

# A View from The Hill

By Doris Brosnan

January began at Willow Creek Terrace with what has become an annual New Year's feast of crab cakes, and another super crab-centered meal will soon follow. The Community on the Hill is extremely grateful to Colin and Erin Anderson and John and Ann Murray for their gifts of delicious crabmeat.

Once a year, the Staff at Willow Creek Terrace have their holiday party, too, and this year they gathered at 7 p.m. on Jan. 20, each bringing a gift-wrapped package that somehow incorporated "crazy socks" into the gift or into the wrap.

The evening featured dinner for Staff, nurse Robanai Disque, maintenance overseer Dan Sharp, and spouses, followed by a "Jeopardy" type game that Manager Nairns created. The categories of questions were "the kitchen," "know your job," "safety," and "residents' care." As a person correctly answered a question, he/she chose a package, which might be taken away by the next person to answer a question correctly, resulting in some laughable moments.

The party-goers certainly appreciated board members Shirley George and Diana Ball's handling of the kitchen clean-up while

the party went on.

February begins with the Terrace's annual luau that features Hawaiian music and teriyaki chicken, frog-eye salad, shrimp cocktails and coleslaw. To complement the theme, this column's readers are asked if they can loan the Residents Hawaiian clothing—muus-muus and shirts—because that will add so much to the festive feeling, and Residents and friends can look perfect in their pictures taken in the photo booth. Loans must come today or tomorrow, though, because the luau will happen on Friday.

And yet another party: Super Bowl this Sunday. The quarter board is up and Residents, friends, and Staff are able to take 25-cent chances of hitting the scores that will win on the board.

The game will play in the sun room, and the snacks will help carry the fans through what everyone hopes is a good game.

Taking a breather from the partying atmosphere, the morning-discussion group will use some time for discussing some interesting topics.

The 1910 birth of the Boy Scouts on the eighth will be of interest to the several previous den mothers, as well as previous Boy Scouts.

(A local troop of Scouts continues in Heppner, Troop 691, and, in fact, those young people offer a flag service, for a fee, through which they will put up a flag at a person's residence for four holidays and remove the flag afterward. The scouts also can properly dispose of damaged flags. A call to Deiter Waite can get information.)

"Man Day," on Feb. 12, might be new to several readers, and what the morning discussion might delve into is yet to be heard. Readers interested in poker or cribbage might want to come join the men at 2 p.m. for some male bonding.

And yet another party! The Hawaiian decor will have remained and will greet the Heppner Day Care preschoolers when they come for the annual Valentine's party with the Residents on the 14<sup>th</sup>. After that great afternoon, Residents will put on their finery for their annual Valentine's Day candlelight dinner.

World Radio Day will arrive on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and everyone will surely contribute stories about those bygone days of radio programs that captivated listeners young and old.

Pen pals were once a popular opportunity to be in contact with people from beyond our borders, so on

International Friendship Day on the 19<sup>th</sup>, Residents will be remembering pen pals, travel friends, and war contacts. They might surprise themselves and one another on Presidents' Day, the 20<sup>th</sup>, when they take on a trivia game that features our 45 presidents.

On Aviation Day, the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Residents will again be invited to participate in the annual paper-plane-flying contest. Multiple designs, many laughs, and some successes and some failures will rule the afternoon of fun.

And another party will draw February to a close. Mardi Gras will be the theme on the 28<sup>th</sup>, so revelers might be kicking up their heels a little.

With all the other celebrating that has occurred and will continue this month, the Residents have not lost sight of one of their favorite reasons to celebrate: the month's birthdays. They will be helping Gladys Van Winkle celebrate her 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and on the 17<sup>th</sup>, they will be congratulating Bud Wilson on his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday. As always, Residents welcome celebrations that add some zest to life, and they especially appreciate the birthday celebrations, occasions they view as some of the happiest.

# CRETH HARRIS TURNS 100

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to take care of their mother.

