

A busy Memorial Day weekend in Baker County

By Lisa Britton

Go! Magazine

BAKER COUNTY — Want to find a treasure? Ride a steam train? Catch the biggest catfish around?

You can do any of these — or all of them — this weekend in Baker County.

HUNTINGTON: CATFISH DERBY, FOOD AND MUSIC

The Huntington Lions Club sponsors this annual event over Memorial Day weekend. The entry fee, which is for all three days, is \$10 for ages 14 and older, or \$5 for ages 5-13. Participants can sign up at Huntington Lions Park on Friday or Saturday.

Daily prizes will be awarded for the four biggest fish in both junior and senior divisions. A \$500 award and trophy goes to the angler who lands the biggest catfish.

The Huntington Senior and Youth Organization will serve food Saturday and Sunday at the cook shack in Lions Park.



Travel Baker County/Contributed photo
Sumpter's Memorial Day weekend flea market will fill the streets with vendors of all kinds.

Breakfast will be available from 8-10 a.m., and lunch starts at noon (get into the derby spirit with a plate of fried catfish — or stick with chicken strips).

On Saturday, May 28, Gerry

and the Dreambenders will play from 6-9 p.m.

SUMPTER: FLEA MARKET, TRAIN RIDES, HISTORY

Memorial Day weekend kicks

off the season for flea markets in Sumpter, which are held on three holiday weekends in the summer (Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day). Vendors line the streets and the fairgrounds with booths offering all sorts of treasures, and food trucks should satisfy any craving.

The Sumpter Valley Railroad will offer short runs from the Sumpter Station at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. on May 28 and 29.

Fares are \$18 adults, \$15 seniors/military and \$11 for ages 3-17. Make reservations at sumptervalleyrailroad.org.

While you're in Sumpter, take a stroll around the trails at the Sumpter Valley Dredge State Heritage Area. The park is open 7 a.m.-7 p.m., and visitors can tour inside the dredge 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Although now silent, this dredge ran seven days a week, 24 hours a day, from 1935 to 1954. It dug up an estimated \$4 million in gold. The dredge visitor center is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Casey Taylor, a ranger with the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, will be at the SVRR Depot and Sumpter dredge most of the weekend, starting Friday at 8 a.m. He'll share stories about Sumpter history as well as history on the railroad and dredge.

HALFWAY: CAR AND QUILT SHOW

A car and quilt show is planned for Saturday, May 28, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Pine Valley Fairgrounds in Halfway. There is no cost to enter the car or quilt show, and admission is free, too.

Organizer Bob Taylor said prizes will be awarded in four categories for the car show: before 1960, after 1960, pickups, everything else.

The quilt show will be inside the exhibit hall.

There will be concessions available, and music by LoweCo. Donation boxes will be set out and proceeds from the day will help fund pavilion repairs.



Baa, Baa by Nancy Coffelt

Wild & Whimsical



by Nancy Coffelt

May 6 - July 2, 2022

Opening Reception
Friday, May 6 from 6 - 8 pm

Closing Reception
Friday, July 1 from 6 - 8 pm



1006 Penn Avenue, La Grande, Oregon | Wed-Fri Noon-5pm & Sat 10am-2pm | 541.624.2800