



# The High Prairian

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

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March, 2005

## NOTICES

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual FIREHOUSE SALE**  
May 21-22, 2005

Community dumpster at Firehall May 18 - 24

High Prairie night out at Lyle Hotel, dinner night March 16, reservation available for dinner between 5:30 to 8 PM

13-Mile Sale High Prairie booth at Lyle Lions Club parking lot, June 11

Fire Volunteers meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Fire Hall.

Fire Commissioners meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Fire Hall.

High Prairie Community Council meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. The May meeting is a potluck BARBEQUE at Tom and Lozetta Doll's home on South Prairie Road. 6 PM.

High Prairie Historical Society meetings are held quarterly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of March, June, and September and the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of December beginning at 2:00 PM. The March meeting would fall on Easter Sunday so it has been moved to Sunday, April 3.

High Prairie Choir rehearsal March 15, 7:00 PM at Morning Song Acres.

High Prairie Cemetery Association meeting April 9<sup>th</sup> 1:00 PM at Taylor Church

Lyle School Board meets the next to last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Boardroom, Lyle High School.

When requesting medical assistance or reporting a fire CALL 911

## HPCC MEETING

Lozetta Doll

### DAVE MCCLURE, WATER RESOURCE COORDINATOR TO SPEAK

Dave McClure, Coordinator for the Water Resource Inventory Area 30 Watershed Planning Project, has agreed to come to the March 24 meeting of the High Prairie Community Council at the Taylor's church building, 876 Centerville Highway.

The geographic area covered by the planning project includes the Klickitat basin and the area between the mouth of the Klickitat River and the John Day Dam. They have completed an assessment of water quantity, quality and fish habitat and are in the process of developing a management plan. The plan is being developed by a committee composed of representatives from small business, citizens at large, irrigators, timber interests, environmental entities, and livestock growers, the City of Goldendale, Klickitat PUD, Klickitat County and the Central Klickitat Conservation District.

Everyone is concerned about our water situation here in Klickitat County so come to the meeting to become better informed about this most important topic.

### FIFTH ANNUAL HIGH PRAIRIE BARBEQUE: MAY 26

Everyone in the community is invited to attend a barbeque at the Tom Doll residence, 120 S. Prairie Road at 6:00 PM on Thursday, May 26. A meeting of the High Prairie Community Council will follow the barbeque. The Klickitat County Commissioners have been invited to the barbeque and it is hoped that they will be able to attend. It would be great to see lots of newcomers to this area coming to get acquainted. The Dolls will provide hamburgers with all the trimmings, soft drinks, plates and eating utensils. If you like, you may bring a dessert or salad, or anything that you wish, to share with the group. This is a great way to wind down after all the hard work of putting on the Firehouse Sale.

## HIGH PRAIRIE CELEBRATES ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Audrey Bentz

Our annual "High Prairie Dinner Out" at the Lyle Hotel will be Wednesday, March 16— the eve of St. Patrick's Day! Enjoy great food by Matt, our local chef (written up in *The Oregonian*). Look forward to live music, and some sing-along on those great Irish ballads!

Call in your reservation to Penny or Jim Rutledge at 365-LYLE. Don't delay, as there is a limit on space! And wear something green.



### The High Prairian

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The High Prairian can also be viewed on the High Prairie web site: [www.highprairie.us](http://www.highprairie.us)

## HIGH PRAIRIE CLEANUP

All of us who live in High Prairie co-exist with nature's beauty, its creatures and with one another. Let us all take a look at our immediate surroundings and think about the financial and aesthetic impact we have on ourselves, our neighbors and our community. The government does not have to intervene if every one of us would do our part to keep our personal areas clean.

Klickitat County will do its part this spring by cleaning Centerville Highway of the debris of people who don't care about our environment.

High Prairie Community Cleanup Week will be the week of May 15 to correspond with the Firehouse Sale. A dumpster will be at the Fire Hall May 18 through May 24 for everyone's use. The following items cannot be discarded into the dumpster: tires, appliances, chemicals, paints, and batteries. If anyone is in need of physical assistance to clean up and/or organize their property, please call any of the High Prairie Community Council Officers: Myrin Bentz at 365-3600, Bob Edwards at 365-3335, Lozetta Doll at 365-0010, or Sharon Aleckson at 365-4429 for help. Volunteers will be made available to give anyone a helping hand.

