

The Bagpiper

December 19, 2014

Reporting Freeman's news since 2009

Volume 6, Issue 3



Happy
Holidays

The Bagpiper Staff 2014-2015

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Bagpiper Editorial Policy

The Bagpiper is published by students in the journalism class at Freeman High School.

Content is determined by the staff and does not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of Freeman High School's faculty, administration, adviser or student body.

Students are protected in their exercise of press freedom by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Signed editorials and columns reflect the views of the writer.

Letters to the editor, guest commentaries, and submissions of art or photography are encouraged and must be signed, although anonymity can be granted on a case-by-case basis.

The editorial board reviews letters to the editor, advertising and guest commentaries and reserves the right to edit and refuse material. Reasons can include length, clarity, libel, obscenity, material disruption of the educational process at Freeman High School or violation of copyright law.



- Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.

- If possible, avoid using your parking (emergency) brake in cold, rainy and snowy weather.

- Watch weather reports prior to a long-distance drive or before driving in isolated areas. Delay trips when especially bad weather is expected. If you must leave, let others know your route, destination and estimated time of arrival. Allow extra time to reach your destination when driving on slick winter roads.

- Make sure the exhaust pipe isn't clogged with snow, ice or mud. A blocked exhaust could cause deadly carbon monoxide gas to leak into the passenger compartment with the engine running.

- Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Applying the gas slowly to accelerate is the best method for regaining traction and avoiding skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry. And take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads. If you don't have time to slow down, when will you have time for an accident?

- Drive slowly. Everything takes longer on snow-covered roads. Give yourself time to maneuver by driving slowly.

- Don't stop if you can avoid it. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.

- Don't power up hills. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads just starts your wheels spinning. Try to get a little

inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the top of the hill, reduce your speed and go downhill as slowly as possible.

- Don't stop going up a hill. There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.

- Stay home if you don't HAVE to be somewhere. Even if you can drive well in the snow, not everyone else can. Don't tempt fate.

- Be aware that bridges and overpasses freeze before road surfaces.

- Remember that visibility is an important factor for safe driving during a winter storm. Keep your lights on and clear the windshield.

- Control your space and speed. Slow down and to stop tailgating. If drivers would simply keep their distance from other vehicles and slow down, many snow and ice accidents could be prevented.

- Shut off cruise control. If your vehicle hydroplanes or skids, it will accelerate and rapidly spin the wheels since it will be trying to maintain a constant speed.

- Don't let your guard down. Many drivers mistakenly believe that 4WD and AWD systems make them invincible in bad weather. Not true!

More things to take:

- Bag of sand, salt or cat litter (for traction)

- Blankets

- Battery-powered radio with extra batteries

- Candles and waterproof matches

- Canned compressed air with sealant (for tire repair)

- Cans (to melt snow for water)

- Compasses and maps

- Driver's License

- Extra batteries

- Paper towels

- Portable cell phone charger

- Shovel

- Tire pump

- Toolkit

Graphic courtesy of AAA

WSDOT PRESENTS

WHAT TO CARRY IN YOUR CAR

Because you never know when you will encounter winter weather or emergency road closure

511 Know before you go

wsdot.com/traffic

GET OUR MOBILE APP

Our Android and iPhone apps include statewide traffic cameras, travel alerts, mountain pass reports, ferry schedules and alerts, northbound Canadian border wait times and more.

Android

iPhone

CAUTION: WATCH FOR ICE

What to do in case of an accident

If you become snow-bound, stay with your vehicle. It provides temporary shelter and makes it easier for rescuers to locate you. Don't try to walk in a severe storm. It's easy to lose sight of your vehicle in blowing snow and become lost.

Help! I'm stuck in snow!

Don't over exert yourself if you try to push or dig your vehicle out of the snow.

Tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna or place a cloth at the top of a rolled up window to signal distress. At night, keep the dome light on if possible. It only uses a small amount of electricity and will make it easier for rescuers to find you.

If possible run the engine and heater just long enough to remove the chill and to conserve gasoline.

