

The High Prairiean

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

Volume Nine, Number One

Circulation: 1,225

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March, 2009

*In this issue:
Gardening Centerfold!*

NOTICES

April 17 – 24
Roadside Cleanup

April 25 at 1:00 p.m., rain or shine
High Prairie Barbeque
Aleckson's Hay Barn, 783 Centerville Hwy



May 16 and 17
Firehouse Sale

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. to work on projects and crafts, swap ideas and "network" over a sack lunch. Contact Judi Strait: 365-5288 or Lozetta Doll: 365-0010.

When requesting medical assistance or reporting a fire CALL 911



FARMLAND PRESERVATION ZONE STUDY GROUP REPORT

Gwen Berry

The special High Prairie meeting held last October brought together a lot of concerns about Jake Anderson's proposed Farmland Preservation Zone, and the study group which formed as a result of that meeting is still working on those issues. Here's an update on what's happening with the FPZ proposal and the County's efforts to begin formulating a farmland preservation strategy.

Status of FPZ Proposal: The Farmland Preservation Zone proposal was submitted to the County last fall but was put in limbo while a farmland preservation study commissioned by the County was completed. The FPZ proposal is still waiting for the Commissioners to review it along with other farmland preservation options. At this point we don't know for sure that the County will seriously consider adopting the Farmland Preservation Zone, but we're in touch with Curt Dreyer in the Planning Department and will continue monitoring the situation.

Status of American Farmland Trust Report: The American Farmland Trust's report on their study of farmland preservation options in Klickitat County is still waiting for action at the county. March 26 is the day the Commissioners will officially receive the report. Don Stuart of AFT will give a 15-20 minute presentation to the Commissioners and answer their questions on Thursday, March 26, at 10:30 a.m., at the County Courthouse, Commission Chambers, Room 101.

continued, page 3

IN MEMORIAM

LEROY MASON LAIRSON Born Jan. 20, 1927. Died Oct. 26, 2008. Now of Woodburn, Ore. Former High Prairie resident and past member of High Prairie Fire Dept. Survived by his wife, Francis.

KATHLEEN LOUISE CHAPMAN Born March 8, 1945. Died November 24, 2008. Burial in Lone Pine Cemetery.

DUANE SCHILLING Born July 10, 1942. Died Nov. 25, 2008. Burial in Lone Pine Cemetery.

LARRY DAVID DANIELS Born 1948. Died Feb. 17, 2009 from sudden heart failure. He was employed with DOT, Lyle Rest stop for many years. Survived by his father Jesse (Hill Billy) of Oliver Point and a brother Jess of the Tri Cities.

HIGH PRAIRIE BARBEQUE

To all friends and neighbors: Come to Aleckson's Hay Barn at 783 Centerville Highway on Saturday, April 25 around 1 p.m. The burgers and buns will be supplied, but if you want to bring something to accompany them, plus maybe a chair or two, that would be good. Rain or shine — be there!



BOOK CLUB

Although the February meeting was postponed, we will be meeting 23 March: *The Hummingbird's Daughter* by Luis Alberto Urrea. April's book is *The Good Thief* by Hannah Tinti. Call Lozetta Doll for details: 365-0010.



The High Prairian

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365-3242



email: highprairie@gorge.net

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.

FPZ Study Group Report *from page 1*

The AFT study was one of the County's first actions toward developing policies that will promote the preservation of existing farmland in Klickitat County. Farmland preservation can be accomplished by making use of many different, complementary methods. It will be up to the Commissioners to find the combination of strategies that will work best for our county.

Study Group Activities:

Groundwater Availability: Members focusing on water availability have split off from the study group and are seeking more participants from the community, since the water availability issue is much bigger than the Farmland Preservation Zone question. Martha Hamil is the most recent committee member, joining Jake Jakabosky and Linda Daughetee. They would like to interview anyone with expertise or information pertinent to the groundwater question. Call Jake at 365-0025 if you have information to share. Look for an article describing their progress in this issue.

Answering Concerns: Jeff McMullin, Lorna Dove, and Gwen Berry met and reviewed the list of concerns from the October 9 meeting to determine which could be addressed by meeting with Jake Anderson. Jeff and Gwen met with Mr. Anderson a few days later. They found him amenable to many compromises and modifications to his proposal. He said he actually expects that changes will be made to the plan during "legislative action" (i.e., when the County works on it). This means that we may be able to resolve many of High Prairie's concerns about the proposal by providing alternative wordings and terms. It's not known when or whether the County will study the proposal, so our study group has decided to draft some recommended changes to be ready for when and if they're needed. They will be the subject of discussion at our next meeting in mid-April.

