

409 Chestnut St.
Mountain Home, ID 83647

TO SUPPORTERS OF THE WESTERN ELMORE COUNTY AQUATIC CENTER

Subject: New swimming pool for Mountain Home and Elmore County

I am looking forward to the completion of the new swimming pool and will be using it for my much needed physical therapy.

Long ago, September 20, 1952 to be exact and far away Central City, Nebraska, where I lived, there was a terrible epidemic of polio across the land and I became a victim. I was paralyzed from my waist down and in my spinal cord. At this time I was 15 years old, weeks away from my 16th birthday and junior in high school. I held a part time job working in the bakery, had a steady boyfriend who I thought the world of and life was good-really good. Then life suddenly changed — I was paralyzed.

The worse night of my life was when my boyfriend, Donnie, was crowned football king and I could not be there. I was flat on my back in the hospital in Grand Island, Nebraska. The Salk vaccine came out in 1953, (alas too late for me).

Over the years I fought the good fight against the crippling effects of polio. While I gained a lot of mobility back, my recovery was not complete. To this day, I am still fighting the effects of having polio especially in my legs where I suffer from severe muscle loss.

There is no better exercise for me than in water, where I have better mobility and can exercise freely. Yes, I am looking so forward to our new pool that will provide this freedom for me.

Thank you,

I. Joyce Allgood