

# Building Safety News

November 2009

C. L. "Butch" Otter, Governor

Volume 4, Issue 2

## Amidst Dark Days, Signs the Future Will Brighten

By C. Kelly Pearce, *Administrator*



Recently, I heard an excellent speech delivered by a former chief pilot of Lufthansa Airlines. Speaking of our current economic times, he began with the following statement:

"I have seen enough ups and downs through my life to know that winter will surely give way to the warmth and hope of a new spring."

I, too, believe that as a people - as close as we at DBS are with the construction industry - we must focus on HOPE for the future. Winter ultimately will turn to the warmth of spring! These difficult economic times we are experiencing will be displaced by

prosperity and construction will again reign as a driving economic force in Idaho.

While current residential/commercial construction figures continue to be negative, we take some consolation in the fact that the decline seems to have slowed. In some respects, the statistics tend to look even better - in part because the pace of the downturn is now less dramatic. In fact, as I write this, there is a glimmer of hope evidenced by an upturn in the plumbing/HVAC arena. Much of this can be attributed to construction of new entry level single family homes in the \$140,000 range.

There also was a small upturn in job numbers from August to

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### GOVERNOR OTTER VISITS DBS

On September 25th, the Division of Building Safety was host to the first of what will be a continuing series of "Brown Bag Lunch with the Governor" visits to state agencies. Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter spent more than an hour with our employees, explaining in a casual atmosphere his philosophy of government and what his administration is doing to manage the current fiscal downturn. Employees were able to ask and get answers to questions ranging from personnel policies to wolves. Following the fried chicken, potato salad and cookies, DBS Administrator Kelly Pearce presented Governor Otter with a DBS shirt to commemorate his visit.

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## A Tale of Two Schools

### Idaho's School Safety Inspection Program Keeps Kids and Teachers Safe

By Al Caine, *Industrial Safety Program Manager*

During the annual inspections this year, our safety advisors identified some serious and imminent hazards at a couple of older Idaho school buildings. One is located in Salmon, the other in Worley. Both situations were similar, in that they involved structural concerns, but very different in other aspects. The Division of Building Safety had been monitoring the structural issues at the Salmon school for years. At Worley, the combination of a recent roof repair and record snow loads created the possibility of imminent failure of the gymnasium roof.



*Workers removed the upper portion of a deteriorating chimney at Salmon Middle School*

#### School District # 291 Salmon, Idaho

Based on our ongoing concerns and the annual inspection report, the administrator asked the Division of Public Works to engage a professional engineering firm to conduct an evaluation of the Pioneer Elementary and Salmon Middle Schools for imminent and/or serious safety hazards as defined in Idaho Code. This investigation, conducted in June, identified four areas at the Middle School as serious hazards. In order to eliminate these hazardous conditions, the engineers determined the school district should:

1. Fence off / secure the exterior abandoned middle school stairs and roof over the below grade mechanical room;
2. Remove the upper most +/- 20' of the middle school's chimney;
3. Relocate the Middle School's electrical disconnect from the below grade mechanical room;
4. Maintain the abandoned secondary exiting at the Middle School locker room.

On receipt of this evaluation, the administrator issued a Notice of Serious Safety Hazards to the school district dated June 29, 2009. The Notice required these hazardous conditions be eliminated without delay, but in all cases before December 31, 2009. Quick and effective action by the school district resulted in all four hazards being eliminated by early September.

#### Plummer-Worley School District # 44 Lakeside Elementary School Worley, Idaho

When our safety advisor inspected the Lakeside Elementary School, he noticed water spots on damaged ceiling tile above the gym. Further investigation in the attic space revealed that several of the trusses had recent splits and cracks extending most their length. The administrator again requested that the Division of Public Works investigate. This evaluation concluded that the gymnasium roof, if subjected to its design snow load, could be subject to an imminent collapse. This condition was deemed to be the result of two years of record snowfalls combined with the fact that insulation had been added in the 2006 roof repair. This added insulation reduced the normal heat loss that had previously helped reduce snow accumulations on the roof.

On July 15, 2009, the administrator issued a Notice of Imminent Hazard to the Plummer-Worley School District for the Lakeside Elementary School Gymnasium roof. Due to the configuration of the school this affected the entire school building. Any collapse of the gymnasium roof would become an "uncontrolled event," potentially causing collapse

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*Longitudinal cracks in roof support trusses at Lakeside Elementary in Worley*

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of shared walls between the gym and adjacent classrooms.

