



The High Prairian

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

Volume 3, Number 2

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June, 2003

NOTICES

Fire Volunteers meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Fire Hall.

Fire Commissioners meet the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at Fire Hall.

High Prairie Neighborhood Association meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. The August 28, 2003 meeting will begin with an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social. Come to Lowell & Mary Turner's place, 440 Schilling Road, at 6:00 PM to enjoy the social get-together.

High Prairie Historical Society is held quarterly on the 4th Sunday of March, June, and September and the 1st Sunday of December beginning at 2:00 PM. Next meeting is June 22 at Martha Hamil's. Everyone is welcome.

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

2003 Burn Ban Begins: Fire District 14 has imposed an outdoor burning ban as of June 10 due to drying conditions.

When requesting medical assistance or reporting a fire CALL 911

HIGH PRAIRIE HAS A WEB SITE

Cindy Henschell

Whether you want get a back-issue of *The High Prairian*, or if you want to read the minutes of the Neighborhood Association, Historical Society, or the Fire Commissioners' meetings or if you want a convenient way show friends and relatives your community, visit our web site:

<http://www.highprairie.us>

GOVERNOR LOCKE VISITS LYLE

Douglas Taylor



June 3, 2003 - Gov. Gary Locke flew in to Dallesport today visiting Klickitat County as part of a statewide "Jobs Now" tour, promoting his capital budget and economic recovery plan to create jobs now, spur the state's economy and build for the future.

Locke participated in a groundbreaking ceremony at the Port of Klickitat to kickoff construction of the third building at the port to receive funding from the state Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB). CERB helps fund infrastructure for economic development in rural areas.

Locke also promoted his capital budget and economic recovery plan during his visit to the port. His capital budget supports new private-sector jobs at an annual average of 13,400 construction and related jobs during the next two fiscal years, and 11,000 jobs in the following two fiscal years.

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WELCOME NEW COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Dona Taylor

James and Francine Lehman
 Earl and Dorothy Kemp
 Claude and Blanche Johnson
 Jerry and Jackie Carroll
 Cliff Newport and Jane Delpine
 Matt and Eve Johnson
 Dan and Frances Hartford
 Tom and Veretta Mott
 Mitchell and Angela Sandy

Thanks for your support!

COMMUNITY BARBEQUE

Tom and Lozetta Doll hosted their third annual community barbeque on May 22, 2003 after which the High Prairie Neighborhood Association meeting was conducted. Tom grilled the hamburgers and hotdogs and the guests brought food to share with the group. It was a little better attended than last year's barbeque. Some of the area's newcomers came and got better acquainted. It's a great way to wind down after all of the hard work putting on the Firehouse Sale.

It isn't our position, but our disposition, that makes us happy.

~Anon.

The High Prairian

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365-3242

email: highprairie@gorge.net
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FIREHOUSE SALE BIG SUCCESS

Sharon Aleckson

The Fourth Annual HPNA Firehouse Sale held on May 17th and 18th was very successful. Buyers arrived early Saturday morning to buy a cup of coffee and a pastry before the doors opened at 9:00. Some strolled through the gardening area admiring the beautiful plants that would soon be for sale. Others lined up in front of the big doors waiting anxiously to be the "first" 'to see the many items waiting for just the right buyer. A few wanted one of Myrin's bratwurst for breakfast but said they would shop and visit until the brats were ready. Sunday was very busy too. Many people had such a good time on Saturday they came back on Sunday to see what was "new". Others heard about the sale from friends or neighbors and stopped by to check things out. That weekend the High Prairie neighbors had something for everyone: great bargains, delicious foods, home-made baked goods, a smile or a helping hand just in case you couldn't carry all those items that you purchased to your car or truck.

To those who participated in any way to our sale: if you donated items, worked on any of the organizing committees, volunteered to help, or purchased items at the sale ... THANK YOU!!!!!! YOU helped to make this event a successful fundraiser for our community.

The gross proceeds for this event totaled over \$4,100.00. After all the bills have been paid, the net proceeds will be divided between the High Prairie Volunteer Fire Department and the High Prairie Neighborhood Association.

For those people who like to plan ahead, now is the time to start saving items for next year's sale. We will definitely be needing them. On the other hand, there are some of us who would rather not think about another firehouse sale— at least not for a while anyway.

