



Happy Holidays!



The High Prairiean

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

Volume Eight, Number Four

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December, 2008



NOTICES

HIGH PRAIRIE HOLIDAY PARTY!

December 13, 6:00 p.m.: Join us at the home of Bruce and Karron Buchanan for the annual High Prairie Christmas gathering. The Buchanans' address is 440 Schilling Road (at the north end of Schilling Road.)



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

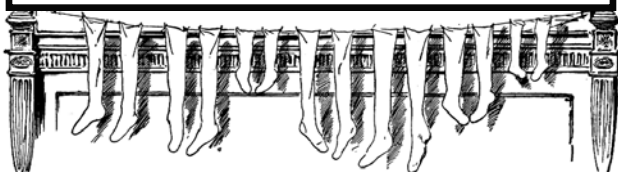
High Prairie Community Council meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Taylor's church building, 876 Centerville Highway.

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. Contact Judi Strait: 365-5288 or Lozetta Doll: 365-0010.

When requesting medical assistance or reporting a fire CALL 911



HIGH PRAIRIE CENTER

Cal Edwards

After years of work and planning, construction on our new firehouse and community center finally began. Before we could get the concrete poured however, the rains came. With our High Prairie clay this put a stop to any additional construction until the mud dries out. This could, and probably does, mean waiting until spring. In the meantime the Implementation Committee is continuing to work with our general contractor, to fine-tune and improve the building plans. Our grand opening is still scheduled for early summer.



FARM PRESERVATION ZONE MEETING A SUCCESS

Gwen Berry

The October 9 special meeting to discuss the Farm Preservation Zone Proposal came off without a hitch. Turnout was good — approximately 50 people attended. Most were High Prairie residents, but among others were David Sauter (County Commissioner for our district), David Guenther (Chairman of the Board for Central Klickitat Conservation District), and editors reporting for the Goldendale Sentinel and The White Salmon Enterprise. The meeting focused on providing

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CORRECTIONS



As you may recall, last issue we included a poem entitled "Spelling." The back story: With the deadline looming, I still needed just a few more column inches of material. My steadfast proofreader, Fred, offered one of those poems widely circulated, thanks to email (and lots of people with not much to do), which he had just received (again) from a buddy in the UK. Since several forms of the poem have been spread around and the authorship

long since has been abandoned, I decided to use "Submitted by" to convey the idea that it was not original, instead of just the name of the writer that I normally use as a by-line.

An agitated reader thought that I had attempted to ascribe authorship to Fred. The true author seems to be the prolific 'Anonymous'. So, with apologies to Anonymous, I resolve to do a more careful job of establishing who, exactly, wrote what.

—Cindy Henschell



The High Prairian

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365-3242

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

Do you have a STORY to tell?

Or NEWS  of interest to denizens of HIGH PRAIRIE?

How about a POEM, a RECIPE  or a GARDENING TIP  to share?

Or just want to see your NAME in print?

If so, submit your offerings for PUBLICATION in

THE HIGH PRAIRIAN

Contact Doug Taylor:
highprairie@gorge.net

or
365-3242

All the news that's print to fit.

factual information and identifying High Prairie's concerns. Participants were pleased with the process and the results.

In order to jump-start the evening's discussion, meeting organizers had prepared poster-sized lists of concerns they had distilled from conversations with community members and from careful study of the proposal documents. These lists were posted on the front wall of the meeting room. The concerns were broken down into seven broad categories. In addition, one sheet held a list of positive points.

Moderator Peg Caliendo took everyone through the prepared lists; then several people rose to make comments, get clarifications, or have new items added. By the end, there were 74 items of concern!

After the discussion, in an interesting and thought-provoking exercise, audience members went to the lists at the front of the room to vote for the concerns they felt were most important. To vote, each person had three green dot stickers to place beside their most urgent concerns. Several people said three stickers weren't enough to cover all their concerns, but the need to narrow it down and identify the three most important really got people thinking. At the end of the vote the stickers were tallied, and some interesting patterns emerged.

