

Opinion / Local

Sumpter City Council

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Clarke stated he would love to have just one. He said it is his opinion that they need to have someone willing to stand up and fight for the City. He said Stump spoke candidly about his representation of other cities and said he does just that. He also stated he has the time to take on another city.

Armbruster asked if Stump was referred to the City and Clarke replied that CIS highly recommended him. Wise stated if Stump is used to working with cities, that will be to the town's advantage. Armbruster suggested interviewing Stump via phone.

Second Reading of Ordinance 2017-1 to Repeal Ordinance 2016-3

Prior to the reading of the ordinance, there was much discussion as to proper procedure. Woolf read from the City Charter the section specific to ordinances, including that "every ordinance shall be read fully and distinctly in open council meeting on two separate days". There is also provision for reading being allowed by title only if certain criteria are met, including providing copies for public inspection.

Dodgens stated her objection to the repeal of the ordinance and asked that her appeal be noted. She said she is concerned about the existing marijuana businesses being grandfathered in. Clarke stated that the businesses currently operating are doing so thanks to OLCC.

McKinney read Ordinance 2017-1. Clarke set a workshop for reworking the marijuana ordinance Monday, February 27th at 11 AM. The meeting was open to the public. Groundskeeper

Julie McKinney stated Sumpter Valley Community Volunteers (SVCV) is willing to manage the Flea Market vendors, so all the

City needs is someone to water, mow lawns, rake pine needles, etc. Woolf asked if the Council would like to see a letter of interest from SVCV. Clarke asked that be provided soon and said the Council will need a decision about what SVCV wants to do and how much so that the City knows what to advertise for.

President of Council

Wise nominated Armbruster. Clarke seconded. Armbruster was elected by secret ballot with four votes. Clarke motioned to accept the vote and motion passed with three votes, Armbruster abstaining.

Council Input

Armbruster mentioned the solar eclipse on August 21 and suggested this may be something they want to start talking about.

Woolf stated the Sumpter Valley Railroad will run an Eclipse Train that will depart the McEwen Depot at 9 a.m. It will be at the Sumpter Depot for totality, occurring at around 10:20 a.m.

Woolf also mentioned that a running event has reserved the Grounds for earlier in the weekend. They will be running on Saturday. SVCV is planning a one-day Music in the Meadow for Sunday.

McKinney asked about opening the Grounds for travelers. Woolf stated that even on Saturday the runners won't take up the whole thing. Myrna Clarke mentioned the need for extra portable restrooms.

Clarke said he has been listening to KJDY out of La Grande and people over there are renting their yards out. John Day is expecting 5,000 visitors for the eclipse. Woolf said Huntington and Prairie City are right under the centerline of the eclipse. Huntington is expecting 10,000 visitors.

Woolf added that the Fire Centennial is also on August 13th. Armbruster stated he is in fear of a

heavy impact on local resources if the population swells. Woolf stated the Depot Inn has been sold out for a while. Karen Peters mentioned the lack of places to eat. McKinney suggested trying to get some vendors to come out. Clarke stated he will try to get in touch with a couple of Chambers of Commerce in other towns to see what they're doing.

Armbruster said Dennis Bradley of Oregon Parks and Recreation is asking where the Superintendent's House thing is going.

Armbruster said he could get it set up for representatives from the Parks Department to come to March's Council Meeting.

Rowan stated a bill was received from a local resident regarding frozen sewer lines and read from a letter dated October 30, 2002, stating utility lines are the property of property owners. Clarke stated that special provision was made to owners in the particular subdivision and the owners took responsibility for their own sewer lines. Motion to deny reimbursement, submit bill for pumping of tank, and provide a copy of the 2002 letter passed unanimously.

Public Input

Vern Hollopeter asked about the status of the moratorium from the initiative and asked if anything has been heard from the Liquor Commission. Clarke stated they have everything, but nothing has been heard back yet. He stated he would call them later that day.

Armbruster then stated the Council has not had much discussion about why the City has a bookkeeper in the first place. He said Sumpter is the only city in the Region 8 League of Oregon Cities that has a position like that. He said some cities use an accounting firm, but most don't. Clarke suggested discussing this further on Monday.

— SPECIAL COLUMN —

So I was thinking ...

A letter to my younger self

By Jimmy Ingram
Special to The Baker County Press

One of my favorite songs is an old Faces tune with a chorus that sums up how most of us feel about life: "I wish that I knew what I know now, when I was younger."

I heard it just the other day on the radio and it made me think: "If the 38 year old me could talk to the 19 year old me, what would he say..."

