



## ENVIRONMENT NEWS

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# WOOD RIVER WEEKLY

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"Despite the forecast, live like it's spring."  
- Lilly Pulitzer

## KEEPING THE PEACE

### *Proper Policing in Blaine County*

BY ISAIAH FRIZZELL

One of the best signs of a healthy community is its happiness and security considering the people keeping the streets clean. Blaine County is a growing cluster of twinkling towns, and with growth comes growing pains. Traffic, congestion and new faces unused to the local daily hustle—it's a lot to manage from the city alone, not to mention the men and women patrolling the streets.

Blaine County Sheriff Steve Harkins has served the county for almost seven years now. How have things been going? Feedback from the public is overwhelmingly positive and while there will always be crime and unjust acts, Blaine County is still one of the most sought-after regions in Idaho due to the safety and unabashed beauty, a community that looks after its own and the small-town vibe with sparkling city amenities. And, of course, the elk.

"I can think of way too many people calling to tell us that there is an elk eating their trees!" Sheriff Harkins laughs.

#### Community-Minded Team

It's an intense and demanding job to monitor crime and keep peace with a focus on the community. Are things relatively calm considering the massive influx of transplants and immigrants?

When speaking with Sheriff Harkins, it's clear he is proud of what has been accomplished and happy with the team he manages that interacts with the public. His administration as a whole is an experienced and community-minded team, steadfast to continue to uphold his word and the work they've accomplished together.

"We have worked very hard to build a cohesive team, a team that works together and supports each other," said Harkins. "This leads to a positive culture and good morale. Our patrol division works very well together and so does our detection team. Both divisions work well together and work toward a common goal. None of these jobs are easy and it takes a special kind of person to be successful."

#### Media Perception

Indeed, with the demands of the job, being firm yet friendly, and dealing with weather/terrain extremes, finding good deputies that the public is fond of is a difficult task, especially considering the tragedies that have occurred in the past 10 years. Immense public scrutiny on a very small minority somewhat put a sheen of negativity on the entirety of law enforcement across the country. The protests, the riots... in light of all this, how do you keep people wanting to serve and protect?

"Across the country it has been a challenge," said Harkins. "Blaine County is not insulated from it, but we have a tremendous amount of support from our community and that is because our deputies work hard to be a part of the community. They represent me and my office on a daily basis and in every contact they have with our citizens and visitors. On a larger scale, I do believe we have less people interested in working in law enforcement and I believe some of this is due to the negative media attention over the past few years. I believe for the most part we live and serve in a community that supports us."

"We just hired a new patrol deputy, Daniella Vargas. I hired her because I know she is more than capable of doing this job, but I also hired her because I love her story. She grew up here, went to Wood River



Harkins at lunch with a group of his deputies. Photo credit: Blaine County Sheriff's Office

High School and developed an interest at a young age in serving the community she grew up in. She chose her senior project with the Blaine County Sheriff's Office. We have a lot of employees that also have great stories and how they became deputies for this office. The humorous part to me is that we wanted to spotlight Daniella and she kind of got thrust into the spotlight on our social media pages. I'm not sure she was really comfortable with this but she took it in stride and knows that this is part of the job. If you are going to serve your community, you must be a part of it and have a vested interest."

As Chief Deputy Will Fruehling puts it, "Our team has been doing this job for a long time and because of this, things are cohesive. We rely on our experience, working together and with the community. I've been Harkins' chief deputy, second in command at the Sheriff's Office, for enough time to be in a position to know. I've had a front-row seat, so to speak, and it's always a pleasure working with the community of Blaine."

#### Traffic Enforcement

One of the goals of Harkins' administration is finding quality deputies that work favorably with the public and this is actually even measured in a ratio of tickets given versus warnings — traffic tickets specifically, and exhaustive traffic is at least one issue the community can agree on.

"I believe in proactive traffic enforcement and my deputies are aware of my expectations. We average about 20% in the citation-versus-warning category — meaning, we issue citations only 20% of the time at a traffic stop. We are not operating a police state and my deputies have the discretion to issue citations or just warnings. I often hear from both sides from the public; some may feel we do too much and I also hear that we don't do enough. I feel we have struck the right balance, and it makes our highways and streets safer.

"During my leadership as sheriff, I developed the STEP (Special Traffic Enforcement Program) team for our agency. When we have requests for extra enforcement for speeding, aggressive driving, DUI enforcement, deputies can sign up for overtime shifts. This, of course, depends on budget allowance and staffing." What is a normal day for the sheriff of Blaine Coun-

ty? "I focus a lot on helping with the day-to-day operations of the agency. Some of my duties require me to be in the office but I enjoy being out in the field as much as I can. I have developed strong relationships in this community for the past 33 years."

Harkins takes part in a fair number of speaking engagements at schools, with community leaders and with each city about things like the Ketchum Comprehensive Plan and the Gateway Urban Renewal Project. His input is necessary to fine-tune the changes taking place across Blaine County.

#### New Technology

Does it take all manner of new, intrusive technology and guilty-before-innocent predictive tech models to maintain a highly functioning, happy community? Maybe not. The tech industry is just that — an industry and its goal is to make money. If you follow the money, you see whether it has been well spent or wasted. Harkins does not want a police state and it becomes clear his priorities are keeping his deputies, the public-facing officers in the community, well-trained and adapted to critical methods for dealing with situations, such as de-escalation and communication to keep the public safe. The very things you would expect in a well-adapted community.

"Technology is in a constant state of change, and we are very aware of new technologies on the horizon," said Harkins. "A few years ago we purchased a VirTra Video Training Simulator. This offers deputies the chance to train in a controlled environment to enhance de-escalation skills, active threat training, mental illness training and communication. This has proven to be a valuable tool for us and has translated into better service for the community during critical incidents or incidents that could have quickly become critical. This was, in my opinion, leading technology that we invested in to train our deputies."

#### Blaine County Detention Center

Some may not know it, but it takes quite a lot of mon-

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# Proper Policing in BC

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ey to run a jail and is a huge liability for taxpayers. Jails typically lose money; however, since Harkins has been sheriff, his administration has created nearly \$5 million in to offset the revenue costs as a benefit to the taxpayers, but how?

“We house out-of-county inmates for the State of Idaho, and they pay us to house them. The revenue generates offsets for our operational costs.”

“Detention Center Revenue: The Blaine County Detention Center, which houses up to 90 inmates, is one of those teams. Since it was built in 2008, the Detention Center has generated approximately \$9.5 million in revenue to help offset the operational costs, \$5 million of which has been generated by Sheriff Harkins and his teams. Most of this revenue is derived from housing out-of-county inmates. Since he became sheriff in 2017, Harkins has committed to the taxpayers and county commissioners to operate the jail facility in the most efficient, effective, and fiscally responsible way possible under the statutory requirements.” (Blaine County Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget)

Sheriff Harkins is geared up about the work to be done in Blaine County. He acknowledges the problems his office faces, like much of the nation, with fentanyl. Drug enforcement is a top priority and with two new fentanyl-certified canines joining the team next month, they’ve got work to do. And though it isn’t as blatant in Blaine County as, say, Philadelphia, fentanyl is a dire problem.

“The number one issue I feel is a priority is fentanyl. While it is not new to Blaine County, it has really become a huge public safety issue. The drug cartels are manufacturing alarming numbers of counterfeit pills disguised as over-the-counter or prescription pills that contain lethal doses of fentanyl.

“I urge all parents to talk to their kids about these pills and that it only takes one pill to kill someone. I have heard so many tragic stories of fentanyl deaths in young people. On our end, we operate the Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET) and they are tasked with investigating drug crimes in Blaine County. They have put together numerous cases involving drug sales and drug interdiction in Blaine County and beyond. I am proud of the work they do. I managed the NET team for 17 years prior to being elected sheriff and I take pride in all we have accomplished.”

