



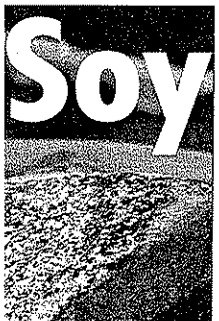
2A Local

Frozen pipe bursts, floods fifth Middle School. Classes resume today.



5A Idaho/West

Rattlemen urged to buy wild horses.
Win Falls man fights for political common good.
Property tax protest staged.



1B Food

The joy of Soy



TODAY
Weather Today
Cloudy with a chance of snow.
Highs 27 to 37.
Tonight: Chance of snow. Lows 15 to 22.
See complete weather report, 2A



MORNING NEWS — EMILY HONE

With a number of his clients sitting in the background, Pocatello attorney Trevor Castleton tells the Bingham County Commissioners on Tuesday that publication of the notice for a public hearing on zone changes requested by Futures of Idaho on Pioneer Road doesn't meet the legal requirements. The hearing was canceled and will be rescheduled sometime in March.

commission chambers for Tuesday's hearing before Brower announced that Idaho Code requires notice of a public hearing for a zone change to be published in the county's newspaper of record 15 days prior to the hearing date.

He said the notice for the public hearing on the zone change requested by Futures of Idaho ran in The Morning News on Feb. 7, making Tuesday the 15th day.

He said the commissioners believed the legal notice met

clients," Castleton said. "We don't want to prolong the process, but the notice hasn't met the requirements. We think a postponement would benefit us because more people would be present if it had."

After talking the matter over, the three commissioners decided it would be better to reschedule the hearing than to have it overturned on judicial review for not meeting the publication requirement.

When Brower gave the people at the hearing a choice of

Residential, which allows smaller lot sizes; wants land now zoned R/A rezoned to Heavy Commercial, and land now zoned Heavy Commercial rezoned to Residential.

Five members of the Bingham County Zoning Board voted 3-2 following a public hearing on Jan. 25 to recommend that the commissioners grant the requested zone changes because the land is in the City of Blackfoot Impact Area and will have access to water and sewer services.

Students emote through art



MORNING NEWS — EMILY HONE

Dr. David Case, chairman of the Bingham County Children's Mental Health Council, and County Commissioner Cleone Jolley look over the traveling art display sponsored by the Idaho System of Care that began Tuesday and runs through Thursday in the foyer of the county courthouse.

Traveling display unveiled at courthouse

By EMILY HONE
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BLACKFOOT — A traveling art display sponsored by the Idaho System of Care through regional and local Children's Mental Health Councils to draw attention to the plight of children suffering from mental illness opened Tuesday in the foyer of the Bingham County Courthouse.

The display measuring 42 x 18 feet is titled "The World Through Our Eyes" and includes painted art and poetry that shows life's challenges and rewards through the eyes of children with serious emotional disturbances.

The art work is interspersed with educational messages aimed at drawing attention to the stigma that mental illness carries.

The display will remain at the courthouse through Thursday before moving on to its next stop at the Community Family Resource Fair at Hillcrest Elementary in American Falls before traveling to Malad on Feb. 27 and back to Idaho Falls and Rexburg for the first two weeks of March.

According to the Idaho System of Care, there are 17,000 children in Idaho who are affected by mental health disorders, some with cases so severe that life is difficult for them at home, school and in the community. Yet less than half of them receive help through public services.

ISOC says the situation exists because parents are often reluctant to seek help for fear they will be blamed for their child's condition. The organization assists by educating not only the families, but the

public about children's mental health issues.

According to Dr. David Case, special education director for the Blackfoot School District, the stigma associated with mental illness makes life even more challenging for them.

Education helps to eliminate stigma and encourage families and communities to assume a more active role in ensuring proper care for their children.

Case said there are 40 children with mental illness in the district. He said art is a good way for children who have a difficult time expressing their feelings, except physically, to show what they're feeling.

He is currently chairman of the Bingham County Children's Mental Health Council and the Region VI Children's Mental Health Council.

The purpose of the local councils is to offer a coordinated child-centered system to ensure better mental health services at the community level for children, and families of children, with serious emotional disturbances.

They serve as a community intervention team to collaborate, plan, develop, implement and evaluate mental health services for children.

Among the things they do is propose ways to improve services in the community where children reside to those in need of the help.

Case said members of the local councils include representatives from IDHW Family and Children Services, the Department of Juvenile Corrections, school districts, county juvenile probation, and parents.

The council provides a check list for parents to measure their child's mental health by rating the severity of the following problems on a scale of 0 to 3:

Depression, aggression, problems in school, problems at home, problems in the legal system, self harm/thoughts of suicide, confusion or difficulty with thinking.

A score of more than 10 is an indication a child may have severe emotional disturbance and a mental health professional or the local council should be contacted.

Japan opens market to chipper spuds

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP) — Japan has lifted its import ban on fresh U.S. potatoes, a move that comes as welcome news for potato growers who have struggled in recent years with sliding prices and the popularity of low-carb diets.

Under the new trade agreement, the United States will be allowed to ship fresh potatoes between February and June for the production of potato chips in Japan. The agreement allows for the import of potatoes from 14 states, including Washington, Idaho and Oregon, which together produce an estimated 60 percent of the nation's potato crop.

"I'm pleased. We're always happy to have new markets," said Kevin Bouchey, a potato grower in Toppenish, about 20 miles south of Yakima in central Washington. "We know we can deliver quality products to Japan,

and at very competitive prices. It's good news."

Japan already is the largest U.S. export market for frozen potatoes, at about \$164 million in 2004. But Japan banned fresh potato imports in 1950 due to concerns about plant diseases and pests, and industry leaders had been fighting for access in the decades since.

The decision to conditionally lift the import ban follows a notice from the United States that it has eliminated the potato wart bacteria and has contained the cyst nematode — the specific areas of concern — to a limited area, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced in a statement Tuesday.

"Japan's decision is welcome news for U.S. potato growers,"

See Chips, 5A

Idaho road construction plan hits pothole

By JOHN MILLER
Associated Press Writer

BOISE (AP) — House and Senate Transportation committee leaders made a pitch Tuesday to scale back Gov. Dirk Kempthorne's \$1.2 billion "Connecting Idaho" road-building plan, saying first-year funding should be limited to as few as three projects.

Sen. Skip Brandt, R-Kooskia, along with Rep. JoAnn Wood, R-Rigby, criticized the existing plan before the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee. The panel is due to write the budget for the projects March 7.

Brandt called for limiting work to U.S. Highway 95 in northern Idaho, Interstate 84 between Caldwell and Meridian, and U.S. 30 between Soda Springs and McCammon.

Kempthorne, backed by business groups and a majority in the 2005 Legislature, wants to sell bonds to finance 13 road projects and repay the debt with future federal highway dollars. That would speed construction and avoid increased costs due to inflation, the governor has argued.

Brandt and Wood, who both opposed the legislation when lawmakers passed it last April, represent a faction that's leery of departing from Idaho's "pay-as-you-go" system of highway construction.

"This was too big of a step. We were stepping onto the water, and the water was up to our ears," Brandt told the budget writers. "Let's check the water temperature. Let's find out if we can wade in to our knees."

If lawmakers favor Brandt's plan, it could set the stage for another fight with Kempthorne. Last April, he vetoed eight separate bills to pressure House

See Roads, 3A

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