

Red Cross responds to Boardman house fire

Disaster Action Team volunteers with the Rolling Prairie District of the American Red Cross responded to a duplex fire on Main Street in Boardman, on Wednesday, Jan. 7, to care for two families displaced by the fire.

The highly-trained Disaster Action Team volunteers met with the family to discuss and identify immediate needs resulting from the fire. Typically, basic human needs such as a place to stay, food to eat, necessary medications or health items, and clothes to wear are provided for first. Then, the Red Cross will continue to work with the family as they plan their recovery. This is the second fire in as many days that the team has responded to, assisting a total of 14 people.

Members of the Disaster Action Team are volunteers, specially trained in various aspects of disaster response, including casework interviews, damage

assessment, shelter and feeding, health services and crisis counseling. The volunteers also have the full support of the local Red Cross for additional personnel and resources if needed.

The Rolling Prairie District of the American Red Cross responds to all residential fires and other disasters in Umatilla, Morrow and Grant counties. All Red Cross disaster assistance is free, made possible by voluntary donations of time and money from the American people. You can help the victims of disasters in our community by making a financial gift to the local American Red Cross, which enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, counseling and other assistance to those in need. Call (541) 276-1211 to volunteer. Contributions to the Red Cross may be sent to the Rolling Prairie District of the American Red Cross at P.O. Box 1048, Pendleton OR 97801.

Giant gift box raffle to benefit children's grief program



Cyde Estes displays the giant gift box to be raffled

Pioneer Memorial Hospice is raffling a giant gift basket of goodies to earn money for its new children's grief program called "Sad is not Bad". The new program, presented by Pioneer Memorial Hospice staff, offers instruction for teachers on children's grief and donates books to the school that can be gifted to a child who has recently suffered a loss. The program is being offered to all our grade schools in Morrow and Gilliam counties.

The staff of Pioneer Memorial Home Health and Hospice donated the basket. Inside the basket you will find: smoked salmon, caviar, marinated white asparagus, pepper and sesame crackers, sourdough wine bites, Godiva dessert chocolates, lemon cookies, Ghirardelli assorted chocolates, caramels, biscotti,

Italian chocolate, Trufflz and many more items. The basket is valued at \$200.

The basket will be on display at the Bank of Eastern Oregon from January 12-30. Then it will move to Condon, Arlington, Irrigon, Boardman, Lone and back to Heppner. The Bank of Eastern Oregon has agreed to display the basket in each community. The Bank of EO staff will be selling the tickets for the raffle at each branch. When the basket leaves a bank it does not mean you cannot still purchase tickets. Ticket sales will continue until May 2. At that time, the winner will be drawn and the basket will be delivered or mailed to the recipient. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20.

For more information about "Sad is not Bad" and the gift books, call Molly Rhea at (541) 676-2946.

Breathe easier. . .from SWCD

We do things out of habit, without thinking about the consequences. "We've always done it this way..." This is true about burning our trash. Today's trash is different from yesterday's. Have you ever thought about what's in that burn barrel that's smoking and smoldering out back?

There's more plastic in our trash than ever. When trash is burned in a barrel or pile, plastics produce high levels of toxic gases—nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, volatile organic chemicals (VOCs), and Polycyclic organic matter (POMs) that form hydrochloric acid in our lungs. Burning trash and treated wood also releases heavy metals and toxic chemicals such as dioxin.

When trash is burned in a burn barrel, the fire is not hot enough to destroy

Off the Wall

By Merlyn Robinson

Red Rover! Oh-- all-powerful Spirit Rover Robot! Did you look 106 million miles down to earth during your red ramblings to observe our frozen, white wonderland that had us mere mortals shoveling, slipping and sliding? Your link to send data and pictures at 11,000 bits, per second back to earth is probably what keeps me from getting Internet connections without waiting days to go on-line.

Well why not? The rambling robot "Spirit" and its backup companion, "Opportunity", cost a mere \$820 million each. Scientists hope to find a tiny speck of water trapped in a salt crystal that holds single cell microorganisms that we've happily been ignorant about for millions of years.

Our earthly news is the BIG STORM of the decade. We haven't had this much snow since the winter of 1992-93. How we learn to grumble in spite of all our modern coping conveniences. The better situated we are the more it seems we complain--which takes me back to the winter of 1949. We didn't have electricity here on the ranch at that time and we were blissfully accustomed to wood stoves, horse drawn sleds, and chopping ice near springs to water livestock.

Oh yes, when the bottom dropped out of the thermometer, we took turns getting up at night to keep the home-fires blazing. Lose the heat in that single-walled house with loose doors and rattling windows and the place quickly became a cold storage plant. During the day it was necessary to pack warm water to keep our chickens from becoming frozen entrees. In the mornings a team was harnessed to pull the wagon to feed cows while frozen snaffle bridle bits were warmed by the old Monarch range. Before the days of insulated outerwear, it was an effort to pull on several layers of clothing and five buckle overshoes. It then became a chore just to bend over, much less pitch the wheat hay bundles on and off the wagon or out of the stack to the cows.

That's right, we had no 4-wheel drives, no engine heaters, no heat lamps, no snowmobiles, or insulated footwear. Just lots of cold, empty space as three feet of snow lay on top of several feet of frozen ground all through February. Here's the kicker, so "bear with me," on this twice around, told before tale! CABIN FEVER STRUCK BIG TIME as time for the Elks Annual rolled around in late February.

