

Happy Holidays!



# The High Prairiean

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

Volume Seven, Number Four

Circulation: 1,225

Subscription Cost: FREE

December 2007

## NOTICES

**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> Thursday of each month at 7:30 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.

**Lyle School Board** meets the next to last Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Boardroom, Lyle High School.

**When requesting medical assistance or reporting a fire CALL 911**

## HIGH PRAIRIE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Audrey Bentz

This year will mark one decade of Christmas holiday parties at Morning Song Acres, home of Myrin and Audrey Bentz. Come join your neighbors for a time to get reacquainted with some, and meet new neighbors as well. There will be singing of carols, a "Christmas story/song" time with children, hopefully a "holiday parade" by the decorated fire trucks, bringing special treats for the kids, and LOTS of great food and drink (which you are invited to help furnish).

The date: Friday, December 14, and anytime from 7 p.m. on.

Address: 6 Oda Knight Road (off Struck Road).

If you know of guests who are thinking of locating here, invite them as well!

## UPDATE ON HIGH PRAIRIE FIRE HALL AND COMMUNITY CENTER

Amanda Remington

Mid-Columbia Economic Development District

The High Prairie Fire Hall and Community Center project continues to make progress toward construction of a new facility. Site and building plans were completed in November thanks to the perseverance of our volunteer engineer, Ira Martin. The plans have been submitted to the Klickitat County Building Department for review. With the plans now complete, the expectation is that we will be able to receive approval on documents and advertise for a general contractor throughout January. The general contractor who is awarded the bid would then be expected to begin work on the project no later than April 2008.

It will be tremendously exciting when we begin to see contractors working on preparing the site and putting up the building. The best way to support the project will be to allow the contractors to get underway with their work. Therefore, we kindly request that when you begin to see activity on the site, watch the progress, but avoid walking on the construction site.

In other news related to the project: we received an extension on the grant funding through December 31, 2008 to allow successful completion of the project. We have also received a waiver of septic and water permit fees from the County Health Department and requested a waiver of building fees from the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners.

This project continues to move forward thanks to the tireless efforts of the Implementation Committee: Fred Henschell, Doug Hutchison, Mike Chabbert, Ira Martin, Rick Carlson, and Tom Doll. Thank you!



## CORRECTION

In the last issue we missed a High Prairie prizewinner in the 2007 Klickitat County Fair. Carol Shuster won a blue ribbon for needlepoint. Congratulations and we are sorry for the omission.

## CONDOLENCES

Dona Taylor

To Walt Sexton, his wife and family on the recent death of his mother, Mildred "Millie" Sexton on September 19, 2007 at Memorial Hospital in Yakima. She and her late husband had been residents of Goldendale for many, many years.



### The High Prairian

P.O. Box 592 Lyle, WA 98635

Publisher	Klickitat County EDC
News Editors	Douglas & Dona Taylor
Layout/Typesetting	Cindy Henschell, Cascadia Graphics & Publishing

Serving the community of High Prairie, Klickitat County, Washington.

Published four times per year (or as often as needed).

Subscription cost: FREE. Circulation: 1,200.

News Desk: Douglas L. Taylor,

**365-3242**

email: [highprairie@gorge.net](mailto:highprairie@gorge.net)

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

## HIGH PRAIRIE DIRECTORY

Audrey Bentz


Online informed us that there are still some leftover directories. So if you did not get yours, be sure to call her at 509-281-0444.

## HIGH PRAIRIE THESPIANS

Audrey Bentz

Perhaps you attended the annual "Lyle Pretenders" production of "The Medieval Murders" this past month at the Grange Hall. The cast featured two of our High Prairie fire fighters and their wives: Phil Haner and wife Greer, Tim Darland and wife Susan and Jennifer Machado. We hear it was a great show!

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**

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

## MOVING AHEAD!

Myrin D. Bentz, President of High Prairie Community Council

Why the delay? What's holding us up? Such questions have been asked the past several months regarding our Fire Hall – Community Center. Many of us had hoped for construction to begin this summer, but some unavoidable delays slowed down the progress. The GOOD NEWS from the Implementation Committee is that these delays have been resolved and we now expect to begin construction this spring. I invite us all to share the excitement. And I encourage us all too now focus with a cohesive community spirit as we anticipate and work together on our new Community Center and Fire Hall!



## HIGH PRAIRIE NEEDS YOU

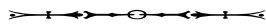
Ted Mckercher

During World War II there was a poster of a stern looking Uncle Sam pointing toward the observer stating "Uncle Sam Wants You!" (or was it needs you?). Sixty plus years later we could use a "rip-off" of that poster that says: "High Prairie Needs You!".

Can you skip "Ugly Betty" and "Gray's Anatomy" one Thursday per month to help keep the quality of life on "High Prairie" enjoyable? I am sure there are many of you who have great ideas that would benefit the whole community.

In January the meeting will include a decision on pursuing a comprehensive study of land use here. That could have a direct affect on you!

The County has not upgraded their comprehensive study since 1979! In my nearly fourteen years as a land owner here, I have seen an explosive change, some good, some not. A comprehensive plan for High Prairie is needed. What do you think?



## HIGH PRAIRIE AND CALIFORNIA FIRES

Audrey Bentz

We all watched the news coverage of the San Diego area fires this past month. But our fire Chief Doug Hutchison actually spent about three weeks there, assisting in the fire fighting. It was good to know we were represented through Doug's expertise. Thanks from us all!

## HIGH PRAIRIANS ALWAYS COME THROUGH

Martha M. Hamil

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Your cards, good wishes, food, flowers, bread, and housecleaning\* helped me get through a difficult summer. Certainly, I never expected to go from the elation of another successful Firehouse Sale, to within a week, spending the summer feeling awful most days and not being able to eat. The summer culminated with two stints in the hospital. Tests galore have not identified a cause, but I'm feeling a whole lot better and my appetite is back (I haven't gained any weight even taking synthetic marijuana). The cause of the whole thing may never be known; it may have been just one of those obscure illnesses.

I particularly want to thank the High Prairie First Responders. The Oda Knight Road condition did not stop them from getting here about 20 minutes after my brother's initial 911 call (it seemed like forever to him) and to start stabilization. Lyle followed shortly with their responders and equipment. Even though I was in a lot of pain and half out of it, I remember their care in documentation of vital signs and treatment. Skyline paramedics then showed up and could start pain relief other than Nitro. So, kudos to Rob Taylor, Myrin Bentz, Tim Darland, Phil Haner, and Fred Henschell from High Prairie and Glenda Lovejoy, Patti Smith, and a young man that I didn't know from Lyle. Skyline paramedics got me to Skyline whereupon they arranged immediate transport to Good Samaritan given the elevated cardiac enzymes and strange cardiograms.