Curt Dreyer, head of the County Planning Department, will be at our next meeting in mid-March. Anyone interested is welcome to come. Call Gwen at 365-0025 for information.

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"The faintest ink is better than the best memory."

—Chinese Proverb

FIRE FIGHTER AWARD BANQUET

Cal Edwards

January 24 was the award banquet for 85 Fire Fighters, Emergency Medical Personnel, and family members from Appleton, Lyle, and High Prairie Fire Districts. The event was held at the Lyle Lions Club with dinner provided by the Lions as a thank-you to the fire districts. No one could remember any of these districts ever having an organized award ceremony for their members before. Therefore the evening turned out to be a special time for the people who donate many, many hours of hard work to our communities. It is not unusual for fire fighter pagers to go off when the weather is being uncooperative, the fire fighters are just sitting down to dinner, or they are sound asleep. All of the Fire Commissioners from each district were in attendance to acknowledge appreciation for the work and dedication these people give.

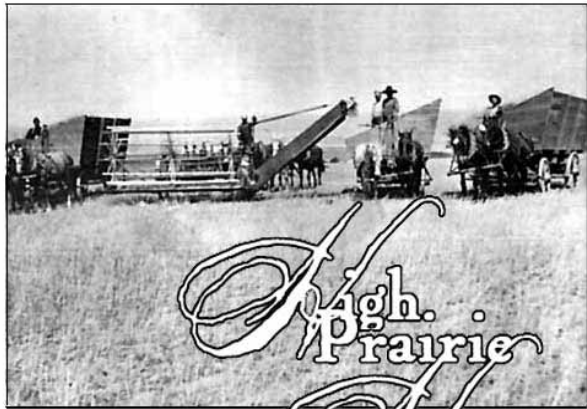
High Prairie awards included: Chiefs Special Recognition, Fred Henschell; Fire Fighter of the Year, Tim Darland; Commissioner Award, Doug Hutchison; 5 year pins to Myrin Bentz and Fred Henschell; 10 year pins to James Amery, Tim Darland, and Phil Haner; and a 15 year pin to Nayland Wilkins who retired this year.



NEIGHBORLINESS ON HIGH PRAIRIE

Audrey Bentz

Rural communities often have stronger ties than urban ones, and we see this often here. For example, Neil Shuster encourages residents to come and pick fresh produce from his garden; many take food to ailing neighbors, Linda Daughetee donates valuable home-made quilts for "Firehouse Sale" auctions (and assists the "Needlers" also), others offer free firewood for wood stoves, Doug Taylor sends out emails to all advertising lost/found animals, the Bentz's offer half price rates for guests to High Prairie residents needing additional housing at their Morning Song Acres, Cindy Henschell sets up our newsletter articles for publication, Fred Neth offers apples and apple trees from his apple orchard, many retired guys make bird houses for the Firehouse Sale, Phil Haner voluntarily plows snow on private neighbors' lanes, say nothing of our firefighters and first responders who so often drop everything to assist us in emergencies...and many more! And thanks to all of you who didn't even get mentioned here!



Douglas Taylor

BEN AND BARB PARRISH

On March 12, 1957, Ben Jay Parrish moved with his family to High Prairie where his father Carl and his uncle Bill were in partnership. They established Parrish Ranches, raising alfalfa, grain crops and livestock. Upon graduating from Lyle High School in 1964, Ben married his high school sweetheart Barbara Keith. Barbara grew up in Dallesport but moved to Murdock one year before getting married in 1965.

Ben then went to work for SP&S Railroad and worked in the Swale Canyon for a while helping restore the tracks after the floods. He worked in maintenance for the railroad for about three years which worked into several other interesting projects.

They can tell many interesting stories of their lives and their children, Michelle Renee and Christopher J. Parrish.

Ben and Barb finally settled in Beaver Creek, Oregon. where he eventually started his own concrete pumping company which he operated for several years. While at Beaver Creek, Barbara worked for the North Clackamas School District as principal's secretary. Barb retired from Spring Mountain Elementary in 2007.

Upon retiring, they established a home built on property in High Prairie that was previously owned by Ben's father. Before acquiring their new home, they built a large new shop.

They have become involved with many community activities. Barbara took over in 2009 as the new HPCC secretary and both are involved in various Good Samaritan projects. We wish to welcome Ben and Barb to the community.

We have been drawing many of the best to our community. It seems our community spirit is a magnet.

