This edition is for Jo-Ann Honey-Hardenbrook and the people of Washington County

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Coronavirus concerns keep courthouse closed for now Sheriff says office can no longer stay in shutdown mode

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2020

by Steve Lyon

Washington County commissioners on Monday said the courthouse will remain closed to the public for at least another week, and likely until the governor's statewide stay-home order to prevent the spread of coronavirus is withdrawn or expires.

Commissioners have reviewed the county's coronavirus precautions every Monday for the past month with department heads and elected officials.

The courthouse closure has been extended to align with Gov. Brad Little's stay-home order in effect until the end of April.

At the urging of public health

see CLOSURE, Page 10

Gas prices drop to under \$2 a gallon in Weiser

by Steve Lyon

With fewer people driving during the stay-home order to slow the spread of coronavirus, the demand for gas has dropped and so have prices at the pump.

Drivers in Weiser on Monday could find gas for less than \$2 a gallon at all four gas stations in town. Gas prices ranged from \$1.95 to \$1.99 a gallon.

"Obviously, stay-home orders and other efforts to reduce the spread of coronavirus are having a big impact on travel demand, and even the normal commute," AAA Idaho spokesman Matthew Conde said.

Gov. Brad Little last week extended the stay-home order for

see GAS, Page 10



Bo's Barn in Weiser had gas for \$1.99 a gallon on Sunday. The price dropped to \$1.96 on Monday. *Photo by Steve Lyon*

DIGGING AT THE WEISER DEPOT



Members of the Weiser Garden Club and the Weiser Architectural Preservation Commission are volunteering their time and expertise to spruce up the landscaping at the historic train depot in downtown Weiser. The garden club also has volunteered to do a spring and fall cleanup. Joe Manzane, left, prepares a spot for a lilac bush. He installed all of the drip irrigation lines needed for the new landscaping. Right, Darla Harberd gets another plant ready to go into the ground. *Photo by Sarah Imada*

Voters to participate in all-mail primary

Only way to get a ballot is to fill out request form

by Steve Lyon

Washington County and state election officials are reminding voters that they must request an absentee ballot to participate in the May 19 primary election.

Voters can find and download the absentee ballot request form online at Idahovotes.gov or contact the county clerk's office to get one sent in the mail.

A few ballot request forms

have been placed in locations around the county, including at the post office in Weiser and at the front door of the courthouse.

Idaho Secretary of State Lawerence Denney, joined by Gov. Brad Little, recently announced the primary election would be by mail, saying it was not safe for voters or election workers to hold in-person voting due to the growing number of coronavirus cases.

"Having Idahoans request an absentee ballot and vote at home will protect the health of Idahoans, slow the spread of COVID-19, allow the election



to move forward as scheduled and ensure that everyone can still exercise their right to vote," Denney said in a statement on the election changes.

The secretary of state's elections division will send an absentee ballot request form to every registered voter that has not already requested an absentee ballot.

Voters should fill it out with the request for either a Democratic or Republican ballot and mail it in to the county clerk's office. The deadline to request a ballot is May 19.

The forms will be processed within three to seven days from receipt and a ballot will be sent directly to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received at the county clerk's office by 8 p.m. on June 2 to be counted.

see BALLOTS, Page 10

Weiser Memorial Hospital avoids pandemic, has not admitted a patient with coronavirus

by Steve Lyon

Weiser Memorial Hospital has not admitted a patient with confirmed coronavirus more than five weeks after the first case appeared in Idaho.

As of late last week, the Weiser hospital and clinics tested 70 people and 69 came back negative for the virus.

The one case of coronavirus that state health officials reported in Washington County, a woman in her 70s who was seen at a local clinic, did not require hospitalization.

"I think our ruralness helps us to some degree," CEO Steve Hale said.

The hospital's medical staff continues to follow the guide-

lines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and public health agencies when it comes to who gets tested for the coronavirus.

Health care workers or patients that need to be admitted to the hospital based on a doctor's order are at the top of the list for testing.

"We're not testing people just because their employer told them to get tested," Hale said.

The hospital collects the sample and sends it out. Test results from both private and the state laboratories have a two to three day turnaround.

In the event the hospital

see HOSPITAL, Page 10



bituaries

Marlene J. Chandler

Marlene J. Chandler, 88, long-time Weiser resident was born Aug. 28, 1931 in Geneva, Idaho.

Marlene died April 1, 2020 in Lewiston Idaho.

She was the oldest of three children born to Lewis and Alice Teuscher. She grew up in the tiny community of Geneva, Idaho before moving to Anderson Dam, then to Boise Idaho.

She married Robert Sturgill and they had two children. They later

married to Ken Chandler until his death in 1993.

She loved holidays with family, cats, gardening, flowers, and crafts.

She was an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and held many positions over her lifetime.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Mondell "Mike" Teuscher.

She is survived by her children Robert (Tonya) Sturgill and Diana

divorced. She was then Smith, her grandchildren Matthew Smith, Lukas Bryson, Laura (Jason) Whitley, Nature Monterrose, and Joshua Sturgill, grandchildren, great-Taylor and Tristen Smith, and Gabriel Bush, and her sister LuJean (George) Brockman.

> She was buried next to Ken in Weiser. Sadly due to the Coronavirus no service could be held. At a later time when life returns to normal the family will hold a small family service.



New homes are for sale on West 10th Street in Weiser in the Autumn Hills subdivision. The Weiser City Council approved cutting the cost to hook up new homes to city water and sewer utilities in half. The move is aimed at spurring residential growth and also to be competitive with other cities. Photo by Steve Lyon

Death Notices

John Perry

John Perry, 80, of Weiser, Idaho, passed away April 15, 2020 in Weiser. Arrangements under the direction of Thomason Funeral Home.

Hessel Horn

Hessel Horn, 92, of Cambridge, Idaho, passed away April 16, 2020 in Cambridge. Arrangements under the direction of Thomason Funeral Home.

Floyd John Bessey

Floyd John Bessey, 82, of Fruitland, Idaho, died April 15, 2020 at home. Arrangements by Lienkaemper Chapel, Ontario.

Pauline Raleigh

Pauline Raleigh, passed away April 20, 2020 at her daughter's home in Weiser, Idaho. Arrangements are under the direction of Haren-Wood Funeral Chapel.

Nell M. Zambon

Nell M. Zambon, 96, of Vale, Ore., passed away April 13, 2020 at her home in Vale. Arrangements are under the direction of Haren-Wood Funeral Chapel.

Deadline for submitting obituaries and death notices noon on Monday news@signal

american.com

give blood, give life

Wednesday, May 6, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. • Vendome Events Center

Blood drive will be held in Weiser

by Dorothy Evans

Here in Weiser we are very lucky for many reasons. Not only do we live in a caring community, but we also live in a healthy community. The medical horrors that many parts of our country are facing have not had an impact on us. Most everyone is doing their share to keep the virus in containment.

Even though the main focus of the news these days has been on the pandemic, we can't forget that hospitals are still being faced with other types of emergencies. Raging storms, tornados, accidents and operations leave people in need of blood transfusions, yet the supply of blood is dangerously low.

The good news is that Weiser has re-

ceived permission to hold its regularly scheduled quarterly blood drive. All precautions will be taken to ensure everyone's safety:

- · All staff, volunteers and donors must wear a face mask.
- · Social distancing will be main-
- Reservations are requested to keep traffic flow manageable.
- Completion of the Rapid Pass is highly recommended.

The blood drive will be held on Wednesday, May 6, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Vendome Events Center. To schedule an appointment, please call Alex Chavarria at 208-602-7138.

Your blood could save a life.

City reduces hookup fees for water and sewer connections

Mayor says city will be more competitive with neighboring communities on costs

by Steve Lyon

In a move aimed at spurring more residential development, city officials last week cut the cost to connect to water and sewer services in half.

The city council approved the reduction in connection fees after about 30 minutes of discussion and after Mayor Randy Hibberd provided details that doing so would have only a negligible impact on finances but could lead to more revenue if lower fees brought future residential growth.

Hibberd said the city's connection fees for sewer and water are higher than Fruitland and Payette and put Weiser at a competitive disadvantage. A member of the city's economic task force and a developer pointed this out and prompted him to look into the disparity.

Since 2011, the city has charged \$3,700 for a homeowner to connect to city water and another \$3,700 to connect to the sewer system for a total of \$7,400. The city's actual costs to hookup a home to the system is about \$2,700, which is \$1,000 less than the proposed new single fee of \$3,700.

In researching the issue, Hibberd said he reviewed three years of income and expenses for the city's water and sewer funds. The hookup fees represent only 2 percent of the income. Even by reducing the fee to \$3,700 for both sewer and water connections, the city will still have revenue to contribute to reserves for future upgrades.

"It's not going to impact our overall income significantly. It will still allow us to build up our reserves from water income. It would allow us to build up our volume of users, which overall would spread our overhead costs out to more users. We actually gain more income by doing that," Hibberd said.

The water and sewer treatment plants are currently used at only about half of capacity with plenty of room for growth. If the city can entice developers with lower connection fees to build and add more users to the system, the overhead is spread out and the operations become more efficient, Hibberd said.

"We'd also be competitive with our neighbors," he said.

Council member Mike Hopkins said more housing development also would bring a bigger tax base to spread out the costs of providing services. In addition, the city would generate more revenue in monthly water and sewer bills by having more homes hooked up to utilities.

The city borrowed money to upgrade the water plant a few years ago and is still paying off the debt. The city's bond attorney and engineer said reducing the connection fees would not impact the city's ability to pay off the debt, Hibberd said.

Council member Dan Randleman said the hookup fee schedule approved in 2011 was intended as the cost for new homes "to buy into the system" and offset the cost of the new water treatment plant. The city charged the \$7,400 in hookup fees instead of an impact fee, which is what other cities do so that growth pays its own way.

Randleman said Payette might have cheaper connection fees, but it makes it up by charging more for water delivered to those homes. While Weiser may be charging more up front with hookup fees, customers see savings in the long run with less expensive water, he said.

Hibberd said he looked into what the city of Payette charges for water and they are about even with Weiser.

"I've tried to look at this from every possible angle and I don't see a downside to it," he said.

Randleman said his only issue with reducing the connection fees was a concern that the amount of revenue going into water and sewer funds would go down and would than impact the city's ability to do future upgrades like replacing old

"I just want to make sure that we don't shoot ourselves in the foot. I guess we could always take a look at this in a few years if we need to and raise it back up to help the infrastructure," he said.

City clerk Dave Tate said the amount of money the city earns on sewer and water connection feels varies depending on building permits. The revenue from hookup charges can range from \$8,000 to \$30,000 annually based on the number of new homes connected to the system.

Tate said he budgets \$10,000 for hookup fee revenue every year and that number won't change with the reduction in the connection fee. Anything above the budgeted \$10,000 goes into the water and sewer funds balances.

Council member Layna Hafer said she hears from officials with the hospital and local schools that housing, and the lack of it, is one of the top issues. People ask her what the city can do about it.

"I think it does give us the opportunity to be proactive in trying to help solve the housing problem," she said. "Knowing that we have some potential subdivisions and we have a couple of builders that we know can build some affordable housing, this is an opportunity for us to also help economically to address that issue."

Transfer stations in Weiser and Midvale will follow new temporary hours

Due to circumstances surrounding COVID-19 the two transfer stations operated by Washington County solid waste will close early on Fridays in Weiser and close all day Saturdays at both sites until further notice. These are temporary hours for the foreseeable fu-

Also, Washington County transfer stations will temporarily not accept tires, refrigerators or air conditioners to limit the handling of cash and possible exposure of employees and their families to the COVID-19 virus.

Weiser transfer site hours:

- Monday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Tuesday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Wednesday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. • Thursday -8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Friday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. • Saturday – CLOSED

Midvale/Cambridge transfer site:

- Monday Closed
- Tuesday 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday –12 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. • Thursday –12 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Friday –12 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday CLOSED



Weiser music teacher Tori Thomas creates videos and puts them online to share music with her students during the current stay-home order and school closure due to coronavirus. She writes her own script, scores the music and shoots the videos, a process that takes about a week.

