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BELLEVUE PICABO CAREY

# WOOD RIVER WEEKLY

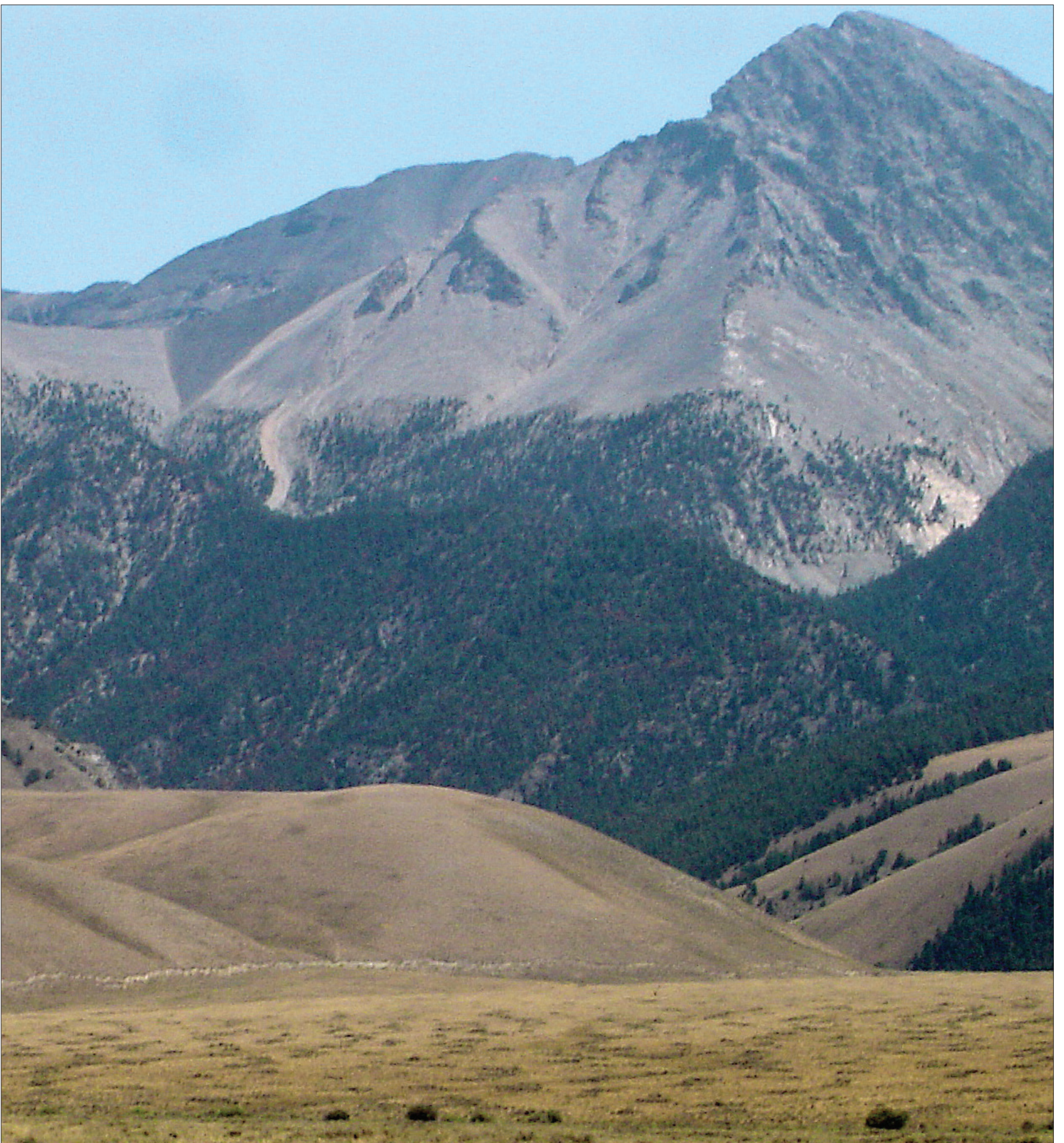
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- Chad Sugg

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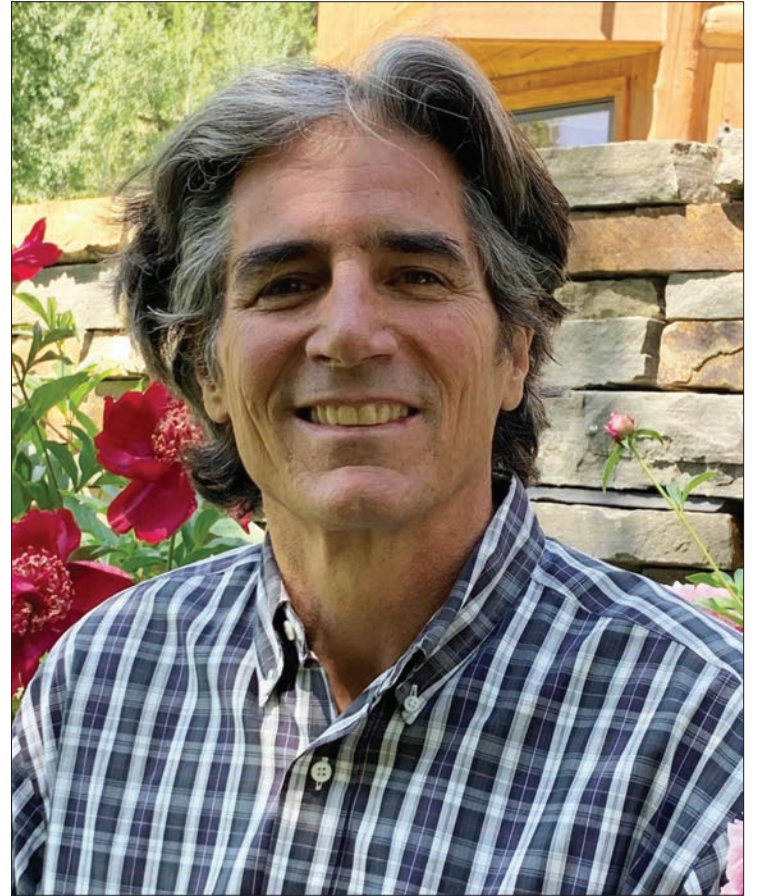

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# SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE IN DRIVER'S SEAT



Blaine County School District Board Trustee Dan Turner. Photo credit: Blaine County School District

BY ISAIAH FRIZZELL

Sometimes, when you see an urgent, intractable problem, you get up, strap your boots on, and do something unexpected. This fall, when the Blaine County School District faced an ongoing shortage of school bus drivers, Dan Turner did just that. Turner, a current Trustee for the Blaine County School District, with an extensive background in finance, never imagined that he would be safely shuttling students to and from school. What made him put on this new hat, step out of his comfort zone, and help the kids?

The answer is simple: need.

There's a particular line of thought, often a question, that's intriguing each time it's asked that is applicable here.

What made you decide to jump into driving a school bus?

The answer, as it often is, was: "Well, I saw a need and I wanted to make a difference."

