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## SAVE THESE DATES

**December 15th** – 2nd annual Holiday Celebration meal and Santa

**Community Council Meetings**, starting at 7:00 PM at the Community Center.

**Saturday morning** fitness, starting at 10 a.m.

**1st and 3rd Tuesdays** of the month — Fire Volunteers meet at 7 p.m.

**2nd Tuesdays** of the month — Fire Commissioner meeting at 7 p.m.

Visit the community website ([www.highprairie.us](http://www.highprairie.us)) for additional scheduled events and meetings.



## COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Sharon Aleckson

The second annual High Prairie Christmas Holiday Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 15, 2012, at the Community Center. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 5:30p.m. This will be a time for the community to come together to visit with friends and neighbors, eat a prepared meal (including dessert) served to you by our High Prairie youth, enjoy the entertaining activities of the evening, welcome a visitor from the North Pole, and celebrate the holidays. This dinner is free to the community. However donations to help offset the costs related to this dinner will be greatly appreciated.

RSVP's are encouraged this year as the planners of this event would like to know about how many (your family and your guests) will be attending. Call Barb Parrish at 509-365-4117 or e-mail her at [bbparrish@embarqmail.com](mailto:bbparrish@embarqmail.com) by December 10th. Should you forget to RSVP, come join us anyway. Soon you will receive a special invitation either by e-mail or post card (as some do not get e-mail) with more details about the dinner and highlights of the evening. Please check with your neighbor(s) to see if they received an invitation. There may also be some people that need a ride. Based on the number of people at last year's dinner, carpooling is highly recommended.

Let Sharon Aleckson (365-4429) know if there is anyone new to the community, or anyone planning a move to the community. We'd like to send them an invitation. This would be a great way to introduce them to the community.

**LET'S CELEBRATE!!!!**

## SPECIAL MUSIC FOR THE COMMUNITY HOLIDAY DINNER

Audrey Bentz

The High Prairie Larksters are welcoming anyone who enjoys singing. We will prepare a number for the December dinner and will rehearse at the Bentz's Morning Song Acres (6 Oda Knight Road) on two Monday nights at 7 p.m.: December 3 and 10.

All High Prairie children and teens are invited to also sing a special Christmas song at the dinner, and are asked to come to a rehearsal on Sunday afternoons at 5 p.m. at the Community Center on December 2 and 9.

Questions? Call Audrey at 365-3600.

*Winter is the time for comfort,  
for good food and warmth,  
for the touch of a friendly hand  
and for a talk beside the fire;  
it is the time for home.*

—Edith Sitwell

## CHANGE IS IN THE AIR AT HPCC

Gwen Berry

What's going on at the HPCC? Right now—other than the planning for a fabulous party on the 15th—it's pretty dry stuff. Important though. The Board has come up with a list of changes they'd like to make to the bylaws, and it's our job as the Council (all of us ordinary members) to vote the changes in or turn them down.

Actually, when you take each change and find out the background behind the suggestions, it gets more interesting.

Like, why does the Board want to flip the schedule around so that elections are in June instead of November? And what's wrong with the good old calendar year, why do they want to change the books to a July-to-June fiscal year? Turns out that June is when the final Firehouse Sale proceeds come in. The money comes in, the fiscal year ends, and the newly elected Board takes over, with all the information they need to put together the next year's budget. Neat and tidy. So the Council said yes.

What about this idea of cutting back the HPCC Council meetings to every other month instead of every month? Supporters say more people would want to come, and hey! we could have a potluck before every meeting. A question, though – who'll take care of the Council's responsibilities in between meetings? Or, well, maybe there's not that much for the Council to do? Right now our hardworking Board seems to be taking care of pretty much everything. What we need is a poll – find out what people are coming for when they come to Council meetings. And what keeps them away.

No answers there yet, just more questions. At the December 6 HPCC meeting we'll hear from more people and check out the Pros and Cons. You might call it a fact-finding meeting, since we won't be voting on it until January.

