

TOP

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September

Website: Elliott indicted for first-degree manslaughter (3,338 views): A grand jury dropped the murder charge against Thomas Elliott.

Facebook: Wolf numbers growing in Mount Emily, Meacham (23,543 impressions): Seven packs with at least 36 wolves have settled in Walla Walla and Mount Emily wildlife units.

October

Website: Injured hunter rescued (11,612 views): James Lee Moyer, 51, of Mapleton was rescued after injuring himself dressing an elk.

Facebook: Injured hunter found by search and rescue (57,684 impressions): Same story.

November

Website: Elk hunter kills wolf in self-defense (5,803 views): No charges were filed after Brian Scott, 38, Clackamas, claimed he shot a wolf in self-defense in Union County.



Eagle file photo

Two members of a family staying at the Strawberry Village apartment complex in Prairie City died in a fire Nov. 30.

Facebook: Boy saved but two young girls die in fire (32,182 impressions): Kimberley Shelton and her three sons were hospitalized after

a Prairie City apartment fire that killed her two daughters.

December

Website: Boy saved but

two young girls die in fire (10,350 views): Same story.

Facebook: Rapp remains in jail on Dixie Creek Camp-ground attempted murder

charge (9,393 impressions): Kevin J. Rapp, 32, was charged with attempted murder, first-degree assault and unlawful use of a weapon.



Eagle file photo

Chris Knight plays at the Madden Brothers Performing Arts Center on Aug. 21.

SENIOR Outlook

Chester's

Prairie City Seniors

Rose Coombs



Well, it sure looks like Christmas now, doesn't it? Derrol got a new snow shovel for Christmas and has been busy using it on our walks and here at the hall. We spread a lot of cat litter around to help the ice situation and as far as I know, no one had

any problem.

The food bank blessed us with lots of apples, oranges, potatoes, Jello, cans of cranberry sauce, corn, green beans and marshmallows. And it all got a new home for the holidays. Thank you so much, Chip and Tonya.

Tom and Marjean put out extra table centerpieces for this extra-special Christmas meal. Some even had little candles that were lit in them. They also had baskets of oranges and nectarines on the tables for any who wanted them. They also all disappeared.

The 3 Amigas did Christmas music. Nancy brought her flute and guitar. Janine wished she had brought her viola for some of the music. So I am going to do what I love doing and arrange music for us that takes advantage of all the instruments that we play. This is gonna be fun!

We had a short business meeting before we ate to elect a new president and vice president for the corporation. Ginger Kendall and Dolores Scott agreed

to fill those positions, so we elected them. Thank you ladies for volunteering. It will help me a lot because it is very hard to be in two places at once. Since I was having a good time with the 3 Amigas, I forgot to do the drawings. And we had three drawings: Vivian Rookstool won the gift certificate donated by Chuck's Little Diner; Alex Dabalos was the winner of the birthday gift certificate donated by Huffman's Market; and someone donated a little live Christmas tree and Chester Willis got to take it home with him. Pete Currier led the flag salute and Jack Retherford asked the blessing.

We had ham and yams, broccoli salad, cranberry relish, rolls, and lots of pies and cakes and cookies for dessert. Yummy, yummy in the tummy to be sure. 79 diners were registered on the sign-in book. Among them were Keith and Alaina DeHart and children. Keith will soon be associate pastor at Prairie Baptist Church. For Pastor Appreciation Month, I gave them two certificates good for two meals at the Prairie City Senior Center and they redeemed them. That's one way to get people to come. Remember, no meal on Dec. 27, 2017. Other guests included Jack Pickle and his family. Lorna and Krystin brought Otho Laurance, Bud Salisbury, Alma Joslin and Marilyn Randall from the Blue Mountain Care Center.

The visit to the computer doctor about the pop-up on the monitor did not cure the problem. Said he would research further because he had seen that others had had the same problem with their Windows 10. He did determine that it was the operating system and not the monitor that has the bug. Oh, for the good ol' days of typewriter and carbon paper, a phone that hung on the wall, five and dime stores, and a daily paper that came on that day.

Ecclesiastes 7:10 "Do not say, 'Why were the old days better than these?' For it is not wise to ask such questions." Ps. 65:11 "You crown the year with Your bounty." Happy New Year.

John Day Seniors

Nicky Essex



This last week has been very busy. On Monday, Dec. 18, Ron Dowse and I covered the desk. Our friends from the First Christian Church, Pastor Al Altnow, Rick Rhinehart, Dusty Harris, Roberta Dowse and others, prepared tables. Pastor Al and Rick took meal deliveries to the John Day and Canyon City folks and the Step Forward crew of David Gill, Rodney and Travis took the Mt. Vernon route. Altogether, these wonderful volunteers delivered 36 regular and 38 frozen meals. We had a real treat for lunch. Finger steaks and fries, broccoli salad, and for dessert, Lisa outdid herself with apple pie with cinnamon ice cream.

