



# The High Prairian

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

Volume Ten, Number Three

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September 2010

## NOTICES

2010 Burn Ban ends September 30

High Prairie Community Center Open House  
October 19, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Poe Night... November 6th, 7:20 p.m.  
at the Rutledge's

**Fire Volunteers** meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the new Fire Station 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 new Fire Station.

**High Prairie Community Council** meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Community Center.

**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**

## WELCOME

Welcome to Dan and Kelly Tracy, formerly from Olympia. Dan is phasing out his construction business in Olympia and Kelly has started work in the Klickitat County Personnel Department in Goldendale. Their home is on High Meadow Drive.

## HIGH PRAIRIE FIRE DEPARTMENT

## HIGH PRAIRIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Cordially invites you to help us celebrate the completion of our new building at an

## OPEN HOUSE

October 10, 2010 from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
with ceremony at 3:00 p.m.



## OPEN HOUSE

Audrey Bentz

YES— WE ARE READY TO GO!

Our fire house/community center (still to be named) on 701 Struck Road is finally ready to make its debut! Although we've had several years of planning and constructing, with some impatience due to weather, cost increases, etc., the wait has been worth it all.

Our OPEN HOUSE is now scheduled for Sunday, October 10 from 2 to 6 p.m. At 3 p.m., there will be a special program of recognition and information, and some tasty treats and coffee will be available throughout the afternoon. See you there!

## PROOF

Douglas Taylor

Earl Kemp came by the other day with a batch of peaches he raised in his yard. He had been out giving his neighbors a delicious delight. Sometimes the willingness to try proves successful. I never would have believed one could raise peaches here on the Prairie. Thanks Earl.



### The High Prairian

P.O. Box 592 Lyle, WA 98635

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


## HIGH PRAIRIE BOOK CLUB HAPPENINGS

Lozetta Doll

On August 5 a group of book club members drove to Husum Highlands Bed and Breakfast for a tea. A tour of the house and grounds followed and it made for a relaxing and enjoyable afternoon. The tea was a silent auction item at the Firehouse Sale and Jocelyn Weeks had submitted the final bid. The owners, Carol and Jerry Stockwell, were very friendly and accommodating.

The High Prairie Book Club meets each month on the fourth Monday. The following books have been selected for upcoming meetings: *Escape* by Carolyn Jessup for the September 27 meeting, *Ella Minnow Pea* by Mark Dunn for the October 25 meeting, and *Lean on Pete* by Willy Vlautin for the November 22 meeting. You may call Lozetta Doll (509) 365-0010 or Sharon Aleckson (509) 365-4429 for information as to where the next meetings will occur. Anyone is welcome.

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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## MOM'S PIANO SEPTEMBER 2010

Ruth Woods

My mother's piano looks lovely in it's place of honor near a golden, freshly-painted wall in our new community center. The gold paint brings out the rich hues of the curly maple burl from which the piano was created in 1896, over 100 years ago. Decker Brothers of New York City were famous for manufacturing high quality pianos.

Believe me, the piano was not so beautiful 50 years ago when my Aunt Esther bought it for Mom. Mother spent weeks of her spare time painstakingly removing layers and layers of black paint. Lots of tedious scraping and sanding!

When I was growing up, Mom would play "ragtime" music to wake us up in the morning instead of setting the alarm. Our family had many happy "sing alongs" around that piano and I know my mother would be pleased that it is now in a place where more people can enjoy it.



I would like to sign off with a special note of appreciation for the Lester Moving Company of Hood River, Oregon who, as a community service, gave my husband a super-good deal to professionally move the piano from our home to the community center. Thank you Warren, Pete and Drew. It was no easy feat standing the "800 lb. gorilla" on end to get it out of the bedroom!

Tom Doll made custom wooden piano coasters (with very little notice) for the piano to sit on. Thanks Tom!

## THE SAFETY PIN

Tom Doll

Life starts to ebb at the moment of our arrival  
In a chaotic universe that we don't know,  
Equipped with human minds to decipher the secrets  
Of life's virtues and final destinations, will take time.

Achievements matter for those of us who survive,  
For many factors will determine our place in society  
And how we live, what we read and write will define  
Where we are going instead of where we have been.

Trusting our public political polls rather than  
common wisdom

For the reality of life is a circle for both winners and losers.  
We are kept alive to share in the grief of fear,  
Talking is our solace when we face extinction,  
A luxury for the species that is supposed to think  
and comprehend life and our existence.

Remember when the contentment of this life  
Was brought forth each night  
Those tired hands that washed and dried our bodies  
Comforted our being with a simple  
Safety pin that was placed just right.