Fortunately, my heart attack was a very rare kind where the death rate is very low, but shows every indication of a coronary artery problem. It's called Apical Balloon Syndrome for those interested. Recurrence happens but not often.

My message is this:

Respond to your neighbors needs anytime, every time, anywhere, everywhere

Support Fire District #14's efforts to improve medical call response.

\*Although several people helped with my animals, I'm particularly grateful to Brigitte Free for making sure that Michael and Arnold were fed, medicated, pottied, and loved when I've been indisposed.

## HIGH PRAIRIE NEEDLERS

Gwen Berry

Only a couple more weeks to get those homemade holiday gifts finished, and nobody knows that better than the High Prairie Needlers.

Shoulda started that sweater-and-mittens set back in August!

But a homemade touch doesn't need to be complicated and time-consuming. How about instant-mix brownies in a fancy tin? Or a selection of crackers and cheeses, along with a bottle of your favorite beverage, nestled in a basket with a few evergreen sprigs and a ribbon bow? Really, it's the personal touch that makes the difference, and sometimes that's just a matter of how the gift is wrapped. The internet is full of ideas. Just enter "quick wrapping" into Google and see what you get! Here's one quick and unusual wrapping idea:

1) Set the gift to be wrapped on an inexpensive paper plate. 2) Set the plate on a large piece of aluminum foil. 3) Bring the edges of the foil up around the plate and scrunch them together at the top so that it looks like a giant Hershey's kiss. 4) Just before closing the top, insert a strip of paper (like the ones on Heresy's kisses) to use as the gift tag. What could be simpler?

Here are a few more holiday ideas from the Needlers:

✳ Consider getting a live tree this year. For around the same cost as a cut tree you can get a permanent addition to your landscape. Plus, you'll be doing the atmosphere a favor by adding a tree to the environment instead of cutting one down.

✳ Or do as one of our members does — decorate a big indoor plant, if you have one. You should see her yucca decked out for Christmas!

✳ Here's advice that's easy to give but harder to put into practice: Don't try to do too much. Pick the activities that are most important and let the rest go. Stress is a sure way to spoil the enjoyment of the holidays.

✳ Do you feel glum when it's time to take down all the festive decorations? Suddenly everything seems so bare, and there you are in the middle of the blah winter. One Needler's sister came up with a solution. As she puts away the holiday decorations, she exchanges them for new ones in blue, green and purple for a month-long observation she calls "Deepening." She says January is the perfect time of the year to turn inward for a while. The hustle and bustle is over; even the weather is conducive to it. This is a time when you might write in a journal, or read a philosophical or spiritual

book you've been drawn to, or experiment with new meditations — all aimed at discovering or nurturing a deeper personal experience. At the end of the month, the blues, greens and purples get put away without the letdown of the sudden end to the holidays and with much personal satisfaction.

✳ Finally, here's a do-ahead apple cake recipe one Needler discovered over Thanksgiving. You can actually freeze it until you need it, and then pop it in the oven to bake.

## DO-AHEAD APPLE CAKE

Cake Ingredients:

1/2 C shortening or margarine  
1 C sugar  
2 eggs  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
2 C all-purpose flour  
1 tsp baking powder  
1 tsp baking soda  
1/2 tsp salt  
1 C sour cream  
2 C chopped apples

Topping Ingredients:

2 Tbsp soft butter  
3/4 C brown sugar  
1 tsp cinnamon

Cream together shortening/margarine and sugar. Stir in eggs and vanilla. Mix together flour, baking powder, soda, and salt; then add to first mixture. Mix in sour cream. Fold in apples. Spread batter in two greased 8" cake pans. Sprinkle with topping. Cover and freeze. Remove from freezer when desired and bake frozen cakes at 350 degrees for 1 hour.



## CAUTION ON GRAVEL ROADS

When you are driving on one of the many graveled roads please be aware of people who may be working on their property. When you drive fast the dust whips up and these property owners are surrounded by the dust and have to breathe it in. We would all appreciate your taking precautions to keep this from happening.



Cindy Henschell, standing  
in for Douglas Taylor

*This month we have strayed off the Prairie a bit and headed over the hill to Klickitat for some history. Plan to visit this historic site, sample the water and view the ruins of the bottling plant some nice summer day.*

## KLICKITAT BUBBLING WATER

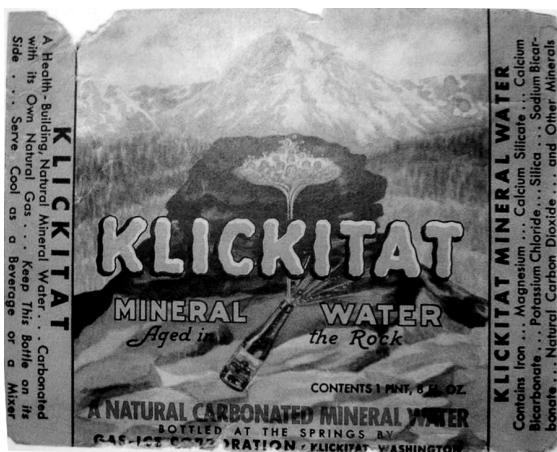
### The Surprising History of the Mineral Springs at Klickitat, Washington

#### PART ONE

Sandy Bisset

Amateur Historian and Genealogy Sleuth (wildflowers@gorge.net)

A chance discovery at the Sumpter, Oregon flea market led me on an interesting journey right here in my own back yard. I was browsing at a bottle booth and I spotted this bottle with the remnants of a brightly colored label held on with tape and plastic wrap. The word KLICKITAT, in bold blue letters grabbed my attention. I was suspicious, as local names don't always mean local products but



the price was right and I brought the bottle home. It didn't take long on the internet to verify that it was indeed a bottle from Klickitat, Washington and the beginning of a rather amazing story.

The setting involves a fifteen mile drive up the canyon which follows the Klickitat River from its mouth at Lyle, Washington and gradually climbs three hundred feet above the Columbia River to an elevation of 447 feet. It meanders through an oak savannah dotted with pines. There are a few modern homes, old homesteads, derelict fruit trees in the midst of modern farms, with fishermen in drift boats and kayakers in an alternately placid and swirling river. Here we find the communities of Klickitat, and a short distance to the north, Wahiakus. The railroad has been replaced by a hiking trail but otherwise the features have changed little in the past hundred years as evidenced by the following description from the 1904 History of Central Washington.

