



IDAHO WEEKLY BRIEFING

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- Idaho joins yogurt project
- Canyon County building deal
- Fed salmon progress report
- New Westinghouse role at INL
 - Player or tap dancer?



Idaho Weekly Briefing

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In this issue

Business developments seemed to take center stage last week in Idaho, not because any one of them was especially earthshaking, but because they add up to a number of significant developments.

The buyout by local executives of Western Electronics at Meridian may have been the most significant, pointing a direction toward more local control rather than sales to national operations (a mini-trend in Idaho in recent years, as witness to some extent or another the developments at Boise Cascade, Albertsons and Clearwater).

The new involvement of Westinghouse at the Idaho National Laboratory and Idaho's participation in the national yogurt project are not small items either.

Cover picture

WESTINGHOUSE AT INL: Westinghouse Electric Company LLC has joined Idaho National Laboratory's Advanced Test Reactor National Scientific User Facility (ATR NSUF) as its newest partner facility. The company treads new ground as the first industrial organization to join the ranks of ATR NSUF partners. Shown here: The Westinghouse Hot Cell Lab. (photo/Idaho National Laboratory)

Player or tap dancer?



Raul Labrador, Idaho's first district Republican member of Congress, has been giving some good television. After going mano-a-mano on Meet the Press (July 7) with the New York Times' David Brooks, on July 10 he got into it with a whole panel on MSNBC's WOW.

Topic A being, of course, immigration, on which Labrador has been a significant national figure almost since he arrived in Congress: A Latino Republican with actual expertise in the field.

On WOW, Labrador shot back, "If you want to have a debate on the discussion, we can do that. I actually have my own mind. I was an immigration lawyer for 15 years. I think I know more than you do about immigration and on immigration reform. So let's not try to insult people when trying to have an honest discussion about what's happening in America."

Labrador does in fact have expertise on immigration law. Discerning exactly what he proposes to do about it, however, is trickier.

He has said, "I hope we're going to get a bill. I think immigration reform is necessary." The main immigration measure in Congress now is the bill recently passed the Senate (opposed by both of Idaho's senators); Labrador said he opposes that bill, partly because it would provide legal status for 11 million people not legally in the country, and that it was inadequate on providing security. The bill, House Republican leadership has said, is DOA in that chamber.

In the House, Labrador was for a time part of a Group of Eight (not to be confused with the Senate's Group) working on a bill there, but in early June he very publicly quit it, citing disagreements over how health care for immigrants would be paid for. He said he would continue to work on the issue.

Blame (or credit) for failure to get a bill passed, he has said, should be placed at the doorstep of the Democrats, not the Republicans. He also said, last weekend on "Meet the Press," that "If we don't do it right, politically it's going to be the death of the Republican Party,"

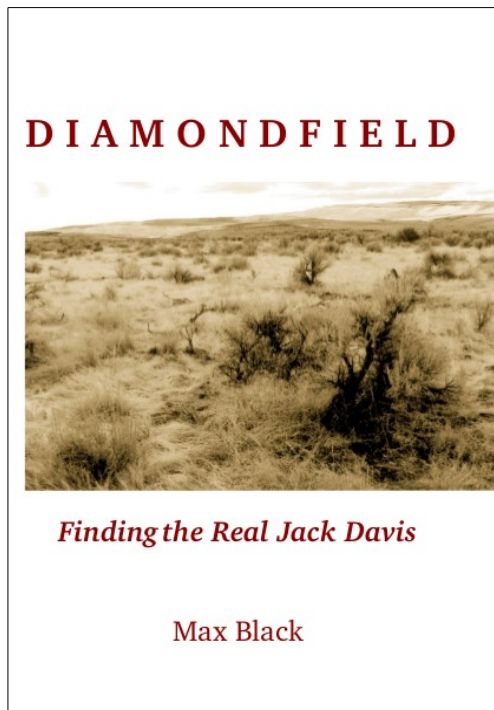
If all this leaves a little uncertainty about exactly what he would support, here's his statement on "immigration" from his House web site: "... our top priority needs to be to first secure our nation's borders and start enforcing the immigration laws already enacted. To do so we must give our law enforcement officials the resources they need to enforce the laws on the books and secure our

borders. I also believe that undocumented immigrants must return to their country of origin and then reapply to legally come to the United States. Finally, I believe that we need a guest worker program that actually works because guest workers play an important role in the American economy and more specifically in the state of Idaho. This guest worker program will not include a pathway to citizenship or amnesty.”

But ... Some of that is vague (what are the resources, exactly, law enforcement needs?) and some of it consists of arguments in the debate already shot down politically. The part on immigrants who “return to their country of origin” sounds good, but also about the same as Mitt Romney's widely mocked “self-deportation” from last year. What a “guest worker program that actually works” would mean specifically is anyone's guess, but support for a “pathway to citizenship” seems to have enough political support now as to be nearly impossible to dislodge.

(And yet, the conservative blog RightWingNews has called him “a little squishy on illegal immigration.”)

For all his televised talking head appearances: Is Labrador a player on immigration, or a tap dancer?



These days most written works of history – those at least going back more than just a few decades – mostly are reliant on the written record. Writers go back over what's been written about the subject before, consult material from the times, original documents and first-person accounts where they're available.

But mostly, writing history that runs back beyond living memory involves going through the paperwork and, if the writer is very lucky, finding some new paperwork no one has seen before, or maybe finding a new interpretation of it.

In writing [the new book *Diamondfield*](#) about the life and tribulations of 'Diamondfield' Jack Davis, Max Black has gone through the written record, and found both new interpretations and masses of new records that no one –

neither of the two previous authors who wrote at book length about Davis' murder trial and legal case – has examined before, not since the 19th century at least. That alone is reason enough for a re-examination of the case.

But Black also did something more remarkable.

He tracked down the location – information never positively determined for more than a century, and thought to be lost – where the murders in question took place. He found in the ground there one of the bullets involved in that shooting, a bullet that an expert concluded had been there for more than a century. And he found a gun that was involved. And quite a bit more long thought to be lost and irretrievable.

This is a remarkable piece of detective work, more than reason enough why I'm pleased to be publishing this book.

The Diamondfield Jack case may be unfamiliar to you if you're not an aficionado of the Old West, but anyone interested in the time and place will pick it up immediately. The context was the great cattle and sheep conflict (between opposing ranchers, not the animals) around the 1880s in south-central Idaho. (There were other similar conflicts, range wars really, in Wyoming and elsewhere.) The shootings of two sheep herders was the trigger for the case; Jack Davis was a gunman employed by the cattle interests, and accused of the killings. The two men were in fact killed by cattle workers, but not by Davis, and the Davis murder case dragged on for years, even years after two other men had themselves confessed to the killing. Davis came within minutes of being hanged, before eventually receiving a pardon. He left Idaho, and went on to a remarkable life in Nevada and elsewhere around the West.

The story long has been poorly understood, and the reasons for it tell a lot about early Idaho and how it developed as it did. Black, after putting together more of the pieces than anyone had before, lays it all out in clear fashion.

Max Black doesn't come to this by professional circuits. A long-time Boisean, he served in the Idaho Legislature for a couple of decades, and in his private life worked in insurance. But he brought to his search for the facts an unusual determination, and that was enough to unearth what no one had before.

What he's come up with here is a book worth reading for what it says about Idaho, for what it says about the Old West, for what it says about one of the country's most notorious murder cases, and what it says about what determination in search of the facts and the truth really can do.

For more about the book, and to order it, go to <http://www.ridenbaugh.com/index.php/ridenbaugh-book-store/diamondfield/>.



Politics

■ Top-ballot campaigns of 2014

Tracking progress in the election cycle.

Campaign finance reports, filed on a quarterly basis, should be available soon for the second quarter of the year for congressional candidates (notably, the incumbents). Some may appear in next week's edition.