Know what to do if get stuck in snow. Do not spin your wheels when stuck on ice or in snow. Instead, remove snow from the area around the tire, if necessary, and spread sand or salt under the drive wheel to regain traction. If your front wheels are skidding, take your foot off the gas and shift to neutral – but don't try to steer immediately. Once you start to regain control, steer in the direction you want to go, put the transmission back in "drive" (or release the clutch) and accelerate gently. Note: this is not second nature for many people and may require some practice. Consider sharpening your winter weather driving skills by practicing in an empty, snowy parking lot in full day light.

By Ruby Falciani
Editor

All graphics courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

DIY WINTER TRICKS

Put socks or sandwich bags over your side mirrors

Leave your windshield wipers up

Put a blanket over your windshield and close the ends of it in the car to keep snow and frost off your windshield

Sources:

<http://exchange.aaa.com/safety/roadway-safety/winter-driving-tips/>
<http://www.accuweather.com/en/home-garden-articles/diy/safe-winter-driving-and-car-pt/40702>

<http://www.oncallinternational.com/blog/travel-cheat-sheet-month-diy-winter-emergency-roadkit/>

Things to do over the 2014-2015 Winter Break

Katie Ophus

Staff Writer

Santa's Arrival:

Go see Santa at the Spokane Valley Mall until December 24h, and tell him all of the things on your Christmas list! You can get your picture taken with Santa for \$45, or you can purchase a Santa pass and get discounts on pictures, Christmas cards and much more. You can also see Santa at the River Park Square and enjoy their 50 foot Christmas tree decorated in beautiful lights and decorations!

I remember Christmas:

Ellen Travolta and friends put on holiday musical. Directed by Troy Nickerson, the musical features Jack Bannon, Patrick Treadway, Margaret Travolta and Katherine Strohmaier. Shows are Thursdays-Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 5 p.m.

Holiday Memories

Holiday Memories is an event at Green Bluff to create many fun memories with your family, running from November 29 to December 24. Green Bluff activities include cutting down your own tree, taking pictures with Santa, and picking out many fun gifts for family members including fruit, unique food items, candy and wine.

Horse And Carriage Rides

Spokane Teachers Credit Union is sponsoring a fun family event in downtown Spokane this year, carriage rides. From November 28 through December 24, all you have to do is go downtown to Wall and Main street between 3pm to 8pm on Fridays or 12-5 Saturday and Sundays, with extended hours on Christmas Eve which range from 12pm- 3pm.

Holiday Light Show Cruise:

How would you like to take a beautiful cruise around Coeur d'Alene Lake with a free light show? The Coeur d'Alene cruise lines are offering cruises around the lake to view the largest on-the-water light show in America. Featuring over 1.5 million lights and a great time, you can also hop on a cruise ship that takes you to the North Pole, to visit Santa's workshop where one of the world's tallest Christmas tree stands! Cruise prices vary from \$5-\$20.

Traditions of Christmas

80 cast members and a team of visual performers get together to present a musical/visual performance about Christmas traditions and the greatest Christmas songs. The performance takes place December 12-23. It costs \$33 general, \$20 for 12 and under, and \$26 for seniors.

Holiday Lights

Holiday lights takes place in Manito Park from December 12-21 starting at 4:30am and ending 7pm, where you can see the beautiful park lit up with Christmas lights.

Church Basement Ladies: A Second Helping

From December 12- January 4, Friday through Saturday you can go see the musical comedy. The hilarious musical comedy is about four women who "organize food while solving everyone's problems from the kitchen beneath the House of God". Show times are 7:30 Friday-Saturday and Sundays at 2, and the costs are \$19-25.

Christmas Tree Elegance

Christmas Tree Elegance takes place at the Davenport and consists of 18 themed custom trees with prizes that include gift certificates, many items that match the theme and cash prizes. Each tree you win (you can win more than one in the raffle) equals approx. \$5,000, and one tree including art work by our art teacher Ken Spiering. The raffle tickets cost \$1 each and you can put as many as you want in each tree. All of the proceeds go to the Spokane Symphony. Although this has already happened (raffle was December 14) this is an annual thing and you can always go next year. They always have amazing trees and they are always different every year.



Photo by Katie Ophus

The Davenport Hotel features 18 trees such as this during its Christmas Tree Elegance event, including a tree raffle.

