



# THE IDAHO WORLD

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“The Noblest Motive Is The Public Good”

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## The Voice of Boise County

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

# Break the Ice to Take the Plunge! Make-A-Wish®

Written by Eileen Capson  
East Boise County - “I think it’s a great way to start the year, to jump in!” said Helene

Peterson, Special Event and Development Manager for Make-A-Wish® Idaho. *The ice was 6 inches thick, near the shoreline, but with help from a specialized dive team, the ice was broken and folks were able to take the plunge on New Year’s Day.*

There were 353 people who had registered for the event held on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. However, only about 200 to 250 people actually entered the water. “It was kind of a game day decision,” explained Peterson. Over \$35,000 was raised by the Polar Bear Plunge, which achieved the goal of this non-profit organiza-



Cut out of the ice by Extreme Dive Team, folks jumped into the icy waters of Lucky Peak Reservoir.  
Photo by Eileen Capson

tion. Peterson warmly touched on the huge attendance at the event, “They just love to come out, and support these Wish Kids and what they’re going through.”

“For us, these wishes help kids with life-threatening conditions,” Peterson said. “What these wishes really come down to is, giving these kids something to look forward to, something to remember when times are tough, and it really helps them bond as a family. The wish is not just for the kid; the whole family gets to participate. *The kid gets to be a kid again, and the family just gets to relax without any doctor’s appointments or treatments, or hospital visits, or anything like that.* So, that’s kind of the magic of the wish and that’s what Polar Bear is. It is to raise money, to allow these wishes to take place.”

The program is not necessarily for terminal kids. All of the money raised by the event stays in Idaho, and is used for Idaho’s “Wish Kids.”

Wish kids include: Courtney who wants to go to Disney World and meet all the Disney princesses. There is also Elisha, who wants to become a zoo keeper in Australia! His wish is to go to the Sydney Zoo.

With the average cost of a wish being over \$6,500, at \$35,000, Make-A-Wish® will be able to fund just over 5 wishes through the Polar Bear event.

The event would not have been possible without someone to break up the thick ice. Peterson said, “The Idaho Extreme Dive Team are phenomenal! I don’t know what we would do without them, *because nobody would have had a place to run into the lake* -- if it weren’t for them. They are incredibly skilled and it was *magical* they were able to come out and be able

to break out the ice, so we’d have a place to plunge!” East Boise Ambulance was on scene to assist, if needed.

Closer to the beach the ice was about 6 inches thick, and Peterson said you could actually drive your car out on it. However, a little further out, the ice thinned to about 2 to 3 inches, “which allowed them to break through the ice.” It is very rare that the lake should be frozen over this early in the winter. Make-A-Wish® has been



The “Frozen Nuggets”, led by Dan Griffin, are big contributors every year and dress up for the occasion.  
Photo by Eileen Capson

doing the Polar Bear Plunge for the past 14 years now, at Spring Shores Marina in Boise County. Next year will be their 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and something special is already in the planning stages. Helene Peterson actually took the plunge herself this year for the first time and jubilantly described, “*It’s not as bad as you would think!*”



Double dipping in icy waters.  
Photo by Eileen Capson

## Happenings

**Garden Valley:** The Garden Valley Hospital Board is sponsoring a class on Jan. 18, which will run for 7 weeks. It’s for single, divorced or remarried parents who are struggling with co-parenting their children in 2 separate homes. The cost is \$25. Call Marion Summers, M.Ed. at 462-2762 for info. or to sign up.

**Crouch/Garden Valley:** January Show Opening Gala on January 7th from 6-8pm at the Garden Valley Center for the Arts presents the Fiber Art Show. Local fiber artists will show textile arts including fabric, yarn, felt and even paper art with some items available for purchase.

**Crouch:** Al-Anon support group for friends and family of alcoholics meets weekly at Crouch Community Church on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the library.

**Idaho City Food Pantry:** At the Senior Center every second and fourth Wednesdays from 11:30 to 2:00.

**Garden Valley Food Pantry:** Open 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month from 4- 5 pm, located at the Calvary Chapel Church on the Middlefork Road in Crouch. Non-perishable foods or cash donations accepted. Donations can also be made at the GV Market where there is a barrel at the front of the store. Volunteers are always welcomed. Contact Toni at 462-6929 or 462-4620.

**NOTE: The Happenings section covers non-profit events in Boise County**



Folks dipped and dived into the frigid waters for Make-A-Wish®.  
Photo by Eileen Capson

## New Mayor for HSB

Horseshoe Bend welcomes their new appointed Mayor ~  
**Pat Goff.**



Photo by Lynn Maxwell

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