

A Message from First Lady Teresa Little

Weiser, my hometown, hosts Capital for a Day

February 14, 2023

Dear Friends,

With Capital for a Day, Governor Little and members of his Cabinet visit a town in a different county in Idaho each month. This gives residents of the community an opportunity to ask questions, express their thoughts and offer suggestions. Residents hear what is on the minds of fellow community members. They learn the wide scope of responsibility the state bears for Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, Transportation, Health & Welfare, Lands, Fish & Game, Police, Parks & Rec, and Financial Management. Cabinet members have the opportunity to let residents know the most current information impacting their community. Cabinet members have the chance to hear and appreciate concerns specific to that community.

I was happy to accompany Brad and his Cabinet to Weiser on Friday, January 27, 2023 for "Capital for a Day."

Weiser is where I was born and raised. My sisters, brother and I attended first through 12th grade in the public school system. My paternal grandparents lived in Weiser also. My brother and sister-in-law live there now.



E-MAIL FIRST LADY
with any of your
thoughts or
suggestions!

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It was great to catch up with family and friends, to have the chance to share time with residents and hear what is currently happening.

This past September marked the occasion of my 50-year high school reunion. I was unable to attend but revisited Weiser's history and my experience as I wrote a letter to my classmates and a proclamation. I share them with you here as I am thinking about the unique history each community in Idaho possesses and the unique personal history we each have.

The vitally important structure of state government connects us all as Idahoans.

I encourage you to participate when "Capital for a Day" comes your way!

The next Capital for a Day will be in Bruneau on Friday, February 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the American Legion Post #83, located at 32536 Belle.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teresa Little". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first letter 'T'.

Teresa



Celebrating "Capital for a Day" in Weiser!



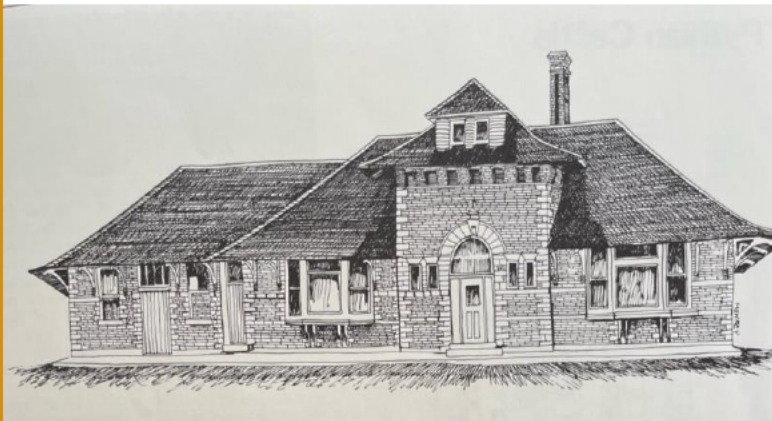
My first grade class.



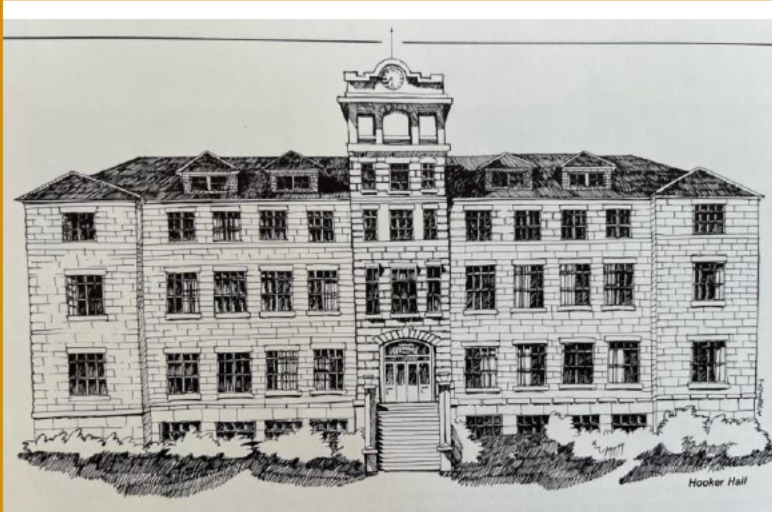
My fourth grade class.



