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December, 2012

# Hidden Springs

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Hidden Springs HOLIDAY EVENTS

• **Saturday Dec. 8th - HS Community Family Christmas Party (Barn)**

• **December 9-16 Happy Chanukah to our Jewish friends**

• **Wednesday, December 12, 6:30 p.m, Hidden Springs Town Association Meeting Clubhouse**

• **December, 4,7,11,14,18 (dollar day),21, HSES Walking Club**

• **Friday Dec 21 Winter officially begins and Fri. Dec 21st - Wed. Jan 2, 2013, HSES Christmas Break**

## MERC EVENTS

### MERC HOLIDAY HOURS:

**Christmas Eve** .....7:30am – 2:00pm

**Christmas Day** .....CLOSED

**New Years Eve** .....7:30am – 5:00pm

**New Years Day** .....CLOSED

**Monday's Game Night Pizza Specials** - ask for details.

## Merc Arts & Entertainment

• **Friday, Nov. 30 6 - 8 pm. Adam Gottesman,** A 5-star crooner, Adam Gottesman sings the great standards, including Frank Sinatra.

• **Sunday, Dec 2nd 3-5 pm, Holiday Ceramic Workshop** at the Merc, Make a special keepsake for that special someone this season. ALL ages welcome!

• **Wednesdays, Dec. 5,12,19,26, 6 - 8 pm. Eileen Schindler on the piano**

• **Sunday, December 9, 2 pm, Gingerbread House Decorating Party,** Gingerbread houses are pre-assembled for your convenience. Enjoy hot cocoa, cookies, pizza & Holiday music! \$20 per house / \$15 per gingerbread man. Limited quantities and last year sold out.

• **Saturday, Dec 15th, Bizarre Bazaar from 9 am - 4 pm at the Merc.** There are 20 vendors this year. Most are from our neighborhood. Only hand-crafted items this year. Finish up your Christmas shopping. We will also be offering wine tasting in the afternoon. Come support your friends and neighbors. For more information [chmitzsharon@gmail.com](mailto:chmitzsharon@gmail.com).

• **Thursday, December 20, 4th Annual Caroling.** Start and end at the Merc

• **Thursday Dec 13, 5 - 6:30pm Wine Tasting**

• **Thursday, Dec. 13, 7 - 8:30 pm, Ladies Bunco**

## Sports at the Merc

• **Sat. Dec 1, TBA BSU at Nevada. Last Regular Season Game**  
Enjoy the games at the Merc.

## LOCAL HOLIDAY EVENTS/SHOWS

• **Saturday, Dec 1, 11:00 am, Procrastinator's Holiday Market,** Boise Hotel and Conference Center, Photos with Disco Santa, Naughty & Nice Drinks and more... Boise Hotel and Conference Center, 3300 Vista Ave., Boise

• **Saturday, Dec 1, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Join Zoo Boise for Claus 'N' Paws,** the only free admission day of the year! This is our way to thank the community for all the support you have given 355 Julia Davis Dr., Boise

• **Dec 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, Ears on a Beatle, Stage Coach Theatre** John Lennon was not only alive, but considered worthy of government surveillance by two FBI agents assigned to watch him. Based on actual documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act. Times vary. Stage Coach Theatre is now at 4802 W. Emerald, Boise. <http://stagecoachtheatre.com/>

• **December 7 - 15, Music Theatre of Idaho presents "White Christmas". Fri-Sat Dec 7-8, Fri-Sat Dec 14-15 at 7:30 pm, Matinees Sat Dec 8, Sat Dec 15 at 1:30 pm.** Based on the beloved, timeless film, Features seventeen Irving Berlin songs. Nampa Civic Center, 311 Third Street South, Nampa, <http://www.mtionline.org>

• **Thru December 8th, 8 pm, Breadcrumbs by Jennifer Haley** examines the life of a reclusive writer named Alida who is grappling with Alzheimer's in the midst of writing her autobiography. 3638 Osage Street in Garden City, just off Chinden Blvd. behind the Woman of Steel Gallery

