

OUR HEROES

THE PR'S SALUTE TO VETERANS



LOOKING BACK

100 years ago

An Idaho elk living in New York City's Bronx Zoo was making news this week in 1909. Stanley, a bull elk with a vicious reputation among the zoo's keepers, was filmed as a human dummy in a keeper's uniform was placed in the corner of the elk's corral. Stanley proceeded to ravage the inanimate intruder, tossing it high in the air and repeatedly trampling it. Ultimately, the head of the mutilated figure rolled off and Stanley began to calmly eat it.

75 years ago

Idaho's two U.S. senators were having a war of words this week in 1934 over whether the United States should join the League of Nations, a forerunner to the United Nations. Republican Sen. William E. Borah was adamantly opposed to U.S. membership, while Democratic Sen. James P. Pope said it would be a step toward international peace, adding that "nationalism is one of the worst problems faced by the world today."

50 years ago

This week in 1959, a Rawlins, Wyo., man learned the hard way why hunters generally prefer dogs to lions. The man was hunting rabbits with his two nephews, ages 13 and 15, and his 2-year-old female pet lion, Toggy, when the 140-pound cat suddenly decided the 13-year-old was more appealing prey. The man immediately shot the lion to death, but not before the boy's face was mauled.

25 years ago

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints restored the length of missions from 18 months to two years this week in 1984, but the big LDS news was that the Brigham Young University football team was voted No. 1 in the final regular season Associated Press poll. Bryant Gumbel, the anchor of NBC's "Today" show, questioned BYU's ranking, saying the Cougars were undefeated only because of their weak schedule, which included schools such as "Bo Diddley Tech." BYU students countered by distributing T-shirts saying "Did Bryant Gumbel Go to Bo Diddley Tech?"



Courtesy photo
Maj. Tobin Griffeth, an eastern Idaho native serving overseas as a JAG lawyer, walks the base perimeter of Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan.

Call to duty

BHS grad organizes relief effort

■ A U.S. soldier in Afghanistan who graduated from Bonneville High School is asking for charity goods from home to distribute to needy Afghans.

By NICK DRAPER
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While the nation debates President Barack Obama's decision to send additional troops to Afghanistan, one soldier already there hopes his charity efforts make just as much of a difference to win the war.

Maj. Tobin Griffeth, an eastern Idaho native who graduated from Bonneville High School in 1986, is a JAG lawyer stationed at Bagram Airfield in northeast Afghanistan. He's tasked with providing legal advice to the region's

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■ How you can help with Maj. Griffeth's relief effort / B6
■ Troops hopeful Obama plan will wind down the war / A4



Courtesy photo
Maj. Tobin Griffeth gives a blanket and a teddy bear to an Afghan girl in a hospital in Afghanistan.

commanders, but he spends a significant amount of his spare time on another mission.

Along with a fellow attorney, Griffeth has been asking friends and family in the United States to send goods — clothes, shoes, blankets, school supplies and toys — to his base for distribution to needy Afghans.

"The aid shows them ... we are not the monsters we are

made out to be and that they can trust us," Griffeth said via e-mail. "Basic used shoes are like gold to a kid who is shoeless with inadequate shelter during the brutal Afghan winters. Last year alone, many died from not having basic needs."

■ Griffeth has collected 300 boxes of goods so far
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D93 to revise boundary plan

■ Another public meeting for comments will be held Dec. 9.

By RACHEL COOK
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Bonneville Joint School District 93 will go back to the drawing board regarding elementary school boundaries after a lively meeting Tuesday night.

The meeting at Sandcreek Middle School drew more than 75 parents and District 93 prin-

cipals to discuss proposed changes with the school board. The district released a rough-draft boundary map for comments in November.

