



The High Prairian

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

Volume Two, Number One

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March, 2002

NOTICES

First Aid & CPR Classes: March 30th from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM at the Bentz.'s Cost is \$40.00.

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP: April 5 & 6 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Fire Hall. Rabanco will provide a dumpster. PLEASE, no appliances or hazardous waste.

DO NOT THROW AWAY USABLE ITEMS. SAVE FOR THIRD ANNUAL FIREHOUSE SALE: May 18 and 19, Fire Hall. Proceeds go to Fire District #14 and Neighborhood Association.

Fire Volunteers meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Fire Hall.

Fire Commissioners meet the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at Fire Hall.

High Prairie Neighborhood Association meets the 4th Thursday of each month at various homes at 7:00 PM.

High Prairie Historical Society meets quarterly on the 3rd Sunday of March, June, and September and the 1st Sunday in December beginning at 2:00 PM. The next meeting will be March 24th at the home of Myrin and Audrey Bentz (Morning Song Acres).

Youth Group will meet April 5th at 11:00 AM at the Bentz's.

Lyle School Board meets the next to last Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Boardroom.

When requesting medical assistance or reporting a fire CALL 911

2002 GRANT REQUEST FUNDED

Douglas Taylor

Our grant request to the Klickitat County Resource Development Council (RDC) for some much-needed maintenance on our equipment for \$19,000 was granted. Our request for fencing and other projects on the Struck Road property was funded to \$4,500. As members, we were asked by the Lyle School District to request \$2,000 for playground equipment for Dallesport School. This was also granted by the RDC.

It is the goal of the district Fire Commissioners to use these funds to get trucks running properly and equipped with needed tools. If all goes well we should be seeing some added improvements to property and equipment by this summer.

We were very fortunate that most requests by all districts were relatively small and most communities at least got their first request. We are very indebted to the County Commissioners for their forethought in funding various community priority projects. Without this funding it would be nearly impossible for a fire districts without an industrial base to accomplish some of our goals.

Many an optimist has become rich simply by buying out a pessimist.

--Laurence Peter

SO ARE YOU PREPARED?

Audrey Bentz

We all hope to never need to administer CPR or First Aid to a loved one or a guest in our home. But if it should happen, and we are trained, we may save a life. On March 30, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, a Red Cross class teaching the basics of CPR and First Aid will be offered at Morning Song Acres, the retreat facility operated by Myrin and Audrey Bentz at 6 Oda Knight Road (just off Struck Road off Centerville Hwy). The cost is \$40 (check should be made out to High Prairie Neighborhood Association - HPNA). You may bring a sack lunch, or a hot lunch will be provided for \$3.00. If interested, call (509) 365-3600, or email amsong@gorge.net.

UPCOMING HPNA MEETINGS

Lozetta Doll

The High Prairie Neighborhood Association Meetings will be held in Dolls' shop on March 28, April 25 and May 23. The May 23 meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. with a potluck barbeque. Hamburgers and hotdogs, coffee, paper plates and cutlery will be provided by the Dolls. Members may bring a salad, dessert or side dish

The High Prairian
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365-3242
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PIZZA ANYONE?

Lozetta Doll and Audrey Bentz

We are grateful to Jim and Penny Rutledge from the Lyle Hotel who have donated a used pizza oven to our community. Presently it is being stored at the Alecksons' until the community center is built. We can dream ahead to the pizza socials we can enjoy. When you enjoy a lunch or dinner at the Lyle Hotel, thank Jim or Penny!

