

#### ELECTION NEWS Election Recap PG 6



## NEWS Summer Live Music

Summer Live Music In The Valley PG 5



#### One For The Ages PG 7

HISTORY

SUN VALLEY KETCHUM HAILEY

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## WOOD RIVER WEEKLY

YOUR VOICE IN THE WOOD RIVER VALLEY

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"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain."
- Dolly Parton

## THE FUTURE OF ROAD REPAIR

### Potholes and Projects

BY ISAIAH FRIZZELL

Tith ever increasing traffic due to growth, the wear and tear on public roads, beyond the traffic, has been a hot topic in the Valley. What solutions are on the table at city hall and how can you get involved yourself in the upkeep and maintenance in your community? Here are a few ways to keep your roads and highways clean and what each city is doing about it.

#### Keep it in the Community

Blaine County's Adopt-A-Highway road program has the stated purpose of creating "litter-free Blaine County road rights-of-way by providing an opportunity for volunteer groups to "adopt" sections of county roadways to conduct litter cleanup." (www.co.blaine.id.us/290/Adopt-A-Road-Program). This program received \$1500 from the Fiscal Year 2024 Approved Budget and, in 2023 alone, the community cleared 3 million pounds of litter from the roadways, saving \$25 million in labor for the city.

The Adopt-A-Highway Program is a proactive way to make roads and the natural environment surrounding them clean and litter free while also keeping an eye on the quality of the asphalt, potholes, and pain points that need to be addressed. Grab a road with your friends and take part in maintaining the balance of the natural beauty surrounding the Valley with the liveable, driveable and enjoyable upkeep of the roads. It's a great opportunity to get outside for some exercise and life hacking while you life craft it – take photos, make a list with a map of your adopted road and delve into this unique hands-on method for cleanup. It's a great way to enjoy nice roads and derive satisfaction from community effort. Nothing beats doing it yourself and every year is a DIY year for any scale of project.

#### **How It Works**

Your group adopts a one-mile stretch of road of your preference in location. Blaine County will work with you to sort out who has already adopted what. The adoption lasts two years with a promise to pick up litter a minimum of twice a year for the two years of adoption. Blaine County's got you covered for 30-gallon yellow contractor trash bags, safety vests and temporary "roadside litter pickup" traffic signs. As an added bonus, "Blaine County will erect a total of two recognition signs with the group name, one sign at the beginning of each adopted road section in each direction." (www.co.blaine.id.us) Everyone will see your name for posterity and legacy as a community activist with your name in steel signage! You're responsible for transporting the refuse to the Ohio Gulch or Carey Transfer Station where Blaine County will waive the disposal fee. The application form can be found at the Blaine County, Idaho, website: https://www.co.blaine.id.us/FormCenter/Administrative-Services-16/AdoptARoad-Program-Application-114 . And other volunteer programs can be found at the Idaho Transportation Department's (IDT) website https://itd.idaho.gov/road-mtce/ .

#### **City Commitments**

You can keep track of the city's involvement to know your roads. Many people use the 511 app, which can be found at https://511.idaho.gov/#:Alerts along with a comprehensive map of current work zones. We all know about the potholes and cracks. They're a function of mountain living and seasonal climate fluctuations as ice forms and thaws in the asphalt, buckling and eventually eroding into potholes or cracks. The added traffic of growth from transplants in Blaine County has further encumbered the mountain-town -ize roads. If you're on X (formerly known as Twitter) you can follow IDT at https://x.com/idahoitd.

The most recent update reads "US-20 University Blvd. Exit 332 will be closed for one month starting next Wed, May 29. Detours will be signed at Thorton Exit 328 and Rexburg Main St. Exit 333. The improved Exit 332 is expected to be open by the Fourth of July." May 28 begins the resurfacing of U.S. Highway 2 starting at its junction with U.S. Highway 95 east to the Montana state line.

Now that may impact some for commuting and traveling but what about the plans for Blaine County roads? Great news is that Trail Creek Road, due to the efforts of the Blaine County Road and Bridge Department, will seasonally re-open on Friday, May 24, 2024.

#### Ketchum

Many know of Ketchum's Project Main Street. With the stated mission of "Rebuilding the roadway and improving pedestrian amenities from River to 10th Street, in partnership with Ketchum Urban Renewal Agency and Idaho Transportation Department" (https://www.projectketchum.org/main-street/), Ketchum is continually



A rough Main Street in Bellevue. Photo credit: WRW

improving quality of life for pedestrians and motorists alike.

- The closure from River to 2nd Street, as of this writing, was scheduled to be complete by May 24.
- The Second Street closure from Main to Leadville was scheduled to reopen by May 21.
- From 2nd to 4th the construction continues until at least July 3. That's an ideal date to make way for Fourth of July festivities.
  Sidewalk construction on the west side between 2nd and Sun Valley Road
- is scheduled until May 24.

You can receive Main Street updates from their newsletter signup page at https://www.projectketchum.org/main-street/ where you can also share your thoughts on the current and future construction.

#### Hailey

The Hailey Transportation Master Plan of 2020 continues with improvements to bike lanes and throughways in conjunction with the Urban Renewal Agency (URA). With a budget of \$735,695, the city is due for a makeover. For a general inquiry about specific pain points you can submit a form at https://haileycityhall.org/public-works/

The Gateway, Airport and South district are the focus of this initiative along River Street, Downtown and the South district. Input from local business owners and the general public of the community have all been taken into account but, like anything of this scale, persistence and community alignment with needs is of utmost importance to communicate, as again, this is where the rubber meets the road. You can get out there, take photos and submit to the City of Hailey at https://haileycityhall.org/contact/.

#### Bellevue

Potholes must be repaired during warm, dry weather and while a heavy fix is not on the agenda for this season, ITD plans to have at least a temporary glue job done no later than October. Hot asphalt plants were set to reopen mid-April. The 'Bellevue to Broadway Run' project is addressing the plethora of potholes and cracks in this stretch of SH-75.

The project is set to do the following:

• Widen SH-75 between McKercher Boulevard and Timber Way, and between Birch Street and Fox Acres Road. Plans include center medians, wider shoulders

Continued
POTHOLES AND PROJECTS
Page 2

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#### **NEWS**

## Potholes and Projects

**TRANSPORTATION** 

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and center turn lanes along SH-75.

- Improve several intersections along SH-75.
- Add multimodal infrastructure for pedestrians, cyclists and transit users.

2024 is the year design plans are to be finalized and right-of-way purchases made. If all goes accordingly, 2025 will see construction begin.

There is hope in sight. And as there were multiple stakeholder meetings for feedback, it is incumbent on the community to lodge a complaint or comment. Questions about the project may still be asked via email at info@sh75project.com.

#### **General Idaho Metrics**

To get a precise idea for the scale of ITD's responsibility – "ITD manages a State Highway System (SHS) of approximately 5,000 centerline miles, or over 12,000 lane miles, plus more than 1,800 bridges.

