

# St. Maries Gazette Record

ST. MARIES IN THE PINES ON THE SHADY ST. JOE

January 1, 2025

119<sup>th</sup> Year

Number 1

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2 Sections

24 Pages

HAPPY  
*New Year*



## Harvest Foods raises more than \$7,000 for food banks

**'IT WAS A LOT OF FUN, OUR EMPLOYEES WERE COMPETING WHO COULD DO THE MOST.'**

**Roger Nelson**  
St. Maries Harvest Foods

**BY TYSON JUAREZ**  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

Local grocery store St. Maries Harvest Foods capped off the giving season by raising more than \$7,300 for local food banks.

Monies will be distributed equally between the St. Maries Food Bank, UpRiver

Food Bank and the Veteran's Outreach Center's Food Bank. Each of the organizations are slated to receive just over \$2,400.

Harvest Foods manager Roger Nelson said he was pleased by the support of the community and his employees' excitement to garner donations.

"It was a lot of fun, our em-

ployees were competing who could do the most," Nelson said. "We had three employees that were neck and neck that really promoted this hard."

"It's something that everybody believes in and this community is very generous and always steps up to the plate when needed," he added.

Harvest Foods ran the fund-

raiser promotion from the end of November through December 20, with customers being able to donate \$5 at checkout to not only benefit the local food banks but also be entered into a drawing for a \$200 gift card.

Nelson said some customers

SEE HARVEST, P2

## CHRISTMAS CONCERTS



Dylan Reid performs on the piano.

MARY GREVE | GAZETTE RECORD

## Vet Center gets \$20K

Center given large donation

**BY TYSON JUAREZ**  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

The Veterans Outreach Center recently received a significant donation in the name of a local veteran who passed in 2015.

Non-profit organization Laymen Ministries donated \$20,000 to the Veteran's Outreach Center in the name of Craig Houston, a former Plummer resident who served in the US Army Infantry in Vietnam.

Laymen Ministries founders Jeff and Christy Reich were present to present the funds to representatives of the Veteran's Outreach Center. The two had known Craig for a long time and wanted to support an organization that gives back to many veterans in the area.

"We are hoping our donation will inspire others to help out because we just see how an important need," Christy said. "It's vets helping vets, it's not a bureaucracy, it's home town help."

Craig's wife Julie was present for the donation presentation. She said it was her first

SEE OUTREACH, P2

## County: Incidents down in 2024

**BY SUMMER WILLIAMS**  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

Initial data from Benewah County Dispatch shows there were fewer total incidents during 2024 versus 2023.

A total of 7,480 incidents were recorded in 2023 while a total of 6,818 were reported for 2024. The 2024 numbers include all incidents until the morning of Dec. 23.

The above numbers are

the total individual incidents created regardless of the number agencies that responded.

While just under 7,000 incidents were recorded in 2024, there were more than 19,000 inbound calls to dispatch, Lt. Chelsea MacArthur, emergency communications deputy, said in an email.

"In mid-February of 2024, we were able to utilize grant funding to install a new 911

phone system. This system brings numerous benefits, including multi-call routing, built-in mapping, and a text-to-911 feature. Additionally, it provides enhanced reporting capabilities," MacArthur said.

Since the system's installation, Benewah County Dispatch logged 2,548 calls to 911 and 17,335 calls to the non-emergency line, for a total of 19,883 incoming calls.

"Including outbound calls,

the total phone traffic reached 27,259 calls. Notably, April 2024 experienced the highest phone traffic, with 3,478 calls handled," MacArthur said.

Looking at the data in regards to total incidents, MacArthur noted there was a significant decrease in 911 accidental dials or hang-ups in 2024 when compared with 2023.

"In 2023, there were 970

SEE COUNTY, P3

## Snow Riders annual shrimp peel Saturday

**BY SUMMER WILLIAMS**  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

**'IT ALSO KICKS OFF THE SEASON FOR US. COME AND JOIN US. IT WILL BE A FUN EVENING WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS. THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING MEMBERS CAN DO SO THAT NIGHT.'**

**Ken Schiermeister**  
St. Joe Snow Riders

Six hundred pounds of shrimp has been procured for the St. Joe Snow Riders Annual Don Darter Shrimp Peel.

This year's event is Saturday, Jan. 4, at the Eagles Lodge.

Happy hour is at 5 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. The meal will include all-you-can-eat shrimp, salad, cocktail sauce and butter. No take-outs. All food must be eaten at the event location for liability reasons.

A 50/50 raffle is also planned during the evening. Tickets cost \$25 and will be available at the door.

The shrimp peel has been a

SEE SHRIMP, P2



The St. Joe Snow Riders will host their annual Don Darter Memorial Shrimp Peel Saturday, Jan. 4.

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TYSON JUAREZ | GAZETTE RECORD

St. Maries Harvest Foods netted more than \$7,300 for local food banks thanks to its Holiday Food Drive Fundraiser it hosted in November and December. Pictured: Store manager Roger Nelson and assistant manager Derek Darst.

**'I'M SURPRISED AND OVERJOYED. SPONTANEOUS GIVING IS THE BEST KIND BECAUSE THAT'S WHEN IT COMES FROM THE HEART.'**

**Mary Greve'**  
Community Action Partnership Liaison

**HARVEST: Local manager said some customers donated on multiple occasions**

FROM PAGE 1

donated and did not want to be entered while some donated multiple times.

He said customers were enthusiastic to again support another cause. He said their expectations were blown out of the water.

"The thing that surprised me the most were how excited people were to donate and just the amount we raised. This was our first time doing it so we didn't know what to expect," Nelson said.

Hank Thornton with the Veteran's Outreach Center said the community's generosity and care for one another is something to be counted on.

"It never amazes me how much this community supports everyone and the organizations that have needs, especially the food banks," Thornton said.

Thornton said this is the time of year where a lot of elderly and young families struggle. He said the community sees the need and takes action.

"My deepest appreciation goes to Harvest Foods and their customers," he said. "They have always shown support."

Community Action Partnership liaison Mary Greve' said financial donations always go a long way at the food bank. She said its a way to be able to get exactly what the food bank needs when it needs it.

She said it also helps to allow the food bank to purchase fresh food items and other things that families may need this time of year. Towards the end of the year is when the food bank starts to run short on some items she said.

Greve' said she has been touched by the amount of times local organizations have taken it upon themselves to set up such fundraisers without the food bank having to say anything.

"I'm surprised and overjoyed," she said. "Spontaneous giving is the best kind because that's when it comes from the heart."

**SHRIMP: Annual event kicks off season for local club**

FROM PAGE 1

staple for the club for years, Ken Schiermeister said. The event is a way for the club to say thank you to the community for their support.

"It also kicks off the season for us," he said. "Come and join us. It will be a fun evening with your neighbors. Those who are interested in becoming members can do so that night."

Schiermeister said the club renamed the event after

Darter six years ago. "He was the one that talked us into doing the shrimp peel and was always involved with it," Schiermeister said.

While there is little snow at the moment, the club is hoping conditions will change in time for the Morry Hedlund Memorial Ride, which is scheduled for Feb. 15.

The club is also planning their summer ATV Fun Run again for June 21. More details will be available as both events draw closer.

For those interested in getting involved with the club, meetings are now the third Friday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Eagles Lodge. The next meeting will be Jan. 17.

"We always welcome new members and like most organizations in the area we need younger members," Schiermeister said.

Find the St. Joe Snow Riders on Facebook to stay up-to-date with meetings, events and more.

**OUTREACH: Laymen Ministries founders came to St. Maries**

FROM PAGE 1

time visiting the center and that Craig would have been proud of the work being done at the Outreach Center. She said she appreciated Craig being remembered in such a way.

"I'm just thankful they thought of him enough to do this. He is worth remembering," Julie said. "I think he would think this is really wonderful because there is a brotherhood of veterans. I think he would thank God for something like this that has helped so many people."

"He would love the fact his brothers lives are being saved, even if he didn't know them. I'm so proud of our community for supporting this, I've never seen anything like this anywhere."

Craig was not only known as a hero for his work done across seas, but also at home.

Julie said when she married Craig, she had three children from a previous relationship. They adopted three more children in the year's following.

"He raised six children that were not his biological kids and I'm just so proud of him," Julie said.

"That shows the heart and love he's got to give," Veteran's Outreach Center Founder Hank Thornton added.

Craig had lost the used of his legs after being injured in Vietnam but persevered after his return to the states, having not only raised a large family but also pursued a degree from Eastern Washington University. He was also an avid swimmer and loved playing wheelchair basketball said Julie.



TYSON JUAREZ | GAZETTE RECORD

Laymen Ministries donated \$20,000 to the Veterans Outreach Center in the name of former resident and Vietnam Veteran Craig Houston. Pictured left to right: Christy Riech, Julie Houston holding a photo of the late Craig Houston, Hank Thornton and Jeff Riech.

He had also received significant medals from the United States for actions done during his service including the Purple Heart and Bronze Star.

Thornton said Craig will have a special place at the Veteran's Outreach Center. The group plans to dedicate a wall to some of the areas local heroes including the late Gary Hill Senior and more. Thornton said they also plan to sell plaques where community members can have a veteran from their family honored on the wall as well.

"This is for the whole community. This isn't just for us, it's a community building and it's for every family to enjoy and share," Thornton said. "We urge the commu-

nity to come in and be a part of our building."

Thornton said the donation from Laymen Ministries will be significant towards finishing the new Veteran's Outreach Center.

"We were still around \$55,000 short. That just took a huge chunk of that away so that's tremendous," Thornton said. "There's not words to say how important this is."

He said the Veteran's Outreach Center is excited to finally cut the ribbon when work is done. When they do, he said many of the area's local heroes who have passed will be there with them.

"He (Craig) and a bunch of angels will be here. When we open that door, they'll be here," Thornton said.

**DEADLINES**

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

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*St. Maries*  
**Gazette Record**

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# Elks Lodge celebrates New Year's

BY SUMMER WILLIAMS  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

There's still time to get tickets if you want to ring in the New Year at the St. Maries Elks Lodge New Year's Eve Party.

Tickets will be available in the lounge through 2 p.m. today, Tuesday, Dec. 31. Tickets must be bought prior to the event, which is tonight from 5 to 9 p.m.

Elks Manager Stacey Bayless said this year the event is semi-formal.

"People are asking me what that means and I

tell them what you would wear to church," she said. "It's semi formal but for St. Maries. We wanted to mock our hundred year anniversary dinner, which if you were here was a lot of fun with great food."

Typically, the lodge would buy shrimp from the St. Joe Snow Riders.

"Because that event isn't until Jan. 4 and we still wanted to celebrate we are doing a three-course dinner tapas style," Bayless said.

The first course will be an appetizer charcuterie board.

The second course will feature Marlene Krieb's penne rustica. The third course will be a dessert plate with various options including crême brulee, chocolate mousse, and a pumpkin pie cake.

Cocktail hour is at 5 p.m. Dinner is served at 6 p.m. and there will be live music from 7 to 9 p.m.

"At 9 p.m. we will watch the ball drop on the big screen. Showing the New York New Year's Eve ball drop is a tradition here," Bayless said.

For more information, call (208) 245-1418.

## COUNTY: Increases in other areas, including fraudulent calls

FROM PAGE 1

such incidents, compared to 519 in 2024. This reduction can likely be attributed to increased public awareness. Parents have learned that disconnected phones can still dial 911, and others have become aware that certain actions (e.g., holding specific buttons, shaking their phone, or placing it in a cup holder) can inadvertently trigger a 911 call," she said.

Conversely, notable increases were observed in various areas, she said. Individuals reported more controlled burns in 2024 than 2023 (128 vs. 28). The number of fraud calls reported between the two years rose from 29 in 2023 to 47 in 2024. Finally, the reported number of suspicious circumstances increased from 283 in 2023 to 338 in 2024.

"The 'suspicious circumstances' category is a catch-all for incidents that may or may not involve criminal activity but warrant attention from law enforcement. This includes reports of suspicious individuals, vehicles, phone calls, etc. The increase in these reports suggests a community that is becoming more proactive in taking precautions and reporting concerns to law enforcement," MacArthur said.

When looking at agency totals, there are a few things to keep in mind, MacArthur said. "The incidents listed for each agency are not mutually exclusive. Some calls involved multiple agencies responding together so they are counted for each agency involved," MacArthur said.

She also explained there are cases where the assigned agency did not respond directly to a call, but the incident is still logged under their statistics.

For example, if a call comes in under Plummer City Police Department's jurisdiction and no one is available than a county deputy, Coeur d'Alene Tribal officer, or Idaho State Police trooper might respond instead. The call, however, will still be logged under the Plummer City Police Department's stats as there is not a reliable method to separate these specific incidents from the data.

With all of this in mind, it is important to note agency totals from data reports will not perfectly equal the number of total incidents created in the county.

Total incidents for the Benewah County Sheriff's Office for 2023 were 6,452. The total incidents for the Benewah County Sheriff's Office in 2024 were 6,087.

For the St. Maries City Police, total incidents for 2023 were 1,487 compared to 1,304 in 2024. Finally, Plummer City Police total incidents was 298 in 2023 versus 318 in 2024.

As a reminder, all data for 2024 includes all calls up until the morning of Dec. 23. And again, when looking at agency totals there may be overlap between two agencies.

Data shows the bulk of incidents recorded for the Benewah County Sheriff's Office in 2024 were ambulance requests.

For 2024, ambulance requests totaled 1,083 incidents for BCSO (982 in 2023). The second highest types of incidents for BCSO were public assists (1,038 in 2024 vs. 1,212 in 2023).

Requests for public assistance include, but are not limited to, CPOR entry, extra patrol, funeral escort, motorist assist, information, slide offs, vacation watch and vin inspections.

For St. Maries Police, public assists were the number one recorded incident with 249 in 2024 (300 in 2023). The second highest type of incident recorded were suspicious circumstances with 119 in 2024 (95 in 2023).

Plummer's highest incidents called into dispatch were also categorized as public assists (55 in 2024 vs. 38 in 2023). The second highest recorded incident type for Plummer police were 911 hang-ups or misdials (40 for both 2024 and 2023).

The third highest categorized incidents for the Benewah County Sheriff's Office and St. Maries City Police Department in 2024 was 911 hang-ups or misdials. For the sheriff's office, the total of these types of calls for 2024 was drastically reduced from 2023 (441 vs. 810). St. Maries police also saw a reduction from 176 in 2023 to 114 in 2024.

Plummer City Police's third highest type of incident recorded in 2024 was traffic complaints with 29 (26 in 2023).

Other notable numbers for incidents called in to the dispatch for BCSO from 2024 included 277 calls for accidents (296 in 2023); 323 calls related to animals (338 in 2023); 149 calls for fire (176 in 2023); 161 calls in regards to hazards (159 in 2023); 312 calls classified as suspicious circumstances (224 in 2023); 383 calls for traffic (420 in 2023); and 125 calls for wanted subjects (108 in 2023).

There were five alcohol related incidents for BCSO (this includes alcohol violations, minor consumption, pedestrian under the influence, underage consumption) in 2024 (10 in 2023); 90 narcotic incidents recorded (85 in 2023); 40 sex offenses (28 in 2023) and 50 thefts (52 in 2023). Seventeen calls were related to driving under the influence (DUI), which is separated out from alcohol (eight in 2023). Domestic and battery incidents for 2024 for BCSO were 86 (88 in 2023); parking complaints numbered 55 in 2024 (34 in 2023). Welfare checks totaled 139 in 2024 (212 in 2023). Welfare checks also involve suicidal subjects. Five incidents of illegal dumping/littering were reported in 2024 vs. six in 2023.

St. Maries City Police had 91 calls for animals in 2024 (144 in 2023); 50 calls for accidents (53 in 2023); 86 traffic complaints (92 in 2023); 24 theft calls (26 in 2023); 40 parking complaints (32 in 2023); three alcohol incidents (eight in 2023); nine sex offenses (seven in 2023); and 29 domestic and battery related incidents (35 in 2023).

Incidents requesting an ambulance in the city for 2023 according to data from Benewah County Dispatch was 25 (34 in 2023); fire was 11 (13); hazards, 17 (12); wanted subjects, 10 (9); and narcotics, 17 (19). Welfare checks in the city accounted for 40 incidents in 2024 (67 in 2023). Three incidents of illegal dumping/littering were reported in 2024 vs. two in 2023.

Other notable numbers from Plummer City Police for 2024 include 18 animal incidents called into dispatch (14 in 2023); 25 calls for suspicious

circumstances (22); 14 theft calls (10); two sex offenses (three); and seven domestic and battery calls (six).

Ambulance calls recorded for Plummer City Police in dispatch data show eight ambulance related incidents in 2024 (four in 2023); 10 accidents (14); one fire (two); two hazards (four); 25 suspicious circumstances (22); and seven calls for wanted subjects (0). There were four welfare checks in 2024 for Plummer police (17 in 2023). Recorded illegal dumping/littering incidents saw two reported in 2024 vs. zero in 2023.

