

THE ARGONAUT

THE VANDAL VOICE SINCE 1898

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Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Hope for Syringa flow *Park owner signs proposal to restore potable water*

George Jr. Wood
Argonaut

With only seven days until Christmas, the 140 residents of the Syringa Mobile Home Park community received a notice from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality that warned their tap water was no longer safe for drinking.

The families of the park were informed of the hazardous levels of chlorine, lead and other contaminants present within their water, and not even boiling the water would make it safe for drinking.

The new year didn't bring much improvement in Syringa living conditions. While some moved out of the community entirely, many others stayed, citing a lack of means to be able to move elsewhere. James Ware, a 52-year-old homeowner in Syringa, said he sees a bleak future for the park.

"I don't see this place surviving," Ware said. Syringa Mobile Home Park Owner Magar E. Magar signed a proposal last Sunday that will soon lead the community to be able to enjoy the commodity of potable water, following swathes of broken sewer and water pipelines that led to long periods with no running water, multiple lawsuits and the determined effort of many philanthropic organizations aiding the Syringa community.

Shannon Musick, manager of the park since late December, said Magar signed a proposal March 9 that will alleviate many of the violations the DEQ cited him for in their civil complaint against Magar Feb. 8. The proposal also addressed many issues that were brought up in a Feb. 28 class-action lawsuit by Syringa residents against Magar.

What proposal?

The proposal places City of Lewiston Water Distribution Supervisor Brian Hall temporarily in charge as the water system operator for the community. Hall said that right now, a chlorinator installed without a proper sensor is causing the unsafe levels of



Shirley Greene, president of missions for the Moscow Nazarene Church, surveys a Syringa Mobile Home Park resident in order to compile a list of needs and wants for the community, which has been without clean water for three months. **George Wood Jr. | Argonaut**

chlorine and contaminants in the Syringa Park drinking water. He also said the parts to fix the system are en route.

"By next weekend, everything should be should be running perfectly," Hall said.

Hall said he will remain in charge as the water system operator until Syringa Park Manager Musick becomes licensed to take over — a process that Musick said she has begun and plans to complete in June.

Musick said another part of the proposal is the creation of a community action plan for the DEQ.

"We're in the process of creating a community action plan form for the DEQ this week," Musick said. "Basically, give them an outline for the steps we are going to take to fix these things."

That still leaves the lead in the water, according to the DEQ notice. However, Hall

and Musick both claim an incorrectly gathered water sample is the culprit for the unacceptable lead levels.

"It was sampled from an empty trailer that was sitting there for 30 days, and you're not supposed to collect a sample from water (that has) set for eight hours," Musick said.

SEE SYRINGA, PAGE A4

Pushing through

Session deadline approaching, Idaho legislature passes bills quickly

Chloe Rambo
Argonaut

BOISE — As the legislative session draws near to its March 21 goal, bills are being pushed through the House and Senate in multiples. Here's a breakdown on which bills are moving to the desk of Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter.

Senate Bill 1254

Following an hour and a half of debate in the full House Thursday, the bill allowing concealed firearms on campus passed with a 50-19 vote. Otter has said in the past he supports the bill, but made no comment on whether or not he plants to sign it into law this week. Associated Students of Boise State University President Bryan Vlok along with other student leaders from Idaho colleges and universities delivered a stack of papers to Otter — some letters from students and faculty in opposition of the bill, others part of a petition with more than 2,900 signatures from students.

S.B. 1257

By changing the language in Idaho's quality program standards incentive grants, Idaho could soon establish the Agricultural and Nature Resource Education Program Start-Up Grant Fund to increase natural resource education throughout the state.

S.B. 1374

This bill would allow Idaho's orchards and

SEE PUSHING, PAGE A5

Training to save lives

IFC hosts CPR, AED certification course for fraternity members

Ryan Tarinelli
Argonaut

Spending six hours in a conference room studying first aid and resuscitating plastic mannequins is not the ideal way to spend a Saturday for most students. But for Kyle Swanstrom and many other University of Idaho fraternity members, the time was well spent.

"Not only is this helpful in the fraternity setting and on the campus setting, but everywhere you go there's the potential for something to happen, and it's good to be prepared," Swanstrom said.