The entire Idaho Transportation Network is more than 60,000 miles with local governments owning the large majority. ITD's routes carry 55% of the state vehicle miles of travel (VMT) with 25% of all VMT being on the Interstate Highway System network. Within Idaho, there are more than 4,000 bridges; of these 1,835 bridges are managed by ITD. There are 830 bridges and culverts greater than 20-foot in length on the National Highway System (NHS). Of these, 805 are on the State Highway System and there are 25 local bridges and culverts greater than 20 feet in length on the NHS" (itd.idaho.gov).

"Idaho uses three measures to quantify performance; these are International Roughing Index (IRI), rutting depth, and Overall Condition Index (OCI). Developed as part of refinements to ITD's Transportation Asset Management System (TAMS), the OCI is unique to Idaho. Idaho collects pavement performance data on an annual basis. The OCI provides an overall pavement serviceability measure and is the weighted average of many different pavement performance factors. There is flexibility to add other measures that are deemed relevant. The OCI varies between 100 representing the best possible pavement and zero (0) denoting the poorest possible pavement."

"Quantification of distress type is based on extent and severity. These values are input, for each distress type, into an equation that yields an Individual Distress Index (IDI). When each individual distress type has been calculated, all IDI values are then input into the OCI formula to compute the OCI for the pavement section. For each pavement type, two additional indices are computed with the methodology. Rigid pavements have the Slab Index and the Joint Index computed, while flexible pavements have the Structural Distress Index and the Non-Structural Index computed. The main function of these values is to assist in PMS decision tree configuration and treatment selection. A copy of the AgileAssets Pavement Management System Engineering Configuration Document is available upon request." (itd.idaho.gov)

Here are your tax dollars shot straight into systems engineering. But it takes massive data collection and this is where projects like Adopt-A-Highway or simply mapping and taking photos yourself or with your group, getting these to the appropriate offices in your city and emphasizing the need for resurfacing and maintenance is a progressive way to keep the community's needs at the forefront of your plans.

"ITD collects pavement conditions annually on the entire NHS, including both state and local routes. ITD also inspects all the bridges on the NHS. Therefore, ITD continues to acquire condition and performance data on the entire NHS network. ITD communicates condition information to the various jurisdictions owning NHS assets along with any project suggestions from ITD's internal models. ITD also obtains information on planned projects on NHS roads from each of the jurisdictions which are incorporated into any model runs.

#### **Engaged Driving**

As growth continues in the Valley, and, in fact, in all of Idaho, it's important to remember to keep your driving engagement at an all-time high. No texting, calling or other distractions should take you from the responsibility of safe driving. This is both an honor and a privilege to make things easier on yourself and others — call it community engagement. Driving at posted speed limits but being flexible enough to move slower, and avoid the current distress in the roads, is crucial.

For those interested, SHIFT Idaho is an ongoing mission to improve driving engagement across the state. It all starts in your community and is a proactive mindset for engaging in the flow of traffic. "SHIFT is a movement. It's a positive attitude about progress. It's a commitment to change and overcoming behaviors that make the road a dangerous place. SHIFT is an opportunity for all Idahoans to start thinking and talking about what's appropriate behind the wheel and in the passenger's seat." Find more at https://shift-idaho.org/.

Growth can be painful but with the right attitude and creative involvement you can radically alter your local landscape for improved quality of life, opportunity and build the community for new friends and minds that offer social and economic advancement. It's all in your state of mind.

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## **Live Summer Music**



The Deers live in a previous year at Mahoney's. Photo courtesy: Mahoney's Bar & Grill

BY ISAIAH FRIZZELL

#### **Blaine County Live Music Summer 2024**

If you love live music, nodding your head or bouncing your hips to smooth grooves, where are you going these days? How is the local music scene faring this season? It appears the post-pandemic paranoia is fully lifting and the fine venues in Sun Valley carry the torch for live arts and entertainment. Whatever your taste in harmony and melodic rhythms, you're bound to find something to swing to.

How is the summer of 2024 stacking up? Sun Valley Museum of Art (SVMoA) keeps the creative juices flowing with its Summer Concert Series.

June 9 – Grammy Award-winning Americana string band Old Crow Medicine Show at 7 p.m.

July 30 – pop/soul group Lake Street Dive checking in for their Good Together Tour. Concerts start at the usual 7 or 7:30 p.m.

**Limelight Hotel** in Ketchum has current early offerings. The Limelight Lounge features live music every Friday and Saturday night with 5:30 p.m. show times. Early shows offer a unique start time for those early evenings. Last week Kevin Ware played the Lounge on May 24. Coming up:

Saturday, May 25 – Ellie Mae serenades in country on Friday

May 31 – catch Seattle-based singer-songwriter Adam Williams

The Wicked Spud – ever iconic and dependable for their free Wicked Wednesdays, the Spud has a strong lineup with a delightful variety of acts from country and classic rock to pop-rock and even heavy metal! \m/ .. iykyk

June 19 – Side Hustle w/NAMI

June 26 – Redlight Challenge w/Swiftsure Ranch

July 3 – Rancho Notorious w/ Blaine County Education Foundation

July 10 – Craig Bernauer & Double Wide w/ Girls on the Run July 17 – Jukebox WidowMakers w/Wood River

Fire & Rescue
July 24 – Kim Stocking w/Senior Connection

July 31 – Magic Circus w/Alliance of Idaho August 7 – That Johny V. Band Thing w/Syringa Mountain School August 14 – Dog Haus w/Mountain Humane

Saturday July 20 – Alice in Chains and System of a Down metal fans? Mark your calendars for a free showcase, presented by Spudfest 2024.

Mashup metal band System in Chains brings a unique blend of Alice in Chains and System of a Down to Sun Valley. "I just didn't want to be another bar band." James Cornwell of The Wicked Spud and Wiseguy Pizza Pie plays drums and sings harmony for this new musical twist. "Having to sing harmony, I'm almost singing as much as the lead singer, if you know anything about Alice in Chains. We're like a heavy metal Everly Brothers." The intricate harmonies and intense conviction of the two bands blend in surprising ways. "With System, it's all about the conviction. I just figured if we're going to do another band project, I wanted to do something more of a tribute. You know, I have to hear Sweet Home Alabama one more time...'

Point taken. Is classic rock muzak in stores a type of noise pollution? System in Chains is primed to put on a KISS-level show, sonically speaking. "The real trick is putting together a set that creates a seamless guitar change between the tunings. When we start the show, we want it to be cohesive so that something is ALWAYS going on." An ex-Seattleite, Cornwell was neighbors with Mike Starr, bassist of Alice in Chains for the Dirt and Facelift albums. Years back, Starr played him cuts from Dirt before it was out. "He'd come down and play my guitar and he played me about ten tracks off of Dirt before it was released and I'm like wow... this is neat stuff." Cornwell toured as merchandise agent for Alice in Chains and Jane's Addiction in 2013 and recalls the graciousness of Jane's Addiction drummer Stephen Perkins who also knows Ketchum well. System in Chains features Travis Urbany (lead vocals), Patrick Adams, aka "the GravyTrain" (bass and vocals), Ron Bentz (guitar) and James Cornwell (drums). There's always something wild in Sun Valley. Catch their show on July 20.

