

A View from the Hill

By Doris Brosnan

Residents and staff view with great appreciation the volunteers who take time to share their talents with the Willow Creek Terrace community. Volunteers are high on the list of "What and Who We Are Thankful For," and two young people have been added to that already-long list.

Last month, Tim Gould and Shayna Osmin came to the Terrace to offer assistance to anyone who might like help writing and/or addressing greeting cards or notes. Not only did one resident appreciate that, but another came up with something else for them. Tim and Shayna headed for the kitchen with Beulah Brownfield to help her make a birthday cake for her son Steve. Tim and Shayna have returned this week, also, to help with cards and letters.

Since cards and letters become more prevalent in December, more volunteers could have opportunities to help residents with their correspondences. Interested persons should call the Terrace, 676-0004, for information.

In March, Judy Handbury began supplying residents with handmade cards. Judy brings her cards often, keeping a supply ready for the taking, and this month, she is adding some holiday-themed cards to that supply. Judy is another example of volunteer talent.

If anyone asks, the Terrace will volunteer recipes for Thanksgiving-dinner leftovers. The staff has been creative in the use of leftovers after their enjoyable meal shared among 18 diners.

The new room was not ready for the festive occasion, though Manager George Nairns had hoped it would be, but it holds promise of being completed "soon." A window to the progress in the room allows residents to have a look every day, so they can see that the plan really is coming together.

November featured the several specially-designated days that brought on some interesting discussions, as well as some tasty foods, and December will be interesting, too. November also featured the addition of a new staff member, MeLanie Eldrige, who is becoming familiar with residents and life on the Hill. Two health district employees, Rosa Cayse and Heather Smith, are also helping out at the Terrace



Willow Creek Terrace is looking festive after the decking of the halls this past weekend. -Contributed photo

while two regular employees are away for medical reasons.

These individuals came to the Terrace in time to appreciate Roice Fulleton's 97th birthday celebration on December 3. Roice and his neighbors enjoyed a barbecued-ribs birthday lunch that day.

They will, also, get in on some of the holiday activities at the Terrace, which began with their decking of the halls last Sunday. The north hall is now adorned with Santas of many descriptions, the south hall features a huge variety of snowmen, the living room has become a room full of angels, and wreaths and garlands are interspersed everywhere. The tree is a lovely vision of green and reds. Volunteers who came to help staff and residents decorate the Terrace were Katy Anderson, Betsy Anderson, Sue Baker, Carie, Carson, Conor and Doris Brosnan, Sam Fisher, Katelyn Jordan and Keeley Nairns. Turkey soup (made

with leftovers, of course), bean soup and homemade breads delighted the workers after completing their tasks and singing some carols.

Gingerbread-house building will bring out the competitive drive of residents on the 11th. The residents of the two hallways will pit their talents against each other as each group competes for "best house" bragging rights, as well as some later nibbling opportunities. Volunteers will be welcome at about 1:30 that day.

Carolers are always welcome at the Terrace, too, as residents and staff thoroughly enjoy listening and singing along to the Christmas and winter songs. They will also enjoy the two piano recitals this month. Alaina Lemmon's piano students will fill the facility with their tunes on Dec. 19 and 23, beginning at 2 p.m. Visitors will be welcome.

Residents will welcome the variety of nation-

ally designated days in December that pay tribute to events and foods. They have already recognized National Cookie Day with appropriate eating of cookies. They had an opportunity to discuss St. Nicholas on the sixth and to eat brownies on National Chocolate Brownie Day on the eighth. Christmas Card Day was noted on the ninth, but the sending of Christmas cards will continue. Tomorrow, the 11th, will offer Rock-n-Roll Hall of Famers as a discussion topic, well before the gingerbread-house activity (National Gingerbread Day is the following day). The 15th is designated National Fire Fighters Day, maybe a good day to hug a fireman, or at least say "thank you" to our volunteer firemen. Christmas Eve will be an invitation to Santa to come with gifts for all the residents, and Christmas Day will see gifts opened and delicious foods eaten. Friends who call ahead will be welcome in the dining room.

