

Community



S. John Collins / Baker City Herald

Most functions of the Sumpter Dredge were manipulated with manually operated levers in the control room located on the upper deck. Visitors are not allowed above the first floor. The floor of the control room has been restored.

DREDGE

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Maintaining accessibility under the federal Americans With Disabilities Act is another issue, and visitor safety is always paramount, he said.

“The dredge wasn’t made to give tours in,” Groth said with a chuckle.

Brian McBeth, the historic architecture project manager for the Parks Department, visited the dredge for the first time in September.

“It’s a great piece of history that our kids and grandkids can learn from,” McBeth said.

He echoed Groth’s comments about the potential difficulties of both accommodating visitors and maintaining the dredge’s historical integrity.

“We want visitors to come in and enjoy a piece of history,” McBeth said. “But first and foremost we want to preserve history. Every stick of lumber, every piece of steel tells its own little story.”

Groth said he’d like to start on interior work next summer, including replacing sections of the flooring, but 2020 might be a more feasible target.

Elsewhere in the park, Groth said an \$8,000 grant will help pay to elevate a section of a hiking trail that is seasonally flooded by a beaver dam.

He said he’s also seeking other grants to build a bridge across Cracker Creek in the same area to create a new hiking loop.

The park has abutments for the bridge but not money for the bridge itself, Groth said.

He is also working with



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An upper deck is not safe for visitors, but it once supported the coming and going of workers keeping the dredge operating.

Spooks & Sweets At The Dredge

The Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Area is hosting its second-annual Trunk-or-Treat from 3 p.m. to dark on Saturday, Oct. 27. Also, head ranger Garrett Groth will be giving a guided ghost-filled tour of the dredge. The Interpretive Center will be open late for guests to warm up and enjoy coffee and hot chocolate. For the event, the parking lot will be full of local businesses giving out goodies and candy.

Visitors can also choose to take the historic Sumpter Valley Railroad to the park. The Halloween Express will run on Saturday, Oct. 27 and Sunday, Oct. 28. On both days a round-trip train will leave the McEwen Station at 4 p.m. Passengers are invited to wear costumes. The train will be decorated, and there will be gift bags for all passengers. The adult fare is \$25, with seniors 62 and older \$22.50; children 5 to 15 \$17.50; and a family pass (two adults and two children ages 5 to 15 available for \$75.

Gyllenberg Construction of Baker City to repair the deteriorating canvas cover that protects the boom that juts from the dredge’s west side. That’s where waste rock,

known as tailings, were disgorged after the gold had been separated.

The boom on the east side contains the 72 buckets, each weighing a ton, that dug into

the river banks and carried the gold-bearing ore into the dredge’s interior where it was sorted via a series of steel cylinders.

Although the dredge itself and the visitors center close for the season on Halloween, Groth said the park grounds, including the trails, remain open through the winter.

“We get a lot of snowshoers up here,” he said.

Friends of the Dredge grant

Travel Oregon recently announced that it had awarded a \$20,000 grant to the Friends of the Sumpter Valley Gold Dredge.

The money will be used in part to write a marketing and outreach plan and a fundraising plan, as well as an update to the visitor center interpretive plan.

See more at www.historic-sumpter.com

Haines man killed in crash

A Haines man died early Monday in a one-vehicle crash near Haines.

Mark F. Conro, 59, of 45950 Dump Road, was killed when the 2003 Toyota Tundra pickup he was driving went off Coffey Lane near Heritage Ranch Road about three miles east of Haines, according to the Baker County Sheriff’s Office.

Conro’s friends and relatives called Baker County Dispatch at 12:26 a.m. Monday to report that Conro was not home and had left behind personal items, which was not usual.

At 2:37 a.m. police, using cellphone signals, found Conro’s pickup in a field near Coffey Lane. After a preliminary

investigation, it appears that Conro was driving west on Coffey Lane when he lost control of the vehicle. It veered off the south side of the highway and continued to travel a long distance through a field before coming to a stop.

Lt. Jef Van Arsdall of the Sheriff’s Office said Conro’s pickup went through a wooden corral fence and crossed two irrigation ditches before coming to rest in a third, and larger, ditch.

Van Arsdall said a piece of wood from the corral went through the truck’s windshield.

There are no homes near the site, he said.

The investigation is ongoing.

WYDEN

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Tickets were separated in two to categories which were expressed by color, blue tickets for BHS students and yellow for community members.

Wyden was introduced by Emily Black, BHS student body president. No subjects were off limits, Wyden said.

Questions in the early part of the town hall covered a variety of issues including senior citizen

nutrition, youth poverty, the recent federal tax cuts, and violence in schools.

Wyden is not up for re-election in the Nov. 6 election. He was elected in 2016 to a six-year term that continues through 2022.

Editor’s note: Due to the Herald’s press deadline we were not able to include full coverage of Wyden’s town hall today. See Friday’s issue for a longer story about today’s event.

COUNCIL

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The remaining councilor, Adam Nilsson, notified the other councilors, a few minutes after the meeting was scheduled to start at 7 o’clock, that he would not attend.

Nilsson could not be reached for comment in time for this story.

The City Council, which usually has seven members, has been down to six since James C. Thomas resigned in August. The remaining councilors decided not to appoint someone to replace Thomas since his seat is up for election Nov. 6.

The city charter defines a quorum as four councilors, regardless of how many councilors are in office.

The Council probably will schedule a special meeting for Oct. 30 to address the agenda scheduled for Tuesday.

In other city business, City Manager Fred Warner Jr. said he might decide by Friday whether to offer the job of Baker City Fire Chief to Glen Bahde from Georgia or John Clark from Michigan.

ARREST

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Cavyell also damaged a heart monitor by biting through its wires, according to the press release.

No one was hurt in the incident.

A Baker City ambulance took Cavyell to Saint Alphonsus Medical Center, where he was evaluated before being taken to the Baker County Jail.

Police initially detained Cavyell because officers

believed he was a danger to himself, according to the press release.

Police later learned that Cavyell had failed to register as a sex offender and was also in violation of a court-ordered release agreement.

Cavyell was convicted in 2005 of first-degree sodomy in Baker County, District Attorney Matt Shirtcliff said.

Cavyell was also convicted of failing to register as a sex offender in 2013 and 2015.

Baker County Republicans

Recommends Voting For:

- ✓ Greg Walden for US Representative, CD2
- ✓ Knute Buehler for Governer
- ✓ Vote YES on 1-84, Baker County Measure, the Second Amendment Preservation Ordinance

Vote YES on State Measures:

- ✓ 103 Vote YES to ban a sales tax on groceries
- ✓ 104 Vote YES to require a 3/5 majority before and tax or fee increase
- ✓ 105 Vote YES to repeal state sanctuary status
- ✓ 106 Vote YES for nor more tax payer funded abortions

This ad is paid for by the Baker County Republican Party and The Save 2A Committee. Watch our Facebook page for current election informaion.

LYNN FINDLEY

FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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- Oregonians for Food & Shelter
- Oregon Gun Owners
- Oregon Chiefs of Police Association
- Sheriffs of Oregon
- Oregon Cattleman’s Association
- AG-PAC
- Oregon Nurseries’ Association
- Association of Oregon Home Builders
- National Federation of Small Business
- Oregon Right to Life
- Oregon Dairy Farmers Association



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