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# Clearwater Tribune

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OROFINO, IDAHO 83544 - CLEARWATER COUNTY  
SECOND CLASS (USPS 117-340)



The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is currently planning on closing the Orofino office. The Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District is trying to encourage the NRCS to re-evaluate these plans. The public is encouraged to send emails to the State Conservationist to let them know of the detrimental effect this will have on Clearwater County.

## Fighting to keep the local NRCS Office open

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is planning on closing their Orofino office. This would leave Clearwater County as the only county in the area without a NRCS office. Also, this closure multiplies its effect on the area as the NRCS hosts both the Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD) and the Idaho Soil and Water Commission (IdSWC) offices – their leaving would result in a closure of all three offices (USDA Service Center) in the Forest Service building. The NRCS would go to Lewiston and the District and Commission offices would be left scrambling to hopefully find office space in Orofino.

This is further complicated in that the NRCS currently hosts the District in their office space at no cost to the non-profit Conservation District which must now figure out how to meet the numerous costs of maintaining an office.

These three agencies, USDA Service Center, work very closely together and with other partner

agencies like Clearwater County, Idaho Dept. of Lands, Dept. of Water Resources, etc. to promote voluntary conservation with private landowners in the area. Over the years they have brought many millions of Federal and State dollars into Clearwater County, hundreds of thousands of dollars in 2018 alone.

The Conservation District has heard from the landowners that this NRCS move would result in far less participation from many of them. They would have to take off work from their regular jobs and many would face very inconvenient drives to Lewiston, often involving round trips of up to 160 miles and four hours' time.

A typical property owner in Clearwater County is lower income and thus much more likely to participate if they have economic help from a friendly local office. If not, what have been successful and growing programs of voluntary landowner conservation projects could wither, and in the process jeopardize the health of local farms and ranches and the forests and rivers; not to mention the millions of dollars that their programs have brought into the area.

The Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District is trying to encourage the NRCS to reevaluate their plans and to consider the possible harm to the Clearwater Area, landowners, and the entire community. Contacting Curtis Elke, the State Conservationist, for NRCS in Boise (Curtis.elke@id.usda.gov) is the best way to let them know they are making a big mistake. A short email can make a big difference. The City of Orofino, Clearwater County, and citizens are joining together in this effort.

For more information call the Soil and Water Conservation District office in Orofino at 1(208) 400-3008; they will send you a one-page explanation of concerns and who you can send an email to help save the office and help keep the millions of dollars flowing into our local economy via conservation projects.



Bailey Ohlson of Main Street Barber Shop in Orofino provided complimentary haircuts to the Orofino High School Wrestling team members on Friday, Feb. 15. The team competed in Districts last week, and is heading to State Competition this week in Pocatello. Shown (l to r) back row: Jacob Strahan, Nathan Martinez, Kai Naranjo, George Bolling, Rayce McIntosh, Coach Luke McIntosh, Caleb Breedlove, Clay Larsen, Taylor McIntosh, Caleb Johnson, Darrion McIntosh, Xavier Lopez and Nick Hardin. Middle row: Ruby Kessinger, Thor Kessinger, Coach Larry Turcott, Bailey Ohlson, Barber and Brayden Turcott seated in the chair; kneeling: Ben Vaughn, Lane Turcott, Danny Fowler, Andrew Anderson and Aurelio Morales. Inset: Customers were greeted by the shop's sign, explaining why the Main Street Barber Shop was closed to regular clients on a Friday. (See more wrestling photos on page 8A.) Photos by Elizabeth Morgan



Viktor Uzur and Brad Richter

## Richter Uzur Duo on stage March 3

"Two highly skilled artists, classically trained and street-savvy, have pooled their love for music of all genres to satisfy every musical whim while simultaneously leaving an audience to marvel at their individual virtuosic prowess. These guys are the real deal, each a soloist capable of holding their own on a symphony orchestra stage or matching licks with a roadhouse band. From Led Zeppelin to Bartok . . . from the Beatles to Rimsky-Korsakov, from Gershwin to their own unique tunes. . . the music sashays all over the planet and back again, satisfying audiences all the while." Wes Brustad, Pres/CEO of the State Theatre (New Jersey).

They can be seen on stage Sunday, March 3 at 3 p.m. at the Orofino Jr./Sr. High School. Admission is by membership or a fee of \$10 will be charged at the door for non-members. The doors open at 2:30 p.m. with the concert starting at 3 p.m. This is our last season of concerts so please take advantage of this wonderful music while you can.

