



# The High Prairiean

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

Volume Ten, Number Two

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June 2010

## NOTICES

### 2010 Burn Ban Starts July 1

The 2010 summer burn ban in unincorporated areas of Klickitat County will be July 1 through September 30, 2010

**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**

## THANK YOU

Bruce Tucker, CPA of White Salmon recently audited HPCC Treasurer's books. This was done as a donation to the community and it was very much appreciated. It is folks like Bruce who help make our world a better place to live. Thank you Bruce.

## ELEVENTH FIREHOUSE SALE

Sharon Aleckson

Penny and I would like to thank you for making High Prairie's biggest fundraiser of the year another successful event...EVEN BETTER THAN LAST YEAR!!!! The Silent Auction brought in over \$2,300. The Quilt Raffle generated about \$800. The gross proceeds from the sale amounted to over \$12,000. The 13+ Mile Sale will raise it even higher. At this time, there are still bills to be paid so a final report on the net proceeds from the sale will come later.

As you know, this sale could not have become the success it was without YOUR help. Sure, this event has co-coordinators, and a planning committee, but without the help of a community of workers this sale would not be the notable community and Gorge event that it has become.

After the Firehouse Sale is over, the Planning Committee and the co-coordinators of the sale will meet together and critique the sale...what went well, what were some problem areas. Advertising is very important. This year a special edition of the High Prairiean focusing just on the Firehouse Sale helped inform the community about this year's sale as well as sales of the past, and to generate interest in helping. There were many positive comments from the community about this edition, and we welcomed many new volunteers.

In the Food Booth, we expanded the menu offerings, by adding Martha's Newski Kluski (a vegetarian dish) and ice-cream bars. Both of these will be on the menu next year. The traffic issues that have concerned us in the past were solved. More parking spaces were needed so people did not have to park along Centerville Highway. This year Josh and Jennifer Machado allowed us to use their lower field for extra parking. This extra space helped to alleviate those parking concerns which were really

*continued, page 2*

## FIREHOUSE SALE (cont'd)

from page 1

major safety issues. Hopefully the same space will be available for us to use next year. As for the problems... Well, there were not that many and we have twelve months to think about solutions.

Thank you for sharing your time, your talent, and your treasures. Now it is time to tend those gardens, get caught up on things around the house, do some fishing, read a book, finish your own projects, or just go outside and enjoy the warm, sunny days. YOU deserve it!!!!!!



## HIGH PRAIRIE BOOK CLUB

Lozetta Doll

The High Prairie Book Club meets each month on the fourth Monday. The following books have been selected for upcoming meetings: *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Ronan for the June 28 meeting at the Dolls, *An Inconvenient Woman* by Dominick Dunne for the July 26 meeting, *My Antonia* by Willa Cather for the August 23 meeting and *Escape* by Carolyn Jessup for the September 27 meeting.

You may call Lozetta Doll 365-0010 or Sharon Aleckson 365-4429 for information as to where the next meetings 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>

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**

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## SCENES FROM THE 2010 FIREHOUSE SALE



Photo: Peyt Turner



Photo: Doug Taylor



Photo: Doug Taylor



Photo: Doug Taylor



Photo: Peyt Turner



Photo: Peyt Turner



Photo: Doug Taylor



Photo: Peyt Turner

## HPCC PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Patrice Archuleta

What a busy year! There's been all the normal HPCC business plus the demands of finishing the Community Center and Fire Hall. Working with so many talented and dedicated people has been both a challenge and a pleasure. The process is complicated at times, but so rewarding when everyone's ideas are brought into the discussion, we get past differences of opinion and outlook on life, and we focus together on the goal at hand.

When the contractor left, our work began on the Community Center / Fire Hall. Volunteers painted the interior (thank you to Nance Carter for professional advice), and we had the floor sealed and finished. We applied for and got a grant from the EDA to build a parking lot, which is currently in process. The Kitchen Committee has put in many hours planning the commercial kitchen. Other committees are formulating rental policies and working out how to promote the Center. A landscaping plan is in the works. We've applied for a \$5,000 grant to help purchase and install a kitchen venting & fire suppression system required by the County. (We should know if we got the grant by mid-July.) If all goes well, we'll be holding our Grand Opening party in early Autumn!

Up next: At the June 24th HPCC meeting we'll be making some Big Money Decisions regarding the venting & fire suppression system. I encourage everyone to come (7:00 p.m. at Taylors' church building). The community worked hard to earn that money and you all deserve to be part of the decision-making.

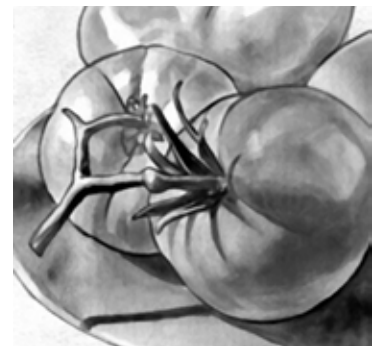
Opportunity knocks: Put your aesthetic stamp on the Community Center's décor. What would you like to see on the walls? What kind of window coverings would work best? Sliding or bi-fold doors on the closets? How can a bulletin board by the door double as entryway art? Your ideas are just the ticket for the Nitty-Gritty Make it Pretty Committee being formed right now. It will only meet for a month or two, so call (360-5458) or email (utenor@gorge.net) soon if you want a piece of the action.

Thank-you's: Thanks to everyone who helped put together our June 1 grant application to Northwest Farm Credit Services. The application required that at least one community member who is involved with NWFCFS write a cover letter in support of the project. Three High Prairians came forward with great letters: Karron Buchanan and new community members Martina Rizzo and Will Conley. Thanks to Will for

expert advice on doing grant applications and to Gwen Berry and Martha Hamil, who took my rough narrative and turned it into a finished product.