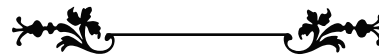
The clear winner, with by far the most votes, was, "Are the aquifers in High Prairie adequate to support proposed development?" A distant second was the question, "Why should the public pay the associated costs for farmers to pull land out of the CRP program when farmers have received the monetary benefits of having their land in CRP?" After that were many items with six votes or fewer because the votes were spread among several concerns on each list. If you'd like to see the full list of concerns and voting results, call Gwen Berry at 365-0025 or email her at gwenberry@hotmail.com.

During the second half of the meeting, David Sauter spoke to the group. He explained that the County Commissioners will do nothing regarding the proposal (or any other approach to farmland preservation) until after they have received the results of a study being done for them by American Farmland Trust, due by December 31. After that, they will be looking at the entire range of options for promoting farmland preservation in Klickitat County. He explained that if they did eventually pursue writing this proposal into law, it would involve a lengthy process with lots of opportunity for public input. In response to a separate question, he

described how the existing county cluster ordinance works. (This allows a landowner to use all the development rights of a parcel in one small portion of the property. Once that's done, no other areas of the parcel can be developed.)

David Guenther also spoke, describing the work of the Central Klickitat Conservation District in helping private landowners solve on-the-ground conservation issues. He pointed out that the Conservation District's activities overlap with efforts to preserve farmland.

The meeting concluded with a call for the formation of a study group to pursue resolution of the community's many concerns. The group has met twice and will meet next in January. One realization they've come to is that while some of the concerns can be answered with research, it may be that many will only be resolved if changes are made to the proposal itself. The study group is pursuing that possibility. They have also begun gathering information on questions such as the water issue, and they've sent the results of the October 9 meeting to the County Commissioners, American Farmland Trust and others, to make sure that High Prairie's voice is heard. An update on their progress will be presented at each monthly Community Council meeting.



LANDFILL TOUR

Gail Amery

High Prairie residents will be touring the Allied Waste and Generating plant of Klickitat County at Roosevelt on the second Wednesday of March 2009. We will meet at our local fire station and car pool to Roosevelt in time for the two hour tour beginning at 1:00 p.m.

A sign up sheet will be available at the Community Council meetings.

The Mt. Adams (senior bus) would be available to provide transportation for those 60 years of age or older if the driver is not taking medical patients to doctor appointments. We should know about a week beforehand if the bus will be available for our use. It seats up to 14 people.

The departure time will be 11:30 a.m. from the Fire Hall.

REVISED KLICKITAT COUNTY OPEN RANGE LAWS

Bev Edwards

As of November 18, 2008, the Klickitat County Commissioners have revised the Open Range laws for Klickitat County. The law now states:

“It is unlawful to permit any livestock other than cattle to run at large. ‘Livestock’ means horses, mules, donkeys, cattle, bison, sheep, goats, swine, llamas, alpacas, and game birds such as ostriches and emus.

“Any person who owns or has possession, charge, or control of livestock, aside from cattle, shall not allow them to run at large. It shall not be necessary for any person to fence against such animals.

“Violation of this chapter, or any portion thereof, may receive an infraction the penalty for which shall be \$250 per head of livestock per each day of violation, plus costs and restitution. Law enforcement may alternatively charge the owner of the livestock with a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days incarceration, a \$1,000 penalty plus costs and restitution.

“Any livestock, except cattle, running at large, trespassing in violation of 6.04.050 as now, or hereafter amended, are declared a public nuisance. The County Sheriff and the nearest brand inspector shall have authority to impound such animals.”

(For complete information on this revised law, please check with the County Commissioners at the Klickitat County Courthouse.)



SUBJECT: SNOW MONITORING

A web page emailed from Dave McClure to Cal Edwards

Here is a link to a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) web page where you can get data from the SNOTEL snow monitoring stations in Washington State. The monitoring station installed in the Simcoes last week isn't up on the web page yet, but should be soon. I understand NRCS will be calling the station “Indian Rock” due to its location near Indian Rock.

http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/maps/washington_sitemap.html

A MOTHER

Susy Cimmiyotti

A tribute to Janet Marx. Her birthday was October 11 and she turned 90 years old. She and husband Pat lived and farmed on High Prairie by Johnson Lake for several years. She is doing pretty well under the circumstances.