SEE LIVES, PAGE A5



IFC President Steven Cleppe practices CPR techniques on a test dummy Saturday afternoon in the Idaho Commons. Cpl. Art Lindquist of the Moscow Police Department taught the CPR and AED certification course. **Nicole Tong | Argonaut**

Tribal tribute

NALSA receives \$2,500 grant

Jake Smith
Argonaut

The University of Idaho College of Law Native American Law Student Association (NALSA) has been named a recipient of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's Education Donation program. However, this year's donations have seen a decline, in comparison to 2013.

Five percent of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's net gaming revenues from casinos are donated in support of the region's education. The funds are directed to the Education Donation program, which began in 1992 and in two decades has invested \$18 million to the region's education programs.

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe donated \$2,500 to UI's NALSA chapter this year — down from last year's \$5,000 donation to the Native Law Program and \$5,000 to NALSA.

The UI Native Law Program received

\$5,000 from the Coeur d'Alene Tribe in 2012.

This year's donation assisted in UI's travel and registration costs for the National NALSA Moot Court Competition hosted by University of Oklahoma College of Law Feb. 28-March 1. The donation will also allow UI NALSA students to attend National NALSA elections at the 39th annual Federal Bar Association Indian Law Conference in New Mexico April 10-11.

The UI NALSA Moot Court Team, as

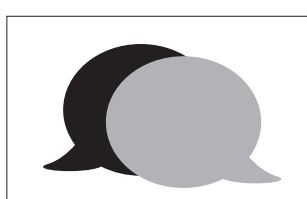
SEE TRIBUTE, PAGE A5

IN THIS ISSUE



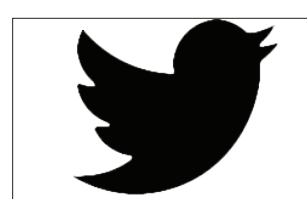
Fill out your WAC tournament brackets for Idaho men's and women's basketball

SPORTS, B4, B5



Make good choices over break, stay safe. Read Our View.

OPINION, A6



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Department of Student Involvement

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www.uidaho.edu/getinvolved

REEL LEADERSHIP- PITCH PERFECT
WED. MAR. 12 @ 7PM
SUB. BORAH THEATER

TASTE OF TREEFORT
WED. MAR. 12 @ 6-11PM
MEMORIAL GYM

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SUBMISSIONS DUE
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@ 3PM COMMONS
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DUE WED. MAR. 26

CRUMBS

White chicken chili

Vicky Hart
Crumbs

Three days of a sinus infection calls for two things — homemade chicken soup and a kick of heat. This recipe has both and is fool-proof to boot.

I used raw chicken breast, but canned or any other pre-cooked meat would work fine. The only things I know about cumin is that it's spicy and I don't have any in my pantry. I used a mixture of chili powder, paprika and ginger instead — plus salt and black pepper for good measure. What I do keep around is fresh cilantro, so I tore about a tablespoon or two of leaves up, and added them. When the chili was hot, I ladled out a serving and added bottom-of-the-bag tortilla chips and some diced avocado to the top it off.

This chili is spicy, satisfying and an easy step toward

feeling better soon. It only takes 20 minutes to cook and makes 2-3 servings.

Ingredients:

- 1 can (14.5 ounces) chicken broth
- 1 can (7 ounces) salsa verde
- 1 can (15 ounces) white cannellini beans, drained
- 2 cups cooked chicken, shredded or chopped
- 1 teaspoon cumin (or other spicy spice: chili powder, paprika or ginger)
- Salt and pepper
- Optional toppings: chopped onion, diced garlic, fresh cilantro, diced avocado, corn chips, shredded cheese

Directions:

In a pot, heat olive oil with chopped red onion and some minced garlic, then add chicken pieces.

