

County sees increase in jobless rate

COVID-19 impact felt locally and statewide in April

by Steve Lyon

The unemployment rate in Washington County jumped from 3 percent in March to 9.2 percent in April as businesses were impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

The county's jobless rate in April was still lower than the state's unemployment rate of 11.5 percent. Idaho shed 79,500 jobs during the month, according to the Idaho Department of Labor.

There were 139 people looking for work in March in the county. That number increased to 417 in April as the governor's stay-home order closed nonessential businesses and customer demand dropped.

Neighboring counties also experienced an increase in unemployment rates. Payette County rose to 9.4 percent in April from 2.8 percent in March. The number of people looking for work increased from 330 in March to 1,091 in April.

Sparsely populated Adams County had a significant increase in April, rising from an unemployment rate of 5.3 percent in March to 18.4 percent in April. The number of jobless people rose from 92 to 336.

The state jobless rate increased nine percentage points from a record low 2.5 percent in March to an all-time high that exceeded rates of 10.2 percent in December 1982 and the Great Recession peak rate of 9.6 percent in June 2009.

Four industry sectors suffered the biggest job losses with month-over-month decreases of 10 percent or more in April. They included leisure

see **JOBLESS**, Page 10

LATE MAY HEATWAVE DIDN'T LAST LONG



Saturday's high temperature in Weiser came close to the triple-digit mark. In an unseasonably hot end to May, high temperature records were tied or broken across the Treasure Valley on Friday and Saturday during what turned out to be a short-lived heat wave. Cooler temperatures in the 70s arrived on Sunday and rain on Monday.

Photo by Steve Lyon

PICKING UP HAY BALES



Rick Michael collects hay bales in a field next to the Weiser River and just east of the Hometown Motors property on Monday. Hay farmers have gotten in at least one cutting so far this year and the alfalfa looks pretty good. It's been tricky to get the hay cut and baled while scattered rain showers have moved through the area over the past couple of days. Photo by Steve Lyon

Weiser Memorial Hospital one of many rural hospitals to receive COVID-19 assistance

by Steve Lyon

Weiser Memorial Hospital has received millions in federal funds through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act earmarked to financially assist rural health care providers.

Idaho's share totaled \$122.8 million and funds went to 92 rural hospitals and health providers. The money was part of \$10 billion the HHS is distributing from the CARES Act in provider relief funds to rural health care facilities.

Many rural hospitals, including WMH, took a hit on revenue starting in March from the coronavirus pandemic, when elective surgeries were suspended and the facility also experienced a slowdown in normal

outpatient activity.

In an email to the *Weiser Signal American*, CFO Mark Christensen said the magnitude of the revenue shortfall has varied widely, but early on the hospital was seeing a reduction in net revenue of \$100,000 per week. The hospital has resumed doing some surgeries and procedures but is still running below budgeted revenue levels.

Hospital CEO Steve Hale updated hospital district trustees last week on what the hospital has received in federal relief funds and how they can be spent.

The hospital has not categorized the CARES Act relief funds as income because what isn't spent on COVID-19-related expenses will likely have to be returned.

The \$3.4 million in CARES Act rural provider relief that WMH as a critical care facility received must be used exclusively for COVID-19 expenses. Hospital staff members have been requested to keep track of all costs that could qualify for the COVID-19 funds, Hale said.

"We're trying to make sure we are fully in compliance with spending the COVID-19-related money," Hale said.

The hospital will be expected to show what the needs for the funds have been and return funds that have not been needed. Officials have not been given a timeframe on when unused federal funds might be paid

see **ASSISTANCE**, Page 10

Reported rattlesnake bite is the first this year

Western rattlesnake is most common species found in southwest Idaho

by Steve Lyon

A man was reportedly bitten by a rattlesnake on Thursday near the campground at Mann Creek Reservoir and required medical attention.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office received the 911 call at 5 p.m. from the snakebite victim's wife.

She drove from the reservoir to U.S. Highway 95, where they were met by an ambulance and the victim was transported to Weiser Memorial Hospital.

An effort to get information on the man's condition was not successful.

Sheriff Matt Thomas said

there have been sightings of rattlesnakes in the county, with many of those out by the mercury mine east of Weiser.

This was the first incident of someone getting bit by a rattlesnake that he could remember in many years.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game's rattlesnake expert based in Nampa said he has not heard of any increase in the rattlesnake population this year.

Rattlesnakes have been out since the first warm days of April. There have been sightings of the reptiles reported

see **SNAKE**, Page 10



The western rattlesnake is not considered to be aggressive around humans and is more apt to retreat than bite. The snake lives in rocky, desert terrain. If a rattlesnake is encountered, experts say to just walk around it. Courtesy photo

Obituaries



Sarah E. (Peggy) Ryan

After a long illness, Sara E. Ryan (Peggy), 89, of Weiser, Idaho, passed away in her home on May 27, 2020, with her family by her side.

The fifth child of a family of ten, she was born on the family farm in Bendena, Kansas, on Jan. 6, 1931, to Roger and Ida Mae Gallagher (Thomas). She attended Doniphan County School through the eighth grade.

In 1945 her family relocated to Caldwell, Idaho, where she attended Caldwell High School and worked locally afterward.

Leaving her home on the Kansas farm was a difficult adjustment, but Idaho grew in her heart.

After many years of moving around the western part of the country, she was able to finally settle down in Weiser, and since 1964, she called Weiser home where she raised her children and worked locally.

Bartending was one of her many talents. She loved the people and the people loved her. More of-



Bill Parsons, and Diane (Craig) Tucker, all residing in Weiser. She had nine grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

All of us have been schooled by her with the “informal education” of finding the elusive Leprechaun.

She loved life and had the ability not to take bumps in the road too seriously. Even now we can hear her say, “Look there’s a Leprechaun.”

Our hearts are full of sadness but very full because we had her to love us, and in turn we loved her and miss her deeply.

Sara is survived by two brothers, James (Anita) Gallagher of Puyallup, Washington, and Roger (Ann) Gallagher of Norman, Oklahoma. Her children and her grandchildren; Jason, Shelley, Paul, Tiffany, Melissa, Lisa, Christie, Kelly, and Roderick. Seventeen great-grandchildren and 25 nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband, two brothers, Thomas Gallagher and Jack Gallagher and five sisters, Julia Hiles, Ruth Baker, Marie Lembke, Ida Craft, Mary Pat Gallagher, three nephews and two nieces.

A funeral mass will be held Friday, June 12, 2020 at 10 a.m. followed by a luncheon at the Weiser Senior Center. Interment will be held at the Hillcrest Cemetery at 12:30 p.m.

ten than not, the customers came in just to see her and hear her music.

Dressed in green for St. Patrick’s Day, she would entertain them with “My Wild Irish Rose” on the piano and made them all feel special.

Without a music lesson or the training to read music, she learned to play by ear and became adept at replicating any song she heard.

In 1969, she met the love of her life, Larry A. Ryan, and five years later, on Dec. 24, 1974, they were married and settled in a house on Hale Road.

Her love of people, music, animals and Mother Nature dominated her life. No one ever left Peg’s house without eating her garden green beans or new red potatoes. She never knew a stranger and all were welcomed into her home.

Peggy was one of the most kind-hearted woman you would ever hope to know.

She was the heartbeat of her children; Cynthia Jones, Mary Renner,



Dr. Richard Joseph Giever

World War II veteran, Dr. Richard Joseph Giever, passed away on June 1, 2020. He was a husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather.

Richard was born Oct. 11, 1927 in Spaulding, Nebraska to Dr. John B. and Thelma (Smith) Giever. He joined his brother, Jack, and sister, Eileen, in completing the family.

He attended Spaulding Academy until he finished high school. He graduated early and, at the age of 17, joined the Navy which he loved. During WWII, he served as a pharmacist mate on the USS Calvert and the USS Mount McKinley.

After the war, he enrolled in medical school at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

While there, mutual friends set him up on a blind date with a lovely Irish girl named Mary Margaret Ryan. He literally fell for her when he arrived during a snowstorm and they both fell down the icy steps. They married eight months later on August 7, 1950. Theirs was a love story that lasted for 60 years until Mary Margaret’s death in 2010. They married while Richard was still in medical school.

During that time, they had two children, Kathleen Mary, and Richard Joseph Jr. in Omaha.

After Richard graduated

with his Medical Doctorate degree, they moved to Powell, Wyoming where he had his first practice. While in Powell, they had two daughters – Kristin Celeste and Kyla Marie. They also lost two daughters soon after their births.