"The canyon of the Klickitat is one of the grandest and most picturesque along the Columbia. On either side the green clad hills rise a thousand feet above the bed of the river through which the railroad winds in graceful curves. At times the scene changes and a magnificent thicket of green scrub oak covers the hills with verdure, while below the winding stream dashes madly down the canyon. This river, notwithstanding the swift current, is the home of many fine fish, a fact which, combined with many other advantages of the region, may cause Lyle to become, in the near future, a popular summer retreat."

The Washington side of the Columbia is dotted with mineral springs or hot springs as they are commonly called. The local indigenous populations have taken advantage of this aftermath of volcanic activity for centuries, using the springs for sweat lodge ceremonies, as well as other medicinal, spiritual, and practical purposes.

The mineral springs just north of present day Klickitat, Washington on State Highway 142 (T4N, T5N, R14E), were allegedly "discovered" by an early local stage driver named Ed Phillips, sometime prior to the turn of the twentieth century. While camping in the area he had noticed the warm, effervescent water bubbling up in several places and decided to dig out one of the springs. He was busily digging when a geyser erupted and he found himself up to his neck in hot water. His immediate panic gave way to a feeling of comfort in

the eighty degree water. This was the beginning of the idea of commercialization of the Klickitat area mineral springs.

In 1890 Joseph Rusk constructed the Mineral Springs Spa on his property about five miles north of Klickitat. In 1902 a family named Maddock built a health and summer resort near the Klickitat Springs. Although people came from as far away as Portland, Goldendale, and elsewhere to partake of the waters, neither venture thrived financially and both were soon only memories. This was in the era before automobiles and passable highways, but within a few years this all changed. Rusk's property was sold and became a local gathering area called Soda Springs. Many local people braved the twisting, rutted road, only to have to pull themselves across the river in a cable ferry in order to picnic, enjoy the waters, and as some put it, to "spark."

In the meantime, W. H. Robertson, a Portlander, had visited the area on fishing expeditions and in conversations with the local Native Americans had learned of the many mineral springs in the area. In 1908 he took a timber claim, and also claimed land near the Klickitat River, proposing to develop the springs and bottle the water. A bottling plant was eventually built and the water was piped in, filtered, and flavored with sugar syrups. He called the spring water Klickitat Mineral Water. In the process he inadvertently changed the name of a small settlement called Wrights to Klickitat. After the bottling plant opened, the railroad switched their siding names so that Klickitat, which had been seven miles up the canyon, was at the location of the bottling works. The post office opened in 1910 with the name Klickitat, making it official.

The January 10, 1914 Klickitat County *Agriculturist* announced that the Klickitat Mineral Springs Company was

incorporating for \$50,000 and a new bottling plant was under construction, with a March first completion date.

By this time word of the health giving properties of the springs had spread. Klickitat became a regular stop for the train so that passengers could drink from the springs. A young entrepreneur named Homer Mitchell, later recalled making good money hauling spring water to the lumber stackers, who claimed they could drink more mineral water than regular water without ill effects.

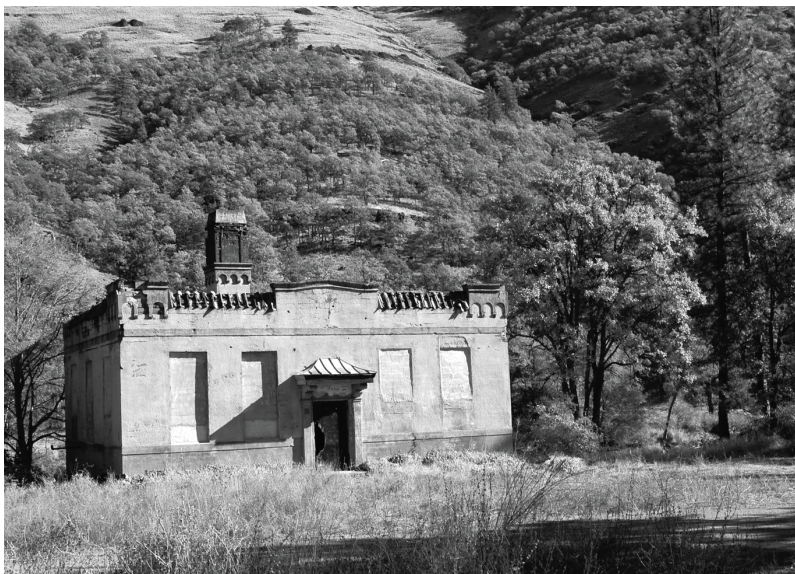
This ad appeared in the *White Salmon Enterprise* in May 1914. One of the testimonials, dated 1911 and addressed to W. H. Robertson, from a Portland physician who identified himself simply as A. W. B., M. D. states in part that "It is with pleasure that I add my endorsement of the virtues of Klickitat Mineral Water. I have given it a substantial test in the treatment of ailments of the stomach, liver, and kidneys and am satisfied that it has decided merit in the eradication of functional irregularities of these organs.

"As an elegant sparkling, table water it certainly has no superior. Its large impregnations of carbonic acid, which when treated with a little syrup and fruit flavoring makes it a refreshing and satisfying beverage that is second to none that I have ever used."

Robertson's business came to an untimely end when the United States entered World War I. There were shortages of basic commodities, including sugar, which was a necessary component of his flavored drinks. He was unable to keep up with demand and to operate profitably. He sold to a Mr.

Adams, who sold to the Wilson brothers, who sold it to W. H. Langdon, a businessman from Walla Walla who purchased it in the early nineteen twenties.

Langdon had a broad vision for the operation which included a bottling works





and a health spa, He left a record in a rather amazing oversized folio now housed in the research library at Klickitat County Historical Society's Presby Mansion in Goldendale. Not only did he photograph the various springs and the process of digging them out to their source, but he photographed the scenery of the area, some of the local Native Americans as well as his own employees, and potential investors from Portland. He added informative hand written notes and calligraphy captions to the photographs.