ADDRESS AND ROAD SIGNS

Cal Edwards

The High Prairie Fire Department is continuing its sign project as a fundraiser / community service project. The signs make it easier for emergency services to find your home, especially in the dark. The Fire Department sells both the blue address signs and the green road signs. Call Cal Edwards for more information (365-3563)

GOVERNOR LOCKE

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These jobs would come from the \$2.5 billion in spending for new public-works funding, including \$223 million in new construction at universities and \$312 million at community and technical colleges through bonding against lottery revenue and general obligation bonds.

The Lyle Senior Dinner held every Tuesday at noon was honored with the arrival of Governor Locke and entourage. Also attending the dinner was County commissioner Joan Frey, Dana Peck, Tom Seifert and Kathy Norton from the Klickitat County Economic office. Governor Locke thanked the volunteer dinner providers for their generous contributions. He also stepped up and helped the servers with their much-appreciated service. Side note: My wife and I were both served our dinner by Governor Locke.

Also today, the governor visited Lyle High School, where he answered questions from students and promoted the 2003 Governor's Summer Reading Challenge. Locke started the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge last year as a way to encourage Washington students to keep reading during the summer.

He is challenging students ages 18 and younger to read at least 15 hours by Labor Day (Sept. 1) as part of any summer reading program or just on their own. Students who meet the governor's challenge and let him know via e-mail or letter will receive a signed certificate from the governor and become eligible for a grand prize trip for four to Disneyland, courtesy of Disneyland and Alaska Airlines.

HIGH PRAIRIE NIGHT AT THE LYLE HOTEL

Lozetta Doll

On March 26, 2003, a number of High Prairie residents descended on the Lyle Hotel for dinner and put Chef Mike Dority's skills to the test. It was a fun event and well worth repeating. In appreciation, owners Jim and Penny Rutledge donated \$1.00 to the community center fund for each High Prairie diner in attendance on that evening. They also donated some \$2.00 coupons that were given out at the Firehouse Sale to people with large purchases.

The Lyle Hotel was featured in the February issue of the *Sunset* magazine and many High Prairie residents wish the Rutledges continued success.



2003 GRADUATES

Cal Edwards

Lyle School District High School Graduation was on June 6. Seven of the graduates are from the High Prairie area: **Dustin Biggs** would like to go into robotics; **Lindsey Blaine** will be attending Purdue University; **Jim Bodolay** will enter the US Navy and intends to become an aviator; **Amy Korri** will attend Clark College and wants to become a nurse; **Kailee Myers** will attend Columbia Gorge Community College and will become a receptionist; **Matthew Palmer** will attend Arizona State University and want to become a pediatrician; **Daniel Slate** wants to attend a technical college and heavy equipment school.

We want these students to know how proud we are of them and that we wish them the best of luck in the future. Moreover, of course, we hope that they will all return to the gorge in the near future.

LYLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

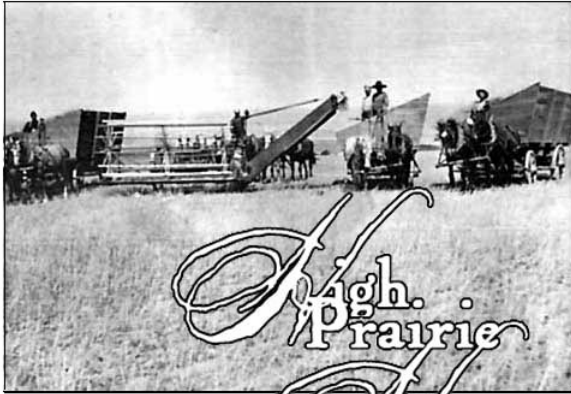
Cal Edwards

On June 9th, twenty-seven 8th grade students were promoted to High School. Three of the students are High Prairie residents. They are **Jessica Jersey**, **Raquel Rappe**, and **Chandon Wolff**. Our community now has only four years to help these students get ready to be adults. Let's go out of our way to help prepare them.

CATTLE GUARD IDEA

Bob Edwards

For folks with fenced property who have been having problems with roaming cattle coming into your yards we have found an easy way to deter them without having to shut the gates all the time. I built a cattle guard using pressure treated 2x4's spaced four inches apart and a full 8 feet wide by as long as the opening. Under the 2x4's I have 1x6's to keep the 2x4's spaced. We have had cattle roaming up and down our road and they don't seem to want to cross the guard. Plus we don't have to shut our gate every time we go out.