U.S. Senate

R Incumbent **James Risch**.
No substantial opposition seems to have surfaced, though Michael Chadwick has filed papers for running in the Republican primary with the FEC.
Like fellow Senator Mike Crapo, Risch voted no on the immigration reform bill last week..
Risch: raised \$50,400; spent \$23,170; on hand \$259,523.

D None yet.

U.S. House 1

R Incumbent **Raul Labrador**.
Talk continues running back and forth about whether he may run for governor.
Last week he was a vote opposing the House farm bill.
Labrador: \$22,120; spent \$37,158; on hand \$235,433.

D None yet.

U.S. House 2

R Incumbent **Mike Simpson**.
The primary here became an actual contest with the entry of Idaho Falls attorney Bryan Smith. Reports surfaced (July 11 in the Idaho Statesman) that the big-money national Club for Growth group, which earlier had targeted Simpson for defeat, was prepared to help finance Smith's campaign.

On July 10, Simpson issued a campaign release saying he had "one of his most successful fundraising quarters ever. Simpson raised over \$300,000 this quarter alone - the largest amount raised since his first election and he has nearly \$350,000 in the bank."

Simpson: raised \$86,850; spent \$81,513; on hand \$71,826.

Governor	D	None yet.
	R	Incumbent C.L. “Butch” Otter ; has indicated he will run, but he has not yet made a final formal announcement. Other prospects include Lieutenant Governor Brad Little (but only if Otter does not run), U.S. Representative Raul Labrador and Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna.
	D	None yet, at least not solidly. Boise School Board President A.J. Balukoff was mentioned as a possible Democratic contender on July 9 by political columnist Chris Carlson. Balukoff told the IdahoEdNews site later that day, “I have been flattered that some folks have been suggesting that I run for governor, and because education is so important to me I am taking those suggestions seriously, but it is premature talk about my actually running for the office. I will continue to talk with people I trust and respect as I consider whether to run for governor.”
Lieutenant Governor	R	Incumbent Brad Little . Could be a candidate for governor in 2014.
	D	None yet.
Secretary of State	R	Incumbent Ben Ysursa . Some speculation has arisen that Ysursa may decide not to run again in 2014. Ysursa has indicated he will not make an announcement until the end of this year.
	D	None yet.
Controller	R	Incumbent Brandon Woolf (appointed, not yet elected). Expected to seek election in 2014, but he has never appeared on a ballot before.
	D	None yet.
Attorney General	R	Incumbent Lawrence Wasden .
	D	None yet.
Superintendent of Public Instruction	R	Incumbent Tom Luna . Sometimes mentioned as a prospect for governor as well as for re-election, Luna has not yet indicated his plans for 2014.
	D	None yet, though some names are bandied about.

Democratic caucuses on the road

The Idaho Democratic Party said July 9 it will hold a series of “traveling caucuses” around the state through July, to discuss legislative and other policy and work with prospective candidates.

The regional events will be sponsored by the Idaho Democratic Women’s Caucus and the IDP.

■ Moscow at 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., Friday, July 12; Rm. 103 at the U of I Menard Law Bldg.

■ Coeur d’Alene. 1-5 p.m., July 13; the Union Hall on 1124 Sherman Blvd.

■ Plummer, 1-5 p.m., July 14; Wellness Center on 1115 A Street.

■ Lewiston, 5-6 p.m., July 15; Labor Hall on 1618 Idaho St.

■ Twin Falls, 5-6 p.m., July 17; IBEW office on 1525 Addison Ave E Ste. C12.

■ Hailey, 5-9 p.m., July 18; Community Campus on 1050 Fox Acres Rd.

■ Idaho Falls, 5-6 p.m., July 19; County Commission Office; 605 N Capital Ave #102

■ Pocatello, 1:30-5:30 p.m., July 20; BCD Office on 355 Yellowstone Ave.

■ Boise, Time TBA, July 27; Ada City Library-Victory Branch on 10664 Victory Rd.



WATER RULE CONCERNS Oregon Representative Greg Walden (second from right) and Idaho Representative Mike Simpson (right) meet with FDA officials to share fruit and vegetable growers' concerns about new water quality rules. At left is Mike Taylor, Deputy Commissioner for Foods and Veterinary Medicine. (photo/Office of Representative Simpson)

Westinghouse named industry partner at reactor site

Westinghouse Electric Company LLC has joined **Idaho National Laboratory's** Advanced Test Reactor National Scientific User Facility [as its newest partner facility](#). The company is the first industrial organization to join the ranks of ATR NSUF partners. The addition of Westinghouse, a leading supplier of nuclear plant products and technologies, provides ATR NSUF researchers access to an even wider variety of capabilities for nuclear materials and fuels research.

As an ATR NSUF partner, Westinghouse is offering its Materials Center of Excellence Laboratories Hot Cell Facility and accompanying laboratories to provide experimental support to ATR-related nuclear energy materials research programs. The Westinghouse facilities in Churchill, Pennsylvania, are housed in four cells that provide

a broad range of testing, evaluation and characterization capabilities for both unirradiated and irradiated materials. In-place capabilities include the ability to test under a variety of environments, an extensive mechanical testing laboratory, a specialized corrosion and stress corrosion cracking lab, and materials microstructure and chemical characterization instruments. Specialized facilities are also available to measure the radioactivity properties of materials under investigation as well as neutron and gamma sources facilities, which can be employed to assess materials' response to in-situ radiation.

“Becoming an ATR NSUF partner facility provides a win-win situation for the interactions of INL ATR basic research programs with our industry-driven initiatives,” said **Jim Brennan**, vice president, Westinghouse Engineering Services. “We believe that opening our facilities to the nation's scientific investigators will facilitate more effective technical information exchanges between the DOE nuclear energy and university programs and the interests of the commercial nuclear power generating industry.”

Westinghouse learned about INL and ATR NSUF through collaborative subcontract research. The request to become an ATR NSUF partner facility to share capabilities and expertise with ATR NSUF experimenters is a testament to the value seen by Westinghouse in the unique research that the ATR NSUF facilitates.

Feds release salmon progress report

Federal agencies and their partners [outlined in a report issued on July 11](#), five years of accomplishments in improvements to hydrosystem operations and facilities, habitat rehabilitation and hatchery reforms to protect and benefit Columbia and Snake river fish.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bonneville Power Administration – collectively known as the Federal Action Agencies – have released the 2013 draft Comprehensive Evaluation that assesses biological results under the first five years of the 2008/2010 Biological Opinion developed by NOAA Fisheries. Work under this BiOp is the largest effort of its kind ever undertaken in the Columbia River Basin.

The draft report, which is open to a 30-day public comment period, shows wild, or natural origin, salmon and steelhead returned to the Columbia and Snake rivers and tributaries and spawned in greater numbers since the first Endangered Species Act listings.



“The draft Comprehensive Evaluation shows the strides we’ve made to bring more fish back to the river,” said **Lorri Bodi**, vice president for BPA’s Environment, Fish and Wildlife.

Halfway through the 10-year term of the BiOp, the Action Agencies and their partners have already met or exceeded the tributary habitat goals for more than half the salmon and steelhead populations. These fish have quickly returned to re-opened habitat, spawning in greater numbers in restored reaches and increasing in abundance.

Performance testing of juvenile fish passage at the mainstem dams along the lower Columbia and Snake rivers indicate that all projects are on track to meet the BiOp performance standards of 96 percent survival for spring migrating fish and 93% survival for summer migrants. Part of this success is due to more efficient spill enabled by surface passages systems, such as spillway weirs, that allow fish to move past the dams near the water’s surface where they naturally migrate.

★ **SIGNIFICANCE** In perspective: Just how well the salmon are doing is a matter of widely ranging opinion. Opinions with differing points of view are likely to emerge before long.

