

A View from the Hill

By Doris Brosnan

The year 2012 has begun at Willow Creek Terrace with more opportunities to appreciate the "lighter side of life," which residents view as critical to keeping a good perspective.

For instance, New Year's Day featured a festive breakfast and a crabfeed luncheon, and January continued to amuse and surprise with observances devoted to bubble bath, peach Melba, Fig Newtons, blueberry pancakes, belly laughing, clothes-clashing and working at life backwards. Remaining totally serious is difficult on those occasions. Celebrating Alvin Padberg's 91st birthday on January 15 contributed to the festive atmosphere.

February continues to keep residents and visitors tuned into the unusual and entertaining, the silly and the serious, starting with "Hula in the Coola" on the 1st. That is when staff members Lori and Kristy demonstrated the hula dance to the residents and Mabel Heath gave the dance a try. Delicious Hawaiian kabobs were the dinner fare.

Among the early-month standouts was Super Bowl Sunday, when the residents and staff were invited to take a chance in a wagering pool. Some residents enjoyed watching the close game in the sitting room while also enjoying the noshes set out by

kitchen staff. Mabel Heath was the lucky winner of the pool for the first and second quarters. Marge Burgess, who has been a winner of at least one Super-Bowl pool each year since moving into the Terrace, won the third-quarter pot. The fourth-quarter, big winner was staff member Sue Baker's granddaughter Jasmine.

Valentines Day was a day to party with some other young people, students of Heppner Preschool. The Terrace was decorated with the theme "Bee Mine." The children gave handmade valentines to the residents and staff, enjoyed a valentines exchange with them, and stayed for punch and cookies. Celebrating her 91st birthday on Valentines Day, Liz Buehler and her neighbors enjoyed her chosen menu for lunch, and the day's festivities ended with a candlelight dinner.

Next week will be observed as International Friendship Week, so discussions on the Hill will focus on friendships that residents have enjoyed throughout their lives. Of course, these will produce both amusing and serious memories. On Friday, the trivia game based on the week's discussions will surely be entertaining.

Scattered among these special events at the Terrace will also be days in honor of homemade soup, the Boys Scouts, the human spirit, French fries, Tootsie

Rolls, and the Grand Canyon. And two more birthdays will be celebrated. Anna Mae Steagall will enjoy her 85th birthday on the 23rd, and Helen Crawford will be observing her 92nd birthday on February 26.

Thanks to the suggestion by several Terrace residents, visitors on these and other days will soon find a new, useful front-door quality: an auto-open feature, so useful when arms are full or hands fight with the standard latch. Of course, the welcome mat is always out at Willow Creek Terrace, for visits, parties and meetings, and a huge welcome will greet the next new residents. Two apartments are now available, so interested parties are encouraged to call 676-0004 about the accommodations or about scheduling an event at the Terrace.

If the unseasonably warm weather continues, visitors and residents will soon be able to enjoy the outdoor amenities more often, and can the planting of the garden be far behind? If this writer could send some Arizona sunshine to the Hill to cut through the recent fog, she would, but not so much that it would prevent critical moisture yet needed for the future garden and the farmers' fields. The view from the Terrace will soon be greener, just in time for another month of activities, including the St. Patrick's Day weekend celebration.

Heppner FFA represents at districts

Heppner FFA was well-represented at the Blue Mountain District FFA Leadership Contest held at Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC) February 2.

Kaelyn Lindsay participated in the Creed CDE, and Zech Hintz wrote a speech about social media and agriculture for the Advanced Public Speaking CDE; Zech placed third.

The Advanced Parliamentary Procedure team consisted of Zech Hintz, chair; Micha Hintz, secretary; Khayman Heard; Kellie Nelson; Stephanie Schuler and Joslynn Troxell.

The Beginning Parliamentary Procedure team had Makenzi Hughes as chair, Kayla Kindle as secretary, Paige Grieb, Maddie Lindsay, Macy Gibbs and Tate Gentry. The beginning team placed second and will be competing at the Sectionals Contest at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande on February 16.

