

North Powder News

By Vickie Christensen



May 5 News

I hope this last week was a great week for all! I do know this silly weather needs to make up its mind and I don't even care to discuss how I feel about the wind. I suppose the weather does give us something to talk about!

The big event in North Powder this week was the 95th Annual Silver Tea, hosted by the Women of the United Methodist Church. Barbara Cambell and Joyce Lawyer do 99.9% of the work, they are very appreciated for their many wonderful works. The Food Box given out on the third Wednesday every month, Fresh Alliance every Thursday and The Lunch Bunch ever Friday are fruits of Joyce Lawyer's many works. She deserves much more of those "atta boy's" than she receives!

Walking into the Multipurpose room at the elementary school was like stepping back in time, "the 50's" with poodle skirts and an old fashioned ice cream social. By our sign in sheet we had 45 present with 12 decorated individual tables, each with their own interpretation of a 50's ice cream social. All simply beautiful. For our entertainment, the High School Choir treated us to a few little ditties from the era, job well done! Mr. Carlson has plenty to do with his music program, I am certain he needs kudos for a great job!

After being entertained it was time for announcing the winners with their tables. There were three categories, **THEME, MOST BEAUTIFUL AND MOST CREATIVE.** Jackie Calhoun took Best in Theme. Marie Johnson took Most Beautiful and Margie Lind took Most Creative. Ms. Marjorie Peck was the oldest person there, but a lady tries not to reveal her true age.

I also would like to invite everyone over to North Powder to shop our City Wide Garage Sales on May 7. We realize that there is a lot going on in our surrounding little towns, but we would love to have

you over!

Now for my helpful hint for the week; use your old newspaper as a mulch and deter noxious weeds. Simply wet the sheets and put the layers around your plants and garden beds, covering with soil as you go. The weeds won't be able to get through the wet newspaper.

Once again, a reminder! If you take your pet out for a walk, please remember to clean up after your pet. Not everyone loves them as you do.

I've enjoyed sharing this little bit of news with you this week, hope you will enjoy reading it.

May 12 News

The Pinochle Club met a few weeks ago at the Wolf Creek Grange. This week's party was hosted by Janet Lawyer. Eleanor Blankenship took first place, Janet Lawyer took second, coming in last was Mary Jane Spradling. Prizes were won by Janet and Joyce Lawyer.

Calendar of Events;

May 19 N.P. Community Partners Meeting 6:30pm @ Wolf Creek Grange
May 23 City Budget Committee 6:30pm @ Wolf Creek Grange.
May 28 Graduation @ 1pm
May 30 Memorial Day
June 6 at 10am "Wolf Ceeek Grange, Women's Tea and Bible Study. Everyone is welcome, we are studying the women of the bible. We are now using the Grange because we want more to come plus there are no stairs to climb.
June 6 City Counsel @ 7pm, Wolf Creek Grange
June 7 @ 6:30pm - Wolf Creek Grange Hall Meeting

Been a busy month, even saw Teddy Roosevelt, thanks for attending, it was both amusing and informative. Nothing like taking a step back into history, after all it is why we are here today or at least how we got here.

Thank you for reading, till next time....

KILLAMAQUE

Continued from page 1

and crops worth thousands of dollars were swept away. Newly planted trout in Killamaque Lake perished. Even trains were temporarily delayed by deep water in the Haines area.

Inspection of the dam the next day revealed that just the top twelve feet of the dam, which was earth fill on top of the dam's natural lower end, gave way due to unusually high spring runoff of melting snow in the Elkhorns. Residents feared other dams might also burst. And they worried that loss of water from Killamaque Reservoir would cause further losses in the fall, when crops would have to go without irrigation water.

Initially owners of Killamaque Reservoir suspected a farmhand named Gray of having blown up the dam. But inspection of the dam soon cleared him of having any hand in the dam's failure.

The town of Rock Creek was located a little ways below where the namesake creek enters Powder River Valley. The creek's origin is Rock Creek Lake/Reservoir several miles southwest of the town. Killamaque Creek is a west tributary of Rock Creek and has its origin in Killamaque Lake located on the east side of Red Mountain.

Several of the glacial lakes in the Elkhorns have had their outlets augmented to make them higher to increase the acre-feet of water for irrigation in the summer. Years ago owners of Killamaque Reservoir had engaged miners to drive a 400-foot-long tunnel under the terminus to drain out even more water for irrigation.

The day after the flood the Oregonian reported, "Big forest trees were borne on the crest of the striking (of water) and these became a weapon of the flood, column buildings as battering rams. The flood reached Rock Creek at 8:45 o'clock (a.m.). The poolroom and store building of the Farmers Trading Company, the Toll House, the blacksmith shop and hall were destroyed, and only debris and a few tin cans are left to mark the site of the hamlet. A horse tied in front of the store was killed. Fences were all demolished, and as far down as Haines all of the bridges are reported to have been taken out."