Operations at INL

The following is a summary of contractor operations at the Idaho National Laboratory, managed by DOE- Idaho Operations Office. It has been compiled in response to a request from stakeholders for more information on health, safety, and environmental incidents at DOE facilities in Idaho.

Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project

June 27: The Idaho Treatment Group discovered that the 10,000 lb. weight capacity of a forklift had been exceeded while transporting a Low Level Waste (LLW) box containing shredder debris and a large metal object not able to be processed in the Treatment Facility.

All LLW box retrieval, processing and transport operations from the Treatment Facility were suspended.

July 1: The Idaho Treatment Group discovered that a diesel fueling system three-way valve did not meet the design feature of the system. The design feature of the three-way valve is to ensure that fuel flow can only exist between either the storage tank and the volume-limiting tank or the volume limiting tank and the fuel dispenser nozzle. The valve could be placed in a position which would allow fuel flow to go directly from the storage tank to the fuel dispensing nozzle thereby bypassing the volume-limiting tank. The diesel fueling system has been placed out of service until the proper valve can be installed. [EM-ID—ITG-AMWTF-2013-0014]

Notable Accomplishments: Eight of eight planned shipments of contact-handled transuranic waste and two of two planned shipments of remote-handled TRU waste were made to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant for the week ending June 29, 2013. Six of six planned shipments of contact-handled transuranic waste and one of one planned shipments of remote-handled TRU waste were made to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant for the week ending July 6, 2013.

Idaho Cleanup Project

June 11: CH2M-WG, Idaho discovered that a cover had been removed from an electrical control panel containing 480 volt power without a Lockout/Tagout being in place. The LOTO ensures that workers are not potentially exposed to hazardous electrical energy.

Upon the discovery, the panel was closed and management was notified. A fact finding meeting was held to establish the facts associated with the event. The fact finding meeting confirmed this was a failure to use the LOTO process as required. Subsequent to the fact finding, a zero energy check confirmed that employees were not exposed to hazardous energy. [EM-ID-CWILANDLORD-2013-0002]

June 22: A CWI employee experienced a possible shock while turning on a light switch. The area containing the light switch was roped off and meter checks were performed on the switch, the door, and other components to identify any stray electrical potentials and grounds.

No stray potentials were identified, CWI continues to investigate to try and determine the source of the possible electrical shock. [EM-ID-CWI-LANDLORD-2013-0003]

June 25: An energized power cord was damaged during an equipment installation. The equipment required the use of wheeled electrical powered lift table. As the equipment was being moved into position via the table, an employee noticed that one of the table wheels had contacted the energized power cord. The work was stopped to clear the power cord; the removal of the power cord from underneath the table damaged the power cord causing a small electrical arc tripping the ground fault circuit breaker. The lift table has been placed out of service.

Notable Accomplishments: Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter and U.S. Department of Energy announced that a critically important cleanup project will be resuming at the Idaho Site. The project involves the "legacy" radioactive and hazardous waste generated during Cold War weapons production in the 1950s and 1960s that was buried at the Subsurface Disposal Area. The Department of Energy informed the State last fall that budget restrictions would curtail the cleanup work. In late May, the Department of Energy directed its cleanup contractor to use cost savings to resume the exhumation of buried waste. The CWI expects to hire as many as 50 employees to restart cleanup operations by late summer or early fall.

Idaho National Laboratory

June 13: During a calibration check, it was determined that the east N-16 tube, used to measure reactor levels, had released some of its contents. The tube will be replaced during the next routine reactor outage scheduled to begin July 13. [NE-ID—BEA-ATR-2013-0022]

Notable Accomplishments: Westinghouse Electric Company LLC has joined Idaho National Laboratory's Advanced Test Reactor National Scientific User Facility as its newest partner facility. The company treads new ground as the first industrial organization to join the ranks of ATR NSUF partners. The addition of Westinghouse, a leading supplier of nuclear plant products and technologies, provides ATR NSUF researchers access to an even wider variety of capabilities for nuclear materials and fuels research.

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experimental support to ATR-related nuclear energy materials research programs. The Westinghouse facilities in Churchill, Pa., are housed in four cells that provide a broad range of testing, evaluation, and characterization capabilities for both unirradiated and irradiated materials. In-place capabilities include the ability to test under a variety of environments, an extensive mechanical testing laboratory, a specialized corrosion and stress corrosion cracking lab, and materials microstructure and chemical characterization instruments.

The file

SENATORS PROPOSE SHELIVING OBAMACARE Senators **Mike Crapo** and **Jim Risch** [asked for a full delay of all components](#) of the Affordable Health Care Act (Obamacare). They said Congress was not consulted on the decision to delay the employer mandate provisions in the legislation announced last week. As such, they say the entire law should be shelved in order to avoid the economic harm it will cause to American families. The letter is being led by the Senate Republican Conference Chair John Thune (R-South Dakota).

“The administration is beginning to acknowledge how problematic the health care law is going to be, but I have serious concerns that the administration has overstepped its authority to waive portions of the law without the consent of Congress,” Crapo said. “While a delay of the employer mandate is good news for business owners, individuals still need a reprieve from this train wreck. As more and more is discovered, the more unpopular Obamacare becomes. The administration should realize this, offer a permanent delay and work with Congress to enact reforms that will lower costs and increase access to health care.”

★ **SIGNIFICANCE** The senators' opposition to the Affordable Care Act has been long standing.

SIMPSON ON NAVIGABLE WATERS AMENDMENT The FY 2014 Energy and Water Appropriations bill is [currently under consideration](#) by the U.S. House of Representatives. Many amendments are being offered, including Amendment #1 by Representative James Moran (D-VA). This amendment would alter the language in the bill that protects the authority of states by preventing the Army Corps of Engineers from expanding its regulation to include intrastate bodies of water under the Clean Water Act for any reason other than drinking water uses. Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson spoke on the House Floor against the amendment and encouraged colleagues to vote against it. While the entire bill is still under consideration, the amendment was defeated with a final vote of 177-236.

New oil/gas commission members named

Governor **C.L. “Butch” Otter** announced the appointments July 10 of [members to the reconstructed Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission](#). The panel is responsible for regulating the exploration, drilling and production of oil and gas resources on private, state and federal land in Idaho.

Earlier this year, the Legislature approved and the Governor signed a bill replacing the existing commissioners – the same five constitutional officers who serve as State Board of Land Commissioners – with five members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Idaho Senate. The commission members are experts in oil and gas, geology and water, as well as two landowner representatives – one who owns mineral rights and one who owns land without mineral rights.

The **Department of Lands** will continue to be the administrative agency responsible for supporting the commission’s work and implementing rules and statutes related to oil and gas exploration and production.

The appointed commission members are:

■ **James Classen**, Boise, representing geological interests, to a four-year term – Classen has more than 50 years of professional experience as a petroleum exploration geologist, geological engineer, and manager.

■ **Ken Smith**, Boise, for oil and gas interests, to a four-year term – He is a retired certified public accountant who was chief financial officer for oil and gas companies in Oklahoma, Texas and Idaho, and was executive vice president, chief operations officer, and chief technical officer for Petroglyph Energy in Idaho. He has several active memberships in industry associations.

■ **Margaret (Marg) Chipman**, Weiser, for landowners with mineral rights, to a three-year term – She owns a cattle feeding and ranching business in western Idaho’s Washington County. She is a 20-year member of her local school board and has been actively involved in her community for decades. In the past two years she has helped facilitate town hall meetings in Weiser with oil and gas industry representatives and state officials.

■ **Chris Beck**, Hayden Lake, for water interests, to a two-year term – Beck is the mayor of Hayden Lake and has been involved extensively in public service since the mid-1990s. He is a registered professional engineer in Idaho and Washington with more than 30 years of experience as a geotechnical engineer.