Technology helps Weiser music teacher reach her students

Tori Thomas creates videos and shares them on Youtube and social media

by Nicole Miller

As the music teacher at Pioneer Elementary School and owner of VATS studio, Tori Thomas is well known for her musical talents as well as her ability to inspire talent in youth. With the social isolation measures in place due to the coronavirus pandemic, Thomas knew she would need to find a new way to reach her students and continue to share her love of music.

"My kids look forward to coming to music each week. It brings them happiness and it brings me the same amount of joy. When the kids left the day before spring break was to start, I saw a lot of uncertainty, fear, and sadness in their eyes. All through the break I was trying to figure out a way to try and give them as much 'normalcy' during these uncertain times as possible. If they can't come to the music classroom, I'd just have to bring music class to them," Thomas said.

Thankfully, with modern technology Thomas knew immediately that she could absolutely bring music class to all her students and more through video and sharing those videos on Youtube.

Thomas has extensive experience in performing and script writing and a little experience in video editing. She has taken that experience and combined it with the lessons she does in class with a little added magic and whimsy.

In class, Thomas and the students will pretend and play but with the magic of video editing, it makes it all the more fun and real for them.

For example, a favorite song in class is "Little Bunny Foo Foo" and now, with a little bit of the magical editing, Thomas is able to really show them Foo Foo bopping mice on the head and the fairy coming down to chastise him.

As part of her VATS studio in town, Thomas has helped her students make Facebook commercials for different events and performances, so Thomas had all the lighting equipment, green screen, and production equipment steeped.

It typically takes Thomas one week to

write the script, arrange music tracks, and make the accompaniment track. Copyright laws are very strict, so someone can't just sing and record a piece they don't own the rights to.

Thomas has to use public domain songs and write her own version of it or write her own original song. After that, it's recording each scene, then editing. She publishes the finished music class on Sunday and begins anew on Monday. Some weeks take longer hours than others, but they must be up and ready to go for students by the beginning of the week, so Sunday is always the deadline.

To keep the music as fun, engaging, and magical as possible, Thomas spends time on Youtube watching tutorial videos and playing with the program trying to figure out how to do different effects. Just as all teachers do, she has continued to learn new things as she has found new ways to reach her students.

Many music teachers all over the world have been really struggling trying to figure out how to teach something as specific as music virtually. It's so difficult to do. So, many have reached out over Facebook trying to see what others are doing. After sharing her first video with them, the first lesson had over 1,000 views within the first week.

"I have had teachers from all over the world, China and Russia for example, telling me they are using the videos for their children and that they are absolutely loving it! It makes my heart so incredibly happy that I am not only able to reach out to my kiddos during this time, but also help out other teachers," Thomas said.

Thomas' goal is to release a new video each week until the school year is over. Thomas shared that every video a parent sends to her of kiddos watching from home, with giant smiles and exclamations of, "That's my music teacher," or "That's my music room! It's still there!" makes her heart know and understand that this is exactly what her students need from her right now.



VOTE LYNDON HAINES FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER!

Fourteen years as a Pastor and Church Leader



Endorsed by Former Washington County Commissioners: Tony Edmondson, Rick Michael, Dave Springer, Former Washington County Clerk Sharon Widner, and Former Clerk Betty Thomas.

I began in ministry at nineteen. I have years of experience listening to the concerns and needs of others. I will bring a spirit of cooperation and openness, valuing other points of view. I have always tried to represent myself with integrity, transparency and honesty. I will do the same for Washington County.

Some of my accomplishments include:

- Worked in close partnership with church leaders to do what is best for the congregation.
- I have helped lead two churches to fiscal health and stability.
- Made positive, common sense changes to policies and procedures building consensus among all.
- Created and enhanced safety measures to protect both the organization and its members.

I'm Lyndon Haines and I am asking for your vote on election day.

"paid for by the campaign for Haines, Kelly Haun - Treasurer."

COMMITTED TO OUR COMMUNITY

In light of the recent Coronavirus outbreak, we have taken many measures to help the families we serve. While keeping our funeral homes safe and clean is important, it is equally important to find creative solutions for families who cannot meet with us in person.

As many of our community members are beginning to limit their time in public spaces, we are making changes to help every family make arrangements and gather from wherever they feel safest and most comfortable. We are prepared to help you make arrangements online, via video call or over the phone. We can even live stream memorial services for family members that cannot attend.

We will make any changes necessary to accommodate your family — today and always. We are here for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you have any questions, call us today at 208-414-1234.

221 East Court St. 208-414-1234
Weiser 83672 Lienkaemper-Thomason.com

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During the Great Depression W.K. Kellogg continued marketing his cereals while his rivals were cutting back. In doing so he pulled ahead of Post Cereals in sales, a change that has never been reversed.



OPINION

From the Mayor's desk

City plans to reopen some recreation facilities

t has now been four weeks since the governor issued the stay-at-home orders that have redefined how most of deaths for a 2.70 percent mortality rate. us live our lives.

At first it was something of a novelty as we made adjustments to our social, shopping, entertainment, and recreation habits.

It then became something of a "new normal" as we made these adjustments and settled into new routines.

This week, now that nice weather has hit, we all want to get out and do things and go back to the way it was.

It is too soon to let up completely. This disease is significantly deadlier than the flu and must be paid the attention it is due.

Statewide the number of new cases has leveled off, but there has not been enough of a downward trend yet to allow us to open up and still control the number of new cases.

Locally in Washington County, as of Monday morning, there have been 71 tests given. With all of the test results returned, we still only have one case in

Statewide, there have been 1,672 confirmed and probable cases with 45

> Nationwide, the mortality rate is 5.23 percent. Worldwide it is 6.87 percent.

> So, it appears the closer we get to home, the better we are doing at managing this disease.

> With that being said, since you have been doing such a good job of limiting the spread of this disease, the city will be opening the boat ramp, the fishing pond, and the parks.

> The social distancing requirement must remain in

place. In the park, the playground equipment, basketball, and tennis courts will remain closed.

Contact sports will not be allowed. The police department will be patrolling to ensure compliance. If you use the picnic tables, be sure to bring and use your own table cloth for safety.

We want to allow people to take advantage of the nicer weather, without significantly increasing the risk to oth-

Speaking of safety, water is now in the canal and ditches. Please be careful, especially with children near the canal.

Once a person is in, there are not many places to get out.

In city business, sometime around the May 1, the electric department will be needing to put in a new pole west of West 9th Street on Galloway. To do so, the power will need to be turned off to about 30 homes in the area for five to six

More detail will be provided as we get closer and all households affected will be notified in advance

Also, do not move the trash containers for your convenience. They have been placed in their locations for a reason. The garbage trucks have limitations, particularly in alleys, on where and how they can maneuver and lift the containers. So, the containers are strategically placed for the trucks to pick them up quickly and efficiently.

While we are on the subject of the garbage trucks, just a reminder to not dump construction materials in the containers.

The trucks and containers are not designed to handle items that cannot be crushed. These materials when dumped into the trucks can/will cause significant damage to the hydraulics and the trucks themselves.

Well, that's it for this week. Hope you enjoy the nice weather. Stay safe out there and keep up the good work! We will survive this together!



The only paper in the world that really cares about Weiser and Washington County

Meet Our Staff



Sarah Imada



Steve Lyon Editor



Sheri Smit Advertising



Aiko Imada Circulation



Jamie Brown Front office

LETTERS POLICY

We strive to cover all the news and entertainment important to the people of Washington County, Idaho. Our entire staff takes part in the decision-making process of what appears in these pages and all content is locally generated. If you have a story idea, please contact any of the people you see here.

The personal columns and letters appearing elsewhere on this page, and others, represent the opinions of single individuals and do not necessarily reflect the position of the newspaper. The WSA welcomes and encourages your Letters to the Editor. We will print all signed, original letters of local interest. Letters should not be more than 350 words long and be typed. Please provide a phone number for verification.

We will not publish letters that are libelous in nature and reserve the right to edit all material for spelling, grammar, length and content. Letters of thanks are offered at a reduced price in our classified section.

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This newspaper will not be responsible for pure typographical errors or misprints beyond cancellation of the charge for the space occupied by the item or department affected. A letter of explanation will be furnished when desired for the benefit of the advertiser's customers.

Not responsible for more than one incorrect insertion of any advertisement. It will be corrected by republishing ad, if notified within two days of publication date.

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National Newspaper Association



Commentary by U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo

Mayor Randy Hibberd

Legislation funds rural health care providers

aking sure health care providers, big and small, have the resources necessary to keep those on the frontlines

safe and combat the novel coronavirus, or COV-ID-19, is the most important part of the fight against this disease.

The University of Chicago recently released a "U.S. COVID-19 Atlas" indicatemerging ing

hotspots in rural areas.

Many already cashstrapped rural health care providers with oftentimes only a handful of emergency medical personnel and very limited bed space are responding to critical cases that stretch or exceed their facilities and exhaust supplies.

We must make certain needed resources quickly reach rural providers and are

not just focused on large providers in major metropolitan areas.

Congress and the Trump administration worked together to enact three phases of legislation providing resources to support health care providers in

the fight against COVID-19.

Phase 3 of the emergency coronavirus response legislation, the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, provides further flexibility and funding to fight this unprecedented crisis.

In addition to putting needed cash into the hands of American workers and families, providing relief to small businesses and helping stabilize our economy, the CARES Act sends an infusion of resources to the front lines of the medical response.

•The Medicare sequester, which automatically reduces provider reimbursements by two percent, would be immediately suspended for all health care services.

•Hospitals would receive an additional 20 percent Medicare payment for the treatment of patients with COVID-19, and \$100 billion in grants to build critical infrastructure, expand the health care workforce and cover uncompensated expenses.

•The expansion of telehealth services would enable patients to consult their providers from home, mitigating the risk of exposure for vulnerable populations and keeping providers healthy.

•Providers in Rural Health Clinics and Community Health Centers would be eligible to conduct telehealth visits, and Health Resources and Services Administration grants would be reauthorized to support the use of telehealth technology.

•New flexibilities would allow qualified physician assistants, nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists to order home health services for Medicare beneficiaries.

•Home health providers would also be encouraged to

see CRAPO, Page 10

Lisa Collini is our choice for commissioner

Editor:

We are voting for Lisa Collini for county commissioner.

We believe that most of us would hate to be judged on one item that may have been handled differently.

To be judged on that instead of the whole body of work that one has done seems a little harsh.

To run for office because one truly wants to serve compared to running because you are asked to is a big differ-

Attending all the meetings that you are responsible for is not only time consuming it is to make sure we have a voice at the table. Lisa has made this a priority in her job as commissioner.

Long after the promises of doing everything that you say you're running on, you find out that most things are set by the state for you to follow.

I appreciate people wanting to be an elected county official but as with everything, some background experience is indeed a good thing to

I was told by many that the first two years is like drinking from a firehose (no pun intended).

In fact, one commissioner told me, not bad money for one day a week. As always

our government is run by those who vote. Make sure we have someone who works continually on your behalf.

Thanks to all of you who serve the citizens unselfishly. We are truly blessed to live in a great country.

Tom and Margie Anderson Weiser

Lyndon Haines will listen to residents of county

Editor:

Because of changes we are experiencing in Washington County and decisions being made, I am endorsing and voting for Lyndon Haines for Washington County Com-

ELECTION LETTERS

The Signal American will accept letters to the editor related to the May 19 primary election until 5 p.m. on Friday, May 1. No primary election letters will be published after the May 6 issue.

missioner, District 1.

I attended a few hearings and commissioner meetings and left feeling and knowing that public input would not even be considered by the current commissioners.

It was apparent they

see **LETTERS**, Page 10

PRIMARY ELECTION • TUESDAY, MAY 19

MEET THE CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR OFFICE IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION

Washington County Commission, District 1

Lisa Collini (I) - Republican

Please give a brief summary of your qualifications and highlight why voters should elect or reelect you to county office.

I was elected in 2018 and am serving my first term as County Commissioner. I started sitting in on County Commissioner hearings in January of 2018.

Later in 2018, I started attending Idaho Association of Counties conferences, first as a commissioner-elect and then as Washington County Commissioner and I have attended them regularly ever since.