Let's all pull together to make our community one of which we can continue to be proud.

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## HIGH PRAIRIE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Your Fire Department has decided to continue with the Blue Address Sign Fund Raiser/Community Service project. For information, price, or to order a sign call Fire Fighter Cal Edwards at 365-3563. These signs are especially helpful at night because they are reflective.

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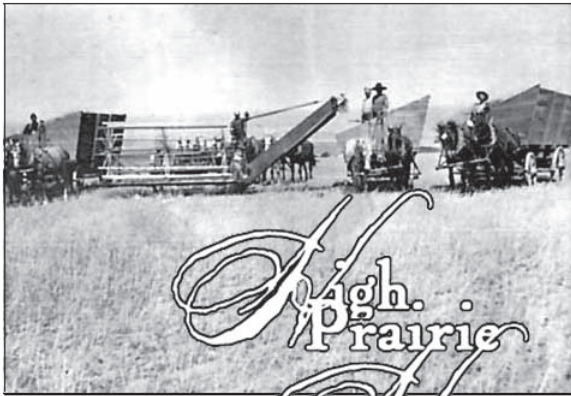


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## HIGH PRAIRIE CHOIR ANYONE?

Audrey Bentz

Some of us who love to sing are getting together to make music, and perhaps sing for HPCC meetings and any other special events. Want to join us? We plan to rehearse the Monday prior to HPCC meetings, but in March, rehearsal will be 7 PM Tuesday, March 15. Rehearsals will be at the Bentz's/Morning Song Acres, 6 Oda Knight Road. Call Audrey at 365-3600 if ideas/questions. Music hastens Springtime!



Douglas Taylor

## WOOD CUTTING

Seeing a neighbor go by hauling a load of wood that he had cut apparently for someone else reminded me of the days when all the farmers cut their own wood. This was a job that needed to be done every year so that we would be able to keep the non insulated houses relatively warm in the winter.

This was hard work and involved as many family members as possible, Some to do the falling and bucking and others to do the splitting and stacking. I think this must be where the expression “all hands and the cook,” came from.

This was a trade that everyone did but was somewhat looked down upon as a profession. It seemed the poor woodcutter worked hard but never seemed to improve his lot in life.

I recall one of my first wood cutting experiences: I rented a chain saw and used it all one day just falling white oak. I cut the larger pieces down to shorter pieces so we could load it on a trailer. My Dad and my brother-in-law Donald used axes to cut the limbs off and then they piled the brush.

We spent about a week hauling the logs in to the barnyard where we spent several days running them through a buzz saw that Dad used. This amount of time spend actually kept us in oak wood for about three winters.

Cedar posts were used for fences and after they were used twice as posts they usually ended up on the buzz saw pile for kindling. This was great wood for starting fires and was easily spilt. Cedar seems to weather well, and I have used these same posts after years of use to make toys and small figurines.

Cedar posts were imported in our part of the country and that is the reason for multiple use. They were

used once as regular posts, then when rotting off the bottom they were turned upside down and used as staves between the longer posts. This made a stronger fence, especially if one was raising hogs or sheep.

We have lots of pine growing in our area and old fallen trees were good for making pitch posts. Some of these posts will last for forty years or longer. One needs to be especially careful using this pitchy wood to burn in the house however. Too large of a piece tends to get the fire roaring and sometimes has been known to start a chimney fire or even worse set a house fire.

We had one neighbor years ago who milked goats for an income, and his fence staves were made of haywire that was connected between posts about every four feet. He had salvaged the haywire from his hay pile. This made for a good tight fence and I don't ever recall his goats running at large.

Due to the scarcity of wooden posts and the work of digging holes to place them in the ground, metal posts have almost entirely replaced wooden posts, except for corners. The corners are usually made of treated round poles or used railroad ties.



## A CELEBRITY IN OUR MIDST!

Audry Bentz

The Columbia Gorge Winegrowers (includes 20 wineries including Wind River Cellars, Syncline Wine Cellars, Maryhill Winery, The Pines, Cathedral Ridge, etc.) sponsored a contest for a logo for marketing wines that come from the “Columbia Gorge” appellation. The winner was our own *High Prairian* layout/typesetter, Cindy Henschell. The prize: \$500 worth of local wines! Let us know your favorites, Cindy! (or maybe you need help determining ...)



