

# RALLY

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Kurt Miller, Hells Canyon Motorcycle Rally organizer, then spoke. He said the event which began as a couple of guys who rode over from Portland who wanted to start a rally is experiencing growing pains. He said the first year it was held at the Geiser and then moved to the Best Western for three years. It has since relocated downtown and has evolved. He said that they have been responsive to concerns and moved the vendors to the center line of Main Street so as not to block businesses.

"But we need the vendors," said Miller. "They pay for the shuttle bus, the trash pick up and the porta-potties for the event."

He said that there is no connector to Central Park and other development is necessary to consider moving the vendors there. He also said that he wants all of the events in Baker City to grow.

"Not every business benefits that day, but it comes around," Miller added. "We want to work together, to move forward."

"Uncertainty is the worst thing for event planning," Miller said.

Councilor Langrell who owned a motel in Baker

City for 17 years emphasized the economic impact of the rally. He said that while the bike race is a wonderful event, "The bicycles don't come close to filling rooms." He added, "If any Main Street business owner has a problem with it [the motorcycle rally], it's a great time to close and take a vacation to the beach."

Chief Lohnner told City Council members, "It is ODOT who closes Main Street...not the City. ODOT won't close it if the City doesn't sign off. ODOT's concern is buy-in."

Councilors took no action following the discussion. They encouraged Miller to move forward in planning the event.

Chief Wyn Lohnner Addressing City Council



## New Police Officer



Chris Sells (left) just graduated from the Police Academy last Friday. Chief Wyn Lohnner is on the right. Sells will be employed with the Baker City Police Department.

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Baker County Assessor's Agriculture Advisory Board will meet Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. in the Baker County Court Chambers at the Baker County Courthouse, 1995 Third Street, Baker City, OR.

Anyone wishing for more information may contact Kerry Savage, Baker County Assessor at 541-523-8203. Baker County operates under an EEO policy and complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Assistance is available for individuals with disabilities by calling 541-523-8200 (TTY: 541-523-8201).

## Sage Veterinary Practice Adds Partner

By Gina Perkins

Josh Anderson, DVM and his wife Kari are pleased to announce their practice has grown to the point they have added a partner. Todd W. Tibbitts, DVM began serving clients on Tuesday of this week.

Kari Anderson said, "He moved over the weekend with his wife and kids. They have seven kids, four of whom are grown and married. They are living on Larry Wogman's place outside of North Powder and their three kids are enrolled at North Powder."

Dr. Tibbitts graduated from Washington State University with a degree in veterinary medicine. Following graduation he practiced for 10 years in Tremonton, Utah at a two-clinic, four-doctor, mixed animal practice.

In 2001 he and his family moved to Salmon, Idaho where he started an ambulatory large animal practice, Lemhi Large Animal Health.

He owned and operated this practice for 15 years.

Dr. Tibbitts has extensive experience in the cow-calf industry including: spaying heifers, testing bulls, palpating and ultra-sounding cows. He also has extensive experience with equine dentistry and general veterinary medicine and surgery.

Todd and his family love the outdoors, fishing, hunting, riding horses, team sports and being together. They are very excited to embark on a new adventure and be in "cow country" working with Dr. Anderson.

Call to schedule your food animal herd health work with Dr. Anderson or Dr. Tibbitts.

Dr. Anderson and Dr. Tibbitts will also be setting up spring dental days at locations in Haines, Baker, Elgin, Union, La Grande, and Halfway. They will be offering dental work, spring vaccinations, deworming, Coggins testing and equine passports.

To schedule an appointment with either veterinarian, please call 541-805-9650.



Todd W. Tibbitts, DVM



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## Third Annual Dukes of Hazzard Event

Saturday, March 5

8:30 p.m.

- General Lee Challenge
- Archery Target Competition
- Door Prizes
- Daily Duke & Boss Hogg Costume Contest
- Drink Specials at the Boars Nest
- Cash Prizes



**Frontier Restaurant in Haines**

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## Sumpter News

Speculation is running heavy on whether this is just the February thaw like in historical good snow years, with inches of snow yet to fall in March and traces in April, or whether this winter will be more like recent years, with mere traces in March and rain in April. We'll keep you posted, of course.