After chicken cooked through, drain off the liquid,



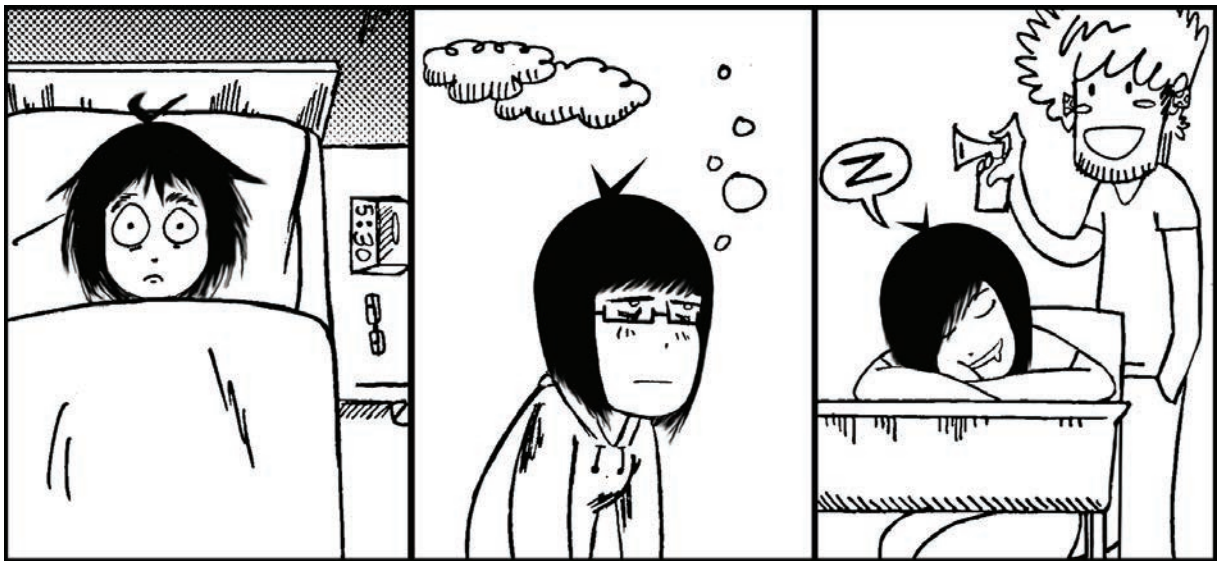
Vicky Hart | crumbs

break them into smaller pieces and add the rest of the soup ingredients to the pot — including broth, salsa, beans and spice. Stir together and heat

until it boils. Serve hot with choice of toppings.

Vicky Hart
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crumbs@uidaho.edu

High Five



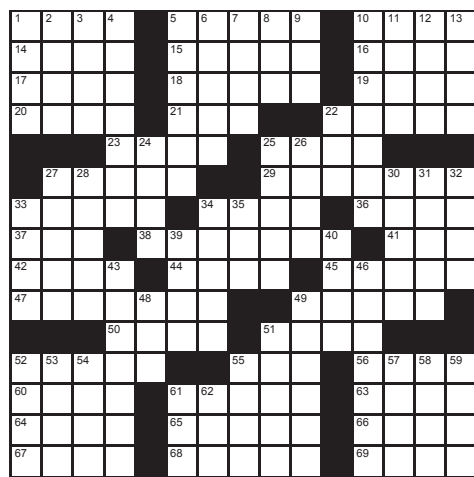
Shane Wellner | Argonaut

FOR MORE COMICS SEE COMIC CORNER, PAGE 10

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Scored on serve
- 5 Razor sharpener
- 10 Stadium souvenirs
- 14 Loud laugh
- 15 "Common Sense" writer
- 16 Seed covering
- 17 Pound of poetry
- 18 Title holder
- 19 Quash
- 20 Lip-___
- 21 Pen filler
- 22 Smallest
- 23 Hideous
- 25 So-so
- 27 Bashes
- 29 Retaliates
- 33 Lock site
- 34 Medical breakthrough
- 36 Hacienda room
- 37 Seek a seat
- 38 They get the lead out
- 41 Prohibit
- 42 Flu symptom
- 44 Bullfight cheers
- 45 Puts a stop to
- 47 Ghent locale
- 49 Blender button
- 50 Table scraps
- 51 Mongrel
- 52 Related maternally
- 55 Costa del ___
- 56 State (Fr.)
- 60 Lucy's husband
- 61 Run ___ of
- 63 Speechless
- 64 ___ and sciences
- 65 Wilkes-___, Pa.