Because the imminent hazard declaration was based on the accumulation of snow, the administrator's order required that the hazard be eliminated before the building was re-occupied in the fall. If this was not possible, other arrangements would be required for students who would otherwise use this building. Those arrangements were quickly made.

The Plummer-Worley School Board and members of the community are now considering a number of alternatives to address this issue.

It is not uncommon for the Division of Building Safety to find itself in the midst of competing interests as a result of our inspections and evaluations. Often one side will call for the school building to be "condemned" and a new one built, while another side argues for minimal repairs in order to avoid increased taxes.

However, our job is to conduct the inspections and identify safety hazards wherever they may exist. When hazards are identified, it becomes the role of DBS to see that they are eliminated and the buildings maintained in a safe condition.



*Building Bureau Chief Jack Rayne (L) and Administrator Kelly Pearce offer Best Wishes to Tom Rodgers upon his retirement*

## **DBS Retirements Since Our Last Newsletter**

*By DBS Human Resources*

DBS saw three employees retire in May of 2009. They included Electrical Bureau inspectors Bob Manning and Walt Fields and Manufactured Homes Program Supervisor Tom Rodgers.

In August, 2009, Building Bureau inspector Jim Roth retired from our agency.

We sincerely thank all of these individuals for their service to the State of Idaho.

*continued from cover - Amidst Dark Days, Signs the Future Will Brighten*  
By C. Kelly Pearce

September in Idaho. This is a reversal of the recent trend in the state. The Department of Labor reports that in the most recent two-year period Idaho lost a number of jobs in the first year and many more in the second year as the construction industry contracted; the industry represented 15 percent of jobs but 61 percent of job losses.

Without question, this has indeed been a long summer approaching a cold winter for the Division of Building Safety. We have been required to make the same personnel adjustments I expect each of you have in your own businesses and families. As of the date of this publication, 25 of the Division's 152 authorized positions are vacant. Of the appropriation designated for the Division during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, the Division under spent its appropriation by 22.9%. Even with this effort however, should we not experience some turn-around, we will inevitably be faced with reductions in both our workload and income flow. Such a continuation of downturn would dictate additional layoffs or furloughs.

Late last summer, Governor C. L. "Butch" Otter held a Business Summit to explain his Project 60 – the effort to increase Idaho's economic output from \$50 billion to \$60 billion dollars. The focus of Project 60 extends into several areas. It helps existing Idaho businesses develop relationships with suppliers to encourage them to move to Idaho, it targets increased foreign investment in Idaho, encourages local entrepreneurs to expand locally, and promotes an increase in Idaho's exports to foreign markets. Further details of the Governor's Summit appear on page 7 of this newsletter.

The Federal stimulus package received by Idaho has created additional public works jobs throughout the state – particularly in the form of highway and bridge construction and repair. It is anticipated that there will be further stimulus to the construction industry through "green" efforts which should display in the form of additional public works activity.

The Hoku Materials plant in Pocatello recently received a shot in the arm with a significant financial investment by Chinese investors. Construction of the facility is underway again and it is expected to be completed by fall of next year. Hoku will produce polysilicon, a key component of solar panels used for energy generation. The product will be marketed on a world-wide basis. This is bringing new short-term construction jobs to Southeastern Idaho.

The Department of Commerce indicates there are still several companies, foreign and domestic, who are looking at Idaho as a location or relocation destination.

Working together, we can HOPE and anticipate that surely, as fall turns to winter, the winter will eventually turn to spring. In much the same way, the economies of our state and our nation will regain vitality and our collective prospects for a brighter future will be improved. Hopefully, we have begun to turn the corner.

## What The Future May Hold - DBS Legislation and Administrative Rule Proposals to be Considered in Upcoming Legislative Session

By Steve Keys, *Deputy Administrator, Operations*

Through its various boards and programs the Division of Building Safety has submitted six legislative proposals and eighteen administrative rule changes for consideration by the 2010 Legislature. Additionally, DBS has prepared thirteen administrative rule changes which were submitted by the Industrial Commission. These additional rule changes apply to boiler and logging safety requirements which are administered by the Division. A chart listing the proposals along with a very brief description of each proposal is found below. Should you have questions regarding any of these proposals, all are available on the DBS website.