They moved from Powell in 1961 and he began a practice in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Their son, Paul Michael, was born there in 1963.

Ever adventuresome, Richard and Mary Margaret moved from Las Cruces in 1965 and landed in Weiser, Idaho where Richard had the Family Practice Group until he retired in 1992. Their final child, Karen Ann, was born in 1966.

Richard was a family physician and surgeon. He had a very busy practice, delivering over 500 babies during his 27 years in Weiser.

After his retirement in 1992, Richard and Mary Margaret moved having homes in Eagle and then in Boise. We always felt that move was to be closer to the mall for mom.

Richard loved making things. He enjoyed wood working, crossword puzzles, books, stained glass, and traveling. He thrived on sailing and boating. Our vacations were mainly to lakes in Idaho and Oregon. He loved Wallowa Lake in Oregon where we had reunions every year.

Being with his family and attending his Catholic Church made him the happiest. He called his children every day just to check in and make sure everything was okay. He loved his local Catholic Church, Holy Apostles, and greatly enjoyed his conversations there with his coffee group (Charlie, Jo, Dick, Patty, Mary, Marge, Jim, Emma, etc.). and his priest, Father Len MacMillan. He relished doing Adoration at

the chapel there as well. He was a regular at five o’clock mass each Saturday and attended daily mass until he was not able to physically attend.

For the last six years, he lived at his daughter, Kristin’s home and passed away peacefully there.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Margaret, his parents, two daughters, his brother and sister, his son-in-law, Pete Skow, and his grandson, Joseph Dickerson.

He is survived by his family who will ever miss him.

The family wants to thank all his friends who regularly kept in touch with him. We want to also thank Exceptional Care Givers and St. Luke’s Hospice care for their wonderful treatment of dad. We especially want to thank Father Len MacMillan and Dr. Gretchen Kohler and Dr. Bryan Drake for their kindness and friendship.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Corpus Christi House at 525 S. Americana Blvd., Boise, Idaho 83702, to Holy Apostles Catholic Church at 6300 N. Meridian Road, Meridian, Idaho 83646 or to a charity of your choice.

Private services for the family will be held on Thursday, June 4, at Holy Apostles Catholic Church. The Rosary will begin at 10:30 a.m., followed by celebration of the funeral mass at 11 a.m.

Friends are invited to join the family virtually at https://www.facebook.com/holyapostles.church/live_videos/

Interment will be at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery.

Please visit www.AccentFuneral.com to leave remembrances for the family. Services are under the care of Accent Funeral Home and Cremation, Meridian.

College News

Weiser students earn degrees at Boise State University

This spring at Boise State University, 2,785 students were eligible for 3,232 degrees and certificates, with 785 students eligible for honors; 389 cum laude, 311 magna cum laude and 85 summa cum laude.

Watch the full commencement ceremony, along with shout-out videos from students and faculty, at boisestate.edu/commencement.

The following students from Washington County earned degrees:

Victor Lazaro, Bachelor’s in business administration; Nicholas Petitmermet, Cambridge, Bachelor’s of science in computer science; Lisa Horzen, Bachelor’s in multidisciplinary studies; Carson Merrill, Master’s of business administration; Mikayla Hubele, Bachelor’s in accountancy; Becca Torres, Bachelor’s of science in chemistry.

A public metropolitan research university with nearly 28,000 students, Boise State is proud to be powered by creativity and innovation. The university has a growing research agenda and plays a crucial role in the region’s knowledge economy and quality of life.

Coming Ups

Weed Advisory Board

The Washington County Weed Advisory Board will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 9, at 7 p.m. at the Washington County Weed Department located at 1118 E. Court St., Weiser, Idaho. The public is welcome to attend.

Republican Central Committee to meet June 9

The Washington County Republican Central Committee will meet on Tuesday, June 9, at the Weiser Elks Lodge at 7 p.m. The meeting will be the central committee’s reorganization meeting with election of officers. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

Death Notices

- Linda Kay Fowler**
Linda Kay Fowler, 76, of Weiser, Idaho, passed away May 20, 2020, in Weiser. Arrangements under the direction of Thomason Funeral Home.
- Nelly Juliette Morse**
Nelly Juliette Morse, 85, of Weiser, Idaho, passed away May 25, 2020, in Weiser. Arrangements under the direction of Thomason Funeral Home.
- Naomi M. Morley**
Naomi M. Morley, 91, of Nyssa, Ore., passed away May 26, 2020 at Nyssa Gardens. Arrangements are under the direction of Haren-Wood Funeral Chapel, Ontario.
- Karan Mae Ward**
Karan Mae Ward, 76, of Nyssa, Ore., died May 31, 2020, at home. Arrangements by Lienkaemper Chapel, Nyssa.
- Delbert Randall Buell**
Delbert Randall Buell, 91, of Ontario, Ore., died May 28, 2020, at a local assisted living facility. Arrangements by Lienkaemper Chapel, Ontario.
- Javier Fuentes**
Javier Fuentes, 60, of Ontario, Ore., died May 26, 2020 at home. Arrangements by Lienkaemper Chapel, Ontario.
- Lillian Irene Roberts Vinsonhaler**
Lillian Irene Roberts Vinsonhaler, 97, of Nyssa, Ore., died May 27, 2020 at a local assisted living facility. Arrangements by Lienkaemper Chapel, Nyssa.
- Todd B. Winings**
Todd B. Winings, 57, of Ontario, Ore., died May 23, 2020 near Huntington, Ore. Arrangements by Lienkaemper Chapel, Ontario.
- Evalyn E. Wieneke**
Evalyn E. Wieneke, 104, of Ontario, Ore., died May 24, 2020 at a local assisted living facility. Arrangements by Lienkaemper Chapel, Ontario.

Deadline for submitting obituaries and death notices is noon on Monday
news@signalamerican.com



Weiser Memorial Hospital Foundation is raising funds to buy outdoor gym equipment for public use. The durable equipment will be set up at City Park once all the location details have been worked out. The foundation is still raising funds for the project, which is estimated to cost about \$26,000.

City gives initial approval for outdoor gym project

Weiser Memorial Hospital is buying the equipment to promote health and fitness

by Steve Lyon

Weiser city leaders recently approved a preliminary plan to install new outdoor exercise equipment at City Park once the details have been worked out.

Weiser Memorial Hospital and the hospital's foundation are raising the funds for the project. The goal is to provide the public with the fitness equipment to use and hopefully encourage a healthy lifestyle, said Kasey Brock, community health education coordinator.

Brock provided the city council with details on the scope and cost of the outdoor gym project and proposed that the exercise equipment be permanently located in City Park, where it would be easily accessible to the public and likely see the most usage.

She came up with the goal of buying the gym equipment in 2019 as a way to promote exercise and make it accessible. The hospital did a community health needs assessment that identified physical inactivity and obesity as two leading health issues that need to be addressed.

"We see high numbers in these areas in Washington County and they are major contributing factors for some of our most prevalent chronic conditions and causes of death," Brock said.

The outdoor gym project will include six double-sided pieces of workout equipment – a leg press, tower, cross country skier, chest press, lateral pull-down and a fit rider machine. The equipment will provide users with the opportunity to complete a whole body workout.

The exercise equipment is durable, designed for the weather and low maintenance. It's a recreational amenity that will be easily accessible to the public and adds value to the park. Other cities in Idaho have had similar equipment in place in parks for a decade with no issues, she said.

"It shows our community that we place a value on health," Brock said.

The exact location of where the equipment will be installed has not been finalized. One idea was to carve out a space in the northeast corner of City Park. Parents could use the workout equipment while their kids played on playground equipment. Dog walkers at the park could stop for a quick workout.

Once a spot has been determined, the individual pieces of exercise equipment will be installed with cement posts. The

equipment comes preassembled and ships about 10 weeks after the order is placed. People will use the exercise equipment more if it is placed in a cluster rather than spaced out, Brock said.

The total cost of the project, including all gym equipment, installation labor, cement and gravel for the ground cover, was estimated by Brock at \$26,195.

In all, WMH employees have given \$8,879 through contributions to buy three pieces of equipment. Another \$1,200 was raised through donations to Idaho Gives, leaving a balance of about \$17,000.

Brock also partnered with the WMH Foundation to explore grant opportunities to complete the project funding. She hopes the balance can be raised by the end of the summer. Applying for grants required that the city approve putting the equipment on public property.

