



THE High Desert HERALD

DECEMBER 2021 QUARTER 2 EDITION

CHRISTMAS BANQUET

This year marks the 28th annual Christmas Banquet at EskDale High School. The event will take place on December 16th and 17th at EskDale Center. As usual, this will be a fundraiser for next year's choir trip.

The banquet will feature performances by the EskDale orchestra and choir. The orchestra will be performing "Trepak" and "Ding Dong Merrily". The choir will be singing "Candle As A Symbol", "We Three Kings", "Cold Snap", and "Castleton Carol". In addition, there will be a new brass quartet playing two songs, "I Heard the Bells" and "Ding Dong Merrily". There will also be a dance

routine set to Christmas music and some solo performances.

The banquet will end with the annual Christmas play. This year's play is entitled, "The Christmas Princess". The story is a fairy tale about a snotty princess turning into a good-hearted princess with surprising encounters along the way. There will be some mythical creatures and entertaining characters throughout.

The menu will include a medieval theme-based banquet. In good tradition, the meal will be prepared by fabulous chefs Tabitha and Cheri Phillips, owners of Sugar, Salt & Malt

restaurant and Salt & Sucre catering. The first course will include cheese, fruit and bread. The second course will feature delicious soup and baguettes. The third course will have platters of chicken, potatoes and vegetables. The fourth course will be a dessert surprise.

We are extremely thankful for volunteers, such as Tabitha and Cheri, Crystal Eldridge, and Dean Hayward who help to make the banquet possible. We are also immensely grateful for Lois Faber's invaluable work in directing the play and all the music. As usual, have fun and enjoy the show! ☺

by Charlie Sheppard

KEEP UP WITH EHS ONLINE:

OFFICIAL WEBSITE:
<http://millardk12.org/ehs>

EHS FACEBOOK:
www.facebook.com/EskDaleHighSchool

EHS YOUTUBE:
www.youtube.com/EskDaleHighSchoolUT

INTERVIEW WITH KEITH GRIFFITHS



This year, we are losing someone very special to the school district. Keith Griffiths is Millard School District's Business Administrator, and this month, he will be retiring after a full and incredible career. The last event that Keith will be coming out to see from EskDale High School is our Banquet; he will be coming to see it this Friday. If you see him and get the chance to talk to him, please tell him thank you for what he has done for the whole school district.

I got the chance to interview Keith, and here are the questions I asked.

Q. How long have you worked for Millard School District?

A. Thirty-four years and eight months.

Q. How did you like working as the Business Administrator?

A. This is the best job ever! I have loved my job and looked forward to coming into work each day. The association with good people is what makes this job the best.

Q. What was your favorite memory from your time working?

A. There are many good memories and they all go back to the people that I work with. They bless my life. I have appreciated how the good folks living on the West Desert are so welcoming and appreciative of things done for them.

Q. What was the weirdest moment you've had during your time working?

A. I am not sure if this is the weirdest thing. However, it was sure difficult, and I have not forgotten it. Having only worked a short time when a bomb threat was called into the wife of Superintendent Topham. He was out of town, and that was when we did not have cell phones and I was unable to get in touch with him. This left me to handle this situation, and I felt all alone and out there by myself.



Q. Are you excited to retire now?

A. I am very excited! I will be seventy in February 2022 and have worked hard all my life. I am looking forward to doing some relaxing and maybe a little traveling. Possibility a mission for my Church!

Thank you Keith Griffiths for your time and consideration in answering my questions and for doing so much for EskDale High School and indeed for the whole school district. We are very grateful for everything you have done, and it was a pleasure to have an interview with you. Once again, thank you for your work. May you have a wonderful time of retirement! ☺

by Yudneby Avelar



This issue of
**The High
Desert Herald**

was written and produced by the Language Arts students of EskDale High School

BANQUET: BEHIND THE SCENES

EskDale High Banquet: a time during December when all people from the valley and more come to see the production put on by Lois Faber and her choir, orchestra, and drama students. This time of the year can be the most stressful but exciting part of the year, but we try our best to make it a great experience!