## SIXTH ANNUAL FIREHOUSE SALE

Sharon Aleckson

The dates have been set for this year's firehouse sale. Mark your calendars for May 21 and 22. This community event will offer great bargains. There will be new and used household items, furniture, clothing, plants, garden items, and much, much more. A bake sale and a delicious lunch featuring Myrin Bentz's homemade bratwurst with all the fixings will be available for hungry shoppers. The hours for the sale are: Saturday, May 21 from 9 AM to 5 PM, and Sunday, May 22 from 9 AM to 2 PM. Although the sale does not officially begin until 9:00, come early and enjoy a doughnut or a homemade cinnamon roll and a cup of coffee.

Since this sale is the only fundraiser for Fire District 14 organized by the High Prairie Community Council (High Prairie Neighborhood Association), we need donations of goods, and volunteers to help make this sale the biggest and best. Donated items can be anything from A-Z in good, usable condition. These items may be brought to the Old Church at Doug and Dona Taylor's if you need a place to store them before the sale. Call the Taylor's at 365-3242 to make arrangements for dropping off your donations. Otherwise, on May 18, 19, and 20 the Fire Hall will be open from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM and you can bring your sale items there. Remember to ask for a receipt as these donated items are tax deductible. If you need to bring some items to the Fire Sale before or after these hours call Sharon Aleckson at 365-4429. If you have donations for the sale but are unable to bring them to the Fire Hall call Martha Hamil at 365-5459.

### IN MEMORIAM

Dona Taylor

Former long-time High Prairie resident, Claude Brashers passed away January 25 in The Dalles. He and his wife Alma made their home in Dallesport for the last several years. Claude and his brother Bill farmed on High Prairie from the early 1940's, to 1976 when they sold the ranch to present owners, Tom and Gail Amery. Our sincere condolences to his family.

Volunteers are needed to make this a successful event. There are many things that need to be done before, during, and after the sale. Before the sale, help is needed with the advertising, setting up for the sale, and baking items (bread, pies, cakes, cookies, etc.) for the bake sale. Help is needed putting up signs along Centerville Highway. During the sale, people are needed to work in four areas: inside the Fire Hall, in the Food Booth, outside the Fire Hall, and in the Parking Area. Household items will be displayed inside the Fire Hall. Cashiers and organizers are needed in this area. The Food Booth is the area where beverages, bratwurst, and bake sale items will be sold. BBQ cooks, servers, cashiers, and organizers are needed here. Outside the Fire Hall there are two areas where help is needed. One is where the plant and garden items will be sold. The other area is where the miscellaneous items such as exercise, camping, and sporting equipment and any other item that doesn't fit the category of a household item will be found.

After the sale help is needed packing up unsold items, taking down tables, signs, tents, and cleaning up the various sale areas. As you can see there are many areas where your help is needed and I have only mentioned a few. Plus we offer friendly on-the-job training at no cost. Volunteer sign-up sheets will be available at the March and April High Prairie Community Council meetings. If you would like to volunteer but are unable to attend the meetings, just show up at the Fire Hall (May 18-22) or call Sharon Aleckson. We need your help!!!!!!

If you are a newcomer to this event, we look forward to meeting you. If you have attended our sale before, "Welcome back!" If you miss our sale, look for our space at Lyle's 13+ Miles Yard Sale Extravaganza on Saturday, June 11th. And, if we still miss you...look for us in the March 2006 issue of The High Prairian. We'll be there.

### GET WELL WISHES

Dona Taylor

We want to wish a speedy recovery to High Prairie residents, Lorna Dove and Lorelei Patrick. They both have taken their turns of being hospitalized in local (Goldendale, Hood River) and Portland hospitals. They are now home and doing better. We wish them our best.

# HIGH PRAIRIE



# FIREHOUSE SALE

*Sixth Annual*

## HURRY TO THE HUGE YARD SALE!

### May 21 & 22

Sat., May 21: 9 am to 5 pm

Sun., May 22: 9 am to 2 pm

High Prairie Fire Dist. 14 Firehouse  
704 Centerville Hwy.  
Lyle, Washington

New and used Household Garden items, Antiques,  
Furniture, Plants, Crafts and much, much more!

