

Local

Brisk winds touch Eagle Valley Days parade



Carmelita Holland / The Baker County Press

Grand Marshal Frank Randall and Grand Lady Shirley Randall in the parade, and standing are Grand Marshal John Randall and Grand Lady Dorothy Randall.

BY CARMELITA HOLLAND
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The skies threatened rain and a brisk wind blew in Richland on Saturday, June 18, but Eagle Valley Grangers, partners and friends sponsoring Eagle Valley Days had one beautiful parade at 10 a.m. The parade was led by the local VFW, Halfway Post #7847, with Grand Marshals and Grand Ladies, John and Dorothy Randall, and Frank and Shirley Randall.

The Eagle Valley Days theme this year was, “Eagle Valley, Land That I Love.” Among the many floats, including that of the Grand Marshals, was one carrying the 4-H Club, and several entered by Eagle Telephone and Comco Construction, which included one whopper-sized D 8. There were fourteen entries in the parade.

The kitchen at the park opened at 11 a.m., and serving of hamburgers, hot dogs, nachos began,

and strawberry shortcake was served throughout the remainder of the day. The music by the Silversmith entertained the crowd.

Eagle Valley Grange Master Dan Forsea welcomed visitors and hosted the program which followed at the Eagle Valley Grange Community Park.

Around noon, Eagle Valley’s Fire Department Chief Dave Kingsbury brought one of the local Fire Trucks to the Park so the children could play and dodge spray from the nozzle. Turning on the hose attracted over a dozen children who were soon thoroughly soaked but still running circles under the spray.

One little fellow around two or three years old, decided clothing was too restrictive, kicked off everything, and continued to streak around in circles in the spray under the hose. At one point the little stalker was captured, but fought like a tiger to be free of his captors who

failed to get pants on him above his knees. He made over a dozen more circles, running full speed before he was swooped up in a towel and blanket.

The most popular attraction of the day was the Pie Baking Contest and Auction by Mib Dailey, an annual event introduced by Sonya Weems five or six years ago to help support the Grange’s Community Park.

Thirty outstanding first class pies, of nearly every kind, vied for honors: First prize was \$75, second prize, \$50 and third prize was \$25.

The first prize winner was Megan Morehead who made a peach-apple pie. She also won second prize with a cherry pie. The third prize winner was Lela Shold who made a huckleberry pie. Also auctioned were a fresh apple cake, a plate of brownies and two barbecues.

It was estimated that about \$3,800 was raised by the pie auction.

Sumpter: More recalls

BY MEGHAN ANDERSCH
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Less than a year after voting to recall their mayor and one city councilor, Sumpter voters will again choose to retain or recall their mayor and two councilors.

Ballots are due by June 28th.

The Chief Petitioner to recall mayor Leland Myers is Robert Armbruster. His statement in demand of recall reads, “Postponed annual evaluation, due April 2016 without justification. Over-reach of his authority in administering the Public Purchasing Laws, including the City Charter limit on public contracts. Paid a Volunteer for committee/volunteer services against the Charter—this exhibits his lack of knowledge about appropriate expenditure of public funds. He is being investigated for violating public meeting laws and is currently under review by the OR State Ethics Commission. Ignores \$30,000 grant for Drinking Water Protection because he is “too busy” to keep your water safe. Is unable to perform his mayoral/councilor duties without guidance from his daughter Leanne Woolf—a recently recalled councilor—who serves as his alter ego.”

Myers’ Statement of Justification reads, “I have done nothing improper or illegal while serving for the betterment of Sumpter and its residents. As for the specific ‘charges’ made on the petition against me: The employee evaluation was postponed by a majority vote of Council so new Councilors could learn more at a July workshop. The Employee Handbook that stipulates annual Review was changed by the previous mayor after Council had adopted it. A reevaluation is planned after the July workshop. Some members of the council and community apparently do not understand the difference between capital improvements and maintenance. Maintenance does not fall under the Charter’s \$500 limitation. The complaint to the Ethics Commission was filed by Councilors Oakley and Armbruster. It regards an executive meeting requested by all councilors about a potential new attorney. That attorney assured us we did nothing wrong. We

met for about 10 minutes, made No decisions, then adjourned. Our water is safe. It is among the best water in the state. The grant could have produced a plan for watershed protection. It would not have paid for putting the plan into action. I will use available resources to answer questions, even if I’m related to them.”

The Chief Petitioner to recall Councilor Cary Clarke is Timothy Peters. Peters states Clarke is also under review for violating public meeting laws. His statement continues, “(Clarke) continues to refuse some councilors access to employee files in order to verify existence of previous write-ups and evaluations. This keeps the employees from being accountable to previous evaluations and improvement plans. He has made large sums of money working for the City, yet refuses to comply with mandatory disclosure requirements of the OR Gov Ethics Commission. Councilor Clarke has been paid by the City for work performed without complying with Oregon Public Purchasing Laws and City Charter—including emergency work. He does not support compliance with The State of Oregon Public Purchasing Laws. He, along with the Mayor and council Person Esposito do not care about compliance with the open meeting law.”

Clarke’s Statement of Justification reads, “Robert Armbruster requested a meeting w/ Dan Thiel (sic), the prospective attorney for the City. A time was set and councilors notified. Armbruster didn’t show, despite being the one who asked for the meeting. City attorney says nothing wrong was done. Armbruster & others have illegally copied, removed, and distributed employee records. They are currently under investigation by the District Attorney and Department Of Justice. I stand by my decision to protect the privacy of our staff against illegal actions by Armbruster. As a volunteer Councilman, I am also a licensed/bonded/insured contractor. For years I have volunteered where needed. I have at many times made my personal equipment & myself available to the City, often dropping other

work that I am engaged in to be of service in emergency situations. The City receives competitive pricing & I have earned every dollar I have ever billed. I resent any implications to the contrary. All bills to the City are/have been approved by City council before payment. If accusations of non compliance were true, the District Attorney would be investigating. As a business owner, I comply with all laws. I care about all laws & resent these slanderous false accusations.”

Finally, Melissa Findley is the Chief Petitioner to recall Councilor Samantha Esposito. She states, “Will not think for herself. Is a puppet for Clarke and Myers. Appears Unconcerned about uses of public funds. She is being investigated for violating public meeting laws and is currently under review by the OR State Ethics Commission. Flagrantly disobeys City ATV and Vehicle speed limits. Participates in council meetings unprepared to address agenda items.”

Esposito’s Statement of Justification reads, “I am being accused of not thinking for myself and being a puppet. Anyone who knows me knows that I am not afraid to express my Opinions and will stand my ground. This goes for my entire life. Concerning the use of public funds; if I did not care, I wouldn’t be pursuing Findley and Armbruster for theft of the city’s sewer/water services, nor would I be concerned about the situations that the city is put in. I am being investigated for a meeting which Armbruster and Oakley requested; the attorney assured council it was within its right to do so. As for being unprepared to address agenda items, I come as prepared as possible. I do my own research, and constantly ask questions regarding the city’s affairs. Volunteering on council consumes a tremendous amount of time and Effort from my life regardless of what you’ve been told. I will not resign my Position from the City of Sumpter Council. Please vote no on the recall. Thank you.”

After the votes are counted, results will be certified within ten days by County Clerk Cindy Carpenter.



THE RUSH LIMBAUGH PROGRAM

WEEKDAYS AT 9AM
SUNDAY AT 3PM