CLASS REUNION

Ted McKercher

There's a good chance you will be involved in a high school reunion this summer. Some of you will count the last time you saw classmates in decades rather than years. High school for me was not always an enjoyable experience, but I don't really remember any one experience that was really bad. Myrtie has attended most of her reunions and seemed to enjoy all of them. We went to the same high school but were a year apart in graduation. I should have graduated the year before I actually did and, if it weren't for band credits, I would have graduated a year after I actually did. Anyway, I didn't attend any reunions until forty years had passed and when I finally did, I had a great time. So when number fifty rolled around, I was ready.

In the last two summers, Myrtie and I went to my class get-together and then to hers. My first reaction walking into our gathering place was, "where did all these 'old people' come from?" My next step was to find a place to sit and 'scope out' the gathering. At my reunion an m.c. had been selected who did a great job. Tom F., who was relatively quiet in school, had matured into a confident adult with a near stand-up comic's sense of humor. (I am sure that in school, Tom didn't know we called him "Mr. Moon" because of his very round face.)

Some of the graduates were recognizable and a little at a time I started to feel comfortable. That is until Arleen B. came up to me and said, "Why you look just the same." And then another, Sharon M, said, "I'd know you anywhere." Wait a minute! Had they known my dad or grandpa? I ruminated on this for a few days.

I've decided I do look just the same. My hair ... just the same, EXCEPT it has a wintry look. The forehead below it has grown an inch or two and garnered a few lines, but there is some dark hair still, in my ears and nose! My eyebrows are in the same place but with more salt than pepper. They are a little more wild and may need tin snips to trim them ... just the same. Now my eyes, surely they are similar, just a little faded in color with hoods over them, the lashes are mostly gone ... just the same. My mouth was smacked with a rock after going over the handlebars on my dirt bike ... just the same. Chin is very similar. I don't remember if the "wattle" below it was there, but maybe so ... just the same. Oh, the chest size, exactly the same, IF you

measure it where my belt goes! Sure, sure ... just the same. Shoe size is the same, well almost, now "EE" instead of "D" but who would notice that!

Reflecting on those reunions I remember having a terrific time, especially with those old friends and acquaintances who, when you get down to it, looked, well ... just the same!

ART HAPPENINGS

News releases provided by Lee Musgrave

Maryhill Museum of Art

Maryhill Museum of Art will open its 2009 season on March 15 with the romantic exhibit *Hudson River School Sojourn*. The exhibit consists of over 34 paintings from the collection of Dr. Michel Hersen and Victoria Hersen. The exhibit will continue through July 6.

The Hudson River School encompassed two generations of artists who were inspired by awesomely romantic images of America's unspoiled wilderness — in the Hudson River Valley areas of New York and also in the newly opened West from 1825 to 1915. Their images of nature reflected a growing pride in the beauty of pastoral settings, where human beings and nature coexisted peacefully, and in the exploration of the West.



Charles Henry Gifford (1839–1904), *Bar Harbor Maine*, 1874, oil on canvas, 9" x 14".

"The Hudson River artists shared a reverence for America's natural beauty with American writers such as Thoreau and Emerson," stated Lee Musgrave, curator of the exhibit. "Now, nearly 200 years later, that idealistic point of view is once again at the forefront of national discussions concerning the environment."

Dr. Hersen will give a talk about his collection at 2 pm, Sunday, March 15.

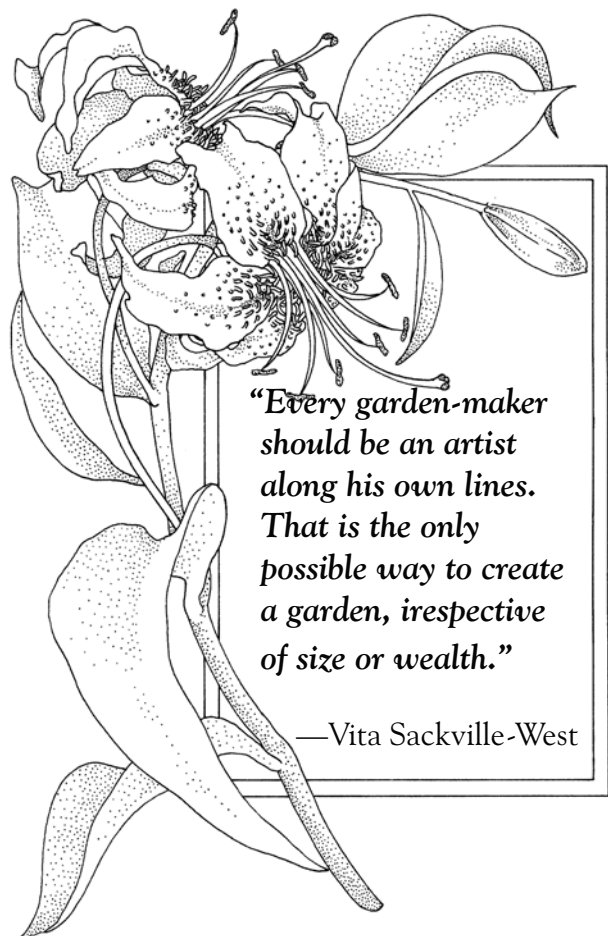
Gorge Artists Open Studios

Maryhill Museum of Art will host the kick-off event for the third annual Gorge Artists Open Studios with