State FFA Degree presentations were also held that day at BMCC. Those presenting for their State FFA Degree (the highest degree the state can bestow to its members) included: Lilly Sandford, Micha Hintz, Shane Miles, Maggie Collins, Kellie Nelson, Stephanie Schuler and Makenzie Correa.

Heppner FFA would like to invite the



Top: Zech Hintz (L) shakes hands with Patrick Linnell, Blue Mountain FFA District President from Hermiston. Zech placed third in the Advanced Public Speaking contest at the FFA district Leadership Contest at BMCC Feb. 2. Bottom: The Beginning Parliamentary Procedure from Heppner placed second at the Blue Mountain District FFA Leadership Contest held at BMCC February 2. (L-R) Makenzi Hughes, Kayla Kindle, Paige Grieb, Maddie Lindsay and Macy Gibbs. Not pictured is Tate Gentry. —Contributed photos

public to the FFA Green-hand Initiation on Tuesday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. at the Heppner High School cafeteria. Refreshments will be

provided and the kids will give a presentation about their trip to the national FFA convention.

GRP signup ends Feb. 24

Continuous signup for the 2012 Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) will close February 24, 2012. The objective of the GRP is to support grazing operations, maintain and improve plant and animal biodiversity, and protect grasslands that are under threat of conversion.

For fiscal year 2012, NRCS Oregon will give high priority to applications, particularly easements, that enroll sagebrush-dominated grazing lands within and adjacent to sage-grouse core area habitats. Applicants enrolled in the program retain the right to conduct common grazing practices while providing high quality habitat for sage-grouse. Core area habitat primarily occurs in Baker, Crook, Deschutes, Harney, Lake and Malheur counties.

"GRP is a tool

that can help improve the long-term sustainability of ranches in areas critical to sage-grouse" said Ronald Alvarado, state conservationist for NRCS Oregon. In several western states, GRP is being strategically targeted to help protect working ranches within sage-grouse high abundance population centers or 'core areas.'

Ranchers who enroll in GRP voluntarily limit future development and cropping uses of the land in exchange for program payments. Enrollment options include permanent conservation easements that provide a one-time payment, or rental agreements of 10, 15, or 20 year duration that provide an annual payment.

GRP easement offers are based on the Geographic Area Rate Cap (GARC) of \$300 per acre,

or a lower offer made voluntarily by the landowner.

Rental agreement rates are determined by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and generally range from \$8-12 per acre in sage-grouse country.

Administration of GRP is a coordinated effort between the FSA and the NRCS.

Landowners or operators interested in using GRP to help maintain working grazing lands for livestock and wildlife can apply at their local USDA Service Center.

For application materials and more information, visit the NRCS website at <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/grp/index.html> or the FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&opic=grp>.

DOL to re-propose farm kid regulation

From the Oregon Wheat Newsletter

The Department of Labor said it will re-propose part of a draft regulation related to minors working on the farm, seeking additional comments and modifications to "ensure protection of both children and rural values."

In a release, DOL said a repropose portion of the rule covering the "parental exemption" will be available for comment in the summer. The parental exemption allows children of any age who are employed by their parent, or a person standing in the place of a parent, to perform any job on a farm owned by the parent or the person in place of the parent.

The department said its decision came partly because of feedback from the public and Members of Congress following the publication of a proposed rule on child labor.

The September proposal was intended to make farm work safer for children, but largely over-

Boots around the world

The Welly Toss competition was added to the St. Patrick's Day Celebration two years ago because the John and Ann Murray family took a trip to Ireland.

Ann Murray is an integral part of the St. Patrick's Planning Committee and told the committee the story of her family attending a celebration in Ireland and asking about their favorite game. The answer was "the Welly Toss." The committee decided to integrate the game into Heppner's St. Patrick's Celebration. Last year, MCGG and their Wellington Boot vendors generously gave us their "sample" boots to use for the adult events. The boots for the children's Welly Toss were donated by Linda VanWinkle.