Mahoney's Bar & Grill has community-centric plans for a unique offering this season. Ever onward, they've changed up their program to feature an open mic night every third Thursday of the

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LIVE MUSIC
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#### **NEWS**

#### Live Music

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month from June until around Labor Day (September 2). With a hot PA system provided, this will take place on the patio with an outside bar serving the sauce as well as their inside bar. The kitchen will be open for vittles until a hard close at 9 p.m.

What's the process? You come in at 6 p.m., sign the list, the VU flashes at 6:30 p.m. and when you're on, you're on!

If you're raring to rock, keep practicing, it's time to take your act to Mahoney's this summer.

Whiskey's on Main has already kicked off the season with great offerings, including a karaoke night on May 17. Cocktail crooners surely hope it repeats.

May 27 & 28 – Jerry Joseph and the Jack Mormons rock it out for two nights

June 8 – Hurdy Gurdy Girls, everyone's favorite outlaw country

June 14 – B-Side Players, a 9-piece "horn- driven, polyrhythmic groove" outfit blend rock, jazz and South American funk

Sawtooth Brewery puts on the ultimate community-sponsored live music event with their Hailey Rocks program. Featuring live music every Thursday from May 9 to June 13 at the Tap Room. They also do shows from June 27-August 22, 2024, every Thursday at Hop Porter Park, 6:30-9 p.m.

You or your business can sponsor the community tunes via their sponsorship program. There are five tiers from \$500-\$6000 including social media shout-outs, stage banner and promotional materials mentions and thank-you's from the stage. If you'd like to keep the frequencies flowing, check out the form at https://www.sawtoothbrewery.com/haileyrocks. Hailey Rocks commences on June 27. Upcoming shows at the Tap Room include:

May 30 – Adam Williams Band

June 6 - Natalie Soma Band

June 13 – Doublewide

Sun Valley Music Festival in Ketchum puts on a world-class Summer Season from July 29 – August 22 at the Sun Valley Pavilion.

July 29 - Opening Night with Meechot Marrero with the Festival Chamber Orchestra, Conductor Alasdair Neale, and Soprano Meechot Marrero. John Stafford Smith for the Star-Spangled Banner, a Timothy Higgins Fanfare and Symphony No. 1 in D Major, Op. 25, "Classical Symphony" by Sergei Prokofiev

July 30 – Piazzolla's Four Seasons and Mozart's "Linz" Symphony

August 1 - Meechot Marrero and Festival Musicians play Schubert's Quintet for Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, and Piano in A Major, D. 667, Op. 114, "Trout"

August 2 – Andy Akiho, Concerto for Cello of George Frideric

Music for the Royal Fireworks, HWV 351

Sun Valley Resort hosts the legendary Duchin Lounge this spring and summer with 6:30 p.m. shows.

May 30 – Katie Buxton (singer/songwriter)

May 31 – Alan Pennay (jazz pianist)

June 1 – Travis McDaniel (vocalist and jazz guitarist)

June 2 – Leanna Leach (multi-genre pianist)

#### **Rave Unto the Joy Fantastic**

On the way to the rave? For the real hush-hush parties, you'll have to ask a friend. How old is too old to rave? Your mileage may vary and you may have to head toward Treasure Valley, Twin Falls or Boise.

#### **Summertime Rolls**

That's a small taste of Sun Vallev's summer musical offerings. There's a lot to be grateful for and if you're a musical creature, it's prime time to meander through the frequencies and mentally unwind in the coming warm weather.



Sun Valley Pavilion. Photo courtesy: Sun Valley Music Festival



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#### NEWS

## **Idaho Primary Election Results**

BY ISAIAH FRIZZELL

wice a year, in May and November, people cast their votes in Idaho's primary elections. The Idaho Primary Election, on May 21, 2024, has passed and an early look at the outcome shows a nearly fair split between Republicans and Democrats

The primary is for state legislator, county sheriff, county prosecuting attorney and county commissioner.

After the primary election, the candidates with the most votes then run in the general election. The primary numbers are in.

#### **LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 26**

State Senator District 26 – Democratic Ron Taylor (DEM) 100% with 3,043 votes

State Senator District 26 – Republican

Laurie Lickley (REP) 100% with 839 votes

Mike Pohanka (REP) 57.66% with 595 votes

**State Representative District 26 Seat A – Democratic** Ned W Burns (DEM) 100% with 3,064 votes

**State Representative District 26 Seat A – Republican** Kally Schiffler (REP) 42.34% with 437 votes

State Representative District 26 Seat B – Democratic Chris Hansen (DEM) 100% with 2,890 votes

State Representative District 26 Seat B – Republican Jack Nelsen (REP) 51.52% with 542 votes Lyle Johnstone (REP) 48.48% with 510 votes

County Commissioner District 1 – Democratic Angenie McCleary (DEM) 100.00% with 2,923 votes

County Sheriff – Democratic Morgan Ballis (DEM) 53.55% with 1,862 votes Steve Harkins (DEM) 46.45% with 1,615

County Sheriff – Republican
Aaron Hughston (REP) 100.00% with 644 votes

County Prosecuting Attorney
Matt Fredback (DEM) 100.00% with 2,971

**Justice of the Supreme Court**To Succeed: G. Richard Bevan
G. Richard Bevan 100.00% with 3,843

**Judge of the Court with Appeals**To Succeed: David W. Gratton
David W. Gratton 100.00% with 3,761 votes

Judge of the Court with Appeals
To Succeed: Jessica Marie Lorello
Jessica Marie Lorello 100.00% with 3,764 votes

#### BALLOT QUESTIONS

City of Bellevue Special Municipal Revenue – Bond 69.41% with 320 votes IN FAVOR with 30.59% with 141 votes AGAINST

**Blaine County School District No. 61 Supplemental** – Levy 74.01% with 3,571 IN FAVOR with 25.99% with 1,254 AGAINST

PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN – DEMOCRATIC

**Precinct 01 Committeeman – Democratic** Candice Stark (DEM) 100.00% with 224 votes **Precinct 02 Committeeman – Democratic** LeRoy Hayes (DEM) 100.00% with 195 votes

**Precinct 04 Committeeman – Democratic** GG Luke (DEM) 100.00% with 233 votes

Precinct 05 Committeeman – Democratic Chantal Westerman (DEM) 100.00% with 203 votes

Precinct 06 Committeeman – Democratic Lara McLean (DEM) 100.00% with 116 votes

Precinct 07 Committeeman – Democratic Dana DuGan (DEM) 100.00% with 273 votes

Precinct 08 Committeeman – Democratic Patricia Dorr (DEM) 100.00% with 332 votes

Precinct 10 Committeeman – Democratic
Pedro Manuel Miramontes Ortiz (DEM) 100.00% with 154 votes

