



The Interchange

February 2008

New building out, old HQ remains

SHOSHONE — Maybe it was too good to be true, but it the promised new District 4 administration building is on hold.

According to District Engineer Devin Rigby, the plans for a new headquarters — to be built west of the current administration building — was called off for construction this spring because of a shortfall of state revenue.

The budgeted \$6 million building was programmed based on revenue projections from the fuel tax, but a \$10 million shortfall led to trimming of several projects, including the building.

“We still have the spending authority available if revenue comes up,” Devin said. “As long as revenue stays down, the building is on hold.”

Crash Course

Plow accident gives view of job perils

By Nathan Jerke

It’s a situation nobody wants to find themselves, but endless hours on the road in only the worst of driving conditions will soon or later result in a crash.

Already this winter, several crashes involving Idaho Transportation Department snow plows have happened. Luckily, most have resulted in nothing more than property damage. Some have sent ITD and civilian drivers to the hospital.

I was on the scene of one of these recent crashes where a civilian was sent



A minor accident involving an ITD plow and two vehicles on U.S. 93 in Carey was a learning experience.

to the hospital for apparent minor injuries. I did what I could to help at the scene, but it was obvious the crash — and the resulting injuries — affected others more than me.

While I’ll make no suggestion that I did anything special (what I learned in that flagging

class did come in handy after all), the first few moments after an accident always seems surreal to me. Surprise is quickly replaced with concern, adrenaline rushes through the body, and then a feeling of regret might creep in.

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Horn receives ITD safety award

Carl Horn, District 4 Sign/Stripe Foreman, was named the Idaho Highway Users Safety Person of the Year on Jan. 24, the top safety honor in the state



for transportation workers.

The announcement came as a complete surprise to Carl, however, he didn’t even know he was nominated by District 4

Traffic Engineer Bruce Christensen until Jan. 28.

“It was news to me,” Carl said. “What Bruce told me, it’s not for me, but for the stuff we’ve

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been doing on the roads.”

Carl, who has been with the Department for about six and half years and has been the Traffic Services Foreman for two and half years, said much of what he is being recognized for is born out of necessity, but is also the product of a hard working crew.

“Honestly, the crew does the work. They’re the ones out there making sure this is all done right,” Carl said.

Some of the innovative measures Carl is credited with include temporary sign stands, “pop-up” bridge targets, pavement markings as warning devices as well as advocating the use of retroreflective flags and breakout sign support systems.

“I have to give credit to everyone in the department for being open-minded and willing to try new stuff,” Carl said. “A lot of this stuff is different and we didn’t know if it was going to work.”

Carl has also served as District 4's Safety Committee Chair, teaches flagging classes, and is a frequent team member on high accident reviews and other important district functions.

Carl will be awarded at a luncheon on Feb. 5 in Boise along with the state maintenance man of the year.

“I was told not to wear a tuxedo or blue jeans and an orange shirt, but something in between,” Carl said. “I think I might own some other colored jeans that I can wear.”

Crash (continued from page 1)

Without much for snow gear, I stood as an observer and flagger in the snow while a sheriff's deputy investigated, EMS worked with the crash victim, and the other ITD employees did what they

had to do to assist around the site.

For me, still learning the structure and duties of ITD, my appreciation of our maintenance crews grows every time I'm around them. It was the human,

vulnerable side of the job that showed up on the side of the road.

But, even in the most vulnerable time, the care and professionalism of the crew members for the job was never more apparent.

TAX TIME TIPS

- **Start Early**

1. If you don't do your own taxes, set an appointment with your tax preparer.

2. If you do your own taxes, set a deadline for getting them done.

- **Organize your documents**

1. Income (W-2s; Social Security, dividend and interest, brokerage statements; Proof of alimony; income and expense for rental property, self employment).

2. Deductions (Health care expenses, property taxes, Charitable gifts, job-related expenses).

3. Miscellaneous (Moving, education, student loan interest, day care, IRA contributions).

- **Sort, Eliminate, File**

1. Keep all documents in one file.

2. Sort and decide what can be eliminated.

3. Keep receipts and documents necessary for filing taxes and get rid of the rest.

- **Prepare your return**

1. Consider a tax software package versus manual completion.

- **Get ready for next year**

1. Use the same filing and preparation system all year.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Thursday, Feb. 14** — Valentine's Day
- **Monday, Feb. 18** — Presidents' Day, paid holiday
- **Tuesday, Feb. 19** — First Aid/CPR Training, Shoshone

Did You Know ...

District 4 is home to three 19th century Army bases to guard from Indian attack: Camp Wallace near Fairfield, Smith's Camp at the mouth of Raft River, and Camp Reed on Rock Creek.

Life and Times in District 4



Snowfall and asphalt



"Getting ahead of the game Shoshone Residency style," as titled by Shoshone Resident Thomas Brown. Idaho Sand and Gravel does a temporary pave on the Avonmore Road project on U.S. 26 near Gooding on January 29. Picture from Kenny Lively.

Relay for Life update

For the next few months the D-4 Relay for Life Team will be putting on **Lunch Wednesday**. We will have for sale a hot lunch available at the front counter on Wednesdays. This might be soups, chowders, chili, sandwiches, taco's or whatever the team selects for that week. We are asking for a donation of between \$3 to \$5 depending on what is being served. Thanks for supporting our fund raising.

Story ideas always needed

Have a good idea for an article, food recipe, news about a former employee, something you want to sell, or a funny story about work?

Send to Nathan Jerke for the next newsletter at 886-7809 or nathan.jerke@itd.idaho.gov

THE NEXT DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 27

Help make **YOUR** newsletter better

New Grandpa

Elmer Padilla and his wife, Elva, just missed the chance to meet his first grandchild by one day. He was visiting his daughter, Irene, in Fort Hood, Texas and "we left on Tuesday, January 22, at 8:30 a.m. and when we arrived in Boise at 1:30 p.m. she notified us that she had gone into labor. She had the baby the next day the 23rd of January. This was just one day before her birthday. The baby was 7 pounds, 15 ounces and 21-1/2" long."

The first Padilla granddaughter is named Nevaeh.



February is 'American Heart Month'

5 Lifestyle Changes to Help Prevent Heart Disease

- ◆ Exercise regularly
- ◆ Maintain a healthy weight
- ◆ Improve Cholesterol
- ◆ Control high blood pressure
- ◆ Quit smoking

For more information, go to the Blue Cross of Idaho Internet site: <http://bcidaho.com/>.

New and Improved in D-4

Job Changes

- **Kirk Slater** transferred to fill vacant TTS in Twin Falls Residency.
- **Rosalie Faulkner** transferred to fill vacant TT in Carey
- **John Novis** promoted to TTS in Shoshone Residence
- **Darren Scott** promoted to TTS in Shoshone Residence

CAUGHT IN THE ACT



Above: The responsibility of digging out was for only a few after four inches of snow, followed by wind, blanketed Shoshone.

Left: What to do when your trapped at the top of the mountain by out-of-staters? Rick Prophet just pushes his way through.

Your Pictures of D-4



Above: Shoshone hourly Grant Hanchey posing by his truck after a day of drifting on Idaho 24 (From Jarrett Porter).

Right: Hope nobody was in there while it was blowing 60 mph at Hollister POE (From Rick Bradley).



Above: More of Rick Prophet clearing snow from Idaho 75 on Galena Summit.

Below: Dave Dana hitting the shoulders on U.S. 30.