A mother, a grandma, or someone's friend,
Most all your life you have been.
You are truly a “farm girl”
Who spent your days caring for family.
Thank you for all the memories.
We love you, happy birthday # 90!!



FIRE DISTRICT 14 REFLECTIVE ADDRESS and ROAD SIGNS AVAILABLE

Address sign: \$25 installed
Road signs are custom made and prices
vary

Contact Fred Henschell
365-5283

MAIL AND NO DELIVERY

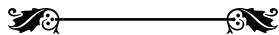
Doug Taylor

It seems with more mail being delivered and more customers for each mail delivery person, some mail seems to be either misdelivered or very nonexistent... If one receives a misdelivered mail piece it would be courteous to return the item to the mailbox so the mail carrier can deliver it to its intended patron.

Sometimes papers or magazines do lose their address labels and they are impossible to deliver to their intended address. If one were missing such an item, it would be proper to notify the postmaster so they can try to rectify.

Through no fault of anyone, sometimes two postal cards will stick together and only one address will be showing.

I would like to mention that our mail carriers have always been courteous and generally go beyond the call of duty to accommodate. However, they can use some help also.



HELPFUL NEIGHBORS

Bev Edwards

One dark rainy evening around 6:00 the UPS truck drove to our gate which was closed to keep the roaming cows, horses, and goats from coming in and devouring our plants and shrubs. He was a new driver and couldn't figure out how to open the gate so he blinked his lights toward our house. It was pouring down rain. Bob put on his rain gear and walked up to get the package he was delivering to us and brought it back to the house. He no sooner got back when we heard a whirring noise. The UPS truck had tried to back up and was stuck in the ditch.

Not knowing how we were going to help him get the truck back on the road a couple of calls were made asking for help. Our neighbor, Jim Thornton, graciously agreed to bring his backhoe over to help. They did get the delivery guy back on his way. While Bob was out there he noticed night crawlers all over the top of the ground so he carefully moved them to his garden.

We just wanted to show our appreciation for having such good neighbors who are always willing to help when the need arises.

Thank you Jim.

HIGH PRAIRIE COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

Cindy Henschell



Have you ever had to fumble with the phone book to find the phone number of a neighbor? I have. In a hurry, I usually start by focusing my bifocals on the miniscule type trying to locate the last name. It's not there! But only because I am in the Oregon side... The alternative is to try to keep an address book up to date or a collection of loose scraps of paper with numbers scrawled on them. Well, Ondine Moore must have had the same problem because she promoted the idea of developing our own community directory.

Now going into its second year, this handy, easier to read directory now includes a map of the roads in the High Prairie area and is a wonderful reference to keep by the phone— and a copy in the car.

It's time to update the directory again. The revised edition will be available at the 2009 Firehouse Sale (or at about that time). If you would like to be listed in the directory, entitling you to your very own copy, please contact me with your current physical address, phone number and any interests that you want to share with your neighbors. Most convenient (and error-proof) is to send me an email: henschell@highprairie.us, or you can reach me by phone: 365-5283.

GET WELL WISHES

Dona Taylor

Get well wishes are extended to **Helen Kearns, Fred Neth, Carol Anderson, Arlen Aleckson, Martha Hamil** and **Bruce Buchanan**. Glad to hear they are on the mend and hope they can enjoy the Holidays.



Douglas Taylor

KLICKITAT COUNTY HISTORY NOTES

Doug Taylor

Klickitat County was founded December 20, 1859; in 1860, Klickitat County had 169 people not including Native Americans. Of the population of Klickitat County, there were 23 women, 67 children, and 79 men; 14 of the men had wives and families.

Immediately after creation, the territorial legislature spelled the new county's name CLICITAT. By the next territorial legislative session, the spelling was finalized as KLICKITAT.