On-the-job training is what it takes to learn the job of Commissioner. I have that experience and I am able to treat this as a full-time job and devote all the attention that is necessary, especially during this time that we have declared an emergency in Washington County.

This is not a time for inexperience nor someone with several other jobs. I am asking for the support of voters to continue to serve our county.



Lisa Collini

In 2010, I was appointed to the Weiser City Planning & Zoning Commission by Mayor John Walker, where I served until 2018.

As a P&Z Commissioner, I not only studied the zoning codes, we were also responsible for implementing them.

In 2014, I was appointed to the Washington County Planning & Zoning Commission, were I served until 2018.

It was an invaluable experience and gave me insight into the zoning codes, which serves me well as County Commissioner.

What one part of county government would receive more attention if you were elected?

Each department in county government receives the attention that is required. At different times, one department may have different or specialized needs that require more direct action.

Since I was elected, there hasn't been one part of county government that has received more attention just because I was elected.

What do you see as the most pressing needs for infrastructure or capital projects in the county?

From the time I began sitting in on County Commissioner hearings in January 2018, the most pressing needs have been roads and bridges, and it has remained that way to the current time.

Road repair is a constant issue. The cost to replace one mile of asphalt is over \$100,000. Some of our bridges need repair or

see COLLINI, Page 6

Lyndon Haines – Republican

Please give a brief summary of your qualifications and highlight why voters should elect or reelect you to county office?

As a Pastor, Firefighter, and Chaplain, I have devoted my professional life to the service of other people.

I find public service extremely rewarding. I have skills in leadership, listening to others ideas and needs, dealing with stressful situations, creative problem solving, working as part of a team and many others that will help me as a Commissioner.

I also have the passion and energy needed to be a successful representative of the people of Washington County.

As someone who was raised here, I believe I have a responsibility to serve this county in any way I am able.

I believe being a Commissioner is one more way I can give back to the county that raised me, provided my education, and engrained a strong work ethic in me.



Lyndon Haines

It has given me a place to work, to live and raise a family. You should vote for me because I will listen to you.

I will do the hard work and the research necessary, have the important conversations, then do what I believe is right for all the people of Washington County.

I will uphold the Constitution of the United States, The Constitution of the State of Idaho, and the laws and regulations of our great State and Washington County.

What one part of county

government would receive more attention if you were elected?

I would like to further invest, encourage, and support the most important part of the county and that is the people.

I believe we have a lot of great people who work and live in this county. I believe any organization, including government, works best when there is partnership.

I will bring a positive attitude and strong work ethic to the county. I will not micromanage, but let people make their own decisions and trust them to do what is right.

I also believe our system of government was designed to work for the people. In order to do that, we have to include the people.

We should never be told that our opinions don't matter or that our voice shouldn't be heard. I will make sure you have a chance to be heard.

I would like to see agendas, notices, and other

see HAINES, Page 6

Idaho House of Representatives, District 9, Seat A

Ryan Kerby (I) - Republican

Please give a brief summary of your qualifications and highlight why voters should elect or re-elect you to the Idaho Legislature?

We have made solid progress in education and corrections, funding for roads, reducing regulations and lowering taxes, but I have unfinished business in each of these sectors.

Idaho is a great place to live as evidenced by being the fastest growing state in America the last few years, and I want to keep it that way.

I have a strong track record of working to improve Idaho's business environment through lowering taxes (I co-sponsored several bills that have become law) and reducing regulation (Idaho is now the least regulated state in the union).

I have been endorsed by the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry.



Ryan Kerby

I was Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Idaho Legislator of the Year in 2019.

I have received the "Agricultural All-Star" award each of my six years in the legislature, and have been endorsed and/or am financially supported in this election by many ag groups, including the Idaho Dairy Industry PAC, Idaho Cattlemen's Association, Idaho Sugar Beet Growers

Association., Idaho Onion Growers, Idaho Loggers PAC and Idaho Forest Group, to name a few.

I am proud of my endorsement by Gov. Brad Little: "I strongly endorse Ryan Kerby for the position of Representative in District 9. As a conservative Republican, Ryan is a supporter of agricultural interests, business, balanced budgets and education."

What one part of state government would receive more attention if you were elected?

Education. For years rural schools like those in District 9 have lost excellent teachers to neighboring states (six left Fruitland for Oregon schools just last year).

To address this, we passed the career ladder my first year in the legislature, upgrading starting

see KERBY, Page 6

Jim Smith - Republican

Please give a brief summary of your qualifications and highlight why voters should elect or re-elect you to the Idaho Legislature?

I have considered this run ever since our current Secretary of State Lawerence Denney vacated the seat for his campaign for constitutional office.

I finally decided it was time for a change in Seat A in District 9. I am basing my decision on my opponent's voting record in recent years and his detachment from the voters of District 9.

I love Idaho. I love our little part of Idaho and I am committed to protect our conservative values.

I believe that with a "little" vote here and another there, our legislature is leaning further and further to the left every year. We once had one of the most respected delegations in the state.



Jim Smith

We need to have a delegation that works together with the interests of our constituents first and the rest of Idaho after that.

I have a lifetime of private sector work experience. I have worked for others and I have owned many businesses.

I had about 10 years that I was with the Idaho Department of Labor. I was promoted very quickly into administration and a

little over 15 years ago I was promoted to manage the office located in Payette and serving Payette, Washington and Adams counties.

A few years ago my wife and I purchased a small fitness company that was based out of Weiser.

We have grown that company to over 2,500 members currently in four locations and a couple of dozen employees (when we are open and running normally). We have members from every town in District 9 except Notus!

What one part of state government would receive more attention if you were elected?

That is a very broad question. We don't get to choose one part to work on as legislators. I am ready to deal with everything that comes our way in the House of Representatives.

see **SMITH** , Page 6

As a service to our readers, the *Weiser Signal American* asked candidates running for local offices in the May 19 Primary Election to respond to questions of interest. The candidates were given the same questions and asked to keep answers to 250 words or less for each question. An 'I' next to their name indicates the incumbent. The May 19 primary election will be conducted by mail. All voters must request an absentee ballot through the secretary of state's website or from the Washington County clerk's office.



COLLINI, from page 5

replacement. One bridge was load-restricted, not because the bridge was deficient, but because there are updated State bridge standards and our bridge did not meet the new standards and therefore had to be fixed at the County's expense, in the area of \$100,000, an example of unfunded mandates by the State.

Are county taxes too high, about right or pleasantly low?

Taxes are always too high, I think most everyone agrees with that. County assessors determine the value of taxable property within the county.

I would like to see Idaho counties work with the State to address the formula that county assessors are required to use to set those values.

This is an area where the relationships I've built in the past two years through Idaho Association of Counties conferences can benefit Washington County.

Not all taxes collected by the Treasurer stay with the County, they go to individual taxing districts that charge taxes that the County collects, such as school districts, highway districts, cemetery districts, hospital districts and ambulance districts.

All elected officials and department heads present budgets to Commissioners for approval, and we do our best to hold taxes at a minimum, but still accomplish what we're supposed to be doing for the County.

Should the county be encouraging building and development?

There is a lot of room for growth in our county. More building and development, more families moving here, all of that means more revenue, which is needed to pay not only the cost of running our county, but to pay for the many unfunded mandates by the state.

Growth is good for the county, good for our cities, good for local businesses, but it must be managed growth. It is critically important to remember that we must pro-

tect agricultural land. We cannot sacrifice ag land for growth. Planning & Zoning Commissioners are crucial to the inevitable growth that is coming, and they have worked very hard to update our Comprehensive Plan.

Future growth is why it is so important for us to work on our zoning codes, streamline them and make them less subject to interpretation.

I know how important the real estate community is to the future growth in our county.

I am a member of SRE-DA, Snake River Economic Development Alliance, and also the Greater Weiser Economic Task Force.

Realtors are members of both associations, along with Chamber of Commerce representatives, mayors, city council members, county commissioners, representatives of businesses and schools, and the relationships we are building are crucial to the economic development and growth in our county.

SMITH, from page 5

Agriculture and local business and industry will always be at the top of my priorities. I am a retail businessman. When ag or business fails, I fail.

I am a huge believer in less government. We are very unique here on the Idaho frontier. We are not into group-think and we are very, very independent. That is why the principles of liberty ring so strongly here.

We are not as influenced by the liberal media and the "Chicken Littles" of the world. And the last thing we want is to be dictated to.

We do not look to government to solve our problems. We believe government has a specific role and when it oversteps that role, we tend to be much less obedient than the group thinkers in the bigger cities.

We are perfectly fine defending ourselves and governing ourselves with the local, state and federal governments providing support.

I will always support our U.S. Constitution and make every decision as a representative based on its principles.

What do you see as the most pressing needs for infrastructure or capital projects in the state? In District 9?

One project I would absolutely support would be the improvement and widening of Highway 95 from Palisades Junction (Highway 95 & Interstate 84) to Weiser. This is becoming a major thoroughfare and is very precari-

For the sake of agricultural and commuter traffic, as well as the lives of our residents, this needs to be pushed up the priority list with ITD.

Are public schools in Idaho funded at an adequate level?

We are so faithful to our schools in Idaho. The 2020 budget for Idaho education is \$1.9 billion. I want to ensure that we are getting our money's worth educating our children.

The vast majority of our teachers are incredible. They are talented and creative and well educated themselves. They are professional.

A good manager gives his people all of the tools they need to succeed and then Get Out Of The Way. We need to do the same for our teachers. Give them the tools they need and let them do what they do best, and we need to pay them well for what they do.

I believe we fund our schools well. We just need to be sure the dollars are being spent where they give us the greatest ROI (return on investment)... The front line.

Are rising property taxes an issue in Idaho? Should property taxes be capped?

Well, up until a few weeks ago I had a very different answer for this question when I was asked.

I think we are going to see the events with COVID-19 diminish our property values that had risen so quickly under the Trump economy.

We won't know until

the dust settles but the bubble may have popped and we will have to build again. I am not anti-tax but I am anti-Unnecessary increases or more taxes through bad fees.

Our property tax is already a burden for the privilege of owning property in Idaho. Added levies and taxing districts just add more to the overall bill for property owners and it takes from their abilities to spend and to add jobs.

Let me preface my next statement with a sincere thank you to our county treasurers and commissioners and our city leaderships.

Thank you for your hours and hours of dedication to our communities. I know it is not a popular proposal with those good people to put a cap or to freeze property taxes and levy rates.

They have bills to pay too and usually when property taxes are increasing, so are populations and increased expenses to our municipalities.

We want tax freezes and then the cities and counties are burdened with unfunded mandates from the state.

We need to meet in the middle and quit cutting a foot off one end of the blanket and sewing it on the other end and calling it a tax cut.

I appreciate this opportunity and would invite readers to see my website at jimsmithforidaho. org. There they will find my platform in great detail as well as information to contact me directly.

HAINES, from page 5

county information be made even more available and easier to access than it already is.

I believe we can use social media, email, our local newspapers, and other online resources to do this. The people of Washington County should never have to be surprised by a decision that has been made by their Commissioners.

What do you see as the most pressing needs for infrastructure or capital projects in the county?

Roads and Bridges. After graduating from college and getting married, I went to work for Idaho Garbologist.

During my time driving a garbage truck, I drove the routes that serviced Weiser, Midvale, Cambridge and Hells Canyon.

I have driven almost every road in this county. As citizens, not only should we have quality roads and bridges to live our daily lives, but our economy depends on them.

Our businesses, especially our ranchers and farmers, rely on these roads to get their livestock, equipment, goods throughout the county.

We currently have many bridges with load limits that make it difficult to move large equipment. Those same bridges are not passable for our larger fire apparatus, delaying emergency response times.

Washington County also has some amazing places to visit. We have many outdoorsmen, campers, hikers, sight-seers and others who come regularly to take in all that we have to offer

How can they visit and recreate here while utilizing our businesses (gas stations, restaurants, stores, etc.), if they can't get to these places? We must invest in our roads and bridges now. The cost of fixing them will only get more expensive as time goes on.

Are county taxes too high, about right or pleasantly low?