Chocolate-Espresso Shortbread (Makes 42 cookies)

Ingredients:

1 tablespoon instant espresso powder
1 tablespoon boiling water
2 sticks (8 ounces) unsalted butter, at room temperature
2/3 cup confectioners' sugar
1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
2 cups all-purpose flour
4 ounces bittersweet chocolate (plain, or a toffee variety), finely chopped, or 3/4 cup store-bought mini chocolate chips
Confectioners' sugar, for dusting (optional)

Directions:



1. Dissolve the espresso in the boiling water, and set aside to cool to tepid.
2. Working with a stand mixer, preferably fitted with a paddle attachment, or with a hand mixer in a large bowl, beat the butter and confectioners' sugar together on medium speed for about 3 minutes, until the mixture is very smooth. Beat in the vanilla and espresso, then reduce the mixer speed to low and add the flour, mixing only until it disappears into the dough. Don't work the dough much once the flour is incorporated. Fold in the chopped chocolate with a sturdy rubber spatula.
3. Using the spatula, transfer the soft, sticky dough to a gallon-size zipper-lock plastic bag. Put the bag on a flat surface, leaving the top open, and roll the dough into a 9 x 10 1/2 inch rectangle that's 1/4 inch thick. As you roll, turn the bag occasionally and lift the plastic from the dough so it doesn't cause creases. When you get the right size and thickness, seal the bag, pressing out as much air as possible, and refrigerate the dough for at least 2 hours, or for up to 2 days.

4. Position the racks to divide the oven into thirds and preheat the oven to 325 degrees F. Line two baking sheets with parchment or silicone mats.
5. Put the plastic bag on a cutting board and slit it open. Turn the firm dough out onto the board (discard the bag) and, using a ruler as a guide and a sharp knife, cut the dough into 1 1/2-inch squares. Transfer the squares to the baking sheets and carefully prick each one twice with a fork, gently pushing the tines through the cookies until they hit the sheet.
6. Bake for 18 to 20 minutes, rotating the sheets from top to bottom and front to back at the midway point. The shortbreads will be very pale—they shouldn't take on much color. Transfer the cookies to a rack.
7. If you'd like, dust the cookies with confectioners' sugar while they are still hot. Cool the cookies to room temperature before serving.

Chocolate snowballs

Ingredients:

3/4 cup butter, softened
1/2 cup sugar
1 egg
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup chopped nuts
1 cup (6 ounces) chocolate chips
Confectioners' sugar

Directions:

1. In a bowl, cream butter and sugar. Add egg and vanilla; mix well. Combine flour and salt; stir into creamed mixture. Fold in nuts and chips. Roll into 1-in. balls.
2. Place on ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 350° for 15-20 minutes. Cool cookies slightly before rolling in confectioners' sugar. Yield: about 4 dozen.



Chocolate Chip-Cookie Dough Truffles

Ingredients

1/3 cup butter, softened
1/3 cup packed brown sugar
1 tablespoon vanilla
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup miniature semisweet chocolate pieces
4 oz. dark chocolate or semisweet chocolate, chopped
4 oz. chocolate-flavor candy coating, chopped
1 tablespoon shortening

Directions

1. Line a 15x10x1-inch baking pan with waxed paper; set aside. In a medium bowl beat butter, brown sugar, and vanilla with an electric mixer on medium speed until combined. Beat in flour just until combined. Stir in chocolate pieces. Shape dough into



Peppermint meltaways

Ingredients

Frosting:
2 tablespoons butter, softened
1-1/2 cups confectioners' sugar
2 tablespoons 2% milk
1/4 teaspoon peppermint extract
2 to 3 drops red food coloring, optional
1/2 cup crushed peppermint candies

Meltaways

1 cup butter, softened
1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract
1-1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup cornstarch



Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°. In a small bowl, cream butter and confectioners' sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in extract. Combine flour and cornstarch; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well.
2. Shape into 1-in. balls. Place 2 inch apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake 10-12 minutes or until bottoms are lightly browned. Remove to wire racks to cool.
3. In a small bowl, beat butter until fluffy. Add confectioners' sugar, milk, extract and, if desired, food coloring; beat until smooth. Spread over cooled cookies; sprinkle with crushed candies. Store in an airtight container. Yield: 3-1/2 dozen.