The County Seat with its many names was: Grand Dalles, Rockland Flats, Smithville, North Dalles now called Dallesport (1859 – 1878) and Goldendale (1878 – present).

By 1860, the county had its first sawmill, built on Mill Creek, and by 1903 boasted 23 lumber mills and 7 mills producing shingles, rail ties, and planed wood. Since the 1980s the economy in Klickitat County has been hard-hit by downturns in the logging industry, which now supports only one large mill in Bingen, the SDS Lumber Company.

John W. Burgen raised the first crop of wheat in Klickitat County in 1870. More settlers followed suit and in 1872, the construction of a grist-mill in The Dalles, Oregon, eliminated the need for Klickitat County pioneers to import their flour from Portland as they previously had done. In 1878, the Klickitat Mill and the Goldendale Mill both opened in Goldendale, which eliminated the need to haul wheat to The Dalles for grinding.

By 1880 many settlers had migrated and built homes on Hartland (High Prairie) eventually building at least three schoolhouses by the 1900's. The last to close was District 29, Hartland, which consolidated with Lyle in 1940.

The Dalles Dam was completed in 1957. The bridge from Dallesport to The Dalles was completed in December 1953 and replaced a ferry operation.

The Hartland Post Office was established as HIGHLAND on October 20, 1880. Chester Parshall renamed it WILDCAT, on April 11, 1881. It was renamed HARTLAND on July 20, 1881.

The first Klickitat County Fair was held near Goldendale in 1881. Although during the following year the Klickitat area experienced severe drought conditions, the fair continued to be held each fall for several years.

The town of Centerville, was founded on land settled by Albert Brown in 1877 (Great-grandfather of my wife Dona) and named by him in 1882. Centerville was an important rail shipping point for Klickitat County's wheat crop.

The First Baptist Church of Hartland, where Community meetings are now held, was deeded on June 10th 1898. The building had apparently been built in that time frame as it is mentioned by Nelia Binford Fleming in her book, *Sketches of Early High Prairie*. Two churches, the Baptist and the Methodist on High Prairie Road, were both active on the prairie.

In 1925 Klickitat County had a population of 6,407, a gain of 1,340 in ten years. In 2008 the County has a population of 20,335 in an area of 1,904 square miles, for a density of a little over 10.5 people per square mile.

The Hood River bridge is currently the second oldest road bridge across the Columbia River between Washington and Oregon. It was built by the Oregon-Washington Bridge Company and opened on December 9, 1924. Construction of the Bonneville Dam, 23 miles downstream, forced the bridge to be altered in 1938 to accommodate the resulting elevated river levels. On December 12, 1950 the Port of Hood River purchased the bridge from the Oregon-Washington Bridge Co. for \$800,000.

MEMORIAM

We extend our sincere sympathy to:

Ralph Catarina on the passing of his wife.

Dorothy Kemp on the passing of her mother.

Greer Curry on the passing of her father.

BOOK OF STORIES OF EARLY KLICKITAT VALLEY PIONEERS PLANNED

Ruth Bruns

Below is an excerpt from a draft foreword, which should explain the new book the Friends of the Goldendale Community Library are working on.

In December 2005, Homer Townsend received an exciting Christmas gift—a check for \$400 to spend however he liked! He knew exactly what he wanted to do with it.

“So now I have a clear-cut plan for spending that money, and that plan centers right around you!” he wrote to his friend Theodora “Teddy” Cole. “I want that full \$400 to go to you for your use in getting the contents of the two notebooks that were recently sent to you into print and ready for sale.” He further stipulated that the income from sale of the book “is to be yours—all of it!”

The notebooks to which Townsend referred were copies of his book, *Stories Told by the Early Pioneers of Klickitat Valley*. He had published his book privately in a very small edition, the copies put together in looseleaf binders. Offered for sale at The General Store in Goldendale, the book had sold out quickly. When he wrote the letter, Townsend had left Goldendale and moved back to Gresham, Oregon, where he grew up. Old and ill, he worried that his work would be lost.