"I really got involved because, at the board level, we were getting letters from parents and teachers talking about field trips the kids and teachers were really looking forward to that they had to cancel because there was no bus driver," Turner said. "A lot of these schools have traditional trips where they'll go to Idaho BaseCamp, or the kids at Carey will go to Yellowstone, then someone tells you we don't have any buses and that deflates everyone."

At 66, Turner finished a four-week driver training course and earned his Commercial Driver's License (CDL), and drove his first solo day on Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023. It was a success and, to Turner, something of a joy.

## A Big and Small-Picture Issue

Though the shortage of school bus drivers stretches throughout the country, and was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, some of the issues facing Blaine County are local.

Turned explained, "We live in a state that doesn't devote a lot of resources to public education. It's tough to compete. Other drivers with Commercial Driver's Licenses, like those with a UPS contract, are making like \$60 an hour. Guys down in Texas are driving waste management trucks making \$100,000 a year. Being a little school district in Blaine County, we can't compete with those kinds of wages."

One of the nation's largest school bus fleets was shuttered in 2002 after nearly 100 years in business. This, in addition to many other fleets falling apart during the pandemic, should have created a pool of truck drivers eager to find employment.

But, it is a challenge to attract competent, experienced drivers who could make much more money elsewhere. Turned explained, "To find a bus driver, you almost have to find someone who's not strictly looking at it on an economic basis, despite the flexible hours."

Compounding the issue is the somewhat archaic way Idaho pays school bus drivers. "Transportation finances are really one of the most opaque reimbursement models I've ever seen," Turned explained. Reimbursement models are based on many factors, like

*Continued  
DRIVER'S SEAT  
Next Page*



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# RAINEY

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## School Board

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NEWS

COMMUNITY

# Driver's Seat

*Continued from Previous Page*

vehicle size: long versus short buses. This further works against small school districts like Blaine County.

Turned added, "It's just a lot of counterintuitive things that go into this model, especially, you know, the geography we have, the logistics we're dealing with, where students live and where we need to move them to. We're driving a lot of miles to pick up these kids. From the flashing light at Timmerman Hill to Picabo, the Bellevue Triangle, Warm Spring to East Fork, we cover a lot of miles."

### A Team Effort

Mountain Rides also pitched in in a meaningful way to help students get safely to and from school. According to Turner, "They do move a lot of kids up the valley. They don't go up the canyons, but they've been good about coordinating schedules to accommodate the students. But again, we've got a lot of this kooky geography ..."

Turner enjoys being part of the team and said the work takes a strong, joyful, positive attitude. "It kind of seems to be in the Sun Valley community's DNA to pull together when something like this happens. Just this summer, the school put on this summer school program [BCSD's SummerBridge Academic Program] that targeted the kids that needed the help and, gosh, the amount of academic progress these kids made was remarkable."

He added, "That was just all these groups in our community saying we need to do something and they came together. I've never really lived in a community like this. It's really a special place."

### How to Help

Blaine County School District still faces a shortage of bus drivers and welcomes those interested in the job, or other jobs needing staffing, including crossing guards. If you are interested in learning more, contact Blaine County Transportation Chief Colton Metzler at (208) 578-5425 or [CMetzler@blaineschools.org](mailto:CMetzler@blaineschools.org).

NEWS

IN BRIEF



### Contra Dances Are Back at the Grange!

The Upper Big Wood River Grange is hosting a Contra Dance on Saturday November 11 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm with live music and caller at the Grange Hall, 609 South 3rd Avenue in Hailey. Caller, David Quinley will again be leading dancers in long-ways sets and circle dances with music by the Strings Attached band. Dancers are invited to arrive early at 6:30 pm for a quick review of the basic contra-dance steps.

Contra dances have been always popular in the valley. Tickets at the door are \$20 for 1 adult, \$30 for 2 adults (so bring a friend!), \$5 for teens and free for kids accompanied by an adult. To protect the newly refinished dance floor, please bring a pair of clean, light-soled shoes that won't scratch or leave black scuff marks.

The dance tunes are old-time mountain music with Irish and Scottish jigs and reels. Contra dancing evolved from English and Scottish country dances and has brought people together since the 1700's. No partner? No problem! Dancers progress through circle and long-ways sets, dancing with everyone along the way. All the dances will be taught before each dance.

Contra dances are a family-friendly activity for all ages and everyone is welcome. First and foremost, this event is about people and community. Gather with neighbors, meet new friends and dance thenight away.

The event is organized by members of the Upper Big Wood River Grange which was chartered in 1924. The National Grange has its roots in supporting American farming families and communities. Our local grange supports local food production, hosts the Wood River Seed Library, supports community organizations like 4-H, provides scholarships for high school seniors, and provides a space for meetings, dance classes and other community functions. We foster local agriculture, local food economy and sustainable practices as well as gardening, seed saving, home cooking, sewing and other practical arts. If you are interested in finding out more about the Grange and how you can be involved, more information is available on our website. [www.grange.org/upperbigwoodriverid192](http://www.grange.org/upperbigwoodriverid192)

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# Longstanding Local Welding Company Changes Hands



The sun goes down on Wood River Welding. Photo credit: Isaiah Frizzell

## Making history in the Wood River Valley community

BY ISAIAH FRIZZELL

ended up with the wild Chesapeake.

### Since '73

From May of 1973 to October of 2023, Les Cameron, of Wood River Welding, created and maintained a temple of service that stands proudly in Bellevue with its original wood-hewn doors, a longstanding institution relied on by countless people in the Wood River Valley.

After 50 years serving the farmers, ranchers, mine companies, and general public in Blaine County, Cameron is retiring from Wood River Welding. With a handful of formidable tools and an historic truck in tow, he is stepping into grace. The tools and truck are artifacts, emblazoned in the history of his father's business.

Cameron's retirement plans include writing a book, continuing his services to the gospel and, as he said, "Letting the Lord guide me."

### The Dog Days of Winter Welding

Wood River Welding was founded in 1945 in a barn across the street from its current location at 216 South Main Street in Bellevue. "That's where they spent the first winter working," Cameron recalled, adding that there's even an article about that early incarnation in the old Hailey Times archives.

When Cameron goes into his own mental archives, the gems he remembers shine at every facet. While most can't remember a phone number, his memory is time-stamped, dated, and contextually saturated in anecdotes and side notes that reveal surprising connections to the history of Idaho and even America at large.

Sweet stories emerge. "It would have been sometime in the '50s... a guy that worked for my dad, Roy Reeder, well, Roy loved dogs," Cameron begins. While he sat eating a banana, he continued that there was a customer of the first iteration of Wood River Welding, Walt, a farmer/cattle rancher who owned what is now Lookout Farm. Walt had a dog — a great big ol' Chesapeake. "He was huge, as big as a Saint Bernard," Cameron said. "Walt was out here in front, with his car, and the dog wasn't with him. Walt was talking to my dad and Roy was outside talking to the dog!" Cameron laughed a kind of gleeful contentedness of a man who's lived well — grounded and thoughtful.