Precinct 11 Committeeman – Democratic Karen Bliss (DEM) 100.00% with 189 votes

Precinct 12 Committeeman – Democratic Linda McMahon (DEM) 100.00% with 66 votes

**Precinct 15 Committeeman – Democratic** Pamela Ridgway (DEM) 100.00% with 76 votes

#### PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN - REPUBLICAN

Precinct 01 Committeeman – Republican Darcy Creech (REP) 100.00% with 51 votes

Precinct 02 Committeeman – Republican Adam Chafetz (REP) 100.00% with 94 votes

**Precinct 03 Committeeman – Republican** Jill Williams (REP) 100.00% with 72 votes

Precinct 04 Committeeman – Republican Juanita Young (REP) 100.00% with 51 votes

Precinct 05 Committeeman – Republican Maria Gerhardt (REP) 100.00% with 67 votes

**Precinct 06 Committeeman – Republican** Brian Opp (REP) 100.00% with 34 votes

Precinct 07 Committeeman – Republican Phil Rainey (REP) 100.00% with 49 votes

**Precinct 08 Committeeman – Republican** Heather Lauer (REP) 100.00% with 42 votes

Precinct 09 Committeeman – Republican Debbie O'Neill (REP) 100.00% with 29 votes

Precinct 11 Committeeman – Republican

Andrea Parker (REP) 100.00% with 43 votes

Precinct 12 Committeeman – Republican

Shawn Grow (REP) 100.00% with 43 votes

Precinct 13 Committeeman – Republican

John Casey (REP) 100.00% with 89 votes

**Precinct 14 Committeeman – Republican** Sherie Taylor (REP) 100.00% with 89 votes

Precinct 15 Committeeman – Republican Nicholas Purdy (REP) 100.00% with 63 votes

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NEWS IN BRIEF

#### **Special Cooking-With-Lamb Class**

The Trailing of the Sheep Festival is proud to partner with Boise River Lamb, FARE Idaho, Sun Valley Culinary Institute and the Sun Valley Institute for Resilience to offer a Cooking with Lamb Demonstration with Chef Joseph Tocci at the Sun Valley Culinary Institute in Ketchum on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, from 4:30–6 p.m.

Chef Joe, as he is affectionately known, will share how to prepare a fresh seared local rack of lamb with a Pernod demi-glacé accompanied with local grilled vegetables. He will also demonstrate how to make homemade Italian ricotta with fresh local strawberries.

Currently serving as lead culinary instructor at the Sun Valley Culinary Institute, Chef Joseph Tocci has been a culinary educator for over a decade, previously at the University of Hawaii before discovering Sun Valley. He holds a degree in culinary arts from the New York Restaurant School in New York City. Chef Joe also earned a certification as a produce handler from Cornell University and taught for several Hawaiian organizations, such as Farm to Table and Eating Healthy.

"We are excited to be working in collaboration with Boise River Lamb, FARE Idaho, Sun Valley Culinary Institute, and the Sun Valley Institute of Resilience to present this special culinary class focused on cooking with Idaho lamb. It is a great opportunity for us to partner together to present this unique event for the community," shared Laura Musbach Drake, executive director of the Trailing of the Sheep Festival.

The cost to participate in the class is \$50 with limited spaces available. To register to attend, email luna@fareidaho.org.

NEWS HISTORY

## Radio DJs and Pot-Laced Banana Bread

BY ISAIAH FRIZZELL

It's a running joke on the Joe Rogan podcast that controversial comedian Owen Benjamin lost his mind after eating a pot brownie on the Joey Diaz podcast. Benjamin walked out of the show, proceeded to move his family out of Los Angeles and relocated to Sandpoint, Idaho, to become a homesteader and a very controversial online personality. But where did this sort of shenanigan get started? Certainly, radio DJs have been inebriated on air since radio, but not like in Sun Valley.

Blaine County has its own silly pot gaffe that, like all things Sun Valley, set a record.

#### The Banana Boat

Gary Humbock was a huge fan of the beloved morning radio show on 103.7 KSKI-FM with DJs Ron Harrison, Kyla Kelly and Heavy D. It was customary for Ketchum locals to bring lemonade or homemade baked goods as gifts for the DJs. It being a morning show, they'd enjoy the comestibles and prattle on about the little nothings of life, making for an enjoyable hour to ease the morning commute.

The weekend before the fateful show, Humbock hatched a plan to put on the ultimate prank. "I thought I'd play a practical joke," he said. Humbock was a young connoisseur of marijuana and fairly well known across town for his potent concoctions. "All around the Valley everybody knew about Gary's banana bread, I got really good at baking it." Pun intended. Humbock put the two together and ended up making history. "I just dropped it off to Ron and said, 'Hey Ron, enjoy it!' and boy did they enjoy it." Humbock laughs hysterically.

#### May 12, 1997

Unbeknownst to Humbock, his timing would become Sun Valley legend. Every year a county in Idaho would run the Just Say No campaign, with police from other counties putting on their own big show for the so-called War on Drugs. "Well, apparently, Blaine County was the county that they picked and that week was the week they'd be doing it. I didn't know! And I didn't know, also, that a Senator owned the radio station at the very same time. I mean, I'd probably still have done it if I knew all that. I was a crazy son of a gun. I had fun and didn't try to hurt anybody. It was a practical joke."

As Harrison and Kelly ate the bread, the typical morning show morphed into a wild and wonky e-ticket ride of nonsequiturs and bizarre tunes. "They were playing all types of music that they shouldn't have played. 'I really want to hear some Pink Floyd right now.' 'Well, we can't play Pink Floyd!' 'I don't care, I want to hear Pink FLoyd right now.' And then they got hungry. They're like, 'Someone bring us a pizza!' So my buddy who delivered pizza brought two to the station. It



was a special show and this was a special time. So many things changed after that and after 9-11. They even legislated a law that radio and TV stations can't take homemade baked goods from the public."

"It was a really great joke. Everyone loved it and everyone laughed but the Senator. So, he put together a task force and spent a lot of taxpayers' money to find me. They came storming in with guns drawn and it was just like a movie. I was midbong hit and they go 'FREEZE!' and I just blew this huge hit out. It was just comical."

Humbock received a \$15,000 fine, spent 363 days in jail, plus five and a half years of probation, for the joke. They took him to the state penitentiary for a month and half and then to Cottonwood for a sixmonth bootcamp. "Sir, yes sir, and all that!" Humbock laughs. His joyful recall of it is pure levity.

"No one knew I was going to do it. The DJs didn't know. My friends didn't know. And after it hap-

pened, I got calls from around the world. Friends in Australia heard the news. Howard Stern called me and we talked for a minute. David Letterman even included the prank in a Top Ten and all the radio stations, on that day, got the fax 'KSKI is high on air!' It was insane."

"Jail is the only thing I really regret, but, looking back, you know, it's 27 years back—you pick it apart for the fun it was and just laugh."

#### All's Well That Ends Well

Considering the above-mentioned podcasts that openly smoke and drink on video, you could almost say Humbock and the DJs at KSKI were trailblazers. "I guess I started a trend. It was fun. It was a fun time to do it. Things were different back then."

"The Senator, he sold it to the guy who owns KECH Radio. You know, he wanted to get this blemish off his record so he sold it really inexpensively. The guy who owns KECH Radio even thanked me for that because he got a great deal. He actually bought me a drink at The Pioneer."

Taking it all in stride, Humbock laughs and chuckles, recalling the vibe of the '90s and his love of that morning show.

Humbock now enjoys life, and the medicinal qualities of cannabis, in a state where it is legal.

This publication and straight-edge writer in no way encourage or endorse the use of any illegal substances.