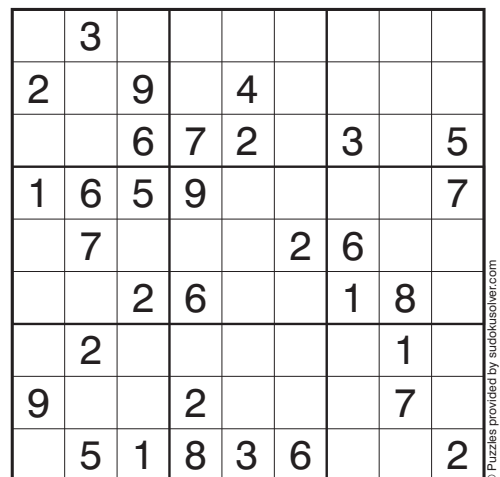


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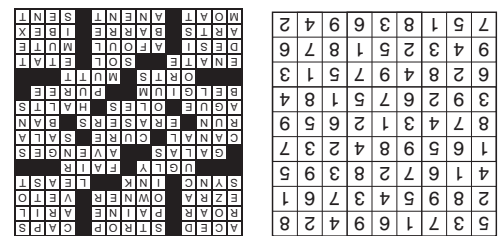
Down

- 1 Greek war god
- 2 Snug
- 3 Have coming
- 4 Stoker vampire
- 5 Loot
- 6 Lion-colored
- 7 Milieu for Lemieux
- 8 Indivisible
- 9 Pricing word
- 10 Carlsbad attractions
- 11 Atlas stat
- 12 Apricots have them
- 13 Token taker
- 22 Golfer's concern
- 24 Battering wind
- 25 Passengers
- 26 Allege as fact
- 27 Assess
- 28 Invalidate
- 30 Clark of "Comrade X"
- 31 Gladden
- 32 ___ souci
- 33 Cocktail decapod
- 34 Quiets
- 35 Employ
- 39 Defeat decisively
- 40 Close
- 43 Know-it-all
- 46 Sister of Apollo
- 48 E.U. member
- 49 Fryer
- 51 Grieve
- 52 Wax-coated cheese
- 53 Agrippina's slayer
- 54 Hammett hound losers
- 55 Like some
- 57 Toothpaste holder
- 58 Solar disk
- 59 Student's book
- 61 Camel hair fabric
- 62 Groupie

SUDOKU



Puzzles provided by sudokunet.com



THE FINE PRINT

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Find a mistake? Send an email to the editor.

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Open again

Patty's Mexican Kitchen reopens for spring, summer

Danielle Wiley
Argonaut

Patty's Mexican Kitchen has opened for the 2014 season and its owners are hoping to receive their liquor license this coming year.

Nathan Armon, a University of Idaho student and bartender at Patty's, said this year Gerardo and Patty Alvarez, owners of Patty's Kitchen, are hoping to incorporate more of the bar section of the restaurant. They currently sell beer on tap, wine and different flavored margaritas.

"We're going to throw some mean drinks down this year," Armon said.

Armon said he's hoping to start serving summer-themed and seasonal drinks like mojitos, daiquiris and pina coladas — if Patty's receives a liquor license.

This summer will also see structural changes to Patty's. Gerardo said every year he tries to add onto the restaurant's porch and dining area. This year, he is going to restore some of the porch that has already been

built. Gerardo is a former UI student who studied architecture, and he's used those skills to build the porch and the additions to the restaurant.

Patty's Kitchen opened, after Gerardo and Patty finished their degrees at UI and started selling salsa at the Moscow Farmers Market.

"It was just by luck ... I was a grad student and I was looking to make a little extra money at the market, so we started selling salsa and it was a huge success," Patty said. "So we started selling tamales and people loved them. Then we started making burritos and tacos and people loved the food ... and it just blossomed into this."

Gerardo said he and his wife were living on campus and one day they walked by a building for rent and decided to jump right into the restaurant business.

Now the Alvarez family owns the building and the real estate. For the first 10 years of business, Patty's stayed open year around.

"We decided to go seasonal, because we have two small children that need a parent's attention," Patty said.

Today Patty still cooks in the kitchen and uses the same popular recipes from when Patty's opened.

"Our food is a little bit different then everyone else's," Patty said. "We weren't initially restaurateurs, our food is still spiced the way we would eat it at home ... We cook our food for taste and flavor profile, not necessarily for the biggest bang for your buck."

