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Baker Community Orchestra Holds Summer Concert

The Baker Community Orchestra will hold its Summer Concert Friday, Aug. 21 at 6 p.m. at the Lions Picnic Shelter in Geiser-Pollman Park in Baker City. There is no admission and all are welcome. Bring the whole family.

The orchestra, under the direction of Kelly Brickman, will perform a mix of classical, marches, as well as original compositions. Bring a blanket, or your lawn chairs, perhaps a picnic dinner and enjoy some music made by your neighbors.

The Baker Community Orchestra is made up of volunteer community members who have a passion for making music. The orchestra is open to any community member who can play a band or orchestra instrument. There is no audition requirement, just come and play. For information on joining, you can contact Brian Watt at 541-523-4662, or email at bandswatt1@gmail.com.

Huntington Pioneer Days Happens Despite Fire

According to the Huntington Chamber of Commer, The Pioneer Days went very well this year. There was a giant water slide and a bouncy castle for the kids. They absolutely loved it. About 12-14 items, donated by community members and the Indian dancers, were raffled out to lucky winners. Many people stayed late to listen to the live music. Despite the lesser turn out due to the fire, all had a great time.

Sunday Concert in the Park

Enjoy music by Monica Paul and Terry Lamont this Sunday, Aug. 16 from 2-4 p.m. at the Lions Shelter in Geiser Pollman Park in Baker City. Suggested donations are \$5 per adult. Bring your favorite lawn chair or blanket.

Baker City Manager Provides Update

Community Night Out Successful
Community night out was well attended this year with almost 800 Baker City citizens enjoying a meal and visiting with vendors in the park on Tuesday evening. One of the most popular attractions was a dunk tank supporting the local wrestling team.

Chief Lohner acted as emcee during the Annual National Night Out event held at the Geiser-Pollman Park. This event, organized by Baker City Events, featured live music, food, raffle items, vendor booths and public safety personnel. Many thanks to the Lions for cooking the food, YoungLife and the COPs (Citizens On Patrol) for assisting with cleanup and tear down, Frank Carlson for the music and a host of other community sponsors who either donated to this event or came out to represent their individual businesses and services.

Building Department Changes Continue

"Changes continue in the Building Department as we go forward in attempting to fill the building official vacancy. Currently we are using personnel from the State Building Codes Division to fill in for two days a week. We are keeping up with inspections and our local contractors have been very patient. We have received a couple of applications and will move forward to fill the vacancy," says Mike Kee.

Four Million Gallons of Water a Day

The City continues to use over four million gallons of water per day even

Sumpter News

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On Monday afternoon, the building clouds finally yielded some rain, along with lightning and thunder. The rain lasted far too short a time to do the woods any good though, or to bring any harm to the cucumbers and zucchinis ripening in people's gardens, like in the garden of former Sumpter columnist Nancy Myers. She has taken full advantage of the extra leisure time, and also has walls of peas, snow peas, and mounds of green beans.

Calendar

- Aug. 15 - Music in the Meadow 6, family-oriented outdoor music festival, Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Area, 12 - 9 p.m.
- Aug. 16 - Music in the Meadow 6 continues, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Aug. 18 - Sumpter Volunteer Fire Department, City Hall, 7 p.m.
- Aug. 20 - Bag Ladies, Schoolhouse Community Center, 12 p.m.
- Aug. 20 - Planning Commission, City Hall, 7 p.m.
- Aug. 25 - Recall ballots due back to County
- Sept. 1 - Sumpter Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, Schoolhouse Community Center, 10 a.m.
- Sept. 1 - Sumpter Volunteer Fire Department, City Hall, 7 p.m.

Music in the Meadow

Music in the Meadow 6 runs from 12 - 9p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 15, and from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 16, near the train depot in Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Area. Parking near the depot is limited, but more parking will be available down by the dredge, about 100 yards away through the trees. Wear comfortable shoes and bring your own chairs. It is an outdoor concert in the mountains, so be ready for any kind of weather.

Boise area musician-singer-songwriter Kayleigh Jack opens the festival Saturday with her fiddling. She also plays guitar and classical violin. A John Day husband and wife team, Just Us, will follow her. They play classic rock and classic country. Bluegrass group, J.D. Webb and the Ramblers, includes some of the same players as the local favorite, BC Ramblers. No Code, also of Baker City, will give a rock and roll intro for the evening's headliners, Stone Country, from the Tri-Cities.

Sunday's entertainment starts with High Desert Renegades of Baker City (classic country all the way), followed by La Grande artist, Mad Cassidy. She covers a wide variety of genres and has a great voice. Baker City's talented Frank Carlson will close the weekend.

Admission is by donation. Hot dogs, hamburgers,

bratwursts, and sodas will be available from Sumpter Valley Community Volunteers. Barley Brown's will be providing a beer garden.