He went on, "Walt went out there and saw what was going on and says 'You're the only man alive that's ever done that with that dog. He won't tolerate anyone else... you must be an okay guy.'" Roy

### It Takes All Types

A customer—again, a local, a gambling type—helped Cameron's father and his partner Otis, obtain their current location. Cameron explained, "A guy my dad and his partner Otis were doing some work for said, 'Why don't you guys buy you some land and put up a building and act like you're gonna stay?... and old Otis says, 'Well, sir, you put up the money and we'll do it.'" Cameron continued, "He says, 'Well, how much do you need?' And they made a wild guess and he sat down and wrote 'em out a check!" Who was this guy? "Well, he was a gambler, and if risk was involved, he was interested," Cameron recounted.

He also recalled the very beginning of Wood River Welding. "They hired the guy next door—he was a stone mason, Joe Shipman—and he laid the block and built the walls. They got the lumber from the Board Brothers' Sawmill to build the trusses for the roof," Cameron said.

### Living History

Cameron, beyond his metallurgy, is a historian himself, and when he speaks out comes a living history. Even the people who helped build Wood River Welding were historians.

Take Dick Beardsley. Beardsley, good friend to Cameron, was an amateur historian who had his own dark room and documented the valley with photos of all the oldtimers. Cameron explained how "His pictures are in South Valley Pizzeria and the old Bellevue pictures in Mahoney's and the ones that are in Atkinsons' Market up there were from his collection."

It was Beardsley's nephew who did the woodwork for Wood River Welding and built the two big wooden doors that still stand. "He only had a fourth-grade education, but he knew carpentry work inside and out," said Cameron, who is a huge proponent of self-starting, self-made people. He said you don't always have to have the degree or credentials; you just need to know your instrument. Get out there and do it!

Cameron said, "He was in here when we built this part [the front office] in 1985 and he's standing there looking at the big south door and they were laughing. I said what are you laughing about?"

Continued  
WELDING  
Next Page

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WOOD RIVER WEEKLY  
YOUR VOICE IN THE WOOD RIVER VALLEY

# Welding Company Changes Hands



Snack time with Les Cameron. Photo credit: Isaiah Frizzell

*Continued from Previous Page*

And he said when we put them up in 1946, they were temporary.” Cameron laughs a lot. “He was one of those guys, he worked at the mine, doing carpentry work. He worked underground, too, set timbers, and did all the stuff they do underground. He was a demolition guy in World War II in the Battle of the Bulge.”

They couldn’t get the door hardware; it was all used. However, they did build their own window frames. Nearly everyone in the community contributed their services.

### Caring for Customers

Cameron talks fluidly, recounting his reasons for easing out of welding due to optical aging and the general slowing of hands that arrives at the speed of life. He’s been in the office for years as well, but he knows when to call it a day.

He emphasized the original, core idea behind Wood River Welding was to keep the community flowing. “Their whole thrust, the idea that he (Cameron’s father) started with was repairing equipment. That’s what it was all about. He accumulated the tools and machinery that he needed to do it with and as you can see, we’ve got a lot of stuff.”

Cameron isn’t one to fret. He speaks matter of factly about the disposable quality of modern tools, of built-in failure. “It’s good for the guys building and selling the tools, but I don’t know how good it is otherwise.” Cameron punctuates silences with laughter.

His father had a plan and stuck to it. “He was a black-and-white guy. He didn’t look at the gray areas. If there was a gray area, he’d be quick to go back to the black-and-white of things,” Cameron explained.

Cameron’s dad worked through the winters by himself and when he didn’t have much work, his son said, “He’d make tools that he knew he was gonna need for the summer. He was a blacksmith. The old blacksmiths made their own tools and that’s how they learned to do what they were gonna do. You made your own stuff to work with, and that’s pretty much what we’ve done over the years. We still work on some farm equipment, a lot of work on landscaping equipment and general public stuff.”

Wood River Welding has done quite a bit of work over the years for Sun Valley Company, loggers, miners and the broad spectrum of needs and services for the public in Idaho. The company is a veritable beacon of good business and no-nonsense, solid craftsmanship.

### Les Cameron’s Future

Cameron talks passionately and with humor about his faith, his work with the church, with his kids, artificial intelligence, and his marriage. He and his wife Thelma just celebrated their 44-year anniversary in July. “We both had a commitment to make it work,” he said after talking about how rocky marriage can be at first.

When asked about selling Wood River Welding, he admits “none of my children are interested in taking the place over and that’s how we got it, my brother and I and our wives.” Cameron just lost his brother in 2015 from

mesothelioma after working with asbestos in the Navy.

His brother Ed had been taught welding from their father and while stationed on a hospital ship in Long Beach, California. The Naval Welding School alumni there couldn’t do overhead welding so his brother took a look and said, “Well, I think I can do that,” Cameron said and continued, “So the warrant officer says get this man a helmet and welding tools, and he knew he hadn’t been to welding school, hadn’t been to any schools at all, and he welded this stuff up for him and the old guy says, ‘Where’d you learn to do that? I know you didn’t learn it from the Navy,’ and Ed says, ‘I learned it from my dad.’”

### Looking Forward

Cameron is happy he made the deal with a local buyer slowly—they both took their time, and not in haste. But that doesn’t mean it’s easy to let go. He walks the floor of Wood River Welding, describing magnificent statuesque machinery with all the grace and gentle nature of someone at peace in life.

“You know you can’t cover 77 years of history in a couple hours,” he remarked.

Fortunately for all, Hailey Public Library is set to do an audio interview of Cameron for their historical archives.

Meanwhile, visitors are welcome to stop by Wood River Welding. Bring Cameron a banana and ask him about the Chesapeake dog. It is a one-of-kind place to laugh, to soak in the history of the Wood River Valley and one of its longstanding families who helped create the community.



Photo credit: Isaiah Frizzell

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## FISHING REPORT



THE "WEEKLY"  
FISHING REPORT FOR  
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FROM PICABO ANGLER

The weather forecast for the end of this week ushers in colder daytime temperatures and a real changing of the seasons. Anglers will need to adjust their tactics accordingly. No matter where you fish, when the weather changes, concentrate angling efforts during the warmest parts of the day, and look for fish in typical winter holding lies – soft current seams, slow, deep pools, and calm tailouts.

Silver Creek on Kilpatrick Pond and The Nature Conservancy Silver Creek Preserve remain open until the end of November. North of the highway, the Creek remains open until the end of March. Note – duck hunters are active on Silver Creek this time of year, so anglers should be aware. The Creek's large brown trout are in various stages of spawning, with pre and post spawn fish actively feeding to "pack on the pounds" before winter. Dry fly activity is limited to the afternoons, but anglers should expect small Baetis (BWO) and midges during calm days. Throwing streamers to deep, dark water and undercut banks will take plenty of fish. The old adage of "bright day, bright fly and dark day, dark fly" seems to hold true. Don't be afraid to experiment with your favorite streamers!