Although the actual performance may be a nice experience, the backstage is a whole different world. Our actors; taking "one" last look at their lines, getting props ready, dressing up properly, and putting on makeup for the next part of the scene. Before any of the audience enters, we have students and our



teacher, Lois Faber, running all over the place making sure everything is set and ready! Checking if all the instruments are in tune for the orchestra, rechecking each one of the costumes for our play, etc.. Some of the students are new to the EHS banquet this year so I'll be asking them and others students some questions.

Question: What was your favorite thing to do behind the scenes?

A. Blake Iverson (7th grade)- "Um well when we were doing the pickaxe fight with the boys."

Question: Any Clumsy/Mess ups during behind the scenes practice?

A. Alexa Crouch (7th grade)- "um.. When I said 'hound' instead of 'ground' and when I tripped and fell on Jenna."

Question: What part from behind the scenes did you think was funny?

A. Larissa Crouch- "When Yudnely picked up Matthew instead of Matthew picking her up and then Yudnely ended up dropping him."

Question: Was it hard to remember your lines and station areas?

A. Ernesto Duran - It actually wasn't hard at all

As the dining room is concentrated on the stage and with an amazing 5+ course meal, they don't get to see another backstage area which is the kitchen where it gets really busy to the point of needing about 10-20 people working on serving drinks, cleaning the dishes, making the food, plating the food and then trying to serve them all at once! And all of this work is from helpful volunteers and the students' parents. And all of whom we (EHS) would like to thank for being part of it every year. And thanks to you, the audience, who come every year for this fundraising event! ☒



by Diego Huerta

BAKER & GARRISON HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Every year around Christmas, Baker and Garrison elementary schools do a joint program at Baker Hall. This year's program will be on December 21, 2021, at 6:30NV & 7:30UT. It starts with the 5th and 6th graders playing songs on their instruments that they've been learning with their music teacher Lois Faber. Most years, the Garrison school children play a song on their recorders conducted by their teacher Mrs. Philips. Both schools then perform their holiday plays.

This year the Baker kids will be doing a musical called "A Choir Room Christmas." The Garrison kids will be doing one called "The Sound of Science," about sounds and ears.

It is fun and exciting to attend this program. Each year, after the performances are done, "Santa" comes and lets kids sit on his lap and make their Christmas requests. There are also food, drinks, and desserts at the end for everyone to enjoy. This year

there will also be raffle tickets for sale for an 8lb Prime Rib graciously donated by D Bar X Meats.

You will not have to buy the tickets to get in because it is open to the public. You will have the best time ever seeing the Baker and Garrison Schools do their yearly Christmas program. ☒

by Remi Perea

FALL FUNCTION SCHOOL DANCE

EskDale High School had its first dance of the year on November 13th. It was held at Baker Hall, and almost every student attended. The dance was fall themed, and the student council had the Hall beautifully decorated. The dance was chaperoned by Donnie Crouch, Tony Pettingill, Annette Faber, Jessica Weight, and Ben and Chandra Conrad.

There were three couples out of the 21 students who attended the dance. These couples were Alexa Crouch and Adolfo Iverson, Danielle Hayward and Ernesto Avelar, and Larissa Crouch and Matthew Baker.

The dance was a lot of fun. It started off with

most of the boys showing up in a red, 6-door, flat-bed truck, complete with American flags. The dance then continued on mostly normally from 8:30 to 10:00 UT time. Some of the students left early, but almost everyone stayed until the end.

Another highlight of the dance was that the boys brought a shark piñata. It got hit with a broom handle and was filled with.... Cheetos!

Along with dancing, the students played musical chairs and ate snacks brought by the student council and chaperones.

We want to thank the chaperones, student council, and everyone who made the dance



possible. The students enjoyed the dance and are looking forward to another one sometime in the near future. ☒

by Burklee Wright

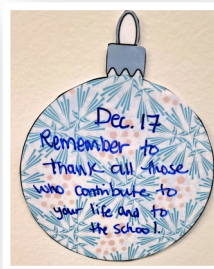
RANDOM ACTS OF CHRISTMAS KINDNESS CHALLENGE

EskDale High School is participating in a December "Random Acts of Kindness" advent challenge. Every day, we come up with something kind to say to someone or to do for someone. This is something we do everyday until Christmas. We are doing it because December is kindness month, and what better time to spread joy and love to others than during the holiday season. Here are some examples of our daily challenges:

Nov. 29: do a favor for someone who needs help.
Dec. 1: call or text someone you miss.