Come for breakfast or lunch  
Breads, Sweet Rolls, Pie, Cake, & Beverages

Back by popular demand:  
Myrin's Famous homemade Bratwurst

Directions:

Hwy. 14 to Lyle, North on Centerville Hwy. between gas station and Country Cafe.  
Approx. 7 miles on Centerville Hwy. and you are there ... can't miss it!

FOR INFORMATION CALL: 509-365-4429 or 509-365-5459

Proceeds go to the High Prairie Volunteer Fire Dept.  
and the High Prairie Community Council

## GARDENING TIPS

Judith Strait Master Gardener

This has certainly been a dry winter. The sunshine and spring-like temperatures are beautiful but I do wonder what kind of a summer we're going to have. I've been thinking of ways to use water wisely in gardens and landscape. One way is to build up a 1-2" "wall" around the base of trees and bushes. This keeps the water where it will drain down on to the roots. Another way to conserve water is to mulch with bark dust, leaves or even newspaper. The mulch will dry out but keep the earth underneath it moist longer. Mulch around plants such as tomatoes and peppers in your garden as well. I also really believe in the advantage of drip hoses in the garden instead of sprinklers. This directs the water right to the roots and doesn't water paths and other areas in the garden where nothing is growing. Evaporation of water from heat, sunshine and wind is also kept to a minimum.

Have you been feeding the birds this winter? I do and really enjoy the variety of birds. The evening grosbeaks and red-winged blackbirds have returned in force and empty 2 feeders per day. It's a good idea to continue feeding them through out the year as it encourages them to stay.

I usually start my pepper plants inside towards the end of February and tomatoes in March. When seed catalogs state "65 days" etc. for tomatoes, it's taking about 65 days to maturity from the time you place the tomato plants in the garden, not from the time you plant the seeds.

To bring a bit of springtime into your house, snip a few branches of a forsythia bush and bring them indoors. Crush or split the lower stems a few inches from the bottom. Then place them in water and store in a cool place. Change the water weekly and you should see beautiful yellow blooms in 2-3 weeks. You can also do this with other flowering bushes and fruit trees.

When pruning your trees, be sure to disinfect the pruners after each one. If you don't, you can easily transfer disease from one tree to another. We learned this the hard way and lost some fruit trees. An easy way to do this is to wipe the pruners with a Lysol wipe between trees.

## SPRING

Douglas Taylor

For me spring is the grandest season of the year on High Prairie. I enjoy the magnificent array of wild flowers with the distant views of the many snow-capped mountains. The newborn animals and newly hatched birds are in abundance. Spring comes with occasional rains, gently blowing winds and much, much sunshine.

Much of the early farm work has been done and anticipating the haying season. With the aroma of new plowed fields and the special scent of the cutting of fresh alfalfa hay, gives one the pleasurable joy of aromas not always experienced. Scents that one will never experience behind the unleaded or diesel exhaust of a vehicle on the freeway.

We have so many varieties of wild flowers taking turns at giving us their beauty that most times their sights and smells are tantalizing. Many plants that have a local name I find have an entirely different common name. Of course I have no idea of the names of many flowers, but are beautiful just the same.

It is always exciting and relaxing to see the new farm animal babies chasing each other in a game of tag. Of course this is not unique to farm animal babies. Watching fawns and coyote pups chasing and playing together makes me think maybe we get to tied up with our own troubles and tribulations to see the grander side of life.

Many times even two or more mother wild turkey hens join up with their broods for company and protection. I have often noted one or two mothers of the wild baby-sitting several little ones and protecting them all.

If you're coming to visit us in the spring, the wild flowers are generally best in late April or early May. The fawns start arriving late May along with the broods of turkeys, grouse, Hungarian partridge and quail.

The robins hatch and raise their young quite early in the spring. In many years I thought the robins would be starting to nest, only to find young robins already out of the nest and flying about.

Some of our bird friends like the Lewis' woodpecker are quite rare in many Washington areas, but plentiful in our oak trees of the Prairie.

The best of life is free. Enjoy and stop for a minute and let the grandeur of your surroundings overwhelm you.



## RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY SERVICE

### TIM AND SUE DARLAND

Lozetta Doll



Tim and Sue Darland awaken to beautiful sunrises from their place off Stacker Butte Road, as well as a whole array of our High Prairie scenery. Theirs is a bustling household with 5-1/2 year old Emily, a kindergartner who attends Dallesport, 3 year old Ryan, guard dog Abby, cats Mackey and Pokey, and numerous fish.

