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Many thanks to the staff and members of FitMania in Boise! Idaho Hands & Voices was the beneficiary of a "surprise " fundraiser. Here's how it came about: One staff member, Tony Buroop, found a video of people doing a mile-long Burpee event. For those of you who think Burpee is a seed company, it is also a kind of a combination squat and push-up, to be attempted only by the fit. Pairing it with a standing long jump means you can cover distance very slowly and with great effort; stringing together a mile of Burpees is only for the very fit. The folks at FitMania thought it would be fun, and started training for it. They then decided it

ought to be done for a Cause, and it just happens that one of their members, Maynard Davis, is grandfather to one of our Hands & Voices kids. Saturday, April 25 a group of intrepid Burpee-ists gathered at Anne Morrison Park. They also put together a raffle. A few Hands & Voices members were there to cheer from the sidelines and hand out water. We thank all involved, especially trainer Katie Rail, who organized the event.

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Energize Your Hearing Aid Batteries!

We posted a link to this story on our Facebook page, but it's of too much immediate practical use to not also include it in this newsletter. An eighth grade student from Rochester, Minnesota did a science fair project to determine if increasing the wait time between removing the sticker from a hearing aid battery and placing it in the hearing aid would make batteries last longer. Ethan Manuell, who wears a hearing aid in one ear, worked with his audiologist and discovered that waiting five minutes increases battery life by 80%! Removing the sticker allows oxygen in the air to mix with zinc oxide inside the battery; more wait time means more energized zinc, which means more battery life. Ethan has won several awards for this simple experiment, plus the thanks of everyone who is tired of spending so much on batteries.

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Governor Otter Vetoes Interpreter Licensure Bill

Legislation that would have led to establishment of a licensure system for sign language interpreters in Idaho passed both houses this past session, but was vetoed by Governor Otter, who promised to look into the issues raised by those seeking the passage of the bill. This is a great disappointment to both the interpreting profession in Idaho and to consumers who've had too many experiences with unqualified individuals being used as interpreters. Expect another try next year.

Upcoming Events

For fast-breaking news, "follow" our Facebook page.

Idaho Hands & Voices Board Meeting June 2 at 6:30 pm, location to be arranged. Subject to change if too many board members have conflicts! Please let us know if you want to attend, and we'll confirm date, time and location.

Idaho Parents Unlimited Webinars are offered the 4th Tuesday of each month, at different times of the day. You can just listen in, or join the discussion and ask questions, all from your home computer. May 26 will cover the concept of the "medical home," or comprehensive coordinated health care. The June 23 topic is "Skills for Effective Youth Advocacy," a training for youth who wish to be self-advocates, with resources for navigating adult services. Go to www.ipulidaho.org for further details and to register for these webinars.

The Idaho Shakespeare Festival has set the dates for their 2015 sign language interpreted performances. Tickets are now available! Call the box office at 208-336-9221 to place your order and request seating in the section close to the interpreters.

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| June 17 | The Tempest | August 26 | The Secret Garden |
| July 8 | Dial M for Murder | September 8 | The Fantasticks |
| August 19 | King Lear | | |

Idaho Hands & Voices Family Camp McCall, August 28-30. More information should come your way very soon. This year, we have enough funding to be able to offer FREE registration for the first 40 people who sign up, although we are asking that you send us a check for \$100 to hold your place, to be returned when you turn up at camp. After we've registered 40 people, we will need to charge regular camp rates--so reserve your place early! We will be posting information on our web page, and sending out a flier. Or contact our camp czar, Alyssa Frahm, at 6idahoins@gmail.com or (208)665-5851.

Magic Valley Hands & Voices is planning to meet once more at Dierkes Lake near Twin Falls for water fun. Bring a lunch and a treat to share; a blanket or chairs, swim suits, sunscreen and beach toys are also good to have. Entry to the park is \$3 per vehicle. Maybe no rain this year? July 8, 11:00 am until we all go home. Due to an exceptionally busy August, we'll plan on doing the Story Book Park gathering in September, probably in the late afternoon/early evening of Saturday the 12th.

Treasure Valley Summer Play Group:

All play dates are Wednesdays. Contact Jill Muir at 914-3728 or jill.muir@iesdb.org for more information.

June 17- Zoo Boise - 9:45am-12:00pm Meet at the park across from the zoo at 9:45. School discount is \$2.50 per person (ages 2 and under- free). If you want the discount please be there by 9:45 and bring exact change. We must pay and enter as a group! If you arrive after we have entered you will have to pay full price.

July 1- MK Nature Center & Municipal Park – 10:00 am-12:00pm 600 S. Walnut, Boise. Meet at the entrance to the Nature Center building at 10:00. We'll see the animals inside, then do the nature walk outside. After we're done we can play in Municipal Park.

July 15- Kleiner Park- 10:00am-12:00pm 1900 Records Ave. Meridian; playground and splash park that starts at 11:00.

July 29- Jabbers-10:00am-12:00pm 1210 N. Galleria Dr. Nampa. Play center at Nampa Gateway shopping center. Owner Linda Rutledge worked at ISDB. We can get a group discount of \$5.00 for ages 4 and up, \$4.00 ages 3 and under, adults free.

Aug. 12- Settler's Park – 10:00am-12:00pm, 3245 N. Meridian Rd. Meridian. Playground and a splash park that starts at 11:00.