From the information I have gathered our county, our taxes are not unreasonable. None of us want to pay more taxes than we have to. The questions I try to ask are these: Are we getting what we pay for? Do I believe our tax money is being used responsibly? I looked over the county's budget and have not found any spending that I would view as wasteful or unnecessary.

As a Pastor in a small community, I am used to making every penny count. As you all know, a church or any non-profit survives off of nothing but donations. That is the world I come from. I believe that quality does not have to be sacrificed in order to be fiscally responsible.

I will bring that same attitude of providing quality services at a reasonable and responsible cost to the County.

Should the county be

encouraging building and development?

Yes, healthy and controlled building and development. I believe it is more important now than ever for the county to be prepared for the growth that is already coming.

We all know that Idaho has experienced extreme growth and is likely to continue to experience this growth.

While that growth has happened mainly in the other end of the valley, it is spreading our way. We have to plan and prepare for it or the growth will be uncontrolled.

If it is uncontrolled, we will lose more of our precious agricultural ground. This ground has to be protected not only because of its importance to our economy, but because it is a huge part of our way of life

One thing I will do as County Commissioner is support our Planning and Zoning Commission. We have many dedicated citizens, both past and present, who have volunteered their precious time to help shape Washington County in important ways.

I believe the Planning and Zoning Commission is one of those examples of citizens getting to directly shape the policies and procedures of their government.

We need more people like them and more opportunities for us as citizens to shape our government.

KERBY, from page 5

teacher salaries, and this year we improved experienced teacher salaries. I was very involved in the writing and passage of each bill.

Several years ago I wrote the original bill for the program in which high school students take dual credit courses, (so called because they count for high school and college credit), and the program has completely changed the high school experience in Idaha.

in Idaho.

Last school year 26,000 high school students across Idaho earned 184,000 dual credits. That is many thousands of Idaho students who will have less college debt and who are more likely to finish college or get an industry certification.

I have worked with other legislators to improve Career Technical Education (CTE). We have increased programs, reduced barriers for bringing in industry certified teachers, and this year I helped write, then carried a resolution to change high school graduation standards to better fit the needs of our students who plan to enter CTE fields.

I brought a bill in 2019 which helps high school students get involved in

apprenticeship programs (electricians, diesel mechanics, welders, HVAC, etc.), and the program was recently placed on the National Governor's Association "best practices" list for career technical education.

This program is expanding rapidly in Idaho. The idea for the bill originated in Weiser, with Doug Applegate of Comfort Zone HVAC working with Wil Overgaard of Weiser schools.

I worked countless hours this session with Representatives and Senators, along with skilled educators, to set in motion a two-year process to eliminate problems caused by Common Core Standards.

I have been asked to serve on the Math Standards Committee and help put this divisive issue behind us.

What do you see as the most pressing needs for infrastructure or capital projects in the state? In District 9?

Road and bridge maintenance is probably our most pressing infrastructural need. A lot of work has been done by the state on Highway 95, including resurfacing much of the road between Fruitland and New Meadows, and replacing quite a few old

and unstable bridges.

The problem is the roads and bridges which are maintained by the counties, cities, and highway districts, and paid for largely by local property taxes.

I get more complaints

about poorly maintained roads and structurally unsound bridges than on any other subject from patrons in District 9.

We have increased local road and bridge fund-

We have increased local road and bridge funding several times since I've been in the Legislature, but it is still not enough.

Washington County has the most unstable bridges, 30, in the entire state of Idaho. Several of those bridges have load limits.

We passed a bill this year that would have given the cities, counties, and highway districts more funding for bridge maintenance, but it was vetoed by the Governor because of financial instability due to COVID-19. This will continue to be an area of emphasis for me.

Are public schools in Idaho funded at an adequate level?

I think we've done an admirable job of funding schools since I've been in the Legislature. There

see, KERBY, Page 10

Business Spotlight...

Farm Commercial Irrigation

431 E. First • 208-549-1907 • 1-800-390-1520

Farm Commercial Irrigation was established in May of 1998 and has been the areas pump repair and supplier of irrigation parts for large farms and ranches to yards and gardens.

Helping farmers and gardeners with their irrigation needs is not all the local company provides. Some of the services and products the company carries include irrigation pumps and parts, parts for yard systems and gardens, plumbing supplies from galvanized pipe up to 15 inches and PVC pipe.

Farm Irrigation's crew of six employees also repairs and installs irrigation pumps for local farmers, they set up stock water systems, and offer field and shop welding fabrications and so much more.

Gilbert Ball and Dick Cox established the business. Cox has retired from the daily business but he is still associated with the company and helps out when needed.

Owner Gilbert Ball and Randy Leach and Kelly Leach have been at Farm Commercial since the business opened in 1998. The three have all been residents of Weiser for over 30 years. This year marks their 22nd year in business.

Ball commented that the favorite part about working in Washington County and the surrounding area is that it still has a small home town feel where people still work well together and treat each other with respect.

The company's motto is "Get it done!"
They are a one stop business helping with watering issues, galvanized and PVC pipe, welding and winter blow outs.
Call the crew at Farm Commercial Irrigation and they will "Get it done."

They are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays during the summer months, April to September.



Farm Commercial Irrigation has been in business for 22 years. The staff, includes, from left, Jerry Leach, Kelly Leach, Randy Leach and Gilbert Ball.



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Comfort Zone wants to assure you that your current and future concerns, financial, emotional, and physical, are our concerns as well. We want to leave you with a feeling of security that those concerns will be addressed. We consider it a privilege to be allowed into your home, to help you save dollars on monthly utility bills, to help with your family's comfort, health, and safety, and to continue to provide future service for many years to come.

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Gabi and Kilee Saldivar have reopened the former States Produce market in Weiser under a new name and with new ideas. The Saldivas want to support local farmers and producers at 'The Market' and plan to carry produce, plants and a lot more. The Saldivars grew up in Weiser and are excited to be a part of the local business community. In addition to the produce they grow on their farm, they hope to reach out to others for products they can sell.

Former States Produce opens under new ownership

'The Market' will offer locally sourced produce, plants and other products in Weiser

by Nicole Miller

Weiser natives Gabi and Kilee Saldivar have purchased the property formerly known as States Produce.

Their goal is to bring local produce to the community at their new business, "The Market by Flat Beer Farm.'

Within the last few years, the Saldivars have become very interested in supporting local farmers and producers in the community.

Growing up in Weiser, they both felt that they were always very supported by local business owners.

"I can remember going around town asking for sponsorship of athletics, FFA, and other activities we were a part of. The com-

munity support that comes from small business often goes unrecognized, but it is very important. We are excited to be a part of the local businesses that helps support our community and our schools," Saldivar said.

The Saldivars grow a large garden of their own as well as farm fresh meat. They have a small farm on the Flat that they have named Flat Beer Farm and have valued growing and raising their own food and having the peace of mind of not only knowing where their food comes from, but from growing some of their own food during these uncertain times.

The Saldivars want the people in the community to have access to fresh local goods

that are grown right here in the area. Whether it is through buying starts to grow some of their own vegetables or buying local produce from local growers, it is their hope that people in our community can shop at "The Market" and take comfort that they are buying local food and can know exactly where their food came from.

The community has many local farmers that raise such great products. The Saldivars hope that "The Market" will act as a hub for local goods. Shopping local also helps support families, business, and schools in the community.

While neither of the Saldivars have owned a business in the past, the two have been working hard to utilize as many resources as they can to make the business start off on a successful note.

Their main goal with The Market is to connect local consumers to local producers. They have been working to build partnerships with multiple people in our community for both plants and produce.

The greenhouse is ready to go and is full of veggie starts and flowers for the April opening. They will have featured tables in the greenhouse of plants grown by both Weiser Ag and TVCC horticulture program, and hope to continue to feature local pro-

"We would like to encourage people to reach out to us, let us know what they have to offer the community, whether it's extra garden veggies they are wanting to sell, extra plant starts, eggs, homemade goods, hay, beef, or bacon, we want to know about it! If we can sell it, we want to showcase who our suppliers are and show what cool things our community produces," Saldivar

The Saldivars also plan to share resources to help connect consumers to products they cannot sell such as livestock. They will have a large board in the store showing who has what to offer.

The market will be open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. through the early season with extended hours to come starting in June.

Weiser Middle School announces honor students

The third quarter concluded at Weiser's schools just prior to Spring Break and the announcement that students will finish the school year through distance learning.

Weiser Middle School announced the three grades high achieving students. Students listed in the high honor roll list achieved a grade point average of 3.8-4.0 and those on the honor roll maintained a grade point average of 3.0-3.79.

High honor roll 6th Grade

Thayn Blanchard, Keith Boles, Adalyn Brush, Hardy Capurro, Natalee Clarry, Noah Clawson, Evelyn Dolton, Isabella Froshiesar, Presley Gamble, Baylee Gutierrez,

Madeline Hansen, Telsyn Hawker, Elizabeth Hersey, Aislyn Hessing, Payton Hoffman, Cole Ingle, Kaden LaChapelle, Presley Martin, Claire Matthews, Wyatt Neckels, Brayden Nordgren, Michael Odette, Halle Seward, Michael Shaber, Ellie Shirts, Gracie Stayton, Gage Walker.

7th Grade Stephanie Aldrich, Addison Anderson, Aidan Attebery, Hali Blanchard, Tatem Clary, Kolin Cook, Hailey Eames, Elysia Goodwin, Teagan Hawker, Lucy Hickey, Dauge Mc-Clellan, Paisley Noyer, Judah Parsons, Kayd Roth, Olivia Sanders, Ashlynn Strasser, Bridger Strasser, Bennett Torres, Karsten Walker, Elvis Williams.

8th Grade

Kaleiss Brugger, Mason Brush, Trista Beuscher, Aleska Burton, Bailey Coleman, Shaquaya Crockett, Edith Delgadillo, Chloe Gloria, Tyler Hamilton, Elizabeth Hansen, Daniela Ixta, Lillian Janicek, Trinity Johnson, Bryce King, Emri Kunz, Erin Larsen, Danica Lockett, McKenna Manser. Armando Montova, Isabel Odette, Kiana Olvera, Gabriel Perez, Gracelynn Perez, Braden Phillips, ReAnn Reese, Kendall Rynearson, Marie Shaber, Jack Shirts, Brock Spencer, Ella Terry, Jack Tucker, Jayden Walker, Abigail Wilkins, Gracie Young. Honor roll

6th Grade

Soren Alder, Cristina

Arana, Dylann Ashley, Lily Bittinger, Ezra Blankenbaker, Zylee Brugger, Camden Carter, Emory Chandler, Sierra Crandall, Shayd Crossley, Zaiden DeLap, Christina Dodson, Gabriella Friedley, Owen Funke, Breann Gomez, Autumn Jones, Michael Kielhorn, Keller King, Jackson Laird, Skyler Lancaster, Ailyn Lopez, Ximena Lopez, Samantha Luna, Viannet Magana, Cambria Maldonado, Katherine McQueen, Natosha Morris, Kendal Nicholson, Carson Ogburn, Elizabeth Pallares, Kaiden Peck, Emiliano Perez, Christopher Rodriguez, Hayden Samson, Madyson Shelby, Aliana Sorensen, Doreli Villalobos, Michaela Young.

7th Grade Austin Ashley, Shelby Babb, Kaden Baumann, Luke Brunson, Melanie Chavez, Tristan Clarry, Kash Cobb, Kamryn Doty, Domingo Estrada, Callee Foster, Kaylee Harris, Sarah Henderson, Trinity Hernandez, Ariana Hurtado, Yareli Ixta, Anahi Ixta, Isaiah Ixta, Alonzo Juarez, Pearl Kaewta, Joshua Kelley, Alex Lazaro, Ninaleigh Magana, Joshua Mizar, Alia Oarbeascoa, Emma Odoms, Yovani Ramirez, Riggin Roberts, Abraham Sanchez, Luke Sarich, Brookelynn Schooley, Mateyah Sharrai, Kinda Sherry, Ashton Slyter, Marley Widner, Madilynn Wiles, Madilyn Wilkins, Stockton Young, Ryan Youngberg.

