They informed us that we would need to include all lands that were not presently included in fire districts and have approval with voters in this district. They appointed three names to be voted on by voters if the district was approved. The three names were John

Roberts, Tom Amery and Douglas Taylor. The voters overwhelmingly approved of forming Fire District 14 and three commissioners were elected. The district encompasses 52 square miles of which some is very rugged country.

The commissioners upon taking office elected Douglas Taylor Chairman, Tom Amery vice-chairman and legislative adviser and John Roberts Secretary. Rick Eiesland was appointed Fire Chief.

In 1984 and shortly thereafter the commissioners were busy acquiring used vehicles, we got a jeep from Rural 7, (which is still in use,) another jeep and tender from Centerville District. Also picked up a pickup from Wishram District all at little or no cost.

Goldendale Rural 7 offered us a single-vehicle building from Maryhill if we would remove. This building was jacked up, hauled and placed by local volunteers on property that we had leased and where our local station is presently placed. When starting to build our present [2002] building we again had to move the Maryhill station and it is presently used by the district at Ramona Searle's and Mary Orcutt's residence.

The district applied for their first grant from the State Department of Natural Resources by which we acquired a Chevrolet pumper from the City of Goldendale for the sum of \$2,000. We later sold this vehicle for \$4,500 to a collector. We also received other property from the state and other districts in the form of turnouts, plecktrons, tires, office furniture and etc.

In 1986 the State of Washington certified Steven Johnson and Douglas Taylor, through fire service training, as Firefighter First Responders. Several others through the years have also served as either First Responders or Emergency Medical Technicians, including Roger and Cindy Dickinson, Chris and Lorelei Patrick, and Icey Sheeran. Presently we have Cal Edwards as first responder and Doug Hutchinson and wife Laurie as Paramedics.

Some items were purchased thanks to the generosity of the High Prairie Booster Club, which put on many fund raising projects. They were able to supply us with our first air packs and some protective clothing. Through the years the community has been very supportive of the Firemen and women. Many have volunteered their time, others though donations of time, materials or equipment, or all the above.

The commissioners appointed Rick Eiasland as first Chief, followed by John Roberts, Andy Anderson, Roger Dickinson and presently Christopher Patrick. We have had Steve Johnson, Chris Patrick and Fred Henschell as commissioners beside the original three, of which



Christopher Patrick, Fred Henschell and Douglas Taylor are presently commissioners. Some firemen that were active during this period were Fred Loring, Ben Blouin, Sally Taylor, Ben Beebe, Mark Dickinson and Martin Taylor.

In 1991 we received a surplus Military 8x8 from the DNR which was located in California. We worked with Rural 7 to have ours and theirs picked up and delivered. The local volunteers installed a 1,000 gal tank donated by Carl Parrish, spending many hours priming and fitting for firefighting use.

During Roger Dickinson's tenure as chief, he and his family wrote up many grants for the district. We received \$16,000 for our first medical aid car, Cindy as a first responder requested and received \$1,500 from the Skyline foundation of White Salmon and \$200 from the Mid Columbia Health foundation for supplies for the medical aid vehicle.

We have a Ford pumper acquired though the DNR with new paint, mechanically refurbished with 500-gal pump. Our tender acquired though DNR program with 4,500 gal. capacity with 400 gallon per minute pumping capacity. This truck and several others have been refurbished—changing tanks, installing pumps, and working on mechanical needs by several of the volunteer firemen. This work in itself would amount to several thousands of dollars if hired. We have a GMC tractor to move our three 5,000 gallon trailers that are placed strategically throughout the district. We also have two small brush trucks, a Jeep and a Dodge pickup. Also we have a military all wheel drive 750-gallon tank used for multipurpose.

In a 1999 message in our local paper from Chief Chris Patrick "we received two fire pumper trucks from Lyle fire department for a very reasonable price. One truck was put in service and the other was to be used for parts.

*Next time, the Fire District in the 21st Century.*

## PERSPECTIVES

Watch the landscape change  
a hundred thousand years,  
a thousand at a blink,  
while I observe  
the moment's images.

The mountains melt and run,  
the rivers dry away,  
the thunderbird has gone.  
Now on these windswept hills  
a meadowlark rejoices.

Vic Kaufmann

## FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

Martha M. Hamil

High Prairie Fire District #14 has a new Chair of Commissioners, a new Commissioner, and a new Secretary/Treasurer. They are Phil Haner, Greg Hayrynen, and Larry Denis, respectively.