While managing 66 employees at BCSO, a patrol team, a detention team, investigations team and administrative support team, Harkins has all the keys in place and has put in the work to earn his 33 years of



The sheriff’s patrol vehicle in frosty Blaine County. Photo credit: Blaine County Sheriff’s Office

experience in law enforcement.

“All these roles are of equal importance to make this office operate with success. We have a lot of long-term employees that have worked here for 20-plus years and some that have worked here 30-plus years. Collectively, we have a lot of experience and work well as a team to tackle any issues that come our way. I have the utmost confidence in my staff, and our deputies are in this line of work for the right reasons.

“The Blaine County community is unique and diverse, and I have many friends with different views,” added Harkins. “I love that our community is passionate about helping others, and when there is someone in need, there is a strong support system to help, financially and in other ways. I also feel very blessed our Blaine County community supports and trusts our law enforcement. This support and trust makes a difference to the deputies who serve their community and the important job they do.”

Harkins is up for re-election this year and vies to continue and improve on the task of keeping Blaine County safe and secure. The voters of Blaine County have the power to choose their level of public safety. And with great power comes great responsibility.



Sheriff Harkins. Photo credit: Blaine County Sheriff’s Office

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# Lava Ridge & Blaine County



Wind turbines as far as the eye can see. Photo credit: Adobe Stock

## Lava Ridge Affects Everyone

BY ISAIAH FRIZZELL

It's almost a certainty that if you live in Blaine County you've heard of the Lava Ridge Wind Project. So what is it and why is there so much controversy? It's designed to be the biggest wind power farm in the nation yet the energy will not go to Idaho and has turned into an environmental bipartisan issue. At the very crux is the concern with the State of Idaho's rights and concerns when opposed to federal legislation.

### Lava Ridge

"The Lava Ridge Wind Project is a proposed wind farm from MVE (Magic Valley Energy). The original project proposes 400 turbines across 75,000 acres of public land. The majority of the turbines would stand over twice as tall as the Statue of Liberty—with the tallest towers standing about 740 feet. They would occupy land in Jerome, Lincoln and Minidoka counties. It would contain the largest wind towers in the world and be the biggest wind farm in the nation." (stoplavaridge.com)

Wind turbines – but they are renewable 'green' energy, right? Surely that's a good thing. Imagine paying a lower power bill.

"The energy generated by the turbines would not benefit Idaho residents but instead be shipped to California. Idaho residents would be negatively impacted in many ways:

### Impacts on Blaine County:

- Grazing
- Farming
- Aviation
- Fire Suppression
- Emergency Communication
- Water
- Roads & Traffic
- Post-Construction & Decommissioning Land Rehab
- Health Concerns
- Ground Temperature Change
- Hunting
- Wildlife
- Recreation
- Historical & Cultural Sites
- Scenic Landscape (stoplavaridge.com)

Many people and groups use the public lands where the proposed project is to be built, from biking groups, ranchers, backcountry enthusiasts and photographers, to supporters and visitors of the Minidoka National Historic Site. The core issue at stake in the Lava Ridge project has to do with aesthetics, land use, actual power distribution, quality of equipment and historical status for trauma relief.

"Minidoka National Historic Site in Jerome, Idaho, tells the painful stories of the unconstitutional forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. Minidoka is a place to heal deep emotional trauma, educate the public about racial injustice, and commemorate our ancestors. When visiting the site, visitors experience a sense of isolation and remoteness

due to the sweeping vistas of surrounding lands and distant mountains.

"The proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project will forever alter Minidoka's somber landscape and fails to honor the significance of the events that occurred at Minidoka as a place of reflection, healing, and education for the survivors, descendants, and public. The proposed project places 340 towers in the Minidoka NHS viewshed with 12 of those towers on the historic Minidoka footprint.

"The Minidoka community of survivors and descendants deserve the respect and acknowledgment of this gross violation of civil liberties by our nation's government through the preservation of the site. The Minidoka story must be recognized and treated in an honorable and somber manner as other painful events in our nation's history. The proposed Lava Ridge project minimizes the trauma, loss, and humiliation suffered by American citizens based solely on racial discrimination." (minidoka.org)

As the turbine farm was to originally be placed directly on the site, talks with the public have helped steer deployment. In a gesture, the project managers and BLM have changed the location so that now it is to be adjacent to the site; however, the size and area of the turbines indelibly alter the site and dislodge the land of its natural beauty for miles.

### Green Power

The issue of whether or not the turbines work as intended is well worth researching. The turbines are powered by generators or through the grid directly. The DC power they do generate after boot-up trickles into the grid after being balanced back to AC power with more power from the grid. The company that produces them leases them to the landowner who collects a small percentage of money for their production where the leasing company collects the rest and generally allocates all liability for any malfunction or problem with the disposable turbines on the leasee.

The turbines are known for catching fire. Fire Safety Science has written a comprehensive article on this problem at [https://publications.iafss.org/publications/fss/11/983/view/fss\\_11-983.pdf](https://publications.iafss.org/publications/fss/11/983/view/fss_11-983.pdf)

"We have found that fire is the second leading cause of catastrophic accidents in wind turbines (after blade failure) and accounts for 10% to 30% of the reported turbine accidents of any year since the 1980s. In 90% of the cases, the fire leads to a total loss of the wind turbine, or at least a downtime that results in the accumulation of economic losses. The main causes of fire ignition in wind turbines are (in decreasing order of importance): lightning strikes, electrical malfunction, mechanical malfunction, and maintenance. Due to the many flammable materials used in a wind turbine (e.g., fiberglass-reinforced polymers, foam insulation, cables) and the large oil storage used for lubrication of mechanical com-

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## NEWS

## ENVIRONMENT

# Lava Ridge

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ponents, the fuel load in a turbine nacelle is commonly very large. (publications.iafss.org)

## Energy

The most practical issue with the Lava Ridge project is the size and the fact that what power is generated will be directed to residents of California. Idahoans will not reap any benefits from this project, which is helmed by Magic Valley Energy, a subsidiary of New York-based LS Power.

“We recognize the impact on ranching and farming” and “have been coordinating with them since the beginning,” said Luke Papez, Nevada-based senior director of project development for LS. The developer plans to alleviate potential impacts, such as by replacing lost forage.

“The problem always has been how big they want to make this thing,” said Darren Taber, a Lincoln County farmer. Access to on-site roads would be from narrower roads designed for tiny traffic volumes and farm vehicles, he said.

Dean Dimond, whose farm could be less than an eighth of a mile south of a turbine, depending on the final design, said that in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer’s lava rock, most wells lack the traditional long case to keep the hole open. The aquifer is less like a lake and more like “a series of lava tubes,” he said. He’s concerned the tall towers’ vibrations could cause partial cave-ins or alter groundwater flow.

Potential impact on raptors also concerns Dimond, as “about every third or fourth year we get hit with a vole infestation” that the birds of prey help alleviate.

Stronger, farther-reaching wind turbulence from the bigger towers is among Crop Jet Aviation owner George Parker’s concerns. Pilots would face new safety considerations.

Lava Ridge stands to affect 42 ranching families and about 62,000 animal unit months. An AUM is a measure of a month’s worth of forage for a cow-calf pair or five sheep with lambs. Replacement of 30% to 50% of total feed would be needed.” (wind-watch.org)

## Politics

The Idaho House of Representatives unanimously opposed the project.

U.S. Senators Jim Risch and Mike Crapo and Representatives Mike Simpson and Russ Fulcher, all Idaho Republicans, introduced the “Don’t Develop Obstructive Infrastructure on our Terrain Act.”

Coined the “Don’t DO IT Act,” by its sponsors, it would require the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to deny any wind or solar energy project proposed on public land that is disapproved of by the state Legislature. The bill was inspired by a proposed wind project in Idaho that has sparked significant controversy.

Letters have been written as this issue is centered entirely on states’ rights in opposition to federal legislation.

“In a joint letter with the Idaho delegation to BLM state director Karen Kelleher, Idaho Governor Brad Little and Lieutenant Governor Scott Bedke previously expressed concerns about the wind project to the BLM.