• **Saturday, Dec 1, 10:00am, Elf Academy,** Become a certified helper of Santa at the Boise Towne Square, Boise <http://www.boisestownesquare.com/>

• **Wednesday, Dec 5, 7:00pm, Christmas Concert,** Christmas music in the candlelit Cathedral - a cozy nostalgic start to the holiday season for you and your family. St. John's Cathedral, Boise, 775 North 8th Street Boise,

• **Thursday Dec 6. Saint Nicholas Day.** Saint Nicholas, the Bishop of Myra, was known for his

charity and secret-gift giving in the shoes of those who left them out for him. In many countries, Dec 6 is a festival for children to wake up with gifts in their shoes, remembering Saint Nicholas, the giver of gifts.

• **December 9, 2pm, "A Christmas Carol"** The Reading Series at the Morrison Center presented by five professional actors in a staged reading. With bits of costumes, sound effects and music created as you watch, characters come alive from great literary and theatrical works. Morrison Center's recital hall, 2201 Cesar Chavez Lane, Boise

• **Friday, Dec 14 7:00 pm, "The Nutcracker",** Special Events Center, BSU, Boise Idaho Regional Ballet. 1880 W. University Dr., Boise

• **Thru December 15 -- Boise Little Theater presents "Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!)"** This is the story of three actors who, instead of performing Charles Dickens' beloved holiday classic for the umpteenth time, decide to perform every Christmas story ever told **Dec. 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 8pm Dec. 6 & 13, 7:30pm, Dec. 2, 9 & 15, 2pm** 100 E Fort Street, Boise <http://www.boiselittletheater.org>

• **Thru Dec. 22, The Gifts Of The Magi.** It is Christmas in New York, but for Jim and Della, the prospects are bleak, as both are out of work and penniless. Their dilemma is solved when both part with their most precious possessions (she her beautiful long hair, he his heirloom pocket watch) in order to buy presents. **Dinner seating at 6:30, dinner at 7 pm, show begins at 8pm.** Knock 'Em Dead Dinner Theatre, 415 E Parkcenter Boulevard, Boise, (208) 385-0021 <http://www.kedproductions.org/>

• **December 21 - 23, varied times Ballet Idaho** continues the beloved holiday tradition of the family classic, "The Nutcracker." Morrison Center, 2201 Cesar Chavez Lane, Boise. <http://www.balletidaho.org>

## ONGOING & OTHER EVENTS

• **FAMILY NIGHT- IDAHO ICE WORLD** - \$5 per person, every **Wednesday, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** 7072 S. Eisenman Road, Boise. (208) 331-0044 <http://idahoiceworld.cityofboise.org>

**SUBMIT YOUR EVENT:** Email your listing to [info@HiddenSpringsMagazine.com](mailto:info@HiddenSpringsMagazine.com) by the 15th of the month. Preference is given to non-profit groups/events.



# Peppermint Cupcakes

A Holiday Recipe for you from Lil Mama Cakes



- 1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 ¼ tsp. baking powder
- ¼ tsp. salt, 1 cup sugar
- 6 tbsp. butter
- 1 large egg
- 1 large egg white
- 1 tsp. peppermint extract
- ½ cup whole milk
- Crushed candy canes

Preheat oven to 350. In a bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, and salt. In another bowl, with an electric mixer on medium-high speed, beat the sugar and butter together until light and fluffy, 2-3 minutes. Add the egg, egg white, and ½ tsp. of peppermint extract and beat until combined. Add the flour mixture in 3 additions, alternating with the milk in 2 additions, beating on low speed until just combined. Fill tins 2/3 full. Bake 18-20 minutes.

### Peppermint Buttercream

- 3 sticks of room temperature butter
- 3 ½ cups powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. milk
- 1 tsp. peppermint extract

Blend butter and powdered sugar together until creamy. Mix in milk and extract until combined. Frost cooled cupcakes with frosting and top with crushed candy canes.