But the meeting topics won't be all dry. While we're in 'rap session' mode, we'll all trade ideas about getting ready for winter storms, like the one that hit last January. Somebody's bringing stuff to show us, and maybe there'll be a video or two. Bring your best tips and tricks to share.

And don't forget, someone always brings goodies for the end of the meeting. Show up at 7:00, hang out until the gavel comes down, and reward yourself with a treat.

## HIGH PRAIRIAN TRIES OUT ADVERTISING

The High Prairian and the High Prairie website are now accepting a limited number of advertisements. Responding to suggestions and inquiries about the possibility, we have decided to give it a try. (Check out our first ads on page 6.)

**Newsletter:** Ads for the printed or downloaded (PDF) newsletter will be approximately business card size (3.5" x 2"). We will accept the first six ads. We can create the ads from business cards or basic information provided. A small accompanying article (maximum 200 words) will be offered to each advertiser with their first ad. We'll also ask anyone who submits an article about the services or offerings of a business to buy at least one ad, to appear in the same issue as their article.

**Website:** Ads on the website will appear on all pages (including The High Prairian pages) in the right sidebar. They will be approximately 200 pixels square (the width of the sidebar). Ads on the website will run for a period of three months or for one year. We will accept no more than six ads for the website at any one time. We can create website ads from business cards or basic information provided.

**Pricing:** Ads for the website cost more than ads for the newsletter, since they offer a considerably larger circulation and opportunity for viewing. We offer a discount for placement in both. Ad payments go to HPCC.

Printed/PDF Newsletter	1 issue	\$ 5	4 issues (1 year)	\$17
Website	3 months	\$15	1 year	\$50
Newsletter + Website	1 issue + 3 months	\$17	4 issues + 1 year	\$60

**Contacts:** Gwen – 365-0025 or pgwenberry@hotmail.com  
Cindy – 509-637-5186 or henchell@highprairie.us

## FOR THE YOUNGER HIGH PRAIRE RESIDENTS

Audrey Bentz

In September, nearly twenty young people (ages 5-16) presented a great musical at the High Prairie Community Center, playing their own instruments (guitar, mandolin, flute, violin, banjo, piano, etc.) and much energetic singing, with a multi-media backup. Most of the children were of three High Prairie families —Perry, Holman and Lockwood. Thank you to all the local residents who came to support and applaud these remarkable youths' talent and hard work!

Tatiana Taylor (granddaughter of Tom and Gail Amery and Doug and Dona Taylor) was featured on page 25 of the November issue of the "Ruralite." She was selected as Klickitat PUD's nominee for the \$1000 Walkley Scholarship. A high school senior, Tatiana is a member of the National Honor Society, she raises pigs and cattle, making great showings at the Klickitat County Fair, and hopes to study to be a veterinarian!

A recent issue of the *White Salmon Enterprise* showed a great picture of Olivia Grim doing a successful soccer ball kick as the Columbia Bruins won their game against the Stevenson Bulldogs. Olivia is the daughter of John and Linda Grim and niece of Fern Johnson.

Gregory Haner participated in the annual 6th grade Dallesport Elementary environmental education field trip to Bonneville Lock and Dam to plant trees and remove invasive species. And, his 6th grade class, along with Ryan Darland's 5th grade class, raised over \$300 to help the students stay involved with Environment Education issues. Fathers of both students (Philip Haner and Tim Darland) are active volunteer fire fighters for High Prairie.

## 3 WAYS TO READ THE HIGH PRAIRIAN

Did you realize that there are 3 ways to read your favorite newsletter?

1. Subscribe (see last page) to a printed copy, mailed right to your door.

2. Read the online version on your computer or tablet from the High Prairie website (<http://www.highprairie.us>).

3. Download and print your own (full color!) copy (PDF) from the High Prairie website.

## WINTER SOLSTICE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

Gwen Berry

The Winter Solstice marks the longest night and the shortest day of the year. In cold December, the dark seems to be winning – but not for long. The Solstice is the turning point. Now the nights will grow shorter and the days grow longer, until the Summer Solstice in June when the cycle begins again.

