



The High Prairian

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

Volume Eleven, Number Three

Circulation: 1,225

Subscription Cost: FREE

September 2011

NOTICES

Klickitat County Burn Ban In Effect through September 30

**October 29
Family Harvest Celebration, see page 4**

Fire Volunteers meet the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center/Fire Hall for equipment maintenance and the 2nd and 4th Tuesday for training.

Fire Commissioners meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center/Fire Hall.

High Prairie Community Council meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Community Center.

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

High Prairie Book Club meets the 4th Monday at 7:00 p.m. Contact Lozetta Doll for location and book recommendations, 365-0010.

High Prairie Needlers meet every Monday at 10:30 a.m. to work on projects and crafts, swap ideas and "network" over a sack lunch. Contact Judi Strait: 365-5288 or Lozetta Doll: 365-0010.

When requesting medical assistance or reporting a fire CALL 911

WELL DONE, DOUG AND DONA!

Audrey Bentz



All High Prairians are appreciative of the great work done the past ten years on our quarterly newsletter by the Taylors. Doug and Dona have been so actively involved, probably longer than any other resident here on such projects as the High Prairie Cemetery on Hartland Road, the annual Firehouse Sale which raises money for the Fire Department and the Community, keeping the "old church" available for many years for community meetings and other events, developing and helping maintain the community garden, updating our mail addresses and email contacts over the years, and so much more. We know their retirement from the *High Prairian* doesn't mean they will sit back and do nothing. After being one of the earliest residents here, they take an active role in keeping the great community spirit alive, and we thank them for it.



**Have you seen this creature?
Learn more on page 6**



HPCC President Ted McKercher, whose year as president is now in the home stretch. New officers will be elected at the HPCC general meeting in early December.



The High Prairian

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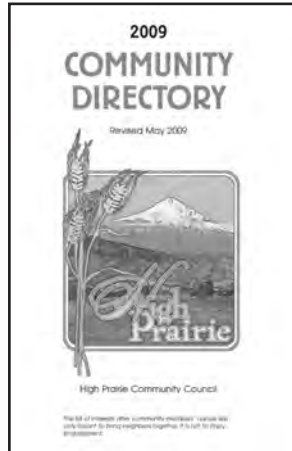
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The High Prairian can also be viewed on the High Prairie web site: <http://www.highprairie.us>

NEW COMMUNITY PHONE/ADDRESS DIRECTORY


Shannon Hess



Have you noticed how High Prairie is growing? There have been many new residents since the last printing of the High Prairie Directory. It's time to update. The High Prairie Directory is an informal list of those High Prairie residents that choose to share their information to make it easier for neighbor to contact neighbor. If you are a new resident of High Prairie and would like to

be listed in the directory, if you've lived here awhile but haven't been listed before, or if you were previously in the directory and have had any change in information, then please submit your information via e-mail to: ple@gorge.net or regular mail to; Directory, 23 High Meadow Dr., Lyle WA 98635 or phone to; 365-3838. Please include your name, address, phone number and if you have it, e-mail address. Our goal is to have a new directory for the new year, so a quick response would be appreciated.

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 Gwen Berry:

pgwenberry@hotmail.com

OR

365-0025

All the news that's print to fit.

HIGH PRAIRIAN IN TRANSITION

Gwen Berry

With mainstays Doug and Dona Taylor retiring from *The High Prairian*, the newsletter is going through a big transition. Until Doug and Dona decided to retire, no one realized just how much work they'd been doing to get *The High Prairian* out each quarter, as well as writing articles and news items. It's going to take several people to take over all the tasks they were handling. Also leaving is Lozetta Doll, whose long-time involvement in the organization and production of *The High Prairian*—as well as her many contributions as writer and editor—have been invaluable and will be missed. It's hoped that all three will still write for the newsletter at times in the future.

The big question now is, how do the people who are left continue to put out the newsletter? There is no formal *High Prairian* organization or committee, just a bunch of people who think *The High Prairian* is a great project and a great addition to the community. No one has volunteered for the Executive Editor role that Doug is leaving.