THE LYLE SCHOOL DISTRICT SAYS THANK YOU

Cal Edwards, Lyle School Board

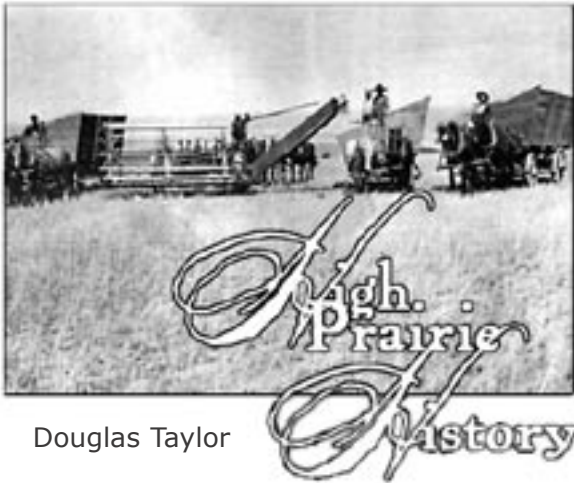
Thank all of you who supported the Lyle School Levy. Of the 623 people who voted, 418 of you voted yes, to approve the replacement levy. This is a 67% approval rating. I believe the School district will spend your money (and mine) wisely.

Although the State, and to a small degree the Federal government, provides most of the money to operate our schools, they would be very basic and probably less than successful without our local levy money.

I believe that passing these M&O levys is one of the important things we can do to protect the future of our communities. I also believe it is our obligation to the children of our community who are or will attend school. I want our graduates to be well enough educated so that they feel comfortable any where they go whether it's for additional education, work, or play. Of course I hope that all of those who want to can make their homes here in the Gorge.

Flattery is alright - if you don't inhale.

--Adlai Stevenson



Douglas Taylor

A poem by Nelia Binford Fleming early resident of High Prairie and author of *Sketches of Early High Prairie*.

Dear old High Prairie!
 Home of my childhood and youth;
 Home of romance and tragedy;
 Home of the coyote and rattlesnake;
 Home of high hills, of strong winds,
 Of heating storms, of wild flowers
 And endless canopies of blue sky.
 Home!

Neila Fleming writes of Mr. Chester Parshall the first white settler who brought his family

IN MEMORIAM:

compiled by Dona Taylor

Patrick Peppard passed away December 11, 2001 in The Dalles. He and his wife Rubylee had been property owners and residents of High Prairie since August of 1996. She passed away in 1999.

Thomas S. Parrish passed away December 17 2001 at his home in Centerville, WA. Tom and his wife Sharon came to High Prairie in 1997, and later purchased property and moved to Horseshoe Bend near Centerville.

Our sincerest condolences to their families.

to the Prairie in 1877 and built his log house. This first log house also served as a Post Office having several names and finally settling on Hartland The mail only came once a week.

The author's family came to the Prairie in 1884 many others had also arrived, many with children. The Parshalls were one of the families affected the tragedy of scarlet fever or diphtheria. One of the Parshall daughters, Hattie, along with eight other neighborhood children were stricken with the dreaded disease. They perished and so the Lone Pine Cemetery was established.

Mrs. Fleming relates that in the early days of Klickitat County bands of Indians roamed at will and Indian ponies were everywhere.

In these early years the first school house was built. Mrs. Fleming tells of riding a horse three and a half miles to school when she was nine years old. This was a one room, open ceiling building. She remembers bunch grass being plentiful and the snows the first winter being four feet deep. My father (Ben Taylor) tells of the many prairie chickens and grey squirrels that abounded the prairie when they arrived in 1919. The grey squirrels he recalls were much larger and not the ground squirrels or grey diggers that now are so plentiful now. The populations of skunks has ebbed and waned over the years also.

An interesting side note for me was a diary that was found of past resident Elsie Klein. She states on January 16, 1934 that it rained all day. She also tells of many local happenings and visits to and by neighbors.

A good spot on the internet to find history of Klickitat County and High Prairie is <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~westklic/index.html>. This spot hosted by the very able Jeff Elmer. I marvel at the information he has gathered. I find the articles about Sam Hill, the road builder of Klickitat Count, very interesting.