On the Big Wood River, Baetis and midge activity remains strong given the right weather conditions. A size 18 or 20 Olive Gulper Special or Film Critic accurately imitates Baetis and will fool trout all along the Big Wood. To take fish eating midges (look to the foam lines!), fish a visible midge cluster imitation followed by a trailing midge emerger or adult. A white-winged Griffith's Gnats in a size 16 or 18, trailed by a size 20 or 22 Tie-Down Midge, is an excellent choice. Nymphing will be extremely productive throughout the winter months. Go-to double nymph rigs include large Rubber Legs, Princes, Hare's Ears, and Copper Johns followed by more diminutive imitations such as black or red Zebra Midges, Pheasant Tails, Rainbow Warriors, or Brassies. Sculpin imitations such as olive Buggers, Zonkers, and Sparkle Minnows fished on a slow swing effectively imitate the numerous sculpin found in the Big Wood. This technique will yield quality over quantity, and produces some exceptional rainbows.

The Lower Big Lost River below Mackay Reservoir is low but the river remains chalky, with limited dry fly fishing. Nymphing can still be productive during these conditions.

The fishing on the Upper Big Lost River (Copper Basin) will be winding down as it gets colder, but fishing during select times can be productive using the same flies and techniques that we recommend for the Big Wood.

Happy Fishing Everyone!



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## COMMENTARY

NO BONES ABOUT IT

FRAN JEWELL

## LIONS AND TIGERS AND BEARS, OH MY!

BY FRAN JEWELL

Halloween has come and gone along with the ghosts and goblins. But the fever to dress up and groom our dogs has not left so quickly. All the major pet store chains carry every imaginable dog costume around. Soon it will be Thanksgiving and Christmas costumes. How incredibly cute our dogs look all dressed up for the holidays.

Now, especially with the huge popularity of doodles [various breeds mixed with poodles] that are groomed regularly, I am seeing these dogs cut and dyed to look like other animals. Recently, on Facebook, I saw a white doodle dyed and cut to resemble a zebra. This dog truly looked like a zebra. The dog belonged to the groomer, who was in awe of their creativity, as well he should be. They are incredibly artful and creative, indeed. If you do an Internet search or YouTube search, the videos are overwhelming in number.

One poodle was being groomed and dyed as Phantom of the Opera. Another was a giraffe. One reporter on the story called it a "happiness break" for us. Indeed, it is a happiness break for we dog owners. It went on to say how safe and humane this practice was; that the dyes and blow pens groomers used were safe enough for children and that the dogs loved the hours upon hours on the grooming table. One lady said it made her want to go out and get a dog so she could have it groomed like that. Imagine getting a dog so you could groom it like a species it is not. Is this a good reason to get a dog?

This is fine and dandy for we humans (a different species) to enjoy, but let's look at the other side. What does it do for the dog? While

he may get many compliments and ogles, how do other dogs view him? I did have a client that had his doodle groomed as a lion. He called me and said his dog had started to become reactive to other dogs on walks and needed help. What I saw was a dog that did not appear to be a dog to other dogs. Other dogs were signaling to her dog either with barking, growling, stiff body language, or hard-eye stares that they were not impressed. His dog was becoming defensive and thus beginning to become reactive with return barking and lunging at the other dogs. The owner felt that he could no longer walk his dog around the neighborhood or take the dog where other dogs would be.

Unaware of how this grooming affected other dogs, he began to think his dog had the problem. In reality, who had the problem? Not the other dogs, not his dog, but the problem was his need to make his dog appear as something different from the species the dog was.

Having to undo the reactive behavior, we had to first remove the grooming so the dog looked natural again. Then it took many lessons in increased leadership and desensitization to help the dog overcome this learned behavior created by the innocent grooming.

I also witnessed another dog in a local store in a baby carriage with a baby bonnet and clothes on that was being pushed around the store. The owner was touting that the dog was a service dog so she could bring the dog into the store. Imagine this dog's inability to communicate with other dogs simply to appease the owner's will?

While it may appear to be fun for us, dog costumes and "fun" grooming can have devastating results for the dog as well as other dogs. It can even escalate into aggression,



Photo credit: Fran Jewell

which becomes even more difficult to resolve. Dogs primarily communicate to other dogs with their non-verbal behaviors. Covering up or changing their natural communication skills can be devastating. We must consider this: Do costumes and grooming to satisfy our needs really help the dog?

Fran Jewell is an IAABC Certified Dog Behavior Consultant, NADOI Certified Instructor and the owner of Positive Puppy Dog Training, LLC in Sun Valley. For more information, visit [positivepuppy.com](http://positivepuppy.com) or call 208-578-1565.

SCIENCE OF PLACE

HARRY WEEKES

## BIG MAMA

BY HARRY WEEKES

It is 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 15. The day is clear, crisp, and beautiful—one of those fall days that invariably forces you to appreciate "The Nature." The sky is piercingly blue. Groves of aspens, in pockets on the hillsides and clumped around houses, are adding their yellows and oranges and reds to the band of increasingly yellowing cottonwoods lining the river. And, of course, there is the wonderful earthy smell of fall.

All of this is made more acute because the vigil we have been having is over. I am walking up the hill behind my house with a dead bird tucked under my arm. Big Mama, our oldest chicken, who, by our best recollection, was somewhere between seven and 10 years old, finally slipped away sometime between my last visit and Hilary's.

Honestly, in all of my years of pet ownership, I cannot remember a single one gently dying of old age. I am pretty sure this is what happened to Big Mama. On Saturday, she hobbled around in her aged way, sharply tugging at leftovers from various salads. By Sunday, she was simply lying on the ground, head stretched out, breathing slowly and deeply. I picked her up. With no obvious evidence of foul play, I put her back down and arranged her as comfortably as possible. By mid-afternoon, she had stopped breathing and with that had tangibly diminished in size.

Holding her outside of our hen house, my eyes settle on the small clump of chokecherries, willows, and a spruce tree tucked into one side of the hills out the back of our house. "That looks like a good spot."

Simon comes out to say goodbye. I head up the hill. The procession is simple—me accompanied by crickets chirring from the side. I crunch through sage and bitterbrush, my climbing filling the air with the cool scents from their leaves.

The area is a cluster of trees and grasses, around a spring or a seep where the ground piles up, marking some small microclimate in an expanse of sagebrush. Deer bed down here, and there have to be rabbits. During last winter, a female coyote flushed from the bushes and cut a wide arc across the ridge between our house and Quigley. She stopped once, looked over her shoulder, and disappeared.

In this small grove of vegetation, I find a place where stems of grass have already died, and I place Big Mama snugly into a leafy bed that is also as comfortable as I can make it. I hold my hand on her feathers and press gently on her body. I turn around once, about 10 feet away, and take in as much of the scene as I can.

Big Mama has been a part of our lives since before I was 50, since all of my kids were home, since my son was still in single digits for age. She was a being with whom we shared a life. She was our only



named chicken; a stoic and steadfast matriarch.

I don't know what will happen to her remains. I do know they will be a part of this small valley on this perfect day. This is the best I come up with.

