



The High Prairiean

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

Volume Eleven, Number One

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March 2011

NOTICES

Lone Pine Cemetery Association
March 19

2:00 p.m. Community Center
Election of Officers and Directors

Dumpster Days – Roadside Cleanup
April 15–17

Twelfth Annual Firehouse (Yard) Sale
May 13 & 14

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Fire Volunteers meet the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center/Fire Hall 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/Fire Hall.

High Prairie Community Council meets the 4th 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 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 COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Ted McKerchner, Our Esteemed President

The next meeting, on March 24 feature Darlene Johnson, Klickitat County Assessor as the speaker. The speaker for April 28th will be our own Dr. Jack Bruckner on the benefits exercise.

This year the Roadside Cleanup days coincide with Dumpster Days, April 15–17 (Friday through Sunday). We need volunteers to pick up along the various side roads. Come to the March 24 Community Council meeting to learn more.

There is now a “returnable box” for bottles and cans at the old fire house on Centerville Hwy. Bring your recyclable bottles and cans to donate to a good cause. Proceeds to go to Home At Last animal shelter in The Dalles.



Weekly Tai Chi class, taught by Janet Essley, in the Community Center. See page 3 for story and how you can join!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Doug Taylor

The KCEDA board members approved a grant for the High Prairie Fire District #14 in the amount of \$25,915 for Personal Protective Equipment.

This is the last year of general grants from the EDA as the money now will be going to the County radio upgrade program. We thank the EDA board for their consideration over the years.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Be careful what you ask for

About a month ago I asked my neighbors if they would take me to the Emergency Room in Goldendale and they did. Then in the middle of the night (2:00 a.m.) Goldendale transported me by ambulance to Yakima hospital. Spending a few days in Yakima I was transported from there to the Evergreen Physical facility in The Dalles. About a pint of my blood for tests in Yakima and 22 days later I finally got home. Believe me, There is no place like home.

It takes about a month to recuperate from Pneumonia. My thanks for all the calls, visits and get well cards.

—Bob Edwards



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>

Request for information

Dear all former and current residents of High Prairie:


We are trying to gather information on the history of the property around Johnson Lake and the Old School House. We are especially interested in stories, pictures, newspaper articles and any other memorabilia related to the property and would love to speak with people who have lived on, or spent time on, the property.

It is our intent to memorialize the history of the property by turning a few of the interior walls of the old Farmhouse into a Visitors Center display. In order to do this, we need your help! If you have any information you can lend to this project, or know of someone who can, please call Carrie Guthrie at (509) 365-6807.

Thank you in advance for your help in turning the old Johnson Farmhouse into a display for people to enjoy!

—Todd Meislahn

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

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FITNESS PROGRAMS

Audrey Bentz

Our new program at the High Prairie Community Center has been a weekly TAI CHI class! About 25 enthusiasts have attended on Tuesday mornings at 10:00–11:00 a.m. There is always room for a few more, and one can begin at any point without feeling “behind.”

What is Tai Chi? Exercises can be done by any age, whether standing or sitting. Everything is done slow motion so that stretching and strengthening muscles and improving balance can be efficient and painless. Janet Essley is known to be one of the best instructors in the Gorge.

Two new exercise programs have been suggested for possibly Thursday or Saturday mornings: One is “Yoga for Seniors” (meaning less rigorous than usual classes) and (no kidding) “Zumba for Seniors!” If you have a possible interest in one of these, please contact Audrey (365-3600) or Patrice (365-5458).



BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

Lozetta Doll

High Prairie Book Club meets the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at members' homes. March's book is *Labrinth* by Kate Mosse, April's book is *Molokai* by Alan Brennert and May's book is *Mink River* by Brian Doyle. Anyone is welcome to attend any of the meetings.

The bookmobile summer schedule has not been published yet but a library staffer stated that they will again be offering a summer reading incentive program for youngsters and teens. Hopefully the bookmobile will still be coming to High Prairie.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Doug Taylor

Lately there has been some discussion of meeting of the now inactive High Prairie Historical Society with the objective of discussing use of leftover funds to purchase, or have built, a display case in the Community Center for historical memorabilia from High Prairie. There may be other ideas for use of Historical Society funds. If interested come to the meeting at the Amerys, 50 Hartland Road, at noon on Saturday, March 26.

