



David Fitzsimmons
recognized posthumously.....

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

Every ballot accounted for in an election year like no other

By Elizabeth Morgan

If ever there was a question regarding the accuracy of every ballot submitted in an election, it is now. Covid has definitely influenced the way people will be voting this year, add to that the public's concern of the post offices being shut down, and one of the most controversial elections in our history. The ability to trust in our great privilege as Americans to cast our ballots and be assured it will be counted has withered amongst many.

Great pains go into ensuring that each vote is properly counted and processed. Clearwater County Clerk, Carrie Bird shared what this year has been like and all that goes into the process of counting those ballots. The county can rest assured we are in good hands. Bird is well-qualified in ensuring this election runs smoothly. She has worked with the county's elections since 1991 and has administered the elections since being elected Clerk in 2008, making sure that the voice of the people in Clearwater County can be heard all the way to the White House.

"Unlike the primary election in May of this year polling places were closed due to the uncertainties from COVID 19," said Bird, "our polling places will all be open, and in adherence with the Center for Disease Control's guidelines for social distancing. We cannot require voters to wear masks, although they will be highly recommended for the safety of our poll workers." Poll workers will be masked.

Other amenities to be considered are the use of electronic poll books which were recently purchased by the county, eliminating the handling of paper pollbooks. Registered voters will be asked to sign in on a tablet which will verify registration and address. For sanitation purposes, the tablet is covered in a protective type of covering similar to Saran Wrap, which is disposable and replaced with each use.

Because a good number of the county's previous poll workers are



Carrie Bird, Clearwater County Clerk, encourages everyone to vote, whether voting early, by absentee, or in person at the poles. Every vote counts!

seniors and at higher risk of exposure to Covid, recruitment began early to find enough workers to cover the nine polling places with at least four to five people at each polling location. "It's a long shift from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and potentially longer if there's a glitch," said Bird, "Once again our community has stepped up, and now will need training to be ready at the polls."

"In all the confusion of the times, our office has received more calls regarding the post office than the polling places for this election. The post office has sent out notices asking those who are requesting absentee ballots to do so early to allow for sufficient time to return the ballot in the mail, as it takes about three days. We also have a large volume of calls asking if an absentee ballot was requested in May for this election. Folks can view this information on idahovotes.gov."

Ballots requested for our military personnel and those overseas were sent out Sept. 18. Absentee ballots can be sent out as early as 45 days but not less than 30 days before the election. The Vote by Mail precinct ballots are sent 20 days before the election.

Of 14 precincts, Clearwater County has five Vote by Mail precincts; they are the communities in which there are no suitable locations to have a polling place. In all, there are approximately 370 ballots to be mailed and returned for those communities. "Normally that is not a big deal," explains Bird, but for the primaries we had close to 2400 mail in and absentee ballots to process, which took eight of us, three to four hours for three nights in addition to election night to count.

The first person opens the outside envelope with the voter's signature and checks the name off the list. The second person opens the ballot envelope and removes the voted ballot envelope from the envelope and passes it to the third person. The third person opens the voted ballot envelope, removes the ballot and stacks them in ten and then hands them to the fourth person, who puts them into the DS200, which counts the ballot, but does not display a tally. The DS200 indicates how many ballots have been put into the machine for counting. The envelopes and the signed envelopes are all placed in stacks of 10, balancing along the way.

"If you have a write-in candidate (See....Every ballot pg 2A)

At the Rex
As of October 14, 2020

We will be CLOSED until further notice.

Visit us on the Web!
www.rextheater.us

Political letters to the editor

This is the last issue (Oct. 14) that political letters to the editor will run in the *Clearwater Tribune* for the upcoming election.

Anything politically related will now be required to run as paid advertising.

Community dinners cancelled, food bank revitalized

By Rosan Monaghan

Due to coronavirus restrictions and concerns we are sorry to tell you that St. Theresa's Catholic Church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and Orofino Methodist Church have had to cancel the free Community Meals usually offered each Thanksgiving and Christmas.

St. Theresa's Food Bank, however, is now open every Thursday from 9 a.m. through 12 noon.

The Food Bank is located to the left of the Arnzen Center on Brown Street across from St. Theresa's Catholic Church.

If you or someone you know is having difficulty obtaining adequate food, please know you are always welcome. No appointment is necessary.

Working together to find common ground with ORFD

By Elizabeth Morgan

City Council held a work session Oct. 6, to further discuss the fire services agreement with the Orofino Rural Fire District (ORFD).