A big thank-you to the men who came—not once, but twice—on short notice to help locate buried phone lines so that construction of the Center's parking lot could continue. They're a testament to community commitment and "getting the job done for all." Finding those lines was a huge hurdle, and it could have cost us \$\$\$big bucks\$\$\$ if the lines were broken. Thanks to Tom Doll and his metal detector, Tom McMackin, Neil Shuster, Cal Edwards, James Archuleta, Dave Thom, Jake Jakabosky, and Fred Henschell. (If we've missed anyone, it's faulty memory not lack of appreciation!)

And finally: A huge thank-you to Bruce Tucker, CPA, of White Salmon, WA, who recently performed an audit of the HPCC books at no charge. The report, received May 26, came back squeaky clean. He could find only a 6¢ discrepancy in long-time treasurer Dona Taylor's carefully kept records. Thanks to you, too, Dona!



Martha M. Hamil

## OVERWHELMED WITH TOMATOES?

Tomato Junk may be your answer. Peel and chunk your tomatoes. Add peppers, onions, garlic, hot chili peppers, and celery (optional). Also, you can add any herbs or spices that appeal to you. Cook 30 to 45 minutes until tender. Let cool, then freeze. It's great in stews, meatloaf, Swiss steak, as a base for spaghetti sauce, etc. Plus you don't have to worry about how acid the tomatoes are. The proportions are for each quart of chunked tomatoes, add

- 1 small onion, coarsely chopped
- 1 medium green pepper, coarsely chopped
- 1-½ cloves garlic, chopped
- ½ hot chili, sliced
- ½ stalk celery, chopped (optional).

Combine and cook. Let cool then freeze. Vary the proportions to suit your taste. Add any other herbs you desire. Each quart of chunked tomatoes will produce about 1-½ pints of Tomato Junk. Enjoy.

## HIGH PRAIRIE WINS 'ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR' AT CHAMBER ANNUAL BANQUET

Doug Taylor

Sixteen members of the High Prairie Community Council traveled to the Gorge Crest vineyard in Underwood on April 20. The Mt. Adams Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Banquet took place with over seventy guests in attendance. The dinner was progressive style, with the Four Cs Catering from The Dalles. Side dishes were prepared by other local eateries. The Lyle Hotel furnished the desert. Many local wineries provided wine for the event including Wind River Cellars, COR Cellars, and Marshal's Winery. The highlight of the evening was the awards ceremony. Chamber President Paul Doty welcomed the attendees. Paul thanked Marsha Holliston and Pam Morneault for their hard work to make the banquet happen every year.

After the introductions of Chamber members, Pam Morneault took the floor to announce the award winners. The well-deserved awards went to the following recipients: Business of the Year— Gorge Heritage Museum's volunteers; **Organization of the Year— High Prairie Community Council**; Citizen of the Year— Diane Murphy; and the Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dale Connell of Riverview Savings Bank.

The award recipients were surprised and very appreciative of the recognition. This was a very enjoyable event and we are looking forward to next year.



## BOOKMOBILE SUMMER SCHEDULE AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Lozetta Doll

Summertime and the living is easy, or so the old song goes. Most of us High Prairians find summertime to be just the opposite. I guess we all could use one of those Staples 'Easy' Buttons!

One activity though does get more convenient for us in the summer and that is the arrival of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library's bookmobile. The bookmobile stops at the firehouse on Centerville Highway every other Tuesday morning from 9:45 until 10:20. The dates are June 15 and 29, July 13 and 27, August 10 and 24.

The library has initiated summer reading programs for youths and teens. Sign-up can be done at any library or the bookmobile between now and August 15. The youth program, Make a Splash, encourages reading by giving out Splash-a-Rama books and prizes for logged reading times. The teen program, Make Waves at Your Library, is for teens age 12 (by August 31) or going into 7th grade, through age 19 or going into 12th grade. Prizes are given out for 10 hours of documented reading plus entry for the nifty grand prizes: an electric guitar, iPod, Flip video camera, netbook computer, Wii and mountain bike.

White Salmon Library will host the following events: Creature Feature, a hands-on presentation of live reptiles, June 18 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Henrik Bothe, an optical illusion glow-in-the-dark stick figure, June 25 at 11 a.m.

Goldendale Library will be hosting: Charlie Brown, comedy and technical juggling, June 18 at 3 p.m.; Richard Ritchey, Reptile Man, a close look at snakes, lizards and other exotic creatures, June 25 at 3 p.m.; Penny's Puppets, a show of comedy, laughter and audience participation, July 2 at 3 p.m.



## FINDING TREASURE

Jim Rutledge

A while back there was some talk that we needed more articles that "had value." Well here is something that works. I was able to find \$168 dollars for my son by using this web site: [unclaimed.org](http://unclaimed.org). Unfortunately I didn't find any for me, but that's ok. It took about 15 minutes of my time and trying to remember where we have lived — and the found money was from almost 20 years ago. Go forth and prosper.

## OUR AQUIFER: DO WE NEED TO TAKE ACTION?

Jake Jakabosky

Some folks say some High Prairie wells are declining and a few have gone dry. Others, including a few experts, say well levels are static or even rising. So what's really happening to our aquifer? Is there any action we should take to protect our wells?

We do know that elsewhere, residential development, agriculture, municipal and other ground water withdrawals have resulted in obvious aquifer declines where wells have gone dry or had to be drilled deeper, at considerable expense. Examples include large areas in Kittitas County and a four county region around Othello, Wash. Most recently, the Mosier watershed has been closed to new withdrawals by the State of Oregon after 20 years of data have demonstrated a declining aquifer, currently at a rate of four to five feet per year.

Many of you probably remember the October 9, 2008 meeting at the Lyle High School where over 50 concerned High Prairians convened in a moderated meeting to consider a wide range of issues posted around the room. Everyone had an opportunity to vote on the three issues most important to them. Concerns about our aquifer received far more votes than any other issue.

