

Local & Entertainment

Durkee holds community Thanksgiving

BY CHUCK BUCHANAN
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Each year for over a century the small community of Durkee has held its annual Thanksgiving dinner for anyone who cares to participate.

This traditional dinner of turkey, stuffing and all of the fixings began in the 1890s with two families, the Shaws, who had come to the Durkee Valley from England, and the Smiths. The two couples had no local family members to celebrate the holiday with so they decided to get together for the meal and to invite anyone in the area who had no place to go to gather with them.

The Durkee community is known throughout the area for its hospitality and Thanksgiving is just one of many gatherings that occur there. In the days of the Durkee Grange, the locals,

and anyone else who cared to come, would gather at the hall for a meal at noon followed by a program of some sort put on by local families. After the program, folks would go home to do their evening chores before returning to the hall for an evening meal. The evening meal was followed by a dance.

Nowadays, the Durkee Thanksgiving Dinner is a bit more sedate. Participants gather at the former Durkee school for dinner at midday. For a number of years Jean Bunch and family have provided two turkeys, stuffing and gravy along with mashed potatoes, salads, pies and other goodies.

The bulk of the meal comes from potluck provided by those who come for dinner, though bringing food is not a prerequisite for doing one's part to make the food disappear.

Instead, the whole point of this community dinner is to invite those who may not have anywhere else to go for the holiday and make them feel welcome.

After the meal the cards often come out and games of pinocle start up, along with any board games, etc. anyone might care to bring to the party. Around 5:30 p.m., the food is brought back out, supper is eaten, the hall cleaned up and everyone heads for home.

Numbers vary from year to year. Some years there might be twenty hungry diners, other years have seen as many as sixty or more.

Attendance often depends on the weather and road conditions. This year's dinner saw about thirty-five men, women and children making their way through the wide selection of delicious foods.

Sprenger

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"And everybody should exercise their responsibility to vote," she added.

Sprenger asked, county-by-county, what the most important issues are at the local level. In Baker County and across eastern Oregon, economic issues such as preserving the remainder of the shrinking infrastructure to enable continued logging and other use of natural resources and management of public lands were key.

Baker County Republican Chair Suzan Ellis

Jones said, "It's unusual for the House Leadership from Salem to have a representative come all the way out here just to find out what's important on this side of the state. We appreciate it."

Baker County Republican Vice Chair Kody Justus also met with Sprenger.

Sprenger sits on the Joint Interim Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Education, House Interim Committee On Education as Vice-Chair, and House Interim Committee On Judiciary Joint Interim Special Committee On Public Education Appropriation.

She first assumed office in 2008.

After her stop in Baker City, Sprenger was on her way for a visit with her son in La Grande before continuing on with her tour, then heading back to the west side of the state.

Oregon has a special legislative session coming up in February during which legislators anticipate tackling issues such as the ongoing minimum wage debate.

Sprenger said the session brings a natural end to her travels. "When we're in session that's all I do—session."

Bebe's word search

Hanukkah

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 42 letters spell a secret message.

Y	A	D	I	L	O	H	P	O	N	T	S	H	K	E	S	T	H	N
A	M	V	E	L	S	I	K	O	L	I	V	E	O	I	L	H	F	O
T	A	L	M	U	D	N	C	H	A	R	I	T	Y	E	A	E	E	V
U	O	K	T	O	Y	I	N	A	G	F	U	S	G	N	A	L	L	I
M	Z	Y	G	A	M	E	S	K	J	D	A	H	E	S	H	C	P	V
A	T	I	E	S	U	M	A	E	T	P	R	R	T	E	J	A	M	E
C	Z	R	E	A	L	H	R	W	R	O	O	E	B	I	S	R	E	S
C	U	S	A	A	R	U	A	A	S	T	V	R	I	Y	H	I	T	G
A	R	H	S	D	S	L	Y	H	D	E	I	A	D	S	M	Y	N	
B	Y	P	S	A	I	E	Y	A	S	W	O	D	V	O	E	C	L	I
E	L	Y	L	A	R	T	L	F	S	I	T	O	L	E	A	L	O	S
E	I	E	S	S	M	A	I	M	E	H	T	E	F	N	L	H	H	S
S	M	H	O	T	L	A	O	O	G	S	U	A	D	Y	A	H	O	E
T	A	U	N	U	F	T	H	I	N	M	T	L	M	R	R	L	I	L
H	F	D	G	D	S	I	E	S	I	A	E	I	O	Y	T	I	A	B
G	H	I	S	U	A	T	G	B	L	S	A	T	V	S	T	T	A	S
I	E	T	C	I	G	H	A	R	O	N	E	M	A	K	T	D	D	
L	A	Y	H	A	I	K	U	N	A	H	C	S	L	E	L	L	A	H