Tucked in the back of the book are the original drawings for bottle labels and the 1926 laboratory analysis from Smith, Emery, and Company, a San Francisco firm of chemists, and chemical Engineers, which outlines the chemical contents of not only the Klickitat Springs mineral water but the accompanying gas emissions. Klickitat Mineral Water was found to contain, in parts per million, listed in decreasing quantities, Magnesium Bicarbonate, Calcium Bicarbonate, Sodium Bicarbonate, Silica, Calcium Silicate, Iron, Potassium Chloride, Potassium Bicarbonate, Alumina, Calcium Phosphate, and Sodium Nitrate. It is noted that the water is characterized by very high silica, high iron, high magnesium, and high carbon dioxide, this last being the gas by-product. The additional analysis of the carbon dioxide indicates it is 98.4% pure and "should be available for medicinal baths, and used compressed in cylinders for any purpose for which carbon dioxide is used."

Three identifiable bottle styles have been identified, and can be seen at the Presby Museum in Goldendale. This embossed bottle was probably the earliest and may have had a cork closure, but the other two, machine production bottles which were a new concept at the turn of the century, definitely accommodate a "crown cork bottle cap" which William Painter invented in 1893 and is still used today.

History once again interceded with the crash of the stock market in 1929. Shortly thereafter during the ensuing economic depression W. H. Langdon took his own life. The bottling works closed temporarily but another chapter opened starring the unlikely combination of dry ice, the United States military, and small birds called vaux swifts, along with a meandering riverside trail.

*Stay with us for the remainder of this story...*

## COMMUNITY EMAIL LIST

Doug Taylor

Through the email to community members we have distributed a great variety of information, including signs sold at cost by the fire district to make your home and person safer. The minutes and agenda of HPCC group have been distributed to all who have email addresses.

We have found lost dogs and lost found dogs, some coming home on their own after doing what dogs probably do when left to their own devices. We have had a tom cat or two missing for a day or so, then returning to the relief of their owners.

Cattle have found their way into neighbor's yards to stay awhile until their owners claim them or they have been made into steaks.

Apples have been sold and chickens have been given away. Some things are just harder to get rid of than others.

A free travel trailer probably drew the quickest and most response and was claimed by a happy recipient the next day.

There was even a call for a lost child, which was a success story, depending I'm sure on whomever was telling the story.

I'm sure if one is looking for something special, it also could be found.

The most requests have been at the present mostly for dogs either lost or found.

Emus have been traveling around the neighborhood with sightings reported, but no reports of lost Emus or claimants.

There have been requests for how to trap skunks and then what to do with them after they are trapped. The real problem comes after they are trapped. I am sure there are several answers and some may work, problem is which one?



## TURKEYS, TURKEYS, TURKEYS

Bev Edwards

Have you noticed the overabundance of turkeys this year? Seems like every time we head down the hill there are more and more turkeys to maneuver through, around, and hopefully not over. There seems to be an abundance of them this year, like flocks of around 4 dozen or more. It's nice seeing them but one wonders how long before you hit one of them.

Word to the wise— Be careful out there you may hit a turkey.

## HENCHELLS: A GREAT BIG THANK YOU

Doug Taylor

We would like to thank both Cindy and husband Fred for their many years of contribution to the Fire District as Secretary and Fred as Commissioner of 8 years.

Ten-year veteran Cindy Henschell will be turning over her Secretarial duties as secretary to concentrate more on her other interests and volunteer schedule. She has been a tremendous asset to the community keeping track of the finances, purchases, liabilities and keeping the minutes of the Commissioner's meetings.

We as Commissioners have come to rely on Cindy's skills keeping us informed of the many facets of State and County requirements as well keeping our district in the black.



## WINTER ON THE PRAIRIE

Bev Edwards

Winter is coming and once again it is time to get geared up and ready for the beautiful snow crest hills on the prairie and all that comes with it. The squirrels are stashing their winter food and we should follow nature and do the same.

The pantry is full, the flannel sheets are on the beds, the propane tank is full, the 4 track is ready to plow the snow from our road and we are ready for whatever winter brings.

Winter is one of our favorite times of the year. With the new fallen snow, everywhere you look everything looks neat and clean. There isn't that rush to get outdoors and start working in the yard, waiting for the wind to die down so we can get out there and spray to keep the weeds down. There's no longer a need to water all the plants and trees until spring arrives.

It's time to curl up with a good book, drink hot chocolate, and reflect on good things that have happened this past year. It's time to start thinking about looking at seed catalogs for spring planting.

We wish all the best to everyone for the holiday season and the coming year.



## NEIGHBORHOOD COUGAR

Doug Taylor

I received email from Frank Randall, Deputy Sheriff for Klickitat County on his cougar kill on east end Fire District 14 on Centerville Highway. Cougar and bear sightings have been more prevalent this year. I have even seen bear sign on east end of our property where bear had been coming into water.

On November 13 Mike and Terry Chabbert informed me of their misfortune in losing one of their llamas to a cougar that jumped in to their corral and killed Leroy, a grown animal, the night before. I understand other domestic animals have been killed by cougars as well. Below is Frank's story:

Just driving around Friday morning September 28th and I come around the corner there west of Kemp's. The cougar was lying in the road and I thought someone had hit something. It got up and I initially thought I had clipped it. I hopped out of my truck and ran around to the shoulder and the cougar was just standing by the fence looking at me. I shot with my .45 and it moved another 10 yards and I shot again and it appeared to be hit. I had to go back in to town and look on the Internet to see who owned the property. I came back later with dad and stopped at Kemp's because the property owner had a gate. Kemp called the property owner and got his okay to look for the cat. Dad and I found it about 100 yards from where I had shot at it. Something had eaten on the rear end of the cougar.





## THREE YEARS ON THE PRAIRIE

Ted Mc Kercher

I've thought about this recitation for quite some time but have never come to a conclusion on really describing life on The 'Prairie.

Myrtie and I had never lived in the city until 1989 when we purchased or at least started making payments on a home in N.E. Portland. WOW! Side walks!

Living in Portland was convenient. Restaurants, hardware stores, theaters, hardware stores, malls, hardware stores, auto parts and did I mention hardware stores all within walking distance.

Having been raised in what used to be farm land east of Portland we should have been used to gray drizzly winters and springs. We could have thought that normal but we made the "mistake" of moving to south central Idaho where we lived in the desert for three and a half years. There we dried and tanned rather than soaked and rusted our bodies.

That "mistake" had us looking for a drier clime but within striking distance of "The City" and our three children and their families.

We found what we were looking for about 14 years ago in High Prairie and planned our retirement around our plot.

Now that I've kinda (wouldn't my English teacher be proud) found my way into an introduction to "Three Years on The 'Prairie" I'll try to relate what Myrtie and I have experienced.