“Affected farmers, ranchers, tribes, the Japanese American community and sportsmen have voiced legitimate objections,” they said in the letter. “As it stands today, the local community predominantly has not shown support for this development.”

In the letter, the officials said the project conflicts with “deep-rooted” Idaho values for land conservation and land use opportunities for recreation, grazing and sporting activities.” (dahocapitalsun.com)

Will legislation and public concern from the State of Idaho matter to the federal agency, the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM)?

## BLM

The BLM released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement in August 2023.

“The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) published a notice of availability for the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Lava Ridge Wind Project (the project) in the Federal Register on January 20, 2023. The notice is available at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-01-20/pdf/2023-00646.pdf>.

“This began a 60-day public comment period, which was extended to 90 days and ended on April 20, 2023.” (eplanning.blm.gov)

In a Preliminary Summary of Public Comments, they document the impact of the project through the eyes of the people — the residents who would most be affected by this massive industrial facility.

“The BLM received a total of 11,179 submissions during the public comment period... In all, 119 submissions came from commenters who indicated they were representing an organization, business, tribal nation or tribal entity, or government agency. All other submissions came from unaffiliated individuals.

The issues of most concern were: Air quality — avian and bat species, including greater sage-grouse and eagle species — Aviation climate and greenhouse gases Cultural resources and Native American concerns — Environmental justice and socioeconomics — Fire and fuels management — Geology and mineral resources — Hazardous materials and solid waste — Human health and safety Issues not considered in detail — Land use and livestock grazing.” (eplanning.blm.gov)

It is interesting that they note the use of this public outreach.

“The BLM read, analyzed, and considered all comments of a personal or philosophical nature and all opinions, feelings, and preferences for one element or one alternative over another. Because such comments were not substantive, the BLM will not respond to them.

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It is also important to note that although the BLM reviewed and considered all comments, none were counted as votes. The NEPA public comment period is neither an election nor does it result in a representative sampling of the population. Therefore, public comments are not appropriate to be used as a democratic decision-making tool or as a scientific sampling mechanism.” (eplanning.blm.gov)

## Speaking Up

There is much to weigh in on here. The project aims to produce the most energy of all wind farms in the nation but it will take an unprecedented amount of land to do so and disrupt all manner of industry and the wellbeing of animals and humans through direct individual harm and indirect destruction of natural resources and species.

There are multiple outlets to make your voice heard. You can find a wealth of information and articles on the Facebook page Stop Lava Ridge. There are videos of what it’s like to live near a wind farm and plenty of testimony and article links to points of interest.

What do you think? Should the turbine farm be put in Magic Valley? If you want it, there isn’t much to do. If you oppose it, you can write letters and make phone calls to state officials.

It is advised that you represent some type of industrial or living space and wellbeing impact.

Contact [stoplavaridge.com](http://stoplavaridge.com) at <https://stoplavaridge.com/contact-government-officials/>

“The preferred way to comment is through the BLM’s explaining project site <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2013782/510>. Click on the “Participate Now” button to the right of the document link. Enter your comment and information, then click “Submit.” (stoplavaridge.com)

Once again, it’s up to the community to take action for what it believes in. You can make your voice heard!

# THREE CAPTAINS FOR SUN VALLEY



On March 7th, at Sun Valley City Hall, mayor Peter M. Hendricks promoted three Sun Valley lieutenants to the position of captain. From left : Richard Williams, Hunter Storey and Slater Storey. Photo credit: Wood River Weekly.

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## Copy & Print With Jeff And Patti Returns!

Copy & Print (2.0) is back and so is 20 year owner/operator Jeff Bertz. Jeff and his wife Patty Lewis owned the popular Hailey business from 2001 through 2021. The business, located at 314 S. River St. in Hailey, focuses on anything in print as well as graphic design for any size business. Large format printing is also available on a new 4' x 8' flatbed printer, churning out same day signs for any application. The machine prints on metal, foam core, acrylic, plastic, coroplast (yard signs) and can even print on wood up to 2" thick. Stop by soon and say hello to Jeff, Patty and the whole crew.



Jeff Bertz, the 20 year owner/operator of Copy & Print.

## Community Square Dance at Upper Big Wood River Grange

The Upper Big Wood River Grange is hosting a Square Dance on Friday, April 19, from 7–9 p.m. at the Grange Hall, 609 South 3rd Avenue in Hailey. Ava Honey will call the dances and lead dancers in square and circle sets. Live music will be provided by fiddler Scott Knickerbocker and other musicians. Dancers are invited to arrive early at 6:30 p.m. for a quick review of basic square dance steps.

Tickets at the door are \$20 for one adult, \$30 for 2twoadults (so bring a friend!), \$5 for teens and free for kids accompanied by an adult. Please bring a pair of clean indoor shoes to avoid scratching the dance floor with dirt and gravel.

Square dancing has brought people together since the 1700s and dances at the Grange have always been popular in the Valley. The dance tunes are old-time mountain music with Irish and Scottish influences. All the dances will be taught before each dance.

Dances at the Grange Hall 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 the night away.

The event is organized by members of the Upper Big Wood River Grange which will be celebrating 100 years in 2024. 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, the Trailing of the Sheep Festival, Memorial Day, and the Fourth of July pancake breakfast. The Grange Association also awards scholarships for high school seniors, and provides a space for meetings, dance classes, tai chi 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)

## The Senior Connection

Joins In MONTH-LONG March for Meals

The Senior Connection will be participating in the 23rd Annual March for Meals — a month-long, nationwide celebration of Meal on Wheels and our senior neighbors who rely on this essential service to remain healthy and independent at home.

"We served nearly 16,000 meals through Meals on Wheels in 2023, and over 25,000 meals total to older adults in our community. This is possible thanks to our incredible team of volunteers and donors," said Jovita Piña, executive director. "We are honored to work alongside such dedicated individuals who take the time to deliver daily meals to Blaine County seniors." With the rising cost of food, now more than ever, the Senior Connection needs support to continue delivering quality, nutritious meals throughout the Wood River Valley.

The annual March for Meals celebration commemorates the historic day in March of 1972 when President Nixon signed into law a measure that amended the Older Americans Act of 1965 to include a national nutrition program for seniors 60 years and older. Since 2002, Meals on Wheels programs from across the country have joined forces for the annual awareness campaign to celebrate this successful public-private partnership and garner the support needed to fill the gap between the seniors served and those still in need.

The Senior Connection is halfway toward their ultimate goal of \$50,000 for the month of March. "These funds are critical in ensuring we can deliver meals to our seniors all year long," says Piña.

Longtime volunteer and March for Meals community champion Leslie Silva says, "While providing nutritious meals is essential, the social interaction it facilitates is equally vital for our senior community. Delivering the delicious "made-with-love" meals brings me immense satisfaction, but the true joy lies in the heartfelt conversations I share with the seniors along the route. My heart overflows with happiness



after spending time with them. Every time I enter the doors of the Senior Connection, I am filled with gratitude for all they provide in our community. Please join me in supporting this life-sustaining service."

Marie's Kitchen with Eye on Sun Valley filmed a special cooking show with Senior Connection Chef, Sky Barker, highlighting the importance of quality nutrition and the delicious meals that are going out of the Senior Connection kitchen on a daily basis.

"This annual celebration comes at a time when eight out of 10 local Meals on Wheels programs are still delivering meals to more older adults than they were prior to the pandemic, and operational and food costs are soaring due to historic inflation," says Meals on Wheels America. "The network expects the demand is here to stay as COVID-19's impact on older adults goes beyond a higher risk for serious infection: it also includes limited access to care leading to a decline in overall health and wellbeing, as well as considerable social and economic hardships. All of which leaves an already vulnerable population even more in need of the safety net that Meals on Wheels delivers."