Soon after that meeting the Aquifer Committee formed to study the issue further. Thus far we have defined our purpose, goals and objectives, conducted interviews, attended Klickitat County Water Resource Inventory Area 30 (WRIA) meetings and reviewed documents the contractor has produced, researched the aquifer problems of other areas, and developed a list of potential actions High Prairie landowners could take to protect the aquifer from over use.

In interviews, Curt Dreyer, Klickitat County Planning Director, stated that much of High Prairie is zoned General Rural with a five acre minimum lot size. More specifically, this is an area from just west of Hartland Road east to the Shilling Road area and north of Centerville Highway. This, of course, means there could potentially be a large number of wells eventually drilled in that area. Dreyer also said the County Planning Commission

is currently considering an American Farmland Trust recommendation for a "Cluster Zone Overlay" whereby minimum lot size could be as little as one acre in some locations, depending upon soil perk tests for septic systems. (We also learned from Dreyer that the two proposed subdivisions of the Meislahn property on Hartland Road near Johnson Lake have been withdrawn. This proposal was of considerable concern to High Prairians.)

The Aquifer Committee recently met with John Grim, a Lyle civil engineer who lives on High Prairie and has been involved in municipal water planning and engineering for 22 years, including the installation of over 50 wells. We spoke about a well near the east end of Struck Road that recently went dry and had to be drilled deeper. Why the well failed is unknown but it may have been located in a very small aquifer confined by faults. Grim suggests that a dry well be investigated before resorting to the expense of drilling. For instance, the well can be examined by video camera. A determination can be made regarding the pump being over-sized for the well, the presence of sediment clogging the pump or rock fractures, or the presence of iron bacteria.

We also discussed the ongoing Klickitat County WRIA Study, which is sounding wells to determine whether if well levels are static, declining or rising. Sounding is accomplished by dropping a measuring tape with an electronic probe to the water level, at which point a "beep" is sounded by the instrument. (Probes are available that override false signals from cascading water—water that enters the well above the static water level.) This study could be valuable to us except for the fact that too few High Prairie wells are included; most are on the east end, and the study is not likely to add more in west High Prairie where we need them.

Grim is concerned the study is not detecting the true static water level of many wells, as monitoring is done with little advance notice to the well owner. Ideally, the County should notify the owner 24 hours before planned monitoring. The owner then has the option of ceasing



Photo: Fred Henschell

## AQUIFER (cont'd)

pumping for 12 to 24 hours to ensure a more accurate reading as the well has time to recover to its actual static level. Without resting the well, data must be gathered over a longer period of years before an accurate average static level can be determined and a trend up or down demonstrated.

So, if development of High Prairie with its attendant well drilling is going to continue (especially when the economy improves), and if the WRIA well sounding study is limited on High Prairie, what can owners do to protect their wells from eventual decline? Grim said each owner needs to determine the actual static level of their well and ascertain, over time, if that level is truly static or rising or falling. He indicated that if an owner can document a decrease in existing well levels adjacent to new development that owner should have good recourse. One option is to notify the County and insist on rezoning or a moratorium on development. Another option, available only in the event of a dry well, is to take legal action through the Washington Dept. of Ecology.

Options the Aquifer Committee is exploring include:

- 1.) Put pressure on the County to include a lot more wells on High Prairie in the WRIA study. The County claims funding and lack of personnel is a problem.
- 2.) Initiate our own monitoring study:
  - a.) Seek a grant for roughly \$1,200 for equipment, and
  - b.) Obtain training for a small core group of residents to do the monitoring, or
  - c.) Hire a company to do the monitoring (expensive), or
  - d.) Locate a Ph.D. candidate to do the monitoring and modeling of the basin ground water.

The Aquifer Committee welcomes your input, advice or assistance. Contact Jake Jakabosky 365-0025.



## FARMLAND PRESERVATION

Curt Dreyer, Director

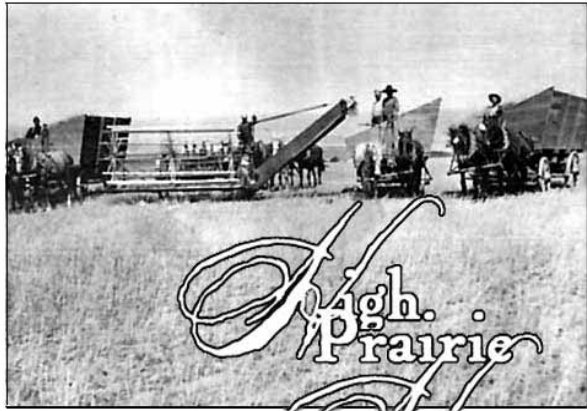
Klickitat County Planning Department

The report from the American Farmland Trust to Klickitat County was completed in late December of 2008. It included 21 recommendations for actions to improve conditions for local agriculture, to enhance the future for agriculture and to protect the future of Klickitat County agricultural lands. The "number 1" recommendation was to encourage the use of cluster zoning. Clustering is implemented as follows: Under 20-acre minimum/agricultural zoning, a landowner of 100 acres currently can divide their land into 5 parcels, each of which is 20 acres; under clustering, the landowner can divide the land into 4 small parcels (1 or 2 acres each) and retain the remaining acreage as a farm unit on the 5th parcel.

The report was provided to the Board of County Commissioners, Land and Natural Resources Advisory Committee, Planning Commission and Central Klickitat Conservation District in early 2009. Because the Planning Commission is charged under state statutes with the task of considering revisions to zoning, they (Planning Commission) began studying/discussing agricultural cluster zoning in June of 2009. The Planning Commission meets once a month to consider a variety of other planning issues and has been conducting workshops on agricultural cluster zoning as time allows. During their April workshop/meeting, the Planning Commission discussed potential standards for clustering lots within agricultural areas. Among the topics discussed: should small clustered lots be allowed on the prime farm soils? Should buffers be required between the clustered lots and the farm operation? Should the clustered lots be located on an existing school bus route?

