

A view from the hill

By Doris Brosnan

Residents of Willow Creek Terrace view spring as an opportunity to enjoy. The warmer temperatures allow them to spend more time outdoors, and the time for planting allows them to again "get dirt under their nails." From their efforts and those of their groundskeeper, Jerry Baker, have come wonderfully groomed flowerbeds and a garden spot already showing signs of life and promise of a great variety for the table.

Their outdoor tables and chairs were put to good use on April 18 by residents and guests gathered for a "Volunteer Appreciation Celebration." In the sitting room and in the sunshine, about seventy-five individuals shared conversation and finger foods while discussing the past year of events at the Terrace and the volunteer hours that helped to make them successful.

That Sunday's celebration began with the dedication of a plaque attached to a large stone in the Terrace's rose garden. As board member Renee Devin explained, Suzanne Jepsen saw a need in our communities and shared a vision that became a reality almost eight years ago. Suzanne's vision and tenacity led others through the challenging process of planning and building a sixteen-apartment assisted living facility for Willow Creek Valley, which explains the dedication, "The Bud that led to the Rose. Many thanks for your vision." Planted near the plaque is a "Perfect Moment" rose. Jepsen, taken by surprise, insisted on sharing the tribute with her original board members and contributing the ongoing success of the Terrace to the staff, administration, and board members.

In the background of the group gathered for the dedication, lay the garden spot that already shows carrot tops and will soon sprout green with potato, pea, brussel sprout, cabbage, and broccoli plants. Also planted earlier this month were over 300 flower seeds and bulbs, and last Thursday, Earth Day, residents and staff added more garden seeds, with a plan for ongoing, staggered production of vegetables for the table and for preserving.

On Earth Day, too, Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Rosenbaum's HES class visited the Terrace to help plant the corn, beans, and pumpkins, and more flowers. On Monday, the 26th, the Lone High School horticulture class brought a variety of vegetable plant starts to add to the garden on the Hill.

The HES class's visit was reciprocal, following Manager George Nairn's trip to their classroom to share information and read a pertinent story during their study of memory and aging.

Age has been celebrated several times over this past month on the Hill, beginning with the 91st birthday observance for Marge Burgess on March 29th. Mary Goheen shared her 96th birthday commemoration with friends and neighbors on April 1, and Dean Gilman joined the birthday list with his 89th on April 20.

Other enjoyable observations, featured on the National Calendar of Special Days, have seen Terrace residents searching for rainbows (April 3), munching on caramel popcorn (April 6), sharing information about some cherished antiques (April 9), picking and chewing favorite flavors of jellybeans (April 22), and bird watching (April 24). Because of the nationally designated days, prime rib appeared on the menu on April 27, and oatmeal cookies will be the featured treat on April 30. The roast was the last prime rib from the beef generously donated to the Terrace by Charlie and Marsha Anderson last summer.

Coming to live at the Terrace in time for this past month of activities is Robert Barnes. Robert is a consummate storyteller who moved from a place near Lexington, after many years of traveling to many countries while working as an engineer. Robert regales his neighbors, the staff, and visitors with interesting tales of his family and his experiences while living overseas.

Residents at Willow Creek Terrace look forward to having another new face join their community soon. One apartment remains available, so readers are encouraged to call for information at 676-0004. When the apartments are full and the community again complete, visitors will view a comprehensive facility replete with good food, good care, and activities, a facility that started as the vision of one woman.

Willows and shrubs planted along Willow Creek



Dieter Waite's Heppner High School AP Biology class assisted the Morrow SWCD and Heppner Water Control District with planting willow cuttings and shrubs along the stream bank at the Heppner City Park to provide erosion protection and shade for Willow Creek. Students used stingers to create a small hole into moisture and inserted 250 willow cuttings. Twenty Mockorange, a native shrub, were also planted. Willow Creek is listed on DEQ's 303(d) water quality limited streams list for temperature. Trees, grass and shrubs along the creek provide shade to help lower the water temperature, filter sediment and reduce erosion. -Contributed Photos

AFSCME Local 2479 to award scholarships

AFSCME Local 2479 will be awarding two \$400 scholarships. The deadline to submit an application is May 13.

Graduating seniors of an AFSCME Local 2479 member or Heppner, Lone, Riverside, and Irrigon High Schools are eligible to apply.

Applicants should use common local scholarship format and submit the following: an information/essay page; activities resume, a seven-semester transcript, and two letters of recommendation from community members not related to the applicant. Applicants should state the relationship

to AFSCME member if applicable.

