

Board unanimously offers Rensch renewal

'I'M RELIEVED, ELATED AND THRILLED. I WANTED TO STAY IN ST. MARIES AND I'M GLAD THE BOARD SAW MY POTENTIAL.'

Dr. Teresa Rensch
St. Maries School District Superintendent

BY TYSON JUAREZ
THE GAZETTE RECORD

At Monday's regularly scheduled St. Maries School District Board of Trustees meeting, the board unanimously voted to offer to renew Dr. Teresa Rensch's contract.

The contract renewal was an offer to keep Dr. Rensch as superintendent for another year at the district.

Dr. Rensch confirmed she would certainly accept the renewal of her contract.

"I'm relieved, elated and thrilled," Dr. Rensch said. "I wanted to stay in St. Maries and I'm glad the board saw my potential."

Dr. Rensch said the term for the contract renewal was for July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

The board waits until after

the spring legislative session to talk about the terms of the contract she said.

"I appreciate the support of the board, and look forward to moving forward on our goals and vision for the district," she said. "Like patrons have said, it is their job to hold me accountable."

The decision to renew Dr. Rensch's contract came after the three new Board of Trust-

ee members, Paul Sotin, Josh Harvey and Seth Stoke, were sworn in and took their seats as board members for the first time.

During the meeting the board also discussed bids on the new CTE building that was proposed after receiving a \$1.3 million grant from the state.

Dr. Rensch said three of the

SEE **RENSCH**, P2



Sami Sindt makes record of Jaxson O'Rourke's scores at last weekend's Elks Hoop Shoot free throw contest. Below: Brock Barta keeps track of participants' scores during the Elks hoop shoot. More photos, see page 17.

MARY ORR | GAZETTE RECORD

HOOP SHOOT



Committee to review math curriculum

BY TYSON JUAREZ
THE GAZETTE RECORD

The St. Maries School District recently formed a committee of parents, community members and staff to review math curriculum that will be piloted this year.

The district formed a 19 person committee featuring

10 parents and community members and nine staff members. The committee follows new Idaho guidelines requesting that committees reviewing curriculum have at least 50 percent plus one of parents on board to review curriculum.

The district accepted any parent or communi-

ty member that showed interest in being on the committee.

The district plans to adopt new math curriculum for the entire district. The group are working towards planning out when the district will begin the pilot phase of testing the curriculum.

The committee have been reviewing the multiple curriculum suggested by the Idaho department of Education. The committee has also had the chance to review curriculum's not suggested by the state as well.

The committee has been

SEE **SCHOOL**, P2

Home fire official report

Months later, report released

BY TYSON JUAREZ
THE GAZETTE RECORD

After months since the Mother's Day fire that took one life and destroyed two buildings, the St. Maries Fire Protection district has released it's official report on the incident.

The St. Maries Gazette Record conducted a public records request to receive reports from the St. Maries Fire Protection District and the Idaho State Fire Marshal on the incident.

The incident prompted public outcry as many citizens attended the Fire Commissioner's meetings following the incident to report their concerns.

The report has detailed descriptions of the night of the fire provided by three of the firefighters who were on scene of the incident including SMF-PD Chief Michael Estep, Bryce Davis and Cody Crane.

The narrative provided by Chief Estep states that fire was dispatched to a structural fire at Jefferson and 5th Avenue, and based on the conditions reported, mutual aid had been requested from Plummer and Emida Fire. Mutual aid was also requested from Fernwood fire after Emida did not provide a response.

In the report, Chief Estep says that when arriving on the scene, firefighters found a fully involved structure and several vehicles and a camper involved.

His report says that several

SEE **FIRE**, P12

Trio of city council members sworn in Monday

BY SUMMER WILLIAMS
THE GAZETTE RECORD

Three council members were sworn in at the St. Maries City Council meeting Monday, Jan. 8.

Prior to the swearing in ceremony, the council approved December minutes, expenses and treasurer's report. The council also voted to approve the canvas of election results.

Mayor Tom Carver also recognized outgoing councilmen Randall Saunders for his years of service and expressed appreciation for the job he did while serving on council.

Incumbent Ed Spooner was sworn in along with newcomers Tina Thomson and Charles Winter. The three join Sabrina

Powell, Steve Dorendorf and Doug Ryan.

Ryan was elected as council president. Ryan, Spooner and Dorendorf will serve on the administrative committee and Powell, Winter and Thomson will serve on the public works committee.

Council also approved the mayor's appointments of Jaidyn Kinzer, city clerk; Celia Sibert, city treasurer; Jeff Keen, public works director; Scott Castles, city police chief; and Andy Doman, city attorney.

...

Amendments were approved to the Payport Electronic Payments Services

SEE **CITY**, P2



SUMMER WILLIAMS | GAZETTE RECORD

Tina Thomson, Charles Winter and Ed Spooner were sworn in at the St. Maries City Council meeting Jan. 8. The three individuals were elected to four year terms back in November.



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Low: 15



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High: 15
Low: -12



Saturday
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High: 9
Low: -14



Sunday
Chance Snow
High: 16
Low: 1



Monday
Mostly Cloudy
High: 25
Low: -1



Tuesday
Mostly Cloudy
High: 30
Low: 15

CITY: Thomson, Winter, Spooner sworn in for four years following November vote

FROM PAGE 1

Legal agreement ny council. Credit/debit cards fees were lowered to a flat three per cent (was three percent plus \$1), and the fee for electronic checks was also lowered from \$5 to \$1.

• • •

Agreements the city has in place with St. Maries Septic and St. Joe Potty Huts for dumping were also discussed. Attorney Terrun Zolman said the contract with St. Joe Potty Huts needs updated as soon as possible due to an increase in how much the business is dumping and the size of the trucks. St. Maries Septic is due to be renewed in April.

Dorendorf and Ryan questioned if the council needed to look at the fee the city is charging for dumping, which is 10 cents per gallon. Councilmen also asked about exclusivity language in the contracts. Zolman said he would talk with Doman about the language, but said it basically outlines the city doesn't just allow anyone to dump. A contract must be in place after the city determines if its system can handle the waste.

Laci St. John was not present at the meeting. Her business, Benewah Beverage, has also inquired about being able to dump.

Mayor Carver suggested the matter be tabled so the council can review fees, language and make other necessary adjustments to the present and any future contracts. Council approved tabling the matter.

• • •

During police updates, Castles shared the used vehicle the city recently purchased is outfitted and being used for patrol. He said the department will also likely be receiving some grant funds for a special emphasis enforcement they did on New Year's Eve. He said there were 59 traffic stops and one DUI came out of the emphasis on impaired driving.

Castles also shared the department received \$26,000

to equip vehicles with the e-ticket system. The grant will pay for printers, scanners, computers and installation of the equipment for the system.

Winter asked if the cameras at the four-way stop at 10th and Main were able to read license plates. Castles said the camera that is at the stop is not functioning, and if it were it does not do license plate reading. He said other cameras the city was trying had to be sent back as the cost wasn't feasible.

• • •

During public works update, Keen recommended with the negative temperatures predicted residents run their water some. He said gates into city park have been closed due to people spinning brodies on the lawn. He said the park will be walking only. He remarked people need to get permits for work they are having construction or other projects done. He said a new roof that was just installed would likely have to be torn off because it did not meet the snow load.

Winter asked what businesses on Main were supposed to do with snow they remove from their sidewalks since they are not supposed to put it in city streets. He wondered if there was some kind of a plan in place for the snow to be taken care of.

Keen said it is not the city's responsibility to clear sidewalks for businesses or remove snow if a business puts it into the street. Powell suggested it could be put in a private parking lot or somewhere else on the business' own property if they have space. Spooner said he's paid to have the snow taken away.

Ryan asked about the chipping away of the concrete poured on College Avenue for sidewalks/curbing. Keen said it gets mentioned at every meeting and it is on the contractor to repair it. Mayor Carver said the issue needs to be addressed as "the job is not up to specs." Keen said the city got an extension on the warranty, adding the work didn't even last three months.

MARY ORR | GAZETTE RECORD

Three new Board of Trustee members were sworn in at Monday night's regularly scheduled board meeting. Pictured left to right: Seth Stoke, Jody Hendrickx, Dr. Teresa Rensch, Paul Sotin, Josh Harvey and Beth Halvorsen.

RENSCH: In depth article on meeting in next week's issue

FROM PAGE 1

six contractors had sent in bids.

The board will have a special board meeting at 5:30, January 29 at the District

Office to discuss the bids and the contractors will be present to answer any questions.

Dr. Rensch said there is a possibility they could approve a bid that night.

More than 50 people

attended the meeting with a handful of them speaking during public comment.

An in-depth article on the meeting will be in next week's edition of the Gazette Record.

'IT'S A TOUGH PROCESS, AND IT'S TAKEN SOME TIME.'

Victoria Carson

Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator

SCHOOL: One teacher from each grade chosen to pilot curriculums

FROM PAGE 1

able to narrow down to about three curriculums to pilot in a five to six week trial.

"It's a thorough process, and it's taken some time," Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator Victoria Carson said.

One grade level teacher from each grade has been chosen to pilot the chosen curriculums.

The teachers will be able to grade the curriculum based on an evaluation tool that has been provided. The teachers will then report back to the committee.

"One of the teachers said they won't really know until they are digging into it in the classroom and engaging

with it with students," Superintendent Teresa Rensch said.

The three curriculums that will be piloted are Envision by Savvas, Into Math by HMH and Dimension by Singapore Math. These curriculums can be viewed by visiting the Idaho Board of Education website.

If the curriculums get good reviews from the teachers who pilot them, the committee can then make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees to adopt them.

"The Board is who will make the final decision, we can only make a recommendation," Carson said.

Carson said the committee wants to be sure to recommend the right curriculum

though, and that they have no issue with returning to square one if the curriculum that's piloted gets bad reviews.

Dr. Rensch said curriculums have a life span of around five to seven years, and that the school district wants to be sure to select what fits the community's needs.

The committee's meetings are open to the public and community members are encouraged to view the proposed curriculum.

Information regarding the curriculum selection can be viewed on the teacher and learner page on district's website.

For more information call the district office at 208-245-2579.

DEADLINES

News.....Monday, 4:00PM
Letters to the EditorFriday, NOON
Classifieds.....Monday, NOON
Public Notices.....Friday, 3:00PM
Too Late to ClassifyTuesday, 11:00AM
Photos.....Monday, 10:00AM
Sports.....Monday, NOON

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USPS 476-680
www.gazetterecord.com

Published every Wednesday at
610 Main Avenue
St. Maries, Idaho 83861

Periodical postage paid
at St. Maries, Idaho

POSTMASTER:
Please send address corrections to

610 Main Avenue
St. Maries, Idaho 83861

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County supports Stimson project

BY SUMMER WILLIAMS
THE GAZETTE RECORD

After meeting with representatives from Stimson Monday, Jan. 8, county commissioners indicated they would support the Stimson Timberlands Legacy Project.

As part of this project, approximately 128,258 acres owned by Stimson would be held in a conservation easement. Barry Dexter, of Stimson, said 11,000 acres of the 47,000 acres the company owns in Benewah County would be included in the conservation easement.

Dexter said the state of Idaho would hold the conservation easement and Stimson would continue to own and manage the land. He said Stimson would still pay taxes to the county, and be able to harvest timber as they see fit.

