



COMMUNITY NEWS

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COMMUNITY NEWS

A Beloved Friend
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SCIENCE OF PLACE

Wild Condor
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SUN VALLEY KETCHUM HAILEY



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- Unknown

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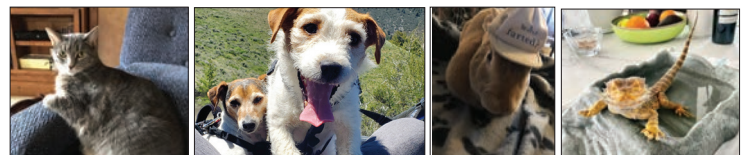


Bellevue's annual Labor Day celebration, held this year on Monday, Sept. 4, in Bellevue Memorial Park, was deemed another great success, with a large crowd throughout the day, plenty of food and drink vendors, craft booths, and live music from 1-7 p.m. Photo credit: WRW staff

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Community Mourns A Beloved Friend

BY ISAAH FRIZZELL

Community is our ultimate strength, especially in times of crisis. We're all that we got and that's a lot.
"The pain passes, but the beauty remains" – Pierre Auguste Renoir

We've all heard the unfortunate events surrounding the fatal shooting of Josh Takacs. The perpetrator, Chris Holloway, made a stupendously life-altering decision affecting an entire community far beyond what he might have been considering in that brief moment of emotional chaos.

Mourning for a community member, beloved and cherished, is a bittersweet moment. The deep irony of life and the lessons we learn in times of crisis can be challenging. We grieve and take the time to put a frame around the space left behind. Fill it with memories and the strong reinforcement that comes from open hearts to transcend. It's a process through which we choose to become stronger as people and as a community. The details won't be reported here yet again. This is for Josh Takacs.

How does such a tragedy take shape in our loving, close-knit community? Josh was a unique and positive force who touched the lives of countless people across Sun Valley and his memory survives through our connections.

Having spoken to shopkeepers, gas station attendants, and so so many friends of Josh, the words of love and fond farewells swell with the weight of tears. It's in the levity of the bright memories and laughter shared that we shore up our compassion, hew our hope and build a spiritual monument that helps alleviate the loss, ensuring his memory will continue.

There's been a potluck for close friends and acquaintances and many small gatherings. If you're invited, show up, bring something, add to the community, even if it's just your presence. A celebration of life is at Bellevue Memorial Park, Saturday, September 23rd at 2 p.m.

With deep care and empathy we must rally around



A memorial has been set up in memory of Josh Takacs in front of his work, Oasis Stop 'N' Go in Bellevue. Photo credit: Ryan Crofts

Josh's mother. Few can understand what she's going through internally but as a community there are things you can do. With an open heart, be available. With compassionate and circumspect attention, kind words, faithful conversation and knowing when to just listen. The mind makes mazes, sometimes people just need to talk, sometimes to sit in silence with a caring confidant. Mourning is a complex human process and everyone

handles it differently. As a community, just showing we're there will make all the difference to a mother, suddenly bereft of her son. We touch and pray for forgiveness, deep understanding and open hearts.

If you wish to donate, find the GoFundMe by searching Josh Takacs or click the link if you're reading online. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/josh-takacs>. You can also contact Mandi Iverson for details

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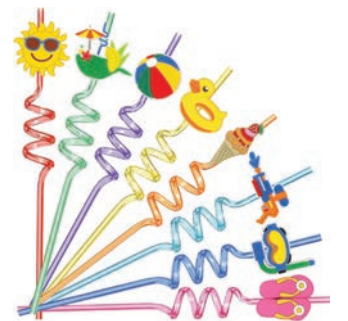
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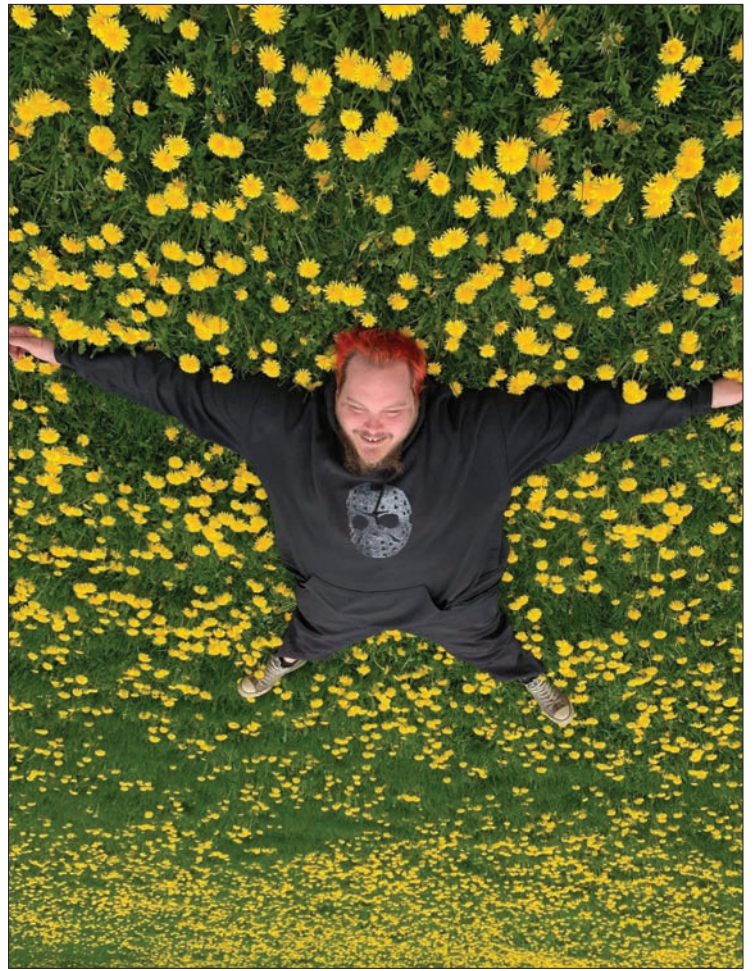
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OBITUARY

JOSH TAKACS

JOSH TAKACS



Joshua Aladdin Blount Takacs, 40 years old, of Bellevue, Idaho, passed away suddenly on August 24, 2023.

Josh was born on January 31, 1983, to Julianna Takacs and Timothy Blount in Palm Springs, Calif. He was an only child.

Josh was predeceased by his father, Tim; his maternal grandparents, Marika Cseh and Julius Takacs; his paternal grandparents, Betty and Donald Blount; and his beloved dogs, Ruvo and Boogie.

He is survived by his mother, Julie, of Hailey, Idaho; his aunts, Maria Takacs and Donna Blount; uncles Scott and Ed Blount; several cousins as well as extended family in Hungary.

Josh began a joyful existence in Desert Hot Springs, Calif., which included his dad coaching him in his Little League endeavors, and where he acquired his love of music and horror movies. He will be remembered for all the heart he shared with his friends and family.

Josh had many acquaintances who quickly became genuine friends for the long haul. He truly loved each of them and was never embarrassed to show you he cared. His hugs were full embraces. His sense of humor was unique and extraordinary. Josh felt that if he did not leave you laughing, he had not fulfilled his mission in life.

Josh had a philosophical side and could talk with anyone about most any subject. He enjoyed times of internal reflection and could sit and talk with prince or pauper, always without judgment, always with respect.

He moved to Bellevue, Idaho, in 2018, and made a forever home here, establishing a tight circle of friends who he dearly loved and who adored him in return. His spark for life brought many smiles to everyone he came in contact with and leaves a dimness that will not be replaced. Joshua is and will be sorely missed.