Two days later is designated Fruitcake Day, and that ubiquitous and often-maligned dessert will be served at the Terrace. On this day, Fred Painter, a previous resident, will be fondly remembered. Fred seemed to truly love fruitcake and made sure that his Terrace neighbors got a piece of fruitcake to enjoy each year. Whether a resident views fruitcake with fondness or not, the memory of Fred and his kindness will surely bring a smile.

Santa visits The Bike Pit



Timothy Emmel wins his motos once again...Santa style. At least, he certainly was flying around the racecourse on his "sleigh," aka his Quad, while racing in the Quad Intermediate class. By the end of the first course he was very muddy, but said he had a lot of fun. Timothy is three for three while racing in a five-motocross series for the championship. Nov. 16's race was postponed due to ice. The next scheduled race is Feb. 22, 2015. The Bike Pit hasn't yet announced the new date for the postponed race. -Photo by Paula Emmel

SCHOOL DISTRICT

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RHS student.

-reviewed the following revised policies on:

reimbursable school meals and milk programs.

-rescinded policy on the district's local wellness program and reviewed new policy on the wellness program, including specifics on the definition of foods, including calories, snacks, fats, sugars, sodium, caffeine, community involvement, nutrition education and physical education, among numerous other specifics.

-revised/reviewed policy on: prescription/non-prescription medication.

-adopted policy on: non-prescription medication and prescription medication.

-rescinded policy on: student network user code of conduct, employee network user code of conduct, non-district technology equipment use, administering non-injectable medicines to students.

-revised policy on: electronic communications system, which includes a letter to parents, a student agreement form, and specifics for non-school users and staff users.

-voted against an Oregon School Boards constitution resolution which would amend the appointment of the OSBA board and legislative policy committee members to include members from a contiguous region if certain conditions are met.

-heard a report from Dirksen on the OSBS convention, including information on proposed state school funding. He said that the governor is currently proposing a \$6.9 bil-

lion budget for education, which educators believe is "not even close to what is needed." He said that the hope is to move closer to \$7.5 billion. "Somewhere in between is where we will probably end up," said Dirksen. He said he didn't expect school funding would receive a budget until June.

Dirksen said that data shows that a student who reads at the third grade, is four times more likely to graduate from high school than those who do not read. He also touched on the English Language Learner student achievement gap and spoke briefly on getting ready for Smarter Balance, a student achievement assessment consortium. He said that computer science was a high topic and there was a push on the Promise of Oregon, a public education support campaign.

-received the following announcements: Christmas break-December 19-January 4; school resumes-January 5; next board meeting, Monday, January 12, 7 p.m. with a work session scheduled prior.

UMCDF reaches 'closure complete' milestones

HERMISTON, Ore.—The Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) reached the "closure complete" milestone on Oct. 2, meaning all the physical work involved in closing the facility has been completed. Another reduction in force (RIF) took place Thursday, Oct. 9, in conjunction with that milestone.

The Dec. 9 RIF included 27 positions, although only 19 people left, since several people scheduled for the RIF already moved on to other jobs. About 25 people remained on the project after that RIF, and most of those will leave in

another RIF scheduled for Dec. 18. That will coincide with the "RCRA closure complete" milestone, which means all the requirements under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act have been met.

The handful of people remaining after the October and December RIFs will likely work out of URS offices in Richland, Wash., as they complete the paperwork to close out the contract. That milestone is expected to be reached early next year.

UMCDF has conducted several RIFs since the project completed chemical

agent operations in October 2011, all coinciding with a significant closure milestone.

When the project completed destruction of Oregon's chemical weapons stockpile, about 830 employees worked at UMCDF.

The demilitarization facility constructed and operated by URS safely destroyed 220,604 munitions and 3,720 tons of chemical agent, including GB and VX nerve agent and mustard blister agent. The munitions and agent had been stored at the Umatilla Chemical Depot since the 1960s.

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