The Planning Commission is continuing discussions of an agricultural cluster zone that would eventually be adopted into the zoning regulations. They do not have a deadline for completing their discussions. When they have decided on a final draft cluster zone, they will conduct a public hearing to take comments from the public; they will then make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners whether to adopt an agricultural cluster zone into the zoning regulations.

The Planning Department posts notices of meetings on our website at: <http://www.klickitatcounty.org/Planning/>



Doug Taylor

## FIRE DISTRICT

### Part II – The 21st Century

*At the end of 2009 our 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. The first installment of the article was published in the March 2010 issue of the High Prairian.*

Cal Edwards, Fire Commissioner

#### The Fire District (continued)

We have managed to receive grants from the County for a total of \$38,000 in 2000 for updated safety equipment, pagers, paint jobs, and self-contained breathing equipment. Chris Patrick and Doug Hutchinson worked on formulating this grant. The HPNA donated to the Fire District several thousand dollars to update the firehall and other equipment updates. These funds came to the HPNA through the annual Firehouse Sale, other fundraisers, and many hours of volunteer effort.

In 2001 the district applied for and received \$10,000 from the County grant money to develop a water supply. Martha Hamil, president of the High Prairie Neighborhood Association, formulated this grant. Placing a 14,000-gallon tank and installing a 500-gallon a minute pump in the tank has used these funds. All located on property donated to the district by Myrin and Audrey Bentz. This property came with well, 1 HP pump installed, electricity and road frontage with a total value of more than \$35,000.

District 14 has applied for and received a grant

from FEMA for \$230,000 with a 90/10 match for a new all-purpose 4-wheel drive vehicle with 750-gallon water capacity. It has been ordered according to district specifications researched by Doug Hutchison. This truck should be delivered by mid summer of 2002; this equipment should finalize our need for state requirements to get our "8" rating. We will be capable of responding to local emergencies with more striking power and state-of-the-art equipment. This truck along with other equipment should put us in a very supportive position with our neighbor districts.

For 2002 we received \$19,000 from the County grant fund for equipment repair, new tires and pump repair. This request was agreed upon by the board and finalized by Chairman Fred Henschell. Also \$4500 was received for fencing and other upgrades on the water storage property. We were fortunate this year, most of what was requested was granted by the County. These grants have helped the District tremendously as otherwise we would either need to run a levy or do nothing.

In 2005 the District requested of the EDA \$24,975 and a matching grant from the state DNR for a new brush truck which we received in 2006

Our District Secretaries over the years were John Roberts, Steve Johnson, Paula Dickinson, Reatha Crock, Paula Lynch and our present secretary Cindy Henschell. We have had Cindy Dickinson, Dona Taylor and Martha Hamil filling in for short periods. We owe much of our success to these very capable people.

Some of our first firefighters were Robert Schilling, Carl Parrish, Steve Rolfe, Merlin Anderson, John Mott, Ramona Searle, Mary Orcutt, John Roberts, Tom Amery, Ted Struck, Tad Blouin, Steven Johnson and Douglas Taylor.

Our District when formed consisted of probably not more than 35 families. At the present time we have over 120 families, another 200 absentee owners.

The fire people in 2002 were Al Aleckson, Tom Amery, James Amery, Myrin Bentz, Tim Darland, Cal Edwards, Laurie Gerber, Phil Haner, Bruce Harris, Richard Harris, Fred Henschell, Doug Hutchison, Ramona Searle, and Nayland Wilkins.

The Fire District requested and received about \$20,000 in 2008 from the EDA to pay off the fire truck loan and to improve safety at the community center.

It should be mentioned that acreage was donated



on Schilling Road by Mr. and Mrs. Ron Olin for a building site for a firehall to reduce insurance for those residents in that area. .

We also are very happy that the firehall property on Centerville Hwy that the district has leased for several years was donated to the fire district in 2008 by Mrs. Joseph Petroff.

2010 update: We as always have the need for more trained volunteers who want to see their community protected and to help with the protection of lives. We presently have a great group and have had many dedicated people in the past, but there is always a need for one more body willing to take the challenge.

The present firemen are James Amery, Phil Haner, Tim Darland, Fred Henschell, Doug Hutchison, Myrin Bentz, Rob Taylor, Neil Shuster, Dave Thom, and Jake Jakabosky.

We have just finished with a state grant of \$602,000 prepared by Cal Edwards for the new Community Center/Firehall on Struck Road. This project received much valued support from community appointed members.

We have come a long ways since we used the gunnysacks and our running abilities.

## GRADUATION

Tom Doll

One day each week my mother dusted  
The pictures on the shelf.

Each night as I came home from school  
I played the same old songs,  
Congratulating my little self,  
Knowing that the world will not change.

I progressed grade by grade  
As I grew inch by inch.  
The world around me began to change.  
My voice, body and mind  
Developed a new perspective of life.

Whose shoes shall I follow?  
Confused with life's complexities,  
I am at odds, self-contradictory, out of tune,  
Knowing I have to change this world.

How long will it take,  
Beyond infinity.  
But now one hour each week,  
My mother dusts my pictures clean.

## FIRE HALL PAINTING

Doug Taylor

John Simpson of Faux Finish Painting was kind enough to donate one entire day and some supplies to assist with the firehall painting project. His donation was certainly appreciated by the High Prairie community and we would like to thank him for his generous contribution.

John's business phone is (509)767-2352. We would also like to thank Peter Lovejoy, the Lyle fire chief, for his very valued help. The local firemen have been contributing their many talents also with several community projects. Thanks fellows.