Patty's staff includes almost all UI students. Gerardo said he started delivering food when Patty's first opened, because the restaurant was so small. He was afraid that people wouldn't want to wait in such a small space for their order. Now Patty's has a larger front area, a large outside porch and a heated space in the back for indoor dining.

"I use to say that this was a place for students that was put together by a student,"



George Wood Jr. | Argonaut

UI students Emma Leonard and Rose Orona enjoy Patty's nachos at Patty's Mexican Kitchen which officially reopened March 1.

Gerardo said. "I'm no longer a student unfortunately, but the feeling is still the same."

Gerardo said he wanted to create a restaurant where UI students could come together and feel comfortable. He said he felt that when he started, some businesses around town only wanted a student's money — but his place is about hanging out, having a good time and enjoying what's at UI's doorstep.

"Patty and I take a lot of pride in providing this place," Gerardo said. "We've

been invited to weddings ... people let us know about when they are having children ... people come here for their first date and then come back as a family ... a lot of my lifelong friendships have been made here with students."

Adrian Bravo, a UI student, has been working for Patty's since July 2012.

"There's a lot of people that we get that don't have a lot of experience, and he (Gerardo) is willing to look past that and willing to train

you, that's one thing that I love," Bravo said. "Not only that, I've lived and supported myself since I was 16 and so Gerardo, when he found that out he really connected with me ... and one thing I'll never have to worry about is food ... he's always willing to offer me food and help and support. They introduce me as their son ... I definitely see them as family because they've been there to support me."

Danielle Wiley
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arg-news@uidaho.edu

Police Log

Wednesday, March 5

10:37 a.m. 800 block, Stefany Lane,
Caller reported an injured skunk.

2:43 p.m. West Sixth Street, McConnell Hall

Two dogs were found running around and were caught by a student.

Friday, March 7

7:15 p.m. 100 block West Sixth St.

David Lehmitz with the Moscow Police Department said a guest at the Royal Motor Inn was harassing other guests and was clearly intoxicated. Officers instructed the guest to return to his room.

Saturday, March 8

2:38 a.m. 100 block North Main St.

A UI student was cited and released for urinating in public on a Dodge pickup truck.

4:16 p.m. South Harrison Street, Harrison Apartments

A burglar stole \$875 in personal items from a vehicle, including a laptop, backpack and purse.

11:21 p.m. 1100 block West A St.

A UI student was taken to Gritman Medical Center Saturday night for alcohol poisoning, and was later cited for minor in possession.

In a related case, another UI student was arrested for providing alcohol to a minor.

Sunday, March 9

12:39 a.m. 300 block Taylor Ave.

Callers reported loud bass. Officers responded and told resident turn down music.

Monday, March 10

1:07 a.m. Kibbie Dome

Two people were seen trespassing inside the Kibbie Dome.

LunaFest goes local

Annual Women's Center event raises money for breast cancer

Erin Bamer
Argonaut

The University of Idaho Women's Center expanded their traditional event, LunaFest, this year by accepting short films entered by local Moscow citizens and UI students.

LunaFest is a traveling, national film festival featuring short films by, for and about women. According to Lysa Salsbury, director of the Women's Center, the festival began 13 years ago by the makers of "LUNA Bar" — a granola bar nutritionally beneficial to women.

Every year, the creators of LunaFest accept submissions from female, independent filmmakers. Salsbury said the films usually range from one to 15 minutes long. Nine films are selected to tour the country and are featured in various locations hosting the festival.

According to the LunaFest organization, 15 percent of the funds raised go to the Breast Cancer Fund —

LunaFest's main beneficiary. The other 85 percent goes to the organization hosting the festival.

The UI Women's Center will host LunaFest at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre. There will be a reception to begin the event with food and drink, as well as a raffle containing prizes donated from local businesses. The short films will show at 7:30 p.m. Students will be charged \$6 to attend the reception and films, and \$3 if they only want to view the films. General admission is \$12 for reception and films, and \$6 for films only.

As an addition to the festival, the Women's Center accepted submissions from locals and students. Two short films will be featured at the festival with the other nine. Three UI students made one film and Denise Bennett, assistant professor for the School of Journalism and Mass Media, created the other.

