

SAVE THESE DATES

Community Council Meetings. Board of Directors meeting every 3rd Monday, 6 pm. HP Community Center. Contact HPCC: PO Box 592, Lyle, WA 98635 or email highprairiebarb@gmail.com

Needlers Mondays, at 10:30 a.m. Call 509-310-8456 for more information.

Fire Volunteers. 1st, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m.

Fire Commissioner Meeting. 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. P.O. Box 853, Lyle, WA 98635 or email kcfpd14@gmail.com

Visit the community website (www.highprairie.us) for additional scheduled events and meetings.

THE HIGH PRAIRIAN

"All the news that's print to fit"



STAY IN THE LOOP!

EMAIL:

Put your name on the HP info list by emailing highprairiebarb@gmail.com

WEBSITE:

Check us out at www.highprairie.us
Calendar, blog, High Prairian, history, and lots more!

FACEBOOK:

Stay up to date with community happenings and join the discussion:

[www.facebook.com/
groups/180735785338230/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/180735785338230/)

Don't forget to "like" the page.

(We can't invite you if we don't know how to reach you!)



Editor's Note: This is the speech Fire Chief Sarah Hancock didn't get to give at the Firefighters Appreciation Dinner on March 29, because an emergency call came in just as everyone was finishing dinner, and she and the other firefighters had to leave to answer the call. Former Fire Chief Tim Darland stepped in to cover parts of the speech, tell a little about each of the firefighters, and hand out awards.

Welcome High Prairie friends and neighbors! For those of you who do now know me yet: I am Sarah Hancock, your fire chief.

Before we begin, I've received a ton of text messages and emails, so while I have you all in the same room together I have something very important to share. Can anyone guess?

No, I do not know when the Burn Ban will start! It completely depends on the rain, wind, and heat. Mother Nature completely dictates when the Burn Ban will start. Once she gives an idea of drying things out, we Fire Chiefs across the county let the Department of Emergency Management know, and then they take it to the County Commissioners for a vote. I will post on the Facebook Group, our website, and through the email chain as soon as I start getting an idea of when the Burn Ban is coming. I have never let you down and I don't intend to this year!

Moving on. Raise your hand if this is your first High Prairie appreciation banquet? Keep your hand up if you're new to High Prairie? Great, we will hand you a volunteer application!

High Prairie, thank you!! from the bottom of my hears and our firefighters' hearts. We couldn't be here doing what we do without all of you. You simply being here tonight and at the community events supporting the fire department means the world to us! Thank you!

What have we accomplished in this past year?

On top of our full time jobs, we have spent endless hours of training at our department on drill nights and also outside the department. We currently have 3 crew members (Sam, Ken, and Rick) in Structure Fire Academy, which started in February and will end in the middle of April. Sam completed EMT Academy in Spring 2024 and Ken is starting EMT Academy soon. It's not easy to bring training to rural communities, let alone find the time to attend, but we're doing it.

We were awarded a grant from FEMA last fall with Lyle Fire for about \$250,000 to replace both departments' 20+ year old self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs) that have come to the end of their service life. This piece of equipment protects our airway when we're fighting structure and vehicle fires. Our new SCBAs are now in service as of this month.

On top of our training, we responded to about 70 emergency 911 calls, which included medical calls, Motor Vehicle Collision, wildfires in Goldendale, Centerville, Bickleton, Dayton, Dallesport, High Prairie, Glenwood, and Appleton, and a large Structure Fire in Lyle.

We added one new volunteer, Rick Wilson, and one of our volunteers, Jason DeHart, moved away. We have 16 total active volunteer firefighters.

I've been a first responder for almost 20 years, and I've been involved with several different agencies. I can tell you with absolute confidence: this is the first organization I've been with that has a nearly 100% participation rate. That means that if any one of our crew members is available, I know they will most likely show up for a 911 call or training. This is also the first organization I've been with where there is very little drama or clashing personalities – we work together very cohesively and we get the job done. We are a family.