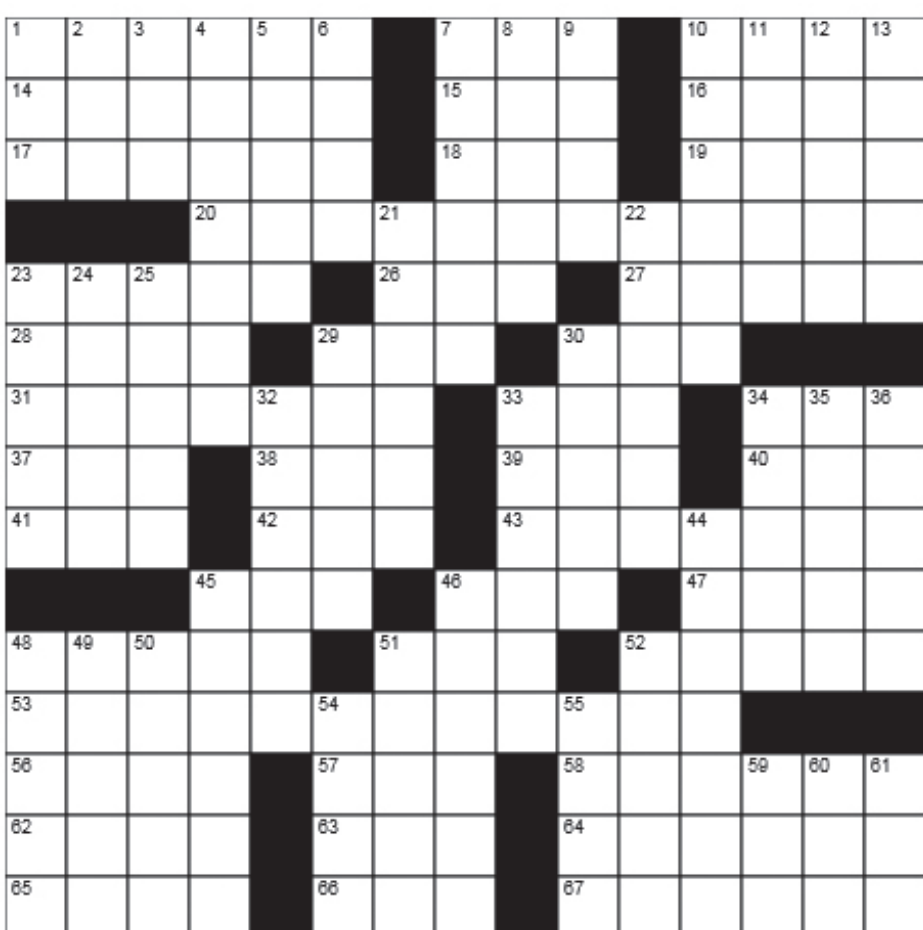
BIMUELOS
BLESSINGS
CANDLES
CHANUKIAH
CHARITY
CUSTOMS
DAIRY FOODS
DREIDEL
EIGHT DAYS
FAMILY
FEAST

FESTIVAL
GAMES
GELT
GIFTS
HALLEL
HANEROT
HALALU
HEBREW
HOLIDAY
HOLY TEMPLE
JERUSALEM
KISLEV

LATKE
LEVIVOT
LIGHTS
MA'OZ TZUR
MACCABEES
MATISYAHU
MENORAH
MIRACLE
OLIVE OIL
PONTSHKES
PRAYERS

PSALMS
SEVIVON
SHAMASH
SONGS
SUFGANIYOT
TALMUD
TORAH
TRADITION
YEARLY
YEHUDIT

This week's crossword puzzle



Across

- 1- Waterproof overshoe;
- 7- Clavell's "___-Pan";
- 10- Per;
- 14- Syrian city;
- 15- Margin;
- 16- Vaccines;
- 17- Pertaining to the mind;
- 18- The Monkees' "___ Believer";
- 19- River to the Moselle;
- 20- Indelible;
- 23- Even-money roulette play;
- 26- Last: Abbr.;
- 27- Mythical weeper;
- 28- I could ___ horse!;
- 29- Arles article;
- 30- Feel lousy;
- 31- 220 yards;
- 33- Math subj.;
- 34- Conductor ___-Pecca Salonen;
- 37- Dictator Amin;
- 38- Kind of cross;
- 39- Matchsticks game;
- 40- Music style performed by Dr Dre and Eminem;
- 41- It's in the bag;
- 42- Hosp. sections;
- 43- Shore;
- 45- Freddie Krueger roamed ___ Street in the movies;
- 46- Writer Fleming;
- 47- Eye drop;
- 48- Madame de ___;
- 51- Hogwash;
- 52- Holds up;
- 53- Mitosis;
- 56- Sandwich cookie;
- 57- Bali ___;
- 58- Be innate;

Down

- 1- Leg;
- 2- Pub choice;
- 3- Author Deighton;
- 4- Kind of computer or disk;
- 5- Slap;
- 6- Gap;
- 7- Something of very little value;
- 8- Shoot for;
- 9- Apple product;
- 10- Attack;
- 11- Singer Bryson;
- 12- Toothbrush brand;
- 13- European capital, in song;
- 21- Lichen;
- 22- Riddle;
- 23- Suit;

- 24- Diploma word;
- 25- Heart chambers;
- 29- Render weaponless;
- 30- Extra-terrestrial being;
- 32- Verdi opera;
- 33- Having a handle;
- 34- Iroquois foes;
- 35- Begin's co-Nobelist;
- 36- Copycats;
- 44- Squirrels away;
- 45- Pooh pal;
- 46- Sea off Greece;
- 48- Toast;
- 49- Behind time;
- 50- Specific geographical places;
- 51- Gaucho's rope;
- 52- Blair of "The Exorcist";
- 54- Asian prince;
- 55- Former name of Thailand;
- 59- Snaky curve;
- 60- AAA suggestion;
- 61- Some MIT grads;

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