a meet-the-artists reception on Friday, May 1, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The public is invited to join the artists to review images of the artwork they will feature on the tour Saturday and Sunday, May 2 and 3. Refreshments will be served.

Nearly 40 artists in communities along the Columbia River Gorge in Oregon and Washington participate in this event by opening their studios to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (May 2 & 3). This is a wonderful excuse for a springtime event... see artists and wildflowers in their native habitat! Tickets for Gorge Artists Open Studios can be purchased at the Maryhill Museum of Art reception, or on the Gorge Artists Open Studios website: gorgeartistsopenstudios.com.

High Prairie artist Lee Musgrave is one of the featured artists the Gorge Artists Open Studios event. His new studio is at 60 Stacker Butte Road. "I hope all of my new High Prairie neighbors and friends will stop by the studios to see my new work." Several artists in Goldendale and White Salmon will also have their studios open.



*"Every garden-maker
should be an artist
along his own lines.
That is the only
possible way to create
a garden, irrespective
of size or wealth."*

—Vita Sackville-West

TIPS FROM THE GARDEN

Sally and Gene Zitterkopf

Life on High Prairie, as we all know, is an adventure equal to the settlers of the eighteen hundreds. Sure we have electricity instead of candles (well sometimes we use candles), and tractors instead of horses. However, one thing is as true now as it was then, and that is the dad blame ground! You know what I'm talking about, admit it — how many times have you gotten stuck in the MUD in the winter or early spring, or attempted the darn near impossible task of digging a post hole or ditch for irrigation?

This soil leaves a lot to be desired, too soft in the spring and too hard in the summer. And have you noticed how short the window of transition is, from soft to rock hard? Which brings me to the subject of this article.

First a brief description of our soil. It is rock or clay, both of which discourage even the most seasoned Gardner; so to improve our goal of the prizewinning tomato or that three-foot-long zucchini we must pull out all the tools in our arsenal.

We began our planning for this year's garden last spring. My husband hauled home large amounts of old hay and straw, given to us by some of our generous neighbors. After planting our crops we put a layer of hay, straw and other organic material over the entire garden. We blanketed our fruit trees and vegetable plants with a thick layer.

This action provides the plants with shade for their roots to help keep them cool during the summer months, helps keep everything moist by locking in the moisture, keeps down the weeds, and — last but not least — releases nutrients into the soil as the hay breaks down. Plus, this organic matter helps keep the clay soil from glazing over after a few watering cycles.

We have read articles in various magazines about using charcoal to improve the soil, and we have decided to try it this year. Through the long, long, long winter we have saved buckets of charcoal from the wood burning stoves. This will be tilled in this spring. (Don't use briquettes from the barbecue).

Charcoal has carbon compounds that bond with soluble plant nutrients and help hold microorganisms in the soil that promote plant growth. Everything we have read says that charcoal, in combination with organic matter and compost, will improve the nutrients in the soil, resulting in bigger and better plants. We are looking forward to eating healthier

and more flavorful vegetables from our garden.

If you would like more information on charcoal, there is an article in the February/March 2009 issue of "Mother Earth News" magazine (motherearthnews.com). The article, by Barbara Pleasant, can be found online at <http://www.motherearthnews.com/Organic-Gardening/Make-Biochar-To-Improve-Your-Soil.aspx>



NEED NITROGEN? NEED MULCH?

Martha M. Hamil

All the gardens that I know of on High Prairie whose soils have been tested show a distressing lack of nitrogen. Most have sufficient potassium and phosphorus, but need nitrogen big-time. Nitrogen is essential for healthy, vigorous plants and high productivity for most vegetables. Also, the soil tests seem to show a fairly neutral pH, which means that unless your vegetables are very acid-loving or alkaline-loving you don't have adjust the pH by adding gypsum or lime to the soil.

Our High Prairie climate also demands that we supply the water requirements for vegetables. Many, such as tomatoes, potatoes, cucurbits, melons, greens, etc., demand much more water than our natural rainfall provides. So we must provide supplemental watering and use mulch for moisture retention.

