

SHOPTALK

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To learn more about lease options at Yellowstone Square or services offered by West One Logistics or Gellings Moving & Storage, email Keim at stevenkeim@idahofalls.com.

I.F. projected as real estate boomtown

The Inman News website, www.inman.com, reports that the Idaho Falls metro area has been projected as one of the nation's 10 fastest-growing areas.

Inman News is the leading source of independent real estate news, information, advice, research, opinion and commentary for industry professionals and consumers alike, according to its website.

A study by data-analysis firm ProximityOne, projects that the area's popu-

lation will grow 26.8 percent to 166,378 residents by 2020. That projection ranked the area ninth on Inman's "Top 10 real estate boomtowns: 2020."

Raleigh-Cary, N.C., topped the list with a projected population increase 35.7 percent.

Two other Inter-mountain West metro areas were also included on the list: Provo/Orem, Utah, was fourth with an anticipated growth rate of 31.9 percent, and Logan, Utah, was sixth with 29.4 percent.

To see the Inman News article, go to tinyurl.com/IF-boomtown.

To learn more about ProximityOne, go to proximityone.com.

Local businesses make growth list

Five eastern Idaho businesses made the Inc. 500/5000 list of the nation's fastest growing private companies.

Valued Merchant Services of Idaho Falls was ranked the highest at 809 with 385 percent growth over three years. Inc. reported the company's revenue at \$2.7 million and said it had 150 employees.

Valued Merchant Services is a nationwide provider of electronic payment processing services for businesses. It enables businesses to accept and process Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, ATM/Debit, EBT and Fleet cards.

The other area companies listed were:

(Rank, company name, 3-year growth percentage, revenue, industry, employees, city)

■ 2,753, Portage, 81 percent, \$245.3 million, government services, 365, Idaho Falls.

■ 2,989, Porter's Office Products, 69 percent, \$6.7 million, business products and services, 21, Rexburg.

■ 3,123, PolicyTech, 64 percent, \$5.1 million, soft-

ware, 56, Rexburg.

■ 3,673, North Wind, 43 percent, \$93.3 million, environmental services, 402, Idaho Falls. This is the fourth consecutive year that North Wind has been included on the list.

To read more about the Inc. 500/5000 list go to www.inc.com/inc5000/wel come.

North Wind earns acclaim as top firm

North Wind Group was recently recognized by Engineering News Record as a top environmental firm, ranking the company at No. 90 in its annual list of the 200 top environmental firms.

This is the third consecutive year that North Wind has been included on the list. The rankings are based on gross revenues reported for the previous year for providing environmental services and products to domestic and international markets. The national news magazine

for the engineering and construction industry has been issuing the Top 200 Environmental Firms rankings annually since 1996.

McBride completes police training

Idaho Falls Police Capt. Mark McBride recently graduated from the School of Police Staff and Command class 316 from the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety.

McBride is the first Idaho Falls Police Department officer to complete this specialized 10-week course. The class includes more than 350 classroom hours, 26 subjects, 18 tests, research papers and take-home projects related to law enforcement management.

McBride studied current law enforcement issues such as efficiently managing police resources, organizational behavior, resource analysis and budgeting.

"(This school) will help me and the (department) understand law enforcement management and how we can progress in this community," McBride said.

Portage receives certifications

Portage Inc. has received certifications verifying that it operates its quality management system, environmental management system and occupational health and safety management system in accordance with stringent requirements and that the company subscribes to a standard of excellence that is recognized internationally.

The certifications are for the offices located in Idaho Falls, Los Alamos, N.M., Butte, Mont., and San Antonio, Texas.

Portage provides engineering and technical solutions for environmental, infrastructure and energy projects.

Firefighters safe, but vehicle burned by Salt Fire

POST REGISTER

SALMON — No firefighters were injured but a truck was burned Monday when the Salt Fire made a three-mile run.

The fire 16 miles southwest of Salmon has burned more than 1,600 acres.

When the fire made its run, a "dozer transport," a truck pulling a trailer used to haul bulldozers, was

reported burned on the fire's east side.

"We heard that one firefighter did pull out his fire shelter," said Bob Sommer, the incident commander, in a news release. "But, we understand that a safety officer took the firefighter to the safety zone."

"Everyone made their way to the designated safety zone. Everybody is safe and accounted for."

Sommer said it's standard practice for firefighters to have safety zones close at hand. Safety zones are areas already burned or otherwise lacking flammable material.

The fire's run — with large smoke columns rising high into the air — was visible from Salmon for much of the afternoon.

Earlier Monday, officials estimated the fire was 5

percent contained.

There are 297 firefighters and support workers engaged on the fire. They have three helicopters, 10 engines, eight water tenders, and six bulldozers.

The blaze started Aug. 25 from a lightning strike. It's burning in a forest with many dead standing and fallen trees, killed by beetle infestations.

CRASH

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Sheriff's Office.

The name of the victim is not being released, pending notification of the families.

The vehicle was traveling south on Sand Creek Road when the driver lost control. The vehicle rolled

3 1/2 times and the man was ejected.

The driver died en route to Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center.

The juveniles were transported to Madison Memorial Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The crash remains under investigation but initial findings indicate that speed may have been a factor, the release said.

SCHOOL

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dents were absorbed in cutting out construction paper sunflowers for an art project while their parents looked on.