NEWS

IN BRIEF



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Thursday, September 7th at the Wicked Spud from 6:00 to 9:00pm.

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The Case of Bergdahl

BY KAREN CROWSON

Beaudry Robert 'Bowe' Bergdahl has been in the midst of political controversy since 2009.

Born on March 28, 1986 in Sun Valley, Idaho, Bergdahl and his sister were homeschooled by their parents Bob and Jani in Hailey, Idaho. Bergdahl was raised as a devout Calvinist living out his childhood in a two bedroom home on 40 acres just outside of Hailey in the Wood River Valley Smoky Mountains which are part of the Rocky Mountain range.

Bob Bergdahl was quoted in an interview with Rolling Stones stating, "Ethics and morality would be constant verbiage in our conversations...Bowe was definitely instilled with truth. He was very philosophical about perceiving ethics."

Bergdahl attempted to join the French Foreign Legion but was denied and in 2006 enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard but upon entering basic training, Bergdahl was discharged after 26 days due to psychological reasons. Bergdahl received 'uncharacterized discharge' as an entry level separation. Entry level separations are accompanied by an uncharacterized discharge and are given to individuals who fail to meet 180 days of military service or when discharge action has been initiated before 180 days. A vast majority of these separations occur during recruit training or 'boot camp'.

Between 2007 and 2008, Bergdahl spent time at a Buddhist monastery before enlisting in the United States Army. After graduating from the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia, Bergdahl was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division based out of Fort Richardson, Alaska.

Fellow soldier, Specialist Jason Fry, described Bergdahl as a loner but "focused and well behaved". Before the deployment to Afghanistan, Fry stated that Bergdahl spent his time studying maps of Afghanistan instead of socializing with his comrades during Thanksgiving and that Bergdahl told him, "If this deployment is lame, I'm just going to walk off into the mountains of Pakistan."

In May of 2009, Bergdahl's unit was deployed to Outpost Mest-Malak where the unit conducted counterinsurgency operations. Counterinsurgency is defined as any 'military or political action taken against the activities of guerillas or revolutionaries.'

During this time, Bergdahl began learning to speak Pashto. Pashto is an eastern Iranian language. According to Fry, Bergdahl began, "to gravitate away from his unit spending more time with the Afghans than he did with his platoon."

On June 25, 2009, Bergdahl's battalion suffered its first casualty. A roadside bomb near the village of Yahya Kheyl killed First Lieutenant Brian Bradshaw not far from Bergdahl's outpost.

Bob Bergdahl, father of 'Bowe', believed his son and Bradshaw had become close at their time at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California and that the death of Bradshaw darkened the mood of 'Bowe' Bergdahl.

On June 30, 2009, Bergdahl walked away into the night, leaving observation post Mest-Malak in Paktika Province near the village of Yahya Kheyl.

Within Bergdahl's unit, soldiers claimed that on the morning of discovering Bergdahl's disappearance, they noted his compass was gone but that his equipment remained behind neatly stacked.

In a Daily Beast article, Nathan Bradley Bethea, a member of Bergdahl's unit, wrote that there was no patrol the night Bergdahl went missing. Bethea also stated that Bergdahl spoke about his desire to walk to India.

Cody Full, another member of Bergdahl's unit, claimed Bergdahl had mailed his computer and other possessions home before going missing.

"He knowingly deserted and put thousands of people in danger," said Full. "We swore to an oath and we upheld ours. He did not."

It wasn't long after Bergdahl left his outpost that he was soon captured. There are differing accounts of Bergdahl's capture. Taliban sources alleged Bergdahl was ambushed after becoming drunk off base. U.S. military sources denied the claim stating, "The Taliban are known for lying and what they are claiming is not true."

Other sources alleged Bergdahl simply just walked off base after his shift and others claimed he was grabbed from a latrine. The U.S. Department of Defense attributed Bergdahl's disappearance to "walking off his base in eastern Afghanistan with three Afghan counterparts and is believed to have been taken prisoner."

General Nabi Mullakheil of the Afghan Na-



Bowe Bergdahl. Photo credit: United States Army, public domain

tional Police said the capture occurred in Paktika Province.

On July 18, 2009, the Taliban released a video showing Bergdahl. Bergdahl claimed he was captured when he fell behind on a patrol. In the video, Bergdahl is eating a meal while sitting cross-legged with a shaved head, dressed in gray with the start of a beard.

"I am scared...scared I won't be able to come home," Bergdahl said in the video, "It is very unnerving to be a prisoner."

At one point in the video, Bergdahl was asked if he had any message for his people. Bergdahl responded, "To my fellow Americans who have loved ones over here, who know what it's like to miss them, you have the power to make our government bring them home."

Bergdahl also spoke on his desire to learn Islam. The Department of Defense issued a statement the following day confirming that Bergdahl had been declared missing/whereabouts unknown on July 1 and on July 3, changed to missing/captured.

In the 28 minute video, Bergdahl gave the date July 14 mentioning an attack that had occurred earlier that day. Bergdahl's captors held up his dog tags to establish the captured man was indeed Bergdahl.

That same month, National Guard Master Sgt. Mark Allen was on a mission gathering intelligence on Bergdahl from two Afghan villages when Allen's unit was ambushed by insurgents using machine guns, small arms and rocket propelled grenades. Allen was shot in the head, leaving him permanently disabled and unable to walk or speak. Allen later died on October 12, 2019.

Officers serving in Afghanistan at the time told CNN that diverting resources to locate Bergdahl delayed the closing of Combat Outpost Keating, where eight American soldiers were killed on October 3, 2009, when 300 Taliban insurgents overtook the base. In contrast, a former senior military officer told The New York Times that there was no direct evidence that diversion of surveillance aircraft or troops to locate Bergdahl encouraged the Taliban attacks.

"This was a dangerous region in Afghanistan in the middle of the 'fighting season'", the officer stated, while adding that the search could have created some opportunities for the enemy, it was difficult to establish a direct cause and effect.

After reviewing the database of Afghan War Casualties, The New York Times editorialized that "...Bergdahl's critics appear to be blaming him for every American soldier killed in Paktika Province..."

Once Bergdahl was confirmed as missing, the Army initiated a DUSTWUN search to find him. According to soldiers from Bergdahl's unit, there was an increase in attacks on forces in Paktika Province and that at least six soldiers from Bergdahl's battalion were killed during the search. Retired General Michael Flynn also blamed their deaths on the search for Bergdahl. However, military investigators did not report any of these soldiers as being on a mission to locate Bergdahl.

Bergdahl's father described his son to military investigators as "psychologically isolated."

Some soldiers who served with Bergdahl called him a deserter.

On December 25, 2009, another video was released. This time Bergdahl was wearing sunglasses, helmet and a combat uniform. Bergdahl described his deployment, capture, his place of birth and made statements of his humane treatment by

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Bowe Bergdahl

Continued from Page 5

his captors.

Bergdahl also spoke of the abuses of insurgents in prisons before stating that the United States should not be involved in Afghanistan and that its presence was akin to the Vietnam War.

On April 7, 2010, a third video was released by the Taliban with Bergdahl pleading for the release of Afghan prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay and Bagram.

On June 19, 2010, Bergdahl was promoted in absentia to Specialist.

Bergdahl, that same month, was able to escape his captors but less than nine days later he was recaptured.

In August of 2010 it was reported that Taliban Commander Haji Nadeem claimed Bergdahl was assisting them in bombmaking and infantry tactics. The Pentagon dismissed the claim as Taliban propaganda. A Pentagon investigation concluded that Bergdahl walked away from his unit.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Martin Dempsey stated, "The questions about this particular soldier's conduct are separate from our effort to recover any U.S. service member in enemy captivity", and the military would investigate as to how Bergdahl was captured, "Like any American, he is innocent until proven guilty. (...) Our Army's leaders will not look away from misconduct if it occurred. In the meantime, we will continue to care for him and his family."