District administrators unveiled two additional drafts of boundary maps Tuesday, which reflected concerns voiced from parents of Bridgewater Elementary School students. Several parents said they feared proposed changes would only worsen the situation at

■ District hopes to make a decision in January
D93, Continued on Page B6

Study says towers don't affect property values

DENVER (AP) — Wind farms have no measurable effect on nearby property values, according to a government report published Wednesday.

Researchers at the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory spent three years examining nearly 7,500 sales of homes in 10 communities near two dozen wind energy plants in nine states.

They found no evidence home prices were affected by the view or the distance between the home and the wind farm.

In the latest study, the researchers looked at homes

800 feet to five miles from a wind power facility. About 1,000 sales involved homes that had views of wind farms, such as turbines through trees or blade tips on a hillside.

They took into account the effect of the recession and other characteristics, such as the number of bedrooms in a home or location of schools, said Ryan Wiser, a study co-author and project manager for the Berkeley Lab.

"To some extent, we went in with an assumption that there may well be an impact here," he said. "We weren't able to find one."



Michael Randolph / Associated Press
A home is dwarfed by a wind turbine approximately 1,500 feet from a property near Uby, Mich.

IHFA gives \$2.9M loan

■ The Idaho Housing and Finance Association is hoping stimulus money will encourage the construction of affordable housing while creating construction jobs.

By SVEN BERG
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A planned apartment complex in Idaho Falls is among nearly two dozen low- to moderate-income housing projects across Idaho that will receive a portion of the \$34.2 million in federal stimulus money to be spent in the state.

Summerhill Apartments, a complex planned for construction south of Sunnyside Road, will receive \$2.9 million of stimulus money, according to the Idaho Housing and Finance Association. The money will be administered as a loan through the IHFA's Tax Credit Assistance Program, designed to encourage construction of affordable housing in Idaho.

Cash flow for affordable housing projects has decreased since the economic crisis struck the nation last year, said Ernie Watkins, the IHFA's senior manager of multifamily finance. Stimulus dollars are expected to offset that decrease, bringing more affordable housing to Idaho cities while stimulating job creation.

"It all aligns around the stimulus goal of the federal government to re-energize the economy," Watkins said. "We would hope that it will put some contractors to work in the market."

Thomas Development Co., based in Boise, plans to break ground on the multibuilding, 80-unit Summerhill project "soon," said Tom Mannschreck, the company's president and owner. When the project is complete, rent for the apartments will be set at 30 percent to 50 percent of the Bonneville County median income, Mannschreck said.

Latest estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau put median per capita income in Bonneville at \$24,012,

■ The complex's first apartments should be ready for leasing in May
LOAN, Continued on Page B6

Couple also facing drug charges

■ The Rigby pair was previously charged for using a stolen credit card.

By JOELYN HANSEN
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Jefferson County has filed additional charges against a Rigby couple currently in the Madison County Jail for allegedly using a stolen credit card.

Sandra Jane Fredrickson, 48, and David Dean Fredrickson, 51, are now charged with possession of a controlled substance, a felony, and possession of drug paraphernalia, a misdemeanor, in Jefferson County.

The couple was arrested Nov. 7 for felony charges of possession of a stolen financial card and forgery.

Both remain in the Madison County Jail on a \$50,000 bond. The two are accused of using a credit card that was reported stolen in Rexburg on Nov. 7 and used in Rexburg, Rigby and Idaho Falls.

A number of items were seized from the couple's home last week, according to a news release from the Rexburg Police Department, whose officers worked with their counterparts in Rigby on the case.

Cops and courts reporter Joelyn Hansen can be reached at 542-6751. Comment on this story on Post Talk at www.postregister.com/posttalk/.

Post Register
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The Post Register Goodfellow Fund began 75 years ago to provide for needy families at Christmas. The fund now supports The Salvation Army, the Idaho Falls Food Bank and F4J74, which shelters homeless families.
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REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFLY

Agency says prairie dogs are not at risk

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Black-tailed prairie dogs were denied protection under the Endangered Species Act on Wednesday after federal officials concluded the once prevalent species shows signs of rebounding.