“With land values going through the roof, there is a lot of interest in purchasing industrial timberlands for development,” Dexter said. “This would keep the land as a working forest and help maintain a timber base for the two sawmills we have in this county.”

“Your competition has been doing a lot of development,” Commissioner Phil Lampert said.

The easement would be perpetual, Dexter explained, and if the land was traded or sold the conservation easement would remain.

Dexter said public access would still be maintained for recreation use, hunting, fishing and the like.

“It sounds like a good deal to me to keep it from being developed,” Commissioner Bob Short said.

Lampert encouraged Stimson to hold onto other land they hold throughout the county and within the boundaries of the reservation.

“When the tribe buys lands, it comes off the tax rolls and they lock it down... do what you can to keep your land,” Lampert said.

Lampert and Short approved a letter of support for the conservation easement. Commissioner Mark Reynolds was not at Monday’s meeting.

...

Commissioners approved monthly claims after asking Clerk DeeDee Bramblett to check into bills from Pendell Oil and St. Joe Oil. Short said the bills from Pendell mentioned unleaded gasoline and most everything the county runs takes diesel. Lampert asked for a price check on bills from St. Joe Oil. He said the variance in price was comparable to the cost of on road diesel and the county is buying off road.

...

An alcohol beverage license for The Grapple was approved.

...

A resolution in regards to hangar space availability was tabled. Engineer Jim Roletto also said he doesn’t think there would be space in lot two to build anything. He said a building would be too close to the runway and not meet setback requirements. Finally, annual financial reports for the airport were approved due to additional reimbursement forms.

...

Commissioners tabled an elevator modernization proposal which would cost approximately \$114,000. Bramblett said both buildings – the courthouse and Federal Building – just had their five-year inspections and both elevators passed. She said to her knowledge the elevator in the courthouse has not been having trouble. County Attorney Mariah Dunham suggested the company that sent the proposal come and talk to the commissioners to help

determine how necessary the proposed renovations might be. The item was tabled.

...

Becky and Tucker Harold appeared to give a brief update on how the 2023 season went at the golf course. Becky said it was a “really good season.” She said the numbers show those using the course is about 50 percent locals and 50 percent out-of-towners. There are plans for a spring cleanup day before the course opens in April. The Harold’s discussed a few needs with the commissioners and said there may be a small increase to membership fees.

...

Having heard nothing back yet from the Shoshone County Commissioners on the property Benewah County, an agreement for an easement for the Idaho Department of Lands was tabled again. However, Short expressed the county needed to take action “one way or the other” soon.

...

Commissioners approve amendments to the Idaho Rural Water Association Services Contract for the county’s license for wastewater. Former IRWA employee Paul Sifford left and so the new operator will be Jason Frank. Also, there was a monthly rate increase for IRWA’s services of \$50.

...

The contract with J&E Solid Waste was tabled again. Roletto said he was still working with J&E on a final number that would work for both parties. Lampert said he would like the contract to be finalized by the end of the month. The item was tabled.

...

Notice will be put out of the commissioners’ intent to accept two bids on two odd lots they are selling.

...

Bramblett said in regards to the prosecution services contract with the city of St. Maries, the city has not paid since February 2023. The total owed to Benewah County from the city of St. Maries is \$19,440. She said the city informed her they wanted to receive an invoice and so she hopes that it will receive approval from the city council and be paid. She said the city of Plummer was up to date.

...

Short said the snowplow turnaround on Sportsman’s Access has been compromised. He said Potlatch gave their word when developing the area to reserve a spot for the county to turn equipment around. However, the plat never designated it and the ground the county was using, which is out of the right-of-way, got sold. He said there was also supposed to be an area designate for dumpsters and that did not happen.

“I’m not sure what the answer is,” Short said of the dilemma.

No action was taken.

...

Roletto shared the bridges on Sanders Road are set in place and crews were just doing some final work around them. He said the road should be open for travel by Wednesday (Jan. 10).

In regards to grant funding to make improvements to the county’s sewer system, Roletto said he does not think the county will score well due to how the points are distributed. He said because of the unique situation of the system some of the point categories scored do not even apply to the county.

“The city of St. Maries has the permits and does the treatment,” Roletto said. “I’m not feeling great about it.”

Lampert suggested a narrative with the application explaining the county’s situation. Roletto agreed he could send that along with it.

Roletto also asked the commissioners to think about going after a bond to make

improvements to the system. He said if the commissioners sought a loan of around \$2 million, they could use money they are already collecting from users to make payments. He said he would bring more information back to the commissioners. Roletto also said the county should know by March if they will get any grant money from DEQ.

Lampert also made comments about the agreement with the city of St. Maries in regards to the county sewer system for treatment, which has still not yet finalized. He said he’s mentioned the agreement at city council meetings and it just gets passed over.

“It’s ridiculous how they are stonewalling us on the whole thing. I am almost to the point of withholding money until they finalize the agreement,” Lampert said.

...

Roletto shared he’d like to spend around \$3,000 to install a garage door on a building at the airport so it is easier for taking vehicles in and out. He said the county will also be updating the transportation plan. The county receives \$20,000 from LHTAC to update the plan.

The county also has a grant of \$1.5 million to pave along Benewah Creek Road coming off of Highway 95. Lampert said the county is not sure how many miles that will get them.

...

Short noted the county may need to look at charging more for “big tires” coming into the transfer station.

...

Maureen Hodgson asked about openings on the county’s planning and zoning board during public comment. Lampert suggested she put in an application.

...

Amber and Kenny Osier appeared to renew their lease agreement with the county for property at 801 Railroad Avenue. The commissioners approved giving the Osier’s a five-year lease.

...

Commissioners approved hiring an individual at 12 hours per week to clean up the dumpster sites in the Tensed area.

...

Commissioners briefly discussed the issue of mud being brought onto county roadways by contractors/loggers. Roletto said he could look into the matter.

...

A proposal in regards to courthouse security was tabled as Reynolds was absent and he has been working on that item.

...

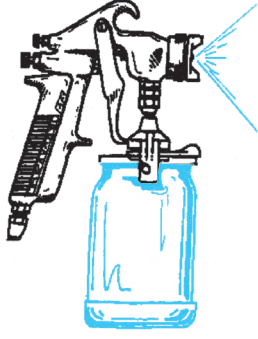
Commissioners approved a proposal for upgrading the lighting and installing emergency lights at the Santa shop. The cost will be approximately \$2,446. Stillwater Electric will do the work.

...

EMS Director Kristin Compton talked with the commissioners about placing ambulances in Fernwood and Emida. Commissioners discussed with her building something to house the ambulance near the fire station in Emida. There was an individual willing to let Benewah County EMS house an ambulance in a shop temporarily.

Compton said she would be attending a training in Boise at the end of the month. A group out of Seattle is putting the training on. She said it is on resuscitation.

Compton also indicated she was still looking for a vehicle to serve as a command unit or sprint vehicle. She brought a couple options to the commissioners. Lampert asked her to look at the cost of a new 2021 or 2022 vehicle.



SMILE A WHILE

She helped a lost little girl by taking her to the store’s service counter and having them page her mother. She saw this as a chance to teach her 12-year-old daughter a safety lesson. “That girl did the right thing,” the mother said. “Do you know why? Because she asked a woman for help, not a man.” The daughter looked at her mystified. “Why on earth would I ask a man for help if I was already lost?”

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Boller new owner of local coffee shop

BY TYSON JUAREZ
THE GAZETTE RECORD

A new coffee shop is up and running in St. Maries, and it's owner is a familiar face for local coffee drinkers. Emily Boller is owner of the newly opened Em's Place on College Avenue in St. Maries. Boller officially opened January 1 after purchasing Dayshift and Grind from local business owner Alissa Michael. Boller previously was a manager at Day Shift and Grind and said she fell in love with the space and was excited to bring some of her own inspiration and style to the location.

"This is something I've always wanted to do," Boller said. "This is my third opportunity to buy a coffee and I love this place." Em's Place offers not only coffee, but also locally crafted baked goods. Boller said the shop is also working towards opening a salad bar. The shop offers seating and Boller said it's the ideal place to have a cup of coffee and relax. The shop is open from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. Em's Place will also offer coffee delivery on Fridays. Deliveries can be made in town or as far as Calder or Fernwood.

AT THE COURTHOUSE

PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE
Jacob L. Bleily, b. 1991, of Plummer. Misdemeanor: no insurance (second within five years) (Dec. 17).
Shayn M. Dittman, b. 1975, of Calder. Misdemeanor: no insurance (second within five years) (Dec. 23).
Hannah L. Jones, b. 2000, of St. Maries. Felony: possession of hydrocodone, introduction of

contraband into a correctional facility. Misdemeanor: possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia (Dec. 31).
Preston C. Boyd, b. 1990, of St. Maries. Felony: possession of hydrocodone. Misdemeanor: possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia (Dec. 31).





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SHERIFF'S LOG

THURSDAY, DEC. 28
2:25 p.m.: A man reported he saw what looked to be a meteor fall from the sky southeast of Heyburn State Park. He said he wanted to let dispatch know in case it wasn't a meteor. He said the object came down quickly from the sky and had a chem trail.
4:29 p.m.: There was a report of fire coming out of a chimney near the church on 2nd Street.

FRIDAY, DEC. 29
8:18 a.m.: A St. Maries woman reported a female tried to use a forged \$100 bill.
10:33 a.m.: A St. Maries man called to make a formal complaint about the homeless people living at the slough. He said it looks tacky and doesn't want St. Maries turning into Spokane. He said there is a brown van and a bunch of plastic tarps set up as tents.
10:46 a.m.: A Fernwood woman reported she is going through a divorce and her ex-husband just dropped off a dirt bike. She said he is usually up to no good and doesn't want to get

in trouble for anything. She asked for a deputy to call her.
6:08 p.m.: A St. Maries woman reported she thinks the bars are overserving people. She said it feels like it has been this way more than once with her daughter.

SATURDAY, DEC. 30
10:03 a.m.: There was a report of a male driving a black GMC Sierra who was all over the roadway. The caller said the vehicle was traveling from 30 to 60 miles per hour and stopped in the middle of the road. This was along Highway 95.

SUNDAY, DEC. 31
5:54 a.m.: A St. Maries woman requested an ambulance for her husband who was sweaty and not feeling well.
9:32 a.m.: A DeSmet man reported there was a male trespassing and hunting on his property. He wanted a deputy to come to the ranch so he could press charges.
11:52 a.m.: There was a report of a vehicle with Washington plates parked at the dumpster on Sanders Road.

MONDAY, JAN. 1
7:51 a.m.: A St. Maries woman reported there was a wild, stud horse terrorizing her property. She said it is a mean horse and it chases her animals. She said the owners free range the horse and this happened three weeks ago.
6:32 p.m.: A Tensed resident said someone has been burning plastic since possibly noon. The caller wanted it checked out since it's not wood.

TUESDAY, JAN. 2
5:11 a.m.: There was a request for a deputy to respond. The caller said a female through a rock through the window of a building in Plummer.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 3
4:15 p.m.: There was a report that the overnight parking sign at Aqua Park had been run over.
4:20 p.m.: A Fernwood resident reported the fence had been run over.

THURSDAY, JAN. 4
12:08 a.m.: A Santa man reported a female was texting him and harassing him.