## GEARING UP FOR JUNIOR YEAR IN JAPAN

Shelby McKern and Will Conley

Hi! My name is Shelby McKern. I am headed to Japan in two months for my Junior year of High School. I will be attending a school with other American students, taking standard high school classes along with Japanese language and history. Living with a host family will give me plenty of chances to practice the Japanese language that I will spend two hours each school day studying. I will be able to travel to many places in Japan with my school, seeing many places of interest. I have had a long-standing interest in Japanese culture, enjoying their music, artwork, literature, and food. I am very excited!!

Although this is a tremendously expensive opportunity, I have been granted a tremendous scholarship, leaving me about \$7,000 in tuition and expenses left to raise. If you attended the High Prairie Firehouse Sale, you might have seen my booth. I am seeking summer jobs that will help me earn money for my trip expenses. I am also seeking sponsors who are willing to help me reach my fundraising goal.

My research has shown me that the ability to speak Japanese and have an understanding of their culture opens up many professional opportunities for me when I finish college. I know that this is an amazing opportunity and I appreciate any help that you might be willing to provide!

You can reach me at 365.2755 or email me at mckerns20acres@yahoo.com.

## WHAT DID YOUR MOTHER TELL YOU ABOUT BOILING EGGS?

Martha M. Hamil

If she said any of the following, she was right:

- Have them at room temperature
- Start them in cold water
- Make sure the water is salted
- Punch a hole in the broad end with a needle.

The physics and chemistry of cooking eggs demands that you do all these. If she said anything else other than to start with eggs 2 to 3 days old, ignore her advice.

Cooking eggs follows certain rules of chemistry and physics. Ignore them and you end up with a soft-boiled egg that is overcooked or undercooked. Alternatively, the hard cooked egg will have a greenish-black rim around the yolk or the yolk will not be centered. Neither will kill you but the appearance is offputting.

The physics involved are quite simple. Room temperature and cold water are to insure that the eggs are not subjected to the shock of a drastic temperature change which promotes cracking. Salt coagulates the albumin (the white) if the egg does happen to crack. The needle hole allows air to escape from the air sac to help prevent cracking and to keep the yolk centered. (Commercial egg piercers are available in gourmet stores everywhere).

Eggs only need to be brought to a boil. To prevent overcooking or a greenish-black rim forming around the yolk, turn off the fire and allow the eggs to sit in the hot water for 3 minutes (soft cooked, 4 minutes on High Prairie) or 18 minutes (hard cooked). Eighteen and four minutes resulted from my experiments with eggs cooked in the shell on High Prairie. My place is at 1,450 feet; your hot-water time may be a bit more or less.

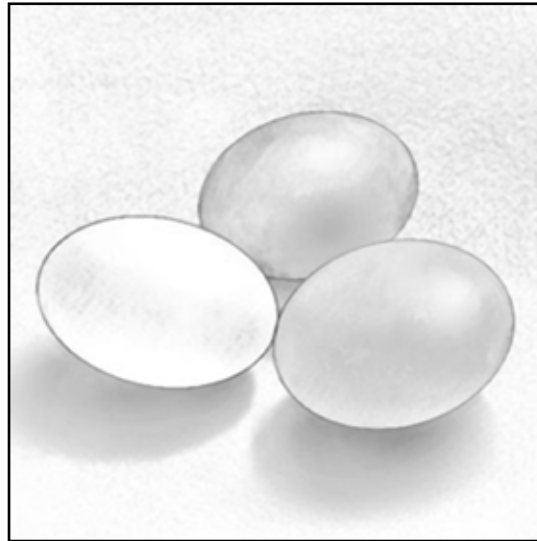
Immediately immerse the eggs in cold water and keep the cold water running until you can handle them. Very fresh eggs do not peel easily because the membrane is still attached to the white. If

you want a perfect eggs for such things as deviled eggs or Scotch eggs or twice-cooked eggs use eggs 3 or 4 days old to peel easily. Don't worry if you use supermarket eggs; they are generally several weeks old. The easiest way to peel them is to cool the eggs under cold, running water, crackle the shell all over, and peel under cold, running water. Perfect eggs every time with no greenish black rim on the yolk!

Raw eggs in the shell can also be baked. I sometimes do this by enclosing the room temperature egg with a punched hole in cookie dough for Easter.

If you color the egg beforehand, kids love the cookies (adults, too). Two birds with one stone or some similar aphorism probably applies.

Frying eggs, coddling eggs, scrambling, and poaching eggs are a somewhat different story. For fried eggs, have the fat just hot enough to begin cooking the white immediately. Too hot and the white bubbles and becomes tan and tough; too cool and the egg absorbs too much grease. The fresher the egg, the better the white



stands up boldly and holds together.

Coddled eggs are made by poking a hole in a fresh egg in the shell and immersing it in water just below the boiling point for a minute or so, until the yolk is warmed and thickened (Traditional Caesar dressing calls for a coddled egg.) To poach an egg, use a fairly deep saucepan with a tablespoon or so of vinegar added to the water. Stir the boiling water vigorously to make a well and add the egg. Once the white is opaque, remove the egg with a slotted spoon. Be sure to drain the egg well.

Scrambled depends much on taste. Personally, I like them soft-scrambled. Therefore, I beat a couple of eggs and add a couple of tablespoons of heavy cream or half-and-half and pour the mixture into a medium hot pan containing melted butter. Stir slowly but frequently until the eggs look cooked but still moist. Sprinkle a little paprika on top. Ambrosia!

## BEAR SIGHTINGS AND WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS

Doug Taylor

Week of May 16, 2010: Tom Doll reports Lozetta seeing possibly a yearling black bear east of their property on hills near South Prairie Road.