The High Prairian

Publisher: High Prairie Community Council

Editor: Gwen Berry

Layout: Cindy Henschell

*Serving the Community of High Prairie,
Klickitat County, Washington*

Published 4 times a year (or as often as
needed)

The High Prairian can be viewed or
downloaded for free on
the High Prairie website:
<http://www.highprairie.us>

when faces called flowers float out of the ground

E. E. Cummings

when faces called flowers float out of the ground
and breathing is wishing and wishing is having —
but keeping is downward and doubting and never
—it's april (yes, april; my darling) it's spring!
yes the pretty birds frolic as spry as can fly
yes the little fish gambol as glad as can be
(yes the mountains are dancing together)

when every leaf opens without any sound
and wishing is having and having is giving —
but keeping is doting and nothing and nonsense
—alive; we're alive, dear: it's (kiss me now) spring!
now the pretty birds hover so she and so he
now the little fish quiver so you and so i
(now the mountains are dancing, the mountains)

when more than was lost has been found has
been found
and having is giving and giving is living—
but keeping is darkness and winter and cringing
—it's spring (all our night becomes day) o, it's spring!
all the pretty birds dive to the heart of the sky
all the little fish climb through the mind of the sea
(all the mountains are dancing; are dancing)



From p. 1

The amount of empathy and compassion this team has for this community and each other is inspiring. We also have a lot of fun!

High Prairie, you are truly blessed to have the fire crew that you do. I've never been more proud and honored to be part of a fire department. It's not only the type of work we do, it's the people we get to stand alongside with. It's always EXTREMELY difficult to create awards for our crew members, because every single person offers something valuable to our department and does it with their whole heart without complaint. We have such a great crew! Each member brings something different regarding life experiences and wisdom to share. It always amazes me that with so many diverse backgrounds we all come together and protect this community as a cohesive team.

Here are the members of the team. More information about each firefighter will be printed in the next *High Prairian*.

District 14 High Prairie Firefighter Roster

- Fire Chief Sarah Hancock
- Captain and Fire Commissioner Philip Haner
- Captain Dave Thom
- Lieutenant Tim Darland
- Lieutenant Tom McMackin
- Senior Firefighter and Fire Commissioner James Amery
- Senior Firefighter Jim Day
- Senior Firefighter Ron McDonald
- Firefighter-EMT Sam Holman
- Firefighter-Paramedic Gregory Haner
- Firefighter Chris Roper
- Firefighter-EMT Brenda Edin
- Firefighter Ken Hill
- New Recruit Rick Wilson
- New Recruit Edwardo Ornelas
- New Recruit Kristine Austin

- Non-Firefighter Team Members:
- Administrative Assistant Glenna Scott
- Support Volunteer Paul Grim
- Fire Commissioner Bruce Wales

RILEY JESSAMINE PERRY 1998 – 2024



Riley Jessamine Perry, 26 years old, passed away on December 29, 2024. She was born on September 10, 1998 in Tucson, Arizona to Anthony and Ilya Perry. The Perry Family moved to High Prairie in 2011 when Riley was 13 years old. Riley and her brothers became frequent helpers with community events. Riley loved working with her neighbors setting up, working, and breaking down at the Firehouse Sale. She was honored to work with Myrin Bentz to learn how to make his bratwurst to be sold at the Firehouse Sale. She helped set up and break down for many Fireman Appreciation Dinners. Riley loved animals and was a frequent helper to those who would need someone to care for their animals while they were away. She worked for a time at Morning Song Acres Bed and Breakfast with Audrey Bentz and for Amery Farms. Riley also loved

gardening and was a joyful part of the community garden, taking some of the produce to be shown at the Klickitat County Fair. Riley left for Walla Walla to attend community college in 2018, then moved to Ellensburg where she got her CDL then started her own trucking company. Everyone who knew her was impressed with her work ethic and can-do attitude, always done with laughter and a bright smile. The lessons she learned in community spirit that she experienced working alongside the kind folks in High Prairie extended into helping people with mechanical troubles and helpless animals she encountered in need during her travels on the highway who she would stop to help. Her enthusiasm for life and learning will continue in the memories of those who had the opportunity to know her.

Our High Prairie neighbor, Diane Cazalet, passed away on January 15, 2025. Diane wrote the following words, which eloquently express why the High Prairie community meant so much to her. It was originally published in May 2018.

A SPECIAL COMMUNITY, A BEAUTIFUL PLACE

Diane Cazalet

I live in a rural community called High Prairie, located in Washington State above the tiny town of Lyle, just off the Columbia River Gorge. High Prairie is a rolling plateau where the great forests end and the grasslands begin. It is about 2000 feet in elevation with canyons on three sides. Our small plateau and surrounding valleys are coterminous with volunteer Fire District 14, which has taken the name of High Prairie. Support for our firemen long ago became a focus for our little community of perhaps 400 people, spread out over 64 square miles.

