



The Interchange

October 2007

Gearing up for winter

The first snow of the season has already landed across the top of District 4's highest peaks sparking the beginning of the snow season.

The Winter Start-up meeting on Sept. 12 at District Headquarters highlighted just a few of the safety issues, new policies and chemical applications to be utilized this year. Drivers were encouraged to enact "no boundaries" between assigned road sections when other drivers need assistance.

"The main thing is if you see the next road section needs help ... contact the



Sand beds and snow plows ... a beautiful sight to some and the signal to a long winter to others. Just necessary gear for ITD snow plow drivers.

other driver and let him know you can help," said Shoshone lead man Bill Dillard.

The 60 attending drivers were also warned against roadside hazards, in the new Road Weather Information Stations (RWIS) system implemented around the state.

Praegitzer competes at Western Snow & Ice Roadeo

ESTES PARK, Colo. — Learning the difference between safety and competition was lesson No. 1 for Mike Praegitzer in the Western Snow & Ice Conference and Snow Roadeo.

Praegitzer and fellow Idaho driver, Robin Freeman of District 3, finished second place in the team Tandem Axle Snow Plow competition, winning a belt buckle and \$100 for placing. The event was on a timed course which got the drivers going a little quick.

"On that, we were flat kicking it in the butt," Praegitzer said. "We were spinning around the corners and kicking up dirt."

Roadeo, continued on pg. 4

In this Issue

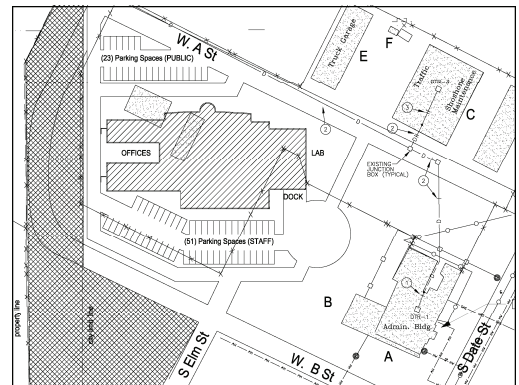
- New HQ design 2
- Racin' around 3
- Caption winner 4

New HQ on its way

SHOSHONE — This time it is not a drill. The reality of a new District 4 headquarters building is closer now than ever before with actual building plans being circulated in Shoshone.

While the plans provided to the district are far from a final draft, the reality

HQ, continued on pg. 2



HQ (continued from page 1)

of a new building shows commitment by the state to likely go ahead with construction this time.

“Our expectation of this happening is very high,” said District Engineer Devin Rigby. “The funding is in place and right now we expect for construction to begin sometime this coming spring.”

According to Devin, the new building will be about 30 percent larger than the existing headquarters building, and the space will be much more well utilized.

Measuring in at more than 32,000 square feet — compared to about 23,000 now — the \$6 million facility will house more room for the materials

“Our expectation of this happening is very high. ... The funding is in place and right now we expect for construction to begin sometime this coming spring.”

Devin Rigby, District Engineer

lab, the Shoshone Residency, more meeting rooms and ample space to grow, and all located on one floor. The newest set of plans, seen below, shows the basic layout of the building.

The new HQ will also be relocated to the corner of West A and Fir Streets, facing northwest, as seen on page 1. The existing Materials storage building will be moved or tore down, Devin said.