Makes 1 dozen cupcakes

To receive our newsletter and specials, send an email to [LilMamaCakes@gmail.com](mailto:LilMamaCakes@gmail.com). Put **SUBSCRIBE** in the subject line. ~Sierra



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Thanksgiving artwork adorns the walls of Hidden Springs Elementary School prior to the Thanksgiving break.



## the home front

by Kristin Sherman

# Creating the Welcoming Home for Friends and Family

Some people joke that you shouldn't make your guest room too nice because your friends or family will overstay their welcome. But creating a warm and inviting living space for your guests shows how much you care.

Fill your guest room with all the best amenities to create a relaxing environment. Your guests will appreciate the thought that went into their visit. Here are some tips to make an inviting guest room.

### Fresh and Simple

Fresh flowers are a must. You don't have to go overboard with an expensive bouquet. Tulips are a natural choice because they're available year-round and their droopy shape lends itself to fuss-free arrangements.

### Make It Plush

To ensure a good night's sleep, start with high-thread-count, 100 percent cotton sheets, then add a thick duvet and pile on lots of fluffy pillows.

### Help Them Feel at Home

Use a deep basket to stash guest towels, a robe and extra blankets. Place it visibly in the room so guests have everything they need to freshen up on arrival.

### Stock the Necessities

Take a cue from your favorite hotel, and stock dresser drawers with a few travel-size essentials such as toothpaste, shampoo, and hand lotion.

### Make It Personal

If your overnight guests are family or close friends, display photos of happy times spent together; everyone enjoys a trip down memory lane.

### Create a Vanity Desk Area

A small table or desk and a chair can function as a vanity or desk. Stock paper, pens, scissors, and tape in case your guests need to jot down a note or snip a tag from a new shirt. And don't forget a waste bin in the room, either near the desk or by the door.

### Midnight Snack

A midnight snack box is a fun treat for guests who might crave something after everyone has gone to bed. It can be as simple as crackers, chocolate, dried fruit, and a few water bottles.



### Appliance Manual

Guests will appreciate a simple, one-sheet page of instructions instead of having to ask you how to turn on the TV.

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## Empty Bowls Event Offers Full Hearts and Full Stomachs

This time of year our days get filled to capacity with kids, school, work and holiday planning. It's not easy to find the time and money to help our local charities, too. Every fall for the last three years Hidden Springs' resident and owner of Back Gate Studio, Barbara Balkin, has provided an opportunity for the local community to donate to our Idaho Foodbank in a very creative way.



Young and old, creative and 'not so much', gather at the Dry Creek Mercantile in October to paint bowls at Back Gate Studio's 'Empty Bowls Ceramic Painting FUNraiser'. "From the dad who says 'I can't paint' to the four year old 'Picasso', it's a chance to give a real part of ourselves. With all supplies provided for you, your job is to simply have fun and paint your unique design. It's fundraising at its best!" says Barbara. Back Gate Studio then glazes, fires and transports the bowls to the Idaho Foodbank for their popular Empty Bowls event, held the Friday after Thanksgiving on Boise's Grove plaza.

The downtown Boise event is part of a grassroots effort by citizens in cities across the

country to feed the hungry in their communities. In exchange for a small donation, it offers the opportunity to select a unique bowl from thousands. The bowl is then filled with your choice of soup generously donated by local restaurants, including our very own Dry Creek Mercantile. The funds raised by this event help to provide free food assistance to those badly in need this

winter.

If you missed these events, another great opportunity for creating and giving gifts from the heart will be Sunday, December 2, 3-5pm, during the Studio's Holiday 'Paint-Your-Own' Ceramics event at the Merc. There will be a variety of ceramic gift items and ornaments to paint. After all, doing for others is what the holiday season is all about!

If you enjoy creating memories with art, ring in the new year with the Grand Opening of Barbara's new company ARTKIN, coming in early 2013. ARTKIN provides a unique way for anyone to create original art canvases for fundraisers, family events, team building, and gifts.