The Richter Uzur Duo (RUDuo) plays a whimsical

mashed-up blend of classical, world, and rock music. Viktor Uzur and Brad Richter are each master musicians of the highest caliber with global solo careers, major international awards and intensive training from two of the

(See.....Duo on pg 14A)

## Clearwater Boat Club seeks councils support for jet boat races on the Clearwater

By Elizabeth Morgan

Following approval of minutes, bills and claims, at the City Council meeting held Feb. 12, Chris Barger, President of the Clearwater Boat Club, asked the council to consider submitting a letter of support for the club's proposed jet boat race to be held Father's Day weekend, June 14-16, providing the race is also approved by the Tribe, the Idaho Transportation Department, and the Fish and Game Department. Barger explained they would like to hold the race to include 10 to 15 participants in conjunction with the activities already planned to take place in the City Park that weekend.

It was explained that prior proposals had been denied, perhaps due to the course encompassing a longer stretch of the Clearwater River for the race. This year they have shortened the race to begin in Ahsahka and finish at Greer Beach. They hope to attract many more boaters and enthusiasts to our area with an annual event, similar to the way LoggerXross was developed.

The council unanimously confirmed their support and a letter (See.....Clearwater Boat Club on pg 4A)

## Library District looking for residents to serve on board of trustees

The Clearwater Co. Free Library District is looking for residents interested in serving on its board of trustees. An opening was created with the resignation of Ryck Voisard. The district is especially focused on residents residing in the Orofino, Dent, Ahsahka, Cavendish, Greer, Grangemont, Upper and Lower Fords and surrounding region, but all applicants will be considered.

Library board members must live within the library district. The five member board is responsible for governance of the entire district; a map of the district can be obtained from the District Clerk. The district is composed of a district library in Weippe and a contract library in Orofino. The board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. at alternating locations (between Weippe and Orofino).

Community members interested in serving on the library board are asked to submit a letter of interest, and resume to: Clearwater Co. Free Library Dist. PO Box 435 Weippe, ID 83553 or emailed to [weippelibrary@weippe.com](mailto:weippelibrary@weippe.com). If you have any questions, contact the District Clerk Terri Summerfield at 208 435-4058.

## Lincoln Day Dinner set for March 9

The Clearwater County Republican Central Committee is pleased to invite all registered republicans to the Lincoln Day Dinner, which will be held Saturday, March 9, at The Best Western Lodge at River's Edge, 615 Main, Orofino. There will be a social hour from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., where you can meet the local representatives. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

Following dinner, the guest speaker will be Loren Spivack, author of "The Free Market Warrior". There will also be a raffle for a steer (Black Angus), and the winner will be drawn during the evening. The tickets can be purchased at the dinner, for \$10.00 each. If you wish to purchase a raffle ticket, but do not plan to attend the dinner, please contact Linda Weighall at the number listed below.

Tickets for the dinner are \$25.00 per person, or \$40.00 per couple. For further information, or to purchase tickets, please call Linda at 208-476-4996, or your precinct committee person.

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## Six-day weather forecast

### Wednesday Night

A 30 percent chance of snow, mainly before 10 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22. Light and variable wind. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

### Thursday

Mostly sunny, with a high near 34. Northeast wind around 8 mph.

### Thursday Night

Partly cloudy, with a low around 12.

### Friday

Mostly sunny, with a high near 33.

### Friday Night

AA chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 25.

### Saturday

Snow likely. Cloudy, with a high near 37.

### Saturday Night

A chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 26.

### Sunday

Snow likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 36.

### Sunday Night

A chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 23.

### Monday

A chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 34.

**Last Week's Weather**

LAST WEEK'S WEATHER WAS NOT AVAILABLE AT PRESS TIME

Last year's weather

	Max.	Min.	Pre.
Feb 11	40	21	.20
Tuesday	47	22	.00
Wednesday	36	32	.37
Thursday	45	31	.02
Friday	39	31	.28
Saturday	39	31	.41
Sunday	43	23	.00

Temps. are read the following morning for the previous day, i.e. Friday's listed temp. would be for Thursday.

**At the Rex**  
Feb. 22 - Feb. 28, 2019

**BUMBLEBEE**

Daily Showtime 6:30 p.m.

ADMISSION PRICES: \$5.50 ages 2-11 • \$7.50 adults  
\$6.50 seniors 60+ • Under age 2 free!

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