Douglas Taylor

High.
Prairie
History

HIGH PRAIRIE PIONEERS: SCOTT AND AGNES BEATTIE

Scott Robert Beattie was born in a sod house, January 8, 1882 near Grand Island, Nebraska. He was the son of Robert and Emma Hughes Beattie. When he was 4 years old, his family moved to Wasco County, Oregon. The following year his parents established a homestead on Juniper Flat near Tygh Valley and here he grew to manhood.

As a young man in the "wild west" Scott Beattie worked as a sheepherder, cowboy, freight team driver and wheat ranch hand. He was working in San Francisco in 1906 during the great earthquake and fire.

On September 18, 1912 he was united in marriage to Agnes Jane McKenzie of Adams Oregon, whose family were pioneers and wheat farmers of that area. After their marriage in Seattle, they came directly to High Prairie where they started wheat farming on the Geisendorffer property on the east side of High Prairie. [Editor Note: This property is along Schilling Road where we leave a fire district water trailer in the summer.] After farming here for a time they moved to the present farm on the west side of the Prairie when they purchased 480 acres from M. Z. Donnell in 1919. Here they raised their wheat along with alfalfa, cattle, and hogs. Beside their farmland, they owned pastureland on the breaks of the Klickitat River for their cattle. They built a new house on the property in 1937 where they lived and ranched until their retirement in 1954. That year they moved to White Salmon where they resided until his death in 1963 at the age of 81. Agnes passed in 1968.

The Beatties encouraged their children Roberta, Willard, and Ronald to continue their education. The children all graduated from the Hartland High

School. Roberta went to Business College in Portland. Willard graduated from University of Washington with a civil engineering degree and Ronald graduated from University of Washington with an aeronautical engineering degree. This was an almost unheard of accomplishment in those days.

The Beatties tried to slow down in later years and hired a young man to help run the farm. They converted a garage on the property to a nice house for him and his family to live. This house was eventually purchased by Don Brashers and moved to its present location on the Geisendorffer property now owned by Norm White of Portland. Wilbur Johnson and his family were next to live on the Beattie place, farming and raising livestock for several years until his retirement.

The Beatties had two shallow wells on their place along with a cistern above their house. Roberta told me they would pump water from the wells to the cistern on the hill when water was plentiful. Then if the wells started to draw down they would have their supply from the cistern under gravity flow. They always used water directly from the cistern; thus keeping it partially full in times of abundance was a necessity.

The Beatties were considered some of the superior farmers of the area, always having good crops, well-maintained fences, and being civic-minded as well. They both were well-respected neighbors. The Beatties were members of Columbia Grange No. 87 of Lyle. Scott was on the local school board and helped to build and maintain the local farmer telephone line. Roberta told me that in the early days this line did not hook up to a

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PIONEERS

Poem by Mrs. Lola Copeland

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following poem, written by a former High Prairie resident, Mrs. Lola "Tate" Copeland, Mrs. Copeland grew up in the High Prairie area many years ago.

What memories are ours today
We old-young pioneers
What wisdom have we all acquired
Thru all the passing years.

Our memories are of rugged hills
Of mountains wild and steep
Of summers hot and arid days
Of snow that drifted deep.

Of wheat-fields ripening in the sun
Of lovely flowers in spring
Of prairie green, or brown and sere
Of song birds on the wing.

Of that old school-house mid the trees
With battered desks, and board
Of happy children gathered there
Who scanty knowledge stored.

Old battered walls, where wind and rain
Found access to the room
A black-board, desk, tin dipper, pail,
A stove, a half-worn broom.

We carried water from a well
A good half-mile away
With eagerness we claimed the boon
Our time to go today.

We passed the pail from seat to seat
The water and the cup,
From which each thirsty child would drink
The last drop lapping up.

No thought of germs disturbed our peace
We chewed each other's gum
Whole families bathed in the same tub
When Saturday evening come.

Boys' pants were made from Dads old clothes
The girls' from flour sacks,
Not current style, but warmth asked
To cover up our backs.

And when we wandered home at night,
And gathered round the board
Our mothers served good filling food
The best she could afford.