Back Gate Studio provides art classes, workshops and family art events for the local community. For more information join Barbara's facebook.com/backgatestudio page for event updates or email backgatestudio@ymail.com

# H.S. Town Council Candidate Statements

Note: By the time of this printing, the Candidate Forum scheduled for Nov. 29, will have taken place. To help you in your decision, I am reprinting the candidate statements here. The HSTA will house a locked ballot box in the office. The keys to open the ballot box will be kept offsite at the AMI offices and no one will have access to open the ballot box until the AMI President and/or Owner delivers the keys back to the HSTA on December 12th after the adjournment of the Annual Meeting when the election officially closes. Proxy ballots can be dropped off before that time in the Green HSTA Drop-box located in the Postal Room and will be gathered by the HSTA daily, however in order to assure credibility The HSTA will have two witnesses signify that the ballots were transferred to the ballot box immediately and without being tampered with.

## Dean Hastriter

Born and raised in Nampa, I graduated from Boise State University in 1993 with a degree in History after competing throughout the nation as a member of the BSU wrestling team. Forgoing a career in teaching and coaching, I began work in the concrete construction industry upon graduation and have worked as a general and specialty contractor for the past 19 years.

My work as a construction manager has helped me hone skills such as problem solving, conflict resolution, affecting compromise among various stakeholders, adherence to deadlines, and a strong desire to contribute quality products and ideas to quality projects.

My wife Carrie and I became the sole owners of Hastriter Construction Inc. in 2003 and I have worked closely with developers of planned communities throughout the Treasure Valley ever since. My personal admiration of, and dedication to, outstanding neighborhoods led me to make my home in Hidden Springs in 2005.

Carrie and I were honored to become part of this community and we have enjoyed volunteering at Hidden Springs Elementary as well as sponsoring local teams and events in order to help preserve the family-centered lifestyle the Dry Creek Valley has provided us to date.

If elected to the HSTA Town Council, I will work diligently to maintain the positive aspects of our community, as well as strive to improve process, communication, and involvement throughout our neighborhood.

## Dirk Helder

My wife, son and I have lived in Hidden Springs for four years. I originally came to Idaho about 15 years ago and received my Master's of Public Administration from B.S.U. Shortly after graduation my wife and I moved to Washington D.C. where I worked for the federal government. We were there for ten years and most of my time has been with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Once our son was born we decided it was time to come back to Idaho where my wife's family resides. We visited H.S. once while looking for houses and the decision to live here was made. We fell in love with the friendly community, the natural beauty, the trails, the MERC, and the elementary school. We have thoroughly enjoyed every minute living here, making new friends, many of them we now consider family, and enjoying all that H.S. has to offer including all the community activities throughout the year. We are fortunate to live here and believe it is time for me to contribute more to support our community.

My primary work for the EPA has been in food safety, pesticide safety and clean water.

Most of my time has been negotiating on EPA's behalf with those who are affected by EPA regulations and who do not agree with EPA's approach. I recently received EPA's Administrator's National Award for working successfully with the regulated community, for building better working relationships, and for ensuring EPA's regulations are implemented successfully with the least negative impact on the regulated community. I have been successful in my work at EPA because first and foremost I listen to others, am willing to learn from their expertise, and seek their expert advice. This is a skill that will help ensure my success on H.S. Town Council.

Here are a couple important points I'd like to share if I am elected to the Town Council:

- 1) I would listen and seek input from others;
- 2) I would welcome suggestions on ways to improve the community;
- 3) I would support efforts to provide additional opportunities for children and teenagers in the community;
- 4) I would like to see additional family-oriented trails for walking and biking; and
- 5) I am opposed to the Dynamis plant, primarily because of its close proximity to Boise, Eagle and Hidden Springs.

## Craig Lochner

My wife, (Anita), daughter, (Julia), and I have been residents of Hidden Springs since September 2004. Over the years we have seen the community grow and develop with first the help of the developer and then some fine leadership from the past Town Council Boards. I want to preserve the standards that we have grown accustomed to in Hidden Springs. We love it here and do not believe that any major changes to how the community is run need to be made.