## Wanderlust: Hiking the Great Rift

The Hailey Public Library will host Hiking the Great Rift, a talk by retired park ranger Ted Stout and part of the Wanderlust series inviting the community to travel the world, virtually. In 2014, Ted and a few friends embarked on a week-long expedition across the forbidding terrain of Craters of the Moon National Monument. The talk, featuring stunning images by local photographer Craig Wolfrom, will be held Thursday, April 4, at 5:30 p.m. at Town Center West, 7 West Croy Street, and live streamed.



"Ted's amazing trip celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and highlighted a little-known story about the creation of Craters of the Moon National Monument," commented Kristin Fletcher, the Library's education and community engagement manager. "The group followed in the footsteps of the historic 17-day, 80-mile crossing of the Great Rift in 1920 by Robert Limbert, his friend Walter Cole and Teddy, an Airedale terrier. It must have been brutal."

Fletcher continued, "Limbert shared his adventures in an article for a 1924 edition of National Geographic magazine, shining a national spotlight on this little-known area. The article and public slide shows presented across the country ultimately led to the creation of Craters of the Moon National Monument by President Calvin Coolidge on May 2, 1924."

Ted Stout served as a park ranger from 1988-2020 at seven different national parks. He spent the last 17 years of his career as chief of interpretation and education at Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve. In 2022 his pictorial guide to the 100-year history of the national monument, part of the Images of America series, was published.

For more information about this and other talks, call (208) 788-2036 or visit [www.haileypubliclibrary.org](http://www.haileypubliclibrary.org).

## Spring Energy-Saving Tips

Spring has arrived and warmer weather is right around the corner. It's the perfect time to get your home in shape for an energy-efficient spring.

Idaho Power offers the following tips to get your home ready for the upcoming cooling season:

Replace your HVAC system air filters. Dirty filters block necessary airflow and can significantly reduce the system's efficiency and life.

Check your thermostat settings and adjust for a spring/summer schedule. Program your thermostat to allow automatic adjustments. Visit Idaho Power's website to see if you qualify for a \$50 smart thermostat incentive — [idahopower.com/heatingcooling](http://idahopower.com/heatingcooling).

Brush or hose off leaves and debris from the outside A/C or heat pump unit. This allows proper air flow for your unit to work more effectively.

Seal air leaks around windows and doors by caulking, weatherstripping, or adjusting hardware for a better fit. Fixing air leaks is a cheap and easy way to improve comfort and reduce energy use.

Haul out the grill and get it ready for outdoor cooking. Using a grill or Dutch oven on warm days keeps heat out of the kitchen.

Use LED bulbs with dusk-to-dawn sensors for outside lighting. You'll never forget to turn lights off again.

For more energy efficiency tips, programs, and incentives, visit [idahopower.com/save](http://idahopower.com/save).

## National Library Week Celebrations

National Library Week kicks off at The Community Library on "Right to Read" Day, Monday, April 8. The events celebrate libraries, library workers, patrons, the love of books, and the freedom to read whatever you choose.

Events include a 20-minute Reading Challenge & Raffle with the Grand Prize being a visit to the Historic Ernest and Mary Hemingway House for up to four people.

Staff will also be recording video snippets of patrons celebrating a book they "celebrate the right to read" and why.

Please direct event and press inquiries to Communications Manager Kyla Merwin at 208.806.2628 or [kmerwin@comlib.org](mailto:kmerwin@comlib.org).



Two boys reading in the Community Library's. Photo by Kirsten Shultz

## FISHING REPORT



THE "WEEKLY"  
FISHING REPORT FOR  
APRIL 3 - 16  
FROM PICABO ANGLER

March 31st marks the closure of the entirety of Silver Creek, the Big Wood River, and the South Fork Boise River. These waters will open again on Saturday, May 25th. Until then, anglers will have to concentrate their efforts on other fisheries.

The Big Lost River near Mackay remains open to fishing all year. This tailwater fishery can be incredibly productive during April if river flows remain stable and low enough for easy wading. As of right now, flows coming out of Mackay Reservoir are at approximately 95 CFS, which allows anglers easy access to all stretches of the river. Flows much higher than 300 CFS make wading and crossing the river channel difficult, essentially limiting fishing access.

April will see significant spawning activity on the Big Lost, so anglers should be careful when wading to avoid spawning redds. Look for oval-shaped depressions of clean gravel along the river bottom (the female trout scours the riverbed with her tail to loosen gravel) and avoid fish that are actively spawning; let the trout do their thing.

Midge activity will be present on the Big Lost throughout the month, but the main hatch activity will be BWOs (spring Baetis). These bugs hatch in great numbers on most afternoons, and anglers should be prepared to fish several stages of the BWO — nymph, emerger and dun. The BWO ranges in size from 16–22 and is olive-grey in color.

Olive Pheasant Tails, olive Rainbow Warriors, and green Copper Johns are great choices when nymphing. Small Pat's Rubber Legs and Prince Nymphs are also productive, representing small stonefly nymphs present in the river. Of course, tiny zebra midges in black, red, olive, and brown are essentials on the Big Lost.

When fishing to rising trout, anglers should carry RS2s, Quigley or Last Chance Cripplies, and Sparkle Flag Duns to imitate the emergent and adult BWOs. Small Parachute Adams in size 16–22 will also fool plenty of trout.

Trail Creek Road is closed, so the only route to the Big Lost for valley anglers is through Picabo. Stop by the fly shop to pick up everything you need for a day on the Big Lost. We're stocked with rods, reels, lines, leaders, tippet and flies, and our grill can make you a wonderful lunch to take on the river. We've also got plenty of snacks and ice-cold drinks in our store.

Happy fishing, everyone!



Hwy 20 in Picabo  
info@picaboangler.com  
(208)788.3536  
www.picaboangler.com

## COMMENTARY

NO BONES ABOUT IT

FRAN JEWELL

## Dog Friends

BY FRAN JEWELL

Not all dogs want to be friends with other dogs. And it is a horrible myth that all dogs need to play with other dogs. What is most important to any dog is the relationship it has with you.

There are genetic predispositions to a dog's temperament that let them be interested in other dog friends. For instance, Labradors and golden retrievers have a high desire to be with other dogs. Many of the herding breeds and guardian breeds may not. They can be offended by other dogs that are pushy and can get into a tussle if pushed too far with an obnoxious greeter.

In general, I think we put way too much pressure on every dog to be social with every dog they see. Frankly, I see most people unaware or uneducated about dog behavior to even notice if their dog is a pushy or bully dog, or if they have a dog that really does not want to socialize.

Like people, some folks are very social and love going to a party. Other folks would rather meet with new people one on one.

Something that can greatly influence a puppy is how they are raised by their breeder or lack of involvement by the breeder. Breeders that don't allow their young puppies to be socialized with socially safe, vaccinated older dogs at an early age are setting their pups up to be afraid of other dogs. Puppies that are left to be raised by the mother dog only may face the same thing. Knowing the puppy history can help you make a good decision about what puppy will work in your home and with your family.

Of course, there are plenty of rescues that have wonderful temperaments. And puppy environment does make a difference, but not

all the difference. Genetic temperament is such a huge influence.

Now, what about friendships? When I see dogs being thrown together in a social situation that they cannot escape from, I am horrified. One of the very best things is to realize that dogs and puppies need to learn to trust another dog before they feel comfortable with each other. Walking together, each on a leash a little distance from each other, is a great way for them to get to know the other dog and build a trusting friendship.

Three years ago I took one of my puppies back from a bad situation. His name is Crowe. His previous owner was not diligent and allowed her 150-pound intact Malamute to brutalize him. Crowe came back to me 10 pounds underweight, with mats in his beautiful long black coat, and scars and open wounds all over his head and neck. The first thing I did before integrating him back with my dogs was to give his poor hormones a chance to resolve. When horrible attacks happen, a dog's body is filled with many fight-or-flight hormones, such as epinephrine, cortisol, and adrenaline. These hormones need to fade away in order for them not to contribute to fearful behavior. Usually, I recommend at least six weeks of just relaxed time after a confrontation or situation where the dog becomes over frightened. I gave Crowe this time. Then, I took him to a very long driveway belonging to a friend where there were no other dogs. I brought Kalidor along, who is always appropriate in his dog-to-dog behaviors. Together we walked for a mile or two on leash. When I could see that Crowe was more relaxed and trusting Kalidor, I gave him more freedom on a long leash. Within 45 minutes, they were able to trot and run along with each other, although I let Crowe drag his long line so I could stop a



Crowe will never leave home again and I never put him in a situation where he is uncomfortable with other dogs. Photo credit: Fran Jewell

situation if it occurred.

