

## A view from the hill

By Doris Brosnan

"Boy, that's for the birds!" is definitely not viewed as a derogatory statement at Willow Creek Terrace. It is just a statement of fact about the food for the birds fortunate enough to live near the Terrace. A pleasant distraction throughout the day, the birds can be entertaining as they argue over vittles and flit around in search of the best seeds while tossing others to the ground for birds less picky.

As January 5 was National Bird Day, the feathered friends were of special interest. A good day for a search in the bird-identification book and for "chicken" on the menu?

On January 8, the hilltop community commemorated Elvis Presley's birthday. Born in Tupelo, Mississippi, in 1935, Elvis would have been 74. One can only try to imagine what he would add to life on the Hill at age 74. One thing might be a request to have on the menu his favorite sandwich, which residents were invited to enjoy on Thursday. Some did not agree that peanut butter and bananas make a good sandwich.

January teems with special days, many that do little more than create an excuse for some uncommon activities and fun, some with a bit more seriousness behind them, and the Terrace will recognize several.

Since the National Stockmen's Show and Rodeo in Denver, Colorado, was on the 10<sup>th</sup>, residents had cowboy beans on the menu. They had tortillas as a choice on the 13<sup>th</sup>, mainly because tortillas are the food item closest in looks to Frisbees, and it was, after all, the Frisbee's Birthday! Residents had an opportunity to try their hands at tossing some Frisbees among themselves.

Everyone is invited to don his or her favorite hat on January 16 and visit the Terrace, in celebration of National Hat Day. For Winnie-the-Poo Day, on the 18<sup>th</sup>, a cartoon will probably be in order, and some residents may wish to also observe World Religion Day on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Pizza Week will begin on the 18<sup>th</sup>, so it will definitely mean pizza on

the menu. Residents will be invited to help make pizza on one day that week.

Anyone who visits the Terrace on the 22<sup>nd</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> might at first be a bit surprised, so this column cautions readers that National Clothes-Clashing Day is on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and Backwards Day on the 30<sup>th</sup>. What will those bring?

Telling jokes and viewing a comedy are on the agenda for January 24 because it is Belly-Laugh Day. Most of the time, the Saturday matinee at the Terrace is related in some way to a theme of a special day celebrated that week. Most movies come from Heppner's Video Store and are complimentary rentals of the owners, John and Nancy Gochnauer, who have offered to supply the Terrace, at no cost, for their Saturday matinees and for any special occasions. Belly laughs might be plentiful on the 27<sup>th</sup>, also, since that is National Tongue-Twister Tuesday and many residents and staff might try their luck.

Probably, three days in particular stand out as most enjoyable on the Hill this month: On January 8, Kathryn Lindstrom celebrated her birthday with family, friends, and neighbors. Last week, Marge Burgess moved into the Terrace and brought her zest for life with her. Marge moved to Heppner from Baker City five or six years ago to be nearer to her nephew, Keith Lewis. She is a welcome addition to the community.

...And on January 23, residents will enjoy National Pie Day!

A request comes from the Willow Creek Terrace with this column. An important day of special recognition occurs on January 26, and residents need some help acquiring the proper tools for a proper celebration. Since that day will be National Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day, obvious is the fact that many sheets of this ubiquitous shipping and packing aid will be required for popping! Anyone willing to share bubble wrap, please drop it off at the Terrace. This will be viewed as evidence that those who share can appreciate the sublime!

## "Cabin Fever" Music and Comedy program to be held Jan. 24

John Wambeke & Friends have the cure for "cabin fever" at their show on Saturday night, January 24, at 7 p.m. at the Hermiston Conference Center. The performance will feature a variety of talent and a healthy dose of comedy.

The Wambeke band is back by popular demand after over 600 people attended their CD release concert last fall in Hermiston. The Wambeke family includes John on guitar as singer and song writer, his son Frazier, whose expertise is piano and jazz, son Spencer on bass, and an added treat will be the alto voice of 20 year old Liberty Wambeke, who is home for a visit from England. John's wife, Jordawn, also joins in the fun. Along with the Wambekes will be some familiar faces from previous concerts including Pat Ward, the Frazer Wambeke Trio, Harry Noble, Jessica St. Hilaire, Curley Lightle, and local musicians Eric Jepsen on fiddle and Rebecca Jepsen on harp.

Wambeke and sidekick Pat Ward will again be



Top Photo: John Wambeke begins to show signs of "cabin fever" during a poker game with Sophie (the mannequin). John Wambeke & Friends will perform in Cabin Fever on Saturday, January 24. Bottom Photo: Eric Jepsen of Ione will be playing the fiddle during the program. -Contributed Photos

transforming themselves into the ladies of Dibbley Parish in one of their skits. Additionally, Curly Ligh-

tle and the Hee Haw Gang will return as a spoof of the old TV show. In another

skit, Frazier, Spencer and Liberty will bring back a musical comedy routine that won the Kiwanis Kaper's competition in Pendleton several years ago. The evening promises to be a variety show to get rid of winter doldrums.

