

Sumpter News

Mark Luker and LeAnne Woolf
sumptervolunteers@gmail.com or
541-894-2303, leannemywo@gmail.com

Indeed, fresh powder was not far behind last week's clouding. It snowed especially hard the afternoons of Jan. 16 and 17. So far this month, Sumpter has had just under 21 inches of snowfall, over 19 inches of it in this past week. The morning of Jan. 18 dawned with gorgeous blue skies (photo by LeAnne Woolf). With settling, melting, and evaporation, the accumulation around ye olde snow stake at mid-elevation stands at 29 inches (photo by Nancy Myers).

Calendar (as of Jan. 17)

Tuesday, Jan. 26 - Alpine Chapter O.E.S., Masonic Hall, 8 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 1 - McEwen Lodge, Masonic Hall, 8 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 2 - Sumpter Volunteer Fire Department, City Hall
Tuesday, Feb. 2 - Powder River Rural Fire Department, Mosquito Flats station
Thursday, Feb. 4 - Planning Commission, City Hall, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 6 - Sumpter Valley Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club, Schoolhouse Community Center, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 9 - City Council, City Hall, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 13 - Sumpter Valley Railroad Board Meeting, Baker City, 10 a.m.
Saturday, Feb. 13 - Sumpter Valley Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club Poker Run, registration at Schoolhouse Community Center
Tuesday, Feb. 16 - Sumpter Volunteer Fire Department, City Hall
Tuesday, Feb. 16 - Powder River Rural Fire Department, Mosquito Flats station
City

City Council met in regular session on Jan. 12. The City, working in concert with DEQ and Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA), is moving closer to having a contract for City Engineer ready for review. Joe Heitz of Sisul Engineering had met with mayor Leland Myers to discuss what inflation may have done to costs for the DEQ-required upgrades. Sisul Engineering prepared the Pre-Engineering Report on the project.

The current City Attorney is having some health concerns and will not be continuing with Sumpter after the Woodley et al suit is completed. The Council will arrange an interview with Dan van Thiel, who has served as City Attorney before.

Utility Manager Jeff McKinney reported that he's getting lots of practice with the snowplow. Water inflow is holding about steady with citizen usage, but he's not sure that if there's an issue at the intake up McCully's Fork whether any of the City equipment can get there. Jeff had asked the fire department for help with clearing out hydrants, and thanked Fire Chief Kurt Clarke for tackling that task with his own personal equipment. Kurt and City Council member Cary Clarke also donated labor and equipment to clearing City Hall's roof. Council authorized Jeff to ask Oregon Health Authority for

an extension of a year on getting the effluent meters added to the water towers.

Planning Commission Vice President LeAnne Woolf reported on the Commission's Jan. 7 hearing and meeting and Jan 11 training session (both included in last week's column). Planning Commission's next meeting was to be Jan. 18 rather than 21.

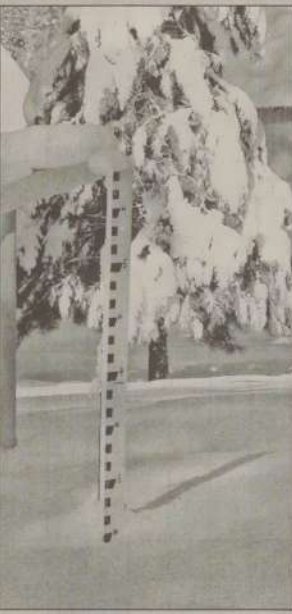
Council discussed the IFA Watershed Protection Grant that has been offered. Council member Bob Armbruster had gotten a copy of a plan prepared for Halfway. Council will review that and see how it might fit Sumpter, and what might be expected by way of follow-up. Funding is not being offered for follow-up.

Sumpter Valley Community Volunteers (SVCV) presented a letter urging Council to accept ownership from Oregon Parks and Recreation of the historic Superintendent's House. SVCV is willing to contract with the City for use of the house if the transfer is made. A former restaurant owner is contesting a bill. Council determined that the sewer ordinance is very clear on what the owner's responsibilities were.