It has always been a sparsely developed community. The Native Americans primarily occupied this area up until the latter half of the nineteenth century. Few pioneers lived on this side of the Columbia River before the 1850's. The first families to set up homesteads on this land had to be self-sufficient, innovative and resourceful because they lived miles apart from their neighbors and it was at least a two-day round trip by horse or wagon to buy supplies or to get mail or news. This small community built a one-room school house for their children, dug their own wells by hand, raised their own chickens, cattle, goats, wheat, and vegetables, and shared what they had whenever necessary with their neighbors.

There is a book whose author was a young girl growing up in High Prairie during the 1890's. She writes about how this small group of neighbors supported each other with food, shelter, medicines or physical help whenever the need arose. Many times they shared their meals, even when their food supplies were low, with their Indian neighbors and with hungry strangers traveling through as well as between each other. Good neighbors were essential and this small community passed on these values to new families who moved here.

The values of the early settlers in this area have been passed on for several generations now and yet we are all quite different both in our ages and in many of our beliefs. We come from many different areas of the world, we have different religious beliefs, political views and educational backgrounds, yet we share three things that tie us together... **trust, compassion and generosity.**

Even though we all have our faults and differences, we are able to find our common ground and see the good in those around us. It is **a beautiful thing** and I hope and pray we continue to pass this on to the new neighbors moving in into our community, just as the old High Prairians did for us.



Today, these passed on values mean so very, very much to me. I have been so impressed with the positive energy I feel from so many of my neighbors and friends here. I have stage 4 breast cancer and have been receiving treatment for over two and a half years. I have spent a lot of time thinking about what is most important to me.

With so much turbulence in our country and the world these days, I wonder how a community like ours at High Prairie can exist and even thrive when there is so much unrest going on all around us. Yet our shared values bring us together to support each other and our community.

It makes me so happy to remember how my husband and I were made to feel welcome from the day we moved into our home. We saw that when someone needed help because of sickness, a death in the family, or any other need

that came up, such as plowing a driveway for someone who could not get out after a storm, these neighbors all pulled together to give aid. Often they didn't ask but the neighbors saw the need and found a way to be of help. I have seen neighbors set up a scheduled work party to help clean up after a fire, to arrange a work party to cut wood for a widow so she has heat for the winter and after the wood was cut and stacked, they brought food for a potluckpicnic together, making it a fun event.

When we first moved into our home, a few of our neighbors helped us move furniture and set up a time with us when they brought the food and we had a dinner here where we got to meet and get to know many of our new neighbors. A man who had just lost his wife to cancer came to that dinner and offered to bring up his power mower to cut our long, dry grass near the house for fire prevention. He called it "paying it forward", in the community tradition. I think it helped all of us, as he was not alone mourning the death of his wife, but instead was out working to help a new neighbor.

It is a wonderful place to live, and we have many special neighbors and friends; but most of all we have a unique neighborhood that supports us and makes us all feel like **one big family.**

I want this wonderful community to continue to come together, and the new neighbors moving in to feel as I do, that they are part of something greater than just a rural neighborhood, spread out over 64 square miles. I want them to feel the warmth and pass forward these values of trust, compassion and generosity, for many generations to come.

UNITED AGAINST GROUND SQUIRRELS

Abi Spring

In these politically divisive times it can be hard to know what to talk about at a community get-together. Even in High Prairie attendees can range from hunters to vegans or even vegan hunters. (You know who you are!) But I assure you a safe topic, something everyone can agree on, is our universal dislike, or dare I even say, hatred of Californians... er um...I mean California Ground Squirrels, aka the evil Gray Diggers.

These garden pests, and their cousins the Voles, make gardening in High Prairie a challenge, and at a recent social event on Oda Knight Road the many varied attendees discussed how to deal with these destructive varmints.