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TUESDAY MORNING MESS



City Crews were out early Tuesday morning plowing local roads after Monday night's snow storm.

TYSON JUAREZ | GAZETTE RECORD

Family Foresters workshop in CDA next week

BY TYSON JUAREZ
THE GAZETTE RECORD

The University of Idaho Extension will host its annual Family Foresters Workshop this month in Coeur d'Alene. The workshop is meant to strengthen the skills of foresters, state-employed

service foresters and those who work with family forest owners. The forum will provide updates regarding technology and knowledge that can be applied to family forestry. The program is able to accommodate up to 100 people. Registration forms can be

found at the University of Idaho Extension Office. Those who want to attend the program will need to turn in their forms by January 19. The fee for the workshop is \$110 which covers handouts and refreshments. For more information on the program, contact Chris Schnepf at 208-292-1288.

Police search for Bargain Barn thief

BY TYSON JUAREZ
THE GAZETTE RECORD

Police are in search for leads regarding a burglary that took place at the Bargain Barn in Plummer December 28. Since the incident was reported, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Explosives (ATF) have gotten involved to assist the Benewah County Sheriff's Office with the case. Undersheriff Tyler Morris said the department has not been able to identify any suspects but said they know four rifles and five handguns were stolen during the incident. An exact dollar amount of the items stolen is unknown at this time. Undersheriff Morris said the four rifles that were stolen were all AR type rifles. The burglary was originally reported to the BCSO around 5 p.m., Thursday, December 28. One of the workers at the

business reported that a person had come into the store and distracted them while three others wearing ski masks ran into the store and stole the items. It was reported the person talking to one of the workers then ran out after the three suspects but got into the car with them before driving away. "It looks like they sent in one of the guys to be a distraction," Undersheriff Tyler Morris said in a previous interview. Undersheriff Morris said the BCSO was told the suspects were driving a white Dodge Journey with Washington plates and that the suspects drove south on Highway 95 after leaving the scene. He said the suspects may have driven over state lines after committing the crime. Morris said any citizens who see a vehicle matching the description can call the sheriff's office.

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SENIOR MEALSITE

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WORLEY: Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Pasta Salad, Veggies, Cottage Cheese, Fruit

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11
FERNWOOD: John Wayne Casserole, Green Beans, Salad Bar, Housemade WW Rolls, Strawberry Shortcake, Milk/Assorted Juices
WORLEY: Baked Fish & Catfish, Clam Chowder, Coleslaw, Fruit

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12
ST. MARIES: French Dip, Tater Tots, Fruit, Dessert
PLUMMER: Roast Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Soup/Salad Bar, WW Bread, Dessert, Milk/V8/Fruit Juice

MONDAY, JANUARY 15
ST. MARIES: Pulled Pork Sandwich, French Fries, Soup/Salad Bar, WW Bread, Dessert, Milk/V8/Fruit Juice
PLUMMER: Pulled Pork Sandwich, French Fries, Soup/Salad Bar, WW Bread, Dessert, Milk/V8/Fruit Juice

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16
WORLEY: Pigs in a Blanket, Chili, French Fries, Cottage Cheese, Fruit

All meals are served at Noon

BOOK REVIEW

BY TERRI SCHILCHENMEYER

First Lie Wins



BY ASHLEY ELSTON

Did you get it? Come on, you had plenty of time, opportunity, and you knew exactly where it was, so you don't have a lot of excuses here. Either you got it, or you didn't... and if it's the latter, as in the new novel, "First Lie Wins" by Ashley Elston, you're gonna wish you weren't you. Evie Porter wasn't surprised at her boyfriend, Ryan's, friends. She had them pegged the minute she walked over to their table: frat-boys and gossipy, entitled women who'd tear her apart by text the minute she and Ryan walked away. And that was fine, whatever. Evie wasn't there to impress his friends. She was there to somehow "accidentally" meet Ryan, and become a part of his life. She was there to collect data about his across-the-border Texas business for her boss, Mr. Smith, who'd dispatched

her to Ryan's Louisiana hometown a few months ago. She was not there to fall in love. That had never happened before, not once since she was a teenager in trouble with the law and Mr. Smith offered her a job with big money – but it happened now: Evie. Ryan. And an unseen boss who made Evie into a first-rate con and who didn't seem to notice

when she bent his rules once or twice. Mr. Smith played games, she counteracted. Tit for tat. Would that come back to bite her later? Maybe. For now, though, she lied about her background and her life, watching Ryan's friends and watching Ryan, waiting for further instructions from a boss who seemed to be dangerously edgy lately. And then Evie met Ryan's old pal, James, and James' girlfriend, Lucca Marino. The minute Lucca introduced herself, Evie knew she was in trouble. Lucca Marino was Evie Porter's real name. "Lucca's hometown was Evie's real hometown. Her story was Evie's real story, and Evie knew she was on notice. Had the job on Ryan suddenly changed? Or was this another game Mr. Smith was playing? Just one more chapter. Keep telling yourself that. Also say, "I can quit reading any time," though you

won't. "First Lie Wins" is one of those tight-as-a-drum, stay-up-all-night, grip-with-your-fingernails kind of books that you love, and you won't quit it. You can't. You'll need to know if you've got it all figured out (you haven't), so get cozy. You'll be awake for awhile. This isn't the kind of book you want if your heart is weak, or if you're used to silly little made-for-TV kinds of novels. No, this is a whip-smart, curled and coiled thriller set in a world in which truths are lies, lies are life-saving, fast thinking is mandatory, and dummies need not apply. Be warned that author Ashley Elston plays with her readers. Be warned that you'll love every minute of it. There's a lot of winter left to read, plus that spring vacation you're eager for, and this is the book to take – if you can manage to wait that long. Just find "First Lie Wins" and get it.

UpRiver Elementary STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



December Students of the Month at UpRiver Elementary were recognized for being organized. They include (front, from left) Amy Megee, Leigha Cheyney, Archer Megee, Anna Douglass, Sofia Schnebly, Eli Megee, Axel Cox, William Tondée, Cassie McGaha and Liena Docken.

December 2023

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WHAT'S UP DOC? [

FREEZING COLD

“Oh, the weather outside is frightful, But the fire is so delightful...” We have had a mild cold season so far, but that will change this week. I love snow skiing, so my skis are waxed and ready to go. Let’s review some common sense during these cold winter days with these recommendations:

Stay well nourished by eating and drinking enough, making sure to drink enough fluids because we dehydrate faster in cold weather conditions. Dehydration causes headaches, dizziness, and fatigue, and it is important to stay alert outdoors. Eating enough food during the day, especially fats and carbohydrates, is also important. Your body uses those nutrients as energy to stay warm in cold temperatures.

Stay well rested. Working outdoors can be challenging and increases risks to your safety. Make sure you are getting enough sleep to stay alert on the job when conditions are more dangerous.

Plan breaks from the cold. Just like you need to take breaks from your work throughout the day, your body needs to take breaks from the cold. Plan warm-up times throughout your day to avoid numbness and shivers.

Stay dry. Damp clothing can quickly drop your body temperature. It is more important than ever to stay dry in the cold. Wear a moisture-wicking base layer to draw away sweat as you work. Wear waterproof gear as an outer shell to prevent your under layers from getting wet. Remove any wet clothing immediately.

Dress for the conditions. Dressing in layers is key, as it not only keeps you warm but allows you to adjust to changing temperatures. Proper gloves, socks and footwear are essential. Choose headwear that keeps your head and ears warm. Scarves or Balaclavas can also help to warm your neck and warm the air you’re breathing.

Keep a cold weather safety kit in your vehicle. If you are on the road, make sure to take a cold weather safety kit. A cold weather kit should include emergency blankets, candles, and matches. A candle burning in a vehicle could provide enough warmth to ward off hypothermia for a period of time. Before you work outdoors in cold weather conditions, make sure that you’re well prepared. Be aware of the dangers of exposure: frost bite and hypothermia.

Avoid overexerting yourself and stay safe during outdoor clean-up. Cold weather puts an extra strain on the heart. If you have heart disease or high blood pressure, follow your doctor’s advice about shoveling snow or performing other hard work in the cold. Otherwise, if you must do heavy outdoor chores, dress warmly and work slowly to avoid excess sweating. Remember, your body is already working hard just to stay warm, so don’t overdo it.



DR. RALPH SUTHERLIN

Be safe during outdoor activities:

- Let your friends and family know where you will be before you go hiking, camping, or skiing.
- Do not leave any areas of your skin exposed to the cold.

- Try not to sweat or become too tired.
- Be prepared to take emergency shelter.
- Pack dry clothing, a two-way radio, waterproof matches, and paraffin fire starters with you.
- Do not use alcohol and other mood-altering substances and avoid caffeinated drinks.
- Avoid walking on ice or getting wet.
- Be careful while traveling.
- Listen for radio or television reports of travel advisories issued by the National Weather Service.
- Do not travel in low visibility conditions.
- Avoid traveling on ice-covered roads if possible.
- Never pour water on your windshield to remove ice or snow—this can cause your windshield to shatter.
- If you must travel by car, use tire chains, and take a mobile phone with you.
- Let someone know your destination and when you expect to arrive. Ask them to notify authorities if you are late.
- Always carry extra warm clothing and blankets with you. Do not rely on a car to provide enough heat. The car could break down.
- Staying in your car when stranded is often the safest choice if winter storms create poor visibility or if roadways are ice covered. These steps will increase your safety when stranded:
 - Tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna as a signal to rescuers and raise the hood of the car (if it is not snowing).
 - Move anything you need from the trunk into the passenger area.
 - Wrap your entire body, including your head, in extra clothing, blankets, or newspapers.
 - Stay awake. You will be less vulnerable to cold-related health problems.
 - Run the motor (and heater) for about 10 minutes per hour, opening one window slightly to let in air. Make sure that snow is not blocking the exhaust pipe—this will reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
 - As you sit, keep moving your arms and legs to improve your circulation and stay warmer.
 - Do not eat snow because it will lower your body temperature.
 - Huddle with other people for warmth.

If you don’t have to go outside, stay in, and get cozy with a book, bake some bread or muffins, play board games with the kids, play hide-and-seek in the house, watch a movie, journal, start your memoirs, draw pictures, knit, or paint. If you do go outside, don’t forget to have some fun: make a snowman, have a snowball fight, build a snow cave, take pictures, look around at the winter wonderland.

Happy New Year 2024,
Doc Ralph

DR. RALPH SUTHERLIN is a board-certified physician accepting new and existing patients at Marimn Healthcare in Plummer, ID. He is offering alternative medical therapies through Preventive Health Medical Institute, at Syringa Health & Wellness, St Maries. Questions: idahoairsurgeon@aol.com



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“Now also when I am OLD and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.” Ps 71:18. Old is variable, but I agree with David and hope that in my own grayheadedness, I can show God’s strength and power.

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First Sermon, Sanctuary 8:30AM
Worship Together, Sanctuary 9:30AM
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Sunday School 10:00AM
Second Sermon, Sanctuary 10:30AM

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Charles Dee Barnes

Charles Dee Barnes was born August 17, 1935 in Carroll, Iowa, son of Jack Yale Barnes and Gladys Ruby Beckwith. He attended Helena High School and Iowa State University before transferring to Montana State University where he earned a bachelor's degree.