COUGAR STORIES



COUGAR IN THE NIGHT

Sharon Aleckson

Last October Arlen and I hydro-seeded around our house and had to move our dogs' "condo" to a location approximately 75 feet away from the back of our house. We tied Butchie up to the doghouse because our property wasn't completely fenced or gated and he likes to wander. Snickers usually found a cozy spot by the front door and would camp there for the night. About 2:00 AM one Saturday morning, Butchie started barking incessantly. I was elected to go out, untie him and put him in the garage. Sleepily, I put on my robe and slippers and brought my dog up to the garage.

The next day Arlen was talking with Paul Grimm who mentioned that he was returning home about 2:00 a.m. that morning. As he turned off Centerville Highway onto his road, off to the right was the biggest cougar that he had ever seen. That space would have been between Arlen's shop and Grimm's road. Could that have been what Butchie was barking at? Sometimes I wish dogs could talk. I'm sure Butchie would have had a story to tell.

A COUGAR STORY

Audrey Bentz

Last summer, while hosting a "Kids in the Country" event at our retreat facility, we had the children sleep on the deck so as to view the meteor display during the night, should they awaken.

Myrin and I and our two dogs were also sleeping on the far end of the deck. In the middle of the night, I heard the unmistakable wail of a cougar. At that moment the two dogs were also so alerted, and immediately took off, bounding right over the top of all 13 children. Evidently the dogs chased the cougar away; they returned and as we were nodding off to sleep again, one of the girls said, "Oh, my heart is still beating like crazy"! That was the last we heard of the cougar that night; hopefully the meteor display will be the more lasting memory for the kids!



STALKED BY A COUGAR

Lozetta Doll

There have been lots of stories in the news lately about cougar sightings. It seems even the city of Portland has it's share of wildlife. On a recent trip there we sighted a bald eagle and a coyote while driving on Marine Drive.

My favorite kind of cougar story is one that happens to someone else! Our son-in-law, Gary, was elk hunting with his bow and arrow in Idaho's Panhandle country two years ago. He applied some elk scent to his boots one morning and walked into the timber to sit in a ground blind. Coming to a likely spot, he stepped off

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FIRST RESPONDER

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A CANDIDATE

Fred Henschell

The High Prairie Volunteer Fire Department would like to select and train at least one more person as a first responder. Are you interested?

First responders are dispatched when ever there is a 911 call for medical assistance. They are much closer than the ambulance and are able to begin the life sustaining treatments which would otherwise have to wait until the ambulance crew arrives. Care received in the first 10 minutes following an accident or serious illness often makes the difference for survival and recovery.

First responders receive emergency medical training including CPR, and includes topics such as: care for victims of an accident, care for diabetics, care for persons suffering a heart attack or stroke, moving victims correctly and safely and a host of other topics. Training is periodically offered at nearby facilities. It is condensed and follows a state approved curriculum.

The High Prairie Neighborhood Association has offered to pay for the cost of training. Are you interested? Call Fred Henschell, 365-5283, or Chris Patrick, 365-2912 or Martha Hamil, 365-5459. Besides useful training, being a first responder is a great way to help your neighbors and serve the community.

SPRING BREAK YOUTH ACTIVITY!

Audry Bentz

On Friday, April 11, at 11:00 AM, all High Prairie Youth are invited to come to Morning Song Acres (the Bentz's at 6 Oda Knight Road) for a special spring break activity. Prior to lunch, Arlen Aleckson will give a special talk and demonstration on "gun handling and safety" for those who are interested. There will

be other craft activities for others. Then, after lunch, we will car pool for an outing— to be announced later. Let us know if you have an idea... So see you at 11 on the 11th! Questions? Call 365-3600.

Third Annual Gigantic Firehouse Sale

Martha Hamil

Please mark your calendars for May 18th and 19th, the dates of our sale. Let's make this the biggest and best and most profitable yet! To do so, we need donations of goods and services. The Fire District and the High Prairie Neighborhood Association split the profits.