Harry Weekes is the founder and head of school at The Sage School in Hailey. This is his 52nd year in the Wood River Valley, where he lives with Hilary and one of their three baby adults—Simon. The other members of the flock are Georgia and Penelope (Georgia recently fledged from Davidson College in North Carolina and Penelope is at Middlebury College in Vermont).



## MONEY MATTERS

SUZANNE HAZLETT

# UPSIDE OF A DOWN MARKET

BY SUZANNE HAZLETT, MBA, CIMA®, CFP®

Legendary investor Warren Buffett doesn't try to guess how current events will play out in the market. "I don't think I can make money by predicting what's going to go on next week or next month," he said. "I do think I can make money by predicting what will go on in the next ten years."

When the state of the financial markets is keeping you up at night, here are four things you can do:

- **LONG-TERM vs. SHORT-TERM**

If your investments are for long-term purposes, remind yourself time is on your side. If you have invested in a long-term strategy with funds needed for current expenses, you may need to sell at least enough of those investments to meet your immediate cash needs.

- **RISK APPETITE**

It is prudent to reassess your tolerance for the market's roller-coaster nature periodically. Many advisors use risk assessment tools. They can help clarify the risk associated with your performance aspirations, which can inform suitable investment decisions.

- **BALANCING ACT + TAX LOSS HARVESTING**

Rebalancing is a tactic used by professionals on an ongoing basis. When financial markets shift, they can impact the balance of different types of assets within a portfolio. Selling some assets and reinvesting those dollars in others is a clever tactic when your investments get too heavily weighted in one area and underweighted in another. When making these changes in taxable accounts, selling securities showing losses allows an investor to "harvest" those losses so they may be used to offset gains and income and potentially reduce your tax bill.

- **DOLLAR-COST AVERAGING**

If you are working at building your nest egg, a down market can be advantageous. Continuing incremental investing allows you to invest over time when values are low, positioning you to benefit when values increase, thereby averaging your investment costs and volatility exposure.

A down market can present opportunities and provide valuable reminders. Take a breath. Assess your plan. If you find yourself off course and your investments are not in alignment with your intended strategy, you can get back on track by taking these four steps.

*Suzanne Hazlett, MBA, CIMA®, CFP®, is a Certified Investment Management Analyst® and CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER Professional. HAZLETT WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC is independent of Raymond James and is not a registered broker/dealer. Investment advisory services are offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc. Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. 675 Sun Valley Road, Ketchum, Idaho, 208.726.0605. HazlettWealthManagement.com*



Suzanne Hazlett, MBA, CIMA®, CFP® is the founder of Hazlett Wealth Management, LLC.

## ON LIFE'S TERMS

JOELLEN COLLINS

# SERENITY AND THE SEGO LILY

BY JOELLEN COLLINS

By the time you read this I will be in Walnut Creek, California, unpacking boxes and getting used to my new, smaller digs. While I am sad at not being able to spend more time with the people and activities I love in "my town," I am awaiting with pleasure my new life, with my grandchildren, family, and friends near where I was born, in Berkeley.

Going through and tossing out tons of former Christmas cards, sentimental letters, and more writing pieces than I remember creating, I came across the box of poems that I have cut out of magazines the past few years, and lots of poems I wrote and either didn't publish or have kept for reworking. I also found newspaper bits about the poetry slams we used to love when I first arrived here in the '80s. One of the poems I wrote at that time has become my "signature poem," one that expresses my love for this comforting place, and my memories of another source of care for me, my mother, and what I instinctively felt about living in Idaho.

Here is the poem:

## SEGO LILY

Sego in the sage,  
White as the parachute-nylon silk blouses Mother  
And I wore in 1943,  
Floating us in memory,  
My mother light as a lyric,  
Strong as a sonata,  
Embrace of sky and arms  
And scent of Chanel.  
Never since have I been loved as well:  
I imagine dropping again into her arms.  
This sere landscape supports  
The lone lily,  
Petals like piano keys softly pressed,  
Sound as pure as a kiss.  
I place your petals against my cheek, silk against dry heat.  
Soothe me like a swan's feather in a gentle breeze.  
Show me beauty can thrive in dust.



JoEllen Collins—a longtime resident of the Wood River Valley—is an Idaho Press Club award-winning columnist, a teacher, writer, fabric artist, choir member and unabashedly proud grandma known as "Bibi Jo."

I can appreciate this poem even though I won't be in a "sere" landscape as I was on the day I was inspired to write this poem after a long hike through higher areas with spare vegetation. My little place is near a grove of oak trees, one of my favorite California sights. It cannot take the place of the magnificent nearby mountains and vegetation I have experienced in Idaho, but I will remind myself that I have been blessed to have over 40 years in the midst of changing seasons, caring friends, and so many intelligent and creative acquaintances.

What the sego lily and the Idaho landscape in which it flourishes wound up teaching me was, indeed, that whatever griefs or sadness life throws at us can be borne and we can heal if we allow ourselves to truly experience the beauty and openness of our environment and take time to know those neighbors who have also chosen the peace and serenity along with the challenges and delights of the nearby wilderness. Of course, the truth also includes the comfort of being part of a small town and the positives of knowing each other well.

I feel I have thrived here. I am grateful for my words.

## INSPIRATIONS FROM MY HEART

DOVE

# INTENTION WITH ACTIONS

BY DOVE

When we realize we are the creators of our reality, we take the first steps to personal freedom. The intention you place on your thoughts and actions will determine the results you receive from your efforts. For example, when you put a seed in the garden, your intention is for it to grow and blossom. The life force in the seed responds to the environment, and with proper care, will sprout and produce whatever its genetic code is. The same works for us. Our thoughts are like a seed put in a garden — the more you focus your thoughts, the quicker the focus of your thoughts will manifest. If you apply a lot of emotion to the process, your manifestations will occur more rapidly. If you allow doubt to cloud your focus, you negate the desired outcome of your focus.

Earth is the planet of free will; you are in charge of all you experience. As an illustration, if someone told you you were green, you might think you look sick. Someone else would believe that person was an environmentalist, or they were jealous. One sentence can give multiple meanings to each individual, depending on their beliefs or experiences.

What if we all choose to experience the gift of peace, prosperity, health, truth and abundance and were willing to put our thoughts and energy into making that a world reality. If enough of us focus on the energy of truth and peace, the frequency of the masses must shift to that level of reality.

Maybe it's time we all began to realize that hundreds of people contribute to our wellbeing every day. We don't just exist in a vacuum. Take a moment to consider all who contribute to providing us with the necessities of life: the farmer, who provides the eggs for your breakfast; the farmer who grew the feed for the chickens; the truck driver who delivers the eggs; the person who provides the gas for the truck; the clerk who orders and sells the eggs; the source of the electrical or gas energy for your kitchen to cook the eggs. Who made the pan in which you prepare your food? We are all dependent on one another for our wellbeing.

Take a stand now to hold and energize peace for all nations, all religions, all races. We must focus our thoughts daily and feel the joy of peace and the creative space that would evolve if we all just take the time to embrace how much we all need each other.