Phil is very experienced as a volunteer fire fighter on High Prairie and as a Fire Commissioner more recently. Greg moved to High Prairie in 1996 and has been a volunteer fire fighter. He ran for Fire Commissioner upon the imminent retirement of Doug Taylor. Larry is a relative newcomer having spent weekends on High Prairie since '04. Upon retirement in May of last year, he and wife, Gale, moved here full time.

Thanks guys for performing these vital services for the community.



During the annual awards dinner, Tim Darland (left) is shown here presenting Phil Haner an award for High Prairie Fireman of the year.

## THINKING ABOUT AUGUST IN MARCH

Gwen Berry

Now's the time, with spring planting just around the corner, to think about the County Fair in August.

Share your gardening accomplishments by bringing in your most beautiful flowers, handsome vegetables and succulent fruits to show at the Fair. Demonstrate your creative ways with houseplants and flower arrangements. Put Grandma's best pickle recipe to the test in the Canning and Preserving section. Plan now to have things at their peak in time for the Fair.

Don't forget all the other talents on display at the Fair: photographs, crafts, works of art, things created with recycled items, sewing and needlework, baked goods, and lots more. Your masterpiece could be among them!



## FUEL BREAK PROJECT TO BENEFIT HIGH PRAIRIE

Gwen Berry

The threat of wildfire on High Prairie will soon be reduced, thanks to a decision by the Department of Natural Resources to invest some federal stimulus money in Klickitat County.

At the February meeting of the High Prairie Community Council, Dan Lennon (from DNR's Goldendale office) announced that the Lyle/High Prairie area had been selected for construction of a fire-deterrent fuel break. Looking at the possibility of catastrophic fire, they had reviewed several possible construction locations in Klickitat County. Their conclusion: the Lyle/High Prairie area is at high risk for wildfires; and with its history and frequency of fires and the higher density of homes in this part of the county, a fuel break would do the most good here.

According to the plan, dead and down trees and vegetation will be cleared, underbrush cut and lower limbs removed from standing trees. Careful spacing of remaining trees will discourage wildfire in the crowns of the trees and promote healthy forest growth. Habitat for grey squirrels and nesting birds will be kept intact. The result will be a park-like stretch of groomed forest land.

All but a small portion of the fuel break will be built in the easternmost portion of the DNR-managed land that straddles Centerville Highway just west of Rowland Road, approximately three miles up from Lyle. The 200' wide swath will cover each side of Centerville Highway from the DNR property line near Rowland Road to a point approximately ½ mile west. At a point between the two ends of that swath the break will start south and run up to the crest of the hill past the BPA power line, ending on Schreiner Farms property. To the north of Centerville Highway the break will run for about 1,000' along the section line that marks the eastern boundary of the DNR land.

Construction of the fuel break will be funded with stimulus money from the federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA). The project will employ 4 to 6 people, preferably from the local area. According to Mr. Lennon, requests for bids will be advertised in both the Goldendale and White Salmon newspapers within the next month. He would like to see the project underway by the end of April.

Mr. Lennon reminded the Community Council that the new fuel break will not take the place of owners creating defensible spaces around their own homes and buildings. He recommends a buffer of 75 to 100 feet due to the high winds that are common here. The national Firewise website offers information and further resources. (<http://www.firewise.org/resources/homeowner.htm>)

## SMALL MYSTERIES

Martha M. Hamil

Have you ever been driving on High Prairie and said to yourself, "I wonder what that is or what it does or why now or who decides?" By making some phone calls, I found the answers to a couple of them.

1) The stainless steel "pots" mounted on posts, usually with a green metal post nearby, belong to the phone company, as many of us suspected. Stewart Kowatchi's Embarq office informed me that they house a repeater for certain special phone company circuits. These repeaters both repeat and boost the signal.

2) Weight limit road signs appear every year but never at the same time. So, being curious about that, I talked to Gordon Kelsey, the Public Works director for Klickitat County. He confirmed that the weight restrictions are to minimize damage to the County roads and the roadbed. The signs are posted after the weather begins to warm up after freezing weather; they are taken down when roadbed and substrate dries out sufficiently. Road crew supervisors determine the exact timing. He also stated that the signs don't affect the average homeowner unless they are expecting a delivery in a big truck.

According to Gordon, some roads in the county are not very susceptible to damage from the freeze/thaw cycle. High Prairie roads, on the other hand, are notorious for sustaining damage. The substrate of High Prairie roads contains swelling clays which hold onto water tenaciously instead of letting it drain as the sandier substrates do.