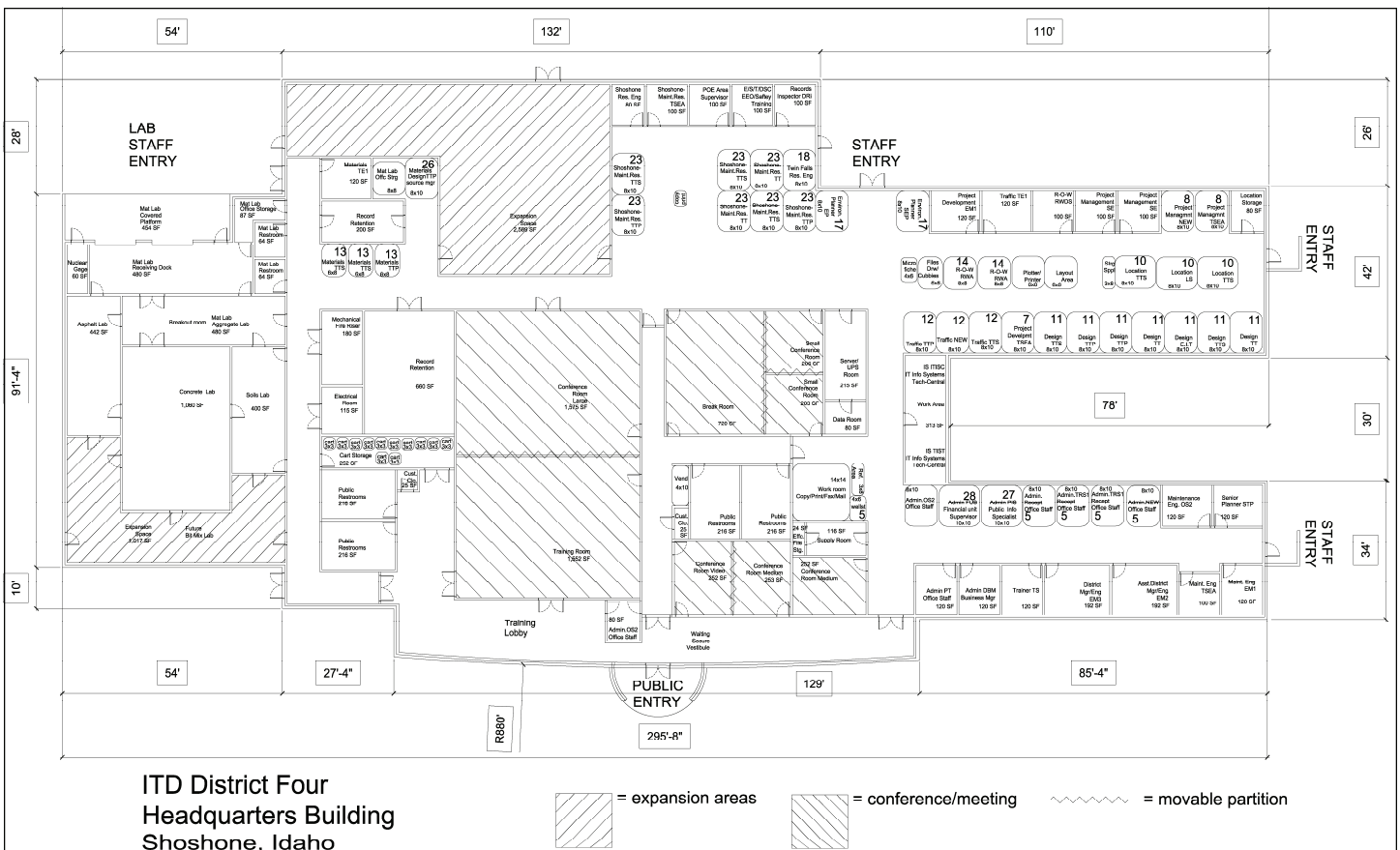
The design of the building does come with some constraints as well. The State Building Authority allows

but only a certain amount of square footage for every position and only upper-level administrators get walled offices. As a result, many employees will see a reduction in the amount of desk and personal space.

However, more attention was put into the open spaces between offices more meeting rooms and a lot more windows to the outside will give employees with a cubicle an outside view.

In addition to the new building, the three Quonset buildings in the maintenance yard will also be tore down and addition storage buildings will be constructed elsewhere on the compound. Devin said there are not immediate plans for the existing headquarters building.

Below: The latest set of drawings for the new District 4 Headquarters shows where the offices and cubicles will be located as well as areas for future expansion. Increased square footage and more meeting rooms are among the many building highlights.



Life and Times in District 4 

Speeding to another title

Billi Miles finishes season atop MV Pony class

While a wreck with 12 laps to go nearly relegated Billi Miles to a second place finish in the Magic Valley Speedway Pony Stock division, she caught a break when another racer was caught with doctored parts. The foul gave her the overall points lead and her second Pony Stock title.

