



The Interchange

March 2008

The melt down

Maintenance crews staying busy despite lack of snow

It's been a long time since the flurries of snow have required the muster of District 4 snow plows and their drivers into full action. Nothing more than isolated storms have covered southern Idaho roads since early February leaving a lot of time for ITD crews to catch up on maintenance jobs.

"Spring fever," District 4 maintenance coordinator Ron Robinson said, "everyone is starting to get it."

Brooming, fence repairs, filling potholes and other winter maintenance operations filled the weekly job report for most of the D4 maintenance crews.

Melt down, continued on pg. 4

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Letter to my Valentine

SHOSHONE – It was an unexpected gift on Valentine's Day often reserved for more notable local heroes and politicians, but on Feb. 14 this year the Girl Scouts Troop 77 honored District 4 snow plow drivers with homemade cookies and Valentine cards.

More than 30 scouts were greeted by a handful of crew members at the Shoshone Maintenance shed where six bags of cookies and more than 100 cards – since distributed to drivers throughout the district – were presented to the Shoshone drivers.

"This is part of a national project for the Girls Scouts called 'Brownie Smiles,'" troop leader Karma Fitzgerald said. "It's usually done for local officials but I wanted to do something different. When we were planning it is when we had a lot of snow and the drivers were busy."



Above: Several full- and part-time drivers accept cookies, cards and a song from Shoshone's Girl Scout Troop 77 on Valentine's Day.

Below: Members of Troop 77 were treated to a tour of a snow plow. The air horn was popular.

Fitzgerald said she suggested to the girls to make the cards but it was the idea of the girls, a troop of more than 60, to make the cookies. After presenting the cards and cookies, the girls also sang and introduced themselves to the drivers.

"They jumped on board and wanted to do it big," Fitzgerald added.



Valentine, cont. on pg. 2

Messages from the kids

Dear State Snowcrew,

We wanted to thank you for doing such a great job with keeping the roads clear and safe. We notice the long hours and early morning, and the kids love the big piles.

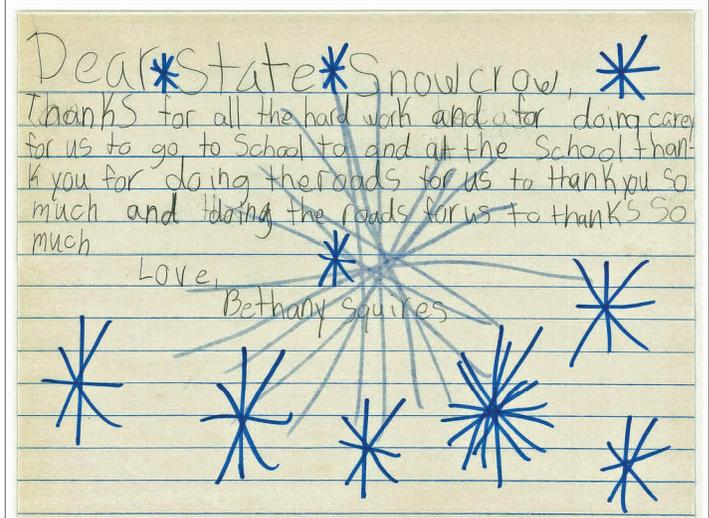
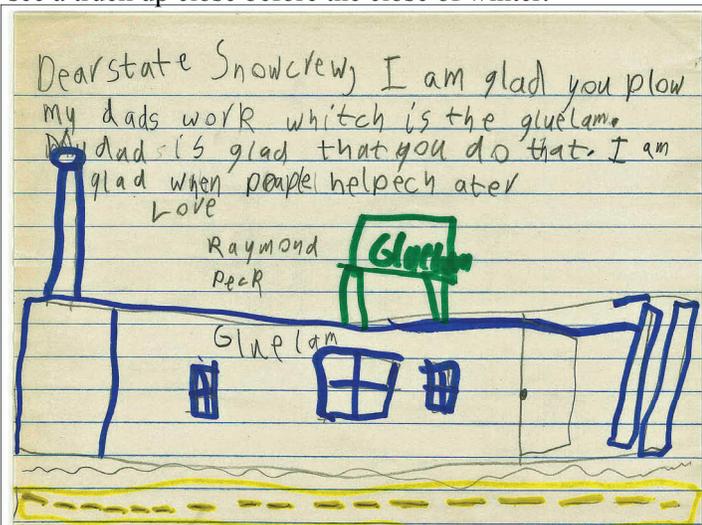
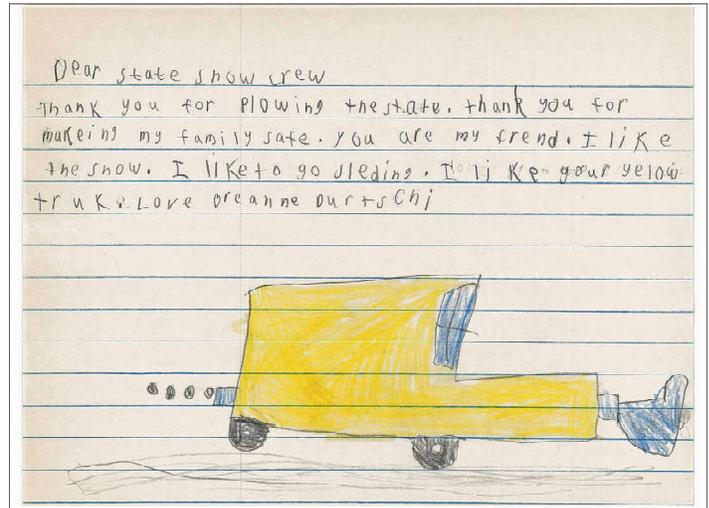
Thanks again, we appreciate all of your hard work.

