

# Local

## Sumpter City Council

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He said they since found out there is a full-time resident at the Park throughout the winter and he didn't feel giving back the money was a viable option.

Armbruster stated Clarke's explanation was accurate. Armbruster decided after much more thought, they should keep to and respect the previous Council's decision. He stated he thought the RV Park owners should be awarded \$925 and have the \$25 monthly fee waived indefinitely.

Clarke asked if the sewer bill should not be paid if there is a full-time resident through the winter.

Armbruster replied he was having a problem with all the innuendo and verbal agreements that were made in 2008 and now in 2016, the Council is being asked to make a decision.

Clarke asked if the issue needed to be tabled and discussed more and Armbruster said the Council has tabled enough items, that something needed to be done.

Clarke proposed waiving the \$925 and charging the monthly sewer fee. He stated if he uses electricity all year, he gets charged all year, and that it should be the same for sewer. This passed unanimously with some comments from Armbruster about having spent too much time on the issue already and too many people not caring.

### Guyer and Associates Letter

Council unanimously approved the letter for engagement of next years audit review.

### Settlement conference

After potential conflicts for Armbruster and Clarke were identified, Rowan was appointed to represent Council at the upcoming settlement conference. Resolution 326

Julie McKinney read resolution 326 to remove former mayor Leland Myers as signer on all City accounts and add Rowan. The resolution was unanimously approved.

### Resignation letter

Rowan read a letter from Councilor Annie Oakley

dated 7/6 giving her resignation from City Council, citing health concerns due to stress. Council voted to accept her resignation.

### Commissioner Bill Harvey

Harvey stated work is ongoing with foresters in an attempt to designate Sumpter's watershed. This includes laying out maps, trying to define the watershed, and helping with the long-term process of getting it protected. There is also the potential of some clearing and fuel load reduction in the watershed area, funded from firefighting efforts last year.

Harvey complimented the newly done road to Granite, stating he drove part of it the other day and it's beautiful.

He reported meeting with the US Forest Service in the last couple of weeks regarding Buck Gulch Road, which was marked for potential closure. This road has been identified as a historical road and the USFS has agreed to protection, repair, and reopening up to use. This process is in the finalization stage.

Harvey referenced the heavily timbered area above Buck Gulch Road and around the area and has asked that the USFS put that in their project lists, as Sumpter is at risk during fire season with the abundance of timber.

Harvey also asked the council to allow the Planning Commission to have a hearing for the Scoop N' Steamer as the first step in getting them into compliance and following necessary process. He stated the business first must go through the conditional use process for the City, then can approach DEQ to meet their requirements, and after that can get zoning clearance, building inspections, and permits.

Armbruster asked about the Buck Gulch Road restoration and if there have been many more of those. Harvey responded that anything before 1904 is a historical road and belongs to the County. This is included under right of ways regulations (under Revised Statue 2477), and also encompasses waterways, historical sites, horse trails,

railroad right of ways, etc. Harvey stated they have established communication and are working to clarify every one of those, a process he sees taking a couple of years to complete. Harvey also explained that roads on BLM lands established 1976 and before are considered historical.

### Melissa Findley

Findley read a letter addressed to Council denouncing divisiveness and personal agendas. She stated she was blessed to be able to take part in the City government, despite disagreement about her political methods. She said she hopes to be able to enjoy retirement and not have to look forward to continued threats and accusations, based not on merit but on retribution. She said she is done with divisiveness and politics. She wished the Council luck, an open mind, and focus on Sumpter. She stated the town needs them to be honest, creative, and move forward.

### IFA application grant

Clarke reported he called Sisul Engineering earlier in the day and was told they are willing to move forward on the project. Sisul will get all the paperwork he has sent over on Monday so copies can be made for all Councilors. Public input

Findley asked about the process for renewing conditional use permits and asked how often they are to be done. Woolf stated according to article 10 of the zoning ordinance, renewal is to be annual except in special cases where the Commission votes to make it two years. Findley asked if it wasn't a \$50 renewal. Clarke advocated simplifying the process. Woolf responded it's under review and the learning process and she will look into this further.

