

Outdoor Rec / Local

HELP WANTED

The Baker Valley Soil and Water Conservation District is accepting applications for a seasonal irrigation system worker. This position will be responsible in assisting partnering agencies with the implementation of small scale irrigation systems and riparian vegetation. Candidates must have the following:

- 1.) Valid Drivers License
- 2.) Basic knowledge of household irrigation systems, small pumps, and controllers
- 3.) Ability to use hand tools
- 4.) Ability to operate small engines/equipment
- 5.) Ability to perform routine tasks for long periods of time
- 6.) Basic knowledge of weed identification and treatments
- 7.) Strong communication skills
- 8.) Ability to make maintenance decisions with little or no supervision

This position will be from May 2017 to approximately November 1, 2017 and will require a 32 hour work week. The rate of pay will be \$13/hr.

To apply, please drop off or email resume along with a cover letter explaining your qualifications for the position to; Whitney Collins 3990 Midway Dr. Baker City OR 97814 or whitney.collins@bakercountyswcds.com. All applications must be in by 3:30pm, March 30th 2017. "Baker Valley Soil and Water Conservation District is an Equal Opportunity Employer." For questions, please feel free to contact me at 541-523-7121 x 109.

Lead ammo, wildlife, and the like



THE OUTDOOR COLUMN
By Todd Arriola

In one of the most recent editions of "Lynn's Journal," a weekly recap of happenings at Pendleton-based rescue organization Blue Mountain Wildlife (BMW), Executive Director Lynn Tompkins said she received an overwhelmingly positive response to the previous week's journal entry regarding ingested lead toxicity in raptors, however, she noted that some of the information presented was used to promote agendas not in alignment with BMW's.

To set the record straight, Lynn stated this, literally, in bold type: "Blue Mountain Wildlife respects the rights of hunters. Blue Mountain Wildlife recognizes that sportsmen are conservationists...Blue Mountain Wildlife supports hunting with non-lead ammunition..."

She elaborated on all three statements, recognizing that hunting and fishing licensing fees pay for conservation programs, benefiting both game, and non-game species of wildlife, and that staff of BMW regularly see the first-hand effects of the consumption of the remains of animals shot with lead ammunition

(lead toxicity), on scavenging animals, such as eagles.

The previous week's journal began with details regarding a Bald Eagle, designated 17-084, which had been found on the ground near Mesa,

Washington, on February 27, and which showed signs of ingested lead toxicity.

This led to the subject of the LeadCare II, a blood lead testing device manufactured by North Billerica, Massachusetts-based Magellan Diagnostics, which was used to measure the blood lead level in the Bald Eagle.

Initially, Lynn said, the machine read "high," which meant that the reading was above the manufacturer's limit of what the machine can detect, 65 micrograms per deciliter. After diluting the sample, per Magellan's protocol, in order to try to obtain a proper reading, the level was again "high," and after a second time diluting the sample, the level was finally detected: 622 micrograms per deciliter.

Lynn said this was the highest lead level ever documented by BMW, and 30 times the level considered toxic in raptors, 20 micrograms per deciliter.

Lynn said that, over the course of five days, through aggressive chelation treatment (in which a solution is injected into the bloodstream, to bind to, and remove the lead), the

lead level of the bird was reduced to 105 micrograms per deciliter, but the bird was unable to overcome the effects of the toxicity, and he died.

In Lynn's Journal, she said, "There is no safe level of lead for humans or wildlife..." as she listed some potential effects, such as anemia, high blood pressure, and the lowering of IQ and learning ability in children.

Lynn said, "Non-lead ammunition performs as well or better than lead ammunition. Eating game shot with non-lead ammunition is safer for your family. Hunting with non-lead ammunition prevents secondary poisoning of wildlife like Bald Eagle 17-084..."

At this point in her journal, Lynn included the address of a website, www.huntingwithnonlead.org, for further information regarding the topic.