The check changed everything. It would pay for a new edition of *Stories*, and he trusted Teddy to see it through.

Cole wrote back thanking him for the check and saying she would be happy to assist in bringing a new edition to publication, “but in a manner that corresponds with my standards.” As far as she knew “there are no copies of the original printing available except for the one in the Goldendale Library collection. Republication would provide a real service.”

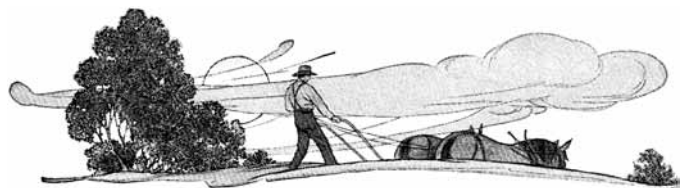
Cole did not intend to republish the work alone, and she wanted it to be a properly bound book, rather than in the looseleaf binder format. She even had a potential publisher in mind—the Friends of the Goldendale Community Library. At the time of Townsend’s letter, however, the Friends were fully occupied with publication of their own book, *Bluelight to Pucker Huddle*, a collection of stories about Klickitat County. When

that book came out just before Christmas 2006, it was an immediate success. Friends members were kept busy throughout 2007 with marketing and distribution.

It wasn’t until the spring of 2008, when book orders had fallen off, that Cole felt ready to broach the subject of *Stories*. The Townsend book was a valuable resource for the community, she told Friends, and it was a shame that it was out of print and unavailable. Would Friends be interested in editing and publishing a new edition of the book? Cole said she would like to consider publication as a memorial to Homer, who had died, February 25, 2008. During his years in Goldendale, he had been a member of Friends, a member of the Goldendale Community Library Board, and a loyal supporter of the library.

The Friends, who had recuperated a little from their labors with *Bluelight*, responded with enthusiasm and voted unanimously to undertake the project. Townsend had granted Cole the sole rights to his book. As a courtesy, Friends contacted Lori Carlo, Townsend’s niece and sole heir and executor of his estate, to explain what they wanted to do and secure her approval; she readily assented. A committee of volunteers, consisting of Ruth Bruns, Nancy Barron, Teddy Cole, Naomi Fisher, Judy Thomas, and Mary Jean Lord, began meeting to work on the book. The new edition of *Stories* was launched.

Townsend’s check for \$400 has never been cashed. Cole is keeping it as a memento of her friend.



DALLESFORT ELEMENTARY 6TH GRADE CLASS HELP RESTORE FISH HABITAT

Greer Curry

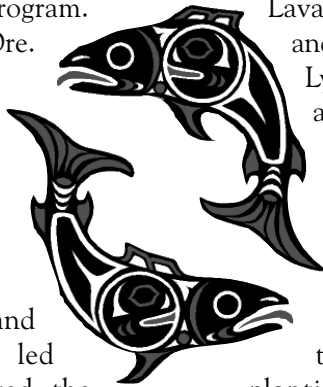
Bonneville Lock and Dam was one local site for National Public Lands Day activities in the Columbia River Gorge on September 26, 2008. Ms. Greer Curry & Ms. Becky Oneal's sixth graders of Dallesport Elementary in Lyle raised over \$600 in donations setting an unprecedented amount for 32 students at the school.

This money was used to plant trees and shrubs on Hamilton Island, transportation to and from Bonneville Dam, and twelve feet of sub sandwiches to reward the kids for their hard work.

The students enjoyed a short hike to the mouth of Tanner Creek to watch spawning chinook and coho salmon head toward the Bonneville Fish Hatchery. In multiple groups they enjoyed planting 50 Ponderosa pine trees, 50 Douglas-fir trees and 20 native shrubs on Hamilton Island as part of a restoration program.