8th Grade

Aryssa Aburto, Banzer Arnett, Stephanie Becerra, Brooklyn Brown, Allie Buckalew, Larell Chandler, Daniel Clemmer, Hannah Cramer, Finnian Dolton, Wyatt Erickson, Lydia Frederick, Joanna Frias, Abigail Hall, Kian Hartley, Edgar Hernandez, Katelyn Hill, EllyAnna Huggins, Carter Jensen, Guadalupe Juarez, Kyllie Lambertsen, Neva Lavy, Edgar Lazaro, Daniel Lopez, Estrella Lopez, Diana Magana, Bailey Miller, Kristi Morris, Ashley O'Connor, Ryndon Olsen, Mollie Price, Rylee Roberts, Elvyra Santos, Audrie Schock, Aurora Slyter, Kyler Sylvia, Caycee Thien, Hillary Walker, Eli Woods.



Chief Nursing Officer Ginger Watko is the newest member of the management team at Weiser Memorial Hospital. Most recently, she worked as the CNO at Wrangell Medical Center in Wrangell, Alaska. Watko has been a registered nurse for 22 years and has worked in healthcare for 33 years. *Photo by Steve Lyon*

Ginger Watko joins Weiser Memorial Hospital team as chief nursing officer

CNO is responsible for clinical nursing services at hospital by Steve Lyon see him and her two daughters instead

When Ginger Watko started her new job of chief nursing officer at Weiser Memorial Hospital, she quickly shifted priorities from routine orientation to assessing the coronavirus situation and where she could help out.

The hospital had an emergency operations team in place and was ready for any influx of ill patients. The focus of medical staff for the past month has largely been on preparing for the possible impacts of the coronavirus.

"Everybody already had a good handle on things. I was impressed," she said.

Weiser is fairly isolated and has not seen the number of coronavirus cases that have been confirmed in Ada and Canyon counties.

State public health officials have reported one confirmed case in Washington County and that was more than three weeks ago.

"The good thing is this is allowing us to look at what's working and what's not working in other communities," Watko said.

As the newest member of the management team, Watko is the administrator of clinical nursing and the leader for a nursing staff of 68 to 70 employees at WMH.

The CNO position has the responsibility for regulation compliance, nursing standards and quality metrics, patient care and safety, customer and employee satisfaction.

Most recently, Watko held the CNO position at Wrangell Medical Center, a 25-bed critical access hospital and long-term care center at Wrangell, Alaska. The two hospitals share a lot of similarities, both in size and mission.

She wanted to move "down south" from the Alaskan frontier to be closer to family in Pomeroy, Wash. Her husband, David, works for the county and she still has two daughters in high school living at home out of a blended family of eight children. She can make weekend trips to

see him and her two daughters instead of monthly trips from Alaska.

She grew up in Walla, Walla, Wash. In some ways, Weiser reminds Watko of that community. She likes small towns that are not too far from an urban area if she feels the need to go to the city.

Watko has worked in healthcare for 33 years and has been a registered nurse for 22 years. She earned a master's degree in nursing and moved into health care management 15 years ago "to provide a voice for nurses."

She thinks the CNO position is a good fit with her leadership philosophy. After meeting management and interviewing for the position at WMH, she got the sense that nurse empowerment and job satisfaction were priorities.

"I consider myself to be a transformational leader and by that I mean that it takes a team to lead and manage and that everyone has something to contribute and bring to the table," she said in a short video posted on the hospital's Facebook page.

She works with nursing managers to make sure they have what they need to do their jobs. As a former floor nurse, she knows it's important that the nursing staff from the top down understand what is behind policies why things are done a certain way.

Watko replaced Deena Rauch, who came to WMH as an interim CNO at a time when the hospital was trying to fill the management position and stayed for more than two years.

Rauch said at the time she could guarantee a commitment of two years and filled a gap in nursing. She really liked the hospital, community and local residents.

She expressed a desire to move back to Moscow last October and the hospital started the search that resulted in the hiring of Watko.

"I know Ginger, with her skill set, will take nursing to even a higher level," CEO Steve Hale said.







May 19 election by mail

Residents of the state who need to register to vote can also do that through Idahovotes.gov. Voter registration will happen right up to May 19. It requires an Idaho driver's license to prove residency when registering online.

County residents who need to register to vote can also call the county clerk's office and request a reg-

istration card. They can fill it out and send a copy of their identification and proof of county residency back to the clerk's office or use the drop off box on the steps of the courthouse.

Voters will pick their party's nominees in a number of political races in the May 19 primary to go on the November general election ballot.

from page 1 -

Gas selling for under \$2

another two weeks until April 30, which will curtail the amount of driving by Idahoans and should continue to put downward pressure on gas prices.

The state average for gas prices on Monday was \$1.92 a gallon. That is down 50 cents from a month ago and nearly \$1 cheaper than a year ago.

Nationwide, gas prices have been on a general downward trend for the past two months. The reduced demand has led to increased gas inventories in all regions of the country, even as refineries have reduced production by 30 percent, AAA said.

The national average gas price on Monday was \$1.84 per gallon, which was \$1 cheaper than a year ago, when gas cost \$2.84.

The cheapest gas in the country could be found in Wisconsin, where prices at the pump on Monday were \$1.22 per gallon. The badger state also has experienced the biggest yearover-year difference in gas prices with a drop of \$1.60.

AAA Idaho, which tracks gas prices in the Gem State, noted that the demand for gas has decreased by 44 percent in recent weeks in the U.S. The demand has not been that low since the spring of

Lower gas prices are tracking the steep decline in crude oil prices. In a stunning development on Monday, oil prices plunged below zero as demand for oil collapses amid the coronavirus pandemic and traders don't want to get stuck owning crude with nowhere to store it, according to a story in *USA*

from page 6 —

Kerby seeks re-election

were serious cuts during the recession of 2008-11 or so, but since I've been in office we have restored schools' operational funds to pre-recession levels, and also have improved salaries through the career

The first phase of the career ladder increased starting teacher wages from \$32,000 to what it is today \$40,000. That has helped recruit teachers, and our teacher shortage is not quite as acute as it was in 2015 when we first passed the career ladder.

This year we updated the career ladder to gradually increase the salaries of experienced teachers.

Some people schools are way underfunded, some say we are giving them plenty, or even too much. My position is that Idaho is doing a very solid job of funding schools given our tax base.

We have to budget our funds very judiciously. Taxes need to be low enough that business is attracted to Idaho, and salaries must be high enough to attract and retain quality teachers, so it is a fine bal-

Are rising property taxes an issue in Idaho? Should property taxes be capped?

Rising property taxes are a problem throughout Idaho, but acutely so in

Ada and a few other counties with large populations. In some taxing districts in Ada County the budgets are rising more than 10 percent per year. The taxpayers in those districts are absolutely furious, and rightly so.

In Idaho Code local budgets can go up only 3 percent per year, but local taxing districts can then add taxes from new construction and annexation.

Since there is so much new construction in Ada and other highly populated counties, their local taxing districts can make budget increases that result in the base being permanently much higher.

In Washington, Payette, and Adams counties, with some new construction but nothing like the big cities, most budgets are going up between 3 percent and 5 percent.

Capping the total budget increase does seem like one of the better solutions I have heard.

We need to be careful with the limit we choose, however, because property taxes pay for much of the road and bridge maintenance in some of our coun-

Washington County's 30 bridges that are no longer structurally sound, with load limits or other issues, need to be fixed, and that will require funding.

from page 4 -

Hospital remains ready to deal with coronavirus

needs to admit a patient showing symptoms of coronavirus, that person would be put in an isolation room.

If someone was critically ill with coronavirus and needed to be put on a ventilator, they would be transferred to a larger health care facility for longer-term care.

With a triage tent in the parking lot, the hospital remains ready for any influx of possible coronavirus patients. If the number of people with symptoms became significant, all

testing for the virus would take place outside of the hospital in the tent before any admissions.

Hale said the heightened precautions at the hospital, which also includes screening all visitors and employees at the ER door, will stay in place until the hospital is notified to "stand down" by the governor, the CDC or public health agencies.

"We can handle, at least in the short-term, anything that comes to us," Hale said.

The hospital has sus-

pended elective surgery and procedures during the coronavirus crisis. The hospital is not doing any knee or hip surgeries or routine colonoscopies. As a result, there will be some financial impact to the hospital from the loss of business.

If patients could be tested for coronavirus and the results were available in an hour and were negative, there could be the possibility of resuming elective surgery at the hospital, Hale said.

Right now, there is no

rapid testing that can do that, and if there were tests, they would likely go to coronavirus hot spots and not a rural location like Weiser, Hale said.

There are other considerations to be addressed prior to allowing elective surgery during the coronavirus pandemic.

If the hospital resumed elective surgeries and used up all the personal protective equipment, that could put employees at risk if an actual coronavirus case arrived at the hospital, Hale said.

from page 4 -

Rural health systems will benefit from legislation

use remote patient monitoring and other telecommunication technologies for continuity of care.

These are some of the provisions of the bill focused on assisting rural providers.

On April 10, the Administration began releasing part of the \$100 billion in provider grants.

Idaho is expected to receive about \$135 million in immediate relief funds from this first phase of distribution to be allocated to 1,864 Idaho providers and health systems based on 2019 Medicare fee-for-service claims.

As the administration continues to allocate the \$100 billion grant pro-

gram through the HHS and other resources, I will continue to advocate for the needs of all of Idaho – including our rural health providers.

Mike Crapo is the senior senator from Idaho.

from page 4 —

Commissioners decide to keep courthouse closed

officials, the governer initially issued the order on March 25 for three weeks. It was extended on April 15 to the end of the month.

Commissioner Kirk Chandler said there are still enough confirmed coronavirus cases in the region to warrant continued precautions to protect employees.

While the courthouse will stay closed, Sheriff Matt Thomas said he plans to open the sheriff's office up for business. All visitors will be screened when they enter the build-

Thomas said the closure of county buildings didn't really help because his department and employees have to interact constantly with the public. There are attorneys visiting clients at the jail and daily VIN inspections and brand inspections.

People were coming and going in and out of the justice building whether the front door was locked or not, he said.

"We have contact with the public on a daily basis. Continuing to shut down doesn't make a whole lot of sense for us," he said.

If the number of local coronavirus cases was larger it might be a different situation, he said.

One confirmed case of coronavirus was identified in the county on April 2 by state health officials and the number has not gone up since.

Anybody that goes back in the jail is screened for coronavirus symptoms. All new arrests also are screened before they are booked into the jail. Visitors to the jail to speak to inmates use a videoconferencing system, Thomas said.

The courthouse and county departments are still staffed and the public can call or email for assistance. There is a locked dropbox on the steps of the courthouse and a second one at the magistrate court that people can use to pay fines or for paperwork that cannot be done over the phone.

Clerk Donna Atwood said her office has been mailing out absentee ballot request forms and voter registration cards. Members of the public can call a department to have someone pick up something they placed in a dropbox at the courthouse.

Commissioner Marvin said he suggested that a table could be set up in front of the courthouse to allow the public to do business with the county that can't be done over the phone or email but not allow people into the courthouse.

Weekly Monday commission meetings have been held via videoconferencing. The public can observe the meetings via the internet.

Commissioners previously said they will try to keep their weekly meeting short and limit the agenda items to what is necessary for county functions.

The county's trash transfer sites in Weiser and Midvale will remain open for public use, but the hours have been reduced.

from page 4 —

Letters to the editor continued: Primary election

base their decisions on their own agendas and not the by long-time residents who have supported Washington County with their tax

Washington County is experiencing growth and with the recent firing of the building inspector there is a hardship for the contractors and residents without a licensed building inspector.

There will now be a costly settlement that the county taxpayers will be paying as the firing was done in an open session. There are procedures that are to be followed in Idaho Code that were not.

The Idaho Association of Counties conducts training for all elected officials for conducting meetings, following Idaho Code, open meeting laws to prevent this unnecessary firing and lawsuit from happening.

Ignorance of the law is

no excuse and the firing was wrong. The conduct facts that were presented and procedure of the board was wrong.