The changing seasons are a result of our planet's yearly trip around the sun. The earth is on a permanent tilt, so when it's at one end of its orbit the northern hemisphere is tilted toward the sun. It is summer and we see the bright sun riding high in our sky. At the other end, the northern hemisphere tilts away from the sun. We have winter, and the pale sun's arc is low in the southern sky. At Winter Solstice, we are at our farthest point from the sun, and as the earth continues its orbit the days will slowly get longer and the sun will begin to creep back up the sky.

For most of us the Winter Solstice goes by without much notice. However, to those whose lives were tied to the turning of the seasons, it was a much more significant event.

*The approaching winter solstice was once a frightening time for ancient people, especially those who lived in places like northern Europe. They did not have a scientific explanation for the shorter days and longer nights. They were afraid that the sun was losing its power, so they made up tales to explain what was happening and performed rituals to save the sun and restore its strength. They were certain that these rituals worked because—sure enough!—the sun then became stronger and stronger and the nights shorter and shorter. They eventually had to repeat this process, but it worked every time.*<sup>1</sup>

Celebrating the return of the light has been at the root of midwinter holidays and festivals throughout the ages, and that is still true today. Most of our present-day mix of winter customs and traditions is borrowed from solstice practices of many cultures before us.

Marking the Winter Solstice reminds us of the natural rhythms of the world, and connects us with the long history of this elemental celebration. Try sitting in the darkness for a few minutes. Then light a candle or put the torch to a bonfire. Savor the sense of hope and delight, as relevant now as it has been since ancient times, that the longest night is past and the promise of the sun is returning.

<sup>1</sup> (from **Multicultural Holidays: Share Our Celebration** by Julia Jasmine)



## CHRISTMAS WONDER

A poem by High Prairian, Jennifer Jefferis

It starts with a whisper  
So softly it comes  
And before we know  
It has begun

Filled with anticipation  
We wait  
Immersed in delight  
We wait

All around us the message repeats  
The story of our Savior's coming  
Savored at our tables  
In the houses of the faithful

His grace warms us  
While we stand as vigils in the cold  
To sing His praises at the doorways  
And proclaim His precious love

And as the season unfolds  
Followers share their gifts  
By repeating the ancient story  
From hearts ever faithful

May we kneel beside His manger  
On this holy Christmas morn  
Breathe His essence as we praise Him  
Joined in awe of His eternal love

## ADD MEANING TO GIFT GIVING

Gwen Berry and Audrey Bentz

In this sometimes frenetic season, when shopping is laughingly described as a contact sport, many of us want to discard blind consumerism and make gifts more meaningful. One way is the growing custom of buying gifts from the catalogs of charitable organizations. (Tip: Start the conversation with family and friends ahead of the holidays so everyone is on board.)

One of the best known charitable catalogs is Heifer International. Money spent there buys livestock, training, and other essentials to help people in poverty. Many organizations have similar programs. Non-profits of all kinds are offering gift catalogs, so you're bound to find one that fits your family's special interests. There's lots of information online. As with any donation, it's a good idea to check out charities at [charitynavigator.org](http://charitynavigator.org), [give.org](http://give.org) or [guidestar.org](http://guidestar.org) to make sure your gift will be spent wisely.

"For at least 15 years, we've known that trying to buy gifts for grandchildren just wasn't smart, with their different world. So we get the ELCA gift catalog (like the Heifer project) from our church with lots of options for urgent needs for the suffering in this world, and each of our nine grandchildren gets to pick their choice for a gift to someone in need. We'll be happy to provide a catalog to anyone who is interested." —Myrin and Audrey Bentz



## WHAT A COMMUNITY!

Audrey Bentz

Recently Bill Weiler (well known author living between High Prairie and Lyle) said he never knew of such a tight community as High Prairie, that is so active in its community functions, and is ready to assist each other with all kinds of needs. Kelly Blanchard, one of our newest HP residents said "After moving to High Prairie, I had made more friends in one month than I did in five years in Seattle." Another resident said "In the city, you don't really often get to know your neighbors until they see a U-Haul in your driveway and then say 'oh, you're leaving - we will really miss you!'"