The key is to take it easy. Dogs need to make friends at their own speed. We need to pay attention to potential hormonal involvement, which can intensify fearfulness. Please, don't force any dog to be friends with every dog they see. "He's friendly" is one of the worst phrases I hear on the trail. Always be aware that the other dog may not want a new friend. And, maybe your dog doesn't want a new friend! Many dogs will be friends with one dog and not another. They have personality likes and dislikes, just like people.

Help your dog build trust with another dog before forcing them to be in a play situation your dog may not enjoy.

*Fran Jewell is a dog behavior consultant, NADOI-certified instructor and vice president. She owns Positive Puppy Dog Training LLC and can be reached at (208) 721-7221.*

SCIENCE OF PLACE

HARRY WEEKES

## THE LITTLE THINGS

BY HARRY WEEKES

In the beginning of March, I spent five days on Bainbridge Island, Washington, visiting a school. Going from snow-covered, cold and clear Idaho to a sodden, drizzly Pacific Northwest in the span of four hours of traveling had its own kind of disorientation. I don't know that I am ever going to get accustomed to how quickly and completely we can change environments.

The big differences, of course, are one thing. Everything on Bainbridge was SO green. And the trees? First of all, the entire place is a forest, and they let this forest grow right up to the edge of the road. Navigating this tunnel of trees in the fading light made me realize how this almost never happens to me in Idaho, where we keep our trees at a proper distance from the highway. Then, add a volcano. I simply cannot believe everyone in and around Seattle isn't constantly looking at Mount Rainier and saying, "That's a volcano!" Finally, throw in the cold saltwater of the Pacific as it has crept into Puget Sound, and fill it with things like Orcas, a mammal so matched to its environment that they seem obvious, and pretty quickly Country Mouse Harry is oohing and aahing.

But the big differences are just that—the big differences. The obvious ones. The ones that don't sneak up on you and don't trigger any kind of major shift in attention or perception. They are the ones that pretty quickly fade into the background.

It is the little differences that do something else to your mind.

In the spring, my students and I turn our attention to ornithology, spending 11 weeks "getting our bird on."

Nicely, getting your bird on in March in the Wood River Valley is about familiarizing yourself with a small group of birds — magpies, chickadees, crows, various ducks — in anticipation of the coming migrants.

We warm up to birds, learning the big differences — size and shape, habitat, which birds walk along the edge of the pond, and which flit about the willow branches. The little things are present, too — the shape of the bill, the markings on the head, the incessant and incomprehensible chatter that tells us spring is coming.

It is this chatter — the voices of birds, their songs, their conversations — that perks my ears the most on Bainbridge. Something is just a little bit different. Like hearing a "y'all" from someone, or that suite of sounds that makes you realize a person is from the Midwest. Like people, the dialects of birds are different, too.

The sounds are similar enough that they force a question, even as I am looking at one of the most familiar and common birds around.

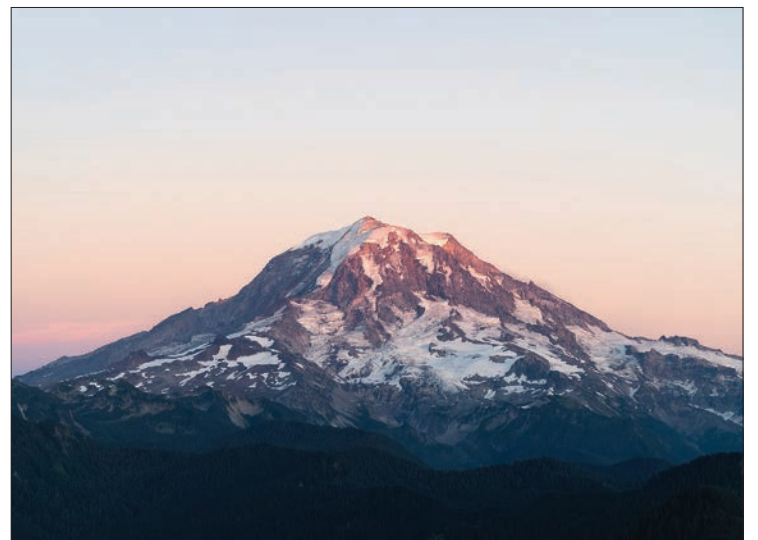
"That's a robin, right?" And it is the same for the other birds — the juncos, the crows, and the towhees. They all sound the same... just a little bit different. Just subtle enough to draw out a very different kind of attention.

I imagine this to be some kind of evolutionary thing. You walk into the long grass and the fact that there are no trees, that there is a volcano in the background, that the big things remain consistent, well, you just keep on walking. But that little flash of something in the grass? That very slightly different pattern of something in the bushes? That little creak of noise? Maybe stop walking. Pay attention to those little things.

So there I am, paying attention to those little things, looking at and listening to a woodpecker that I confirm to passersby, "It's a flicker!"

They pull their raincoats a little closer and walk a little faster. I think that's because of the rain.

*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).*



Mount Rainier. By Caleb Riston - Own work, CC BY 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=93987125>



## MONEY MATTERS

SUZANNE HAZLETT

# BONDS 101: THE FUNDAMENTALS OF FIXED INCOME

BY SUZANNE HAZLETT, MBA, CIMA®, CFP®

## WHAT IS A BOND?

A bond represents a loan from an investor to an issuer, such as a corporation or government entity. The issuer then makes periodic interest payments to the investor at a predetermined rate called a coupon rate. At the end of the bond's term or maturity date, the issuer pays the investor back for the bond's original value.

## WHAT ROLE DO BONDS PLAY IN A PORTFOLIO?

There are three main financial asset classes: equities or stocks, fixed income or bonds, and cash and cash alternatives such as deposit accounts, money market funds, and short-term certificates of deposit. Fixed-income securities serve two leading roles in a portfolio – they act as a hedge to stock market risk and provide a source of income. While equities offer opportunities for higher returns, they also present a higher potential for volatility. Bonds can provide stability in a portfolio with the tradeoff of offering lower returns. The appropriate allocation to fixed income naturally varies for each investor depending upon individual time horizons, income requirements, and ability to endure volatility and risk of loss.

## HOW ARE BONDS PRICED?

A bond's price can be determined by supply and demand, though the main factor impacting bond prices is the prevailing interest rates. The relationship between bond values and interest rates is inverse, meaning when interest rates go up, bond prices go down, and when interest rates go down, bond values go up.

## WHAT RISKS DO BONDS BEAR?

Because a bond is ultimately a loan from the investor to the issuer, the issuer may fail to make the interest payments or repay the principal amount. An investor can limit exposure to such risks by researching a bond's credit rating before investing. Higher-quality bonds are those with a relatively low risk of default and are defined as investment grade. Bonds with lower credit ratings are known as high yield or non-investment grade, and derisively as junk.

## HOW CAN AN INVESTOR OWN BONDS?

Bonds can be held by purchasing individual bonds or investing in a bond fund. Individual bonds have set maturity dates when the investor will be paid back, and have fixed interest payments for the bonds' lifetimes. Bond funds can be helpful for smaller investment sums by providing diversification as a pooled investment of broad exposure to multiple securities.

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

## INSPIRATIONS FROM MY HEART

DOVE

# The Peanut Butter Principle

BY DOVE

Many years ago, when I was a young mother and running a business out of my home, one of the people working for me who was LDS came to me and told me I must store peanut butter as there was going to be a huge peanut butter shortage. I became concerned because my children were young and consumed a lot of peanut butter. That part of me that could go into fear about not having what I needed reared its ugly head and I wanted



to truly know if I needed to prepare for such an emergency. Consequently, I sat down with my angels and I asked, Is there truly going to be a shortage of peanut butter and do I need to prepare? The answer came loud and clear: "Peace is the product we are after. You take care of the inner peace, and we will take care of the peanut butter." That has become my motto: "Take care of my own inner peace and all else will fall into place."

