

Register

Wrapping it up

I.F. Symphony to perform Beethoven's Fifth in finale: B5

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FRIDAY

April 12, 2013

New movies

Film '42' is a classy but tame Jackie Robinson tale **B8**



Gains in grains

Wheat, barley and corn acreage projected to increase in 2013 **C1**



Rally 'Cats

Madison wins fourth in a row after starting the season 0-7 **B1**



Unchartered territory

American Heritage Charter School to open in Sept.



Monte LaOrange / mlaorange@postregister.com

The former New Sweden Elementary School — which will be home to the American Heritage Charter School starting in September — is framed by a newly constructed bell tower that is ready for placement atop the building.

The school is moving into the old New Sweden School, which shut down in 1979 and is yielding historical insights to construction workers.

By NATE SUNDERLAND
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Construction crews recently caught a glimpse into a local school's history during renovations of the nearly completed American Heritage Charter School.

INSIDE
Odyssey Charter School eyes new site / **A3**

The nearly 90-year-old building was formally New Sweden Elementary School, which closed in 1979 when the larger West Side Elementary School opened in Idaho Falls School District 91.

Earlier this month, several 1970s-era blackboards were removed to be replaced by modern white boards. Underneath the blackboards, crews discovered much older chalkboards still containing decades-old academic lessons and the names of many students.

"It's a really interesting piece of history,"



Brent Johnson, president of B&B Builders, shows were workers uncovered old chalkboards while doing renovations in the New Sweden Elementary School building. The 90-year-old building hasn't been in use since 1979.

Monte LaOrange
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Melaleuca CEO Frank VanderSloot said. "I've been amazed by how many people in the community love that school and feel sad that it had become so run-down."

The six-classroom school sat unused by District 91 for some 30 years and was frequently vandalized.

VanderSloot partnered with Debra Infanger, founder of the American Heritage

Charter School, to purchase the building in February 2012. He paid \$121,000 for the property.

"The school had become a liability to the community because people were breaking

VanderSloot said his role at American Heritage will be limited to financial support

CHARTER, Continued on Page A3

Suspect in coma since Sunday

The 44-year-old was shocked multiple times with a Taser after he allegedly attacked police.

By RUTH BROWN
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An Idaho Falls man who was shocked multiple times by police with a Taser drive stun remained in a coma Thursday at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center.

Idaho Falls Police Sgt. Phil Grimes confirmed that Ronald R. Mencer Jr., 44, has been hospitalized in critical condition since Sunday.

Grimes said paramedics administered CPR to Mencer and used a breathing bag to help him breathe after he was shocked.

A hospital spokeswoman previously said Mencer had been treated and released.

Mencer was shocked by officer Brian Smith on Sunday when he reportedly aggressively approached officers with a 4-inch Phillips-head screwdriver, police spokeswoman Joelyn Hansen said.

Officers responded around 9:40 p.m. to a reported disturbance on the 400 block of G Street, police said.

Police Chief Mark McBride said officers were talking to residents of the main level at the front of the apartment building when Mencer approached. Mencer lives in an upstairs apartment that is accessible from the back of the building.

Officers attempted to push him away, but Mencer came back at them and kicked and tried to bite them, Hansen said.

Smith used the drive stun on Mencer several times in an attempt to subdue him, Hansen said. It was ineffective.

Neither Grimes nor McBride would disclose how many times Mencer was shocked.

Smith remains on duty with the department, Grimes said.

Mencer has not yet been charged

Mencer has 44 prior convictions in Bingham and Bonneville counties

COMA, Continued on Page A3



Mencer

ID still ranks low for work health insurance

Only 43 pct. of employers provide workers insurance.

BOISE (AP) — A new national study shows Idaho is again ranked among states with the lowest percentage of companies that offer workers employer-sponsored health insurance.

Idaho ranks 47th nationally — trailing Alaska, Montana and Wyoming — with just 43 percent of the state's employers providing workers insurance. The report was published by the University of

Minnesota's State Health Access Data Assistance Center.

The new numbers represent an uptick from last year's figures, when only 41 percent offered insurance.

Among businesses with 50 employees or less, the study shows Idaho ranks second lowest behind Alaska, with only 28 percent of small companies in Idaho offering the benefit

For companies offering coverage for employee family members, workers on average pay 31 percent of their premiums — the nation's third highest employee-contribution requirement.

Recruiter drills for oil workers

About 50 people interviewed in Idaho Falls for positions in the oil fields of North Dakota.

By CHRISTINA LORDS
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Ronald Liechty is nothing if not straightforward.