The website, still within the same theme as Lynn's and BMW's philosophy about the benefits of using non-lead ammunition (the first tip-off is the logo with the bull elk and the words "MORE HUNTING LESS LEAD"), presents information regarding the differences with using lead ammunition versus non-lead ammunition, in contrast to what any group(s) misunderstood, purposely or not, from Lynn's journal, resulting in misuse of the information, in an attempt to advance specific agendas, such as hunting versus anti-hunting.

An introductory statement on the website, regarding its contributors and mission, reads as follows: "Hunting with Non-lead is dedicated to promoting hunting and wildlife conservation through the use

of non-lead ammunition.

"We are hunters and wildlife biologists who recognize the common ground between hunting and wildlife conservation. It is our mission to promote the positive contributions of hunting and the use of non-lead ammunition by providing accurate information and resources to hunters and wildlife managers."

Credited as contributors are the Institute for Wildlife Studies California Non-lead Outreach Coordinator Russell Kuhlman, a lifelong outdoorsman who's hunted multiple game species in multiple states across the country; Wildlife Biologist Jim Peterson, a lifelong hunter from Idaho, who's worked for the National Park Service; and avid hunter and outdoorsman Leland Brown, a former wildlife biologist from New Hampshire, who's worked on a variety of invasive species control programs, and who works with hunters in the Northwest to reduce the unintended impacts of lead ammunition on wildlife, according to information on the website.

The Institute for Wildlife Studies partnered with the National Park Service to remove feral hogs from Pinnacles National Monument (located about five miles east of Soledad, and about 80 miles southeast of San Jose, California), having successfully culled more than 300, gaining extensive experience with the use of non-lead ammunition.

Their conclusion, according to the website: "Based on these real world evaluations of non-lead ammo, we have found it to be extremely accurate and lethal."

Free fishing days coming in April

Anglers and would-be anglers can enjoy a weekend of free fishing on April 22 and 23. On these two days, Oregonians and visitors can fish, crab and clam for free anywhere in Oregon without a license, tag or endorsement.

This free fishing week-

end—as well as to two other free fishing holidays Nov. 25 and 26 and Dec. 31 – Jan. 1, 2018 — is in addition to the traditional free fishing weekend on June 3-4. These additional free fishing days are thanks to a 2015 law passed by the Oregon Legislature

allowing the Fish and Wildlife Commission to set up to eight days of free fishing every year.

"April 22 is also Earth Day, and what better way for Oregonians to get outside and celebrate the natural world than by taking family and friends out

for a day of fishing," said Mike Gauvin, ODFW recreational fishing manager.

While licenses are waived during free fishing days, all other regulations and regular closures still apply.

Chance ahead to win guided hunt

ODFW is offering 10 youth hunters (ages 17 and under) the chance to win a guided turkey hunt on a private ranch in Jackson County during the spring 2017 turkey season.

Ten hunts will be raffled off on March 31, 2017. Winners will receive one day of turkey hunting on the C2 Ranch in Jackson County, accompanied by a guide who will help locate wild turkeys. A parent or other family member may

also accompany the youth on the hunt.

"The ranch has a lot of oak savannah and brushy areas, which makes for good wild turkey habitat," says ODFW wildlife biologist Vince Oredson.

Spring turkey season runs April 15-May 31 statewide, and youth hunters also get their own two-day season April 8-9.

Hunt applications are available at the ODFW Central Point office, 1495

East Gregory Rd., or online under A&H Hunting Opportunities.

Applications must be received at the Central Point ODFW office by 5 p.m., March 31, and may be submitted by mail, in person, or email. There is no cost to enter the raffle, though winners are still responsible for purchasing a hunting license and turkey tag before hunting. Winners will be notified on April 3.

Youth without hunter education certification may apply and hunt under the Mentored Youth Hunter program, but only during the regular spring turkey season (April 15-May 31), not the two-day youth season.

For more information, contact Vince Oredson at (541) 826-8774, Vince.J.Oredson@state.or.us.

Sumpter City Council talks cannabis tax

BY MEGHAN ANDERSCH
Meghan@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Sumpter City Council met in regular session March 13, 2017. In attendance were mayor Cary Clarke, Linda Wise, and Samantha Rowan. Among other business, the Council passed Ordinance 2017-2 regarding collection of tax on sales of cannabis products.