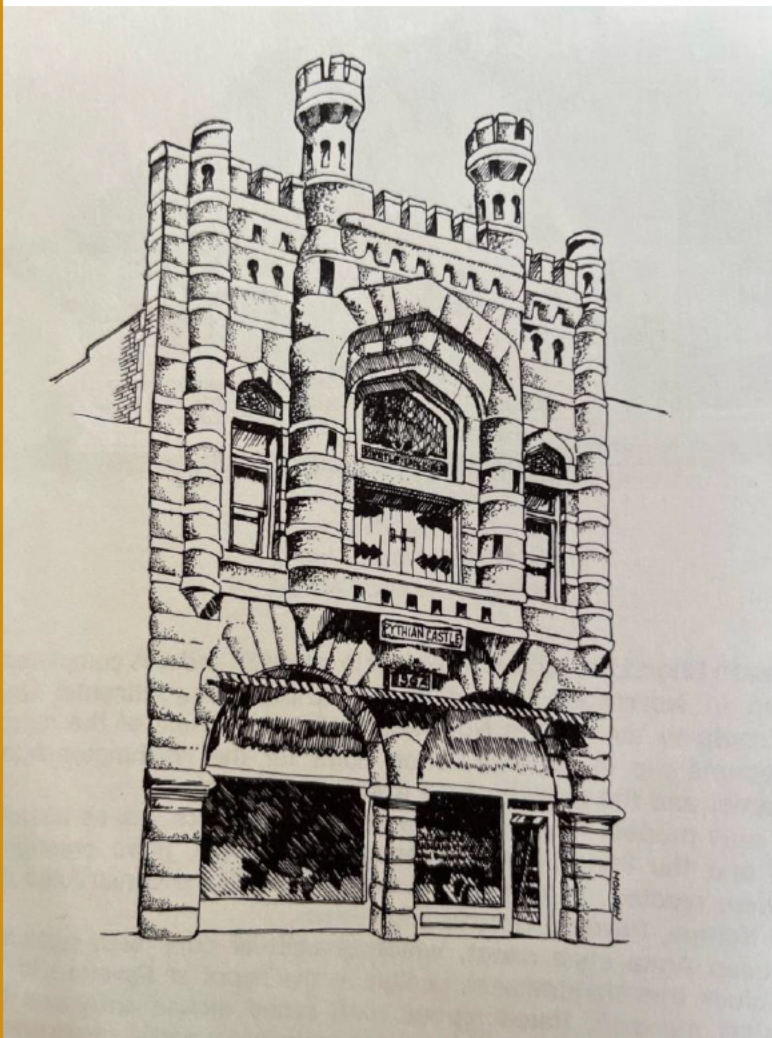
Galloway residence in Weiser, built in 1900



Oregon Short Line depot, built 1906-07



Intermountain Institute's Hooker Hall finished in 1924



Pythian Castle, designed by Tourtellotte & Company of Boise and built in 1904.

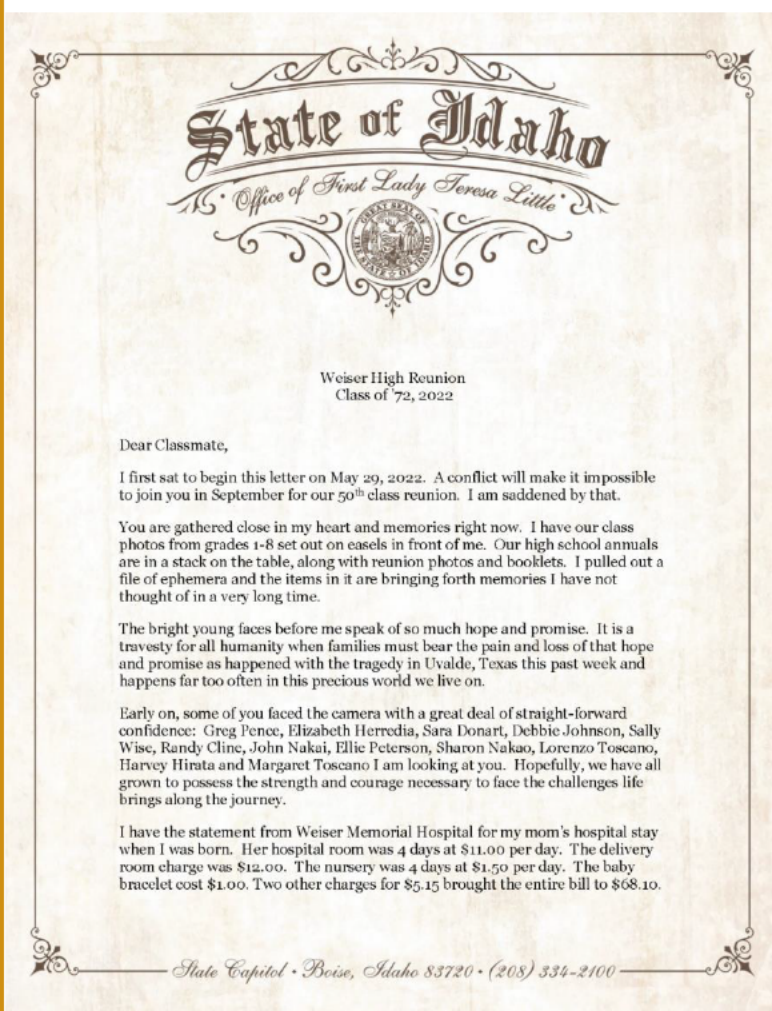
*“We leave something of ourselves
behind when we leave a place. We stay
there, even though we go away, and
there are things in us that we can find
again only by going back there.”*