- 1-inch balls. Place on prepared baking pan. Cover; freeze about 30 minutes or until firm.
2. Meanwhile, in a small saucepan heat chopped chocolate, candy coating, and shortening over low heat, stirring until melted and smooth. Remove from heat.
3. Line a baking sheet with waxed paper. Using a fork, dip balls into chocolate mixture, allowing excess chocolate mixture to drip back into saucepan. Place dipped balls on the baking sheet. Let stand or chill about 30 minutes or until set. Lightly drizzle with the remaining melted chocolate mixture.

The many faces of ST. NICHOLAS



In Scandinavia, the gift-giving Jultomten is protective caring and quite fond of porridge. He is an elderly gnom with a white beard and a pointed red cap.

» Ded Moroz (Grandfather Frost) «

Russia's take on Santa Claus, Grandfather Frost dresses in red, white, or blue, and along with his granddaughter "The Snow Maiden" travels across Russia Delivering gifts to children in person on Christmas Eve.

» Sinterklass «

It is from the Dutch Sinterklass that the name Santa Claus is derived. Much thinner than the American Santa Claus, he rides a white horse and is assisted by Zwarte Pieten in handing out gifts.

» Father Christmas «

Father Christmas has had the largest influence on the American ideal of Santa Claus; he is traditionally depicted as a jolly old man with a long beard who delivers gifts to children on Christmas Eve.

Created by E. Sheldon



Turkey & stuffing
Mashed potatoes & gravy
Sweet potatoes
Green bean casserole



Tamales
Bacalo
Wild Greens in mole sauce
Atole



Ham
Pickled herring
Saffron buns with raisins
Cabbage pudding



Roasted goose
Roasted potatoes
Christollen
White sausage



Curry goat
Rice & peas
Christmas ham
Black cake



Cold ham & turkey
Seafood
Christmas pudding
Pavlova



CHRISTMAS DINNER



HANUKKAH FACTS & TRADITIONS

Menorah:

To commemorate the miracle that a one-day supply of oil lasted for eight days those who celebrate Hanukkah light the nine-branched menorah to represent the miracle and one of the many Hanukkah traditions and customs.

Spinning Tops:

It's customary to play with dreidels (spinning tops) during the holiday. They even wage gambling games in which players guess which side of the top will fall face up. There are Hebrew letters on each side of the dreidel, which represent the words, "A great miracle happened there," referring to the miracle of the oil.

Gelt:

The Yiddish word "gelt" means "money" in English. The tradition of handing out gelt during Hanukkah probably dates back to 17th-century Poland. In historic times, Jews gave money to teachers, the poor, and also to children. Now chocolate coins are used and are distributed to the children of the family.

Food:

In honor of the oil miracle Jews eat oily foods like latkes (potato pancakes) and sufganyot (jelly-filled doughnuts).

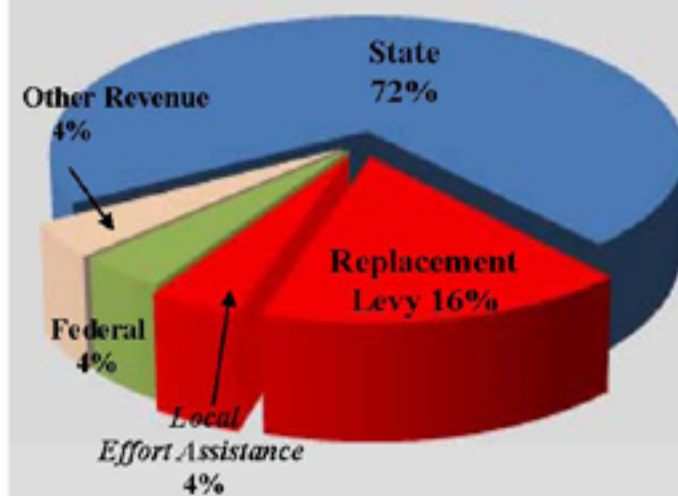
Created by E. Sheldon



Renewal Educational Programs, Technology and Operation Levy Facts

On Tuesday, February 10, 2015, Freeman School District residents will vote on a three-year **Renewal** Educational Programs, Technology and Operation (formerly known as M&O) Levy. The proposed levy renews the three-year levy approved by the Freeman School District voters in 2012.

