

TIMES-NEWS

The Journey of a Transgender Child • C7

SEIZED ASSETS

Law enforcement can seize money, cars and other personal belongings without a criminal conviction — sometimes without even accusing the person of a crime. For supporters of civil asset forfeiture, its use is straightforward: Items that are used to commit drug crimes or that are the profits of drug crimes should be taken and used to fight future drug crimes. But critics say the practice gives law enforcement undue incentive to seize property, and they say the standard of evidence is too low. Critics call civil asset forfeiture “policing for profit,” and members of Congress in May introduced legislation to reform federal law. **See the story on B1.**



Twin Falls County Sheriff's Lt. Daron Brown explains how the truck he drives is used to eradicate marijuana May 24 in Twin Falls. The 2005 Dodge Ram 4X4 SLT was refitted for law enforcement use after it was seized in a drug bust. 'If drug dealers are driving better trucks than police, we need to take them,' Brown says.

DREW NASH, TIMES-NEWS

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A Big Day Birding Blitz: Close Encounters with the Goshawks

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ALMO • If I see you, I'll seize you until you burst.

It sounds like a threat but it's actually a mnemonic device used to recognize the bright chirps of the warbling vireo, one of the roughly 165 known bird species at City of Rocks National Reserve.

Since Friday night, Wallace Keck, City of Rocks superintendent, along with fellow bird enthusiasts, used similar devices as they hiked down the reserve's steep and rugged dry country for a 24-hour birding blitz.

It's a chance for some friendly competition between bird aficionados — see how many species you can spot and check off a list — and it's a chance to study migratory and climate patterns. It can also get a little dangerous. “From here on, you travel at



STEPHEN REISS, TIMES-NEWS

Park Superintendent Wallace Keck, left, identifies birds with Becky Hansis-O'Neill on Saturday at City of Rocks National Reserve.

your own risk,” Keck warned four others on Saturday morning, including a *Times-News* reporter

and photographer. The group crossed into an area near northern goshawk territory.

The bird is a medium-sized raptor known for being aggressive. In recent weeks, park visitors have been getting attacked by them, though those have slowed down, Keck said.

The group passed an empty nest with green material, suggesting this nest wasn't abandoned.

Keck lay down in a shaded area, saying it's “the only way to protect yourself.”

Just three weeks ago he was at City of Rocks to monitor the goshawks when one came his way.

“It zeroed in on me from across the canyon,” Keck said. “His eyes were getting bigger and bigger and he was not getting out.”

The bird veered off from Keck and perched itself onto a tree that day. It then let off a warning call for ten minutes.

Please see **BIRDING, A2**

Chairman Re-elected; No Platform Agreement

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NAMPA • Idaho Republicans ended their state convention Saturday by sticking with their old chairman and trying to rally around the presidential candidate who didn't have the support of many of the attendees when the primary season started.

While the delegates did approve six resolutions that the Resolutions Committee signed off on Friday, they blocked efforts to change the party platform, meaning the document has gone unchanged since 2012.

While a 272-214 majority of delegates wanted to consider the Platform Committee's report, a two-thirds majority was needed to suspend rules to take up the platform, since the timing of the May primary and the state and national conventions meant that none of

Please see **GOP, A4**



OTTO KITSINGER, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Idaho GOP Chairman Steve Yates speaks to delegates Saturday during the afternoon session of the third day of Idaho GOP Party Convention in Nampa.

Mental Eval. Delayed for Elderly Murder Suspect

Lawyer: Delay caused by lost court order, broken hip and security qualms at hospital

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TWIN FALLS • A string of errors and misunderstandings has prevented an 87-year-old Twin Falls man charged with murder from getting an evaluation to determine

whether he is competent to stand trial, his lawyer said.

District Judge Richard Bevan on Jan. 21 ordered Paul Robert Welch to undergo a mental competency evaluation. A grand jury indicted Welch

last year on a first-degree murder charge in the shooting death of 81-year-old Barbara Sue Chitwood last Aug. 21. The two lived together.

Please see **WELCH, A4**

If You Do One Thing: Camas Lily Days will include a community breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m. and other activities in the Fairfield City Park.

High 96° 65° Low
Sunny. D4

Bridge E5 | Dear Abby E3 | Obituaries C4 | Service
Crossword E3 | Jumble E2 | Sudoku E4 | Directory E5



(208) 733-9392
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SECOND SUNDAY'S BOTTOMLESS BRUNCH!!

Sunday, April 12th
Canyon Crest hosts a Bottomless Brunch Buffet the 2nd Sunday of each month! Features include a selection of breakfast and lunch items including a carving station, omelet station and a sauté action station **from 10am-2pm!**
Adults just \$14.95; Children 5-11 \$7.95; 4 & younger are free!
The 2nd Sunday of each and every month!