Labor Day Flea Market

The Labor Day Flea Market is coming up on Sept. 4-7. Come for a last chance at deals on everything from knickknacks to handcrafted furniture. The Sumpter Valley Railroad will be running Saturday, Sunday, and Monday.

Community Breakfast

A hot breakfast brought smiles to motorcycle riders as they enjoyed the second community breakfast sponsored by the Sumpter Valley Community Volunteers. The Brit Iron Rebels are a large club whose riders came from many different directions—Portland, Seattle, Snohomish, Spokane and San Diego—to Sumpter this weekend. Branches of the club from Idaho were also represented. We are told that one rider came from as far away as Texas. Nineteen volunteers served 88 guests, and breakfast grossed \$864. Even though the SVCV is a relatively new non-profit group in town, it has already raised over \$1500, which will be put to good use in our community. We would like to thank local businesses Fergus's Gold Post, Elkhorn Saloon, Depot Inn, and Carole's Mad Dog Restaurant and Saloon for donating supplies.

No. 3 Heisler Locomotive

Several Sumpter Valley Railroad Restoration, Inc. members made special trips to Sumpter Valley for No. 3 Heisler locomotive's one hundredth-birthday cake on Aug. 8 (on Aug. 9, members who traveled made s'mores). SVRR vice-president LeAnne Woolf gave a short speech before the cake cutting. She thanked people for being there, and briefly summarized the No. 3's delivery to Sumpter Valley in 1915; its sojourn in Cascade, Idaho after Sumpter Valley Railway shut down; its return to Sumpter Valley in 1971; and its return to passenger service in 1976. The Heisler was dismantled last year for its 15-year boiler inspection, and was only recently re-assembled. Those interested were able to ride in the cab from the McEwen depot to edge-of-yard and back.

People

A celebration of life for Candy Theodore was held on Aug. 6. The potluck luncheon was well attended, and many warm stories were shared.

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. The service is 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, or any special occasion.

U.S. Forest Service Provides Fire Information

Recent lightning activity across the Blue Mountains has sparked several news fires. Both lookouts and aerial reconnaissance have reported a total of 31 new lightning caused fires thus far across the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center foot print. Including:

- NE Oregon ODF: nine new fires
- Wallowa-Whitman National Forest: 12 new fires
- Umatilla National Forest: nine new fires
- Washington DNR: one new fire

Additional hold-over fires are possible as the conditions are dry and increased winds are expected throughout the week. Isolated thunderstorms and increasing winds are expected over the next four days.

Fire officials want to remind everyone that the current fire danger rating remains at EXTREME and Public Use Restrictions involving campfires and chainsaw use are in effect. Regulated closures are in effect on State and private lands protected by Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in northeast and central Oregon. On Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forest lands Public Use Restrictions are in effect, including campfire restrictions and use of chainsaws.

Visit the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch webpage at: www.bmidc.org or contact a local Oregon Department of Forestry or Forest Service office for more complete information. Similar restrictions may be in effect on State and private lands protected by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WA-DNR). More information can be found on the WA-DNR website at: http://fortress.wa.gov/dnr/firedanger/BurnRisk.aspx .

Additional Blue Mountain Fire information can be found at: http://bluemountainfireinfo.blogspot.com/

Baker County Fires

As of Tuesday afternoon, three fires were burning within Baker County; in the Hereford (Back side of Black Mountain) area, in the East Eagle area, and in the Burnt River Canyon area. A level 1 evacuation notice was issued for Stices Gulch. A Code Red notification has been sent to subscribers in the respective areas.

11 New Wildfires in the Vale District

Lightning activity across the region Monday caused 11 new wildfires. The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Vale District is responding to all of them. Most of these fires are less than an acre in size. Two fires however, are larger and Vale District resources are on scene.

The largest fire is being called the Bully Creek Fire. It is approximately 18 miles north of Juntura, Ore., and is currently 700 acres in size. Two engines, a water tender, and a bulldozer are responding. The second largest fire, Pole Gulch Fire, is at 500 acres and is approximately 12 miles north of Juntura. One engine is on scene.

All but three of the remaining fires are in the same general area north of Juntura—those three fires are clustered around in the Interstate-84 corridor near Durkee, Oregon.

Priority sage grouse habitat is being affected by both the Bully Creek and Pole Gulch fires. No structures are currently threatened. The focus in fighting these fires is to keep them small. Bob Narus, Vale District BLM Fire Management Officer says that the outlying guard stations were key in responding quickly and keeping the fires as small as possible.

"Our district is large," Narus said, "having firefighters and equipment closer to the action is essential in keeping fires from getting out of control."

If you see or suspect a wildfire, call the Vale BLM Fire Dispatch Center at 541-473-6295. For more information on reporting wildfires in Malheur and Baker counties, as well as northeast Oregon, visit http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale/fire/report-fire.php.