The **renewal** levy represents approximately 20% of the Freeman School District operating budget...



The local levy maintains essential educational programs for students not funded by State and Federal dollars.

THIS IS NOT A NEW TAX



Examples of How Your Levy Dollars are Spent.....

- + Additional support & technology for classrooms
- + Extracurricular activities, music & art programs
- + Instructional textbooks and materials
- + Highly Capable and Special Education programs
- + Custodial, maintenance and grounds upkeep
- + Nutritional Services program
- + School Nurse
- + Transportation services
- + Equipment, utilities, and fuel
- + Fieldtrips

Citizens for Freeman Schools Meeting

**January 12, 2015
FHS Library/MPR
5:00-6:00**

For Questions Please Call Dr. Randy Russell, Superintendent, at (509) 291-3695 or visit www.freemansd.org

Renewal Educational Programs, Technology and Operation Levy Facts

February 10, 2015

Fact #1

On February 10, Freeman School District voters will be asked to **renew** the Educational Programs, Technology and Operations Levy which expires in 2015. Approximately 16% of the total School District budget is funded by our local community.

This Is Not a New Tax.



Fact #2

Approximately 900 students and 150 staff members are directly affected by the levy.

Class size, counselors, nurses, sports, leadership, textbooks, school and teacher supplies, transportation, special education, nutrition services program, highly capable education, computer replacement and repair, software, substitute teachers, and facilities maintenance are all supported in whole or part by local levy funds.

Fact #3

Levies are not bonds. Bonds are for Buildings. Levies are for Learning. Levy funds pay for day-to-day education programs, technology and operations. Levies do not provide funds to build schools.

Fact #4

The actual tax rate is based on the total assessed value of all taxable property within the School District.

The estimated tax rate per thousand dollars of assessed value:

Current Levy

| Year | Tax Rate | Levy Amount |
|------|----------|-------------|
| 2013 | \$3.08 | \$1,470,000 |
| 2014 | \$3.08 | \$1,484,291 |
| 2015 | \$3.01 | \$1,499,132 |

Projected Renewal Levy

| Year | Tax Rate | Levy Amount |
|------|----------|-------------|
| 2016 | \$3.01 | \$1,546,643 |
| 2017 | \$3.01 | \$1,593,046 |
| 2018 | \$3.01 | \$1,640,835 |

Example: For every \$100,000 of assessed property value, it will cost you \$301 in property taxes

Levy tax exemptions are available. Applications for exemption and additional information are available from the Spokane County Assessor's Office, 477-5754.

Fact #5

The co-curricular, extra-curricular and activities program are dependent on levy dollars. Clubs, art, athletics, music, band, equipment, event expenses and field trips throughout the School District – are supported by levy funds.

Fact #6

What is LEA?

Local Effort Assistance is funding assistance provided by the state in the form of property tax relief. If the levy does pass, the District will qualify for approximately \$350,000 in additional State Local Effort Assistance (LEA).

Fact #7

Freeman students experience a quality education. The levy helps to support additional academic programs which contributed to Freeman High School's 100% graduation rate in 2014.



For Questions Please Call Dr. Randy Russell, Superintendent, at (509) 291-3695 or visit www.freemansd.org



Please support
FREEMAN HS THEATER ARTS

January 28th, 2015

at the

Spokane Civic Theatre.

Thanks to the sponsorship of generous donors Pat and Bob Mielbrecht, all proceeds from this fundraiser directly benefit the Freeman High School Theater Arts Program. Please plan to take your friends and family out for the evening and enjoy this classic Italian comedy.



Tickets are ON SALE NOW!

Adults \$10 Students \$5

You can purchase on-line @ freemansd.org (High School webstore), from a Freeman drama student or come into the high school office.

January 28th, 2015

7:30 pm Curtain at Spokane Civic Theatre

To find out more information about the play or venue please visit:

www.spokanecivictheatre.com

Questions about the event: GGNMG6@GMAIL.COM or CWICHMANN@FREEMANSD.ORG

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