In November 2010, Bergdahl appeared briefly in a fourth video. Bergdahl would appear briefly once more in a fifth video in May 2011.

On June 17, 2011, Bergdahl was promoted to Sergeant.

Originally, the Taliban demanded the release of six Taliban prisoners but on February 2, 2011, Taliban Commander Awal Gul died of a heart attack at Guantanamo Bay and so the demand was reduced to five. These five were known as the Taliban Five, consisting of Abdul Haq Wasiq, the Deputy Minister of Intelligence, Mohammad Fazl, the First Deputy Defense Minister, Khairullah Khairkhwa, the Governor of Balkh Province, and Mohammad Nabi Omari, a local politician.

In June 2013, it was reported Bergdahl's parents received a letter from their son through the Red Cross.

In January 2014, the U.S. received another proof of life video dated December 14, 2013 in which Bergdahl mentioned the death of South African former President Nelson Mandela.

On May 31, 2014, Bergdahl was released in exchange for the Taliban Five and was intercepted by Delta Force, a special mission unit component of the Joint Special Operations Command in eastern Afghanistan. The release was brokered with the Taliban by the Afghan, Qatari, and American governments.

At 10:30 a.m. (EDT) 18 Taliban members handed over Bergdahl to Delta Force near Khost on the Pakistani border and was described as a "peaceful handover". A video of the handover was later released by the Taliban.

President Obama appeared with Bergdahl's parents at the White House Rose Garden where he spoke about the swap that resulted in the recovery of Bergdahl. Bergdahl was treated by military medical staff at an undisclosed base in eastern Afghanistan before he was transferred to Bagram Airfield where he was then flown to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany for medical treatment.

It was reported by a U.S. Senior official that Bergdahl claimed he had been beaten, tortured and held in a cage by his captors after he tried to escape. Medical officials stated Bergdahl claimed he had been locked in a metal cage in total darkness for weeks at a time as punishment for trying to escape.

On June 13, 2014, Bergdahl was flown via a military plane to San Antonio, Texas where he was taken to Brooke Army Medical Center to complete his recovery and reintegration. Some republican members of congress have stated that the prisoner swap may have been illegal. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 mandates that all prisoner transfers from Guantanamo Bay require 30 days notice to Congress, which had not been done in the case of Bergdahl.

Upon signing the bill, President Barack Obama released a statement saying the restriction interfered with the President's executive power as Commander in Chief. The White House released a statement acknowledging the release of the prisoners did not comply with the NDAA provision but cited the President's signing statement and "unique and exigent circumstances" as justification. The year prior, then spokesperson for the White House, Jay Carney, assured the press that the decision to free Bergdahl would be made only after consulting Congress, in accordance with said law.

On June 16, 2014, the U.S. Army began investigating the case of Bergdahl's disappearance and on June 25 the military investigators stated that there is "no evidence" that Bergdahl "engaged in any misconduct" during his years in captivity.

On July 13, 2014, a spokeswoman for the army said



Taliban members handed over Bergdahl to Delta Force operators near Khost on the Pakistani border. Photo credit: Screenshot of the Taliban video of the exchange.

in regards to Bergdahl, "He will now return to regular duty within the command where he can contribute to the mission."

Bergdahl was returned to active duty at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. In August 2014, the Government Accountability Office published a report stating that the Pentagon broke the law when conducting the prisoner exchange because it failed to notify Congress in advance, as required by the law.

There was also an investigation headed by Major General Kenneth Dahl. In the midst of the investigation, Bergdahl stated to investigators he left in June 2009 to report on "misconduct in his unit" and his intent was to return.

Dahl's investigation lasted 59 days with 57 witnesses, including Bergdahl, having been interviewed.

Bergdahl's lawyer, Eugene Fidell, stated that Bergdahl told him he "had concerns about certain conditions in the unit" and he figured that the only way to get any attention to them would be "to get that information to a general officer."

In September 2014, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 249 to 163 (22 Democrats joined the Republican majority) to pass a non binding resolution condemning President Obama for failing to give Congress notice before exchanging Bergdahl.

On November 5, 2014, Representative Duncan Hunter (R-CA) disclosed in a letter to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel that Joint Special Operations Command made a ransom payment early in 2014 for the release of Bergdahl. The money was stolen by the Afghan intermediary claiming to represent the Haqqani terrorist network.

"Given the significance of this matter", stated Hunter, "as well as the fact that Pentagon officials have denied that a payment was even considered-and you also said you were unaware of any such attempt-I ask you to immediately inquire with JSOC to determine the specific area of events."

The Pentagon did say a payment had been made for the intelligence that led to Bergdahl's release.

On March 25, 2015, the U.S. military announced that Bergdahl had been charged with two counts under the Uniform Code of Military Justice with one count of "desertion with intent to shirk important or hazardous duty," and one count of "misbehavior before the enemy by endangering the safety of a command, unit, or place."

On July 27, 2015, a memorandum from the Sanitary Board stated, "Though Sgt. Bergdahl did have a severe mental disease or defect at the time of the alleged criminal conduct, he was able to appreciate the nature and quality and wrongfulness of this conduct."

According to documents released by Bergdahl's defense team, Bergdahl was diagnosed with schizotypal personality disorder following an Army Sanitary Board evaluation.

In September 2015, an Article 32 hearing was held at Fort Sam Houston in Texas. Dahl testified he found no evidence suggesting that Bergdahl was "sympathetic to the Taliban" and stated he didn't have intentions to desert and that Bergdahl had "idealistic and unrealistic expectations" of people. Dahl also testified he found no evidence directly relating Bergdahl to the deaths of soldiers on missions to locate him. Dahl went on to say that imprisonment would be an "inappropriate" penalty.

Lieutenant Colonel Mark Visger presiding over the hearing, made a recommendation on whether Bergdahl should be court martialled.

In October 2015, Visger recommended "that the charges be referred to a special court martial and that a punitive discharge and confinement would be inappropriate given all the circumstances."

Visger's recommendation was reviewed by General Robert B. Abrams, the Commander of United States Army Forces Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Bergdahl was serving as a clerk while on active duty and needed security detail to avoid attacks from fellow

soldiers.

In December 2015, Abrams rejected the recommendation ordering Bergdahl to face a general court martial on the two charges. Bergdahl sought a pardon from President Obama but no pardon was granted. The trial had been set for February in 2017.

In January 2016, Bergdahl's attorney requested the Army award Bergdahl the Purple Heart and the Prisoner of War Medal on the grounds that withholding the medals might prejudice and "cast a semblance of guilt" on Bergdahl as he awaited trial.

In January of 2017, Bergdahl's attorneys filed a motion to dismiss the desertion and endangerment charges as it would be impossible for Bergdahl to get a fair trial after President Trump's comment during the campaign that Bergdahl is "a dirty, rotten traitor."

Their motion was declined by Colonel Jeffrey Nance, the military judge presiding over the case and in March, Bergdahl's appeal was denied by the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals. Bergdahl's defense team filed a third motion, requesting the case be dismissed over Trump's comment.

On August 21, 2017, news reports announced Bergdahl refused trial by jury and instead opted for a trial by military judge Colonel Nance.

On October 16, 2017, Bergdahl pleaded guilty to charges of desertion and misbehavior before the enemy, before a military judge at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

On November 3, 2017, Bergdahl was sentenced to be dishonorably discharged, reduced in rank, and fined \$1000 per month from his pay for 10 months, with no prison time. The fine and reduction in rank took effect immediately. Bergdahl's sentence was affirmed by the Army Court of Criminal Appeals.