It seems the only way to get it all done is to divide up the jobs and have different people in charge of each part of the process. At a planning meeting held on September 8, several steps in the process were identified: Getting Content; Editing & Formatting; Printing; Folding & Mailing; and Managing the Mailing Label List.

Getting content isn't too complicated. A few weeks before each paper is to come out, everyone interested gets together to brainstorm ideas for articles and other content and to set a submissions deadline. Content also comes in from others in the community. Someone acts as a collection site for all of the submissions and sends them on to be formatted into the newsletter. For the moment, Gwen Berry has agreed to collect submissions (pgwenberry@hotmail.com). The group has also decided to set regular meeting times and deadlines each quarter, helpful for keeping everyone on the same page in more of a group operation.

Cindy Henschell will continue to do the formatting (thank you!). Editing will be handled differently, though. The group is trying out a new Submissions and Editing Policy that gives writers up-front information and clarifies how submissions will be handled (see below). Major editing decisions will be made on a group basis, and there will be opportunity for authors to make revisions to their own work if necessary.

The Klickitat County Economic Development Authority will continue to print the newsletters and provide reimbursement for postage (thank you!). HPCCC has agreed to front the money for postage. It is hoped that the extra step of having to deliver a printed copy of the original can be eliminated by sending it to the EDA via email.

The group is also looking at ways to simplify the folding & mailing steps. Surprisingly, this has been a demanding

part of the operation, despite the fun social atmosphere of the folding parties. The post office has required that all copies of the newsletter be mailed on the same day they're printed. That doesn't sound bad until you realize that part of the copies have to be folded, have address labels attached, and be mailed in Goldendale, while the rest must be brought back to High Prairie to be folded and taken to Lyle for mailing before 4:30 p.m. Someone must print the address labels and make sure they're in Goldendale when needed. Considering the logistics of the trips to Goldendale and back, and gathering enough people to do two folding sessions and deliver the newsletters to two post offices, it's easy to see why the group is looking at options with both the EDA and the post office.

To keep *The High Prairian* going, it's obvious that “many hands make light work” is going to apply. Planners, writers, people to do pick-up and delivery, folders, mailers, and more are needed—none of them large jobs. If you enjoy *The High Prairian*, consider a small role in keeping it going. The next planning meeting will be in mid-November, and the next submissions deadline is December 2nd. Folding and mailing will follow. Call Myrt McKercher and tell her where you'd like to help (365-9576).

NEW SUBMISSIONS AND EDITING POLICY

Everyone is invited to submit photographs, articles, poetry and other writings by emailing them to pgwenberry@hotmail.com. The High Prairian does not accept advertising. Submission deadline is the nearest Friday before or after the 1st day of March, June, September and December. With only 8 pages and several recurring items, we have limited space; so articles should be 400 to 600 words (or fewer) except by prior arrangement. We will do our best to fit all submissions into the current newsletter, but occasionally we'll hold something for the next issue. Written submissions will be edited only for spelling, grammar and minor clarifications. If further changes need to be made (such as trimming down a long article or providing more information), writers will have the opportunity to revise their own work. Questions regarding content will be decided by The High Prairian 'staff' as a group. Our editing goal is to produce a newsletter that writers and readers can be proud of, while celebrating the individual styles and voices of our writers.



HIGH PRAIRIE COMMUNITY CENTER HAPPENINGS

Audrey Bentz

Family Harvest Celebration

Mark Friday, October 29, on your calendar for a community potluck at the High Prairie Community Center. The plan is for fun games for children and adults, perhaps some live music, and a fun evening to check in with all your neighbors and friends. Details coming next month, but if you don't have email, call Audrey at 365-3600 for specifics.

Piano Lessons Anyone?