~ Pascal Mercier

My Letter to Weiser High Class of '72

I loved the process of revisiting my hometown's history in writing this letter to my classmates - the Weiser High School Class of 1972!

[You can read the PDF version of the letter here.](#)



How grateful were our parents when the polio vaccine was invented! It was very first administered in 1955. I received my vaccines for polio on 12.4.56, 12.18.56, 6.7.57 and 6.23.59.

Some of us first met at the private Kindergarten held at St. Luke's Episcopal church. Though it was a very short day, remember Mrs. Buchholz (sp) had us take a nap on our very own little rug we brought to school for that purpose?

For some of us there was never a time we were not friends, as our parents and grandparents were friends before we were born. I have deep gratitude and respect for the important role friends' parents and grandparents played in my life.

For those of you who attended Westside school do you recall visiting Mr. and Mrs. Merck in the basement as Mr. Merck loaded coal into the furnace to warm the building? Remember, we were bussed to Pioneer School for lunch? One time someone brought a duck or goose egg to school and it broke in the pile of coats. It was a very old egg and really stinky!

Brownie Scouts met at the little green building downtown.

May 12, 1962 The Dore Moon School of Dance presented, "Around the World in 80 Minutes". Reneau Ufford was part of "Hoedown", "Changing of the Guards", and "Flower Sellers". Gayle Newby and I joined her in "Romany Life". Gayle, JoAnn Neal and I were in "So Long-OO Long". I do remember, for mothers, the sewing of costumes was quite involved! A complicated production itself!

Miss Neeley's piano lesson recitals in 1964 and 65 show where Francene Potter, Larry Lee, Heidi Bokides, Scott Wakasugi, Cheryl Peterson, Allan Stone, and Reneau Ufford were among her students. One "claim to fame" which stays with me to this day was playing the piano accompaniment to our 4th grade flutophone (I believe they call them recorders now) recital!

Do you recall being part of programs through the Weiser Recreation Department? Laurie Schram, Sally Wise, Verna Pierce, Dorothy Wander, Karan Hata, Sue Drumbheller, Candy Clark, Debra Wilkins and I were beginning baton twirlers together. I remember how awesome it was to receive a baton as a Christmas gift!

I see 4th grade boys rec basketball:

Sportsmanship: John's Leather Goods; Gary Go, Rick Cunningham, Stephen Go, Seth Mathews, Tim Ryan and Fred Haun.

Champions: Kiwanis; Harvey Hirata, Danny Uyeki, Alan Stone, Kevin Walker, and Torrey Coon.

All Stars: Seth Mathews, Tim Ryan, Chris Johnson, Dennis Kerfoot, Larry Lee, Charles Binford, Fred Haun and Marvin Strong.

Mrs. Ufford was great to take on a 4-H group. The end of the year we were having a pet show. I was very excited to take our new border collie, Julie. Only problem, Julie would not cooperate. I was definitely in tears by the time my Mom suggested I take the turtle. (Remember when the five and dime store actually sold little turtles?) In the end our older dog, Holly, happily accompanied me to 4-H and I only wish I had thought of her first. She was so happy with the outing.