It's cold.

It's windy.

It's muddy.

"At 30 below, the cranes start to freeze up," he said. "That's the only time we won't work. This is not a plush, lush job."

But by working in the North Dakota oil fields, one of the largest oil formations in North America, workers will be paid.

And they will be paid handsomely, Liechty said.

Liechty, a representative of Rocky Moun-

tain Recruiting, spent most of Thursday at the Idaho Falls Department of Labor office interviewing a packed room of about 50 people eager for a shot at the \$65,000-plus-a-year oil fields positions.

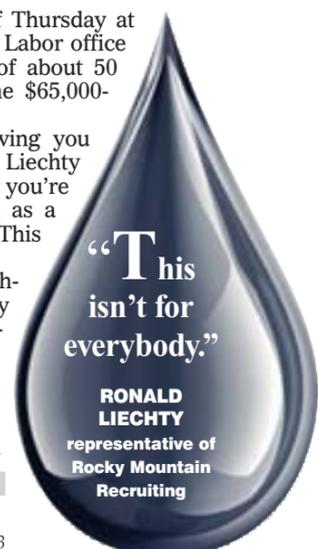
"There's no sense in showing you some cherry pie situation," Liechty said. "If I don't get the feel that you're not in this for the long term as a career, you won't go forward. This isn't for everybody."

Rocky Mountain is a Utah-based recruitment firm hired by Schlumberger, an oil production giant with more than 118,000 employees in more than 85 countries worldwide.

The company produces oil for shipment seven days a

Schlumberger's revenue was \$42.15 billion in 2012

OIL, Continued on Page A3



Odyssey Charter School eyes new location

POST REGISTER

Last month, Odyssey Charter School abandoned its bid to locate in a former Mormon church at 13th Street and Lee Avenue because of cost concerns.

Odyssey founders Karl and Chris Peterson are now seeking a conditional-use permit to house the school in an unfinished 6,800-square-foot medical office building at 1235 Jones St.

The permit application details plans for two 1,600-square-foot modular units at the school. Odyssey also hopes to use 2,000 square feet of vacant office space, attached to a neighboring welding shop, as a cafeteria.

The site is located in a HC-1 Highway Commercial Zone, typically used by businesses such as service stations, wholesalers, auto body shops, taverns or drive-in restaurants that cater to travelers.

"We've talked with them from the



Monte LaOrange / mlaorange@postregister.com

This property on Jones Street in Idaho Falls is being considered for use by Odyssey Charter School.

beginning that this is an unusual zone for a school," Assistant City Planning Director Brad Cramer said. "But the location is close to some facilities that are reasonably compatible with a school."

The proposed location is a block

from the Eastern Idaho Public Health District building and the offices of the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service.

The Idaho Falls Planning and Zoning commission will consider the permit Tuesday night.

CHARTER

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in all the time spraying graffiti and doing who knows what," VanderSloot said. "When we bought the building, we put in an alarm system and police were showing up three times week."

VanderSloot said he offered to purchase the building for the new charter school to become more involved in public education. He also was impressed by the culture and classroom environment his grandchildren had experienced at other local charter schools.

"It is crucial those first years in school are character-building for students," VanderSloot said. "Charter schools also give parents a much bigger opportunity to be involved in their child's education."

VanderSloot also supports the school's patriotic theme, which focuses heavily on teaching American

government and history and the Constitution to students in lower grades.

Curriculum also includes money-management classes focusing on fiscal responsibility in every grade. The courses culminate in business creation and entrepreneurship courses.

"We want our students to feel very capable that if they aren't able to find a job from someone else, they could go out and create their own," Infanger said.

Infanger based the school's patriotic charter on North Valley Academy, a charter school she founded in Gooding in 2008. American Heritage's charter was approved in August.

Infanger said that without VanderSloot's support, "it would be darn near impossible to do this."

"Charter schools cannot access local bond levy funds, so being able to pay for a building is becoming increasingly difficult ... due to state education funds being ratcheted back," she said.

VanderSloot said his role at American Heritage will be limited to financial support.

The Idaho Falls businessman is funding the building's renovation and will donate money for student field trips if necessary. But he will not be involved in school administration or in any decisions regarding curriculum, he said.

Renovations to the school will be complete this summer. Construction crews are restoring as much of the original school's decor as possible. All doors have been refinished, and some blackboards will be kept for aesthetics.

New additions include the restoration of a bell tower and an elevator to bring the school into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The school will open in

early September and follow District 91's academic calendar.

American Heritage will meet its capacity with 244 students in kindergarten through eighth grade, who will be chosen Saturday by a lottery.