Pray for peace. Holding each of you in my heart to live in truth and acceptance and most of all peace. We can release what separates us and choose to unite in what we have in common. Now is the time. Blessings, Dove



## WRANGLER'S WRITINGS

BRYCE ANGELL

# My Ag Teacher

Transitioning from junior high to high school weren't no treat, for a country boy who despised sitting all day in a seat.

So, my father told me, "Sign up for the Agriculture class. There'll be days out in the field and that will get you off your rear."

The year was 1969, or somewhere there about. The class would teach me confidence. A man can't be without.

The teacher called the roll he'd pulled out of his leather bag. Said, "This class is Agriculture but we just call it "Ag."

The Ag instructor looked to be a solid six-foot-three. Intimidation was the word for me at five-foot-three.

He had a reputation with the paddle on the wall. And I've watched a quivering lip come from the toughest of them all.

I weren't the brightest student to have walked the halls at school. But I soon deduced the paddle came from trouble acting cool.

That year I kept my nose clean and the paddle off my butt. And I learned the FFA would build me up, not in a rut.

In my second year of Ag and at the end of class one day, my Ag instructor asked me, "Got a project on the way?"

I told him that I promised Dad I'd build a new squeeze chute. The project would require some skills, and confidence to boot.

If I took on this whole project, all alone, I'd soon be lost. Now the project would have two of us, me and my cousin Ross.

We honed up on our welding, learned some fabricating skill. But class time cutting into shop proved little more than thrill.

As seniors we spent every day, two hours in the shop. The time worked on the squeeze chute kept us busy, on the hop.

We welded every piece in place. Then ground the bad welds down. One student asked if they'd been welded by a circus clown.

We'd weld the iron, then grind it down to look better than before. We sprayed two coats of red they said would last ten years or more.

Our project was complete. I never thought was possible. Our Ag instructor taught us how to reach into our soul.

I walked away with confidence on graduation day. The Ag program and FFA proved worthy all the way.

— Bryce Angell



*Bryce Angell - The outdoors has always been a large part of my life. My father was an outfitter and guide for 35 years and I was there to shoe and care for the horses and help him do the cooking. We took many great trips into the Yellowstone area. Even now that I'm older, we still ride into the Tetons, Yellowstone and surrounding areas. My poems are mostly of personal experience. I am now retired and enjoying life to the fullest. I plan to do more riding and writing.*



Photo credit: Renee Peters

# Honoring Chinese Heritage

BY MONICA CARRILLO

## OUR VOICE COUNTS

On Wednesday, Oct. 25, a Chinese sculpture was placed just minutes away from the China Gardens subdivision and next to Hailey Coffee Company, in Hailey.

Hoping to bring more representation in to the community, a Chinese sculpture was placed on Main Street near Hailey Coffee Company. Joan Davies and Gemma Daggatt, residents of the Wood River Valley, both brainstormed and proposed this project to hopefully address the importance of the Chinese culture and hardships.

“It’s very important to understand their presence and know that they contribute a lot of diversity to this valley,” Herbert Romero, community organizer and commissioner of the Hailey Arts and Historical Preservation Commission, stated.

Romero said that the commission gave an invitation to the community to propose a project that would address this matter — being the hardships of the Chinese community in the valley.

Joan Davies was already brainstorming when this invitation was said, but with Gemma Daggatt’s proposed idea, that’s when everything became a reality.

“As commissioners, we are more than ever talking about that and how essential this will be to the community. It’s key,” Romero said. “I would like to thank Gemma Daggatt, her partners and my colleagues, for supporting this and their commitment to the importance of our diverse cultures.”

Special thanks to Robyn Davis and Cece Osborn, Hailey City Staff.

## ¡CLUB UNIDO NOSOTROS!

El miércoles 25 de octubre, se colocó una escultura china a pocos minutos del China Garden y al lado de Hailey Coffee Co.

Con la esperanza de brindar más representación a la comunidad, se colocó una escultura china en Main Street cerca de Hailey Coffee Co. Joan Davies y Gemma Daggatt, residentes de Wood River Valley, intercambiaron ideas y propusieron este proyecto para, con suerte, abordar la importancia de su cultura. y dificultades.

“Es muy importante comprender su presencia y saber que aportan mucha diversidad a este valle”, Herbert Romero, organizador comunitario y comisionado de la Comisión de Preservación Histórica y de Artes de Hailey.

Romero dijo que la comisión invitó a la comunidad a proponer un proyecto que abordara este asunto, las dificultades de la comunidad china en el valle.

Joan Davies ya estaba haciendo una lluvia de ideas cuando se dijo esta invitación pero con la idea propuesta por Gemma Daggatt fue cuando todo se hizo realidad.

“Como comisionados, estamos hablando más que nunca de eso y de lo esencial que será para la comunidad. Es clave”, dijo Romero. “Me gustaría agradecer a Gemma Daggatt, sus socios y mis colegas por apoyar esto y su compromiso con la importancia de nuestras diversas culturas”.

Un agradecimiento especial a Robyn Davis y Cece Osborn, personal de la ciudad de Hailey.



# Why Home Prices Keep Going Up

BY ANNA & MICHELLE

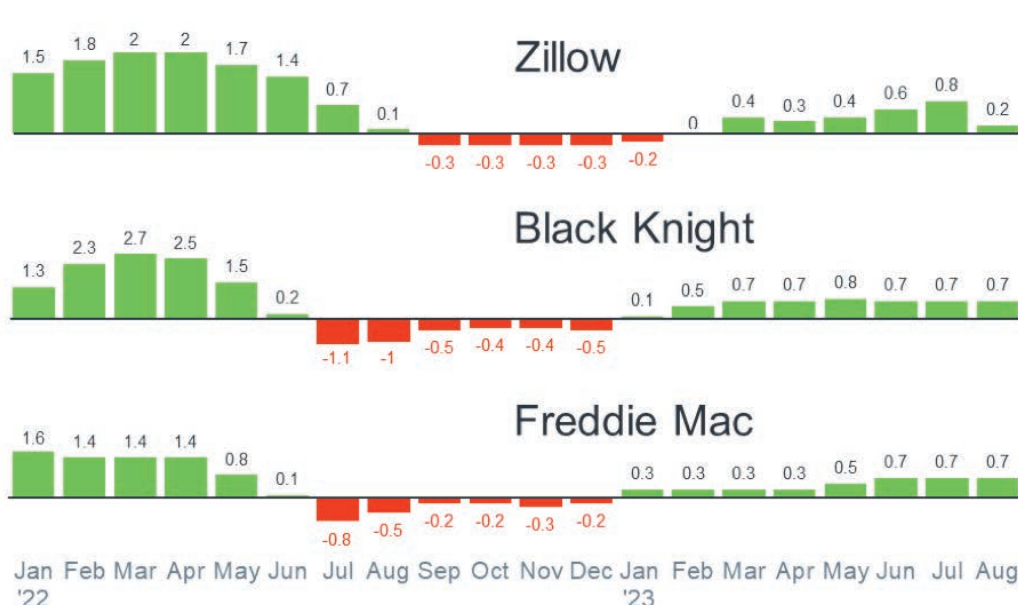
If you’ve ever dreamed of buying your own place, or selling your current house to upgrade, you’re no stranger to the rollercoaster of emotions changing home prices can stir up. It’s a tale of financial goals, doubts, and a dash of anxiety that many have been through.