### Legislation

Uniform School Safety	Gives DBS direct responsibility for hiring outside experts to evaluate defects
Modular Building Board	Compensation of board members
Plumbing Board	Clarifies that plumbers may install venting for gas water heaters
Plumbing Board	Adds the installation of medical gas and vacuum systems to definition of plumbing
HVAC Board	Clarification of inspection authority for solid fuel appliances
DBS Administrator	Clarification that DBS may charge a fee and administer licensing examinations internally

### DBS Administrative Rules

#### Electrical

- 07-0103-0901 Staggered Renewal Dates for Contractor Licenses
- 07-0104-0901 Staggered Renewal Dates for Specialty Contractor Licenses
- 07-0106-0901 Exception to National Electrical Code - definition of crawlspace

#### Plumbing

- 07-0205-0901 Practical examination requirements for Journeyman license
- 07-0205-0902 Continuing Education Requirements
- 07-0205-0903 Clarification of requirements for journeyman license

#### Building

- 07-0301-0901 Adoption of 2009 International Building, Residential, Energy, & Existing Building Codes
- 07-0301-0902 Adoption of 2009 International Energy Code only
- 07-0301-0903 Integrated Design & Fundamental Commissioning requirements for new school facilities

#### Modular Buildings

- 07-0303-0901 Certification requirements for inspectors of modular buildings

#### Manufactured Housing

- 07-0311-0901 Civil penalty provisions for manufactured housing
- 07-0311-0902 Continuing education requirements for Manufactured Housing licensees
- 07-0312-0901 Installation Standards for new manufactured homes

#### Elevators

- 07-0402-0901 Updates editions of the Elevator Codes

#### Public Works Contractors

- 07-0501-0901 Clarification of "estimated cost" as it pertains to licensure requirements

#### School Safety

- 07-0601-0901 Updates applicable codes

#### HVAC

- 07-0701-0901 Civil penalty provisions for failure to request a required inspection
- 07-0701-0902 Protection of exterior fuel gas regulators and piping

### Industrial Commission Administrative Rules

#### Boilers & Pressure Vessels - Repeal of chapter

- 17-0601-0901, 17-0602-0901, 17-0603-0901, 17-0604-0901, 17-0605-0901

#### Logging Safety - Update of Logging Safety Standards

- 17-0801-0901, 17-0802-0901, 17-0803-0901, 17-0805-0901, 17-0808-0901, 17-0809-0901, 17-0810-0901, 17-0816-0901



*Construction continues to add patient rooms and a parking structure at North Idaho Surgical Hospital in Post Falls.*

### Signs of Recovery up North

By Jeri Groth, *Region One Office Specialist*, Coeur d'Alene

In north Idaho, several new projects have either started construction or are in the bidding process. Construction of a new Super One Foods store has begun in the Sandpoint area. Plans call for a grand opening in early July, 2010. Also in Bonner County, Stimson Lumber has plans to develop 12,000 acres into Clagstone Meadows, a project of up to 1,000 dwellings with a mix of custom homes, low density condominiums, cottages and recreational vehicle sites.

Wal-Mart has obtained building permits for a new supercenter in The Pointe at Post Falls, near the west edge of the city. Site work is scheduled to begin by the end of October with an anticipated completion date of June, 2010. Wal-Mart is also planning to start construction of a supercenter in Hayden before the end of this year, expecting completion in late summer of 2010.

In Hayden, the new BioLife Lab is under construction and Walgreen's is nearly complete.

With the ongoing construction of starter homes in the Post Falls area, small residential lots are becoming scarce. Post Falls is also busy with construction of medical facilities; doctor offices and surgery centers. A new cancer center and a large assisted living center are nearing completion. Ground has been broken on the new Chamber of Commerce building and plans for a truck plaza on the west side of Post Falls are being finalized with construction expected to occur over the winter.

There has been a recent upturn in mid-size custom home construction starts in several areas around Lake Coeur d'Alene, including the Black Rock area, which had seen little or no work in the last year.

While we have certainly not seen a return to 2005-2007 building levels, construction still continues and indications of a stronger 2010 season are beginning to become apparent.

### DBS Helps Business Get Back to Business

By Bill Hatch, *Editor*

When Chris Reeve relocated his Boise-based premier knife manufacturing facility, questions arose with regard to whether several pieces of equipment would need to be re-certified (listed) by a nationally-recognized testing laboratory. The issue was of great concern to Reeve, as it presented the prospect of an added delay in getting back to manufacturing and a significant expense if the machines had to be re-certified.

When contacted about this matter by the Idaho Department of Commerce, DBS put the matter in the hands of Electrical Bureau Chief Jeff Fitzloff. In consultation with inspectors from the City of Boise and with guidance from the Idaho Attorney General's office, Jeff determined that there was no need for re-certification of the equipment. Because all of the equipment in question had, at the time of its initial installation, been listed as safe by a nationally-recognized testing lab, only the manner of its re-connection to the electrical grid needed to be inspected and approved.