At first Rock Creek residents thought the sound they were hearing was the wind, until they heard "snapping of telephone poles and grinding of debris," alerting them to an impending disaster. As quickly as possibly they took to nearby hills. The flood waters caught up with the James Ashwood family trying to escape in a wagon. The water rose so high it almost floated the family's wagon bed. Emery Powders, who was out irrigating his fields, found himself cut off from his house by flood waters. He had to travel all the way to Haines to find a road that would take him home.

Some other farmers and ranchers who suffered damage: H.P. Carter, Joseph Carter, Charles Castor, Frank Castor, Andrew Delong, Charles Long, H.E. McCullough, Arthur Polley, John Schmallerberg, John Simmons, Alva Spence, Ed White, and Harry Young.

It may not be common knowledge that the high lakes in the Elkhorn and Wallowa mountains are the result of glaciation. Hiking downhill from Twin Lakes in the Elkhorns years ago, I noticed grooves in several granite rocks rooted in the landscape. I came to the conclusion that other rocks caught in the bottom of a glacier had carved the grooves, as the glacier slowly slid southward.

Geologists speculate that during two periods of glaciation of North America—150,000 to 200,000 years ago and 10,000 to 30,000 years ago—glaciers carved out the high lakes in the Elkhorn and Wallowa mountains. Here are some lengths of the glaciers in the Elkhorns beginning with the longest: North Powder River 9.3 mi., Rock Creek 8 mi., Anthony Creek 7.5 mi., Dutch Flat Creek 7.3 mi., Pine Creek 3.6 mi., and Goodrich Creek 1.6 mi. The long North Powder River moraine has a classic shape and is clearly visible from Highway 30. (The internet program Google Earth, based on satellite photos, is an excellent way to view the moraines of the Elkhorns from above. A research article may be found at this website address: Glaciation of Elkhorn Mts, Emily Geraghty.pdf)

The little town of Rock Creek never quite rebounded from the Killamaque flood of June 28, 1917, that carried it away ninety-nine years ago.

Comments on this article may be sent to tubingen@eoni.com or call 541.523.6760.

Art Exhibition: Paintings in Oil
by George Keister Opening First Friday, June 3

For the month of June 2016, Crossroads Carnegie Art Center is pleased to present the exhibition — Paintings in Oil by George Keister — featuring the art work of George Keister.

George's career as a Wildlife Biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife brings a unique perspective to his landscapes and still life paintings.

George approached Crossroads with the idea of auctioning off his paintings during the month of June. We will be working with www.winningcause.org, an on-line auction platform which works with non-profits to manage auctions.

We will have staff available to help patrons set up an account to participate in the bidding opening night and during the month of the show. Once an account is set up, the buyers can then continue to bid throughout the month, at Crossroads, on-line from home, or on their smart phones.

Paintings in Oil by George Keister opens during First Friday Art Walk in Historic Baker City, June 3 with an informal talk in the main gallery with the featured artist at 5:30 p.m.

Paintings by Keister will be on display and the auction will be live until 5 p.m. Saturday, June 25.

This exhibition is generously sponsored by Rob and Dianne Ellingson.

Light refreshments will be provided by Triple C. Music by Marvin Sundean

Other events Going On in June

Art Access: Wednesday, June 8th from 10:30am to 11:30am George Keister will give a demonstration on painting a still life in oil. Free to the public. Refreshments served.

The Art Access Programs are made possible through the generous funding of The Oregon Community Foundation.

Crossroads Art Center, Inc., is a 501(c) (3) non-profit founded in 1963. Our mission is to create opportunities for the entire community to be engaged, inspired, and transformed by the arts.



Spring Storm, Oil, 16" x 20", 2016

Sumpter News

LeAnne Woolf

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Calendar

Mondays: first Masons 8 pm, second Powder River Rural Board 7 pm
Tuesdays: first & third SVFD and PRR both 6:30 pm, second City Council 7 pm, fourth Eastern Star 8 pm; SVFD Auxiliary on hiatus
Thursdays: first & third Planning Commission 7 pm, second FoD time varies and SVCV 6:30 pm, third Bag Ladies noon
Fridays: third Bingo 7 pm
Saturdays: second SVRR time varies and SVBMS 6:30 pm (but only Oct to Apr)
Friday, May 27 – Sumpter Flea Market starts bright and early, Bingo and Pie at Masonic Hall Friday through Sunday evenings
Monday, May 30 – Sumpter Flea Market ends around noon
In this column I include some material from the unprinted April 28 and May 5 columns.

City

In the second hour of the April 12 Council meeting (first hour appeared in April 21 column), the desire to open a marijuana consignment shop in Sumpter was presented. Huntington is seeing a lot of economic activity with marijuana-related business. Sumpter did not opt out of marijuana sales so now must discuss and pass an ordinance for how the City will handle them, including the possibility of sales tax—up to three percent.

Sumpter Valley Blue Mountain Snowmobile Club (SVBMS) asked for permission from City Council to spend \$800 toward installing handrails along the entrance ramp into the Community Center and adding a cover roof above the ramp. Council approved the project and appointed Cary Clarke as liaison.