It is so easy to get caught up in the realm of fear constantly being projected upon us by so many sources, but I have come to understand and feel that if I am in my own inner peace, I will be guided to be prepared for any events I will be faced with. I have come to know that if I am holding peace, that is the energy I will attract to my world. If I am holding love and truth, then that is the energy I will bring into my existence. With love in my heart, I will always be prepared to know what is important and what is propaganda.

I would request that we all start living our lives from "The Peanut Butter Principle." When you choose inner peace as your first priority, that is what you will create for yourself and all those around you. If we all are focusing on our own inner peace, we can transform the reality we live in.

I don't know about you, but I am so ready to embody joy, abundance, health, peace, truth and kindness as the dominant energies in my world. I want to watch the spring flowers bloom, I want to see the bees buzzing around my raspberry plants, I want to ride my bike with the wind in my face and I want to laugh uproariously. That to me represents The Peanut Butter Principle — being responsible for my own energy output and choosing peace always.

Remember, where your focus goes, energy flows. The peanut butter shortage never happened. Blessings, Dove

## ON LIFE'S TERMS

JOELLEN COLLINS

# MEDICAL MIRACLES

BY JOELLEN COLLINS

Remember when science fiction concepts seemed imaginative but impossible? For my generation, with bulky phones and shared "party" telephone lines, even the current proliferation of cellphones seemed outlandish. Who would ever imagine appearing with one's morning face on a device that could capture a bad-hair day? I was a young mother when man landed on the moon. I remember feeling so lucky to be able to witness this milestone in human history.

About the time of Neil Armstrong's celebration, my mother died at the age of 59 from the last of heart attacks that could not be conquered. Just a couple of years later, my aunt was one of the early patients of innovative heart surgery which, at the time, seemed unbelievable, and I remember wishing that my mother had been able to be the recipient of this kind of medical miracle.

Now we think of as normal many procedures unavailable to past generations, benefiting from surgeries once considered fatal. Even Ray Bradbury would have considered as unattainable the kind of longevity that fellow "seniors" with heart problems now experience.

As one who marvels at the inventions and progress of the current generation, I am still surprised by the almost daily news about medical innovations, the results of years of scientific research. This week's news included a feature on the successful transplantation of a pig's kidney into a human being. The operation, called Xeno, put a "humanized" pig kidney into a very ill patient who, so far, is accepting this novel process. Medical participants hope this might lead to the elimination of the long list of patients awaiting kidney transplants. Researchers from New York University have found a way to genetically modify the donor pig's kidney, so it is accepted by a person. A childish thought popped into my mind at this news: "Who would have thunk?"

Shortly after learning about the kidney transplant, I found a report on another amazing medical event. A man paralyzed from his shoulders down has been a willing guinea pig (oops — another "pig" reference) in one of many attempts to restore movement in patients previously prepared to spend the rest of their lives relatively immobile. This man is photographed moving his legs up and down by telling his brain to do so. Doctors have found a way to "zap" his spinal cord so it sends a message to the brain to stimulate spinal movement. He is currently still unable to walk, but there are hopes that much of the recent research on how the human brain works holds the key to creating improved functional movement. Four patients are currently subjects of the process: they move their legs by "thinking" them to do so. Whoever would have imagined a device that restores muscle functions by brain messages?

I hope that the "science fiction" of A.I. will result in positive results. Will wonders never cease? I hope not.



Joellen Collins—a longtime resident of the Wood River Valley, now residing in San Francisco—is an Idaho Press Club award-winning columnist, a teacher, novelist, fabric artist, choir member and proud grandma.

## WRANGLER'S WRITINGS

BRYCE ANGELL

# MUMBLETY-PEG

I was thumbing through the Netflix channels when, there it was, the great Western television series, "Lonesome Dove." I eagerly watched, for the tenth time, when five minutes into the episode there was a scene where Newt, PeaEye and Dish were playing a knife game called Mumblety-peg. I had completely forgotten about the game of Mumblety-peg.

Mumblety-peg can be a dangerous game if you choose to play it that way. One brainless way is to see how close you can throw your knife to your feet without slicing your toes. Newt, PeaEye and Dish were playing the game safely by staying away from their toes.

Instantly, memories came flooding in. I was around 16 and my brother was 13. It was early July and we had been hauling hay all morning. My father always took an hour for lunch, so we shoveled in a tuna fish sandwich then went outside to play Mumblety-peg.

We usually kept a razor-sharp edge on our pocket knives and my younger brother's knife was no exception. However, he was still learning how to control the direction of his throw. We would flip the knife off a shoulder, an arm or even our nose, hoping it would land blade-first in the ground. I'd like to think we played the game of Mumblety-peg in a safe and careful way.

But then, enter Murphy's Law. Anything that can go wrong will go wrong.

My flip of the knife was a perfect dive to the dirt. Now needing to be exactly followed up by my brother. But when he flipped the knife from his shoulder, he mistakenly shot it straight down toward his feet. The sharp blade landed in the toe of his shoe, went completely through and stuck in the dirt. The absolute silence was deafening. I told him not to move. His eyes were bigger than two bullfrog's eyes in a staredown. I believe that was the first time, up till then, he did what I asked.

I felt about as worthless as a nickel waitin' for change, but I managed to push the knife blade opposite the sharp edge to prevent cutting the skin. I quickly pulled it out. Gus McCrae would have been proud. I expected a gush of blood. But there wasn't any sign of blood on the knife or his shoe. I nervously yanked his shoe and sock off. The blade had landed between his big toe and the second. The incident gave new meaning to the old saying of splitting hairs. My brother changed his socks and we hauled hay the rest of that day — this time with a little less cussing and a lot more humility.

And, as once said by a wise cowboy friend of mine, "Many of life's problems can be solved by watching and listening to 'Lonesome Dove.'"

— 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.*

NUESTRA VOZ CUENTA E. JEFFREY



Photo credit: Elizabeth Jeffrey

# EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

BY ELIZABETH JEFFREY

## OUR VOICE COUNTS

It's spring! It's April! And as we start thinking more about Mother Earth and all her bounty, it's also time for the Valley's fifth annual Earth Day celebrations with Earth Fest at Town Center West and Earth Fest at Kiwanis Park by Balmoral.

It all kicks off with the popular Earth Day 5K Fun Run at 10 a.m. (registration begins at 9 a.m.) at Town Center West on Saturday, April 20. This year's 5K Fun Run, suitable for families and runners of all ages and abilities, will be a street race that allows for strollers, wheelchairs or runners. And the best part? Proceeds from the run will go toward supporting local climate initiatives throughout the year. Literally a win/win!

Earth Fest at Town Center West will also begin at 10 a.m. and run until 2 p.m. with games, sustainability hacks, and climate-action information booths from local organizations and businesses that are passionate about protecting our planet and our future. And that's not all! We'll have music throughout the day, food and drink from The Wylde Beet, and a student art gallery showcasing the creativity and talent of young climate-concerned artists in our community. And don't miss the opportunity to check out our bale of recycled plastic bottles to enter our raffle for a chance to win local gift cards from Natural Grocers.

After all that fun, take your bike down the path to more at Earth Fest at Kiwanis Park to find out what the Hailey Tree Committee plans for this playground park, meet Winn from Winn's Compost and enjoy more family fun, music, and food from 3-5 p.m.

This year's Earth Fest is going to be a smashing success. Mark your calendars now!

## NUESTRA VOZ CUENTA

¡Es primavera! ¡Es abril! Y a medida que empezamos a pensar más en la Madre Tierra y toda su generosidad, también es hora de la quinta celebración anual del Día de la Tierra en el Valle con el Earth Fest en Town Center West y el Earth Fest en Kiwanis Park by Balmoral.