## CONDOLENCES

Our sympathy to Gale Dennis on the recent loss of her mother.



## DAFFODILS, NARCISSUS, OR JONQUILS?

Martha M. Hamil

Planting time for spring bulbs has arrived! Which of the above are you planting? All reside in the genus *Narcissus* (family Amaryllidaceae). So, you cannot go wrong by saying *Narcissus*. However, the American Daffodil Society divides the *Narcissi* into 13 divisions; only a few go by the name daffodil or jonquil.

Together with irises, *Narcissi* seem to be almost deer-proof, drought-proof, tolerant of almost any soil, and are almost pest-proof. They naturalize readily; their spring bloom display lift the heart.

So, how do you distinguish the various divisions? Thirteen divisions are easily confused, so here is the quick guide.

Division I – **Trumpet**: One flower to a stem; the cup (corona) is as long as the petals and sepals (perianth segments)

Division II – **Large Cup**: One flower to a stem; cup (corona) more than one-third but less than or equal to the length of the petals (perianth)

Division III – **Small Cup**: One flower to a stem; cup (corona) not more than 1/3 the length of the petals (perianth segment)

Division IV – **Double**: One or more flowers to a stem, with doubling of the petals (perianth segment) or the cup (corona) or both

Division V – **Triandrus**: Usually two or more pendent flowers to a stem; petals (perianth segment) reflexed

Division VI – **Cyclamineus**: One flower to a stem; perianth segments significantly reflexed; flower at an acute angle to the stem with a very short pedicel or neck

Division VII – **Jonquilla**: One to 5 flowers to a stem; perianth segments spreading or reflexed; flowers usually fragrant

Division VIII – **Tazetta**: Usually 3 to 20 flowers to a stout stem; leaves broad; perianth segments spreading, not reflexed; flowers fragrant

Division IX – **Poeticus**: Usually one flower to a stem; petals pure white; cup usually disc-shaped, with a green or yellow center and red rim; flowers fragrant

Division X – **Bulbocodium**: Usually one flower to a stem; petals insignificant compared with cup; filament and style usually curved

Division XI – **Split Corona**: Cup split usually for more than half its length

XI A – Collar Daffodils: Cup is split usually in two whorls of three; corona segments opposite the

perianth segments

XI B – Papillon Daffodils: Cup segments alternate with petals; corona segments usually in a single whorl of 6

Division XII – **Other Daffodils**: Daffodil cultivars which do not fit the definition of any other division

Division XIII – **Distinguished Solely By Botanical Name**: Wild and reputedly wild variants and hybrids; most are heirlooms

The above divisions are sanctioned by the American Daffodil Society so everything is clear now. Right?

Of course not! Miniature daffodils float in the background landing here and there amongst the categories or not at all. Six inches or less in height is the only criterion. Exceptions seem to make the rule as it does in all living organisms, even human.

The bottom line is that you can call them any of the names as long as you are not entering your specimens in an American Daffodil Society show. Just remember, all are *Narcissus* sp. You'll never be wrong calling it *Narcissus*!



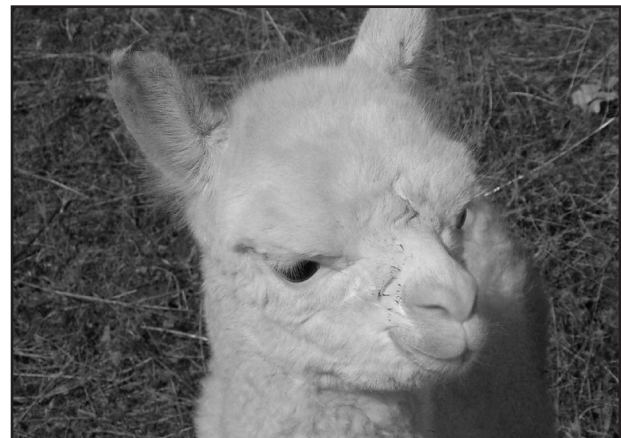
### AXELROD

Terry Chabbert

*Hi I'm Axelrod*

*I arrived on February 15th at 2 a.m. when it was 33 degrees outside. I was born in the dung pile, but hey, things can only get better from now on. Aimee—my mom—is a great mother, but we almost lost her due to birthing complications. She makes great meals and is doing well now thanks to Hood River Alpine Veterinarians Dr Foss and Dr Jenn. I have lots of aunts and uncles; some are so big that I fall over when I look up at them. Wow, will I ever grow that big? All I do now is eat, sleep and visit my birthplace. I look forward to growing up in High Prairie.*

*Respectfully, your new alpaca neighbor,  
Axel*



## WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE, BUT...

Audrey Bentz

They turned on the faucet and, like never before, NOTHING! M&K Drilling was called and drilled for two days, finally reaching water at 670 feet deep. After a whole week without water, their bill was now about \$20,000. Such is the sad story for John and Linda Cox on High Prairie, and has been for several other residents in the recent past years. M&K told the Cox's that "the water level is dropping like crazy."