Just slightly over three years ago we moved into our new home here and began/continued learning about a new and somewhat different life style. One of the many lessons we had to learn was planning logistical trips. Nuts and bolts are close if you (er— ah, did I mention hardware stores?) a 30 to 40 mile round trip close. Food, most restaurants, theaters etc. will find you making the same trip distance.

Summer brings beautiful starry night skies and warm days and the gumbo that weighted and sucked at your boots last winter now has become the near concrete that you may need a jack hammer to break for your garden.

And that summer wind that keeps the temperature moderate has blown all your deck furniture to your neighbors yard if not out of the county altogether.

We've become interested in birds because there seem to be so many varieties from bald and golden eagles to several darting humming birds.

Yellowjackets (our traps have imprisoned as many as 2 quarts per day), mice in our car, gray diggers (California ground squirrels— we like to blame California for as much as possible) that eat your automotive wiring

abound. My favorite is the many bugs, particularly the California grass bug (there's that California blame game again). Aka, Listerine bug, oak beetle, sage bug and other unprintable aliases they invade our home every fall and stay for the winter. They drop from nowhere to land on my book, news paper or me while watching T.V. They sit and watch while I'm eating dinner even if we have company. They leap through walls with a single bound that would make Superman proud. They multiply like no invitro fertilized human. I spray them, they walkaway. I squash them but they manage to give birth anyway. I suck them up with the vacuum cleaner but they just hatch inside the bag unless I burn it. Maybe I'll learn to co-habitate. Um— maybe not!

Cougars, coyotes, turkeys, skunks, snakes, lizards and deer are at home here. Ah yes, the deer. Late spring and early summer bring the "bambis" that was conceived the previous fall. The deer are beautiful, abundant and eat almost anything in your flower or vegetable garden. It's been said that deer resistant vegetation is selected by a committee co-chaired by John Deer and Jane Doe.

We have met and enjoyed more High Prairians in a 6 mile radius than we knew in our block in Portland.

Myrtie and I walk on the road frequently and enjoy the country tradition of the wave you get from passing motorists. Once in a while you would get a wave in The City but the difference here is the wave includes all five fingers.

Our pet peeve and disappointment is the amount of trash discarded along the road consisting mostly of beverage containers. Why doesn't Washington have a bottle bill??? We live in a wonderful rural setting but in 7 tenths of a cmile from Hartland road to our driveway we collected 4 large trash bags of mostly beer cans. Did you know Keystone Beer is brewed by Coors Brewing Co. of Golden, CO? It must be good stuff—there sure are a lot of cans discarded on Centerville Highway.

How long does it take to drink a gallon of Gallo wine? Must not be long considering the distance between empties on Hartland Road.

I think most of our High Prairians care for the life up here. It can be seen in the efforts of a few with the support of many to put our first class volunteer fire department and first responders in a new fire hall that will also serve as a community center.

Our fire volunteers have proven to be the best even though they operate short handed most of the time. They are called on by neighboring districts and respond

without hesitation.

Myrtie's and my concerns for future of our community over the next years will continue to be land uses including further development and consideration by developers and land owners for the quality life here. Water is an extremely large issue for those of us who plan on living here for an extended period.

So far we think this is a terrific place to live! Don't you?



Wild mountain goat near Fisher Hill. One has also been sighted in Stacker Canyon. It could be the same one.

## ADDRESS AND ROAD SIGNS

Fred Henschell

Do you have an address sign? Will we be able to find you in an emergency?

As a service to the community the High Prairie Volunteer Fire Department will make and install a reflective address sign for your residence. These blue metal signs with white reflective numbers can be easily seen at night and during periods of low visibility. The address sign costs \$20 or \$25 if installed. Reflective road signs for private roads are also available, but must be special ordered. Finding un-marked, private roads at night can be a real challenge! The cost to install a road sign varies by how much effort you are willing to put into the project. Call Fred Henschell, 365-5283 to order or get more information.



## POETRY CORNER

### I Heard The Bells On Halloween

(sung to the tune of "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day")

Gwen Berry

I heard the bells on Halloween  
 Their old, familiar carols scream  
 And wild and sweet, the stores repeat:  
 The Shopping Season's here again.  
 It's seven weeks 'til Christmas day  
 When kids must have new games to play.  
 The doubts arise, what is their size?  
 And who knows what to get the men?  
 It used to be that Halloween  
 Was followed by some space between  
 For Harvest Fest and Thankfulness --  
 Now our top shopping day is then.  
 So Halloween's the starting gun  
 To head for Christmas on the run.  
 Oh well, take heart and do your part  
 The retail sector needs your bread.  
 But once the shopping race is done,  
 Then just slow down and have some fun.  
 Put on a log and drink some nog—  
 Be joyful 'til the bills come in.

### Wanderlust

Tom Doll

I travel the land, walking on the soils of life,  
 Free to wander adrift along paths of my choice.  
 Independence with my own power,  
 Experiencing self-reliance of movement.  
 Traveling a quiet pace,  
 Breathing fresh air.  
 My path takes me into unknown country,  
 To sites seldom seen,  
 Walking on the shores of swirling waters  
 In a world of light from above.  
 I move through nature's arena,  
 Listening to the howling winds,  
 Glimpsing life among the seasons' ever-changing  
 course.  
 Serenity and tranquility belong,  
 To those whose footsteps stained the earth.



## RUSSIA TRIP 2007

Neil Shuster

On August 3, 2007 nine others and I left Portland for Moscow Russia. We flew to LA and then by Russia airline nonstop to Moscow. We left LA late about 8 p.m. on Friday and landed in Moscow on Saturday after 8 p.m. As we entered immigration we were behind a planeload of Chinese. They were all held up and had to stand aside for the officers to check them out. This delayed us around another 2 hours. Our ride, thinking we had missed our flight, left anyway. This caused about another hour delay and with another almost hour drive through Moscow traffic it was midnight before we arrived at our hotel.

Sunday morning we are up at 8 a.m. and breakfast in room (cereal and fruit) and then off church. After church lunch at a fine Italian restaurant the Kremlin and Red Square. Then to GUM, their version of huge shopping malls. Sunday evening and banks are open. Work does not stop on weekends.

Monday morning up at 5 a.m. and load the vans for an hour trip to the bus station. Then another 3 hour trip in the bus to Viazma. Check in at our hotel and to the church where are project begins. The church puts on the lunch and dinner everyday that we are there.