He met and married Leona Gladys Wohler in 1957. He graduated with a master's degree in Physiology from the University of Washington, followed by a Doctorate degree in Neuro-Science from the University of Iowa. From there he entered a post-doctorate program at the University of California in San Francisco. He became an Assistant Professor at Indiana University Medical School, followed by a transfer to Indiana State University as a Professor. Then a move to Texas Tech University where he was Chairman of the Department of Physiology in the Medical School. During this period, he also taught at St Georges School of Medicine in Grenada for a number of years. He presented many research studies in Europe and spent a year working in Pisa, Italy with professors from the medical school. He contributed to multiple books and research papers & professional seminars.

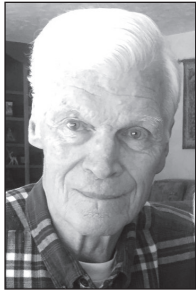
He loved to travel and visited many parts of Europe, Asia, and the Caribbean. He was very fond of camping, hiking, and outdoor activities, so while evaluating potential placement for his graduate students he rediscovered his love for the Pacific Northwest. After meeting with the faculty at Washington State University and traveling the White Pine Trail he decided this was the home he desired for himself & Leona.

He served as the Chairman of the Department of VCAPP (Veterinary Comparative Anatomy, Physiology, and Pharmacology) at WSU and they moved to Pullman. They quickly found the place of his dream on the St. Joe River, choosing their new lifestyle. He retired from WSU in 2000, Professor Emeritus.

In retirement they moved near Calder, Idaho full-time. He became involved in the local community by becoming the local fire chief, conducted a Bible study group with emphasis on Biblical history, and had active roles with the local school board. With his love of reading, he established a reading program for individual children at the Calder/Avery school which he enjoyed very much. He loved to design and build, helping to add to their permanent home near Calder. He had a special love for trees and planted many on their meadow land.

He is preceded in death by his parents & younger brother Steve Barnes. He is survived by Leona, his wife of 66 years, and four adult children: Tara Peterson (Steve), Teagen Barnes, Kalee Arbanas (Kevin), and Kyler Barnes (Kerrie), 13 grandchildren, and his sister Patricia Coe of Boise.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00am on January 12th, 2024, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 130 S. 10th Street, St Maries, Idaho. You may visit Charles' online tribute at hodgefuneralhome.com.



Darlene Kay (Reynolds) Lagerquist

Darlene Kay (Reynolds) Lagerquist, 73, passed away Wednesday December 27, 2023 at home surrounded by her family.

Darlene was born February 10, 1950 to Cliff and Agnes (Christiansen) Reynolds in Kellogg, Idaho. Darlene was raised in Bear Creek, Idaho. She attended Kingston Elementary School, Pinehurst Elementary/Jr. High School, and graduated from Kellogg High School, Class of 1968. She also attended North Idaho College for two years.

She married her high school sweetheart, Paul Lagerquist in 1970 in Kellogg, Idaho. They made their home in Smelterville, Idaho where they raised their two daughters, Kristie born 1971 and Katie born 1973. Paul was a miner in the Silver Valley and also logged in Idaho and Montana while Darlene was a homemaker.

Paul and Darlene moved their family to the Aleutian Islands of Alaska in 1980. They later moved to Fairbanks, Alaska in 1982 and settled in North Pole, Alaska in 1986. Paul and Darlene returned to Harrison, Idaho in 2000 where they currently reside.

Darlene learned the banking business starting in Sand Point, Alaska as a teller. She later learned the mortgage lending side of banking becoming a loan officer, mortgage broker and Vice President of mortgage loans.

Darlene's hobbies included camping, spending time traveling, working around her home, and socializing with family and friends. She was an avid seamstress, and enjoyed quilting, knitting,

crocheting, and loved crafting. She was a great cook, baker and her greatest joy was her seven grand children and four great grand children.

Darlene is preceeded in death by her parents Cliff and Agnes Reynolds, sisters Jeanie Roe and Maggie Reynolds, brothers David and Roger Reynolds and daughter Kristine (Lagerquist) Lefebvre. Darlene leaves to cherish her memories: husband Paul Lagerquist of Harrison, ID, daughter Katie (John) Jansen of Moses Lake, WA, brother Dale Reynolds of Harrison, ID. Grand children: Fischer and Kendal Jansen of Moses Lake, WA. Brandon (Jamie) Lefebvre of Whitefish, MT, Jenifer Earl of Fairbanks, AK, Jordan (Jake) Lefebvre-Hanson of Columbia Falls, MT, Shealyn Lefebvre of Phoenix, AZ and Beau Lefebvre of Marion, MT. Great Grand Children: Anna Lefebvre, Waylon Lefebvre, and Jalan Butkovich of White Fish, MT, Charlotte Earl of Fairbanks, AK, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Services will be held Saturday, January 20, 2024, 11:00 am, at the Mountain View Congregational Church in Kellogg.

In lieu of flowers please send donations to Hospice of North Idaho, 2290 W. Prairie Ave, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815. Shoshone Funeral Service is assisting the Lagerquist family.



Judith Jean Cardwell

Judith Jean Cardwell passed away on December 16, 2023 at age 83 in Coeur d' Alene. She was known as Judy by most people, Sweetheart, Mom, Grama Judy, by those she loved most. She was delivered into this world on April 7, 1940, by her Granma Young in a tent located in Prineville, Ore.

Judy grew up in Prineville where she graduated from Crook County high School in 1958, and met the love of her life, Larry Cardwell. Larry was in the Navy when they married on June 4, 1960. In the first 21 years of marriage, they moved 27 times, from California to Oregon, and finally settled in Hayden.

In 1972 Larry and Judy, along with other family members, started Cardwell's Auction in Dalton Gardens. The family business continued for nearly 10 years. In 1985, Judy created a small hobby business in the backyard of their Hayden Lake residence dubbed Judy's Greenhouse. Her love of flowers, hard work, natural talent, and extraordinary personality made her little greenhouse hobby explode into a huge venture that still exists now, even under new ownership. After selling the property and retiring to Athol, Judy continued to have the most amazingly beautiful gardens and floral displays found anywhere in the area. She also had a love of

anything crafty, but mostly loved to sew and quilt.

Although Judy was passionate about her gardening, she was the proudest of her family. She is survived by her husband Larry, sons Wayne Cardwell, Doug Cardwell, Craig and his wife Sandie Cardwell, and daughter Tori and husband Jim Morris. Also, siblings, Ruby Garside, Jane Michael, Lyle Smith, Bill Smith, and Phillys Tipton. 6 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, and many extended family members. Indeed, Judy's life was spent caring for others. Anyone who landed in her path was well fed, well loved, and set straight if they needed it. Most kids in the Hayden Lake neighborhood knew, as they were growing up, that she was always a phone call away if they needed her.

Friends, family, and anyone whose lives have been touched by this amazing woman, are invited to The American Legion Hall 1138 E Poleline Ave., Post Falls on January 14, 2024 from 1-3pm to celebrate her life. There will be refreshments served directly following service.



Vicky Lynn Story

Vicky Lynn Story (73) resident of Fernwood, ID passed away on December 27, 2023, surrounded by her loving family. Vicky grew up in Boise and attended school there. Following her schooling, she had a brief marriage that resulted in her 2 children. Vicky met Wes Story the first time through her son, and a second time when they ran into one another on a night out. They had an instant connection and married in 1981.

The Storys made their home in the Caldwell and Nampa areas. Vicky was a home maker and took care of her children and worked for a bit at a nursing home. When Wes retired in 2001, the couple found property in Fernwood, ID. They relocated to Fernwood in 2002 and made the small town their forever home.

Vicky enjoyed fishing, canning, picking berries, gardening, and spending time with her family. She was a strong woman of faith

who enjoyed opening her home to anyone and everyone. She was a phenomenal cook who took pride in serving big meals around the holidays, making them just a little extra special for those she loved.

Vicky is survived by her husband Wes at their home in Fernwood; children Ellen Davenport and Sam Armas both of Fernwood, Tami Clark of Spokane, Jim (Maria) Story and John Story both of Nampa; 11 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

She is preceded in death by an infant child, daughter Lydia Story, and all of her siblings. You may visit Vicky's online tribute at hodgefuneralhome.com.



Yvonne Mae "Bonnie" Shanks

Yvonne Mae "Bonnie" Shanks (81) resident of Harrison, ID passed away at Shoshone Medical Center on December 28, 2023. She was born to Frank and Anna (Gee) Green on December 6, 1942, in Wellsburg, NY. Bonnie grew up in Wellsburg, NY and graduated from Southside High School in Elmira, NY with the class of 1960.

Following high school, Bonnie went to work at Century Wholesale. She married her high school sweetheart and the love of her life George Shanks on May 20, 1961, in Elmira. The couple made their home in Wellsburg and started a family. In 1986, the family relocated to their forever home in Harrison, Idaho. Bonnie is survived by George and their children: Valerie (and Rick Brown, granddaughter Addison) of Paradise, Tx; Debbie (and Jeff) of Coeur d'Alene; David in Boise, ID; Jason (and Carrie, grandsons Oliver and Sawyer) in Meridian, ID; and Kevin in Kingston, ID. She was preceded in death by daughter Theresa.

Bonnie worked for the City of Harrison, FerdCo and as a paraprofessional at Kootenai Elementary. Bonnie was devoted to a deep faith as she served in the Harrison Community

Baptist Church as a Deaconess for many years. She helped run the food bank and Christmas box deliveries. Bonnie loved



children and was active with the church's nursery, Sunday School, and Vacation Bible School. Bonnie was known

in Harrison as the listening ear for those who were struggling or needed encouragement. She had a welcoming home, and it was not uncommon for her children to come home to find a stranger sipping coffee at the counter with their mother. Most importantly to her, she loved her family and a full dinner table of laughter with family and friends. She will be deeply missed.

A Funeral Service will be on January 6, 2023, at 11:00 am at the Harrison Community Baptist Church. A gathering of family and friends will follow services in the fellowship hall of the church. Bonnie will be laid to rest at Ashland Cemetery in Wellsburg, NY at a later date. You may visit her online tribute at hodgefuneralhome.com.

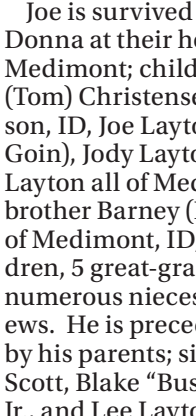
William "Joe" Layton

William "Joe" Layton (86) lifelong resident of Medimont, ID passed away at Kootenai Health on January 3, 2024. He was born to Blake and Elma (Miles) Layton on July 8, 1937, at the family homestead near Medimont. Joe grew up, in Evans Creek, on the family property. He attended elementary school at Cave Lake and high school in Rose Lake. At the age of 13, Joe left school to go work in the woods pulling a crosscut saw.

After logging for several years, Joe enlisted in the U.S. Army. He served 4 years and was able to see the world. At the age of 28, Joe married Donna Maitland on July 23, 1965, at the Hitching Post in Coeur d'Alene, ID. The couple made their home on Evans Creek and have been there ever since. Joe returned to the woods and logged for Nordstrom Logging, Sverdsten Logging and himself. He worked with his brothers Barney & Lee logging as well. He spent 1 season in Cordova, AK driving pilings; he returned home quickly realizing Alaska wasn't for him. Joe retired from logging in the mid 1980's but continued to cut meat, a career and hobby that spanned over 50 or more years.