A good example of what inspires these comments is the participation of several High Prairie men who have gathered many times over the past year to split and gather wood from downed trees of last winter's storm (mostly at Doug Taylor's) and make firewood available for several High Prairie households.

## LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO LOOK FOR BIRDS

Gwen Berry

HIGH PRAIRIANS WHO LIKE BIRDS! The Lyle Christmas Bird Count is on for Sunday, December 16. Join with other neighborhood bird lovers while we tour High Prairie and catalog what we find. It's a treasure hunt as we drive along, watching on all sides for a sudden movement or familiar shape. The unexpected bonus is that we really notice High Prairie's winter beauty as we go. Who would drive around taking in the scenery at this time of year, if not for this? It's really lovely! And the hot spiced cider and munchies never tasted so good.

The bird count gets started fairly early, since that's when the birds are most active. We go for a couple of hours or until we have to stop. Don't forget, you can also participate by counting birds at your feeders. In the evening, many of the bird counters get together at a potluck hosted by Lyle count coordinator Bob Hanson. You can't beat his homemade vegetarian chili and corn bread.

Call or email Jake Jakabosky to find out more or to tell him you're interested (365-0025 or jakesflies@hotmail.com).



Goldfinch (top) and hairy woodpecker at winter feeders.

Photos: Jake Jakabosky.

## SCHILLING ROAD FIRE STATION PROJECT

The High Prairian has followed the Schilling Road Fire Station project since last year's announcement that it had become the Fire District's top priority. Now High Prairie is approaching a decision point, a February vote that will affect the project's course over the next several years. In this issue we include a special article by Philip Haner, Fire Commissioner and Fire Captain for High Prairie Fire District #14, and an interview with Fire Chief Doug Hutchison.

### High Prairie Seeks Funding for Schilling Road Project

Philip Haner, Fire Commissioner and Fire Captain for High Prairie Fire District #14

High Prairie Fire District #14 is one of the more active fire districts in Klickitat County. We run around 80 to 100 calls per year, both fire and medical calls, in our district and helping our neighboring districts. Our District is also fairly large, covering approximately 50 square miles --- which brings up the current dilemma: Even though all High Prairie property owners are paying property taxes to the High Prairie Fire District, quite a few properties in our Fire District lie farther than 5 road miles from the current fire station on Struck Road, including much of the area at the north end of Schilling Road. That means they're outside the area where the Fire District is able to give them the best protection. In fact, the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau (WSRB) considers them to have no fire protection, and the owners pay extra for insurance as a result. A second fire station located on Schilling Road would give all property owners in the District the same level of fire protection (and insurance rating). The Fire District would have suitable storage for equipment and a base for volunteers in that area, allowing a quicker response in an emergency.

The High Prairie Fire District Commissioners recognized this problem and started looking for land to build a second station. Mr. Olin kindly donated a piece of land several years ago on Schilling Road that met the 5 road mile criteria needed to cover the majority of the District. Several thousand dollars has been spent on the property doing basic grading and site preparation.

To meet WSRB design standards, the new fire station must be a permanent, enclosed, heated building adequate to house at least one structure truck. The Fire District has determined a 40' x 60' building would be sufficient to meet our needs. Design requirements dictate the spacing around fire apparatus, but this size would meet those requirements and allow us to store all our trucks in approved fire stations. (We already have the trucks.) Based on other Fire Hall projects of similar size and design in Klickitat County, we feel we can construct the building for about \$40 per square foot. This would include a water system, septic, and the completed building.