May 22: Bob Fraley reports seeing a big black bear May 22 2010. "At 2:00 p.m. today on way home I saw Black Bear Centerville Road 500 block or five mile marker. He was good size bear, looked down at my car and turned going back up hill, gave me good look at him. This guy was probably checking to see if we are getting more residents. Apparently his intentions were good."

May 23: Bob also reported the next day their golden lab dog was out minding his own business when a doe deer with a fawn spotted him and she gave chase. Poor old rover ran as fast as his legs would carry him toward the house, but the doe over took him and gave him a good thumping.

May 23: Received a report of bear sighting by Tom McMackin on Struck Road. He states about 10 a.m. this morning—a young (2 yr?) black bear (cinnamon version) ambled past about 75 yards from the house headed—south to north from Struck Road and northwest into Knight Canyon. Looked to be well fed and in his/her element...

May 29: Bob Fraley sees cinnamon bear near Struck Road. Something must be attracting them in that area.

June 5: John Taylor photographs cinnamon bear near top of John's Grade. Adult (large), possibly male, no cubs.

Several reports of seeing a black bear or even a bear and cub at other times. Most reports around Hartland road west through Oda Knight Road.



May 26: I saw my first new hatch turkeys, three poults with hen, about a week old.

May 30: Saw hen turkey in my pasture, 3 poults 2 days old.

June 2: Deer fawns showing up in many places.



## LLAMA FOUND DEAD

Doug Taylor

Cheri Dehart reported finding a dead adult llama in her pasture mother's day. She reported this being the second one she has lost. Game Warden investigated and said coyotes and probably birds had destroyed much of the evidence. It was impossible to say what may have killed it, but presume possibly a cougar. After investigating, they heard a shot near a mailbox on Hartland Road and investigating that found a white male throwing a hen turkey untagged into the back of his car.

High Prairie has been kind to the state game department, Game Wardens citing several game violations, just during the turkey season.



## THE CLIMBING MOUSE

Doug Taylor

This spring I moved a small log lying close to a railroad tie upright corner post. A house mouse ran out and climbed the tie. After climbing and reaching the top it surveyed the area. An oak limb of approximately 1/2-inch in diameter was near to the tie and slightly above, and about 11 inches distance away. The mouse effortlessly jumped onto the limb and proceeded to disappear about 10 or so feet above the ground in the branches of the oak tree.

I buttoned my collar and backed away from under the tree.

## FLYING HIGH IN HIGH PRAIRIE

Daniel Holman

Recently, I was asked by Tom Doll to write a short article about our sport of remote control aviation. First let me introduce myself and my brother to you. My name is Daniel Holman and I am 15 years old (almost 16 ☺) and my brother is Michael Holman – 13 years old. We live on Rappe Dr. which curves off of the last part of South Prairie Rd. in High Prairie. For those of you who have been to Tom and Lozetta's house, you can see our home two houses below theirs.

Many of you have probably seen the 'fast and somewhat colorful birds' that we fly here at our house. ☺ I have been flying RC airplanes for almost 7 years and my brother has been for almost 5. We started out with very small, inexpensive airplanes and over time, the planes that we fly have increased in size, speed and maneuverability. We now fly planes ranging from 14 inches wide and weighing 7 grams all the way up to almost 10 feet and 35 pounds. All the planes that we fly here at our house are electric and fly on Lithium Polymer batteries. The battery technology has advanced dramatically in the past few years and is now nothing short of amazing. The motors are highly specialized brushless types that produce power that one would think unachievable by anything electric. My latest electric airplane is called the Edge-540EXP and is modeled after the full scale 2 seat, aerobatic plane. This particular model is THE most aerobatic RC airplane in the world and is capable of approximately +/- 11Gs. – enough to kill any human pilot inside. They are made of aircraft grade plywood, carbon fiber and covered with a lightweight, iron-on film. All the planes that we fly have power to weight ratios that are far in excess of 1:1 which means that there is more power than weight. With this being said, unless initiated by the pilot, the planes will never stall and can climb vertically for an unlimited distance. Some of our planes have a power to weight ratio that is approaching 3:1. The range that the radios and receivers have is astounding and the small planes can be flown up to a quarter of a mile away while the giant scale planes can fly approximately 4 miles away—beyond visual limits.

The smaller electric airplanes are reasonably priced, but the giant scale planes can get up to \$7,000 dollars (parts only). The one that I'm building now is approximately \$6,000. We work very

hard to pay for our planes and offer building services for other people in the hobby. I have built about 85 airplanes. Building planes for other local people is the biggest source of income, but I also give lessons as well. I have also been blessed with 3 companies that sponsor me and give me their products for free and I promote them in return. My Edge 540EXP and Extra 300EXP were both given to me by the company, Extreme Flight RC. In return, I make the advertisement videos for those airplanes for their website.

When we first started out, we mostly flew what is called "scale" type flying, but in the past 4 years have been flying aerobatics only. There are 2 kinds of aerobatics that we fly. The first class is called IMAC (International Miniature Aerobatic Club). This kind of flying is comprised of precision sequences that are flown in competition and are judged according to how precisely they are flown. For instance, each maneuver is started out with a score of 10 and the judges deduct points for flaws. This kind of flying is very challenging and truly teaches the pilot to be in full and complete control of every aspect of the flight.

The 2nd type of flying that we do is called 3D/freestyle. This kind of flying is the most exciting to watch as it is comprised of maneuvers that are impossible to do with a full-scale airplane. They include hovering, in which the airplane hangs on the propeller and stands perfectly still right in front of us. Also there are maneuvers such as rolling circles, rolling loops and rolling figure eights in which the airplane rolls at approximately 500+ degrees per second while doing aerobatic figures in the sky. There are many other maneuvers such as precision snap rolls, point rolls, slow rolls, lomcevac tumbles, flat spins, knife edge spins etc. These are just a handful of the multitude of maneuvers that we do with these planes. On the competitive side of 3D/freestyle flying is the 4-minute-freestyle. In competition we fly a 4 minute routine to a mix of music that we chose. The routine is made by the pilot and is judged for precision, choreography, originality, and the overall flow of the routine. These freestyles are often flown with a smoke system for an even more exciting and beautiful flight.