Membership in Job's Daughters drew some of us closer: Debbie Johnson, Gerre Grant, Pam Lewis, Reneau Ufford, Heidi Bokides; along with girls older and younger than us. I suppose all that memorization has served us well?

I remember very rare occasions of dinner out with our grandparents at the Hotel Washington. I was home from college the night it burned.

Sitting on the lawn with family at Weiser Memorial Park for very early Weiser Fiddlers' performances was fun.

Skiing at Hitt Mountain was the best; likely for our parents too as they put us on the ski bus first thing in the morning and retrieved us in the evening, tired and happy. The hill first opened in 1967. Remember the runs of Frying Pan, Bell Mare, Interlude and Widow? By 1969 folks were working hard to keep it open. It closed around 1974 and reopened for a time in the 80s. A pass I have shows the price of \$5.00 per day to ski.

We saw an actual Wolverine near the Widow run at Hitt Mountain one time. An article by Nicole Blanchard in *The Idaho Statesman* on Friday, May 27, 2022, reports a Montana court has ordered the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reevaluate the species status. They are to submit a new final plan within 18 months. Our Weiser "family" of Wolverines number greatly more than the estimated few hundred wild ones in the contiguous United States. We wish **all** Wolverines the very best.

Remember Mr. Trigueros's extreme patience as he directed our Junior and Senior class productions of "Tom Sawyer" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream"?

I certainly wish our H.S. "Smart Set" group, formed to Stamp out Stupidity on Drugs and Narcotics, had accomplished the task.

How many people were we able to fit in your little black Volkswagen bug, Jeanette McHenry?

Other than the fact the word sweet is spelled s-w-e-e-t far too often in my high school annuals, I am struck by the supportive and kind words classmates had to say. This is one example from my freshman annual:

*"Teresa *Hi!* You know, a person doesn't really know what friends mean to them until they get this far, so I would like to take the opportunity to "thank you" very sincerely for being a friend. Remember all of the fun things we've been through (ie Scouts, elementary and Jr. High School) and especially all of the fun that we are having now in High School. It's a real blast and with people like you for classmates it's even something we can look forward to during vacation and it makes us miss it when we graduate! Well, enough although I could go on. Never lose your grrrrreat personality or your warm encouraging smile cuz they're worth a lot. Best of luck & may God Bless ya & protect ya."*
Lizz

Yes, I did review the grades I earned throughout my education in the Weiser Public School System. I find them to be S (satisfactory) to N (not entirely satisfactory). Given the tremendous support I had at home and the importance my parents and grandparents placed on education I certainly could and should have focused on my classwork with greater diligence. Some of you were incredibly self-motivated with distinct goals in mind. Knowing what you wish to achieve is a very good thing.

If you are coming into Weiser for the reunion from away and will be in the area for a while I will be back in McCall on September 12th, if your plans bring you that

Lizz said it perfectly, "You know, a person doesn't really know what friends mean to them until they get this far, so I would like to take the opportunity to "thank you" very sincerely for being a friend. Remember all of the fun things we've been through Best of luck & may God Bless ya & protect ya."

With much love,

Teresa Soulen Little

Brad issued a proclamation detailing the history of my hometown and celebrating the Weiser High School Class of 1972.

You can read a PDF version of the proclamation [here](#).



The Office of the Governor

*Executive Department
State of Idaho*

Proclamation

*State Capitol
Boise*

WHEREAS, the Native American tribe of the Northern Shoshoni first ranged throughout southern Idaho and a little band came to be known as the Weiser Shoshoni; and

WHEREAS, Olds' Ferry on the Snake River, established in 1862, gave people access to the Weiser area with Thomas Galloway being the first settler in 1864; and

WHEREAS, fur trappers, pioneers, miners, irrigation, rail lines, farmers, stockmen, orchardists, businessmen and visionaries all played major roles in Weiser's development; and

WHEREAS, in 1879, "Weiser Bridge" became the county seat of Washington County over the town of Solubria, with a bit of trickery and whiskey being involved; and

WHEREAS, by 1882, the population of Weiser was 200, on track to be the largest city in Idaho; and