In addition to the building, an approved fire house must be staffed by at least 6 firefighters that live within 5 road miles of the station. Including the current firefighters, 2 more volunteers would be needed for the new station to meet the requirements. The District does have several firefighters who live between the two stations and could respond to either station, but to do so, they would need an additional set of structural fire gear at the Schilling Road station at a cost of approximately \$3,000 each. It is highly impractical to have the firefighters try to keep their gear with them at all times, plus it creates health and safety issues carrying around dirty/contaminated gear in their personal vehicles.

The total cost of the project including the building and additional structural fire gear is \$154,000. Of that, the Fire Commissioners have committed \$20,000 of the current Reserve Fund plus \$7,300 from the HPCC toward the project, leaving a funding gap of about \$127,000. The remaining money could be raised in a variety of ways, including grants, donations, and loans. The Fire Commissioners have examined these options and determined the best way to fund the project is to take out a loan that would cover the costs. Additional donations and grants would be beneficial and could be used to pay down the loan; but the loan option is preferred as the project can be completed relatively quickly and the efficiency of doing it all at once will help keep costs down. The loan can be paid over 15 or 20 years depending on



the rates and terms of the loan.

Unfortunately, High Prairie Fire District's current annual budget from County property taxes cannot support the additional cost of a building loan or the maintenance and operation of a new fire station. The County Economic Development Grant program, an alternative funding source that might have helped to pay for the project, is no longer being offered. After evaluating all the options, the Fire Commissioners are proposing a permanent increase in the levy rate assessed on current property values.

In brief, this is how property tax funding works: A County taxing district like the Fire Department initially determines how much money they need to operate in one year. That yearly dollar amount is the levy they would like to charge the County. If that levy is approved by the voters, the county divides the dollar amount of the levy by the assessed value of all the property in that district to come up with a Levy Rate (per thousand dollars of assessed value). The levy rate is then applied to the value of each property and the total collected levy then equals what the taxing district requested.

Because the levy is a dollar amount that has been approved by voters, as property values go up the levy rate goes down, to keep the levy at the same dollar amount. In the past, levies in Washington used to increase annually based on the rise in property values and the inflation rate of the economy, but recent State legislation has limited the dollar amount the levy can increase each year to 1%, unless otherwise approved by vote. Because of inflation, over a period of time the buying power of the taxing district's budget is effectively reduced. Currently, the High Prairie Fire District collects a levy of about \$27,400. The allowed yearly 1% increase will add just \$274, while the cost of buying supplies and operating the District has increased much more than that.

To be able to afford the Shilling Road project, the High Prairie Fire District must look beyond its current budget. Increasing the Fire District's levy rate based on current assessed value from \$0.43953094 per thousand to \$0.65 per thousand (about the average for Klickitat County fire districts) would raise around \$13,124 per year to pay for the building loan and the added operations and maintenance costs of the Schilling Road Fire Hall. This is an increase of \$0.21046906 per

thousand dollars of assessed value. In simple terms, a home valued at \$100,000 would pay an additional \$21.04 per year for a total of \$65.00. A \$200,000 property would increase by \$42.08 to \$130.00 per year. This amount will allow the High Prairie Fire District to build, operate, and maintain the Schilling Road Fire Hall as the second station in the District and to continue to offer the best fire protection and medical help possible. The citizens of High Prairie will have the opportunity to make this investment in the new fire station project by approving the proposed levy lid lift on February 12, 2013.

Any of the Fire Commissioners or Fire Chief Doug Hutchison would be happy to talk with you about questions or concerns you may have. The Commissioners are Greg Hayrynen, James Amery, and Phillip Haner. You may also bring questions or concerns to our regular Commissioners' meetings held the 3rd Tuesday of every month starting at 7 p.m. at the Fire Hall/Community Center. Finally, Fire District #14 Commissioners will be at the January 24th meeting of the HPPC (7 p.m. at the Fire Hall/Community Center) to provide information and answer questions.