The month of September in 2024 recorded the highest number of incidents for the Benewah County Sheriff's Office with 587. August was the second busiest time of 2024 with 584 calls. July had the third highest total, 580. The month with the lowest number of incidents for 2024 was December with 335 calls.

In 2023, July recorded the most incidents for BCSO with 677. May was the second highest with 645 followed by August with 568. The month with the least incidents in 2023 was February with 423.

April 2024 had the highest number of incidents for St. Maries City Police Department with 130. The second highest month for calls was May with 128. August and June had the third highest incident volume with 127 each. The least busy month was October with 62.

For 2023, data shows the highest number of incidents were in September with 186. July tallied 182 incidents and August had 169 incidents. Data shows January had the least number of incidents with 72.

Plummer Police saw the highest number of incidents for 2024 in October and June with 37 each. September had 33 incidents, and third highest was August with 32. The least number of incidents, according to data reports, was February with 15.

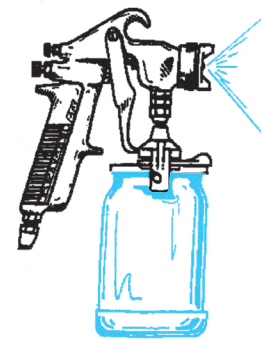
The month with the highest number of incidents for Plummer for 2023 occurred in April (33). Three months had 32 incidents for the second highest count: May, June and September. Data shows the lowest incidents in July with 11.

MacArthur asked any data in the reports from Idaho State Police or the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Police to be disregarded.

"We do not dispatch those agencies directly. Including their data would misrepresent their call volume or presence in the county," she said.

Overall, MacArthur said the combined effort of all local law enforcement agencies contributed to the safety and well-being of residents in the county.

"In both 2023 and 2024, our community was fortunate to benefit from a dedicated law enforcement presence. The combined efforts of our agency, the City of St. Maries Police Department, Plummer City Police Department, the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Police, and our resident ISP trooper, played a pivotal role in ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents. Through their collaborative initiatives, and commitment to protecting our community, these agencies have significantly contributed to reducing overall crime and fostering a safer environment for everyone in our area," MacArthur said.



## SMILE A WHILE

Suffering from a bad case of the "blahs," she went down to the adult-education center to see what classes were offered. As she leafed through the brochure, she spotted one that sounded interesting. "Are there any spaces left in the self-motivation class?" she asked the receptionist. "Sorry," she said. "That course was canceled. No one signed up for it."

**He was looking for something to read in the prison library when he bumped into another inmate holding a book.**

**It had the curious title *Robbing Banks*.**

**"You found that book here?" he asked.**

**"Yeah," the inmate said, grinning. "In the self-help section."**

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## VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK

### JERRY SIRON



Jerry Siron is one of St. Maries biggest supporters. Take a look at many of the events and you'll find him volunteering joy and happiness as well as making sure to support the efforts monetarily too.

Prior to this, he spent his time volunteering with every sport imaginable while his kids grew up. This not only included coaching the sport itself, but also the time spent studying books on proper techniques to improve adolescent growth, fundraising for new uniforms, managing gear and equipment, and taking kids to tournaments. Some of his fondest memories were spent coaching with Marz's Mob.

As of today, you'll find him donating baskets of his famous Four Siron Salsa to auction events and helping his grandkids raise pigs for 4H.

His words of encouragement for those who may be on the fence of volunteering is to jump in feet first. The impact made on the children of the community is what matters most, and we are here to guide them.

VOULNTEERS DO NOT NECESSARILY HAVE THE TIME; THEY HAVE THE HEART.

- ELIZABETH ANDREWS

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This map provided by the St. Maries Chool district shows the portion of road (marked in red) that will be closed due to construction on the high school's new CTE building.

## Portion of road near school to be closed

BY MARY GREVE  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

A section of Meadowhurst Road will be closed starting Jan. 6 to make room for the construction of the high school's new building.

The St. Maries School District plans to have a shop building constructed between the main building and the gymnasium. The new structure will house forestry and auto mechanics classes, which will be two new additions to the career and technical education (CTE) department.

This is a project that has been two years in the making. The district applied for a grant after the state education department made funding available to help rural com-

munities get better access to the CTE programs.

The aging of the current workforce into retirement has left large shortages in staff for many industries. Career and technical education in high schools offers a way for students to personalize his or her education based on their career interests and unique learning needs.

The district was awarded \$1.3 million in funding for the project in the fall of 2023. Those dollars will pay for the construction of the new shop building at the high school as well as pay for curriculum. The district will be responsible for hiring staffing.

The board of trustees have spent the last year going over planning and design. The

construction phase begins this month and the building is expected to be ready for use at the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

In order to allow room for construction and safety, a section of Meadowhurst Road will be closed. Once the shop is constructed, the same section will remain closed during school hours to add another level of safety and security for students.

Signage will be posted at the corner of Meadowhurst and St Joe River Road warning people of the road closure. The public may continue to use Lumberjack Lane for travel. For families and students, Lumberjack Lane and the lower parking lot will continue to be used for school pick-up and drop-off.

## Take-n-bake pizza location open in town

BY MARY GREVE  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

A new option for dinner recently opened in St. Maries last week.

Hopper's Pizza now offers take-n-bake pizzas seven days a week.

Charlie and Sarah Hopper live and operate a pizza buffet in Lewiston. They also recently opened a take-n-bake only location in Grangeville. They wanted to continue to expand the take-n-bake side of their business and chose St. Maries to be the next location.

Mr. Hopper is originally from Goldendale, Washington and has owned many pizza places in the past. The Hoppers have two teenagers who also participate in the business.

"We are very family oriented and if you come into one of our restaurants you will likely see Charlie or I, or even one of the kids working," Mrs. Hopper said. "We are excited to meet the St. Maries com-

munity. So far we have been welcomed with open arms and everyone really seems just so nice! The town itself is also very beautiful."

The restaurant currently offers take-n-bake pizzas, a few variations of cheesebread and 2-liters of soda. The business is open between the hours of 3-7 p.m. daily and operates out of the bottom floor of the large white house on the corner at 301 W. College Avenue.

"Our pizzas are different because we don't skimp on toppings," Mrs. Hopper said. "We want to give you more for your money."

The business also boasts arcade games with more to come as well as a merchandise area on the way in the early part of 2025.

Mrs. Hopper said their first week of business has gone well.

"We have been busy," she said. "We are getting our awesome team trained and have really enjoyed meeting our customers."

A dream house, is described with a white picket fence, not taking into account the foundation. Our minds are like a house, Matt 7:24, 25 shares that the Wiseman built his house on a rock, a firm foundation, not on sand where the storms of life can destroy. May we be a house built on a secure foundation, Jesus Christ.  
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**Make an appointment today!**  
Phone: (208) 686-6329

**24/7 EMERGENCY WATER DAMAGE SERVICES**

**CALL 208.340.9945**

**WATER MITIGATION  
MOLD REMEDIATION  
RECONSTRUCTION / REMODELS**

We offer rapid, reliable response time to St. Maries. We work with every major insurance company in the nation to ensure a stress-free claims process.

**Public Health**  
Panhandle Health District

**DIABETES CARE**

Prevent Type 2 Diabetes or Manage Your Diabetes Diagnosis

208-415-5242

- Personal Care
- Healthy Lifestyle Change
- Emotional Support

This publication was made possible by NU58DP007367 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Department or the CDC. Panhandle Health District 10/25/2024.



# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING



email: alex@smsgazette.com

Deadlines: Classifieds - Monday at Noon Too Late to Classify - Tuesday at 11 a.m.

**Phone: 208-245-4538**

Hours: Monday-Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**FOR RENT**  
**HOUSE OR APARTMENT FAST!**  
Call the St. Maries Gazette Record today to place a classified ad. 245-4538.

management needs. Ask for Amy for available rentals.  
**MINI-STORAGE WAREHOUSE**  
For Rent: Sotin's Storage, St. Maries. 208-245-4676.

January 1st. Taking applications. Call for more information. 208-245-4769.

**GIVE AWAY**

**FREE NEWSPAPERS**  
We have older newspapers for fire starting, packing, or anything you may need them for. Stop by S.M. Gazette Re-

cord for your free older newspapers. Mon-Fri 8:00-4:00.

**HELP WANTED**

**PART-TIME JANITORIAL**  
Part-time janitorial wanted in Harrison. Local and experienced preferred, but willing to hire and train the right person. Pay D.O.E. To apply,

call Connie at Jester's Personalized Cleaning Service, 208-661-8886.

**LOST AND FOUND**

**LOST: YELLOW GOLD WEDDING RING**  
Lost: yellow gold wedding ring with four ruby hearts. Reward if found. 208-582-0372.

**PLACES TO GO**

**VETERANS OUTREACH CENTER**  
Building a life worth living. Let us help you with your benefits, food and assistance for those having difficulty coping. 324 Main Ave. in St. Maries. Call 208-582-4330. Veterans Serving

veterans.  
**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
hosts its recovery program, Celebrate Recovery, Fridays at 6 p.m. Call for more information, 208-245-5420.

**SERVICES**



SUBMITTED

PotlatchDeltic netted over \$11,000 at its August employee golf tournament. The local business recently donated those funds to the Elks Lodge in support of its Christmas Basket program. Pictured: Crystal Swisher, Roddy Brown, Bucky Shoemaker, Jenny Abell and Brian Lounsbury.

**'I'M VERY PROUD OF OUR PEOPLE WHO GENEROUSLY PARTICIPATED IN OUR ANNUAL TOURNAMENT TO ENSURE ALL THE KIDS IN OUR COMMUNITY RECEIVE A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS.'**

**Bucky Shoemaker**  
PotlatchDeltic Plywood Mill Manager

## PotlatchDeltic gives to Elks

BY TYSON JUAREZ  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

PotlatchDeltic helped to make sure community members had a good Christmas after making a hefty donation to the Elks Christmas Basket program.

PotlatchDeltic was able to donate over \$11,570 to the program thanks to its an-

nual employee appreciation golf tournament is hosted in August. The monies raised is a significant jump over 2023 where the group raised over \$9,000.

About 72 PotlatchDeltic employees and their families participated in the annual golf tournament fundraiser.

"I'm very proud of our people who generously participated

in our annual tournament to ensure all the kids in our community receive a special Christmas," PotlatchDeltic Plywood Mill Manager Bucky Shoemaker said.

The group presented the check to the Elks in November to ensure they would have plenty of time to fill Christmas wish lists before distribution.

### SHERIFF'S LOG

#### THURSDAY, DEC. 19

- 3:51 a.m.:** There was a report of a lot of black ice from Black Lake to St. Maries.
- 6:24 a.m.:** There was a report of a pickup that had spun sideways and was parked near the airport sign along Highway 3.
- 11:51 a.m.:** A Tensed caller reported having documents and statements to give to a deputy in regards to harassment from the neighbor.
- 1:33 p.m.:** There was a report of an aggressive fight between two juvenile girls.

#### FRIDAY, DEC. 20

- 8:36 a.m.:** A St. Maries woman reported she called in a few weeks ago about being followed back to her house from Spokane. She said these things have happened a few more times and this morning there was someone shining a light in her living room.
- 10:56 a.m.:** A St. Maries woman reported she has been receiving threatening messages from an individual after interacting with some of the man's posts on Facebook.
- 5:38 p.m.:** There was a report of two white Chevys constantly revving their engines.
- 5:49 p.m.:** There was a report of a man in Plummer with low blood sugar and it is not coming back up.
- 8:36 p.m.:** A St. Maries resident reported hearing approximately 20-gunshots being fired.

#### SATURDAY, DEC. 21

- 8:29 a.m.:** A St. Maries resident reported opening coffee creamer and finding a rubber duck between the

- lid and the seal. She said her husband was concerned it may have something on it. She said she did wash her hands.
- 10:49 a.m.:** A Santa woman reported her neighbor's dogs never stop barking. She said the dogs' pen is eight feet from her bedroom.
- 1:19 p.m.:** A Tensed resident wanted it logged that the neighbor has setup cameras that look into the caller's bedroom.
- 9:32 p.m.:** There was a report of a possible drunk driver along Highway 95. The caller said the vehicle was doing 10 miles under the speed limit and going over the double yellow and fog line.

#### SUNDAY, DEC. 22

- 2:08 p.m.:** A St. Maries man reported he lost a pistol a couple nights ago.
- 3:18 p.m.:** A Santa man reported he got a message that his dogs were running deer. Dispatch advised him they had got received a complaint. He said he would like to be notified if someone does call in.
- 4:40 p.m.:** There was a report of a boy and girl going in and out of the bathrooms that have been locked for the off season. The caller was unsure how they got in there.
- 7:14 p.m.:** A Plummer woman reported she was supposed to get the kids and she has not been able to get ahold of the individual who has them.

#### MONDAY, DEC. 23

- 9:26 a.m.:** An individual reported she lost her wallet yesterday around 8 a.m.
- 10:35 a.m.:** A Santa woman reported she needed the fire department to come and test for carbon monoxide in her home.

**St. Maries Property Management**



- Residential
- Multi-Family
- Commercial
- River Lots

**208-245-4935**  
mystmariesagent@yahoo.com  
http://stmariesproperties.com/



**806 Main Avenue**  
St. Maries, Idaho  
(208) 245-5539

**NAPA**

**AUTO & TRUCK PARTS**

St. Maries Auto & Truck Supply, Inc.  
1111 Main Avenue  
St. Maries, Idaho 83861  
208-245-2516  
pstant@yahoo.com

**JOE'S GARAGE DOOR REPAIR**

**208-582-8582**

FLAT RATE FOR LOCAL SERVICE CALLS: \$65

**YOUR LOCAL SCREENPRINTER!**

**KNDH PRINTING & DESIGNS**

St. Maries, Idaho

**208-582-2281**

519 Main Avenue  
St. Maries, Idaho 83861  
knhprinting@gmail.com

**BIBLE READING GROUP**

Wednesdays @ 6:30

**IN THE WORD**

St. Maries Adventist Church

310 9th Street, Starting January 13, 2024

# SM QUICK CARE

# OPEN SATURDAYS!

**9:00am - 3:00pm**

### SM QUICK CARE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday: 10am-7pm  
**Wednesday: CLOSED**  
 Thursday, Friday: 10am-7pm  
 Saturday: 9am-3pm  
**Sunday: CLOSED**



229 S. 7th Street, Suite 101, St. Maries, ID 83861

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING



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Deadlines: Classifieds - Monday at Noon Too Late to Classify - Tuesday at 11 a.m.

**Phone: 208-245-4538**

Hours: Monday-Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**ALL CITY ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION**  
All types of roofs and remodeling. Office 208-245-5688. Cell 208-568-1261.

**CUSTOM CABINETS & WOOD WORKING**  
Small jobs and complete home remodels. Call Dave at White Pine Renovations 208-755-7976.

ID Contractors License: RCE-37903

**M & S ELECTRIC**  
Wiring homes, shops, out buildings, remodels, repairs, lighting. Big or small we do it all. 208-245-3890. Free Estimates.

**GOT INSURANCE?**  
Mary and Brian at Em-

erald Creek Insurance can now cover all your commercial insurance needs. Give them a call 208-245-1000. Visit their new location at 1904 Main Ave in St. Maries.

**BIG FISH SELF STORAGE**  
12'x32' storage units for \$299 per mo. Outdoor

parking: 25' for \$49 per mo. or 50' for \$79 per mo. In town 3 min from Aqua Park. 208-568-0496

**KEN'S CUSTOM BODY & PAINT**  
provides quality care for all vehicles. With an experienced and dedicated staff and a half century in business, your car is in good hands at Ken's.

1330 Main Ave. 208-245-3352.

**STROBEL CUSTOM HEATING & AIR**  
Your local heating & cooling experts serving Northern Idaho. \$500 instant stay local rebate for any new heat pump, furnace, air handler, AC or ductless install. \$65 seasonal maintenance

(regularly \$85) \$42.50 for each additional piece of equipment. 208-245-2211.

**DONATIONS NEEDED!**  
Benewah Vet Clinic is hosting a food bank donation drive. Now - December 31st. Bring in non-perishable food items as well as non-food items and receive 10% off

their pets exam.

#### FOR SALE

**HAVE SOMETHING TO SELL?**  
Call the St. Maries Gazette Record today to place a classified ad. 245-4538.

**[SENIOR MEALSITE]**

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 1**

**ST. MARIES:** Closed.  
**WORLEY:** No Lunch. Happy New Year!

**THURSDAY, JAN. 2**

**FERNWOOD:** Bangers and Mashed w/ Onion Gravy, Cherry Cobbler, Salad Bar/Homemade WW Rolls, Milk/V8/Assorted Juices  
**WORLEY:** Chicken Strips, French Fries, Coleslaw, Garlic Bread

**FRIDAY, JAN. 3**

**ST. MARIES:** Biscuits & Sausage Gravy, Hashbrowns, Scrambled Eggs, Fruit, Coffee Cake

**MONDAY, JAN. 6**

**ST. MARIES:** Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes w/Beef Gravy, Peas, Roll, Dessert  
**FERNWOOD:** Irish Beef Stew, Boston Brown Bread, Ice Cream, Salad Bar/Homemade WW Rolls, Milk/V8/Assorted Juices

*All meals are served at Noon*



TYSON JUAREZ | GAZETTE RECORD  
Students performed on recorders during one of the pieces.



