

A View from the Hill

By Doris Brosnan

Already halfway through the December calendar with many visitors and activities, the residents and staff of Willow Creek Terrace are viewing this as the busiest month of 2019. This is enjoyable, but with some sadness they realize that they are welcoming the festivities without their neighbor Joann Weister, who passed away last month. Joann joined the community on the hill last year just in time to participate in the holiday events, so her absence is strongly felt.

Another missing face at the holiday happenings is that of Beverly Wright. Bev, such an outgoing personality, moved into the Terrace in February but has now moved to Sun Terrace in Hermiston. This loss was, however, softened somewhat by the welcoming on Monday of another familiar face. Bernice Lott, longtime resident of Heppner and more recently of Hermiston has moved in just in time for more December activities.

Dani Smith and her children, Gracie and Sam, have been coming to the Terrace to visit for several months as part of their home-schooling program, and now they have introduced a new activity to share with interested residents, the card game Uno. They hope more and more

residents will join them on Tuesdays this month at 9 a.m. to play this entertaining game.

The halls were decked out for December on the 5th, when everyone was encouraged to join the fun of decorating the Terrace, singing some carols, and enjoying some homemade soups and breads. Gingerbread is an obvious theme on the tree just inside the front door, loaded with gingerbread ornaments, and in the sun room, where a small village sits on the counter. The village houses were created on the 12th by five residents and two student staff members, who, after one and a half hours and actually wearing some of the icing, were pleased with their gingerbread creations that included what several observers have noted looks like an outhouse.

The Book Club had a change of pace on the 10th, when instead of sharing literature, they made two festive-looking swags to be hung near the dining tables. And last Friday, before going down to Main Street to watch the light parade, residents were invited to decorate Christmas cookies with Serina Garrett, who is a staff member and also a professional cookie-maker.

On Monday of this week, Cynthia Wenberg accompanied her group of young Pathfinders to the

Terrace to sing carols and share some time with the residents. On Friday of this week, Alaina Lemmon's students will perform what has become an annual piano recital for the Terrace. The cookies made with Serina will be included as refreshments following the looked-forward-to recital.

A new observance will welcome the residents this coming Sunday, the 22nd, when they can participate in the first lighting of a menorah and hear a traditional Hebrew prayer on the first day of Hanukkah, which lasts for eight days. This meaningful activity is being introduced in recognition of two staff members with Jewish roots.

On Christmas Eve, everyone will be invited to enjoy the traditional casual evening of finger foods, games, music in the background and family atmosphere around the fireplace while listening to the second annual reading of *The Night Before Christmas*.

Then, everyone must "settle down for a long winter's nap" because Santa will bring something for all the stockings hanging outside the apartment doors. On Christmas morning, each resident will find something under the tree, left by Santa and the "Angels" of Willow Creek Terrace.

Christmas dinner will

again feature the prime rib that Charlie and Marsha Anderson give to the Terrace each year. And the residents who usually go to the senior meal site at the St. Patrick Apartments on Wednesdays will be able to enjoy a second holiday meal on Friday the 27th instead, a delay because Christmas falls on Wednesday.

All of these December activities will be memories to savor on New Year's Eve, when some residents will watch the ringing in of the new year on TV, from New York City, but merriment at the Terrace will not end with the festive meal they will have on New Year's Day. For instance, two birthdays in January will carry the celebrating into 2020. LaVonne Morford will have another celebration to share with her neighbors when she turns 90 on the 10th. And on the 20th, Myrtle McMillan will share her birthday event with the community on the hill, also.

And all of these memory-building celebrations will join the many others that residents of Willow Creek Terrace view as good reasons to live in a good home.

Bag sale scheduled

The Neighborhood Center will hold a bag sale Saturday, December 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at 441 N Main St, Heppner. Brown bags filled with clothing, shoes, books, CDs and DVDs will be just \$15 during the sale. Additional bags will receive an

additional \$5 discount. All household merchandise will be 50 percent off.

Proceeds from the bag sale help to purchase food for the pantry. Credit and debit cards are now being accepted. For additional information call 541-676-5024.

HHS to host alumni basketball games

The 9th annual Heppner High School Alumni Basketball games will be held Sunday, December 22 at the high school. The women's game will begin at 1 p.m. with the men's game to follow.

The games are open to all HHS alumni and their spouses/significant others. Typically the games will consist of two halves, each 20 minutes long with a running clock. Teams are split

depending on the number and ages of participants. The cost to play is \$25 and includes a tee shirt.

Admission to attend this fundraiser for the men's basketball program will be \$2 per person. For additional information, contact the high school at 541-676-9138 or go to their Facebook page, 9th annual HHS alumni basketball games. Everyone is invited to attend.

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MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.**

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December 30th
2 - 4 pm

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