> These are my concerns about the direction our county is going, and it is time for a change.

We need a government that is willing to listen to the citizens of the county and make decisions based on all facts received and not their agendas.

After meeting Lyndon and listening to him I was excited to help his campaign in any way I could. It is so great to have this young man wanting to serve in this capacity to serve all Washington County residents.

I strongly feel this is what we all need is to have someone who has such energy, proponent of open, honest and transparent government and desires to make Washington County an exceptional place to live

place we can all be proud to call home.

He has proven that he is successful in public service is targeting Commissioner as a pastor of the Weiser Christian Church, involved with the Weiser Area Rural Fire District and Weiser Recreation Department.

Please join me and vote for Lyndon Haines for Washington County Commissioner, District 1, in the upcoming Primary Election May 19, 2020.

Sharon Widner Midvale

Fight the swamp in Washington County

The political swamp is alive and well in Washington County.

It is amazing how firing an employee brought out the mentality of Washing-

and continue to become a ton, D.C., in Washington County.

To immobilize Commissioner Chandler, the swamp Collini. Obviously firing of this employee stepped on some toes.

A commissioner who really dedicates time and effort in working for the county works all week. There is more to being a county commissioner than just going to the business meeting on Monday.

They meet with the department heads in the morning, and listen to public testimony in the afternoon during the hear-

They must devote time to studying state code and county ordinances so they make sound and fair decisions from these meetings. Fight the swamp. Vote

Collini.

Donna Lake Midvale

Your Faith

Life awaits beyond the cross

Church of the Redeemer

A walk-about with a shelter-in-place companion gives opportunity to stop and smell the roses and everything else that's in bloom. As we rejoice in all the new life springing forth from the earth after the apparent death that winter brings, so we can rejoice in the life, eternally ours, that lies beyond the cross of Jesus.

From what man's eye could see, Christ our King had died upon that lonely cross at Calvary's hill. It was over; it was done. All our hopes went with Him to that unforgiving grave. What seemed apparent just was not so. For Jesus our Savior, death was a necessary foe to be conquered in our stead as He completed the way for us to follow Him from life into true and unending life.

While dwelling in His earthly shell of dust, springing forth from His heart of hearts, Jesus' love, pure faith and wholehearted willingness to obey the Father's will was as a fragrant aroma lifted to the very heights of Heaven. On Calvary's cross, those became for us the only acceptable sacrifice pleasing to the LORD by which to gain us forgiveness and free-

dom from the chains that have us bound to this life on earth.

As Jesus Himself foretold, the raging winds and pouring rains of trial will surely fall upon our path during the spring-times of our life. Then, when winter comes, bringing death as the final enemy this world can offer, He says, "take courage, for I have overcome the

Our God and Savior has forged the way with His very life and bids us "come and follow Me." If in faith we obey, He will surely lead us safely home. So let us rejoice in the life He brings and glory in the hope that springs eternal knowing He is alive, and that forevermore!

Remember it this way, it was death that went to the cross to die. Jesus? He went to the cross that life may live for all - here and now and forevermore - Jody R Goode, redeemerweiser@gmail.com.

John 14:19 (NASB) - ...because I live, you will live also.

We all look forward to when we can safely meet again. What a joyous reunion that will be! We will keep you posted. Until then, stay well.

Home baking is on the rise

St. Luke's Episcopal by Carolyn Wesner

Due to current circumstances many of us have more time at home, and home baking is having a revival.

There are no scientific studies which reveal this trend, only the lack of flour on the grocery store shelves. Flour is used for bread, cake, pasta, and as a thickener added to other ingredients (and homemade Play-Dough).

Most baked goods also include "leavening," the thing which makes the ingredients bubble up and "rise." This leavening agent could be yeast, baking soda, baking powder, or even eggs. Home baking is a process which takes practice but the results give great satisfaction – nothing like a fresh-from-the-oven yeast roll with butter!

That said, the other definition of leavening has to do with...people. According to the dictionary, this type of leavening can be: "Anything with a quality or element that permeates and modifies or transforms something for the better/

worse."

In the Bible, Paul told the church at Corinth that they had old leaven of corruption and greed working among their families - get rid of it! Then he said "you will be like bread of a new baking" with the good leavening characteristics of sincerity and truth.

Especially today, there is lots of this good leaven bubbling along in our community: people helping people, showing gratitude for workers keeping our supplies coming, hospital and clinic staff continuing to work with the sick, teachers caring for their students via distance learning, lunches going out from schools and senior centers, churches connecting with Zoom services, clubs organizing charitable activities. This is the "good leavening," the fresh fragrant bread of a new baking in our hearts and minds.

We at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Weiser are thinking of you and praying for the safety of our communities. Take care, God bless, and listen for the bell on Sundays at 11 a.m.

Just something to think about

has been breezy enough some days this past week.

The down side of the warmer weather is the snakes are thinking it is spring, too. I don't care what they are, I do not like them.

Have you spent your check from Uncle Sam yet? I should be getting mine soon. I have heard that others have gotten theirs. I have a couple of things for it to go to, but it won't

I haven't seen any kites out, but it quite make me debt-free. That's cause I will still have car payments. I hope to get that taken care of sooner than

> Hope you are thriving in this time of "shut-down." I am glad God never closes heaven to our prayers. This time may even bring us more time to pause and think of and praise Him and read His word more.

Just something to think about.

C. Shaw

Security when the odds aren't in your favor

Riverside Baptist

Coronavirus has an "estimated" fatality rate of 3.5 percent. We don't really know for sure. Maybe you are following the statistics. You calculate how many people die by what age group. Maybe you aren't concerned because the odds are in your favor. Yet, every rule has an exception.

The odds game suddenly becomes personal if you're the one percent. So how can you find security in a world filled with odds?

I like to know the odds. It gives me a false sense of hope. Even if the odds are against me I believe I will be the exception. I am often guilty of wishful foolish thinking. Odds provide no guarantee.

That's why I was greatly challenged by John Piper's book "Christ and the Coronavirus." Piper shares his recent experience with cancer. Every step of the way he was told the odds. He says this, "Our hope is not in the odds. Our hope is in God."

We are always unsure of our physical condition. We may live or we may die. God has promised that in life or in death, we are His. His guarantee is through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He holds us in His sovereign, faithful, and good

hands. Do you have that assurance?

"You do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."" (James 4:14-15, ESV)

I highly recommend you read John Piper's book. You can download it for free at desiringgod.com.

If you have any questions about this article, the Bible, or our church please feel free to email us at rbcweiser@gmail.com. Our church website is riversidechurchweiser.com.

Pastor Ian Ross



Food of the week: Hamburger Helper or similar

Please bring donated items to Love INC 722 West Idaho • 414-5683

GOD BLESS AMERICA

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD

Directory of Churches

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Pastor Hunter Mizar - 208-414-0135 Sunday School -Adults - 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

Caravans, Wednesday, after school 510 E. Indianhead Rd. THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS FIRST WARD Bishop Judd Tolman Sacrament - 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

Group Lessons - 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. 208-549-1864

SECOND WARD Bishop Ammon Nordgren Sacrament - 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Group Lessons - 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

THIRD WARD

Bishop Mike Garrison Sacrament - 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Group Lessons - 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. 208-549-1872

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Services - 10 a.m. Sundays John Field, Sr. Warden - 208-549-0198 Blake Coats, Priest - 208-414-1994 www.saintlukes.episcopalidaho.or CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

402 East Court Street - 208-549-2563 Worship Service - 5 p.m. Sunday Pastor Christian Zimmerman 1st. 2nd and 3rd Sundays

WEISER WORSHIP CENTER P.O. Box 776

208-549-2677 Sunday Morning Service - 10:30 a.m. at Weiser Senior Center 115 E. Main St.

Pastor Sisto and Nicole Zavala
CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Presbyterian Church (USA) 718 State Street

Prelude of Praise - 9:45 a.m. Worship - 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour - 11:00 a.m. Rev. Daryl Wilson - 208-549-9779

THE HOUSE OF PRAYER

E. First and Liberty Streets - 208 606-9964 340 W. Commercial St. Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Sunday Night Service - 6:30 p.m. Sunday School Starting Sept. 4 - 9:30 a.m. Thursday Night Bible Study - 7 p.m. Pastors: Stephen & Debbie Blount 208-549-0669 or 208-318-8660

SAINT AGNES CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Gerald J. Funke 214 E. Liberty • 208-549-0088 Saturday Confessions: 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. English Saturday Mass: 5 p.m. English Sunday Mass: 9 a.m. Spanish Sunday Mass: 12 p.m English Daily Mass, Mon.: 12:10 p.m. Tues.-Wed.: 7:30 a.m. Friday Spanish Mass: 12:10 p.m.

First Saturday Mass: 8:30 a.m. Cambridge Sun. Mass: 10 a.m. or 3:30 p.m.* Council Sunday Mass: 10 a.m. or 3:30 p.m.* *alternating between Missions

WEISER CHRISTIAN CHURCH

1299 E. Second - 208-414-0270 Worship Service-11:00a.m. Sunday School-10:00 a.m. Tues. Evening Study-6:30 p.m. Thurs. Morning Study-10 a.m. Lyndon Haines, Pastor

CORNERSTONE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

515 E. Court St. - 208-549-2103 Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m. Children's Church - 10:50 a.m. Sunday Evening - 6 p.m. Wed. Prayer - 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study - 7 p.m. Youth Group, Children's Classes - 7 p.m.

Mark Burgess, Pastor COMMUNITY CHURCH OF WEISER

240 E. Main - 208-549-9030 Sunday School - 8:45 a.m. Children's Church - 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship - 10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour - 11:15 a.m. Wed,: High School Youth - 6:30 p.m. Small groups throughout the week. Steve Penner, Pastor

TRUE VINE PENECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP AND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

738 E. Main St. • 208-550-4938 Sunday School - 10 a.m. Morning Worship - 11 a.m. Evening Worship - 6 p.m. Wednesday Service - 7 p.m. Pastors Tim and Rhonda Ca Pastors Tim and Rhonda Cannor

WEISER MARANATHA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH Highway 95 North of Weiser

Song Service 9:20 a.m. Sabbath School 9:30 a.m. Church 11:00 a.m. 2nd & 4th weeks Vegetarian Fellowship Dinner 12 p.m.

Pastor Angel Acevedo - 208-810-0602 CHURCH OF CHRIST 595 E. 2nd and Liberty St.

Saturdays

Sunday School - 4 p.m. Sunday Services - 5 p.m. Wednesday Service - 7 p.m. Minister Kevin Hooper RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH Hwv. 95 South - 208-549-2210

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Worship Service - 10:45 a.m. Pastor Ian Ross - 208-549-8343



E. of Weiser

208-414-1102

Weiser Plumbing Service, LLC

Contract ID# 13403 827 E. Commercial

208-549-0386

COMFORT ZGNE HEATING and COOLING, LLC 283 E. Commercial 208-414-1302 CCB #116071



and Employees 602 Hwy. 95 - Weiser 208-549-3310 www.hometownmotors.com

CHAMPION HOME BUILDERS CO. Sunnyside 208-549-1410

Re-Elect RYAN

KERBY

District 9 House Seat A



PAID KERBY FOR IDAHO

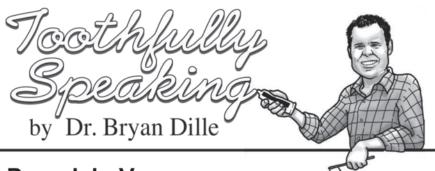






Have News to Report? Call 549-1717

208-272-0262



Porcelain Veneers

improving the appearance of the teeth is the application of porcelain veneers.

A porcelain veneer is a thin porcelain crown that is placed on the front surface of the tooth. The bonding procedure, which was explained in a previous column, is used to adhere the veneer to the tooth. Because the veneer is bonded to the tooth, it is very strong and durable.

Veneers are applied for a

effective method for variety of reasons. They can improve the tooth's appearance by changing the shape, the length and the color of the tooth, often with minimal preparation. covering the tooth's imperfections with porcelain veneers you can have a much more attractive and healthy smile.

