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Irie Cox is first baby at St. Mary's Health

Page 7A



Lady Pirates serve Lapwai its first loss

Page 1B

SERVING IDAHO COUNTY & THE UPPER CLEARWATER VALLEY

Kamiah City Council

Mayor Genese Simler leads Kamiah

By Cathy Law
Idaho County Free Press

KAMIAH — Mayor Dale Schneider, elected to that position (for the second time) after an election recall, extended the gavel to the new mayor, Genese Simler, after she was sworn in at the Kamiah City Council meeting on Jan. 14. With affirming words, he presented “the key to the back door” of city hall to the new mayor, which drew good humored laughter and presented her with a “Mayor Genese Simler” sign.

After Scott Courtney was sworn in by Teri Brenneis, clerk/treasurer, as the new city council member replacing Sherry Arthur, fellow council members elected him as the city council president.

Simler was the first to extend gratitude for Schneider’s service by saying, “Thank you for stepping up.”

Fire chief Billy Monahan described Schneider’s coming back as mayor two years ago as “you jumped on a grenade” and he “put this place back on the right track.” Monahan added, “You’re a good friend.”

Schneider replied, “You have been fantastic. Things were in bad shape [in the fire department] and I can’t thank you enough. You put a great team together.”

“We’ll miss you,” Stu Bryant said to Schneider. “Both times [you have been mayor] you’ve brought a calming effect and stability. You have a skill level and knowledge of how municipalities operate. You visited me and the others once a week to ask how things were going. Very few supervisors would do that.”

With Arthur leaving as city council member, Bryant expressed appreciation. “We’ll miss you. You have a pleasant demeanor.”

“I hope we’ve made a difference,” Schneider replied, recounting the “broke, indebted” condition of the city when he was elected. “Bills were everywhere — coming out of the woodwork.” With all revenues going into the city’s general fund, Schneider explained, “The city hasn’t been operating right for years ... but we had no choice. We had to cut expenses

See **MAYOR**, page 3A

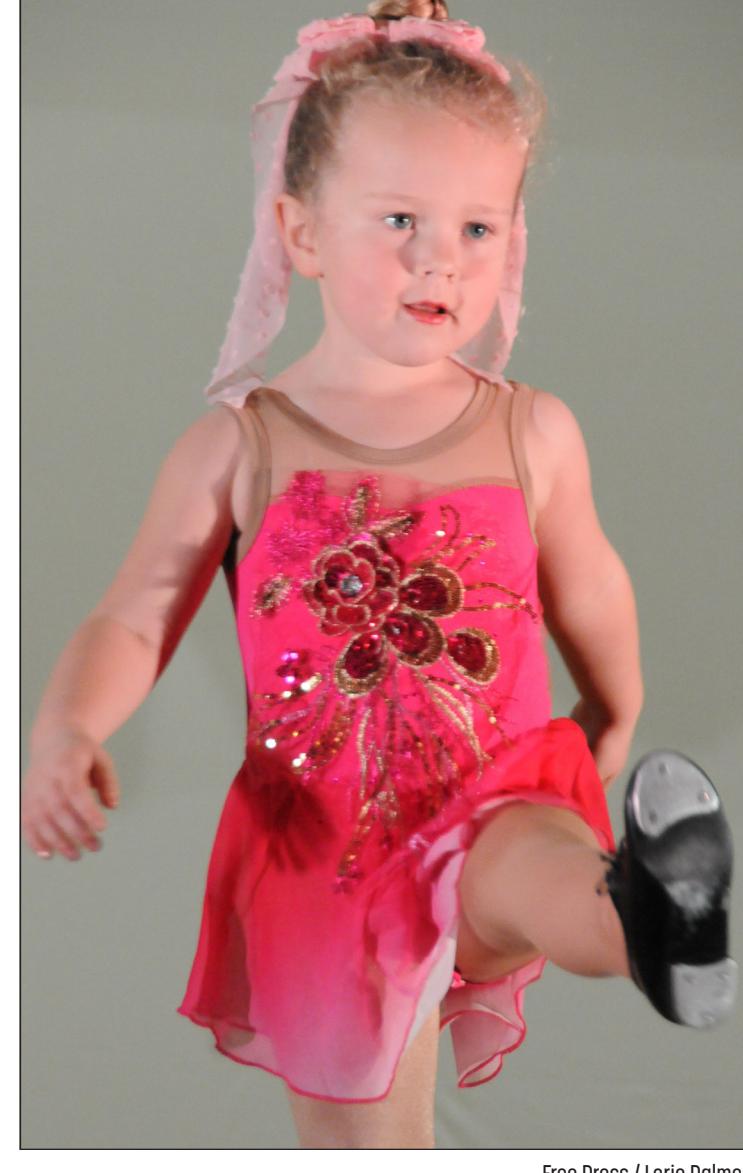
Cottonwood City Council

By David Rauzi, editor
Idaho County Free Press

COTTONWOOD — Council welcomed the return of one familiar face while saying goodbye to another last week.

At the Jan. 12 Cottonwood City Council meeting, the oath of office

Toe Tap Kick



Free Press / Lorie Palmer

Thia's Cottonwood Dancers held their dance recital Sunday, Jan. 18, at Prairie Junior-Senior High School in Cottonwood. Eighteen dancers performed, including Anna Wimer, seen here with a high kick during a tap dance number. For dance classes held Mondays at Cottonwood Community Hall, call or text Thia Waller at 208-507-1871. Video highlights are on the Jan. 18 Free Press Facebook page.

Principals hired to fulfill school year superintendent contract

Bush, Martinez are interim co-superintendents

By Lorie Palmer
Idaho County Free Press

GRANGEVILLE — Following a 30-minute mid-meeting executive session during the Jan. 15 Mountain View School District 244 board meeting, trustees voted to hire co-interim superintendents.

Clearwater Valley School District 245 and Grangeville School District 246 board members unanimously voted to co-hire Grangeville High School principal Amanda Bush and Clearwater Valley Junior-Senior High School principal Vincent Martinez as interim superintendents effective

See **Hires**, page 3A



Subscribe.



JANUARY 21, 2026

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NEWS: White Bird Liquor Store relocates, reopens

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NEWS: Former fire lookout pens adventure memoir

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SPORTS: Lady Savages remain undefeated

SEE PAGE 1B



Free Press / Lyn Krzeminski

Commissioner Ted Lindsley brings to the discussion the FCC's impending decision to federalize the location decisions of cell towers in all USA counties.

commissioners.

Discussion turned to roads in the Secesh area, where snow plowing depends on Valley County's crews and their schedules.

See **COMMISSION**, page 2A

OBITUARIES:

Ward David 'Buck' Fitch, 81

Manuel 'Kim' Harding, 72

SEE PAGE 2B

TEMPUS FUGIT: 50 YEARS AGO

The Syringa General Hospital Board of Trustees adopted a policy of open door, free care for those who need it, last week at the regular hospital board meeting.

SEE PAGE 5B

NEWS:

Project to mitigate ongoing Lawyer Creek flood issues

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Cottonwood City Council

By David Rauzi, editor
Idaho County Free Press

COTTONWOOD — Council welcomed the return of one familiar face while saying goodbye to another last week.

At the Jan. 12 Cottonwood City Council meeting, the oath of office

was given to councilors Brett Miller and Debby O'Neill, both of whom ran unopposed in the November elections. Miller (appointed in December 2022) continues in his current seat, while O'Neill (who resigned in 2024) returned to her position that up through last October

was held by Gus Hoene.

In a retirement letter read by mayor Keith Holcomb, outgoing police chief Terry Cochran stated, “It has truly been an honor to be allowed to be your chief for the last 25 years. I have worked with many wonderful people who have helped build

Cottonwood to what it is today.”

Cochran finishes his time with the city, with no replacement as yet hired, which was not addressed during the meeting.

“Please know,” the letter

See **CHIEF**, page 5A

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BUSINESS



The White Bird liquor store is now located next to 1906 Brews on River Street. The store will also offer curated gift items, a move aimed at diversifying offerings and drawing in broader customer interest.

White Bird liquor store relocates, reopens

By Dana Greig
Idaho County Free Press

WHITE BIRD — The White Bird liquor store has changed ownership and locations, moving south on River Street to a red building beside 1906 Brews, and to the operating hands of mayor Homer Brown. This move, which keeps the store within city limits, is pivotal for the town of fewer than 100 residents.

"The state approached us about [running] it so it can stay in town," Brown explained. "There's a lot of revenue that stays in city if the local store is in city limits. I wish it would have worked out downtown, but since it's fallen into our hands we'll try to make the best of it."

According to a letter of support sent to the Idaho State Liquor Division by

White Bird's city clerk/treasurer Sandy Murphy, the store's previous presence within city limits generated approximately \$8,000 annually in revenue. After its relocation outside the city, the town's cut dropped by more than half.

October 2025 revenue alone surged to \$1,818—a 194% increase from August that year. The letter notes this jump "will allow us to use the money for public safety for our streets, infrastructure projects, repairs and improvements for City Hall, community projects, and city beautification".

Brown, recently reelected for a third term as mayor, is planning to utilize that revenue for items important to residents, such as a flashing speed limit sign. He explained the need is brought by seasonal tourist traffic

during summer and hunting season brings a swell of visitors who don't always obey town signs.

Murphy also cited vital projects that this revenue can now help fund, including drinking water infrastructure and replacement of aging decorative streetlights. The symbolic "Welcome to White Bird" sign also tops the list for repair.

"Not only is having the contract liquor store in White Bird important for revenue, but also for the community," the letter emphasized. "It also means people will come into town to purchase from the liquor store and potentially go into other businesses."

The store is located at 270 River Street in White Bird with operating hours Monday — Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and closed Sundays.

COMMISSION: County fire drill on tap

Continued from 1A

"So, for Idaho County," said Von Borgen, "we're kind of at their mercy as to when they plow, because even if we wanted to open it up before Memorial Day, we'd have to open up their piece of road to get there."

Commissioners indicated that additional coordination between the two counties may be necessary to improve response times and maintenance consistency.

In other business, Stacy Rice, safety coordinator, requested permission to conduct a county fire drill that would involve the jail on Feb. 25.

"I scheduled a 10 a.m. assembly with Brian Perry," Rice said. "The sheriff's office does not want to take inmates out of the building; they want to use the courtroom to go through the motions and get them down there. I cleared the court calendar with the [court clerk] for that day."

Rice also reported that an active shooter preparedness plan is being developed, as well as a new employee safety and security procedure with orientation materials. Clerk Kathy Ackerman emphasized to the commission how important Rice's role is in maintaining compliance and improving workforce safety practices, protecting the county's insurance and risk ratings.

Michael Brown, IT coordinator, reported on the

My personal thought is, don't take your hand away from the future. If you could get something where at least they have to contact you to put something in motion, you can say yes; but once you don't have the ability to say no... well, that is what I would be more concerned about,

Matt Jessup
attorney, regarding proposed FCC rules that would remove county governments from having a say in the placement of cell towers

status of the new county jail's network and equipment.

Equipment, he said, is now being staged and configured, with on-site installation expected around Jan. 20 or 21. Another project update will be on a future agenda once installation is complete and the network has been fully tested.

Commissioner Lindsley informed the meeting

he had received information regarding proposed Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules that could significantly limit county authority over the placement of cell towers, allowing them to be placed where the tower companies want them, with little review, particularly in unzoned areas, by the county.

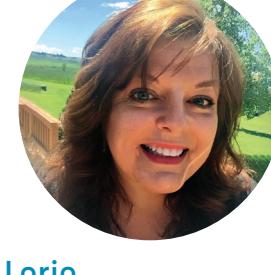
"My personal thought is, don't take your hand away from the future. If you could get something where at least they have to contact you to put something in motion, you can say yes; but once you don't have the ability to say no... well, that is what I would be more concerned about," commented attorney Jessup.

The National Association of Counties submitted formal comments on behalf of all county governments to the FCC on Dec. 31 opposing federalization of cell tower regulation and supporting the preservation of local control over siting decisions. The FCC is expected to issue a response this month after the close of the comment period.

"There's no need to have it," Brandt said. "Let's hope there's no need to proceed."

The meeting concluded with miscellaneous approvals, including the appointments of Willy Acton and Karl Urquhart to the Airport Advisory Board, and the hiring of Chelsea Tucker in the University of Idaho Extension Office.

CCFCU donates to food banks; Shurtz Music Studio moves



**Lorie
PALMER**

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Clearwater River Valley. Give a call today for an estimate or set up an appointment. Call 208-579-8885.

Salmon River Transit in Riggins is offering free bus services. They travel to McCall each Friday, and Grangeville the first Wednesday of each month.

This is open to all but preference is given to senior citizens with



Contributed photo

The cutlines attached read: "Frieda M. Howard feeding Cougar Joe raw meat from her hand. Joe belonged to Howard and Dorothy Smith who had a place above Mom and Sam on Red River."

'Cougar Joe' update

Free Press reader Judy Dippold from Union, Ore., recently sent some correspondence and a photo to the paper.

She saw the photo and brief article on Leonard York and "Remembering Cougar Joe" in the Oct. 21, 2025, issue. She recalled her grandmother in a photo with the cougar and passed it on to us to run.

Thanks to Judy for being a loyal reader of the Free Press and for this historic photo, circa mid-1950s.

Grangeville Pioneer Park Playground Fundraiser is on! Sponsorship levels include

platinum (\$10,000); Gold (\$5,000); Silver (\$1,000); and bronze (\$250-\$999). All donations are tax-deductible

and will receive a nonprofit donation receipt. Platinum, gold and silver sponsorship levels will be recognized at the playground site. Contact Amy with questions or to

donate: 208-791-2787.

Shurtz Music Studio

has moved to 507 W. Main Street in Grangeville. To inquire about classes, see the Facebook page

Making Musicians-Tiffany Shurtz.

Call 208-494-1234.

Jacob Sloan with Mobile Small Engine Repair is ready to fix your machine, wherever you are.

The business serves the

medical and dental appointments. This transportation is supported by the St. Luke's Community Health Improvement Fund.

Call Sandy Evens to book a ride: 208-696-8120.