After lunch we have a discussion about what we are there to do and we are off. We are starting with an empty room about 50' x 20', which has 6 windows and one door. When we are done 13 days later we have sheetrocked the ceiling, furred out and sheetrocked the walls and divided the area into 3 rooms and a hallway. Also we have glazed 6 sets of windows and set them, painted them and the bars. We also painted the rought iron front fence and gate and strung chain link fence on two sides of the property.

In the middle of our stay, Saturday, we were invited to a Russian wedding. The church part of the wedding was like weddings in the States but then they had the legal civil wedding. The rest of the day was filled with traveling between state memorials leaving

flowers and taking pictures. A simple wedding could cost \$5,000 and go up from there.

Sunday after church we tour Viazma (Vy'azma).

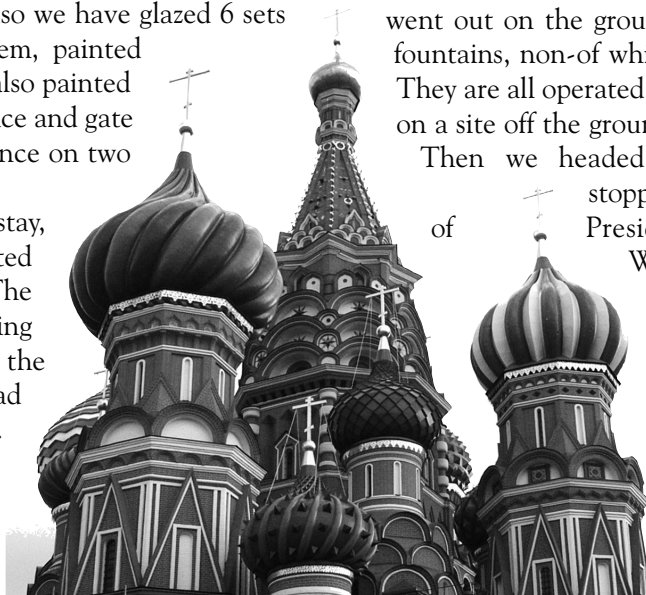
Napoleon lost a big battle in Viazma and Hitler's army in World War II destroyed Viazma down to the last building. German war prisoners built the city back after the war.

On the 17th we left Viazma for Moscow and toured some more. We used the Metro traveling to a tourist flea market then we took a boat ride along the river within Moscow. After that we found the Hard Rock Café and had an excellent dinner. Back to the Hotel and a last meeting with our sponsor before another early morning trip to the airport.

On to St Petersburg for a day an half of touring. We were met by a very nice tour guide and taken to the Hermitage Museum. There are over 3,000 exhibits so in the couple of hours we spent there we were only able to hit the highlights. We then saw a little more of the city with a continuous dialogue on the city and its history. Then to the hotel which is a very modern and upscale. All the signs in the hotel were in English. A number of shops on the main floor including a BMW motorcycle sales shop. There are more than six restaurants including a huge buffet on the second floor. Also indoor water park next to the hotel. This hotel over looks the Sea of Norway. Then Sunday we went out to Peter Hoff, which is the summer castle of Peter the Great. By the way, the Heritage Museum was the winter castle. We toured the inside of the castle and then went out on the grounds where there are 1,500 fountains, non-of which are powered by pumps. They are all operated by water pressure, which is on a site off the grounds.

Then we headed back to St Petersburg, stopping shortly at the site of one of President Putin's residences.

We then stopped at Peter Paul Cathedral then on to dinner. We let our guide pick the restaurant and invited her to join us. Then end of our stay as we were up again early the next morning for our very long trip home.



## THREE LITTLE PIGS GO TO MARKET

Debbie McDonald

The fun part of raising animals is that there is always something new to learn. We have really enjoyed raising our first pigs — they were a little bigger animal than poultry, friendly, smart and fun to watch. Everything up to the day the pigs were to be butchered had been really easy — you feed them, they think you're food.

On the day the pigs were to go to the butcher, my husband, Ron, and I started by building a sturdy ramp for a 250 lb. pig to walk up. Then we backed our Dodge Ram pickup truck to the gate opening, put out the ramp, tossed eggs all the way up the ramp and tried to think like a pig. We were confident they would follow the trail of eggs into the truck happy as clams. Trouble was there were three of them, each one weighing more than we do and they were so happy to be out of their pen with sweet green stuff to dig up and chew on that they totally ignored the eggs.

Ron and I tried to lure them in the truck, tried to corral them into an even smaller area, tried to keep them out of the turkey and duck nests, and they just ran us ragged. We decided we needed some corn. They love to eat corn. I came up to the garage for corn while Ron watched the pigs and I called our neighbor, Claude, who has been a pig farmer for a very long time. I thought he could give us some tips. He said he'd be right down, and true to his word, he and his wife, Blanche, showed up a few minutes later.

Claude said we needed a rope and a bucket. We'd lasso the pig's back legs; then, he would grab one back leg and Ron could grab the other and I should put a 5 gallon bucket over the pig's head. We'd walk the pig on the front legs backwards to the truck and up the ramp. That was the plan.

We found it was easier to put the rope around the pigs back legs if we ran them around and got them real tired out. These are prima donna pigs that have not had much exercise but have had all the food they wanted so they tired out pretty fast.

We'd lasso them, get them close to the truck and lose them over and over. We got the sow in the truck first. She was the easiest as she was a bit lighter than the other two. Her head was also a bit smaller so the bucket went over easier. Blanche held a piece of plywood across the tailgate just in case the pig decided to come back out. Luckily, once we got them in the truck, they were too pooped to do anything but lay there.

The second pig wasn't too hard to get to the truck, although he decided he wasn't moving at all once we

got him to the ramp and the guys had to drag his dead weight up all the way into the truck.

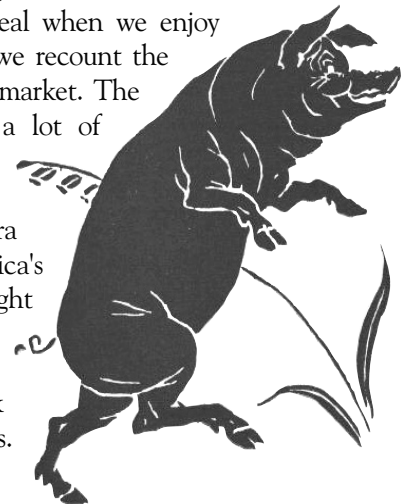
The last one was the big boy; Claude estimated this pig weighed 260 lbs and the pig didn't want to cooperate all. He rooted under a side fence and got into the orchard more than once. Wearing him out was a real good idea but, as we rested, he rested.