California Ground Squirrels/Gray Diggers (in case you somehow have missed seeing them everywhere on your property) are, as the name implies, ground-dwelling squirrels. They are chunkier and a little larger than a tree squirrel like Washington's Western Gray Squirrel. Ground squirrels are brown and gray and have a speckled appearance. They have a shorter, less flexible tail than the Western Gray Squirrel. The Western Gray Squirrel is... well... gray, as you might expect... and is a protected species, so unless you want bad karma for the rest of your lives, don't kill them.

Voiles are sneaky and devilish little monsters, who don't seem to be afraid of anything. They are ground dwellers who make the holes in your yards and fields that look like piles of dirt, because they are piles of dirt. I love the aeration that they provide in our compact soil but I do not love that they eat the roots of all my plants. And they are audacious! I was sitting in my garden admiring a lovely purple cosmos flower I had grown from seed, when I noticed that it seemed to be waving in the breeze a lot more than I would expect on one of the rare calm days at my house. As I went to investigate, the entire plant started to disappear into the ground. I grabbed my plant, thinking surely I could prevent its disappearance, and I did; but when I pulled it up there was a small brown animal attached to it. Shocked, I dropped the flower, but did the little beast let go and retreat like you would expect any animal pulled from its home would? No. It was trying to pull the entire cosmos plant back into the ground with it. I felt like I was in an old Bugs Bunny cartoon: it was a tug-of-war between me and a little brown creature. Eventually I won, but it was then that I decided some extreme measures needed to be taken.

But even as murderously enraged as this event made me, I have not resorted to lethal control, i.e. trapping and poisoning, etc. It is too hard to target just one species, and no one wants a visit from the game warden after a neighbor reports you for killing a fluffy innocent Western Gray Squirrel. Also, poisoning too frequently ends up killing not only the target species but the animals that naturally keep the target species in check. And there is also the potential liability that might result from having someone misinterpret my lethal advice: I watched a YouTube video of someone pouring gas into



their varmint holes, igniting it and blowing up their entire yard. I am going to stick to recommending non-lethal tricks that make gardening slightly less difficult. No Wile E. Coyote advice here.

But first let me list a few of the things I have tried that haven't worked:

Hot pepper - This is perhaps the most Coyote-like trick I employed. I dumped cupful after cupful of hot chili powder around my plants. Not

only didn't this seem to matter to the voles, it did seem to burn the leaves and my eyes.

Sound spikes - These are plastic solar powered sound and vibration emitting spikes that you push into the ground that supposedly deter animals. They didn't seem to deter mammals, but did deter song birds and humans. The sound drove me crazy.

Small terriers - These do work on the ground squirrels but the voles are too well protected by their tunnels to be deterred by the terriers digging and yapping. Also their digging can destroy plants and their yapping can destroy minds.

Motion activated sprinklers - These also work on ground squirrels and not on voles. They also are just as easily triggered by me as they are by varmints. Getting sprayed when you aren't expecting it just isn't that pleasant. Note: Motion activated sprinklers work great on keeping birds and ground squirrels from eating the fruit on our trees; and since the trees are located away from the main traffic areas, they work well there, rather than in our yard. I recommend them enthusiastically for that application.

The things that do work are going to sound extreme and well, frankly, they are. I frequently revisit the question of whether or not gardening in the High Prairie is worth the effort. Perhaps I should just spend my money supporting the farmer's market, or getting more food through the monthly co-op delivery at the community center? Save my energy for splitting wood and expanding our fire protection perimeter? Save my water for more essential things like drinking and bathing? Maybe I will eventually give up, but until I do these are the techniques that I use to protect my flower and vegetable gardens:

Barriers - Barriers are the primary method I use to prevent destruction. In the flower garden where individual plants are distributed around and group plantings don't really work, I employ stainless steel wire baskets also called gopher baskets or bulb baskets. These are available online from any number of distributors. Individual plants or small groups of bulbs are planted in these soft wire mesh baskets. If the plants are of particular interest to voles (Oriental poppies seems to be a favorite) I thread a wire around the top and draw the basket closed around the stem, as voles have been known to dig underground to the edge of the planted basket, emerge from the ground, cross the barrier and burrow back in and eat the roots. Did I mention I really dislike voles?

Continued p. 4

From p. 3

In the vegetable garden, or in areas of mass plantings like an iris bed, I use raised beds made from dimensional lumber. Cedar is best, if you are made of money, because of its natural resistance to rot. If not, pine is good. I don't use pressure-treated wood because I am old enough to remember when pressure treated wood contained arsenic and arsenic is bad for people. They say that pressure-treated is safe now, but my pine beds last long enough for me, without having to think too much about who is testing what, when.