Bennett's film is titled "Selfie" and focuses on self-representation, specifically whether society is more focused on documenting personal events rather than living the moment. Bennett said she acted in, produced, directed and edited her film, working with five other people. Bennett said because the film focused on herself, the most gratifying moment for her was finishing it.

"It's really hard to make a film about yourself," Bennett said. "Always with these documentary challenges it's good to just finish it and get it done."

According to Katie Noble, administrative assistant for the Women's Center, Bennett was the reason she started attending LunaFest in the first place. Noble said Bennett was her teacher while she was a student in the JAMM school.

Noble said because the topics covered are always so broad, there is usually something relevant to everyone who attends LunaFest.

"One year I had a really, really emotional response to one of the pieces, because it talked about Alzheimer's, and I had just had a grandmother that had passed away from Alzheimer's," Noble said. "So for me it was deeply personal to understand those stories and that impact, and to be able to relate to the films in that way."

A portion of the money raised from LunaFest goes to support the Breast Cancer Fund — a non-profit organization that researches the environmental causes of breast cancer, such as cleaning chemicals and makeup.

Salsbury said in her opinion, many breast cancer foundations get too much press, when their intentions aren't solely on fighting the disease.

"I know a lot of survivors of breast cancer are deeply offended by the 'I heart boobies' and 'Save the ta-tas' type of awareness raising," Salsbury said. "The pink-ification of everything in October where, you know it's like you're selling toilet paper and it's got a pink ribbon on it. What does that have to do with breast cancer really?"

Salsbury said she thinks it's a good thing the Breast Cancer Fund researches environmental causes, because it does play a role not many people know about and it is a breast cancer campaign that has preventative intentions.

Salsbury said there are many reasons both male and female students should come to LunaFest. She said too often people are taught about the negative issues of women, such as the wage gap and oppression by patriarchy — which are important, but LunaFest focuses on celebrating the greatness of women.

"This is a way to really celebrate what women are doing, the way that they're contributing through art to our society and to advancement of women in a field that's really dominated by men still," Salsbury said.

Erin Bamer
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UPCOMING DINING EVENTS



St. Patrick's Day Event

Are you lucky enough to win a free pass for our next Stone Steakhouse Event?!
Thursday, March 13th
5-7:30pm At Bob's Place

Iron Chef Challenge

Would you like to participate in this cooking challenge?
Come to Bob's before the event to sign up!
Thursday, March 27th
5:30-7:30pm



JAMBA JUICE

@ Bob's Place
One Day Only
THURSDAY, MARCH 13TH
4PM-6PM



LIMIT ONE PER PERSON

Clip this Ad to Receive \$1.50 off any Pizza Combo at JV's Pizzeria. Must present clipped ad upon purchase. Expires March 25th, 2014.



Photos by George Wood Jr. | Argonaut

Top: The lagoon near Syringa Mobile Home Park is where a significant amount of sewer runoff is deposited. A proposal recently signed into action by park owner Magar E. Magar is set to restore drinkable water to the residents of the park. **Left:** Syringa Mobile Home Park Manager Shannon Musick stands beside Well No. 10, the primary water source for the park residents. A proposal recently signed into action by park owner Magar E. Magar is set to restore drinkable water to the residents of the park. **Top right:** For the past three months, the lack of drinkable water for the residents of the area has been a harsh reality. Even with the efforts by many philanthropic organizations around the Palouse to donate water to the residents, some families grab more water than others, and certain families miss out on the help entirely. **Bottom right:** Kasey Osborne and Shirley Greene survey residents of the Syringa Mobile Home Park to gauge the needs of the community.

SYRINGA

FROM PAGE A1

Michael Camin, engineering and remediation manager for DEQ at Lewiston, said while the sample could possibly be invalid, the only sample received from Magar was 10 times the normal amount of lead. Camin said there are procedures for sending an alternate sample, but the DEQ never received another sample after notifying Magar of the lead levels.

"The info we are given is what we use," Camin said.

Musick also said Magar approved discounts in rent payments for January through March, 2014. She said a \$75 discount will be factored into January's rent, a \$40 discount on February's rent, and a \$30 discount will accompany March rental payments.