But if you put off moving because you’re worried home prices might drop, make no mistake, they’re not going down. In fact, it’s just the opposite. National data from several sources says they’ve been going up consistently this year (see graph below):



## Percent Change in Home Values

Month-Over-Month, Zillow, Black Knight, & Freddie Mac (SA)



Here’s what this graph shows. In the first half of 2022, home prices rose significantly (*the green bars on the left side of the graphs above*). Those increases were dramatic and unsustainable.

So, in the second half of the year, prices went through a correction and started dipping a bit (*shown in red*). But those slight declines were shallow and short-lived. Still, the media really focused on those drops in their headlines—and that created a lot of fear and uncertainty amongst consumers.

But here’s what hasn’t been covered fully. So far, in 2023, prices are going up once more, but this time at a more normal pace (*the green bars on the right side of the graphs above*). And after price gains that were too high and then the corrections that followed in 2022, the fact that all three reports show more normal or typical price appreciation this year is good news for the housing market.

Orphe Divounguy, Senior Economist at Zillow, explains changing home prices over the past 12 months this way:

“The U.S. housing market has surged over the past year after a temporary hiccup from July 2022-January 2023... **That downturn has proven to be short-lived as housing has rebounded impressively so far in 2023...**”

Looking ahead, home price appreciation typically starts to ease up this time of year. As that happens, there’s some risk the media will confuse slowing price growth (deceleration of appreciation) with home prices falling (depreciation). Don’t be fooled. Slower price growth is still growth.

## Why Are Home Prices Increasing Now?

**One reason why home prices are going back up is because there still aren’t enough homes for sale for all the people who want to buy them.**

Even though higher mortgage rates cause buyer demand to moderate, they also cause the supply of available homes to go down. That’s because of the mortgage rate lock-in effect. When rates rise, some homeowners are reluctant to sell and lose their current low mortgage rate just to take on a higher one for their next home.

So, with higher mortgage rates impacting both buyers and sellers, the supply-and-demand equation of the housing market has been affected. But since there are still more people who want to purchase homes than there are homes available to buy, prices continue to rise. As Freddie Mac states:

“While rising interest rates have reduced affordability—and therefore demand—they have also reduced supply through the mortgage rate lock-in effect. **Overall, it appears the reduction in supply has outweighed the decrease in demand, thus house prices have started to increase...**”

## Here’s How This Impacts You:

- **Buyers:** If you’ve been waiting to buy a home because you were afraid its value might drop, knowing that home prices have gone back up should make you feel better. Buying a home gives you a chance to own something that usually becomes more valuable over time.
- **Sellers:** If you’ve been holding off on selling your house because you were worried about how changing home prices would impact its value, it could be a smart move to work with a real estate agent and put your house on the market. You don’t have to wait any longer because the most recent data indicates home prices have turned in your favor.

## Bottom Line:

If you put off moving because you were worried that home prices might go down, data shows they’re increasing across the country. Let’s connect so you can understand how home prices are changing in our local area.

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**CROSSWORD**

answer from page 12

|         |           |         |             |
|---------|-----------|---------|-------------|
| SEED    | LEAS      | CORE    | LAMBDA      |
| OLDE    | ELLA      | ODES    | USERID      |
| LOGBOOK | ENTRIES   | TIRANA  |             |
| PITH    | SUGARED   | REDINK  |             |
| TUESTO  | TRUE      | STE     | ETC         |
| INS     | OLA       | INCA    | ANT SHIA    |
| SGT     | BARKAT    | THEMOON | MVP         |
|         | HEFTY     | ASPIRE  | AYE         |
| TYPO    | LOFT      | CARAVAN |             |
| BOLOS   | ATHOME    | HAVANA  |             |
| ADAPT   | BOARDROOM | DEGAS   |             |
| RANLOW  | OTOOLE    | ARENA   |             |
| KARACHI | SPIT      | TRAP    |             |
| ICE     | ENROLL    | VICES   |             |
| SOX     | STICKIN   | THEMUD  | ALA         |
| HOES    | SMU       | DOHA    | ERE LOS     |
|         | RNS       | EST     | NERD ENRICH |
| SCOTIA  | WHARVES   | IOTA    |             |
| TAIWAN  | BEAMME    | UPS     | SCOTTY      |
| INSERT  | YALE      | SCAR    | SLOE        |
| NEEDTO  | EKES      | TERA    | TERN        |

**SUDOKU**

answer from page 12

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 2 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| 7 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 8 |
| 9 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 5 |
| 4 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 9 |
| 5 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 4 |
| 6 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 1 |
| 8 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 3 |
| 1 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 2 |



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CHAMBER CORNER

MIKE MCKENNA

# Boomer Baby Makes Medicare Manageable

BY MIKE MCKENNA

The Dalai Lama has said that “the very purpose of our lives is to seek happiness.” Apparently his Holiness is smart enough to never try to file his taxes or sign up for Medicare on his own.

“Medicare can be really confusing for people,” Jennifer Paaske, of Boomer Baby, said. “Even healthcare executives can have trouble with it, so we’re here to help make it easier.”

Medicare was created in 1965 to provide health coverage and increased financial security for older Americans. Originally proposed by President Harry Truman, it took 20 years to be created. And it seems like it takes that long to figure out how it works.

Luckily, Jennifer and the team at Boomer Baby have now been in the Medicare insurance agency for that long.

Founded in 2004, Boomer Baby is an independent, boutique insurance agency specializing in Medicare. They have the straightforward mission of: Helping you and your loved ones navigate the complex rules, requirements and timelines of Medicare, while ensuring you find and get enrolled in the plan (or plans) that best fits your needs.

“We really want to meet people where they are and help make sure they get the right coverage for them that best fits their needs,” Jennifer said.

Boomer Baby helps people in 25 states, with Jennifer located here in Hailey. After spending years working in the large group insurance world, Jennifer was happy to switch over to specializing in Medicare when she joined Boomer Baby years ago.

“I really enjoy helping people navigate the Medicare maze,” said Jennifer, who was a collegiate gymnast at Western Michigan University. “It’s really rewarding helping seniors through the process and finding what works best for them.”

Jennifer grew up in Michigan and, after earning a graduate degree in Healthcare Administration and Policy from UCLA, she stayed in the Golden State. She and her husband, Andreas (who is originally from Denmark), were raising their two sons, Lukas and Niklas, in Northern California up until a few years ago when they decided they needed a change.



They took a road trip and wound up in Sun Valley. After their first mountain bike ride here, they were instantly hooked. Within two weeks they’d put an offer in on a house and are now delighted to call the Wood River Valley home.

