



Volume Ten, Number Four

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December, 2010

NOTICES

High Prairie Christmas Party
December 18 at the new community center,
Potluck, 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Bird Count & Feeder Watch
Sunday, December 19. Call Jake Jakabosky for
information — 365-0025.

Fire Volunteers meet the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the new Fire Hall on Struck Road for equipment maintenance and the 2nd and 4th Tuesday for training.

Fire Commissioners meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center, Struck Road.

High Prairie Community Council meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center, Struck Road.

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 4th 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**

HIGH PRAIRIE CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY PARTY

Audrey Bentz

Now that we are getting a bit crowded in local living rooms, we can enjoy our annual holiday celebration in our new Community Center! The party will be on Saturday, December 18 at 6 p.m. All High Prairians and friends/relatives are invited. Bring a potluck dish to share. Beverages will be arranged by the HPPCC Board.

Following the usual tasty feasting, we will hear from our newly christened “High Prairie Larks” singing holiday music, and all who wish can then also join in with the traditional Christmas carols as well. If you would like to bring a wrapped white elephant gift, we will have fun with that as well. (And the good news is that we probably will thus gather some good items for our next Firehouse Sale!)

There will be events and treats for the children as well—maybe even Santa will appear. Will the firefighters have a surprise? We will see!

But the best part will be to get to know your neighbors better and to celebrate together the joys of a High Prairie Christmas in the bleak winter time.

NEEDED: Volunteers to assist with decorating, clean up, and children’s entertainment. Contact Sharon (365-4429) or Audrey (365-3600). And if anyone needs transportation, please call.

*Oh the weather outside is frightful, but the
friends are so delightful,
So wear your hat and boots and go. Let it snow,
let it snow, let it snow!!*

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

Welcome to Jess Carrico, and his wife, Brandy Jennings and daughter Kendel Carrico. Their new address is 848 Centerville Highway.

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 the January 24 meeting, *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett and for the February 28 meeting, *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford. There will be no book club meeting in December. You may call Lozetta Doll 365-0010 or Sharon Aleckson 365-4429 for information as to where the next meetings will occur. All are welcome.



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>

THANK YOU . . .

Doug Taylor

...to all that have so helped the community by all your contributions of materials, time, money and labor, it is so much appreciated. We have the community members that support community funding and activities, the firemen and medical responders that respond day or night. We thank the county and state officials and employees for their unending dedication, the road crews for an excellent job of keeping the roads passable, the postal crew and mail carrier for their unending support and generosity. The KPUD for always being there, especially when poles are icy, lines are down and weather is bad for the rest of us.

I would especially like to acknowledge the *High Prairian* paper crew for their unending support and dedication even when last minute items need attention. You all are just a great group.

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

or

365-3242

All the news that's print to fit.

OPEN HOUSE LAUNCHES NEW COMMUNITY CENTER

Dona Taylor

On an historic day of 10/10/10 (October 10, 2010), the High Prairie community held an "OPEN HOUSE" featuring their new Community Center/ Firehouse and it was a success! The *White Salmon Enterprise* printed a front page article on the celebration and a colored photo of attendees and insert of the community choir singing a special song, "We Have High Hopes for High Prairie," written by three ladies from the community.

In 2001 this community decided to build a combined Community Center/ Firehouse. Myrin and Audrey Bentz donated the land, with water and electricity, and the hard work began. There were many hurdles to cross, and expected and unexpected delays, but the end

result was a wonderful BUILDING, a monument to this community. We are thankful for all the supportive help: a state grant, assistance from MCEDD, the Klickitat County Commissioners, volunteer architects, project chairman, and many others. THANK YOU!

I'm sure many people are unaware of the many hours of volunteer time that were spent getting ready for the open house. What would you say if I told you approximately 5,000 hours? These included cleaning, painting, computer work, printing, decorating, food preparation, lots of elbow grease, tired backs and muscles and not to

mention all that brain power. I am not reciting names for I'm sure to miss someone. The next time you visit the building or look in the mirror, thank yourself for those generous volunteer hours.



2011 FIREHOUSE SALE

Sharon Aleckson

Penny Rutledge and I want to take this opportunity to remind all High Prairians that the 2011 Firehouse Sale is about five and a half months away. The sale is always the weekend after Mother's Day. MAY 14 and 15 are the dates for this year's sale. So, mark these dates on your calendar and start collecting good stuff for our sale.