After the sentencing, President Trump tweeted, "The decision of Sergeant Bergdahl is a complete and total disgrace to our Country and to our military."

In June 2018, General Abrams approved the sentence.

On August 28, 2020, the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces affirmed Bergdahl's sentence. Bergdahl then filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to have a federal judge review his sentence.

In February 2021, Bergdahl filed a petition to have the conviction and sentence expunged.

On August 2, 2021, the Justice Department filed a motion to dismiss Bergdahl's petition.

In March of this year, Senior Judge Reggie Walton partially granted the government's motion to dismiss the case but rejected claims that comments from President Trump had influenced the military court martial.

On July 25, Judge Walton of the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia issued a 64 page ruling voiding Bergdahl's 2017 court martial conviction. The ruling stated that military judge, Jeffrey Nance, who had presided over the court-martial, failed disclosing his application to the executive branch for a position as an immigration judge, thus creating a potential conflict of interest.

Judge Walton stated the case presented, "a unique situation where the military judge might be inclined to appeal to the President's expressed interest in the plaintiff's conviction and punishment when applying..." for a position as immigration judge.

Fidell, Bergdahl's attorney, remarked on the decision as, "an important victory."

Fidell also stated it was unclear what Bergdahl or the military would do or if either side would appeal but the ruling could lead to a second trial before a new judge.

Thus far, Bergdahl has been awarded the Combat Infantryman badge and has ten overseas service bars, including the Army Good Conduct medal, National Defense Service medal, Afghanistan Campaign medal, Global War on Terror Service medal, Army Service Ribbon, and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

Sun Valley Steadfast Offers Pathway to Healing for Women Survivors of Sexual Abuse

Applications are now open for the second Sun Valley Steadfast, a therapeutic intensive retreat for women survivors of sexual abuse. The retreat will take place Sept. 27 – Oct. 1 in Bellevue, ID and features experiential interventions with horses, art, psycho education, individual sessions, and movement. Sun Valley Steadfast is based on cutting-edge neuroscience, using the most effective trauma therapies from The Trauma Resource Institute, Somatic International, and EMDR Trauma Institute.

“The mission of Sun Valley Steadfast is to offer healing that is affordable with the best trauma trained clinicians in the Wood River Valley,” said Boley. “Our goal is to lessen the sensations of distress from the past, and increase sensations of balance, vitality, and resiliency in the present.”

One in three women have experienced sexual assault across a broad continuum of abuse, before the age of eighteen. Many survivors of sexual abuse state they do not understand why they still have reactions to reminders of the trauma especially since it occurred a long time ago. Mentally they know the incident is over and their lives are good now.

“In the 1990’s, brain imaging was able to show what happens in the brain with high stress or trauma in human beings,” said Boley. “The imaging changed our knowledge of treatment with trauma, merging the fields of neuroscience and psychology. Treatment modalities now focus on mind, body, and spirit. Neuroscience is proving that trauma states are anchored in our biology for survival - it is not mental weakness, it is biology.”

“This undertaking takes a village and Sun Valley Steadfast is truly a community-driven program,” said Boley.

Sun Valley Steadfast is made possible by many agencies, private donors, and foundations, including The Advocates as fiscal sponsor and St. Luke’s Community Center for Health offering counseling scholarships for all women who attend Sun Valley Steadfast.

The retreat team is comprised of five licensed counselors/social workers in Idaho who have advanced training in trauma modalities including Robbie Sawyer LMFT, Terri James LCPC, Laurie Strand LCSW, Shelly Vegwert LCPC, and Melissa Boley LCPC. Body move-

ment work will be facilitated by certified QiGong instructor Dr. Jillann Morlan DACM, LAc from Sun Valley Mobile Acupuncture. In addition, Mimi Crocker, owner and Program Director at The Barn, along with Lindsay Jameson, are both equine specialists who are certified by PATH Intl. in Mental Health and Learning (ESMHL). Chef Melissa Mauselle who teaches classes at Sun Valley Culinary Institute will provide all catering; and Traci Ireland, a local Shamanic healer and Reiki teacher since 2005, will open and close the retreat.

The retreat is limited to eight women 18 years and older. Participants must be in therapy and be survivors of sexual abuse. The retreat takes place in Bellevue on Sept. 27 from 5-7 p.m.; and Sept. 28 – Oct. 1 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lodging is not provided. Program cost is \$2,000 per participant and partial or full scholarships are available for the 4-day retreat. A \$250.00 non-refundable contribution is due upon acceptance for each participant.

If interested, please contact Melissa Boley LCPC/Director of Sun Valley Steadfast, for application and screening interview by Sept. 15, 2023. Applicants may call 208-726-7584 or email melissaboleylcpc@gmail.com.

OPINION

CAITLIN JOHNSTONE

Ukraine War Serves U.S. Interests

BY CAITLIN JOHNSTONE

One of the most glaring plot holes in the official mainstream narrative on Ukraine is the way US officials keep openly boasting that this supposedly unprovoked war which the US is only backing out of the goodness of its heart just so happens to serve US interests tremendously.

In a recent article for the Connecticut Post, Senator Richard Blumenthal assured Americans that “we’re getting our money’s worth on our Ukraine investment.”

“For less than 3 percent of our nation’s military budget, we’ve enabled Ukraine to degrade Russia’s military strength by half,” writes Blumenthal. “We’ve united NATO and caused the Chinese to rethink their invasion plans for Taiwan. We’ve helped restore faith and confidence in American leadership—moral and military. All without a single American service woman or man injured or lost, and without any diversion or misappropriation of American aid.”

for what may lie ahead.”

McConnell has been talking about how much this war benefits the US since last year. During a speech back in December the ailing swamp monster argued that “the most basic reasons for continuing to help Ukraine degrade and defeat the Russian invaders are cold, hard, practical American interests.”

“Helping equip our friends in Eastern Europe to win this war is also a direct investment in reducing Vladimir Putin’s future capabilities to menace America, threaten our allies and contest our core interests,” McConnell said.

that defense spending, and threat are annual recurring events.”

Dave DeCamp @DecampDave · Follow

Sen. Blumenthal: US Getting Its 'Money's Worth' in Ukraine Because Americans Aren't Dying

Fresh from a trip to Kyiv, Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) is arguing that the US is getting its “money’s worth” in Ukraine because Russia is taking losses and no Americans are dying,... [Show more](#)



4:58 PM · Aug 30, 2023

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Leader McConnell @LeaderMcConnell · Follow

Continuing our support for Ukraine is morally right, but it is not only that. It is also a direct investment in cold, hard, American interests.



8:26 AM · Dec 24, 2022

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Caitlin Johnstone @caitoz · Follow

I'm probably going to be regularly reminding my readers of this paragraph from @IgnatiusPost for the remainder of my writing career.

The Washington Post
Democracy Dies in Darkness

Meanwhile, for the United States and its NATO allies, these 18 months of war have been a strategic windfall, at relatively low cost (other than for the Ukrainians). The West's most reckless antagonist has been rocked. NATO has grown much stronger with the additions of Sweden and Finland. Germany has weaned itself from dependence on Russian energy and, in many ways, rediscovered its sense of values. NATO squabbles make headlines, but overall, this has been a triumphal summer for the alliance.

6:58 PM · Aug 19, 2023

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As Antiwar’s Dave DeCamp recently observed, this type of “investment” talk about Ukraine has been getting more common. Last weekend Senator Mitt Romney called the war “the best national defense spending I think we’ve ever done.”