It's too late to start the procedure outlined below for this year, but not too late for next year. I wish I had known about these USDA research results several years ago, for this procedure not only provides nitrogen and mulch but adds tilth to your soil and suppresses weeds. The procedure is quite simple:

- In late summer or early fall (about a month before the first hard frost date [about 22° F] or 1 to 3 weeks before the first fall frost), plant hairy vetch (not crown vetch) in the beds in your garden at about an ounce of seed per 10 square feet. The hairy vetch should be about 4" tall before it stops growing.
- Next spring, the day before putting out transplants or planting large seeds, cut the hairy vetch 1" to 2" above the ground. Rake it all into place on your beds. The hairy vetch will be between 3' and 4' tall and you will

have a mulch between 4" to 5" thick.

- Put in your transplants and large seeds (small seeds such as beets, carrots, lettuce, etc. have a hard time getting through the mulch). Sit back and enjoy because the thick mulch retards weeds also. But be sure to pull the weeds that you do see.
- Be sure to irrigate over the mulch and not underneath it. You need it to rot in place.
- If need be, the following fall, till the remaining hairy vetch into the soil very lightly. Try not to disturb the soil very much, if at all.

Have fun!



HIGH PRAIRIE GARDENING TIPS

Compiled by Audrey Bentz

From Ondine Moore:

It is time to put out your horse manure NOW — all these Spring rains can percolate through it, as well as compost. Fertilizer needs the moisture to burst forward. And spread straw as a mulch, so it can absorb moisture from the rain, so it can add to the soil into the dry summer. Ondine recommends the book "Lasagna Gardening" (White Salmon and Hood River libraries) which describes in detail how to build great garden beds by layering materials such as layering manure and straw.

From Myrin Bentz:

With all the moisture this winter, it is hard to think of possible water shortage mid-summer. But in order to lessen the draw on our water table, try maximizing the use of Spring vegetables such as lettuce, peas, spinach, asparagus, etc. They really take minimal watering!

From Martha Hamil:

Don't worry about the days from transplanting tomatoes until they produce. 55-day tomatoes and 100-day tomatoes produce at about the same time for me. The only ones that produce earlier are the ones that I have babied with things such as walls-of-water. Even then, it was only a matter of a week or two regardless of the tomato designation.

Too many cucumbers? Some have suggested that we have a central place to put extra garden produce

to share. Perhaps an "honor basket" for contributions could then be designated for plantings at our new community center. If interested, bring your thoughts to the next March High Prairie meeting on March 26. Meanwhile, Neil Shuster will have a "U-pick" at his home garden, with a suggested contribution to the watering. Location: 896 High Prairie Road; 365-3610. Remember: stay healthy with 5 vegies a day! Don't forget the need for plants at our High Prairie Firehouse Sale too, if you have a green thumb.



RAPTOR IDENTIFICATION

Jake Jakabosky

On April 23rd, the High Prairie Community Council will host Jake Jakabosky speaking on identification of the hawks and other raptors of High Prairie.

Our local raptors include the vulture, osprey, eagles and owls and Jake will provide a brief discussion of key characteristics of these birds. However, most folks want to know what that "hawk" was they saw. So the discussion will mainly focus on birds like the harrier, falcons, accipiters (bird eating hawks like the Coopers and sharp-shinned) and the buteos. Buteos are those rodent hawks like the Red-tailed, Swainson's and Rough-legged that one often sees circling high overhead.

Hawk identification can be confusing due to the number of color phases, juvenile vs. adult plumage, subspecies, etc. So Jake is developing a table that hopefully will help narrow down the list of possible hawks based on family grouping, seasonal distribution, flight characteristics, size, habitat and diagnostic characteristics.

Bring your favorite birding guide to the meeting. If you need to purchase a new guide, the National Geographic *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* is recommended. A birding field trip will be scheduled for those interested.



NEEDLERS TO RAFFLE “HIGH PRAIRIE QUEEN”

Martha Hamil, Loretta Lindsay and Gwen Berry

“Quilt” conjures warm thoughts of Grandma’s big bed ... popcorn by the fire with a good book ... bedtime warmth on a snowy night. But say “Quilt” and “High Prairie” together, and it can only be the High Prairie Needlers raffling a handmade quilt at the Firehouse Sale!

To help raise funds for the community, the Needlers are busy constructing a new quilt to raffle at the Firehouse Sale in May. We’ve named this special quilt the **“The High Prairie Queen,”** and special it is! This is a one-of-a-kind quilt: designed, cut, sewn, and quilted by Needler members. *Ta Da!* This is also a one-of-a-kind opportunity for you to own a quilt like this. It’s simple — all you have to do is buy the winning raffle ticket. Of course, you’ll want to buy several to improve your chances of ending up with the right one.