I have read a few articles stating this season's flu is expected to be severe, possibly worse than last year. I also read there have been 13 million fewer flu vaccinations given so far this year. Interesting. Remember to wash your hands frequently and prevent the spread of germs by not going out to public places if you are experiencing any illness symptoms.

I have been enjoying the beautiful frost the fog has been leaving, though I do not enjoy driving in the fog. Interesting winter we are having so far!



Facebook / St. Mary's Health

Cottonwood Community Federal Credit Union, through its holiday food drive and donation from volunteers, as well as its matching donations in 2025, was able to give \$16,943 to St. Mary's Food Bank.

MAYOR: Reporting now in compliance

Continued from 3A

everywhere to stay solvent. It was tough." Then turning a corner from troubled times to triumph, Schneider acknowledged, "But we made it!" He recounted the city was now compliant with the State of Idaho on their 2023 and 2024 audits. Furthermore, Schneider anticipated, "We should hear about the 2025 audit in June."

After thanking Brenneis for the 19 months of working together to rectify the city's finances, Schneider asked her to share the city's current standing.

Brenneis reported all Internal Revenue Service (IRS) filings are up to date, as well as 941 Tax Filings. A 940 Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) filing made in 2022 was amended for a reimbursement of about \$4,000.

"The state of Idaho District Attorney's office and the Idaho State Police's investigation should be completed by the end of January, unless something comes up," Brenneis said. "And all bills have been paid off and caught up since mid-2024."

Social Security Administration (SSA) wages were not reported before 2024, but now all are in compliance and reported. Public Employment Retirement System of Idaho (PERSI) is currently in compliance and FUND accounts are getting cleaned up, revised and properly implemented. For on-going accountability, monthly meetings are being held to review departmental spending. The citizens gave the positive report sound applause.

Tracy Hill, a citizen who voluntarily labored to reconcile bank accounts and work out a current budget



Free Press / Cathy Law

(L-R) Councilor David Redden congratulates newly elected mayor Genese Simler as she receives a gift sign from outgoing mayor, Dale Schneider, at the Jan. 14 city council meeting.



Free Press / Cathy Law

(L-R) City clerk/treasurer Teri Brenneis swears in newly appointed city council member, Scott Courtney at the Jan. 14 city council meeting. In a council vote later that evening, Courtney was elected as council president.

was recognized.

"I don't know what we would have done without you," Schneider admitted.

Then Schneider recalled how Stu Bryant, current public works supervisor was considering retirement after the election recall. "But you realized the place the city was in, and stayed — even offering to take on public works, in addition to the water plant."

Looking at Scott Courtney, Schneider commended his willing responses, "You see a job that needs to be done and you do it."

To Jim Lund, chief wastewater operator, Schneider said, "You have done an outstanding job for the city. You're a go-getter. We are thankful to

have you."

With a smile, Schneider told a story about Mike Tornatore, deputy clerk. He recalled how citizens came into city hall asking for "Mike."

With a smile, Schneider remembered how citizens come into city hall asking for Mike Tornatore, deputy clerk.

"When I told them, 'He's not here, but I'm the mayor. May I help you?' They would insist, 'No, I need to talk to Mike.'"

Tornatore had his own thanks for Schneider: "You always took time to mentor me, steering my thinking and helping me grow as a person." Then in one word, Tornatore summed up the city's reaction to their debilitating financial condition: "resilience."

Tracy Hill, a citizen who

voluntarily labored to

reconcile bank accounts and

work out a current budget

immediately through June 30.

"Alica Holthaus did not submit a letter of intent" to continue her contract, MVSD board chair Tyler Harrington told the audience. He explained that some things that occurred within the community did not make her feel confident to continue. Side discussions within the meeting insinuated this decision circled around deconsolidation and the failed Grangeville levy. Holthaus came out of

retirement to serve as the interim superintendent for the past year.

Trustees thanked Bush

and Martinez for their willingness to step in and help.

Both boards also voted to

purchase a superintendent search plan for \$3,750 each through the Idaho State Board of Education. The search will continue until suitable candidates are hired, with the plan to have them on board by June.

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OPINION

YOUR VIEWS speak up

The Idaho County Free Press attempts to publish as many letters to the editor as possible.

Letters to the editor guidelines:

- 350 words maximum
- For verification, writers must include contact information (mail/e-mail addresses, phone numbers)

• Unsigned letters, letters with fictitious signatures or copies of letters to public officials are not accepted

- The Free Press reserves the right to edit or omit a letter if it contains libelous material, an attack on an individual or is in bad taste.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks to community for cross on hill support

Letter a 'new, dark depth'

Mr. Passmore (regarding the ICFP letter of Jan. 14): Even for you, that is a new, dark depth of disgusting.

Shelley Dumas
Grangeville

Hate is not a solution

To all of the readers who despair at another submission from J.C. Passmore [Free Press Jan. 14 letter], you are not alone. That so many Americans have fallen prey to demagogues, conspiracy theorists and media hustlers (like Glenn Beck) is sad. They consume the latest hate "clickbait" or angry news feed and transform it into a tirade for the rest of us to shake our heads at in wonder.

The purpose of his latest submission is to smear a woman murdered by her/our own government. In the process, he sweeps up an entire generation into his dustpan of hate.

Mr. Passmore, Renee Nicole Good should be alive. We've all seen the videos from every angle. Her final words in a calm, sweet, motherly voice, "That's fine, dude. I'm not mad at you," says it all. Nicole Good should not be dead today.

Also, nice job condemning all parents by saying, "Today's children are so messed up." It may be that you only read your own letters, but this paper regularly features today's youth. The academic, athletic and community achievements of Idaho County kids dominate these pages week after week.

Sir, your hatred of the other is what is "messed up." Your opinions are giving voice to a willingly uninformed minority. Most Americans still embrace love of neighbor and practice doing unto others as we would have done unto ourselves. For all of our sakes, you might consider anger management counseling. At the very least, think before you submit. We know there are problems, always have been, always will be. Hate is not a solution, never has been, never will be. Solutions require thoughtful planning, communication, patience and consensus, which requires a whole lot of respect, if not love. Wish Renee Good were alive so we could get her perspective on all of your nonsense.

Jane Durrell
Riggins

Thanks for help with cross on the hill

The snowmobile club would like to send out a huge thank you to the community for their continued support in helping keep a local tradition alive: the cross.

The vicious storm we had right before Christmas took a toll on the Fish Creek area, the ski and snowmobile trails and damaged portions of the cross, causing an outage for several days. A few dedicated guys from the Sno-Drifters attempted to get there, but had to turn around on the first try. They returned the next day, and they were able to get things fixed up just enough to have the cross shine for Christmas and New Year's. It will be back on for the Easter season. If you see Mitch Jungert, Jake Pineda or Rich Gribble, please let them know how thankful we are to have them in our communities. If it weren't for them, the mountain wouldn't have shone so brightly.

On another thankful note, there

have been several members of the community taking the time to cut trails out so our groomer will be able to groom once we get enough snow. The list of individuals willing to lend a helping hand is long, but in general, thank you to the members of the Sno-Drifters, the Idaho Pathfinders, the USFS, the loggers and the truck drivers, the ranchers and the landowners for the teamwork to get the hundreds of trees cleared to ensure that winter recreation would be possible. The hours of work you have put in are appreciated beyond words.

Megan Turner
Sno-Drifters Secretary

Thanks for article on youth and church

I want to write to say how much I appreciated the article by Lorie Palmer titled "Why young people are walking away from the church," published in the Jan. 14 edition of the paper.

The trends, which have been built over a significant period of time, are reversible if we implement the principles Ms. Palmer outlined. The older generations who constitute the large majority of church membership in the U.S. need to intentionally embrace these ministry practices to win the younger generations to Christ. It is not too late.

The Methodist movement, initiated by John and Charles Wesley, exploded, especially in America, by implementing these and similar principles. These included: going where the people are outside the church building; speaking their language ("plain talk for plain folk"); addressing the felt needs of the people, especially of the poor and marginalized; implementing a small group system which included the weekly class meeting for seekers and the smaller bands for believers to foster discipleship through open, honest conversation; the utilizing of lay ministers and lay preaching; and instilling a strong sense of mission to "spread scriptural holiness over the lands."

The principles are timeless. Though things may seem bleak, Jesus is with us, and his love and forgiveness extend to all generations.

Rev. Daniel Willms, Pastor
Grangeville United Methodist Church

'Respectful discourse' needed for success

Idaho County has a long and admirable tradition of independence, civic responsibility, and neighbors stepping forward to serve. As the newly formed Grangeville School District 246 continues to find its footing, that tradition is being tested.

First came a failed levy and an unfilled board position. Now the district has lost Superintendent Alicia Holthaus, who generously came out of retirement—at real personal cost—to guide Mountain View School District 244 through a difficult transition. Losing her leadership at this critical moment makes it far more challenging to present a clear and credible picture of what the future holds for District 246, with or without a reconsidered levy in May.

At the same time, the new Clearwater Valley School District 245 is benefiting from cohesion, cooperation, and a shared commitment to moving forward together. Their early success is a reminder that new districts can

thrive when communities choose collaboration over conflict.

Here in Grangeville, disagreement itself is not the problem. My concern is the tone and tactics. A troubling pattern of personal attacks and public hostility towards those willing to serve has emerged. Such behavior erodes trust and drives away the very people most willing to invest their time and expertise. The result is predictable: unstable leadership, unfilled board seats, and growing difficulty building community support for our public schools.

It is important to say plainly: a vocal minority does not define us. The vast majority of local residents value civility, fairness, and constructive engagement. But silence in the face of destructive behavior allows it to flourish.

If we want a vibrant community, we must insist on respectful discourse and reject efforts to intimidate or drive out those willing to serve.

Communities do not fail to attract leaders because they value accountability. They fail when accountability is replaced by antagonism.

District 246 is still very young. Its future will not be determined solely by ballots or budgets, but by whether we choose to build a culture that invites service rather than punishes it. Our children, educators, and community deserve nothing less.

Kelby Wilson
Grangeville

'Minnesota Mom' misinformation

I never thought it would be possible to pack as much misinformation into a letter-to-the-editor as JC Passmore did in his letter [Free Press Jan. 14], "Minnesota Mom." Not one statement was truthful.

Just after the murder, cosplay commander Kristi Noem grabbed a mic and quickly spit out misinformation about Renee Good in order to get ahead of the firestorm she knew would be coming. Noem never even mentioned Good's name, but magically knew everything about her? Impossible. Too bad Passmore and those of his ilk weren't smart enough to notice, but were foolish enough to pass it on.

Shame on him and the vicious tone of his letter. I'm surprised it made it to print, but glad for the opportunity to set him straight.

Patrice Yeatter
Lewiston

could have outrun her car. Her wheels were turned away from the ICE agent.

• "Psycho-tranny" tag team. Passmore is showing his bigotry here.

None of these "crimes" carries the death penalty. She's dead because she pissed off an ICE agent.

Watch the video. Law enforcement officials have an obligation to never put themselves in a position where deadly force is required for self-defense. They do have an obligation to de-escalate the situation.

Watch the video. A physician tried to help and was turned away. She was still alive at this time.

Watch the video. The ICE officer held his phone in one hand and his gun in the other hand. Who taught him this? Why wasn't he wearing a body cam?

ICE knew who she was and where she lived. If she had committed a crime, they could have arrested her at her home at their leisure. Nobody would have been harmed. There was no reason to kill her.

Why won't the federal government allow Minnesota officials to participate in the investigation? Are they afraid the truth will come out?

Trump and Noem immediately blamed the "Minnesota Mom" before an investigation could begin. A responsible official would tamp down rhetoric and wait for the investigation before making public accusations. A responsible official would tell citizens this was a tragedy, and we should all step back and try to be better.

We should stop childish name-calling and instead work together to make our great country live up to its potential.

Karl Yerkes
Elk City

Thanks for 'dedication and service'

Dear Mr. Jon Word, Nez Perce and Clearwater Forest Supervisor,

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to you and the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest for your support and partnership following the December windstorms that caused extensive damage to the Fish Creek recreation area.

The storms left a significant amount of downed timber, damaging buildings, and creating challenges for public access and recreational use. Your leadership was instrumental in allowing smokejumpers and volunteer groups to move forward efficiently and safely with trail-clearing efforts, ensuring the area could be reopened for cross-country skiing and snowmobile use during this winter season.

I appreciate our strong partnership with you, the Forest Service and Idaho County in caring for our public lands. These efforts directly benefit residents, visitors, and outdoor enthusiasts who rely on this area for recreation and access. It does provide an economic benefit to our communities.

On behalf of myself and Idaho County, I want to thank you for your stewardship, collaboration, and commitment to maintaining safe and accessible recreational opportunities within the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest. Your support makes a meaningful difference and is greatly appreciated.

Thank you again for your dedication and service.

Ted Lindsley

Idaho County Commissioner

David
RAUZI

Editor, Idaho County Free Press

drauzi@idahocountyfreepress.com



CHIEF:

Continued from 1A

continued, "that as a small-town police department, you each have the ability to not only fund the job, but also improve and encourage anyone else to take over."

In his last police report for the council, Cochran noted incidents ranging from a burglary to an errant sheep, and Holcomb asked what was the biggest thing that stuck out for him for 2025:

"Getting rammed with the rig, that kind of stuck out," Cochran said. This refers to a March 31, 2025, incident involving Michael W. Holley, who was charged with multiple felonies following an alleged high-speed chase in the Cottonwood area that ended with his allegedly ramming his car into Cochran's police vehicle. Sentencing in the case is pending.

In an unrelated issue, council approved a petition to exempt the Clint Riener property at 809 Washington Avenue from water and sewer connection. The matter resulted in related discussion on whether the city should establish a fee for such disconnections.

"That's an expense on the city for disconnecting," said public works director Pat Enneking, with public works operator Mac Hankins

elaborating: "It's the parts and the time to disconnect, especially the sewer properly, and then make the water to where it can't be hooked up or tampered with by anybody — that can be expensive depending on where it's at."

One disconnection may take a couple of hours while another one could take half a day, depending on the work involved, he said, which could involve connections in precarious spots near city mains or buried under asphalt or concrete, for example.

"So, it's not just a 15-minute deal," Hankins said, "and a lot of people think it's that way."