“We’re losing no lives in Ukraine, and the Ukrainians are fighting heroically against Russia,” Romney said. “We’re diminishing and devastating the Russian military for a very small amount of money ... a weakened Russia is a good thing.”

Last month Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell argued that Americans should support the US government’s proxy warfare in Ukraine because “we haven’t lost a single American in this war,” adding that the spending is helping to employ Americans in the military-industrial complex.

“Most of the money that we spend related to Ukraine is actually spent in the US, replenishing weapons, more modern weapons,” McConnell said. “So it’s actually employing people here and improving our own military

As we’ve discussed previously, US empire managers have been talking about how much this war serves US interests ever since it began.

In May of last year Congressman Dan Crenshaw said on Twitter that “investing in the destruction of our adversary’s military, without losing a single American troop, strikes me as a good idea.”

“It is in America’s national security interests for Putin’s Russia to be defeated in Ukraine,” tweeted the perpetually war-horny senator Lindsey Graham.

Last November the war machine-funded think tank Center for European Policy Analysis published an article titled “It’s Costing Peanuts for the US to Defeat Russia,” subtitled “The cost-benefit analysis of US support for Ukraine is incontrovertible. It’s producing wins at almost every level.”

“US spending of 5.6% of its defense budget to destroy nearly half of Russia’s conventional military capability seems like an absolutely incredible investment,” gushed the article’s author Timothy Ash. “If we divide out the US defense budget to the threats it faces, Russia would perhaps be of the order of \$100bn-150bn in spend-to-threat. So spending just \$40bn a year, erodes a threat value of \$100–150bn, a two-to-three time return. Actually the return is likely to be multiples of this given

And of course the mass media have been all aboard the same messaging. A few weeks ago The Washington Post’s David Ignatius wrote an article explaining why westerners shouldn’t “feel gloomy” about how things are going in Ukraine, writing the following about how much this war is doing to benefit US interests overseas:

“Meanwhile, for the United States and its NATO allies, these 18 months of war have been a strategic windfall, at relatively low cost (other than for the Ukrainians). The West’s most reckless antagonist has been rocked. NATO has grown much stronger with the additions of Sweden and Finland. Germany has weaned itself from dependence on Russian energy and, in many ways, rediscovered its sense of values. NATO squabbles make headlines, but overall, this has been a triumphal summer for the alliance.”

I suspect I’ll be periodically reminding my readers of that paragraph—and Ignatius’ parenthetical “other than for the Ukrainians” aside—for the remainder of my writing career.

So on one hand the western political/media class have been hammering us in the face with the message that the invasion of Ukraine was “unprovoked” and that the US and its allies played no antagonistic role in paving the road to this conflict whatsoever, and on the other hand you’ve got all these empire managers enthusing about how much this war benefits US interests.

Those two narratives seem a wee bit contradictory, do they not?

A critical thinker can reconcile this contradiction in one of two ways. First, they can believe that the world’s most powerful and destructive government is just a passive, innocent witness to the violence in Ukraine, and is only benefitting immensely from the war as a complete coincidence. Second, they can believe the US intentionally provoked this war with the understanding that it would benefit from it.

From where I’m sitting, it’s not difficult to determine which of these is more likely.

FISHING REPORT



THE "WEEKLY"
FISHING REPORT FOR
SEPTEMBER 6 - 19
FROM PICABO ANGLER

September marks the unofficial start of fall in the Wood River Valley, and with it comes some of the season's finest fishing. Blessed by a great winter and recent rains, most of our local waters are flowing higher than normal with plenty of cold water.

On the Big Wood, we should soon see the arrival of one of the river's best hatches — the Western Red Quill (aka Hecuba). This is a large, meaty mayfly that appears on mild afternoons and tempts the river's rainbows and browns. Use size 10 and 12 imitations such as the H&L Variant, Parachute Adams, Purple Haze, and even Green Drake patterns. Terrestrials such as ants, beetles and hoppers are still prevalent, and a few small mayflies and caddis are found along the river. Dropper nymphs such as Copper Johns, Rainbow Warriors and Rubber Legs have been very effective as well.

Silver Creek continues to produce well in the morning with a mix of BWOs, Tricos and Callibaetis. As the temps cool, the Trico and Callibaetis hatches will wane, while the BWO activity intensifies. Hoppers, beetles, ants and damsels are still productive during the afternoons, especially when there is a good breeze. Toward the end of the month, look for the arrival of the Mahogany Dun and October Caddis.

The Upper Big Lost River is still fishing quite well, and fish are taking a variety of terrestrials and attractor dries. It's a great place to find solitude and hunt for some truly impressive cutthroats. Keep moving, cover lots of water, and concentrate your efforts on the prime locations.

The Lower Big Lost River is still flowing strong at about 600 CFS; we anticipate lower, fishable flows soon.

Floating the Salmon River is still a great option and will hold on until we get some significantly cooler weather.

The South Fork Boise River is flowing at around 600 CFS — ideal flows for the wading angler. Look for the continued presence of Pink Alberts, Flavs, BWOs, and terrestrials.

As autumn gains its hold throughout the valley, streamer fishing on local waters can be extremely productive. Our custom-tied Sparkle Minnows are particularly deadly.

Fall is a spectacular time to be an angler in the Wood River Valley!

Happy fishing, everyone!



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COMMENTARY

NO BONES ABOUT IT

FRAN JEWELL

Dog Mugging, NOT Hugging

BY FRAN JEWELL

Recently, I was working with a young puppy in town. We were practicing friendly greetings with people with no jumping. Along came two HUGE male dogs at least twice the size of the puppy. They were off leash but with electronic collars so I assume the owner of the two huge dogs felt he had control of them. The two huge dogs surrounded the puppy, sniffing and putting their heads over the pup's shoulder. The puppy, clearly terrified and unsure what to do, tried to back away and hide. The two huge dogs did not bite, growl or sneer at the puppy, but clearly terrified the pup. I asked the owner to please call his dogs. The owner seemed insulted that I would ask. I tried to explain that the puppy was clearly not having fun.

Contrary to popular belief, this was not a "friendly" greeting on the part of the huge dogs. Mugging is when one dog emotionally or physically creates trauma for another dog. It does not necessarily mean a fight or bite. This incident was a mugging.

A "mugger" has been allowed to do such behaviors in the name of being "social." What would have been proper social protocol would be for the owner of the huge dogs to ask if it was all right for them to "socialize" with the puppy (or other adult dog), giving the puppy owner a choice.

Fortunately, in this particular case, the puppy is very social and quite confident. It did not appear that there would be long-lasting effects from this interaction.

HOWEVER, had this puppy been going through one of the first-year fear periods, this could have emotionally damaged the puppy forever. If the puppy had been a fear-aggressive adult dog, on a leash, this could have turned into a terrible fight. And, given the size and breed of these two male dogs, I am afraid it could have ended very ugly.

Had this puppy been a service dog or service dog in training, the actions of the two huge dogs would have been against the law, interfering with the work of a service dog. In Idaho, there is a \$5000 fine for interfering with the work of a service dog.

Socialization is a great thing. Kind, friendly dogs are wonderful. But, allowing any dog to mug another dog is potentially dangerous to everyone, even the human passersby.

Proper social greeting is to have your dog under control enough that you can ask your dog to sit near you when you see another dog or person. Ask first if it is okay for your dog(s) to socialize or greet the



Mugging is NOT friendly behavior! Photo credit: Fran Jewell

other dog. Then, be respectful of the owner's response. It is no dog's God-given right to approach anyone — dog or human — without the other's permission. As a dog owner, this is simple respect. It doesn't matter if your dog is a rescue, or purpose bred, if you are new to town, or if you are hiking in the woods, OR if your dog is "friendly." Please, just be respectful and PREVENT muggings. It's the kind, caring thing to do.

