Seniors

GRANT COUNTY SENIORS

John Day Seniors Nicky Essex



Well, it sure feels like winter is arriving. To me, that is a promise of spring. I love to see the first and last snow, and it does keep things nice and green to have some good rain. So I will be tucked in most days, to just sit and wait for good weather again. It was just brought to my attention that I mentioned the wrong name in last week's paper: Linda Stoltz is our wonderful librarian, hostess, decorator (all volunteer), and in my mind I completely changed it. I'm so sorry.

Lots of ailments already it seems. I hear that Ron and Roberta Dowse were in Hermiston at their daughter's for Thanksgiving when Ron wound up in the hospital for four days with pneumonia. Glad he is better, but now my hubby is spending our 54th anniversary in bed.

On Nov. 27, we had 19 diners in the center, and no one signed up again for the desk. I performed my one-woman show, but enjoyed the service of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints ladies who served us very well as usual. Rachel Carpenter and Jolene Floyd delivered meals to John Day and Canyon City, and David Gill and Rodney Bruser from Step Forward took the Mt. Vernon route. Total deliveries made: 36 regular and 32 frozen. While they were doing deliveries, Jay Coleson and Tom Roark did table setup.

Rachel Carpenter opened

our time with the Pledge of Allegiance. The drawings went to Jolene Floyd, who won the free meal, and Brad Carpenter, who won the Len's Drug certificate. Then Jolene gave the blessing.

We enjoyed chicken fettucine with Caesar salad, green peas and monster cookie bars for dessert, and I must say, Shay outdid himself.

On Nov. 30, Bonnie Kocis and Ron Dowse were greeters. The Blue Mountain Hospital guild was here to serve, including Mary Lu Horton, Kris Labhart, Gloria Kulis, Chris Yriarte and Mary Jones. Mary Jones and Sally Dunn made meal deliveries to those in John Day and Canyon City, and David Gill and Rodney Bruser did the Mt. Vernon route. In all, they delivered 39 meals.

Chris Yriarte led the flag salute, and Chris Labhart won the drawing for the Chester's Thriftway certificate. Jan Sheridan won the free Valley View meal. Dale Stennett gave the blessing for the meal. The meal was sponsored by Tootie Cernazanu in memory of Jim. We want to thank Tootie for being so generous to the John Day Senior Center this year. Shay presented beef enchiladas, Spanish rice, refried beans and green salad with chili ranch dressing. Lisa made a lovely peach crisp for dessert.

I hope you enjoy the peace of the upcoming season and remember the reason we celebrate it.

Isaiah 53:5 "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."



We had a most excellent last meal of November served to us. Through the generous contributions of Clarence and Sharon Harvey, along with Dennis and Linda Abraham, we had a wonderful and delicious meal of prime rib.

Linda and Terry Cade helped to smoke and cook it in the early hours of the morning while the rest of us were all snug in our beds (and the temps were in the low 20s, FYI).

Terry Cade and Carrie Jewell helped serve the food. What a wonderful surprise that awaited us when we arrived to the senior center expecting to be served chicken. Included in the meal with the prime rib were green beans, dinner rolls and birthday chocolate cake.

Our greeters were Bodean Andersen, Jimmy Cole and Debbie Reed. Bodean led us in the flag salute, made the announcements and prayed the blessing of the meal. The lucky winners of the free meals were Bob Blakeslee and Debbie Reed. There were 66 guests on the books and 14 takeouts. Some of the guests that were present and enjoyed our delicious meal were the school superintendents of Grant County: Robert Waltenburg of Dayville, Julie Gurcyzski of Prairie City, Curt Shelley of John Day, Kathryn Hedrick of Dayville, Carlyn Sproul of John Day, and our new superintendent, Michael Lane, of Monument.

I and many others are so

thankful and proud of our senior center. We appreciate all the efforts of our old, new and current board members of the senior center trying to serve and do their best in serving the Monument community. I love that our community truly and genuinely cares for the people in Monument. If someone has a need or is in need of help, there are people left and right just willingly coming out to lend a hand. Now that is community spirit and unity.

Our senior center board was able to secure us a grant for a much needed and new convection oven. We should have one by the first of the year.

The senior center board is also having the flooring redone in the senior center. There is a need for moving dollies from Dec. 21-24. If you have one and are willing to lend it out, it would be much appreciated. Thanks.

The senior center's nutrition fund is running short so there is a can out on the greeting table to receive donations. Also, the Harveys and the Abrahams gave us a great example. If anyone would like to sponsor a lunch, it would be much appreciated, and you can notify the board. Jimmy Cole is the president of the board; his number is 541-934-2000.

Some of the future events coming up that you might want to mark on your calendars are as follows: Dec. 10 will be the Christmas Bazaar, and they will have available chili and pretzels. Dec. 12 will be the Cookie Caper. Dec. 16 will be the sewing class.

Hebrews 10:23 "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)"



Got all the leftovers put away? Just remember it is only three weeks until Christmas. Then we get to do it all over again. What fun.

To get away from the holiday meats, Marjean and Tom had Salisbury steak, rice, salad and a spice cake for the last meal of November. Heard good reports about it. We had to go to the last appointment with the ENT specialist in La Grande, so we missed out. But over 50 of you didn't. It was a day of substitutions for personnel. Pam, who is usually at the reception desk, had to go to Idaho with hubby, Jim, for his VA appointment, and I was gone so we had to get someone to do that job. Carla Wright filled in there. Then due to Frances resigning her positions — and me gone - Ginger Kendall took over the announcer duties.

Our home delivery people were present and Larry, Carlos and Ken got that done. We will be losing Ken soon due to back surgery, so if you would like to take on that important task, let us know. Del Lake led the flag salute, and Jack Retherford asked the blessing.

Ginger had to make the announcement about keeping the space clear for the care center bus. Apparently someone blocked the lane again. Come on, people. That cone covers the entire area that the care center bus needs to use to get up to the ramp. 'Nuff said.

Veanne gave information about getting energy assistance. And we want to express our condolences to Darrell Johnson on the death of his daughter, Wanda.

This was November birthday recognition day. Carlos, Ginger and Gwynne were the contenders, and Gwynne was the winner of the \$10 gift certificate donated by Huffinan's Market.

Two of the "Three Amigas" were able to provide music. Thanks, gals. Lorna and Krystin brought Bob Larkin, Lois Hill, Richard Findley and Dick Read from the Blue Mountain Care Center.

I've sure been having a time with my hands since I can't do my needlepoint project. The yarn that I have been using for the last 40 years is no longer being made. Well, phooey. And I only have nine filing cabinet drawers full of it in all different shades of the color spectrum. Hmmm. Have to think outside the box to get it all used up.

And then the computer monitor decided that it should get all excited about the brightness and contrast it is set at. Little pop-up menu really got my attention. Asked four different people about it, and the consensus was that the button needed to be pushed a lot of times. So I finally figured out how to get rid of it. But it keeps coming back. Hard to type or play solitaire with that sitting in the middle of the page. Ah, yes. Electronics. They are fine when they work right, huh?

The only wildlife we saw on our trip to La Grande was a coyote in the field at Austin. But when we got home, there was a whole herd of deer in the yards of our neighbors.

Isaiah 35:5-6 "Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy."