Tim was born in International Falls, Minnesota, and the notoriously often-coldest spot in the nation. He grew up in Wisconsin and attended college at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin, an environmental liberal arts college ranked 25th in US News & World Report's America's Best Colleges 2005. He graduated in 1991 with a Biology Major and a Chemistry Minor and worked in Wisconsin for a number of years as a fisheries technician. Sue was born in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and also attended Northland College, graduating with a Major in Business Administration, Marketing and Management, and a Minor in History. She worked in retail and for four years with the J. I. Case Company in collections. Although Tim and Sue knew each other from college, they did not begin dating until they had been out of college about four years and he invited her to attend a wedding with him.

In 1996 the newlyweds moved to Lyle, Tim went to work as a biologist with USGS in Cook and Sue worked for USGS in the business office. Tim and Sue, wanting a home in the country, found their present acreage and moved here in 1997. Tim is now employed as a fisheries biologist with the US Army Corps of Engineers at Bonneville. He is one of four biologists on site. His main duties, in a nutshell, are to ensure project staff operates fish passage facilities such as fish ladders and juvenile bypass systems within criteria to maintain compliance with fish passage requirements. Sue was a budget

analysis at the USGS when she left 1-1/2 years ago to be an at-home mom.

Tim and Sue are involved in many outdoor family activities such as hiking, camping, biking, sledding, rock hounding, bird watching, gardening, and sleeping outside under the stars. Tim likes to golf when he can and Sue is a real fan of the Fort Vancouver Regional Library system. They like living in Washington and only miss parts of Wisconsin: family, snow, trees and thunderstorms. They do not miss mosquitoes and humidity!

Tim joined the volunteers at Fire District 14 in August 1998. Although it is a real commitment in time and energy, he enjoys the group and feels lucky to be working with such a dedicated crew.

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## COUGARS

Martha Hamil noticed a path through the trees from Oda Knight Road into Green Canyon. A cougar killed a deer and drug it across the road and down into Green Canyon, probably a good quarter mile. This past Tuesday morning the deer hair extended all the way across Oda Knight but traffic and the wind have blown it all away except right on the verges. The kill occurred about 20 yards into the oak trees along the south side of Oda Knight between Ashland's and Bruckner's drives.

*Sorry Martha, the pictures didn't print well enough to publish.*

Doug Taylor reports that last fall a cougar took a liking to domestic sheep and at least killed four sheep. Two of these were penned in a high woven wire fence right next to the house. It has been reported that this cougar is no longer endangering livestock or humans.



Mount St. Helens letting off a little steam — 5:30 PM March 8.  
Photo taken from Henschell's on High Prairie Road.

## SMELL

Tom Doll

"You know he is getting old – he doesn't smell so good anymore!"

Old Spice just isn't cutting that source of the smell.  
Hot tub or whirlpool may, of course, lessen its spell.

Should I be fragrant as a flower?  
Die as a rose in aromatic pain.  
A walking cosmetic counter – Patrick eau de cologne  
Chanel eau de Paris.

Only old musky shall remain my fragrant aim.  
Bacon, I remember, brings forth a new day.  
Eggs and fruit, they can only be tasted today.  
For my sense of smell is almost gone.  
Only memories from my past shall remain with me at dawn.

Much of my time is now spent  
In the open environment,  
Breathing in fresh air.  
That polecat was around again last night  
For nature's air has a vile taste to it.  
Campfire smoke reminds me of my youth

As I pick up a burnt and blackened yoke.  
Neighbors must have left some fish last week.  
I found them today, leaving me a little weak.  
Subdued I am as I stroll along  
Taking a whiff of life for all the smells  
May not be as sensuous today or as keen as yesteryear.

Friends and loved ones can only be sympathetic now  
For my deodorants come only in an odorless spray container  
Now that I am losing my sense of smell.

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## LYLE NEWS

We were very pleased to receive a newsletter in our mailbox from the Lyle folks. We found it very informative and noted the very ambitious accomplishments and goals of our neighbors. Over the years the Lyle has been very supportive of our community efforts also.

We thank you very much for thinking of us and wish you much success in the future.

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The High Prairian  
P.O. Box 592  
Lyle, WA 98635

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**POSTAL PATRON**