

Sumpter News

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Poor old City equipment. It doesn't know whether it's up or down. The backhoe had broken down. It got back into service and then the snow plow broke down. Now the snow plow's back up with new welds and hydraulics improvements on the blade, but the backhoe's down again. Could be we've had a bit of winter.

Calendar (as of Jan. 24)

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 Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club Poker Run, registration at Schoolhouse Community Center; Outhouse Races
Saturday, Feb. 13 - Sumpter Valley Railroad Board Meeting, Baker City, 10 a.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 16 - Sumpter Volunteer Fire Department, City Hall
Tuesday, Feb. 16 - Powder River Rural Fire Department, Mosquito Flats station
Thursday, Feb. 18 - Bag Ladies, Schoolhouse Community Center, noon-?
Thursday, Feb. 18 - Sumpter Valley Community Volunteers Meeting, Schoolhouse Community Center, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 19 - Bingo, Schoolhouse Community Center, 7 p.m.
City Planning Commission met Jan. 18. A zoning permit for a garage was reviewed. The property owner was asked to shift the garage to meet setbacks. Secretary John Young noted that emergency kits weren't quite the same as evacuation kits, so he will prepare lists for different scenarios for Commission to go over. Updates to Goals Three and Four of the Comprehensive Plan were reviewed.
Planning Commission VP LeAnne Woolf attended the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) Small Cities Region 8 (SCR8) meeting in Prairie City on Jan. 21.

There were sewer updates from Prairie City, Monument, and Seneca. Nyssa spoke on their water treatment plant, and going to Salem to share concerns about increasing minimum wage. Monument, Huntington, and Prairie City had all had to deal with council members behaving inappropriately. John Day was working on its employee handbook to update it for new legislative requirements, and construction has started on their new fire station. Sumpter and several other cities were able to give Seneca suggestions for updating its fire equipment, including turnouts.

LOC's Membership Director, Susan Muir, gave a short update on tax legislation and spoke on the webinars available on LOC's website. Lisa Masters of City-county Insurance Services (CIS) added that they also had several webinars available. Randy Jones with DEQ Regional Solutions thinks the state is getting more creative with funding dollars as federal dollars become less available. The scheduled speaker was Nikki Lesich, the Codes Enforcement Officer in The Dalles, but she took the extra-scenic route and LeAnne was unable to stay for her whole presentation. Nikki did have good information on diplomatic ways to approach hoarders and others with nuisance issues, a definition of what a reasonable timeline for compliance was (less than six weeks), and the need for both compassion and thick skin.

Organizations

The Sumpter Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary Nominating Committee actually had to reschedule from Jan. 13-19. President Lila Young is willing to continue in that capacity. As the committee went over the fire department roster and Auxiliary list, it was noted several people have skills that would be great contributions to the board. Secretary/Treasurer Barb Malone will be calling folks. If you have questions about Auxiliary or serving on the board, Lila's phone number is 541-894-2377 and Barb's is 541-894-2458.

A clarification on the grooming report: as of Jan. 12, the groomer had covered almost 900 miles, but that is with repeat visits to the trails.

Saturday, Feb. 13, is Sumpter Valley Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club's Poker Run. Registra-

tion will begin at the Schoolhouse Community Center on Friday night. Cards will be due Saturday afternoon. There are about seven stations in Sumpter proper and two stations out on the trails. The Poker Run route is about thirty-five miles. After cards are turned in, people can enjoy the Outhouse Races, as observers or participants. Don't have an outhouse? Use one from the growing Sumpter stable. Lori Jean Pruitt and Jane Leatherman are in charge of the Outhouse Races.

Sumpter Valley Railroad Restoration (SVRR), Inc., continues to work hard on the minutiae of behind-the-scenes details, with committee and board meetings on Jan. 20, 21, and 23. At least one depot agent will be hired for the operating season, and the job description underwent review on Jan. 20. Board members met with Greg Smith and Julie Hicks of Baker County Economic Development on Jan. 21. Greg is helping SVRR update its business plan, but this meeting focused on finding volunteers. The board meeting on Jan. 23 covered restoration priorities and budgeting. Volunteers of all sorts are welcome. Train crew has special training requirements, but being a docent, helping with landscape work, or the repair and painting of railroad cars are also important aspects of operations. If you ever have questions about anything SVRR-related, contact info@sumptervalleyrailroad.org, or call 541-894-2268.

People

Leland and Nancy Myers traveled to Eugene last week for the Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon (PLSO) Conference. Leland has been Chair Elect for the past year and became PLSO Chair, inviting attendees to feel free to approach him with ideas. He interacted with several surveyors from other parts of the state and a representative from the national organization.

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.

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

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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.

HELP WANTED

The Farm Service Agency in Baker City, OR has immediate opening for a temporary office Program Technician position. Duties include general office activities supporting FSA programs administered at the field office level. Applicant must be reliable, have professional attitude, and enjoy working with the public. Individuals interested in applying need to contact Trent Luschen (office manager) at 541-523-7121 x106, or trent.luschen@or.usda.gov, or 3990 Midway Drive, Baker City, OR 97814. The deadline to apply is close of business February 8, 2016. FSA is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

See the *Record-Courier* online:
www.theonline.com

PUBLIC MEETINGS

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 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.

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The Doctor speaks Spanish - el doctor habla Espanol.

Jane likes chili.
Jane wants to help the Haines Elementary School.
Jane bought a ticket to the Chili Feed on Feb. 5.
Be like Jane.