Councilman Mark Swayne began the conversation, "We do not want to be antagonistic towards ORFD. We need to work together because fire doesn't care what district or what administration it aims to wipe out. As citizens of the area, we need to do what we can to protect each other as equitably as possible in regard to the financial burden and availability of equipment and manpower."

Swayne stated he had concerns with a couple of areas of the current contract, which was created June 9, 2015 and to have been reviewed annually. "We have not looked over the contract for quite some time, though ORFD has increased their annual payment of \$20,000 to the city for fire protection to the city by \$1,000 per year, bringing the amount to \$25,000 this year."

The first area of concern was Item V of the contract stating that the City will give the same priority to the property of the District as to the property of the City in fighting fires, given existing water availability and additionally required response time. Swayne wanted to know how that was possible to provide the same level of service if a fire breaks out in the city, what would happen then? "Are residents of the city left without proper protection, because our guys are fighting wildfires for the rural district?"

Orofino Fire Chief Jon Hoyt responded to the council's questions.

"If we only have a certain number of men and equipment and we

(See....Working together pg 11A)

Last Week's Weather			
	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Oct. 5	81	51	.00
Tuesday	84	50	.00
Wednesday	85	53	.00
Thursday	81	50	.00
Friday	81	50	.00
Saturday	82	47	.00
Sunday	66	49	.00
Last year's weather			
	Max.	Min.	Precip.
Oct. 14	63	42	.00
Tuesday	68	39	.00
Wednesday	67	51	.00
Thursday	60	50	.00
Friday	60	47	.00
Saturday	49	42	.00
Sunday	55	43	.00

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



According to a Clearwater County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) report, Clearwater County Deputies responded to the area of East 3rd Avenue, in Weippe on Monday, Oct. 12 at 11 p.m., for an injury collision involving a UTV. Derrick W. Vargovich, 25, of Weippe, was operating a UTV, while traveling East on 3rd Avenue, when he struck a parked SUV, that was facing west bound. The parked SUV belonging to Norman G. Bond received major damage when the UTV collided into the front of it, which caused Vargovich to be ejected. The UTV subsequently flipped and came to rest on the passenger side. Vargovich suffered injuries in the crash, and was transported to Clearwater County Valley Hospital by ambulance. He was not wearing a helmet, or his seat belt. Photo by CCSO



According to the Orofino Fire Department (OFD), on Saturday, Oct. 10, at 1:56 p.m., OFD Rescue 3, Clearwater County Ambulance and Orofino Police Department responded to a one vehicle accident on Michigan Avenue. The driver was trapped inside the vehicle and had to be extricated. The driver was taken to Clearwater Valley Hospital in Orofino, stabilized, and then sent to a larger hospital by Life Flight. No further details were available at press time. Photo by OFD

Attention Students!

VFW Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen contests deadline fast approaching

Despite the periodic closure of some of the area schools due to Covid-19, the VFW Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen essay contests are still being held for 2020/2021, but please be aware that the deadline for entry submission is fast approaching. The deadline for submission is Oct. 31.

Applications can be obtained at either Orofino Jr./Sr. High School, Timberline Jr./Sr. High School or Harold Kinne VFW Post 3296 at

School Board to meet Oct. 19

Trustees of Joint School District 171 will meet virtually via Zoom and YouTube for their regular meeting on Monday, Oct. 19, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Orofino Junior/Senior High School cafeteria for those who wish to attend in person.

The board will review committee, building and program reports and discuss School Operational Plans and the Governor's Money Use.

Action items for the evening include Policy updates C Series (second reading), Back to School Operational Plans, Governor's Money Use, as well as new hires and separations within the district.

Before adjourning the board will hold an executive session pur-

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330 Michigan Ave. The Patriot Pen theme for 2020/2021 is "What is Patriotism to Me?", and it is open to all seventh and eighth grade students (Home Schools included).

The essay length is 300-400 typewritten words (+ or - 5 words max). The National First place prize is \$5,000 with many other local and state awards.

The Voice of Democracy theme is "Is this the Country the Founders Envisioned?" and is open to all 9th - 12th grade students (Home Schools included). The essay must be a 3-5 minute original recording on either an audio CD, or a flash drive, one student per CD or flash drive. There are over \$2 million in scholarships and incentives awarded each year nationally with additional awards on the local and state level.

Please call 208-476-4117 or 208-476-0102 for further information.