I have worked for various insurance companies for the past 35 years, holding positions on the financial side as Internal Auditor, Controller, Vice president of Planning and Analysis, and Chief Financial Officer and holding operational positions including Chief Operating Officer, President and CEO. I can lend some expertise to the financial planning and budgeting aspect of the Town Council. I am adept at working with all aspects of the operations of a company and those talents can easily transfer over to the needs of the community.

One of my major strengths is being a good listener and having the ability to get to the real facts of an issue. As a Town Council member, I will make sure we get to the facts of the matter rather than what the rumor mill is trying to steer us toward. I will continue to strive for better community communication and help to make all of our residents better informed.

I am a CPA, have a BBA from the University of Wisconsin with a double major in Accounting and Finance. I remain a Wisconsin Badger fan, but have happily converted to a Boise State fan as well. Over the years I have done volunteer work at the school and in the past year have been active in the "Stop Dynamis" movement to halt the building of a gasifier at the Hidden Hollow Landfill, which is adjacent to our properties. This is important to preserve the quality of our air, limit contamination of ground water, and maintain property values. I am proud to be helping out in this effort.

## Chuck Miller

I have been a part of the Hidden Springs Community since December 1999 and a resident since October 2000. I managed the Hidden Springs Building Company for the Developers of Hidden Springs before acquiring it and incorporating it as Chuck Miller Construction Inc. in 2001. I have built 22 homes in Hidden Springs, the Clubhouse, the Smart Start Pre-School, and the Hidden Springs Marketplace. I have completed several remodeling homes here in Hidden Springs and elsewhere for the past 3 years. I am currently working with Norm and Joan Peterson on the design and construction of a major expansion of the Merc.

My other businesses include Chuck Miller Consulting and Chuck Miller Educational Services, and Hidden Springs Commercial Properties LLC which owns the commercial space currently occupied by the Hidden Springs Branch of the Ada Community Library.

I serve as a Professional Reviewer for the Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licenses Idaho State Contractors Board reviewing case files involving complaints against contractors and providing my professional opinion regarding alleged violations.

I was born and raised in the Chicago area and discovered Boise in 1975 when I was hired by Morrison-Knudsen Company. I am married and have two daughters, two step-daughters, and two-stepsons. My wife Monica and I had our wedding reception here at the Community Barn. Monica is a Critical Care Nurse at St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center and a licensed psychologist. My oldest daughter, Lindsay, is the Los Angeles Editor for Pop Sugar and my youngest daughter, Courtney is a senior at Boise State University majoring in marketing. My oldest step-daughter is currently a graduate assistant at Arizona State University working on her doctorate in psychology. My other step-daughter is studying software design. My oldest step-son is a graduate of Boise State University and currently works at the Boise Public Library. My youngest step-son is currently working as a landscaper before returning to school to pursue a degree in biology.

Continued next page...

# Beyond Recycling

by Linda Kay Harrison

## Cleaning Your Indoor Air

Winter in the Treasure Valley can often feel like never ending, dreariness. The lack of sunlight, strong inversions, and cold weather can take its toll on anybody's temperament. I suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). I believe my case of SAD is a fairly strong one. For instance, my typical approach to December and January is simply to crawl under my bed and hide until March. But I've recently decided to try staying out from under the furniture, and actually dealing with my problem! So,... I went to the store and bought some new houseplants to add to my existing collection around the house.

You probably already know that plants remove nasty toxins from the air, but did you know that they can also, reduce stress, lower illness rates, and even improve your concentration? According to a study done by the Norway University of Agriculture, indoor plants not only remove toxins, but they can reduce fatigue and many cold-related illnesses by increasing humidity levels and removing dust from the air. These same tests also showed that attentiveness and memory increase considerably due to the added oxygen put into the air by houseplants.