Because re-installation of the equipment had been performed properly in compliance with existing electrical codes, DBS was able to grant approval and Chris Reeve Knives quickly resumed production in the company's new Boise facility.

Learn more about Chris Reeve Knives online at

<http://www.chrisreeve.com/> .



*Chris Reeve of Chris Reeve Knives explains the process to Idaho Commerce Department representatives Gary Moore and Greg Seibert as artisan Lisa L'Eveque-Hague puts the finishing touch on one of the company's Unique Graphic Sebenza knives*

## Office Services Group Takes Online Orientation on the Road

By Amy Kohler, OSG Licensing Team Supervisor



*Left: OSG representative Caria Nakano-Jensen explains the inner workings of DBS' online customer interface at an October orientation session in Meridian*

*Right: Contractors register at September's DBS orientation seminar in Hailey*

The late summer and early fall months were busy for members of the Division of Building Safety's Office Services Group (OSG) as they completed the first round of eTRAKiT® contractor outreach orientation sessions at various locations around the state. eTRAKiT® is the name of DBS' online customer interface – the system that allows contractors and others with a need to apply for permits and/or request inspections to do so via the internet.

As is the case with most new computer systems and software applications, some unexpected “glitches” occurred when the Division's Customer Access System (CAS) went online early this year. Some critical aspects of the system did not function as expected and feedback from our customers told us there were a number of areas that could be made more user-friendly. Once these areas were identified and the appropriate changes made, it was important for us to let our customers know about it quickly and effectively.

Beginning in July and continuing through October, OSG staff conducted orientation sessions in Coeur d'Alene, Sandpoint, Salmon, Hailey, Twin Falls, Idaho Falls, McCall, Lewiston and Meridian. These sessions included a presentation featuring step-by-step guidance on how to apply for permits, request inspections and perform other business-critical functions using the online interface. Contractors and their office personnel were notified of the orientations by mail in

advance and turnout in most locations was excellent.

Another valuable aspect of these on-the-road orientations was the attendance of a number of DBS inspectors. This gave contractors, homeowners and others the opportunity to ask questions and to learn first-hand how to best prepare for and gain the most benefit from requested inspections. The sessions were also attended by representatives of a number of electric utility companies and at least one state legislator.

The orientations proved to be extremely valuable for the DBS representatives as they were able to learn, in a face-to-face setting, the primary needs and concerns of our customers and to provide solutions. Feedback from the contractor and utility attendees was overwhelmingly positive and supportive of more such sessions in the future.

The Division of Building Safety has taken this positive feedback to heart and is developing an ongoing program to provide additional close-to-home information seminars for those who use our services. When finalized, details of this program will be provided to our customers by mail, email and through our website at <http://dbs.idaho.gov/>.

**Editor's note:** DBS has installed two self-service computer terminals in its Meridian office for use by applicants wishing to obtain permits and/or request inspections through the eTRAKiT® system.

## Take care of yourselves *and* your co-workers By DBS Human Resources

### Flu season is starting. Get ready now!

The flu season is starting and will last through the fall and winter. More than one kind of flu virus will be spreading this season, including seasonal flu and the 2009 H1N1 flu. If you get the flu, you can get sick and can spread the flu to others at home, at work, and in the community. Symptoms of flu include fever or chills *and* cough or sore throat. In addition, symptoms of flu can include runny nose, body aches, headache, tiredness, diarrhea, or vomiting.

Be prepared in case you get sick and need to stay home. Have the following items on hand: a supply of fever-reducing medicines that contain acetaminophen or ibuprofen, alcohol-based hand cleaners, tissues, and other items that may be useful and help avoid the need to make trips out in public while you are sick.

### If you are not feeling well . . .

**Please do NOT come to work if you are sick with a fever AND cough or sore throat.** Stay home for at least 24 hours after you no longer have a fever of 100 degrees or more without the use of a fever-reducing medicine, such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen.

If you are at higher risk for complications from the flu and you are sick, contact your health care provider as soon as possible. Children

younger than 5 years of age, pregnant women, people of any age with chronic medical conditions (such as pulmonary disease, asthma, diabetes, neuromuscular disorders, or heart disease), and people 65 years of age and older are more likely to get complications from the flu. Your health care provider may prescribe antiviral drugs, and they are most effective when started within 2 days of getting sick.