Eventually, Infanger hopes to expand the school to include high school grades.

Nate Sunderland can be reached at 542-6763.

Stocks of Local Interest — Thursday, April 11, Close

Name	Open	Close	Range
AnhBschnbev	100.83	100.88	100.60/101.42
CenturyLink	36.86	37.26	36.85/37.50
Chev. Texaco	119.96	120.95	119.52/121.15
ConAgra Foods	34.61	34.81	34.60/34.99
Exxon Mobil	88.95	89.22	88.23/89.27
Gnrl Dynamics	69.70	71.33	69.60/71.38
Gnrl Electric	23.53	23.59	23.43/23.72
H.J. Heinz	72.31	72.35	72.30/72.37
Home Depot	71.83	71.90	71.73/72.60
IdaCorp	48.75	48.59	48.21/48.75
KeyCorp	10.04	10.03	9.94/10.26
Kroger	32.75	33.17	32.70/33.50

OIL

From Page A1

week, 365 days a year. Employees work for 15 days straight — which includes two days paid travel to and from their homes if they live out of state — and then have six days off.

Schlumberger's revenue topped in at \$42.15 billion in 2012, according to the company. Liechty said the company's clients include Exxon, Shell, Texaco and others.

Shelley resident Erin Boye, who has worked in construction and highway maintenance for 33 years, said he'd be grateful for the opportunity for the work, despite the travel time and rough work environment.

He said he's been out of work for three months, and the lure of that kind of money couldn't be better.

"I've probably worked in 10 different states," he said. "That part doesn't bother me a bit. It's part of this business."

The company provides good benefits, offers regular meals and places workers in "man camps," eliminating the need for employees to find nearly nonexistent rentals or places to park a recreational vehicle, Liechty said.

"For young guys, or for anybody for that matter, this is a good opportunity,"

Boye said. "There's not too many jobs that you can get on that will pay for those kinds of things. There's not too many jobs that will really pay for anything."

The state of North Dakota estimates there are about 2.1 billion barrels of recoverable oil in the Bakken formation near Williston, N.D., while other geological surveys estimate even more.

Schlumberger employs mechanics, electronic technicians, equipment operators, fracking crew members and drivers. Liechty said each month the company sends him new numbers with different positions to fill.

"These are 30- to 40-year jobs we're talking about," he said. "This can be a career."

This wasn't the first time he's been to Idaho Falls. Liechty's most recent trip was just last week, and he assured the job seekers it wouldn't be his last.

"The main thing ... they need to know is that you're used to physical work," he said. "(Schlumberger) loves Idaho and Montana guys. You're hard workers. You know what it's like to have and keep a job."

Reporter Christina Lords can be reached at 542-6762. Follow on Twitter: @ChristinaLords.

Market watch

April 11, 2013

Dow Jones industrials	+62.90	14,865.14
Nasdaq composite	+2.90	3,300.16
Standard & Poor's 500	+5.64	1,593.37
Russell 2000	+0.96	947.05

COMA

From Page A1

with a crime in the incident, Bonneville County Prosecutor Bruce Pickett said.

Mencer's police record includes seven convictions for resisting arrest and one for battery on an officer. He has spent a total of about 11 years and one month behind bars.

According to the Idaho State Repository, Mencer has 44 prior convictions in Bingham and Bonneville

counties for crimes ranging from driving under the influence to injury to a child.

The IFPD asked the Bonneville County Sheriff's Office to investigate the incident to make sure there was no wrongdoing.

Sheriff's Sgt. Jeff Edwards said the investigation is not complete and that the sheriff's office was only asked to investigate in case there is a fatality.

Ruth Brown can be reached at 542-6750. Follow on Twitter: @ruthbrown1.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Idaho Falls has a limited amount of funding in the 2013 Budget to financially participate with property owners in the replacement of their deteriorated curb and gutter. This year, the City will reimburse the property owner \$9.00 per lineal foot of curb and gutter, which is approximately 50% of the usual and customary rate established by the City's Engineering Department for installation of concrete curb and gutter. To apply for this program, the property owner may come in to the City's Public Works Division, Engineering Department, City Hall Annex, 380 Constitution Way, Idaho Falls, Idaho, and fill out a short application. Alternatively, the property owner may print, complete and sign the Program Application (found on the City's home page) and deliver it to the Engineering Department at the previously stated address or email the signed form to ifeng@idahofallsidaho.gov. Please telephone 612-8250 if additional information is needed.

City of Idaho Falls
Engineering Department

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