

## Feb. 15 Last Day to Enroll in Health Insurance

**Over 94,000 Oregonians Have Successfully Enrolled Using HealthCare.gov**

Oregonians can get health insurance coverage and save money through HealthCare.gov, but they have just five more days to do it.

Sunday, Feb. 15 is the last day to choose or switch a health plan for 2015, and the last chance to get a tax credit to help pay for coverage.

"If you've been on the fence, now is the time to go to HealthCare.gov and purchase your coverage," said Aaron Patnode, executive director of Cover Oregon. "More than 94,000 Oregonians have already chosen their health plans through the marketplace and you can, too. The technology works, and in-person assistance is available to help you

navigate it."

Here's what to expect at HealthCare.gov:

- An online application made up of clear, step-by-step questions
- Instant results once you submit your information; you'll know right away how much you can save on coverage
- Dozens of health plans to choose from so you can get the coverage that's right for you

"Open enrollment is your only opportunity to get health insurance coverage this year," said Oregon Insurance Commissioner Laura Cali. "If you miss the Feb. 15 deadline, you will miss out on the protections health coverage provides. You may also face a tax penalty."

## Free Oregon Statehood Celebration Saturday

Saturday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m., the Baker County Historical Society will host a free Oregon Statehood Day Celebration at the Baker Heritage Museum in the Ballroom. The public is invited. Lillian and Dave Densley will provide the program about Governor Joseph Gale, the first of a triumvirate of territorial governors of Oregon. Joseph Gale, a man involved in many ventures during the westward movement, became a political power. His ventures took him up and down the west coast, but he ultimately settled in the New Bridge area near Richland, where he is now buried. The Densleys have written a book about Governor Gale and his Native American wife and children.

After the program, the Historical Society will serve Oregon Birthday Cake, cookies, truffles, punch and coffee, with time for conversation with the speakers. They will have their book for sale and for autographing after the program for all who are interested.

## Sumpter News

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### Rain or Shine, Snow or 'No', Poker Run is ON

The weather continued mild in upper Sumpter Valley, yet another week. Then, late Sunday night rain fell heavily. It did not help the dwindling snow cover in town. However, rain or shine—or lack of snow will not affect Sumpter's Poker Run.

The Outhouse races may have a challenge, but they are hilarious whatever the circumstances. Put on by Sumpter Valley Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club, the group's major fundraiser of the year is this Saturday, Feb. 14. It has a guaranteed purse of \$3,000 and is a very popular event. Registration is again at the Schoolhouse community center at 475 N Mill Street, a block or so north of the Stage Stop gas station. Registration begins tomorrow night, Feb. 13 from 6-8 p.m. and will reopen Saturday morning from 7-2:30 pm. Game boards are \$10 each. Raffle tickets are three for a \$1 and Outhouse team registration is \$10.

After visiting the several local businesses or trail stations to get them punched, the game boards need to be returned by 2:30 pm. The Outhouse team races begin shortly afterwards. The day will wrap up at 6 p.m. at the club's groomer shed for the Awards Ceremony. Have questions? Contact the club's secretary at 541-894-2458 or email: snowmobile club@sumpter.org.

### Calendar

- Feb. 13 – Early registration for SVBMSC Poker Run & Outhouse Races at Schoolhouse Community Center, 6-8 p.m.
- Feb. 14 – SVBMSC Poker Run & Outhouse Races
- Feb. 17 – PRRFPD, 6:30 pm, Mosquito Flat Station Sumpter Vol FD at fire hall, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 19 – Bag Ladies at Schoolhouse Community Center, noon to ?
- March 2 – Masons at Masonic Hall, meeting, 8 p.m.
- March 3 – PRRFPD, 6:30 p.m., Mosquito Flat Station Sumpter Vol FD at fire hall, 7 p.m.
- March 10 – City Council at City Hall, 7 p.m.
- March 13 – Bingo at Schoolhouse Community Center, 7 p.m.
- March 14 – SVBM Snowmobilers at Schoolhouse Community Center, 6:30 p.m.
- March 24 – Alpine Chapter, OES, Friendship Night at Masonic Hall, 8 p.m.