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## Interview with Fire Chief Doug Hutchison: Benefits of the Schilling Road Fire Station

**High Prairian:** Thanks for talking with me, Doug. Many people aren't sure what value the new Schilling Road fire station will have for them. Can you give me some reasons for people to support this project?

**Doug Hutchison:** First of all, it's an issue of fairness. Everyone in the High Prairie District is paying the same rate for fire protection services, but residents who live a long way from the current station aren't getting the same benefits. Essentially, they've been paying to benefit the rest of us. On top of that, anyone over 5 road miles from the current station has had to pay more for insurance.

**HP:** I've heard it asked, "Why should we pay more taxes so they can have lower insurance rates?"

**DH:** It would be nice if they were able to pay the same rates as the rest of us, but that's not really the important issue. The real

problem is that they're at higher risk in an emergency because we don't have nearby facilities and manpower to get to them efficiently. The Fire District was formed to give all of High Prairie better fire protection. We've continued to upgrade our firefighting equipment so we can do the best job of keeping people and property safe. In the same sense, the new fire station is an important step in the Fire District's ability to provide effective protection.

**HP:** So is the new fire station being built to provide the Schilling Road area with better protection?

**DH:** Not just Schilling Road. It will actually benefit everyone on the eastern end of High Prairie. Strategically located equipment and more firefighters mean better response times, which translates into less property damage and higher safety. Right now, if the emergency is on the east end, volunteers who may be close by have to come to the west end to get equipment, then go back. This is especially significant in winter when road conditions can slow down volunteers trying to get to the fire station and then out to a fire, or in summer when fires flare up quickly and speed is of the essence.

Any property near the new fire station will have improved protection. Lots of properties will be served by both fire stations. And really, because we'll have more options, the Fire District will be able to serve the other end of High Prairie better as well.

**HP:** Will the new fire station bring changes to the overall operations of the Fire District?

**DH:** Not much. Firefighters will be assigned to one or the other of the stations, although firefighters that live in the middle will respond to either station depending on the location of the emergency. We'll need at least two more volunteers, which we don't have yet, to add to our present crew. Getting the new station up and rolling will likely attract more. We'll hold training meetings at both stations, maybe alternating, or at one or the other depending on the topic.

**HP:** How many of the other Fire Districts in Klickitat County have more than one fire station?

**DH:** Of the 15 districts, 6 currently operate multiple stations. Lyle has a second fire station on Burdoin Mountain up Courtney Road for equipment and volunteers in that area. Lyle's district covers about 26 square miles, while ours covers just over 50.

**HP:** Great! Thanks for all the information.

## FOOD FOR A FEAST

Alex Bertulis

A few years ago I attended a barn party given by a neighbor on Mott Road. It was pot-luck, so I decided to bring a Lithuanian red cabbage salad. It was a hit and people remember me now by, "Oh, you're the guy who brought that red salad. It was delicious!"

So, attached herewith is our "secret" family recipe.

### Red Cabbage Salad (Raudoni Kapustai)

1. Chop up one head of red cabbage into very thin slices (or in a Cuisenart to make it like slaw). Toss into a large bowl (for tossing).
  2. Chop up one (red) onion very fine (mince). Add to bowl.
  3. Mix together and then add: salt / sugar / white pepper. Mix well and taste once in a while to get the right amount.
  4. Add "extra virgin" olive oil. Mix well and taste once in a while to get the right amount.
  5. Add fresh squeezed lemon (at least two, maybe more). Mix well and taste once in a while to get the right amount.
- Toss and taste to satisfy the taste buds. Add more salt, sugar, pepper, olive oil or lemon as your taste buds dictate.
- Skanaus! (or, as they say in France: bon appetit!)

### Spice-Roasted Almonds

webmd.com

A mix of spices and a short baking time give these almonds rich flavor and intense crunch.

- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 2 cups whole almonds

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a medium bowl, combine chili powder, olive oil, kosher salt, cumin, coriander, cinnamon, and pepper; add almonds and toss to coat. Transfer mixture to a 13 x 9 x 2-inch baking pan.