Lacey Hennefer, Carey Elementary, 2nd grade

CAREY — The Carey Maintenance Shed received a nice surprise from Carey Elementary in January in the form of cards and pictures from the second grade.

“We never expected it,” Carey lead worker Tracy Holt said. “We really appreciate the letters and pictures. It was a nice way to say thanks.”

The crew plans to go to the school and let the children see a truck up close before the close of winter.



Another 'thank you' note

I live in Fairfield and work in Gooding and I would like to praise your team of employees who worked so long and hard in the Camas Prairie to keep our roads open when possible and get us home safely. They are the best.

Suzi Bingham, Fairfield

Valentine (continued from page 1)

“They cover the road by my front walk and our dogs freak out when they go by, but they’re real cool,” said senior troop member Cheyann Donaldson, age 14.

For their effort, the girls were introduced to the drivers and treated to a tour of a snow plow truck – where every one of the girls got to pull on the air horn, some more than others.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Wednesday, March 12**
Hagerman rest area public meeting, Hagerman City Hall
- **Tuesday, March 18**
Construction conference, Shoshone EOC
- **Sunday, March 23**
Easter

Life and Times in District 4



D4 Relay for Life winding up

Get ready to “Wipe out Cancer” with the District 4 Relay for Life team. The group is already getting started with fund raisers in preparation for the May 16-17 event.

In addition to the regular *Wednesday Lunch* at the Shoshone office, team members will be selling Relay for Life tribute stars and moons (pictured) for \$1, luminaries for a suggested donation of \$10. Talk to any team member or Bob Johnson for information.

The team will also be selling cinnamon rolls, like last year, in April.

As a special thank you to all who supported the team throughout the year, a free potluck lunch will be served to employees in May before the relay. Read the April and May editions of *The Interchange* for more.



Farewell to thee, Hamilton

Wayne Hamilton, after 20 years of service in District 4, has accepted a promotion in HQ Materials where he will be the Independent Assurance Coordinator

Wayne would like a chance to see his D4 friends and say goodbye. You and your spouses are invited to join us for a send off dinner. Please RSVP to Kimbol Allen.

Montana Steakhouse, March 8, 7 p.m.

Family addition



Dennis & Ameer Jensen became proud grandparents of Kyzen Wayne Lucht. Born Feb. 10 to Audreyana and Ryan Lucht.

Register for EBF Awards

This is a reminder that the EBF Awards luncheon is scheduled for noon on March 19 in the Shoshone EOC. To plan for enough food for everyone, a head count needs to be turned in by March 6.

Those employees that are members of the EBF and are receiving awards will receive a *free* lunch. Those employees who are NOT members and are receiving an award will have to pay for their lunch.

The last day to RSVP is March 6. Payment of dues and awards luncheon must be paid on March 6. Dues are \$10 and the lunch, catered by Mommy Market Catering, is \$8.25.

Contact Sue Rathke for more information and to RSVP.

In Memoriam

Robert “Bob” Jackson, 74, passed away on Feb. 8 at his residence in Gooding. Bob went to work for ITD in 1972 as a mechanic, shop foreman and shop superintendent before retiring in 1995.

Floyd Raymond Ricks, 91, passed away on Feb. 4 at SunBridge Care in Twin Falls. Floyd — a WWII veteran — joined ITD in 1956 and retired in 1978 serving as a mechanic and state inspector of Division of Highways vehicles.

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 MARCH 28

Help make **YOUR** newsletter better

New and Improved in D-4

New to the District

- Rick Bay, Utility Craftsman.
- Ken Hall, Mechanic.



Snow plows are parked outside the Shoshone Maintenance shed after morning patrols. Meanwhile, crew members are busy doing other maintenance.

Melt down (continued from page 1)

Only Stanley and Hailey crews have been through late February and early March keeping snow off the roads, but those jobs had more to do with spring melt down than fresh snow-pack. There is still avalanche potential on Idaho 21 near Banner Summit and snow is being cleared from Galena Summit cutout areas to make room for the inevitable rock slide-offs.

“Right now, we’re staging snow slides in the afternoons to clear those areas,” Robinson said.

But that doesn’t stop winter in other areas either. Blowing snow is still a problem in parts of the district — particularly on I-84 south of Sublett and U.S. 20 near Pine and Carey. Robinson said the continued possibility of a late snow storm in the higher elevations will continue keep crews on their toes.

However, in the lower elevations spring is nearly already sprung with grasses beginning to turn green, few snow drift piles remaining and ever-increasing temperatures. Those signs open up the yearly necessity to dealing with water issues.

Crack filling, patching holes — “everyone is doing that right now as everything begins to thaw,” Robinson said. “It’s the same thing every year addressing irrigation (water) problems.”

Robinson said despite that spring fever, it will be the end of March before crews start beginning to take off the plows and change to summer implements.

“Spring can’t be that close, I still have two feet of snow on my lawn (in Hailey),” Robinson said.

“Spring can’t be that close, I still have two feet of snow on my lawn.”

-Ron Robinson

Caption this

Darren Scott, TTP in the Shoshone Residency, finally found a crowd that would listen to him. Now you get to venture a guess about what he said to these second graders at Clover Lutheran School near Filer.

Submit your caption to Nathan Jerke at nathan.jerke@itd.idaho.gov or 886-7809.



“There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.”

Albert Einstein

"Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it, misdiagnosing it and then misapplying the wrong remedies."

Groucho Marx