■ **Sid Cellan**, Soda Springs, for landowners without mineral rights, to a one-year term – He is owner and operator of Cellan Farms in Soda Springs and has worked for the Caribou County Road and Bridge Department and the City of Soda Springs.

★ **SIGNIFICANCE** The commission may be asked to do a good deal of work soon. A July 13 article in the Idaho Statesman notes that “Drilling on two petroleum wells north of New Plymouth is expected to begin 'any day'.” Permit applications are running through the process toward connecting that area via pipeline with a nearby natural gas plant, and drilling permits were granted in June to Alta Mesa Services. A note about Alta Mesa Services, LP, [from the Environmental Protection Agency](#) (September 2012): “The Environmental Protection Agency has fined Alta Mesa Services, L.P., of Houston, Texas, \$29,400 for violating federal Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) regulations at two of its oil production facilities in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana. A May 1, 2012, federal inspection at the facilities found numerous violations including: failure to adequately conduct and document facility inspections, failure to provide the locations for spare sump pumps and to provide annual pressure test data to demonstrate compliance with SPCC regulations. The inspections also revealed inadequate documentation of SPCC training and failure to describe the method of activation or control of surface and subsurface well shut-in valves and devices at the facilities.”

■ State Regulation

Published rules appear in <http://adminrules.idaho.gov/bulletin/2013/07.pdf>.

Canyon County makes deal on new building

The **Canyon County Board of Commissioners** have agreed to [a \\$6.5 million contract with Engineered Structures, Inc.](#) for the design-build of a new Canyon County Administration Building on the northwest corner of 11th Avenue and Albany Street in Caldwell.

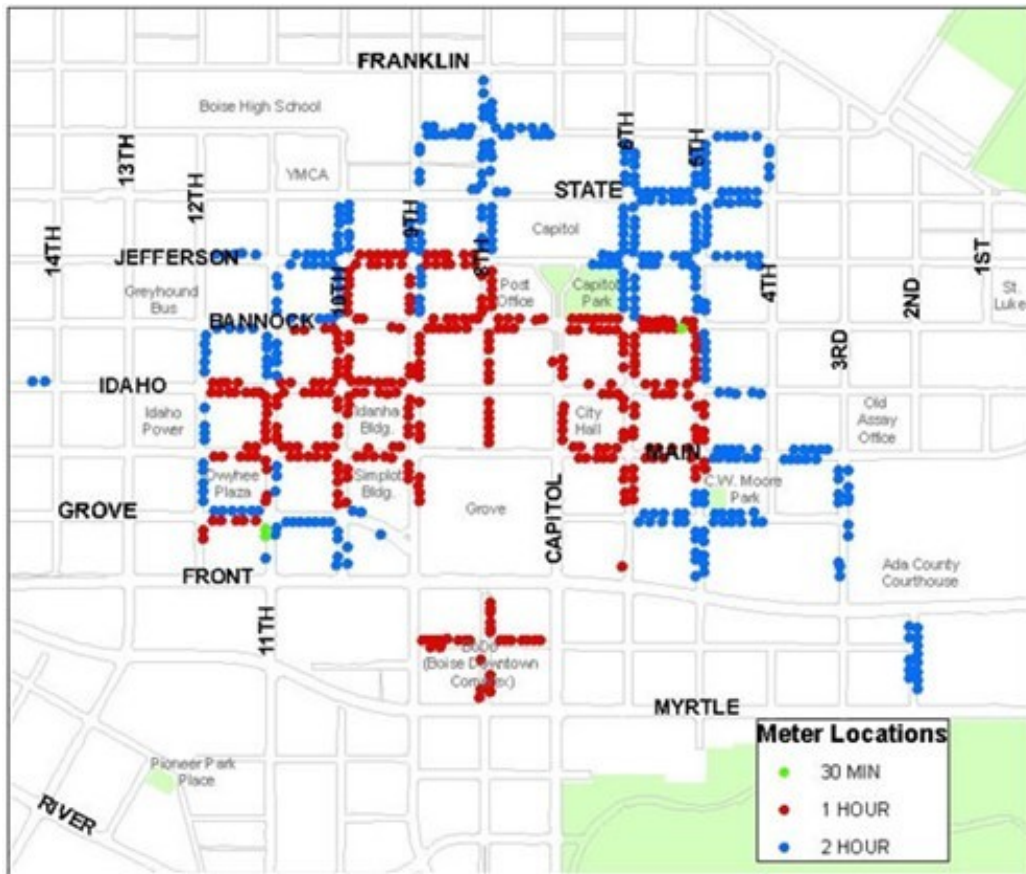
The Canyon County Board of Commissioners have agreed to a \$6.5 million contract with [Engineered Structures, Inc.](#) for the design-build of a new Canyon County Administration Building on the northwest corner of 11th Avenue and Albany Street in Caldwell. The three-story Administration Building will be approximately 50,000 square feet and will house the Assessor's Office, Clerk's Office, Treasurer's Office, Development Services Department, Indigent Services Department and Public Defender once it's completed in spring 2014.

Engineered Structures, Inc. was selected for the design-build project following a competitive bidding process that included proposals from 13 different companies. The project is financed through a separate agreement with the Caldwell Urban Renewal Agency and will not increase property taxes for residents of Canyon County.

"We're excited to be moving forward on this much-needed project," said Commissioner **Steve Rule**. "It will definitely ease some of the spacing issues we've been dealing with over the past decade and make it easier for our citizens to get the services they need in a timely fashion."

The groundbreaking ceremony for the Canyon County Administration Building is planned for September, with construction expected to be completed by May 2014.





Boise considers major parking fee increase

The city of **Boise** is considering a large-scale increase on its rates for downtown parking, and fines for violators.

About 200 “smart” meters, computer-controlled and capable of reading cards, were set up in the downtown area this summer, and more are expected. They have been set to collect \$1 per hour.

The proposed change would increase that to \$1.50 for the first hour and \$3 for a second hour.

The *Boise Weekly* [reported on July 11](#) that, “As for charging Saturday visitors to park on city streets, officials at Finance and Administration are asking the Boise City Council to approve what they call an “Extended Hours of Enforcement Pilot” that would include 26 blocks in Boise’s inner core, bordered by Myrtle, Jefferson, Fifth and 10th streets. The pilot could run as short as six months or as long as a year before city officials measure its success and decide whether to make it permanent.”

★ **SIGNIFICANCE** The parking debate has been deeply divisive in Boise, as many downtown business people have expressed strong opposition to fee increases or space curtailment. In the current case, some have expressed concern about Saturday business conditions if parking meters are active on that day.

The file

IDAHO FALLS CLOSES FIRE STATION The city of **Idaho Falls** is shutting down a fire station – one of five in the state – because of budget pressures, the *Post Register* newspaper reported on July 13. Money had been sought from a reserve budget the city had on hand, but council members declined to tap it.

Council members indicated they will consider closing the station permanently.

JEROME PUTS UP MARKERS The city of **Jerome** has [installed a series of bright yellow tubes](#) between lanes on Lincoln Street, to guide traffic and keep it in proper lanes. The area had been the scene of a number of accidents.



Legal

\$400K to Idaho in drug settlement

Idaho has recovered nearly \$420,000 in a legal settlement with pharmaceutical manufacturer Ranbaxy, Attorney General **Lawrence Wasden** said July 8. Wasden's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit joined other states and the federal government in a \$500 million settlement with the Gorgon, India, based generic drug manufacturer. The settlement resolves civil and criminal allegations that Ranbaxy introduced adulterated drugs into interstate commerce, and, as a result, false or fraudulent claims were submitted to Idaho Medicaid.