Joe was a simple man who enjoyed the outdoors he liked to hunt and fish. He was a

fabulous cook and enjoyed cooking for big family gatherings. He had a sense of humor like no other and enjoyed telling jokes, stories, or pulling small pranks on his family. He enjoyed making people laugh.



Joe is survived by his wife Donna at their home near Medimont; children Natilie (Tom) Christensen of Harrison, ID, Joe Layton (Valerie Goin), Jody Layton, and David Layton all of Medimont, ID; brother Barney (Rosie) Layton of Medimont, ID, 3 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents; siblings Mary Scott, Blake "Buster" Layton Jr., and Lee Layton; and granddaughter Samantha Layton.

A celebration of Joe's life will be held at the Country Barn Bed and Breakfast, 18500 S Old Ln Rd, Cataldo, ID 83810 on Sunday, January 21, 2023, starting at noon. He will be laid to rest with other family members on the property he grew up on and loved. You may visit his online tribute at hodgefuneralhome.com.

Timothy Mack Ivey

Timothy Mack Ivey passed away at his residence on the morning of January 5, 2024. He was born on July 20, 1967 to Virgil and Hazel Ivey. He is survived by his son Virgil Ivey, and his grandchildren Christopher, Nicholas, Karlee, Brooklynn, Madelynn, Jessica, Kadie, and Nicholas.

He loved hunting, fishing, and his country. He stood proudly and bravely for his beliefs. He was also a proud second amendment advocate. Above all

else he was a God revering man.

Due to circumstances his service will be at a later date. Please contact his son Dave Ivey for details. (719) 429-5716. May he rest in peace in God's good grace. You



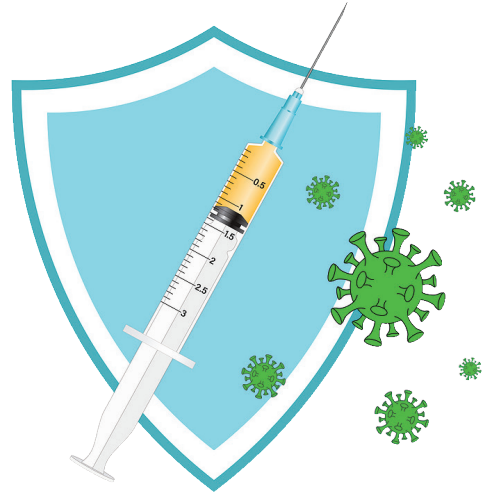
may visit Tim's online tribute at hodgefuneralhome.com.

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Thank You

On behalf of my family, I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the outpouring of love and support. From the second Craig was diagnosed and it hasn't stopped. No words could ever express our appreciation for the community of St. Maries, friends, and family.

Thank you, St. Maries Nazarene Church for the amazing service. Thank you to those who attended to remember Craig. It spoke volumes. The amount of love that filled the church on September 30th was a blessing. The church will hold a special place in our hearts forever. I know Craig was smiling down on us.

Thank you, Pastor Darrin and Sabrina for going above and beyond in making sure Craig had the comfort he needed at the Hospice House before he passed. You worked hard to fulfill his last wishes and being baptized was one of them. The service was very moving and such a comfort. The church looked beautiful with the flower arrangements and photos. Michella put together the most outstanding slideshow and the flower arrangements made by St. Maries Floral and Gifts were beyond beautiful. Thank you to everyone who cooked, baked, brought and helped serve the food. The amount of time people put into preparing spoke volumes of the love in our community and surrounding areas.

Thank you, to Hodge Funeral Home. Carrie you went above and beyond to answer questions, point me in the right direction, provide comfort and more. All the time and effort you put into taking care of my family and Craig's wishes didn't go unnoticed. You are a blessing.

Thank you, to the District Office, School Board, SMHS, Heyburn, and SMMS. The cards, flowers and meals brought were a comfort to myself and family. We are blessed to be surrounded by such love and support. To my work family at the middle school, I will never be able to put into words how incredible you are. SMHS thank you for the support you give Kody and Em. Coach Mallet and Coach Fischer for your love and support for Em and Coach Buckler and Coach Humphrey for making time to stop by the house to check on Kody.

To the amazing doctors, nurses and hospital staff that helped take care of my husband. I will be forever grateful to you all. You brought comfort to us during this time.

Friends and family, thank you for the visits and never leaving our side this past year. Stopping by the house and filling it with love, support, laughter and tears was healing to Craig, myself and our children.

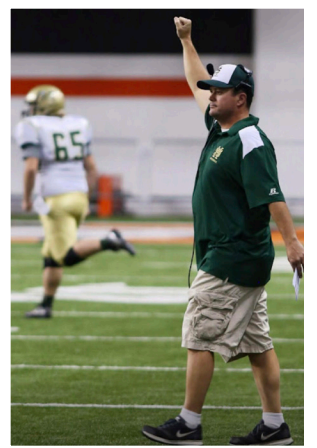
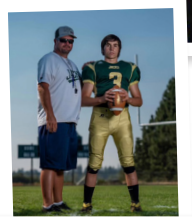
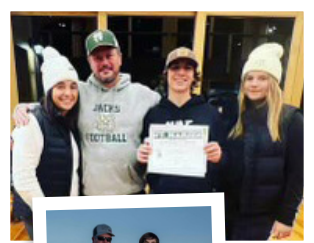
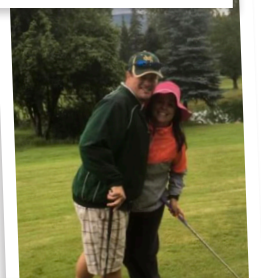
Bryan and Kristi, thank you for fulfilling Craigs wishes of speaking at his funeral. It was beautiful and a comfort. He cherished the two of you. All our adventures will forever be a blessing to me and my family. Gilkey, Rib, Bryan and Bennett for all the laughs and support from the start. Checking in on Craig and helping out anyway you could. Your visits to the Hospice House and making sure Craig and our family were taken care of. To our football kids that still continue to fill our home with love. Please know how much you are loved daily.

Pean, Gilkey, Rib, Coach Chase, Coach Bennett, Coach Buckler, Coach Rice, Coach Kolar, Coach Humphrey, Coach Wicks, Coach Becktal, Coach Pooler, Coach Truscott, Coach Hall, Coach Kraack, Coach Lounsbery, Coach Barta, Adam Stewart and Coaches/friends from other schools. Thank you for all you did for my husband and family. Your loyalty to Craig was something he spoke about. Craig was so thankful for you and I will be forever grateful for each and everyone of you.

It has been absolutely amazing to see all the cards, texts, people stopping by, donations made to the SM Booster club in memory of Craig, and phone calls. I am completely humbled by the love and support that continues to be given to my family. Craig will be forever missed and the memories will be a blessing for years to come.

Faith, Family and Football. Please keep Choppin.

Forever grateful,
Jenni Tefft



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] DEATH NOTICE [

Mitsue Jeffrey

Mitsue Jeffrey (96) resident of St. Maries, ID passed away at her home on January 6, 2024. A visitation will be held on Thursday, January 11, 2024 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm at Hodge Funeral Home in St. Maries, ID. A Committal Service will be on Friday, January 12, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at Woodlawn Cemetery in St. Maries, ID. Her Memorial Service will follow at the St. Maries Assembly of God Church at 11:00 with a gathering of family and friends in the fellowship hall of the church after services.

A complete obituary will be in next week's Gazette Record. Hodge Funeral Home has been entrusted with her arrangements.

Alfreda J. Ferguson

Alfreda J. Ferguson (91) resident of Santa, ID passed away at Valley Vista Care Center on January 4, 2024. She was born to Victor and Edna Peterson in Wakefield, MI on July 15, 1932. A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at the UpRiver Bible Church in Fernwood, ID. A gathering of family and friends will follow.

A complete obituary will be in next week's Gazette Record. Hodge Funeral Home has been entrusted with her arrangements.

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DON'T MISS OUT!

The Gazette Record team is preparing the 2024 edition of the Family Album.

Our annual magazine highlights the amazing employees across our local businesses.

**This year's edition will also feature the winners of our Gazette Readers' Choice Awards.*

email: ads@smgazette.com or call 208-245-4538 to reserve your spot in the 2024 Family Album

St. Maries
Gazette Record
ST. MARIES IN THE PINES ON THE SHADOWY ST. JOE RIVER
610 Main Avenue | St. Maries, Idaho 83861 • (208) 245-4538
Monday - Wednesday: 8AM to 4PM | Friday: 8AM to 3PM



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I love orange chicken but most store bought varieties are breaded first. This simple recipe uses fresh chicken.

Gluten Free Orange Chicken: Cut up 4 chicken breasts into bite size pieces and place in a crock pot. Add 3/4 cup BBQ sauce (I like Sweet Baby Ray's) and 3/4 cup Sweet Orange Marmalade (I use Smuckers). Stir together, 2 Tbsp. corn starch and 2 Tbsp. Soy Sauce and add to crock pot. Stir to mix and cook 4 to 6 hours on medium to high or until chicken is fully cooked. Serve over cooked rice.

Free Soup: The Harrison Library will be serving free chicken noodle soup from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Jan. 10 for Free Soup Wednesday.

Classic Book Club: The Classic Book Club is Jan. 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Harrison Library.

City Council: The Harrison City Council meeting is Jan. 11 at 6 p.m. at the Harrison Senior Center.

Libratory: The Libratory theme for Jan. 13 is Leap Day. It begins at 10 a.m. at the Harrison Library. It is for ages 5 to 10 years.

Young Author's Club: The Young Author's Club meeting is Jan. 13 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Harrison Library.

Storytime: Preschool Storytime is every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Harrison Library.

Board Games: Board Games is every Saturday from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Harrison Library. It is open to Tweens and teens. There will also be snacks.

No School: The Kootenai Jr./Sr. High and Harrison Elementary Schools will be closed on Jan. 15 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Bookmobile: The Bookmobile will be at Valley Mart on Jan. 10 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:00

HARRISON NEWS



SUSAN RODGERS
208-689-3987

a.m. and Harrison Elementary from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The bookmobile will be at Rose Lake School on Jan. 11 at 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Potluck: The January Potluck is Jan. 14 following the 10 a.m. worship service at the Harrison Community Baptist Church. Everyone is welcome.

Dance: A Midwinter's Night Ball is Jan. 19 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Harrison Senior Center, 103 Pine St., Harrison, Id. Dress is Victorian inspired or semi-formal. The cost is \$10 at the door. Hot spiced drinks will be provided. Please bring treats to share.

Breakfast: The Community Family Breakfast is Jan. 20 at 8 a.m. at the Crossroads Community Church in Rose Lake. There is no charge for the breakfast.

School Lunch: The Kootenai School District School Lunch menu is: Jan. 10: Pepperoni Pizze, Garlic Broccoli, Carrot Sticks, Pineapple, Brownie Bites. Jan. 11: Hot Dog on a bun, Chips, Raw Broccoli, Red Peppers, Chilled Strawberries. Jan. 12: Sloppy Joe, Cucumbers, Cherry Tomatoes, Banana. Jan. 15: No School. Jan. 16: Meatball Sub, Celery Sticks, Cucumbers, Mixed Fruit. Jan. 17: Nachos with Taco Meat, Refried Beans, Red Peppers, Pears. All lunches are served with a choice of 1 percent lowfat or skim milk.