There were several questions from the audience about the proposed 2016 Sumpter Charter. Council agreed to remove a section that made people uncomfortable. This does not change the City's rights or responsibilities under State Law. It was pointed out that a city's charter is a basic outline and that ordinances, orders, and resolutions handle the details. Audience and Council asked the Charter Committee to put that information in a handout.

Michael Hobbs, Sumpter's Postmaster, has heard many things about Sumpter Valley Days, so he brainstormed some ideas for events. He gave copies to council and to SVCV. Jim Sheller announced almost 900 miles of snowmobile trails have been groomed this year compared to a total of 480 last winter. Trails go as far as Anthony Lakes and Indian Rock Lookout, for example.

At this time, the next council meeting scheduled is the regular



session on Feb. 9.

Organizations

Sumpter Valley Community Volunteers met on Jan. 14. President Annie Oakley resigned from the board due to health concerns. Vice-president Mark Luker will become president. John Young was appointed to the board and voted in as the new vice-president. Secretary LeAnne Woolf noted that both wordpress.com and Facebook page for Music in the Meadow had been updated with this year's dates (Sept. 17 and 18). Several people have recommended bands. There was discussion on the pros and cons of the various sites available around town. There was also discussion of what responsibilities the group is willing to contract for if the City takes over ownership of the Superintendent's House and allows SVCV to use it.

SVCV's next meeting will be Feb. 18 rather than 11, so that members who are also part of the Snowmobile Club can focus on the Poker Run. SVCV will hold a Leap into Action potluck on Feb. 27 (two days before Leap Day) followed by a Game Night. The ping pong table will be set up after dinner. Everyone in Sumpter Valley and beyond is invited. Find out what kinds of projects SVCV will work on next. Bring board games and card games to share, if you like. More details will be available later.

The Jan. 15 Bingo Night by the Sumpter Volunteer Fire Department and Auxiliary had a low turnout, but they had a blast. About \$40 was made for SVFD and the bingo jackpot increased about \$20 dollars.

Winter Hazards

With all the snow that's been falling, roof loads are looking pretty heavy. If you're a part-time resident, please consider coming up to clear your roof, or arranging for someone else to do so. In years past, collapsing snow roofs have crushed the trailers they were intended to protect.

Frozen pipes are less likely now that there's a good pile of insulating snow, but it's still a good idea to keep a trickle of water running in your house.

Finally, long-time residents recommend crossing over the snow berms at highway intersections at an angle to avoid becoming high centered.

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.

Deadline

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.

Postal Particulars

with Krista Dennis

Postal employees operate retail services (Post Offices), work in processing centers, move the mail (your carriers), and manage an enormous system that employs one of the largest civilian workforces in the US. The faces you see each day - postmasters, carriers, and even the postmaster general - are only a small portion of the USPS workforce.

There are countless skills, knowledge, and specialties that are required to keep this ever growing system operational. While we all have our differences, we share a common sense of public service which supports our nation's oldest form of communication.

Did you know that for many years the postal system used a political reward system known as 'patronage'? Postmasters who found themselves on the opposite side of the party in power, could and often times found themselves unemployed. In 1883, the Pendleton Act created the Civil Service Commission, which required applicants to pass examinations before being hired, and advancement was based on merit. However, many postal hires and fires continued to operate under the patronage system until the reorganization of the postal system in 1971.

Today, employees of the USPS still are required to pass examinations to get hired and must prove their merit to move up the ladder.
Our Priority is: YOU!

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.

HELP WANTED

BAKER SCHOOL DISTRICT 5J is currently accepting applications for a Special Education teacher at South Baker Intermediate. For a complete description of the position go to www.baker.k12.or.us or contact the employment division. You may also call 541-524-2261.

LIVESTOCK

MILES BREEDING SERVICE
A.I., Semen Sales,
Heat Synchronization
Myron Miles, 898-2140 (m)

Angus Bulls - EPD Records available, yearlings, two year olds, replacement heifers and bred cows. Bill Clonts, Bar A Angus, 541-519-8579 bclonts@thegeo.net (m)

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.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

The **Baker Rural Fire District** meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Pochontas 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 **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.