### Sweetheart Dinner

The members of McEwen Masonic Lodge of Sumpter treated their sweeties to a sumptuous prime rib dinner prior to their meeting this month. Following the dinner Worshipful Master Craig Sipp asked the members to introduce their sweethearts and tell how many years they'd been married. Dan and Jo Warnock took the honors with 62 years of marriage. Craig also shared history of Groundhog Day. The ladies visited then while the fellows held their meeting and the evening was concluded.

### People

Former Sumpter resident Lavon (Red) Cullum passed away Jan. 23, 2015. He was 81 and a half. Red, and his wife Venita, came to Sumpter in the late '60s. Initially, Red worked in mining with Bud Taylor. In the early to mid '70s he operated the town's fairly new service station and was a really good mechanic. When Wayne Rogers retired, Red bought the equipment and ran Red's Excavation & Hauling. In the mid '90s, he and Venita developed Sumpter Pines RV Park and operated it for about ten years before semi-retiring and moving to Haines.

Red died of cancer, which had beleaguered him for 20 or so years, and emphysema. A memorial service will be held in Sumpter this summer. Our sincere condolences to Venita, family and friends.

Also, our condolences to Herb Wooten. His wife, Joyce, passed away despite surgery. She also had cancer.

### Churches

Sunday morning services are held at St. Brigid's in the Pines on the first and third Sundays of the month at 11 a.m. followed by a coffee 'hour.' The Feb. 15 service will be lead by Rev. Aletha Bonebrake.

Weekly services at McEwen Bible Fellowship include Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. and Morning Worship at 11 a.m. Wednesday evening prayer at 6:45 p.m. currently is being hosted at the home of Joy Myers.

News items received by this reporter by Sunday evening will be included in the Sumpter column the following week. Send in news and/or photos with captions of guests, births, group meetings, any special occasion.

Anyone who wants expert guidance walking through the application, or sorting through their plan choices, can work with an insurance agent or a community partner, or come to an Enrollment Open House. The service is free, and can help people get their enrollment done by the Feb. 15 deadline.

Community partners and agents are listed at <https://www.coveroregon.com/find-assistance>. Drop-in enrollment events are on the calendar at <https://www.coveroregon.com/events/>.

The Feb. 15 deadline does not apply to the Oregon Health Plan, which accepts applications year round.

## Classifieds

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The LDS Family History Center**, 2625 Hughes Lane is open Tuesday 1-4 p.m.; Wednesday 10-1 p.m. and 5:30- 8:30 p.m.; Thursday 10-1 p.m.; Friday 1-4 p.m. and by appointment. (Phone 541-523-2397 during regular hours or 541-524-9691 any time) Consultants help everyone use Ancestry.com; Find My Past; Heritage Quest Online and other family history websites free of charge.

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**BAKER SCHOOL DISTRICT 5J** is currently accepting applications for two (2) **Certified Teachers for Kindergarten**. For a complete description of the position go to [www.baker.k12.or.us](http://www.baker.k12.or.us) or contact the employment division. You may also call 541-524-2261 or email [nnemec@baker.k12.or.us](mailto:nnemec@baker.k12.or.us)

### PUBLIC MEETINGS

**Powder Valley Water Control District** meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at 690 E. Street, North Powder, OR 97867.

**The North Powder Rural Fire Protection District** meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Rural Fire Building, 340 "E" Street, North Powder.

**The Haines Fire Protection District** will meet on the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Haines Public Library.

**The Baker Rural Fire District** meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Pocahontas Fire Station, with the exception of May and June when they hold their budget meeting at 6 p.m. with the regular meeting following at 7 p.m.

**The Medical Springs Rural Fire Department** meeting is the 1st Thursday of every month, 7 p.m. at Pondosa Station.

**The North Powder Cemetery Maintenance District** meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m. at the Grange in North Powder.

**Burnt River Irrigation District** meets the second Tuesday of every month at 1 p.m. at the office of Silven, Schmeits & Vaughan, 1950 Third Street in Baker City.

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