### Staying healthy . . .

#### Important Actions to Take to Stay Healthy

Every time you cough or sneeze, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue and throw used tissues in the trash. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds often, especially after you cough or sneeze. Use alcohol-based hand cleaners if soap and water are not available. Wash your hands before and after preparing food or eating, after using the restroom, before and after touching your nose, eyes, or mouth, and after touching items that may have been exposed to bodily fluids. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread this way. Get vaccinated for seasonal flu. Get the 2009 H1N1 flu vaccine when it becomes available, if you are at higher risk for 2009 H1N1 flu complications.

Learn about the flu and what you can do. To find out more about preparing for the flu, go to <http://www.flu.gov/> .

## How Can State Government Best Help Business?

By Bill Hatch, *Editor*



*Idaho Building Code Board Co-Chair Ron Whitney (L) and Idaho Public Works Contractor Licensing Board Chairman Torry McAlvain (R) listen as Zion's Bank Regional President Kelly Anderson addresses the 2009 Governor's Business Summit in Boise*

That was the essential question posed by Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter as he convened the 2009 Governor's Business Summit at The Boise Centre on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Hosted by Governor Otter and co-hosted by Lt. Governor Brad Little and Commerce Department Director

Don Dietrich, the summit brought together key representatives of virtually all sectors of the Idaho economy. Panelists were invited to discuss the needs of their particular enterprise and were encouraged to make suggestions with regard to how state government might be of help in today's troubled economy.

Division of Building Safety Administrator C. Kelly Pearce joined agency heads from Commerce, Labor, Agriculture, the Military, Health and Welfare, Finance and other agencies in providing answers to questions posed by the various panel members.

Members of two DBS-hosted boards were featured on the Construction and Transportation panel. Ron Whitney,

owner of Whitney Homes LLC, is a member of the Idaho Building Code Board. Torry McAlvain, Chairman of the Idaho Public Works Contractor Licensing Board, is President and CEO of the McAlvain Group of Companies. They were joined on the Construction and Transportation panel by Kelly Anderson, Region President for Zion's Bank, Jason Andrus, Chief Financial Officer of Doug Andrus Distributing, and Tom Harris, President of Western States Equipment.

Information gathered at the summit will be used to further Project 60, the governor's comprehensive initiative to grow Idaho's Gross Domestic Product. An executive summary of the summit's content is due out in the near future. More information on Project 60 can be found at: <http://www.project60.idaho.gov/>.



*Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter states the purpose of the 2009 Governor's Business Summit. He was joined by Commerce Director Don Dietrich (L) and Lt. Governor Brad Little*

## DBS Moves Forward with Paperless Plan Review

By Arlan Smith, *Plans Review Program Manager*

### Electronic plan submittal and review for schools and buildings owned or occupied by Idaho State agencies

The Division of Building Safety (DBS) is pleased to announce that our plan review process is going paperless. It is now possible to submit plans to DBS by uploading your plans, specifications, calculations and other documents directly from your computer. We will distribute the plans and other documents to all the reviewers electronically. Their comments will be marked directly on the electronic plans. You may access the plans and the mark ups at any time. If resubmittal is required, that is done and reviewed in the same way. When the documents are approved, you will have access to those documents electronically anywhere you can access the internet and can print them as necessary.

Drawing files to be uploaded may be in any drawing format including any CAD file format, PDF and TIFF. There is no need to convert the files to a particular format before uploading. The files are converted into a proprietary format for our review work. The original uploaded files are saved on our server but they are not distributed or made public in any way. If you are uncomfortable with uploading CAD files, you may convert them to PDF, TIFF or some other non-CAD drawing file format before uploading. Text files such as specifications, calculations and reports should be in MS Word DOC format or PDF format.

The plan review mark up will be easy to access and make the communication explicit. There will be a list of the comments that are hyperlinked to the location of the markup in the documents.

To use this system, submit to us a copy of the completed plan review application by fax, email attachment, mail or in person. Include with the application a statement of how and when the fees will be paid. The review cannot start until the fee is paid. The advance fee payment or statement is not required for projects administered by the Idaho Division of Public Works. You will receive an email with log on instructions and uploading instructions. The application form is available at <http://dbs.idaho.gov/building/applications.html>. We must have your email address. Send the email with the application attached to [plan.review@dbs.idaho.gov](mailto:plan.review@dbs.idaho.gov).

For buildings that are owned or occupied by Idaho State agencies, we will need one paper copy of the plans and specifications during this transitional period.

If for some reason you need paper copies with our approval stamp on them, we will do that with as many copies as you request and provide. For those paper approved plans, it would be best to have the electronic review done and approved first before submitting the paper. This will avoid reprinting if revisions are needed.

We will still accept plans on paper or on CD as we have in the past.