Sandee Marshall, professional piano teacher, has agreed to spend one day each week giving piano instruction to both young and adult students at the Community Center. If you or someone you know is interested, please call Audrey at 365-3600 by the last week of September, since lessons begin in October. Lessons will be \$20 per hour, and if there are two or more in a family, additional family children pay just half price.

Tai Chi and Zumba

Tai Chi and Zumba are both resuming for the fall. If you want to work on "fine-tuning" your body (lower blood pressure, improve balance, relieve stress, improve mental focus and sharpen flexibility of joints and muscles and just generally improve your health maintenance), you will find either of these helpful and fun. We're fortunate to have teachers who are renowned in both The Dalles and Hood River for their expertise—Janet Essley and Sarah Thompson.

Tai Chi will be led by Janet Essley on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. (note day and time change). Although Janet will not begin until October 5, come exercise to our Qi Gong DVD's at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 9/27.

Zumba is up and going again, led by Sarah Thompson on Saturdays at 10 a.m.

Ballroom Dance Lessons

Don Slusher is a talented and patient ballroom dance teacher. He will do about six sessions beginning on Monday, October 3. Couples pay \$15 per session and the WALTZ will be the focus for these lessons. So bring your honey on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. and expect a fun evening together with friends. If there are more than five couples, the weekly fee will be reduced.



And if you find that Tai Chi, Zumba, and Ballroom Dancing aren't enough, you can go to PILATES at the Lyle Activity Center, corner of 3rd & Klickitat Streets for their fall series (September through December). Classes are on Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30 a.m. Class fee is \$6, or you can purchase a punch card for 12 classes. Please

bring your own mat (a limited number of loaner mats is available). If you have questions, email Caroline Elliott, Certified Pilates Fitness Instructor, at kjcj@gorge.net.

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Debbie McDonald and Gwen Berry

HPCC Community Kitchen Gets Health Department Approval

In August, HPCC President Ted McKercher and Community Center Kitchen Manager Debbie McDonald met with Jeff Martin from the Klickitat County Health Department to get final approval to use the community kitchen for public events—and the kitchen passed with flying colors! A big thank-you to Patrice Archuleta, Neil Schuster and the entire kitchen committee who worked so hard to get this kitchen built and equipped with the major appliances needed to run a kitchen. Phase Two is equipping the kitchen with dishes, pots and pans, shelving and work spaces to make the kitchen a pleasure to prepare meals in. Thank you to the High Prairie Community Council for approving \$3500 to make those purchases.

Kitchen Manager—What's That? Who's That?

Meet Debbie McDonald, our new Kitchen Manager. The Kitchen Manager isn't the cook and she isn't the janitor. She's the expert who is equipping the kitchen and keeping it in compliance with health regulations, and she's going to need everyone's help. A community kitchen isn't exactly like your home kitchen. For example, during events only the kitchen staff should be in the kitchen. If you need to wash your hands before a meal, please use the bathroom sinks. The kitchen staff has a special hand washing sink with hand washing procedures. Some of the sinks are designated for special tasks such as food preparation or dish washing. There are specific procedures for hand washing dishes and for using the dishwasher; for example, dishes may not be towel dried but must be air dried. Some of the health regulations may seem silly but they are there for our protection and we must adhere to those rules in order to keep our permit. Debbie may gently remind you of regulations. Your help is essential and appreciated.

Kitchen Supervisors Needed

Whenever an event is held at the community center that includes use of the kitchen, we'll need a kitchen supervisor present—someone with a current food handlers card who can be there and remind all kitchen workers of food regulations and the rules of running our kitchen. The more kitchen supervisors we have, the more we can rent out the kitchen for events—an important part of making the community center self-supporting. The

only qualifications needed are an interest in being at the center of fun events, attendance at a yearly training session at the kitchen and a copy of a current food handlers card on file. Don't have a current food handlers card? Debbie can help. If you are interested in becoming a Kitchen Supervisor, please call Debbie at 365-6813.