TYSON JUAREZ | GAZETTE RECORD  
A large turnout from the community was seen as students performed a variety of songs December 19.

# Lakeside Concert

December 19, 2024



TYSON JUAREZ | GAZETTE RECORD

Families were treated to a Holiday concert December 19 at the Lakeside Elementary School.



TYSON JUAREZ | GAZETTE RECORD  
Students from Lakeside Elementary performed pieces highlighting winter holidays from many cultures around the world.



TYSON JUAREZ | GAZETTE RECORD  
A few groups of students played instrumental parts during the performance.

**JM Kelly Construction, LLC**  
**GENERAL CONTRACTOR**  
 Pole Buildings, Barndominiums, Dirt Work,  
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 Seasonal snow plow and residential remodel.  
 (208) 791-7215 jmkellyconstruction@yahoo.com  
 Located near Plummer

**ST. MARIES DRYWALL**  
**NEW CONSTRUCTION/REMODEL DRYWALL**  
 Custom Interiors, T & G  
 Cabinet Installation, Custom Trim  
 Retexture/ Paint, Barnwood  
**MIKE HARLOW**  
 ALL WORK GUARANTEED  
 208-568-0939  
**Mike Harlow**  
**208-568-0939**

*We read the*  
**Gazette Record**

"It's important for me and my wife to keep in touch with places and people we knew from long ago."

**Bill & Nancy Gruber**  
 Moscow, Idaho

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

*We market with the*  
**Gazette Record**

"I advertise in the Gazette because not everyone has Facebook and social media. It's our local paper and it's a way to support another local business."

**Chris Hill**  
Main Street Bistro



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

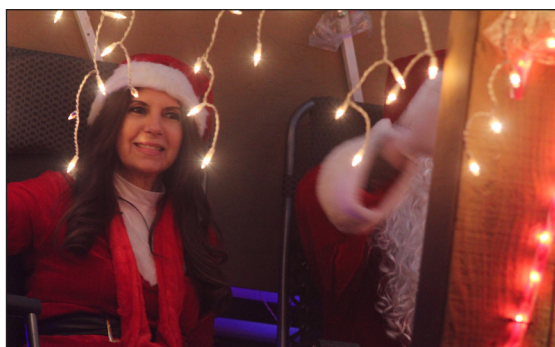


TYSON JUAREZ | GAZETTE RECORD

A parade of lights made its way down Main Avenue and many other parts of St. Maries Friday, December 20 for the St. Maries Fire Protection District's annual Santa Run. Many other agencies joined in to help pass out candy canes to locals including the Benewah County Sheriff's Office, PotlatchDeltic and Benewah County EMS.

# SMFDP Santa Run

December 20, 2024



# Cheers TO THE NEW YEAR!

MAY YOUR 2025 BE FILLED WITH JOY!



**intermax NETWORKS**

MAY THE UPCOMING YEAR BRING YOU JOY, PROSPERITY, AND COUNTLESS MOMENTS OF CONNECTION. WISHING YOU A YEAR FILLED WITH HIGH-SPEED SUCCESS AND SEAMLESS CONNECTIVITY!

*From your Intermax Networks family*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

~ FROM ALL OF US TO ALL OF YOU ~

# 2025

Happy New Year

WISHING YOU A *Bright & Happy* NEW YEAR.



**Stillwater Electric Inc.**

Tim and Carey Grubham, Owners  
info@stillwater-e.com | P: 208-245-3871

# 2025

CHEERS TO HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY IN 2025!

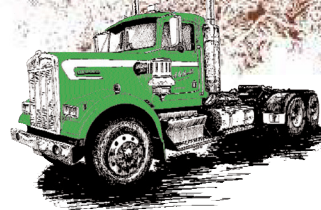
*Happy*  
**NEW YEAR**



**CRANE BACKHOE & TRUCKING**  
St. Maries, Id  
208-245-1863

WISHING YOU A

**Happy New Year**  
2025



*Jack Buell Trucking*

208-245-2501 | Railroad Avenue | St. Maries, Idaho



**3<sup>RD</sup> ST. ONE STOP**  
(208) 245-3722  
320 COLLEGE AVENUE  
ST. MARIES, IDAHO



**ED'S R&R**  
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84752 HWY 3 NORTH  
ST. MARIES, IDAHO

# 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR

**PENDELL OIL, INC.**  
(208) 245-2711  
930 ST. JOE AVENUE  
ST. MARIES, IDAHO 83861

**Edward Jones**

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Cheers to a New Year!

May you have a happy, prosperous and healthy new year!



**Heidi S Krueger**  
Financial Advisor  
720 Main Avenue  
St Maries, ID 83861  
208-568-2087



# 2025

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
WE APPRECIATE ALL OF OUR WONDERFUL CUSTOMERS.

From Sherry and the crew at





**VETERANS OUTREACH CENTER Inc.**  
BUILDING A LIFE WORTH LIVING

Let us help you with your benefits, food, and assistance for those having difficulty coping. We provide a safe and pleasant atmosphere for Veterans of all ages and their families, as well as a lifetime commitment of brotherhood.

1-208-582-4330  
324 Main Avenue | St. Maries, Idaho  
BenewahVeterans.org

**VETERANS SERVING VETERANS**



There are many forms of grief: Death, Job Loss and Divorce, just to name a few. SPAN Grief Support Group meets every third Thursday at 6:00PM at the St. Maries Fire Hall 308 W. Jefferson spanbenewah@gmail.com

**SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM**

Join Us...  
**College Ave. Baptist Church**  
collegeavenuechurch.com



KOFE Radio Ministry 1240 AM  
Listen to Walking With Jesus  
10 AM Sundays, 6 PM Wednesdays



**Church Directory**  
Come Worship with Us!

**Harrison Community Baptist Church**  
www.harrisonbaptist.org  
Sunday Service 10:00AM  
208-689-3506

**First Baptist Church**  
522 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
St. Maries, Idaho 83861  
245-4827

SUNDAY SERVICES  
Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Soup and Study at noon

**St. Mary Immaculate Catholic Church**  
Tenth & Jefferson, St. Maries  
Father Jerome Montez  
(208) 245-2977

Friday Mass .....NOON  
Saturday Mass .....5:00PM  
No Sunday Mass

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help**  
Harrison, Idaho  
Saturday Mass .....2:30PM  
No Sunday Mass

**Church of the Nazarene**  
Darin Million Trevor Farnsworth  
Pastor Associate Pastor

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES  
Prayer Time, Room 2.....8:00AM  
First Sermon, Sanctuary.....8:30AM  
Worship Together, Sanctuary.....9:30AM  
Nursery (Birth to 4 years), Room 26.....8:30AM  
Sunday School.....10:00AM  
Second Sermon, Sanctuary.....10:30AM

Please call for more information  
(208)245-4594.  
3.5 miles north on Hwy 3 • P.O. Box 332, St. Maries

**College Avenue Baptist Church**  
Join us for Christ Centered  
Worship Sundays at 10:30AM  
830 W. College Avenue  
St. Maries, Idaho 83861  
509-926-8885  
collegeavenuechurchstmaries@gmail.com  
collegeavenuechurch.com

Connect with us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube for the latest updates.  
KOFE Radio Ministry 1240AM  
Listen to Walking with Jesus  
Sundays at 10AM & Wednesdays at 6PM

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS  
BISHOP C. STEVEN FARR  
201 23<sup>RD</sup> STREET, ST. MARIES  
SACRAMENT MEETING 10AM SUNDAYS

**Community Presbyterian Church**  
Worship and Sunday School 10:00am  
(208) 245-2686  
www.smpresbyterian.org

**Church of Christ**  
Shadowy Rivers Mall  
9:30 Bible Study  
10:30 Worship  
(208) 245-1417

**Sanders Community Church**  
Sunday Worship: 11:00 AM  
11249 Sanders Road, Tensed  
Facebook: Sanders Community Church of Idaho  
Email: SandersPastor@outlook.com

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
Pastor Stefan Zafui  
SATURDAY BIBLE STUDY  
& WORSHIP SERVICE  
9:30 & 10:45 AM  
310 S. Ninth St., St. Maries  
(208) 477-1902

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
WELCOMES YOU  
Tenth & College, St. Maries  
www.lutheranchurchstmaries.org  
splctmaries@gmail.com

Sunday School (for all ages) .....8:30AM  
September - May  
Worship.....10:00AM

Fellowship Hour Following  
Holy Communion.....Every Sunday  
"Come share the spirit!"  
(208) 245-5420  
A Member of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ.

**Assembly of God**  
405 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, St. Maries  
245-3030  
Pastor Lynn Peters

SUNDAY SERVICES  
Morning Worship.....10:00AM  
Kids Super Church.....10:00AM

WEDNESDAY FAMILY NIGHT  
Soup Supper.....5:00PM  
Classes for all ages.....6:00PM  
Toddlers, Pre-Schoolers, K-5th Graders, Youth, Adults  
~ Nursery Care Provided ~

**Chris R. Fleming**

Chris R. Fleming (63), resident of Santa, ID passed away at his home on December 18, 2024 with his family by his side. He was born to Jay and Norma Fleming on November 30, 1961, in Coeur d' Alene, ID. Chris grew up in Coeur d' Alene where he loved to recreate by fishing and hunting at an early age. He graduated from Coeur d' Alene high School with the class of 1979.

Following high school in 1980, Chris enlisted into the U.S. Navy where he was stationed in San Diego, CA. He met Shiela Swafford through his father, who was the Coeur d' Alene Press paper delivery person. He met Sheila along his route and thought she would be perfect for his son. The couple went out on a date, and he proposed over the phone 6 months later while he was stationed in Chicago. They married on May 4, 1983, at the Hitching Post.

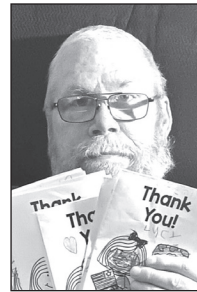
After the nuptials, Sheila accompanied Chris to Seattle, Long Beach, and Alaska all the while starting their family along the way having 3 children. He retired from the military, and the family moved to Coeur d' Alene for 6 months before he found work at Emerald Creek Garnet near Fernwood. The family moved Upriver and have been there ever since. To support his family, he worked for Emerald Creek for 11 years, Jims Auto for nearly a decade, and Benewah Motors for 13 years. Sadly a cancer diagnoses

forced him to retire January 2023.

Aside from hunting and fishing, Chris loved guns, reloading, tinkering on anything and everything with a small engine, 4 wheeling, telling jokes and stories, and shooting ground squirrels. All of his hobbies were enjoyed with his family and friends. Most important to him was spending time with his grandchildren. He also served as a Hunters Safety Instructor, participated with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and was instrumental with Toys for Tots out of Seattle for several years.

Chris is survived by his wife Sheila at their home in Santa; children Heidi Hodgson (Clint Allman) of St. Maries, ID, Kendra Fleming of Moses Lake, WA, and Samuel Fleming of Santa, ID; siblings Rod (Sherry) Fleming of Kansas, Kim (Sherryl) Fleming of Coeur d' Alene, and Kevin Fleming of St. Maries; 6 grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents.

Military honors will be presented at a later date for Chris. You may visit his online tribute and leave his family condolences at hodgefuneralhome.com.



**Jennifer A. Geier**

Jennifer A. Geier (77), resident of Hayden, ID passed away at Schneidmiller Hospice House on November 26, 2024. She was born to Donald and Audrey Russell on January 9, 1947, in Blairmore, Alberta, Canada. Jennifer grew up in Cranbrook, BC and attended school through the 8th grade supporting herself working in several different industries.

Over the years, Jennifer had a couple marriages that ended in divorce; however, they brought 5 wonderful children into the world. Jenny gave birth to her first daughter Shannon when she was 14. She later moved to Creston where she met her first husband Bill Neiman. Bill and Jenny had three more children, Monica, Theresa, and Jennelle. They settled in Bonners Ferry for a time. They moved to Columbia Falls. She and Bill later divorced, and Jenny moved back to Bonners Ferry, where she met her second husband Howard Geier. Howard, Jenny, and her four children moved to Williams Lake BC, where they had a daughter together which they named Kelly. Three years later they moved back to Bonners and later Jenny and Howard divorced. One of her greatest accomplishments, aside from having her children, was spending many years working at the LP Mill as a Lumber Grader. She was bigger than life and extremely tough having no problem keeping up with her male co-workers. After over a decade with LP, she moved to Lewiston where she established her own business cleaning houses. She was a hard worker with an infectious smile and personality. During this time, she built long-lasting

relationships with her clients. When Jennifer retired, she moved back to Bonners and then to Hayden, ID where she made her permanent home near her daughter Kelly.

Jenny was an avid reader and enjoyed all sorts of books. She was a very caring soul who was also a feisty spit fire not taking any guff from anyone. Jenny will be remembered as outspoken and tough as nails, yet very kind-hearted and loving. She often helped others during their darkest hours and would give anything she had to those in need. Jenny also enjoyed gardening, camping, and spending time with her grandchildren.

Jenny is survived by her children Monica Doyle of Bonners Ferry, ID, Theresa (Andy) Lounsbury of Florida, Jennelle DeAtley of Phoenix, AZ, and Kelly (Erik) Machado of Hayden, ID; siblings Lorraine Hillman-Bergman, Corrine McMahan, Margaret Dunbar, and Val Denyes all of Canada. Also surviving are grandchildren (number the grandkids). She is preceded in death by her daughter Shannon Bosche, her parents, and siblings Frank Russell, Frances Russell, and infant sister Donna Russell.

A Celebration of Life will be planned and announced at a later date this summer to honor her with a big party including lots of good food, drink, and conversation. You may visit her online tribute at hodgefuneralhome.com.



**Bradley Wayne Duke**

Bradley Wayne Duke (64) resident of St. Maries, ID passed away at Kootenai Health on December 20, 2024, with family at his side. He was born to Kenneth and Rose Duke on October 3, 1960, in Eugene, OR. Brad spent his younger years in Oregon before the Duke family moved to St. Maries, ID in 1976. Brad attended school in St. Maries but left early to go to work at Tenth Street Lumber. He also spent time working for Bob Taylor.

Brad married and had 3 children Debra, Erica, and Christopher; the marriage ended in divorce. A date at a Halloween dance blessed him with the love of his life Nita Mellen. They attended the dance, and lived as close as you can get to happily ever after. Brad married Nita in 1996 becoming a stepfather to Dusty, and the family made their home in St. Maries. Brad worked for Pugh Brother's for many years running their rock crusher. He then drove a dump truck for Borgmann Logging; however, an injury on that job forced him into early retirement.

Brad was a pretty straight forward and blunt guy; however, he had a huge heart and was a big teddy bear. He possessed a sense of humor like no other, and he was well loved by every-

one, especially Nita, she loved him with all of her heart. Family was important to him, and he enjoyed spending time with them. He also enjoyed hunting, fishing, and mushrooming.

By far his most favorite thing to do was to vacation at the Oregon Coast. He loved combing the beaches and going out deep sea fishing, even if it made him sick. So many memories were made on the coast, it was his heaven on earth, and he loved sharing his adventures with the people he loved.

Brad is survived by his loving wife Nita at their home in St. Maries; children Debra, Erica, Christopher, and Dusty (Shanna); granddaughter Alexis; siblings Rick (Renee) Duke, Kenny Duke, and Tim (Karina) Duke all of St. Maries, ID, Greg Duke of Sun River, MT, and DeAnna (Russ) Spray of Fernwood, ID; numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents.

At Brad's request there will be no services; however you may leave his family condolences on his tribute page at hodgefuneralhome.com.



**Leonard Leroy Swisher**

Leonard Leroy Swisher (78) resident of Clarkia, ID passed away at his home on December 17, 1946. He was born to Lewis and Agnes Swisher on March 4, 2024. Leonard grew up around the Post Falls and Coeur d' Alene areas attending school at both locations. Following high school, he went to work for Northwest Timber.

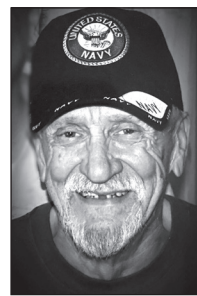
In 1966 Leonard enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in Vietnam as a "Muddy Water" Sailor and a "Shellback" aboard the U.S.S. Fox CG33 when it commissioned in 1966. When Leonard was honorably discharged in 1972, he returned to Coeur d' Alene and went to work as a baker for Buttry's Grocery Store.