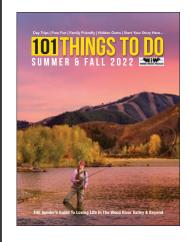


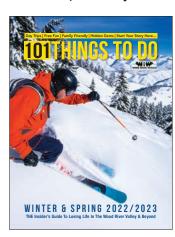
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### FISHING REPORT



THE "WEEKLY"
FISHING REPORT FOR
MAY 29 - JUNE 11
FROM PICABO ANGLER

we've all been waiting for is almost here... the General Season Opener is Saturday, May 25, and our beloved Silver Creek will once again present us with gorgeous views, rising trout, and our favorite mayflies.

If you plan to fish the first few weeks of the season on Silver Creek, the mainstay hatches will be PMDs and Baetis. We have been consistently seeing PMDs on most afternoons. A large beetle pattern (black Mini-Chubby Chernobyl, Jake's Gulp Beetle, Crowe Beetle, or black Fat Albert) can save the day on early-season Silver Creek outings, particularly if there's a bit of wind. Small leech patterns, the Picabo Angler Custom Sparkle Minnow, or Mouse patterns can produce some truly large fish during the early season. Don't put away your streamer rods!

Brown drakes are probably at least a week (or more) away. With that said, no one ever truly knows when this hatch will appear, and history says have some of these patterns in your fly box from the moment the clock strikes 12 a.m. on Opening Day.

There should be plenty of anglers on the Creek during June. Let's be sure we celebrate the season together and treat one another like we want to be treated on the river. Keep in mind that this one weekend may be a bit busier than others, so let's show that extra grace that we all know makes Silver Creek such a special place.

Freestone rivers such as the Big Wood and Upper Big Lost River system will be too high and turbid for several weeks.

Magic Reservoir continues to fish well. Black leeches are the ticket!

Happy fishing, everyone!



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

## COMMENTARY

NO BONES ABOUT IT

FRAN JEWELL

## **Traveling With Your Dog**

By Fran Jewell

This time of year finds us traveling everywhere to visit family and friends. Bringing your dog along is many times a part of the plan. There are several things you can do to make the traveling easier for your dog.

Above all, don't get stressed about it yourself. When you are stressed, your dog will think there is something wrong and be stressed as well.

Prepare your dog with a few simple things. No matter how you plan to travel—by air either in the cabin (small dogs) or in cargo, or by car—be sure your dog is comfortable in a crate. A crate is the safest place for your dog to be however you travel. In a vehicle, if your dog is not in a crate and you are in an accident, or even just need to stop fast, your dog can be thrown through the windshield or out of the car. An open car window for a dog to stick his head out can mean something gets in his eye and blinds him. Yes, just last week someone told me about a dog that actually lost his eye because a bee had flown in it while he had his head out the window. I had a dog that stepped on the electric window control and choked herself.

Recent safety testing has shown that pet booster seats and seat belts are not effective ways to protect your dog in an accident.

Crate training is one of the most valuable skills you can teach your dog, and traveling is one very good example of why. If you fly, you MUST have your dog in a crate. It is illegal and dangerous to try to pass your untrained dog off as a service dog so he can ride in the cabin without a crate. The stress for an untrained dog is enormous and may lead to unexpected aggression and a lawsuit or legal charges.

Dogs that are used to crates and are comfortable in a crate very seldom need medication from the vet for stress associated with traveling. A crate-trained dog prevents chewing or destruction in your vehicle. It also means you can safely leave your dog in a car with windows open on hot days. Your dog cannot escape and get lost or hit by a car.

Dogs should learn to potty on a leash whether you fly or drive. A stop is miserable for you and your dog if your dog is unable to potty on a leash, no matter where.

If you are driving and need to stop in a motel for the night, it is so easy to bring a portable crate inside so your dog doesn't bark at night or if you want to go visit the weight room. Charges for damage to a room can be astronomical.

Once you get to your destination, especially if you are visiting someone, a crate becomes a wonderful spot for your dog to have peaceful down time away from all the hustle of new people and a new place. It gives your dog the reassurance of familiarity, and a safe place to be. In unusual circumstances, your dog might not feel comfortable around unfamiliar children or another dog.

A well-trained dog in a crate will be comfortable when you leave for an outing or special family dinner.

With a little planning ahead and a little ex-



I travel with crates in my van. I don't worry about what my dogs might be doing and can keep my mind focused on my driving. Photo credit: Fran Jewell

tra training, traveling can be so easy for your dog instead of the stress so many experience.

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

## **On Not Knowing**

BY HARRY WEEKES

here is an episode in the Star Trek series (this one from Voyager) where our friends in the Federation detect a warp signature on a distant planet. Warp signatures are important indicators of a civilization. If a civilization has the ability to develop warp drive, it has reached a technological and developmental level that implies a certain advancement. Detecting that advancement, Starfleet swoops in to give things a little look.

In this instance, though, they found what appeared to be an emerging civilization—one that had all the cliché trappings of an early agrarian society we might associate with 10,000 BCE. The plot twist was simple—this civilization had developed warp drive. And then they realized all the negative that came along with it and so they actively chose not to explore it any further and to keep so-called "advanced technology" away.

Naturally, I was thinking about this as two northern harriers returned to our canyon this spring.

For at least the last five years, a pair of harriers has chosen our little patch of sagebrush as its mating and breeding grounds. Harriers are known for and often identified by their low, gliding flight that has them rocking back and forth in the air, often within 15 feet of the ground.

The males are a distinct gray-blue and the females a chestnut brown. Each of them has a clear white rump patch and an owl-like facial disc. Often, the first evidence of them is a streaking shadow over our lawn or flitting through the house. We go to the windows to find them gliding through the hills. Their mating ritual looks like what someone would do if they could fly—the birds shoot up into the air and then come down in great swooping arcs. They fold their wings, shoot them back out again, barrel roll, and otherwise display a command of the air that is both playful and impressive.

And when the mating dance works, they set up a nest. From our vantage point, this is when they drop into a patch of sagebrush... repeatedly.

Over the next weeks, the male and female take turns returning to one spot—a spot so hidden that they seem to search for it each time. Cruising back and forth over a section of sage, they find whatever telltale signs they are looking for, make a sharp turn, and then flutter into the bushes.

I know approximately where this spot is. Close enough that with a determined search, I know I could find it.

But I don't. I don't even look.

And this is very, very hard for me.

In the sagebrush, not 30 feet off our driveway, is a harrier nest. It will have eggs. And then chicks. And then fledglings. The parents will guard it, tend it, and then begin intently feeding their babies.



The northern harrier (Circus hudsonius), also known as the marsh hawk or ring-tailed hawk, is a bird of prey. It breeds throughout the northern parts of the northern hemisphere in Canada and the northernmost USA. Photo credit: By Linda Tanner from Los Osos, California, U.S.A. - Northern Harrier - FemaleUploaded by snowmanradio, CC BY 2.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=17387813

And none of them needs me lumbering into the bushes, no matter how quietly I think I can move, looking to find where they are hiding.

There would be benefits, for sure. I could tell you what a harrier nest looks like. If their eggs are speckled. What kind of creatures they bring back. And even what the chicks look like in all their fuzzy cuteness.