HIGH PRAIRIE NEEDLERS WORK THEIR MAGIC

Gwen Berry

Another gorgeous quilt will be hanging at the Firehouse Sale this year, thanks to the creative efforts of the High Prairie Needlers. The Needlers began their latest opus in January and have been hard at work selecting fabric, cutting it into squares and triangles, and sewing all the little pieces into a beautiful whole. The next stop for the quilt is Linda Daughetee's house, where she'll sandwich it with batting and backing fabric and take it from beautiful to gorgeous with her quilting. Then it's back to the Needlers for the binding, and another masterpiece will be ready to go.

The Needlers have dubbed this year's masterpiece “High Prairie Magic.” That's a perfect name, since ‘Magic Maze’ is the name of the quilt pattern. It's another “scrappy” quilt, constructed with scraps of fabric from the collections of several people. The end result is cheerful and bright, and guaranteed to go with any color scheme.

As in past years, the quilt will be raffled at the Firehouse Sale to help raise money for the High Prairie Community Council and High Prairie Fire District #14. Tickets are cheap—just \$2 each or 3 tickets for \$5—and can be purchased ahead of time or at the Firehouse Sale. The raffle drawing will be held at 2:00 p.m. on the second day of the sale, May 15.



A Little Humor...

HOT INVESTMENT DURING FINANCIAL TURMOIL

Contributed by Doug Taylor

If you had purchased \$1,000 of shares 1 year ago in: Delta Airlines, you would have \$49 today.

AIG, you would have \$33 today.

Lehman Brothers, you would have \$0 today.

But, if you purchased \$1,000 in beer one year ago, drank all the beer, then turned in the cans for a recycling refund, you would have received \$214.

Based on the above, the best current investment plan is to drink heavily and recycle. It's called 401-Keg.

A recent study found that the average American walks 900 mile per year. Another study found that Americans drink, on average, 22 gallons of alcohol per year. That means, on average, that Americans get about 41 miles to the gallon!



Doug Taylor

TIM WALL, A WORKING MACHINE

Tim Wall was a longtime Lyle resident and, although he had no direct connection to High Prairie, I worked with him one summer on the relocation of the railroad track past the The Dalles Dam. He also helped me dig out a hand-dug well 20 feet deep through rock. We never found water. The mailman, Clarence Neilson, was a dowser. He stopped one day while we were digging and, with his dowsing rods, checked several places on the property. He proclaimed we could dig to China and find no water, whereupon Tim immediately climbed out of the hole and quit.

Tim was only able to stay in school through the fourth grade. When he was 17 he started working on the SP&S bridge repair gang and he acquired the reputation of being a hard worker, and a fast one. During several of Tim's work years he expertly used his 16-foot pike pole to raft logs on the log boom in the Columbia, not far from his house. Tim also worked on the pond at the mill and loaded railroad ties onto railroad cars. That was in the 1940's when there was a mill near the railroad in Lyle. At one time in the '40s he was "powder man" for Claude Knight who was sub-contracted by the PUD to install lines all over Klickitat County.

"When you're putting up poles on solid rock there's no way but to blast with dynamite. But you couldn't beat me with a shovel, either," said Tim.

"That Tim Wall is the digginess gopher I ever saw," said PUD manager, Emmet Clouse. "He's small, but he's mighty strong. Why, when he was digging in a deep hole, that dirt would keep flying up over the edge so fast and so regular you'd think it was from some automated machinery." To which Tim replied, "Well,

I just believe if you're hired and paid to do a job, then you should do it right and fast. This idea of folks just loafing along on a job makes me mad. Why, once it took a crew of three over two weeks to dig eight holes. And I dug 10 holes, six feet deep, in four hours all by myself!"

Equally hard working was Tim's wife, Edna, who came to Lyle in 1926. She married Tim in 1934, and he helped raise the youngest two of her six children. They lived in a small old house, on what we now call Lyle Point. Edna was plenty busy in those days with four cows to milk, 13 hogs and a boar, plus rabbits, pigeons, 25 turkeys, 23 geese and 300 Rhode Island Red laying hens to care for.

"And I hand-scythed the alfalfa we grew for the animals, besides," she said. But all of the animals knew they must stay out of the garden. All 100'x 35' of it was spaded by Tim who is still great with the shovel, and all of it was weed free because of Tim's diligence with the hoe.

They are devoted to their pure blood Norwegian Elk hounds, Lobi, Trina, and Bootsie, and other small pets they have around the house. One day after a rain I saw a cougar track near the Dillacourt canyon. I called Tim and he brought his hounds which followed where the track was moist but when they crossed the canyon they lost the scent in the sun. Thus ended the cougar hunt.