In addition to the program, a catered meal, with music, will precede the concert at 5:30 p.m. Sharon's Sweet Treats will have a dozen Dutch ovens - preparing enough food for 100 people.

Reservations are required by January 17 for the Cabin Fever Concert and Dinner Combo. The cost for the combo is \$25. Tickets can be purchased at the Hermiston Conference Center, on Highway 395 or by calling 567-6151.

Those who want to attend just the concert may purchase tickets at the door. Admission to the 7 p.m. concert only is \$8 per person or \$28/family. Concert only tickets can also be purchased in advance at the conference center.

## Heppner Elementary holds Geography Bee

On January 7, 2009 16 young geographers at Heppner Elementary took part in the annual National Geographic Bee. The Bee is a nationwide contest for schools in the United States, District of Columbia and U.S. territories.

To earn a spot in the HES Bee, students in grades four, five and six take a qualifying test to determine the slate of contestants. Participating this year were: Skyler Hawks, John Prophter, Demi Schmidt, Cade Arbogast, Kane Sweeney, Ross Cutsforth, Joe Schmidt, Kai Arbogast, Will Lutchter, Kevin Murray, Kaden Lehman, Jesse Boyd, Patrick Collins, Caitlynn Bailey, Tommy Bredfield and TJ Patton.

After seven rounds of questioning by facilitator John Flaherty, HHS social studies teacher, the field was narrowed to: Jesse Boyd, Joe Schmidt, Kane Sweeney, Cade Arbogast and Kevin Murray.

At the end of the final round, the two top contestants moved into the championship round, with



Joe Schmidt finishing in third place and Kevin Murray and Kane Sweeney advancing. Both Kevin and Kane are fourth graders, and kept calm under the pressure of competition. After four questions, Kevin emerged as the winner of the 2009 National Geographic Bee at HES.

Kevin has now taken a test which will be submitted for the state competition. The top 100 students in Oregon compete on April 3, and the first place winner from each state advances to the National Geographic Bee, scheduled for May 19 and 20 in Washington, D.C.



Top Photo: Pictured are all the participants in this year's National Geographic Bee at Heppner Elementary School. Bottom Photo: Pictured left to right are Joe Schmidt, Kane Sweeney, and HES National Geographic Bee winner Kevin Murray. -Contributed Photo

## Oregon East Symphony's youth ensembles start spring season

The Oregon East Symphony's preparatory orchestras and youth choir are beginning their spring seasons soon. Musicians of any age and singers in grades 3-8 are invited to join one of these ensembles.

The A-Sharp Players Symphony Orchestra is open to intermediate to advanced musicians of any age. The Preludes String Orchestra is open to beginner to intermediate string players of any age who can read

music. Both groups meet at the Pendleton High School on Sunday afternoons (Preludes - 2-3 p.m., A-Sharps - 3:15 to 5:15 p.m.) starting Sunday, January 11. Both groups are led by cellist, conductor, and educator Bruce Walker and will take part in retreats and a final spring concert in April.

The Young Voices of Eastern Oregon is a youth choir open to singers in grades 3-8. YVEO meets on Thursday afternoons from

3:30 to 5 p.m. at McKay Creek Elementary School starting on Thursday, January 15. The group will take part in a spring day retreat and perform at the final spring concert in April. YVEO is led by singer and educator Shauna Altman and accompanied by Connie Thomas.

For registration forms, schedules, and further information, contact Christina van der Kamp at (541) 276-0320.

## Heppner City Council members sworn into office



Top Photo: City Attorney Anne Spicer swears in Keith Lewis, Samarra Van Doorn and Cindi Doherty. Lewis and Doherty are returning council members, and Van Doorn won election talking the seat vacated by Kay Robinson, who decided not to run for another term. The swearing in took place before Monday night's council meeting.

Right Photo: City Attorney Anne Spicer swears in Mayor Les Paustian for another term as Heppner's mayor. The swearing in took place before Monday night's council meeting. -Photos by David Sykes



## Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center Exhibit held at local libraries

The Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center exhibit about Oregon's Japanese Americans will be on display at the Oregon Trail Library District Heppner branch through January 21.

The exhibit provides an audio/visual introduction to the Oregon Nikkei

experience, focusing on immigration of the first Japanese (Issei), settlement of communities in Oregon, including Hood River and Portland's Japantown, pre-war business and social life and internment during World War II.

The exhibit will also

be at the OTLD Irrigon branch on Friday, January 23, and the Boardman Library on Saturday, January 24 through February 9.

The exhibit marks the beginning of Oregon Reads 2009, the statewide celebration of the Oregon sesquicentennial.