And then, maybe my dogs would know where they were. Or the adults would abandon the nest, and even our canyon. And I would trade a certain kind of knowing for the annual return and rhythm of these birds that is still cloaked in the mysterious.

So, I intentionally do not know. I do not find out. I sit back and let the questions and what-ifs roll over me. And through this, I realize that there is a very good chance all of this makes me more curious, not less. And that seems like progress.

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

## Social Security and Advocating for a Loved One

BY SUZANNE HAZLETT, MBA, CIMA®, CFP®

Establishing powers of attorney, medical directives, or guardianship arrangements may not be enough when handling Social Security payments for a disabled senior. The Social Security Administration (SSA) requires a special designation known as representative payee.

A representative payee acts on behalf of a person incapable of representing themselves and is responsible for directing payouts exclusively to meet a beneficiary's needs. The SSA may determine that an individual cannot manage or direct someone else to manage their benefits and would then appoint a representative payee. Family members may also consult the SSA if they believe their family member would benefit

from a representative payee. If friends or family cannot serve as payees, the SSA will look for qualified organizations to be representative payees.

One in three seniors will die with dementia.1 It's a daunting statistic, and when you consider it alongside increasing longevity, it's easy to see why planning for the potential impact of diminished capacity on your or a loved one's future finances is critical.

An estimated 6.5 million Americans ages 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's, and more than 11 million Americans are providing unpaid care for someone struggling with dementia.<sup>1</sup>

The SSA requires that all legally incompetent adults and most minor children (a disabled child or young adult entitled to Supplemental Security Income, for example) have a representative payee. In most cases, the person in this role cannot be paid for their work on behalf of the incapacitated person. The SSA also requires them to keep careful records.



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

If you assume the role of representative payee, the SSA offers a range of resources via ssa.gov, including a series of training videos, a downloadable guide, and a frequently-asked-questions page. The process will likely require a trip to a Social Security office and an explanation as to why the beneficiary needs assistance and why they have selected you for the job. This designation will be in addition to any other legal or medical role you might be playing for your loved one.

<sup>1</sup> Alzheimer's Association, "2022 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures"

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ON LIFE'S TERMS JOELLEN COLLINS

### ANOTHER FATHER?

s I started watching the former HBO series, "Band of Brothers," I recalled the time I experienced as a child during and after World War II. My father could not serve in the military as he had been born with severely twisted "club" feet and survived several surgeries to reshape them. He became a director of the San Francisco USO and our wartime neighborhood warden. I watched city blackouts from our home high on a hill off 19th Avenue. As a little girl, I often sat on my daddy's lap during his work as a radio announcer and asked listeners to contribute to the war effort.

Now I am presented with a remarkable gathering involving relatives of Markley, my biological father, whom I didn't learn of until a few years ago. At that time, I

lived the miracle of finding, meeting, and loving my birth mother's son—my half-brother—and biological relatives in Oklahoma. This has proven to be life altering, acquiring a "new" family who has warmly welcomed me.

Last year I received an unexpected call from another half-brother born several years after I was. I have now been invited to a reunion of cousins in my biological father's children's generation. We will meet in Oklahoma shortly after this column is published. Most of my new relatives are not, of course, in his generation, but they knew him as an uncle and will have some tales to tell. I have learned about some of his life and seen pictures of him, both in non-military garb and military uniforms, along with some of his 11 siblings raised on a small farm in Texas. You can well imagine that I will meet many from that family.

I have learned from several sources about Markley. He posed with brothers in their WWII uniforms in 1945, and military records show that he was considered a hero—a paratrooper in Europe who was a scout for the troops' excursions. After a parachute failure, he broke his spine in three places. I am inter-



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.

ested in more than what I see in the few words in his military record. Ironically, he spent a long time of recovery in the hospital at the Presidio in San Francisco and, at that time, my family and I lived not very far from where he was recuperating. He returned to Texas, married, and when that marriage failed, his son was adopted by his ex-wife's new husband.

I have been blessed with the parents who raised me. I felt beloved as a child and believe that nobody could ever have meant more to me than Ted and Helen Gifford, my adoptive parents. Actually, I was never interested in exploring my genetic roots, adored my mom and dad, and only pursued my DNA in order to learn which genetic qualities my grandchildren may have inherited.

Come Memorial weekend, I'll have a clearer sense of the other people I may have known as family. I am excited at the prospect.

#### INSPIRATIONS FROM MY HEART

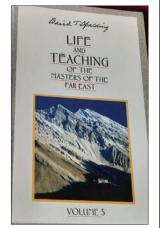
#### DOVE

## **Defining Moments**

BY DOVE

s I reflect back on this journey we call life, I am inspired to bring to consciousness those moments that brought me to who I am today. What if they hadn't happened or I had taken a different path, how would my life have changed?

I think the biggest effect on my life came from my father. When I was twenty, he gave me a set of five books called "The Lives and Teachings of the Masters of the Far East," by Baird T. Spaulding. Now this was quite unusual for my father as he was not a religious man, nor did he pursue any kind of spiritual practice. He bought five sets of these books, gave them to family members and the minister of our church. Where he came across these books and what led him to buy them is unknown in my life. But, read them I did. They were a journalistic account of Mr. Spaulding's



travels in Tibet. They told of masters who could literally transport themselves and others to the top of mountains in moments. Much of the information triggered the desire in me to learn how to become adept at the things I considered "magical" in nature. Printed messages could be sent by these beings to a destination a thousand miles away in twenty minutes without aid of any electronic devices. I seriously wanted to know how to do these things and much of my life has been spent exploring the possibilities of these truths.

I have always wanted to teleport and be telepathic, but as yet I have not accomplished the task. Telepathic, yes, but only sometimes. We never know what will influence our children and make a distinct impression on them and their lives will be changed forever. I look at my life and wonder what I did or did not do to be an example that affected my children positively or negatively. This Mother's Day I was complimenting my daughter on what wonderful parents she and her husband are. She said, "You set the bar pretty high." Everything we do or don't do has consequences; even the littlest thing affects the environment, our relationships, or our emotional and physical wellbeing. There is a ripple effect that goes out and brings your energy back to you multiplied many times over. What if we all slowed things down a bit and projected our imagination forward to see what we are creating for our tomorrows. Is it truly what we want or is it just random energy usage? I think I shall try being a little bit more conscious of how I use my energy. Does it bring me joy and does it help the overall planet? If I keep feeding what brings me joy, then I will create an energy for tomorrow that is filled with love and delightful creations.

Take a moment to contemplate the things in your life that set you on your path. Do they still serve you, or is it time for a new path? Life is your creation. Love it and yourself, for your tomorrows will reflect what you have done with your energy. Thoughts are things. Think wisely.

Blessings, Dove

#### WRANGLER'S WRITINGS

#### BRYCE ANGELL

### Mr. Garrett's Grasshopper

My cousin and I had Mr. Garrett's sophomore biology class just after our school lunch. With our bellies full and a room with no air conditioning or window shades, we struggled to stay awake when Mr. Garrett's monotone voice would push us over the edge into a coma.

Mr. Garrett was alarmingly thin yet unexpectedly agile. While teaching he would stand with one foot on the floor and the other on the desktop, both arms easily folded behind his back. He always wore a wool vest suit, no matter the season. By the time my cousin and I had Mr. Garrett, he'd been teaching for decades. His first year in the classroom was my father's class. He was an incredible teacher and the kindest man I'd ever met.