To council questions, city attorney Joe Wright said the city could adopt a resolution to set a base fee for a reasonable or actual cost of providing the service. City clerk/treasurer Lynn Thompson said then a petitioner would fill out the request and pay the fee, which Holcomb noted would expedite the work.

"It would be like them getting a new service, but just disconnecting," he said, "so, we wouldn't even have to go through this process."

Council unanimously approved the petitioner's request, but at this time no discussion was had to move forward on the fee.

MVS 244, CVSD 245, GSD 246:

Gate fees increase for 2026

By Lorie Palmer
Idaho County Free Press

KOOSKIA — It will cost a little more to support your favorite high school teams on the home front in 2026.

The Clearwater Valley School District 245 board voted to raise gate fees by \$1 with the new costs to be \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors, and \$5 for students. Those 5 and younger are admitted free.

"The money collected at the specific school stays there at that school," superintendent Alicia Holthaus said.

She explained official's fees have gone up and the increases will help to cover this. It is estimated that

those expenses have increased by as much as 4%.

Grangeville School District 246 trustees voted for the following fees: \$8 for adults (no change); \$5 for senior citizens and high school students (\$1 increase); \$5 for elementary and middle school students (no change); and those 8 and younger admitted free.

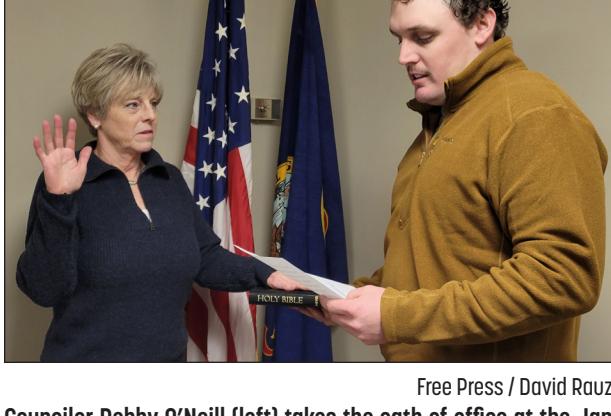
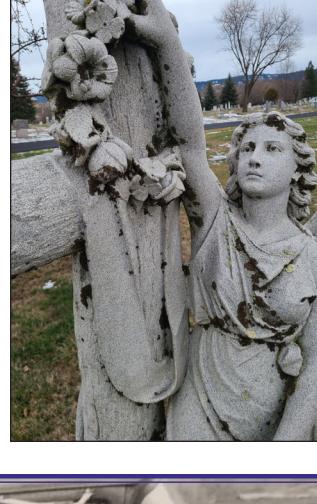
"I was just at a Priest River basketball game and the adult fee was \$10 a person, so I have no problem with these [minimal] increases," trustee Melissa Lane said.

Both boards voted yes on the fee increases for all gate fees at the Dec. 18 meeting held in Kooskia.

Sentinel Angel In The Cemetery

Among the numerous headstones of Prairie View Cemetery in Grangeville, this angel stands watch while reflecting on the cross.

Free Press / Hannah Rauzi



Free Press / David Rauzi

Councilor Debby O'Neill (left) takes the oath of office at the Jan. 12 Cottonwood City Council meeting from mayor Keith Holcomb.



Free Press / David Rauzi

Councilor Brett Miller (left) takes the oath of office at the Jan. 12 Cottonwood City Council meeting from mayor Keith Holcomb.



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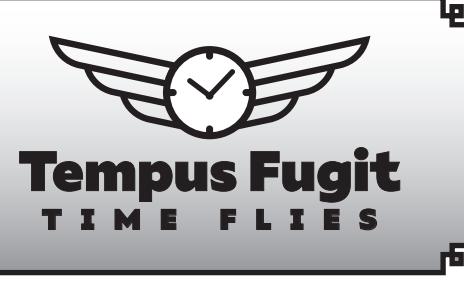
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SPONSORED CONTENT:

10 YEARS AGO

January 20, 2016

GRANGEVILLE — High winds coupled with a snow-covered highway played havoc with traffic south of Grangeville last Saturday, resulting in a jackknifed semitruck that partially blocked traffic and a commercial bus sliding into the ditch.

20 YEARS AGO

January 18, 2006

HARPSTER — Investigators allege a Harpster woman shot her husband to death as he lay asleep in bed Monday night. Rockie Sue Liev, 50, was arraigned Tuesday afternoon on first-degree murder, a felony.

30 YEARS AGO

January 17, 1996

The Grangeville Police Department is advertising for a new full-time officer following the resignation of Officer Lorien Salazar.

40 YEARS AGO

January 22, 1986

Get ready for a fun-filled weekend for the family as the sixth annual Grangeville Winter Festival is ready to begin.

50 YEARS AGO

January 21, 1976

The Syringa General Hospital Board of Trustees adopted a policy of open door, free care for those who need it, last week at the regular hospital board meeting. The policy was a Hill Burton requirement. However the matter of placing a sign in the lobby, proclaiming free care was available, was tabled.

60 YEARS AGO

January 20, 1956

Speaking at the annual Fireman's dinner, Chief R.A. Large said there were 33 fire calls in 1965.

70 YEARS AGO

January 12, 1956

Grangeville's schoolboy patrol was ordered discontinued until proper legal authority gives it permission to start again. Lack of liability protection ends pupil's service in several communities this week, including Coeur d'Alene.

Polio treatment costs in Idaho hospitals soared as high as \$150 a day in several instances.

80 YEARS AGO

January 17, 1946

Membership fees of Idaho County Ski Club have been set at \$1 for the ensuing year. In events, Don Manning lost the leather medal to "General" Crea while Vivian Shields divided the women's honors.

90 YEARS AGO

January 23, 1936

Sports fans are reminded of the smoker in Dreamland Hall, with 26 rounds of fast and clever boxing on the fight card.

100 YEARS AGO

January 21, 1926

J.W. Hazelbaker has finished putting up his ice and states it is extra fine. The ice was cut on his ranch at the foot of the mountain, and he calls it "The Mountain Brook Ice."

110 YEARS AGO

January 20, 1916

KAMIAH — An ice jam on the Clearwater River has stopped the ferry at Lenore. The jam extends from Lenore to the Big Eddy.

120 YEARS AGO

January 18, 1906

Chief of Police Hauger reports a number of dogs running about the town without the necessary license tag.

130 YEARS AGO

January 17, 1896

Scott & Vollmer loaded two four-horse teams with mining supplies for A.T. Carter of Buffalo Hill. The road is reported to be in good shape.

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COMMUNITY



MCT Cinderella auditions set for Jan. 26 at GEMS; performance is Jan. 30

GRANGEVILLE — An audition will be held for the Missoula Children's Theatre (MCT) production of Cinderella Monday, Jan. 26, beginning at 3:30 p.m. and running through 5:30 p.m. in the Grangeville Elementary Middle School multi-purpose room. Those auditioning should arrive by 3:25 p.m. and plan to stay for the full two hours. Some of the cast members will be asked to stay for a rehearsal immediately following the auditions. All local children (public, private or home-schooled) in kindergarten through eighth grade are invited to audition. Cinderella will be presented on Friday, Jan. 30, in the GEMS multi-purpose room at 6:30 p.m. The Missoula Children's Theatre residency in Grangeville is presented locally by The Kids Klub with support from Cottonwood Community Federal Credit Union. For information, call The Kids Klub, Inc. at 208-983-2285.

Border Days Royalty dinner is Feb. 21

GRANGEVILLE — The Border Days Royalty dinner is set for Saturday, Feb. 21, at the Eagles Aerie on C Street. Drinks at 6 p.m. with dinner served at 7 p.m. Dinner is pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, macaroni and cheese and a side salad. Cost is \$25 per ticket and money will go to support the 2026 Border Days Queen Sabrina Schmaus and Princess Sam Spencer.

Grangeville SD 246 seeks board trustee

GRANGEVILLE — Grangeville School District No. 246 is seeking a qualified individual to serve the term of school board trustee for Zone 2. Anyone residing with the zone boundaries as legally defined as Zone 2 (Idaho County) that has a genuine interest in the education of our children should submit a letter of interest or resume of qualifications to: Tracy Lynde, Board Clerk, Mountain View School District No. 244 / Grangeville School District No. 246, 714 Jefferson Avenue, Grangeville ID 83530, no later than Jan. 31. For questions, call the board clerk at 208-983-0990.

Trivia night is on Jan. 22

COTTONWOOD — All are invited to Trivia Night Feud at Prairie High School cafeteria on Thursday, Jan. 22, starting at 6 p.m. Up to six people per team, or arrive and find a team to join; prizes will be awarded. A \$15 meal is available.

Make a Valentine wreath Jan. 23

KAMIAH — A free Valentine wreath-making event will be held at the UYLC office, 405 Main Street, Kamiah, on Friday, Jan. 23, at 5:30 p.m. So they can have enough supplies for everyone, sign up by emailing uylcrecovery@gmail.com.

Stumpwork class set for Jan. 24

KAMIAH — Saragrace Knauf will lead a free stumpwork (a three-dimensional embroidery technique) class on making a blackberry on Saturday, Jan. 24, at River Arts, 416 Main Street, Suite E, Kamiah. The class is free, but an RSVP and \$20 (bring to class) for supplies are required. Ages 11 and older are welcome; an adult must accompany those younger than 13. To RSVP, email theresa@riverartskamiah.org or call/text 208-451-3206.

Nutrition and mental health workshop Feb. 4

KAMIAH — The next Upriver Youth Leadership Council's workshop in the yearlong Nutrition and Mental Health Workshop Series is Wednesday, Feb. 4, 'A Balanced Diet and Its Impact on Mental Health,' noon, in the Community Kitchen at the Teen Center, 405 Main Street, Kamiah. This lunch-and-learn workshop is presented by Peyton Goodman, with the Idaho North Central Health District. The series is open to all community members. Space is limited, reserve your spot at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/YF9NSLL

Grangeville Fireman's Ball is Feb. 14

GRANGEVILLE — Presale tickets are available for the annual Fireman's Ball for the Grangeville Volunteer Fire Department at B&B Bargain and The Crafty Hideaway. Tickets are \$45, a VIP table is \$700 and includes eight meal tickets and a chance to win a gun (only 12 tables available). The event is at the Grangeville Elks Lodge, 111 S Meadow Street, doors open at 5 p.m., dinner is at 6 p.m.

More BRIEFS on page 7A



**Lorie
PALMER**

Assistant Editor, Idaho County Free Press

lpalmer@idahocountyfreepress.com

Former fire lookout Crawford releases 'Adventure Awaits'

By Lorie Palmer
Idaho County Free Press

MISSOULA, Mont. — John Crawford, veteran fire lookout and Montana author, turns his lifelong affinity for rugged terrain into Adventure Awaits, a new book published in mid-2025 by Stoneydale Press.

Crawford, who has spent decades in remote mountain outposts scanning for wildfire smoke, draws on a well of journal entries and wilderness experience to guide readers across six states. His previous work, Above It All, focused on decades in lookout towers; this new volume is more outward looking, a travelogue of canoes, snowshoes and backcountry crossings.

As in his earlier books, Crawford writes with a sharp eye for detail: the flicker of a golden eagle's wing, the shape of distant ridelines, the sudden swell of an afternoon thunderstorm.

Free Press readers will remember past stories on Crawford's adventures that speak of his journeys at Idaho County's Indian Hill Fire Lookout, as well as his story of Ernie "Tarzan the Mountain Man" Boh, a Selway area legend.

But Adventure Awaits plunges into visceral moments — being pinned by a broken tree during a river crossing, hauling a 70-pound pack through deep snow, or staking tent lines through bone-chilling nights in alpine passes. A publisher's synopsis notes he and longtime partner Gary Winek "get treed by an ornery bull moose two days

away from any help ... flirt with death when a rattlesnake struck ... almost drown when a tree pinned his kayak underwater."

Below is a brief excerpt from Adventure Awaits, capturing one of Crawford's quieter moments in the mountains:

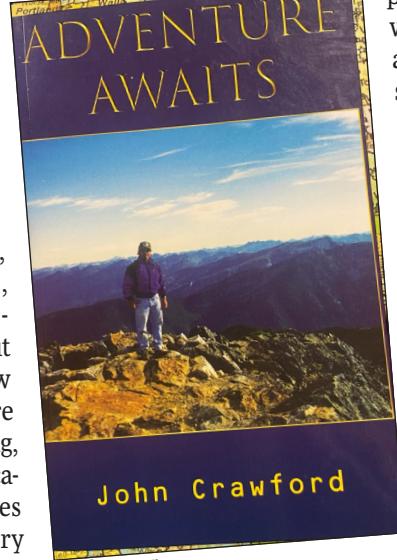
"Night fell like a silk curtain across the valley. I sat by the small campfire and watched embers drift into the dark. The peaks around me were silhouettes against fading pink sky, and I thought: this is what I've always chased. Not headlines, not accolades — just the thin air, the crisp wind, the raw edge of the world in which I can hear my own breathing."

At a June 2025 signing in Missoula, Crawford told readers he hoped the book

would offer both armchair travelers and veterans of trails a "seat beside me on these journeys, the flips and slips, but also those moments when you feel entirely alive."

A longtime resident of Lolo, Mont., Crawford has published nonfiction since the early 1990s, often blending journal, photography and memoir. His Lewis & Clark and Me retraces part of the Corps of Discovery trail from Travelers' Rest over the Bitterroot Mountains.

By weaving detailed nature observation with low-angle personal reflection, Crawford reminds us that the wilderness is more than scenery — it is a mirror, a test, and a mentor. Adventure Awaits invites readers to step beyond comfort zones, to feel the grit of wind and strain of boot-soled miles, and to

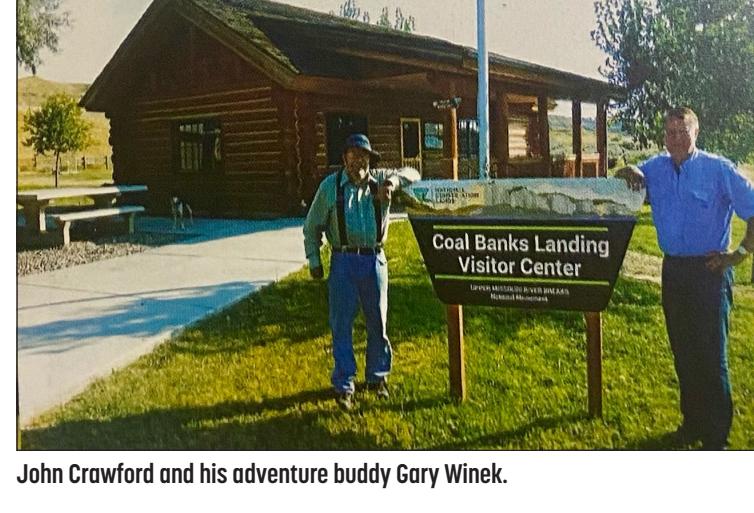


Book cover



Contributed photos

Retired USFS lookout John Crawford makes scale models of lookouts in his spare time.