Goods can be anything from antiques to zebras, no trash however. However, if you are donating either or other valuable items, please contact someone on the committee prior to May 1st. We will then arrange for special advertising and/or perhaps an auction. Goods can be brought to the Old Church at Taylors' before May 16. After that, please bring them to the Fire Hall. If you are unable to deliver your donations, you may call a committee member for pickup.

Volunteers are needed during the week of the sale. We have openings for help cleaning the goods, moving goods from the Church to the Firehall, pricing and marking, goods pickup, pricing and marking, and setup before the sale. During the sale, we need a variety of helpers to cashier, park the customers, help with the goods, handle the food, and generally keep things moving. We also need help with the takedown and cleanup after the sale. Volunteering is good for soul and helps our community.

The Committee Members are: Arlen and Sharon Aleckson (Co-Chairs), 365-4429; Sharon Aleckson (Food); Sharon Edwards (Setup) 365-3563; Dona Taylor and Ric Palmer (Publicity) 365-3242; and Martha Hamil (General Dogsboddy) 365-5459.

ACKNOWLEDGING COMMUNITY SERVICE: MYRIN & AUDREY BENTZ

Douglas Taylor



Having been a Lutheran pastor in Kansas City, MO, Anchorage, Alaska and (nearly 30 years) in Portland, Oregon, Myrin and wife Audrey began a small group retreat venture here at High Prairie. They loved the beauty and peacefulness of the area, as well as the many new friendships with residents. The main focus of their retreat ministry has been to encourage their guests to grow in their respect and awe for nature, to celebrate the beauty and songs of the birds, to enjoy the sunrises and sunsets, the wild flowers, the amazing star-studded sky at night, and to savor the simple gifts of life. They called their property "Morning Song Acres", remembering how when they first "camped out" before having any buildings, they would awaken (just before dawn) to the songs of the coyotes howling, then, at dawn, roosters crowing in the distance, followed by the melodic songs of the meadowlarks.

When the 20 acres adjacent to their land was put on the market, they hope to preserve the serene atmosphere, and so found a way to add this property to their own. At the same time, the Bentz's were so impressed by the community support of their retreat program, that they wanted to show that gratefulness in a concrete way. Knowing of the great need for the firefighters to have access to a good dependable water supply, and sharing the wish

for a future community center for High Prairie activities, Myrin and Audrey decided to donate 1-1/2 acres of that "Rumsey" property to the High Prairie Neighborhood Association and Fire District No. 14.

Myrin and Audrey have not only contributed land to the community, but this particular parcel came already developed including productive water well with pump installed and electricity. This property has great road frontage easily accessible for fillup by fire trucks. The district has already placed a 14,000-gallon tank and installed a 500 gallon per minute pump. This thanks to grant funds awarded through Klickitat County Resource Development Council with money provided by County Commissioners from the Rabanco landfill project. This property has excellent potential for accommodating a future community meeting building. This is one of our next real goals.

For the relatively short time as community members, Myrin and Audrey have taken an active part in community affairs. They have been involved and supportive of community functions helping wherever needed. Myrin has been an active member of our local fire department and they have made their home available to neighborhood meetings.

You have not really lived until you have tasted Myrin's Bratwurst and Audrey's fine gourmet cooking. I think some of the worlds finest cooks have migrated to High Prairie and I personally have enjoyed many of their creations.

We are certainly blessed as a community to have such caring and supportive residents as neighbors. This is certainly one of the fine places to stop while visiting High Prairie. Their website <http://www.morningsongacres.com>.

STALKED BY A COUGAR

(cont'd. from page 4)

the game trail a few yards to watch for game.

Before long he noticed movement and realized that a cougar was tracking him! The cougar stopped at the spot where Gary had stepped off the game trail and looked right at him. Gary yelled, but instead of bounding off the cougar disappeared and circled in to the side of him. When Gary next saw the cougar it was 12 feet away. Gary drew his bow and again yelled at the cougar, but the only response from the cougar was a side-to-side head bob. At that point Gary shot at the cougar with his bow and the cougar ran one way and Gary ran the other.

