



The Interchange

December 2007

Legislators meet with ITD, discuss efficiency plan

SHOSHONE — In mid-November, Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter said he could not see additional funding for ITD until the department becomes more efficient with its current funds. Two days later, Director Pam Lowe released the department strategies to accomplish that goal.



Pam Lowe

Lowe presented the efficiency report to Otter before Thanksgiving and traveled around the state the last week of November to present the money-saving ideas to area legislators. On Nov. 29, Lowe, along with Transportation Board Chair Darrell Manning and District 4 board member Gary Blick presented it to District 4 Legislators in Shoshone.

Efficiency, continued on pg. 2

In this Issue

- X-Mas Raffling 2
- Nice moose 3
- Caption winners 4

It ain't easy keeping it all going

It was no small feat to get District 4 snow plows on the road once again this winter. As a matter of fact, many things were working against the members of the mechanics shop as snow started to fly in the Idaho mountains.

“Everything went really smooth,” shop supervisor Mike Praegitzer said. “There was only one small thing, everyone wanted their trucks changed over now. Everyone jumped the gun a little with that first snow.

“Everyone was asking if we could go faster. We can go only so fast,” Praegitzer added. “Then all of a sudden it was don't change any more because they had to haul all that fill for the new building. It takes time.”

It's not easy being ready for any kind of mechanical malfunction and take care of all the seasonal changes as well, Praegitzer said, but his crew tries to keep up.

Currently short three full-time mechanics, the District 4 shop fills its slack time doing mainte-



District 4 mechanic Ken Hall works out some of the kinks in a spreader in the Shoshone shop. Maintenance of the winter plows now begins following the rushed change-over season of the last month.

nance on the entire fleet, keep up with all the other that is when there is any requests.”

Still, the shop made it time. We're busy year-round,” Praegitzer said. “Even in the summer when we need to work on the sanders, it's hard to

time at all. Still, the shop made it sand truck change-overs in less than a month and has been able to keep up. It's a job that keeps the shop busy.

Christmas comes early

Preparations for D4 Christmas party wrapping up

You can almost taste what is planned for the feast at the District 4 Christmas party.

Deep fried turkeys, Dutch oven, salads, spuds and plenty of desserts are only part of the fun. Santa and his "high-tech" elf are also expected to attend to hand out presents and help with the raffle — which includes a King-sized D-4

themed quilt made by Rosalie Faulkner.

However, the good food and varying degrees of entertainment value are only a small part of the reason for this "Good Old Fashioned Christmas."

"We were leaning toward the Dutch oven and the quilt and thought that felt like an old fashioned Christmas," Christmas committee member Mike Scott said. "But the big thing for all of us is the donations to help people out over the holidays."

Among raffle items are the quilt, a float trip, stays at Mountain Village and

Raffle items and food are still needed to make the party a success. Contact Rosalie in Shoshone to donate.



This King-sized quilt features pictures of current and past District 4 employees and activities and is available through the Christmas raffle.

Torry's in Stanley and many others. Proceeds will be going to the Family Readiness Group (for military families in the valley), East End Providers and the Community Oasis Outreach.

"We're all working on good will this time of year," committee member Kathy Williams said.

A Good Old Fashioned Christmas

*Shoshone EOC
December 13, 2007*

Potluck dinner – Bring your favorite dishes to share

Raffle Tickets Now On Sale !!

*Tickets are \$1 apiece
or six for \$5*

Canned foods are requested to be donated as admission to the dinner. A new stuffed toy will buy a raffle ticket.

Please contact any Christmas Committee member with any donations for the raffle.

Efficiency (continued from page 1)

Among the cost-cutting measures are a host of goals for District 4. The plan is known as Practical Design.

"That's the idea of practical design, doing more work with the money we have," Lowe said during the meeting. "There were clever ideas in all our district's and we want to share those ideas that work around the state to do even more."

In District 4, the majority of savings come from new construction costs and will benefit a host of new projects,

including maintenance and construction.

"Maintenance is the focus," said Devin Rigby, District 4 Engineer. "We're trying to do some stuff that our maintenance crews can take care of."

State-wide, the projection over the next five years is a savings of about \$50 million in construction costs alone. The report also shows many other efficiency measures in winter maintenance, customer service, partnerships and innovative solutions which could

save the state millions per year, according to the report.

The handful of legislators in the meeting admitted the revenue stream to ITD does need bolstered in the coming year. On Dec. 5, Otter told reporters he is likely to support a raise in registration fees to help offset the \$200 million per year ITD shortfall.

"I think we have a good understanding of what the Transportation Department is going through," said Rep. Wendy Jaquet.

Life and Times in District 4



Happy Retirement



Julie Sizemore

Congratulations to both Henry Buckway and Julie Sizemore on their retirement. Julie served 34 years and Henry for 31 years with ITD.



Henry Buckway

Running from the gobbler

Who needs a watch dog when there's a turkey available. Twin Falls maintenance found a ornery turkey while working on Idaho 74, but couldn't get very close. "I was a little chicken. I was scared," admitted Jason Fisher



Twin Falls hourly Emily Hughes shot this moose near Macoy Creek in the Palisades region. "We just got up there and saw some people glassing and my dad asked if they had seen any moose and they said they were watching some. So we hiked up there and I shot it. It took more than one shot to kill it! My brother, dad, and I packed it out about a mile and a half. I couldn't pick up my pack so they put it on my back and told me to get going."

"God and a County Boy"

Former ITD employee Bryant Brown will be speaking at the *Moms on the Run* luncheon, relating the struggle of priorities and going it alone to bull riding.

Dec. 11, 11:30 a.m., Mandarin House, Twin Falls
For more information, contact Josie at 324-1233

Going somewhere for Christmas?

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

THE NEXT DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 28

New and Improved in D-4

Job Changes

- Tracy Anderson promoted to foreman in Bridge & Building
- Elmer Padilla promoted from Rupert Res. to TTP in Twin Falls Residency
- Katherine Olson transfers from Shoshone Res. to TTS in Traffic

New to the District

- Raymond Hildreth, Utility Craftsman, Bridge & Building

CAUGHT IN THE ACT



"I hope I didn't forget the hot dogs." Rupert maintenance does a little bit of interstate work with the help of an open flame.



Stretch for it, Carl. Sign foreman Carl Horn does a little impromptu measuring of the new crew truck, on the left, to see if it will fit in its building. The new truck is longer, taller and a little wider than it's previous version, at right.



"What's this? I'm planting seeds? I signed up to build roads," thought Dave Jensen.



Damage was measured in the number of lives lost when district PIS Nathan Jerke started operating a hand cart.

Caption this Winners

*"Look, I see a rabbit." "Where?"
- Jim French, Materials*

*"Yep, that there is a tree. Don't recon it's an apple tree, but it is a tree."
- Jolana Vibbert, Cotterel POE*

*"If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times ... no more playing hide and seek while wearing orange. I can still see you!"
- Sonna Lynn Fernandez, Boise*