A tea-bone steak from slick-ear calf
A kettle full of beans
The syrup jug was always full
We lived within our means.

Our Father reverently gave thanks
To God for all our food
For every blessing that we had
For all He did was good.

When our boy friends a courting came
Horse-back on Sunday night
He put side-saddle on cayuse
And cinched it good and tight

We donned a big long riding skirt
Down to the horse's knees,
We took our riding whip and spurs,
Some stylish if you please.

We stepped into our escort's hand
Leaped lightly into space
And-landed on the horse's back
With dignity and grace.

Those pioneers who blazed the trail'
Who broke the prairie's sod ,"
Who built their homes, their schools, their church
In which to worship God.

Have left a lasting heritage
A precious memory
And God will bless the work they did
For you and you and me.

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central line for long distance. To call long distance one had to go to the Lester Omeg home and place a call through his line to Wahkiacus. One can imagine that long distance calls were made very infrequently. Gary and Peyt Turner presently own the Lester Omeg home at the north end of Schilling Road.

After finishing her education Roberta went to work in Bingen as a bookkeeper for the Star Fruit Company. She eventually married Mr. John Childs, the manager of that company. They went to live in White Salmon on land with pasture and small cherry orchard. They eventually built a new home where Roberta still resides. Roberta is still active in many High Prairie functions.

Roberta and her Brother Ronald still manage the Beattie property which is custom farmed by Tom Amery.



MORE SIGHTINGS OF BIRDS

Bev Edwards

After reading the very interesting article in the last issue of The High Prairian regarding birds seen in the area I would like to add more to the list. We have been fortunate enough to see curlews in the ponds on Schilling Road which are supposed to be quite rare and normally not in this area. Also seen are magpie, goldfinches, yellow rumped warbler, red winged blackbirds, the shrike, horned lark, seagulls, meadowlark, kildeer, swallows, red headed sapsuckers, and all kinds of swallows.

We have found that if we use a round ball shaped feeder for small song birds which has four openings the larger birds cannot get into the feeders. These feeders hold 1 lb. of sunflower seeds. We have an abundance of small birds that have remained here all winter which we have thoroughly enjoyed watching.

*The pessimist complains about the wind;
The optimist expects it to change;
The realist adjusts the sails.*

~William Arthur Ward

LAND PLEDGED BY PAST RESIDENTS

Douglas Taylor

Former High Prairie residents Ron and Irene Olin of Pasco, Washington have pledged to donate land to Fire District 14 for the establishment and use of a fire hall on Schilling Road. This is a most welcome land donation to the District. We have been actively seeking land in that vicinity to install a building to house District trucks so we can get most if not all residents a lower fire insurance rating. This location will put us in the best possible location to cover patrons in the east end of our District.

We are so gratified to have the good will of landowners in our District. We would not be able to finance a purchase of this magnitude for several years. With this donation and a possible building donation, we may be able to construct many years sooner. Their website is <http://www.rcolinhomes.com>. Check them out.



4-H NEWS

Martha Parsons, Rocky Mountain Hillbillies

- Horse Camp at Goldendale Fair Grounds June 24–26 by Nancy Beyerlin.
- Goat Kids Showmanship pointers in Lyle by Ruth Slate.
- Yard Sale planned for July 19th in Lyle.

We are still collecting pop cans for fair entry and T-shirts until August 1st.

We had a petting zoo at the Lyle Pioneer Days and sold houseplants.

The photo album raffle made \$45.00. They are planning to do a petting zoo at Klickitat Canyon Days July 26th at old baseball field (goats, ducks, chicks, kittens, pigs, geese and a calf).

The Glenwood horse clinic and show went very well. 4-Hers learned a lot and applied their skills to blue and red ribbons. The Holdem and Ridem High 4-H club sponsored it.

Everyone is looking forward to the Klickitat County fair and Rodeo August 20–24.