The states and federal government alleged that Ranbaxy knowingly manufactured, distributed and sold generic pharmaceutical products whose strength, purity and/or quality fell below FDA standards. The products at issue consisted of 26 generic pharmaceutical products manufactured at its facilities in Aponte Sahib and Dews, India, at various times between April 1, 2003 and September 16, 2010.

Ranbaxy has agreed to pay the states and the federal government \$350 million in civil damages and penalties. \$266,729,715.10 of this amount will go to the Medicaid programs, which are funded jointly by the states and the federal government. The remaining \$83,270,284.86 is designated for other federal healthcare programs affected by Ranbaxy's conduct.

Idaho's share is \$419,914.45. Of that amount, \$209,957.22 is restitution, which will be returned to Idaho Medicaid. The additional recoveries and interest, totaling \$218,462.37, will go to Idaho's general fund. The general fund is the pool of money the legislature uses to fund the state's share of Idaho Medicaid as well as other programs.

Additionally, Ranbaxy USA, a subsidiary, pleaded guilty to seven felony counts alleging violations of the U.S. Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and has agreed to pay \$150 million in criminal fines and forfeitures.

■ Supreme Court decisions

Opinions from Idaho Supreme Court. Most recent opinion noted.

■ [***Richard Hehr and Greystone Village LLC v. McCall***](#) (July 11; Burdick).
“Appellants Richard Hehr and Greystone Villages appeal from the Valley County district court's grant of summary judgment in favor of Respondent City of McCall. Greystone's claims arose out of its development agreement with McCall. Greystone

alleges that it deeded nine lots to McCall in lieu of paying the required community housing fee, which was later declared unconstitutional in a separate proceeding. Greystone brought inverse condemnation claims against McCall alleging that the conveyance of the nine lots and the improvements made to those lots constituted an illegal taking under both the Idaho Constitution and the United States Constitution. McCall moved for summary judgment, which the district court granted and Greystone now appeals. We affirm the district court's grant of summary judgment. ”

■ ***In termination of parental rights, John Doe v. Idaho Department of Health & Welfare and Sue Walch*** (July 12; Warren Jones). “A biological father challenges a magistrate judge’s order “nonestablishing” his parental rights. On appeal, he contends that he was entitled to an evidentiary hearing at which to prove that he was a “parent” as defined by I.C. § 16-2002(11). ... Doe has not so much as alleged that he timely commenced paternity proceedings. Therefore, he was not entitled to an evidentiary hearing at which to establish his parenthood. Moreover, Doe has not shown that the waiver of an evidentiary hearing violated his due process rights. Therefore, the district court’s judgment is affirmed. ”



Economy



Western Electronics executives buy out firm

Western Electronics, an electronics manufacturing Services company providing manufacturing service solutions to original equipment manufacturers, reported on July 10 that it [has completed a management buyout of the ownership interest](#) held by the DBSI Liquidating Trust and certain other minority owners. The transaction was effective on June 30, 2013 and results in Western Electronics being owned 100% by the management team and board of directors of the Company.

“We are pleased that we were able to complete this transaction with the DBSI Liquidating Trust, and realign the ownership with the management of the Company”, said **Rob Subia**, President and CEO of Western Electronics. “This will eliminate the uncertainty that was associated with our prior ownership, and introduces Western Electronics to a new exciting chapter in our evolution”, said Subia.

DBSI, Inc. was a commercial real estate company which filed for bankruptcy protection in 2008. Its ownership interest in Western Electronics was transferred into the DBSI Liquidating Trust pursuant to a 2010 confirmed plan for the benefit of the DBSI Liquidating Trust beneficiaries. Western is based in Meridian but also has locations in Colorado.

Idaho joins yogurt project

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said July 8 that [Idaho will be a participant in the USDA Greek Yogurt Pilot Program](#) that members of the Idaho congressional delegation have been advocating to create. The USDA announced that four states will be participating in the program: Idaho, New York, Tennessee and Arizona.

“I commend the USDA for choosing to implement this pilot program for Greek yogurt in Idaho schools,” said Senator **Mike Crapo**. “Greek yogurt is one of the country’s fastest growing industries, and I hope USDA will continue the important process of making this healthy food option increasingly available to young Americans. Idaho, already a leading producer of milk and other yogurt-related ingredients, recently became home to the world’s largest Greek yogurt manufacturing plant in Twin Falls, which I recently had the opportunity to tour. Our state is ideal to serve as a part of this pilot project.”

On July 8, USDA opened a solicitation to vendors to supply the states’ orders. Bids are due on July 22 with awards to be announced by the end of July. If the program is found to be successful in these four states, it could become a permanent part of the foods that USDA offers to purchase for USDA Foods List for schools nationwide. USDA hopes the program will be in place for the 2013-2014 fall school year.

The file

IDAHO POWER RESETS RECORD For the second consecutive day, **Idaho Power Company** on July 1 [reached a new milestone](#) with a record overall peak-hour average system load. Continued triple-digit temperatures pushed demand up to 3,407 megawatts, five megawatts higher than Monday’s record mark. The following day did not set a record, as slightly lower temperatures and the beginning of a long holiday weekend tempered demand.

Idaho Power experiences its highest demand during the summer months, when air conditioners and irrigation pumps add to everyday electrical usage. Customer growth over the past year has added to that demand. The previous high mark was set July 12, 2012, at 3,245 MW.

SIMPLOT EXPANDS CRAVON The **J.R. Simplot Company** on July 11 announced that CravOn™, its “never fried” french fry, [will be available to consumers throughout](#) Albertsons Southern California Division grocery stores beginning in mid July. The division’s 192 stores push the total number of retailers carrying the four varieties of fries to more than 400 stores. CravOn meets the cravings of a healthier lifestyle and great potato taste.

CravOn’s revolutionary process eliminates the industry standard of flash-frying prior to freezing and packaging. Partially-cooked in a blanching process, the CravOn fries are tossed with olive oil and sea salt before being frozen. The five total natural ingredients, 50 percent less fat than regular fries, and delicious, crispy texture combine to provide the real, authentic potato taste consumers crave.

CravOn is available in two familiar varieties: Ripple Cut Fries and Steak Cut Fries; and two unique varieties: Diamond Cut and Anytime Diced Fries.



■ Stocks

Prices continued mostly upward last week. (*Google finance*) Up ▲ Down ▼

		Last week		Week before	One year ago
Micron Technology	MU	12.64	▼	14.14	6.72
Hewlett Packard	HPQ	26.22	▲	25.18	19.57
Idaho Power	IDA	50.86	▲	48.00	42.37
Clearwater Paper	CLW	49.84	▲	49.10	35.03
CenturyLink Inc.	CTL	36.19	▲	35.27	39.36
Boise Cascade Corp.	BCC	28.42	▲	25.52	-

■ Gas prices

Price of gasoline in Idaho headed downward from the prior week. Source: idahogasprices.com.

Gas prices	Last week	Week before
low	3.30 (Ponderay, Babe's)	3.54 (Coeur d'Alene, Fightin Crk)
high	3.76 (Hailey, Sinclair)	4.14 (McCall, Sinclair)



Environment



FRAISER FIRE Investigators have determined the 266 acre Fraiser Fire was most likely caused by a discarded burning cigarette. They are seeking help in gathering information related to the person responsible. The fire was initially reported at 2:21 PM on July 7. The fire started on Highway 17 locally known as the Banks-Lowman Road between Garden Valley and Banks at Milepost 4.9. It has been determined that the fire started adjacent to the highway. (photo/Boise National Forest)

Wildfires continue but ease back

[From a National Interagency Fire Center report on July 1:](#) Long term drought across the West coupled with hot and dry weather in early July will nullify gains from recent precipitation and raise fire potential across portions of Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, and Northern California.