Michelle Gorden (manager for Scoop 'N Steamer) stated they applied for an OLCC application for a limited liquor license and asked Council to review and sign 5/28. They have not heard anything back or been on the meeting agendas. Julie McKinney spoke with Stan Federhoff

of OLCC who explained it was at discretion of Council to sign. Council approved signing, which was accomplished immediately.

Lila Young addressed Findley, stating she agreed with everything said in the letter and that the town needs to "put it all behind us." She stated to that end, there is a community breakfast this Sunday from 8 to 10:30 a.m. at the schoolhouse. The menu includes French toast, pancakes, eggs, sausage, and bacon and is donation only. Money raised goes to support Sumpter Valley Community Volunteers (SVCV) projects.

John Young gave some example of projects, such as re-staining City Hall. The group has obtained permits to build a cover for the schoolhouse walkway. The snowmobile club will give \$800 towards that with SVCV funding the rest. Further projects the group has in mind include the Superintendent's House.

Woolf stated she spoke with Jeff Smith of the County Road Department. The county does not expect asphalt overruns, but suggested speaking to Triple C (regarding hoped for donations of asphalt for a half-basketball court at Volunteer Park.)

Jeff McKinney complimented Findley on her letter, saying what she said was well-stated. He asked for clarification on whether or not the City Recorder and Woolf were driving around looking for zoning violations. Julie McKinney stated they checked on a few things brought to their attention, but were not looking to find violations.

Armbruster reported an artist has created a model of the Dredge he believes is even more impressive than the one currently on display at the Visitor's Center. The artist will dedicate the model to Friends of the Dredge on Saturday, though he didn't know a time for this event.

Woolf reported Sumpter Valley Restoration is celebrating 40 years of operations with a ribbon cutting at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

## School Board

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There were 305 surveys completed regarding the two contracts. 60% believed the proposed and current four day options best served students. 38% believed the five day week best served students and the remaining 2% indicated no preference.

The interim calendar is a recommendation that consists of four-day student weeks. According to Witty's presentation, this recommendation will roll forward the 2015-16 school year four day calendar in lieu of adopted 2016-17 calendar, pending negotiations. It will invest in targeted Friday opportunities for students at each building, pilot enhanced Friday programming through community partners, and continue providing professional development opportunities for staff, pending available funds.

"The BEA is in support of the district's action tonight and we look forward to negotiating our contract," stated Amanda Wilde, a member of the Baker Education Association and the negotiating team.

"I think it's a step it's a step in the right direction," said Dawna Blincoe, a high school teacher. "I think that it really opens some negotiation discussion and it shows some support for working together."

According to a press release from the Board, "In an effort to provide appropriate time for students, parents and the District to plan for the 2016-17 school year, the Baker 5J Board of Education today approved to implement a calendar for 2016-2017 that closely mirrors the previous 2015-2016 school calendar. In April, in accordance with District Policy and District Goals, the Board approved a calendar that provides a framework to enhance educational offerings to all students and to address appropriate professional development time for staff in order to support effective teaching strategies required of the rigors educators face in addressing the needs of a diverse population of students. Currently, the Board is working with members of the Baker Education Association (BEA—representing Certified staff in the District) to negotiate a contract, which expired June 30. The Baker 5J Board has proposed a contract to BEA that includes the Board adopted calendar approved in April. At this time, negotiations have not concluded. The Board looks forward to suggestions from BEA leadership that address enhanced student learning opportunities and effective professional development time inclusive of all Certified staff."

## Ferrioli visits

According to Ferrioli, "You should never talk politics while you're eating. It's bad for the digestion."

Over lunch with the Mayor and Councilwoman Driver at Howell's Cafe, the Senator inquired about what the needs of the town are. Mayor Guerri replied, "Jobs are our number one priority as we have a high percentage of low income or fixed income people here." The possibility of creating a "Port District" in the Farewell Bend area was discussed to help accomplish this. Other topics of discussion were the new road tax being discussed in the Oregon Congress, which would change the tax from being paid at the pump to being charged by how many miles one drives, which could cause rural communities who have to drive long distances just to buy a gallon of milk even more financial hardship than they have already. The windmills being erected around Huntington as well as the shifting ground under Highway 30 causing the road to buckle between Huntington and Farewell Bend, and the regulations by DEQ that are requiring Huntington and many small communities to build new expensive sewer systems were also discussed.