Calendar (as of Feb. 21)

Thursday, Feb. 25 - Planning Commission, City Hall, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 27 - Sumpter Valley Community Volunteers Potluck and Game Night, Schoolhouse Community Center, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Mar. 1 - Sumpter Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, elections, Schoolhouse Community Center, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Mar. 1 - Sumpter Volunteer Fire Department, City Hall

Tuesday, Mar. 1 - Powder River Rural Fire EMS training, Mosquito Flat, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Mar. 3 - Planning Commission, City Hall, 7 p.m.

Monday, Mar. 7 - McEwen Lodge, Masonic Hall, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Mar. 8 - City Council, City Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Mar. 10 - SVCV Meeting, Schoolhouse Community Center, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Mar. 12 - Sumpter Valley Railroad Board Meeting, Baker City, 10 a.m.

Saturday, Mar. 12 - Sumpter Valley Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club, Schoolhouse Community Center, 6:30 p.m.

City

A special meeting to discuss the proposed 2016 Sumpter Charter was held on Feb. 17. The City very much appreciates those who attended, asked questions, and offered ideas. The powers of the City are found in State law, so will not be listed in the Charter. The State model charter listed one week as sufficient reading time of citizens for passing an ordinance in one meeting. Council extended the reading time to two weeks. The indebtedness limit remains at one percent of City value rather than being increased as would be allowed by State law. It was clarified that a public hearing would be required before a no-confidence vote could be held against a council member. Council passed the resolution to put approval of the charter on the May ballot.

Organizations

The Sumpter Valley Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club Poker Run on Feb. 13 had 212 participants who played 368 hands of poker. The total purse paid out was \$3,100 to the top 24 poker hands. The winner was Lynn Neman with five fours. Mike Williams placed second with four aces. Third went to Kasey Mendoza with four queens and a jack, narrowly beating Powder River Rural's fire chief Wes Morgan

who had four queens and an eight. 24th place went to a full house of fours over queens.

Outhouse Race winners were also announced at the Feb. 13 evening awards ceremony. Pushers Austin and Jeff Simonson, with rider Devan Jones, took first place and \$50 with a time of 36.2 seconds. The second place team, at 40.06 seconds, was made up of pushers Andy and Timothy Lottis with rider Rachel Simonson. They won \$30. Carlos Mendoza and Blaine Schwendiman pushed Kelsey Parker to third place and \$20.

A record number of raffle tickets were sold. Thank you to all the businesses and individuals who donated items for the raffle.

Sumpter Municipal Museum director Toni Thompson recently found several 1901 issues of Sumpter's "The Morning Reporter" available on e-bay. Being able to read through these historic newspapers really added an extra dimension to Sumpter Valley Museum Association's annual meeting.

Sumpter Valley Community Volunteers (SVCV) met on Feb. 18. They were visited by the Locked and Loaded Off-Road Club, who requested a breakfast on April 2. This local club is hosting a snow run similar to one held at Tollgate every end-of-winter. They're excited to offer their guests—which so far include people from Hermiston, the Tri-Cities, La Grande, and the Boise area—so many more amenities in Sumpter than Tollgate has to offer. They expect at least twenty vehicles, but there could be more, as Tollgate gets over 200. A respectful snow run occurs on groomed snowmobile trails after the usual snowmobile season.

SVCV members then committed to dishes for the Feb. 27 potluck and game night. SVCV will provide ham, table service, and coffee. Guests are bring a side dish, salad, or dessert. You may also bring your own non-alcoholic beverage. Pictures of past and future SVCV projects will be posted. You do not need to be a member to attend the potluck or bring games.

Sumpter Volunteer Fire Department and Auxiliary hosted another fun Bingo Night on Feb. 19. No one won the jackpot, but several people came really close. Someone's bound to win at March 18's event.

People

Shirley Bender's grandmother passed away on Feb. 16. Micheline Caprio, born in France Feb. 26, 1923, loved being out in the yard and garden during good weather. She would have been 93 this week. Our heartfelt condolences go to Shirley and her husband Jamie.

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.