SUMMER GARDENING TIPS

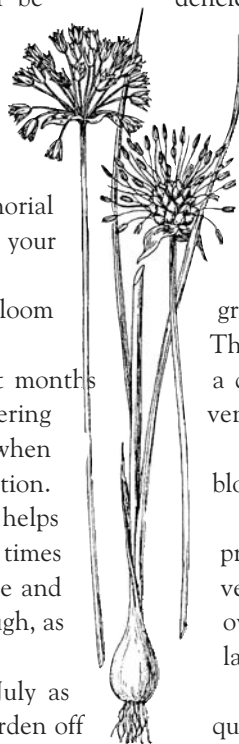
Judy Strait, WSU Master Gardener

Summer is here! It got up to 100 at our house yesterday. During these hot months it can be difficult to keep lawns green and healthy. They need at least 1" of water per week so water deeply once or twice a week, depending on temperature and soil moisture. Water when the top 1-2" of soil are dry and saturate the soil to a depth of 5-6". Fertilize lawns on Memorial Day, the Fourth of July and Labor Day. Mow your lawn regularly to a height of about 2".

Roses should be fertilized after the first bloom using a 10-5-5 or 6-10-4 fertilizer.

The key to healthy plants during the hot months of summer is water - water - WATER! Watering lawns and gardens in the early morning, when temperatures are lower, will minimize evaporation. In addition to a regular watering schedule, it helps to deep water trees and shrubs a couple of times during the summer. Put a hose at the drip line and let it drip overnight. Avoid over watering though, as this can cause root rot.

Don't fertilize trees or shrubs after mid-July as this can encourage new growth that won't harden off in time to avoid winter injury. Side dress vegetables and annual flowers with fertilizer though.



Blossom-end rot on tomatoes is caused by calcium deficiency, which is aggravated by fluctuating soil moisture. Using mulch helps to conserve water and maintain even soil moisture. If you detect bacterial or fungal leaf spots on tomato or potato plants, pull them out and destroy them before the problem spreads.

July is the time to harvest garlic and onions. When the stalks begin to yellow, stop watering, bend them down flat on the ground and wait for them to yellow completely. Then dig the bulbs and allow them to dry for a day or two in a shaded spot. Store in a cool, ventilated, dry place.

Annual and perennial flowers will continue blossoming if you pinch off the faded flowers.

Over-ripe fruit and vegetables on a plant will prevent smaller fruit from developing. Harvest vegetables as they ripen and before they get oversized and tough (Like that zucchini that hid last summer!)

Have a great summer. If you have any questions about gardening you can call me at 365-5258. If I don't know the answer, I'll do some research and find it.

Happy Gardening!

SHOES FOR KIDS PROGRAM

Ron Momb

Ron & Batya Momb have begun a special program that provides shoes for needy children in our communities. The program is currently serving the Lyle, Dallesport and White Salmon-Bingen areas.

Ron said, "I think the program works because it is very simple." Ron goes to a community or church group and explains the program and hands out un-addressed postcards that say on the back, "I wish to help a school age young person by purchasing a new pair of shoes for them." The volunteers then sign the back and address the front of the postcard to themselves and return the cards to Ron.

When Ron hears of a child who needs a new pair of shoes he fills in the rest of the card. The information provided is: A boy or girl, the shoe size and if the shoes are for school or dress or gym. It is requested that a new pair of shoes is left within seven days at the closest

drop off location.

The current drop off locations are the United Methodist Church in White Salmon and Ron and Batya's home in the High Prairie area.

Ron is quick to explain, "The program is not connected with any church, congregation or organization, and since February 15, we are happy to report that volunteers have provide more than fifty children in this area with a new pair of shoes.

The Shoes for Kids program has been working mainly with the Head Start Programs in Dallesport and White Salmon. We have also received requests for shoes from the elementary and middle schools in Dallesport and White Salmon and from the Youth Center and Family Services in White Salmon.

We have received many thank you notes from grateful parents explaining that because of the generosity of the people in our area,

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their children now have their first pair of new shoes.

Teachers have also told us that until the Shoes for Kids program came along, the only way that they could make sure that a needy child had shoes was for the teachers themselves to buy the child the shoes.

Several of the people who have bought shoes have told us how much fun they had doing so, and they also insisted that they buy socks or even a second pair of shoes for the child as well. One couple signed ten cards because they found that they like helping the kids in our area.

"We were especially gratified when we heard that some low-income parents from the Head Start Program in Dallesport have formed a group that wants to buy, as a group, a pair of shoes for a child as well. Also, several teachers and principals have bought shoes for the children."