Leonard made Clarkia, ID his forever home in the late 1990's and he went to work driving log truck for Bruce Bumgartner out of Deary, ID. On November 20, 2010, he married Judy Stockton at their home in Clarkia, and in 2015 he went to work for Steve Henderson driving log truck for Pine Creek Logging, finally retiring in 2022.

Leonard was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and 4 wheeling. He also enjoyed wood working and was very talented.

Leonard is survived by his wife Judy at their home in Clarkia; step children Kim Stockton of Clarkia, Kent (Anna) Stockton of Post Falls, Kurt (Diane) Stockton) of Sandpoint, Korinne (Mike) Sabala of Gooding, and Kevin Stockton of Bonners Ferry, ID; sister Betty Clementich of Spokane; brother Arthur Swisher of Moscow, ID; 14 step-grandchildren; and 11 great step-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents and brother Floyd Swisher.

Family services will be held in early spring of 2025 where military honors will be presented. Always remember it is ok to not be ok, if you are struggling with mental health or are feeling suicidal, please reach out to someone. Call or text 988 for 24-hour help. SPAN of Benewah County is also another great organization to find resources to help. You may visit Leonard's online tribute and leave condolences for his family at hodgefuneralhome.com.



## HARRISON TOPS



SUBMITTED

The Harrison TOPS #338 celebrated Christmas with a reunion of members at the Harrison Senior Center on Dec. 19. Those present included (front) Paulette Davis, Gwen Wadley, Eileen DuHamel, Elaine Desautel, (back) Carol Lambert, Kara Truman, Brande Godsby, Penny Bratton, Jo Prophet, Jean Dohrman, Donna Layton, Sherri Lomas and Susie Rodgers.

## Ann M. Brebner

Ann M. Brebner (70) resident of St. Maries, ID passed away at her home on December 20, 2024, with her husband by her side. She was born to Roman and Jane (Wesolowski) Czlapinski on February 22, 1954 in Toledo, OH. Ann grew up in the Ohio area attending St. Hyacinth School and Central Catholic High School, graduating in 1972. She gave birth to her only daughter Adrea Czlapinski Burkle. She went to work as a Phlebotomist at St. Charles Hospital in Oregon, OH from 1976-1995.

was well known for waking up at 4:00 am to watch her granddaughter's dance competitions streaming from the other side of the country. Ann was simple and she found beauty in simple things, she loved to drive to Aqua Park and just sit by the river on a nice day. She will be missed by her family and friends.



In the 1990's when the internet was just beginning and chat rooms became a popular way to meet people, Ann met the love of her life, her rock, and her solid foundation Mike Brebner in an AOL Chatroom in 1995. The couple began dating online before it was even a thing. Ann moved to St. Maries and started her life with Mike, marrying him in 1997 in Coeur d'Alene, ID. She went to work at Benewah Community Hospital as a Phlebotomist and then a CNA; her career at BCH spanned from 1996-2019.

Ann is survived by her loving husband Michael Brebner; daughter and son in-law Adrea (Scott) Burkle; sons Jeremy (Yulanda) Brebner and Bill (Gretchen) Brebner; grandchildren Avery, Aiden, and Piper Burkle and Katy, Jerrett, Taryn, Madison, and Reed Brebner. She is preceded in death by her parents, son in-law Michael Kerger, and many aunts and uncles.

Ann was well loved by all who met her. She had a close group of friends from the hospital whom she adored and treasured. In her spare time, she enjoyed crocheting, puzzles, games on the computer, and cooking although she did not get the baking gene from her talented mother. She also loved her grandchildren and

A Memorial Service to celebrate Ann's life will be on January 3, 2024, at 2:00 pm at the Eagles Lodge in St. Maries, ID. A gathering of family and friends to share a meal will follow. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations to Hopes Haven, 53 Robinson Lane, St. Maries, ID 83861.

You may visit Ann's online tribute and leave her family condolences at [hodgefuneralhome.com](http://hodgefuneralhome.com).

## Gladys Vawter

Gladys Vawter (90) passed peacefully at her home in St. Maries, Id on December 20, 2024. Gladys was born to her parents Feimster Eddie Morrison and Ellen May (Marshall) Morrison on January 13, 1934 in Lewiston, Id. She grew up on the family farm on a mountain top near Lapwai, Id. She graduated from Lapwai High School in 1952 as co-valedictorian. Gladys went to work for Idaho First National Bank in Lewiston. She married Ellis Vawter on April 4th, 1953 and in 1956 the couple moved to St. Maries to establish St. Maries Auto Parts. Gladys took care of the inventory and all things bookkeeping. In the early '70s she enjoyed horseback riding and going to local Gymkhana or O-Mok-See events in her free time until the '80s. She was always an avid fan of rodeos, draft horse events, and bull riding. Eventually she added football, NASCAR, and Gonzaga basketball, but throughout Gladys's life the one thing she enjoyed was going to have coffee someplace each day and visit with people. This spanned from the old Mike's Drug to Harvest Foods in 2023 when a stroke no longer allowed her to drive.

The next chapter of Gladys' life centered around their home in St. Maries and Ellis' rekindled love of gardening. He grew it and she picked and processed it. She broke



away with the birth of her two grandchildren and helped with watching them until they started pre-school. Gladys and Ellis also

became involved with the vintage snowmobile club of the Inland Empire participating in many events. Although she was not a member of Kiwanis, she worked alongside her husband in all of their fundraising efforts and was just as dedicated as Ellis was. It was about this time Gladys was told by her doctor she had to quit crocheting as she was damaging her shoulder to the point of needing an operation. This was a quiet relief to her family as she had amassed an incredible stockpile of afghans in every size and color. She loved to attend her grandkids' football, volleyball, and basketball games even into her eighties.

Ellis and Gladys sold the NAPA as it had come to be referred to in 1986. Thinking she still had numbers to crunch she took bookkeeping jobs in Lewiston at Henderson Motors and Duckworth Boats for about a year. She and Ellis then did some traveling. In the summer of 1989, she went to Bethel Alaska to help at a remote fishing camp that Ellis had enlisted to work for the season. In 1992 the two began a three-year stint at Johnson Creek Airport near Yellow Pine Idaho as camp hosts. There they met and formed lasting friendships with many fly-in campers and the few residents of Yellow Pine.

Gladys is survived by her husband Ellis at the family home of sixty years, son Les (Dana) of Rose Lake, Son-in-law Eric Harris of Post Falls, grandchildren Mitchell of Boise, Libby of Coeur d'Alene and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents F.E. and Ellen May Morrison, sister Ella Mae (Morrison) McMasters, and daughter Lyn. A celebration of life will be held at the Nazarene Church in St. Maries on January 12, 2024, at 12:00 pm. You may visit her online tribute online at [hodgefuneralhome.com](http://hodgefuneralhome.com)

## Spencer Leo Blodgett

Spencer Leo Blodgett (59) longtime St. Maries, ID resident passed away at Benewah Community Hospital on December 17, 2024. He was born to Ron and Juanita Blodgett on November 29, 1965, in St. Maries, ID. Leo grew up in St. Maries and attended school there. He left before graduation and moved to Wisconsin to be with other members of his family. It was in Wisconsin where he enlisted into the U.S. Army in 1983.

Leo served 4 years in the Army, also serving a Hardship Tour. When he was honorably discharged in 1987, Leo returned to St. Maries where he went to work for Regulus Stud Mills, Inc. After 12 years with Regulus, Leo worked several different jobs to support himself over the years. He was talented in many areas, holding positions in construction, mechanic and maintenance, gold mining, and the State of Idaho's Fish and Game department. In 2002 he met the love of his life and his best friend Alicia Arellano. The couple relocated to Wisconsin to have a fresh start. They married in 2007 and he not only became a loving husband, but he became a dedicated bonus dad to Alicia's children. They lived in Wisconsin until 2014 when they decided to come home and be closer to their St. Maries family.

Leo was a loving and forgiving husband, showing Alicia what true love was. He brought kindness and a smile to many holding his dear

friends close to his heart. An avid outdoorsman, Leo enjoyed hunting, fishing, walking in the woods, and rock hounding, creating several rock beds and sharing his passion for them.



He had a soft spot for babies and treasured all of his friends treating them like family. Over the 59 years of his life, he led a very eventful life full of experiences and life lessons. Because of this, he was a better man and was always evolving into the man he became.

He deeply loved his family, friends, and life, and will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Faith was also important to him, and he knew the bible.

Leo is survived by his wife Alicia at their home in St. Maries; bonus children Mitch Randall and Cody Randall both of Oregon and Kyle Randall of St. Maries; stepfather John Nigh of St. Maries; mother-in-law Judy Kerr of St. Maries; and sister-in-law Erica Kerr. He is preceded in death by his father Ronald Blodgett, mother Juanita Nigh, and brother Troy Green Sr.

Military services and a celebration of life will be planned at a later date. You may visit his online tribute and leave his family condolences at [hodgefuneralhome.com](http://hodgefuneralhome.com).





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## PASSPORT PHOTOS

The Gazette Record // 610 Main Avenue, St. Maries



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**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
from the Veterans Outreach Center, Inc. and all of our volunteers.

Special thank you to all of our St. Maries and Benewah County supporters. We have had a most successful year in helping our Veterans build a life worth living. We could not have done this without all of you. Especially St. Maries Logging and the Jim Beal Family who donated our property on Main Avenue. We will always be grateful. God Bless and have a safe holiday season.

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**VETERANS SERVING VETERANS**

New Years resolution usually involve improving your overall health. Many people start their diets on New Years, though some don't last past Valentine's Day. Here is a low carb recipe to help you out if you are looking for healthy recipes.

**HARRISON NEWS**



**SUSAN RODGERS**  
208-689-3987

**Garlic Chicken with Broccoli and Spinach:** Cut 1 pound of chicken breasts into bite sized pieces. In a large skillet, heat 2 Tbsp. olive oil. Add chopped chicken and cook 5 min. Season the chicken with 1 tsp. Italian Seasoning. Add 4 cloves minced garlic (chopped). Cook an additional minute. Add 1/2 cup cherry tomatoes (cut in half) and 2 cups broccoli florets. Cook for about five minutes until the broccoli is tender. Add 1 cup fresh spinach and 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese and 4 ounces cream cheese. Stir well to combine and cook an additional two minutes until cheese is melted. Garnish with fresh parsley.

**Visionary:** The Visionary Missionary Society will not be meeting in January. The next meeting is Feb. 6 at noon at the Harrison Community Baptist Church.

**Open Gym:** There will be open gym at the Kootenai Jr.

High Gym weekly on Wednesday evenings starting Jan. 8 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for all students grades K-5th. The focus will be on basketball fundamentals along with fun and games. For questions or more information, contact egustin@sd274.com.

**Weight Support Club:** The club will not meet on Dec. 26. The next TOPS club meeting is Jan. 2 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

**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. at the Harrison Senior Center. 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.



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**UPRIVER NEWS**



**RHONDA WILKS**  
208-245-5117

**Quick Energy Picks:** 1 cup Confectioners' Sugar, 1 cup crunchy Peanut Butter, 1 cup semisweet Chocolate Chips, 1 cup Raisins, 1/2 cup Powder Milk, 1/3 cup Coconut

Combine first five ingredients and 3 tablespoons water in bowl; mix well. Shape into balls. Roll in coconut. Yield: 7 1/2 dozen.

**Birthday:** Harriett McCall of Fernwood celebrated her 85th birthday with family and friends. Harriett was born on December 10, 1938, in Moscow, Idaho.

**Anniversary:** David and Gail Cheyney of Fernwood celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary with family. David and Gail were married on December 31, 1966, in Norfolk, Neb.

**Bingo:** December 26th UpRiver Bingo winners were Kristi Hunter, Jody Brittain, Tina Smith, Patsy Wernecki, Anna Hattton, Annette Parker, Cathy Anderson, Jeanette Baptiste, Bunnie Gustin, Betty Jones and Serenity Gustin. Serenity Gustin won the Super Blackout. The Hot Ball is now \$79. The progressive Super Blackout is now \$260 in 55 numbers or less.

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

**Breakfasts and Lunches:** UpRiver Elementary breakfasts and lunches for Jan. 8-biscuits with country gravy or trix cereal, fresh fruit and pepperoni ripper, raw baby carrots, side salad, fresh fruit, fruit snack; Jan. 9-french toast sticks or multigrain cheerios, applesauce and hamburger, crinkle fries, dried cherries; Jan. 10-pancake wrap on a stick or chex cereal, peaches and crunchy tacos, corn, pears, rice Krispies bar; Jan. 13-blueberry smoothie or cocoa puffs cereal, lil graham squares, pears and chicken nuggets, seasoned potato wedges, raw baby carrots, applesauce; Jan. 14-chocolate chip muffin or honey nut cheerios, strawberry or peach yogurt, diced peaches and spaghetti with meat sauce, mini garlic toast, corn, diced peaches.

**Head Start:** UpRiver Head Start snacks and lunches for Jan. 8-milk, vanilla graham crackers and pepperoni pizza, baked beans, fresh fruit, string cheese; Jan. 9-string cheese, all sports bites crackers; hamburger, diced peaches; Jan. 10-1/2 banana, lil graham squares and chicken with cheese quesadilla, corn, diced pears, string cheese; Jan. 13-cheerios, milk and chicken nuggets, crinkle fries, mandarin oranges; Jan. 14-fresh apple, state

and capital crackers and spaghetti with meat sauce, mini garlic toast, glazed carrots, diced peaches.

**Soup & Bread Lunch:** Free to the community, Soup & Bread Lunch on January 5th in the basement of the Up-River Bible Church in Fernwood from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. To-go containers will be available.

**Adult Coloring:** The Tri-Community Library will have Adult Coloring on Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 3 p.m. Included with the coloring will be coffee, cookies and chitchat. You can bring your own book and pencils or use the library supplies.

**NLT:** The New Library Team will meet at the library on January 7th at 4 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

**Microsoft Word:** January will be the month for Microsoft Word Beginning Class at the Tri-Community Library. This class is taught every Wednesday in January from 1 to 3 p.m. and covers the same material every week. You will learn how to open, create and save a word document; format text and page structures; zoom in and out; run spellcheck; insert a photo; draw and highlight; adjust margins; print a document and use the find feature.

Please bring a laptop with Microsoft Word installed. Four laptops (with Microsoft Word) are available to use in the library for this class. If you need to use one of the library laptops, please let them know and they will make sure you are on the list.

Dates for the beginning class will be January 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th. Must sign up early. Contact the library at 208-245-4883 for more information.

**CSFP:** The Commodity Supplemental Food Program provides nutritious food to seniors in need over the age of 60 on a monthly basis.

Individuals who are eligible are-over the age of 60, have a monthly income at or below 130% of the Federal Poverty Line and are residents of Idaho. Items included in the monthly box can include evaporated milk, cheese, peanut butter, cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, rice, beans and meat. Items may vary.

Contact the CSFP team at 208-577-2690 or email CSFP@idahofoodbank.org

**AA:** An open Alcohol Anonymous meeting meets in the library of the Emida Community Center on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. An open Alcohol Anonymous meeting meets in the basement of the UpRiver Bible Church in Fernwood on Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m.

## David named Most Outstanding Wrestler at Kellogg Tournament

BY COLLIN SCHEEL  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

A group of seven wrestlers earned medals for St. Maries at Kellogg's George Wild Tournament Dec. 21 as the Lumberjacks finished fifth in a field of 23 teams.

Zach David and Kelby Harvey led St. Maries, both taking first place in their respective brackets.

Zach, who won the 157-pound bracket, was named Most Outstanding Wrestler for the tournament. Zach pinned his first opponent in 1:25, won on technical falls over his next two (18-3/17-2) and won the 157-pound final on a 24-14 result.

Kelby pinned his first two opponents in the 132-pound weight class, the first at the 1:04 mark and the second in 31 seconds. Kelby won his quarterfinal match on a technical fall, 17-1, and narrowly won the 132-final on a 15-13 score.

"They wrestled great, I was real happy with both of them," Coach Dennis Humphrey said. "Kelby had to dig deep in his final match. That one was all heart, he had to really dig in to win that one."

Jerrett Brebner and Aiden Yearout both made it to finals, Jerrett finishing his day in second place of the 144-pound bracket with a 3-1 record and Aiden going 4-1 in the 165-pound bracket for

second place. Amado Stewart overcame a quarterfinal loss in the 157-pound bracket to win four consecutive matches and claim third place.

Zack Sotin and JoJane Barta each took home fourth place, rounding out St. Maries' medal earnings for the day.

"It was a good tournament," Coach Humphrey said. "It's always tough over there, and I was proud of the kids for sticking with it and working hard the whole two days. That's not easy to do, but they did themselves proud over there."