More information regarding this event will be available in the next newsletter. Call Penny (365-2700) or e-mail her (jimandpenny@gmail.com) if you want help gathering items.

Once again, we want to thank each of you that have helped to make our past Firehouse Sales so successful. We are looking forward to your support again this year. Let's celebrate our efforts and make our TWELFTH ANNUAL FIREHOUSE SALE the best one ever!!!! HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

AMARYLLIS

You ascend to the Heavens
Gracefully seeking the Savior's presence
Diligently and elegantly you rise to greet Him
Preparing for His glory you remind everyone of His coming

You began at Thanksgiving
Gently placed in a part of His mother — Earth
Nourished by her to reveal yourself
Splendor awaits in your blossom

For His glory is what you desire to proclaim
And with gentle beauty wrapped in fragrant grace
You await His coming

All around celebration and joy bursts forth and blossoms
Embracing the glorious Christ child's birth
He has come
Welcome Holy One

—Jennifer Jefferis

IN MEMORIAM

Dona Taylor

Beverly Edwards



The community was saddened again when our friend and neighbor Beverly Edwards passed away on October 8, at a care center in Vancouver, Washington. Bev and her husband Bob have been staunch supporters of our High Prairie Community Council and contributed

poems, articles and pictures to this paper.

Bev is remembered for her friendly smile and generous nature. An example of her generosity is when she was so seriously ill, she requested her family to donate to our Community Council her beautiful large cut glass punch bowl, tray and cups.

She is survived by her husband Bob, (who lives off Schilling Rd, on Meadow Lark Lane), three daughters, grandchildren, other family members, and a host of friends. Our sincere sympathy to all.



Steve Bird

Steve Bird, brother of Joe Bird, passed away December 1. There will be no memorial service.

Our deepest sympathy to both families.

JANUARY IS THE TIME...

Audrey Bentz

January is the time to get the body back in healthy shape...right?! Beginning January 11 at 10 a.m. (and subsequent Tuesday mornings after that)

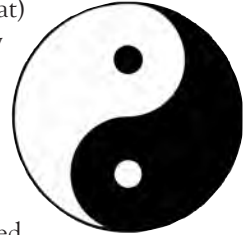
we will begin Tai Chi classes at our new community center (701 Struck Road), to be led by Janet Essley of White Salmon. Janet has been leading groups throughout the area for many years, and is especially known for the two types described below.

Both Tai Chi and its "sister" which is called Qigong, are especially adapted for us Senior types, so we will decide which to focus on at our first time together. (But you need not speak Chinese!) If you have a preference, let Audrey know (amsong@gorge.net).

Cost? Everything depends on the number of people attending. Since HPCC is sponsoring these classes, we need to take in about \$80 per week, which means if we have ten participants, the suggested fee is \$8. And, of course, if we have twenty participants, the fee per person will only be \$4. So bring your neighbors, your spouse or anyone you think might benefit from the following! What a great opportunity to fulfill your New Year's resolution! And check in with Audrey (365-3600) if you have any questions.

Qigong (chee-gong) means "the study of energy" moving through and around the body. These ancient Chinese exercises are excellent for improving health, reducing stress, and increasing mental focus, strength and balance. Qigong is practiced as a series of stretching movements with an emphasis on relaxation and body alignment. The poetic Chinese names (such as Push Open the Window to Look at the Moon) for each of the exercises adds an aesthetic element and inspiration for daily practice. There are many different qigong exercise sets. Each set is meant to be practiced as a whole, so that all parts of the body are involved. Qigong sets are designed to promote energy flowing smoothly throughout the body to promote health to all the organs as well as to bones and muscles.

Tai chi practice is a form of qigong in which the movements flow from one to another in an established sequence. The gentle movements, once learned can be repeated individually or strung together into a slow "dance" that exercises all the joints and muscles. The historical sequences developed as a training device for martial artists. Many new shorter sequences have been developed for general health for seniors, people with chronic conditions or those recovering from illness. Moving slowly, with relaxed muscles, allows one to become consciously aware of how to keep the body balanced as one moves with arms, legs, and weight in a variety of positions.