John Crawford and his adventure buddy Gary Winek.

imagine that somewhere over the ridge, a new story is waiting.

The 355-page book includes

more than 40 color pictures and is available on Amazon and at other outlets for \$19.95.

Local schools will have fresh fruit, vegetables

Mountain View School District (MVSD) 244, Kamiah Joint School District (KJSD) 304 and Salmon River School District (SRSD) 243 were part of 158 schools across Idaho to have the opportunity for a variety of fresh fruit and vegetable options at no cost to the student or school with federal, state-administered grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP).

Schools were awarded grants through a competitive application process, and all grants were contingent on available USDA funds.

These are local Idaho schools and the amounts received FFVP grants for the 2025-2026 school year:

• MVSD — Clearwater Valley Elementary School, \$8,462.17, and Grangeville Elementary & Jr. High, \$27,784.13.

• KJSD — Kamiah Elementary/Middle Schools, \$14,597.25.

• SRSD — Riggins Elementary School, \$4,654.19.

ORGANIZATIONS:

Big Cedar Homemakers

Since January starts the 2026 officers' term for the Big Cedar Homemakers, Kathleen and Tracy stepped into the co-chair role. Being her usual organized self, Tracy provided a 2026 contact list and meeting schedule to everyone requesting updates to the contact list. Treasurer remains the same, while secretary becomes a shared position between Madelon and Susie, with Susie typing and emailing notes to the members.

The January highlight for the Homemakers is distributing money earned from holiday swag sales to local organizations and charities. (A reminder for everyone that the Taco Feed earnings are set aside for maintenance of the Big Cedar Schoolhouse unless a well-considered decision determines otherwise.) A donation to the Life Center food bank was matched by the Cottonwood Community Credit Union, doubling the impact. Other donations included the Emergency Feeding Ministry, Ridge Runner Volunteer Fire Department, Tahoe Quick Response Unit, Clearwater Valley 4-H, and Kamiah YWCA.

Discussion included: how to better tighten boughs when making swags, paying garbage and electric bills at the schoolhouse in conjunction with the



Contributed photo

Becky Schultz and Cathy Ward show off a craft they are working on.

Ridge Runners, and consideration of current or future maintenance needs for the schoolhouse. The activity of the day was making pine cone bird feeders. The next meeting is a potluck, Feb. 11 at Lisa's house. Bring an embroidery needle if you have one!

Tryouts are Friday and Saturday for Old Opera House spring production

KOOSKIA — Singers, dancers and actors of all ages are invited to try out for the next Prairie Youth Theater production at The Old Opera House Theater in Kooskia. All ages and levels of experience from Idaho and Lewis counties are encouraged.

The musicals being vetted right now are Annie and Oliver Twist. What play is decided upon will depend on how many and who try out.

Auditions are going to be held Friday and Saturday, Jan. 23 and 24 at the Opera House on Kooskia's Main Street. Times will be assigned. Call 208-451-5152.

Those who are assigned parts will need to be available for rehearsals Monday through Thursday (with occasional Fridays and Saturdays) from 4-6 p.m., starting Feb. 2, with performance dates April 18, 19, 23 and 24.



Contributed photo

Kathy Allen's granddaughters attended the last meeting.

Card Parties

Pinochle (Jan. 17): 1. Gin Lensing, 2. Nancy Duffin, 3. Ken Mifflin, 4. Irene Agee. 300 Pinochle: Nancy Duffin. 9s: Les Lensing, Pinochle (Jan. 15): 1/2. Irene Agee, Ken Mifflin (tie), 3. Don Haukedahl, 4. Mary James. 300 Pinochle — Women: Irene Agee, Men: Ken Mifflin.

9s: Dorwayne Mifflin, Pinochle (Jan. 13): 1. Frank James, 2. Gin Lensing, 3. Cliff Lawson, 4. Irene Agee. 300 Pinochle — Women: Mary Ann Rawson, Men: Frank James.

Parties are held Tuesdays at 1 p.m., Thursdays and Saturdays at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW building, Bethman addition, Tamarack Rd., Kamiah. New players are welcome.

PEOPLE

Play auditions are this weekend; get crab feed tickets

CLEARWATER VALLEY — With the start of the third quarter of classes, CVHS seniors completed the rite of passage, presenting their senior projects last Wednesday.

Each student stood with their project display, explaining it and answering questions.

Projects ranged from actions to improve the school, community service or career exploration. Career goals ranged from technical skills like welder, electrician and electrical lineman to medical positions including nurse, doctor, phlebotomist and sports trainer. Other pursuits included wildlife biologist, engineer, photographer, esthetician, flight attendant and cybersecurity expert. Each project included a fundraising component. Seniors sold a



Norma STAAF

Clearwater Valley Correspondent
nstaaf@live.com
208-993-0689

variety of items, including oranges, beaded keychains, caramel apples or baked goods, while others simply asked people for direct donations.

Fundraising amounts varied from a few hundred dollars to \$8,000. Several student athletes tackled projects to improve school sports facilities — the tennis courts and base-

ball batting cages. Other projects included school grounds work, improving the outdoor classroom and the orchard. A shoutout to the seniors and the mentors who volunteered their time to help guide the students in their goals.

The Kooskia Opera House, 21 S. Main Street, is gearing up for its next musical theater production. Tryouts for singers, dancers and actors from

Fundraiser on March 14

KAMIAH — Kamiah hosts its fair share of nonprofit groups, whose members try to make their community a better place. The Kamiah Education Foundation supports and enhances education through advocacy and fundraising. The group is planning its annual fundraising dinner and auction on Saturday, March 14. Tickets cost \$40 per person for a formal catered dinner. Donations of cash or auction items are welcome. Contact a board member for tickets or to donate. Board members include Carrie Bain, Leah York, Craig and Tabitha Roach, Teri Skinner and Greg Johnson. See the Kamiah Education Foundation's Facebook page for a full list of board members. Money raised last year funded new science materials, musical instruments, outdoor education, and cameras for the publishing class.

Kooskia and the surrounding area will take place on Friday, Jan. 23, 6-8 p.m., and Saturday, Jan. 24, 1-3 p.m. Call 208-451-5152 to schedule a specific tryout time. Follow the Kooskia Opera House Facebook page for updates. Rehearsals will begin Feb. 2 with shows on April 18, 19, 23 and 24.

Don't forget the biggest winter social event in the valley, the Kamiah Crab Feed coming up Jan. 29-31 at the Kamiah Legion Hall. With the theme of "Kamiah Lampoon's Crabfeed House," the event includes dinner and local entertainers all three

nights. On Friday and Saturday nights, the Katz band will play after the show. Call or stop by the Kamiah Flower Shoppe, 511 Main Street, phone is 208-935-0200 for tickets.

• A similar organization in Kooskia, the Valley Educational Support Team (VEST Foundation), raises funds to supplement the Clearwater Valley Schools. Plans are underway for their annual fundraising dinner and auction on March 7.

• Following Martin Luther King Jr. Day last weekend, this week's quote is from his ideas and words.

Quote of the week: "The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty by the bad people but the silence over that by the good people." — Martin Luther King, Jr.

Hello, 2026! Hello, Baby!



Facebook / St. Mary's Health

St. Mary's Health in Cottonwood welcomed its first baby of the 2026 New Year, Irie LeRose Cox-Forsmann, born on Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026. Proud parents are Kenedie Cox and Josh Forsmann of Grangeville. See the full birth announcement in the briefs column.

Painting class series starts Feb. 4

KAMIAH — A four-class series on acrylic painting for beginner to intermediate painters, for ages 14 and older, will be led by Doug Boomer at River Arts, 416 Main Street, Suite E, Kamiah, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays, Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 25. RSVP to attend at www.riverartskamiah.org/event/learning-acrylic-painting-four-class-series. All supplies provided.

Fireman's Ball tickets available



Brooke MYERS

White Bird Correspondent
brookemyers262@gmail.com
661-330-7887

WHITE BIRD — What a crazy winter we have had. I have spoken to many people from this area who have said that this winter has been unusually mild. The grass is green everywhere, the buttercups are out, and peaches are budding at the Brumleys! We are in for a bumpy ride come February and March, maybe?

A big thank you to all the friends and family who attended Hootie's memorial service and dinner. Special thanks to Syringa Hospice for their professional and compassionate care; Jefferey, for

his kindness and care for both Hootie and Clarence; Daisy, for many days of needed help; and everyone who stopped in for a chat,

See **WHITE BIRD**, page 8A



(L-R): Adam Uptmor, Rocky Howe, John Kennedy, Dave Wimer, Danyel Morrow-Client Services Associate

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Lorie PALMER
Assistant Editor, Idaho County Free Press
lpalmer@idahocountyfreepress.com

BRIEFS Continued from Page 6A

there will be a live and silent auction, drinks and dancing. All proceeds benefit the Grangeville Volunteer Fire Department and Grangeville fireworks. For information, to donate or buy tickets, call Cody Brown at 208-702-2573.

Dollar-A-Month Club to hold elections

GRANGEVILLE — The Grangeville Senior Center's Dollar-A-Month Club will hold its annual board meeting and election of officers Monday, Jan. 26. Lunch is served at noon at the center. Everyone is welcome to eat, visit and vote. The senior center is located at 108 Grangeville Truck Route.

White Bird Fireman's Ball set for Feb. 14

WHITE BIRD — The White Bird Volunteer Fire Department will hold its annual Fireman's Ball on Saturday, Feb. 14, at the IOOF Rebekahs Hall, 149 River Street, White Bird. There will be dinner, drinks, silent and live auctions, desserts and drawings. Presale tickets are \$30 per person, at the door \$35 per person, event only tickets at the door are \$5. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the silent auction starts, dinner begins at 5:30 p.m., and the silent auction end, live auction starts and fire department presentation all begin at 7 p.m. For information, to get tickets or to donate (item or monetary), call Sandy Murphy at 208-507-1325 or Barbara Lowe at 208-507-3292. All proceeds benefit the White Bird Volunteer Fire Department. Organizer Murphy suggests donations of wine, desserts, or baskets with the theme "date night." Baskets, or items donated to be placed in baskets, will be used in a special raffle during the event. Call Murphy to donate items on or before Thursday, Feb. 12.

Valentine's Day dance fundraiser

RIGGINS — SmallFry Daycare in Riggins is having a Valentine's Day dance fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 14, at the Salmon River High School multipurpose room, 6-9 p.m. Cost is \$10 per adult or \$25 per family. There will be a dessert sale, silent auctions, finger foods and childcare provided.

Traditional beading is Feb. 14

KAMIAH — A free, introductory class on traditional beading will be led by Stella Sammaripa on Saturday, Feb. 14, at River Arts, 416 Main Street, Suite E, Kamiah. Ages 12 and older are welcome; an adult must accompany a child. Supplies fee is \$25; RSVP to attend at www.riverartskamiah.org/event/introduction-to-traditional-beading.

Paint night on Feb. 19

GRANGEVILLE — Art Uncorked Downtown will have an adult-only paint night on Thursday, Feb. 19, at Grangeville Eagles, 218 N C Street. There are three art choices — a snowman, a fox in the snow or a robin in the snow. The cost is \$30 and tickets must be purchased at <https://occ.sn/XrmpjLx4> to attend.

Nature journal gatherings Feb. 4, 18

KAMIAH — A free ongoing gathering of people who nature journal meets at River Arts, 416 Main Street, Suite E, Kamiah, on the first and third Wednesday of each month. This month's is Feb. 4 and 18, 6-7:30 p.m.; ages 10 and older are welcome, kids must be accompanied by an adult; bring your own journal. Naturalist, artist and birder Lee Hamilton Lee will lead explorations of how to journal and draw what we experience in nature.

House speaker, Moyle, keynote at Feb. 7 Lincoln Day Dinner

GRANGEVILLE — Idaho's Speaker of the House, Mike Moyle, will be the keynote speaker at the annual Lincoln Day Dinner, Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Grangeville Elks Lodge, hosted by the Idaho County Republican Central Committee. Admission begins at 5:30 p.m. and the evening will feature games, raffles, and silent and a live auction. Dinner is being catered by Taste of Art, serving a choice of steak medallions or huckleberry bourbon chicken. Ticket prices (including admission and dinner) start at \$50 for an individual, \$150 for a couple (which includes \$125 worth of raffle tickets for various prizes), and three different options to purchase entire tables starting at a White Table for \$750, a Blue Table at \$1,500, and a Patriot Table at \$2,500. Table purchases provide preferred seating, escalating value raffle tickets, advertising space in the event brochure and early event entry. Purchase tickets online at www.lincolndaydinner.org and or stop by Walker's Jewelry in Grangeville with questions.

BIRTH:

Irie LeRose Cox-Forsmann

Kenedie Cox and Josh Forsmann of Grangeville, Idaho, are the parents of a baby daughter.

Irie LeRose Cox-Forsmann was born on Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026, at St. Mary's in Cottonwood, Idaho. She weighed seven pounds and eight ounces and was 21 inches long.

Grandparents are Leslie and Mitch Cox; and Joyce and Eric Forsmann, all of Grangeville.

She has numerous great-grandparents; including one great-great-grandmother who just turned 96! Her middle name is an ode to her Aunt Lizz.

SENIOR MENUS:

Cottonwood

The Pioneer Senior Citizens meet Tuesdays at noon for lunch at the Cottonwood Community Center. Lunches are also available through grab and go or delivery. Call Lynn Thompson by 10 a.m. Tuesday, 208-962-3231. For information, visit Prairie-MountainNutrition.org or Facebook.com/Prairie-Mountain-Nutrition.