Council member Larry Hogg said he had concerns about the city taking over maintenance of the gym equipment and who would assume liability for it.

He also asked why the hospital doesn't install the exercise equipment on the hospital's property.

Brock said there is more parking around City Park and it makes the most sense to place it in a multi-use public park. If the equipment were installed on the hospital grounds, the public might not understand it is open for all to use.

City Clerk Dave Tate said the liability for the exercise equipment would be the same as playground equipment at parks. The city has insurance that handles all injury claims.

City attorney Steve Stuchlik said the city also has what is called recreational immunity if someone gets hurt on playground or any other equipment that is open for public use.

Hogg said he wanted the parks committee to work out the details on where the equipment is placed and the layout. The final plans should come back to the city council for one last review.

Council member Dan Randleman said he was in favor of the outdoor gym project. He said he could envision people out on their walks using the equipment for a workout.

"I think it's a very viable project," he said.

After a lengthy discussion, the council took a vote and approved moving forward with the outdoor gym project.

Celebration of Life for the beloved
Ida Laurell Widener



Saturday, June 13th
at 3 pm
1555 Hwy. 95, Weiser
Reception to follow.
To keep practicing social distancing this is an outdoor celebration and there will be masks and hand sanitizer available

LISA COLLINI
Candidate for Washington County Commissioner



Thank you to the Washington County Clerk's office for all the hard work they do each and every election.

It is a pleasure serving Washington County and the surrounding communities.

Thank you for voting

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As essential workers, our team members are on the front lines every day, helping families when they need it most. To support our community, we're finding new ways to serve you safely, including offering:

- Planning and purchasing arrangements online
- Phone, video calls, or screen sharing
- Electronic signature for documents
- Livestreaming memorial services

To the families keeping safe at home, to those that have to go out to work, and for everyone doing all they can during this uncertain time, we thank you. We want you to know that we, too, are doing all we can to keep our community safe and healthy.

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FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Weiser looks good, thanks to street department

I just went by the city pool. Although it is cool today (Monday), there were a few young individuals there enjoying themselves with the ability to get out of the house.

As stated in an earlier article, the pool will be open on a limited basis this year due to fewer lifeguards.

Since we are in Stage 3 of the governor's reopening guidelines, the number of people in the pool at any one time will be limited to 50. When we move into stage 4, it will increase.

The street department has been hard at work during this shut-down. Pat Malay and his crew, which consists of Ron McDaniel, Rayne Loomis, Andy Camacho, Keilan Phillips, and Jerry Kathrey, have been busy painting city hall, the streets, parking lots, parking spaces, sweeping streets, patching holes and taking care of the parks.

If you haven't already noticed, just take a look around and you will see that Weiser looks good!

The street crew is one of the most versatile the city has. Not only do they take care of the streets, they paint buildings, help with maintenance with the vehicles and machinery, and lend a hand with the water, sewer, and electrical projects.

These guys can even be found doing carpentry work when needed. Teamwork is nothing unusual in all of the city's departments. It is just that the street crew seems to be able to spread themselves into more areas than most.

One of the many benefits of this teamwork is it saves you, the taxpayers, money. This teamwork among the department reduces the need to hire extra people to meet the peak needs of any one department.

In other words, if one department can borrow one or two people from another department when the need arises, rather than having to hire someone, it is a savings.

Speaking of versatile people, David

Hodge, the city's mechanic will be retiring soon. He will be sorely missed.

Dave is one of those people who is able to do just about anything electrically and mechanically on any vehicle or piece of equipment.

We have been able to take anything to Dave from a lawnmower to a garbage truck to a street sweeper and have him fix it.

Dave, Thank You! for your years of service and dedication to Weiser!

On the business side, please be aware of the ordinance restricting the use of RVs in town as a living space. We will be enforcing this ordinance.

If you have questions, you may look it up on the city's website or call city hall. We will also be enforcing the ordinance for overgrown weeds.

There were four new cases of COVID-19. That is much better than the 28 new cases in one week not long ago. Please continue to be aware that the virus has not gone away. We still need to be aware of our surroundings and courteous of others by maintaining distances, wearing masks, washing hands, etc.

Well that's it for this week. Have a good one and enjoy your summer.



Mayor Randy Hibberd

A river runs through my best memories

Too many summers have come and gone since I got serious about getting my flyfishing gear together and spending quality time along a wild river.

With all the nonstop bad news these days, and in an effort to practice social distancing, there's a yearning for a few hours of solitude while waist deep in a cold river and trying to outwit a wiley trout.

I've never had much interest in fishing lakes. While they can be scenic, they don't hold much interest or adventure for me. A lake lacks the energy of an untamed river.

Some folks love to drag that shiny hardware behind their boat as they putt in circles around a lake trolling. It's my observation that the fish basically hooks itself.

You have to work harder than that for success as a flyfisherman. You have to study the insect life of the river, hike the banks for a promising spot, wade into the cold water and see if you can get a good cast or two in that doesn't

slap the fly on the water.

When I was really serious about fly fishing, I studied it. I knew who the greats were in the sport. Yes, there were celebrity flyfishers, known far and wide in the West.

Some were famous for their skill as guides and their prowess at catching big trout on western rivers. Others were noteworthy for the flies they invented or their casting techniques or the books they wrote on the topic. Two names that come to mind in that group of fly-fishing pioneers include Lee Wulff and Lefty Kreh.

There was Jack Dennis over in Jackson Hole, Wyo. Dan Bailey ran a famous fly shop in Livingston, Mont., just a stone's throw from the fabled Yellowstone.

My two brothers and I always stopped in at Bud Lilly's Trout Shop in West Yellowstone, Mont., before going into the park. The inventory was a bit pricey for us back then, but at least we got the chance to take in the flyfish-

ing royalty that frequented the shop.

They say West Yellowstone is the mecca of flyfishing. Counting up the storied western rivers within an hour's drive, that would be a hard point to argue. There is the Madison, Gallatin, Yellowstone, Gibbon, Firehole, Henrys Fork, and the list goes on.

Those are all well-known flyfishing rivers, all blue-ribbon waters, but the South Fork of the Snake River in eastern Idaho is where my heart resides, along with my best fishing memories.

It's nostalgia for those carefree days of scraping together \$5 for gas, packing a few sandwiches, borrowing the family station wagon and hitting the road.

We fished the South Fork every evening we could from Ririe upstream through Swan Valley. We memorized every riffle, every hole.

I haven't visited some of the flyfishing spots of my youthful days in many years. I really don't want to see the development and the crowds at places we once had all to ourselves in the 1970s.

Time moves on and so have I.

Steve Lyon is the editor of the Weiser Signal American. Contact him at Scoop@signalamerican.com.



EYE ON WEISER
Steve Lyon

COMMENTARY BY U.S. SEN. MIKE CRAPO

Helping to support Idaho's rural communities

As Congress works with the administration to consider the next phases of federal support to address the impacts of the pandemic, I am advocating for getting resources to smaller communities to ease recovery.

Enacting a long-term solution for the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act and Payments in Lieu of Taxes programs is a priority to provide much-needed certainty to rural communities.

In April, I co-led a bipartisan letter with Senators James E. Risch (R-Idaho), Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) and Jeff Merkley (D-Oregon) to Senate Leadership stressing that enactment of long-term SRS and PILT programs legislation provides an opportunity to further stabilize local government funding in rural counties

throughout America. In the letter signed by 26 senators, we wrote, "The stop and start authorizations

and payments under SRS and PILT have wreaked havoc on rural America for decades, and now, with the COVID-19 pandemic, the budgets of these rural counties are decimated.

These two programs fund roads, schools, law enforcement, and essential county services, such as public health programs.

With inadequate funding and now additional demands on their resources, rural communities and counties are at the breaking point.

A similar effort is underway in the U.S. House of Representatives. Congressional members sent

a letter to House leadership urging the inclusion of long-term funding certainty for SRS and PILT programs in the next round of COVID-19 relief.

In December, Congress passed and President Trump signed into law a two-year extension of SRS funding. Idaho counties will receive a total of \$23.9 million in payments this year under the SRS program.

Without the extension, SRS program counties would have been subject to payments based on the outdated 25 percent receipt formula.

see CRAPO Page 10



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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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Your Faith Follow the plan of action

Church of the Redeemer

“What’s the plan?” – always the question asked by my daughter whenever we were getting ready to go somewhere or do something. In the answer was found instruction on how to prepare for the journey ahead.