Marketing Committee Needed

Our community center and kitchen is a lovely facility for folks throughout the Gorge to rent for their special events. Granted, we are a little off the beaten path but there are many reasons why a group might want to use our facility. We need folks with marketing talents and connections who are willing to set out a marketing plan and see it through. Our annual firehouse sale already has a reputation as the place to be for bargains. Let's make our community center the place to be for those events requiring a special atmosphere and location. If you are interested in working on this committee, please contact Ted McKercher, HPCC President, at 365-9576.

QUIET PLEASE

By Anon Amous

Hark, Hark, the dogs do bark,
In fact they've moved in next door.
Some bark loud, one barks louder,
It's a clamor going on ever more.

Hard, Hark, no quiet day or night,
Remember the stillness before?
Barks startle deer, quail, innocent skunk—
Oops, a neighbor dared step out the door!

Hark, Hark, FedEx, bikes and Schwann's go by,
A vulture on high, a jogger and school bus appear,
Yips topped with yaps echo 'round the vale,
Help, are the owners the ones who don't hear?

Bark, Bark, I try to read, then hold my ears.
Be quiet, little doggies and listen real good.
Oh, canine owners, please rescue those mutts,
Give each one water, food, hugs as you should.

Hark, Hark, when the moon is on high,
At long last the sounds will be
The coyote kyoodling, old owl hoot-hooting,
Now we've regained High Prairie Harmony.

HIGH PRAIRIANS MAKE GREAT SHOWING AT FAIR

Judi Strait, Loretta Lindsey & Gwen Berry

High Prairians enthusiastically took part in the Klickitat County Fair in August, and their many entries in both the Still Life and Livestock areas won lots of ribbons and awards. Blue, red, and white ribbons are given to entries based on how well they meet established standards in each category, and special awards are given to entries that stand out in one way or another. Here's a list of who we know took part and what they came home with. (If we missed anyone, or missed a category you entered, we apologize. Let us know and we'll put you in our next issue.)

Still Life Entries:

Terry Chabbert – 10 blue ribbons, 3 red, 2 white. Came home with a Reserve Lot Champion award. Entries in Sewing, Needlework, Recycled Crafts (and others).

Martha Hamil – 15 blue ribbons, 7 red, 2 white. Judges and others raved about her Honeysuckle Aperitif Wine. She had entries in Baking, Preserving, Sewing, and Recycled Crafts.

Carol Shuster – 1 red ribbon for her entry in Needlework.

Judi Strait – 7 blue ribbons, 1 red. Entries in Baking, Sewing, & Quilt categories. Received Reserve Lot Champion award for her quilt.

Dona Taylor – A blue ribbon for the Needlers' quilt which she helped make and won in the Firehouse Sale raffle.

Keiko Thornton – 9 blue ribbons, 2 red. Entries in Vegetables, Flowers, Herbs, Preserving & Baking.

Livestock Entries:

Doug and Dona Taylor's granddaughter Tatiana – Top of Show for her Senior Record Book; 3 blue ribbons for her Angus.

Loretta Lindsey – Entered two llamas; won Reserve Champion for showmanship and Reserve Champion for conformation on one llama, a blue ribbon on the other.

Loretta Lindsey's granddaughter Desirae – Grand Champion, plus Reserve Champion for showmanship on her Cashmere goat; 2 blue ribbons for her breedstock goats.

Loretta Lindsey's grandson Jeremy – Reserve Grand Champion for his Goat Poster, plus 2 blue ribbons for his market goats.

Rozie Bird – Grand Champion on her miniature horse mare and also Grand Champion for "Grand Driving." Her two Silkees chickens also made Grand Champion and blue ribbons.

Congratulations to all!



WEASEL WORDS

Martha M. Hamil

“You Little Weasel,” “that Weaseling so-and-so,” “he Weaseled his way into...,” and “she’ll Weasel out of...” are among the many epithets derived from the Weasel Tribe. Perhaps they were well-deserved but the Tribe deserves our thanks also.