**UP NEXT:** St. Maries hosted its home tournament Dec. 28 and wrestles at Orofino Saturday.

### George Wild Tournament

**Dec. 20-21, Kellogg High School**  
126: Gabe Halloran - 2-2, Pinned 3:21/Win 3-0/Win by fall 1:21/Loss tf 2-17; 132: Kelby Harvey - 1st, 5-0, Win by fall 1:04/Win by fall 0:31/Win tf 17-1/Win by fall 3:33/Win 15-13; 132: Beau Wentzel - 0-2, Pinned 3:37/Pinned 2:28; 138: Zebediah Green - 1-2, Pinned 0:31/Win by fall 2:30/Pinned 0:26; 144: Jerrett Brebner - 2nd, 3-1, Win by fall 5:09/Win tf 15-0/Win by fall 4:42/Loss 4-15; 150: Dylan Hansen - 2-2, Win by fall 1:59/Win by fall 1:23/Pinned 4:50/Pinned 1:43; 157: Zach David - 1st, 4-0, Win by fall 1:25/Win tf 18-3/Win tf 17-2/Win 24-14; 157: Amado Stewart - 3rd, 6-1, Win tf 20-5/Win by fall 2:43/Loss 11-18/Win 11-5/Win by fall 2:49/Win 6-2/Win tf 16-1; 165: Aiden Yearout - 2nd, 4-1, Win tf 18-3/Win by fall 3:23/Win 11-0/Win 4-1/Pinned 1:19; 175: Kelton Allman - 1-2, Pinned 1:05/Win by fall 1:34/Loss 0-12;

190: Zack Sotin - 4th, 4-2, Win by fall 0:18/Pinned 1:59/Win tf 15-0/Win by fall 0:28/Win by fall 0:37/Pinned 2:00; 190: Andrew Blankenship - 0-2, Pinned 0:49/Pinned 1:24; 215: Kris Brusseau - 1-2, Win by fall 0:30/Pinned 1:57/Loss 0-1; 215: Rustle Brusseau - 3-2, Win 15-3/Pinned 3:30/Win by fall 0:37/Win by fall 0:51/Loss 3-12; Girls 120: JoJane Barta - 4th, 3-2, Win by fall 3:02/Win by fall 0:33/Pinned 1:10/Win by fall 1:16/Pinned 1:55  
St. Maries 36, Moscow 35  
120: JoJane Barta - pinned 1:38; 126: Gabe Halloran - pinned 1:02; 132: Kelby Harvey - Win by fall 1:12; 138: Beau Wentzel - pinned 3:39; 144: Jerrett Brebner - Win by fall 1:03; 157: Zach David - Tech fall 20-4; 165: Aiden Yearout - Win by fall 1:53; 175: Amado Stewart - Loss tech fall 6-22; 190: Zack Sotin - Win by fall 1:54; 215: Rustle Brusseau - Win by fall 3:32; 285: Kris Brusseau - pinned 0:56

## Shock to the system



COLLIN SCHEEL | GAZETTE RECORD

Furyous Louie keeps the ball out of a Lapwai defender's reach Dec. 4. Furyous scored eight points in the 69-49 win.

## Knights overcome rare halftime deficit, stay perfect in league play

BY COLLIN SCHEEL  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

Its final game before Christmas was also the closest league game the Lakeside boys basketball had played in nearly three years.

The Knights were down 10 points to Scenic Idaho Conference opponent Genesis Prep Dec. 21.

The rare halftime deficit was quickly erased in the third

quarter as Lakeside had four scorers in double digits and outscored the Jaguars 19-9 in the frame.

A 66-56 win was highlighted by a 20-point performance from Hallah Peone, 18 points from Tyson Charley, 12 from Preston Spotted Horse and 10 from Jaydin Pluff as their team improved to 3-0 in SIC play.

The rematch is set for Feb. 13 in what will be Lakeside's final regular season game.

**UP NEXT:** Lakeside (6-1, 3-0 SIC) plays in the Wellpinit Tournament Friday and Saturday and travels to Lapwai Jan. 7.

### Lakeside 66, Genesis Prep 56

LHS	7	17	19	23	66
GP	12	22	9	13	56

Peone - 20 pts.; Charley - 18 pts.; Spotted Horse - 12 pts.; Pluff - 10 pts.; Mitchell - 4 pts.; Greensky - 2 pts.

## Dole, Morris with winning records at Kellogg

BY COLLIN SCHEEL  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

Untimely losses left the Lakeside wrestling team without a medal at Kellogg's George Wild Tournament Dec. 21, despite earning 13 individual match wins.

Josiah Dole (150) and Layne Morris (215) each finished their day with winning re-

records. Josiah went 3-2, falling in the semifinals after winning his first three matches on pins.

Layne also pinned his way to the semifinals, where he would fall before ending his day in the consolation semifinals and capping his tournament with a 3-2 mark.

Other Knights to earn match wins on the day included

Jayden Wilson (106), Jethro Dole (113), Giovanni SiJohn (132), Tyson Gacek (138), Oliver Daniels (165) and Julian Moffit (190).

**UP NEXT:** Lakeside wrestled at St. Maries Dec. 28 and is scheduled to compete at the Northwest Christian Crusader Classic Jan. 11 in Colbert, WA.

### George Wild Tournament

**Dec. 20-21, Kellogg High School**  
106: Jayden Wilson - 0-2, Pinned 0:41/Pinned 0:27; 113: Jethro Dole - 1-2, Pinned 3:02/Win med fft/Loss tf 4-20; 120: Carson Hyde - 0-2, Pinned 0:30/Pinned 0:53; 132: Giovanni SiJohn - 2-2, Pinned 5:12/Win 8-3/Win tf 17-1/Loss 3-15; 138: Tyson Gacek - 1-2, Loss 4-5/Win by fall 1:37/Pinned 1:26; 150: Josiah Dole - 3-2, Win by fall 0:09/Win by fall 3:12/Win by fall 3:05/Loss tf 4-20/Pinned 0:39; 165:

Oliver Daniels - 1-2, Pinned 3:20/Win 8-0/Pinned 1:23; 175: Eli Morris - 0-2, Loss tf 2-19/Pinned 0:53; 190: Julian Moffit - 2-2, Win fft/Win by fall 0:19/Pinned 1:03/Pinned 3:00; 190: Henry Daniels - 0-2, Pinned 1:19/Loss 0-13; 215: Tyler Gacek - 0-2, Pinned 0:46/Pinned 1:30; 215: Tahkisa Seyler - 0-2, Pinned 0:30/Loss med fft; 215: Layne Morris - 3-2, Win by fall 0:11/Win by fall 3:13/Win by fall 3:30/Pinned 1:48/Pinned 1:30; 215: Phoenix Sepulveda - 0-2, Pinned 0:27/Pinned 0:39



presents

## THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

### St. Maries Lumberjacks GIRLS BASKETBALL

WEDS 1/1	THURS 1/2	FRI 1/3	SAT 1/4	MON 1/6	TUES 1/7 @ Orofino 5:30/7PM
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### BOYS BASKETBALL

WEDS 1/1	THURS 1/2	FRI 1/3	SAT 1/4	MON 1/6	TUES 1/7 @ Potlatch 6/7:30PM
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### WRESTLING

WEDS 1/1	THURS 1/2	FRI 1/3	SAT 1/4 @ Orofino	MON 1/6	TUES 1/7
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### Lakeside Knights GIRLS BASKETBALL

WEDS 1/1	THURS 1/2	FRI 1/3 @ Wellpinit Tournament	SAT 1/4 @ Wellpinit Tournament	MON 1/6	TUES 1/7
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### BOYS BASKETBALL

WEDS 1/1	THURS 1/2	FRI 1/3 @ Wellpinit Tournament	SAT 1/4 @ Wellpinit Tournament	MON 1/6	TUES 1/7
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### WRESTLING

WEDS 1/1	THURS 1/2	FRI 1/3	SAT 1/4	MON 1/6	TUES 1/7
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### Kootenai Warriors GIRLS BASKETBALL

WEDS 1/1	THURS 1/2	FRI 1/3 @ Genesis Prep 5:30PM	SAT 1/4	MON 1/6	TUES 1/7
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### BOYS BASKETBALL

WEDS 1/1	THURS 1/2	FRI 1/3 @ Genesis Prep 7:00PM	SAT 1/4	MON 1/6	TUES 1/7
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### WRESTLING

WEDS 1/1	THURS 1/2	FRI 1/3 @ Lake City JV	SAT 1/4	MON 1/6	TUES 1/7
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## Elks Hoop Shoot January 12

BY TYSON JUAREZ  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

The Elks Hoop Shoot is just around the corner. The annual event is planned for January 12 and

area youth are invited to come and show their free-throw skills.

The annual event is funded by the Elks National Foundation and is open to children ages eight to 13.

The event is slated for Noon., Sunday, January 12 at the St. Maries Middle School gym.

To sign up or for more information, contact Ray Wilson at 303-906-9036.

## Armas, Lewis claim match wins

BY COLLIN SCHEEL  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

Senior Ben Armas went 4-2 last week and ended his day at Kellogg's George Wild Tournament with a 3-2 mark in the 132-pound weight class.

Ben pinned opponents in two of his three wins before falling 6-16 in consolation.

Teammate Ashton Lewis also went 3-2, winning three consecutive consolation matches in the 120-pound bracket. His final match ended in a 5-11 defeat.

Micheal Nyman took his second opponent to the 3:58 mark before falling and seeing his day come to a close.

**UP NEXT:** Kootenai wrestled at St. Maries Dec. 28 and is scheduled to compete at Lake City Friday at 10 a.m.

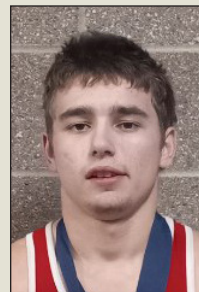
**George Wild Tournament Kellogg High School December 20-21, 2024**  
120: Ashton Lewis - 3-2, Pinned 1:35/Win

10-7/Win by fall 1:20/Win 9-3/Loss 5-11; 120: Micheal Nyman - 0-2, Pinned 1:53/ Pinned 3:58; 132: Ben Armas - 3-2, Win tf 18-0/Win by fall 0:52/Loss tf 2-17/Win by fall 2:31/Loss 6-16

**JV Mixer @ St. Maries December 18, 2024**  
120: Micheal Nyman - Win by fall 0:14; 126: Ashton Lewis - Win by fall 0:26; 132: Ben Armas - Win by fall 1:22

### SENIOR ATHLETE PROFILE

**WEIGHT CLASS:** 132 pounds  
**FAVORITE SPORT:** Wrestling  
**BEST HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS MEMORY:** My high school seasons of wrestling and competitions I've been a part of.  
**FAVORITE CLASS IN SCHOOL:** I don't have a favorite class to choose from.  
**GO-TO WARM-UP MUSIC:** Numb/Encore by Jay-Z/Linkin Park, and a lot of rap and rock  
**PRE-GAME MEAL:** Any protein.  
**ONE THING YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT ON A BUS TRIP:** I can't live without motivation from my coach or my photographer, A.K.A. my girlfriend/team manager, and music to pump the team up.  
**FUNNIEST TEAMMATE:** The entire team has funny moments, it's just if you catch it at the right time.  
**GOAL FOR THIS SEASON:** Qualify for state again, and hopefully win it. But if not, have a super good season.



**BEN ARMAS**  
Kootenai High School Wrestling



SUSAN RODGERS | GAZETTE RECORD

The Jr. High Football award was given to Jimmie Brown.



SUSAN RODGERS | GAZETTE RECORD

The Kootenai High School football awards went to Harleigh Dutton and Mike Nyman. Not pictured: Dylan Gentry.



SUSAN RODGERS | GAZETTE RECORD

The soccer award was presented to Brennen Derry by Nolan Kerby.

## KOOTENAI FALL SPORTS AWARDS



SUSAN RODGERS | GAZETTE RECORD

The Kootenai Jr. High Cross Country Awards went to Aaliyah Beckman, Juniper Stevenson, Hazel Stevenson, and the Kootenai High School Cross Country Awards went to Maddison Murdock and Joshua Moore.



SUSAN RODGERS | GAZETTE RECORD

The Kootenai High School award winners were Sydney Murdock, Bailey Murdock, Claire Cook, Anikka Hunter, Iva Hugo, Hannah Stiles, Chloe Dorman and Brooklyn Charles.



SUSAN RODGERS | GAZETTE RECORD

The Kootenai Jr. High Volleyball awards were presented to Hunter Charles, Dani Davidson, Hailey Buchanan, Sky DeBoer and Paisley Wallace.

# ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

\*\*\*\*\*

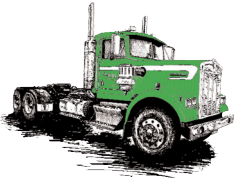


**ZACH DAVID**  
ST. MARIES HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Zach David went 4-0 for first place in the 157-pound weight class at the George Wild Tournament at Kellogg Dec. 21, and was named the event's Most Outstanding Wrestler.

Zach, a junior, is the son of Corey and Paulina David.

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MARY GREVE | GAZETTE RECORD  
Alexandria Bornitz chats with fellow students before the show.



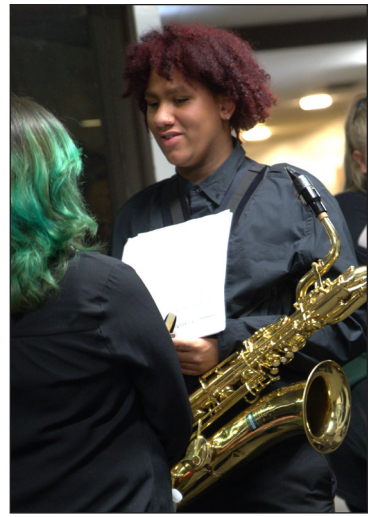
MARY GREVE | GAZETTE RECORD  
Jack Hale smiles for the camera.



MARY GREVE | GAZETTE RECORD  
SMHS 2024 graduate Tyler Ferrell joined the lineup at the SMHS and SMMS concert December 17.



MARY GREVE | GAZETTE RECORD  
Kylie Reeves



MARY GREVE | GAZETTE RECORD  
Clyde Williams chat with fellow band members before the concert.

# SMMS-SMHS Winter Concert

December 17, 2024



Adysyn Osborn

MARY GREVE | GAZETTE RECORD



High school band members look over their notes before going on.

MARY GREVE | GAZETTE RECORD



MARY GREVE | GAZETTE RECORD  
Vinny Herzog Performs on the clarinet.

MARY GREVE | GAZETTE RECORD



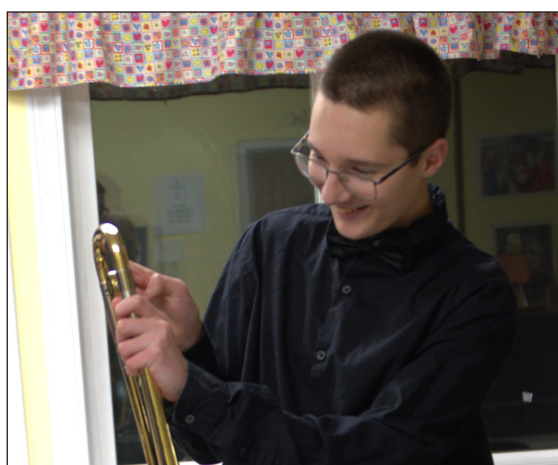
MARY GREVE | GAZETTE RECORD  
Randall Hamilton smiles while readying for the performance.

MARY GREVE | GAZETTE RECORD



Kira Armendariz

MARY GREVE | GAZETTE RECORD



Riley Lesperance prepares for the high school band performance.

MARY GREVE | GAZETTE RECORD



SMMS Karlie Morris performs in the percussion section.

MARY GREVE | GAZETTE RECORD

## Best wishes – from all of us . . . . . . to all of you

We want to thank all of our subscribers, both to our newspaper and website, scattered through 30 states and around the world: May you all have a prosperous and healthy New Year!

ALASKA: Anchorage, Kodiak, Palmer, Tok, Wasilla; ARIZONA: Apache Junction, Buckeye, Casa Grande, Gold Canyon, Goodyear, Kingman, Lake Havasu City, Mesa, Parker, Phoenix, Salome, Scottsdale, Sierra Vista, Yuma; CALIFORNIA: Aliso Viejo, Annapolis, Benicia, Carmel, Castaic, Clearlake, Grover Beach, La Verne, Ontario, Ramona, Riverside, San Anselmo, San Diego, San Francisco; COLORADO: Holyoke, Lafayette, Lakewood, Windsor.

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TEXAS: El Paso, Laredo, Lefors, Richmond; UTAH: Clearfield, Ogden, Salt Lake City; VIRGINIA: Hampton, Manassas; WASHINGTON: Auburn, Bonney Lake, Bothell, Brewster, Chehalis, Cheney, Chewelah, Clarkston, Colfax, College Place, Colton, Colville, Connell, Custer, Deer Park, Fairchild Air Force Base, Fairfield, Farmington, Garfield, Granite Falls, Greenacres, Kennewick, Kirkland, Kittitas, Latah, Liberty Lake, Maple Valley, Marysville, Mica, Milton, Morton, Nine Mile Falls, Oakesdale, Odessa, Otis Orchards, Pasco, Port Orchards, Port Townsend, Poulsbo, Pullman, Ravensdale, Rockford, Rosalia, Seattle, Selah, Sequim, Shelton, Spokane, Spokane Valley, Tacoma, Tekoa, University Place, Valleyford, Vancouver, Veradale, West Richland, Winlock; WYOMING: Buffalo, Cheyenne.

