

A Treasure Amidst the Trees

by Ali Spahn

"I believe that we're all living this sculpted life. We are all being molded and shaped as we move through life. If we fight, it's a struggle, but if you embrace some of those struggles you will grow from it and you enrich yourself and others along the way." (Jeff May)

If you're looking for an art piece that reflects the local wildlife in the Panhandle, Jeff May just might be the sculpture artist for you. He may be Northern Idaho's best wood sculptor.

Jeff's bear, eagle and fox to name a few are well crafted magnificent pieces of art.

When Jeff starts on a piece it is largely visual. He tries to bring a new element to each piece through bone structure, hair, and realism. Jeff typically will not create a sketch for the client. That ensures he can be creative without restrictions and the result will be a better piece. Jeff explains, "I have no idea from cut to cut what is going to transpire as I move through the sculpture. Once you have the animal in the position that you like, you step back and look, and you say; that's interesting. I should take that line a little but more. You're trying to understand the relationship between your tools and your knowledge of the anatomy which ultimately comes together to create a conceived artistic piece."

Born in Ventura, Jeff grew up on the California beaches which stirred an interest in becoming a Boat Captain. At 19 years old he acquired his Captain's license. But he wanted to experience more so he moved to Wenatchee, Wa. in his mid-20's. There, Jeff remembered a guy who did some carving and thought that would be fun to try.

Even though Jeff claims he did not have an artistic bone in his body, his first attempt at sculpting a dolphin came out so well that the piece sold immediately. "Every time I made something, I got a little bit better, so I carved more and people continued to buy my creations," exclaimed Jeff. To his amazement, a passion for creating his own artistic style slowly emerged.

During a visit to his family in Idaho, he found the Kootenai area to be a good match. In 2004, he and his wife and children moved to property near Silverwood.

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He set up shop and his business went along as planned. But as life sometimes happens, in January of 2019, a fire destroyed his entire shop and Jeff lost everything.

His good neighbor started a GoFundMe account to help with the finances. Some clients even contributed large donations to get him back on his feet for which Jeff was extremely grateful. "Even though there were challenges with building and it was a tragedy to lose everything, we were able to get back the majority of the stuff I use every day and kept the business going," Jeff humbly stated.

A creative mind thinks differently than a business mind. How do you grow as an artist and still be able to move forward as a business? That question inspired Jeff's next venture which is still being conceived; a one-on-one Podcast called "The Sculpted Life."

"My hope and dream is to interview creatives to talk about their process and hear some of the struggles that artists have in doing that process."

As a creator you understand things differently. "Sharing the way that you think about some of the things that I incorporate into my artwork is unrelated to sculpting and I learn those from other industries and mediums," explains Jeff.

How does Jeff acquire his product? When a tree is dropped on a property, sometimes a local company will call him to remove the tree. However, "...when a family calls me to create a sculpture from a beloved old tree that has fallen on their property, now that is incredibly special. That's where the creative process and passion begins," said Jeff with a smile.

Jeff says, "I do very well in the Panhandle because I have invested in this area. People know me but outside this area people just stumble on me. There's plans for filming a YouTube episode that should help expand my business."

The bulk of Jeff's projects are from referrals and/or commissioned. During the pandemic, to Jeff's surprise, his business continued to grow. Why? "Now with the magnitude and frequency of major shakeups such as Covid, there is a new normal." Most of the people who buy his sculptures are retired with a fixed income, so they know what they can spend.

See Jeff's sculptures at: www.jeffmayart.com



BWSD Director Position Open

Interested in running for a Bayview Water & Sewer's board position? Don't delay since you need to get your paperwork completed and returned to the County before **March 19**. Candidates must file a Declaration of Candidacy with five signatures of qualified electors to get your name on the ballot.

The county election is May 18. As of this writing, Larry Leake is not running again so his Director Seat Two position needs to be filled.

Seat Three is held by Calvin Nolan. He's the only current board member whose position is not open.

Welcome Jaimie Star

by Sheryl Puckett

Jamie Star is Bayview Water & Sewer's new part time office clerk. Jamie lives in Athol. A long time ago she owned a big rig driving school.

She has great customer service skills, is a fast learner, self starter, reliable and punctual. She's everything BWSD is seeking to help our full time secretary, Jessie Roe.



Currently Jamie will be working two full days a week.

Since Jessie will be taking her annual vacation leave in March, the timing couldn't be better.

In my opinion, anyone who was a long haul trucker and can teach students to drive a big rig, can handle BWSD.

Welcome Jaime, to the Bayview Water & Sewer District's staff.

Vaccine Information

If you're 65 years or older you can now book an appointment to get your vaccine. You should bring proof of eligibility. If you do not meet the criteria, you will not be provided vaccination at the vaccine clinic. Bring a pay stub, a badge, etc. that show you're an Idaho resident and your driver's license to show your age. If patients do not have proof of eligibility, they will not be provided vaccination.

Walk-ups are not eligible at this time and we are not maintaining a wait list. Do not make multiple appointments. Please do not schedule unless you are able to make the appointment. Rescheduling is not currently available.

Appointments are booked quickly. The bulk of appointments will be released each Wednesday at 4 p.m. Please do not call the clinics or hospital for appointments. Here's a link to Kootenai Health Covid -19 vaccine information: <https://www.kh.org/covid-19/vaccine/>

Finally, Chan Wins *by Sheryl Puckett*

There's one thing most old timers can agree on, we miss the Buttonhook. Hard drinks are the cash cow of any restaurant.

A slip up left the Buttonhook unable to provide for a liquor license to a potential proprietor. All that changed in a blink of an eye and a stroke of a pen by Judge Mitchell on February 24. For four years this has been in one kind of litigation or another. Prior if the Buttonhook were to open, it could only serve beer and wine.

Case number CV28-20-0583 in Kootenai County District Court was a Judicial Review/Cross Appeal case. Chan Karupiah, Teresa Karupiah, Chris Gormsen were the Petitioners versus Idaho Sate Police - Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC).

The petitioners lawyer, John Magnuson, argued that the Buttonhook had met all the requirements to be granted a liquor license and that the property was contiguous to the waterfront by the fact that it was granted a 10 foot deed from Lakes Highway District which connected it to the waterfront.

Cheryl Rambo, represented the State of Idaho and argued that the building itself had to be on the water.

Judge Mitchell quickly made his decision in favor of the petitioner. While the State Liquor board, ABC, could choose to appeal, Judge Mitchell's decision may likely stand unchallenged.

In fact, Judge Mitchell stated, "There is nothing in Idaho code, nothing that suggests in the statues that requires the resort to be a waterward parcel. There is nothing, absolutely nothing. They have a waterfront resort comprised of real property, not less than 200 feet, open to the public..."

When the Buttonhook finally reopens we all can now order Bloody Marys; they're a vegetable right?

Lighted Speed Sign Needed?

"I was getting ready to cross the street at Hwy 54 and Corbin St. to get on the bus that was stopped with his stop sign out when a car just kept driving in between my kids and the bus" wrote Caitlin Anderson Rogers on Facebook. This sparked 108 comments.

Chris Remington, owner of Remi's Bait & Tackle, has been commenting about speeders for some time now. He's recommending lighted radar speed signs and has received pricing quotes. Not everyone agrees. Dean Jordon commented, "I'm not in favor of mucking up the town with signs and flashing lights..." Stay Tuned.