Everyday with God is a journey and only He knows the details of where the journey will take us and what the plan is for getting us there. Just before Jesus left us and sent His Holy Spirit to be with us until His return, He gave us a pretty good summary of what His disciples were called to do. ...Go and make disciples...teach them to obey...remember I am with you always...

By His life, love and deeds, Jesus did exactly what He asks of us, leaving for us a pure example to follow. He knew and wholeheartedly trusted in His Heavenly Father. He shared every bit of the Father’s love and compassion for all people. He honored the Father and defended His way even unto death though at times asked if there was any other way, yet always doing what in His heart He knew to be the Father’s will.

He prayed and communed with the Fa-

ther and drew strength from the intimacy of their relationship. He was ever-faithful to His friends; healing and raising them from the dead by the power and authority of Heaven leaving an eternal promise of resurrection to all who by faith, through grace, has and ever will call Him friend. He poured all of His power and authority in the form of His Holy Spirit upon us to guarantee we had everything we needed to fulfill our great commission.

All we must do is daily follow His lead all the while leaning not on our own understanding, but meditating day and night on His word through prayer and communion with His Holy Spirit within us that we, too, will know with all confidence in our hearts what the will of the Father is. Day-by-day, step-by-step, breath-by-breath, until we stand before our Father to hear those blessed words, “You are My beloved child; in you I am well pleased.” Now that’s a plan we can live with! Jody R. Goode, redemerweiser@gmail.com

Matthew 28:19-20 (NASB) - “...Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations ... and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Ancient SmartBooks

St. Luke’s Episcopal by Carolyn Wesner

No, there were no computers back in Bible times – SmartBooks then were something else altogether!

The Bible includes many types of literature, including history, predictions for the future, biography, song lyrics, drama and even a little comedy but there are some books in the wisdom section too, the SmartBooks.

These are generally known to be: Job, some of the Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon. They were written over many years, reflecting the writers’ ideas and inspiration at different points in their lives, so one writer could have changed

his mind about things over the years, and did, just like us.

King Solomon was one of the wisdom authors; he wrote/collected most of Proverbs (often hopeful) and Ecclesiastes (sometimes pessimistic).

In chapter 6 of Ecclesiastes, Solomon tells a tale about the benefit of intelligent preparedness: a small town with a small population was attacked by a great king. In the town was a very wise man, but very poor, who could have saved the town with his expertise but nobody considered him.

His words were despised and went unheeded so the town fell. “Wait!” said Solomon, “wisdom is better than strength! A wise man who speaks his mind

calmly is more to be heeded than a commander shouting among fools. Wisdom is better than weapons of war!”

Like the book of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes is full of good advice, but in a different format – more of the cautionary tale, an after-the-fact lookback at the wrong turns in life. King Solomon gives us valuable perspectives we can learn from to avoid the same mistakes! Well worth a read, or there is a cool, short video from the BibleProject.com on YouTube.

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Weiser will restart services July 5. We are still thinking of you and praying for the safety of our communities. Listen for the bell on Sundays at 11 a.m.!

Just something to think about

I was thinking about names. When I was in school, almost everyone called me Cynthia. It was my given name...actually given to me by my dad. My mom wanted to call me Linda June. My friends and family (except Dad) called me Cindy.

I graduated from high school over 50 years ago, and often run into classmates that still call me Cynthia. Interesting!

Changing names is not new. In Bible times, Abram’s name was changed to Abraham, and his wife

Sarai was changed to Sarah.

For centuries, women’s last names were changed to their husbands last names. It is not always the same now.

There is an old hymn that says, “There’s a new name written up in glory, and it’s mine.” I am not sure what my name will be in heaven, and I have no idea what language it will be in. It is one more thing that I am looking forward to in heaven.

Just something to think about.

C. Shaw

Church is an essential business

Riverside Baptist

I didn’t fully realize how important the gathering of the church was until we had to do without.

During the governor’s stay at home order, the thing I missed the most was church. I had always believed they were important Biblically. Now I understand why.

The Bible tells us that church is important. The book of Hebrews says that we are not to neglect to meet together. We shouldn’t take this legalistically. Sometimes safety, obeying our leaders, or being good neighbors may necessitate doing things a little differently.

Sometimes meeting in smaller groups is required,

just as they did throughout history. That said, I believe that it is impossible to be the church without face to face contact.

We are thankful for technology that connects people, however, online worship never fully replicates in person fellowship.

The church provides motivation and encouragement. Church is more than listening to a sermon it is sharing our lives together.

Fellow church members help you grow in Christ. If you are feeling depressed or discouraged a kind word can pick you up.

Church meetings provide spiritual and emotional health. We have no idea the long term impact of isolation. We do know

that church is essential to our mental, spiritual, and emotional well being.

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24-25, ESV)

Our church has been meeting again. Please visit our website for updated times.

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

Pastor Ian Ross



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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

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Tues. Evening Study-6:30 p.m.

Thurs. Morning Study-10 a.m.

Lyndon Haines, Pastor

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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

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OF WEISER

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Morning Worship - 10:00 a.m.

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Church 11:00 a.m.

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Pastor Angel Acevedo - 208-810-0602

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Sunday School - 4 p.m.

Sunday Services - 5 p.m.

Wednesday Service - 7 p.m.

Minister Kevin Hooper

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Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Ian Ross - 208-549-8343

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Pastor Hunter Mizar - 208-414-0135

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Adults - 9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

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Group Lessons - 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

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SECOND WARD

Bishop Ammon Nordgren

Sacrament - 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Group Lessons - 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

208-549-1868

THIRD WARD

Bishop Mike Garrison

Sacrament - 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Group Lessons - 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

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Here at Marbella, we are so grateful for all the support we have received during this pandemic, and we hope that you are all healthy, happy and that we see you soon!
Sandy and Mark.

THANK YOU WASHINGTON COUNTY!


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

To the citizens of Washington County,

I would like to express my most heartfelt thank you. I have learned a lot during this process and I am just as excited and hopeful for the future of Washington County now as I was when this all began.

There has been a great turnout for this Primary election, which is a compliment to all of you. Our Republic does not function properly without our participation.

I believe we are better when we come together and respect one another. I believe that we can hold to our convictions and beliefs while listening and respecting someone who holds different convictions and beliefs.

Thank you for your support. Thank you for your questions and comments. Most of all, thank you for caring about the future of Washington County.

Lyndon Haines

Redundancy is good. Redundancy is good.

For the best results advertise often and keep your message consistent.



Toothfully Speaking

by Dr. Bryan Dille



My Choice of Anesthetic

If you don't use Novocaine, what do you use? I had a patient ask me this question after she read my recent article in the paper about Novocaine. The answer to the question depends on the patient and the procedure that I am performing.

The two most common dental anesthetics that I use are Lidocaine and Articaine, also called Septocaine. Articaine has only been available in the US since 2000, although dentists in other countries have been using it for over 40 years. In Europe, Articaine is the most commonly used dental anesthetic. In the US, Lidocaine is still the most popular anesthetic, but Articaine is gaining in popularity.

Most of the anesthetics I use do

contain epinephrine, which helps to increase the duration of the anesthetic. There are some patients who, for medical reasons, should not have epinephrine. For these patients I use an anesthetic called Prilocaine.

I also use an anesthetic called Bupivacaine when I want a patient to be numb for an extended period of time, such as after removing wisdom teeth.

Today's dental anesthetics are one of the many tools that allows us at Dille Dental to provide comfortable, quality and up to date dental care.

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 answer your question(s) in future columns.



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The nonprofit Weiser River Resource Council started the first farmers market and this season will be year nine of the popular event held every Thursday. The first farmers market will be held on July 16. There is space for 27 vendors at the historic train depot in downtown Weiser and rental rates will stay the same.

Weiser's farmers market is gearing up for 2020 season

Meeting for new and returning vendors coming up on June 25 at historic depot

by Steve Lyon

Anyone who wants to sell at the 2020 Weiser farmer market, or just wants to learn more about the weekly event, is invited to attend a vendor meeting on Thursday, June 25, at 6 p.m. the historic train depot in downtown Weiser.

Organizers are finalizing the details in advance of the first farmers market next month, while also following guidelines on social distancing and safety precautions related to the coronavirus. The weekly market will be held on Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. starting on July 16 and running through Sept. 10.