Happy Hanukkah



Douglas Taylor

WEBSITE OFFERS WINDOW INTO AREA'S PAST



Jeffrey L. Elmer was raised in our neighboring region of Trout Lake, with the great talent and ambition to create the following website with its history of Klickitat County:

<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~westklic/>

Many of us have had the good fortune to meet, email

and get acquainted with Jeff.

Jeff was born in White Salmon on August 11, 1954. He is the youngest of 5 children—he has 2 brothers and 2 sisters. For years his parents operated a small Holstein dairy farm in Trout Lake Valley. The kids were raised on the farm and all attended Trout Lake School, where he graduated from High School in 1972. In school his favorite classes were photography, history, and band where he played the trumpet.

He eventually moved to Portland in 1978 and has lived there since. He began genealogy research in 1990, and has been the host of this website since September 1999. On his web site you may find cemetery obituaries, class names of local school graduates, many pictures and other histories of the region, and reference to many local newspapers and local stories.

One bit of information I gleaned from his information was the obituary of my grandfather, John Taylor. I knew he had died in Vancouver, although he was living on High Prairie. I read that he was in Vancouver when he had his accident. Writing to the State of Washington and reading the obit found the funeral home. Thanks to Jeffery's research I am sure other instances may be found clearing some mysteries.

I would like to add that it would be very valuable to check our community website developed by our gal Friday (Cindy Henschell) with much local information that you won't find anywhere else: <http://www.highprairie.us/>

KLICKITAT HERITAGE

A very pleasant surprise when opening the mail for the *High Prairian* the other day, finding the Klickitat County Historical Society issue of *The Klickitat Heritage* from Goldendale.

One finds in its contents several interesting stories both past and present by local authors of the area. Knowing several authors and some of the history makes it all the more interesting.

You can be an active member of the Klickitat County Historical Society for \$25.00 (single & couple). One receives unlimited free admission to the Presby House Museum including the Annex and School house. Monthly updates are emailed to you, you have access to all research archives, plus a 10% discount at the museum gift shop. You get a subscription to the KCHS newsletter (3 issues a year), and a copy of *The Klickitat Heritage*, the annual publication of the KCHS. Their address is:

KCHS, Box 86, Goldendale WA 98620



AGAIN

The sense of Christmas fills us

And with it our spirits rise

For in the midst of winter's gloom

Our hearts awaken to a new rhythm

And if we pause to listen

We hear His symphony begin

Bringing hope, bringing peace, bringing joy

Again

—Jennifer Jefferis

CEMETERY WORK PARTY

A dead tree top has fallen of the Lone Pine at the cemetery. We'll be scheduling a cleanup day to saw and haul the wood away. A work party will be planned. Notify Doug Taylor if you would like to help. It may be a good opportunity to get some firewood.

HIGH PRAIRIE—HOME OF THE FIGHTING OWLS

Paul Grim



Barred owl

At least it seems that way this time of year. Each evening as the sun goes down the Owls start up with their various calls; hooting, trilling, screeching, beeping? and generally trying to out-shout each other (I guess that's what happens when you mate for life). Over the years I

have searched out the origins of these strange night sounds with mixed results (anybody have a pair of night vision goggles?) I am pretty sure that we have at least resident or visiting: GreatHorned Owls, Long-eared Owls, Screech Owls, Barred Owls, and Pygmy Owls, but I could be wrong about the long ears - maybe they were short? Anyway, apparently many different species of Owls love it up here on High Prairie. all those cavernous woodpecker holes in the big dead pines and broken armed Oak trees must be irresistible homes sites to amorous Owls.

I am sure they don't regret the BILLIONS of rodents that seem to like it here too. Which Owls have you seen? Keep your window cracked, sit quietly, perk your ears and then fumble through the bird book trying to figure out what "who calls for you?" is supposed to sound like...

MORE ON OWLS

Gwen Berry

Speaking of owls, here's a picture of a Saw-whet Owl that flew into the side of Jake Jakabosky's truck on a dark evening about a month ago. He heard the thump and went back to see what had hit him. The little owl lay in the road, stunned. Jake brought the owl home, put it in a padded box where it could recover quietly in the dark, and waited to see if it had injuries. In the morning it was looking alert, so at the suggestion of the Rowena Wildlife Clinic, he let it loose in a closed room to see if it could fly OK. It did just fine, and at dusk that evening he took it back to the area it had come from and let it loose. A happy ending! It was a real treat to make such close acquaintance.



Saw-whet Owl

SURF'S UP!