After lunch Senator Ferrioli toured the businesses in town to get an idea of how the marijuana businesses are affecting other businesses in town and learned that business has seemed to increase for them as well.

The Senator stated, "Huntington has become the great social experiment and everyone is watching to see how it turns out."

Before leaving town for appointments in Baker City Senator Ferrioli took a tour of 420Vile to see the business for himself.

Those who would like to talk to the Senator about any issues, can reach him at [sen.tedferrioli@state.or.us](mailto:sen.tedferrioli@state.or.us) or visit his website at [www.oregonlegislature.gov/ferrioli](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/ferrioli).

## BLM plans wild horse gather

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Vale District is announcing a plan to conduct a gather of wild horses in the Three Fingers Herd Management Area (HMA). The objective is to capture 100 wild horses from the Three Fingers HMA and return 50 horses (25 studs and 25 mares) to the range to re-establish the Appropri-

ate Management Level (AML). The herd population is estimated at 202.

The gather will likely last two to four days with an expected start date of July 26.

The Three Fingers HMA is approximately 25 miles south of Vale, OR. Horses that are removed from the range will be transported to

Oregon's Wild Horse Corral Facility in Hines, OR. The public can visit and view the horses once they arrive at the Corral Facility any time during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The horses gathered during this effort will be made available for adoption later this year.

The Vale District BLM

will host public viewing days near the capture site as horses are gathered and sorted. Viewing may be scheduled on short notice but can accommodate a maximum of fifteen people each day. Those interested in viewing should contact Larry Moore at [l2moore@blm.gov](mailto:l2moore@blm.gov) or (541) 473-6218.

## Livestock producers oppose monument

Livestock sale yards in Oregon and Idaho have donated \$17,300 to support the campaign to oppose a national monument in the Owyhee Canyonlands.

The Producers Livestock Marketing Association donated \$11,600 raised through cattle auctions in June in Vale. The co-op donated 33 percent of its commission collected during the auction. Treasure Valley Livestock donated another \$5,700.

"Our business is to sup-

port the ranchers who work the land and cattle that call the Owyhee Canyonlands home," said Jason Johnson, branch manager for the Producers Livestock Marketing Association. "We're happy to support the Owyhee Basin Stewardship Coalition because ranching supports the economy and people of Eastern Oregon.."

Malheur County is Oregon's No. 1 cattle producing county, driving \$134 million in annual sales.

The auction donations support the Owyhee Basin Stewardship Coalition that represents Malheur County families who oppose a national monument in the Owyhee Canyonlands. Special interest groups, led by Portland's Keen Footwear, are lobbying the president to declare 2.5 million acres near the Oregon-Idaho-Nevada border as a monument.

Said Steve Russell, chairman of the Owyhee Basin Stewardship Coali-

tion. "We'll put the funds to good use promoting the work our families have done to care for these lands for generations."

To support the Owyhee coalition, call Producers at 541-473-3136. The Owyhee Basin Stewardship Coalition opposes a monument designation through executive order. Supporters can join the Owyhee Basin Stewardship Coalition and donate to the campaign at [OurLandOurVoice.com](http://OurLandOurVoice.com).

## Only one applies for City Council opening

At Wednesday's Baker City Council meeting, council members voted to temporarily table the appointment of a new council member who would fill the seat to be vacated by Sandy Lewis at the next meeting.

At that time, two qualifying residents—Chris Parker and Loran Joseph—had submitted applications. The thought of the Council was to postpone the appointment until the return of Mayor Kim Mosier who was absent Wednesday, and to allow the new appointee to take his or her position among the other council members after Lewis had completed her last meeting.

On Wednesday, however, Parker announced that she was withdrawing her application from consideration. That announcement leaves only Joseph as a contender for the open slot.

The next City Council meeting is Tuesday, July 26, 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Baker City Hall on First Street in Baker City.