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## Sumpter News

Mark Luker & LeAnne Woolf  
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leannemywo@aol.com

After a lovely cooling trend last week, where the high went from ninety-three down to eighty, it looks like we're on our way back up the thermometer. One can always hope that the lows stay near fifty or lower, as they did last week, all being in the upper thirties to upper forties.

## Calendar

Dates, times, and locations to the best of our knowledge

June 26 - Baker City Cycling Classic, Sumpter to Prairie City and back, 12:30 p.m.

June 26 - Alpine Chapter OES Open Installation, public welcome, refreshments after, Masonic Hall, 7 p.m.

June 27 - Potluck Memorial for Red Cullum, Schoolhouse Community Center, 1 p.m.

June 27 - Memorial for Bob Houston, Bob Houston's place, 3 p.m.

June 30 - SVFD Auxiliary at Schoolhouse Community Center, 10 a.m.

July 3-5 - Sumpter Fourth of July Flea Market, Sumpter

July 3 - Bingo and Pie, Masonic Hall, 6 p.m.

July 4 - Fur Fun Dog Show, Soda Mountain Pet Supplies, 2 p.m.

July 7 - Sumpter Valley Community Volunteers, Schoolhouse Community Center, 10 a.m.

July 7 - Sumpter Volunteer Fire Department, City Hall, 7 p.m.

Organizations

Sumpter Valley Railroad Restoration, Inc., held its monthly board meeting on June 13. SVRR is working with Sumpter Planning Commission on an Evacuation Plan for a worst case scenario in which the residents must leave the city, probably because of a forest fire. SVRR has also set the dates for celebrating the Heisler No. 3's 100-year anniversary: Aug. 8-9.

## History

In Aug. 1890, David Eccles built South Baker yard, one end of Sumpter Valley Railway. In Aug. 1915, notes were signed for financing the purchase of No. 3 from the manufacturer. In Aug. 1969, Nils Christiansen and Leland Myers met to discuss restoring a railroad. The Heisler was first put to work in Sumpter Valley in 1915. It was the first locomotive brought back to Sumpter Valley after SVRR was formed. The board and membership of SVRR are looking forward to sharing the Heisler's centennial with everyone.

## Sumpter Valley Volunteers

The steering committee for Sumpter Valley Community Volunteers met June 17. LeAnne Woolf continues to work with the state on the 501(c)(3) application.

In the meantime, members have already started looking forward to fundraisers and work parties. A small motorcycle group that happened to visit Sumpter on a community breakfast weekend last year has inquired into the possibility of having breakfast here again. The Breakfast Club benches have loose bolts and could use a little sanding and wood preservative. An historic building in town has had trash stacked up in front of it. People are excited about kicking in to support Sumpter and Sumpter Valley.

## City Business

On June 16, Judge Greg Baxter heard arguments in a Plaintiffs' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment in the suit brought by Myron Woodley, Ed Marshall, Connie Marshall, Vern Hollopeter, Karen Peters, and Patsy Lindrose against John Young, Myrna Clarke, Marlene Bork, LeAnne Woolf, and the City of Sumpter. At the time the suit was filed (May 2012), Young, Clarke, Bork, and Woolf were all members of the Sumpter City Council. Woolf successfully ran for reelection last fall. The others are no longer serving.

All plaintiffs except Myron Woodley were in attendance. Young, Bork, and Woolf were in attendance; Clarke was at a funeral. Other current Council members—Toni Thompson, Annie Oakley, and Bob Armbruster—were also in attendance, as was current Sumpter mayor Melissa Findley.

After hearing arguments from plaintiffs' attorney Martin Leuenberger and defendants' attorney Carol Skerjanec, Judge Baxter commented to attendees that the purpose of the hearing was to narrow down the issues, if possible, before trial. He likened the suit to a divorce in which both sides needed to slow down and consider the children: in this case,

the City of Sumpter. He also urged participants to start thinking about what is going to be done from this moment on. A settlement conference was scheduled for Aug. 7 with Judge Dretke. If trial remains necessary, it is currently scheduled for Sept. 16-18. Delays may occur as criminal matters take precedence in the court over civil matters such as this.

The motions argued on June 16 involve complaint that the City is trying to establish an RV park at the Grounds, alleged violations of open meetings law, alleged improper declaration of emergencies involving repairs of City water lines and buildings, concerns about following public purchasing law, alleged budget law violation, the underlying causes of a DEQ fine, and the disposition of abandoned cars. Some of these motions are based on claims made in a Second Amended and Supplemental Complaint filed January 2015.

Later, on the afternoon of June 16, Sumpter City Council held Public Hearings and a Special Meeting on its budget and whether to accept State revenue sharing. The City budget was approved as presented, as was State revenue sharing.