Surf on over to www.HighPrairie.us for more High Prairie news, information and history (it's free!).

Create an account (it's easy!) and join in the blog.

If your (High Prairie) group wants to post information on the website, request to become an "Author" (it's free and easy!)

2010 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Jake Jakabosky

You are all invited to join in on the Audubon Society sponsored Christmas Bird Count Dec. 19, 2010. Young folks and people new to birding are also invited as it's a great learning experience and an opportunity to learn more about our environment and conservation. The more eyes we have searching the more species we are likely to spot. Plus, it's fun.

We start soon after dawn and quit around noon or when folks get tired. Those interested can continue as long as they want. We do most of the count by vehicle(s) but excursions to old buildings (barn owls), ponds (waterfowl, shorebirds), timbered groves (pileated woodpeckers - I know where one roosts) are encouraged. There are also bird counts during spring and fall migration that folks can get involved in.

If you don't want to go on the rounds looking for birds, you can do a feeder watch instead, where you count the birds at your own feeders for a short period of time.

Contact me for further info, Jake Jakabosky, High Prairie Sector Leader, 509-365-0025.

WINTER 2010

Doug Taylor

Snow and cold weather arrived just before Thanksgiving, with about 10–12 inches of the white stuff. The temperature dropped to below zero one night. The snow stayed with us right into December. It seems the added moisture is helping us to catch up with replenishing the ground water.

Local well water static depth measurements are going on now as I write. We should have some statistics soon.

Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together.

—Vista M. Kelly



HELP PREVENT HIGH PRAIRIE TREES FROM DYING

Cindy Henschell

Have you noticed the large, older pine trees that have been dying along SR-14 in the vicinity of the Hood River bridge? Or, maybe you have even lost a few on your property in the last few years. Ponderosa pine is especially vulnerable to insect pests and even some types of fungal pathogens but it isn't the only species under attack. Douglas-fir, noble fir and even white oaks are susceptible, especially during drought years when these pests can kill all or a portion of trees, even well-established ones. During periods with good growing conditions pest populations increase and thrive and, while they may not kill trees, they can severely damage and weaken them. The "Lone Pine" in the cemetery probably lost it's top thanks to an insect.

But it's no longer a only matter of the our native pests. This area is susceptible to even greater damage from non-native pests. Just as non-native invasive weed species are causing economic property damage, so too are non-native insects and diseases. In this age of global economy, transportation from one country to another, often with part of the trip up and down the Gorge, makes it easy for pests to hitch a ride through our front door. You can help prevent pests from getting into High Prairie, or at least prevent them from joining forces and getting comfortable here.

The best way to keep non-native pests out is to make sure that firewood, Christmas trees, wreaths and other non-manufactured wood products are from local sources. "Local" means as close to High Prairie as possible, or at least from within about 50 miles. Local sources may be easier to find for firewood than for Christmas trees, when most are grown in the Willamette valley. The next best way to keep pests from getting established here is to make sure they don't get a chance to "get away."

When it's time to take down your Christmas tree, have a plan to quickly dispose of it. Some good options are to burn it in your woodstove or to take it off the property to be composted or to the transfer site (landfill). Just throwing it on to your wood pile to let it dry out will allow pests to emerge and eventually move out to your trees in search of a new source of food.

Also, if you camp during the summer and enjoy a cozy campfire, remember that the same rules apply to keeping pests out of campgrounds and the surrounding forests. Don't bring your own wood. Instead, purchase it from a source from within 50 miles of the campground.

Visit <http://www.dontmovefirewood.org/> to learn more about this problem and the non-native insects and diseases that are harmful to trees in our region.

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

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS



The sky suddenly turns an ashen white.
The wind is howling and I wonder
Is it a blizzard or a polar fleece of snow
Clothing the landscape as I head out.

The mantle of snow sends shivers up my spine
As the nipping of an unheated squall lays
A blanket over the hardened earth's bed.
I sob as silent cataracts form over my eyes
And the flurry obstructs my sight.

Frosty smoke begins to show
Against the illumination of the snow
A shadow how faint it is
Unveiled itself in a starless night
Lighted by candles for all travelers to see.

A shelter beckons the lonely and friends alike,
Together for a holiday social.
The fuel that warms the body
From the sensation of the cold
Also warms the emptiness of the soul this night.

—Tom Doll