Members of the farmers market committee will go over the basics of the farmers market and help vendors fill out applications and sales tax forms at the June 25 meeting. Vendor booth locations have changed slightly in an effort to move vendors from the east side of the depot out of the hot evening sun.

The space in front of the depot and the grassy area on the west side can accommodate a maximum of 27 vendors, plus a food truck and seating while eating. Smokin' Franny's barbecue truck has tentatively committed to serve food this season. The farmers market committee is hoping to line up musical entertainment each week at the market.

Jim Felton, a member of the farmers market committee, said rental prices for vendor spaces will stay the same as last year. The cost is a highly reasonable \$5 per week and the depot charges another \$5 for electricity, if needed. Vendors who prepay for the entire season will be given first choice of locations and a \$5 discount. The cost to vendors who choose to prepay will be \$40 for the nine weeks.

The farmers market will continue to accept SNAP benefits to purchase qualifying food items. A grant from the Idaho Farmers Market Association will allow the Weiser farmers market to participate in the Double Up Food Bucks program this summer. Customers with SNAP ben-

efits cards will receive double tokens to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables.

Customers scan their SNAP card at the market manager's booth EBT machine and receive double the value in tokens. For example, when a SNAP cardholder scans for \$10 they will receive \$20 in SNAP tokens.

The tokens can be used at any produce or other allowable food vendor. The vendor will accept the tokens as the dollar value and at the end of the evening the vendor turns those into the market manager booth for reimbursement.

"That is a pretty good deal," Felton said.

Weiser's farmers market was established by the nonprofit Weiser River Resource Council nine years ago to give local growers a place to sell their fruits and vegetables. The weekly markets have become wildly popular across the country and in the Treasure Valley as consumers seek out locally sourced food.

Vendors at Weiser's farmers market sell lots of homemade items, such as baked goodies, popsicles and shaved ice, jams and jellies, local honey, along with prepared food and crafts and other products, such as handcrafted soaps.

The variety of veggies and fruit gets better each week during the summer and typically includes onions, tomatoes, sweet corn, squash, peppers, green beans and much more straight from the field to the market. There is also the sweetest fresh fruit around from local orchards, with local growers bringing plums, nectarines, peaches and more.

Weiser's farmers market is listed in the Idaho Farmers Market Guide, a handy reference to all the farmers markets in Idaho published by Idaho Preferred.

Anyone interested in becoming a vendor at the farmers market, or know someone that would be interested in vending should attend the June 25 meeting or contact Jim Felton at (208) 549-1050 or at jimfeltonnwrrc@outlook.com.

Two Washington County students receive scholarships from officials association

It was just announced that Weiser High School senior Justin Estes and Cambridge High School senior Annalise DeVries were each awarded a Bill Herr Memorial Scholarship.

The \$750 scholarship is given every year to one boy and one girl by the Third District Officials Association, an organization of nearly 500 referees, umpires and others who officiate the seven major high school sports in the region.

The scholarships is named after Bill Herr, a longtime referee and former commissioner.

Officials said they received 34 applications this year for the scholarships.

The awards are based on scholastic achievement, sports, community involvement and other criteria. Students must participate in an activity sponsored by the IHSAA or the OHSAA.

"All of these kids were absolutely outstanding," said Doug Gochnour, who serves on the association's board.

Business Spotlight...

Carl Glarborg, CPA 444 State St. - 208-549-2653

Carl Glarborg, certified public accountant, has been serving the Weiser area since 1974.

Glarborg joined the accounting firm of Poyner and Pike with owners, Rod Poyner and Jim Pike in 1974.

In 1982, after the retirement of Poyner he went into business with Jim Pike and renamed the business Glarborg and Pike.

In 1990 Glarborg started his own certified public accountant business naming it Carl Glarborg, CPA.

The office moved to 444 State Street in 1997 which is conveniently located downtown on the corner of East Main and State streets at the stoplight.

Glarborg specializes in tax returns

both individual and business, payroll, bookkeeping and audits.

During his busy tax season he is joined by his wife Marsha. She has been helping him for the past two tax seasons after her retirement from the City of Weiser where she served as their billing clerk. Marsha worked for the City for 21 years.

Carl, who was raised on a farm in Hazleton, Idaho, enjoys the small town feel of Weiser. He raised his family of two girls and one son here. In his free time he enjoys golfing.

“Thank you for your business over the years and we look forward to working with you for all your accounting needs,” Glarborg said.



Carl and Marsha Glarborg, owners of Carl Glarborg, CPA, are available to help with all your tax, payroll, bookkeeping and audit needs.

This space is dedicated to the Washington County 4-H program by Naomi and Jeff Field from Weiser Plumbing Service LLC



Washington County 4-H members show their rabbits and receive some positive feedback. Everyone is looking forward to bringing their livestock and animal projects to the county fair and winning some ribbons. There are also lots of activities offered this summer.

UI Extension, Washington County

116 W. Idaho Street • Weiser, Idaho
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Washington County 4-H may not look the same this spring, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however youth are continuing to thrive and look for ways to “Make the Best Better.”

This year has put an emphasis on all of the things that the 4-H stands for – Head, Heart, Hands and Health.

Youth have been working on their projects at home with their families and meeting with their clubs virtually. Clubs are finding new ways to perform community service as well as innovative ways to reach out to others and gain the practical knowledge they need to succeed, all while learning how to keep themselves safe and healthy.

Some small groups that can practice social distancing will begin meeting in-person soon and both youth and volunteers are looking forward to those events.

The UI Extension is planning to

offer a mix of small group and virtual learning opportunities later in the summer as well.

Meanwhile there are many activities available to keep kids interested, engaged and active this summer. Check out this list of STEM activities at: <https://4-h.org/about/4-h-at-home/>

The Extension Office has received lots of questions about the future, especially about the fair. We, like everyone else are waiting to see how the summer progresses, however we are dedicated to ensuring that each 4-Her has an opportunity to complete his or her projects.

What the fair looks like is up to county commissioners and the fair board. So, yes, there will be something, but it may not look like last year’s fair, or next year’s fair. We are hoping that this is one more opportunity to “Make the Best Better.”

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Darla Harberd and Joe Scheidegger, who are both members of the Weiser Garden Club, plant some flowers earlier this spring at the historic train depot in downtown Weiser with club founder Art Church looking on. In the background, Setsuko Church and Rhonda Hirata work to thin out weeds in a flower bed. Below Tony Edmondson, a member of the Weiser Architectural Preservation Committee, finds a nice spot for a bush with Scheidegger helping out.

Weiser Garden Club lends expertise to landscaping project at train depot

Club members are doing all the planning, planting and maintenance

by Nicole Miller

The Weiser Garden Club officially began around two and a half years ago when Art Church, who had been a member of a garden club in northern Idaho, reached out to the county extension office and got one going. Over the course of the last couple of years, the group has grown to 30 members and the interest is growing.

Recently the garden club started a big project that is sure to benefit the whole community. Through working with the architectural preservation committee, the garden club offered to do all the work of planning, planting and maintaining the landscaping, but the preservation committee would need to pay for the supplies. The committee agreed and the planning began.

After researching perennials that would bring color, fragrance and pollinators to the grounds, the group was able to work locally with Andrews Seed to get the best price on all the needed plants.

Although the spring planting day has only recently taken place, the group has been working diligently along with other volunteers like the Boy Scouts to get the landscaping cleaned up and the grounds prepared.

Last fall hundreds of bulbs were planted and extensive work was done to help prepare the soil, and plan the irrigation system.

Garden club member Joe Scheidegger, who worked for 15 years in commercial landscape and irrigation installation in the Willamette Valley before moving

here, used his expertise to help plan the irrigation system.

Scheidegger was also very involved in the plant list due to his extensive botanical knowledge. Through his work in a retail nursery, Scheidegger is knowledgeable on the botanical names of plants.

One of the considerations in choosing the plants was color. The colors of Weiser Wolverines, red hibiscus and white shrub, will frame the grounds at the entrance. A lilac screen was planted as a wind-break, and lavender will add a calming fragrance throughout the grounds. All in all, the group will plant over 30 plant varieties including two trees, several tall shrubs, flowers and ground cover.

The garden club works closely with the University of Idaho master gardener program. The program is a great way for those that are interested in horticulture to expand their knowledge and skills. One of the aspects of the master gardeners program is its commitment to public service to the community. Every master gardener needs to perform several hours annually to benefit the community.

While not a requirement to join, there are several master gardeners in the club who were able to use their knowledge and service hours to plan the perfect plants for the community to enjoy.