Because the program is new, Ron and Batya do not know what the need will be during the summer for shoes, but they would like to be prepared to provide a new pair of shoes to any child who has a need.

If you would like to volunteer to buy a new pair of shoes for a child in our area, please call Ron or Batya at 365-6820.

WATER CONSERVATION

John Grim

Greetings High Prairians!

Over the years I have followed with interest the various legends, myths, and folklore regarding the groundwater resource on the High Prairie. I have been working on water resource projects in Klickitat County for about six years now and feel I am just getting a handle on where water is and where it ain't. One of the places it ain't is the High Prairie. Of course, we do have groundwater but it is present in very limited quantities in most areas of the High Prairie, especially from Struck Road to Swale Canyon. There is a good reason the farms on the High Prairie are dry-land farms.

You may have noticed that once you cross into Centerville Valley there are irrigated farms. Swale Canyon and/or a small fault near the Canyon act as a dam preventing groundwater in the Centerville Valley aquifer from flowing into the High Prairie aquifer. This barrier, along with the Columbia Hills to the South, results in isolation of the High Prairie aquifer. In other words, the water in our wells comes from the rain falling on the High Prairie and nowhere else. Don't believe the legend about our groundwater coming from Mt. Adams; it just isn't true.

While there are some good wells on the High Prairie, e.g. with capacity exceeding 50 gpm, it is likely that sustained pumping of these wells at these rates will result in a steady decline of the groundwater. Fractured basalt rock aquifers tend to have localized storage; once used up, recharge to the well slows down and the water table drops. The true sustainable capacity of a well can only be determined by a long-term pump test at a rate resulting in a stabilized water level. For this reason, the capacity of most wells on the High Prairie is really unknown.

My purpose in providing this background information is to provide property owners with information necessary to understand the need for conservation of the limited water resource on the High Prairie. As the High Prairie develops, especially in areas zoned for five acres, it is probable that wells will begin to interfere with each other. This is already happening in some areas of the High Prairie. The limited recharge of the High Prairie aquifer (we get about 15-inches of rain a year) simply cannot provide groundwater for a significant amount of development, unless it is used wisely. Once well interference occurs and property values are impaired, it is likely that local or state agencies will impose restrictions on groundwater development and/or use. For this reason it is important that we all practice water conservation. Proactive actions on our part can prevent a loss of property rights due to regulation. Some things you can do include:

- ❖ Use drought tolerant species of plants. Don't install a lawn unless you absolutely must. If you do, make it small and use a drought tolerant grass.
- ❖ Water early in the morning or in the evening. When you water on a hot windy day, about 90% of the water is lost to evapotranspiration. That means it's gone from the High Prairie hydrologic cycle for good.
- ❖ Don't use more than 5,000 gallons per day of water in any day of the year unless you have a water right.
- ❖ Monitor your wells drawdown over time to identify if you are mining the aquifer.

These steps will help to ensure sustainable use of our water supply. I know many of the High Prairie natives have a wealth of knowledge about groundwater in our area and I welcome any feedback from you about this article. Please feel free to call or email me at my office in Lyle anytime if you have any questions or comments. Phone: 365-5421, email: jgrim@gorge.net.

FIRE DISTRICT 14

Dona Taylor

This month it is our pleasure to introduce to the community our local volunteer firefighters and commissioners. A big THANKS to all of you!



Photo: Shannon Hess/Nayland Wilkins

High Prairie Volunteer Firefighters, First Responders and Fire Commissioners

Doug Hutchison, Fire Chief
Paramedic, Training Officer

Al Aleckson
Firefighter, Vehicle Mtc. Officer, Advanced First Aid

James Amery
Firefighter, Advanced First Aid

Tom Amery
Firefighter, Advanced First Aid

Myrin Bentz
Firefighter, Advanced First Aid

Tim Darland
Firefighter, Advanced First Aid

Cal Edwards
Firefighter, First Responder

Phil Haner
Firefighter, Advanced First Aid

Fred Henschell
Firefighter, Advanced First Aid

Shannon Hess
EMT Trainee

Lauri Hutchison
Firefighter, EMT and EMS Coordinator

Chris Patrick
Assistant Fire Chief, Advanced First Aid

Ramona Searle
Assistant Fire Chief, Advanced First Aid

Nayland Wilkins
Firefighter, Advanced First Aid

Commissioners

Fred Henschell, Chair
Chris Patrick
Doug Taylor
Cindy Henschell, Secretary

RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY SERVICE: ARLEN AND SHARON ALECKSON

Lozetta Doll

Arlen and Sharon Aleckson are relatively new residents of High Prairie, having lived here since only 2000 but they are surely not newcomers in terms of their participation in community activities and organizations and in their friendships they have formed with many High Prairie residents. Outgoing and ambitious, they are already well known in the area. Arlen is a volunteer fireman and Sharon is treasurer of the High Prairie Neighborhood Association as well as chairing the annual Firehouse Sale for the past two years.