Fran Jewell is an IAABC Certified Dog Behavior Consultant, NA-DOI Certified Instructor and the owner of Positive Puppy Dog Training, LLC in Sun Valley. For more information, visit positivepuppy.com or call 208-578-1565.

SCIENCE OF PLACE

LARRY BARNES

THE NEW WILD CONDOR

BY LARRY BARNES

On Sunday, Valentine's Day 1982, a California condor soared on its broad wings high above Sespe Condor Refuge in Southern California. To the north, the bird could see the endless agricultural lands of the San Joaquin Valley and to the south, the air pollution hanging over the L.A. sprawl. As seen through a 60-power Questar telescope, the condor was a tiny dot, flying with an even smaller speck, a prairie falcon, both rising on a shared thermal to higher elevations. For the condor, its future as an extant species on Earth was gravely uncertain.

These are my memories from 41 years ago upon seeing my first condor. At the time only 27 remained. Twenty-two were wild and free, roaming the last corner of their range in a broad U-shaped territory just north of Los Angeles. Five years later all had been captured in a last ditch attempt to save the species through captive breeding.

I do not know which condor I saw that day, but it could have been Adult Condor 08 (AC-8). She had hatched in the wild and was the last female to be captured in 1986. In 1987 all of Earth's condors were in federal breeding facilities. AC-8 was held in captivity for 14 years, during which time she produced 12 eggs. In the wild, California condors produce one egg every two years, but in captivity biologists are sometimes able to increase the rate of production up to two eggs annually.

AC-8 was freed in 2000, soaring on her 9-foot wings for the first time in more than a decade. Condors are social birds and her role in the wild was to mentor the few young condors that had recently been reintroduced into the wild. She was wild and free again, but in December 2003, AC-8 was recaptured, treated for lead poisoning, but released once more. She cruised her former range, perhaps as high as 20,000 feet at 80 mph, alert to the

odor of some freshly dead mammal or the sight of turkey vultures, golden eagles, or other condors that had already found carrion to eat.

On Feb. 8, 2003, Britton Cole Lewis, age 29, was pig hunting on a Kern County ranch when he saw a condor for the first time. Taking aim, he shot AC-8 out of a tree. She was between 30 and 40 years old at the time of her killing.

During the Pleistocene, California condors had a range extending to Florida, but as the large megafauna disappeared, the condor's range shrank to the Pacific Coast from the Columbia River, where Lewis and Clark saw them in 1805, to Baja California. Here they occurred in low densities, finding recently dead mammals to eat, including whales and other marine life.

Their decline abruptly increased with the arrival of Europeans, who, like Britton Cole Lewis, found them tempting targets. In our chemical warfare against predators, poisoned carcasses intended for coyotes killed condors as well. The electrification of the West took another share of condors when the birds were electrocuted when perching on power poles. Some of these obstacles to condor recovery are greatly reduced now, but one remains.

Ingesting lead can be lethal to people and condors. A lead bullet entering an animal disintegrates, creating a contaminated wound channel of tiny toxic lead fragments. California has banned lead ammunition, but the National Rifle Association is opposed to this measure. Lead is certainly still being used in California, Utah and Arizona, where reintroduced condors now fly free. Copper bullets, the lead alternative, are as lethal as lead bullets, but safe if ingested.

What does it mean to be wild? Almost 600 California condors are living today, over 350 of them are flying free in three U.S. states and Baja, California; most are tagged with



California condor 01 is a 12-year old male hatched at Boise's World Center for Birds of Prey. He is now wild and free in Grand Canyon National Park. Photo by Larry Barnes.

visible numbers and many have solar-powered GPS units fastened to their bodies. Much of the wild population is routinely recaptured to assess their health. If their lead levels are dangerously high, they receive chelation treatment and are released upon recovery. Some populations have feeding stations where they can reliably find lead-free carrion. So, are they still wild?

Recently, at the Navajo Bridges in Grand Canyon, I watched condors interact with each other, preen, curiously watch people, and navigate through the skies and invisible thermals in any direction they wished. Regardless of what we think, it was easy to imagine that the condors themselves do feel wild and free.

MONEY MATTERS

KRISTIN HOVENCAMP

SLEEP AT NIGHT

BY SUZANNE HAZLETT, MBA, CIMA®, CFP®

When developing a relationship with your wealth management team, the team must understand and appreciate you and your family's uniqueness. You are investing in a group you trust to make the best decisions. They will take the time to research potential outcomes, so you do not have to watch the market all day and lay in bed worrying at night. To facilitate a robust and long-lasting connection, I encourage the following:

Communicate frequently and honestly with your advisors and keep everyone up-to-date on noteworthy changes in your life. Make it a habit of sharing future financial wants and needs and any anticipated adjustments to cash flow. Portfolio reviews should occur quarterly.

Investment portfolio management, annual tax planning, and estate matters are integral in ongoing financial planning. Surround yourself with professionals willing to maintain an open dialogue with one another. You never want to be caught off guard and have a forced sale of assets to pay taxes due or be unprepared for the untimely passing of a loved one.

Stay true to your agreed-upon portfolio strategy and avoid the herd mentality. Just because someone says "it" is a good investment does not mean "it" is a good investment for you. Along with your input, your team will create a portfolio that wrings out the most returns with the least risk.

Be cautious of alternative investments and products that need to be simplified. Alternatives can play a valuable role in your portfolio. However, investment products that would not ordinarily be on your radar may start looking attractive during a recession or periods of prolonged inflation. Talk to your team and learn about the pros and cons of an investment before making any decisions.

Once you and your team have developed a financial plan in alignment with your life goals and risk tolerance, stay the course. Even if you must make a slight detour, you will comfortably sleep at night.

Suzanne Hazlett is the CEO and founder of HAZLETT WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC, which is independent of Raymond James and is not a registered broker/dealer. Investment advisory services are offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc. Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. Investing involves risk, and you may incur a profit or loss, regardless of strategy selected. Raymond James and its advisors do not offer tax or legal advice. Discuss any tax or legal matters with the appropriate professional. 675 Sun Valley Road, Suite J1 + J2 Ketchum, Idaho 83340 208.726.0605. HazlettWealthManagement.com



Suzanne Hazlett, MBA, CIMA®, CFP® is the founder of Hazlett Wealth Management, LLC.

INSPIRATIONS FROM MY HEART

DOVE

BISCUITS WITH HONEY AND FREEDOM

BY DOVE

My grandmother made the lightest, fluffiest biscuits in the world on an old woodstove. She had no refrigerator and used a north window with a screen and some shelves for cooling. The bacon grease from the cooked bacon the day before went into the biscuits and the result was amazing. Fresh butter that was just churned and honey was slathered on top. This truly was a heavenly treat. We had no idea that this was poverty as they only had four electric lights and no running water. We felt blessed with the wonderful food provided. Nothing was ever wasted and a compost pile fertilized the garden for the next year. Things were simpler then.

Now, in order to RSVP to a wedding invitation, I have to respond to a QR code with my cellphone. I did not know that I had to open the website rather than continue to give my response. They wanted my credit card. I figured out I was to go to the website to answer all the pertinent questions. Finally, I completed the task.

Truthfully, I think I would rather pick up the phone and talk to a real person to give my response. We have created an environment in which we can avoid any real connection with other humanity. Our freedoms are being turned over to A.I. so rapidly I can't keep up with the changes. You can't go to a concert without having your ticket on your phone and half the time the peoples' phones scanning your phone for your tickets don't work.

