

Idaho Statesman



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2007

Latest news at IdahoStatesman.com

50 CENTS

Meet John Hemingway, Papa's grandson

LIFE 1

FALL CAMPING
COLD NIGHTS MEAN PLENTY OF ROOM AT CAMPGROUNDS

IDAHO OUTDOORS MAGAZINE



Riled traveler takes on airlines over flight delays

MAIN 13

80° / 48°
MAIN 20
Boise Edition
Boise & Garden City

8 **Attention, hunters! Find this year's outlook, tips, recipes and send us photos** • IdahoStatesman.com/Hunting



BOISE OPEN STARTS TODAY

The \$675,000 Albertsons Boise Open golf tournament, one of the most prestigious on the Nationwide Tour, will help determine which 25 players advance to the 2008 PGA Tour.
WHEN: Golfers tee off at 8 a.m.
WHERE: Hillcrest Country Club.

FANS' GUIDE IN SPORTS

5-MINUTE UPDATE

N. IRELAND AIDS IRAQIS
Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland have begun a new mission: helping Shiites and Sunnis and members of other strife-torn societies to resolve longstanding conflicts. **MAIN 13**

LEBANESE LEADER KILLED
A car bomb killed an anti-Syrian member of parliament Wednesday, just days before parliament was due to meet to elect a new president. **MAIN 15**

BAT LEADS TO RABIES SHOTS
A Boise couple and their two children are receiving rabies shots after finding an infected bat in a bedroom. Eight rabid bats have been reported in Idaho this year. **MAIN 2**

WHO'LL HEAR HORTON'S CASES?
District Judge Joel Horton will leave cases behind when he joins the Idaho Supreme Court next month. **MAIN 2**

RUSTIC SHOP FOR HAIR CUTS
Stag Hair Care owner Maria Santa Cruz-Cernik hopes to create a niche market for men's hair care needs — somewhere between the corner barber shop and an upscale salon. **BUSINESS 2**

LOCAL ARTISTS EARN MAYOR'S AWARDS
Meet the recipients of this round of the Mayor's Awards in the Arts, a civic recognition of excellence, support and economic development. **LIFE 1**

OUR VIEW: ANNEXATION
By taking a naive stand on annexation, Boise mayoral candidate Jim Tibbs is presenting a non-solution to a nonproblem. **OPINION, MAIN 18**

8 **U OF I FAN?**
IdahoStatesman.com
Keep up with the Vandals with news and notes at IdahoStatesman.com/vandalsports.

COMING TOMORROW
Take a look at some of the interesting films coming to the Idaho International Film Festival. Also, details on the last Alive After Five of the season and a trip to Chandler's Steakhouse. **SCENE MAGAZINE**

Iraq alleges pattern of abuses

Prime minister says a U.S. security firm was involved in at least 7 serious incidents, including civilian deaths.

BY LEILA FADEL
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS
BAGHDAD — Blackwater security guards who protect top U.S. diplomats in Iraq have been involved in at least seven serious incidents, some of which resulted in the deaths of innocent civilians, Iraqi

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said Wednesday.
Al-Maliki didn't detail the incidents, which he said add to the case against the North Carolina-based security firm. Blackwater's license to operate here has been revoked while U.S. and Iraqi officials investi-

gate a shooting Sunday that Iraqi officials now say left at least 11 people dead.
But Defense Ministry spokesman Mohammed al-Askari told McClatchy Newspapers that one of the incidents was former Iraqi Electricity Minister Ahyam al-Samarrai's escape from a Green Zone jail in December. Al-Samarrai had been awaiting sentencing on charges that he had embezzled \$2.5 billion that

was intended to rebuild Iraq's decrepit electricity grid.
Another incident, al-Askari said, was the shooting death last month of a Baghdad taxi driver when Blackwater guards led a convoy the
See BLACKWATER, MAIN 5
CONTRACTORS IN IRAQ
Employees of private U.S. companies outnumber U.S. military in Iraq. **MAIN 13**



Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki

BEAR CAPTURED AT BOISE SCHOOL



KERRY MALONEY / kmaloney@idahostatesman.com
Jon Rachael, Idaho Fish and Game Southwest Region wildlife manager, carries a tranquilized yearling black bear to a cage Wednesday afternoon. The 46-pound bear had climbed a tree at East Junior High School in Boise. Fish and Game plans to release it into the wild. **SEE A VIDEO OF THE CAPTURE AND MORE PHOTOS AT IDAHOSTATESMAN.COM/PHOTOGALLERIES**