Dec. 6: donate toys or books you don't use anymore to someone who will like them.
Dec. 21: sing to the elderly (more on this below!).

Along with that, we each anonymously wrote three positive things about everyone in the school. Now everyone has their own ornament in the Study Hall



with positive things written all about them.

On December 21, 2021, EskDale High School will be going to Delta, Utah to sing at the Care Center. We have been doing that every year, for the past three years. Sadly, we were not able to do it last year because of Covid. We don't know for sure if we have to wear masks, but hopefully we don't have to. Sharing music a nice way to give a gift to people who are lonely or less fortunate. ☒

by Ella Faber

WINTER BREAK PLANS

It's the time of year again where its cold outside, and people wear hoodies, and coats almost all day. Since Christmas is coming up, people start decorating their homes. People also start buying presents for their friends and family. Not only is Christmas coming up, but so is Christmas break. During break kids are either bored, playing outside, or on a trip somewhere. Being bored on Christmas break sounds like a horrible thing. Playing outside is both fun and terrible. It's fun because you're playing in the snow. It's terrible because when

you're done you have to deal with the cold and wet clothes you're wearing. A trip somewhere also sounds great, especially if the trip is somewhere warm. Since reading minds is not possible yet, I'll go ask people what they are doing during break.

Matthew: I get to go to South Carolina for a family reunion.

Charlie: My cousin might be here.

Larissa: I'm going to Colorado.

Diego: I'm going to California.

Aidan: Working and playing games.

Adolfo: I don't know.

Ava: Sitting around.

Ernesto A: I'm going to Mexico.

It looks like people are going to have a great break. Going to California, South Carolina, Mexico, and Colorado sounds like fun. Sitting around sounds great too since you just get to relax. Either way, it's going to be a great winter break! ☒

by Ernesto Duran

ASK SANTA—SANTA ANSWERS LETTERS

Dear Santa,

What the dog doin'? - Anonymous

Dear Anonymous, I do not own a dog, but the reindeer are dueling each other in DCS World. Such talent! I love those guys.

Dear Santa, Should I get the new Halo? - A Gamer

Dear A Gamer, Yes.

Dear Santa, Is Mrs. Claus a good cook? (I won't tell her your answer.) -Anonymous

That is classified information. (If you ever want to visit, don't. Or, at least, bring your own food.)

Dear Santa,

How do you make presents? Who in this school would be your elves? Roast me.—Anonymous

I can't go into detail about present making, but it involves mostly recycled materials and new advanced mass production techniques. We've been trying to stay carbon neutral. Hmm. I think most of the freshmen boys would be elves. Yet another letter with no name. This generation, I'm tellin' ya. These devices make all y'all kids imagination-free. Kids in my day wrote on cave walls.

Dear Santa, What are you getting me for Christmas? - Anonymous

What did you ask for?



Dear Santa, How to get money fast?

-Broke Man

Shh, shh, let's step aside for a moment.

Okay.....Soda dealing at school.

Dear Santa, How much does it cost to make the presents? - Anonymous

You know the national debt? Multiply that by Elon Musk's current net worth. Plus 352. Minus 7.

Dear Santa, Do the elves get breaks or is it a sweatshop situation?

Yes. ☒

As dictated by Santa to Aidan Faber

TEACHER FEATURE: JESSICA WEIGHT

I decided to interview our PE teacher and school secretary Jessica Weight for this teacher feature. So I guess we can just jump right into it!



Q: So how do you like working here?

"It's good, I enjoy being around the students and I like the teachers very much!"

Q: Why did you want to be a secretary here?

"Well I wouldn't say this is my dream job... But coming back from Australia and with all the things about covid and everything, it worked very well with my schedule and everything. So it was perfect"

Q: Do you like working as a secretary or a PE teacher better?

"Umm... I honestly like them both equally because I like having the change, having the aspects of teacher work and pe work is a good combination, and so it works out."