Fortunately our elderly hired hand could handle the livestock chores overnight, so I insisted we pack our "duds" in suitcases, tie them behind saddles and ride horseback the frozen, eight miles to town. Arrangements were made to accommodate horses and stay with friends via the old "farmer" phone line. We blended in at the "big shindig" appropriately decked out in long formal dress and the "Sunday best" suit and tie.

After a long night of "hardy partying" we arose late the next morning to find thawing underway. Again horseback, we left town slowly so as not to jar our squinty eyes or heads that seemed to weight more than usual. County roads were beginning to wash out as water cut straight down through frozen ground. When we got to Sandhollow where Becky and Monte Evans now live, it was the first time we saw deer in this open country. At that time there was no house there. Jim Valentine had fed hay to some Shorthorn bulls in a barn there. The hungry deer invited themselves inside to eat alfalfa with the bulls. Since that time deer have found this open country easier pickings in bad weather.

Moral of the story? There isn't any! People can survive when more is less or less is sufficient, robots or no expensive robots! How's your latest snow story?

Willow Creek Terrace holds activities for residents



Irene Swanson, a resident at Willow Creek Terrace in Heppner, receives the "skunk award" from Duane Jones following a losing Bingo session. Jones and Eve Ironhawk help conduct regular Bingo games at the assisted living center.

St. Patrick's Senior Center news

By the Rev. Grace Drake

Hope/Valby/All Saints Ecumenical Parish volunteers are next on the serving schedule for the Wednesday, Jan. 21 noon meal. The menu consists of spaghetti and meatballs, pears and cheese, French bread, and rhubarb upside down cake.

This day coincides with the Annual Meeting, which will be held in the dining room, for all present to be participants, hear reports, and elect the three one-year term members.

Tuesday, Jan. 27, is the date set for the meeting with District Attorney David Allen and Bill Kuhn, about being aware, and knowing how to avoid, recognize or manage scheming situations, which can put elders at a disadvantage.

The meeting will be held at 10 a.m. in the senior center's dining room. Previous meetings created enough interest to arrange for continuing a program of legal information.

Some of the topics open for question and discussion, at this important public service meeting, are: *Schemers, seem to target certain groups and individuals. Do you know what characteristics make people, or persons vulnerable? *Schemers may have key words and phrases they use, intended to attract enthusiasm. Do you know what kinds of "talk" to listen for? *Do's and Don'ts about credit cards protection, questions to ask even of someone you know, if solicited for anything.

'Sad Is Not Bad' program aids grieving children



By Molly Rhea, R.N. Home Health and Hospice Director

Children often struggle with grief. Adults often struggle when trying to help a child with their grief. The staff and volunteers of Pioneer Memorial Hospice are committed to helping these children cope with their feelings of sadness and isolation by launching a program that includes instruction to elementary staff as well as the donation of books to each elementary library in our service area.

In December the staff at Heppner Elementary viewed the video "Children Grieve, Too", then heard from Pioneer Memorial Hospice's chaplain and bereavement coordinator, Carolyn Wiley, how children demonstrate grieving and ways to support children experiencing grief or bereavement. Following this

inservice, Pioneer Memorial Hospice director, Molly Rhea, presented Heppner Elementary librarian, Ellen Rollis, with the books, "We were gonna have a Baby, but We had an Angel Instead." and "When Someone Very Special Dies".

"Sad is not Bad" includes the presentation of the video, discussion on children's grief with the teachers in our grade schools and the gift of books for children who have suffered a loss. We are happy to be presenting this program to every elementary school in Morrow and Gilliam County. If you would like more information about the program or if you know a child who is grieving and could use a book, please call the Pioneer Home Health and Hospice office at (541) 676-2946.

Common School Fund distributes \$6.7 million to counties for schools

At the end of December, the State Land Board distributed nearly \$6.7 million from earnings of the Common School Fund for use by K-12 public schools.

By law, the funds are dedicated for "support and maintenance of common schools in each school district." County population ages 4-20 determines each county's share of earnings. County treasurers forward the funds to school districts. The Land Board distributed \$7.3 million from the CSF for schools in June.

The Oregon Constitution established the State Land Board as trustee of the Common School Fund. The Department of State Lands is the administrative agency of the State Land Board, composed of the Governor, Secretary of State and State Treasurer. At statehood, the federal government granted Oregon roughly six percent of the new state's land for the use of schools. The Constitution dedicated the school lands and their mineral, timber and other resources to the Common School Fund.

The State Treasurer and Oregon Investment Council invest the fund. Fund

values in recent years have ranged from \$600 million to \$800 million, depending on market conditions. Twice a year, earnings from investments are distributed to counties for the support of schools according to a formula established by the State Land Board.

Annual distributions in recent years have fluctuated from \$9 million to \$40.8 million depending on board policies and market conditions. The value of the Common School Fund totaled \$778 million at the end of November 2003.

Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk at the courthouse in Heppner reports issuing the following marriage licenses:

January 9, 2004- Timothy Gerald Davidson, 31, Heppner, and Mindy Michelle Qualls, 24, Heppner.

HOME
FOR SALE
ONLINE

www.heppner.net

To the Heppner Fire Chief & Volunteers:

Thank You for your quick response and for saving our house from burning on the cold frozen night of January 8. Your response time was excellent. Many Thanks!

Jim & Yung

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