> If you have a topic for an article send us an email at dilledental@gmail.com, or better yet, stop in at our office. We love to talk about teeth and we will be happy to



WEISER - 513 E. MAIN ST., WEISER, ID - 208 549-1732 CAMBRIDGE - 90 S. SUPERIOR ST., CAMBRIDGE ID - 208 257-4522

answer vour question(s) in future columns



The IHSAA suspended all high school sports and activities on March 17. The governing board continued the suspension through April 20, and last Friday officially cancelled all activities for the rest of the year. The decision also impacted activities like Weiser High School's cheer team, above, which was looking forward to another winning season at 3A competitions.

High school spring sports officially cancelled for rest of school year

IHSAA said decision to end season due to coronavirus made with 'sadness and regret'

by Steve Lyon

The Idaho High School Activities Association directors made it official last Friday by voting unanimously to cancel high school sports for the rest of the school year due to the circumstances surrounding the coronavirus pandemic.

The decision by the IHSAA to end the season didn't come as a surprise. Spring sports have been suspended since March 17, although the governing body did hold out a glimmer of hope that play could potentially resume if schools re-opened.

The possibility of salvaging the season dimmed with coronavirus-related developments last week. Gov. Brad Little last Wednesday extended the statewide stayhome order another two weeks through April 30.

Also, on Thursday the Idaho State Board of Education released restrictive criteria to be followed before any school district could reopen schools.

IHSAA officials said in a statement on Friday that, as the COVID-19 situation continued to evolve, it became apparent that sports and activities governed by the agency could not be held safely and still follow the parameters set by the governor, the SBOE and the IHSAA.

"We empathize with the students, schools and communities that this decision impacts. The IHSAA also understands the disappointment that this will have on our student participants, especially the seniors who were looking forward to a final culminating event," The IHSAA said.

The IHSAA board said its "highest priority" will always be ensuring the health and safety of student participants, schools and patrons.

Students in the Weiser School District have not been in the classroom since they left for spring break in March. Following a directive from the Idaho State Board of Education to close schools through April 20, the district implemented a remote learning plan with students receiving coursework online as of April 1.

Since then, the Weiser School District Board of Trustees met on April 13 and voted to extend the classroom closure through the end of the current school year and continue with remote education. Trustees said it was the best course of action given the uncertainties surrounding coro-

No schools have engaged in any sports or practices since the IHSAA suspended sports on March 17. In addition to all spring sports, the IHSAA postponed the state debate and speech championships. The IHSAA's decision also impacted sports including tennis, baseball, softball, golf and track and field.

One of the first activities to be suspended by the IHSAA due to concerns about the spread of coronavirus was cheer, a big letdown for members of Weiser High School's cheer squad, who were looking forward to the 3A state competition.

The IHSAA said current policies, based on the SBOE soft closure and current IHSAA rules, prohibit the use of school facilities and coaches from organizing or directing team workouts and practices remain in effect until May 18.

The IHSAA board will continue to have conversations regarding the fall no-contact period and eligibility concerns that have been raised by member schools over the past few weeks.

Youth baseball and softball league registration deadline is April 22

The youth baseball and softball program sponsored by the Weiser Recreation Department is currently taking registrations. Registration deadline is April 22 but the league is subject to change due to the stay-home order.

The leagues are open to boys ages 4-12 years of age and girls 4-14.

For the younger children there will be a co-ed t-ball league for those 4-6 years old. The pitch league is also co-ed and is open to children 7-8 years old. The fee is \$30 for city residents and \$35 for county resi-

Boys minors, age 9-10 and majors age 11-12 as of May 1 registration fee is \$46 for city residents and \$51 for county residents.

The girls U-11 league (9-11 years old) and girls U-14 (12-14 years old) fees are \$46 for city residents and \$51 for county **Participants** residents. must be the age of their division as of Jan. 1, 2020. Any eighth grade girl going into high school who has not participated in the high school softball program may participate.

For more information, call the Weiser Recreation Department at 208-414-0301 or visit their website at cityofweiser.net/recrea-

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to established procedure, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Washington County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing in the County Courthouse on April 27, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to consider 2020 Fiscal Year Budget adjustments for needed changes and to increase spending authority to the Solid Waste Capital Expense line for the purpose of purchasing a replacement trailer. The adjustment or adjustments to the 2020 Fiscal Year Budget to be considered will not affect levied property taxes.

The hearing officer shall be authorized to impose a fiveminute limitation on any oral testimony. If testimony is anticipated to exceed that five-minute limit, it may be submitted in writing in advance to the Clerk's office to be part of the

Any person needing special accommodations to participate in the above noticed meeting should contact the Clerk's office at the County Courthouse seven days prior to the meeting.

> Donna Atwood Washington County Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

The following application(s) have been filed to appropriate the public waters of the State of Idaho:

67-15356 MARY E RIDOUT 2020 VALLEY VIEW DR WEISER, ID 83672-1219

Point of Diversion SWSWNE S29 T11N R05W WASHING-TON County Source GROUND WATER

Use: IRRIGATION 03/01 to 11/15 0.03 CFS Total Diversion: 0.03 CFS

Date Filed: 01-06-2020 Place Of Use: IRRIGATION T11N R05W S29 SWNE,SENW Total Acres: 1

Permits will be subject to all prior water rights. For additional information concerning the property location, contact the Western office at (208)334-2190; or for a full description of the right(s), please see https://idwr.idaho.gov/apps/ExtSearch/WRApplicationResults/. Protests may be submitted based on the criteria of Idaho Code § 42-203A. Any protest against the approval of this application must be filed with the Director, Dept. of Water Resources, Western Region, 2735 W AIRPORT WAY, BOISE ID 83705-5082 together with a protest fee of \$25.00 for each application on or before 5/4/2020. The protestant must also send a copy of the protest to the ap-

GARY SPACKMAN, Director

Published on 4/16/2020 and 4/23/2020

Have News to Report? Call 549-1717

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 431 NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of School District No. 431, Washington County, pursuant to Section 33-601, Idaho Code, as amended, has determined that it is in the best interest of said school district to sell the property as identified below. An appraisal of school property as stated below has been duly made.

Description of property to be sold is as follows:

One (1) 1998 Freightliner – 71 passenger bus, diesel, auto transmission, Bus No. 18 (Possible problems with the trans-

Minimum bid for this bus is \$750.00. Said property will be sold (by sealed bid only) to the highest bidder above minimum and will be sold as is with no warranty. Bus must be removed from school district property no later than 2:00 p.m. Friday, May 15, 2020.

Sealed bids: A cashier's check or money order for 100% of the bid must accompany the bid. The unsuccessful bidders will have their cashier's checks or money orders returned immediately after the sale.

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all

Sealed bids will be open at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, May 1, 2020 at the Weiser School District Office, 925 Pioneer Road. Any bids received after the bid opening will not be considered. Contact Rod Gehrke at 208-414-0148 regarding questions about the bus or to schedule an appointment to inspect the

Dated this 16th day of April, 2020.

School District No. 431 Washington County, Idaho

17-1S

Missing Out on the News? Receive it 24/7 online and get it delivered. Call 208-549-1717 signalamerican.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF WEISER TREASURER'S QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT QUARTER ENDED MARCH 31, 2020

| | | QUARTER | YEAR TO DATE | % BUDGET |
|--------------------------|---|----------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| GOVERNMENTALFUNDS | | | | |
| GENERAL FUND | | | | |
| BEGINNING BALANCE: | \$2,211,105.44 | | | |
| RECEIPTS: | | \$1,676,740.44 | \$1,916,494.47 | 65.2 |
| EXPENDITURES: | | | 50455504 | 41.0 |
| PERSONNEL SERVICES | | 413,111.16 | 794,755.81 | 41.2 |
| OTHER SERVICES | | 101,967.11 | 201,448.90 | 31.5 |
| CAPITAL OUTLAY | | 4,457.50 | 17,936.03 | 3.4 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | | 519,535.77 | 1,014,140.74 | 32.8 |
| ENDING BALANCE: | 3,368,310.11 | , | | |
| | , , | | | |
| OTHER GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS | | | | |
| BEGINNING BALANCE: | 3,032,731.46 | | 0.40.444.45 | 560 |
| RECEIPTS: | | 728,324.34 | 940,411.15 | 56.2 |
| EXPENDITURES: | | 155 711 06 | 202 071 71 | 45.4 |
| PERSONNEL SERVICES | | 155,711.86 | 293,871.71 | 43.4 44.9 |
| OTHER SERVICES | | 106,978.86 | 205,749.14 47,945.24 | 7.9 |
| CAPITAL OUTLAY | | 34,000.58 | 47,943.24 | 7.9 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | | 296,691.30 | 547,566.09 | 31.9 |
| ENDING BALANCE: | 3,464,364.50 | 270,071.30 | , | |
| ENDING BREARCE. | 3,101,301.30 | | | |
| PROPRIETARY FUNDS | | | | |
| BEGINNING BALANCE: | 17,280,691.66 | | | |
| RECEIPTS: | 17,200,071.00 | 1,698,617.77 | 3,310,048.68 | 49.1 |
| EXPENDITURES: | | 1,000,017.77 | -,, | |
| PERSONNEL SERVICES | | 419,296.78 | 793,321.64 | 45.9 |
| OTHER SERVICES | | 916,295.16 | 1,804,659.17 | 40.8 |
| CAPITAL OUTLAY | | 46,603.95 | 62,035.56 | 10.8 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | | 1,382,195.87 | 2,660,016.37 | 39.5 |
| ENDING BALANCE: | 17.597.113.56 | 1,302,193.07 | 2,000,010.37 | 37.3 |
| ENDING BALANCE. | ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,, | | | |

Other governmental funds includes: Library, street, tort, special reserve, recreation, airport and employee benefit trust. Proprietary funds includes: Water bond, sewer improvement, sewer bond, water service, electric service, garbage collection, sewer, meter deposit, internal service and water improvement.

CITIZENS ARE INVITED TO INSPECT THE DETAILED SUPPORTING RECORDS OF THE ABOVE FINAN-

CIAL STATEMENT. (ID Code 50-1011) Debra Dawson, Treasurer

PUBLIC NOTICE

Scott R. Ellwood Pro Se

1425 East Park Street Weiser, Idaho 83672

Telephone: (208) 414-8331

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHINGTON

MAGISTRATE DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: BEVERLY JEAN ELLWOOD, Decedent.

CASE NO. CV44-18-1163

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY Given that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named Decedent. All persons having claims against the Decedent or her estate are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to the undersigned at the address indicated or filed with the Clerk of the Court.

> Scott R. Ellwood 1425 East Park Street Weiser ID 83672 (208) 414-8331

16-3S

PUBLIC NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals will be received by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, c/o the MK Nature Center, 600 South Walnut St, Boise, Idaho 83712, until 2:00 p.m., prevailing local time, on May 6, 2020 for DFG Project No. 2019-120, Payette River WMA Shop. Bids may also be mailed by U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to P.O. Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707 but must arrive to the PO Box before 7:00 a.m. on May 6, 2020. Do not mail to 600 South Walnut St when using USPS.

This project consists of the construction of a new 35' x 61' free-standing shop building and associated site improvements for the Payette River WMA Shop Building. The construction includes tying into an onsite septic system, a concrete slab system, and work areas for a typical garage shop, including bathroom and shower. The bid shall also include proposals for optional fencing and an optional covered storage area.

Proposals will be opened and publicly read at 2:00 p.m. on May 6, 2020 at the MK Nature Center.

A pre-bid tour of the project (highly recommended) will be held on April 30, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Contact the Bureau of Engineering, (208) 334-3730 by April 29, 2020 to make arrangements to attend this tour.

Specifications, proposal forms and other information are on file for examination at the following locations:

Department of Fish and Game 600 South Walnut, PO Box 25 Boise, ID 83707

Associated General Contractors 1649 West Shoreline Drive, Suite 100 Boise, ID 83702

planroom@idahoagc.org

Dodge Data & Analytics 413-424-3291

dodge.docs@construction.com Spokane Regional Plan Center

PO Box 2968 209 N Havana St Spokane, WA 99202 projectinfo@plancenter.net

Abadan Reprographics 603 E 2nd Ave Spokane, WA 99202 509-747-2964

planroom@abadanplancenter.com

iSqFt Planroom 800-364-2059 866-570-8187 FAX idaho@isqft.com

Construct Connect

content@constructconnect.com

A bid bond in the amount of 5% of the bid is required.