Lava Nursery in Parkdale, Ore. and Milestone Nursery in Lyle donated trees and shrubs, and Stevenson, Wash. reduced the cost of lunch by 10 percent. Park Ranger Tim Darland organized the tour, led the planting site, and prepared the site. In addition, he spoke with the students at Tanner Creek about the salmon. During lunch at the Fish Viewing Building located at the Washington Shore Visitor Center complex he discussed with the students the importance of being good stewards for our environment as well as Corps of Engineers missions. Two additional Rangers, Jason Sharp and Chelsie Morris, assisted the students with digging, planting, and mulching around the trees. The class had some great parent chaperones from our community join us for this event.

Because of the students' interest in environmental education, the hands-on science, and the self-motivation of the students to raise money, we hope to continue this science trip to Bonneville Lock and Dam annually.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: DECEMBER 14

Jake Jakobosky

Here is a Christmas season tradition that is really for the birds. For 108 years, people have been leaving their firesides on a chosen day in December and braving the weather to find out where birds are spending the winter.

This is the National Audubon Society's annual 'Christmas Bird Count.' Every December, bird lovers go out into the field in locations across the country for a one-day "snapshot" count of bird species and numbers. The data is then compiled by Audubon Society ornithologists. Over the years, the counts have provided essential data on population numbers and changes in the distribution of bird species.

Since 1997, our area has been a participating location in the national event. The Lyle Christmas Bird Count covers a lot of territory — it takes place in a 15-mile diameter circle that stretches from Rowland Lake to the east end of Horsethief Butte, north through High Prairie and including the communities of Lyle, Dallesport, The Dalles, Rowena and the eastern half of Mosier. We are often the only count east of the Cascades in Oregon or Washington with more than 100 species, and the only count in Washington with Acorn Woodpeckers. Count results from previous years can be found at Birding Klickitat County, <http://community.gorge.net/birding>.

This year, the chosen day for this venerable event is Sunday, December 14, and we would like to invite you to take part in it. Approximately 50 people participated in last year's count. You do not have to be an expert, just someone who likes birds, can identify some of them, and can count. People of all ages and skill levels are welcome.

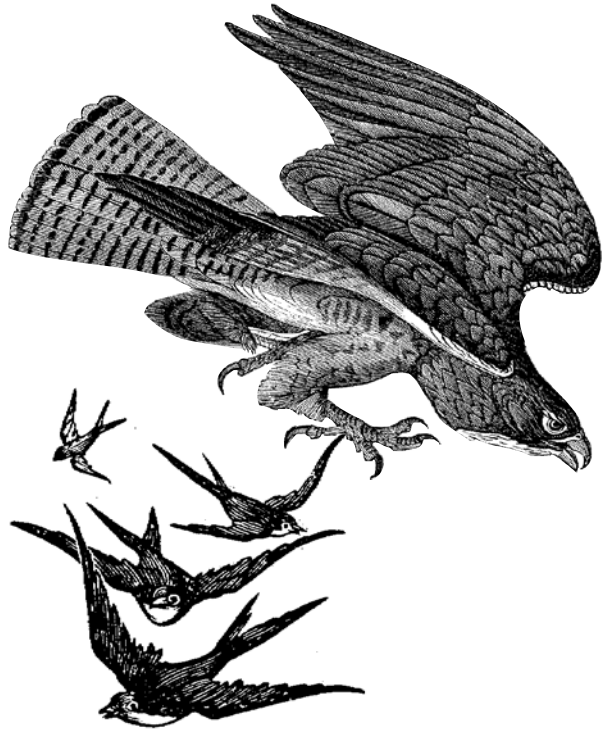
There are two ways to participate. The first option is to join one of several teams that fan out by car and on foot to identify and count the species of birds over an assigned local area. The teams start early (because the birds do!) and continue until their specific areas have been covered. Some of the interesting birds found by teams last year were Anna's hummingbirds (in Lyle), a tundra swan (by the Discovery Center), and, of course, a whole lot of bald eagles.

The second way to help is to watch your bird

feeder and count the number and kinds of birds that show up there. This is an especially important part of the count. We have an easy one-page data sheet for recording your observations that has all the species you are likely to see at a local feeder. You record the birds that visit your feeder on Count Day and the amount of time you spend observing (it can be as little as 15 minutes or all day). If you will let us know, we would be glad to stop by before the count and help identify the various species.