The right garden setting with calming fragrances and color can be truly beneficial to the mental health of those who are able to enjoy it. The improvement to



the landscaping of the depot will benefit the whole community.

While Church was part of the garden club in northern Idaho, they created a healing garden. He used a lot of the knowledge he gained from this experience to help with the planning of the depot project.

“This should be a really nice

thing that the whole community can enjoy,” Church said.

The garden club meets at 7 p.m. on the last Tuesday of every month at the University of Idaho extension office in Weiser. Each month the group discusses upcoming projects as well as focusing on an educational theme. The group has learned about soil

preparation, fruit tree care, and attracting bees in their own personal gardens.

The group has also discussed starting a landscaping service helping new home owners beautify their lawns. With all these efforts, the group is sure to make Weiser an even more beautiful place to live.



Weiser City Fire and Rescue raises money every year for a spectacular July 4th fireworks show in Weiser. The fire department’s biggest fundraiser is the April breakfast, which had to be cancelled this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. That left the department short of funds for fireworks. The fire department is hoping to get donations to put on another great fireworks show next month.

Weiser city fire department raising funds for annual July 4th fireworks

Department is planning a barbecue in Ruszoni’s Pizza parking lot on June 27

by Steve Lyon

Weiser City Fire and Rescue is seeking donations to help cover the cost of the annual July 4th fireworks show coming up next month.

The fire department hosts a breakfast every April at the Vendome as a major fundraiser to pay for the fireworks, but this year’s event was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. The breakfast usually brings in about half of the cost of the fireworks.

The fire department spends about \$7,000 annually for the popular community fireworks show on July 4th, a long-standing tradition in Weiser, and a smaller fireworks display at the depot every December following the Christmas parade.

Assistant city fire chief Bill Taylor said there will definitely be a July 4th fireworks show in Weiser this year. How big of a show depends on the donations and the amount of money that can be raised in the next few weeks. Thanks to generous individuals and businesses who contributed so far, the fire department has about \$4,000 and is hoping to raise the balance of \$3,000.

The fire department has already placed an order with the Draper, Utah, company that supplies the fireworks every year. If the full \$7,000 is not raised in the next few weeks, the fire department will buy whatever amount of fireworks it can with the money it has saved.

“We can bump it up or down, depending on how much money we raise,” Taylor said.

The annual July 4th fireworks show usually lasts about 30 minutes and is



set off at dusk at the field next to Hillcrest Cemetery. The display usually includes about 400 shells, from 2-inch on the smaller side to the big booming 8-inch shells, and they are not cheap to buy.

For the Christmas fireworks show in front of the depot, the department fires off about 100 shells.

Taylor is the fire department’s pyrotechnic expert and has received training in the use of large aerial fireworks, along with some other members of the volunteer department. The fireworks are usually delivered by the third week of June and are stored in a secure and undisclosed location.

The fire department is holding a fundraiser for the fireworks fund on Saturday, June 27. Volunteers will be cooking a barbecue meal in the parking lot of Ruszoni’s Pizza on State Street from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. A Celebrate Idaho parade and other activities are planned in Weiser on that Saturday.

Anyone who would like to donate to the fireworks fund can call the fire station at 208-414-1483 or drop a check off in the dropbox at the station located at 55 W. Court St. in Weiser. There is also an online Gofundme page called Weiser City Fireworks Fund 2020 that has been set up for donations.

All of the money spent on the July 4th fireworks is donated by generous businesses and individuals in the community. No funds from the fire department’s budget are used for fireworks.

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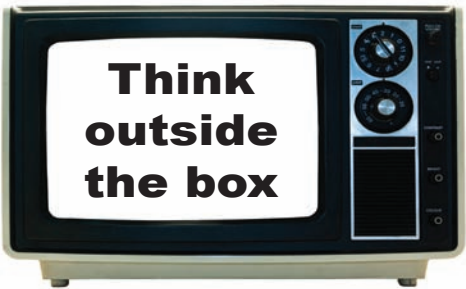


PUBLIC NOTICE

No.
Weiser Valley Hospital District Budget Hearing

The Weiser Valley Hospital District d/b/a Weiser Memorial Hospital will conduct their annual budget hearing on Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the Weiser Memorial Hospital Conference Room. 23-3S

	Current Budget	Proposed Budget
	2019-2020	2020-2021
OPERATING REVENUE:		
NET PATIENT REVENUE	17,668,863	18,327,777
OTHER OPERATING REVENUE	867,740	1,033,429
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	18,536,603	19,361,206
OPERATING EXPENSE:		
SALARY & WAGES	7,144,943	7,493,339
EMPLOYEE TAXES & BENEFITS	1,938,874	2,201,591
PROFESSIONAL FEES	3,248,324	3,397,277
PURCHASED SERVICES	1,873,971	1,798,825
SUPPLY EXPENSE	573,100	567,850
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	1,773,594	1,970,073
EDUCATION, TRAVEL, & RECRUIT	307,909	271,937
RENTALS, LEASES, & MINOR EQUIP	199,917	136,245
UTILITIES & MISC. EXPENSE	187,940	195,515
DEPRECIATION	710,399	801,648
INSURANCE, LICENSING, & TAXES	70,550	84,275
INTEREST EXPENSE	128,169	97,197
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	18,157,690	19,015,772
INCOME (LOSS) FROM OPERATIONS	378,914	345,434
PROPERTY TAX - M&O, TORT	358,189	368,935
PROPERTY TAX - BOND	194,780	191,020
NON OPERATING - Gains (Losses)		
NON-OPERATING GAINS/LOSSES	552,969	559,955
NET INCOME (LOSS)	931,883	905,389



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Burn ban now in effect in Washington County

As of June 1, the Washington County burn ban went into effect. The primary purpose of this ordinance is to save lives, property and valuable resources.

The burn ban prohibits any non-exempt open burning through Oct. 20. Open burning is defined in the county ordinance as igniting or maintaining a fire outside of an enclosed building, dwelling structure, or completely enclosed heating or cooking appliance.

The ban does not apply to permanent fire pits or fire grates located on private property, developed picnic grounds, or campgrounds on public and private lands within the county.

Also exempt are permitted agricultural controlled burns. Commercial fireworks permitted by Idaho code are exempt.

A violation of any of the provisions of the burn ban ordinance can result in a misdemeanor citation and fine.

from page 4

Supporting communities

The extension enables counties to provide essential services while work continues to enact a long-term solution.

To end short-term or retroactive reauthorizations of the SRS program, Senators Wyden, Risch and I reintroduced the bipartisan S. 1643, the Forest Management for Rural Stability Act, that would establish a growing endowment to provide funding needed for schools, road maintenance, law enforcement and other essential services.

We also introduced and co-sponsored legislation to extend SRS payments, and reauthorize and improve the PILT program.

Lands managed by the federal government cannot be taxed by local or state governments. Laws have been enacted providing payments to mitigate the impact of the presence of non-taxable lands. PILT payments are received for lands managed by the U.S. Department of Interior. The U.S. Forest Service

ice compensates counties through SRS payments. Critical services in federal forested counties have historically been funded in part with a 25 percent share of timber receipts from federal land.

As those revenues fell due to reduced timber harvest, SRS was enacted in 2000 to help bridge the gap to keep rural schools open, provide road maintenance and support search and rescue efforts and other essential county services.

In the 20 years since the establishment of the Secure Rural Schools program, Congress has reauthorized and adjusted the program multiple times.

But lapses and short-term reauthorizations have created uncertainty for counties as they budget for basic county services.

I will continue to press for enactment of much-needed legislation that will help meet the federal government's responsibility to rural counties housing federal lands.

from page 1

Jobless rate increases

and hospitality (-42.3 percent), other services (-24.5 percent), information (-18.9 percent) and education and health services (-12.8 percent).

The four sectors include many establishments most affected by COVID-19 safety measures including restaurants, ski resorts and golf courses, repair shops, salons, movie theaters, schools and non-emergency health care services.

Natural resources was the only industry sector to show any payroll gains with an increase of 100 jobs.

Nationally, unemployment reached 14.7 percent in April. The number of unemployed persons rose by 15.9 million to 23.1 million in April.

One year earlier, the national unemployment rate was 3.6 percent, while the number of unemployed reached 5.9 million.

The Idaho Department of Labor said on Friday that it has contracted with

a call center to provide additional agents for claimants who want to talk to someone about their claim. The goal is for claimants to eventually experience shorter hold times.