On one particular Friday we were eagerly anticipating the end of the school day and anxious for the weekend. But when we arrived at class, Mr. Garrett had newspapers strategically laid out on every desk with a large dead grasshopper poised in the center of your work area. These weren't the grasshoppers you put on the end of a hook to brag about the two-pounder you never really caught. Mr. Garrett's grasshoppers were 6-8 inches long, big enough to catch Jonah's Whale.

The object was to dissect the arthropod by following Mr. Garrett's lead. Fairly simple. I was about to slice the head from the body when Jackson, across the aisle, hollered in a whisper, "I'll eat the head if you give me five bucks." I'm a curious person so I answered, "Why not." Then he said, "Come up with twenty dollars and I'll eat the whole grasshopper." Half a dozen other guys heard the offer and wanted in. We came up with 18 one-dollar bills, four quarters and a handful of nickels, dimes and pennies.

Jackson said, "Good enough," and before I could say, "Go for it, Jackson," he ripped the head off and started chomping away. We all stared in amazement and cringed at the different sounds each body part made as Jackson ate his afternoon locust snack.

Well, sure as hogs are made out of bacon, the commotion was getting out of hand when Mr. Garrett came striding down between the rows. One queasy girl behind Jackson was covering her mouth, like, any second now. I have to admit my stomach rolled a time or two, as well.

Our teacher exclaimed in his Mr. Garrett fashion, "What's all the fuss?" Then, staring Jackson down, he inquired, "Jackson, where would your grasshopper be?" Jackson's answer was classic. "Well, Mr. Garrett, Sir. I ate it."

The look on Mr. Garrett's face was a mix of shock and befuddlement. Without saying a word, he retreated to his desk to ponder the absurdity of the situation and what to say next. He then asked if anyone else in the classroom had an appetite for their grasshopper and apologized for not bringing fry sauce. The class tension immediately turned to laughter and relief.

I don't remember if Jackson got another grasshopper to dissect. I don't know if he even

If I had to guess, I'd say he received an incomplete for the day. Too bad. This country boy would have given him an A.



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

M. CARRILLO

## Dreams Come True!

BY MONICA CARRILLO

#### **OUR VOICE COUNTS**

ionise Guerra-Carrillo knew she wanted to become a doctor at a young age after her mother's friend gave her a toy safety kit. Now, she's committed to attending Harvard University this fall.

Guerra-Carrillo, a senior at Wood River High School, told the Times-News she will be attending Harvard University to study neuroscience and mathematics after contemplating whether to attend other Ivy League schools, including Yale University and Dartmouth College, that she had also been accepted to.

Guerra-Carrillo is the first WRHS student in 25 years to be accepted into both Yale and Harvard.

"Because my parents are immigrants, they dreamed of this since I was a little child," Guerra-Carrillo said. "I mean, graduating high school was already just such a big dream. And then, like, getting into such a prestigious institution was insane."

Thinking of others throughout her years in high school, as well, Guerra-Carrillo translated the dual-credit medical terminology course to Spanish for the high school so that those resources could be implemented locally.

Guerra-Carrillo started working on translations her junior year of high school and, in total, spent 70 hours translating the material; she did an additional 30 hours to edit and revise it.

Guerra-Carrillo recently gave all her resources and translated material to the College of Southern Idaho as her final "passion project" before graduating.

"My main desire in doing these interviews was to make sure that Latinos, and just the Latino community in general, feels empowered to dream and hope and reach for the stars, because you truly can do it," Guerra-Carrillo said.

#### NUESTRA VOZ CUENTA

ionise Guerra-Carrillo supo que quería ser médica a una edad temprana después de que una amiga de su madre le regaló un kit de seguridad de juguete. Ahora se ha comprometido a asistir a la Universidad de Harvard este otoño.

Guerra-Carrillo, estudiante de último año de la escuela secundaria Wood River, dijo al Times-Noticias asistirá a la Universidad de Harvard para estudiar neurociencia y matemáticas después de considerar la posibilidad de asistir a otras escuelas de la Ivy League, incluidas la Universidad de Yale y el Dartmouth College, en las que también había sido aceptada.

Es la primera estudiante de WRHS en 25 años en ser aceptada tanto en Yale como en Harvard.

"Debido a que mis padres son inmigrantes, soñaron con esto desde que yo era un niño pequeño", dijo Guerra-Carrillo. "Quiero decir, graduarme de la escuela secundaria ya era un gran sueño. Y luego, entrar en una institución tan prestigiosa fue una locura".

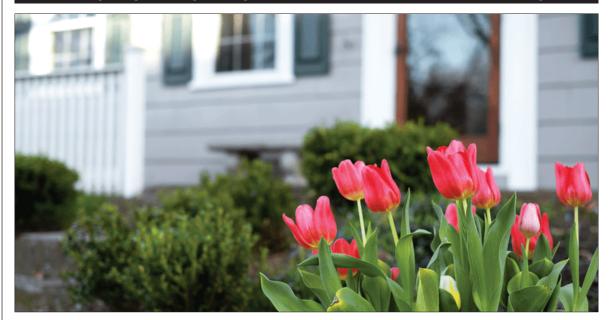
Pensando también en los demás a lo largo de sus años en la escuela secundaria, tradujo el curso de terminología médica de doble crédito al español para la escuela secundaria para que esos recursos pudieran implementarse localmente.

"Mi principal deseo al hacer estas entrevistas era asegurarme de que los latinos, y solo la comunidad latina en general, se sientan capacitados para soñar, tener esperanza y alcanzar las estrellas, porque realmente pueden hacerlo", dijo Guerra-Carrillo.



#### BETTER HOMEOWNERS NEWS

ANNA AND MICHELLE



## **Questions You May Have About Selling Your House**

BY ANNA & MICHELLE

here's no denying mortgage rates are having a big impact on today's housing market. And that may leave you with some questions about whether it still makes sense to sell your house and make a move.

Here are three of the top questions you may be asking – and the data that helps answer them.

#### 1. Should I Wait To Sell?

If you're thinking about waiting to sell until after mortgage rates come down, here's what you need to know. So are a ton of other people.

And while mortgage rates are still forecasted to come down later this year, if you wait for that to happen, you may be dealing with a lot more competition as other buyers and sellers jump back in, too. As *Bright MLS says*:

"Even a modest drop in rates will bring both more buyers and more sellers into the market." That means that if you wait it out, you'll have to deal with things like prices rising faster and more multiple-offer scenarios when you buy your next home.

#### 2. Are Buyers Still Out There?

But that doesn't mean no one is moving right now. While some people are holding off, there are still plenty of buyers active today. And here's the data to prove it.

The ShowingTime Showing Index is a measure of how frequently buyers are touring homes. The graph below uses that index to show buyer activity for March (the latest data available) over the past seven years:

#### Showing Traffic Above Pre-'Unicorn' Years



You can see demand has dipped some since the 'unicorn' years (shown in pink). That's in response to a lot of market factors, like higher mortgage rates, rising prices, and limited inventory. But, to really understand today's demand, you have to compare where we are now with the last normal years in the market (2018–2019) — not the abnormal 'unicorn' years.