Grangeville

The Grangeville Senior Center, on the Truck Route, serves lunch at noon every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Call 208-983-2033. Jan. 21: beef stew or chili, mixed vegetables, green salad, fruit, whole wheat roll, cornbread; Jan. 23: meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, carrots, lettuce salad, fruit, whole wheat dinner roll (sponsor: Linda Johns); Jan. 26: pulled pork sandwich, coleslaw, potato wedges, carrots, celery, fruit.

Kamiah

The Kamiah Mealsite serves lunch every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at noon, with Coffee Klatch, 8-10 a.m. Call 208-935-0244. Jan. 21: chicken with rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, cranberries, soup bar (congregate); Jan. 23: pork roast, carrots, pears, roll; Jan. 26: beef goulash, corn, tropical fruit.



Fire dept. gets grant; Killmar selected for state EMS board

RIGGINS — Congratulations, Salmon River High School girls' basketball team for being one of the few high school teams to be honored as the December 2025 winners of the Les Schwab Tire Centers Team of the Month Award. These teams have had success in competition, are achieving in their classroom, and are serving their communities. Congratulations to each and every one of you.



Jeannie FITCH

Riggins Correspondent
fitchi@hotmail.com
208-628-3845

The Lady Savages are still on a winning streak for this season, having no losses to date. Way to go, Lady Savages.

The Salmon River High School fall sports banquet will be held this Sunday, Jan. 25, in the multipurpose room, 5-7 p.m., with a dinner of pulled pork and side dishes. Everyone is invited to attend and help celebrate our SRHS athletes and all the heart, grit and teamwork they brought to the 2025 fall season of football and volleyball.

Cody Killmar has been selected to serve on the State of Idaho EMS Advisory Committee. He will be representing the "Pre-Hospital Career EMS Departments" seat, giving Riggins a big voice at the state level when it comes to EMS policy, grant funding, and system decisions across Idaho. This committee includes 20 nonstate employee seats, representing the full spectrum of EMS from dispatch and field providers to trauma surgeons, so every part of the system, from start to finish, is heard and has a voice. Congratulations and thank you for a job well done.

Riggins City Fire Department was awarded a grant that enabled them to equip every member

with essential wildland PPE, including helmets, gloves, shirts and pants. This equipment enhances firefighter safety and strengthens their ability to effectively serve our community and surrounding areas. The grant was provided through the Idaho Department of Lands.

• Celebration of life for Bill Wright will be held this Friday, Jan. 23, 2026, 3-5 p.m. at Riggins Community Center (former IOOF Hall), followed by light refreshments. Complete obituary is in the Jan. 14 issue of Idaho County Free Press.

• Celebration of life for Buck Fitch is this Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026, at 10 a.m. MT/9 a.m. PT at the Salmon River High School. A light lunch and visiting will follow. Graveside service will be held in the afternoon, time to be determined. Complete obituary is in this issue of the Idaho County Free Press.

• Celebration of life for Una Rose will be held this Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026, at 1 p.m. at the Salmon River Community Church. Complete obituary is in the Jan. 14 issue of the Idaho County Free Press.

• Debra Baker, 70, died Dec. 23, 2025, at the Grangeville Health and Rehabilitation Center of Cascadia. A memorial service for Debra was held Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, at the Riggins Assembly of God Church. Debra lived in Riggins for most of her life. She served on the Riggins Ambulance for 33 years.

• A Valentine's dance fundraiser, featuring the Salmon River Fiddlers followed by a great live band, will be held Saturday, Feb. 14, 6-9 p.m. at the Salmon River High School multipurpose room. The dance is open to everyone of all ages; \$10 per adult; family is \$25. Finger foods will be provided. There will be a dessert sale and silent auction... childcare will be provided. Small Fry Daycare is having this fundraiser to be able to continue the daycare service to families in our Salmon River Canyon.

• Feb. 4, Wednesday, will feature Bingo for everyone 18 and older at the Riggins Community Center beginning at 6:30 p.m.; doors open at 6 p.m. Wear your favorite Valentine's Day gear or wear red to win a special prize for participating winners. Free snacks and drinks.

Giddings' 'Heart of Idaho' project

Penny Giddings of McCall-Donnelly High School created a beautiful piece of artwork for the "Heart of Idaho" project sponsored by the Payette Land Trust (PLT). Through PLT's Conserving the Heart of Idaho Students' Hearts Program, young artists celebrate the landscapes of West Central Idaho. Penny shared, "These places and many others in Idaho deserve to be conserved both for wildlife and also the people who get to experience them. As Sir David Attenborough said, 'No one will protect what they don't care about, and no one will care about what they have never experienced.' All the things I have experienced make me realize how important it is to conserve and protect the environment in Idaho." These creations have been displayed at Riggins Whitewater Market, The Idaho Banana Co., Cottonwood Credit Union and are now at the Salmon River High School and will be displayed at McCall-Donnelly High School and various places in McCall. The Hearts will be auctioned off at PLT's SweetHEART Dinner/Auction at the Shore Lodge in McCall on Feb. 14 with proceeds benefiting local private land conservation.



Penny Giddings

New PPEs Strengthen Firefighter Service



Facebook / Riggins Fire Department

The Riggins Fire Department was recently awarded an Idaho Department of Lands grant that enabled equipping every member with essential wildland PPE (personal protective equipment), including helmets, gloves, shirts, and pants. According to RFD, "This equipment enhances firefighter safety and strengthens our ability to effectively serve our community and surrounding areas."

Save the date for Feb. 7 play

RIGGINS — Get ready for the 2026 Salmon River High School & Riggins Elementary school play, "Madhouse, A Mystery," Saturday, Feb. 7, at 1:30 and 6:30 p.m. in the SRHS multipurpose room. Doors open 30 minutes before each performance. Our students have been working incredibly hard rehearsing lines, building scenes and bringing the story to life since October 2025. They are dedicated to making this 2026 play as amazing as the previous ones. The awesome play is directed by Miss Taylie Hopkins, SRHS teacher and theatrical director, along with Jenna Ewing, art teacher and scene director, and other teachers and volunteers.

Bingo dates scheduled

ELK CITY — Quote of the week: "Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are a gift of God?" — Thomas Jefferson

Hardly any snow here. Hopefully, we will get a lot in February, or this summer will be a concern in the fire season.

Here is the VFW Bingo game schedule through April: Feb. 7 and 21; March 7 and 21; April 4 and 18. They start at 2 p.m. and they will be serving a homemade soup for donations. They encourage all to "Come, join the fun!"

• Meetings: American Legion today, Wednesday, Jan. 21.

• Birthdays: Morgan Phillips,

JZ Savage, Gabe McManus, Malcolm Layman, Lucia Reyes-Newell, Matthew Coyne, Raegan Savage.

• Anniversary: Walt & Rachel Smith.

• Syringa Hospital: Feb. 5 - Dr. Wilson; March 5 - Dr. Richins; April 2 - Dr. Petersen; May 7 - Dr. Told; June 4 - Dr. Wilson; July 2 - Dr. Petersen; Aug. 6 - Dr. Richins; Sept. 3 - Dr. Told; Oct. 1 - Dr. Wilson; Nov. 5 - Dr. Richins; Dec. 3 - Dr. Petersen.

• St. Mary's Health: Dr. Jones on Feb. 17.

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Jamie EDMONDSON
Elk City Correspondent
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208-842-2452



ROYALTY
DINNER & AUCTION 2026

WHITE BIRD:

Continued from 7A

brought some goodies or just checked in. Thank you, Justin, at Blackmer, for all your help with arrangements, always topnotch; Scotty, for officiating (great job); Darla for arranging the dinner and photo display; Hoots' Shop and Stay for hosting the meal; and all the people who brought food and sent flowers. All your support for the family and remembrance of Hootie is appreciated.

The White Bird Volunteer Fire Department will host its annual Fireman's Ball on Saturday, Feb. 14, at the IOOF Rebekah Hall, 149 River Street, in White Bird. There will be dinner, drinks, a silent auction, a live auction, desserts, drawings and games! Doors open at 5 p.m. (silent auction and games begin). At 5:30 p.m., there will be a homemade dinner with tri-tip, potatoes, vegetables, salad and bread. Starting at 7 p.m., the fire department will present and speak. The silent auction ends at this time, as well; the live auction then begins. Tickets will be \$30 per person for presales, and \$35 per person at the door. See community briefs and future articles for details.

• 1906 Brews will host a special event on Saturday, Jan. 31, at 5:30 p.m. Char Osmers, from Zander Osmers Safaris, will be joining us from Africa to share tales of hunting and conservation.

in Africa and teach people about his hunting outfit. They will be offering food specials, too. For information, visit 1906 Brews' Facebook page. 1906 Brews is offering steak dinners on Fridays and Saturdays now.

• Cribbage winners this week: Mike Kunkel took first place, and John M took second place.

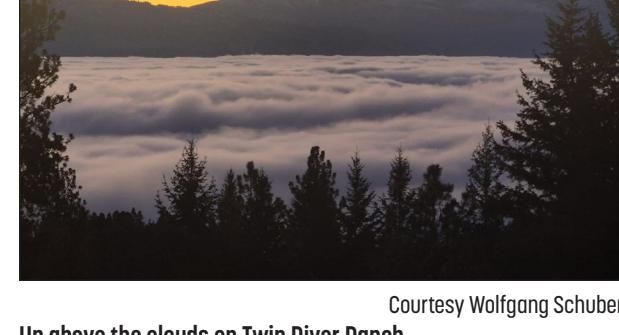
• 2026 World Championship Jet Boat Race in White Bird! Mark your calendars. More than 30 racers from all over the world will be participating. Race itinerary update: The Clearwater River legs have been removed from the 2026 World Championship Jet Boat Race. This change allows for an official travel day following the Salmon River race legs. More information on the races will be found in a future edition of the Free Press in the Sports section.

• Progressive Bingo is at the Silver Dollar Bar each Thursday starting at 6 p.m. Each \$5 card donation will go to the recipient at the time. Come have fun, win fabulous prizes, support a new 501C3 in our community, enjoy food from Chef Mardee's Food Truck, and of course, enjoy time with the community and your friends. No purchase necessary to play.

• Birthdays: Jan. 22 - Kurt Urbahn, Jennifer Putnam; Jan. 23 - Randy Zumwalt, Daxton Marek; Jan. 24 - Roy Allen Farmer, Shayla Kaschmitter, Heather Kunkel, Bryson Robinett, Jenny Hanson, JayCee Marek; Jan. 26 - Bill Marek.



Free Press / Brooke Myers
A gorgeous flower arrangement from the Heckman family for Hootie's service at Hoot's Shop and Stay.



Courtesy Wolfgang Schubert

Up above the clouds on Twin River Ranch.

New welcome sign in Copperville

COPPERVILLE — Have you seen our new Welcome sign in Copperville? Madi Lindsey designed that! Madi Lindsey was born and raised in White Bird, Idaho (Copperville). She is currently a senior at Grangeville High School and wanted to share a piece of Copperville with everyone for her senior project.

When asked why she chose this, she stated, "Because no one knows about Copperville. Everyone thinks it is White Bird." She stated she put pen to paper and started drawing. She said she wanted it "to look clean." She then gave her ideas to Mountain View Welding and allowed them to run with the idea she had drawn. She knew there was a copper depository off of Doumecq at one time. They came back to her with another version, and she loved it. Madi began this project in May of 2025. It came to fruition at the end of November. Her father, Joe Lindsey, her boyfriend, Trace Chandler, and his father, Travis Chandler, all installed the beautiful sign. The sign was funded by donations from residents of Copperville. Madi went door-to-door and was able to raise \$740. The posts were made by Madi, Joe, Trace and Travis, while Randy Zumwalt supervised the operation. She was asked why she picked that location. She stated, first, because it is public property, and secondly, she "just liked that spot." Madi can drive home every day and look at the masterpiece she created. If you have not seen this wonderful welcome sign, the sign is off of Doumecq, just past Gregory Creek on the left side. Job well done, Madi! A piece of history you created.



Madi Lindsey

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SPORTS

Dana GREIG
Sports Editor, Idaho County Free Press
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Clearwater Classic Wrestling Tournament

Schaff, Schacher, Gamble, Rice, Christensen bring home gold

By Dana Greig
Idaho County Free Press

LEWISTON — 29 teams from Idaho, Washington and Oregon gathered last weekend, Jan. 16-17, in Lewiston for the extremely competitive Clearwater Classic Wrestling Tournament. Ten Idaho County athletes brought home hardware, with the CV-O men's team placing eighth overall.

An impressive five athletes brought home gold medals from their respective brackets:

Kamiah's Kaden Schaff (120), Prairie's Avery Schacher (170), Clearwater Valley Orofino Co-op's (CV-O) Hunter Gamble (138), Jesse Rice (140) and Conner Christensen (165).

"Avery Schacher earned first place for the second year in a row

— very proud of her and what she has accomplished so far this year," said Prairie head coach Jeff North. "Our Prairie kids did well for the caliber of opponents that are always at the Classics."

Placing fourth were Kamiah's Tanner Labrum (144) and CV-O's Jaxon Green (150), while Grangeville's Orrin Farmer (175) placed fifth and CV-O's Luke Nelson (126) and Peter Fabbri (132) both earned sixth.

"My kids did well this weekend," said CV-O head coach Ian Anderson. "It's a tough tournament and a good learning experience for them."

Athletes hit the mats again this weekend for the North versus South duals hosted by Clearwater Valley High School Thursday - Saturday.



Free Press / Dana Greig
Kamiah's Kaden Schaff works to pin Grangeville's Jasper Zeigler during a dual Dec. 10. Schaff recently placed first in the 120 lb. bracket of the highly competitive Clearwater Classic Wrestling Tournament held Jan. 16-17 in Lewiston. Schaff's impressive record for the season currently sits at 22-0.

Both Prairie Basketball Teams Ranked Second

Lady Pirates serve Lapwai's first loss

By Dana Greig
Idaho County Free Press

COTTONWOOD — Prairie Pirate men's and women's basketball teams each hold on to the second-best ranking in the 2A Whitepine League after last week's contests where the men beat two out of three of their league matchups against Lapwai 63-36 and Logos 48-29, and the women beat league opponents Lapwai 62-39 and Kendrick 57-24.