At one point I had the bucket over this pig's head and he ran me into a fence; I wasn't sure I could handle him and the bucket. (Did I mention that the bucket was between my legs so I'm bent over the pig's head with my hands clenching the sides of the bucket? As the boys try to hang onto the pig's kicking legs, the pig is trying to get away using his front legs — through my legs.) The ropes kept slipping off just like a "greased pig" and he really didn't like that bucket over his head.

We finally got him up to the ramp and everybody needed a rest. Ron sat on the pig to hold him down and we caught our breath. This pig was going to be a handful to pull up into the truck. All of a sudden the pig decided he'd had enough; he hopped up and took Ron for a ride bucking him off just like in a rodeo. Ron just couldn't hold on. The pig was out of our grasp again and he lay down under the farthest prune tree in the mud, pooped.

The next try, Ron was able to get a rope around him, Claude grabbed a leg and I put the bucket over his head. We were determined not to let him get away again. It took us all pushing and pulling to drag that pig kicking and squealing up the ramp. Once in there, he lay down and didn't get up again. Three hours from start to finish, we had accomplished our goal.

We hosed the pigs down so they wouldn't have a heart attack, should've hosed all of us down, and took a rest. I drove the pigs to town and the butcher did his best. Each meal when we enjoy that succulent pork, we recount the day the pigs went to market. The experience provided a lot of laughs. Blanche kept saying she wished she had a video camera to send into America's Funniest Videos, might win the \$10,000 prize. We're a bit smarter now and thank God for nice neighbors.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO TATIANA TAYLOR

Lozetta Doll

It was such a pleasure to read in the November issue of Klickitat PUD Ruralite magazine about Tatiana Taylor winning KPUD's Power of Youth Award. She and Alex Wooden were selected after a review of their 4-H activities, community and volunteer involvement and leadership qualities. Tatiana, a 7th grader at Hood River Middle School, has participated in 4-H for six years and is involved in numerous community projects. She has had outstanding success in raising hogs and steers and showing them in local fairs. Her proud grandparents, Doug and Dona Taylor and Tom and Gail Amery, are long-time High Prairie residents and supporters. A sense of commitment to community has passed down through the generations.

## HIGH PRAIRIE BOOK CLUB

Lozetta Doll

Anyone interested in attending High Prairie's Book Club gatherings is certainly welcome. We meet at individuals' homes at 7:00 p.m. the fourth Monday of every month, excluding December. We pick books for discussion but if you haven't read that particular book, don't be bothered! We also talk about books in general and what anyone has read or is enjoying. The book for discussion on January 28, 2008 is *Honeymoon With My Brother* by Franz Wisner. February 25's book is *Tracks* by Robyn Davidson. March 24 we will be talking about *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins. I send out an e-mail prior to each meeting so if you'd like to be placed on my list to receive reminders, please give me a call at 365-0010 or e-mail me at [tomloz@gorge.net](mailto:tomloz@gorge.net). Happy Reading.



## LAIRSON FAMILY

Leroy and Frances Lairson (former High Prairie residents)

We enjoyed the articles about the 4 generations in the High Prairian. So thought I would toss in our two cents:



Top row is Jenny & Greg Norris, Kim & David Lairson, Abby Lairson holding son Timmy, Julie & David Penn. Julie & Jenny are twins and Abby their little sister, all belonging to David (our youngest son) & Kim.

Next row is Natalie Norris, Frances's Uncle Henry (95 years old), Frances & Leroy Lairson, Emily Norris and Amy Penn. Front row is Jill Norris and Mason Lairson, Amy Penn is Julie & David Penn's daughter, she is 5, Jill (6), Natalie (4), Emily (3) belong to Jenny & Greg Norris, and Mason (6) and baby Timmy (11 months) belong to Abby.

So here is our 5 generations. We too are proud of our family. Only two were missing, Roger Lairson (our oldest) and his son Douglas.



## EARTH SCIENCE QUIZ

Martha M. Hamil

Almost all High Prairians drive someplace, walk across the land, or just stand in the window and admire the view. Rocks provide the framework for our connection with our physical earth. On High Prairie, we mostly see the results of flood basalts overlain by later andesitic basalts together with finer sediments or chemical/physical deposits bridging the gaps. Our High Prairie provides examples of volcanic activity, glacial activity, the Bretz floods, and the conversion of those rocks to soils or smaller grain sizes that either accumulate in place or wash downhill to the sea ultimately.

But what are these rocks and what are their names? We have boulders, cobbles, and gravel intermixed with clay or silt resulting from glacial activity or the Bretz floods. High Prairie is blessed (you won't think so when you try to drill a well) with basalt flows. These are flood basalts which are equivalent to the Deccan Traps in India (hence the name, traprock) and the Watchung Mountains and the Palisades in New Jersey and New York. Thin layers (usually 10 to 100 feet thick) of very fluid basalt that flowed over hundreds of square miles characterize flood basalts. Their chemical composition is similar to other basalts such as those in Hawaii, Sicily, and Japan; but small chemical and fluidity differences are almost constant and signify a different origin.

Our basalts can be solid, almost impenetrable flows, to pillow basalts (look at the road cuts between the Hwy 197 crossover of I-84 and Hwy 30 or the exposure by PeeWee's Detailing shop on 4th in The Dalles), to columnar joints showing 6 sides normally, to highly fractured, weathered basalts.

Basalts generally start weathering as soon as they are exposed to groundwater and air. They weather faster than most other igneous, metamorphic, or sedimentary rocks. Usually, joints permeate basalts; these openings provide access for ground water and air. Joints form in rocks to relieve strain, most commonly because pressure has been released, a temperature gradient exists, or water is evaporating. Columnar basalts are the most visible example of temperature gradients. As the molten rock cools, it tries to assume the best shape to conserve mass. Circular joints would leave too much material between joints, whereas 6-sided joints come together neatly, conserving mass, but responding to physical symmetry laws\*.

Highly fractured, weathered basalts end up as chunks of rock with more or less parallel sides. Because of the joints and weathering, they are fairly easy to dig up

and use as a sub-base for roads or as fill for structures. Sometimes, joints are fairly close to one another resulting in the locally misnamed "shale".