A few years after retirement Tim and Edna sold their house in Lyle and eventually moved to Goldendale. Now that the Walls are retired, their life is not quite as strenuous. But there is nothing, not even Tim's four operations in the past year, that could change their "living with and loving our animals" lifestyle. The story of the Walls has me thinking of some of our neighbors, trying so hard to contribute to the neighborhood, with many differing opinions, but with final positive results. God bless them one and all.



FIRE DISTRICT SECRETARY POSITION NEEDED

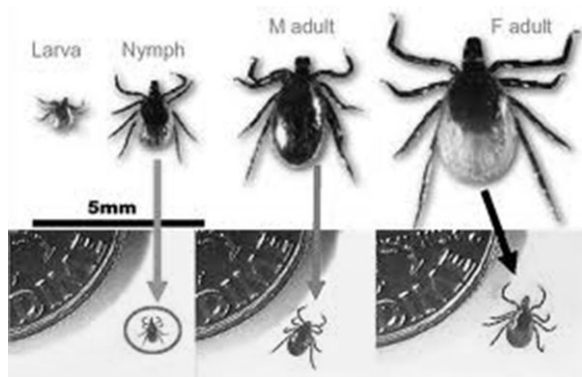
Larry Denis who has been serving in the 'official' job title secretary/treasurer/investment officer for the District fire commissioners he is retiring due to other commitments. The district is looking for a volunteer for this position. Larry has graciously volunteered to help the new appointee get started. Call one of the commissioners (Cal Edwards, Philip Hayner, Greg Hayrynan) if you can help.

DEER TICKS AND LYME DISEASE

Ted McKercher

I usually try to write with some tongue-in-cheek or humor (that's sometimes disputed) so I find this assignment devoid of both.

Deer ticks are the most likely to carry a bacterium in their stomachs that can cause Lyme disease through a bite. The tricky part is finding a deer tick on your body or clothing because they can be as small as the period ending this sentence.



Lyme disease can cause abnormalities in skin, joints, heart and nervous system as well as anxiety and depression. Symptoms and signs may include an expanding reddish rash from the bite site and flu like symptoms (headache, muscle and joint stiffness, swollen glands).

A bull's eye like ring of brighter redness may appear around the bite area in about 75% of cases. There are no current vaccines on the market for humans although there is for your dog. I understand it may not be all that effective. Prevention is the best medicine for now.

Spraying exposed skin with insect repellent containing "Deet," wearing long sleeved shirts, wearing long pants tucked into boots and wearing light colored clothing (the better to spot ticks).

After being in an exposed tick area (almost everywhere here), shower or bathe including washing your hair and wash all of your clothing as soon as possible.

Be sure to check your children and pets too. Treatments are best left up to your doctor.

Recorded cases of Lyme disease in our area have been small but that could be partially due to the difficult nature of diagnosis. Tick season is here year around with seemingly higher concentrations in spring and fall.

There is more detailed information on the Internet with a simple search.

By the way, did you hear the one about the salesman and... Oops. Sorry, this is supposed to be a serious piece.

TWELFTH ANNUAL FIREHOUSE SALE

Sharon Aleckson

Plans are already underway for High Prairie's biggest annual event. The Firehouse Sale will take place on the 14th and 15th of May. Several committee heads have agreed to help out in the same capacity as they did last year. For health reasons, Bob Edward's, who has served as head of the Plant Committee for several years, is unable to help us out in that capacity this year. Someone is needed for that committee. Then a full roster of committee heads will take charge of all the separate aspects of the sale.

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

The Silent Auction Gallery will take place again this year. Auction organizers are in the process of seeking and collecting donations for this gallery. They are targeting local goods and services. Donations can be quite "creative" and come from both individuals or businesses. If you can offer a silent auction item or if you have a suggestion for one, call Barb Parrish (365-4117) or Myrt McKercher (365-9576).

Many things will carry over from year's past, including the food booth that will feature Myrin's bratwurst, Martha's Kluski, and lots of homemade goodies. The High Prairie Needlers will be raffling another of their wonderful quilts. There will be a myriad of wonderful "treasures" waiting for you. As usual, the sale will go from 9:00 to 5:00 on Saturday and 9:00 to 3:00 on Sunday. The food booth will be open at 8:00 on both days, serving a morning menu of coffee and homemade pastries.