“I love this place. It’s just ideal for our family. We couldn’t have found a more perfect fit,” Jennifer said. “This is just such a great small-town community that has been so welcoming to us.”

Jennifer is happy to be part of our community and to help anyone eligible for Medicare. This is an especially busy time of year because it’s the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period (Oct. 15-Dec. 7, 2023).

“People sometimes think Medicare is easy, but there are lots of pitfalls,” Jennifer said. “It’s good to have someone that you trust run you through the options and make sure you start on the right path.”

Thanks to Jennifer’s help, that can be the path to happiness for many local seniors.

For more information go to [BoomerBaby.com](http://BoomerBaby.com) or call 800-903-8044 or email Jen at [JP@BoomerBaby.com](mailto:JP@BoomerBaby.com).



## How To Play Sudoku

The Classic Sudoku is a number placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once.

## CLASSIC SUDOKU

See answer on page 11

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | 9 | 4 |   | 7 |   |   |   | 6 |
|   |   |   | 5 |   |   | 4 | 3 |   |
| 7 | 1 |   | 3 |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | 7 |   |   | 2 | 3 |   | 5 |
|   | 3 |   |   | 1 |   |   | 6 |   |
| 5 |   | 2 | 3 |   |   | 7 |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | 2 |   | 5 |   | 1 |
|   | 2 | 9 |   |   | 4 |   |   |   |
| 1 |   |   |   | 6 |   | 8 | 4 |   |

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Bird feeder contents
  - 5 Bucolic fields
  - 9 Central part
  - 13 Sorority letter
  - 19 Antique, quaintly
  - 20 She, in Seville
  - 21 Poetic tributes
  - 22 Password partner
  - 23 Captain's commentary
  - 26 Albania's capital
  - 27 Essential part
  - 28 Sweetened
  - 29 Deficit indicator
  - 30 Connects with
  - 32 "That's a fact"
  - 33 Fr. holy woman
  - 35 List shortener
  - 36 Write-\_\_ (some votes)
  - 37 Slangy show biz suffix
  - 39 Peruvian ancestor
  - 41 Kitchen raider
  - 43 Islamic sect
  - 46 Police dept. rank
  - 47 Complain in vain
  - 51 All-Star Game honor
  - 52 Big and strong
  - 53 Have hopes (to)
  - 54 Nautical assent
  - 55 Copyeditor's catch
  - 58 Church balcony
  - 61 Brit's trailer
  - 63 Arizona neckwear
  - 65 Receiving guests
  - 68 Caribbean capital
  - 71 Change as necessary
  - 72 Where directors meet
  - 76 French painter of ballet scenes
  - 77 Was near depletion
  - 79 Critic's voice in *Ratatouille*
  - 80 Coliseum, for instance
  - 81 Most populous city of Pakistan
  - 85 Roasting rod
  - 86 Spy-fi plot element
  - 87 Skating surface
  - 89 Sign up
  - 91 Bad habits
  - 94 Boston baseballers, briefly
  - 95 Spoilsport
  - 99 In the manner of
  - 102 Whacks some weeds
  - 104 North TX campus
  - 105 2022 World Cup city
  - 106 Before, in poems
  - 107 Spanish article
  - 108 ICU pros
  - 110 Superlative ending
  - 112 Uncool one
  - 114 Add value to
  - 116 Halifax, Nova \_\_
  - 118 Port structures
  - 121 Slightest trace
  - 122 Republic of China
  - 123 Star Trek "catchphrase" that was never spoken
  - 126 Utility bill enclosure
  - 127 Brown rival
  - 128 Lasting mark
  - 129 Plum family fruit
  - 130 Must
  - 131 Scrapes by, with "out"
  - 132 Disk-drive prefix for bytes
  - 133 Migratory seabird
- DOWN**
- 1 The sun's name
  - 2 Marrying in haste
  - 3 Most ultra-innovative
  - 4 Balance sheet listing
  - 5 Astrological feline
  - 6 Rockies grazers
  - 7 Alaskan islander
  - 8 Wine with fruit slices
  - 9 Fix
  - 10 *Garfield* dog
  - 11 Oboist's supply
  - 12 Double-curve shape
  - 13 Guitar ancestor
  - 14 Digressive remark
  - 15 Has earned
  - 16 Local bank executive
  - 17 Soft tennis shot
  - 18 Oral health org.
  - 24 "If only I were..."
  - 25 Poke fun at
  - 29 76 Across contemporary
  - 30 Carol contraction
  - 31 Carrot-nose *Frozen* character
  - 34 Port near St. Pete
  - 38 Certain creative workshop "Gotcha!"
  - 42 Temple scroll
  - 44 Trellis climber
  - 45 Chimp, e.g.
  - 48 City near Osaka
  - 49 Corner PC key
  - 50 The Silver State
  - 52 Ruckus
  - 55 Sort of ski lift
  - 56 Star Wars series sage
  - 57 Trunk muscle strengthener
  - 59 Mortgage insurance agcy.
  - 60 Lawn Boy competitor
  - 62 Fends off
  - 64 Retail outlets
  - 66 Summer hrs. in the Rockies
  - 67 Cupid alias
  - 69 Granny
  - 70 Memo directive
  - 73 "Alley-\_\_!"
  - 74 Green shade
  - 75 Self-focused period
  - 78 Hopes to get
  - 82 Black Sea peninsula
  - 83 Pocus partner
  - 84 Category
  - 87 Modern "More or less"
  - 88 Dove's sound
  - 90 Teapot topper
  - 92 Make well
  - 93 Blissful
  - 96 Unfamous folks
  - 97 Gas bill measure
  - 98 Annual gathering
  - 99 Slightly
  - 100 Tracking device
  - 101 Shade of gray
  - 103 Fell in flakes
  - 109 Maze marking
  - 111 Adjust slightly
  - 113 Blackjack card
  - 115 Barnyard perch
  - 116 Level-headed
  - 117 Very keen on
  - 119 In good shape
  - 120 Train for a bout
  - 122 Bronze, in part
  - 123 Parting word
  - 124 Mexican Mrs.
  - 125 Craving

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## WOOD RIVER VALLEY 7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

|  |   |   |   |   |  |  |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| <br>AM Clouds/PM Sun<br>1%<br><b>high 50°</b><br>low 32°<br><b>WEDNESDAY</b> | <br>Mostly Cloudy<br>24%<br><b>high 52°</b><br>low 35°<br><b>THURSDAY</b> | <br>Partly Cloudy<br>23%<br><b>high 53°</b><br>low 34°<br><b>FRIDAY</b> | <br>Showers<br>48%<br><b>high 51°</b><br>low 37°<br><b>SATURDAY</b> | <br>Showers<br>53%<br><b>high 48°</b><br>low 31°<br><b>SUNDAY</b> | <br>AM Rain/Snow<br>32%<br><b>high 47°</b><br>low 31°<br><b>MONDAY</b> | <br>Rain/Snow Showers<br>44%<br><b>high 43°</b><br>low 27°<br><b>TUESDAY</b> |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|



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