Historically, the Weasel Tribe (weasels, mink, martens, fishers, black-footed ferrets, badgers, wolverines, river and sea otters, and skunks in North America) led the way for Europeans to settle North America. The Weasels lured trappers ever westward and eastward: the French and the British mainly from the east and the Spanish and Russians from the west. These creatures provided the most valued pelts, with the fisher (our topic today) and especially the winter female fisher pelts bringing top prices. Unlike most fur trade animals, fisher litters contained a majority of females.

Mountain men and Voyageurs penetrated deeper and deeper into unexplored (to white men) regions of North America to trap. And, settlers, having few things of value to sell, trapped fishers for the cash income. The trapping pressure and increase in habitat loss almost drove fishers to extinction in the Lower 48 during the 1900s. Most Americans of that era congratulated themselves on ridding the US of a pest. Little did they realize that unintended consequences awaited them.

With fishers gone, the porcupine population popped. Porcupine eating habits girdle trees, which in turn, kills the tree. Alarmingly, trees in eastern and mid-west forests began dying by the millions. Fishers, being one of the few natural predators of porcupines, had kept the forests alive and the trees growing! The first fix, setting trapping seasons and bag limits, succeeded partly. The next fix was reintroducing fishers into the scene. Vermont released 125 in the 1950’s. The northern tier of states soon began to follow suit. Washington State delayed until 2008 when wildlife agents reintroduced fishers into Olympic National Park. Little did those wildlife authorities realize that both James Archuleta and I had both seen fishers on High Prairie in the early 2000’s.

During the past few months, more High Prairians have seen evidence of the fisher’s reinvasion of our community. When I saw my first one, dusk had just become good dark and the creature was traveling along Oda Knight Road with cover about a quarter mile away in any direction. I drove behind for about 75 yards whereupon it dived into a ditch and disappeared. Close to 3’ long, my first thought: a big black house cat with short legs and an extra long tail, about half its length. My second thought: cats do not move like this creature! My third thought: that is a humongous mink. The whole body moved in a smooth, sinuous, up-and-down pattern rather like a snake slithering vertically rather than horizontally. Mink move like that, too. Conclusion: it’s not a mink but has to be a close relative, so look it up when you get home.

Eureka! Pages 180–181 of the National Geographic’s book, “Wild Animals of North America” showed my creature, a fisher.

Some doubts crept in. High Prairie did not fit the habitat

description of deep dense forest with lots of litter and debris on the on the forest floor. Plus, fishers were supposed to be extinct in this area and Washington wildlife surveys in the 1990’s and early 2000s failed to detect them in the state. (Fishers were listed as an “Endangered Species” shortly thereafter and they’re are still on the list, so beware if you are caught killing one). My reaction: No way! That was a real live fisher, because only a fisher fit the physical description of my creature. And in fact recent reports from back east note that fishers have adapted to a large variety of habitats including fields, farms, and suburban settings, and even some inroads into urban areas.

From whence did High Prairie’s fishers come? Nobody knows.

Some pertinent facts on fishers:

Kingdom: *Animalia*, Phylum: *Chordata*, Class: *Mammalia*, Order: *Carnivora*, Family: *Mustelidae*, Tribe: *Weasel*, Binomial Name: *Martes pennanti* (Erxleben, 1777). Other Names: pekan, pequam, wejack, fisher cat

Characteristics: Long and thin with short legs. Males about 3’–4’ and weigh 8–11 lbs. Females about 2-1/2’ – 3’ long and weigh 4–6 lbs. Occasional individuals much larger. Thick tails about half the fishers’ length. Deep brown to black often with golden or hoary face and shoulders and some with white patches on the belly. 5 toes on each foot with unsheathed retractable claws (some say the claws are non-retractable.) Feet large relative to the leg. Mobile ankle joints allow almost 180-degree rotation of hind paws enabling extreme agility for chasing through tree branches and head first descent from large trees. Bright beady eyes with relatively long snout and small rounded ears. Life span about 7 years.