When you focus on just the blue bars, you can get an idea of how 2024 stacks up. And that gives you a whole new perspective.

Nationally, demand is still high compared to the last normal years in the housing market (2018–2019). And that means there's still a market for your house to sell.

#### 3. Can I Afford To Buy My Next Home?

And if you're worried about how you'll afford your next move with today's rates and prices, consider this: you probably have more equity in your current home than you realize.

Homeowners have gained record amounts of equity over the past few years. And that equity can make a big difference when you buy your next home. You may even have enough to be an all-cash buyer and avoid taking out a mortgage altogether. As Jessica Lautz, Deputy Chief Economist at the *National Association of Realtors (NAR)*, says:

"...those who have earned housing equity through home price appreciation are the current winners in today's housing market. One-third of recent home buyers did not finance their home purchase last month—the highest share in a decade. For these buyers, interest rates may be less influential in their purchase decisions."

#### **Bottom Line**

If you've had these three questions on your mind and they've been holding you back from selling, hopefully it helps to have this information now. A recent survey from Realtor.com shows more than 85% of potential sellers have been considering selling for over a year. That means there are a number of sellers like you who are on the fence.

But that same survey also talked to sellers who recently decided to take the plunge and list. And 79% of those recent sellers wish they'd sold sooner.

If you want to talk more about any of these questions or need more information, let's connect.

IN BRIEF



ODO Wayne of Colmonalla Outhwooks Linked To Dookyayd Doubyy Flooks

#### **CDC Warns of Salmonella Outbreaks Linked To Backyard Poultry Flocks**

A CDC investigation notice regarding outbreaks of Salmonella infections has been posted: https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/backyardpoultry-05-24/index.html

#### **Key Points:**

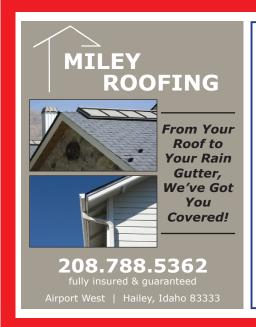
**NEWS** 

- 109 people from 29 states have gotten sick from Salmonella after touching or caring for backyard poultry. 33 people have been hospitalized and no deaths have been reported.
- In this outbreak, 43% of the people infected with Salmonella are under 5 years old.
- Backyard poultry can carry Salmonella germs even if they look healthy and clean. These germs can easily spread to anything in the areas where the poultry live and roam.
- You can get sick from touching your backyard poultry or anything in their environment and then touching your mouth or food and swallowing Salmonella germs.

#### What You Should Do:

- Wash your hands immediately after touching backyard poultry, their eggs, or anything in the area where they live and roam.
- Supervise kids around flocks. Young children are more likely to become very ill from Salmonella.
- Don't kiss or snuggle backyard poultry, and don't eat or drink around them. This can spread Salmonella germs to your mouth and make you sick.
- Handle eggs safely.

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#### **CROSSWORD**

answer from page 12



#### SUDOKU

answer from page 12

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4	9	8	7	5	6	1	3	2
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9	1	7	6	2	4	8	5	3
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#### CHAMBER CORNER

#### MIKE MCKENNA

### **Customer-centric Chris Privon of Wells Fargo**

BY MIKE MCKENNA

hris Privon and his wife, Maryjane, didn't plan on moving to the Wood River Valley. 'But they're glad that this is where their journey has led them.

"The community has been very welcoming," Chris said. "Within the first eight months, I feel like I've met the whole Wood River Valley."

Chris is originally from Eagle and he and his wife were happily living in the Treasure Valley when he got asked to fill in at Wells Fargo in Ketchum. After a few weeks of working at the local bank by day, staying at the Fairfield Inn weeknights and going back home to visit his wife and their dogs on the weekends, Chris decided to apply for the branch manager position. He got the job.

"From helping out for a few weeks to moving here a moth later, this certainly wasn't planned," Chris said. "But I'm glad it happened."

The Privons made the move from Kuna out to Croy Canyon west of Hailey. Having such easy access to the great outdoors is one of their favorite parts of calling the Wood River Valley home.

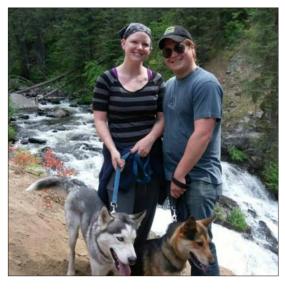
"The fact that I can wander out my door with the dogs and get lost for hours, hiking, it's one of the best experiences I've had," Chris said, adding, "You can't take a bad picture around here. Every direction you look is beautiful.'

One of the other big appeals of life in the Wood River Valley for the Privons is the sense of community.

"People here appreciate if you're going to contribute to the community and that's what I try to do at Wells Fargo," he said.

Chris has been with Wells Fargo for over a decade, starting as a teller, then working as a personal banker and small-business banker before becoming a branch manager. While Wells Fargo was once making the news with some unsavory headlines, Chris is proud of the way the bank has evolved from its previous issues.

"Because of everything that happened, we've really adapted to become the best bank you can be with," Chris said. "Our bank is customer-centric and customer-focused.'



One of the advantages of the Ketchum branch of Wells Fargo, Chris explained, is that it offers all the resources of a large bank while still providing personal and friendly service.

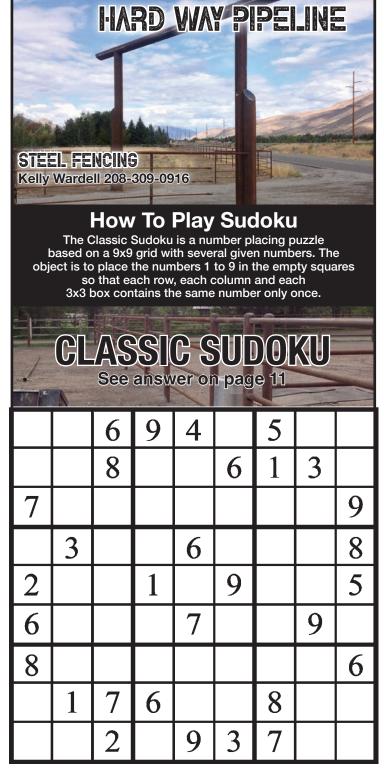
"It's our job to be the cog in the machine to help locals and small businesses tap into all a large bank can offer." Chris said. "It's really about putting our customers first and figuring out what we can do to make their financial lives better."

Most people find that moving to the Wood River Valley makes their lives better. Our community is always ready to accept new people who want to be a positive part of what we have going on around here. Chris and Maryjane are just such people.

"The pace of life here suits us well," Chris said. "There's a sense of belonging here that you don't get in big cities.'

Find out more by visiting Wells Fargo at 411 North Main Street in Ketchum.







Bellevue, Idaho

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4 Beat at chess

5 Urban transportation

## Partly Cloudy high 70°

low 43°

WEDNESDAY



low 36°

THURSDAY



73 At your residence

74 Handyperson for hire







**SUNDAY** 

63 Dugout equipment kid

64 Spiny succulents



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