All claimants who call will be directed to call a new toll-free number - (833) 410-1009 - where an additional 30 people will be available to answer calls, take new claims over the phone and unlock accounts, among other tasks.

These additional resources free up Labor staff to handle more complex issues with claims, according to a news release.

The call center will be staffed to answer calls from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. MT Monday-Friday. Spanish speaking agents will also be available.

The Labor Department also has recently hired 20 people and continues to use staff members from other divisions in the agency to help handle the increase in claims.



TRUCK CATCHES ON FIRE ON MIDVALE HILL

The Weiser Area Rural Fire District responded to a vehicle fire on U.S. Highway 95 on the south side of Midvale Hill on May 25. The Washington County Sheriff's Office was the first agency on scene and reported a dually pickup pulling another pickup on a trailer was engulfed in flames. The Midvale Fire Department also responded and assisted in extinguishing the fire. The fire closed the highway in both directions. The pickup truck was a total loss. *Photos by WCSO*



from page 1

Weiser hospital receives federal COVID-19 funds

back, Christensen said.

Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, WMH was having one of its best financial years in recent memory, he said. There should be adequate funds to carry the hospital through the end of the calendar year, he said.

The hospital received another \$1.8 million through the Paycheck Protection Program. The program makes loans available for organizations with less than 500 employees.

The money will allow the hospital to keep staffing levels up without having to initiate any layoffs or furloughs if revenues dipped. The loans can be forgiven if at least 75 percent of the loan is used for payroll costs, among other items.

The federal government also advanced \$3.5 million in future Medicare-Medicaid payments to the



hospital to shore up operating funds during the coronavirus pandemic. It's not free money, so to speak, and will cover payments for services later, hospital officials said.

The idea behind the advance Medicare-Medicaid payments was to get money out to hospitals during the COVID-19 pandemic so that they could continue to provide a high level of medical care to communi-

ties.

All of the preparations and precautions the 25-bed Weiser hospital has implemented since the pandemic began in March are still in place, although there has not been a COVID-19 case admitted.

There is still a triage tent outside in the parking lot in the event of multiple COVID-19 positive patients. In the event of a major coronavirus outbreak,

the hospital could increase its bed capacity to 32.

Hale said the hospital will keep its COVID-19 heightened precautions and safety measures in place until state health officials say otherwise and declare the pandemic over.

Even then, WMH will probably wait two weeks before "standing down" with the safety precautions just to be on the safe side, Hale said.

from page 1

Western rattlesnake most common species in area

elsewhere in southwest Idaho in May senior conservation officer Charlie Justus said.

Rattlesnakes will create their dens in rock piles and cavities and also will sun themselves on rocks. They have left their dens for the summer and dispersed with the warmer weather, Justus said.

"They are out. You find them where you always find them," he said.

The rocky, brushy area around Mann Creek Reservoir is rattlesnake habitat. The predominant species found in southwest Idaho is the western rattlesnake,

which is actually docile in temperament compared to other rattlesnakes, Justus said, and is similar in appearance to gopher snakes.

Anybody hiking in rocky areas should be careful about where they step and watch where they put their hands if they are climbing on rocks.

When out in rattlesnake country, dogs should be kept on a leash, especially if they have not been trained to avoid a rattlesnake. A curious dog will often stick its nose in front of a rattlesnake and could easily get bitten.

Western rattlesnakes are

generally not aggressive and won't strike unless they are surprised, threatened or provoked. Rattlesnakes will avoid humans, and it's possible to walk by a rattlesnake and not get a warning rattle.

Most snake bites occur when a rattlesnake is handled or accidentally touched by someone walking or climbing. The majority of snakebites occur on the hands, feet and ankles, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

An estimated 25 percent or more of bites by western rattlesnakes are "dry" and do not contain venom, but

they must still be treated. Older snakes are more apt to conserve venom with dry strikes than young snakes, Justus said.

If a rattlesnake is encountered out in nature, Justus encourages people to leave it alone. It's also possible to walk by a rattlesnake and they won't always signal a warning by rattling.

"If you see one on a trail and you're hiking, just walk around it," he said.

If someone does get bit they should keep movement to a minimum, call for help and get to a hospital as soon as possible.

Commissioners approve tax exemptions for Midvale Legion Hall, Pythian Castle

by Steve Lyon

The Midvale American Legion hall and historic Pythian Castle in Weiser were both granted tax-exempt status by Washington County commissioners after lengthy discussions.

The county assessor's office gives commissioners a list of properties seeking tax-exempt status every year for approval. Usually, it's a formality to approve the list, but this year a couple of applications were singled out for review.

Commissioners decided to approve the tax-exempt status for the Midvale American Legion on May 18 after initially hearing from the assessor's office that building didn't qualify because it was renting out space to a church and earning income.

Following discussions, commissioners decided the nonprofit American Legion hall qualified as mixed use under state law and is exempt from property taxes.

In the second application reviewed by commissioners, the nonprofit Bee Tree Folk School is leasing the Pythian Castle and filed for tax-exempt status on the property, which is owned by another nonprofit, the Weiser Architectural Preservation Commission.

A question arose over the status of the second floor of the castle, which is part of the lease but is not being used, and whether the space qualified as tax-exempt or should be taxed. The first floor is used by

the Bee Tree Folk School for educational purposes and also for preservation by housing the Vassar-Simpson collection.

County prosecuting attorney Delton Walker said the fact that one non-profit is leasing property to another non-profit does not automatically qualify as tax-exempt. It is not as simple as one nonprofit leasing a building to another nonprofit equals an exemption. In researching the issue, he said he contacted the state tax commission for some clarification.

There was not an example in case law that matched perfectly. The law allows for a tax exemption for educational purposes and another section of Idaho law that allows tax-exempt status for nonprofit purposes. The property owner would hold an exemption unless it was leased "for profit." The amount of property taxes involved totaled about \$1,800 annually.

"I don't have a final answer on this," he said. "It's not completely resolved under Idaho case law."

He said the application filed for tax exempt status cited applicable provisions in Idaho law but didn't designate which portion of the building is used for educational purposes and which was used for preservation of historical artifacts.

One state tax official he contacted said the portion of the building used for administrative offices might

be apportioned and be subject to property taxes. The landowner would pay the property taxes on the value of the portion of the building not used for educational or preservational purposes.

Dennis and Sandy Cooper, founders of the nonprofit Bee Tree School, said the entire building should be tax exempt based on use. The first floor is used for teaching folk art classes in the community and to house the historical and cultural artifacts that were bequeathed to the nonprofit.

The second floor of the castle is not up to code and there are no improvements. When time and money allow, the upstairs will be renovated and used exclusively for educational purposes. There are currently occasional tours of the second floor, which are educational, Dennis Cooper said..

Debbie Moxley-Potter said she reached out to a couple of other counties to see how they handled similar types of situations. One county exempted the property and one taxed a portion of the building.

Commissioner Kirk Chander said if Bee Tree Folk School is leasing the castle for educational purposes, it should be tax-exempt under the law.

In the end, commissioners said the nonprofit Bee Tree Folk School qualifies for a tax-exemption under mixed use and voted to grant it.



The nonprofit Bee Tree Folk School is renting the Pythian Castle in Weiser from the nonprofit Weiser Architectural Preservation Commission. County commissioners discussed at length whether the unused upstairs portion of the building qualifies as tax exempt. Commissioners decided to approve the application as mixed use for education and preservation purposes. Photo by Jamie Brown

Next court date for suspect in high-speed pursuit is June 2 Defendant, 20, remains in the Washington County Jail on \$250,000 bond

by Steve Lyon

Washington County Magistrate Judge David Eames set the bond amount at \$250,000 and scheduled a date of June 2 for a preliminary hearing for a man arrested following a high-speed chase through Weiser in May.

John Robert Stramaglia, 20, was charged by prosecutors with four felonies following the May 4 incident, including attempting to elude a police officer, mali-

cious injury to property and two counts of assault on a law enforcement officer.



John Stramaglia

During the pursuit, which started near Midvale, went through Weiser, and ended near Ontario, Ore., Stramaglia is accused of intentionally hitting a deputy's vehicle and a Weiser police officer's vehicle. There were no injuries to the officers, but each patrol vehicle was damaged in excess of \$1,000 according to court records.