Creth never continued formal education beyond high school but, "I took a cooking class once. That was fun." Whether that cooking class was the start of a legend or simply polished her existing skills, it's certain that Creth both loved to cook and was good at it.

"Mom would always win a lot of stuff at the fair with her cooking," Bob Harris remembers. "The fair was always a big deal



A few of Creth Harris's many blue ribbons, won for her cooking at the Morrow County Fair.

in our family."

Creth is a more self-effacing in speaking of it herself.

"I love to cook and I

love to eat," she jokes.

When asked what else she liked to do, she replies, "I like to do most anything to keep me busy. I don't like sitting around like this," she says, referring to the chair where she now spends much of her time, "but my old legs don't like to take me any place."

Throughout her life, she certainly found ways to keep herself busy. One thing for which she'll be remembered is daily walks to Frieda Slocum's house a mile up the road. She would walk the mile, talk to Frieda and then return home. After Frieda's death, she kept up the habit, visiting with Frieda's children. She only gave up her daily walks 10 years ago, at the age of 90.

She started to work outside the home when her boys went to school, doing housekeeping in the area. She began her favorite job when they left for college, working at Wright's Country Store at Ruggs. Always a people person, she loved working at the store and

meeting all kinds of people.

"And people loved her, too," adds Bob Harris.

"I've seen very few people I didn't like," says Creth Harris. "There's gotta be good in all of us and there's gotta be bad in all of



Darrel and Creth Harris on their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. -Contributed photo

us—don't you think that's the way it is?"

"I think it's best if you can like 'em all," she adds.

When asked if she ever thought she'd make it to a century, she took the question in stride the way Creth

Harris seems to take everything.

"I never gave a damn," she said. "I just like life."

Whether she cares about the century mark or not, family and friends will gather to celebrate her 100

years of life on Sunday, Feb. 19, at Hardman Community Center. Everyone is invited to the birthday celebration, which will include cake, punch, and the thing that Creth Harris likes most of all—people.

# Tax Wise and Otherwise

A periodic column by Daniel Van Schoiack, CPA

The first executive order signed last week by President Donald Trump left some uncertainty regarding how the individual mandate under the Affordable Care Act will be enforced for the 2016 tax season. The individual mandate places a "penalty" on individuals without health-care coverage, which is computed on their federal income tax return.

As you might recall, the individual mandate provision was at the heart of the argument to repeal the Affordable Care Act before the Supreme Court in June of 2012. The argument was made that congress did not have the authority to impose the penalty. Chief Justice Roberts shot down that argument as he construed the "penalty" was in fact a "tax" imposed on those who do not have health insurance; and, since Congress had the authority to impose a "tax," that made it okay.

For tax year 2016, the penalty (tax) will rise to 2.5 percent of total household adjusted gross income, or \$695 per adult and \$347.50 per child, to a maximum of \$2,085. The question now is whether President Trump's executive order will bring immediate relief to taxpayers filing without health care coverage. Will the executive order actually kill the mandate and stop the IRS from enforcing the penalty? Or, will it be seen as a warning shot fired, which will prompt the IRS to lay low and wait for further orders?

In the meantime, taxpayers who are facing a penalty of up to \$2,085 by the mandate might want to delay filing and see if any actual relief develops before the filing date. As an alternative, filers who owe the penalty can file, pay the penalty, and then amend their tax return for a refund if relief is retroactively granted. However, keep in mind it can take the IRS months to process an amended tax return due to their current backlog.

Last week's article discussed the importance of keeping good records for tax deductions, in particular those that fall under section 274(d) of the tax code, which requires strict substantiation for expenses such as meals, travel and personal vehicles. There is often disagreement with the IRS in determining whether records are adequate or not. The next article will discuss how the tax court makes that determination and include a case where the taxpayer prevailed against the IRS.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any question about this article.

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# Coffee table books bound for sale

After a heavy snowfall, Heppner streets are suitable for walking again. Along with the welcoming weather, the Friends of the Heppner Library is inviting local folks to walk over and have a look at the FOHL table at the Indoor Yard Sale at St. Pat's Senior Center, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 3 and 4.