In arguably their biggest game of year, the Lady Pirates handed the Lapwai Wildcats their first loss of the season, delivering the blow on their home court. The game avenged Prairie's home loss to Lapwai earlier in the season, which in turn has been their only league loss. Fans from both teams are sure to hold their breath during districts, which begin the first week of February, where the league will take only 1.5 teams to state.

The men's first league loss came Friday, Jan. 16 as they fell to Kendrick 60-47 at home after giving the Tigers a run for their money before falling short in the fourth quarter. The game was a battle of both will and skill, as both teams racked up points from the arc, fouls and key rebounds. After taking the lead for a short time in the third quarter, the Pirates struggled to make a handful of final shots fall through the basket, as Kendrick's persistent execution paid off.

The Pirates will have a chance to



Free Press / Dana Greig
Prairie's Kylie Schumacher throws the ball back up to the hoop after coming down with a rebound as Sage Elven anticipates the shot during the Pirate's Jan. 16 win over Kendrick.

avenge their loss when they meet Kendrick again Friday, Feb. 6 in a road game that's set to hold much weight with regular season play winding down the following week.

The women took on Clearwater Valley for the second time this season, hosting them last night with results not available as of press time. They travel to Moscow tonight to take on Logos in league play at 7, and head to Troy this Saturday, Jan. 24, to finish out their week.

The men travel to Lakeside Friday, Jan. 23, before also taking on Troy Saturday, Jan. 24.

Salmon River Basketball

Lady Savages devour four more

By Dana Greig
Idaho County Free Press

RIGGINS — Another four opponents bit the dust after facing the still undefeated Salmon River women's basketball program last week.

The Savages secured four wins last week, with three being consecutive nights for the second week in a row. After beating Tri Valley 65-19 on the road Tuesday to begin the week's conference play, they hit the road again Thursday to face Garden Valley, Jan. 15.

Cooking with gas from the start, the Savages led 22-6 by the end of the first quarter and kept their momentum strong throughout the game to finish 65-41. Poppy Harper led with 17 points followed by Rylee Walters (16), Taylor Ewing (16), Kennedy Wilson (7) and Cheyanne Case (6).

The next day, the Savages hosted Highland for a nonleague game where they easily kept their winning streak alive with a 52-35 victory led by Walters with 14 points, followed by Ewing (12), Harper (11) and Wilson (10).

Their fourth win for the week was earned in Nezperce, who held the Savages to a tied game going into halftime 29-29 before the Savages pulled ahead with a monster 28-point third quarter, nearly tripling what Nezperce was able to score within the same time frame.



Free Press / Dana Greig
Salmon River's Taylor Ewing launches a three-point shot during the Savages Jan. 9 win against Cascade.

"We made some adjustments at half and the girls really executed everything we talked about, explained Salmon River head coach Levi Tucker. "It also helps to have a senior [Walters] who can take over a game on both ends. We also had some girls step up and make big shots. It was balanced scoring from all positions and we got some great minutes and points from our bench."

Lead scorers included Walters who racked up 28, including four three-pointers, Harper with

See SAVAGES, page 8B

Patriots gain victory over Rams

By Hannah Hale
Idaho County Free Press

GRANGEVILLE — In a heated league contest on Jan. 19, the Clearwater Valley Rams men's basketball team lost to the St. John Bosco Academy Patriots 60-53.

Fans of the Patriots gathered in droves to watch the action, passionate about their school and their players.

Both the Rams and the Patriots worked hard, with the scoreboard being frequently tied, but the Patriots gained a two-point advantage in the first quarter after a buzzer beater, ending the quarter with a score of 18-16.

As the game progressed, both the fouls and the points added up, with both the Patriots and the Rams fighting to gain advantage against the other team. The fans screamed, the CV student section cheered, and the Patriots kept their lead throughout the match.

Even until the very end, the Rams kept the pressure on the Patriots and kept the fans on the edge of their seats.

Next up, both teams travel Jan. 23, the Patriots to Genesee and the Rams to Troy.

SCOREBOARD

Wrestling

- Jan. 16, 17 - Clearwater Classic, Lewiston
See results above on this page.

Women's Basketball

- Jan. 15
Prairie 62, Lapwai 39
Kamiah 66, Clearwater Valley 28
Salmon River 65, Garden Valley 41
Deary 48, St. John Bosco 26
- Jan. 16
Clarkston 64, Grangeville 42
Prairie 57, Kendrick 24
Salmon River 52, Highland 35
- Jan. 17
Grangeville 53, St. Maries 21
Salmon River 66, Nezperce 46

Men's Basketball

- Jan. 15
Prairie 48, Logos 29
Timberline 69, Clearwater Valley 35
Garden Valley 62, Salmon River 45
Deary 50, St. John Bosco 34
- Jan. 16
Salmon River 43, St. John Bosco 42
Kendrick 60, Prairie 47
- Jan. 17
St. Maries 71, Grangeville 44
Deary 48, Clearwater Valley 37
Kamiah 64, Troy 34
Nezperce 71, Salmon River 61
- Jan. 19
St. John Bosco 60, Clearwater Valley 53

BULLDOG OF THE WEEK: Orrin Farmer



By Dana Greig
Idaho County Free Press

GRANGEVILLE — Grangeville High School junior Orrin Farmer, son of Roy and Cody Farmer, is Bulldog of the week for placing fifth at the highly competitive Clearwater Classics Wrestling Tournament in Lewiston Jan. 16-17.

"The best part for the tournament was to see how much I improved," said Farmer. "I got to see a lot of wrestlers from southern Idaho and bigger schools that I

Farmer medals in Lewiston

don't get to wrestle often."

Having wrestled for eight years, Farmer said his favorite aspect of the sport is how challenging it is.

"The most challenging thing about wrestling is there is so much competition, and you never know how it will end because there are wins and losses every day," said Farmer.

Farmer explained the best aspect of his team this year is how many athletes turned out to compete.

"The sheer size of our team,"

said Farmer. "It's a lot bigger than it normally is and we're young so it's good to see that we'll have a good program going into the future."

His goal for the season is to place within the top six at state this year.

Along with wrestling, Farmer plays football and said he enjoys both sports almost equally.

"I love playing both, they are both way different which is nice," explained Farmer. "But I'd probably pick football, the team aspect of it makes it more fun."



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This Bulldog of the Week athlete highlight is brought to you by: P1FCU

OBITUARIES/RECORDS

Ward David 'Buck' Fitch, 81

April 24, 1944 – January 9, 2026

Ward David "Buck" Fitch, 81, lived life to the fullest with exuberance, energy and enthusiasm. He was born April 24, 1944, in Grangeville, Idaho, the second son of Woodrow and Marjorie Fitch. He was welcomed by his 18-month-old brother, Scott; four years later, the brothers welcomed sister Kate. Buck loved the Lord, loved his family, loved his students, and loved his many, many friends. He never knew a stranger.

Buck grew up with his family in Grangeville. He worked on his grandfather Ward Dempsey's farm with his dad, Woody, after school and in the summers. Later, Buck and Jeannie would continue to work summers on the ranch, haying and harvesting and all the other necessary farm jobs. Buck graduated from Grangeville High School in 1962 and went on to attend and graduate from The College of Idaho in 1966. He was a member of the Army National Guard in Grangeville and the Montana Reserves in Billings. He returned to the College of Idaho later and received his master's degree in 1986. Buck worked for SAGA Foods during his college years, then as a food service manager right out of college. His first job was in Dillon, Mont., at Western Montana College, then he transferred to Billings at Eastern Montana College, where he met the love of his life, Jeannie Buell. He was transferred to Colorado Springs, Colo., for a year, but Jeannie was still in Montana, so he left his SAGA career and took a job at the Eastern Montana College buildings and grounds maintenance to be near her. Buck and Jeannie were married in 1969 after she graduated and secured her first teaching job in Billings.

Buck was a "goer & a doer." He and Jeannie traveled around Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Oregon, hiking, bicycling, visiting and dancing their way across each state. They loved to dance. One of their favorite places was Glacier Park, where they had friends who had grown up and knew all the best places to see. Jeannie showed Buck some wonderful places in Wyoming, where she grew up. Buck took Jeannie to his beautiful Idaho. They accepted teaching positions in Riggins, Idaho, in 1970, Buck as a math and history teacher at Salmon River High School, Jeannie as a first-grade teacher at Riggins Elementary School. They fell in love with the Salmon River Canyon, made their home there for 55 years, raised their two amazing children, Jed and Julie, between the Little Salmon River and Highway 95. Jed was born Dec. 3, 1973; Buck had to drive 50 miles up the old White Bird Hill switchbacks on snowy roads to get to the hospital; Julie was born May 4, 1976; Buck got to drive 50 miles across the new bridge on a beautiful, sunny, straight highway to the same hospital. He loved to take his family on a variety of adventures like historical sites, old battlefields and Kmart's. They also explored Disneyland, Opryland, Boston, Mt. Rushmore and Yellowstone Park, in addition to visiting grandparents and cousins. While earning his master's degree at the C of I, the whole family benefited from the summers spent there together. Mr. Fitch taught the kids in junior high and high school, coached, advised and chaperoned many activities and dances. Jed and Julie added so much joy, love and action to his life, and kept us going to activities and events even up to today. Buck loved to work and work was fun for him. He taught Jed and Julie to love work, as well, which made it fun for the whole family.

Buck, Mr. Fitch, retired in 2000 after teaching for 30 years. Whenever Buck was asked what he taught, he always replied, "I taught kids." Buck was also a crop insurance adjuster for many years, traveling all over Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Montana, making friends with farmers and "adding to his yardstick of life," as he liked to put it.

Buck was blessed with four grandchildren: Kylie McClanahan, Ty McClanahan, Phineas Fitch, Darby Fitch. These four added much joy to his life.



Ward David
"Buck" Fitch

Buck and Jeannie were able to "snowbird" for 16 winters in Apache Junction, Ariz., meeting more friends and enjoying retirement. Jeannie will continue to make her home in Riggins along the banks of the Little Salmon River they both love so much.

Buck loved people and they loved him back. He always had a "Buckism" or a story to tell or some piece of trivia that needed to be heard or a poem to recite. Buck loved to recite poetry. The favorite Fitch Family poem was the Ballad of William Sycamore by Stephen Vincent Benet that Buck's dad, Woody, learned in a foxhole in the Philippines in World War II. Woody taught it to Buck, Buck taught it to Jed, and Jed taught it to Phineas.

Buck was a man of many hats: son, brother, husband, dad, grandpa, uncle, friend, athlete, dancer, farmer, teacher, coach, referee, National Guardsman, bus driver, bull rider-one time only, crop insurance adjuster, city councilman, auctioneer, Sunday School teacher, rafter, yard sale expert, collector of everything and too many more to mention. Buck lived life with a passion, always wanting to go one more place, learn one more skill, do one more thing for and with his family, his friends, and his community. He filled his life with a circle of friends that grew bigger and more beautiful as the years passed. They loved him. He helped them think or laugh and made sure people knew he loved and cared for them. He was a mentor to many and always available to give a friend a helping hand.

After the death of Buck's parents, Buck and Jeannie bought the Fitch ranch in 2014 and were able to spend many fun days there in the beauty of the Cottonwood Creek Canyon, Idaho, and the Rimrocks that surround the ranch. In 2023, Jed moved his family to the ranch, which was great for all of us, only an hour away to the north. Julie and her family had moved to Donnelly, Idaho, in 2017, just an hour away from us to the south, so we had both families close to us once again, with many treasured times together.

Buck was a community-minded guy. He served on the Riggins City Council, was Salmon River Community Church Board chairman, athletic director, ambulance driver, annual Riggins Rodeo pancake flipper & burger cook. He volunteered wherever help was needed. One of Buck's favorite summer adventures was to travel to Buffalo, Wyo., to help with the annual Big Horn Mountain Roundup, where he cooked and entertained with his stories and poems.

Buck is now home with his Lord. He died peacefully Jan. 9, 2026, at 8:55 a.m. in his home in Riggins, with his loving wife, Jeannie, by his side. He likely died of a broken heart over the death of his son, Jed, just two months prior. He was ready to go, he had made his peace, he had fought his last battle, he had impacted many lives. He knew he was heaven-bound, and he left a beautiful legacy for each of us to treasure.

Buck is survived by his wife, Jeannie Fitch; daughter, Julie, and Jason McClanahan; grandchildren, Kylie and Ty; daughter-in-law, Amanda, and grandchildren, Phineas and Darby; brother, Scott, and Donna; sister, Kate, and David; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, Woodrow and Marjorie Fitch; his in-laws, Charles and Pearl Buell; and most recently, his son, Jed Fitch.

Celebration of life for Buck Fitch will be Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026, at 10 a.m. MT/9 a.m. PT at the Salmon River High School multipurpose room. Please, bring a "Buck" story to share. A light lunch and visiting will follow. A short graveside service will be held in the afternoon at the Riggins Cemetery (time to be determined). Arrangements are under the direction of Blackmer Funeral Home, Grangeville. Send condolences to the family to blackmerfuneralhome.com.

National Civics Bee – Idaho; applications due Feb. 3

The Greater Idaho Falls Chamber is bringing the 2026 National Civics Bee to Idaho. All Idaho students in grades 6-8th are invited to enter the contest. The competition is being held in conjunction with the 250th birthday of the United States. The statewide compe-

tition will be held on May 29 at the Melaleuca Event Center, 4609 W 65th S, Idaho Falls. Applications are open now through Feb. 3. To submit an application, go to idahofallschamber.com/national-civics-bee-idaho.

Manuel 'Kim' Harding, 72

November 8, 1953 – January 4, 2026



Manuel "Kim" Harding

Brother Kim at 72 took off on his last journey from this earthly realm Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026, at his home in Kamiah, Idaho. It will always be a comfort to us that he was visiting with big brother Jo and little sis Betsy at the time of his passing.