Solid basalts usually mean that these rocks are more resistant to weathering, that they among the youngest, or the proper reactive chemical composition of ground water has not yet come into contact with them. Molten basalt flowing into water, especially salt water, results in pillow basalts. The rounded or oval shape characterizes them with the material between pillows being highly weathered in this area (see above for places to view them and you'll see the origin of the name pillow; there are other exposures).

Occasionally, volcanic ash deposits crop out in our area. Later volcanic activity in the Cascades provided this windborne ash (see Hamil and Slaughter, ). Two deposits, of which I am aware, occur in High Prairie. The one that is most visible shows up in the last steep downhill section of Centerville Hwy after that very sharp curve before Ellsworth's place (Doug, have I got the name right???). The light cream color between the dark basalts will attract your attention. The other exposure of which I know occurs in my backyard and side yard.

Metamorphic rocks are almost nonexistent on High Prairie. What few we do have are gravels and cobbles transported here by glaciers and the Bretz Floods. Rarely, we can find a contact metamorphic zone between basalt flows. The best example occurs on the right hand side going west on Hwy 14, near the top of the hill between the Klickitat River and Chamberlin Lake rest area. The baked clay with leaf fossils is kind of neat. Take your kids there, but only let them collect fossils that have already fallen from the outcrop. This exposure is very limited and it is very vulnerable. Please respect it.

The sedimentary rocks on High Prairie consist mainly of deposits of large, smooth, rounded cobbles to gravel mixed into a clayey matrix, mostly deposited by the Bretz floods. Metamorphic quartzite with the occasional cobble of igneous or gneissic rock composes the small gravel to boulders. Sand and clay provide the matrix.

As a professional geologist who has spent many years in the field, I have seen no other examples of sedimentary rocks. These include limestone or dolomite, conglomerate, sandstone, flagstone, siltstone, or shale. Various cements hold the last five together. The first two are chemical deposits and depend on



chemical precipitation. The last five depend on grain size differences and respond to hydrologic phenomena. The coarsest are conglomerates and the finest, shale. If unconsolidated, they are simply called river rock, sand, silt, or clay.

Unfortunately, the name 'clay' means two things. One meaning is any grain size less than 1/256 th of a millimeter in diameter. The other is a mineral name that refers to a chemistry and particular crystal structure. Although the chemistry can be somewhat variable, the crystal structure is quite constant with layers being almost infinite in two dimensions but the layers are only a few atoms thick with very weak bonding between the layers. The specific arrangement of layers and the interlayer chemistry determines the clay mineral name.

As an aside, many of our clays are swelling clays which means that when water hits them, they swell (all clays have a crystal structure that is virtually unending in two directions and almost non-existent in the third). The capability to adsorb water between the layers defines swelling clays. Many, if not most, are montmorillonites. Bentonite, a rock name, refers to a mixture of montmorillonite and other minor components. Upon drying, swelling clays reverse the procedure and shrink. These two physical characteristics account for our two seasons of rocks falling onto the road. During the rainy season, the swelling and resultant increase in volume of the swelling clay forces any near-surface rocks outward far enough that gravity takes over and we have falling rocks. When the dry season comes around and because the clay shrinks, any rocks that got forced outward during swelling, no longer have any support and, thus, fall onto the highway. Now, you can quit wondering.

Sediments deposits are divided into two classes, chemical and mechanical. Chemical deposits include such deposits as calcite, dolomite, gypsum, borax, salt, etc. Chemical composition defines their names. Material composing these deposits can be loose grains or cemented (technically, indurated) together.

Grain size of the mechanical deposits, on the other hand, determines their names. Weathering followed by the actions of water, wind, ice, and gravity on the residue tend to sort by size (25.4mm = 1 inch). Their loose sediment names are:

- Boulders (>256 mm)
- Cobbles (<256mm,>64mm)
- Gravel (<64mm,>2mm)
- Sand (<2mm,>1/16mm)
- Silt (<1/16mm, >1/256mm)
- Clay (<1/256mm)

Upon consolidation and cementation, the first three become conglomerates. Sand becomes sandstone and silt becomes siltstone. Clay becomes shale.

All these considerations aside, one may call rocks by any name you wish. But, if you want to be technically correct and understood by earth science professionals worldwide and for your children to pass earth science, gravel consists of rounded, unconsolidated pebbles and granules ranging from <64 mm in diameter to >2 mm. Angular fragments should either be called crushed rock or breccia. And, shale is a very fissile sedimentary rock composed of clay minerals; our pit rock should be called exactly that or trap rock, an ancient name that leaves no doubt as to its origin or composition.

Now for the quiz:

Shale is common on High Prairie. T F

Gravel is any rock of the proper grain size even if the fragments are angular such as in crushed rock. T F

The word 'clay' refers to a grain size. T F

The word 'clay' refers to a mineral. T F

After my diatribe above, you should have answered false to the first two and true for three and four. Even your dictionary will give you the same answers.

\*I'll be glad to discuss/argue/theorize about this complex subject with anyone. Actually, the science is very simple; it's the implications of symmetry that are profound.

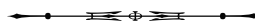
## CONGRATULATIONS

Dona Taylor

To Kelly Call of Mott Road on High Prairie who recently participated at the State fair in Puyallup on September 19–23.

Kelly won a reserve grand champion ribbon on her meat goat, blue on meat goats and blue on her showing and fitting.

Her FFA chapter from Goldendale won first on their Education display on Goats and reserve grand champion on herdsman ship. We all are very proud of our youth.

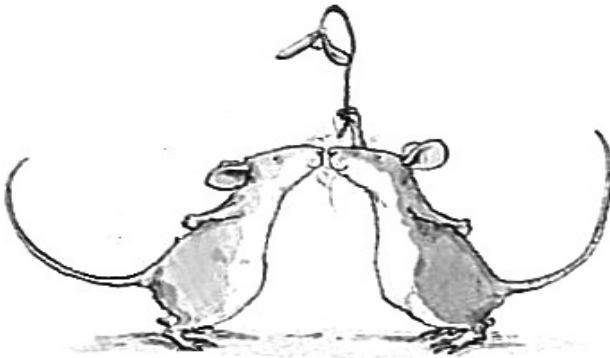


To Cal Edwards on being elected Fire Commissioner of KCFD#14 for a six year term and to Tim Darland on being reelected to the Lyle School Board a four year term.

POSTAL PATRON

STANDARD A  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
GOLDENDALE, WA  
PERMIT NO. 97

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



*Happy Holidays!*