Todo comienza con la popular carrera divertida de 5 km del Día de la Tierra a las 10 a. m. (la inscripción comienza a las 9 a. m.) en Town Center West el sábado 20 de abril. La carrera divertida de 5 km de este año, adecuada para familias y corredores de todas las edades y habilidades, será una carrera callejera que admita cochecitos, sillas de ruedas o corredores. ¿Y la mejor parte? Las ganancias de la carrera se destinarán a apoyar iniciativas climáticas locales durante todo el año. ¡Literalmente una situación en la que todos ganan!

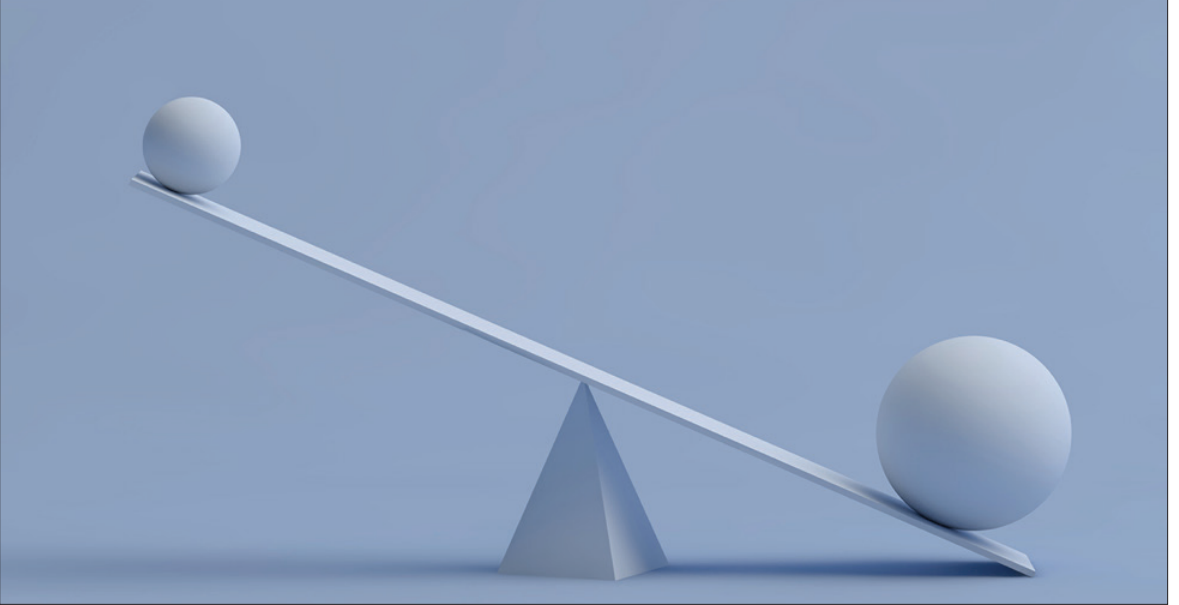
Earth Fest en Town Center West también comenzará a las 10 a.m. y durará hasta las 2 p.m. con juegos, trucos de sostenibilidad y puestos de información sobre acción climática de organizaciones y empresas locales apasionadas por proteger nuestro planeta y nuestro futuro. ¡Y eso no es todo! Tendremos música durante todo el día, comida y bebida de The Wylde Beet y una galería de arte estudiantil que mostrará la creatividad y el talento de jóvenes artistas preocupados por el clima en nuestra comunidad. Y no pierda la oportunidad de ver nuestro paquete de botellas de plástico recicladas para participar en nuestro sorteo y tener la oportunidad de ganar tarjetas de regalo locales de Natural Grocers.

Después de toda esa diversión, recorra su bicicleta hacia más cosas en Earth Fest en Kiwanis Park para descubrir qué planea el Hailey Tree Committee para este parque infantil, conozca a Winn de Winn's Compost y disfrute de más diversión familiar, música y comida de 3 -5 p.m.

El Earth Fest de este año será un gran éxito. ¡Marca tus calendarios ahora!

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BETTER HOMEOWNERS NEWS ANNA AND MICHELLE



# THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HOMEOWNERSHIP AND NET WORTH

BY ANNA & MICHELLE

During the span between 2019 and 2022, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly disrupted both society and economic activities. Nevertheless, the latest Survey of Consumer Finance, which has recently been unveiled, highlights widespread enhancements in the financial well-being of American families during this timeframe, especially concerning their net worth.

The median net worth of homeowners increased 37%, after adjustment for inflation, between 2019 and 2022. This is the largest three-year increase in the history of the modern Federal Reserve Board's triennial survey dating back to 1989 and more than twice the next largest one on record.

The survey showed increases in both median and mean net worth were near universal across different types of families, grouped by either economic or demographic characteristics.

For families who owned a home, the median net housing value, the value of the home, less secured debt, increased 44% between the same three-year period. The median homeowner has a net worth of \$396,000 compared to approximately \$10,400 for renters, making the net worth of a homeowner 38 times the household wealth of a renter, according to the latest data.

Housing wealth, in this study, represented on average approximately 75% of the total assets of the lowest income household. In the middle-income distribution, housing wealth represents between 48% and 74% of total assets. For the top 10% of the income distribution, the wealthiest households' share was 33%. The study suggested that as income and net worth increases, the diversification of investments increases.

Even though there was significant increase in the value of homeowners' property during this period, the debt secured by the residential property was relatively unchanged and the median amount of this debt decreased by less than one percent to \$155,600 in 2022. During the same period credit card debt was stable.

**Odeta Kushi, deputy chief economist at First American, summarized by saying, "For the majority of households that transition into homeownership, the most recent data reinforces that housing is one of the biggest positive drivers of wealth creation in this country."**

Starting in 2022, mortgage rates more than doubled the rates during the fall of 2021 and continued to rise throughout 2022 and most of 2023 to the high 7% range which the market had not reached for 30 years. This rate affected buyers' affordability and challenged a belief that rates would stay low since they had been for over 10 years after the Great Financial Crisis.

While homeownership is still a major part of the "American Dream," would-be buyers are having to adapt to the higher rates. And even if rates moderate during 2024, the low housing inventory experienced across the country will continue to increase prices, which favors current homeowners. It could take years to reach a balanced market.

The challenged buyers should remember that homes have appreciated 5.56% annually for the last 60 years. The average mortgage rate in the same period is 7.74%.

Based on the impressive margin that homeowners have 38 times more net worth than renters and that the contributing factor is the home's equity, buyers who can financially afford to buy now should investigate exactly what it will take to get into a home now.

NEWS IN BRIEF

## Registration is live for the 2024 Sun Valley Forum!

The ninth annual Sun Valley Forum, "Restoring Harmony With Nature," will be held from July 15 to July 18, 2024 at the Argyros Performing Arts Center in Ketchum, Idaho. The Forum is hosted by Ketchum-based global sustainability advisory firm Christensen Global, with partners including the Forum's founding host, Sun Valley Institute for Resilience, which advances resilience in Idaho's Wood River Valley.

Each year, the Sun Valley Forum advances transformative solutions to restore planetary health and resilience in the face of unprecedented change by convening global leaders and innovators from business, government, philanthropy, finance, Indigenous Peoples, entrepreneurs, and storytellers. Known as a gathering where action is accelerated and new partnerships are sparked, the Forum has a legacy of impact.