We drew names for the Valley View meal, which went to Pat Amling, and the Len's Drug certificate went to Jay Colson. Then we drew names for two more wreaths, which went to Karen Barrieta and Merry Henry. Don't you just love the holidays?

For our special Christmas lunch on Dec. 21, we were served again by our dear friends from Ye Old Thrift Shop and the Methodist Church, who not only serve us regularly, they also support us generously all through the year. Thanks for Sherry Feiger, Isa Larkin, Margie and Alva Conley, Doll Horner, Kathy Smith and Dolores Spellman. Sherry did the regular deliveries to John Day and Canyon City as David Gill and his crew took the Mt. Vernon route. Altogether, 39 regular meals and 40 frozen meals were delivered.

Notice, I said Sherry did the John Day and Canyon City route alone. Her partner was ill and she ran it alone. That is the kind of people who volunteer and never whine but just get the job done. She said she was blessed; it gave her a chance to meet the people they serve. She usually drives.

Margie Conley led us in the flag salute, and then we did the regular drawings, which produced the Chester's Thriftway card winner, Lon Davis, and Valley View meal winner, Gene Essex. The last of the wreaths were drawn for and I didn't get all of the names. But it was great to see all of the happy winners. Sherry Feiger gave our blessing and we dined like royalty. We had pineapple-glazed ham with candied yams, lemon basil orzo and Christmas cakes for dessert. We also had eggnog. We served 91 guests. Thanks to our kitchen crew. In fact, Santa came and part of his gift was "seed money" to each guest. He had elves, Corinne and Dale Stennett, to pass the money and then do a collection for Shay, Lisa and Danny, as a thank you for the great meals through the year.

Other thanks go to our very dear friend, Jessie Elliott, who is on her feet (still fighting) and willing to serve whenever needed. Kay Cotham helped Linda with place cards. Many are appreciated and never thanked. I also want to thank Caleb Maplesden and Hutch's Printing for the delivery of the Firehall Press each week. I love that little community paper. Merry Christmas to all from Linda, Veanne and all!

John 3:17a "For God did not send His Son to condemn the world..."

Monument Seniors

Soo Yukawa



Life is sure flying by and so is this year. We had a small crowd for our December 19th lunch. Our wonderful and hardworking cooks made us creamy chicken noodles with spinach, garlic bread, a fresh green salad, and chocolate brownies (yum!) for dessert.

Our greeters were Bodean Andersen, Jimmy Cole, and Debbie Reed. Bodean led us in the flag salute, made the announcements, and prayed the blessing over our meal. Jimmy and Debbie collected and counted the money. We had 41 guests present and one takeout. We also had some visitors join us, Diana Britl, Greg and Dale Smith, from Pilot Rock. Our winners for the free meals were Rickie Doland and Doug Sweek. The turkey raffle was won by Jay Ball.

With help from some volunteers, we moved all the tables, chairs, furniture, piano, organ, and plants out of the main hall so that the floors can be redone. There won't be a lunch the day after Christmas. A couple of us are thinking of reporting some of the plants because they are looking quite pitiful. If anyone would like to donate some big pots or bags of soil, it would be greatly appreciated.

Here are some of the announcements, the next sewing class will be held on January 20th from 9am-3pm. There will be a potluck lunch held at noon. There was a surplus of bags of rice from the food bank and so they are

available to take home. Bingo will be held on December 30th. The start time will be at 6pm, after ten games, there will be a potluck dinner, and then conclude with the last 10 games.

I am still in disbelief that 2017 is coming to a close and 2018 is just around the corner. I actually got my Christmas cards out before Christmas this year! Wahoo! That in itself was an accomplishment. Ha. I'm just not that organized. Maybe that should be my New Year's resolution this year? Yes, to be a more organized person. How about you?

Don't all try and kill me at once, but I am hoping for a white Christmas. Yes, I really am. I'm trying to make up for all that lost time that I lived in CA with no snow for Christmas. It was quite dreary actually. I mean who can be in the festive mood when one couldn't even wear a winter coat during that season let alone have a nice cozy fire going in 80 degree weather?

Ah, but here in Monument, we get snow. Love it! Yes, there are some troublesome things like making sure the animals' water isn't frozen over, being careful when walking so one does not slip and fall. But the bright side of things, we can make some snowmen! We actually have snow covered Christmas trees. And have you seen how snow just sparkles like diamonds in the sun?

Psalm 31: 1 In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed. Deliver me in thy righteousness.

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