The absolute minimum for raised beds I think is 12 inches; deeper is better. On the bottom of the bed I staple hardware cloth, wire mesh with a 1/4 to 1/2 inch grid. I also create a cover from hardware cloth using a combination of bamboo, origami, and PVC pipe. You do you. The important part is that the covers allow you to water the plants without removing them and are easy enough to remove to harvest the vegetables.

I use scrap dimensional lumber to weigh down the edges of the covers and prevent rabbits and ground squirrels from entering. Also, the covers are great supports for shade cloth which extends the growing season for heat sensitive plants like spinach and other greens. It looks like a prisons for plants. Or maybe castles is a nicer way to think about it? Or witness protection?

Spray - Another non-toxic technique I employ is to spray the gardens with a 50/50 mix of dish soap and castor oil (preferably not on the actually plants.) There is something about the smell of castor beans that varmints hate. The dish soap is only there to make it sprayable. I put the mixture in an old Miracle Grow sprayer that I attach to my hose. The sprayer is left over from... I can't even remember when I would have purchased Miracle Grow, but any bulk sprayer will work. You can use a pump sprayer that you can pick up at a hardware store. (Just make sure you don't use one that was previously used for something you wouldn't want to eat.)

I haven't even touched on perhaps the most destructive and prevalent species here: deer. We were lucky enough to have had both a small yard and larger vegetable garden area already fenced in with 6ft high fences when we purchased our place 7 years ago. Without the fences to keep deer away, any of my listed techniques would be moot except for maybe the gasoline explosion. That might deter deer, but how often would you need to do it?

THIS SPRING

James A. Pearson

How can I love this spring
when it's pulling me
through my life faster
than any time before it?
When five separate dooms
are promised this decade
and here I am, just trying
to watch a bumblebee cling
to its first purple flower.
I cannot save this world.
But look how it's trying,
once again, to save me.

SNAKE'S TRASH, A BIRD'S TREASURE

William Weiler

It must be spring!

The robins have returned and are settled in. Rain, no snow. Longer lit days, wildflowers galore ...and the first rattlesnake somehow found its way in our home! It was safely delivered outside before our cat devoured it indoors.

Desquamation is the process of shedding skin. The word means, "to scrape the scales off fish," and it represents a healthy process to remove dead skin cells. Every snake, every reptile "desquamates", as well do spiders, some insects, frogs and humans. We don't think about it except when our skin peels during the summer.

Snakes shed their skin from 4 to 12 times per year. Since nothing in nature is ever wasted, whatever happens to snake skins? Now this story gets interesting!

When birds incorporate snake skins into their nests, it's not just for decoration – it's a calculated strategy to ward off predators. The scaly leavings serve as predator repellent for cavity-nesting birds, scaring their enemies away and ensuring more of the eggs survive.

A recent study from Cornell University reveals that cavity-nesting birds are significantly more likely to use shed snake skins in their nests than birds that build open-cup nests.

This behavior deters predators like small mammals, giving cavity nesters a better chance of protecting their eggs.

Predators of cavity-nesting birds often include small mammals that are also prey for snakes. By placing shed snake skins in their nests, these birds may exploit the natural fear these predators have of snakes.

The question I wonder is whether snakes are actually attracted to bird nests with skins? I can just hear them saying, "There's where I left that old skin...and oh, what do we have here!"





Welcome Spring! The process begins lusciously anew in the Columbia Gorge! Enjoy the 'Greening of the Columbia Hills,' the transition from the river at Lyle to the towers on Stacker Butte, for the next 6 weeks. Watch the familiar rush of the shooting growth of the grasses to freshening new life in budding trees as you pass along WA 14 now. It won't fully be to High Prairie until early May. Then the Frankenstein-ish molting and dulling to yellowing brown of fine fuels will begin... and thoughts of Summer wildfire will enter our collective consciousness. You can embrace the changes without dread, though, because Firewise – its principles and resources – are at your disposal!