All plants clean the air and release oxygen, but these plants are easy care and especially hard workers!

Philodendron - any type  
 Dracena - Janet Craig  
 Chlorophytum - spider plant  
 Dracena - Marginata  
 Pothos - any type  
 Bamboo Palm  
 Sanseveria - snake plant  
 Spathaphylum - Peace Lily

I don't know about you, but I think the best reason to buy some new houseplants is that even a slight change in our daily 'scenery' is always welcomed this time of year. And what better way to create change than with beautiful, living, and oxygen-giving, greenery! There is little that brings more cheer to a room than a live plant. And you don't have to buy big plants, or very many. A few of those little 4" potted plants and maybe one of the 6" plants can make a big difference. Add a couple that bloom, (African violets), to brighten the spirit! Ah, and we mustn't forget, bright colored pots can do even more to brighten our mood, which also creates a great opportunity to have some fun!

To take this idea a step further,... we already know that a good night's sleep can reduce stress and improve your mental & physical health, so in addition to using plants in areas of daytime use, try bromeliads,

## Candidates continued from page 5

I am an active member of National Association of Home Builders serving on its Board of Directors. I am also an active member, a Life Director and a Past President of the Building Contractors Association of Southwestern Idaho and an active member and Life Director of the Idaho Building Contractors Association.

I currently serve on the Hidden Springs Town Council and am an Ada County Paramedics Reserve Emergency Medical Technician and will be volunteering here in Hidden Springs.

I am also an instructor for the National Endowment for Financial Education® (NEFE®) High School Financial Planning Program and would like to offer the program here in our community.

### Jack Rahmann

I am a current member of the 2012 Hidden Springs Town Council and have enjoyed serving the community over the past year. I have lived in Hidden Springs for more than 10 years. My wife Suzette and I have three children who benefited from the growing up in a community that embraces family and education.

I am the Director of the Student Union at Boise State and have worked there for ten years. I manage a full time staff of 30 state employees and 60 student employees. The annual budget for this operation is 3.4 million.

Early on my wife and I were very involved in the start-up of the charter school. I served on the search committee for the principal, organized and installed the FF&E package for the school, and was the head grounds keeper for four years. I also served on the board for the organic farm for one year. My wife served for four years as a classroom volunteer in the charter school.

I believe strongly in the founding principles of our community and would serve to uphold these to my utmost ability. Sound fiscal management to insure that our community allocates resources appropriately is also a top priority.

One area that I have particular strength and experience is in landscaping. I owned and operated a successful landscape company in Sun Valley for ten years. This experience can serve the community well in addressing needs for the public landscaped areas, organic farm, orchard and open spaces.

Additionally I have extensive experience in management and project work. I serve on multiple committees at Boise State and know how to work collaboratively to get results.

After a short break from volunteering in our

orchids and succulents in your bedroom. These plants exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide at night rather than during the day like most other plants. This is a great way to freshen the air you breathe during sleep, and wake up feeling more alert and healthy!

House plants are great for brightening a room, but the fact that they can actually brighten our winter mood is reason enough to give these leafy little lads a try. Don't forget to use organic fertilizer for an even healthier home!

community, due to coaching sports teams for my kids and my wife being a full time student, I am ready to get involved again in our wonderful community. Hidden Springs has been a very special experience for me and my family and I truly value how much it has contributed to my children's character and my own personal growth.

### Brian White

Though we are no strangers to the Mountain West, my family moved to Boise from Ohio more than 5 years ago. We have also lived in Park City, UT and West Glacier, Montana. And although I was determined to live in the North End, I gave in to the wishes of my wife, and her insistence that this neighborhood would be a great place for our kids to grow up. Not surprisingly, Hidden Springs quickly grew on me, given all the great, outgoing neighbors, enjoyable town events and proximity to trails & recreation. There are few places I would trade for Hidden Springs.