Idaho	Fires: 2	Acres: 1,418	New: 0	Contained: 0
Papoose	Salmon-Challis NF	FS	1,130	N/A 40 miles west of Salmon
Pardee	Idaho Dept of Lands	ST	288	90 7 miles northwest of Kamiah

Pardee fire, Kamiah – A dozer operator died Monday afternoon on the Pardee Fire in the Idaho Department of Lands Maggie Creek Forest Protective District. **Dennis Long** of Clarkston died from an apparent heart attack or other natural cause while operating the dozer and putting in fire line during suppression operations. IDL staff notified Long’s wife and grown daughter in Clarkston Monday night. Long was in his 50s and was a private logging contractor.

The dozer boss performed CPR on Long before Life Flight and emergency medical services arrived on scene, where Long was pronounced dead.

The Pardee Fire started at 7:00 AM on July 8. It was caused by lightning. It is located between Greer and Kamiah on the east side of the Clearwater River, approximately 8 miles northwest of Kamiah in Idaho County.

Travel restrictions for endangered plant

To protect a rare plant, the **Bureau of Land Management** is proposing off-highway vehicle area travel designations for public lands next to Big Willow Creek located about 15 miles east of Payette. The travel designations will protect habitat for a plant, Packard’s milkvetch (*Astragalus cusickii* var. *packardiae*). The only place in the world where this rare plant is found is in a 10 square mile area in Payette County. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently designated the plant a Candidate Species for protection from extinction under the Endangered Species Act.

The BLM is proposing to amend the Cascade Resource Management Plan OHV designations affecting about 7,400 acres in the Big Willow area. The proposed travel designations identify areas that are “open” for motorized cross country travel, areas “closed” to motor vehicle use and areas where motorized vehicles are “limited” to designated trails.

The proposed area designation would change a 127-acre area to “open”. In this area, motorized use would be allowed both on and off of trails. The designation would close 5,620 acres to motorized use. In these areas, motorized vehicle use would not be allowed. Approximately 1,620 acres would remain designated as “limited”. In areas designated as limited, motorized vehicle use would be allowed only on designated trails. The area designations are scheduled to take effect by the fall of 2013.

Approximately 9 miles of trails would be designated for motorized use. Undesignated trails would be closed to motorized use. The BLM will fence the open area to delineate the boundary and mark designated trails.

A parking/staging area will be developed adjacent to Big Willow Road with information signs showing the OHV area designations.

BuRec plans major ground/surface water pump

The Bureau of Reclamation is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) on a proposed pump station that will replace ground water with surface water for the A&B Irrigation District and is requesting public comment to help identify issues to be addressed in the EA.

The project will make surface water available to about 1,495 acres currently irrigated with groundwater. The plan will also include 1,377 acres that were converted from groundwater in the early 1990s. The project will be funded in part from a \$4million grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service Agricultural Water Enhancement Program. The proposed pump station is a cost-share project that will be managed by the irrigation district. The grant was awarded under the Idaho Water Resource Board's AWEPP agreement with NRCS.

Plans call for constructing a pump station on the north bank of the Snake River about 7 miles west of Burley, Idaho; and a 12-mile pipeline to will deliver water north to the irrigation district lands. It is anticipated that the project will reduce the reliance on groundwater from the aquifer, while also improving irrigation efficiency.

Written comments will be accepted until August 12.

The file

FALL CHINOOK SEASON The **Fish and Game Commission** on July 11 [adopted Chinook salmon fishing seasons](#) on parts of the Snake, Clearwater and Salmon rivers to open September 1. The Clearwater River, from its mouth upstream to Memorial Bridge; and the Salmon River, from its mouth upstream about three-fourths of a mile to Eye of the Needle Rapids, will be open from September 1 until further notice or October 31, whichever comes first.

The Snake River, from the Washington-Idaho border upstream to Cliff Mountain Rapids, a little less than a mile downstream of Hells Canyon Dam, also will be open from September 1 until further notice or October 31.

The Snake River, from Cliff Mountain Rapids to Hells Canyon Dam, will be open from September 1 until further notice or November 17.

The daily bag limit is six adult Chinook salmon, the possession limit is 18 adult Chinook and there is no season limit on adult Chinook. Only adipose-fin-clipped salmon may be kept.

COMMENT SOUGHT ON AIR QUALITY PLAN The **Department of Environmental Quality** is [seeking public comment on three draft updates](#) to Idaho's air quality State Implementation Plan. The purpose of the updates is to certify that the state has the necessary legal authorities and programs in place to comply with certain requirements of the Clean Air Act. DEQ will accept comments through August 13.

■ Snowpack

The numbers are percentages. From the Natural Resources Conservation Service: “The Accumulated Precipitation Percent of Average represents the total precipitation (beginning October 1) found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day.”

Normal would be 100. Much higher can mean flooding; much lower, drought.

[From the Natural Resources Conservation Service.](#)

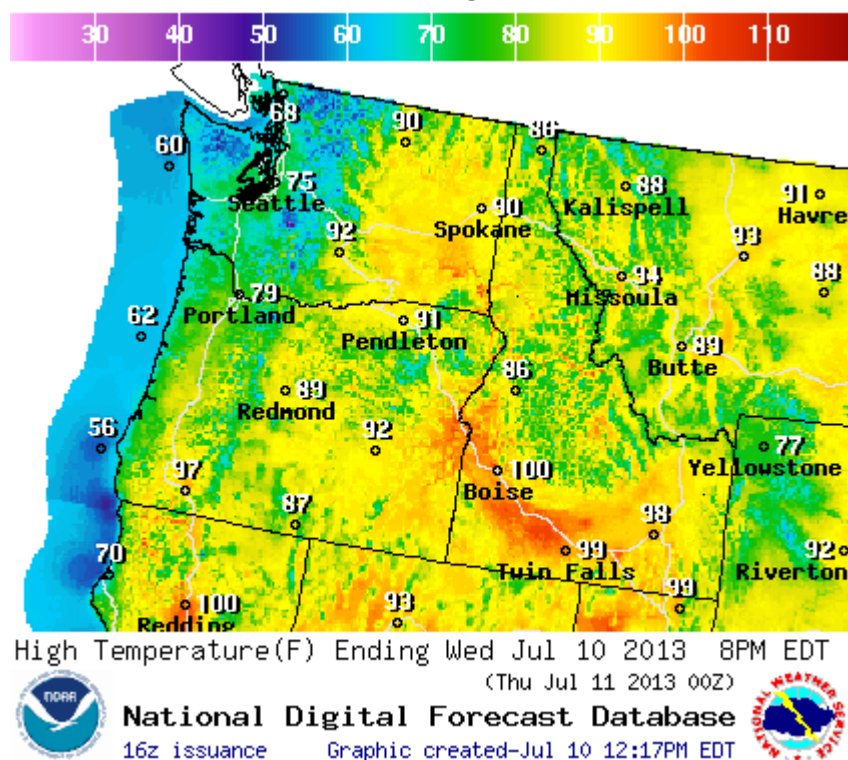
The percentage represents total precipitation (beginning October 1) at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to average value for those sites.

basin	Last week	Week before	1 year ago
Northern Panhandle	113	114	125
Spokane	102	102	114
Clearwater	98	98	110
Salmon	88	88	98
Weiser	93	93	104
Payette	89	89	99
Boise	79	79	105
Big Wood	81	82	101
Little Wood	79	80	104
Big Lost	80	80	103
Little Lost, Birch	82	81	94
Medicine Lodge, Beaver, Camas	76	77	88
Henry’s Fork, Teton	84	83	95
Snake above Palisades	84	82	88
Willow, Blackfoot, Portneuf	84	83	86
Snake above American Falls	84	82	90
Raft	87	85	94
Goose Creek	92	87	95
Salmon Falls	87	84	83
Bruneau	80	80	76
Owyhee	79	78	80

Bear River	80	78	74
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■ Weather

July started as a scorcher, but is moderating. From the [National Weather Service](#).