Miles, District 4 Design manager, finished the year in victory lane after winning six of 15 races. She held only a five-point lead going into the final race on Sept. 8 and needed at least a third place finish in the final race to win the title. Miles was wrecked, started in the back of the pack and worked her way up to a fourth place finish. But the parts violation



Billi Miles, left, with her daughter Amanda, husband Dale and team member Roy pose for a victory photo on Sept. 15 after Billi was named the champion of the Magic Valley Speedway Pony Stock Division.

by the third place driver vaulted Miles to a one-point advantage in the final standings. "This championship year was up and down," Miles said. "I rolled a car this year in the first race and had a DNF (did not finish) due to a mechanical

failure." The championship, her second following a 2002 top finish, is also her swan song in racing as Miles has decided to hang up her driving gloves and racing helmet.

Speeding, continued on pg. 4

Runnin' wild

If work was like running, then at least three District Four employees showed they could go a long distance to get not much done.

But fortunately, James Bennett, Chris Severson and Nathan Jerke finished their goal of running the 2007 Habitat for Humanity Rim to Rim foot race on Sept. 15. The race started at Blue Lakes Country Club, went up the grade to Golf Course Road, over the Perrine Bridge, to Clear Springs Country Club and across the Snake River — a total of 7.5 miles.

Nathan ran it in one hour, 21 minutes, 35 seconds; James in one hour, 24 minutes, 22 seconds; Chris walked it in one hour, 39 minutes, 32 seconds.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Thursday, Oct. 4** — GIS web application discussion
- **Monday, Oct. 8** — Columbus Day, paid holiday
- Fire extinguisher inspections

How was the hunt??

If your proud, show it off.

Submit your family news, hunting stories, committee plans, random photos or whatever else to Nathan Jerke for the next newsletter at 886-7809 or at nathan.jerke@itd.idaho.gov

THE NEXT DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 26



Lucky this didn't happen during the Winter Start-up meeting. The lights in the HQ EOC took a tumble only a couple days later.

Gary Cvechich tossing cones during Idaho 75 paving on Sept. 17



"Come over here and I'll sweep you off your feet," was the kind invitation from Bob Mullenberg. Glen Moore, on the right, was just along for the scenery on U.S. 93 near Richfield.

Speeding *(continued from page 3)*

"I've pretty much decided this is my last year as a driver," Miles said, who with her husband Dale plan to help a couple other drivers in the pits and get their grandson ready to race go-carts next summer.

"I think 13 years of being behind the wheel are enough," she said. "We'll still be involved. I plan on giving a lot of driving advice."

Roadeo *(continued from page 1)*

In the other team event — single axle snow plow — the pair didn't fair as well, finishing 18th out of 47 teams. They went over the allotted five-minute course time and were docked points — that prompted the pair to go a little faster in the tandem axle event.

"We lost one point for each second over five minutes," the Shoshone shop supervisor said. "We made up some bonus points in the tandem and got all the way to second place."

Individually, Praegitzer was seventh out of 47 in the grader and 32nd out of 69 with the loader.

Praegitzer was the top finisher among foremen at the District 4 Truck Roadeo on May 30 at the Twin Falls Maintenance shed and finished second to Freeman in the state competition on June 12.

"(The conference) was a lot of fun. There were a lot of good speakers and neat things to see," Praegitzer said. "I hope this wasn't a one time thing for me. I want to go back."

Caption this Winner



"I have carefully analyzed the situation and ran all the figures; my conclusion is: The side flap's connected to top flap ... the top flap's connected to the bottom flap ..."

By Betty Bradley

Newsletter News

Could this be the end of an era for *The Interchange*?

After a lot of comments from around District 4, it looks as though just about everyone prefers to receive the monthly newsletter through their e-mail. This could mark the end of the paper distribution.

If you haven't given a comment about how you prefer to receive *The Interchange*, let me know by email at nathan.jerke@itd.idaho.gov or by calling 886-7809.

Nathan Jerke
Public Information Specialist