*The Lunch Lady does breakfast*

## Halloween Breakfast Benefits Charitable Giving Campaign

By Janice Foster, *Deputy Administrator, Administration*

The pancake breakfast and food drive, an element of DBS' participation in the Idaho State Employees Charitable Giving Campaign, was a resounding success! Thank you to all who participated.

A total of \$171.00 was raised through the sale of the breakfast and both food barrels were filled to the top. Participants were asked to vote for the charity of their choice. The top two were the Idaho Guard and Reserve Family Support Fund and the Idaho Voice for Children. The money raised will be divided equally between those two charities.

I would like to thank the campaign committee for their support and hard work. They arrived at six a.m. to help ensure breakfast was hot and ready when staff began arriving. The management team was very generous in donations of money and/or food for the event. I also want to thank both Pete Peterson and Rod Samuelson for being our pancake cooks.

Thanks again for all your support. It was a fun way to help those in need in our community.



*Left: For some, it was a family affair  
Right: DBS employees enjoy the morning meal*

## Public Works Contractor Licensing – Reaching Out

By Rod Samuelson, *PWCL Outreach Advisor*

The Public Works Contractor Licensing (PWCL) outreach program in southwest Idaho is seeing great response from the entities we have contacted. With the continuing slowdown in residential construction, a number of contractors who previously worked exclusively in the residential and commercial sector are exploring the possibility of moving into the public works arena. Due to the availability of federal stimulus monies this seems to be where many of the jobs are.

The goal of the Division of Building Safety's PWCL outreach effort is to help educate public entities and contractors about the requirements for bidding on public works projects in such a way as to eliminate problems before they occur. Our outreach advisors have prepared a presentation describing Idaho's public works licensing requirements and welcome all opportunities to meet with cities, counties, school districts and contractors.

If you'd like to schedule a presentation for your group, simply contact the outreach advisor closest to your area. Our advisors and their direct contact numbers are:

- North Idaho - Terry Blessing (208) 946-9288
- East Idaho - Chris Jensen (208) 680-1102
- Southwest Idaho - Heather Carr (208) 332-7148
- South & Central Idaho - Rod Samuelson (208) 514-5262

Elsewhere, a number of cities, counties and school districts are finding funding for some much needed projects and bids are becoming more competitive. An example of this is the Wilder Center. This 55,687 square foot building is to be built north of Wilder and will house the Canyon-Owyhee School Service Agency.

For 40 years this agency has provided programs for professional technical training to help students earn credits towards college degrees. The agency also provides special education and alternative high school programs and will provide adult education opportunities through an agreement with the College of Western Idaho. The Wilder center will consolidate educational programs from the Marsing, Homedale, Wilder, Notus and Parma school districts.

The \$5 million project will make use of \$2.5 million in federal stimulus funds. The school districts will cover the remaining cost through tax levies and in-kind donations. This should attract more new business to the area as the agency's programs will work with local industries to meet their staffing needs. The agency currently offers professional-technical programs in the fields of welding, auto and diesel technician, automated industrial engineering, building trades, medical records and certified nurse's aide.

We congratulate them on this new building and wish them continued success with their program.

## The Ins and Outs of the Idaho Public Works Contractor Licensing Bureau

By Tracy Seganos, *PWCL Bureau*

What exactly is the Idaho Public Works Contractor Licensing (PWCL) Bureau about? Well, it is the department where contractors who want to do business in or for a city, county or the state need to apply for a Public Works Contractor's License. A Public Works Contractor is one who does heavy, highway, building or specialty work such as an electrician, drywall installer, etc. and who wishes to bid on public works jobs paid for with tax and/or federal monies. Contractors whose intention is to work exclusively in the private commercial and/or residential sector must register with the Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licensing (IBOL) at (208)334-3233. An Idaho Public Works Contractor License is required only by those who intend to bid on or perform work on government jobs.

The PWCL bureau is an all-inclusive department. This means the application process starts with us and ends with us with no intermediaries involved.

The process begins with the arrival of the application after the appropriate monies have been received in the receipting department. How the application packet is handled and how long it takes to process will depend on whether it is an original, renewal, downgrade, upgrade, types to be added, or an original. For example, a renewal application takes about a week to process depending on if it is our busy season (May through mid-October) and everything in the application is correct. An original or upgrade may take more time depending on whether testing is required. With the exception of 'D' class, all license classes require testing by an approved testing agency once the application has been approved. 'D' class license applicants can take the exam that comes with the application. Once a license has been approved, it is valid for one year. Renewal requires submission of a renewal application.