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### CROSSWORD

answer from page 12

|          |         |          |         |
|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| DICE     | TROOP   | FIEFS    | CRAG    |
| OLAV     | AERIE   | OSRIC    | HEMI    |
| WIPETHE  | FLOOR   | WITH     | AVIV    |
| DEERHIDE | NUKES   | RECODE   |         |
| GOTYOU   | ZOA     | SOPHIST  |         |
| SHERRI   | SCOUR   | THEEARTH |         |
| EATEN    | THEY    | TIRADES  |         |
| ANTE     | TOOFAR  | TAKES    | PSI     |
| LAUNDER  | MONEY   | DER      | BOAZ    |
|          | ALTER   | SEWER    | CARGO   |
| BRAZIL   | COPSE   | ZONKED   |         |
| LACES    | CMERE   | SCRAP    |         |
| ATME     | CUE     | SCRUB    | THEPLAN |
| BEE      | PARTD   | TUREEN   | LANE    |
|          | CANTEEN | HERS     | HENNA   |
| WASHOVER | BOARD   | TANKER   |         |
| ANNULAR  | ATM     | OPTOUT   |         |
| DEIMOS   | STUMP   | HOTLINES |         |
| DMS      | SWEEP   | OFFONES  | FEET    |
| LIEU     | EVERT   | CATER    | URGE    |
| EARP     | RUSSO   | STORM    | LOST    |

### SUDOKU

answer from page 12

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

Happy Spring!



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### 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

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

### CROSSWORD

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See answer on page 11

### The Newsday Crossword

Edited by Stanley Newman (www.StanXwords.com)

SPRING CLEANING: Neatness counts

by Billie Truitt

#### ACROSS

- 1 Casino cubes
- 5 Military group
- 10 Feudal domains
- 15 Rugged cliff
- 19 Norway's patron saint
- 20 Spot for an eagle cam
- 21 Hamlet duel helper
- 22 Prefix for sphere
- 23 Defeat soundly
- 26 Tel \_\_, Israel
- 27 Buckskin, e.g.
- 28 Zaps for dinner
- 29 Modify, as software
- 31 Prankster's cry
- 33 Ending meaning "animals"
- 34 Devious logician
- 35 Shepherd who cohosted *The View*
- 38 Make a thorough search
- 41 Gobbled up
- 42 Those folks
- 44 Angry outbursts
- 45 Poker ritual
- 46 Past reasonable limits
- 48 Withstands
- 49 Trident-shaped letter
- 52 Commit a financial crime
- 55 German article
- 56 Husband of Ruth
- 57 Modity
- 58 Tailor at work
- 60 Freighter load
- 61 About half of South America
- 65 Thicket of small trees
- 67 Utterly exhausted
- 68 Sneakers' strings
- 69 Informal summons
- 71 Cloth remnant
- 74 "Look \_\_ now!"
- 75 Pool tool
- 76 Cancel an intended action
- 82 Pollen collector
- 83 Medicare prescription section
- 85 Stew holder
- 86 Narrow walkway
- 87 Hiker's container
- 89 The lady's
- 90 Temporary tattoo dye
- 91 Knock by a wave off a boat
- 95 Ship carrying petroleum
- 96 Ring-shaped
- 97 S&L dispenser
- 98 Decide to withdraw
- 101 Martian moon
- 102 Baffle
- 104 Emergency phones
- 108 Tooth pros' degs.
- 109 Cause infatuation
- 112 In \_\_ of (rather than)
- 113 Tennis great Chris
- 114 Furnish all the food for
- 115 Craving
- 116 Legendary lawman
- 117 Actress Rene
- 118 Picnic spoiler
- 119 Needing directions
- 6 Thin and high-pitched
- 7 Monteverdi opera hero
- 8 Lubricate
- 9 Lowly worker
- 10 Spend, so to speak
- 11 "Cross my heart!"
- 12 Largest dwarf planet
- 13 Strong and healthy
- 14 *Peanuts* pianist
- 15 Does a Latin dance
- 16 Part of a French farewell
- 17 Surrounded by
- 18 Doth bestow
- 24 Rose protector
- 25 Greek liqueur
- 30 Olympic blades
- 32 Get tough
- 34 Salt dispenser
- 35 Naval commando
- 36 Tennis great Mandlikova
- 37 Caesarean rebuke
- 39 Ink cartridge color
- 40 Pro sports deal
- 42 Legal wrong
- 43 Back from vacation
- 46 Divulge something
- 47 Hold in esteem
- 49 Fried rice morsel
- 50 Wise mentor
- 51 Sport shirt brand
- 53 Speaker's platform
- 54 "Be glad to"
- 56 Prohibition
- 59 Group's strong acknowledgment
- 60 Manage somehow
- 61 Divulge something

#### DOWN

- 1 Columnist Maureen
- 2 "Why would \_\_?"
- 3 Dracula accessory
- 4 Pine or spruce
- 5 South Seas resort isle

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|     |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    |     |     |    |    |     |     |     |    |     |     |     |
|-----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7 | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11  | 12  | 13 | 14 | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18 |     |     |     |
| 19  |    |    |    | 20 |    |   |    |    | 21 |     |     |    |    | 22  |     |     |    |     |     |     |
| 23  |    |    |    | 24 |    |   |    |    | 25 |     |     |    |    | 26  |     |     |    |     |     |     |
| 27  |    |    |    |    |    |   |    | 28 |    |     |     |    | 29 | 30  |     |     |    |     |     |     |
|     |    |    |    | 31 |    |   |    | 32 | 33 |     |     | 34 |    |     |     |     |    |     |     |     |
| 35  | 36 | 37 |    |    |    |   |    | 38 | 39 |     |     | 40 |    |     |     |     |    |     |     |     |
| 41  |    |    |    | 42 | 43 |   |    |    | 44 |     |     |    |    |     |     |     |    |     |     |     |
| 45  |    |    |    | 46 |    |   |    |    | 47 | 48  |     |    |    |     | 49  | 50  | 51 |     |     |     |
| 52  |    |    |    | 53 |    |   |    |    | 54 | 55  |     |    |    |     | 56  |     |    |     |     |     |
|     |    |    |    | 57 |    |   |    |    | 58 | 59  |     |    |    | 60  |     |     |    |     |     |     |
| 61  | 62 | 63 | 64 |    |    |   |    | 65 | 66 |     |     |    |    | 67  |     |     |    |     |     |     |
| 68  |    |    |    |    |    |   | 69 | 70 |    |     |     | 71 | 72 | 73  |     |     |    |     |     |     |
| 74  |    |    |    |    |    |   | 75 |    |    | 76  | 77  |    |    |     | 78  | 79  | 80 | 81  |     |     |
| 82  |    |    |    |    |    |   | 83 |    |    | 84  |     |    |    |     |     |     | 86 |     |     |     |
|     |    |    |    |    |    |   | 87 |    |    | 88  |     |    |    |     |     |     | 90 |     |     |     |
| 91  | 92 | 93 |    |    |    |   |    |    |    | 94  |     |    |    |     |     |     |    |     |     |     |
| 96  |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    | 97  |     |    |    | 98  | 99  | 100 |    |     |     |     |
| 101 |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    | 102 |     |    |    | 103 | 104 |     |    | 105 | 106 | 107 |
| 108 |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    | 109 | 110 |    |    |     | 111 |     |    |     |     |     |
| 112 |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    | 113 |     |    |    |     |     |     |    |     |     | 115 |
| 116 |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |    |    | 117 |     |    |    |     |     |     |    |     |     | 119 |

- 62 Be worthy of
- 63 Zenith
- 64 Start of 63-Down's clue
- 66 MD workplaces
- 67 Telejournalist Paula
- 69 More terse
- 70 Yard+ length
- 72 Trucker on the air
- 73 GPS calculations
- 75 Person doing survey work
- 77 German urban region
- 78 Abundant
- 79 Very slender
- 80 Novelist Rice
- 81 At hand
- 83 Italian name of six popes
- 84 School team members
- 87 Becomes friends
- 88 Unqualified for
- 90 Lugs around
- 91 Walk like a penguin
- 92 Lack of energy
- 93 Baseball great Duke
- 94 Arsenal array
- 95 Until the due date
- 99 Instagram upload
- 100 Copier chemical
- 102 Comprehends
- 103 USMC single-strippers
- 105 Infamous emperor
- 106 Brain scans, for short
- 107 Editor's "leave it in"
- 110 Sch. southeast of Wheeling
- 111 Skim milk's lack

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|



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