Special consideration may be given to those whose parents or grandparents are present members of AFSCME Local 2479, but not required for scholarship consideration.

For application information students can contact their high school counselors.

AFSCME Local 2479 is made up of employees from Morrow County Road Department, Pioneer Memorial Hospital, and general employees unit of the Morrow County Courthouse.

Water Control District looking for group to complete spring cleaning project

The Heppner Water Control District is accepting letters of interest from a club, class or group of youth, advisors and parents to complete a spring cleaning project along the creek and banks of Willow Creek in the City of Heppner.

This is an annual project that is carried out first to remove trash and items that could cause flooding, second to remove hazards to those who use the creek for recreation, and third to improve the water quality in our watershed. All trash and debris removed from the creek area will be taken to the south Morrow County Transfer Station.

Interested groups should send a letter to Heppner Water Control District, PO Box 127, Heppner, stating the name of the group, number of participants (youth and adult) who commit to complete the project on a Saturday or Sunday this spring and the name of the adult contact. The letter must be received by May 14. Each interested group will be contacted to discuss the details and the board will make the final selection.

This is an excellent way to help fund your group or club project, stated a representative of the district.

Landowners along Willow Creek are reminded that according to ORS 164.775, it is unlawful to deposit glass, cans or other trash, rubbish, debris or litter on land within 100 yards of any of the waters of the state. South Morrow County Transfer Station accepts large items (mattresses, stoves, refrigerators, etc.) at no charge.

HES students visit Willow Creek Terrace

After a month-long unit in journal writing, Heppner Elementary School fifth grade students in Madison Rosenbalm's class visited Heppner's assisted living facility on Earth Day, April 22. Mrs. Rosenbalm is student teaching through Eastern Oregon University at Heppner Elementary in Mrs. Allen's class.

A journal study, that began with the children's book "Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge," dealt with memories. Wilfrid was a young boy who lived next door to a nursing home, and helped his best friend, Miss Nancy, find the memory she thought she had lost. During the unit students interviewed their parents and elderly family members, and also wrote about their own memories.

Willow Creek Terrace Administrator, George Nairn, visited the classroom to talk with the young



Fifth grade students from Heppner Elementary School visited Willow Creek Terrace where they planted flowers on Earth Day. The students are pictured with residents of the Terrace. -Contributed Photo

people about the special residents of our assisted living facility. The children were fascinated with the information Mrs. Nairn shared, so Mrs. Rosenbalm arranged the visit.

Appropriately the field trip occurred on Earth

FSA reminds producers to file annual report of acreage

Lynn Voigt, Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Oregon reminds producers to submit their annual report of acreage to their local FSA county office to meet FSA program eligibility requirements.

"Producers can maximize their opportunity for program benefit returns by filing their reports accurately and in a timely manner for all crops and land uses, including prevented and failed acreage," said Voigt.

Accurate acreage

Day, and the weather was very cooperative as fifth graders planted flowers in the flower beds that border the outside seating area. "It was so much fun to plant the flowers and visit with the people. They had really fun stories about when they

reports are necessary to determine and maintain eligibility for various programs, such as the Direct and Counter-cyclical Program and newer programs authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill. Programs include the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE), Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Tree Assistance Program (TAP), and Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

Producers should visit their county FSA office to complete acreage reporting. For questions on this or any FSA program, including specific crop reporting deadlines and planting dates, producers should contact their county FSA office. More information on FSA programs is at www.fsa.usda.gov.

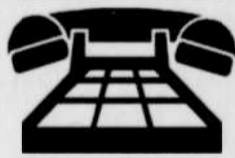
were kids," said one of the fifth grade students. After sharing punch and cookies baked by the Terrace staff, there were many promises to return during the summer for visits, and to check on the flowers.

Acreage reports are considered timely filed when completed by the applicable final crop reporting deadline, which may vary from county to county. Prevented acreage must be reported within 15 calendar days after the final planting date. Failed acreage must be reported before the disposition of the crop. Producers should contact their county FSA office if they are uncertain about reporting deadlines.

Late-filed provisions may be available to producers who are unable to meet the reporting deadline as required. Reports filed after the established deadline must meet certain requirements to be accepted and may be charged late fees.

Producers should visit their county FSA office to complete acreage reporting. For questions on this or any FSA program, including specific crop reporting deadlines and planting dates, producers should contact their county FSA office. More information on FSA programs is at www.fsa.usda.gov.

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