If you have questions regarding a Public Works License or the application process, please feel free to call any of the numbers listed below or our toll-free line 1-800-358-6895. Public Works Contractor Licensing is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Mountain Time) with the exception of holidays observed by the State of Idaho.

In the previous article, the PWCL Outreach Advisors are listed along with their phone numbers. The remaining PWCL Bureau employees, their areas of responsibility and contact numbers are:

- Jean Frenette PWCL Bureau Chief (208) 332-8968
- Mike Davis Contractor Licensing (208) 332-7128
- Tracy Seganos Contractor Licensing (208) 332-7149
- Vikki Vail Construction Manager (208) 332-8992  
Licensing

Additional information may be found on our website:  
<http://dbs.idaho.gov/publicworks/contractors.html>



*The dome of the Idaho Capitol as seen through the skylight of the west underground wing addition*

## DBS Plays a Role in Capitol Restoration

By Bill Hatch, *Editor*

The Division of Building Safety has been intimately involved in Idaho's Capitol restoration/expansion project from the very beginning.

The capitol building is owned by the citizens of Idaho. It was built and is being restored expressly for occupancy by state employees. For these reasons, DBS is charged by law with a number of safety oversight responsibilities.

The plan review team—part of the DBS Building Bureau—performed the mandated code-compliance reviews, making it possible for the project to proceed to construction. Inspectors from the DBS Plumbing, Electrical, and HVAC bureaus performed the inspections required at various stages of construction. Our Public Works Contractor Licensing Bureau was involved with the project from the time it was let out for bids and our Industrial Safety representatives conducted health and safety reviews and certified that the capitol's

elevators – existing, refurbished and added – were certified for use. As the “owner’s representative” on the project, the Idaho Division of Public Works was given the responsibility for inspections to ensure construction conformed to applicable building codes. Release of the building for occupancy by state workers and the public is dependent on passage of final inspections by all the entities involved.

With Jacobsen Hunt Joint Venture Project Manager John Emery as our guide, Public Works Contractor Licensing Outreach Advisor Rod Samuelson and I had the opportunity to tour the restoration project about two weeks prior to its scheduled completion. The quality of the workmanship, particularly with regard to preserving and/or restoring the historical aspects of the capitol building, was remarkable. The restoration is not only adding additional underground meeting and office space for lawmakers and staff. It is also brightening the face – inside and out – of “The People’s House.” Idahoans have every right to be proud of this project.



*Project Manager John Emery shows PWCL Outreach Advisor Rod Samuelson where one of several cast metal representations of the Great Seal of the State of Idaho will be located*

## DBS Welcomes New Board Members

By Renee Bryant, *DBS Board Support*

Since our last newsletter was published, changes have occurred in the makeup of four of the boards hosted by the Division of Building Safety. All of those listed below were appointed by Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter.

Chuck Bleth of Boise has been appointed to serve as a Modular Building Industry Representative on the Idaho Building Code Board.

Five new members have been appointed to serve on the Idaho HVAC Board. Bruce Graham of Grangeville and Tim LaMott of Boise are new HVAC Contractor Representatives. Bill Carter of Boise is a Mechanical Engineer Representative. The City Official position on the

HVAC board is now occupied by Russ Goyen of Idaho Falls and Jon Laux of Ashton fills the County Official position.

Jeff Chrisman of Boise has been appointed as a Manufacturer’s Representative on the Idaho Modular Building Advisory Board.

A Journeyman Plumber position on the Idaho Plumbing Board has been filled through the appointment of Matt Gardner of Pocatello.

To all our new board members, welcome!

Please see the last page of this newsletter for a schedule of board meetings. At the time of publication of this newsletter, the Manufactured Housing Board had not finalized their meeting schedules for 2010. These schedules will be finalized by the end of November and will be posted on the DBS website at <http://dbs.idaho.gov/boards/index.html>.

## Proposed Idaho State Plumbing Code Still Subject to Review and Amendment

By Pete Peterson, *Acting Bureau Chief, Plumbing Bureau*

The Idaho State Plumbing Board has received the final draft of the proposed Idaho State Plumbing Code (ISPC). The Board will carry the ISPC for 1 year and it will be a topic of discussion at all meetings of the Board during that time. Representatives of the industry and members of the general public will be given the opportunity to comment on the proposed code at these meetings.

A decision was made early this year by the Plumbing Board to form a subcommittee to review the contents of the 2009 Uniform Plumbing and Solar Codes for possible adoption by the State of Idaho. The subcommittee, comprised of 10 members from around the state with varying involvement in the plumbing trade, divided itself into two work groups with the goal of presenting to the Board a "first draft" ISPC at its May, 2009 meeting. It is that document which is currently under review.