The giant scale airplanes that we fly are also built out of plywood, carbon fiber and covered in the

## FLYING HIGH IN HIGH PRAIRIE (cont'd)

iron-on film. Even though there are electric motors that are big enough for these planes, we fly them with gasoline engines that run on regular gasoline mixed 100:1 with oil. These engines produce anywhere from 7, to 17 horse power. My brother's plane has a 50cc engine which spins a 23" propeller at approximately 7,200rpm and produces around 36lbs of thrust. The airplane that I am building right now has a 120cc engine which will turn a 28" propeller at around 7,400 rpm and will produce somewhere around 80lbs of thrust.

Just a couple weeks ago we returned from Israel where we had a wonderful time and competed in the IMAC/Freestyle contest over there. It was an excellent contest and after everything was said and done, with the Lord's help, my brother won the Basic class and I won the Sportsman class! We worked very hard and it was such a blessing to come home with BOTH 1st place trophies! We have been very blessed and God is always helping us in everything that we do. Without Him, we are nothing, but through Him, all things are possible!

We also compete in the Pacific Coast Freestyle/IMAC competition which takes place in the last weekend of July every year. This competition is the largest in the Northwest and brings competitors from Canada, Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Texas etc. Last year I placed 4th in freestyle, but the competition was extremely close. This year I will be flying in freestyle and Michael will fly in the Basic IMAC. With the Lord's help, we hope to do well in it!

This hobby is a very fun and challenging one in which we have taken great pleasure over the past years and we look forward to much more in the future.

So, as you're driving close to Mt. Budmore, the Dolls' house and around South Prairie Road, keep your eyes up and from time to time I'm sure you'll see us out there having fun spinning and practicing aerobatics with our planes.

May you all be blessed this month!

If any of you are interested in seeing any of the flying, you can see the videos that I have made here. If you have been up here you will immediately recognize Mt. Adams and Mt. Budmore in the background of the first 2 videos. The third one was taken near Be'er Sheva in the Negev Desert of Israel just 2 weeks ago.

## IN MEMORIAM

Dona Taylor

**Wayne Eshelman**, former High Prairie resident, rancher and cattleman died March 10, 2010. He was 97. He owned the ranch on High Prairie Road where the Tom Amery's rental property is located. He and wife Katherine were active in many local and county organizations. They have lived in the Seattle area for the past few years near family due to ill health. He was buried in the Centerville Cemetery. His wife Katherine and three children survive Wayne.

Condolences to Mike Chabbert on the death of his 89 year old father, **Leo Chabbert** of Fairview, Oregon. Mike and his wife Teri have spent many hours at his bedside for the past several months. Mike and Teri are High Prairie residents and well respected neighbors.

Our sympathy to both families on their loss.

## DOGS OF THE GORGE (D.O.G.)

Renee Briggs

D.O.G. was established in June of 2007. Our founder, Lisa Mabrey, saw a real need in helping Klickitat County residents with the spaying and neutering of their dogs and cats. This is to help with the overpopulation that has become a real problem in the area.

She also helps adopt dogs out that have been abandoned, abused or their owners just don't have time for them anymore. In order to get a dog ready for adoption, we make sure that they are either spayed or neutered and have all their shots.

In the last 3 years that we have been in existence, we have helped close to 400 dogs find new loving homes and have close to 300 cats and dogs spayed or neutered.

Yes, all these things come with a cost. So far, with all the donations and volunteers we have to run our program, we have been pretty successful. However we can always use donations: money, food, dog toys, treats, cleaning supplies, volunteers to help with the dogs or fundraisers and foster homes.

Since Klickitat County covers so much area, we have our annual fundraisers all over, from Trout Lake to Goldendale. We try for at least 6 per year.

If you are interested in helping us or looking for a dog, please call Lisa at (541) 978-0079 or email her at [dogsofthegorge@yahoo.com](mailto:dogsofthegorge@yahoo.com).

## WRECK OF THE LOST ENGINE

(excerpt from the book, *Deep Dark and Dangerous: On the Bottom with the Northwest Salvage Divers*, by Rebecca Harrison.  
[www.deepdarkanddangerous.com](http://www.deepdarkanddangerous.com))

When he was asked to retrieve a lost train engine from the bottom of the deep, narrow gorge of the Deschutes River, Fred Devine, master salvager and owner of his own company in Oregon, had to go as far as The Dalles Dam to gather the right kind of diving equipment for this challenging job.

Shortly before midnight January 31, 1956, a 57-car Spokane, Portland & Seattle (SP&S) freight train on the 150-mile route from Bend, Oregon to Wishram, Washington, rounded a sharp curve two and a half miles south of Maupin, Oregon, and splattered into a fresh rock-fall across the tracks. The rockslide had occurred in a curving deep embankment cut and derailed 17 cars. The diesel locomotive, and one refrigerator car unit loaded with canned goods, plunged over the 25-foot embankment into 200 feet of roaring rapids in the Deschutes River. The engine car disappeared into the rapids, but the refrigerator car poked its tip out of the water. It could not have happened in a more dangerous spot than this wild-running white-water.

The railway company was eager to recover the bodies of the crew and the diesel engine, which was worth \$200,000. Devine was called upon for the recovery of the lost cars in the river. "I don't see why we can't get this train up instead of twittering around the way these railway men want us to," Devine scowled. These sunken units in the treacherous waters posed a huge challenge that Devine had never encountered in his thirty years of diving.