Weight Support Club: Marian Jones was the Star of the week and the best loser and Gwen Wadley was the Officer of the Week at the meeting on Jan. 4. Penny Bratton was the Star of the Month. Gwen Wadley, Adrianna Goodman, Jean Dohrman, Penny Bratton, Marian Jones, and Kara Truman earned an award for losing over New Years. Penny Bratton also won a 4 week weight loss award and first place in the Quarterly caterpillar contest. Susie

Rodgers and Brandi Godsby tied for second and Jo Prophet was third. Gwen Wadley was awarded first place for the most exercise for the quarter with 197 hours, Penny Bratton was second with 187 hours and Brandi Godsby was third with 157 hours.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meeting is every Thursday at the Harrison Senior Center. TOPS is a support group for those who want to lose weight. Weigh-in are from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. followed by the meeting from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. New members are welcome. For more information, contact Gwen Wadley, 208-245-3019.

Exercise Class: The Fit and Fall Proof Exercise Classes are Mondays at 9:30 a.m. and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. The classes last between 45 and 60 minutes. It is an exercise program supported and funded by the State of Idaho. It is a group of exercises to strengthen your core and improve your balance. For more information, contact 208-689-3194.

Bible Studies: The Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study is every Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. at the Harrison Community Baptist Church. Contact Gwen Wadley, 208-245-3019 for more information.

The Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study at the Medimont Grange meets at 9 a.m. on Tuesdays. The study is "Surrendered, Letting Go and Living Like Jesus."

The Women's Bible Study Fellowship is resuming on Jan. 11 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. at the Osprey Inn. The Study is on John 10, The Good Shepherd.

Iron2Iron Men's Fellowship is every Thursday at 6:15 a.m. at the Harrison Community Baptist Church.

Senior Meal Site: The Senior Meal Site is every Tuesday at noon at the Rose Lake School in Rose Lake. Call 208-752-1194 for reservations.

English Toffee: 1 ½ cups chopped Walnuts, ½ cup + 1 teaspoon Butter, ¾ cup packed Brown Sugar, ½ cup Chocolate Chips.

Place 1 teaspoon butter in 9-inch square pan and spread over bottom and halfway up sides. Sprinkle 1 cup chopped nuts evenly over bottom of pan. In saucepan, combine ½ cup butter and brown sugar. Bring to a boil and continue to boil 7 minutes, stirring constantly. Quickly pour into prepared pan, spreading evenly with knife, if necessary to smooth. Immediately sprinkle chocolate chips over toffee. When chips are melted, spread in even layer over toffee. Sprinkle remaining ½ cup nuts over chocolate. While still warm, cut into squares. Refrigerate to set. Makes 36 (1 ½-inch) pieces.

UPRIVER NEWS



RHONDA WILKS
208-245-5117

Contact Megan Burch at 208-582-8280 for further information and details.

Bingo: January 4th winners at UpRiver Bingo were Bess Boutillier, Annette Parker, Patsy Wernecke, Jim Hanson, Anna Hatton, Rhonda Manley, Betty Jones, Cathy Anderson, Mike Love, Kristie Hunter, Bunnie Gustin and David Groth. The Super Blackout winner was David Groth. The Hot Ball winner was Rhonda Manley. The progressive Super Blackout is now \$180 in 54 numbers or less.

UpRiver Bingo is play on Thursday evenings at the Fernwood Senior Center from 5:45 to 8:30 p.m. Must be 18 or older to play.

Weight Club: Rhonda Wilks was December's Queen of the Month. New 2024 officers are Rosemary Newman, president; Diane Smart, vice president; Rhonda Wilks, secretary and news reporter; Cathy Anderson, treasurer and historian; Krisit Preyer, weight recorder and historian.

UpRiver Weight Club meets on Friday mornings at the Fernwood Senior Center from 8 to 9 a.m. New members are always welcome.

Food Bank: The UpRiver Food Bank, located at the Fernwood CAF Building will have a food distribution on Jan. 12 from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Please bring your own box. Plastic bags are needed.

Student of the Month: December's Student of the Month were Amy Megge and Leigha Cheyney, kindergarten; Archer Megge and Anna Douglass, second; Eli Megge, third; Axel Cox and Sofia Schnebly, fourth; Cassie McGaha, fifth; William Tondee and Liena Docken, sixth.

Breakfasts and Lunches: UpRiver Elementary School's breakfasts and lunches for Jan. 10-biscuits and country gravy or trix cereal, fresh fruit and

cheese pizza, string cheese, lunch salad, tomato wedges, pears; Jan. 11-pancake wrap on a stick or cinnamon toast crunch cereal, fresh fruit and chili, green beans, ranch chickpea crunchers, apple-sauce; Jan.12-mini cinnamon rolls or apple cinnamon cereal, peaches and chicken sandwich, crinkle fries, fresh fruit; Jan.15-no school; Jan. 16-apple cinnamon muffin or honey nut cheerios, strawberry or peach yogurt, applesauce and popcorn chicken, crinkle fries, cheez-it cracker, glazed carrots, peaches.

Fundraiser: A Fundraiser Dinner & Dessert Auction for Cara Pietlicki of Fernwood will be on January 14th at the Emida Community Center's gymnasium at 4 p.m. Please join in helping Cara with medical debts.

Dinner will be pasta bake, salad, vegetables and dessert for \$10 a plate. Children 10 and under will be \$5. Donations of desserts for the auction would be greatly appreciated.

Text Pastor Travis Frank at 208-245-0783 for any questions.

No School: No school for the UpRiver Elementary students on January 15th-Martin Luther King Jr. birthday.

Food Drive: There will be a food drive by the students at UpRiver Elementary from Jan. 16 to 25. There will be a prize to the class that brings in the most canned food. All the food collected will go to the UpRiver Food Bank.

ECCA: The Emida Community Center Association will meet on Jan. 16 at the Emida Community Center at 6 p.m. New members are welcome.

Fit & Fall: Fit & Fall balance classes are open to men and women on Wednesday and Friday mornings at the Fernwood Senior Center from 9 to 10 a.m. Contact Cindy Newsum at 208-245-6843 for further information.

Thank You to the many people who donate their time and money to support our local Elks Christmas Basket Project.

There are many people, businesses and unknown "Silent Santas" to thank, if we missed your name, please know the Elks Lodge appreciates your giving spirit. Elks volunteers prepared 232 baskets this year. This included over 300 children receiving toys. Many "Thank You's" to everyone who gave so unselfishly of their time and money.

Bert Johnson
 Steve & Monica Nemeth
 Pat Bender
 Wilma Accounting
 Teresa & Tim Krock
 Hugh & Margie Gannon
 Ron Lasarte
 Jack's Pharmacy
 William Eimers Agency
 Fran Reid
 RJ & Mellissa Offerman
 Eagles #2012
 River Front Suites
 Eagles Aux #2012
 Dale & Chris Hill
 Ruth Udager
 Ed & Darlene Reid
 Ron & Dona Martin
 Alice Hendricks
 Kay Sather
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 Ellis Vawter
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 Marlene & Bob Krebs
 Catholic Ladies
 Darla Spicer
 James & Ginger Carpenter
 Hodge Funeral Home
 Emily & Farxn Meagher
 Del & Susan Shoemaker
 Priscilla Derry
 Dick McEwan
 Bill & Kay Cowin
 Jimmie & Barbara Moore
 Nancy Heim
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 Jack & Lorna Botts
 Mark & Marisa Wagner
 Isaac Shannon
 Kari Burg
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 Curtis & Yvette Benham
 Elisabeth Rouse
 Jennica Ogden
 Brenna Shearer-Wood
 Miya Jackson
 Debbie & Charlotte Webb

**Jessica & Aimee Webb
Allison & Sariah Charlson
Kelly Spener
Dimercia Spooner
Bill & Lynda Byes
Jeff & Janet Bryant
Blake McClain
Dan & John Felton
Micheal & Maegan Bell
Chuck Darnold
Britney Martin
Patrick & Ambria Pomerinke
Taylin Aviles
Butch & Clarence Moore
Terry Murry
Brenda & Tom Jarvi
Sherry & Alan Moore
Chris & Linda Smith
Sara Darden
Tyson Haynes
Stacey Bayless
Kenny & Amber Osier
Mitch Santos
Costco CDA**



628 Main Avenue, St. Maries
208-245-1418

FIRE: Report details evening that saw loss of life, structures engulfed in flames

FROM PAGE 1

exposures were threatened including two story exposures. Estep's report states that when arriving on scene the fire crews had also found large crowds of civilians at the scene and he reported the civilians were taking gear off of fire engines and attempting to take equipment from fire fighters. This prompted the department to call for law enforcement to the scene.

The document states that crews were told there was a person in the mobile home but it had been fully engulfed on arrival.

Firefighter Davis in his report states that when engine 1522 arrived on scene, he deployed from the engine to make a hydrant lay. Before connecting the hydrant, he states that a civilian reported there was a girl inside the structure.

Davis followed the civilian to the back of the structure to assess the situation. The document states there was not clear access to the rear of the structure. He was able to make it to the rear of the structure through a neighbor's fenced in yard.

The report said that Davis returned to engine 1522 to don his SCBA and told firefighter Crane of the girl reported inside the structure. At this time it's reported that engine 1522 was deploying lines but did not have water flowing yet.

Davis returned to the rear end of the structure without a hose line or back-up support.

Davis attempted to enter the building but determined fire conditions were extremely unsafe and had to exit.

A second attempt was made by Davis when he entered the back door on his hands and knees. It was reported there was heavy black smoke, and extreme heat in the structure. Davis reported he had to retreat due to severe and dangerous conditions.

The report says that Davis returned to engine 1522, and reported that the neighboring structure was threatened and starting to become involved.

The report states that firefighter Crane advised Davis to take a hose line and attack the left flank of the fire and protect the exposures.

Crane's report addresses the issues with issues getting water pumps to work on engine 1522. While firefighters had gotten water on the fire using attack lines, crews had issues getting a charge to cross lay 1.

Crane's report says he attempted eight to nine times engage the pump when it finally engaged.

Crane reported multiple citizens had gotten face to face with him trying to direct what he should do.

Crane's report says that he noticed cross lay 1 had significant exposure to heat and had ruptured upon being charged. He proceeded to get tangles out of the cross lay. He was alerted by another firefighter of there not being any pressure on the hose line.

Crane was troubleshooting the pressure problem when he reported a citizen was yelling and pushing him. The report says he called for help from a nearby law enforcement officer.

It was reported that Crane was exposed to large amounts of smoke during the incident and had to rehab to be evaluated and rest.

The official report from the Idaho State Fire Marshal also confirms that after investigation, citizens had been seen pulling hoses from the first apparatus attempting to assist with extinguisher.

The Fire Marshal's report also addresses the pump issue, saying that Chief Estep had indicated the operator of engine 1522 had difficulties getting the vehicle to shift into pump.

The Fire Marshal's report also reports that one firefighter had been punched by a citizen and that citizen was arrested and removed from the scene by local law enforcement.

The Fire Marshal's report states that the department had

interviewed three witnesses including neighbors Debbie Clark, Bobbie Rotter and Derick Short.

The report states that Clark had woken up to seeing an orange glow outside. She had attempted to call 911 but was unable to reach dispatchers. She was able to take a photo of the incident before reposders arrived. The report says she went outside and grabbed a garden hose and went across the street and started spraying water on the fire but got yelled at by other citizens to get away from the house.