Generalist predators who will eat anything they can catch and kill and even carrion. Preferred food is small game* but won’t turn down cats, small dogs, or chickens. Confined prey unleashes wholesale slaughter. Will eat seeds, berries, and insects if food is scarce. Fishers rarely eat fish despite their name; the name is from the French word *fichet* meaning polecat. Kills dangerous prey and porcupines by making repeated biting attacks on the nose, face, and head taking up to an half hour to kill a porcupine.

Socially solitary with one male fisher per territory; females sometimes allow a small overlap. Territories normally 3–5 square miles but can be 8–10 square miles. Preferred den is in a tree hollow off the ground. Mainly nocturnal. Most activity at dawn and dusk. Rarely seen in daylight.

Reproduction: Estrus 7–10 days after birth of kits in late March or April; egg implantation delayed until following February or March; gestation is 30 days. Litter usually 1–4 kits. Kits born almost naked, begin crawling at 3 weeks, open their eyes at 7 weeks, climb after 8 weeks, become intolerant of siblings after 4 months, mother kicks them out at 5 months.

That’s all folks! Thank you for your attentive and fascinated reading.

*Perhaps we should wish for gray diggers to become a favored fisher prey.

HIGH PRAIRIE FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

Jake Jakabosky

Our Fire District is considering putting on an Emergency Medical Responder training course based on the need for more trained medical volunteers and changes in State certification requirements. Many of the classes would be available on-line while others would be held on High Prairie and in Lyle. If you are interested in helping your fellow High Prairians during an emergency, or often wished you knew more about rendering medical assistance, this is your chance to get involved. As an EMS-only member of the Fire District, all it would require is some time and your dedication to a worthy cause. For more information, contact Chief Doug Hutchison (509-310-9343).

Along that vein, on a recent run, High Prairie and Lyle medical first responders provided vital aid to the victim of a fall from an ATV. They were able to assess and immobilize a very serious neck injury and provide other assistance to prevent further damage until the ambulance crew arrived.

We also provided backup medical assistance to Lyle Fire District on a call some distance up Canyon Road for a heart attack victim. Unfortunately, despite heroic CPR efforts on the part of the ambulance crew and Lyle and High Prairie responders, we were too late. This serves as a reminder to all of us that we live a long way from doctors and hospitals and we need to be aware of the symptoms of life threatening illnesses and seek aid sooner. We tend to think (hope?) it is nothing and don't want to make a fuss involving others. But you can't be helped until you ask for it, and too often that is too late.

Our firefighters have been busy with two major fires locally. The August 29 "Wishram II" wildfire started from power line sparks on Highway 14 and, pushed by 30 mph winds, raced eastward 9 miles along the highway and north over the Columbia Hills towards Centerville. A large number of firefighters, engines, and tenders, two bulldozers and air support rallied to fight the fire in an area with very limited access and impossible terrain. Once the fire crested the ridge it slowed, and roads there and on the north side made it possible to effectively battle the blaze and keep it from getting into crops in the Centerville Valley. Still, there were significant losses, with fences and fall forage destroyed, along with hay stacks and a field of baled hay. Acreage burned totaled 11,088.

The Monastery Complex fires on both sides of Highway 97 north of Goldendale were probably started by sparks from a defective muffler on a semi truck. This turned out to be a very hot, running fire due to the accumulation of fuel and dog-hair thickets of pine. At times the fire spotted 1/2 to 1 mile ahead of the flames, making fighting it treacherous due to fires popping up around the only exit road. Firefighter efforts to protect structures, especially in the dark, were hampered by poor maps, a lack of house numbers and private road signs hidden by brush and tree limbs. Most of the houses lost were south of Box Canyon Road but more were saved than lost. Many homes were non-defensible, that is, there

were too many trees, bushes and too much combustible man-made "stuff" next to the buildings providing fuel that would torch the homes. Limited resources had to be positioned on homes that could be saved. Even small efforts to fireproof an area can make a difference. Fire personnel noted that even a narrow, dusty cow path served to slow the fire making it possible to knock it down with fire hoses.