We still have no final word on the comprehensive status of water levels. The good news is that Aspect Consulting, a Seattle hydrologist, is doing a study in our area, and many of us have had a periodic check of our water tables in this county wide study. More information should be coming. Meanwhile, let us all be cautious on our water consumption, because a major population increase, or a year of reduced rainfall, could make a serious impact on water availability for us all.

If you are wanting a "green lawn", check out some good substitutes such as a drought tolerant "Thyme," Hobb & Hopkins "fleur de lawn," yarrow, Dream Turf, or a synthetic zoysia—the first ones can evidently be mowed but won't need to threaten water supplies for our growing population.

**What do you do to conserve water?** Send your ideas to [amsong@gorge.net](mailto:amsong@gorge.net) and perhaps we can publish the ideas in the next issue. We are all in this together, so let's put our energy together to keep High Prairie, if not green, at least very livable!

I was able to talk with Dave McClure, Director of Natural Resources. He stated the same as Dan McCarty\* who met with Jake Jakabosky (below): "so far, the well monitoring in this High Prairie area shows no major evidence of decline."

And now a word from Jake who has been working on this subject:

"Linda Daughetee and I attended the January 5, 2010 meeting of the Water Resource Planning and Advisory Committee for WRIA 30 (Water Resource Inventory Area), which includes High Prairie. Dan McCarty\*, Project Coordinator for the Klickitat County Natural Resources Department, reported that funding from the State is drastically cut due to the budget deficit.

Grant money for water monitoring will run out June 30, 2010. Water monitoring by Aspect Consulting will continue until then. The County

will continue to look for more funding but prospects are bleak. Aspect will be contacting High Prairie landowners for permission to add more wells to the existing program. **Those who would like to volunteer their wells can contact Dan McCarty at 509-773-2353.** Call me if you have any questions." —Jake

## CAUGHT IN A ROCKSLIDE

Evelyn Neth

Friday, Dec. 20, 2009.

A break in the weather! Snows have melted and now I'm headed to The Dalles for a much needed haircut. As I drive down Centerville Highway I watch for any rocks that might have fallen on the road. No problem—so I begin to relax as I turn onto Highway 14, thankful that the roads look clear.

Driving through the tunnels, I'm looking forward to a comfortable drive the rest of the way. Emerging from the tunnels, I begin to pick up speed—and then it happens . . .

Suddenly rocks and boulders start tumbling down from the cliff and rolling onto the highway. Now what? Do I speed up, try to miss them or??? . . . . .

As it was, there wasn't time to follow through with any options as the car is hit. The left tire goes flat as a huge rock hits and then is lodged underneath the car. There I sit as more rocks/boulders continue to fall behind me, blocking the road.

My car isn't going anywhere now. I dial 911 and get out of the car waving my arms to warn westbound vehicles about the slide just around the bend. Next call is AAA and then my husband, Fred. There had been no cars directly behind me so they were able to stop in time, and someone did set out flares near the tunnels.

One special lady cared enough to stop and pulled in front of my car to make sure I was OK (Thank you). She stayed there until three duck hunters stopped to help. My thanks also to Chris Warren, Jack Kruger and Jake Bundy from Washougal for changing the tire and removing the rock lodged underneath the car so I could drive far enough to get off the road.

The snow plow is the first to arrive and finish clearing the road followed by the

State Police, Fred and AAA. . . .

Enough excitement for one day—the haircut can wait!

## THE PHILOSOPHY OF GARDENING - First Discourse

Martha M. Hamil

Most High Prairians seem to be tied to some philosophy of gardening; these philosophies diverge dramatically even before the seeds are in the ground. This discourse outlines mine. I urge you to submit yours and to explain its advantages and disadvantages. The High Prairian will be happy to receive your thoughts. Back to gardening.