- Listen more to older generations: Did you notice that old man with a cane walking down the street? You didn't? Well you should. There's a strong possibility he knows about things that aren't often taught any more.

There's a lot he can tell you about life, loss, personal struggle, financial hardship, marriage and fatherhood. In his prime he may have been a self taught home builder, a machinist, or an mechanical engineer.

He may not say much but maybe it's because no one has inquired. Ask him questions. Respect who he is now but more importantly what he's learned along the way. You could learn a lot from him.

- Don't waste your money: You're a hard-working young man and that's admirable but there's things in life you need, and things you want.

Leave room for both but be sure to separate the two.

You'll find out later that the best times in life don't involve things, they involve acts and people that you care about.

If you are going to spend extra money, buy something that helps you be creative. Buy a guitar and learn to play it well.

Buy some tools and build something. Buy something old and make it new again.

That will be far more gratifying than \$150 sneakers and bad music CDs that you'll eventually throw away.

Save some money for a rainy day. It won't hurt.

- Learn to cook: I know right now you live on sandwiches, jerky, and Clif bars and that's acceptable since it's only you. But someday you'll meet a strong, hard-working woman and have kids.

When you do she'll want some help in the kitchen.

Don't wait until then to learn a few things.



Submitted Photo

Jimmy Ingram is a local farmer and father of two who enjoys people watching within our wonderful community and beyond.

Buy some decent cookware and some cookbooks. Burn the living hell out of a few things in the oven and undercook some meat.

Use way too much chili powder and not enough salt.

Get it all out of your system and learn from your mistakes. Get some help from mom, grandma, and Rachel Ray.

If you can make three or four home cooked meals for your family it will be a tremendous help to your wife and a feather in your cap.

- Accept simplicity and routine as a positive thing: You're young now and everything is exciting.

You probably can't imagine a life where you don't get to spend your free time doing whatever you want to do, going wherever you want to go.

Don't become too attached to that idea.

At a certain point, a degree of routine will become comforting.

Familiar places, faces, and trustworthy people aren't for sale on store shelves so surround yourself with them despite how mundane it may seem at times.

Life isn't always fun.

You'll have bills to pay, sick kids to worry about, aging parents and grandparents, and aches and pains of your own.

Learn to replace the notion that uneventful equals "boring" with the idea that uneventful means everyone and everything around you is healthy and happy.

That's what really matters.

A few other small bits of advice:

- Don't say things you don't mean
- People will let you down. Accept it, learn a lesson and move on.

- Learn to laugh at yourself. It will make it tougher for people to hurt your feelings.

- Don't eat egg salad sandwiches from gas stations.

- Don't drink Tequila and expect to be productive the next day.

- Listen to a woman when she wants you to listen.

- Don't be too stubborn to apologize.

- Love your friends and family, despite their flaws. They love you despite yours.

Safeway lawsuit

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Safeway, Inc., and AB Acquisitions, LLC (privately owned by Cerberus Capital Management, Kimco Realty Corporation, Klaff Realty, Lubert-Adler Partners, and Schottenstein Stores Corporation), represented by attorney Gordon Welborn, of Redmond, Oregon-based Hart Wagner LLP, filed an answer with the affirmative defense of Comparative Negligence, to Stroy's complaint, on October 12, 2016.

According to the answer, "Safeway admits that on or about the date and place alleged, the plaintiff has alleged that she fell during business hours but, except for as expressly admitted, Safeway denies the allega-

tions contained in paragraph 7 (in which Stroy chronicled parking, and tripping and falling)."

Safeway denies the rest of Stroy's claims related to her injuries, and according to Safeway's complaint, "The incident and plaintiff's injuries and damages were caused in whole or in part by plaintiff's own negligence in the following particulars: a) In failing to keep a proper lookout for her own safety b) In failing to keep proper control of her body and person; and c) In failing to avoid or safely walk over/around any and all open and obvious objects or conditions commonly found in parking lots."

Safeway seeks a dismissal of Stroy's claim, plus costs and disbursements

incurred in the case.

On December 2, 2016, Stroy filed a motion for a Limited Judgment of Dismissal with prejudice, and without any costs for any party, as to defendant Payless Drugstores Northwest, Inc., and that judgment was granted on December 5, 2016, by Judge Patricia Sullivan. On December 15, 2016, Stroy filed a similar motion, as to defendant Muffrey, LLC, which was also granted, on December 16, 2016, by Judge Greg Baxter.

A pre-trial hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 8, 2017, 8:30 a.m., for the plaintiff and the remaining defendants, Safeway, Inc., and AB Acquisitions, LLC (collectively Safeway).

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