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Kettle Falls Focus

A town with lots of friendly people and 1 grouch



SPECIAL THIRD YEAR ANNIVERSARY EDITION

The Kettle Falls Focus Celebrates: Three Years

It has been three years since the Kettle Falls Focus began its journey to where we are now. The first issue was printed in March, 2008. It was much smaller then, but it was a labor of love as it remains today. Some of the personnel has changed a bit over time, but at the core two out of three of the original people remain.

This paper was born out of the Horizon meetings and enthusiasm. In the fall of 2007, Gloria Squires, Peggy Mandin, Greg Pritchett and Susan Urhausen sat in a small group together at the Senior Citizens Center in Kettle Falls. We had come together thinking one idea was important to us, communication. Unfortunately, Greg Pritchett's day job and successful art business prevented him from continuing on with the Focus past the formative stages. The idea we had for a newsletter or newspaper was slightly vague at first, but during subsequent meetings some things became clearer until we had a concept of what we wanted to produce.

It wasn't long before we realized that in addition to great

businesses, we had some very interesting and unique individuals living amongst us that had singular stories to tell. There was a conscious decision made to avoid some things; politics, religion, sports and letters to the editor for example. We wanted to just tout the great things, local events, local people and activities, to celebrate all the good things Kettle Falls and its surrounding area has to offer.

This paper could not have made it from the beginning without the opportunity to come together that Horizons provided for us. Horizons also provided us with funding as did the Kettle Falls Chamber of Commerce (for the first issue), with whom we are affiliated. The Kettle Falls Focus owes its success and availability to all of the businesses who have entrusted us with their advertising dollars. Without them, there would be no paper. It seems odd sometimes that our little monthly seems to be doing so well when large

newspapers have ceased to exist in recent times. We are constantly amazed at the speed we run out of copies of the paper each month (sometimes within days of it hitting the shelves). That has to be a testament to our friends and neighbors who read the Focus faithfully cover to cover each month.

Over the years, we have changed the layout, the size, the format and the contributors. There have been some wonderful items submitted over the last three years. Many suggestions have led us to some of our better stories. The paper itself has gone from a local newspaper to being read by subscribers in Arizona, Missouri, North Dakota, Colorado, Oregon, and western Washington. The addition of the website has allowed the paper to be viewed and downloaded throughout the US and overseas (we know it is viewed in Australia).

Thank you all for making our dream a success in such a short amount of time. We at the Focus hope you are as proud of us as we are of all of you.



David Thompson Bicentennial

by Peggy Mandin



The journeys and explorations of David Thompson who surveyed and mapped the Columbia River will be celebrated in Kettle Falls June 16-19. The Focus will provide details regarding the schedule of events as they become available; several committees and organizations are involved in developing a series of activities to commemorate Thompson's accomplishments. The Mapmaker's Eye, a book by Jack Nisbet, is an excellent source of information about the life of David Thompson, as well as his book Sources of the River: Tracking David Thompson across Western North America. I thought it would be interesting to read about and share some things about Thompson prior to the bicentennial celebration. Please note that this is a very brief summary of a richly detailed life. Both of Nisbet's books are available at the Libraries of Stevens County as well as at the Kettle Falls Historical Society.

In the 1700's the mouth of the Columbia River had been found and "surveyed upstream for a hundred miles". There was a lot of speculation about the possibility that the river had its beginnings in the known lakes and mountains in Canada and that the two were parts of the same river; exploration was needed to find out how they connected.

In 1797 David left the Hudson's Bay Company and become employed by the competing North West Company, who wanted him to map their settlements across

continued on Page 2

Music Benefit for Food Bank

by Susan Urhausen

The Kettle Music Fest, benefitting the Kettle Falls Food Bank, is finally a reality. The day-long celebration of music has been in the works for over a year. Due to the dedication of two food bank board members, a sure-fire cure for cabin fever is taking place on March 12, 2011 at KC's Diner in Kettle Falls.

The idea for this benefit came from Richard Taylor, front man for Planetary Refugees and friend to many involved with the Kettle Falls Food Bank. He brought up the idea to two of the board members while visiting during the 2009 Marcus Cider Fest. Taylor thought it would be a great way to raise funds and figured that his band and Firecreek would make for a great evening of entertainment. Work began within the board to try to get something put together in the spring of 2010, but gathering musicians from more than one band together for one date is tantamount to herding cats, so it just didn't quite make it. While plans for 2010 were abandoned, the focus to spring of 2011 took hold. It took months of work and dedication by two of the food bank board members to get everything organized.

Richard Walter and Steve Schott are the duo that did the impossible, herded the cats, lined up the venue, and made it all happen. Walter is the force behind getting the commitment of not just two bands, but five local musical acts. What began with Planetary Refugees and Firecreek has now expanded to include The Sara Brown Band; Po and Pat, Partners in Rhyme; and Stazy and the Naturals. Schott worked to line up the date, the venue and develop the advertising. KC's Diner has graciously agreed to not only host this event, but to host a spaghetti dinner as well, with all proceeds going to the Kettle Falls Food Bank. The timing of the event was chosen to give our friends and neighbors a chance for some pre-spring activity, to shake off some winter blues and escape the dreaded cabin fever.

The March date was also chosen to coincide with the annual Feinstein

continued on Page 5