Crop rotation, mulching, and drought-tolerant varieties are givens to me. Beyond that, I am a firm believer in patch planting, a variation on square-foot gardening. Patch planting means that I plant the same vegetables as close together as possible in a very wide row. I plant from inches apart to a foot or so mainly. For instance, I plant onions an inch apart and then thin for green onions. By harvesting for storage time comes around, the remaining onions are properly spaced. Some vegetables such as squash require a bit more room. My rows are about three feet wide so that I can readily reach across them but allows the individual plants or seeds to be placed in a hexagonal close-packed arrangement.

This hexagonal plant arrangement maximizes the number of plants in a given space. And, once the plants start growing, it minimizes the weeding for the close-growing plants shade out the weeds. The close-packed system also maximizes pollination because the insects don't have to move very far to pollinate the same vegetable. And pollination is crucial to any garden. Insects seem to have their favorite blooming plant. For instance, one patch will be humming with bumblebees, another with ants, and another with yellow jackets. Other patches support different insects that I have yet to identify. For example, a single peculiar "wasp" occupies the junction where the Mississippi Silver pea attaches to the stem. Each pea has a single "wasp" and the wasp doesn't seem to move nor is it aggressive. What benefit it's deriving from that position and what benefit it might be to my garden is a mystery to me; it's still fascinating.

Another advantage of patch gardening is that one can more closely match the water requirements of different varieties. Some plants produce better with daily watering; others produce better with watering just before they dry out. Patch planting in a row with plants of the same water requirements simplifies watering.

Of course, if you are either cultivating or weeding mechanically, patch planting is probably an anathema. Because I never weed or cultivate between rows, I have no problem. I just mow between the rows; I find that easier walking and more aesthetically pleasing. ∞

## HIGH PRAIRIAN

Editorial Staff

We would like our readers to know that not only can you have the paper mailed or emailed to you, but you can also read it and back issues online at <http://www.highprairie.us>, or in your local library in White Salmon or Goldendale. It is also distributed to the Klickitat County Historical Society in Goldendale, the Goldendale Chamber of Commerce, the White Salmon Chamber of Commerce and the Port of The Dalles. We also send mailings to many of our local and state representatives, and to all of our local landowners that we can keep track of and including many email requests to other readers.

We thank you for your continued support. Many of you know it is available through the efforts of many volunteers with articles, formatting, folding and mailing of the paper. We have been fortunate to have the support of the Klickitat County commissioners and the office of the Economic Development Authority with funding, printing and postage. Finally, we cannot thank Cindy Henschell enough for loyalty, issue after issue, pulling together our separate efforts into the fine specimen of journalism you have before you. ∞

## THUNDER

A bolt of light flashes  
A pathway across the sky  
Etching its way through space  
Impervious to the direction it takes.  
A fragrance of freshness will fill the air  
As the spectator show ends  
To a thunderous applause.

Tandems of chariots are heard above  
Rumbling along across the prairies  
And hills of the sky's freeways.  
Tenors and baritones auditioning  
Their concert before man and beast  
Have a chance to take their seats.

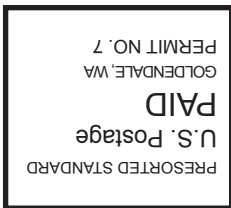
Repeating flashes and sounds  
Of voices among a darkening sky above  
Then vanishing from sight only to burst forth  
Once again to spank  
The clouds until they cry a misty whisper  
And weep over a saddened earth below.

Tom Doll



Our continued gratitude to Klickitat County EDA for  
their support in publishing *The High Prairian*.

## POSTAL PATRON



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### HIGH PRAIRIE DUMPSTER DAYS!

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, APRIL 17 & 18

9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Allied Waste will be putting two dumpsters at the Centerville Highway fire station for our annual Spring Cleanup on Saturday, April 17 and Sunday, April 18. This is a great opportunity to get rid of those little eddies of junk that seem to collect around the house and yard.

Allied Waste provides these dumpsters to our community free of charge, and the only thing they ask in return is that we do NOT throw in these items:

BRING THESE, BUT PUT THEM IN COLLECTION TRUCK:*		TRUCK WILL ALSO TAKE:
DON'T BRING THESE AT ALL:		
Tires	Appliances	Cable
Paint	Propane tanks	Air conditioners
Motor oil	Car and mower batteries	Farm equipment
Chemicals		Old lawnmowers
Household batteries		Old cars (with titles)
Other hazardous materials		Fencing (small amounts)

ELECTRONICS: We'll have a trailer for computers, towers, laptops, monitors and TVs.

SORRY, NO keyboards, mouses (mice?), printers, copiers, or scanners.

\*Truck is being provided this year by CHRIS KROESKOP. Thank you, Chris!