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The Biggest, Littlest Heart Among Us!

Little eight-year-old Coralee Collins has more drive and empathy than most adults. Her kind and generous heart have led her in life and have paved the way for her to become the philanthropist she is. Katie and Ken Collins, her parents, are so proud of her!

At six, Coralee began participating in community activities to better the small town we all live in. She volunteered to gather trash on Yale-Kilgore Road when Shotgun bar sponsored the event. She gives her time to helping others, like teaching a younger friend to ride a bicycle.

More recently, this little gem of a girl decided she could make a difference in her school. Coralee wants to help fund the new school building and the land to build it on. So, she began picking up the used bingo cards during and after our games, for tips. She was able to raise \$229, and cheerfully handed off that cash as her donation for the school to Connie Day recently.



She has been brainstorming ways to continue raising money for her lofty goal. Opening a hot chocolate stand during any of our winter activities she can coordinate with, and a lemonade stand at the summer events, is top of her list.

When you see Coralee, stop and support this beautiful young soul. Pay more for the hot chocolate or lemonade, you know where the money will go. Help her realize her dreams, and make Island Park a better place, all at the same time!



Auditorium District Law

Good Changes with House Bill 477?

Last years Auditorium District vote created some terrible rifts among our community. The majority of our full-time residents agree we need some kind of a community center, although how large, what kind, where, and how to pay for it are contentious subjects.

Part of the argument for not instituting an Auditorium District was a tax in perpetuity. Forever, our small community could not undo the district once formed, we didn't have the 3,000 votes required by the law to do so.

Rep Rod Furniss has decided, without public hearings in Island Park for input, to try to remedy this one small issue in the law as it was written. The language was changed to read: *(a) Any person or persons may file a petition for the dissolution of an auditorium district with the clerk. Such petition, which may be in one (1) or more papers, shall state the name of the district and shall be signed by not less than three thousand (3,000) qualified electors resident within the boundaries of the district or fifteen percent (15%) of the total number of qualified electors resident within the boundaries of the district, whichever is less.*

While this is a step in the right direction for small communities like ours, it also adds another layer of potential issues for us. Note, any person, or persons, can collect 15% of the signatures for registered voters in the Auditorium District. That's only about 150 people in Island Park. Meaning, we could see the request to end the district on the ballot every year, since HO477 passed.

Let's imagine, someone is successful in removing the district several years from now, after they have started, or even completed the community center. Now where will the funding come from to support the building? Will the county take over the project as they have the sewer district? Will it then be applied to our property taxes? Will the building sit empty? All valid questions without suitable, concrete answers!

The law, as it is written, for the Auditorium District should have been altered further than this. It is broad and ambiguous. Originally, it only applied to communities of 100,000 or more when the law was placed on the books in 1959.

In 1998 house bill 490 introduced an update to the law, and included adding



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the ability to spend funds produced by the district for a marketing program. Sponsoring Rep Delores Crow, R-Nampa, said several of the state's largest cities would benefit if allowed to use the money for tourism promoting and advertising. "It allows auditorium districts to market their products," said Rep. Lee Gagner, R-Idaho Falls.

This is suggestive, that the original intent of the law, and the lawmakers understanding of the law in 1998, was an event center that brought revenue into the community.

In this bill, the opportunity to impose property taxes to support the Auditorium District was also removed in those communities that had a population of 25,000 or more. The hope was, as written in the Statement of Purpose, to aid in the economic growth of cities forming new districts. Again, suggestive of the intent of the law, to increase tourism money into communities smaller than 100,000, but larger than 25,000. In fact, in that same statement, they mention Caldwell, Lewiston, and Coeur d'Alene specifically, all communities smaller than 100,000 but larger than 25,000. Was the intent in this law ever designed for communities smaller than 25,000?



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