Kim came into the world Nov. 8, 1953, joining two older brothers, "Pete" Danial Arnold Harding and "Jo" Ronald Josef Harding, and little sis Betsy Raye Harding. Mom, Cornelia Milan (Sredanovich), and Danial Sylvester Harding had their hands full with this crew. His days were filled with the regular rhythms of life, including school, church, music, art, football, wrestling, boxing, swimming, camping, berry picking, fishing, shooting model rockets, shooting BB guns, raising pigeons, rock hounding, going to scouts, and, of course, motorcycles, and after school, a daily walk to the Wa-A'Yas Community Center to play basketball. He attended Jt. School District 304 in Kamiah for 12 years. One of Kim's teachers later in life said he was the smartest of us children. We loved him anyway. Kim was married to Sheridan Anne Lillibridge, and later Donna Marie Kolar.

Kim & Sheridan's beloved son, Jay, was born in 1972. He was so tickled at the talented person Jay is. Kim would just beam when he got to spend time with his son.

Kim took to the motorcycle as a youngster. He just kept transferring to bigger and more powerful bikes, until one day, he owned a 47-74 Hog. It was good for him as a traveling companion. He found the unencumbered free spirit he was seeking. Off he went. He lived in Lewiston, Idaho, and Clarkston, Wash., for years. Then Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, Florida, California and lots of stops in between. He called himself "jack of all trades, master of none." Be it a lumber mill, tugboat, barges, motorcycle shop, oil rig, or putting in fiber optic lines across the Midwest, Kim always made his own way, his way. He was a union man if the trade had one. He wore many hats. Working with motors was his talent. Electricity? No problem. Welding? Got that. Painting? Yup. Building?

There will be a private family service at the Community Presbyterian Church, 7th & Hill Street, Kamiah, on Friday, Jan. 23, at 11 a.m. On May 22 at 11 a.m. (the Friday of Memorial Weekend) there will be a public graveside gathering at the Kamiah Cemetery. Memorials can be sent to: Community Food Pantry, PO Box 5, Kamiah ID 83536. Kim was a blood donor. Please sign up and give blood in memory of Kim.

Idaho County District Court

Jan. 1 – 11, 2026

J. Carmen Barroso Alfaro, 60, alcoholic beverage-consume or possess open container by passenger, \$102; Andres Avelino Bueno, 50, controlled substance-possession of marijuana, \$497.50; drug paraphernalia-use or possess with intent to use, \$200;

Gary H. Dudley, 65, F/G-game tag-no appropriate tag, \$190;

Dante Orlando Fields, 28, drug paraphernalia-use or possess with intent to use, probation 264 days, \$697.50;

Mary K. Forssmann, 22, driving-stop sign and yield sign violations, \$90;

Erin Leigh Hadley, 18, driving-passing limitation on driving left of center of highway, \$90;

Earl Patrick Hughes, Jr., 82, driving inattentive or careless, \$200;

Eric L. Jordan, 60, driving-yield right of way on unmarked or uncontrolled intersection, \$90;

Julianne Mae Lane, 20, controlled substance-possession of marijuana, \$497.50; drug paraphernalia-use or possess with intent to use, \$200;

Ladainian Noshoes Lupoli, 17, vehicle safety restraint-operator under 18 YOA and/or occupant under 18, \$66.50;

Adam Raino Orkand, 56, fail to carry vehicle registration in vehicle,

\$100.50; Newton Douglas Paul, 22, driving without privileges, \$172.50; driving inattentive or careless, jail time 4 days (credit time 4 days), \$157.50; driving without privileges, jail time 4 days (credit time 4 days), \$172.50;

Donald Daniel Pratt, 35, alcoholic beverage-consume or possess open container by passenger, \$102; littering upon or alongside any public roadway, alley or easement, \$208.50;

Jared P. Schwartz, 48, fail to obey traffic control devices, \$90;

Tristan Hunter Staneart, 22, injury to child, jail time 180 days (susp. 150 days, credit time 10 days), probation 24 months, \$157.50; malicious injury to property, jail time 180 days (susp. 150 days, credit time 10 days), probation 24 months, \$3,407.50;

Jacob Donald Warden, 26, driving under the influence, jail time 120 days (susp. 100 days), driver's licenses susp. 90 days, probation 24 months, \$1,000.

Speeding:

Scott Michael Clifton, 63, \$155; Michael Robert Gering, 20, \$90; Matthew Douglas Hersh, 25, \$155; Wade Anthony Holes, 16, \$155; Tracy Lyne Honey, 65, \$155; Charles Duane Kimble, 73,

\$155; Newton Douglas Paul, 22, \$156.50; Ronda Rene Paulson, 52, \$155; Basel B. Qasem, 37, \$155; Sandra Lynn Scott-Kappler, 43, \$155; Brenda Lynn Skov, 51, \$155; Brittany Lauren Sutton, 32, \$90; Garret James Wren, 16, \$90.

Civil Dispositions:

Ryan Hampton (defendant), Hells Canyon Performance (defendant), Dan Surerus (plaintiff), Heather Surerus (plaintiff), The Confluence Store, Inc. (plaintiff), \$5,134, claim granted in favor of The Confluence Store, Inc., on Jan. 7, 2026.

Icp, Inc. (plaintiff) vs. Chantel Tolizer (defendant), \$958.09, claim granted in favor of Icp, Inc. on Jan. 7, 2026.

Johnie Mack Bashaw (defendant) vs. Gary G. Dawson (plaintiff), claim granted in favor of Gary G. Dawson on Jan. 7, 2026.

Divorces:

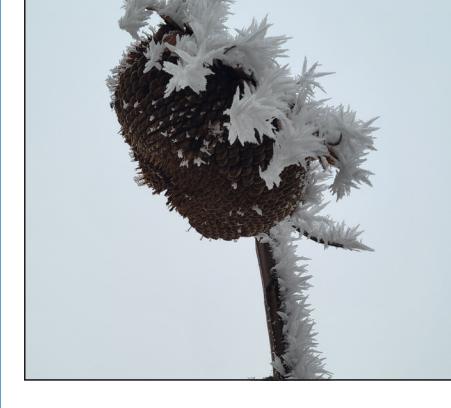
Bonnie Lou Myers vs. Everett William Myers, petition granted Jan. 9, 2026.

Emily Elizabeth Swearingen vs. John D.L. Swearingen, petition granted Jan. 6, 2026.

Marriage License:

Amanda Spring Wisdom and Jason Allen Wisdom, both of Grangeville, Idaho.

Hoarfrost On The Camas Prairie



Contributed photos / Terry Lane

Free Press reader Terry Lane shared photos of the hoarfrost covering fence lines and vegetation on the Camas Prairie on Jan. 19. The perfect conditions for hoarfrost to develop are when temperatures and the dew point are below freezing, allowing for the water vapor in the atmosphere to go straight from a gas to a solid, creating those white, interlocking patterns of frost.

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF HEARING ON NAME CHANGE

W. JEREMY CARR
ISB No. 6827
CLARK AND FEENEY, LLP
Attorneys for Petitioner
The Train Station, Suite 201
13th and Main Streets
P.O. Drawer 285
Lewiston, Idaho 83501
Telephone: (208) 743-9516
darla@clarkandfeeney.com
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF IDAHO
In the Matter of the Application for the Change of Name of:

TANESSA RENE WHITE,
An adult.
Case No. CV25-26-0017

NOTICE OF HEARING ON NAME CHANGE

A Petition to change the name of Tanessa Rene White, now residing in the City of Stites, State of Idaho, has been filed in the District Court in Idaho County, Idaho.

The name will change will be to Tanessa Rene Alces.

A hearing on the petition is scheduled for **March 4, 2026, at 8:45 a.m.** at the Idaho County Courthouse. Objections may be filed by any person who can show the court a good reason against the name change.

DATED THIS 12TH day of January, 2026.

CLARK AND FEENEY, LLP
By: W. Jeremy Carr
W. Jeremy Carr
Attorney for Petitioner
(JAN21-FEB11)

Township 29 North, Range 8 East, Boise Meridian, Section 27, (Part), Tax #387

The hearing will be held on:

DATE: Tuesday, February 3, 2026

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Commissioners' Room, Idaho County Courthouse, 320 West Main, Grangeville, Idaho

A copy of the Application for Subdivision Waiver with supporting papers and complete legal description is available for inspection at the Idaho County Clerk's Office, Idaho County Courthouse, 320 W. Main Street, Grangeville, ID 83530, during normal business hours.

**KATHY M. ACKERMAN, Clerk
Idaho County Commissioners**
(JAN21)

Legal Notice

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

84-12335
JOANNA HART
167 SCHUSTER RD
KAMIAH, ID 83536-5207
FRIEDRICH HART
167 SCHUSTER RD
KAMIAH, ID 83536-5207
Point of Diversion SWSE S4
T34N R03E IDAHO County
Source GROUND WATER
Tributary

Use: IRRIGATION

04/01 to 10/31

0.13 CFS

Use: DOMESTIC

01/01 to 12/31

0.04 CFS

Use: STOCKWATER

01/01 to 12/31

0.02 CFS

Total Diversion:

0.19 CFS

Date Filed: 11-12-2025

Place Of Use: DOMESTIC, IRRIGATION, STOCKWATER

T34N R03E S4SWSE

Total Acres: 4.3

Permits will be subject to all prior water rights. For additional information concerning the property location, contact the Northern office at (208)762-2800; or for a full description of

the right(s), please see <https://research.idwr.idaho.gov/apps/waterrights/wrapPLICATIONRESULTS/>. Protests may be submitted based on the criteria of Idaho Code § 42-203A.

Any protest against the approval of this application must be filed with the Director, Dept. of Water Resources, Northern Region, 7600 N MINERAL DR STE 100, COEUR D'ALENE ID 83815-7763 together with a protest fee of \$25.00 for each application on or before 2/9/2026. The protestant must also send a copy of the protest to the applicant.

MATHEW WEAVER, Director
(JAN14-JAN21)

NOTICE OF HEARING ON NAME CHANGE

Josiah James Smith-Iselin
204 Vrieling Rd
Grangeville, ID 83530
208-451-3705
iselinjosiah@gmail.com

IN THE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

FOR THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF Idaho

IN RE: Josiah James Smith-Iselin

Case No. CV25-26-0013

NOTICE OF HEARING ON NAME CHANGE

(Adult or Emancipated Minor)

A Petition to change the name of Josiah James Smith-Iselin, now residing in the City of Grangeville, State of Idaho, has been filed in the District Court in Idaho County, Idaho. The name will change to Josiah James Iselin.

The reason for the change in name is: It's not necessary to have my mom's maiden name. Last name too long. I only want my dad's last name.

A hearing on the petition is scheduled for 9:00 o'clock a.m. on 2/11/2026 at the Idaho County Courthouse. Objections may be filed by any person who can show the court a good reason against the name change.

Date: 1-09-2026
CLERK OF THE DISTRICT

COURT
Alicia Jones
By: Alicia Jones
Deputy Clerk
(JAN14-FEB4)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO,

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF IDAHO

In the Matter of the Estate of Richard C. Davis, Deceased.

Case No.: CV25-25-0620

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that Wilma Woods, whose address is Wilma Woods c/o Kirsch &

Clark, PLLC, PO Box 9384, has been appointed Personal Representative of the estate of

Richard C. Davis, who died on September 21, 2025.

Creditors of the estate are hereby notified to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or be forever barred.

Claims must be presented to the Personal Representative at the address above and filed with the Clerk of the District Court.

Dated: 1/21/2026
Signed: Forrest Millikin
Forrest Millikin, Attorney for Personal Representative
(JAN21-FEB4)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

KIRK A. MacGREGOR, ISB #3880
kmacgregor@idahocounty.org

MacGREGOR LAW, LLC.
PO Box 463
416 West Main
Grangeville, ID 83530
Phone: 208-983-2706

Facsimile: (208)983-2700

jawrightlaw@gmail.com

Attorneys for Petitioner

IN THE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT,

OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF Idaho

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

RANDY LEE STEVENS,
Deceased.

Case No. CV25-25-0643

NOTICE OF REMOTE HEARING

TAKE NOTICE that a hearing will be held on Petitioner Dusty R. Stevens' Petition for

Formal: 1) Adjudication of Intestacy, and 2) Appointment of Administrator, remotely via

Zoom at the following date and time:

DATE: February 4, 2026

TIME: 11:00 a.m., Pacific Time

ZOOM connect information:

<https://zoom.us/join>

toll free: 1-888-475-4499

Meeting ID: 968 2921 7825

Password: 413792

**ARNOLD MARVIN CHERIN,
Deceased.**

Case No. CV25-25-0625

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned is the Personal Representative of the above entitled estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to the Personal Representative of the estate.

Permit will be subject to all prior water rights. For additional information concerning the property location, contact the Northern office at (208)762-2800; or for a full description of the right(s), please see <https://research.idwr.idaho.gov/apps/waterrights/wrapPLICATIONRESULTS/>. Protests may be submitted based on the criteria of Idaho Code § 42-203A. Any protest against the approval of this application must be filed with the Director, Dept. of Water Resources, Northern Region, 7600 N MINERAL DR STE 100, COEUR D'ALENE ID 83815-7763 together with a protest fee of \$25.00 for each application on or before 2/9/2026. The protestant must also send a copy of the protest to the applicant.

MATHEW WEAVER, Director
(JAN21-JAN28)

DATED December 31, 2025

/s/ J. A. Wright, Esq.

J. A. Wright, ISB 4403

WRIGHT LAW GROUP

Attorneys for Petitioner

Dusty R. Stevens
(JAN7-JAN21)

Legal Notice

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

81-12049

DOREL ANTIMIE

527 AURORA DR

NAMPA, ID 83686-8296

LIGIA ANTIMIE

527 AURORA DR

NAMPA, ID 83686-8296

Point of Diversion SESE S35

T32N R05E IDAHO County

Source SPRING, Tributary

sinks

Use: DOMESTIC

01/01 to 12/31

0.06 CFS

Total Diversion:

0.6 CFS

Date Filed: 9-25-2025

Place Of Use: DOMESTIC

T32N R05E S35 SESE

Total Acres: .5

Permit will be subject to all prior water rights. For additional information concerning the property location, contact the Northern office at (208)762-2800; or for a full description of the right(s), please see <https://research.idwr.idaho.gov/apps/waterrights/wrapPLICATIONRESULTS/>. Protests may be submitted based on the criteria of Idaho Code § 42-203A. Any protest against the approval of this application must be filed with the Director, Dept. of Water Resources, Northern Region, 7600 N MINERAL DR STE 100, COEUR D'ALENE ID 83815-7763 together with a protest fee of \$25.00 for each application on or before 2/9/2026. The protestant must also send a copy of the protest to the applicant.