Our family is made up of my wife Kristin, daughters Eloise and Delilah, dogs Rena and Leather, and cat, Leonard. Kristin runs Elements Childhood Experiences here in the neighborhood, helps to run the chicken coop, and loves volunteering for art classes at Hidden Springs Elementary School. Eloise and Delilah attend HSES. In our free time, we can be found floating various nearby rivers, on a soccer pitch somewhere in the Treasure Valley, digging the dirt on mountain bikes, or making the most out of the cold months by skiing and sledding.

I currently work out of our house as a software consultant for a small firm based in San Francisco. I have worked in software and technology my entire professional career, but spent the latter part of high school and a few years of college running a landscape maintenance business to help pay for part of college. I also guided whitewater rafts in Montana and West Virginia. I graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a bachelor's degree majoring in Geographic Information Systems.

I decided to run for town council because I appreciate the effort my predecessors have put forth to help maintain the original charter of Hidden Springs as a healthy, safe, fun and progressive neighborhood. If I am elected, I intend to continue this tradition and help keep this town one of the best kept secrets in Idaho.

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## DYNAMIS ENERGY Waste to Energy Plant

On November 8, the Idaho Citizens group filed a lawsuit against Ada County claiming the actions of Commissioners Sharon Ullman, Rich Yzaguire and former Commissioner Fred Tilman, violated state law in the contracts created with Dynamis Energy.

On November 14, the commissioners sent a letter to Dynamis Energy demanding that the \$2 million fronted to them be repaid, per the language in one of the contracts.

On November 19, the Idaho Conservation League also filed a lawsuit against the county over the leasing of landfill land to Dynamis Energy.

As of this writing there has been no public response from Dynamis Energy and no court date assigned for either lawsuit.

Stay informed at [www.SafeIdahoCitizens.org](http://www.SafeIdahoCitizens.org)

## Open Office Hours for Hidden Springs

What is Open Office Adjustment and how does it work? Simply put, on Tuesdays from 4 - 6 pm and Fridays from 9 - 11 am, you do not need an appointment at my Hidden Springs office. You just come!

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## movie maverick

by Jason Ruggard

3.5 stars out of 4

Daniel Craig, who now fully embodies and absolutely owns the role of James Bond is the sturdy anchor that holds this gargantuan action-thriller together. This is an undeniably well mounted and produced modern epic. On a technical level Skyfall is an astounding piece of physical filmmaking, the staging, acting, cinematography and editing are all top-notch and worthy of Oscar attention. Longtime fans of the franchise will be delighted by the small homages to Bond mythology sprinkled throughout, making it hard not to be swayed by the charms of a series that you grew up with.

M (Judi Dench) is under fire by her political superiors for a security breach that leads to the bombing of MI-6 and the loss of a file containing the identities of covert agents currently undercover in terrorist cells the world over. Bond is out of practice but on the job to clear M's name and recover the list from a shadow figure that seems to have ties within the government agency.

As if working directly from Christopher Nolan's playbook director Sam Mendes brings a



# SKYFALL

biting sense of realism to a once cartoonish character and world. No longer is the villain plotting world domination from deep within an impregnable hideaway. Instead we are presented with a devastatingly realized former agent turned terrorist, in the form of the sexually ambiguous, Raoul Silva. Javier Bardem brings his steely focus to the juicy role, there is depth,

darkness and themes presented here that have never been explored in the 50 year history of the franchise.

This is one of the most handsome looking films of the year, highlighted by a brilliantly mounted fight scene that takes place in a backlit glass room. These artistic touches are a welcomed bit of creative flourish that serve equally to cover up plotoles in the script.

As I sat there and watched Daniel Craig sprint across the screen, I realized the Bond pictures have been a huge and eagerly awaited event every couple of years for the past quarter century of my

life.

Skyfall is James Bond in the post Dark Knight era, for better or worse.