The Alecksons lived in Gresham from the time of their marriage in 1968 until their move to this area. Arlen was a fireman with the Portland Fire Bureau for 20 years. Sharon taught elementary education in the Reynolds School District for 25 years. Their son, John, attended primary and secondary schools in Oregon and college in California where he was awarded a full golf scholarship. He is now working for the Washington State Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries in Washougal, Washington.

In about 1997, as Arlen's retirement was nearing, he started looking to buy property in the White Salmon/Lyle area. Arlen and Sharon enjoy competitive bass fishing and many of their tournaments brought them to this general area. Plus they were looking to get away from the city and finding a place with less rain and more sunshine. In their search for a home, they kept coming back to a particular house on Centerville Highway and finally ended up spending a night there in their camper so Sharon could watch the sun come up. She liked the sunrise she saw the next morning and decided the place felt like it could be home to her. Arlen didn't waste any time in making an offer on the house before she could change her mind. Her early apprehensions about not being busy enough here were quickly put to rest.



Besides the above-mentioned community activities, Sharon substitute teaches at Lyle, Goldendale, White Salmon, Centerville, Klickitat and Dallesport. She belongs to the Lyle Gleaners, a local book club, the Senior Advisory Council for Klickitat County, and works on the High Prairian Newsletter. They purchased some farmland off Schilling Road and Arlen is busily acquiring machinery so he'll be ready for this year's alfalfa cuttings. When he isn't busy with farming, you will generally find him in his fabricating shop where he always has many projects in progress. He enjoys restoring cars, engine repair and metal work. He belongs to the Mid Columbia Car Club.

Arlen and his brother were born in Portland, Oregon. Their parents had moved to Portland from Minnesota. His mother, Marian, taught school for many years in the Reynolds School District. Now retired, she lives in Portland. Arlen's father has been deceased for many years. Sharon grew up in Spokane, Washington. Her mother lives in Palm Desert and her father

in San Francisco.

Arlen and Sharon share their home with a brown Lab, Snickers, who is a devoted guardian, and a Malamute-Newfoundland named Butchie. You will often see Butchie riding in the back of the Alecksons' pickup, his very favorite place to be. Sharon brought Butchie home shortly after Arlen told her he did not want a husky! Sharon couldn't resist such a beautiful puppy. Butchie became a blood donor for the Dove Lewis Animal Shelter in Portland. Not many dogs are qualified for this distinction.

Arlen and Sharon look forward to spending their retirement years among the good people of this community. With the Alecksons here, High Prairie is an even better place to live.

MY VIEW FROM THE PRAIRIE: SARS

Icey Sheeran

Surely, all of us who watch TV, listen to the radio or read world news are well aware of the strong concern regarding severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). I was asked to write a short synopsis of what is known about SARS, to date, for the newsletter. Below is a brief overview gleaned from articles I have reviewed on this subject. The majority of them come from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). These two organizations and other partners are working closely together in a global effort to address the SARS outbreak.

Just a few short months ago, SARS was brought to the attention of the world. It apparently originated in China and the surrounding area(s). To date, Mainland China, the Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore areas have reported the largest number of confirmed cases (over 8000 total). Due to a high rate of international travel to and from these areas, the disease has spread to other countries of the world. Cases have been diagnosed in The United States (68), Vietnam (63) and Canada (29) as well as other countries in lesser numbers. As of June 6, 2003, the worldwide "confirmed case" total is approximately 8500. It is interesting that our own state of Washington has the third highest number of confirmed cases in the US (29), with New York second (44) and California the decided top-runner (73). That is very close to home I'd say. So far, Oregon has only one confirmed case on record.

