

# A View from the Hill

By Doris Brosnan

It rang throughout Willow Creek Terrace on Dec. 1, "Deck the Hall with boughs of holly..." because that was what the residents, staff, and visitors had as a goal that afternoon. Nearly all the residents participated in the festooning of their halls for the holiday season, and by the time they had decorated the tree and then sang favorite carols, the Terrace was one of the most festive homes in Heppner! Joining those activities and staying for the soups-and-bread meal were George Nairns' and Kim Hendricks' grandchildren, Keeley and Mason and Cassidy and Kadie. Manager Nairns' opinion of Cindy Johnson's soups this year: always very, very good but especially tasty this time. "She really outdid herself!" Sugar cookies also seem to be a "must" during the holiday season, so the residents frosted cookies on the fourth, Cookie Day, and later ate their results. Card Day fell on the eighth, which is when staff and other volunteers assisted interested residents in the addressing of their Christmas cards. The poinsettia is another symbol of the holiday season, and added to the decor on the 12<sup>th</sup> were

two beautiful poinsettias from Terrace neighbors the Dowdy family. The 12<sup>th</sup> also celebrated Hot Chocolate Day, so residents were encouraged to enjoy a special cup. The 17<sup>th</sup> is designated Regifting Day, by some powers that seem to have a sense of humor, so the residents might have a fun-filled morning discussion on that topic. The 18<sup>th</sup> is Baked Cookies Day and is the day that residents might join the staff for making cookies for Christmas. Go Caroling Day will fall on the 20<sup>th</sup>, which is perfect for the visit of some carolers planning to entertain at the Terrace. The first day of winter, on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, seems to promise some snow in the area, which could add to the cozy indoor atmosphere when residents enjoy a quiet Christmas Eve with the glow of the fireplace and the serene sounds of Christmas recordings. While visions of sugarplum—or some other pleasant dreams—dance in the heads of the sleeping residents, Santa will visit the Terrace, leaving behind something in each stocking hung with care and a present under the tree for each good resident. Christmas Morning

will be a festive time as each resident delves into a stocking and unwraps a surprise, while enjoying a special breakfast. And the traditional Christmas lunch will continue everyone's holiday mood, which won't disappear on that day. Just two days later, Fruitcake Day arrives, and the staff will make their brandy-soaked fruitcake that is a favorite seasonal goodie for many. And some hardy residents might have a plan to see in the New Year, although most will settle for watching the Ball drop at Times Square at 9 p.m. our time. Everyone will surely attend the traditional way the Terrace starts each new year, with an exceptional breakfast. Only one resident ended 2015 with a birthday. On Dec. 3, Roice Fulleton celebrated his 98<sup>th</sup> with a favorite meal of ribs, shared with his friends and neighbors. Sharing is an important theme at the Terrace events, such as Roice's birthday and the discussions at the large world map, as residents share stories about places in the world that they have visited. Sharing is common among the kind individuals who share time, efforts, items, and monetary dona-

tions with the Community on the Hill. And the ages of these individuals range broadly, as is apparent in this month alone: the weekly and monthly volunteers who come for activities; the young grandchildren who helped decorate for Christmas; the members of the Heppner High National Honor Society who came to call Bingo, as they have done on the monthly second Fridays for years now; the two young men who came to help address envelopes and stayed for exercises and then a game of Scrabble between one of them and Ralph Norris; and the oldest visitor of all, Santa, who is such an excellent example of sharing and love. The Willow Creek Terrace looks forward to another year of seeing these and other friends and volunteers. The residents and staff also hope to share with new neighbors the many events made possible by these people. Three apartments are currently available at the Terrace, so anyone interested in learning more about the facility is encouraged to call 541-676-0004. If the apartments fill quickly, the Community will view that as a good omen for 2016.

# Christmas at the Christian Life Center

The Christian Life Center in Heppner has a lineup of special December events, beginning with "The Birthday Party" children's Christmas program on Dec. 20. The program will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a Christmas party potluck to follow. A white elephant gift exchange for items \$5 or less will also be available for those who wish to participate.

On Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, everyone is welcome to a Christmas Eve candlelight service at 8 p.m. Dessert will follow. Finally, on New Year's Eve, the church will provide a 7 p.m. showing of "The War Room." Concessions will be available. For those who wish to stay, the church will be taking a "prayer journey" into the new year after the movie.

# CITY COUNCIL

-Continued from PAGE ONE where the Gazette is now located. Subsequently the city bought and moved into the former bank building on Main Street where it is now located. The Fire Department, which is located next door to the vacant lots, had originally planned on expanding onto the property, but found that plan unworkable and decided to seek expansion elsewhere. In other action Monday the city sold a surplus 1998 pickup truck, also under sealed bid, to Ken Wenberg for \$800. There was only

one other bid received, and it was \$500. In other business the city announced it had hired Mickey Martin to fill a vacant public works position. It was also announced that the Port of Morrow has agreed to do all of the subgrade work for the new fire hall building planned on Riverside. It was estimated the work will save the city \$60,000 on the fire hall construction. In a related matter it was announced that funding for the project should be achieved through bond issues by January 26, 2016.

# Town and Country Community Awards event is just around the corner

Heppner Chamber of Commerce's annual Town and Country Community Awards event will be held on Thursday, Jan. 14, starting at 6 p.m. A no-host social time, buffet and/or served dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. and the awards program will start about 7:30 p.m. The sponsors for this year's event are: Gold Sponsor Invenergy, LLC dba Willow Creek Energy and Silver Sponsor Northwest Farm Credit Services. Joann Lear with Pudding on the Ritz will be

catering the dinner and will be serving prime rib with au jus and horseradish sauce; baked potatoes with sour cream, butter and bacon; dilly green beans; cranberry pecan romaine salad; rustic bread and butter; pumpkin dessert square; and hot and cold beverages. Tickets for this event will be \$20 per person and will be available for purchase starting on Monday, Dec. 28, at the Bank of Eastern Oregon, chamber office, city hall, Community Bank and Murray's. Those planning on attend-

ing are asked to purchase tickets early to assist in meal planning. Everyone is invited to come out and participate with the rest of the community to recognize and celebrate the "Man of the Year," "Woman of the Year," "Business of the Year," "Youth Award," "Citizen-Educator of the Year" and "Lifetime Achievement Award."

# Columbia Basin Conference games to rotate times by gender

Heppner High School and the entire Columbia Basin Conference will be rotating the order of games played by gender this year, Heppner Athletic Director Greg Grant announced this week. On Saturday, Dec. 19, Heppner's basketball games against Grant Union will begin with boys first, followed by girls. Game times are: boys' JV, 1 p.m.; girls' JV, 2:30 p.m.; boys' varsity, 4 p.m.; and girls' varsity, 5:30 p.m.

# FBLA plans Christmas bake sale

The HHS Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) will be having a Christmas candy bake sale Tuesday, Dec. 22, starting at 10 a.m. in front of Heppner Family Foods. The FBLA members will be selling Almond Roca, peanut brittle, fudge, chocolate dipped peanut butter balls, chocolate dipped Oreos balls, rocky road, hand dipped pretzels, and more. Proceeds will help pay for regional competitions in La Grande in February.

# Locals targeted by IRS phone scam

A local woman has notified the Gazette-Times that she had received a scam phone call in which the caller said he was from the IRS and demanded that she pay back taxes that day. She said that they told her if she didn't pay immediately, they would confiscate her driver's license and shut down her bank accounts. She said the call originated from Vancouver and that the caller knew her address. She said that she has notified the Morrow County Sheriff's Office. Anyone who is targeted by this or another scam can contact the sheriff's office at 541-676-5317.

# Extension office closed for Christmas, New Year's

The Morrow County Extension Service Office will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24, and Friday, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas, as well as Friday, Jan. 1, 2016, in observance of New Year's Day.

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