Jason Rugaard is a graduate of Brooks Institute of Photography. He holds a degree in Motion Picture Science. Jason also is cofounder and head writer for [MovieMavericks.com](http://MovieMavericks.com)

### Letter to the Editor:

#### A Problem with Loose Cats

I live on Shafer Way. I love cats, but feel strongly they should be kept as pets within your home and not allowed outside unless they too are on a leash. Not only are cats subject to being eaten by wild predators, or run over by cars, they dig holes in backyards and also deposit their feces.

Housecats wipe out some 4 billion animals every year, including at least 500 million birds, reports Wyoming Wildlife. A new study by two groups, the National Geographic Society and the University of Georgia, outfitted cats with "crittercams", special video cameras around their necks. The camera recorded the cats averaged about 2.1 kills per week, but they brought home less than 25% of their victims. Cats prey on many animals, including lizards, voles, chipmunks, birds, mice, frogs, and small snakes.

There are three cats I see chasing birds in my yard daily. I like cats, but I chase them out when I see them, eating birds at the edge of my lawn, having to clean up the leftovers, as well as feces. One time, a black cat was chasing a white domestic rabbit across my lawn. I picked up the rabbit and eventually found its owner, across the street. She informed me her rabbit is loose all the time and roams the neighborhood. So please, would you keep your pets in your own home, or keep them on a leash? Cats included.

Crista Worthly



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## Visit the Idaho Aquarium over the Holidays. And say "hi" to Beam!

Beam is a green sea turtle that was hit by a boat in March of 2011 in Florida. Due to damage to his shell, he was unable to be released into the wild.



The Idaho Aquarium staff went to get him and he now lives in a new 16,000 gallon exhibit for endangered species of sea turtle, the first sea turtle in the state of Idaho, along with Lemon sharks, rays, moray eels, barracuda and other reef fish.

The Idaho Aquarium is now open to the public 10am to 8pm daily. Our 10,000 square foot facility houses over 35,000

gallons of saltwater and over 250 different species of animals and marine life. A large 130,000 gallon shark tank, seals, amazon, and sea otter exhibit are in the planning and design stage.

Hours: 10am to 8pm. Open every day of the year. Admission: Adult \$9.00, Child under 12 \$6.00, Senior / Military \$7.00. 64 North Cole Road Boise (by Franklin) (208) 375-1932  
[www.idahoaquarium.net](http://www.idahoaquarium.net). Tell them you read about them in Hidden Springs Magazine.



**Happy Holidays from Hidden Springs Magazine**

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Want a **unique and exciting way** to **Celebrate your Child's Next Birthday?**

**The Hidden Springs Dance Academy** now hosts Birthday parties!

- **Princess Party!**  
 Have all your prince and princesses show up wearing their favorite party wear and let the fun begin! Dancing, moving, singing, playing and acting a princess fairytale ~ Come ready for a real treat!! Parents bring your cameras, you won't want to miss this!!!
- **HIP-HOP DANCE PARTY!!**  
 Show up wearing your "coolest" gear and be ready to hip-hop ~ ya don't stop, till all the cake and ice cream are gone!!! Not only will each party guest learn some of the latest hip-hop moves, they will get to party with all their friends Hidden Springs Style!! Did someone say something about making a "music video" with all your friends? Why, yes we did!
- **CYODP** Create Your Own Dance Party and we will make it happen!!!

All party options offer 1, 2 or 3 hrs of non-stop fun! Each party guest leaves with a party favor, CD with their party songs and tired little legs compliments of the **Hidden Springs Dance Academy**. Contact Tawnya Halleus to book your next party!

**Location:** 12709 N. Schicks Ridge, Boise, ID 83714  
**Contact:** Tawnya Halleus, Owner (208) 871-9129  
 -or- [hiddenspringsdanceacademy@gmail.com](mailto:hiddenspringsdanceacademy@gmail.com)

Please join our "Hidden Springs Dance Academy" Facebook page for the latest and greatest info regarding our studio!!!!



Mr. Forrey and Mug



Waiting for the Rain to Really Start



The Leaves Are All Gone Now



Open House at the Boise LDS Temple



First Footprints in the First Snow

Photos by Andre Gensburger

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