I wonder why we have gone down this path of everything electronic. We eliminate the true meaning of life when we give up our social in-person connections. A.I. does not give hugs or cry with you. A.I. does not laugh with you or share your heart space, but sometimes it can help with organization speed. There is no human emotion with my cellphone, but I do like the camera and the ability to take pictures.

Somehow a balance needs to exist between electronics and life. The news talks about 15-minute cities, which will completely control what you buy and where you go. You are allowed one 1500-mile airplane trip every three years in a 15-minute city. That is not freedom. That is just a jail by a different name controlled by the digital world.

Maybe we could get back to a little of the personal reality of homemade biscuits with honey, and eggs from your own chickens. Let's find a balance between automation and true connection with all living things.

Happy Labor Day. May Source grant you a day for freedom to be you. Blessings, Dove



ON LIFE'S TERMS

JOELLEN COLLINS

Shame On Scams And Shame On Me

BY JOELLEN COLLINS

Most intelligent people I know have avoided scams, and I thought I was as smart as they are. However, I forgot how clever scammers can be, and how complex are the ways they can manipulate media and computers to fool a lot of us.

I have learned through trial and error not to be tempted by internet appeals from unknown sources. A while back I wrote about a couple of guys on Facebook who had not shared any friends with me, asking if I would friend them. I was suspicious enough to ignore them and did some poking around. I found that the same two handsome men appeared over a few days with different names. I should send their photos to Dr. Phil, who has featured newly impoverished elderly women spending fortunes to get these guys near enough to meet! The last time I ordered a bargain from a Facebook advertiser, I received a damaged sweater from China which I could not return unless I went through customs. I'll admit some of the ads are very clever and seductive. Even so, I have been proud of the way I have done research on some websites, not being fooled by color and price.

However, during my recent time spent very quietly recovering from arm and shoulder injuries, I thought it would be productive to find a way to republish my two novels. It turns out that my original publisher has not bothered to send me royalties. I kept thinking it would change, especially because Amazon reported good sales. This publisher has been around for many years and must be getting away with it sufficiently to still be in business.

At any rate, I thought by Googling and researching possible new publishers I would find someone reputable out of the plethora of prospects. I certainly did get lots of flattery and phony raves about my books in the process. Unfortunately, I succumbed to two companies (one for each book) and, even though reluctantly, fell for the expenses involved with advertising and marketing costs. I can almost hear my readers thinking "stupid," as I certainly have. I think my recent long periods of quiet stimulated a fantasy of my being able to sell my books sufficiently to help in the expenses of my later life and even leave something other than writings and love to my family.

I am not ashamed of my books: it certainly wasn't the excessive flattery that I could see through, but part of it was that my new publicists really convinced me of their intelligence and positive promises to help me in my quest. I have always been a bit gullible and wanting to see the best in people, two characteristics I thought had taken a more modest residence in my personality. I suggest that anyone who senses a scam ask someone who is really computer literate to explore the landscape of money-hungry websites and people who get away with this travesty. Buyer beware.



JoEllen Collins—a longtime resident of the Wood River Valley—is an Idaho Press Club award-winning columnist, a teacher, writer, fabric artist, choir member and unabashedly proud grandma known as "Bibi Jo."

WRANGLER'S WRITINGS

BRYCE ANGELL

Hurricane and Harley

We latched the trailer door down tight. Three horses were inside. Next stop would be the Tetons for a daylong trail ride.

But my cell phone started ringing. It was Harley down the road. "I heard we've got a ride today. I'm saddled up to load."

I winced, then answered Harley, biting on my lower lip, "Pack yourself some sandwiches. We'll be there in a bit."

Most of us knew Harley Jones, a scuffed -p cowboy cuss. And when you were around him, well, your patience was a must.

Harley was a bachelor, seemed to scare the gals away. But he always owned a horse or maybe crowbait you could say.

And just to say a word or two 'bout Harley and his horse. Old Harley called him Hurricane. He was a threatening force.

The driveway down to Harley's barn would test your driving skill. The black mud holes, then 4-wheel drive, were more than just a thrill.

We couldn't help but notice Harley looked a painful sight. I'd been told that Hurricane and Harley had a daily fight.

Harley had a bloodied nose, his left eye swollen shut. And just below the hairline showed a nasty two-inch cut.

It looked like Hurricane had won. Old Harley said, "Not so! Hurricane's the one who has the saddle on, ya know?"

I opened up the trailer gate and Hurricane looked in. He blew a snort and pulled straight back, kicked Harley in the shin.

The proof was in the pudding how the crowbait earned his fame. I've had a few like him before. Now Elmer's is their name.

My horse's eyes were telling me, "Don't put him in here, please!" But Hurricane surprised us when he jumped in with such ease.

Harley needed patching up before we hit the road. A dozen band-aids, super-glue would fix him good as gold.

Harley rode the Hurricane with not a buck that day. They took the lead and set a pace for the trail ride all the way.

Hurricane and Harley were a welcome to our group. But you learned to keep your wits or they could throw you for a loop.

So when it comes to riding we'll include most anyone. Each ride's a mix of cowboys. That's the recipe for fun.

— Bryce Angell



Bryce Angell - The outdoors has always been a large part of my life. My father was an outfitter and guide for 35 years and I was there to shoe and care for the horses and help him do the cooking. We took many great trips into the Yellowstone area. Even now that I'm older, we still ride into the Tetons, Yellowstone and surrounding areas. My poems are mostly of personal experience. I am now retired and enjoying life to the fullest. I plan to do more riding and writing.

6TH ANNUAL HAILEY HISPANIC HERITAGE FEST

BY TAMMY DAVIS

OUR VOICE COUNTS

Celebrating Latino America and Mexican culture and its Independence, achievements and contributions here in the U.S., primarily in strengthening Hispanic mental health.

Join the festivities from September 15 to October 15 as we honor National Hispanic Heritage Month & shine a spotlight on the importance of Hispanic mental health.

Our inaugural events are set at Hailey Town Center West from September 15 to 17 and throughout Blaine County. Towns that are participating are The Community Library in Ketchum, Bellevue Public Library and Carey Itty Bitty Farms.

Friday: Dive in with the Hailey Public Library Kickoff. Live music with Quinta Generacion, pinatas, loteria and delicious food from Taqueria Al Pastor#1 food truck.

Saturday: 6th Annual Hailey Hispanic Heritage Fest. A day-long celebration from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Immerse yourself in the rhythms of live music with Huracanes del Peru, Mariachi Acapulco, Crossing Bridges (Jerome Highschoolers Flockorico dancers), Banda Xcorpion and DJ Regio. The beauty of arts displays, a plethora of resource tables, interactive activities, of course mouth-watering cuisines. Lastly, insights from our guest speakers Lacey Galloway on "Healthy Emotional Language" and John "Zender" Estrada Arts Show.

Sunday: Engage from 3-6 p.m. John "Zender" Estrada will captivate you with his talk on "How Arts Heals."

NUESTRA VOZ CUENTA

Celebrando a América Latina y la cultura mexicana y su Independencia, logros y contribuciones aquí en los EE. UU., principalmente en el fortalecimiento de la salud mental de los hispanos.

Únase a las festividades del 15 de septiembre al 15 de octubre para honrar el Mes Nacional de la Herencia Hispana y destacar la importancia de la salud mental de los hispanos.

Nuestros eventos inaugurales se llevarán a cabo en Hailey Town Center West del 15 al 17 de septiembre y en todo el condado de Blaine. Las ciudades que participan son The Community Library en Ketchum, Bellevue Public Library y Carey Itty Bitty Farms.