As of September 15, the fire was 90% contained at 3,626 acres and no longer spreading. About 100 structures were lost, 24 of those were primary residences. Other structures included summer cabins and small buildings like shops and pump houses. In the case of the latter, a person's home is essentially unusable without water so it may be some time before those homes are occupied again. Local fire crews have now taken over patrol efforts and mop-up of the remaining small hot spots near the fire line.

One last note: Even though temperatures have cooled, fire danger is still high from the abundance of super-dry fuels produced by the cool spring, and the burn ban is still in effect. We've seen what can quickly happen if a fire gets started. Be especially careful.

A THANK-YOU TO LOCAL HEROES

Shannon and Terry Hess

Terry and I would like to publicly thank our local emergency response team, some of whom were our very own neighbors, for their prompt and professional service in assisting Terry after an ATV accident on Sept. 2. Doug Hutchison, fire chief, arrived in a remarkably short time followed closely by the rest of the team. They were sure and capable in providing emergency treatment. They rapidly had Terry stabilized and on his way to the emergency room at Skyline where he also received excellent treatment.

For those that know Terry, you may be interested in knowing that he had 2 fractured vertebrae in his neck. There was no spinal cord involvement. A metal plate was surgically placed at Legacy Emanuel hospital in Portland to prevent possible spinal cord injury while the fractures were healing. He was in the hospital for a total of 5 days and is now home recovering. Thank you to our wonderful High Prairie neighbors and Emergency Response Team.

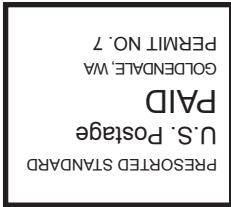
MARTHA HAMIL LEAVING HIGH PRAIRIE

Gwen Berry

Martha Hamil told friends this week that she is moving to Portland in October. She has found a spacious apartment in an historic building in the Nob Hill area of Portland and will sell or rent her High Prairie house. Martha has for many years applied her vision, intelligence and experience to bettering our community; and although she promises to come back to visit, her ready participation at all kinds of High Prairie events will be missed.

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

POSTAL PATRON



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

FREE SPAY/NEUTER FOR FREE-ROAMING CATS

Marcia Buser

Are you feeding stray or feral cats? Catlink offers spay/neuter & vaccinations for NO CHARGE to caregivers in our community who are providing food and shelter to homeless cats. Catlink loans humane live traps and provides instructions to trap feral cats to bring to clinics.

Cats going through the program have their ear "tipped" which involves removing about 1/4 inch of the right ear so they can be easily identified as already spayed/neutered. Cats must be returned to their caregiver as Catlink's shelter cannot accept any more cats at this time.

To schedule cats for spay/neuter clinic, email catlink@mac.com or call 541-298-8253. Caregivers must sign an anesthesia release agreement that they do not own the cats. This service is not available for personal pets. Catlink is an all-volunteer division of Rowena Wildlife Clinic that is dedicated to homeless and feral cats throughout the Columbia River Gorge area. Please visit our website catlink.org for more information.

Many communities across the country and across the

world have implemented this protocol for homeless cats. In every place it is adopted, it has proven to be the only method that is both humane and effective at controlling the population of homeless cats.

Benefits of this program include immediately stopping the birth of new litters. Nuisance behavior of mating cats is eliminated. Cats continue to provide rodent control, which they are much valued for. Ultimately, fewer unwanted cats end up in local shelters, thereby reducing euthanasia rates and allowing a better adoption rate for cats already in shelters.

Catlink also has a barn/shop cat adoption program for people looking for natural rodent control. All cats are spay/neutered and vaccinated and there is no adoption fee for barn cats.

Last August, Catlink was awarded a 2-year grant to help fund spay/neuters of free roaming cats in targeted communities. High Prairie is part of the targeted area covered by the grant. Read more about Catlink at www.catlink.org.