The pursuit began north of Midvale on U.S. Highway 95 at about 6:30 p.m. on May 4 when a deputy with the Washington County Sheriff's Office attempted to pull Stramaglia over for speeding. The suspect fled south on the highway, reaching speeds of 60 miles per hour through Midvale. He continued south at speeds between 80 mph and 100 mph toward Weiser.

Weiser police set up spike strips north of Weiser in an effort to stop the southbound vehicle. The spike strips damaged the tire on the driver's side but the driver didn't stop. The vehicle turned on to Indianhead Road, where a deputy attempted

to get in front of the vehicle. The suspect made a sharp turn toward the deputy, hitting the front of the patrol car.

The suspect traveled through Weiser toward Oregon. As the vehicle crossed the state line, a WPD officer tried to get in front of the vehicle and end the chase. The suspect struck the front passenger side of the patrol car and continued into Oregon on Highway 201. The law enforcement vehicles suffered in excess of \$1,000 each in damage.

The Oregon State Police and the Malheur County Sheriff's Department joined the pursuit on Oregon Highway 201. An-

other set of spike strips were deployed near Stanton Boulevard and Highway 201. The right rear tire on the suspect's vehicle was damaged. The pursuit continued toward Ontario, Ore. The vehicle was finally disabled and stopped near Ontario.

Stramaglia, of Lewiston, was arrested without incident. It was later learned that he had an outstanding warrant for failure to appear. A female passenger in the vehicle was not charged.

Stramaglia was transported to the Malheur County Jail. He has since been transferred to the Washington County Jail, where he remains pending court hearings.

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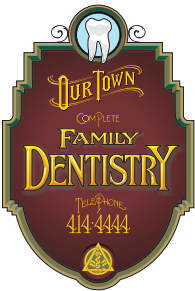
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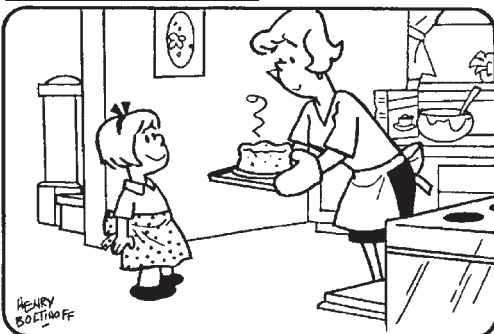
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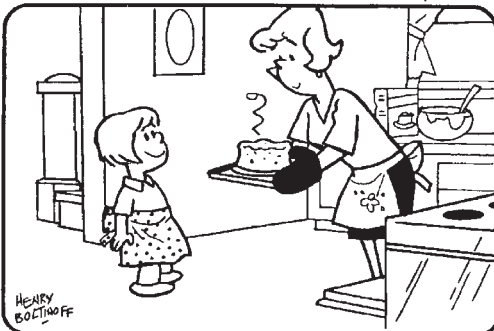
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by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

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♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
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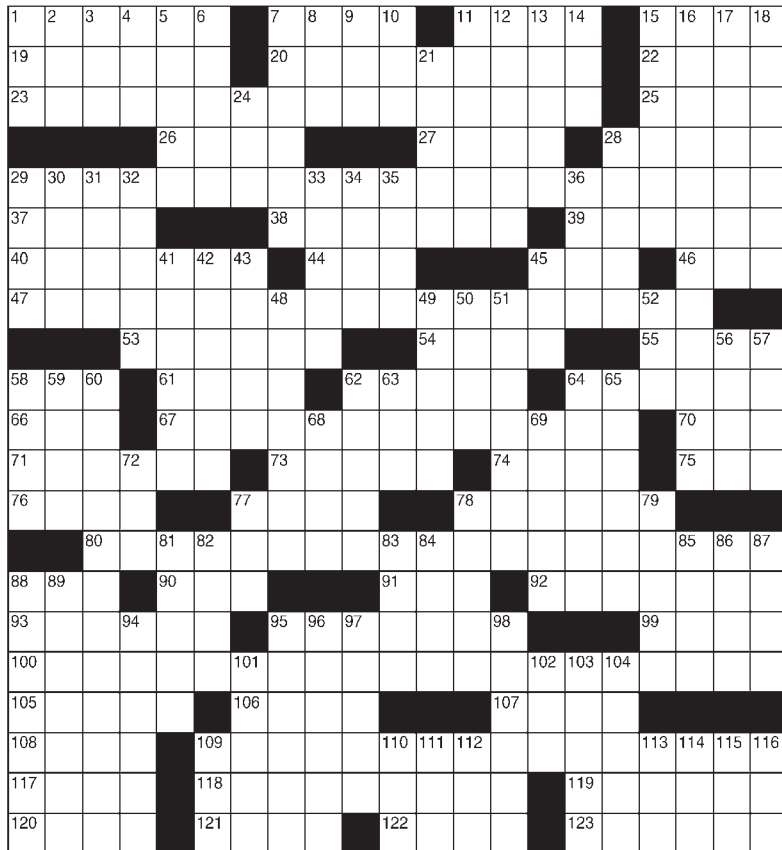
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- 1 "Alto Rhapsody" composer
7 Amount of medication
11 Very close pals, briefly
15 Lay away
19 Handbook
20 Among other things, in Latin
22 A, in Austria
23 Start of a riddle
25 With the stroke of —
26 Busily engaged
27 Actress O'Grady
28 Actor Baio
29 Riddle, part 2
37 Brain part
38 Vends again
39 New York port on Lake Ontario
40 Some weather lines
44 Untold millennia
45 Gallery works
46 Frat.'s counterpart
47 Riddle, part 3
53 Epitomize
- 54 Volcano outflow
55 Waikiki whereabouts
58 Coll. e-mail ending
61 Coyote kin
62 Stopped sleeping
64 Actress Dana
66 Truckload
67 Riddle, part 4
70 Kid's "It" game
71 Four-time Indy 500 winner
73 Supreme Court justice
74 Get-out-of-jail fee
75 Metal-bearing rock
76 Tarnish
77 — vu
78 Mortar and —
80 Riddle, part 5
88 Mo. no. 10
90 I-10, e.g.
91 — mater (brain cover)
92 Smears with holy oil
93 Engender
95 In dire —
99 Songstress Eartha
- 100 End of the riddle
105 Wise words
106 Mr. Spock's pointy pair
107 Flood figure
108 Feeling, informally
109 Riddle's answer
117 "— do in a pinch"
118 Desirous of equaling someone else
119 Advanced to the starting point, as a tape
120 Floor votes
121 "Fat chance"
122 Deleted, with "out"
123 Salsa brand
- DOWN**
- 1 German car
2 Yell of cheer
3 California's Santa —
4 Castaway's shelter
5 Irked with
6 Sluggish mammal
7 One trying to lose weight
8 Yoko of music
9 Big inits. in fuel additives
10 Elver, e.g.
11 Lauren of "Key Largo"
12 Natural talents
13 Daughter, in Dijon
14 Paradise of "On the Road"
15 Manatee or dugong
16 Praise with a cap motion
17 "Just the last item is left"
18 Tried to get
21 Kingly
24 Snapshot, for short
28 Blues singer — Monica Parker
29 Stepped off
30 Little snack
31 Wind instrument
32 Prove false
33 Indigent
34 General — chicken
35 Monopoly card statistic
36 Spear
41 Nonetheless
42 Detach, as a book page
43 Clown prop
45 Flat — board
48 Radiates
49 Hawaii "hi"
50 Tolerate
51 50-50 gamble
52 Cheat
56 Use one's
57 Impulse
58 Guesses at JFK
59 Judo hall
60 Too large to be strained, maybe
62 Former UN leader Kofi
63 Doughboys' conflict: Abbr.
64 Bleach
65 Shout at
68 Magic hex
69 Actress Smith of Tyler Perry films
72 Bullfight holler
77 Passing grade, barely
78 Greek philosopher
79 Slezak or Eleniak
81 Shaw playing a clarinet
82 Powerful car engine
83 On — (of equal value)
84 Nero's 53
85 Faithful wife of Geraint
86 Suffix with bachelor
87 Booming jets of old
88 Nero's wife
89 Crassness
94 Winged ones in heaven
95 Absorb
96 Part on a drama series, say
97 Dreadlocks wearer, often
98 Basked
101 "I love you," in Spain
102 Sushi sauce
103 Vanzetti's partner in anarchy
104 D-day time specification
109 Forest lair
110 Ingested
111 Mingle
112 Rd.'s cousin
113 Authorize to
114 Lofty work
115 Floor cover
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