Divers Smith and Morris took one look at the river and decided that it would be impossible to search for the units underwater; the rapids would not allow it. The completion of this job would prove that salvage work above the surface could be just as critical as what was accomplished underwater.

Devine studied the river along the west bank where the rail line ran. It was impossible to work from there, as the front of the rail bed dropped sharply into the river. The walls, which hugged the river, were tall, steep and foreboding. He could hear the rush of the fierce rapids below him, and could smell the fresh air of the Deschutes.

Using a railway crane and boom was out of the question. The crane could never lift the engine free from the rock bed and a boom wasn't long enough to reach the center of the 200-foot wide rapids.

Devine decided to work from the east bank of the river. The water passage was bursting with surging rapids and it was too narrow for the divers, all they could do was use-sounding equipment to try and locate the engine. After examining the situation, Devine decided it best to anchor a sea sled over the whereabouts of the engine. He then sent Smith to Astoria to obtain several large cables and other tools from his tug, the *Salvage Chief*.

Morris and Smith helped set up operations with two Caterpillar tractors. By forming a loop with more than 4,000 feet of two-inch steel cable and extending it eight feet over the river with the 80-foot boom of a railway crane, they could drop the loop over the area where the 125-ton diesel locomotive was buried underwater. Using his famous block and tackle skills, Devine added several twists into the cable system, which doubled the pulling power of the tractors. Devine had used this method before when searching for distressed ships, but in the ocean, he had much better visibility. Several attempts were made with the steel loop, and finally, after many days, it appeared to be working, but there was still no clue as to where the diesel might be buried under the wicked water. A third try was made with the loop. The men felt it holding fast to something twenty-five feet below the river's surface. Even with this robust machinery, they still could not hoist it free.

By Tuesday afternoon, the tractors roared and strained, generating 100 tons of pull. The blocks inched forward fifty feet. Suddenly, the river slowed. The engine had formed a submarine dam. The water level near the boulders along the site dropped a foot and a half. The rigging on the cables joggled, and the big tractors roared again. Finally, breaking the surface, the bright yellow hull of the engine appeared. The tractors pulled on the lines and gradually the back end of the drowned locomotive, facing upstream, moved within ten feet of the rocky shore. Then, a loud

snap was heard as the cable broke. The engine settled near the rocks some three feet beneath the boiling rapids. It sat right side up, with 30 feet of the 52-foot hull, including the cab, lodged against the huge boulders jutting up into midstream. A crowd of 100 spectators shouted and cheered for the men below. Morris sighed and patted Smith on the back. The applause was well deserved. Seventeen days had gone by since the train wreck.

With the engine peeking out above the waterline, the divers decided to risk going under. They took a small boat out along the cab where the waters were smooth enough for Smith to dive down and search for the missing bodies. Because of the pressure buildup inside of the engine, Smith could not prod the cab thoroughly with a pike pole. Neither could he get into the passageway alongside the Diesel engines on the left side of the locomotive. Smith found that both the two-foot square windows on the engineer and tender's side of the cab had been broken out. The engineer's door was closed, but the tender's side was open. Smith found the body of Mr. Barton in the engine room and brought it to shore. Devine figured Mr. Sutton's body was thrown from the wreck when it struck a rock slide and plummeted into the river. (Mr. Sutton's body was found much later several miles downstream.)

Since the engine was still stuck after all of this effort, Devine decided on a new approach. He would build an A-frame with heavy timbers and try to apply a vertical lift on the engine and raise its back end from the rock ledge. If he were successful, the engine would fetch up on the east bank. He ordered twenty-four dynamite sticks to be set along the underwater ledge. The blasts caused the engine to tip wildly while an enormous geyser of water sprayed into the air. The men rushed towards the engine to wrap another cable around it. More dynamite and cable inched the engine closer to shore.

After nearly a month of rescue effort, the engine was pulled to shore. Railroad workers took parts from the engine to the Portland yards. Devine had beaten the odds again with one of the most remarkable projects in his company's history.

*This poem was sent to me from a good friend who was a teacher for the North Clackamas School District. I worked with her for 24 years before she retired. I would like to dedicate it to all the new friends we have made at the "Garden of Weedin" - the community garden located at the Taylors' corrals. Barbara Parrish*

## GARDEN MEDITATION

Author Unknown

Let us give thanks for a bounty of people.

For children who are our second planting, and, though they grow like weeds, and the wind too soon blows them away, may they forgive us our cultivation and fondly remember where their roots are.

Let us give thanks:

For generous friends, with heart and smiles as bright as their blossoms;

For feisty friends as tart as apples;

For continuous friends, who like scallions and cucumbers, keep reminding us that we've had them;

For crotchety friends, who are as sour as rhubarb and as indestructible;

For handsome friends, who are as gorgeous as eggplants and as elegant as a row of corn, and, the others, as plain as potatoes and so good for us;

For funny friends who are silly as Brussel sprouts and as humorous as Jerusalem artichokes;

Let us give thanks for serious friends as complex as cauliflowers, and as intricate as onions.

For friends as unpretentious as cabbages, as subtle as summer squash, as persistent as parsley, as delightful as dill, as endless as zucchini, and for those who, like parsnips, can be counted on to see us through the winter.

Let us give thanks for old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the evening time, and for young friends coming on as fast as radishes;

For loving friends who wind around us like tendrils and hold us, despite our blights, our wilts and our witherings.

And finally, let us give thanks for friends now gone, like gardens past that have been harvested, but who fed us in their time that we might have life thereafter.

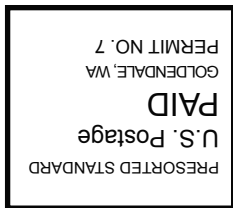
For all these we give thanks!

*How lucky we are to have friends like these everyday garden vegetables. Thanks!*



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