"I'm just excited for him to learn, learn and grow," said Andrea Mangan as her son, Patrick Mangan, stood in line with his new "Toy Story" backpack. "I think it's great that it's a new beginning."

At Woodland Hills Elementary School, kindergarten teacher Christine Davis said she saw more tears from the parents than the students.

To help with the transition her students just went through, Davis read them a story called "The Kissing Hand" in which a young raccoon's mother kisses his palm and tells him he can keep the kiss all day.

At the end of the book,

the raccoon gives his mother's palm a kiss as he runs off to start school.

Later on, the students colored and cut out raccoon puppets to take home.

New kindergartner Grace Davies was unfazed by her new surroundings.

"I'm not scared at all," she said as she colored her raccoon blue, pink and purple.

All over the room, students clamored for Davis' help. A veteran teacher, Davis said she knows this is only the beginning of a year of teaching her students skills from tying their shoes to using a glue stick.

"The first day of kindergarten is a little hairy because they need more help," she said. "But after they get the hang of things, there's no better job."

Emma Breyse can be reached at 542-6766. Comment on this story on Post Talk at www.postregister.com/posttalk/.

PRISON

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records show Bird was convicted of at least five impersonation charges in three other cases.

In addition to a methamphetamine addiction at a young age, Watkins said Bird has post-traumatic stress disorder, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and depression.

"When I look at your history, I think it's a recipe for where we stand today," Watkins said. "What can I do that will encourage you to change this life that you hate?"

Bird pretended to be an undercover cop and took a Droid cellphone from Cell Again in the Grand Teton Mall on March 22.

He then impersonated an undercover officer to get money for "fines" from a 19-year-old man March 23, taking the man into a car and driving him around

Idaho Falls.

A manhunt for Bird was launched the evening of March 24 after witnesses said a man matching his description pulled over and threatened another man with a gun. The gun turned out to be an Airsoft gun. Bird was arrested the next day on his way to Idaho Falls from Shelley.

"We have a young man, only 18 years old, that is a great risk to society," said Bonneville County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Dan Bevilacqua. "This time (Bird) went way, way overboard."

Bevilacqua said Bird was diagnosed with anti-social personality disorder and has a "significant substance abuse problem." He said Bird blames his issues on his mother, who is in prison, and a difficult upbringing.

Comment on this story on Post Talk at www.postregister.com/posttalk/.

Fourth conviction in killing

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) — The fourth and final defendant in the robbery and killing of a man who advertised a ring on Craigslist has been convicted.

The Pierce County prosecutor's office said 24-year-old Clabon Berniard will face the equivalent of life in prison when he is sentenced Sept. 9 in Superior

Court.

The jury found him guilty Monday of robbery, burglary, assault and murder charges for the 2010 home invasion shooting of 43-year-old James Sanders.

Three others who went to the home pretending to be interested buyers were convicted and sentenced to lengthy terms in prison.



Ask A Scientist

How can you tell the difference between a fox, a coyote and a wolf?

The wolf is the largest wild member of the canidae or dog family. Wolves in the Rocky Mountains usually weigh 70 to 115 pounds. Males are usually bigger. Wolves can be up to 35 inches tall and measure 57 to 76 inches in length. Their tail is long and bushy and is usually carried up while running, never curled. Their coat can range from coal black to creamy white.

A coyote looks similar to a wolf, but smaller. Coyotes are up to 25 inches tall and weigh up to 44 pounds. Their ears are relatively larger than wolves and their muzzles are narrower and more pointed. Their coat can be gray, buffy or reddish-gray. Their fur can be tipped with black. You can tell them apart from their larger cousins, the wolf and domestic dog, because coyotes carry their tail low when running, while wolves and dogs carry their tail high.

Red foxes are smaller than coyotes. They weigh between 6 to 24 pounds and are about 15 inches tall. Red foxes range in color from red to gray but most are a reddish brown color. They have a white belly, chin, and throat and a white tipped tail. They also have narrower snouts than other canids which allows them to snoop between rocks and bushes to find food. They typically have large ears, which give them keen hearing. They carry their bushy tails straight backward when running, but let it droop when walking.

Question Asked by a Little Peoples Academy Camper

Answered By Alana Jensen

Environmental Educator GSS ESER Program



Gray Wolf



Coyote



Red Fox



Wolf



Coyote



Fox

Wolf Packs


Wolves live in packs. A pack is the wolf's family. They look out for each other, hunt together, and share the same territory. Packs usually consist of the adult parents and their pups, who are too young to leave the pack on their own. Unrelated wolves sometimes join the pack as well. The adult wolves, known as the alpha pair, are the leaders of the pack.

Materials: Cotton balls, friends, three different scents (perfume, lemon juice, vanilla extract, or peppermint extract are examples)

- Set apart enough cotton balls so that every friend has one. Without showing your friends, soak each cotton ball in one of the three scents.
- Give a cotton ball each friend.
- Without talking, each friend must find the rest of their "pack" using only their sense of smell. The pack consists of all of children with the same scented cotton ball.

The wolf's sense of smell is about 100 times better than a human's. If your friends have a hard time distinguishing between smells, have them wet their nose with their fingers. The mucus on a wolf's nose actually helps them smell by capturing scent particles. When a wolf's nose is dry, they may lick it to aid them in using their sense of smell.




Do you have a science question that you have been wanting to ask, but haven't? E-mail your questions to us at askascientist@postregister.com