Q: Favorite memory from this school so far?

"That's a good question, and a hard one. I will say, the day that we did the team challenges and you guys had to race through the obstacles, I really liked watching that, and I think the students loved it too."

Q: Least favorite part to being a secretary

"Well last year I would say that it was really slow and I didn't feel like I had a lot to do, so it was boring at times. But this year it might be, when I don't know a solution and neither do the other teachers. It's quite a process to hunt down how to fix it."

Now I asked her some questions that are not school related, since those are always fun to ask and answer! :)



AFTERNOON GAMES

On December 8th, the school had an indoor board game party. From 4:00pm to 5:30pm, we played all kinds of games in the Study Hall. Some people played Jenga and had a tournament. Others played video games on the tv. The video games were Modern Warfare and Fortnite. Some other people played VR headsets. One of the headsets they played Superhot, a game where you virtually fight people in battles.

At the end, everyone got together and played Fish Bowl. Fish Bowl is a fun game that involves a mix of games such as, taboo, charades, and one word guessing. Everybody had a fun time and ate cookies that Teresa made. ☒

by Adolfo Iverson

HONOR CHOIR

Once again this school year, EHS will be participating in UMEA's Honor Choir. For the people who don't know what Honor Choir is, it is when a bunch of schools send four boys and four girls each, and they practice and sing a bunch of songs and perform together in a large choir.

The four EHS girls who are going are Jenna, Burklie, Yudnelly, and Danielle, and the four boys that are going are Carlos, Diego, Sam, Ernesto A. We will be going on January 20-22th. Lois will be driving us to Salt Lake City, and we will be stay there for three days. The director for the men's choir is Justin Bills, and Tana Esplin will direct the women's choir. We will be leaving in the morning and getting back by the afternoon on Saturday. We will be practicing for two days, and then on the last day we will perform our songs in a concert. The trip will be fun, and hopefully everybody has fun and tries their best. ☒

by Ernesto Avelar

SECRET SANTA PARTY

On January 7th, 2022, the kids at EskDale High School will be having a fun holiday party with their Secret Santa Gift exchange. This is the third year in a row that they have done it, and it's always something fun that involves everyone. It's a tradition at this point. It's always fun to do and really mysterious because you don't know who or what you're going to get.

Everyone already knows who they are going to buy for so now they just have to get their person their present and make sure to bring it when we come back in January. The homemade gifts are always fun to see too because you get to see people's creative side and how they made something for the person that they got. It's just a good time for everyone, and it's nice to have a group thing where everyone can participate. ☒

by Carlos Saucedo

WINTER MEMORIES

When I was living at my old house at the quarry, my family and I went to San Diego in California for winter break. It was really different from home because there was no snow on the ground when we were there. It really didn't even get cold; it was actually really warm, around 60 to 70 degrees the whole time we were there. I can't say the water was really warm in the ocean either, but the ocean is never warm in San Diego. I remember we stayed in an AirBnB, a house/ apartment. All I know, back then, I was really, really excited to go to the beach every day. We went to the beach, and we had to get wet suits to be able to swim because the water was really cold, and the wetsuits helped with keeping us warm.

While at the beach, I found this big hole in the ground filled with water, and it was in the sunlight for who knows how many hours. I figured that it would be warm, so I went into it. I touched it, and it was almost too hot! Anyway, I got in, and it was really clear compared to the ocean. It was so warm it was almost like a hot tub. When I got out, it felt really, really cold to me even though it was really hot out.

After that, we went and built a big barrier of sand, and we would try to keep the water out and try to last the longest. It was really fun there. I really enjoyed it. I really enjoyed it there because it was different from home and really busy compared to out here. It was a long time ago when I was in second grade, so not everything is clear in my mind but most of the time it is. ❧

by Blake Iverson



I have a great memory of winter in California many years ago when my sisters and I were little. We liked playing with the snow so much; we made snowmen and we threw snowballs at each other. The funniest and most special thing about this memory is that one of my sisters got stuck in the snow and lost her shoe, and we couldn't find it. My sister wouldn't stop crying over her shoes because they were actually her favorite shoes at the time.

