

Christmas on the Prairie moved to Dec. 5

A kickoff to the Christmas Season delayed but happening

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

Santa had to postpone his visit to Prairie City, but it looks like he'll now be coming to town for Christmas on the Prairie on Dec. 5.

The holiday event was originally scheduled for Nov. 21, but the two-week statewide COVID-19 freeze from Nov. 18 to Dec. 2 delayed the event, according to Wanda Winegar, a longtime merchant and one of several organizers of the event.

The restrictions from the state mandate limited many activities, such as the shopping at bazaars and stores, so the event was moved to the first Saturday after the two-week period. Many activities originally listed in the event are still tentatively scheduled to happen, but the carriage rides are up in the air due to the carriage company possibly having another job in Idaho at the same time.

Organizers had already decided to cut other events as well such as the 5K run and the kids crafts. However, Winegar said there will be other events and sales at bazaars and shops that the community can enjoy.

"I think things will be a little quieter, but hopefully people can enjoy the shopping, activities and friendship," Winegar said.

Winegar said Christmas on the Prairie is an important event with a bazaar at the American Legion Hall as a fundraiser for the group and a bazaar at the community center for home vendors.

It's also a big day finan-



Santa shows 6-year-old Blake Jacobs that her name is on his list of good children. The jolly 'elf visited with a long line of children at the Teen Center during Christmas on the Prairie in Prairie City last year.

Eagle file photo

cially for local stores in Prairie City, thanks to the movement provided by the event, while giving an opportunity for the community to socialize.

"You get to see people that you haven't seen in a while, and I think the public as a whole enjoys it because they can go to lunch with their friends and shop," Winegar said.

One activity the public can look forward to is a Christmas lyric scavenger hunt provided by the stores in Prairie City.

Winegar said each participating store in Prairie City will have a lyric to a Christmas song, and participants will fill out a form of where they found the lyrics.

Merchants also provided

items and gift certificates to be awarded as prizes.

St. Nick himself is tentatively scheduled to greet the public at the Teen Center at 11 a.m. and then at the tree lighting ceremony at 4:30 p.m.

"We hope people come and enjoy the day and enjoy their friendship with other people and the sales going on," Winegar said.



Contributed photo
Thomas Dekany
Strutting along in downtown Prairie City are two Percheron thoroughbred draft horses, driven by Jerry Wilcox of Wilcox Horse & Buggy of Vale, with his passengers.

Skills for a lifetime

Monument CTE teacher Michele Engle instructs on construction, greenhouses, welding

By Rudy Diaz
Blue Mountain Eagle

Arts and letters are important, but for career technical education teacher Michele Engle, the goal is skills to be used outside of the classroom.

Engle's CTE class in Monument offers many topics from ag welding and construction to greenhouse care and management for students in middle school.

Engle said students at the greenhouse raise many different types of vegetable plants and flowers with more varieties available this year for sale.

For welding, she said students can learn about various welding processes such as gas metal arc welding (MIG welding), shielded metal arc

welding (stick welding) and gas tungsten arc welding (TIG welding).

Students learn basic construction skills from the Paxton/Patterson construction program. They learn how to use various tools and apply these skills to plumbing, applying drywall, framing and more. Lessons on blueprint reading and taking measurements are also taught.

Skills learned are then applied to projects conducted through the school year.

There are 14 students enrolled in the CTE program with some students taking both welding and construction classes.

Engle said her goal is to help those students develop skills that make them more self-sufficient in their personal life.

"We live in a society where many people are not able to perform simple maintenance on their own homes," Engle

said. "This program gives them those skills, as well as allowing them the opportunity to develop interests in the different career fields."

Some of the projects her class completed were building Adirondack chairs, toddler flip chairs and different types of benches, signs and stools.

One project that the higher-level students are building is a chicken house, which Engle said looked like a miniature barn. Engle said her students found the blueprints to construct the chicken house.

"As with any blueprint, the students have had to make modifications," Engle said. "I have been very impressed with their discussions about the changes and the decisions that they have had to make concerning them."

Her welding and construction classes have built items to donate to the community of Monument. Her welding class built a barbecue with a stand that was donated to the local motel, and her students also constructed a sidewalk through



Contributed photo
Monument senior David Howell welds in the career technical education teacher Michele Engle's class.



Contributed photo
Monument senior Mark Thomas momentarily takes off his mask to smile with a family sign he made in class.



Contributed photo
Monument sophomore Gauge Jenks works during career technical education class.

the local park in Monument.

For three years, the students' work has also been donated as auction items for Women in Timber, local first responders and the Monument Senior Center.

"I instill in my students the importance of giving

back and helping with programs that need individuals to help make them successful," Engle said.

Engle said a highlight of being the CTE instructor is watching her students learn, create and build personal projects that they can use.

"I love the comments from

parents and community members about how impressed they are with the knowledge that my students have gained while participating in the program," Engle said. "I have been so proud to see how successful my students have become in many different types of vocational fields."



Michele Engle

THE JUNIPER ARTS COUNCIL / GRANT COUNTY CULTURAL COALITION IS SEEKING GRANT PROPOSALS FOR OREGON CULTURAL TRUST GRANT AWARDS

The coalition has \$7,000 from the Oregon Cultural Trust to distribute in Grant County to organizations for projects relating to culture and / or heritage.

Applications are available from Karin Barntish, 131 W. Main Street, John Day, Oregon, or call Kris Beal at (541)932-4892 for more information or an application.

Grant applications will be accepted until January 8, 2021 5 P.M.

Happy Thanksgiving!

We will be closed November 26th. Have a safe and wonderful holiday!

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