The Division of Building Safety has posted the proposed Idaho State Plumbing Code – complete with recommended changes – on our website. The link is on the main page, entitled "List of Changes to Proposed Idaho State Plumbing Code (ISPC)." The website also features a link where individuals involved in the industry and the public may post their comments and suggestions, all of which will be forwarded directly to the Idaho State Plumbing Board for review and consideration.

## Eastern Idaho Report

By Chris Critser, *Area Four Plumbing Supervisor*

While we are not seeing the number of construction jobs underway that we saw during the "boom times" a couple of years ago, there are still projects in the works. We are leveling out and preparing for some additional winter work. We are seeing more homeowners performing work on their homes.

There are some larger jobs that have not yet started at this time, but I am hopeful that they will get underway in the near future. There are still a few new subdivisions being built and most have new homes being built in them. In addition, a number of new homes are being built to help fill up some of the older subdivisions.

There are reports that a bond passed in Jefferson County for construction of a new school.

In Pocatello, Hoku Materials has arranged for additional financing through an arrangement with a Chinese entity and construction will continue on Hoku's polysilicon plant. Work resumed on the expanded Portneuf Medical Center this past summer and is expected to continue through the winter.

## Legislators and Others Gather for Talks About Bear Lake

By Bill Hatch, *Editor*



*Actor and former NFL great Merlin Olsen talks about his lifelong association with Bear Lake*

Is Bear Lake – that large body of water straddling the border between southeast Idaho and northern Utah – in jeopardy? If so, what are the threats to its pristine nature and what can be done about it? Those were a few of the questions posed and discussed at the Bear Lake Regional Commission's Legislative Retreat in late June.

At its peak, the conference drew close to 200 participants with its theme of cooperation between various groups of stakeholders with an interest

in preserving the water quality, recreational opportunities and overall quality of life in this much-utilized resort area.

Division of Building Safety Administrator Kelly Pearce joined other state officials at the conference, including Labor Department Director Roger Madsen, Idaho State Controller Donna Jones and legislators from both Idaho and Utah to hear experts in water use, conservation, intergovernmental relations and resource management talk about what has been done and what may yet be done to protect what all agreed is a treasured natural resource.

There was much discussion of how to formulate interstate agreements to guard against infestations of Zebra and Quagga mussels, how to stem the spread of several invasive weed species and how to best manage future lakeside development. Merlin Olsen, the actor, Pro Football Hall of Fame inductee and former member of the Los Angeles Rams' "Fearsome Foursome," spoke at length about the decades of involvement he and members of his family have had with Bear Lake and the changes he'd witnessed in that time. Olsen grew up in Logan, Utah and played college football at Utah State University. He has maintained a home at Bear Lake most of his adult life.

Organizer Jesse Taylor of the Bear Lake Regional Commission, declared the event a "Giant Success" with much valuable information being presented. He says the information shared and the associations formed as a result of the retreat will be extremely beneficial in helping preserve the quality of the area's abundant natural resources.



*DBS Administrator Kelly Pearce talks with Montpelier Mayor Reed Peterson at the Bear Lake Legislative Retreat*

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## DBS BOARD MEETINGS

Board Meetings to be held (unless otherwise noted) at:

Division of Building Safety  
 Board Conference Room  
 1090 E. Watertower Street  
 Meridian, Idaho

Electrical Board	JAN 7 - MERIDIAN MAY 11 - IDAHO FALLS JULY 22 - COEUR D'ALENE OCT 21 - MERIDIAN
Plumbing Board	FEB 11 - MERIDIAN MAY 13 - IDAHO FALLS JUL 20 - COEUR D'ALENE OCT 7 - MERIDIAN
HVAC Board	FEB 17 - MERIDIAN MAY 12 - IDAHO FALLS JUL 21 - COEUR D'ALENE OCT 13 - MERIDIAN
Public Works Contractors Licensing Board	JAN 11 - MERIDIAN APR 12 - MERIDIAN JUL 6 - MERIDIAN OCT 4 - MERIDIAN
Building Board	FEB 9 - MERIDIAN APR 6 - MERIDIAN JUN 8 - MERIDIAN OCT 19 - MERIDIAN
Manufactured Housing Board	
Modular Building Advisory Board	MAR 8 - MERIDIAN JUN 14 - MERIDIAN SEP 13 - MERIDIAN

# 2010



Holidays outlined & highlighted in gray