Wildfire is global news again! To start 2025... in the US, from the Southeast to New Jersey and again in California, fire impacts to Wild lands, human Urban environments and the Interface where they meet (the 'WUI') have been tragic, catastrophic events that will last years. As in Maui, HI, many of these incidents were devastating firestorms. In Southern California, gusting Santa Ana east winds with lingering, end-of-Summer dry fuels in quantity became a thermal thunderstorm with firebrand hail perpetuating fire devastation across a massive landscape. These become a human disaster on a scale equal to any flood, earthquake, eruption or tornado event.

Locally, we had an incident last May that illustrates what can happen anywhere/anytime here and also shows the wisdom of the Firewise concepts for creating 0-5' defensible areas around your home and property. A gusting (36+ mph), wind-driven fire at Summit Cedar Mill in Dallesport, WA, showered a building over 1/4 mile away with embers. The embers blew into shrubs planted next to the front wall, starting a structure fire which required extensive, expensive repairs.



A fire disaster could, without much warning, impact our lives on High Prairie. Disaster preparedness is an individual responsibility. Creation of an 'official' county or state evacuation plan is nearly impossible, given the uniqueness of the varied landscapes and the lives and properties of folks on High Prairie and in Klickitat County.

The Firewise and Ready, Set, Go! programs are excellent resource foundations for your 'Be Prepared!' efforts.

Firewise – To-Do List Q2

The 'defensible space' Firewise chores should be on your calendar for completion or to advance rewarding progress before the

next High Prairian greets you for Summer's edition.

0 - 5' zone – C/R (Clear up & Remove) all debris and any combustible materials on and around your home & other property – Top to Bottom

5 - 30' zone – C/R Spring clean-up outside items for disposal (especially any pine materials you removed during the Fall/Winter cold period) – Maintain grass/plantings/landscaping around your home & other property. Open burning of natural debris is a common method of disposal, as is chipping and scattering the results. **NO Burn Barrels!** There are specific WA regulations in place for this practice. If you put fire on the ground, **you** may be legally liable for any runaway burning damage and fire response costs under WA law! Contact HPFD #14 with any questions or to give your fire crews a heads up if you're going to light a burn pile. (509-637-2576 or highprairiefire@gmail.com)

30/100/200' zones – C/R clean up Winter debris/prune or remove ladder fuels (grass to shrubs to small trees to big trees) creating a landscape you've customized for your enjoyment on your property. Firewise is NOT about clearcutting your property for fire safety! It is about creating & maintaining 'defensible' space for your safety and to protect your home in this beautiful High Prairie patch in the Columbia Gorge!

Attending to these tasks now will build your confidence in having an active role in creating a safety zone for yourself and your property throughout the 2025 fire season!

Resources

Contact me, Tom McMackin, if you'd like more information on the 'Firewise' and 'Ready, Set, Go!' programs; if you have comments or suggestions; or if you would like to be more involved with the High Prairie Firewise effort. I can answer questions and get you connected with the resources we have available as a recognized Firewise Community. Contact me by email at Firewise.onhighprairie@gmail.com or by phone message by calling 509-365-2786. *Please, if I don't get back to you... try sending another email or calling with another message!*

New – WA DNR spiral bound book available for loan to anybody interested in defensible space incorporating fire resistant and native plants.

Online resources:

Firewise – <https://www.nfpa.org/en/Education-and-Research/Wildfire/Preparing-homes-for-wildfire> or <https://www.nfpa.org/education-and-research/wildfire>

Ready, Set, Go! – <https://www.iafc.org/docs/default-source/pdf/rsg-eag.pdf>

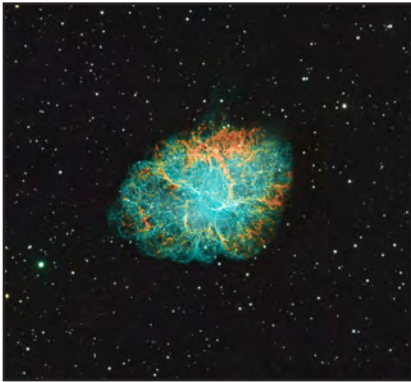


MORE NEBULAE IN OUR NIGHT SKY

Peter Rowe

All of these images were taken from High Prairie in view of the Community Center.

Crab Nebula



The Crab is a special nebula because it is the first recorded supernova (exploded star) observed by humans. In the year 1054 AD it was seen by Native American, Japanese, and Arabic stargazers. At the same time Chinese astronomers noticed a "guest star" that was visible in the daytime sky for nearly a month, this was recorded on July 4th 1054 AD. The Crab Nebula is also the first entry in the Messier Catalog where it is called M1 (of about 100 entries).

