

Public Works

by Pete Vorbeck

The Butte Falls water system improvement project moved a step nearer construction startup last month. The Town Council accepted two bids for work to be done. An Ashland firm, Burl Brim Excavating, was awarded the contract to install water lines, meters, hydrants, and service connections. The P.W. Barry Company, headquartered in Portland, won the contract to construct the 500,000 gallon reservoir tank with a bid of \$495,000. The Burl Brim bid was \$743,083, making a total project construction cost of \$1,238,083. The bids were \$72,272 below the project's budget, leaving that amount in a contingency fund to cover additional costs if any occur. Work on the project will begin in August.

Costs for construction, upgrading, maintenance, and operation of water and wastewater systems have risen sharply in recent years. Without federal and state grant money, small communities like Butte Falls are not able to fund high dollar water and sewer projects. But grants nowadays come with conditions, the main one being that user rates for water and sewer service must match average state rates. Accordingly, the Town Council has moved in the required direction by setting water and sewer rates at \$58.81 per month effective July 1st. The average State water and sewer service rates are \$70.00 per month.

The Town's waste treatment plant had a difficult time last month. As usual, it had to deal with the daily array of non-biodegradable stuff that goes down the drain or gets flushed down the toilet. Household chemicals, plastic and rubber items, diapers, and the like. But the main culprits seem to have been vehicle toilet waste and antifreeze. Smaller sewer plants, and the Town's is one of them, are devastated by chemicals used in RV toilets. It is illegal to dump such wastes into municipal treatment systems. They must be disposed in special RV dump sites -- Willow Lake is the nearest one. Automobile antifreeze causes a similar problem for the treatment plant, also killing the bacteria that breakdown ordinary sewage. Only biodegradable and nontoxic antifreeze should be used. The Town's treatment plant can take many weeks to recover from input of even small amounts of chemicals lethal to bacteria. Summertime visitors need to be reminded that statewide RV dumping regulations apply in Butte Falls.

A final bit of news concerns the Town Park. Butte Falls has received an Earl Family Foundation grant of \$2810.00 to purchase picnic tables and to upgrade the park sprinkler system.

Public Works Phone Numbers

If you need to contact Public Works during Business Hours (8:00 AM to 4:30 PM seven days a week) call or leave a message at 865-3220. In case of Emergency (but not during Business Hours) call or leave a message for Tom Hayes at his home 865-3863 or his pager 776-0397.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

If your kids haven't already signed up, don't forget about the summer reading program for kids ages 2-12 at the local branch of your county library. ReadQuest 1999 began June 14 and will run through the 7th of August.

Children who participate in the program and read 10 books will earn several prizes including a certificate, a bookmark, a library card decal, two baseball tickets and a chance to win an invitation to a party at the Mail Tribune.

Shadow puppeteer Greg Harris will be at the library on Tuesday, August 10 at 10 am. Mark your calendar. The kids won't want to miss this one!



IT'S A GRAND OLD FLAG!

The annual 4th of July parade will begin at 1pm this year. In addition to the parade there will be food, games, and activities in the park. The Totem Pole and the R-n-R Café will have special barbecues.

Plan to spend the afternoon in the park. Everyone is invited to join in the fun!

ACTIVE CLUB ASKS FOR HELP!

By Michelle Barnett

As you know the 4th of July is right around the corner, and we need donations to purchase supplies and money for the haystack. We have donation cans at various businesses here in town, if you could please donate it would be greatly appreciated and make the 4th fun for all the children. Thank you so much.