



Ranch Hand Trail Stop in final consideration for a TV series



PHOTO BY PAUL HUFZIGER

Ranch Hand Trail Stop

BY PAUL HUFZIGER

Ranch Hand Trail stop is in final consideration for a television series that will highlight truck stops around America. The locally owned establishment was nominated by truckers across the state due to the outstanding food and down-home service they have received over the years. The location of the Ranch Hand is very unique, and picturesque, being surrounded by mountains, here in the Bear Lake Valley. It is also a waypoint for truckers making their way east. Being open twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week is a big plus because the truckers come in at all times of the day. In March, an undercover production crew was sent to scout every detail from; food, atmosphere, truckers lounge, shower facilities, fuel pricing, and availability, plus many other factors. The winters here are sometimes so very severe that the local roads can become impassable, and the highways frequently close, leaving the truckers stranded. Without this oasis in the mountains, trucks would be isolated, far away, without any facilities. This is a critical East-West truck route running across Southeast Idaho, and a shortcut bypassing Salt Lake City traffic, and weigh stations, which both slow the trucks down.

Mom and pop privately owned truck stops are disappearing across the nation, making the last surviving operations stand out. The diner, located within the Ranch Hand operation, is a truck drivers favorite.

They are well known for cooking up local favorites of; biscuits and gravy, fresh farm eggs, large strips of bacon, and pancakes that would make your granny squeal. Breakfast is served 24- hours per day. Kale Wuthrich, the General Manager, was eager to point out that some of this delicious food is being cooked, and prepared by two individuals, that are in fact, legally blind. Even with this disability, they were able to be trained, and are proficient at a higher level than some, that have all of their vision. There is a constant supply of coffee, and the locals often gather here to exchange hunting, and fishing stories. Sometimes the stories are hard to believe, with fisherman claiming catches of huge Rainbow Trout, and hunters chattering away about; legends of monstrous elk, moose, and deer. This makes this the right place for you to hang out if you are looking for that secret, closely guarded fishing, or hunting spot.

The film crew was impressed by all every aspect of this facility. During their visit, they shot over ten- hours of film and will be coming up with a short list, from the forty to fifty truck stops that are in the running for the final selection. This series would be something along the lines of "Ice Road Truckers" in following the daily lives of the truckers, and how they survive on the road, with only the support of businesses, just like Ranch Hand Trail Stop.

Sage grouse initiative can help fund habitat improvements

Boise, Idaho, April 18, 2018 -The Natural Resources Conservation Service's Sage Grouse Initiative helps fund work to improve sage grouse habitat in Idaho. Interested landowners must apply for this year's funding by May 25, 2018.

The initiative focuses on improving rangeland to support both healthy sage grouse populations and sustainable ranching.

"Putting specific conservation practices in place can improve sage grouse habitat or reduce threats to bird survival," said Jerry Raynor, Acting NRCS State Conservationist for Idaho. "The Sage Grouse Initiative gives landowners funding to apply those conservation practices on their property."

Typical habitat improvement practices include seeding rangeland to increase availability of sage-grouse food

plants; removing juniper trees in key breeding, brood-rearing and wintering sites to restore sage-grouse habitat; and, including a rest period in grazing systems to improve sage-grouse cover during the nesting season.

"The practices that benefit sage grouse habitat also create or maintain healthy grazing land for livestock," said Raynor. "Through voluntary conservation, we hope to keep the sage grouse off the endangered species list."

For more information on the initiative, contact your local NRCS office or visit our Web site <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/id/home/> and click on the Sage Grouse Initiative link under the Programs heading.



Teach a Child To Save Day



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sari (Left) and Karen (Right) reading the book to one of the classes

Southeastern Idaho students were given an educational lesson on savings by Ireland Bank volunteers during the month of April, as part of the American Bankers Association program, Teach a Child to Save Day. Throughout the month of April, all of Ireland Bank's fourteen offices partnered with schools to learn about how money grows when you deposit it in the bank, as well as donated the book, Kevin and Kate go to the Bank by, Kellie Emrich, to the school's library.

Sari, Danielle, Chris, and Karen from Ireland Banks Montpelier Branch, taught the local elementary children at AJ Winters Elementary as well as Paris Elementary about the importance of saving money. The American Bankers Association has promoted this program for the past twenty-one

years and Ireland Bank is proud to play a part in serving our local communities.

Ireland Bank is Idaho's oldest state chartered bank. Originally founded in Malad, Idaho in 1892 by the pioneer community's early leading citizens, Ireland Bank has survived depressions, stock market crashes, wars and agricultural disasters.

The bank's headquarters are still rooted in Malad, Idaho but their geographical coverage has grown throughout the years along with the bank. Today there are fourteen Ireland Bank locations throughout southeastern Idaho. Ireland Bank has stayed true to its original foundation and is still locally owned and operated and bank employees are an active part of their Idaho communities.

Senior Project presentations May 3

BY TAMMY STEPHENS

It's been over a year in the making, and now it's time to show off the projects the seniors of Bear Lake High School have been completing and the massive changes to the Bear Lake High School Media Center. Both will be available for public view on Thursday, May 3, from 5-6 p.m.

Beginning in January of their junior year, Bear Lake High School students can begin working on their state-required senior projects. These projects must include several aspects including both a community member as mentor and a teacher as advisor. The mentor's job is to guide the student through the community service component whereas the advisor's job is to keep the student on track and help the student with the paperwork needed to finalize the project.

Projects range from running a summer art camp to coaching little league athletics to mapping cemetery districts.

"These senior projects give the seniors a chance to give back to their community," explained Senior Project Coordinator Rick Saunders. "The seniors blow me away each year at the open house because of all the amazing things that our kids are accomplishing. This year will be no exception. It makes me proud to see all the many people that have benefited from these projects, and that list continues to grow."

Beginning in 2013, the State Department of Education has required graduating seniors to complete a project that includes a written report and an oral

presentation as well as other requirements the individual districts develop.

Every senior will have a table or booth at the Senior Showcase on May 3. Members of the community are invited to attend to view the projects and ask questions.

On the same night, the BLHS Media Center is holding its Grand Opening Open House. For those who graduated prior to 2016, this will be an eye opening experience because this is the most-changed area of the school.

Senior SMedia Specialist Leah Loertscher was awarded two grants last year, totaling \$21,460 from the Idaho Community Foundations' Charlotte S. Oslund Fund and Statewide Education Philanthropic Gift (\$4000) as well as the Idaho Future Fund (\$17,460) and with that there have been many changes. However, even the money was not enough to make these changes.

According to Loertscher, "The library has benefitted from a variety of senior projects as well as the help of community members, teachers and other students. Students helped remodel most of the rooms, sort and create a digital catalog of the books, update and assemble furniture. The library has received hundreds of hours of help in addition to the thousands of dollars to make such a dramatic change in such a short time. The library has become an integral part of the school."

Come spend time at Bear Lake High School on May 3, learning about the differences the seniors have made through their senior projects and walking through the new Media Center.

Stay close to home for your next visit!

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