MATHEW WEAVER, Director
(JAN21-JAN28)

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[Idahopublicnotices.com](https://IdahoPublicNotices.com)

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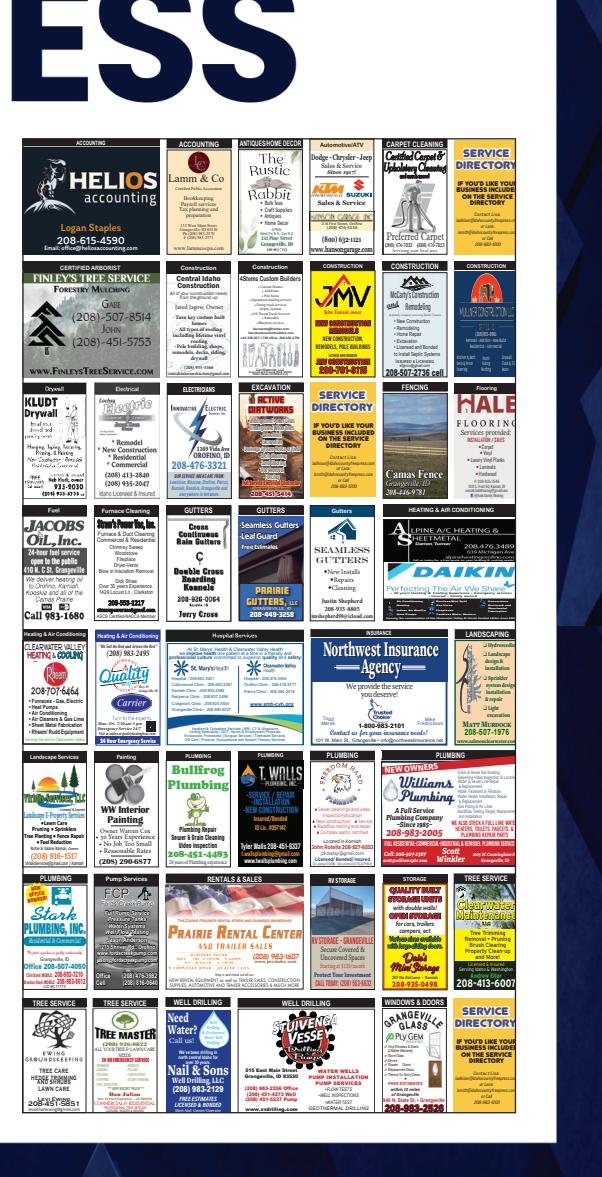
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Garden Clippings

Snake plant – easy houseplant with benefits

Sanseveria, known as snake plant for its snake-skin-like marbled pattern on the leaves, really is an easy houseplant to grow. So, whether you are looking for just one more to add to your abundant collection, are ready to try to grow one that is almost guaranteed to survive, you have a space in your bedroom or office that could just use some sprucing up or are simply looking for an easy, nontoxic method to purify your air, this easy to grow houseplant just might be right for you. There are several varieties in this plant family. We are



**Linda
MORRISON**
Garden Clippings

discussing the one that grows two to four feet tall.

If you are the kind of person who forgets to water plants because you are just too busy or absent-minded, this is your plant or if you tend to travel out of town for several weeks at a time, even several times a year, this plant is for you. It actually prefers not to be watered more

than every three to four weeks, or even six weeks in the winter. You want the soil to be dried out at least three to four inches deep. You can actually easily kill this plant by overwatering.

Sanseveria, also known as mother-in-law's tongue, is often grown in either the office or bedroom, because of its air-purifying qualities, but it will be happy in any room with sufficient light. It will even survive in low light, but will thrive in bright light. We have ours next to an upstairs bedroom window; it grows and sprouts consistently and never complains. In the summer, it is bright light in Kamiah; however, it is almost consistently gloomy in Kamiah in the winter. This plant actually prefers a window where the sunlight does not fall directly on it.

Also, we appreciate its air-purifying ability year-round. It is even noted as a top performer in NASA's clean air study. In their study, they learned snake plants remove toxins such as formaldehyde, benzene, trichloroethylene, xylene and toluene. And amazingly, they have also been shown to reduce the impact of airborne allergens like dust and dander, while they release lots of oxygen and add moisture to the air. The oxygen helps with breathing as you are falling asleep.

One possible downside to this plant is that it is toxic to pets; however, it is possible to keep your pets out of the rooms where you grow them. Another pet deterrent is to put cayenne pepper or orange

and lemon peel along the edges of the pot. It depends on the individual pet, of course. Our cat has no interest in any of our houseplants. However, if your pets do like your plants, better to be safe than sorry and avoid growing any toxic ones.

To pot or repot your snake plant, it is best to choose a terra cotta pot with several drainage holes. Fill it with rocks at the bottom and then with a fast-draining succulent/cactus mix. Your soil may be amended with perlite, pumice or coarse sand for extra aeration. Place the plant, giving the roots ample room, and the leaves above the soil, backfill, lightly tamping to remove air pockets. Don't add water for at least a few days. Remember, this plant prefers to be in drier soil.



Free Press / Linda Morrison

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- Write down your pets schedule and habits for example, eating times, times to go potty outside, and medication schedule. If possible your pets schedule should remain as close as possible to what they know. Show the caregiver your pets hiding places for when they get anxious. Post the schedule near their food dishes and give the backup caregiver a copy. Include the veterinarian's phone number in case that is needed.
- Make sure you have plenty of food and medication stored in your home at all times. Keep the water dishes full.
- If your pets are outdoors during the winter months, have a shelter for them. Use straw instead of cloth for bedding. Cloth bedding soaks up moisture and can freeze to your pet. Your pet can be injured (hair or skin ripped off) trying to get free from the bedding or trapped and unable to get to food and water.

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Kubs dominate court early, defeat Rams

By Hannah Hale
Idaho County Free Press

KAMIAH — During a Clearwater Valley home game moved to Kamiah High School Jan. 15, the CVHS Rams women's basketball team was defeated by the KHS Kubs by a staggering 66-28, putting the Kubs 6-4 in league play and 9-6 overall.

The Kubs dominated the court with an outstanding 20-point lead in the first quarter. The Rams tried to keep up, but they were only able to score two points, making the score for the first quarter 22-2.

The players who were hard to miss for the Kubs were freshman Rainbow Moses, who scored 14 points during the game, freshman Tylee Wilkins, who scored 19 points, and freshman Jackie Davis, who scored 16 points.

"The three who really stood out to me tonight were Moses, Wilkins



Free Press / Hannah Hale

Kamiah's Audrey Puckett boxes out Clearwater Valley's Tanayia Santamaría during the Kubs' Jan. 15 victory over the Rams.

and Davis, all scoring in double figures, getting key defensive stops, and stepping up to the free throw line and knocking down shots," said KHS girls basketball head coach Shelby Cloninger.

Mid: 24-Rod Behler; 23-Logan Schumacher, Brad Baker, Cody Vrielin; Long: 23-Brian Lorentz; 20-Dan Thompson. Doubles: A: 46-Logan Schumacher; 44-Brian Lorentz; B: 40-Brett Hausladen; 35-Roy Schumacher, Brad Baker; C: 45-Colton Thompson; 39-Bill Stolz. Continentals: 22-Logan Schumacher; 19-Josh Bransford, Clay Schumacher, Colton Thompson.

Kamiah Gun Club: Week 2 – Singles: AA: 25-Clay Schumacher; 24-Josh Bransford, Brian Lorentz, Rod Behler; A: 24-Colton Thompson, Jan Brannan, Brad Baker; 23-Joel Pineda; B: 25-Bill Stolz; 24-Stephanie Bransford, Paul Davenport; C: 25-Dillon Matson; 19-Jessie Adams; D: 16-Ray Sluberski; 12-Molly Deford. Youth: 24-Sean Blinn; 21-Abel Hagen, Cash Miller. Handicap: Short: 24-Jan Brannan; 23-Joel Pineda, Brett Hausladen;

Kamiah Gun Club: Week 2 – 15 shooters. 24-Tye Yates, 23-Tony Messenger, Robert Davis. Juniors: 19-Colt Morris, 17-August Trankle.

White Bird Gun Club: Week 2 – 18 shooters. Top Scores: Shane Paul-25, Darrell Howard-24, Jake Prow and Clay Robinson-23. Youth scores: Traycen Sickels-19, Addison Kaschmitter-14, Jason Rupp-8. Addison and Jason are first-time trapshooters.

For the Rams, sophomore Cypress Martinez scored the most points, earning 12 out of the 28.

"We started out a little slow, but we came back with a lot more enthusiasm and we figured some things out," said CVHS head coach Sky Wilson.

"Kamiah's just a stronger, more physical team than we can be, or taller, I should say. So, we're just at a little bit of a disadvantage there," said Wilson.

After halftime, the Rams came back energized and ready to earn some points, and they were able to score an added 13 points in the third quarter. The Kubs still held the lead, earning 17 points.

"My girls never gave up, and they made a turnaround that second half," said Wilson.

"Just being able to see it click at different points of time where girls

are finally seeing each other and working together a little more. I liked the whole second half in comparison to the first," said Wilson.

Cloninger said the game should be a confidence booster for her team.

"With Emma Krogh being out right now, we need other players to really step up. We have five freshmen out of the seven actively playing right now. We are very young," said Cloninger.

"It's good for them not to lean on one player and make those plays themselves. Seeing them play like this right now as freshmen makes me very excited for their senior years," said Cloninger.

Next up, both teams travel on Jan 23 as the Kubs head to Kendrick and the Rams to Troy.

Read more online at idahocountyfreepress.com.

BRIEFS

Hunter's ed class Feb. 2-14

GRANGEVILLE — A hunter education class will be at the Grangeville Elks Lodge, Monday-Thursday, Feb. 2-14. Class is for ages 9 and older, class size limited to 20. Fee is \$9.75, register to attend idfg.idaho.gov/hunt/education. For information, call Roy Kinner at 208-983-8443.

Seeking comments on Fish Creek

The Forest Service is seeking comments on its Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation Recreational Vehicle Grant proposal for Fish Creek Campground improvements. The grant would supplement the Great American Outdoors Act funding for deferred maintenance at the Fish Creek Campground. To comment, contact Sean Santolin, recreation management specialist on the Salmon River Ranger District, at 208-839-2135.

Landowners sought for Managed Hunt Program

Too many turkeys on your property? Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) is seeking landowners to participate in the Managed Hunt Program for the upcoming spring turkey season.

This program is designed for landowners who want to allow hunting access, but prefer not to manage repeated requests from hunters. Through the program, IDFG staff coordinate hunter access while landowners retain control on how their property is used. Contact the Clearwater region office at 208-799-5010.

GHS Cheer Earns Second



Contributed photo

The Grangeville High School cheer squad placed second in two routines, all-girl show and pom, in the Jan. 17 cheer competition hosted at Orofino High School. "We are improving every week and gaining confidence with the entire cheer competition process," said GHS head coach Nichole Howe. "The girls are working extremely hard to improve their skills with a quick turnaround every week. It is a ton of fun and the most supportive environment."

Got Sports/Outdoors News?

Do you have sports/outdoors news, events or other items of interest you would like featured in the Free Press? Send information and photos to dgreig@idahocountyfreepress.com.

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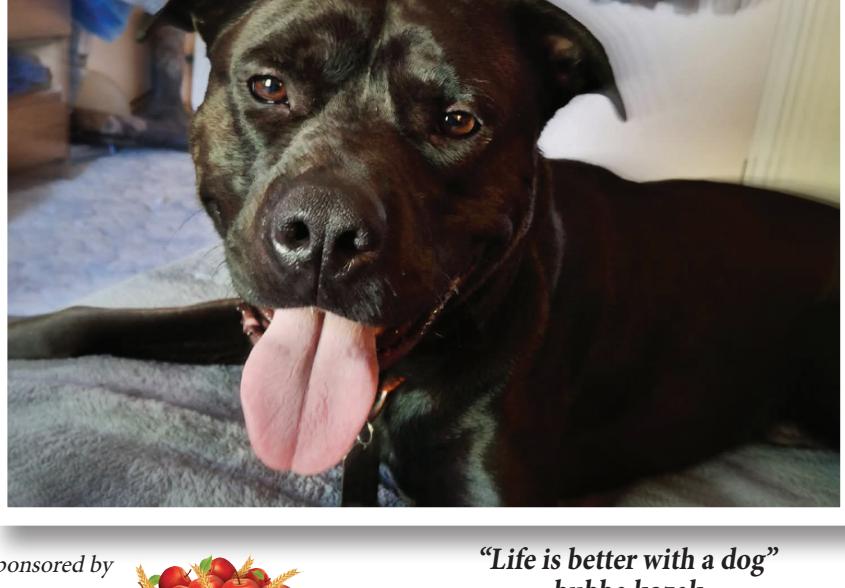
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By Hannah Hale
Idaho County Free Press

KAMIAH — Kamiah High School junior Todd Roberts, son of Rick and Nicole Roberts, is Kub of the week for his offensive skills on the basketball court, and his participation in multiple KHS sports.

"He has been leading

our offensive charge and playing at a very high level," said KHS boys basketball head coach Aaron Skinner.

Roberts, a point guard on the varsity team, has been playing basketball since fifth grade and has an average of 22 points per game. Roberts also plays football as a wide receiver, running back, and corner back, and track in the pole vault

and relays.

Roberts said that his favorite part of playing basketball is hanging out with his teammates and winning. The KHS boys basketball team is up against the Lapwai High School Wildcats on Thursday, Jan. 18 at home.

Roberts discussed a Jan. 13 game against the Grangeville Bulldogs, and the best moment

that the Kubs had during the game.

"It was close at the end, and then we pulled away four points, hit a three [pointer], and a couple of free throws," said Roberts.

Roberts' goal for the rest of the season is to make it to state if possible, but he would also be happy with finishing third in the league.

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KUB of the Week

Roberts gears up for second half of season



TODD ROBERTS

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