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.

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

Safe Haven: Alzheimer/ Dementia Caregivers Support Group. Second Friday of every month at 11:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall (right wing of Nazarene Church). Lunch will be provided. 1250 Hughes Lane, Baker City.

The **Haines Fire Protection District** will meet on the first MONDAY each month at 6 p.m. through the winter months. Meetings are held at the Public Library in Haines.

Celebrate Recovery: Hurts, Habits, and Hangups; Tuesdays at 6:15 p.m. in the Family Life Center, 1250 Hughes Lane, Baker City.

Veterans Safe Zone: Veterans Support Group; 1st and 3rd Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the left wing of the Nazarene Church, 1250 Hughes Lane, Baker

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

HAY FOR SALE

200 ton, 1st crop alfalfa-grass
No rain - 3x4 bales, test available \$180 / ton

150 ton, 2nd crop
small bales, no rain \$200 / ton

541-519-0693

HELP WANTED

OREGON TRAIL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
JOB OPENING NOTICE
Customer Service Clerk
- Baker District -



Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative (OTEC), with headquarters in Baker City, Oregon, has an immediate opening for a Customer Service Clerk in its Baker district. This hourly position reports to the office supervisor and performs clerical duties related to customer service experience; operates a ten-key adding machine (by touch); computer data entry, Microsoft Office applications; and answers multiple-line telephone.

Applicants must possess a valid Oregon Driver's license. The position also requires the ability to take appropriate action on ones own initiative, accuracy, timeliness, the willingness to promote consumer satisfaction, and the ability to work well with other employees and the public.

Includes an excellent benefit package. A ten-key and typing test is mandatory and must be submitted with the application. Applications can be found on our website at www.otecc.com or may be picked up at any OTEC office.

Applications may be sent to the attention of Human Resources, 4005 23rd Street, Baker City, OR 97814 and must be received no later than 5:00 pm or postmarked no later than Friday, January 22, 2016.



Hats off to the Baker County Chamber for a very successful Awards Banquet

Congratulations to all of the winners!

Join the Chamber of Commerce today and say hello to the brand new Executive Director, Shelly Cutler

541-523-5855
490 Campbell Street in Baker City
www.visitbaker.com

Elgin Depot Movie Night, Jan. 29

Watch Emperor of the North on a large screen, when the Friends of the Joseph Branch host another movie night at the Elgin Depot, Friday, Jan. 29, at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, but a can of food per person for the local food bank is encouraged. Free popcorn, coffee and cocoa will be available.

Oscar winners Lee Marvin and Ernest Borgnine star in the 1973 railroad film classic. Official promotional materials describe the movie as follows: Set on the Pacific Northwest railways at the height of the Depression, Emperor of the North pits a crafty, train hopping drifter, called A-No.1, against Shack, the cruel, burn-intolerant conductor of Engine 19. But when pride turns their determination into obsession, the clash escalates into a fight-to-the-finish that only one man can survive!

Rated PG, the film is fast-paced and gripping and might be a little too intense for young children. The film was shot almost entirely on location, on the old Oregon, Pacific, and Eastern Railroad which was based in Cottage Grove. It features Engine 19, a steam engine well-known throughout the northwest.

This event is the second in a series of movie nights at the depot, focusing on railroad themes.

"We want people to think of the depot as a community gathering place, as well as the center of operation for the Eagle Cap Excursion Train," said Ed Spaulding, President of the Friends. Spaulding says the depot can be rented for meetings and events.

The Friends of the Joseph Branch, a non-profit organization, manages and operates the train for the Wallowa Union Railroad, with certified members volunteering as car hosts, engineers and conductors. The volunteer organization also manages the depot and has been responsible for the passenger car and engine renovations.

Contact Ken and Shirley Kirk, 541.437.4693, or Daryl Hawes, 541.437.1810, for information and to schedule the depot for your activity.

Give a Gift Subscription to the Record-Courier!
Call 541.856.3615