	Last week	Week before	One year ago
Boise	104/67 s	101/64 s	95/58 s
Idaho Falls	94/61 s	89/60 r	88/55 c
Pocatello	97/69 s	96/64 r	89/60 c
Coeur d'Alene	92/58 s	84/57 s	88/51 s
Lewiston	96/63 s	91/61 s	96/57 s
Twin Falls	99/70 s	95/65 s	89/60 c
Sun Valley/Ketchum	89/54 s	84/51 c	78/48 c

s- sunny; c - cloudy; r - rainy; p-snow



Health/Ed/Social

Some school negotiations take mediation route

[From a report on the IdahoEdNews.org site.](#)

Two of Idaho's largest school districts turned to outside mediators to help settle contract negotiations for 2013-14. On July 8, **Twin Falls School District** trustees and the **Twin Falls Education Association** each ratified master agreements. The two sides met with a mediator for one day on July 2, coming to terms.

In eastern Idaho, the **Bonneville Joint School District** and its teachers also called in a mediator. But they don't expect to return to the bargaining table until approximately August 20.

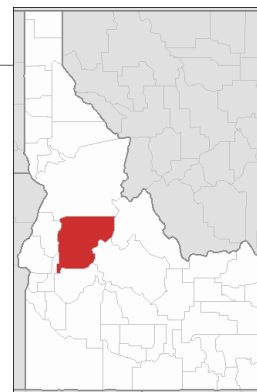
Although the new fiscal year began July 1, several large districts have yet to reach contract terms. Negotiations resume in the Nampa School District – the state's third largest – [on July 18](#). In a surprise announcement, officials in Meridian announced [negotiations will resume in late July](#), but talks will not address salary or benefits issues.

In Twin Falls, a deal was reached after the district agreed to two professional development days to prepare for Idaho Core Standards, and to pay for education credits and one year of experience pay that had been frozen on the salary table, human resources director **Beth Pendergrass** said. In return, teachers agreed to increase their insurance deductible by \$250 – up to \$1,000. There was no change in the number of contract days from 2012-13, Pendergrass said. Bonneville officials also hope mediation will break their logjam. Deputy Superintendent **Marjean McConnell** said changes to labor and bargaining laws over the previous three years played a role in extending negotiations.

Rabid bats in Valley County

In two incidents within the last week rabid bats have been found in Valley County. The incidents serve as a reminder that everyone should take precautions around bats and make sure their pets are adequately vaccinated against rabies.

The first incident occurred in broad daylight when a bat flew down and attached itself to the life jacket of an adult female rafting the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. She swatted at it and was bitten. Though the bat then fell into the river others on the raft retrieved it so it could be tested. The woman and the bat were flown to McCall where she was treated to prevent rabies. The bat was



sent to the State Laboratory where it tested positive for rabies. After receiving treatment, the woman flew back and rejoined the rest of her party on the river trip.

In the second incident a cat brought an injured bat into a Valley County home. The cat's owner captured the bat and took it to a veterinarian. The bat was sent to the State Laboratory where it tested positive for rabies. The cat had been vaccinated against rabies, but remains under observation by the veterinarian.

The file

NEW UI PRESIDENT HOUSE A report in the Moscow-Pullman *Daily News* on July 11 said that the **University of Idaho** is [considering building a new residence](#), at a cost of \$2 million, for the university president. Fundraising is being developed in part through the UI Foundation.

The current house, built for \$121,900, was built in 1967.

NEW ORIENTATION Knowing how to navigate challenging substance abuse and sexual assault situations is important to student success and safety, why the **University of Idaho** is launching "Think About It," a cutting-edge, comprehensive, online orientation program that educates and informs through a format that was created with students for students.

"Think About It" explores choices and examines the interconnected issues of dating and healthy relationships, drug and alcohol use and abuse while defining and discussing the crimes of sexual violence, dating violence and stalking. The interactive experience takes students through choices they may encounter, providing opportunities for decision-making before the fact. The course requires self-reflection and critical thinking, and is crafted through a social justice lens.

It will start this fall for all new, full-time University of Idaho undergraduates on the Moscow campus under the age of 24. Students will receive an email invitation to start the program the week of July 22. Students will be required to complete the three-hour online program before November 3.

WEST NILE IN CANYON The **Canyon County Mosquito Abatement Board** reported on July 9 that nine of the pesky insects captured for testing in the county were found to be carriers of the West Nile virus. Traps had been placed at various locations around the county.

In 2006, Idaho led the nation in instances of West Nile reports.



Culture/Comm/Trans



UI archeology digs into Kamiah internment camp

A part of Idaho history and Japanese heritage [is being unearthed this summer](#) outside Kooskia, and the University of Idaho has scheduled an event about it July 20 at Three Rivers Resort in Lowell.

Stacey Camp, University of Idaho assistant professor of anthropology, is leading an archaeological field study at Northern Idaho's **Kooskia Internment Camp**, a World War II Japanese Internment Camp.

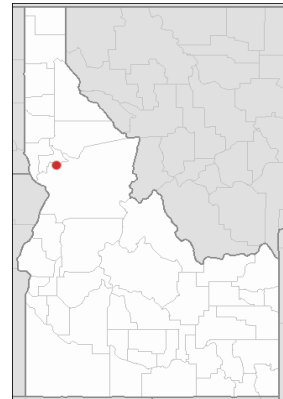
Camp and her team of faculty, graduate and undergraduate researchers are conducting archaeological research to better understand the personal lives and struggles of the internees at Kooskia. So far they have found a number of artifacts, including Japanese export porcelain, gaming pieces, and artwork.

Research at the Kooskia Internment Camp began in the summer of 2010. Camp and her team will be completing excavation and research from June 24 through July 22. On July 20, the unearthed history will be made available to the public.

Visitors will have the opportunity to attend an archaeological site visit and a show and tell of artifacts from the Kooskia Internment Camp.

Seen as enemies of the United States during World War II more than 120,000 individuals of Japanese heritage were forced to leave their homes and relocate to internment camps spread through the Western United States. The state of Idaho played a crucial role, being home to two internment camps, Kooskia and Minidoka.

Two hundred fifty six male Japanese internees occupied Kooskia Internment Camp between May 1943 and 1945. Built on the site of a former federal prison work camp, internees at Kooskia were tasked with completing the construction of Highway U.S. 12



connecting Idaho and Montana. Kooskia Interment Camp was the government's first attempt to use internees as a work force.



AFB HOUSING Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Alexander del Valle, 366th Fighter Wing command chief, signs his one-year lease agreement with Balfour Beatty Communities, LLC, July 11, 2013 at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho. BBC is slated to begin the privatization of MH military family housing Aug. 1, 2013. On-base residents who wish to remain on base must have their lease signed by Aug. 1. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alyssa C. Wallace)

Mountain Home AFB starts housing privatization

Balfour Beatty Communities, LLC, is slated to begin the privatization of **Mountain Home Air Force Base** military family housing August 1. BBC is responsible for the development, renovation, operation and management of military housing privatization projects for the Departments of the Air Force, Army and Navy.

Millions of dollars will go into MHAFB's developmental project, during which BBC is scheduled to demolish 371 homes, build 60 and renovate three. Other community enhancements including walking trails, sand volleyball courts, a soccer field and a community center complete with a business center, meeting rooms, and physical fitness, media and game areas.