Later in the day, accompanied by his hunting partner and a wildlife ranger, he returned to the scene and they tracked the cougar with no success. It did not appear to the ranger that the arrow had seriously wounded the cougar. The ranger told them that cats employ a side-to-side head bob to range their prey prior to attacking. They further discovered that the cat had followed Gary down the hill for approximately 150 yards before they lost his trail.

STRAITS CELEBRATING 65 WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

David Strait

Paul Strait and Gladys Newton met at Chehalem Center Church in Newberg, Oregon. Gladys is the 2nd of 7 children and was born on a homestead in Montana, but moved to Newberg when she was 18 months old. Paul was born on a farm in Newberg, the 3rd of 5 children. They were married in Chehalem Center Church on June 20, 1937. They lived in Newberg for several years before moving to Salem, Oregon. Daughter Paula was 8 and son

Glen was 4 when they moved to an 80-acre farm in Molalla, Oregon. They had no electricity or running water at first, so the arrival of twins David and Donny made for an interesting time. Louise was born during the year they spent at a sawmill in California. From California they moved to the Oregon Coast, near Oceanside. They lost Glen to a drowning accident when he was 16. Dad worked for Diamond Lumber Company and then opened his own machine shop – Coastal Machine Works – in Tillamook. While working in the lumber industry, Dad designed and built a portable keyway cutter, allowing a new keyway to be cut in a shaft without removing it. He traveled around the NW demonstrating this machine and in 1967 they moved back to Newberg and started Climax Mfg. Co. Mom has always been an avid gardener but gardening at the coast is difficult, so she enjoyed the move back to Newberg where she was able to grow beautiful gardens. Mom is also an excellent cook and pianist, and has usually played the piano at the churches they have attended over the years. They have 19 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren.

Seven years ago, we moved to the High Prairie area and Mom and Dad fell in love with the mountain view and dry climate of High Prairie. Three years ago, now in their 80's, they moved up here. They always wanted to live where they could see the sunrise and sun set and they have fulfilled that dream.

Mom and Dad love visitors and have many wonderful tales to tell of sailboat trips to the South Pacific, boat trips to Alaska, time spent in South America, etc. So stop in and see them soon.

The huge functional wind generator erected by their house is a dead giveaway for the Straits abode on High Prairie road. Paul is very much involved in his many projects. Certainly a very interesting couple to visit. We wish to congratulate them and wish them many more.

Your Committee for the Community Center (CCC), in their need to ascertain the frequency and type of use for a possible public building on the newly acquired Struck Road property, needs your input.

Please indicate your ideas, tear out of the newsletter, and mail back to the committee by April 12. Thank you for your assistance.

Further questions or concerns can be directed to:
Ron Momb (momb@gorge.net; phone 365-6820)

Greg Hayrynen (mr89er@gorge.net; phone 365-4472) or
Audrey Bentz (amsong@gorge.net; phone 365-3600)

A. How are you using your land, or projected use of your land? Are you a:

- permanent resident,
- weekend resident, or
- absentee owner?

If one of the latter two, do you expect to reside on your land in the next five years? Yes No

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

B. Which of the following ways do you think you might find useful in a community center?

- Family reunions, birthday/anniversary parties
- Cub/Boy/Girl Scout/ 4-H groups
- Classes (exercise, art, CPR, paramedic, etc)
- Emergency housing (fire, etc.)
- Historical Group meetings
- High Prairie Neighborhood Association meetings
- Special Fund-raisers and holiday parties
- Firefighter training Social - "pizza parties"
- Teen events Weddings, funerals
- Child Day care facility Religious services
- Other _____

Return to:

CCC
P.O. Box 592
Lyle, WA 98635