Wellington Boots were originated by the

Duke of Wellington and are similar to the 18th century Hessian Boot. In early 1800, Wellington ordered the boot to be higher on the leg to protect the knee when riding a horse in battle. During World War II, the boot was manufactured in rubber rather than leather to protect soldiers' feet from water. The boots are worn to protect the foot in many hazardous occupations. The names for the boots include topboots, billy-boots, gumies, muckboots, sheepboots, poopkickers, and just plain farm boots and rubber boots. They are particularly popular in Europe and Nordic countries.

Members of the community are all cordially invited to participate in this year's Welly Toss competition. The competition includes team and individual play for those over 12 years old and individual play for those two to 11. All competitions are during the day on Saturday, March 17. Team competition begins at 10:30 a.m. and individual play at 1:30 p.m. Willow Street will be closed between Murray's Drug and Artisan Village for the event.

There is no charge for individual adult play or for kids 11 and under. Team competition, four people to a team, does re-

quire a \$20 fee to provide money to buy prizes for the winners. School teams are exempt from the fee. There is no other funding for the event.

Welly Toss rules and other event details will be published in the paper two weeks before St. Pat's. Team's need to complete forms naming the team and the players; forms should be turned in at City Hall by March 9. The forms are available at City Hall, and Sheryl Bates also will be visiting merchants with the forms and to answer any questions. Teams may request times for play. Knowing that it's difficult for a business to have everyone gone at once, the team members may toss the boot anytime during the time allotted for team competition.

The St. Pat's committee would like to see lots of teams this year. Competition between businesses and agencies and student groups can be fierce, and it would be great fun to have Irish teams "tossing" for bragging rights and to have their name engraved on the Traveling Boot Trophy.

Call Sheryl Bates at the Chamber of Commerce, 541-676-5536, or Shirlee Sweigart at 503-522-2865 with any questions.

Wranglers club to meet

Wranglers Riding Club will be hosting a meeting on Feb. 23 at 5:30 p.m. in the upstairs conference room of the Gilliam Bisbee building at 120 S. Main Street, Heppner. All who are interested in participating in the Wranglers play days this year are welcome to attend to provide input.

Spray Rodeo court holds tryouts

Tryouts for the 2012 Spray Rodeo court will be held Saturday, March 31 at 1 p.m. at the Spray Rodeo grounds. The rodeo will take place May 26 and 27.

Contestants do not have to be local or Wheeler County residents. They must, however, be at least 15 years of age, and must never have been married or had children.

For further information, call 541-468-2442.

MCHD holiday closures

Morrow County Health District has announced that Pioneer Memorial Clinic in Heppner and Irrigon Medical Clinic will be closed on Monday, Feb. 20, for the Presidents' Day holiday. Laboratory and radiology departments at Pioneer Memorial Hospital will also be closed that day for non-emergency outpatient services.

Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk has issued the following marriage licenses:

February 10: -Mr. Travis Burton Winters, 31, of Heppner and Laura Hanes Browne, 25, of Heppner.

DA's Report

The Morrow County District Attorney's office has released the following report:

-John Joseph Egge, 51, of Irrigon pled guilty to one count of harassment, a Class B misdemeanor. Sentence of 90 days incarceration was suspended and the defendant sentenced to two years bench probation. Conditions of probation include 20 hours commu-

nity service, enrollment and successful completion of anger management evaluation and any recommended treatment, enrollment and successful completion of alcohol evaluation and any recommended treatment, and no offensive physical, verbal or nonverbal contact with the victim. Fines, fees and assessments totaled \$548.

Community lunch menu

Hope Lutheran, Valby Lutheran and All Saints Episcopal church members will be serving lunch on Wednesday, February 22 at St. Patrick's Senior Center. The meal will include chicken salad sandwich, tomato soup, carrot salad with pineapple and raisins, and cookies. Milk is served at each meal. Suggested donation is \$3.50 per meal. Menu is subject to change.