Fish and Game says young bruin probably left the Foothills looking for food

BY HEATH DRUZIN
hdruzin@idahostatesman.com
After a tense 90-minute standoff with law enforcement Wednesday at Boise's East Junior High, a furry, dusty brown suspect was peacefully taken into custody.
The offender, an 18-month-old male black bear, wandered through an apartment complex on the edge of Downtown Boise around 12:40 p.m. before climbing high into a tree

in the school parking lot, said John Rachael, Idaho Fish and Game Southwest Region wildlife manager. It was the latest in a string of run-ins with bears in the urban Treasure Valley, and Rachael said the trend is unlikely to end any time soon.
Drought and a failure of the mountain berry crop have robbed bears and other animals of their

See BEARS, MAIN 4

Weather gives fire crews a break

Rain, cooler weather may mean end is near for one of worst Idaho fire seasons in recent years.

BY PATRICK ORR
porr@idahostatesman.com
Weary wildland firefighters in Idaho allowed themselves to utter words Wednesday that they have been waiting to speak since July: "season-ending event." Or at least "season-modifying event."

Cool, wet weather across the state — including snow at Bogus Basin, Brundage Mountain and other elevations above 6,500 feet — is doing what firefighters have not been able to do all summer: slow wildfires that have consumed almost 2 million acres of Idaho forest and rangelands since summer.
"After what I would call a two-month siege, we finally received a true weather break," Boise National Forest spokesman David Olson said, referring to the rain that moved through early this week. "I don't know if we can say 'season-ending' right now, since generally you need ¼ or an inch of rain or a sustained system to do that, but it's a big break. Let's call it 'season-modifying' for now. It's good news."

About 2 million acres of Idaho have burned this summer, more than twice as many acres as in any other state.
The second-ranking state is Nevada, where wildfires have burned 895,000 acres, according to National Interagency Fire Center statistics.

The rain is especially welcome in the McCall/Cascade area, where the massive Cascade and East Zone complex blazes are still actively burning and have scorched more than 600,000 acres. Moisture has slowed the fires' growth, Olson said.

See FIRE CREWS, MAIN 4

8 **TRACK CURRENT WILDFIRES**
IdahoStatesman.com/Fire
► Read previous fire stories.
► See photo galleries and video.
► Find links to agency Web sites.

Homeowners will get bigger tax exemption in '08

The maximum value exempt from property taxes will rise to as much as \$100,938.

BY GREGORY HAHN
ghahn@idahostatesman.com
Idahoans who own the homes where they live will get up to a \$100,938 property tax exemption for 2008.
The Idaho Tax Commission released the figure Wednesday, though it won't go into effect until next year. The rate climbed as home values increased

around the state.
Idaho law exempts from taxation 50 percent of the assessed value of a primary home, up to the maximum that now changes each year based on the Idaho Housing Price Index, published by the U.S. Office of Housing Enterprise Oversight.
"The 2008 exemption amount of \$100,938 doesn't apply to any property tax bills homeowners receive for 2007," said Alan Dornfest, property tax policy supervisor. "We won't know the effect it has until next year's property values

and taxes are figured out."
For 2007, the maximum exemption will stay at \$89,325.
Idaho's homeowner's exemption began in 1980, with a maximum of \$10,000. It remained at that level until 1983, when it was raised to \$50,000 by voter initiative.

The 2006 Idaho Legislature raised the exemption to \$75,000 and tied future numbers to the Housing Price Index.

Gregory Hahn: 377-6425

GET YOUR EXEMPTION

New homeowner? Make sure you register for the homeowner's exemption before April 15.
Check with your county assessor — 287-7262 in Ada County and 454-7431 in Canyon.

8 **LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EXEMPTION**
IdahoStatesman.com
Download an application.

TODAY'S IDAHO STATESMAN
ComicsLife 5
Idaho/WestMain 6
Legal adsClassifieds 2
Nation/WorldMain 13
NewsmakersMain 14
MoviesLife 2
ObituariesMain 9
OpinionMain 18
Our TownsMain 11
PuzzlesLife 2
StocksBusiness 4
TVLife 2
WeatherMain 20

WEDNESDAY'S LOTTERY DRAWINGS
IDAHO POWERBALL: 20-25-26-45-46. Powerball: 15. PowerPlay: 3.
IDAHO PICK 3: 1-8-6.
IDAHO WILD CARD: 4-7-9-11-31. Wild card: Q♣
OREGON MEGABUCKS: 4-13-20-31-40-42.

8 **THINK WEEKEND**
IdahoStatesman.com/Entertainment has movie listings, restaurant reviews, coming concerts and calendars full of things to do this weekend.

Is your paper missing?
Call 377-6370
Vol. 143 • No. 57
8 sections • 76 pages
© 2007 Idaho Statesman 0 40901 00901 6

