



A group of friends smile with Santa during Christmas on the Prairie at the Teen Center on Front Street. In photo: Lauren Romstad of John Day takes a photo of the group, which includes, from left, Cashel Toy, 3; Quinn Cowie, 4; Avery Toy, 5; Ayla Romstad, 3; and Rosie Burtel, 3. See more photos at myeaglenews.com.

Christmas on the Prairie enjoyed by young and old

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

Prairie City was bustling with visitors, young and old, as residents rolled out their annual Christmas on the Prairie celebration.

Children filled the Teen Center, decorating gingerbread houses with the help of parents or friends. Kids also visited with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Ten-year-old Vincent Raschio of John Day chatted briefly with the jolly old elf.

What did he whisper in Santa's ear?

"I said I don't know what I want for Christmas," he said.

Grant County's Hope 4 Paws set up a Tree of Hope with gift tags for locals to support the nonprofit's pet rescue programs for cats and dogs.

Norma Rynearson and her daughter-in-law Lisa Rynearson of Prairie City have had a booth at the Prairie City American Legion Auxiliary Christmas Bazaar for years.

Their table was stacked with Norma's knitted items and Lisa's crocheted and sewn items, which included colorful dishcloths, handtowels and baby bibs.

There were 21 vendors in all with items ranging from hand-painted signs and other home decor, homemade beeswax lip gloss, beaded hats and homemade goodies, including pies.



Gingerbread houses were under construction at the Teen Center during Saturday's Christmas on the Prairie in Prairie City. A group of kids from John Day were busy decorating with candies, including, from left, Caleb Sheedy, 10; Jaylyn LaDuke, 10; Aly Qual, 9; Jeshua Sheedy, 13; and Ethan Sheedy, 15.

"It's a lot of fun for people," said Pam Howard, who is the secretary and treasurer for the auxiliary. "It gets them out and in the spirit of the holidays."

Drawing winners

Auxiliary gift baskets: soup basket, Lisa Rynearson; pasta basket, Zinny Locke; beverage basket, Carry Scott; hunter basket, Fonda Thompson
Auxiliary grocery gift certificates: Connie Flowers, \$100 to Huffman's Select Market; Pam Woodworth, \$100 to Chester's Thriftway
Cord of wood: Jenni Workman
Garden Club knife and block set: Sandee Dean
Bar W-B \$100 gift certificate: Wendi Deiter
Ornament Hunt gift collection: Sharon Fritch



Hayrides were a new feature at Christmas on the Prairie this year. Monty Buck hauled happy passengers back and forth from downtown Prairie City to Prairie City School where a Christmas bazaar was being held.



Eagle photos/Richard Hanners
From left, Nancy Nickel, Eva Harris and Stan McKay debone turkeys at the John Day Elks Lodge's Thanksgiving Day dinner.

Thanksgiving meal at Elks satisfies all

First-class dinner with all the fixings

By Richard Hanners
Blue Mountain Eagle

It was a full house for Thanksgiving Day dinner at the John Day Elks Lodge No. 1824.

Angie Jones, who heads up the annual event, said five smoked and five baked turkeys were prepared, along with 10 hams, 100 pounds of sweet yams and 100 pounds of mashed potatoes.

A crew of cooks worked in the busy kitchen deboning the turkeys before the diners arrived. The first-class meal also included garden salad, dinner rolls, green beans, stuffing, gravy and three tables covered with 42 pies in a variety of flavors. Some additional home-cooked pies were donated.

Students from Prairie City School and Humbolt Elementary School decorated the tables and the dining



Margie Powell and other visitors serve themselves Thanksgiving dinner at the John Day Elks Lodge.

rooms. Jones said the annual dinner is funded through a grant from the National Elks Foundation. Volunteers made 70 home deliveries so more people could enjoy the Thanksgiving meal.



Visitors to the John Day Elks Lodge Thanksgiving Day dinner had 42 pies to choose from for dessert.

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