WHEREAS, a most impressive building boom occurred in Weiser between 1890 and 1915, The Knights of Pythias Castle, the Wharfen Theatre, the Oregon Short Line depot, Hotel Washington, the Fuller Block, many lovely residential homes, schools, and churches were among those built. Herbert W. Bond was a Weiser architect. The Boise architectural firm Tourtellotte & Company, which designed our Idaho State Capitol building, frequently designed buildings in Weiser, 18 by the count of author Don Hibbard; and

WHEREAS, the Intermountain Institute, founded in 1899 by the Reverend Edward Anson Paddock, Jane Slocum and Thomas Maryatt, attracted residential students from eight states and one foreign country. Paddock was tireless in finding patrons for the institute, many from the East. Every boy and girl willing to work could acquire an education. The curriculum was college preparatory and vocational. Five hours of work was required per day along with one hour of non-denominational Bible class and one hour of exercise. The "Tute" is believed to be the only secondary school granted a Carnegie library; and

WHEREAS, Walter "Big Train" Johnson, one of the greatest pitchers of all times, played for the semi-pro Weiser Kids team during the 1906-07 seasons. While in Weiser, 19-year-old Johnson pitched 84 consecutive scoreless innings. Cliff Blankenship, catcher for the Washington Senators, wrote to the Senators management, "You better come out here and get this pitcher. He throws a ball so fast nobody can see it and he strikes out everybody. His control is so good that the catcher just holds up his glove, shuts his eyes then picks the ball, which comes to him like a little white bullet, out of the pocket. He knows where he's throwing because if he didn't there would be dead bodies strewn all over Idaho." Johnson was inducted into the baseball hall of fame in 1956 with Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Christy Mathewson and Homer Wagner; and

WHEREAS, Frank Mortimer arrived in Weiser after traveling as a juggler with a carnival, touring Mexico with a circus, and being a pro baseball player in Chicago. He operated the Weiser Newsstand for 30 years. In 1916, he opened the Oregon Trail Park (Mortimer's Island). The park had an outdoor theatre, a pavilion, dancehall, a merry-go-round, and frequent fireworks displays. "Leave Care Behind-All Ye Who Enter Here" was the sign at the entry. The park drew crowds of up to 10,000 people to Weiser; and

WHEREAS, Weiser held fiddle contests as early as 1914. In 1953, Blaine Stubblefield, Chamber of Commerce Secretary, and the Weiser Chamber initiated the Northwest Mountain Fiddlers' Contest. In 1963, the present Weiser National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest & Festival was inaugurated. The world class event happens every third full week of June. The competition brings much camaraderie, jamming and fun to Weiser, the "Fiddling Capital of the World"; and

WHEREAS, the Weiser River Trail is the longest mile to trails in Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the Weiser High School Class of 1972 has a unique and interesting hometown history and a hometown of which we are very proud; and

WHEREAS, the community of Weiser can feel proud of the unique and interesting contributions members of the Weiser High Class of 1972 have made to their hometown, their state, and our world;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRAD LITTLE, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim August 2022 to be

WEISER HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1972 MONTH

in Idaho, and I encourage all Idaho citizens to join me in this special observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 9th day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-two.

A blue ink signature of Brad Little, the Governor of Idaho.

Brad Little
GOVERNOR

A blue ink signature of Lawrence Denney, the Secretary of State of Idaho.

Lawrence Denney
SECRETARY OF STATE

*As usual, I want to share a favorite recipe.
In a family of shepherders, this one is always a big hit.
Enjoy!*

Butterflied Leg of Lamb

Marinade:

2/3 cup fresh lemon juice
½ cup brown sugar
¼ cup Dijon-style mustard
¼ cup soy sauce
¼ cup olive oil
2 cloves garlic, minced.
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
½ inch slice fresh ginger root, unpeeled

1 leg of lamb, boned and butterflied (5 to 6 pounds boned weight)

Combine marinade ingredients and pour over lamb. Marinate at least 2 hours at room temperature, or overnight in refrigerator, turning meat at least once. Drain before cooking and reserve marinade.

On the barbecue: Place grill 4 to 5 inches above coals and grill, fat side down, covered, 15 minutes. Turn meat and grill, covered, about 10 minutes more on the other side. Lamb should still be pink inside.

To serve, cut in slices across the grain. Heat remaining marinade, discard ginger root, and serve with lamb.

State Capitol • Boise, Idaho 83720 • (208) 334-2100