The Crab Nebula is also the first entry in the Messier Catalog where it is called M1 (of about 100 entries).

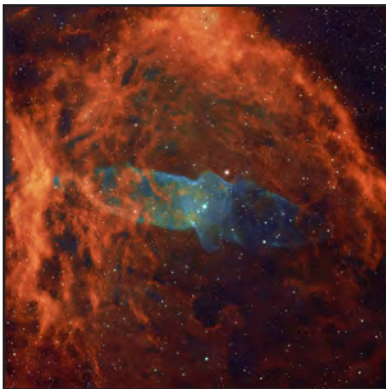
Heart Nebula



No guesses as to why this is called the Heart Nebula! The Heart nebula is huge, about 4 times the size of the moon, but it is dim so it needs to be captured for a long time. The Heart Nebula is made up of ionized oxygen and sulfur gasses, which are responsible for the blue and orange colors. The nebula's lighting is driven by radiation emanating from a small group of bright stars near the nebula's center, some of these are nearly 50 times the mass of our Sun.

The Heart nebula is huge, about 4 times the size of the moon, but it is dim so it needs to be captured for a long time.

Squid Nebula



The Squid nebula is really two nebulae - the hydrogen-rich 'Flying Bat' nebula shown in red, and the much dimmer 'Squid' shown inside in oxygen blue. The Squid is so dim that it was only discovered in 2011, when a French astronomer accidentally left his telescope pointing at the Flying Bat over a long period. The Squid portion of this image

took over 30 hours to capture over many different nights. The Squid itself is thought to be a star near the end of its life, blasting its outer layers off in two opposite directions.

Equipment

For anyone interested, the equipment I use to capture these images: AM5 Mount; ZWO FF65 and EdgeHD Telescopes; ASI533MC Camera; Celestron OAG with ASI174MM guide camera

ENJOY LITA COLLIGAN'S ART



High Prairie Artist, Lita Colligan, invites her High Prairie friends and neighbors to a show of her pastels of the Columbia Gorge and Klickitat River area. The show, at TeaLyn's in White Salmon, is open on Thursdays and Fridays from March 20 – April 19, 2025. Lita's art reflects her passion for the beauty of our natural area, capturing the Klickitat Trail, Mount Adams, and our wildflower abundance. Most of the

works on display are 9x12" framed pastels, with greeting cards and some unframed original works also available. A portion of the sales will benefit the Klickitat Trail Conservancy and the Columbia Land Trust.

Dates: March 20 – April 19
Hours: Thursdays and Fridays from 11 am to 6pm
Location: Tea Lyn's Tea and Gift Shop
121 N. Main Ave., White Salmon, WA 98672

In cold spring air

Reginald Gibbons

In cold
spring air the
white wisp-
visible
breath of
a blackbird
singing—
we don't know
to un-
wrap these blind-
folds we
keep thinking
we are
seeing through

GOLDENDALE LIBRARY EVENTS

Terra McLeod

FVRLibraries - 75 Years and Counting: Thank You!

Did you know Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries is celebrating 75 years? Klickitat County joined the district in 1973, and ever since, the library has been a place where people connect with books, learning, and each other. From bookmobiles on country roads to today's digital resources, community programs, and free passes to local attractions, the library has grown alongside the community, thanks to your support and active participation.

Celebrate With a Library Adventure

To mark 75 years, the Road Trip Passport kicks off during National Library Week, April 6-12, 2025. Pick up a passport, visit different libraries, collect stamps, and complete fun challenge questions. Finish the challenge by December 1, and you'll be entered to win a prize at the end of the year! Learn more at fvrl.org/passport

Are you looking for more ways to explore? The Experience Pass program gives you free access to museums, parks, and cultural sites. Learn more at fvrl.org/experience-pass.

Later in April, local artists will have a chance to leave their mark with the Library Card Design Competition, creating the next generation of library cards.

As we celebrate this milestone, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to our community for being an integral part of our story. Your support, curiosity, and love of learning have been the driving force behind the library's growth. Whether you're a regular visitor or haven't stopped by in a while, we invite you to join the celebration and see what's new. Here's to 75 years—and many more to come in partnership with you!