## IN MEMORIAM

Douglas and Dona Taylor

Julia (Border Collie)



Cowman's good friend  
Friendly, industrious and loved to travel,  
loved by all who knew her.

Born May 1996 – Died July 2010

Buried Taylor Ranch

Special thanks to Maryann Randall, DVM  
Professional, caring and generous.





Doug Taylor

*History*

## THE HIGH PRAIRIE STRUCKS

Ernest H. "Ernie" Struck was born October 18, 1903 in Hood River to Bertha (Runge) and Ludwig Struck. The family moved to Appleton when he was nine. Ernie and Virginia, whom he married in 1928, started their cattle business that year and continued to increase their herd for nearly 60 years. They moved to High Prairie in 1946 with their children Ted and Ellen (twins) and Gene. They at one time owned many acres in High Prairie, Rocky Flats, Appleton and Trout Lake. They lived in the old ranch house for many years until building a new one, right near it. This house is now occupied by Cal and Sharon Edwards.

Mrs. Struck was born in Seattle to James and Ella McGowan. After completing high school in Seattle she attended Oregon State University where she studied voice. She later worked in the banking

business in Seattle. She met Ernie on one of her journeys to visit her uncle in Klickitat County.

Ernie was a cowboy's cowboy. Many times I saw him tie his horse to the porch rail and go into the house for a drink or for supper. Upon coming out, he would untie and mount his horse and ride across the road to stall the horse. He could back his truck up to a fence along the road, open the tail gate and load either his horse or several head of cattle. He was so good with a horse that one year he entered the Lyle Pioneer Days cross-country run and won it hands down.

I once rode to Appleton as an observer to a cattle roundup with Ernie and Gene where the brush was so thick it would be hard to even walk through. They chased the cattle though at a gallop and came out the other side with their hats still on and nary a scratch.

Gene Struck told me that generally Ernie had a round number of 500 head of cattle. Several years they had an extensive feedlot where they fattened many of their cattle. Generally any inquiries about extra



cattle would be directed to Ernie Struck as he could have cattle scattered from Goldendale to Trout Lake and many places between. Sometimes neighbors on High Prairie would find excess cattle mingled with their own. Just giving him a telephone call would generally get results by the next day. He always

seemed to know where his cattle were and the approximate number. He was a very congenial fellow, often helping a neighbor when he was busy himself.

Cattleman Ernie Struck died at his High Prairie home December 14, 1988 at the age of 85. Virginia McGowan Struck died in Hood River December 1, 1991. She was 86.



## WILDFIRE

Carol Shuster

On Tuesday, August 29th at approximately 12:15 pm, a call went out of a wildfire burning one mile north of Lyle.. Our volunteer firefighters responded along with 16 other districts around Washington.

The fire raced up the canyon leaving devastation in its wake. One barn and two out buildings were burned, but no other structures were destroyed.

The incident commander in charge commended the Lyle volunteer fire department for getting the crews working before he arrived, He just set to work without having to tell people what needed to be done. The fire burned a total of 2,040 acres.

There were a total of 712 personnel working the fire. Firefighters were able to get a handle on the fire by back burning unburned grasses and

other vegetation under controlled conditions. No injuries were reported to either the firefighters or the residents.

*We would like to thank all who helped with the fire.*



Photography: Jim Nelson



**Burn ban is still in effect  
until October 1**

**Please be careful  
with fire!**

## DISASTER AVOIDED

Douglas Taylor

With winds up to 58 miles per hour and a blazing fire, smoke so thick visibility very limited, west of the Prairie, a disaster was avoided by quick action of firefighters and just lots of luck. The only real divide was the river which could have been jumped easily in normal times with such winds.

Rains came the second day, with a thunderstorm first, followed by a general rain which helped slow the advance of fire. We can all breathe a little easier now, although we still have lots of dry tinder that can very easily burn.

Thanks to the quick response by our local firefighters, many local fire districts as well as state and federal departments. The fire was contained without a terrific loss to anyone.

*All local and other agencies were well prepared and of which we are very appreciative.*

## HIGH PRAIRIANS SHINE AT KLICKITAT COUNTY FAIR

Martha M. Hamil, Reporter

High Prairians raked in the blue ribbons along with some reds and the occasional white. The exciting part though is that some received Big Awards.

All High Prairians won with a **Judges Choice Award** and a blue ribbon on our The Needlers' 2010 raffle quilt, named Irish Spring.