Viernes: Sumérgete en el inicio de la biblioteca pública de Hailey. Música en vivo con Quinta Generación, piñatas, lotería y deliciosa comida del camión de comida Taqueria Al Pastor#1.

Sábado: 6to Festival Anual de la Herencia Hispana Hailey. Una jornada de celebración de 10 a 20 horas. Sumérgete en los ritmos de la música en vivo con Huracanes del Perú, Mariachi Acapulco, Crossing Bridges (bailarines Flockorico de Jerome Highschoolers), Banda Xcorpion y DJ Regio. La belleza de las exhibiciones artísticas, una gran cantidad de mesas de recursos, actividades interactivas y, por supuesto, cocinas deliciosas. Por último, las opiniones de nuestros oradores invitados Lacey Galloway sobre "Lenguaje emocional saludable" y John "Zender" Estrada Arts Show.

Domingo: Participar de 3 a 6 p.m. John "Zender" Estrada te cautivará con su charla sobre "Cómo cura el arte".

Patrocinador y socio de Comadre:
The Crisis Hotline
Patrocinador compadre: H Property Service



Evaluate Your Mortgage Loan Types

BY ANNA & MICHELLE

Making an informed decision about securing a mortgage loan is vital, as it involves understanding the available options and considering relevant factors. With a range of mortgage types designed to cater to diverse needs, it is essential to carefully evaluate your circumstances and goals to select the most suitable option. By taking the time to gain a broad understanding of the mortgage landscape, you can make a confident and well-informed choice that aligns perfectly with your unique situation.

Primary Types of Mortgages

Fixed-Rate Mortgage (FRM) – With a fixed-rate mortgage, the interest rate remains constant throughout the loan's duration. This ensures that your monthly principal and interest payments remain unchanged, providing stability. While taxes and homeowner insurance costs may fluctuate, your mortgage payment remains steady. This mortgage type is ideal for long-term homeownership, typically spanning a decade or more.

Adjustable-Rate Mortgage (ARM) – An ARM offers an initial fixed-interest rate for a specific period, after which the rate adjusts periodically. These mortgages often commence with lower interest rates, resulting in lower initial monthly payments. The adjustment periods can vary, with some ARMs remaining fixed for several years before adjustments occur. ARMs are suitable when long-term fixed rates are high or if you plan to sell the property within a shorter timeframe.

Other Mortgage Loan Types

Balloon Mortgage —This mortgage involves monthly payments based on a 30-year term, with the remaining balance due in a lump sum after a specific period. It may include options to reset the interest rate and extend the due date based on specific conditions.

Conventional Conforming Loans —These loans adhere to standards set by Government Spon-

Continued
MORTGAGE LOAN TYPES
Next Page



Diffuse Dilemma

BY: BLAINE BUG CREW

Life is full of dilemmas. Noxious weeds in Idaho are just another dilemma we need to deal with. Many ask, what is the best way to take care of a noxious weed infestation. Some choose to till the weeds, others use sprays, many pull the weeds, while some turn to biological control. Dealing with a diffuse knapweed dilemma in Idaho requires a multifaceted approach. No matter how you choose to deal with this noxious invader, it's important to understand the characteristics of this weed.



Centaurea diffusa basal rosette, first year plant. Photo credit: Thayne Tuason, public domain.

Diffuse knapweed is a biennial, or short-lived, perennial reproducing entirely by seed and producing up to 18,000 seeds per plant. Flowers occur singly or in clusters, bloom from July to September, and may be white, pink or lavender. The bracts of the flowerheads are tipped with a long, slender spine fringed with smaller spines. Seeds are blackish-brown with vertical brown and gray stripes and about 0.1 inch long. Stems are typically 6 inches to 2 feet tall with deeply divided leaves.

Diffuse knapweed prefers well-drained, light-textured soils and is intolerant of shade. This plant is common along roadsides and at disturbed sites.

Biological control agents have been approved for release for the knapweed complex, which includes diffuse knapweed. If you're interested in biological control, we have an insect predator that eats diffuse knapweed.

Larinus minutus are abundant biological control agents that can utilize spotted, diffuse and squarrose knapweed. Larinus minutus overwinter as adults, which emerge in the spring when they begin to feed on knapweed foliage. Females produce between 28 and 130 eggs, which they lay in clusters in open flowers. Eggs hatch into larvae, which feed on seeds and receptacle tissue for about

a month. Larvae construct cocoons within the seed heads using pappus hairs and pupate. Emerging adults chew a characteristic round hole in the top of the cocoon that is visible when viewed from above.

As you can see, this insect is effective in reducing the vigor and density of diffuse knapweed. Whatever way you choose to solve the dilemma of your diffuse knapweed problem, we wish you luck. If you have any questions, please contact Morgan Baird at the Blaine County Weed Department at (208) 788-554, ext.1136. She will help to answer any of your questions.

Mortgage Loan Types

Continued from Page 7

sored Enterprises (GSEs) like Freddie Mac or Fannie Mae, allowing lenders to sell them. Conventional loans can be fixed- or adjustable-rate and finance various property types.

Conventional Nonconforming Loans —Unlike conforming loans, these conventional loans do not conform to GSE standards, making them less standardized. Their terms and pricing may vary based on property price or creditworthiness.

Government-Guaranteed Loans —Designed to increase homeownership accessibility, government agencies offer mortgage loan guarantees for specific populations.

FHA Loans —These loans offer low-down-payment options, as low as 3.5%, to eligible homebuyers. They are insured by the federal government and allow lower credit scores, though they tend to be slightly more expensive than conventional loans.

USDA Loans —Aimed at low- and moderate-income buyers, the USDA offers programs for purchasing or building homes in rural areas. These programs include options for down-payment assistance.

VA Loans —Exclusively for eligible military personnel, veterans, and their spouses, VA loans provide favorable terms, often without down-payment requirements or private mortgage insurance.

HUD 184 and HUD 184A Loans —The HUD 184 loan program supports American Indian and Alaska Native families, while the HUD 184A loan program assists Native Hawaiians on Hawaiian homelands. These loans offer low down-payment options, flexible underwriting, and unique benefits for eligible borrowers.

Interest-Only Loans —With interest-only mortgages, homeowners initially make payments on interest only, typically for a fixed period. After this period, payments include both principal and interest. This type of loan can be suitable if you plan to sell or refinance before the interest-only period ends.

Manufactured Home Loans —Designed for affordable housing, manufactured home loans require lower down payments and are specifically tailored to finance manufactured homes built to national safety standards.

Hard Money Loans —Hard money loans are a type of short-term financing option secured by the property itself, rather than the borrower's creditworthiness. Hard money lenders are private individuals or companies that provide these loans based on the value of the property and its potential for profitability.

Owner-Carried Loans —Owner carried loans, also known as seller financing, are a type of financing arrangement in which the seller of a property acts as the lender. Owner-carried loans can benefit both parties, providing the buyer with an opportunity to acquire the property and the seller with a steady income stream from the loan payments.

Choosing the right mortgage loan involves evaluating your financial circumstances, long-term plans, and personal preferences. By understanding the diverse range of mortgage options available, you can make an informed decision that aligns with your homeownership goals. Consult with a reputable mortgage professional to explore these options further and determine the best mortgage type for your specific needs. We would be pleased to recommend a trusted mortgage professional to you.

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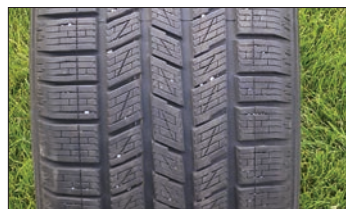
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