Summer activities for the Magic Valley and the Moscow/McCall area are in the planning stage. You may receive a flier via IESDB; if not, contact Janice Finch (Magic Valley, janice.finch@iesdb.org) or Mallory Henry (Moscow, mallory.henry@iesdb.org.)

Also being planned by Hands & Voices and IESDB in Region 1 is an end-of-school party. Contact Alyssa Frahm (6idahoins@gmail.com.)

Idaho Association of the Deaf Youth Conference August 4-6 in Gooding, and statewide conference August 7-9 in Boise. Lots of opportunities for parents, teens and young adults! See the article following this calendar for more details.

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Idaho Association for the Deaf Opportunities for Parents and Youth

Which is the oldest civil rights organization in the United States? The NAACP and National Rifle Association both make this claim. The NAACP was established in 1909; the NRA was established in 1871, but did not engage in advocating for Second Amendment rights until 1934. On the other hand, the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) held its first national convention in 1880, and adopted its current name in 1889. From the beginning, its mission has been to preserve, protect and promote the civil, human and linguistic rights of all deaf and hard of hearing people in the United States.

American Sign Language is a core value of the NAD. At the time of its founding, the use of sign language in the education of deaf children was under attack, and even made illegal in some locations. This was before there was any technology available to make sound more accessible! Today, we have a wide range of options and the philosophy that "one size does not fit all." Other problems addressed by the NAD were movements to prevent the marriage of deaf people to each other, fair employment and the right to drive. Even today, the Department of Transportation requirements for a Commercial Driver's License include the ability to hear, but the DOT recently starting granting exemptions to drivers who are deaf or hard of hearing after their own studies indicated that hearing status does not impact safety; the NAD is working to get the hearing requirement removed entirely. A major issue for the 21st century is ensuring that emerging technologies be accessible--this is a fast-moving target!

The Idaho chapter of the NAD, the IAD, was established in 1934. It holds a conference every two years, alternating between Gooding and another location in the state. This year's conference will be in Boise August 7-9. The IAD is working to set up some workshops for parents of children who are deaf or hard of hearing on August 8, with childcare provided--all free of charge to parents. There will be information about educational law and advocacy, a panel of deaf adults, and more. A registration form for the parent workshops is in the works--we will post it on Facebook when it's ready, and you will probably get one in the mail. Contact IAD secretary Stephanie Saltern (iadwebman@gmail.com) if it doesn't find you one way or another.

Another focus of the IAD is to do more outreach with deaf and hard of hearing youth. They are planning a Youth Conference for ages 14-26 at ISDB in Gooding August 4-6. Participants will attend workshops and learn about leadership, communication, volunteer and community service. Afterwards, they will attend the IAD conference and work as volunteers at the conference and the day camp for the children of people attending the conference. The conference itself is free, but participants need to cover their own travel expenses.

The Youth Conference is tied in with another great opportunity for young people in our state--to compete to become one of Idaho's two Youth Ambassadors. The Youth Ambassador Program (YAP) has replaced the Miss Deaf America pageant at both the local and national level; while the pageant was never a beauty contest as such, YAP shifts the focus from talent and evening gowns to leadership, community service and business suits and opens the competition to both women and men ages 18-30, married or single, who can commit to

representing Idaho's Deaf community--one man and one woman will be chosen to go to the 2016 NAD convention in Phoenix, Arizona to compete for the national Youth Ambassador positions. However, youth are welcome to participate in the Youth Conference without entering the competition!

If your young adult is interested in the YAP, have them contact the IAD as soon as possible to learn more about what they need to be doing now. The Youth Directors are Alan Wilding (wildingbiz@gmail.com) and Darcy Sinsley (missdeafidaho@gmail.com).

The IAD also hopes to at some point get Jr. NAD chapters up and running around the state. These give teens an opportunity to work together and learn leadership skills; Idaho has not had a Jr. NAD for the past 20 years.

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And Just for Fun... There's a home video made by a cochlear implant user about the trials and tribulations of the device. One of our kids found it hilarious! Go to <https://youtu.be/DujSeNPHB48>.

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Candice Lindow-Davies, the President of the Hands & Voices Headquarters board is traveling to China later this month as part of a US team sharing strategies on how to foster language development in children who are deaf or hard of hearing. She has started a blog, in which she recently shared this interesting quote from an article about cochlear implant services in China:

The dragon is an imaginary and mysterious creature that ancient Chinese people feared and worshiped. It is said that the dragon senses sound through its horns because it does not have ears. Chinese people often call themselves descendants of the dragon. Interestingly, the Mandarin Chinese pronunciation for 'Deaf' and 'Dragon' are the same. Written in Chinese, deaf [聾] is composed of two Chinese characters [龍], which mean a dragon, and [耳], an ear. These similarities in the dragon's mythical anatomy, verbal pronunciation, and written character culturally connect the Dragon with people who are deaf in China...In Chinese culture, the dragon is a symbol of power, strength, and good luck.

--Qi Liang and Brendan Mason, "Enter the Dragon", article March 14, 2013

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Be a "Wavelengths" contributor! We're always looking for help with this newsletter. Share your stories and let us know about upcoming events, good books you've read, and resources you can share with other families. Send material to Lorna Irwin, niwri2@msn.com, or (208)324-7544. If you've a great idea for an article, or something about which you'd like to know more, let her know about it.