## The future of the Democratic Party is ...

After every election, the losing party tends to sit back, lick their wounds, and try to figure out what went wrong and how to fix it. The left is going through this right now, and there are plenty of smart people who understand that the Democratic Party has become too radical and woke, and that's why middle-class voters have abandoned them.

And then there are people like Jen Psaki, the former Biden press secretary turned MSNBC host, who wants the Democrats to double down on stupid.

Psaki believes the Democrats missed a "big opportunity" by passing over Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) in favor of Rep. Gerry Connolly for the top spot on the House Oversight Committee.

"Instead, they chose Congressman Gerry Connolly, a much older member who was backed by Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi," Psaki said.

The House Oversight Committee serves as a critical battleground for shaping public perception and countering the other side's narratives. With that in mind, Democrats opted for Connolly, a 74-year-old seasoned lawmaker who is most certainly much smarter than Ocasio-Cortez. There's no denying that Connolly lacks the celebrity appeal and social media prowess of AOC, but do

### GUEST OPINION

MATT MARGOLIS

Psaki and others really believe this is the secret sauce to winning elections?

The party clearly didn't see it that way, and they sided with experience over theatrics, voting 131 to 84 in Connolly's favor. Psaki was unimpressed.

"Why does that matter?" Psaki continued. "This is one of the few committees in Congress that actually generates national attention or media coverage. Under Jamie Raskin, it became a critical platform for countering Republican misinformation. And while I have deep, deep respect for Speaker Pelosi... and nothing against Congressman Connolly at all, this felt like an obvious chance to apply some of the lessons we should've learned from the November election. Instead, Democrats passed over one of the youngest, most media-savvy members of Congress for a key public leadership role."

Psaki made these comments even as Democrats are desperate to regain relevance with an increasingly skeptical electorate. Ocasio-Cortez is hardly the person you want to elevate to party leadership—not if you want to win elections again, anyway.

Predictably, Psaki wasn't the only MSNBC host representing

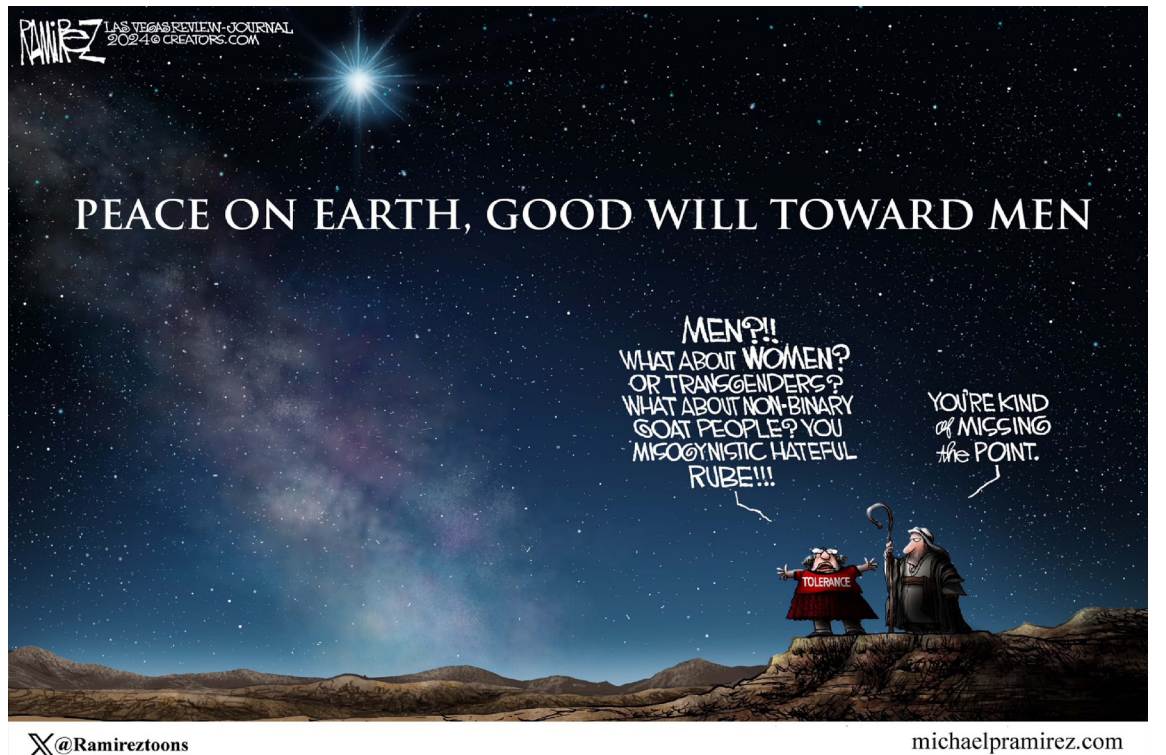
the Democratic Party's far-left wing panning the snub of AOC. Chris Hayes and Joy Reid wasted no time lambasting the move, with Hayes calling Pelosi's behind-the-scenes maneuvering "madness" and Reid decrying the party's "gerontocracy."

"Pelosi whipped votes to make sure that Connolly got the Oversight job over the young star in the party, even as the 84-year-old Pelosi is recovering from hip surgery after suffering a fall. It feels like a moment of genuine madness," Hayes said.

"[The] gerontocracy seems like it's intractable," Reid said. "I recall when Barack Obama was elected, he kind of pushed aside the DNC and created his own organization because I think there is a frustration with the sort of creaky way the DNC operates."

These people want leaders who will push the party further left without hesitation. While AOC's activism may energize the far left, it alienates middle America and strengthens Republican appeal. Psaki's claim that AOC is the solution to Democratic struggles isn't just misguided—it's absurd. The party should shift to the center, not embrace radicals whose policies repel voters.

MATT MARGOLIS writes for PJ Media. Taken from PJ Media.



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## An ongoing spectacle

Social media platforms have transformed voters into an army of keyboard warriors ready to battle at a moment's notice. Every tweet, every meme, and every disastrous choice in writing seems to incite a frenzy of commentary and a dose of absurdity. Politics has become a rollercoaster where every dip and twist is magnified and broadcasted to millions. Politics has become more entertaining than a soap opera—and just as unpredictable.

"Hashtag This," "Hashtag That," it almost feels like we're living in a bad sitcom where every crucial moment in politics needs a clever catchphrase. In a world where a cleverly timed hashtag can go viral before you can say "civics class," politicians have realized that the ability to trend on social media might just be the new path to election glory. Campaign teams across the world are no longer just drafting speeches; they're crafting hashtags that have the perfect mix of intrigue and shareability. We've gone from

"I'll have to consider that" to "Let's hashtag this issue and make it happen!" Every word exchanged, every insult hurled, became a moment for analysis and entertainment. Elaborate theories and memes emerged, sometimes surpassing any political discussion. And let's be real: it brought a whole new meaning to the phrase "the power of the pen" when it came to Twitter fingers.

Gone are the days when political news was solely delivered by trusted institutions with stern faces. Now, every citizen with a phone becomes a potential journalist. This newfound power hasn't come without complications. With great power comes great responsibility, and as it turns out, those memes and eyewitness videos can lead to misinformation and disinformation spreading faster than you can say "fact-check." There's a fine line between "breaking news" and "breaking my brain," as everyone rushes to be the first to capture the next big scoop or the most absurd political gaffe.

As social media continues to dominate our lives, it's safe to say that politics now has a permanent seat at the digital table—complete with snacks and a never-ending scroll of opinions. What was once a domain for serious discourse has morphed into an ongoing spectacle that's entertaining, absurd, and sometimes downright hilarious. As we look to the future, we must brace ourselves for even more tweets and viral moments that will further blend the lines between politics and entertainment. So until then, stay tuned, keep scrolling, and remember: in the world of politics, if it's not on social media, did it even happen? We must be using social media strategically, or social media will be using us. Let us therefore endeavor to use the gifts of technology for building others up and for pointing them to Christ. Who knows? Maybe our imperfect, online words will somehow yield a response that mirrors that of the words in the Bible.

MARK CHMIELINSKI  
St. Maries



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.

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**] PUBLIC NOTICES [**

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**There are no new legal notices in this week's issue.**

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office@silvervalleylaw.com  
ATTORNEY FOR THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF BENEWAH

In the Matter of the Estate of:  
ROBERT D. NOBLE,  
DOD: 10/04/2024  
Decedent.

CASE NO: CV05-24-386  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS Pursuant to: I.C. 15-3-801  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that CAROLYN BREITAG has been appointed Personal Representative of the abovenamed estate. All persons having claims against the above-named Decedent are required to present their claims, with a description of all security interests and other collateral, if any, held by each creditor with respect to such claim, within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred.

Claims must be presented to CAROLYN BREITAG, Personal Representative of the estate, c/o SILVER VALLEY LAW, LLC, PO Box 633, Osburn, Idaho, 83849, electronic service via email: office@silvervalleylaw.com, and filed with the Court to be valid. DATED this 9th day of December 2024. /s/Benjamin Allen BENJAMIN ALLEN Attorney for Personal Representative 1766 - Dec. 25-Jan. 8

**ANOTHER SUMMONS**  
IN THE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF BENEWAH  
CASE NO. CV05-24-0350  
ANOTHER SUMMONS I.R.C.P. 4(a)(3)(c)  
To: Nels Nelson; The Estate of Nels Nelson; The Unknown Heirs and Devises of Nels Nelson; Jane

Doe Nelson; The Estate of Jane Doe Nelson; The Unknown Heirs and Devises of Jane Doe Nelson; Beatrice Nelson; The Estate of Beatrice Nelson; The Unknown Heirs and Devises of Beatrice Nelson; John Doe Nelson; The Estate of John Doe Nelson; The Unknown Heirs and Devises of John Doe Nelson; John Does 1-10; Jane Does 1-10 and Any Other Person or Entity Claiming an Interest in the Following Parcel of Real Property Located in the County of Benewah, State of Idaho, to wit: Lot 3, Block 40, Townsite of Plummer, according to the plat recorded in the records of Benewah County, Idaho. You have been sued by Kenneth W. Smith, the Plaintiff in the District Court in and for Benewah County, Idaho, Case No. CV05-24-0350. The nature of the claim against you is for quieting the title to the ownership of the real property described above.

Any time after 21 days following the last publication of this summons, the court may enter a judgment against you without further notice, unless prior to that time you have filed a written response in the proper form, including the Case No., and paid any required filing fee to the Clerk of the Court at 701 West Collage Avenue, Ste 203, St Maries, ID 83861, (208) 245-3212 and served a copy of your response on the Plaintiff's attorney, Edwin B. Holmes, Holmes Law Office, P.A., 1250 W Ironwood Dr., Ste 301, Coeur d'Alene ID 83814, Telephone: (208) 664-2351.

The attorney for the Plaintiff has no personal knowledge of a more particular description of the real property described above, but for purposes of complying with Idaho Code § 60-113, information concerning the location of said real property may be obtained from the Plaintiff's attorney, at the address and telephone number set forth above.

A copy of the Summons and Complaint can be obtained by contacting either the Clerk of the Court or the attorney for Plaintiff. If you wish legal assistance, you should immediately retain an attorney to advise you in this matter. Dated: 12/10/2024 12:53 PM DEANNA BRAMBLETT CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT By: Stacey A. Bradbury Deputy Clerk 1770 - Dec. 25-Jan. 15

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**Ron Derry**  
Local Log Truck Driver

# Reader's Choice: 2024

## Derry voted top truck driver

BY TYSON JUAREZ  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

Gazette Record readers made their voices heard as they voted for this year's best Logging Truck Driver.

The 2024 honors in the Gazette Record Readers Choice award for best Logging Truck Driver goes to Ron "Mouse" Derry.

Derry has been driving logging truck for more than 40 years with time spent on the road in Alaska and the St. Maries area.

Derry said he was born into the industry as his dad Larry Derry owned the family log truck business. Derry still drives under his dad's name today, carrying on the family legacy.

He said he was surprised to win the vote of Gazette Record readers.

SEE **MOUSE**, P21



Ron "Mouse" Derry was voted the Gazette Record Reader's Choice "Best Log Truck Driver."

TYSON JUAREZ | GAZETTE RECORD

## Chase wins coach vote for second year

BY COLLIN SCHEEL  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

Bryan Chase has been a coach for nearly two decades.

In that time, he has earned a reputation.

And it's a good one.

Chase was voted "Best Coach" in this year's Gazette Record Reader's Choice Awards.

Chase has won "Best Coach" in both years of the Gazette's award poll.

In the last 11 seasons at the helm of the St. Maries boys basketball team, Coach Chase has accumulated a 198-68 record and led the program to its second state title in program history, a pair of second-place state finishes and four third-place trophies.

The team's state title in 2021

SEE **CHASE**, P18



Bryan Chase has led the St. Maries boys basketball program to seven state trophies in the last decade.

ALEX BARTA | GAZETTE RECORD

## Sheriff Eells best officer of the law

BY TYSON JUAREZ  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

Sheriff Tony Eells has not only been recognized for his efforts in law enforcement by Gazette Record Readers once, but now in 2024, he has won for his second time in a row.

Gazette Record readers voted Sheriff Eells as the best officer of the law in the 2024 Readers Choice Awards.

Sheriff Eells said he began his career in law enforcement in 1998 as a reserve deputy for the St. Maries Police Department. After that he served with the Plummer Police department for a few years as a reserve before being hired by then Sheriff Dave Resser in 2004 as a reserve/marine deputy.

Sheriff Eells has worked for the department since, and was voted Sheriff of Benewah County in 2020 and now again in 2024. He will begin his second term in 2025.

"The last four years flew by," he said.



GAZETTE RECORD ARCHIVES

Sheriff Tony Eells received his second honor in a row as the top officer of the law as voted for by Gazette Record readers for the year 2024.

Eells said he had always wanted to be a cop. He shared that he had recently got back into touch with an old baby sitter from his childhood who even claims he said he wanted to be a cop as early as three-years-old.

SEE **EELLS**, P19

## Archie's IGA nets pair of awards

### IGA office administrator nabs honor

BY TYSON JUAREZ  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

It's one thing to be voted as best office administrator once, but twice is a whole other cause for celebration.

Archie's IGA office administrator Shawna Walters has accomplished that feat by not only being voted the best in 2023 but also in 2024 by Gazette Record Readers in the Readers Choice Awards.

Walters has been with Archie's IGA since 1986, totaling more than 38 years of working with the store. She said she started as a meat wrapper, worked to being a cashier, then a book keeper and eventually the office administrator as the store grew.

"That's one thing I like about the store is there is a lot of opportunity," she said.

SEE **WALTERS**, P20

### STORE VOTED 'BEST BUSINESS'

BY TYSON JUAREZ  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

Archie's IGA was voted the best business in St. Maries by readers of the Gazette Record in the 2024 Reader's Choice Awards.

The local grocery store has been serving the St. Maries Community for decades and is known not only for its customer service and wide variety of goods, but also its charitable work in the community.

Archie's IGA owner Brian

SEE **IGA**, P20



TYSON JUAREZ | GAZETTE RECORD

Archie's IGA was selected by readers as this year's best business in St. Maries.

# CHASE: Team won 10 consecutive state quarterfinal games

FROM PAGE 17

was the program's first championship since 1960. The Lumberjacks have qualified for the state tournament 10 consecutive seasons, and the first nine of those strung together a streak of nine consecutive quarterfinal wins. The team has played in three of the last six state 2A championship games. Chase coached varsity girls basketball for eight years, prior to his tenure with the St. Maries boys team.



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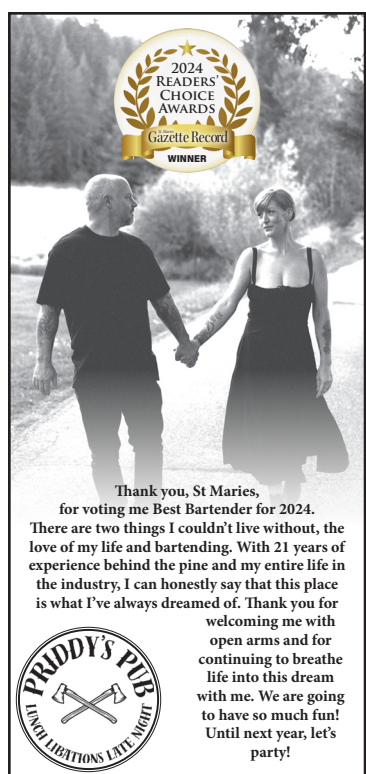
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Gazette Record  
WINNER



2024 READERS' CHOICE AWARDS  
Gazette Record  
WINNER

Thank you, St. Maries, for voting me Best Bartender for 2024. There are two things I couldn't live without, the love of my life and bartending. With 21 years of experience behind the pine and my entire life in the industry, I can honestly say that this place is what I've always dreamed of. Thank you for welcoming me with open arms and for continuing to breathe life into this dream with me. We are going to have so much fun! Until next year, let's party!