Clark had reported to investigators that the fire was seen starting in the front of the residence and was working it's way towards the back.

Rotter reported that she had also noticed an orange glow outside and went outside and saw the fire and began yelling for people to call 911. The report says she described the front of the house was fully engulfed.

After noticing the fire was spreading, the report says that Rotter went to Short's house and started banging on his door to wake him up. Short's house was the structure next to the mobile home that had also become involved in the fire.

The report states that with Short's help, Rotter tried to get through Short's backyard to the rear of the house that was becoming engulfed in flames, but there was no access.

The report indicates that Rotter said she heard ammunition going off inside the house.

The report states that when asked about anything she could add about the fire, she state that "the fire department needs training."

The report indicates that when investigators spoke with Short, he said he was sleeping at the time of the fire and was woken up by his neighbors. He said that when he came outside the fire was just on the front of the porch.

The report says he tried to spray water on his house to prevent it from catching fire.

The Fire Marshal's report says the about \$400,000 in property damage was recorded and an additional \$200,000 in content losses. It was concluded that the cause of the fire was a or near the small chest freezer in the west end covered addition of the structure.

SMFPD Public Information Officer Bill Steele commented on the matter, saying that like many incidents, sometimes things can go wrong during a response.

"In the Fire Service, like any operation something can and will go wrong, despite best efforts. An example is the pump failure, which can be caused by any number of reasons, weather, air in the line, rocks in the water source and so on," Steele said. "The District did send the Engine to a service center and had the pump checked over, no major problems were discovered."

"Other activities, that sounded like mistakes as reported were beyond the scope of our operations, such as crowd control, citizen interference in our operations and the fire load environment that was encountered during suppression. All of which have been reviewed," he added.

He said the fire department was heavily affected by the loss of life and property that occurred during the incident.

"Well inside the District, we like all humans will continue to grieve the loss of any life. We will continue to train and improve. We will continue to be proactive with fire prevention and public awareness programs," he said. "And we will continue to respond and do the best we can with limited budget and resources, the citizens provide us to work with. Citizens can call the Station anytime and leave me a message, which I will respond to as quickly as possible."

Citizens wanting a copy of the SMFPD's official report can fill out a public records request at the St. Maries Fire Protection District Station 1.

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1

ST. MARIES' wrestlers again impressed last weekend, placing second in team standings at Warden, Washington.

2

THE LUMBERJACK boys basketball C-team will play at Kootenai High School Thursday. Tipoff is set for 5:30 p.m. on Harrison Flats.

3

IN A BATTLE between two of the state's best boys basketball programs, Bonners Ferry prevailed in Plummer January 6.

4

GRANGEVILLE'S BASKETBALL teams visit St. Maries Saturday in what is slated to be a five-game affair, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Put away at the charity stripe



Tyson Charley drives to the basket during the fourth quarter of Lakeside's home game with Bonners Ferry Jan. 6.

COLLIN SCHEEL | GAZETTE RECORD

Badgers sink 12 consecutive free throws, erase Knights' fourth quarter lead

BY COLLIN SCHEEL
THE GAZETTE RECORD

The second-ranked school in the 3A classification and the second-ranked school in the 1AD1 classification played to expectation last Saturday at Ron Miller Court in Plummer.

Defending state champion Lakeside led for much of the contest with last season's state 3A runner-up, Bonners Ferry, but sent the Badgers to the free throw line 12 times in the game's final minute and a-half of a 65-73 loss.

Bonners Ferry made all 12 attempts, erasing Lakeside's four-point lead and snapping the Knights' 16-game winning streak dating back to last January.

Tyson Charley led Lakeside with 16 points, Brutis SiJohn added 12 and Liam Hendrickx chipped in 11 in the effort.

Blaze Callahan put up 10 points, Josh Kee came off the bench and scored seven points, giving Lakeside solid minutes and facilitator Quincy Hall added five points.

UP NEXT: Lakeside (6-1) hosts Clark Fork Thursday, tipping off at 7 p.m.

Lakeside 65, Bonners Ferry 73

LHS	15	11	18	21	65
BF	17	10	15	31	73

Charley – 16 pts.; SiJohn – 12 pts.; Hendrickx – 11 pts.; Callahan – 10 pts.; Kee – 7 pts.; Hall – 5 pts.; Peone – 4 pts.



COLLIN SCHEEL | GAZETTE RECORD

Brutis SiJohn works the point for Lakeside during its nonleague game with Bonners Ferry Jan. 6.

Weather nixes Wildcat matchup

BY COLLIN SCHEEL
THE GAZETTE RECORD

Inclement weather canceled school in St. Maries Tuesday, Jan. 9.

As a result the long-awaited battle between St. Maries and Kellogg will be pushed out even further.

The two teams are expected to vie for this season's Central Idaho League title, after seeing one another in the state 2A third place game last March.

Both teams have lost significant portions of their starting lineups from last year, and



COLLIN SCHEEL | GAZETTE RECORD

Wyatt Holmes fights to get a shot up during St. Maries' home game with Potlatch Nov. 30.

Late turnovers plague Jacks

BY COLLIN SCHEEL
THE GAZETTE RECORD

A tough weekend lies ahead of the St. Maries girls basketball team, which will face two of the state's best teams on back-to-back nights.

The team is scheduled to play at Kendrick, ranked second in the latest 1AD2 polls, Friday, followed by a home game against CIL rival and #2 ranked team in the 2A classification, Grangeville, Saturday afternoon.

St. Maries was the first team Kendrick beat to start its current 11-game winning streak that includes victories over Lapwai, Prairie and Deary.

Grangeville is 9-2, its only losses coming against Clarkston, Wash. and Sandpoint.

St. Maries enters Friday's contest on a three-game skid,



COLLIN SCHEEL | GAZETTE RECORD

Tayla Janssen looks for an opening as she is pressured by an Orofino defender Jan. 4.

having dropped a pair of close games last week.

Brenna Elliott and Bailee Martin led the team at Logos Jan. 6, each scoring nine points in a 33-40 loss.

SEE **BOYS**, P14

SEE **GIRLS**, P14

Lakeside girls fall to 3A school in high-scoring game

BY COLLIN SCHEEL
THE GAZETTE RECORD

The Lakeside girls basketball team made runs at Bonners Ferry Jan. 6, but could not overcome the Badgers’ string of three 20-point quarters in a 59-72 loss.

Kyleigh Wolfe put up a team-high 21 points as the Knights were handed their third consecutive loss.

Kyleigh was the game’s third-leading scorer, behind Asha Sabubakari (22 pts.) and Taren Bateman (36 pts.) of Bonners Ferry.

Martina Rivera added nine points for Lakeside, which played its second SIC contest Jan. 9 against Genesis Prep.

UP NEXT: Lakeside (4-7, 0-1 SIC before Jan. 9 vs. Genesis Prep) plays at Timberline Saturday at 2:30 p.m.

Lakeside 59, Bonners Ferry 72

LHS	11	19	13	16	59
BF	12	20	20	20	72
Wolfe – 21 pts., 3-9 FG, 2-5 3PT, 9-14 FT; Rivera – 9 pts., 4-10 FG, 1-2 FT; Lambert – 6 pts., 2-2 3PT; Gorr – 5 pts., 1-4 FG, 1-2 3PT; Wienclaw – 5 pts., 2-5 FG, 1-2 FT; Hodgson – 2 pts., 2-2 FT					

Dole earns third place at St. Maries tournament

BY COLLIN SCHEEL
THE GAZETTE RECORD

Josiah Dole place third in his bracket with two wins against two losses, and four other Lakeside wrestlers earned match wins at the Chad Ross tournament at St. Maries Dec. 29.

Josiah won his first and third matches, each by pin, to claim third in the 145B bracket.

Oliver Daniels won his first match of the day in the 182-pound bracket, pinning his opponent in 37 seconds to advance to the quarterfinals where he faced the eventual tournament champion.

Roman Smith won two matches, overcoming a quarterfinal loss to claim his consolation round match with

a four-minute, 16-second pin before being eliminated in the following consolation match.

UP NEXT: Lakeside is scheduled to compete at Northwest Christian Saturday. Weigh-ins are slated for 8 a.m.

Chad Ross Memorial Tournament, St. Maries Dec. 29

132: Roman Smith – 2-2, Win by Fall 2:40/Pinned 0:54/Win by Fall 4:16/Pinned 0:18; 132: Giovanni Silohn – 0-2, Pinned 1:44/Pinned 4:16; 145: Ethan Libby – 0-2, Pinned 0:51/Pinned 0:18; 145B: Josiah Dole – 3rd, 2-2, Win by Fall 2:39/Pinned 0:33/Win by Fall 3:26/Pinned 0:39; 170: John Wilson – 1-2, Pinned 1:48/Win by Fall 0:39/Pinned 3:45; 182: Oliver Daniels – 1-2, Win by Fall 0:37/Pinned 1:22/Pinned 1:30; 195: Phoenix Sepulveda – 0-2, Pinned 0:44/Pinned 0:57

Armas brings home fourth in recent wrestling action

BY COLLIN SCHEEL
THE GAZETTE RECORD

Kootenai’s pair of high school wrestlers earned four wins between them and Ben Armas took home a fourth place trophy from the Chad Ross Tournament in St. Maries Dec. 29.

Michael Nyman (113) overcame a quarterfinal loss to the eventual 113-pound champion and pinned his Timberlake opponent in the third consolation round.

“It was the best I’ve seen him wrestle all year,” Coach Ty Beare said.

Michael’s final match ended with him being pinned to end his day at 2-2.

“Although he came up short, he showed a ton of mental toughness and resiliency, battling the kid late into the third period,” Coach Beare said.

Ben lost his first match before winning his next pair with pins of 2:16 and 0:37, respectively.

The third place match ended in a 5-17 defeat.

“Ben forced a few things and his opponent capitalized,” Coach Beare said. “All in all this week gave me some insight into some things to work on with my wrestlers, but made me proud of how they battled.”

UP NEXT: Kootenai is slated to compete at Northwest Christian Saturday. Weigh-ins are scheduled for 8 a.m.

Chad Ross Memorial Tournament, St. Maries Dec. 29

113: Michael Nyman – 2-2, Pinned 1:15/Win fft./Win by Fall 1:58/Pinned 4:00; 126: Ben Armas – 4th, 2-2, Pinned 1:41/Win by Fall 2:16/Win b Fall 0:37/Loss 5-17

Boyett, Caldwell, Elliott lead JV girls team

BY COLLIN SCHEEL
THE GAZETTE RECORD

The St. Maries JV girls basketball team dropped a close game with Orofino Jan. 4.

The game was two quarters, due to lack of players on Orofino’s side, and ended with St. Maries down 16-17.

“After getting off to a slow start in the first quarter, we really picked it up in the second, tripling our first quarter total,” Coach Cooper Daniel said. Kaylynn Boyett, Braelie

Caldwell and Kieran Elliott scored four points each to lead the Lumberjacks’ effort. Meijah Yearout pulled down five rebounds and Kamdyn Timken pocketed three steals.

UP NEXT: St. Maries’ JV girls basketball team plays at Kendrick Friday, tipping off at 6 p.m.