My second memory is about Christmas when I was about 4 years old. My mom took us every year to take pictures with Santa, but unfortunately I always ruined the photos because I was too afraid of Santa. Instead my sisters loved Santa so much, and I cried all the time, so in all of our Christmas pictures: "Jess is crying." ❧

by Jess Rodriguez



It was Christmas Eve when I was around 10 years old. My whole extended family came to my house to have a nice dinner and to open their presents. It was around 10 pm when all my cousins, my brother, and I were all really anxious to open up our presents. We had two hours to wait until it was actually Christmas Day. When that time came around, we were all really excited.

At midnight we started to unwrap our presents. My brother and I both got a snowboard, which we were both really excited for. But there was one problem, neither of us knew how to use them. But we didn't care about that.

The next day my brother and I begged my parents to go sledding. So later that day we loaded the sleds onto the car along with our new snowboards. Now we liked to go sledding at some sand dunes because they had really big drops. When we got there, I got all ready and went down the hill with my new snowboard. But when I went down, I only made about halfway down the hill before I fell over and got the wind knocked out of me. At this time, it was the first time it had ever happened to me, and I thought that I was going to die. Looking back at it seems stupid or silly, but I was only 10 years old at the time and didn't know any better, so I can understand where the fear came from.

Finally, after a few minutes I felt better and kept on going down the hill. Despite my fall, it was a fun day, and I wish I could do it again. ❧

by Carlos Saucedo

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 20, 2021—Garrison and Baker Elementary Christmas Programs, Baker Hall, 7:30 MST / 6:30 PST.
- December 21, 2021—EskDale High School choir performs at Millard Care and Rehabilitation Center, Delta, 10:00 AM.
- December 22, 2021—January 2, 2022—Winter Break!
- January 3, 2022—School reconvenes after Winter Break
- January 7, 2022—EHS holiday party and Secret Santa gift exchange! **Students, make sure to buy your gifts over break!**
- January 12, 2022—End of 2nd Quarter
- January 17, 2022—No School! Martin Luther King, Jr. Day!
- January 20-22, 2022—UMEA Honor Choir
- February 17-18, 2022—Parent Teacher Conferences for Garrison, Baker, and EskDale schools
- February 21, 2022—No School! Presidents' Day!
- March 8, 2022— ACT test for EHS Juniors
- March 10-11, 2022 — EHS presents *The Lion King JR!* More details soon.
- March 18, 2022— End of 3rd Quarter





ESKDALE
HIGH SCHOOL'S

28th annual

CHRISTMAS BANQUET

VNVWGP HVNEA BBLAQXE JUQNCE ENSAHM
 HGNWWI NTERB BREAKMVS C FNHDRH J FOFM
 SUKHXVFHAKI SLULJ DYRCHERI YBKVD T
 TAI OYKVPWSTV JUFCELMILZAJESVQEA
 HDNTYYKSWPI GFVAMESAYRCGTOVTMAB
 KADCBKDNUOTYCKUI EMS SFEIOCMNANI
 DHNHMUBBJ AF DVHOOKBYIPURNNABKLT
 AXEOVOARRDHF KCRYLMMQCFVBKNZFIH
 NRSCCBQRARYHLTYIMUSICAWXBCQFZA
 CWSOFPRFQSYLOJ CDSUCGUUJICEFZQB
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 JCRHAKLP I RCTIOEKPTKOFCCIZUKTSA
 VRGRTOEPRSCDLFUCUQRXRTJLTGSZOR
 VOAMIIMNWIRHRIFYRHXIANNETTELLG
 OPMANHOYNANRETGIBEQTSRDGTWUZUZ
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ADVENT

ANNETTE

BRASS QUARTET

CHERI

CHOIR

CHRISTMAS BANQUET

CRYSTAL

DANCING

DEAN

DECORATIONS

HOLIDAYS

HOT CHOCOLATE

JESSICA

KEITH GRIFFITHS

KENNETH

KINDNESS

LOIS

MICROPHONES

MUSIC

ORCHESTRA

PRINCESS

RESOLUTIONS

SECRET SANTA

SNOWFLAKES

SPOTLIGHTS

TABITHA

TINA

TROLLS

WE THREE KINGS

WINTER BREAK