Decades of poisoning, shootings, the plague and loss of habitat to agriculture are blamed for a dramatic drop in prairie dog numbers since the early

1900s, from roughly 1 billion animals to an estimated 24 million today.

In 2007, the New Mexico-based environmental activist group WildEarth Guardians petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the animal as threatened or endangered.

But the agency said Wednesday the population is slowly spreading despite continued pressure from sickness and deliberate killings.

6 men arraigned in Vegas officer killing

NORTH LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — Security was tight for the felony arraignment of six young men accused in the slaying of an off-duty Las Vegas police officer.

North Las Vegas jail guards with assault rifles stood at courtroom doors as 25-year-old Michael Ferguson, 20-year-old Saul Williams Jr., 18-year-olds Emmitt Ferguson, Quadrae Scott and Prentice Marshall, and 17-year-old Adrian Pena appeared Wednesday before North Las Vegas Justice of the Peace Stephen Dahl.

The judge set a Dec. 17 preliminary hearing in the case. Officer Trevor Nettleton was shot dead Nov. 19 during what authorities say

was a robbery attempt involving several accused gang members in the garage of Nettleton's home in North Las Vegas.

Alien proposal cleared for ballot

DENVER (AP) — A man who once tried to push through a proposal requiring Denver to implement stress-reduction programs has another initiative on the ballot.

This one would use grants, gifts and donations to create a commission aimed at helping prepare Denver residents for potential encounters with extraterrestrials.

City Clerk and Recorder Stephanie O'Malley told Jeff Peckman in a letter Monday that he had collected the required 3,974 signatures to get the proposal on the ballot Aug. 10.

Fire suspect wants a speedy Calif. trial

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) — A man accused of setting a deadly 2003 wildfire that destroyed 1,000 homes in San Bernardino County wants a quick trial — and it could start next month.

Rickie Lee Fowler appeared in a San Bernardino courtroom Tuesday and refused to waive

his right to a speedy trial — even though his new attorney has yet to examine thousands of pages of documents and hundreds of hours of interviews.

Fowler, 28, is charged with murder and arson. Prosecutors claim he set the 2003 Old Fire that caused five deadly heart attacks.

Such cases usually take years, but Fowler's trial is tentatively set to start Jan. 4.

Fowler claims investigators pressured him into a confession and he's pleaded not guilty. Prosecutors haven't decided whether to seek the death penalty.

LOAN

From Page B1

meaning the apartments would rent for between \$600 and \$1,000. The complex's first apartments should be ready for leasing in May, he said.

"The project would not move forward without the economic stimulus," Manschreck said.

After stimulus money was appropriated to the IHFA, the agency chose

individual projects throughout the state based on a range of competitive criteria, Watkins said. Funding amounts for each project were set at the minimum necessary to jumpstart construction, he said.

"As the stewards of these funds, we don't want to enrich anyone over and above what it's going to take to get these projects done," Watkins said.

Sven Berg can be reached at 542-6755. Comment on this story on Post Talk at www.postregister.com/posttalk/.

D93

From Page B1

Bridgewater, which has the lowest test scores and highest free and reduced lunch rate in the district.

Three concerns that arose were the demographics of Bridgewater Elementary, potential overcrowding at Tiebreaker Elementary School and the placement of children in the Redrock subdivision, which is across the street from

Discovery Elementary School.

Patti Haynes, whose two daughters attend Bridgewater, said she worried that the options still did not do enough to change the school's demographics.

"They're taking (away) stable students that help our test scores," Haynes said.

Parents of children at Tiebreaker expressed dismay that all of the options would add students to their school.

"We're going to be sitting on 500 (students) with two trailers," Tiebreaker parent Heidi Southwick said.

Families from the Redrock subdivision questioned why their children would be moved to Iona Elementary School. If any of the proposed boundary options are implemented, Megan Bean said, it will be the fourth school change for their children in five years.