The High Prairie Queen is about a foot longer and a little wider than a standard queen size quilt so it can drape more gracefully down the sides of the bed and cover the pillows like a spread. It could even be used to cover a king bed, though with less overhang. The array of colors will complement or set off almost any color scheme in your home, unless your colors are beyond anything we can imagine.

Once we set our sights on making a quilt, we could hardly wait to get started. Simple is beautiful, we decided; so we settled on a “9-Patch” design — each block made of nine 4” squares, all straight seams and no angles. The blocks would be set in a lattice of dark fabric. We needed 70 blocks in all different color schemes.

The next step was to pool our fabric remnants. What a sight! Judi Strait’s twelve-foot dining table was overflowing! With so many colors and patterns we had a great time picking fabric combinations for the quilt blocks — a light, medium, and dark shade for each block. The rest of the morning was dedicated to cutting the squares and sewing a few blocks together as examples. Everyone cheered at the first finished block — our first glimpse of how beautiful the quilt would be!

Afterward, several members split up the remaining cut pieces and took them home to assemble into blocks. The next week we could finally see the blocks all together. Wow! They were gorgeous! We laid them out and began the process of transforming them into a coherent pattern. So many color combinations meant lots of possibilities for organizing the design. A few

blocks just didn’t work; they jarred the color sense. So we dug back into the remnants and came up with four more blocks that did work. Finally the chosen scheme was complete and a sashing color was picked.

At our latest meeting we began joining blocks with the sashing that will form the lattice. The Needlers will continue to assemble the top over the next few weeks. The “extra” blocks are being made into wall hangings, table toppers, centerpiece mats and pillows.

Luckily for us, we can claim Linda Daughetee as a member. She’s a professional quilter, and her work is fantastic, as you already know if you’ve seen it. She’ll provide the batting and a fabric back for our quilt, then do all the quilting. We’ll get it back for the final task of binding the edges, and then — *voilà!* — The High Prairie Queen will be ready to meet her subjects.

You can buy raffle tickets to win this beauty from any Needler or at the Firehouse Sale, where it will be on display. Let’s hear it for this dedicated creative effort by the High Prairie Needlers! You can make it worth all the effort (and support the community) by opening your pocketbooks and generously adding to your chances of going home with the prize.

FOOTPRINTS

Tom Doll

The simplest of man walked the sands beside the vermilion sea at sunset.

He lived a time in relative harmony with Nature’s light reflecting on silvery waves

And smiled at the manifestations of man.

Beside the two prints he left, a creature left four,
For man and beast are but pebbles of sand
supporting the unscrupulous

Who devastate the organisms and ecosystems of
our terrestrial globe.

Sacrificing the future of precious lands through
deception.

Humility seems not to take hold in our present
cosmic perspective

Since we are developing a future for our
descendants to walk

In an ocean of emptiness.

We breathe our last as honorable in living as in defeat
For each step in the sand is becoming harder and
harder to take

As the footprints are being obliterated by waves
of cupidity.

HIGH PRAIRIE COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

Cindy Henschell



There is still time to be listed in the 2009 High Prairie Community Directory. We have over 80 listings so far which makes the Directory a useful reference if you need to quickly locate the phone number or email address of a neighbor or another denizen of the Prairie.

The Directory also includes a recent map of the roads on High Prairie and individual listings include the special interests of folks wishing to share and maybe connect with others who have similar interests. The Directory is not

intended for commercial promotion or solicitation and inclusion is strictly voluntary. However, to receive a copy you must be listed.

Printed copies will be available for pick-up at the Firehouse Sale, and every listing with an email address will be sent a PDF copy, which you can print, as needed.

The deadline to submit your listing for inclusion in the 2009 Directory is Friday, May 1. The most convenient (and error-proof) way is to send me an email: henschell@highprairie.us, or you can reach me by phone: 365-5283. Please include your name(s), address or location on High Prairie and if you wish, phone number(s), email address(es) and your interests.

GET WELL and SYMPATHY WISHES

Some of those who have been on the sick list lately are **Ann Stearn, Judy Strait, Dona Taylor, Steve Bird, Bruce and Karron Buchanan**, and probably many more struggling with the awful flu and cold symptoms! We wish you all well.

Francis Hartford and Penny Rutledge grieve the loss of their mothers.