The Firehouse Sale is High Prairie's once-a-year giant fund-raiser. The success of an event this large depends on the help of a great many people. In April, there will be a special edition of *The High Prairian*. This edition will have detailed information about the sale. It will include ways in which you can help to make the Twelfth Annual Firehouse Sale the best ever!



Elk observed at Fisher Hill by Roger Randall of Goldendale. Contributed by Doug Taylor.

PLEASE PASS THE ZUCCHINI

Jocelyn Weeks

Late last summer, a dear 40-something friend from the city, came to visit High Prairie. Amongst her house gifts, was an elderly Zucchini squash, approaching the volume of a midsize Komodo dragon, with the weight and consistency of a seasoned chunk of oak. After an awkward “Gee... Thanks.” chuckling to myself, I it set aside to “keep” in the utility room and reminded myself to cut her some slack, because she’s just learning to garden and cook. Having yet to learn that in most cases; zuchs and gardener’s equal coal and Newcastle.

Our friend, is also an inveterate “re-gifter,” so I wondered how many times this fossilized vegetable may been exchanged? Like the legendary hundred year old Christmas Fruit Cake? Had some other gardener taken advantage of her inexperience? The dark black-green rind had a polished, around-the-block patina. I decided to take it as a compliment that she believed I could do something with it.

In our own garden by that time of year, we also had some reptilian sized zucchinis that had managed to avoid detection.

They had stems that looked like it would take some kind of special power tool to cut them loose from the mother plant.

So after our friend left, I decided to face my dragons and amassed the whole clutch on the front porch, arranging the High Prairie Clan and Gift Squash in a “display.” Kind of like guardians of the gate. The Zuch Stops Here! I have to admit, all together they were impressive. Giving me fleeting thoughts of opening up a roadside attraction along with a self serve pie stand. The sun, solitude and natural beauty of this place does funny things to my mind sometimes.

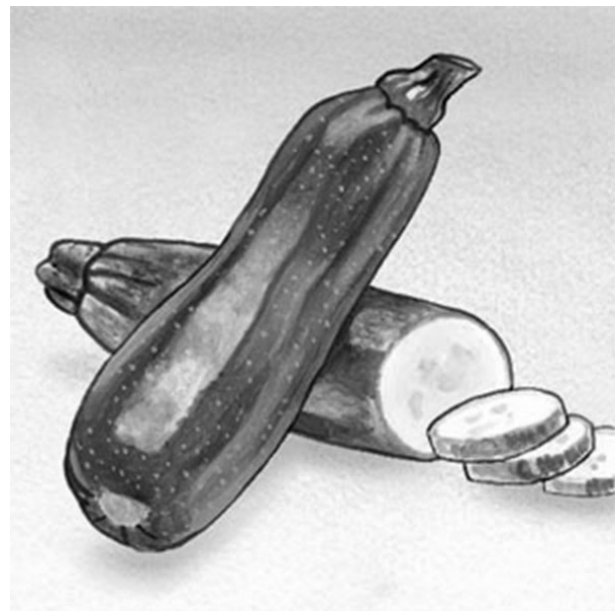
The squash installation remained on the porch until after the first hard frost. Then I gathered them up and buried their sagging, half thawed bodies in the garden to compost over the winter.

This year, my husband and I were in for a lesson in the humiliation and betrayal of gardening hubris. The ideal growing conditions of the last season had given us an over inflated sense of our gardening abilities. Last year, seeds just hit the ground and grew like crazy. This spring seemed to be much cooler and the first seeds we planted just refused to germinate. After several replantings, my husband and I were starting to get a bit depressed, but we

stubbornly kept trying to get our garden going. The seeds that finally sprouted and survived were scraggly but alive.

One morning, while making my rounds through the tomato rows I spotted a feral seedling. A hardy looking volunteer zucchini had pushed its way up through many inches of rotted straw and compost. It dawned on me, that this was the very place I had buried my Gift, the one I had laughed at, composted, and forgotten. It was way ahead of the other struggling seedlings we’d planted three times over in proper hills, and the first to produce a little squash.

When we ate that first tender zucchini, sliced and sautéed, on top of a steaming bed of rice, I thought of our dear friend now living thousands of miles away. We were dining on our first home grown vegetable of the season and this time I was truly thankful!



VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Patrice reported on her recent meeting with the Fire Commissioners where it was determined that we need a volunteer to serve as “Building Manager.” Neil Shuster volunteered to serve this position. He will need one or more volunteers to partner with him. Please contact Neil if interested: 365-3610.