In past years, a potluck supper has brought everyone together in the evening. The Christmas Bird Count is a great opportunity to get together with other people interested in bird watching and a fun way to learn more about the birds of our area and where they can be found.

High Prairie folks wanting to participate should contact Jake Jakabosky, 365-0025, or by e-mail at jakesflies@hotmail.com, as soon as possible.



FEELING LEFT OUT OF HIGH PRAIRIE HAPPENINGS?

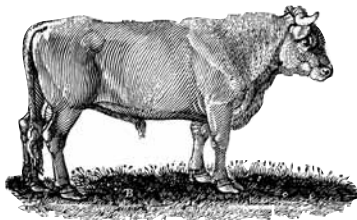
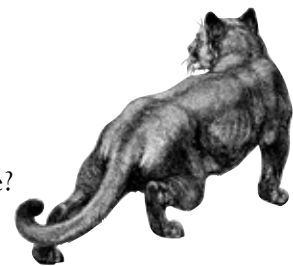
Want to hear about the excess veggies



offered by one neighbor

and the free scrap wood offered by another?

Want to find out about the cougar spotted at your end of High Prairie?



Want to know who is missing the cow that just walked up your driveway?

Invitations to events. . . meeting notifications. . . the latest on the Fire House/Community Center. . . information on community issues. . . and much more. . .

Put yourself on our e-mail notification list. Send an e-mail to highprairie@gorge.net and say that you want to know what's going on. The list is not used for advertising or any purpose other than to keep High Prairie neighbors informed.

AUTUMN RENDEZVOUS

© 2005 Peg Caliendo McMullin

The quiet is immense as the afternoon sun slants across the landscape. Swale Canyon spreads out below me like a languorous, voluptuous woman. Lounging on her side in a flowing gown of shimmering spun gold, the grasslands curve and slope over the canyon's eastern lip in deep, sinuous folds. Her golden gown drapes the canyon's side, until it seems to disappear beneath the edge of her consort's thigh. Her consort is clothed in a brocaded cloth that is stippled in the early autumn hues of green, brown and orange. The scrub oaks that cluster on the western canyon's rim provide a contrast of textures and colors to the shimmering gold of the pasturelands to the east.

A pair of ravens scribes lazy circles in the azure sky. Chortling and gurgling in loud, harsh voices they make ribald comments about the lovers below. The oaks that dot the canyon's western rim are the last vestiges of trees. As the eastern edge of the deep, narrow canyon rises golden from the slender stream that is Swale Creek, this slope marks the start of the prairie and pastureland that undulates east toward Goldendale, Washington.

Mt. Adams sits primly and sternly to the northwest of Swale Canyon. Her broad shoulders are cloaked in the dark blue-green of fir forests, like a serge suit. A band of clouds form a softly woven scarf that surrounds the collar of her jacket. Rawboned and severe, the fluffy scarf in shades of pale gray and white is the only thing that softens her demeanor. A light dusting of snow gives her hair the blue-white appearance of a society matron and smoothes

over her chiseled features. In her repose, she sits in moral indignation at the unrestrained and licentious behavior occurring at her feet. With her sanctimonious bearing, she resembles a member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

Looking to the west, bunches of cumulus clouds, like a heap of scattered cotton balls, sit atop the Cascades. Mt. St. Helens peers between the clouds, periodically peeking over the tops of the Cascades into the Klickitat Valley. She huddles behind these sentinels, all the while skulking, steaming and grumbling. More than a score of years ago, her anger erupted, spewing rubble, ash and smoke across this landscape. Since that time, she hasn't generated the fury necessary to cast a pall over the surrounding countryside. I wonder: does she begrudge these lovers their moment of joy?

The shadows lengthen and the hillside comes alive with the chatter of tiny bushtits flitting and darting, en masse from tree to tree. I am distracted by their arrival and when I glance back to the west, I see high Cirrus clouds, creeping stealthily over the Cascades across the western sky. Perhaps they are attempting to cover the cavorting lovers in a cloak of decency?