"We want to use this time as a prelude to our big St. Patrick's Day book sale," explained Neva De-Mayo, FOHL board member.

Absent from this sale is

the sheer volume of books that are set to sell in March. Instead, the Friends group will focus on the coffee table books during the sale this weekend

"Over the years, these books have served as starting points to travel, adventure—or inspired readers to larger spring projects," said Sally Walker, recording secretary for the organization. "You supply the coffee table, we'll supply the book."

Volunteers will host the FOHL table through Saturday afternoon, Feb. 4.

# Chamber lunch meeting

The next lunch meeting of the Heppner Chamber of Commerce will take place this Thursday, Feb. 2, at noon in Heppner City Hall conference room.

Cost of lunch is \$10. Chamber lunch attendees are asked to RSVP at 541-676-5536 no later than the Tuesday before to guarantee a lunch.

# First Friday Friends of Jesus this week

The February session of First Friday Friends of Jesus will be held on Feb. 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at All Saints parish hall.

All children in the community ages four to 12 are invited to spend the morning in this mini-vacation Bible school, complete with stories, crafts, snacks, songs and games. A free lunch is served and there is no cost to attend.

More information is available by calling the office of the Shared Ministry of Hope Lutheran Church and All Saints Episcopal Church at 541-676-9970.

# Catholic men cancel First Friday meeting

The First Friday meeting for the men of St. Patrick's and St. William's Catholic churches has been cancelled for the month of February. The next meeting will be held on Friday, March 3.

# Community lunch menu

All Saints Episcopal, Hope Lutheran and Valby Lutheran volunteers will serve lunch on Wednesday, Feb. 8, at St. Patrick's Senior Center. Lunch will include pork chops, mashed potatoes and gravy, zucchini and summer squash, carrot salad, hot rolls, and sweetheart cakes.

Milk is served at each meal. Suggested donation is \$3.50 per meal. Menu is subject to change.

# HEALTH DISTRICT

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average monthly year-to-date loss.

-received the following report: Pioneer Memorial Hospital had four admissions in December, two swing bed admissions, two admissions for observation, one swing bed admission, 442 outpatients, 62 emergency room encounters, 1,683 lab tests, 94 x-ray procedures, 19 CT scans, 28 EKG tests, 32 respiratory therapy procedures; Hospice had two admissions; Pharmacy had 1,512 drug doses for \$58,737 in revenue; Heppner Ambulance had 31 page-outs with 23 transports for \$41,982 in revenue; Boardman Ambulance had 63 page-outs with 21 transports for \$33,779 in revenue; Irrigon Ambulance had 29 page-outs with 16 transports for \$21,757; Ione Ambulance had six page-outs with two transports for \$2,922; there

were three flights; Pioneer Memorial Clinic had 363 patient visits with one new patient, 31 seen by a nurse and 19 no-shows; Irrigon Medical Clinic had 245 patient visits with 26 new patients, 75 seen by a nurse and 29 no-shows; Ione Community Clinic had 51 patient visits, nine new patients, seven seen by a nurse and four no-shows.

-received the 2016 year-end ambulance report as follows: Heppner-292 page-outs, 243 transports; Boardman-435 page-outs, 214 transports; Irrigon-299 page-outs, 199 transports; Ione-26 page-outs, seven transports; total—1,052 page-outs, 663 transports, 38 flights.

-briefly discussed agenda items for the February meeting, including the CEO's evaluation and the master facilities plan to be presented by Clark/Kjos, Architects.

**JOIN US FOR VALENTINE'S DAY 2017**  
**February 14th**  
**Prime Rib or Baked Salmon**  
**Valentine's Dinner \$14.95**  
 Choice of Potato or Rice Pilaf,  
 Soup or Salad and vegetable  
**Reservations Welcomed**  
**MUSTANG DINER**  
**541-676-5737**

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