St. Maries JV 16, Orofino JV 17

SM JV	4	12	16
OHS JV	7	10	17
Boyett – 4 pts.; Caldwell – 4 pts.; Elliott – 4 pts.; M. Yearout – 5 reb.; Timken – 3 st.			

Camas Prairie shoot begins Sunday at gun club

BY COLLIN SCHEEL
THE GAZETTE RECORD

The Camas Prairie League shoot begins Sunday at the St.

Maries Gun Club. Shooting begins at 10 a.m., and will run 10 weeks each Sunday.

For more information, contact B.J. Derr at 208-582-2909.

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The annual Hoop Shoot had a large turnout of participants and volunteers.

SUBMITTED

Elks Hoop Shoot

January 7, 2024

HOOP SHOOT RESULTS

- Boys**
- 8-9: 1st Niko Smith
2nd Conrad Vore
 - 10-11: 1st Kasen Wade
2nd Mack Renner
 - 12-13: 1st Bruin Shea
2nd Dylan Mourning
- Girls**
- 8-9: 1st Elsie Flesher
 - 10-11: 1st Hope Grovesner
2nd Keely Herzog
 - 12-13: 1st Ellie Rivadeneira
2nd Maggie Chatigny

Special thanks to Coach Bryan and Coach John and the SMHS Basketball team for their help and support. Also thanks to the Moms that signed the kids in. Big Thank you to our sponsors, Henry and Jan Madsen, and the Elks Trivia Night folks for their monetary contributions.



SUBMITTED

Winners were selected in each age category for both boys and girls (front, from left) Mack Renner, Kasen Wade, Hope Grovesner, Conrad Vore, Niko Smith, Elsie Flesher, (back) Dylan Mourning, Bruin Shea, Keely Herzog, Maggie Chatigny and Ellie Rivadeneira. Winners advance to the regional shoot in Lewiston.



MARY ORR | GAZETTE RECORD
Cooper Mueller readies his shot.



MARY ORR | GAZETTE RECORD
Cconrad Vore readies to catch the ball.



MARY ORR | GAZETTE RECORD
Elsie Flesher prepares her shot.



MARY ORR | GAZETTE RECORD
Vincent Herzog focuses as he readies his shot.



MARY ORR | GAZETTE RECORD
Kasen Wade focuses on his shot.



Xavier Sloper hands Niko Smith the ball.

MARY ORR | GAZETTE RECORD



Niko Smith smiles while waiting for his turn.

MARY ORR | GAZETTE RECORD

Unsolvable riddle

Joe Biden is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.

Well, not Joe Biden so much. Not to be snarky, but the Joe Biden of today is anything but mysterious. Even the most ardent liberal cannot deny that Joe Biden is not as sharp as he once was.

To suggest he is such a deep-thinker as to outwit others is absurd.

So, in the spirit of accuracy, let's rephrase: It is impossible to understand why the people who are running Joe Biden insist on an open border.

And we're not here to offend Joe Biden voters, although that seems an easy thing. But if any Joe Biden voter can explain why an open border makes sense, we would love to hear from him.

And yes, we get the argument about compassion.

Some claim that to close the border would be inhumane. That is, all the



SOB'S STORY
(Spouse Of Boss)
DAN HAMMES

people flooding our country are only trying to make "a better life for themselves."

Whether through work or welfare. While it is blasphemy among the left-set to disparage illegal immigrants in any fashion, a study released last month tells a story different from the mantra.

We've all heard – many, many times – that the millions of people pouring across our border are simply looking for work. They only want, our liberal betters assure us, to work.

We're not so cold as not to agree that is true for many. But the Center for Immigration Studies tells us that is not true for most.

They tell us that 59% of illegal immigrants use welfare.

Think on that. That's 6 out of 10 of those thousands of people crossing our border every day locate and exploit welfare benefits within weeks of breaking our immigration laws. No word on how long these people who "are only looking for a job" remain on welfare.

But none of this is a surprise to thinking people.

We have all seen reports of entire ho-

tels being rented, complete with maids and meals, for illegal immigrants. And those services are minor compared to the health care costs incurred caring for illegal immigrants.

The report details some \$717 million in free medical care – not including \$90 million in Medicaid spending – for border crashers.

Think of that the next time you lay out \$200 cash for a doctor's visit because you haven't met your deductible yet.

As costly as all that is, it could pale in the future price American might pay for Joe Biden's open border.

How does any Biden voter explain all those young, healthy men – many who appear to be Chinese – who are suddenly appearing at our southern border?

And how is it that so many of these people, supposedly destitute and in desperate search of work, managed to traverse oceans so they can walk across our border?

Who's helping them – and why?

Perhaps it is because our lack of brilliance that we don't understand the liberal genius that dictates an open border is a good thing. Supporters of

this Biden policy apparently believe the benefit of this massive invasion will soon be evident.

But it won't be soon enough for the 100,000 people in this country who died of fentanyl poisoning last year.

And, this is timely given the New Year, we can count on another 100,000 dying this year.

The fact most of the fentanyl comes across Biden's open border is reason enough to lock the border down.

And yes, some will say we can never stop all illegal drugs. They're right. But anyone who thinks Biden's open border does not make the problem catastrophically worse is not thinking.

But Democrats in power refuse to close the border. Instead, they promise us they have the best people – the very best people – managing immigration.

What's more, and they do this with a straight face, they tell us they're doing such a great job on national security voters should give them four more years to finish the job.

The real mystery, the unsolvable riddle, is a lot of voters will agree.

DAN HAMMES is the former publisher of the Gazette Record.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Half of this country really does watch fake news

After a conversation with my Democrat daughter at Christmas I have come to the conclusion half this country really does watch FAKE NEWS. In my opinion if your news source isn't showing pictures or telling you about the 302000 ILLEGALS not immigrants, have entered our country since the first of December. 767,000 since October, Over 7.6 million since Biden took office. And if your news media says that better than when Trump was President, sorry, they are lying to you. He had less than 200,000 after he implemented the STAY IN MEXICO policy, which Biden removed when he became President. God pray tell me, where are they going to go. You idiots our borders are not closed. Take that number times 12 now we have an invasion. And it's okay with you? Why is it no one is doing anything to stop it? I thought our government was suppose to stop it not ignore it. In my book that's Treason, enough to take Biden off all Ballots in every state. Now take

that times 4, O'Bidens term in office, are we still the Great USA. No we are a country of illegals who want you to give them free this and free that. So now we are like the Socialist Countries they come from and 1 person in each state can tell you who you can and can't vote for President. Understand this, you are no longer free to choose whomever you want. Am I wrong? What about all those anti-Israel protesters I bet most are not American citizens. Time to send them home. If they don't like our country, our rules send them all home. Did you know ICE wants to deport 6.7 million illegals and Biden says NO. He wants to give them amnesty, and the right to vote. Today I listened to Biden as he spoke lie after lie about Trump. What a hateful evil man he is. If you believe what he said your an idiot. He doesn't care for this country he only cares that as long as he's in office he can continue to sell us out.

JANET DOHERTY
St. Maries

Chicken-killing dog, and lying employee have to go

It's sad. The boy had a dog he loved. We have an employee who performs well. The dog learned to kill chickens. Our employee lied to get the job, then lied again to cover up the first lie. Sad, but true. The dog played well with children. Our

employee got glowing reviews. Nice. The chicken-killing dog had to go. Our lying employee has to go. Neither can ever be trusted.

End of Sad Story

JIM MINSER
Emida

The Gazette Record welcomes public comment on issues of local interest. Letters to the editor must be no more than 500 words in length, and must be signed by the writer. Include address and telephone number for verification purposes. Only name and town of residence will be published. Anonymous letters will not be published. Letters will be rejected if plagiarizing, libelous or scurrilous in nature. Candidate support letters during election season will be published for \$75. Letters must be received Friday, 3:00 p.m. Send letters to: Editor, 610 Main Avenue, St. Maries, ID 83861 or email editor@smgazette.com.

Influence

We are products of our environments, no doubt, but we bring our traits, our tendencies to such. The environment shapes each of us differently.

My late father was born more than a hundred years ago. His broken home and rural poverty affected him. But growing up in the depression, then serving in WWII may have made him part of Tom Brokaw's "Greatest Generation", though he lived with and never really recovered from those scarring times. I don't think he could see his scars, or even feel them. Maybe I did some, through living with him.

I'm not sure I can see how I was influenced by my environment, though I take this time to reflect on the mirror darkly before me.

I'm a late Boomer, born in the mid 1950's. I watched the small town my father took us to explode into suburbs. The vineyards and groves were bulldozed for tract houses. I still abhor rampant growth.

It seems to be what Idaho leaders are embracing, since our policies have made us the fastest growing state for five years running now. While US population growth has slowed to its lowest since the Pilgrims, Idaho booms. Idaho's population is countercyclical, I guess. Too crowded elsewhere, come to Idaho.



IDAHO REFLECTIONS
DAN SCHMIDT

But when I was entering and finishing undergraduate college, the economic milieu was dominated by inflation. And I believe that economic climate influenced me. Sure, there was the Viet Nam war, race riots, assassinations, and Watergate, but the elevator music

in the background was the burdensome tune of despair. The value of your wealth, if you had any, was not going to be worth as much very soon. Why invest in a solid future when it is going to slowly melt to less?

I finished my degree and had no plans for a future in 1976. After a year of wandering, I landed in Idaho. Back then, the state had well short of a million residents. Boise was booming with 4% annual growth, but I didn't find the Treasure Valley attractive. I went to my step grandmothers ranch above Hells Canyon.

It was there I came to have faith in investment. The fences needed posts, the hay needed mowing, the wood needed sawing, every rig needed fixing. After a couple years of this I realized I needed a career beyond the ranch. So, I went out and got one.

Inflation had dropped, but boy, interest rates were high. We see the same playing out right now. Still, interest rates now are nowhere near what

it was when we bought our first and only house.

I look at our current economic environment and the burden inflation will have on my children, and theirs. Inflation has dropped a bit. Maybe things will be okay. My kids all struggle to afford buying a house. Prices are high.

Idaho's population booms. And not just people, our incomes have grown. We lead the nation in median income growth. Admittedly, we started pretty low. There was plenty of room for growth.

As the Idaho legislature comes into session this coming week, I hope they have these ideas in mind. The first meeting of the Economic Outlook and Revenue Assessment Committee is today. Tune in. They are tasked with guessing what taxes will be coming in. They have undershot the number since the bust of 2008. Such predictions inhibit the willingness to invest.

I would hope our leaders could see the value in stable growth, and wise investment. Such wisdom will inspire the generations to come.

Booms are unsustainable. They hurt. Wise investment promotes stable and sustainable growth. That should be the goal.

DAN SCHMIDT is a retired family physician who lives in Moscow. Dr. Schmidt, a Democrat, served in the Idaho state senate from 2010 to 2016.



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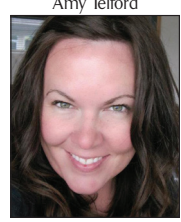
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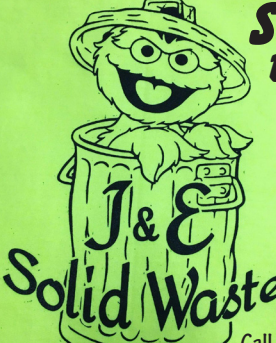
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Cathy Gross, St. Maries Resident