A Special Council Meeting was held April 22 to determine whether to send a letter to Baker City Building Department to activate on a building project in downtown Sumpter an existing agreement for nuisance ordinance enforcement. The letter was approved three to two. The project was first asked to stop building in November 2015. Because the project impeded on the City's sewer easement, no zoning permit could be issued and thus no building permit could be issued. Building continued despite lack of permits and inspections.

Discussion on the abuse of the City's public burn pile followed. Signs about materials allowed in the burn pile have been posted and ignored. Rather than allowing safe dispersal of small yard debris by the fire department, the burn pile is costing money and time (which equals more money) to haul away garbage. The possibilities of fencing, locked gates, and cameras were brought up. The burn pile is closed to general admittance.

Sumpter City Council met in regular session May 10. Utility

Manager Jeff McKinney reported lots of work on maintenance at the water tower. Sumpter Volunteer Fire Department was called out on one medical, one structure, and two brush fires from April 26-28. About ten minutes later, they were called out of the meeting to another brush fire. They were able to put it out and return before the end of the meeting.

Two street vacation ordinances were passed and one conditional use permit approved. Sumpter Valley Community Volunteers (SVCV) requested and were granted permission to use Volunteer Park for September 17-18's Music in the Meadow. In public input, lively discussion ensued on an audience member's questions to Councilor Robert Armbruster about: 1) voting to put the proposal for a new City Charter on the ballot and then sending out a mass mailing that removed his support, and 2) the statements he'd made on his petition to recall Mayor Leland Myers.

Enough petition signatures have been gathered to hold a recall election for Mayor Myers and Councilors Cary Clarke and Samantha Rowan. The recall election has yet to occur, but the proposed new Charter was defeated 33-54. The City of Sumpter will continue operating under its 1972 Charter.

On May 19, Mayor Leland Myers attended the Mayors' Council in Halfway. There was a good roundtable on several items. Councilors Robert Armbruster and Annie Oakley and Planning Commission Vice President LeAnne Woolf went to the regional League of Oregon Cities meeting in John Day where there were insurance and legislation updates, and a short training on new court interpretations of public meeting law.

Sumpter Volunteer Fire Department opened the community burn pile for a few hours Saturday morning, May 21. Each load was inspected to prevent the introduction of garbage or other inappropriate materials. Several households took advantage of the opportunity to rid their yards of pine needles and small branches.

Hate posters were found on City Hall doors Monday the 16th and on a business door and window the 20th. Two of the posters referred to John Young and LeAnne Woolf as dictators, perhaps because they're on Planning Commission. Another poster called Ms Woolf, in part, an untrustworthy sow. The poster directed at City staff had words not to be printed in a family paper. The Sheriff's Department has collected all four posters in case there is escalation.

Organizations

At the April 14 SVCV meeting, members regretfully accepted the resignation of Mark Luker from the Board and Presidency. SVCV discussed the pros and cons of various venues for September's Music in the Meadow. SVBMS's proposal

for a joint project at the Community Center was awarded \$400, with more potentially being granted if it is needed. SVCV will take the lead on the project since SVBMS is in its off-season. SVCV provided refreshments and a moderator for a Candidate Town Hall on April 21. Sheriff Travis Ash and County Commissioner Candidates Kody Justus and Jeff Nelson participated.

SVCV also met on May 12 and had a work party at Volunteer Park on May 20. Details and photos will appear in the next column.

People

Sumpter mayor and Oregon Professional Land Surveyors President Leland Myers and his wife Nancy attended the Western Federation of Land Surveyors Conference April 17-19. It was held in Las Vegas in conjunction with the state convention for Nevada land surveyors. Nancy commented there is some very interesting geology along Highway 93.

Part-time resident Lee Whitlow passed away recently. He is the younger brother of Norm Whitlow, part-time Sumpter Valley resident. Our deepest condolences to Norm, his wife Judy, and the Whitlow family.

The home of Mick and Karna Allen was heavily damaged by smoke and water in an electrical fire around 3 am on Tuesday, April 26. Assistant Sumpter Volunteer Fire Department Chief Jim Sheller says their smoke alarms saved their lives. A spaghetti dinner benefit was held at the Elkhorn for Mick and Karna on Saturday, May 21. Elkhorn owner Sharon Epler said the benefit went very well, and sends out a big thank you to all who attended and made it such a success.

A yard sale will be held at St Brigid's Episcopal Church during the Memorial Day Flea Market also to raise money for Mick and Karna. If you wish to donate items to this yard sale, contact Jay or Barb Phillips at 541-894-0084. Prices will not be marked on items as any and all donations will be accepted.

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 and Disclaimer

Send in news and/or photos by Sunday evening to be included in the Sumpter column the following week. Include captions with photos.

I am involved in several of the organizations appearing in this column, but I do not report as an official representative of any of them.