These mares' tails of clouds are mere gossamer veils floating in the blue. It will be the dense, dark, saturated clouds of winter that will cloak this canyon in a crystalline blanket of white. By that time, the lady in her gown of spun gold and her paramour in brocaded pantaloons will have abandoned this trysting place.



16 HANDY HOUSEHOLD TIPS

Bev Edwards

1. *Reheat Pizza*

Heat up leftover pizza in a nonstick skillet on top of the stove, set heat to med-low and heat till warm. This keeps the crust crispy. No soggy micro pizza. I saw this on the cooking channel and it really works.

2. *Easy Deviled Eggs*

Put cooked egg yolks in a zip lock bag. Seal, mash till they are all broken up. Add remainder of ingredients, reseal, keep mashing it up mixing thoroughly, cut the tip of the baggy, squeeze mixture into egg. Just throw bag away when done—easy clean up.

3. *Expanding Frosting*

When you buy a container of cake frosting from the store, whip it with your mixer for a few minutes. You can double it in size. You get to frost more cake/cupcakes with the same amount. You also eat less sugar and calories per serving.

4. *Reheating Refrigerated Bread*

To warm biscuits, pancakes, or muffins that were refrigerated, place them in a microwave with a cup of water. The increased moisture will keep the food moist and help it reheat faster.

5. *Newspaper Weeds Away*

Start planting your plants, work the nutrients into your soil. Wet newspapers and put layers around the plants overlapping as you go, cover with mulch and forget about weeds. Weeds will get through some gardening plastic; they will not get through wet newspapers.

6. *Broken Glass*

Use a wet cotton ball or Q-tip to pick up the small shards of glass you can't see easily.

7. *No More Mosquitoes*

Place a dryer sheet in your pocket. It will keep the mosquitoes away.

8. *Squirrel Away*

To keep squirrels from eating your plants sprinkle your plants with cayenne pepper. The cayenne pepper doesn't hurt the plant and the squirrels won't come near it.

9. *Flexible Vacuum*

To get something out of a heat register or under

the fridge add an empty paper towel roll or empty gift wrap roll to your vacuum. It can be bent or flattened to get in narrow openings.

10. *Reducing Static Cling*

Pin a small safety pin to the seam of your slip and you will not have a clingy skirt or dress. Same thing works with slacks that cling when wearing panty hose. Place pin in seam of slacks and — ta da! — static is gone.

11. *Measuring Cups*

Before you pour sticky substances into a measuring cup, fill with hot water. Dump out the hot water, but don't dry cup. Next, add your ingredient, such as peanut butter, and watch how easily it comes right out.

12. *Foggy Windshield*

Hate foggy windshields? Buy a chalkboard eraser and keep it in the glove box of your car. When the windows fog, rub with the eraser! Works better than a cloth!

13. *Reopening Envelopes*

If you seal an envelope and then realize you forgot to include something inside, just place your sealed envelope in the freezer for an hour or two. Viola! It unseals easily.

14. *Conditioner*

Use your hair conditioner to shave your legs. It's cheaper than shaving cream and leaves your legs really smooth. It's also a great way to use up the conditioner you bought but didn't like when you tried it in your hair..

15. *Goodbye Fruit Flies*

To get rid of pesky fruit flies, take a small glass, fill it 1/2" with Apple Cider Vinegar and 2 drops of dish washing liquid, mix well. You will find those flies drawn to the cup and gone forever!

16. *Get Rid of Ants*

Put small piles of cornmeal where you see ants. They eat it, take it "home," can't digest it so it kills them. It may take a week or so, especially if it rains, but it works and you don't have the worry about pets or small children being harmed!

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TIDINGS

Tom Doll

Friends have drifted like withering leaves,
Blown away by shifting winds.

In motionless silence, only statues of naked trees
Speak in peace and tranquility.

Navigating through the waters of eternal life,
When the sun is setting early,
Let it shine into the windows of darkness.

Let our eyes focus on the future,
A time for beauty, harmony and peace
To this area where we choose to live.