Terry Chabbert wowed them in the Homemaker of the Year competition. So, say congratulations our own **2010 Homemaker of the Year**. To do this she earned 17 blue ribbons and 9 red ribbons in 3 different departments plus a Rosette in the **Re-Use It** arena. She cannot enter again for three years. Other High Prairians take note.

**Top of Show in Crafts** went to newcomer and talented Connie Eggleston for her tole painting of Noah gathering the animals two-by-two on a metal tray.

Desirae Kyte became **Champion Jr. Showman** with her Market Stock wether and received a **Judge Choice** award on a knitted stocking cap and **Top of Division** for her pickled beets. Her pickled beets, dill pickles, bread and butter pickles and stocking hat were selected to go the **Washington State Fair** in Puyallup. She also won Best of Breed with her cashmere fiber goat together with blues on her 50% Boer jr. doe and on her 75% Boer jr. doe. Desirae's Tinkerbelle (llama) was Class Champion and Schmee received a blue. She also won a top blue ribbon for Llama Handler.

Another teenager selected to go the **Washington State Fair** was Jeremy Kyte with his banana bread muffins. Jeremy also became **Reserve Champion Jr. Showman** with his Market Stock wether goat and

earned blues on both his Market Stock wether goats.

Tatiana Taylor took her Market Steer all the way to **Reserve Grand Champion**.

Loretta Lindsey entered 2 Dairy Crossbreed goats and a Fiber Goat of the Cashmere persuasion with her two kids. One Crossbreed received **Best Doe in the Show**; the other got a blue ribbon. The Cashmere doe was **Class Champion** and she got two blues for her kids.

Judi Strait won the **Red Star Yeast** award with her oatmeal bread and 4 blue ribbons in Baking and a red in Quilting.

Martha Hamil won the **McCredy Company Award** in Baking for the number of blues that she won together with some reds and a white (well deserved). She also received a handful of blues in Food Preservation and a few reds.

Mike Chabbert entered the Fair for the first time and received 2 blues on his alpaca fibers.

Carol Shuster won a blue ribbon on her cross-stitch napkins with table runner. They are beautiful.

Patti McKern received several blues for her handwork.

Molly Strait garnered a blue with her cross stitch work.

Keiko Thornton earned two blues in the Dog Show Competition. Her costuming received everyone's imagination.

Several other High Prairians entered the Fair but I do not have their results yet. If they will call me at 365-5459 or email me at knightbird.martha@gmail.com, we can slip those into the next High Prairian.



### GET WELL WISHES

Dona Taylor

To the following neighbors who have been seriously ill, slightly under the weather or have tangled with an angry cat (Martha Hamil) we wish a speedy recovery. Bev Edwards, Sharon Johnson, Dorothy Kemp, Pat Kent, Bata Momb, Jeff McMullin and Fred Neth.





## A "GOLDEN" SUMMER PICNIC

Sharon Aleckson

Our community has had summer picnics before, but when you entered Karron Buchanan's backyard on Saturday August 21 it was evident that this picnic was different. White tablecloths, table decorations, flowers, a lace covered table with four bouquets and four especially wrapped boxes on it, a stage area ... this was not our usual summer potluck picnic scene. Indeed, there was something "special" about this event besides food and conversations; we honored four High Prairie couples that were celebrating their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary this year.

In 1960, Bob and Lorna Dove were married in Goldendale on January 3. Tom and Gail Amery was married in Walla Walla on June 11. Bob and Bev

Edwards were married on Sept. 3 in Portland. Earl and Dorothy Kemp was married October 28 in Walla Walla.