UFO ON THE PRAIRIE



Bev Edwards

Night had fallen, the wind was blowing in great gusts across the prairie. The house was shaking and we were wondering how many things we would have to retrieve in the morning. The next day when we got up we looked out our front window and there was a mysterious black and blue object in our trees. We did not at that time go out to investigate. A few hours later our neighbors to the east called and wanted to know what two senior citizens were doing with a trampoline up in their trees. So the mystery had been solved.

We called around to see if we could find the rightful owner but had little success. Finally we did find the owner in Gresham, Oregon who came the next day to retrieve it. So the UFO had found it's way back to it's original home.

Storms may come and storms may go but we still enjoy living in our special place in the country.

SNOW!

Martha M. Hamil, © 2009



Snowflake sublime,
Flat, frail, fractal crystal
Obeying an irresistible
Force to render
The delicate symmetry.
Falling alone;
The gathering multitudes
Cover Earth's blemishes.

Snow!

Snow challenges,
Snow defies
Human efforts
With tools,
Silent or heard,
To reject the sterile white;
To relieve their primal
Need to be unconfined.

Snow, the dichotomy;
Snow, the beautiful,
Snow, the disrupter.

Snow!



LANDFILL TOUR

Gail Amery

photos: Neil Shuster



Enjoying lunch with a view of the landfill. l-r: Carol Shuster, Myrin and Audrey Bentz, Ben Parrish, Gail and Tom Amery, Barbara Parrish, Art Mains, James Amery.

Ten of us from High Prairie (Ben and Barbara Parrish, Jim Thornton, Neil and Carol Shuster, Myron and Audrey Bentz, Tom and Gail Amery and the driver James Amery) experienced a fun and informative day this Wednesday. We rented a van from Your Rental in Hood River and drove to Allied Waste in Roosevelt, Wash.

We were hosted by Environmental Manager, Art Mains who showed us to our meeting place in the Gazebo on the top of the hill and even loaned us a tablecloth for our picnic. Art was very generous with his time—we left at 3:15 and only then was he to have his lunch. The presentation included such facts as ...915 acres are permitted at the landfill included in the 2,000 acres the Flare services. In 1990 they started taking waste and now qualify in the top five in the nation for efficiency as a special facility in a small county. They employ 170 people full time, including truckers. Two trains unload a day (pulling a mile of cars) onto their trucks, which are then driven up the hills to the dumping area. We learned about hardening off the clay base, the several individual liners, the waste product with the aerobic and anaerobic bugs and then closing off a completed cell.

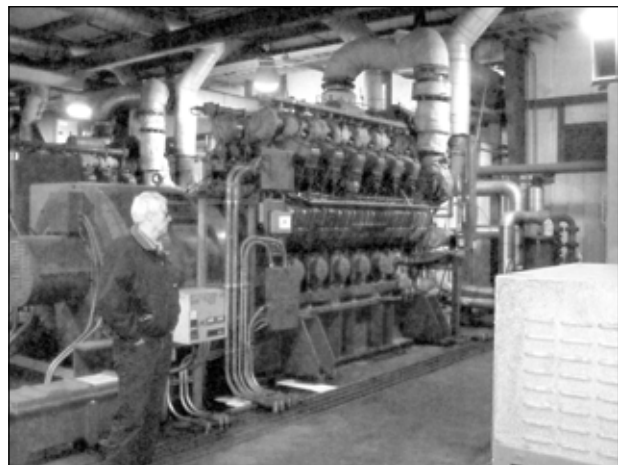
We stopped by the gas power plant in both the compressor and main technology rooms where Jonah Humphreys told us how the landfill gives off enough methane to power up to 30,000 homes. To top it off we heard how a falcon has encouraged the 5,000 pesky sea gulls to alter their feeding to ten miles away.



Dumping trailers



Grading a new cell for dumping waste



One of five engines that produces 10 megawatts of electricity

HIGH PRAIRIE AQUIFER STUDY

Jake Jakabosky

The Farm Preservation Zone Study Group (FPZ) has formed a sub-committee to study High Prairie aquifers. The sub-committee members (Linda Daughetee, Martha Hamil and Jake Jakabosky) recently met to develop a mission statement, goals and objectives in an effort to define and narrow the scope of our study while still answering the concerns of the community as expressed at the FPZ Special Meeting held last fall in Lyle.