Utility Manager Report

Jeff McKinney started with, "Wow, what a winter!" He said everything is running smoothly now. There will be some inevitable flooding as spring thaw comes with ditches plugged with ice and snow. Tuesday afternoon, there were some flooding issues right by City Hall. McKinney said the mayor grabbed a shovel and helped him get the issue under control.

McKinney stated the winter was brutal and hard on everybody. The City spent tremendous amount of money for snow removal. McKinney acknowledged Tim Peters for digging out hydrants. He said Clarke has come to the rescue countless times, more often than not without submitting a bill. He also thanked Lee German and Phil Callahan for their help, saying there was more here than one guy could possibly keep up with.

McKinney said there are usually some water issues concerning inflow to the City about this time of year, and maintaining access to McCully will be a priority.

Fire Department Report

Jim Sheller reported things are really quiet with no call-outs since the last meeting. They are waiting to begin their heavy training again when the snow goes. All equipment is ready to roll.

Planning Report

LeAnne Woolf reported the Planning Commission met on 3/2. She submitted a zoning application to an architect for corrections to some issues. The application will be reviewed at the next meeting. The Commission also discussed the evacuation plan. John Young will invite Sheriff Ash to come and share the perspective of the Sheriff's Department. Commission members are watching water drainage and how the snow berms affect it, as that is a part of the section they are currently working on in the Comprehensive Plan. Finally, Woolf stated there are openings on the Commission. She said there is little to do except at meetings, unless someone volunteers to take on something additional.

Clarke asked if anything has been heard from the State Parks people. Woolf said they will be coming to April's City Council meeting.

Offer Assistant Recorder Position

Clarke reported the Council held a meeting and went through resumes. He said of those submitted, he thinks LeAnne Woolf is best qualified for the position. Clarke made a motion to offer her the job. Motion passed unanimously.

Replacing Attorney Skerjanec

Clarke stated he's talked to Josh Stump quite a bit and he seems pretty much on the ball and willing to take on the job. Wise commented that his resume looks good. Clarke said Stump comes highly recommended by the League of Oregon Cities and the City insurance company. Rowan commented that Stump is good about returning calls and e-mails. Clarke made the motion to hire Joshua Stump as City attorney. Motion passed unanimously.

Woolf stated that named defendants on the lawsuit would like it clarified if Stump will be handling that. Clarke stated he thinks Stump will handle everything. Clarke asked who will be representing City Hall at the 3/24 meeting. Clarke motioned to elect Rowan as representative of the City. Motion passed unanimously.

ORD NO 2017-2 3% Sales Tax on Cannabis Products

City Recorder Julie McKinney explained this is required by State in order to collect taxes on cannabis sales. She said citizens already voted on receiving the three percent tax, but now the ordinance has to be done. It has been posted for a long time. McKinney read the ordinance in its entirety and did a second reading by title only, per unanimous vote of the Council. Motion to pass the ordinance was approved unanimously.

ORD NO 2017-3 Revised Time, Place and Manner on Cannabis Businesses

McKinney stated she made the requested amendments and asked Council to approve the changes so she can get the ordinance posted. Motion passed unanimously.

ORD NO 2017-4 To Prohibit Marijuana Grows

McKinney stated she contacted the DLCD (Department of Land Conservation and Development). They will get back to her on which person in particular to send the ordinance to. She said they going to help so the City doesn't run into trouble again like it did with LUBA. There will be a hearings process on the ordinance.

Resolutions 330 and 331: Update and Continue Water Reserve Account and Update and Continue Sewer Reserve Account

McKinney read both resolutions. As the need continues to exist to set aside funds for updating and maintaining the water system and updating and maintaining the sewer system, the Council resolves to continue setting the funds aside. This resolution must be reviewed and renewed every 10 years. Motion to adopt both resolutions passed unanimously.

Resolution 332: Moving funds from LGIP

This resolution covers moving funds not to exceed \$62,000 to the water utilities fund account for the purposes of paying outstanding overtime and comp hours, on the advice of attorney Stump. Motion to adopt resolution passed unanimously.