Documents may be obtained for bidding purposes from the Department of Fish and Game, Bureau of Engineering, Attn: Tim Eddy, Phone (208) 287-2842. No deposit is required. However, documents shall be returned to the above address.

A Public Works Contractors License for the State of Idaho is required of the successful bidder prior to the award of a contract. If a bidder does not currently have a Public Works Contractors License for the State of Idaho, he must verify the capability of obtaining a license prior to submitting a proposal.

17-2S

MICHAEL S. MAFFEY CHIEF, BUREAU OF ENGINEERING IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME



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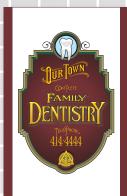
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This classified ad special is for private party sales only. No commercial businesses. Ads must be under 15 words. All orders must be paid for in advance of publication.

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Deadline for this page — 12:00 p.m. Monday. Minimum charge \$6.30

1 2 3 4 time timestimes times 3 lines \$11 \$16 \$20 \$25 4 lines \$12 \$17 \$21 \$26 5 lines \$13 \$18 \$22 \$27

A charge of 50 cents is added to ads that must be billed. All private party Want Ads must be paid in advance.

Count three medium size words to the line. Include address and phone number in count

For Sale

MTD lawnmower, 20" cutting width, 2 years old. \$120. 208-549-2250. fs-32-tfp

46 "Just vou

wait, -

'iggins ...'

52 Cochlea site 110 Actress

47 Near-failing

mark

54 "Will -

learn?!"

58 Beer brand

60 Microwave

66 Orchestra

section

69 Old Spice

70 Reagan

Peggy

71 Cyberspace

address

75 Lose power

79 Arduous trip

80 Suffix with

Japan

83 "My gripe is

86 Coup, e.g.

88 Lay new turf

89 Not well-lit

91 Crab claws

as follows ..."

81 45 half

72 Pars?

Moines

alternative

speechwriter

saltines?

ACROSS

1 Laid fresh

8 Waste

13 Found

22 Kildare

locale

25 Runs fast

27 "Teh" for

singing

29 "Growing

30 Tower for

fodder

32 Uncanny

34 24-hr. money

natives, e.g.

sources

36 Japan

38 "Lookie

there,

muscle

building

stuff!"?

42 Terrestrial

110

127

130

chapeau?

28 Jazzy

26 1980s NBC

"the," for one

Pains" actor

23 More with-it

red fish?

actors

21 Malia's sister

concrete on

20 Like gushing 48 Analyzed

For Sale

Apartment size washing machine. Exc. cond. 2 years old. Located in Weiser. \$275 cash. 719-217-0105.

fs-28-tfp
BUY LOCAL! THE ULtimate soil enrichment! We sell Red Wiggler worms and worm castings for healthy gardens. 208-550-2096.

fs-19-tfp
LADIES GERMAN BELT
buckle, old dresser
and mirror, crib. (208)
549-0096. fs-14-tfp
PARTS FOR '49 CHEVY.
550-0568.fs-49-tfp

Miscellaneous

ALCOHOLICS ANONYmous. 741-4085. ms-31-tf

Super Crossword

2 Mrs. Oskar

Schindler

3 Easy-to-

4 Org. for

5 — Cona

Say

7 Dictator

9 Copies Dr.

ora.

catch hit

Rafael Nadal

6 "— Time We

Goodbye'

8 Air marshal's

shaver brand 10 U.S. humane 53 Chastised

ribbon round 11 Put away, as 56 Prefix with

a sword

13 Shopping

14 Oliver Twist,

aid

e.g.

15 Bright red

16 Silverstone

or Keys

17 Tall ale mug

18 International

compact

deg. 24 Branching-

31 "- Next

19 Cavity filler's

out points

12 "NewsRadio"

co-star Phil

100 Zool. or ecol.

egg layer?

predators?

105 Disease-free

sea

Matlin

111 Rat catcher

113 '60s conflict

114 "Star Wars"

royal 115 Royal home

119 "- vellow

122 Journalist

Nellie

124 Things

123 Not unusual

found at

discount

127 Italian city

128 Steel, for one

129 Adversaries

130 Agrees (to)

Velvet"

singer

132 Orchestra

leader

Alannah

131 "Black

shoe stores?

site

Services

grades available, road grade or clean. 10 yd. min. Mann Creek location. For pricing (208) 549-0391. s-9-tf

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s-11-tf

Miscellaneous

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WHOO-HOO!

85 Bait biter

87 Smack

90 Complain

resistance

kangaroos

94 Angers a lot

96 Patriarch of

Judaism

97 Majestic

silver

102 Enlighten, in

"Saturday

Night Live

104 Pour gently,

as wine

rapper 107 Hang a new

108 Word with

app or bee 109 Makes the

112 Green

assertion

shampoo

Krabappel

chaser?

118 Burn balm

121 Chick

worm on

Baby" studio 106 "Relapse"

poems

103 Kevin of

99 Juan's

93 Frogs and

92 Unit of

37 "- loves

39 California's

Point —

41 Biblical ark

builder

terminer

climber, e.g.

55 SUV cousins

57 "Bringing Up

59 Sang loudly

61 Radius site

62 Part of CRT

lettuce

footballer

villainously

74 Lop the crop

68 Dinar earner 116 Periods

73 Once named 120 Ferber or

64 Oakland

65 Smiles

72 Hovels

77 "- goin'

down!"

63 Alternative to

43 — and

48 Waylay

51 Dumbbell

49 "Yes, ·

50 Peak

automaker

ms-9-tf

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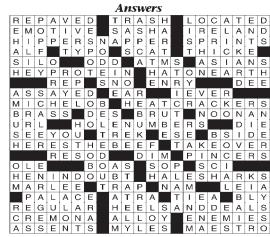
WE HAVE SENIOR APARTMENTS (62 or older and disabled, regardless of age) AVĂILABLE IN CĂMBRIDGE, IDA-HO. RENT BASED ON INCOME. LAUNDRY FRIDGE CILITIES, CARPET, BLINDS. ELECTRIC FOR APPLICATION. CALL Cindi Nash 208-585-9325, EXT. #138 OR APPLY AT OFFICE - 377 COR-NELL ST., MIDDLE-TON, IDAHO. Hearing impaired - call Idaho Relay at 7-1-1 SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO COOPERA-TIVE HOUSING AU-THORITY. & **(**

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- Super Crossword **-**



Real Estate



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This week's featured listing:
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Wanted

THE CITY OF WEISER IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR A LIFEGUARD FOR THE WEISER POOL

Must be at least 16 years of age, have current lifeguard and CPR certifications. Duties will include but not limited to watching over swimmers, keeping up on pool maintenance, and working with the public. Applicant must have the ability to lift 50 lbs, work weekends, work holidays, and have a flexible work schedule. Applicant must be able to follow written and verbal directions. This position is seasonal for approximately 3 months. Hours per week will vary. Starting wage is \$7.25 or depending on experience. Closing date is 5:00 p.m. on May 8, 2020. Applications are available at the Weiser Recreation Department. The City of Weiser is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Answer to this week's puzzle and additional puzzles are available on our website

44 Dem.'s 92 Bullfighting Chapter 78 Suffix of 123 Nipper's co. DOWN opponent cheer (Winfrey sugars 125 Procedure 81 Pianist's seat 95 Gaudy 1 Go over -cone series) again, as old 33 Eat in style 126 Dash (frozen scarves 82 Communal 98 Be soaked 35 Least lenient 84 Boxcar rider 20 38 46 66 83 93

124

128

131

129

132

Weiser woman follows dream of flying for a living

Chandelle Huerta is close to getting her private pilot's license and then will pursue more training

by Nicole Miller

When Chandelle Huerta was born, her parents chose her unusual name with a unique meaning: a French aerial movement where you take off and take a 180-degree turn.

Her father was a pilot, and Chandelle began flying with him in his Cessna 182 or Skymaster almost from day one. Together, they attended fly-ins all over the country and made a yearly trip to Florida to see her grandma.

These activities were the seeds that planted Huerta's dream of becoming an airline pilot.

Huerta's dream lasted several years until she attended a large aviation seminar, where she was able to listen to airline pilots talk about their jobs.

The schedule of a few days on and a few days off did not appeal to her because she did not think that kind of schedule would work whenever she became a mom.

She decided that instead of pursuing a career as an airline pilot, she would get a private pilot's license and look for another career path that still involved flying.

During her junior year of high school, she took one part of an online ground school class through Utah



Chandelle Huerta fell in love with flying at a young age. Her dad is a pilot and together they went to fly-ins all over the country. Huerta hopes to work in aviation when she completes her pilot's license.

Valley University.

By that time she had moved to Weiser, where her dad had started a wildland firefighting business that kept him pretty busy and left little time to fly.

Because of this, Huerta was not able to apply the

things that she was learning in the ground school and she felt that none of the information stuck in her head for very long.

She decided that her new aviation career dream was to become a LifeFlight pilot. She took an EMT-basic class during her senior year of high school. Even the pilots for LifeFlight have to be paramedics, so this was the first step in fulfilling that dream.

She quickly learned that EMT work was not for her, so she began to pursue other interests. She earned an associate's degree and has held a variety of jobs before taking over her dad's wildland firefighting business for a few years. The dream of being a pilot still hung tight.

"Every time I saw an airplane fly by I always said to myself, 'that will be me one day,'" Huerta said

Huerta was able to start her flight training through Nikita Clark, a certified flight instructor out of Payette in January. Her training so far has only taken her three months, but this has included about 50 hours of flight time, both dual and solo.

She has also completed cross country flights (dual and solo) and a night cross country flight with her instructor.

She has had to fly into towered airports (dual and solo) and has had to have a few hours of instrument training.

Many people take a lot longer to get their private pilot license, but Huerta has been trying to fly two to three times per week (as weather permits) and has been studying really hard to complete this training in a short amount of time.

While she is still deciding on exactly how to use the license for a full-time career, she is on the path of achieving her dreams.

Huerta will earn her private pilot license shortly if everything goes according to plan. After that she is going to take a couple tests to become a ground instructor so that she can help her flight instructor with some of his other students and be able to earn some more money towards her flight training.

For a full-time career, she will need additional training and up to 1,500 hours of flight time and three to five years of experience.

Huerta shared that her favorite thing about flying is the freedom that she feels while she's up in the air.

"It's peaceful and my other worries just wash away for a few moments as I take in the beautiful scenery around me. It's like I'm untouchable and free," Huerta said.

Of all the things her future as a pilot holds, Huerta is most looking forward to taking her family up in the plane to experience the freedom of flight with her.

Her student license prohibits her from carrying passengers, but one of the first things she plans to do after she gets her private pilot license is take her husband, Emilio, for a flight.

All people deserve to be safe in their homes and in their communities – even while sheltering-in-place

Safer Together
With Community Connection and Care

Idaho's communities are experiencing intensified stresses and new traumas as our country and the entire world work to contain COVID-19 and save lives. With more and more people experiencing unemployment, food and housing insecurities — risks for domestic and sexual violence are likely to be on the rise. For people living in a home where violence or abuse occur, sheltering-in-place can increase exposure with the person engaging in harmful behaviors and can limit social interaction and the ability to seek help in typical ways.

It is our collective responsibility to come together to protect the lives of those around us by limiting the spread of this disease and by interrupting violence in our homes and communities. We can do both.

Idaho's community and tribal domestic and sexual violence organizations are meeting this moment of uncertainty with community connection, care and the **ongoing**provision of essential services — emergency housing, safety planning, and support.

If you or anyone you know is being harmed, please reach out for help:

ROSE Advocates

Weiser (208) 414-0740

Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence www.engagingvoices.org

This ad is supported by Victims of Crime Act, awarded by the Idaho Council on Domestic Violence and Victim Assistance, under a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime/Famil

Cristy Road Carrera @croadcore

The opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily reject the views of the Grant