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# The Winners!

Thank you to all who voted in our second annual Readers' Choice contest. We saw so much enthusiasm this year – and we don't blame you. There are many great businesses, restaurants, health care providers and other talented individuals in the area that deserve your recognition. We invite you to read, share and enjoy these excellent winners that are an important part of our community. Congratulations to all of them and that you, our readers, for participating in this year's Readers' Choice contest.

## FOOD & DRINK

- Breakfast**  
Timber Lodge Cafe
- Lunch**  
3B Grill
- Dinner**  
Casa de Oro
- Burger**  
The Shack
- Chowder / Soup**  
Main Street Bistro
- Pizza**  
Pizza Factory
- Fries**  
The Grapple
- Barbecue**  
Cabin City Q
- Sandwich**  
Main Street Bistro
- Ice Cream**  
The Parlour
- Restaurant**  
Casa de Oro
- Family Dining**  
Gateway Cafe
- Carry-Out**  
3B Grill
- Food Truck**  
Taco-Bout-It
- Food Selection / Menu**  
3B Grill
- Waiter / Waitress / Location**  
Jenny Turner / Timber Lodge Cafe
- Asian**  
Luong China Cafe
- Mexican**  
Casa de Oro
- Bar**  
Joe's Bar
- Bartender / Location**  
Sarah / Priddy's Pub
- Happy Hour**  
The Grapple
- Brewery**  
Two Saints Brewing Company
- Coffee / Espresso**  
Whistle Stop Coffee & Moore
- Barista / Location**  
Emily Boller / Em's Place
- Grocery Store**  
Archie's IGA
- Produce**  
St. Maries Harvest Foods
- Meat**  
St. Maries Harvest Foods

## RECREATION / TRAVEL

- Park**  
Cherry Bend Boaters Park
- Campground**  
Heyburn State Park
- Lake**  
Lake Coeur d'Alene
- Hiking Trail**  
Indian Cliffs
- Beach**  
Harrison
- Drive with a View**  
St. Joe River Road
- Live Music**  
Music in the Park
- Hotel / Motel**  
River Front Suites

## SHOPPING

- Clothing**  
Country Fair
- Jewelry**  
Schumacker's Jewelry
- Gift Store**  
Country Fair
- Books**  
The Paperhouse

- Home Décor**  
Happy's Marketplace
- Thrift Store**  
Happy's Marketplace
- Outdoors Store**  
Blue Goose Sporting Goods
- Convenience Store**  
10th Street Super Stop
- Boutique**  
The Driftwood Mercantile

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- Bank**  
Banner Bank
- Banker / Location**  
Aki Hicks / Banner Bank
- Credit Union**  
P1FCU
- Financial Planner / Location**  
Heidi Krueger / Edward Jones
- Insurance Provider**  
Emerald Creek Insurance
- Accountant / Bookkeeper / CPA**  
Leah Anderson / Leah's Accounting
- Real Estate Agency**  
St. Maries Realty
- Real Estate Agent / Realtor**  
Mandi Knapp / St. Maries Realty
- Lawyer**  
Terrun Zolman

## MEDICAL

- Dentist**  
Kelly Silva
- Doctor**  
Rebekah Myers
- Nurse / Location**  
Amanda Boyett / Syringa Health & Wellness
- Health Clinic / Hospital**  
Syringa Health & Wellness
- Pharmacy**  
Jack's Pharmacy

## SERVICES

- Dog Groomer**  
Barks & Bubbles
- Pet Sitter**  
Barks & Bubbles
- Photographer**  
SMD Photography
- Hairdresser / Location**  
Beck Szilasi / Birds of a Feather Salon
- Stylist / Barber / Location**  
Beck Szilasi / Birds of a Feather Salon
- Manicure / Location**  
Justine Bodey / Nailz Galorre by JB
- Pedicure**  
Sara Bentcik
- Day Care**  
Peggy's Place
- Internet Provider**  
Intermax
- Massage Therapist / Location**  
Eric Pendleton / Studio 720

## AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES

- Auto Body & Painter**  
Ken's Custom Body & Paint
- Auto Repair Shop**  
Jim's Auto
- Auto Mechanic / Location**  
Jay Correll / Jim's Auto
- Auto Parts**  
NAPA
- Towing Company**  
Jay's Towing
- Car Wash**  
Riverbend Car Wash & Laundromat
- Gas Station**  
10th Street Super Stop
- Outdoor Rec Repair**  
208 PowerSports
- Tire Store**  
Les Schwab Tires

- Car Dealer**  
Felton's Auto Sales
- Trucking Company**  
Jack Buell Trucking

## HOME & GARDEN

- Hardware Store**  
Hughes ACE Hardware
- Building Supplies**  
Tenth Street Lumber
- Garden Center**  
Triple X Feed
- General Contractor**  
CJR Construction
- Home Builder**  
CJR Construction
- Land Surveyor**  
Renaldo Land Surveying

- Electrician**  
M&S Electric
- Plumber / Location**  
Nick's Plumbing / St. Maries
- Excavator**  
Crane Backhoe & Trucking
- Heating & AC**  
Strobel Custom Heating & Air

- Flooring**  
Timber Town
- Roofing Company**  
Harvey Roofing
- Concrete Company**  
St. Maries Concrete & Materials
- Tree Service**  
Andy's Arbor
- Storage Facility**  
Big Fish Self Storage

## PEOPLE

- Teacher**  
Cooper Daniel
- Coach**  
Bryan Chase
- Pastor / Priest**  
Darrin Million
- Volunteer / Location**  
Polly Grasham / SPAN of Benewah County
- Artist**  
Vicki Patrick
- Musician / Band**  
Better Daze
- Log Truck Driver**  
Ron "Mouse" Derry
- Logger**  
Kenny Becktel
- Officer of the Law**  
Anthony Eells
- Office Administrator / Location**  
Shawn Walters / Archie's IGA
- Business Owner / Location**  
Rebekah Myers / Syringa Health & Wellness

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Veterans Outreach Center
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Hughes ACE Hardware
- Best Kept Secret**  
St. Maries Library

## BEST BUSINESS IN . . .

- St. Maries**  
Archie's IGA
- Harrison**  
Lakeside Bar & Grill / Gateway Marina
- Plummer / Worley**  
Gateway Cafe
- Tensed / DeSmet**  
Zoli's Bakery
- Santa / Fernwood / Emida**  
Drifter's Bar & Grill
- Calder / Avery**  
TFP's

# Daniel, 2020 SMHS grad, tabbed as best teacher

BY COLLIN SCHEEL  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

Cooper Daniel is one of the first teachers incoming freshmen at St. Maries High School meet.

And according to parents and students, he's doing a good job of making those students feel welcome.

Daniel was voted "Best Teacher" in this year's Gazette Record Readers' Choice Awards.

A second-year Business/Technology teacher at St. Maries High School, Daniel comes from a family of educators.

Both of his parents were teachers, as was his grandmother and two of his uncles. Add to that his grandfather, who has served on St. Maries' school board for many years.

"I grew up with it," he said. "For as long as I can remember, I wanted to be a teacher. I spent a lot of time in my parents' classrooms growing up, and to see the way they could make a kid's day, I wanted to have that kind of positive impact in my life."

A 2020 St. Maries High School graduate, Daniel attended Boise State University where he earned a degree in business administration.

"St. Maries had an opening for what you could say was my dream job, a business and tech teacher," Daniel said. "So I was able to get a job doing that, and then actually recently was able to complete my teaching degree while here."

Daniel attended Boise State University with his then-girlfriend, and now-wife, Alyssa Daniel (Geldreich). The two



COLLIN SCHEEL | GAZETTE RECORD

Cooper Daniel is a second-year business/technology teacher at St. Maries High School. Daniel is a 2020 SMHS graduate.

were married early this summer, and are both teaching at SMHS.

"I owe her a thank you, because I had kind of drifted out of teaching, and she got me back into it," Daniel said.

Daniel teaches primarily freshmen, but has one elective class offered to all four grades.

"Freshmen have a lot of energy, they're excited and they sometimes need some help, being new to the school," Daniel said. "I feel like I'm able to match that energy. I have two things I want to see every day in my class. I want to see a kid that is expanding their knowledge, and having at least one positive interaction. The positivity that comes from those things is what I hope to give to the kids in my class."

# EELLS: Local graduate enjoys rural aspects of Benewah County, proximity to outdoors

FROM PAGE 17

"For most of my life, I knew I wanted to be in law enforcement," he said.

Sheriff Eells is a St. Maries High School Alumni and said he has no plans of leaving the area any time soon.

"After high school I wanted to spend my life here. It is home," he said.

Sheriff Eells said he enjoys the rural aspect of Benewah County and that a lot of activities in the area are right out his back door. He said being able to know many of his neighbors is a plus too.

"What I like about Benewah

County is that its a small community. You get to know everybody. Of course times are changing, so that is changing too," he said.

He said it's good to hear that Gazette Record readers thought of him when voting and said "I must be doing my job."

"It's not too often we hear the praise - it's always good to hear the good news," he said.

Others who received votes for best officer of the law are: Chief Scott Castles, Colton Wynn, Tyler Morris, Anthony Peterson, Bob Loe, Dave Resser, Tim Meagher and Cameron King.



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Matthew 6:33




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BEST PEDICURE

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- Kenny & Amber Osier



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## IGA: Owner says store owes recognition to its employees

FROM PAGE 17

McGregor has been with the local grocery store since 1986. He took over as owner of the store in 2016.

He said readers voting Archie's IGA as the best business in St. Maries for 2024 came as a surprise, saying the store owes the recognition to its more than 60 employees and its wide variety of customers.

Archie's IGA, along with the many other IGA stores across the country, has a heavy involvement in the community. The local store has led many efforts to support athletics, local students and other community causes in the last several years.

**'WE'VE BEEN FORTUNATE TO BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS. WE THINK THE COMMUNITY IS IMPORTANT AND WE WANT TO SEE IT GROW AND PROSPER AS WELL.'**

**Brian McGregor**  
Archie's IGA

"We've been fortunate to be able to support the community in many different ways. We think the community is

important and we want to see it grow and prosper as well," McGregor said. "We've been fortunate to be a part of that and earn the community's business."

McGregor said IGA's are seen as community centers in the mostly small towns they are located in across the country.

He said that the store is a place where shoppers will bump into their neighbors or folks they haven't seen in awhile and strike up a conversation.

"You pop in to grab milk but you run into 10 people and an hour later you leave the store," McGregor said.

"I thank our customers for voting for us," he added.



TYSON JUAREZ | GAZETTE RECORD

**Shawn Walters has been with Archie's IGA for many decades. She has been voted as best office administrator by Gazette Record readers for the second year in a row.**

## WALTERS: Enjoys family atmosphere, making connections with co-workers

FROM PAGE 17

Walters said she likes the family atmosphere of the store and she said at one point or another her children have also worked at the store. She says one of her favorite parts of working for Archie's IGA is the amount of opportunities there are to give back to the community.

"I really like that the store does things for the community, I've always been volunteer minded and has tried to raise my family to be volunteer minded," Walters said.

She said she also enjoys making connections with the

employees at the store and has made many friends.

"There's a few of us who have worked together for a long time," she said. "I just like the family atmosphere and being able to interact with our employees."

Others who received votes for best office administrator are: Tammie Woster - Heyburn Elementary, Jaylee Stephenson - Potlatch Deltic, Kriss Gibson - St. Maries High School, Wendy Lee - Syringa Health, Tina Howard - Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Lynn Ragan - Benewah County Auditor's Office, Ross Farrell.

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- Accurate Excavation
  - M&S Electric
  - Nick's Plumbing
  - Strobel Heating
  - Empire Insulation
- St. Maries Construction

Mary Wade, Ariel McGuire, Brittany Nelson and Brian Wade.

## Myers named top business owner

BY SUMMER WILLIAMS  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

After several years of working in the medical field, St. Maries native Rebekah Myers opened her own health clinic in 2022 in a two-bedroom home.

Now, readers of this newspaper have voted Myers as best business owner in the 2024 Readers' Choice Award.

"I am deeply honored and very humbled to be voted best business owner by our community," Myers said. "I honestly believe there are many business owners in the St. Maries area that could be highlighted. I hope our business reflects the qualities that help create a strong community, such as giving back through involvement in various outreach programs as well as taking pride in promoting a culture of community spirit. I think our clinic staff members are personally vested in taking care of the community inside and outside of our business."

Born in St. Maries, Myers parents worked at Benewah Community Hospital while she was growing up.

Her own career began more than 20 years ago at Valley Vista Care Center in St. Maries. She worked night shifts as a nurse assistant while attending nursing school at North Idaho College. She ultimately completed her master's in nursing with a degree as an advanced nurse practitioner at Gonzaga University.

"I am passionate about taking care of people and helping them achieve their best quality of life. I enjoy working with patients and developing positive relationships as I believe this improves clinical outcomes. Good medical care encompasses best care practices as well as thinking beyond algorithms and protocols, taking into consideration the bigger picture of what's important to each individual," Myers said.

Syringa started as the medical profession reached an all-time high of burnout across the nation, Myers said. She said she wanted to create an "environment with a culture that fostered the spirit of positivity and safety as this also cultivates a healthy environment for patients."

"Employees with internal focus of goal orientation versus external pressure to meet the demands in healthcare excel in a high-stress environ-



GAZETTE RECORD ARCHIVES

**Rebekah Myers was voted by readers as the 2024 Business Owner of the Year.**

ment. "My goals have always been: to never compromise the standard of excellence in patient care, to advocate for best healthcare outcomes, and to deliver care to each patient that enters our clinic with 100 percent commitment. I project our providers and staff to continue to deliver care to the community for many years to come with these goals in mind."

Today, the clinic is located at 622 College Ave, Dr. Hanson, D.O, and Dr. Ralph Sutherlin, D.O. have since joined rounding out the staff of 11. Services offered include health care for all ages with additional same day coverage for urgent care needs. Myers said the clinic also provide functional medicine including bio-identical hormone replacement therapy services. The clinic, she said, utilize many services at Benewah Community Hospital including same day imaging, labs, and more.

"It has been my upmost privilege to work with a wonderful staff who hold such joy, enthusiasm, and commitment towards a common goal. The outcome has been beneficial for both staff and patients. Our clinic has received so much support from the community," Myers said.

Myers and her husband, Matt, have four children and five grandchildren.

Others to receive votes for best business owner of the year are: Mary Wade, Emily Boller, Jim Hilde, Kelsie Ritchie, Brian McGregor, Aaron Nelson, Mariah Dunham, Bill Eimers, Craig Wicks, Mandi Mueller, Amy Reid, Bryan Chase, Kenny Osier, Fran and Dana Brown, Devon Skinner and Jack Buell.

# MOUSE: Started driving career in Alaska, returned to home town in 1997

FROM PAGE 17

"I am totally excited. I cannot believe I would be nominated," Derry said. "If my parents could see this, they would be totally tickled." Derry had started his log truck driving career in Alaska and in 1997 returned to his hometown of St. Maries. "This is home, I grew up here. I went to my first eight years of school here," he said. "This has always been home. In fact, all of my friends that left here, they all moved back." Derry said he starts his day around 1 a.m. and usually doesn't finish until around Noon or 2 p.m., depending on where he is going and doing for the day. He said some of the best parts of his job are the views he gets in the mornings. "It's the sunrises. There's incredible sunrises in the

morning on a hill top," he said. Aside from driving log truck, Derry said he enjoys the outdoors and is looking to get back into four-wheeling. He also said he is an avid Lumberjacks fan. "I've been supporting them since I went to school here," he said. "I hadn't gone to see a game in awhile and a kid had said I should come watch the team play and I've been going since. That was 15 years ago." Other residents that received votes for best Log Truck Driver are: Joe Nelson, Logan Thomas, Kenny Becktel, Zach Whitford, Mikey Magers, Nick Gallager, John Bedwell, Ben Collins, Charlie Harvey, Josh Buell, Duke Ross, Mike Minier, Steve (JJ) Michael, Eric Lenz, Wade Mitchell, John Pugh, Cody Wear, Roy Wear and Rodney Boller.



Kenny Becktel, seen here with his trusty logging truck, was voted best logger of 2024 by Gazette Record readers.