The board thanked parents for their input and encouraged people to comment on the boundary proposals online. "It seems to me that we probably need to do a little more tweaking," School Board Chairman Craig Lords said. Members of the school board hope to make a decision on boundary changes by their Jan. 13 meeting. Another public meeting on the boundary options will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the district office.

Rachel Cook can be reached at 542-6750.

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RELIEF

From Page B1

The goods Griffith and his colleague, Capt. Katie Illingworth, receive are sent with Army chaplains who accompany soldiers on patrol in remote regions of the country.

The Taliban recruit fighters in these rural, poverty-stricken areas where many are poorly educated, Griffith said.

Griffith, 42, is trying to reach them before the Taliban do.

"In these regions, needed humanitarian aid cannot or will not go because of the extreme danger and difficulty to get it there," he said. "Our individual effort is trying to make an end run around that barrier by sending it with chaplains who can and do travel in armed convoys to these regions."

Griffith normally doesn't accompany chaplains on these missions, but he has seen first hand what a small gift can mean to an Afghan.

On a recent trip to a hospital, a little girl was at the

bedside of her gravely ill grandmother, her only caregiver.

Griffith gave the girl a blanket and a teddy bear.

As soon as the girl clutched the stuffed animal, her face began to glow and her eyes twinkled with hope, said Griffith, adding that he had to hold back tears.

"Maybe I'm not as tough as I thought I was," he said. "But I do know this: She will always remember America and American troops in a positive way."

So far, Griffith has collected more than 300 boxes of items from the United States and hopes more will come.

"I believe with all my heart it is only by acts like these that this conflict can or will end," he said.

How to help

Maj. Tobin Griffith is requesting that the following used goods be sent to Afghanistan from the United States:

- clothes (though not women's clothes because it can be deemed an insult) shoes socks blankets school supplies toys that don't require batteries winter items

You can send items, preferably in a priority-size mail box, to Maj. Griffith, CJTF-82-OSJA, APO AE 09354.

Born in 2009 NOW IN FULL COLOR! The Post Register's annual baby parade is a special tribute to all babies born in 2009. Parents, grandparents, relatives and friends can purchase a photo announcement to be published on March 28th, 2010. Simply complete the entry form below and send it to the Post Register with your payment and a clear COLOR PHOTO of your baby. (Professional photo not necessary) Sponsored by: Eastern Idaho REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, Post Register Local • Proven • Essential. Enter to Win Fabulous Prizes! Prizes awarded for each month plus top multiple births! Employees of the Post Register and their friends & family will not be eligible for prizes. BABY ENTRY FORM (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY) Baby's Full Name Date of Birth / / 2009 Boy Girl Birth Weight lbs. oz. Length in. Parents' Names Grandparents' Names SAVE \$9 BY SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY BEFORE FEBRUARY 12TH! EARLY BIRD ENTRY: Entry Fee: \$18.00 Final Deadline: January 5, 2010, at 5 p.m. Mailed entries must be postmarked by Friday, January 5, 2010. AFTER JANUARY 5, 2010 Entry Fee: \$27.00 Deadline: February 12, 2010, by 5 p.m. Mailed entries must be postmarked by Friday, February 12, 2010. LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED! Check or money order enclosed Charge to my credit card Credit Card #: Expires: Signature: MAIL ENTRIES TO: Post Register Classified Department Attn: Babies of 2009 P.O. Box 1800 • Idaho Falls, Idaho 83403 or drop them off in person at 333 Northgate Mile, Idaho Falls Brought to you by: Local • Proven • Essential

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EASTERN IDAHO'S MEAT & POTATOES In this Friday's edition: Trail riders eager to see what's over the next hill. Barnyard Basics: Check horse's body condition for winter. Gordon Moir: There's more than bull at a bull sale. farm & ranch INTERMOUNTAIN