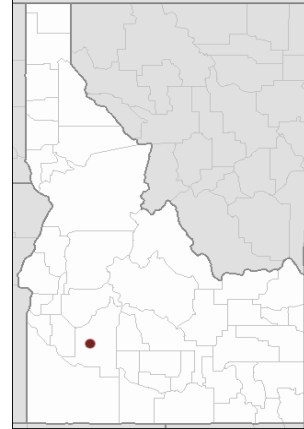
"Housing privatization is an initiative that began in the mid 1990s to ensure Airmen received upgraded housing during decreasing budgets," said PJ Brown, installation management flight chief. "The partnership between the government and the

privatization owner is a win-win. We are partners with BBC and will be jointly located in our housing office. You will see both government and BBC staff in the office, working side-by-side to ensure the residents receive the best customer service available.”

Before privatization begins, current on-base residents will be required to either sign a tenant lease agreement to live in privatized housing or move off base at the government's expense. Gunfighters who stay in base housing:

- Must sign a lease contract. Contract will include renter's insurance at no additional cost and a military clause.
- Will pay rent based on the basic allowance for housing for their rank minus 110 percent of the average cost of gas and electric for the type of unit they occupy. For military married to military, senior grade member's with dependent rate BAH will be used while the junior grade member will receive their full BAH. Utilities will be included within the initial rent amount.
- Must change special powers of attorney to state, "Privatized Housing".
- Will not be required to pay a security deposit, cut grass outside fenced areas or remove snow from sidewalks and driveways.

Those who wish to move off base must be cleared out of housing before Aug. 1.





People

[John Chapman](#), 67, a veteran attorney at Boise and a long-time state Democratic Party official, died July 8 at Boise. He was president of a number of charitable organizations, including the Boise United Way and the Boise Chapter of the American Red Cross.

[Cameron Daggett](#), 62, on July 9 retired as chief of the Sun Valley city police force. He had been on medical leave since January.

[Stan Kress](#), 69, former state senator, superintendent at the Cottonwood School District and political figure in Idaho, died on July 1 at American Falls. Kress, an educator professionally, was elected to the state Senate in 1974 and served one term. He ran for the U.S. House in 1976 and 1978, winning the Democratic nomination but losing to Republican incumbent George Hansen each time. Later, he became superintendent of the Cottonwood School District and was a leading participant in lawsuits seeking to increase state funding for public schools.

[Joshua Whitworth](#), executive director of the Idaho Republican Party has accepted a position with Idaho State Controller Brandon Woolf's office in Boise. Whitworth will make the transition in July.

[Trevor Thorpe](#), hired by Jonathan Parker, who served as the Idaho Republican Party Political Director for the past year and a half and State Victory Director during the 2010 election cycle, will be taking over duties as the Executive Director on July 8th.



Calendar

■ July

- 1 New state fiscal year begins.
 - Many new state laws take effect.
- 3 Administrative rules bulletin publishes.
- 4 Independence Day. State and federal holiday.
- 8 Last day for wording/resolution for school bond/levy, or recall.
- 9 Northwest Power & Conservation Council meeting. Seattle, WA.
- 10 Idaho Transportation Board meeting. Rigby.
 - Fish & Game Commission meeting. Pocatello.
- 16 State Land Board meeting. Boise.
 - Board of Examiners meeting. Boise.
 - Possible Snake River Basin Adjudication information meeting, status conference.
 - Lottery Commission meeting. Boise.
- 18 Idaho Water Resources Board meeting. Boise.
- 26 County Clerk to mail absentee ballots for the August 27 election.
 - Julyamsh Powwow and Coeur d'Alene Tribal Encampment. Post Falls.

■ August

- 3 County Clerk to mail ballots for the August 27 election to voters in designated Mail Ballot Precincts.
- 6 Northwest Power & Conservation Council meeting. Bend.
 - Legislative natural resources committee meeting.
- 7 Administrative rules bulletin publishes.
- 8 State Soil and Water Commission meeting.
- 9 Federal Lands Interim Committee meeting. Boise.
- 14 Idaho Transportation Board meeting. Shoshone.
 - Board of Education meeting. Pocatello/Idaho State University.
- 15 Public Defense Reform legislative panel meeting. Boise.
 - Charter School Commission meeting. Boise.
 - Endowment Fund Investment Board meeting. Boise.
- 19 Fish & Game Commission special meeting. Idaho Falls.
- 20 State Land Board meeting. Boise.
 - Board of Examiners meeting. Boise.
 - Possible Snake River Basin Adjudication information meeting,

- status conference.
- Legislative Indian Affairs panel meeting. Boise.
- 22 Idaho Capitol Commission meeting. Boise.
- 26 First day for candidates to file for city offices (election November 5).
- Fall classes begin, state colleges and universities.
- 27 Election day in some districts.
- BLM Idaho Falls Resource Advisory Committee meeting. Pocatello.

■ September

- 2 Labor Day. State and federal holiday.
- 4 Administrative rules bulletin publishes.
- 6 Last day for candidates to file for city election (November 5).
- Board of Medicine meeting. Boise.
- 10 Northwest Power & Conservation Council meeting. Coeur d'Alene.
- 12 K-12 Educational System Interim Committee meeting. Boise.
- Public Defense Reform legislative panel meeting. Boise.
- 16 Last day for county clerk to receive ballot language for November 5 election.
- 17 State Land Board meeting. Boise.
- Board of Examiners meeting. Boise.
 - Possible Snake River Basin Adjudication information meeting, status conference.
- 18 Idaho Transportation Board meeting. Coeur d'Alene.
- 20 Last day to ask Secretary of State to modify election procedure for November 5.

Raft River, I-86, MP 4, Elev 4,527 ft,
West View

Sat Jul 7 15:01:02 2012



2012: A view from an Idaho Transportation Department roadcam at Raft River, between American Falls and Rupert, on Interstate 84. (image/from Idaho Transportation Department)

A YEAR AGO

In the *Idaho Weekly Briefing*:

■ Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter on July 3 appointed State Controller **Donna Jones**’ chief deputy, **Brandon Woolf**, to [temporarily lead the Controller’s office](#) while Jones continues to recuperate from injuries sustained in a May 25 auto accident.

■ **Hoku Corporation**, a solar energy products and services company, in June said that [its board of directors has formed a five-member committee](#) to oversee and direct the Company’s efforts to restructure its liabilities. **Scott Paul**, an executive officer of Hoku Corporation since 2003, and the Company’s chief executive officer since 2010, will resign as CEO on June 30, and continue as a director and chairman of the newly formed restructuring committee.

■ Representative **Raúl Labrador** on July 3 joined Senator Jim DeMint (SC), Congresswoman Michele Bachman (MN-06), Congressman Jim Jordan (OH-04) and 11 other senators and fifty-nine of his colleagues in the House in sending a letter to all 50 governors [urging them not to set up state health exchanges](#), as directed under the provisions of the Affordable Health Care Act.

■ Regulators on July 3 approved a settlement that allows regulated telephone companies [more time to respond to outages and removes financial credits to customers](#) if response deadlines are not met. The settlement was approved by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission on a 2-1 vote, with Commissioners **Paul Kjellander** and **Mack Redford** voting in favor and **Marsha Smith** dissenting.

■ The **National Interagency Fire Center** last week began listing Idaho [among the western states](#) (Washington and Oregon are not yet included, though Montana, Utah and Nevada are) with active wildfires.

■ Senators Daniel K. Akaka (D-Hawaii), John Boozman (R-Arkansas), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-Rhode Island), and **Mike Crapo** recently [introduced the Dam Safety Act of 2012](#). The bill will extend funding authorization for the National Dam Safety Program, which provides grants to improve state dam safety programs through training, technical assistance, inspection, and research.

■ **University of Idaho** Extension's Master Water Steward program, IDAH2O, [got a boost in 2012](#) with a \$77,000 EPA Environmental Education grant. The funding will allow the popular citizen-science training to reach more Idahoans.

■ The **Water Resource Board** will receive comment [on proposed changes to the Idaho Comprehensive State Water Plan](#) starting with a public hearing and open house in Twin Falls on July 18.