Bake about 10 minutes or until almonds are toasted, stirring twice. Cool almonds completely before serving. Store in an airtight container for up to 5 days.

From the website <http://www.webmd.com/food-recipes/spice-roasted-almonds-recipe>.

## IN MEMORIAM

### Arlin "Andy" Tolfred Anderson

February 14, 1923 ~ November 3, 2012

Longtime High Prairie resident, Andy Anderson, passed away on November 3, 2012. He was born in Rutland, South Dakota, the last of 14 children of Thom and Julia Anderson. At the outbreak of WW II, Andy enlisted in the Navy and served aboard several ships in the South Pacific. He retired from Crown Zellerbach in Camas, Wash. in 1985.

Shortly after retiring Andy moved to High Prairie with his wife, Sadie. He always enjoyed High Prairie and its wide open spaces, building his wife a new house so she would enjoy it with him. It was his home until the fall of 2011, when he moved to the Columbia Ridge Senior Living in Washougal, Washington.

Andy loved family reunions, which he helped organize. He was an avid hunter, including hunting deer every year on High Prairie and in the central Washington Cascades. He enjoyed his horses and was skilled at raising and training mules. He raised a few head of cattle every year. A skilled carpenter, he also did chainsaw carving and created highly detailed hand-carved artifacts.

Music and dancing brought Andy a lot of pleasure. He taught himself fiddling and the harmonica, and enjoyed participating in musical get-togethers. He sometimes played the harmonica with a group at the senior lunches at the Lyle Lions Club.

Andy also served as High Prairie's third Fire Chief, putting to use his experience as a firefighter in Camas before his retirement.

Andy is survived by his sons, Gerold (Barbara), Richard and James (Theresa); daughters, Janice and JoAnn; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren, and one on the way; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Sadie and by his special friend, Marcella Stein, a longtime resident of Lyle.

A memorial service was held in Camas on November 16, 2012.

*Bon Saute LMP*

Kelly Blanchard, Licensed Massage Practitioner

**425-319-1072**

<https://sites.google.com/site/bonsantelmp/>

[bonsanteLMPWA@gmail.com](mailto:bonsanteLMPWA@gmail.com)

**"Thoroughly relaxing Thursdays" at Morning Song Acres**

6 Oda Knight Rd. Lyle, Wa

\$45.00 for 60 minute massage and 20 minute hot tub soak

\$60.00 for 90 minute massage and 20 minute hot tub soak

Wellness and relaxation makes a great gift-Gift Certificates available!



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## WINTER'S COMING

Audrey Bentz and Gwen Berry

❄️ Will there be another storm like last winter where we lost power and driveways for up to a week? This is the time to get prepared for what we probably don't want to think about. The November issue of *Ruralite* includes an article, "Be Prepared for Outages," which we all should be read carefully. Store up water, make sure flashlight batteries are fresh, and have a cooler available to put outside the door to store water, milk and other often needed foods, so you can keep the refrigerator/freezer doors closed. Another trick—if you have solar lamps outdoors, simply bring them in for the dark hours, return them outside during the light hours, and you can then have safe, dependable night light when the power is off.

❄️ Being ready for The Big Winter Storm will be the topic of a presentation and conversation at the December 6 meeting of the HPCC. Starts at 7 p.m. at the Community Center. Come and trade tips and tricks for winter survival with your friends and neighbors. When we get hit by a storm like last year's, we're all in it together.

❄️ It would be helpful if people who are willing and available to plow driveways would make themselves known. If you're one of those, call or send an email to Gwen Berry (365-0025 or [pgwenberry@hotmail.com](mailto:pgwenberry@hotmail.com))

In case your memory of last year's storm ❄️ is faded, reread Jocelyn Week's wry observations and practical hindsight suggestions published in the March 2012 *High Prairian*.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO THE HIGH PRAIRIAN?

It's easy. Just email Gwen Berry ([pgwenberry@hotmail.com](mailto:pgwenberry@hotmail.com)) with your article.