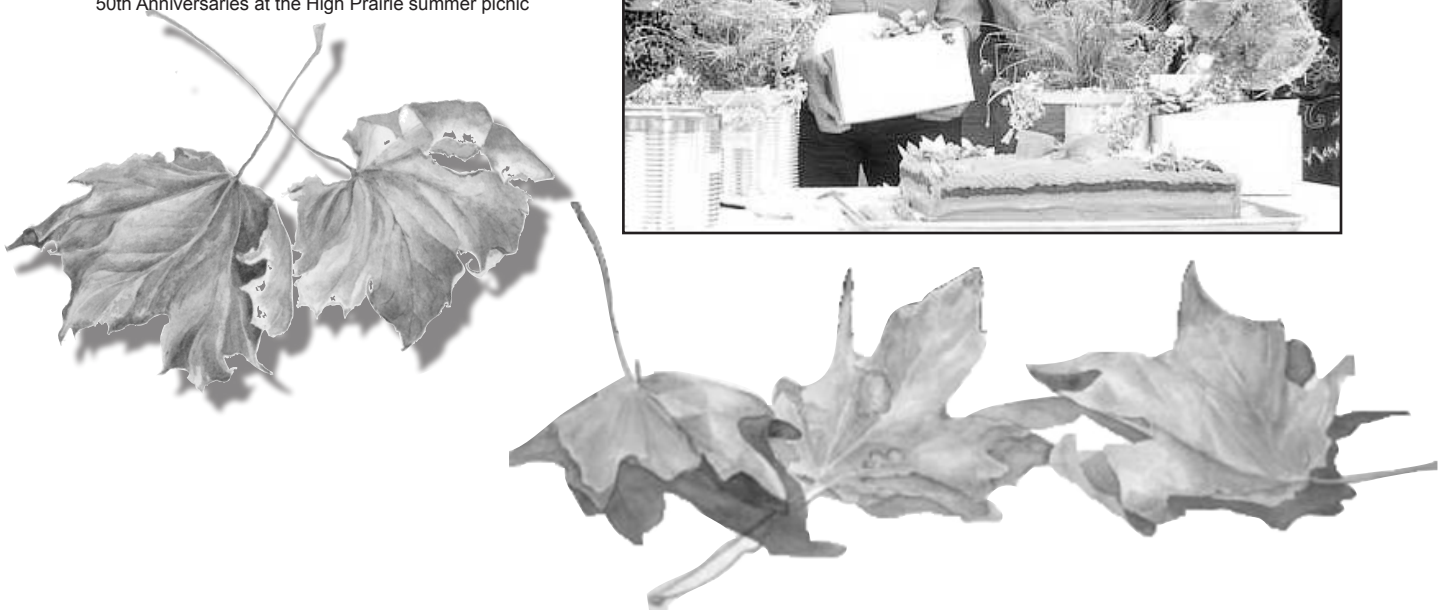
Entertainment at the picnic was provided by Marilyn O'Malley. Marilyn is a High Prairie resident. She played the guitar and sang Irish ballads. Later each honored bride received a "golden" bouquet and each groom received a "grooms" cake as a remembrance of their wedding day. Each couple shared a memorable experience about their special day. An anniversary cake was presented to the couples. The brides cut the cake and guests enjoyed the dessert. It was a truly "golden" summer day in High Prairie where people gathered together to celebrate.

Editors Note: Due to illness, two of the honored couples could not be at the picnic. The High Prairie Singers took each couple some anniversary cake, a bride's bouquet, and a groom's cake, and serenaded them.

A special thanks to Macleod's Bakery and Restaurant in Lyle for providing the cakes for this event

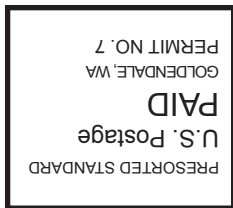


Tom and Gail Amery and Bob and Lorna Dove celebrate their 50th Anniversaries at the High Prairie summer picnic



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

## POSTAL PATRON



*The High Prairie*  
P.O. Box 592  
Lyle, WA 98635

### THE FUTURE OF "THE HIGH PRAIRIAN"

Douglas Taylor and Cindy Henschell

The Economic Development Commission (which subsidizes the cost of printing and mailing our newsletter) has asked that all community newsletters be limited to eight pages to cut their printing costs. We still welcome all contributions, though the articles that will be printed may be shorter and we will give priority to community news. Articles that don't make it to print will appear in the expanded version of the newsletter that will be sent (on request) by email and be posted on the community website (<http://www.highprairie.us>) for downloading or reading online.

Starting next issue we intend to have more articles on community accomplishments of both the HPPC and Fire District #14.

In addition, we need to limit the number of newsletters we mail out to people who live outside of the 98635 ZIP code. We sent out a questionnaire in the *High Prairie* some time ago to all special labeled addresses out of the area. We received

many responses to it with regard to having the *High Prairie* mailed or emailed. If you responded to the earlier questionnaire, there is no need to do so again. You will continue to receive our mailings, as long as the budget for postage permits.

If you missed the questionnaire or you would like to change your preference, please send a note to [highprairie@gorge.net](mailto:highprairie@gorge.net). We hope the county will continue to subsidize bulk mailing for the local area.

If live in the 98635 ZIP code area and you would also like to receive the expanded newsletter by email, please send a note to [highprairie@gorge.net](mailto:highprairie@gorge.net).

If you haven't visited the High Prairie website lately, it's been repurposed to be more interactive. To comment on an article, participate in discussions or to submit articles, you will need to register with your name and email address. There's plenty of room to grow so if you are interested in helping to contribute to the website, please contact Cindy Henschell ([henschell@highprairie.us](mailto:henschell@highprairie.us)).