Basement Bookstore Opening April 1!

Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, Library Hours.

Our Friends of the Goldendale Library have been working hard to get a new bookstore organized in the Goldendale Community Library Basement. Drop by to see the new space and peruse what is available to purchase for yourself or a friend!

Goldendale Library April Schedule

Children & Families

Family Storytime

Wednesdays & 1st Saturdays: 10:30-11:30AM

April 5: *Creative Crafts*: Spring, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Join us for a spring-themed art project that will be displayed in the library during the month of April. An art or craft project will be provided for all ages and levels.

April 15: *Homeschool Hangout*, 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Teens & Tweens

RPG: Real Life series

Fridays: April 11 – May 16, 5:00 - 7:00 PM

If life were a game, how would you play it? Learn life skills as you play a possible role in your future. Dice and food included.

Adults

April 7: *One-On-One Tech Help*, 10:00 -1:00 PM

Call the library for a reservation

April 8 & 22: *Fiber Arts Social Circle*, 1:30 - 2:30 PM

Knit, crochet, stitch & more as you socialize with the community (2nd & 4th Tuesdays).

April 14: *Living Well Series*, 5:00-6:00 PM

Senior & Seated Mobility Yoga

April 21: *Adult Book Group* (3rd Mondays), 11:00 -12:00 PM

Join in person or virtually for a lively discussion of a different title each month.

CREAMY ROASTED CAULIFLOWER SOUP

Cookie and Kate

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cook Time: 55 minutes

Total Time: 1 hour 10 minutes

Yield: 4 bowls

This cauliflower soup recipe is the best! Roasted cauliflower makes it taste amazing, and a little butter (instead of cream) makes it luxuriously creamy. Recipe yields 4 bowls of soup. Recipe adapted from my cookbook, *Love Real Food*.

Ingredients

1 large head cauliflower (about 2 pounds), cut into bite-size florets
 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
 Fine sea salt
 1 medium red onion, chopped
 2 cloves garlic, pressed or minced
 4 cups (32 ounces) vegetable broth
 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice, or more if needed
 Scant ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
 For garnish: 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley, chives and/or green onions

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit. If desired, line a large, rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper for easy cleanup.
2. On the baking sheet, toss the cauliflower with 2 tablespoons of the olive oil until lightly and evenly coated in oil. Arrange the cauliflower in a single layer and sprinkle lightly with salt. Bake until the cauliflower is tender and caramelized on the edges, 25 to 35 minutes, tossing halfway.
3. Once the cauliflower is almost done, in a Dutch oven or soup pot, warm the remaining 1tablespoon olive oil over medium heat until shimmering. Add the onion and ¼ teaspoon salt. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the onion is softened and turning translucent, 5 to 7minutes.
4. Add the garlic and cook, stirring constantly, until fragrant, about 30 seconds, then add the broth.
5. Reserve 4 of the prettiest roasted cauliflower florets for garnish. Then transfer the remaining cauliflower to the pot. Increase the heat to medium-high and bring the mixture to a simmer, then reduce the heat as necessary to maintain a gentle simmer. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 20 minutes, to give the flavors time to meld.
6. Once the soup is done cooking, remove the pot from the heat and let it cool for a few minutes. Then, carefully transfer the hot soup to a blender, working in batches if necessary. (Do not fill past the maximum fill line or the soup could overflow!)
7. Add the butter and blend until smooth. Add the lemon juice and nutmeg and blend again. Add additional salt, to taste (I usually add another ¼ to ½ teaspoon, depending on the broth). This soup tastes amazing once it's properly salted! You can also a little more lemon juice, if it needs more zing. Blend again.
8. Top individual bowls of soup with 1 roasted cauliflower floret and a sprinkle of chopped parsley, green onion and/or chives. This soup keeps well in the refrigerator, covered, for about four days, or for several months in the freezer.

Notes:

Make it dairy free/vegan: Use cashews instead of butter. Soak ¼ cup cashews for 4 hours, then drain and rinse them (if you have a high-powered blender like a Vitamix or Blendtec, you can skip this). Add the cashews when you would add the butter.

Find it online: <https://cookieandkate.com/creamy-roasted-cauliflower-soup-recipe/>

PHOTOS
BY JOCELYN WEEKS