So far we have determined:

- The current ongoing Water Resources Inventory Area (WRIA) 30 study of the Klickitat Watershed does not recognize important faults in the Swale and Klickitat River Canyons;
- The only groundwater recharge on High Prairie is from the 22 inches of annual average precipitation falling on the Prairie and on the North side of the Columbia Hills;
- While that sounds adequate, infiltration of the moisture is restricted to a considerable extent by our heavy clay soils which results in much of it being lost to runoff;
- High Prairie ground water flows east, north and west into the two canyons; and
- Linda's analysis of the County's data shows there are presently 492 wells within the boundaries of Fire District #14 (High Prairie). That figure includes some dry wells and capped wells.

According to Martha Hamil, our resident geologist, "Being in an area whose aquifers are dominated by basalt flows interspersed with occasional pockets of sediments, High Prairie's aquifers are neither continuous nor widespread. In order to make informed decisions about permits, land use, and development, we need to know where the aquifers are located and how much potable water they are capable of producing continuously. Basalt flows are notoriously impermeable, many also being non-porous. Their contribution as aquifers is generally limited to fault zones and joints. The overlying, almost impermeable clay soils further limit the recharge of groundwater."

We have about nine WRIA 30 reports we are poring over. The wells under study in the Swale Creek sub-basin are mainly located east of Swale Canyon but some

wells further west on High Prairie are included. The County is considering applying for a grant to expand its study westward across High Prairie. One or two more years will be necessary before enough data is available for those few wells currently under study on High Prairie to determine trends in ground water levels and which aquifers are being tapped.

We are considering a letter to the County, with Community Council approval, requesting they pursue a grant to study the High Prairie aquifers. This new study should focus on High Prairie alone as it is a closed basin separated by deep canyons and faults from the rest of Klickitat County. This study would include water quantity as well as many water quality parameters. We would insist that the grant consultants provide the equipment necessary to access every well offered as part of the study. (As it is currently, they have turned down a number of wells because their equipment could not be used on some wells' access ports.) High Prairie landowners are encouraged to volunteer their wells to be part of this study in order to provide meaningful data for analysis.



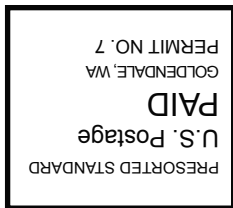
Two examples here in Eastern Washington underscore the need for good information about water resources. Pending a ground water study, development in Kittitas County has been restricted by the threat of a moratorium on exempt (residential) wells due to a possible decline in the ground water levels. An interim groundwater management agreement has been negotiated. (See http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cro/kittitas_wp_bg.html and <http://www.yakima-herald.com/stories/2009/03/04/agreement-regulating-new-wells-looks-shaky>.)

Reports from the Columbia Basin Ground Water Management Area (Franklin, Grant, Adams and Lincoln Counties) indicate irrigators there are withdrawing water from deep, ice age aquifers that are receiving no recharge. These wells are expected to go dry over the next five to 20 years. (News release at http://cbgwma.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=6&Itemid=2).

We will continue to interview experts and conduct research into current knowledge about other basins with geology and aquifers similar to ours. Anyone with expertise or interest in the issues is welcome.

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

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HIGH PRAIRIE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS PARTICIPATE IN ANOTHER “BURN TO LEARN” EXERCISE

Fred Henschell

On February 22, firefighters from Lyle and High Prairie participated in a “Burn to Learn” exercise at 411 Lyle-Centerville Highway. These exercises are periodically conducted to help train firefighters and test equipment. Fire fighters get to use their equipment and see a house fire from the inside.

A small, abandoned residential structure was donated for the exercise. The building was prepared for the burn by removing hazardous materials and making it safe for the firefighters. Once firefighters and equipment were on scene, equipment was deployed. Detailed plans were made and explained. Safety procedures and fire fighter accountability procedures are established. Just in case, a rapid intervention team for firefighter rescue was established and maintained during the exercise.

Then a fire was started in the structure using pallet wood and straw to create a smoke filled environment; a real fire situation. Firefighters then entered the building wearing “full turn-outs” and self-contained breathing apparatus; they carried tools and dragged

a charged hose line. Inside the building, firefighters could see and experience fire behavior and learn to control the fire. Water was applied using the nozzle to produce the correct hose stream and flow to knock down the fire. But the fire was “nursed along” for a while so other teams could enter the building and rotate through the experience.

These exercises are intended to develop skills and teamwork and test fire fighting tactics and strategy. Because the fire is allowed to burn, eventually the structure becomes unsafe and must be evacuated. After all firefighters are accounted for and more preparations made, the building is allowed to burn to the ground under safe, controlled conditions. After the burn, firefighters spend several hours cleaning equipment and making the trucks and equipment ready for further service.

Burn to learn exercises are only part of the hundreds of hours our volunteers spend each year in our effort to provide fire protection and emergency services to High Prairie. Come join us. Be a volunteer!