SPRING MIGRATION COUNT SET FOR MAY 14

Gwen Berry & Jake Jakabosky

There's always something going on in the birding world. Sometimes it's big and organized, like the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Sometimes it's small, like news making the rounds of an unusual bird in the area. But spring and fall are special seasons for people who like birds. That's when opportunities abound to see species of birds that are only here during migration, when they're headed north to nesting grounds or south to winter sanctuaries.



Bird scientists make use of this upswing in birding activity to gather information on migration patterns. The North American Migration Count (NAMC), held twice a year in the spring and fall, was started in 1992 to give bird watchers the opportunity to enjoy a day's birding during migration, with the knowledge that they would also be contributing important scientific information.

According to Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the mission of the North American Migration Count is to:

- Obtain a "snapshot" of the progress and "shape" of spring and fall Migration.
- Obtain information on the abundance & distribution of each species.
- Initiate more participation among birders within a state and between states.
- Create challenges and goals among birders while collecting useful information.
- Aid in organization and centralization of date.

• HAVE FUN.

The spring count is always the second weekend in May and the fall count is the third weekend in September. The spring count is timed to coincide with the northward migration of songbirds. It operates pretty much like the Christmas Bird

Count, except instead of covering a circle with a 15-mile radius, it's tabulated by county. The count period is 24 hours. Volunteers are assigned regions and fan out, counting every bird they can find in their region. Teams of volunteers can include novice or advanced birders and nature lovers, adults or children. Inexperienced birders prove very helpful by providing that extra set of eyes. Likewise, information from feeder watchers is important and helpful.

Anyone who would like to participate should call Jake Jakabosky at 365-0025 or send an email to count coordinator Bob Hansen at bobhansen@gorge.net.

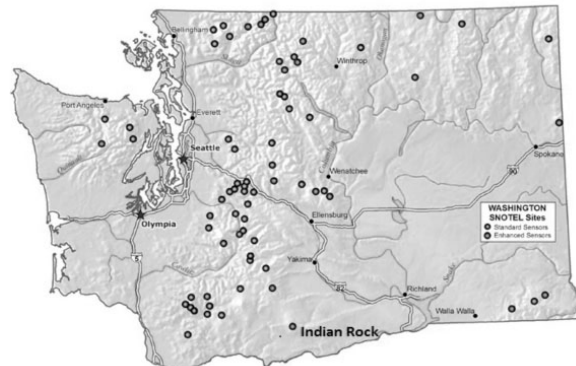


Klickitat County Water Predictions

Cal Edwards

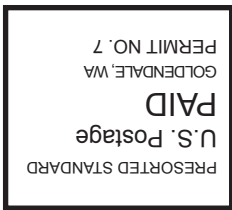
Klickitat County has a new snow/water supply measuring devise. Its name is Indian Rock and it was installed in 2009. If you google "Washington snotel," Google will give you several choices where you can read updated information about our current snow pack and a water supply prediction for this summer.

Predictions from the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington State Department of Ecology and the 2011 Farmer's Almanac: expect a cooler than normal spring. Two of the sources also expect a near normal water supply in Klickitat County, with one predicting a slightly below normal. I have heard from an unnamed source, that I have confidence in because of past experience, that La Nina years are the most unpredictable and therefore the most difficult to predict. Remember that below average happens in half of our years and does not mean we are in for a summer drought.



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

TWO CANYONS

Tom Doll

Trail packers follow a track of cinders
That once echoed with the whistles of passing trains.
Enter the Klickitat Canyon with audible songs
Of howling winds and rippling waters,
While the symbol of the Nation flies overhead.
The salmon, too, follow their watery track alongside
Leaping over the rocky hurdles,
Sharing their flesh with man and nature over time.

Domestic sounds of man's achievements and creatures
Echo off the canyon walls.
Sounds of the ebb and flow of whirlpooling water
Provides an ecstasy that holds the packers in solitude
As they traverse the canyon trail.

Exiting the canyon, the track of cinders endures

Upon entry into the natural beauty of Swale Canyon.
The soft songs of birds and gentle breezes
Leaves you alone in your own chamber of thought.
Sounds of the wild are prevalent,
Rattling of buttons along the trail,
Crying of the young seeking their kin,
Scampering of ground and tree species.
Formations that only nature can design -
A canyon of splendor.

While passing seasons and changing light
Enhance the hue of flags along the floor and walls,
Trees, plants and flowers wave goodbye as
The trail packers exit, only to be drawn back
To see and hear nature's pageantry
As they travel the Two Canyon trail.