What is SARS? That has been the big question. The World Health Organization (WHO) has confirmed that a previously unknown human virus, a new type of "coronavirus," is the cause of SARS. Corona viruses are named for their corona-like (halo) appearance in electron micrographs. The Corona viruses are second only to rhinoviruses as a cause of the common cold. They are also identified in other serious and deadly diseases (huntavirus and chlamydia pneumonia). Research is underway on the "SARS coronavirus," which will eventually allow experts to move away from methods such as isolation, and quarantines and move aggressively toward specific treatments, and eventually, vaccination. The WHO dedicated the breakthrough to Dr Carlo Urbani, the scientist who first alerted the world to the SARS virus, but who died from the disease in Vietnam at the end of March, 2003. For those of us who remember the Polio outbreak of the 1950's, Dr. Salk finally formulated the

vaccine that eventually eradicated polio in our country and most others worldwide. Hopefully, this will also be the case with the SARS outbreak.

What are symptoms of SARS? They begin very much the same as the flu or cold. In general, SARS begins with a fever greater than 100.4°F [$>38.0^{\circ}\text{C}$]. Other symptoms may include headache, an overall feeling of discomfort, and body aches. Some people also experience mild respiratory symptoms. After 2 to 7 days, SARS patients may develop a dry cough and have trouble breathing. Usually, after the initial week of symptoms, the patient develops lower respiratory (lung) problems similar to "atypical pneumonia" with hypoxia (air hunger). At that time they will require intensive medical treatment. A fair percentage of people, especially the elderly and children, have died from the disease in China. The death rate is much lower in the US. This fact is likely due to the advanced and early medical treatment available in this country. There is no definitive treatment specifically for SARS. However, wide-spectrum antibiotics and high-end antiviral agents (those used in the treatment of HIV) have been effective in treatment of SARS.

How does SARS spread? The primary way that SARS appears to spread is by close person-to-person contact. Most cases of SARS have involved people who cared for or lived with someone with SARS, or had direct contact with infectious material (for example, respiratory secretions) from a person who has SARS. Potential ways in which SARS can be spread include touching the skin of other people or objects that are contaminated with infectious droplets and then touching your eye(s), nose, or mouth. This can happen when someone who is sick with SARS coughs or sneezes droplets onto themselves, other people, or nearby surfaces. It also is possible that SARS can be spread more broadly through the air or by other ways that are currently not known.

The CDC has issued these recommendations and guidelines for people who may be affected by SARS:

For individuals considering travel to areas with SARS:

CDC has issued two types of notices to travelers: advisories and alerts. A travel advisory recommends that nonessential travel be deferred; travel alert does not advise against travel, but informs travelers of a health concern and provides advice about specific precautions.

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CDC updates information on its web site on the travel status of other areas with SARS (www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/travel.htm) as the situation evolves.

For individuals who think they might have SARS:

People with symptoms of SARS (fever greater than 100.4°F [$>38.0^{\circ}\text{C}$] accompanied by a cough and/or difficulty breathing) should consult a health-care provider. To help the health-care provider make a diagnosis, tell them about any recent travel to places where SARS has been reported or whether there was contact with someone who had these symptoms.

For family members caring for someone with SARS:

CDC has developed interim infection control recommendations available at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/ic-closecontacts.htm for patients with suspected SARS in the household. These basic precautions should be followed for 10 days after respiratory symptoms and fever are gone. During that time, SARS patients are asked to limit interactions outside the home (not go to work, school, or other public areas).

In reality, the SARS virus should require the same precautions as any other serious communicable disease. Basic good hygiene and common sense is in order. Correct hand washing techniques and/ or the use of waterless alcohol-based hand disinfectant are the cornerstone to control of many diseases, such as tuberculosis, hepatitis, the flu, etc. Care in handling of soiled items containing body fluids, using Kleenex in covering the mouth/ nose when coughing or sneezing, wearing a special mask if exposed to someone who has a contagious respiratory illness and being aware of health risks are first-line defenses in containing diseases such as SARS.

To find out more about SARS, go to www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars and www.who.int/csr/sars/en/ or

call the CDC public response hotline at (888) 246-2675 (English), (888) 246-2857 (Español), or (866) 874-2646 (TTY).

That is my view from High Prairie for this issue. Thanks for reading and may you have a happy, healthy summer.