## Flea Market Review

On the evening of Friday, June 19, a review of the Memorial Day Flea Market was held by Parks Manager Anna Stafford. About a dozen people attended. Anna started with reading from feedback forms. A list of questions about the weekend had also been presented by someone prior to the June 9 council meeting.

The availability of ice at the Grounds (short for Sumpter Valley Days Grounds) was listed in both sources of comment. For decades, an ice trailer has been rented to sit at the Grounds so that food vendors that many blocks from downtown ice locations have had quick and convenient access. This year, new owners of the business from which the trailer has been rented weren't sure that the previous arrangement made good financial sense, Anna reported. To alleviate the situation, Annie Oakley transported over 1900 pounds of ice from the trailer downtown to a chest freezer near the fire department's booth. Annie is not a large person and has declined to move that much ice again in the future. It is expected that during the Fourth of July Flea Market, a chest freezer of ice will be located at the office (north end of shower building) at the Grounds.

The other concern listed in both sources of comment was the vendor barbecue held at noon on Sunday of the Memorial Day Flea Market. Last year on the Sunday evening of the Labor Day Flea Market, Sumpter Volunteer Fire Department hosted a vendor appreciation dinner for vendors from downtown and from the Grounds. Cost was less than a hundred dollars, and the sit-down was enjoyed by all. It was briefly discussed about whether and when to hold the next, but the matter never appeared before city council.

A noon event led to vendors who couldn't afford to leave their booths in the middle of a sales day. There were reports of vendors who weren't included on the invitation list. There were reports of vendors who very much enjoyed the pampering. Submitted invoices totaled nearly \$800. (The invoice for the meat has since been covered by a donation, or donations.) Anna said there had been no vote of council for the meal. A reminder about spending restrictions and limited decision making authority was given.

## Churches

Sunday morning services are held at St. Brigid's in the Pines at Auburn and Bonanza in Sumpter on the first and third Sundays of the month at 11 a.m. followed by a coffee 'hour.' Weekly services at McEwen Bible Fellowship include Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., Morning Worship at 11 a.m., and Wednesday evening prayer at 6:45 p.m.

News and calendar items received 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.

The City of Sumpter asks that you please water on alternate days, before 10 am and after 6 pm.

## Merkley to Hold Town Hall in Huntington

Oregon's Senator Jeff Merkley will hold town halls in Baker, Malheur and Harney Counties in the coming weeks.

He will update constituents on his work in Washington, DC and answer their questions and invite their suggestions about how to tackle the challenges facing Oregon and America.

"There are huge issues facing Oregonians and the best way for me to effectively advocate for Oregon's families and businesses is by getting out on the road and holding a town hall in every county, every year to hear directly from Oregonians," said Merkley. "I invite all residents of Malheur, Baker and Harney Counties to come and discuss what we need to do to strengthen our state and nation."

Merkley will be in Huntington on Thursday, July 2, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. at the VFW Hall, 205 First Street.

## District Attorney Discusses Marijuana Law

In preparation for July 1, District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff had this to say about marijuana:

"On July 1, Oregon will join Washington and Colorado in legalizing marijuana in certain limited situations. July 1 is not the day that marijuana becomes legal all the time. Marijuana will remain illegal in many circumstances, and it's important for the public to know that law enforcement will continue to enforce laws prohibiting the illegal use of marijuana."

On July 1, 2015 and every day after, the following will be illegal in Oregon:

- Possession of more than eight ounces of marijuana in private and/or four plants per residence.
- Possession of more than one ounce of marijuana in public.
- Possession of any amount of marijuana by those less than 21 years of age.
- Use of any marijuana in public.
- Transporting any amount of marijuana out of state.
- Driving a vehicle while impaired by marijuana, or by a combination of marijuana and another drug.

In conclusion, DA Shirtcliff said, "We will work with the new legalization law, including people's right to legally possess and consume marijuana, but if the law is broken and kids and the public are put at risk, my office will not hesitate to hold offenders accountable."

## Outdoor Club at Interpretive Center for Kids 8-12 Starts Soon

The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center again offers the annual Thursday Outdoor Club for ages 8 to 12 starting June 25 and each Thursday through July 30. The 2015 theme is "Surviving along the Oregon Trail."

Starting at 1:30 p.m. each Thursday, each class focuses on what it takes to survive conditions found along the Oregon Trail. We can learn from the past how to stay safe in the outdoors today.

Participants who attend all six sessions will receive a copy of the book "Hatchet" about a young man surviving in the wilderness, and a simple survival kit to carry in the car or a backpack. Park Ranger Jeremy Martin leads the sessions.

**This year's topics:**  
June 25: Animal Survival  
July 2: Plant Survival  
July 9: Pioneer Survival: How emigrants survived crossing the "Great American Desert"

July 16: Native American survival skills  
July 23: Winter Survival  
July 30: Summer Survival  
Class sizes are limited, so pre-registration is highly suggested by calling 541-523-1852. A cost of \$2 per class covers supplies.