## Becktel earns "Best Logger" award for 2024

BY SUMMER WILLIAMS  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

He's known as seagull on the CB radio. His dad, Gary Becktel, pinned him with the handle. **'I GET TO BE OUTDOORS. IT'S BEEN A REAL GOOD, HONEST WAY TO MAKE A LIVING, ALLOWED ME TO RAISE MY FAMILY AND THIS IS A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE.'**


**Kenny Becktel**  
Local Logger

A lifelong resident of St. Maries, Kenneth Becktel started hauling logs off of jobsites right out of high school in 1986. And now, thirty-eight years later, readers of this newspaper have voted Becktel as Best Logger in the 2024 Readers' Choice Award. "I was surprised. I have no idea why they selected me. Maybe one of the reasons people voted for me is I've been huge supporter of the veterans' outreach center and have been involved with it alongside my girlfriend (Kim O'Connor)," he said. Becktel added he's also been an active member of the Spaghetti-Ohs for years. The group often cooks dinner at various fundraisers in the community. After driving truck for a year for his dad, Becktel worked for Chip Ryle for a couple of years and then went on to drive for Buell for a little over three years.

From there, he went to Montana to drive for John Cochran, and was given the opportunity to buy the truck. Since then, he's owned and operated his own business, Kenneth Becktel Trucking. When asked what he's enjoyed most about his profession, Becktel said "everything." "I get to be outdoors. It's been a real good, honest way to make a living, allowed me to raise my family and this is a good place to live. I can't complain," Becktel said. Becktel said each workday is different. Where he picks up logs from varies as much as the destination he takes them too. He's making anywhere from two to eight trips a day. "I get up about one in the morning and can get home anywhere from three to eight o'clock at night," Becktel said. "I can be anywhere from Lewiston to Bonners Ferry." Becktel said the challenging part of the job is dealing with other motorists who are not "truck wise." Becktel said two of his children are currently working in the community and one of them is finishing his degree. "Randie is at PotlatchDeltic and Nancy is working at the middle school. AJ is finishing his degree in physical therapy in Tacoma." He added, "I want to thank the people who voted for me why I don't know." Others who received a vote for best logger are: Ryan Barbour, Duke Ross, Brett Nelson, Eric Lenz, Larry Derry, Matt Myers, Bret Nelson, Josh Buell and Chuck Compton.

For currently being the longest standing owner of a business in Harrison, it is a great honor to be voted Best Business in Harrison. A huge thank you to our hard working, amazing staff and our wonderful customers for the continued support for the 20 years!

Thank you!  
- Jeff & Dona  
Lakeside Bar & Grill at Gateway Marina  
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**Thank You**

My heartfelt thank you to the community voting Syringa Clinic for the Reader's Choice Nomination. What a joy to do what we love daily in our clinic, providing care for our community. We are so blessed. I'm humbled by this nomination for our clinic team, Amanda, and myself. We look forward to serving our community in 2025!

*Rebekah Myers, FNP*

Thank you so much to all who voted in the Readers Choice Awards! What an honor it is to be nominated! My heart is so full! It is such a blessing to be able to be a part of your healthcare & the support that's given back by everyone makes it that much better! I appreciate you all so much! Thanks again to everyone who voted for myself as well as Rebekah & the team here at Syringa Health & Wellness and congratulations to all those who were nominated in the different categories of Readers Choice!

*Amanda Boyett, NCMA*

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- *Kelsey Ritchie*

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# THANK YOU

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SUMMER WILLIAMS | GAZETTE RECORD

Benewah County based artist Vicky Patrick was voted as the best artist by Gazette Record readers. She is seen pictured here with her many different creations.

## Patrick voted "Best Artist"

BY SUMMER WILLIAMS  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

For more than 50 years, Vicky Patrick has enjoyed working with acrylic and oil paints.

She's painted on a variety of items from canvasses, crosscut saws, milk cans, wood panels and more.

Patrick also enjoys find wood knots in nature and turning them into a character by carving and painting on them.

Readers of the Gazette Record recently voted Patrick as Best Artist for the 2024 Readers' Choice Award.

"I was definitely shocked," Patrick said. "I had to listen to the message on my phone twice before I believed what you had said."

Patrick said she believes showcasing her artwork at the craft fair at the Eagles Lodge during Christmas in St. Maries for the past 16 years may have attributed to the award.

"Local people have become familiar with my work," she said. "I'm there talking to people, meeting them and it makes a difference. I've inspired a few followers who usually make a purchase every year."

Patrick has lived in the St. Maries community for 21 years. She said she sold her first painting while on a logging job with her husband Brent. She was working on it at the time and when she finished it a gentleman bought it. She would also spend time collecting wood knots when accompanying Brent to job-sites.

"Usually with the wood knots I do a head or a whole figure depending on how the wood is formed," Patrick said. "Mother Nature starts it and I just go with it."

Patrick said she loves painting landscapes, and said she feels she's better at them. She has painted various subject matters, however, including animals.

"My paintings are mostly made up in my head, but I am inspired by landscape photographs I see and will often time piece them together," Patrick said.

Patrick said she cannot remember a time in her life when she wasn't drawing. Following high school, she took a couple years of instruction in college.

"I learned all the basics there. I never did any painting though. I taught myself to paint. Oils are probably my favorite because they are very forgiving," she said.

Patrick said she puts an average of 40 hours into every painting she does. However, it can take several weeks to complete one.

She said she enjoys art because it is a wonderful outlet.

"You can work with whatever mood you're in and express yourself in what you're going. Depending on your mood, things will look different. It always helps put you in a better frame of mind," Patrick said. "It feels wonderful and time flies. I enjoy every bit of it."

Patrick said she is grateful for all the support she's received from the community.

"I want to thank all of my supporters and all of the kind folks for voting in my favor. The people in this area and the beauty around us is what makes St. Maries a great place to be an artist," Patrick said.

Others who received a vote for best artist are: Linda Appell, Mitch Santos, Susan Webber, Heidi Barnett, Ron Hodge, Alexis Blood, Becky Harold and Linda Schardine.

## JIM'S AUTO REPAIR

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We want to thank the Gazette Readers for voting us best Auto Repair shop and voting Jay Correll as best Auto Mechanic 2 years in a row...We take great pride in this selection, and it is an absolute pleasure to be able to offer our services to the community of St. Maries and the surrounding area!

- Jim Hilde



JAY CORRELL & JIM HILDE

# THANK YOU!



HADLEE - JESSE - DANNY - SHELBY - MIKA

WE WANT TO GIVE A HUGE SHOUT OUT TO ALL THE GAZETTE READERS THAT VOTED US BEST OUTDOOR RECREATION REPAIR. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR THE AMOUNT OF SUPPORT WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM OUR AWESOME COMMUNITY AND LOVE THAT WE GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE OUR PASSION FOR POWERSPORTS WITH OUR CUSTOMERS!

- DANNY HILDE



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# Gateway Cafe: Plummer's best business in 2024

BY TYSON JUAREZ  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

Those who cast their ballots in the 2024 Readers Choice awards supported the Gateway Cafe as this year's best business in Plummer.

The Gateway is owned by Misty and Luke Kolar who have together owned the restaurant for more than 12 years.

The couple took over the family business from Luke's parents, Kathy and John Kolar, who had ran the restaurant for around 18 years.

When asked what they thought of being voted the best in the community by Gazette Record readers, Mrs. Kolar said they were excited.

"It was a surprise to us," she said. "A very nice surprise."

The business has built a rep-

utation for its food but also its friendly atmosphere.

Mrs. Kolar said the restaurant thrives off of the small town charm and the many friendly people who pass through.

"We have had a lot of support from the local community," Mrs. Kolar said. "A lot of our customers, we know by name."

The restaurant is known for its many charitable acts including its support for the annual tractor race fundraiser put on by CHS which supports the local food bank in Plummer.

The Gateway is also known for its annual free Thanksgiving dinner which has been a community staple for many years now.

Mrs. Kolar said in 2025 they hope to focus on more ways to give back to the community.

# Million named "Pastor of the Year"

BY TYSON JUAREZ  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

St. Maries Church of the Nazarene Pastor Darin Million was voted by Gazette Record readers as the 2024 Pastor of the Year in the Gazette Record Readers Choice Awards.



Million

Million has been with the St. Maries Church of the Nazarene since 1996 and was his first job right out of graduating from college.

Million was hired as the youth pastor in 1996 and served in that role for more than 17 years before being called to be the church's lead pastor. He accepted that role in 2013 and has been leading the church ever since.

He said he first struggled with knowing what he wanted to do with his life when going to school, but a tragic incident involving a childhood friend changed his perspective on life.

"I was struggling in college not knowing what to do with my life but I just knew I needed to go to school," Million said. "Around that time a friend died in a car accident and it really just affected my thoughts of what's important in life."

"Through that experience and that tragedy, I feel like God was weighing on my heart with what is important," he added.

At first Million pursued being a teacher. It wasn't until having an astronomy class did he start thinking about other

ways he could communicate with others about God.

"I thought, I could stand in front of people and teach them about what God made and the amazing things God made, or I can teach them about him," Million said. "I feel like as a teacher, I couldn't talk about who made the stars but only what he made. That got me over the hump with what I was being called to do."

Million and his wife Sabrina have deeply integrated themselves into the St. Maries community with three children currently in school and one who has already graduated and lives in Moscow. He said he has noticed that the people of St. Maries truly care for one another.

"I love St. Maries, the people here are fantastic. I think there is a depth of love and appreciation they have for people," he said.

He said the same of his congregation at the St. Maries Church of the Nazarene.

"As I experience and watch, I think there is something about this church that has a desire to love people and show them who Jesus is. There's a passion of how we can continue to do that better," he said.

Others who received votes in the best pastor category were: Brian Primer - UpRiver Bible Church, Father Jerome Montez - St. Mary Immaculate Catholic Church, Dan Swan - former lead pastor of St. Maries Church of the Nazarene, Bishop Steve Farr and Lynn Peters.

# Harrison names Lakeside best business

BY TYSON JUAREZ  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

The Lakeside Bar and Grill was voted by Gazette Readers as the best business in Harrison in the 2024 Readers Choice Awards.

The Lakeside Bar and Grill is owned by Jeff and Dona Hall who have owned the Lakeside Bar and Grill and Marina since 2004.

Mr. Hall said he is honored by the recognition from the community.

"I appreciate people have singled us out as being great," he said. "We couldn't do it without our amazing staff which is headed by Joanne (Cress)."

Many additions have been

added onto the restaurant and Marina including a coffee shop in 2010, a brewery in 2020 and a boutique in 2021. The family mainly leased the restaurant portion of the business until deciding to take over managing it starting 2012.

Mr. Hall said the business has thrived off of its many customers.

"The best thing for me has been meeting all the people over the years," he said.

Mr. Hall said one of the things that makes owning a business in the Harrison area has been Lake Coeur d'Alene.

"The Lake is very special and the fact our location is between the tributary of the St. Joe and the CDA river is



SUBMITTED

An aerial view shows the Lakeside restaurant and Marina.

amazing," he said. "It's arguably one of the most beautiful lakes on the planet."

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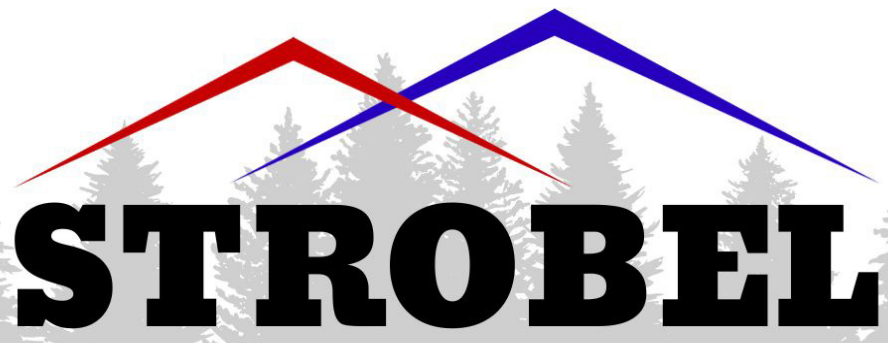


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Thank you St. Maries Community for voting us "People's Choice - Best Bar" We look forward to serving you in 2025. ~ Joe's Bar Crew ~



THANK YOU!

For voting us Best Boutique!

We are so appreciative of our artists and customers! We can't wait to see you in 2025!

# Tri-Community votes Drifters as area's best business

BY TYSON JUAREZ  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

Gazette Record readers voted Drifters Western Bar and Cafe as the best business in the Emida Fernwood and Santa area.

As the restaurant was voted the best of its area, it also changed hands in ownership.

Mark and Sarah Lingo recently took the reins from previous owners Nancy Doosenberry and Jim Walden. Mr. Lingo said he has worked at the restaurant before coming into ownership.

"Jim was always talking to me that I needed to buy the place," Mr. Lingo said.

He said it's an honor to take over a restaurant that has garnered the attention and praise from the community.

"It's an awesome thing to be recognized for our food," he said.

The restaurant is known for its hand pressed burgers, breakfast items like chicken fried steak with home made sausage gravy and much more.

Mr. Lingo has more than 35 years of experience in the restaurant industry and he

said he looks forward to continuing on with what Nancy and Jim had built. He said he also looks forward to trying some new things and bringing in some unique ideas for 2025.

He said Drifters Western Bar and Cafe is a destination point

for the area and that there are always familiar faces coming in to meet and chat over a meal.

"I've lived in Fernwood for over 20 years and the community we live in around here is special," he said. "Drifters is a

land mark for people to meet at."

Drifters is open Monday from 7am to 3pm during the winter, and 7 am to 7 pm Sunday through Tuesday, and 7 am to 8 pm Wednesday through Saturday.

# TFP's wins Calder/Avery Best Business race

BY TYSON JUAREZ  
THE GAZETTE RECORD

TFP's was voted as the best business in the Calder/Avery area for the 2024 Gazette Record Readers Choice awards.

TFP's is owned by Mark and Debra Dittman who have owned the establishment since March 2023 and say they are happy to receive recognition from local readers of the Gazette Record.

"We are very happy to be thought of especially since we are out of sight, kind of out of mind, so we are very excited that we got though of very much and that our customers and guests are happy with the service we have given," Mrs. Dittman said.

Mr. Dittman said when the couple got into the business, Mrs. Dittman had been working part time for the previous owners of TFP's. Around the time the previous owners asked Mrs. Dittman about becoming manager, the couple had just opened Hot Meats in the Streets in St. Maries.

"We were just starting to get our hands full when the previ-

ous owners asked if we wanted to buy it," Mr. Dittman said.

TFP's is known for its brick oven baked pizza as well as many other items. Mrs. Dittman said the restaurant uses pressurized fryers which sets apart their fried chicken and pork from other establishments.

The Dittmans say they want to work with more local breweries and makers in 2025 to make their restaurant even more unique.

TFP's is a destination restaurant in a destination town, where many from the local and surrounding areas visit all year long.

"It's a piece of home for both of us," Mrs. Dittman said. "We both grew up there, so it's really nice to be able to make our roots where we grew up and make our living and get to see so many people that we do in the middle of nowhere."

"How many people have business in the middle of a national forest?" Mr. Dittman added.

The two say they are excited for another great year.

"We are looking forward to another amazing and intense year in 2025," Mrs. Dittman said.

## Voted Best Electrician for the Second Year in a Row!

In the summer of 1978 Mick Weinmann and Sid Chamblis decided to pull their resources and put together a proposal to purchase Eldridge Electric from their employer, Royal Eldridge, and he accepted. The new partners then decided they had to change some things within the new company starting with the name. They used their first initials and created M&S Electric.

Mick and Sid ran the company until the mid 80's when Sid decided it was time for a new adventure and sold his half of the company to Mick. Mick ran the company along with help from his wife Linda, and many different employees throughout the years.

In 1996, a young man named Heath Moore wandered into his office, looking for a part-time job as he was recently out of the USMC, and had started a job at Regulus Stud Mill (now Stimson Lumber Co.). Mick put Heath to work and after about a year convinced him to quit the mill and come to work full-time for M&S.

For four years, the pair worked well together until the spring of 2000 and things slowed down in the area. Mick stayed and ran M&S and Heath went to work for a company serving UI, WSU, EWU, SEL, and many other big accounts.

In October of 2005 Mick had some health problems and decided he needed some more help. So he called Heath. October 2005, sitting at Drifter's Restaurant in Emida, the two made a plan for Heath to come back to St. Maries as Mick's partner. The partnership lasted for another four years until it was decided that Mick was ready to retire. From that point on Heath, wife Louanna, and their children have had the opportunity to run M&S Electric, helping St. Maries and the surrounding area keep their power on and lights burning. It has been a pleasure to serve the community over the past 45 years and we look forward to continue our service for many years to come.

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# Spotlights

## Best Company to Work for in 2024!



PotlatchDeltic would like to THANK the Gazette Record Readership, for voting us the Best Company to Work for 2 years in a row! We would also like to give a big THANK YOU to our Team Members, we wouldn't be here without their dedication, commitment and hard work.

Checkout our PotlatchDeltic website for job opportunities! <https://Potlatchdeltic.com>

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