Articles should be limited to 400–600 words, maximum (unless other arrangements have been made). You may include photos, however any content (articles, artwork, photos) should be original.

Deadlines for submission are the middle of the month prior to the month of publication (March, May, September, December).



We're in the home heating season now, a good time to take some precautions that can save lives and protect property.

"GIVE FIRE THE FINGER!" That memorable slogan was coined for an Austin, Texas, safety campaign. Every month, just put your finger on the test button on each of your smoke detectors (SD's). If it doesn't produce a loud alarm sound, put in a fresh battery. (Even better, install a new battery annually on your birthday or another date that reminds you of fire safety.) If it still doesn't sound, try cleaning the detector with the brush attachment on a vacuum.

If still no sound, replace that thing. Smoke detectors have a limited life, about ten years, and need replacement at some point. If you have one in the kitchen that alarms often, move it elsewhere and replace it with one of the new SDs that can be temporarily muted with a TV remote. There are also kitchen alarms with a burnt toast feature. Do not use rechargeable batteries as they self-discharge at a high rate and may become too weak to sound the "beep" that tells you the battery is exhausted.

Smoke detectors have a fantastic record for saving lives, but they only work when they are functioning properly. So give fire the finger today!

CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS are the newest life saving device being required in ALL homes and rentals in Washington State (as of January 1, 2013). (RCW 19.27.530(2)(a)) Carbon monoxide (CO) is a deadly, colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that displaces oxygen and can build up to toxic levels in homes and other structures like garages. It has roughly the same weight as air so does not pool or rise to the ceiling. Symptoms of CO poisoning in people include headache, dizziness, nausea, fatigue, confusion, and other flu-like symptoms. It is responsible for over 500 deaths and over 20,000 emergency room visits in the U.S. annually. In December, 2006, eight Washington residents died and over 1,000 went to the hospital after serious wind storms knocked out the power. Because residents had resorted to the indoor use of alternative sources of heat and power during the outages, the state is requiring even all-electric homes to be protected by CO detectors.

CO is emitted during the combustion of hydrocarbons like propane, natural gas, firewood, coal, oil, gasoline, kerosene and charcoal. Fuel burning devices like stoves, gas water heaters, grills, gas lanterns, Coleman fuel stoves, automobiles, generators, etc., can cause CO buildup in living spaces. Remember, if you warm up your car in the garage for an extended period with the garage door open, but close the door upon driving out, you leave the built-up CO level to seep into the attached house. Generators should never be used indoors for the same reason.

CO detectors should be installed on each level of the home and just outside at least one sleeping area where the occupants are likely to be awakened by the alarm. Follow the detector manufacturer's recommendations as to the correct placement; some suggest near the floor, others near the ceiling or at eye level, and always at least 15 ft. from any fuel-burning heat source.

### TIPS FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

If you are going to use a generator to charge your home during an outage, plan ahead and have an electrician install a switch that separates your home from the power lines. That could save the life of a lineman trying to restore your power.

Another winter precaution: clean that stove flue pipe. A stove pipe that is carboned up with creosote can ignite into a flue fire with disastrous results. Check out the articles in the December, 2011, issue of the High Prairian describing what to do in the event of a flue fire, how to clean the flue, how to safely dispose of the ashes, etc. It's available online at [www.highprairie.us](http://www.highprairie.us) if you didn't keep your copy.

Can we get to you in an emergency? For only \$25, Fire District volunteer Fred Henschell can make you an address sign and place it at the end of your driveway in as little as one day. If you don't know your house number you can get it from the county planning department. Fred also can order a reflective street sign if one is required on your road. The road name must be approved by the county. Give Fred a call at 365-5283.

One more thing—now that we can find you, can we get to your house? Be sure to keep your driveway plowed so emergency equipment can get in, turned around, and out again. Also, our structure engines are tall, so be sure to keep the trees pruned back to avoid damage to emergency lights, horns, etc.

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