Philanthropic methods

The sun was breaking through small spots in the clouds over Moscow March 7. Some of the golden spotlights illuminate the Syringa Mobile Home Park, where Shirley Greene, President of Missions for the Moscow Nazarene Church, walks door to door with her assistant Kasey Osborne. She knocks on a door, asks the resident some questions, and fills in different lines on one of the surveys she has latched to her blue clipboard. She said she averages about nine

houses during a survey run.

"We're trying to assess the needs of the community, and how we can best help them," Greene said.

For Syringa philanthropic work, Greene said she is working with many different organizations around Moscow and Latah County, and the survey information will eventually be compiled for use by the coalition of Syringa aid groups.

One of these groups is the Latah County Human Rights Task Force, and UI Law student Patrick Johnson is a task force member who is spearheading a project that is raising money and resources to aid the residents of the Syringa Mobile Home Park.

"We felt this was a human rights issue, and it needed to be addressed," Johnson said.

The project has set up a fund to assist the residents of Syringa at the Eastside Wells Fargo, and those wishing to donate can mail checks made out to "Latah County Human Rights Task Force" with "Syringa Relief Fund" written in the memo line Latah County Human Rights Task Force, Box 8613, Moscow, ID 83843.

Johnson said the money would be used to help pay for gas cards as well as maintenance and supplementary food needs of Syringa residents. Johnson also said he was looking into ways that the task force and its volunteers would be

able to help move the trailers of Syringa residents.

"We are working with residents to make sure money is used in the most efficient way possible," Johnson said.

Many locations around Moscow, such as the Church of the Nazarene, Heavenly Salon and St. Augustine's Catholic Center are also accepting community donations of food and water for Syringa Mobile Home Park residents.

Katie Goodson, a Campus Minister with St. Augustine's Catholic Center, said she heard about the community support for Syringa a few weeks ago, and since then has provided Johnson with his primary pool of volunteers. She said she has between 20 to 30 volunteers available for loading water into trucks, and eventually she is prepared to coordinate them to help any Syringa residents wanting assistance moving out of the park.

Goodson and Johnson have been working with Idaho Ice and Northwest River Supply to deliver a truckload of water once a week to the Syringa Mobile Home Park. The first truckload arrived at the park Sunday, and Johnson said he and his team relied on Syringa residents to distribute the water equally among themselves.

"We delivered our first load of water on Thursday, and the residents were beyond appreciative of our efforts," Johnson said. "There

is a tremendous amount of need, as our truckload did not meet the needs of everyone in the park."

However, Musick has noticed that equal distribution of water among the residents has become an issue due to some residents collecting more water than others.

Musick said she was officially hired as park manager Dec. 23, and 10 days later, the water main at the park broke, the sewer and water pipelines eventually froze in many of the houses, and Musick's husband Mike Musick teamed up with volunteers from the Real Life on the Palouse organization Feb. 8, to thaw frozen pipelines and help replace broken ones.

These community groups on the Palouse have been active in aiding Syringa, and the Latah County Human Rights Task Force may not be alone in their resolve.

"The Task Force is preparing to provide support for however long it takes," Johnson said. "We are going to continue to work until this problem is solved."

Magar and the courts

Even as various philanthropic organizations and the Syringa management work to improve conditions at the park, the DEQ and three residents of the park have sued Magar for the water deficiencies that have plagued residents for the past three months.

Jessica Long is the UI College of Law General Litigation Clinic Supervising Attorney, and will represent three residents of the park who came to the UI Legal Aid Clinic after having their water shut off completely at the park. There will be an open hearing at the Latah County Courthouse March 25.

"There is going to be two issues before the judge on the date," Long said. "One is whether we can certify our complaint as a class action on behalf of all the residents. The other, is to get a preliminary injunction to have Mr. Magar ordered to start providing a regular supply of drinkable water."

The DEQ issued a formal complaint against Magar Feb. 8, citing 15 penalties and the department is seeking penalties of up to \$10,000 for each one. Some of the penalties included failure to maintain required water pressure on multiple dates since 2012, failing to monitor and report water samples correctly and on a regular basis, modification of public water supply without submitting required plans and not having a valid wastewater operator license.

"The goal is to have Syringa Mobile Home Park return to compliance with state regulations," Camin said.

George Wood can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu

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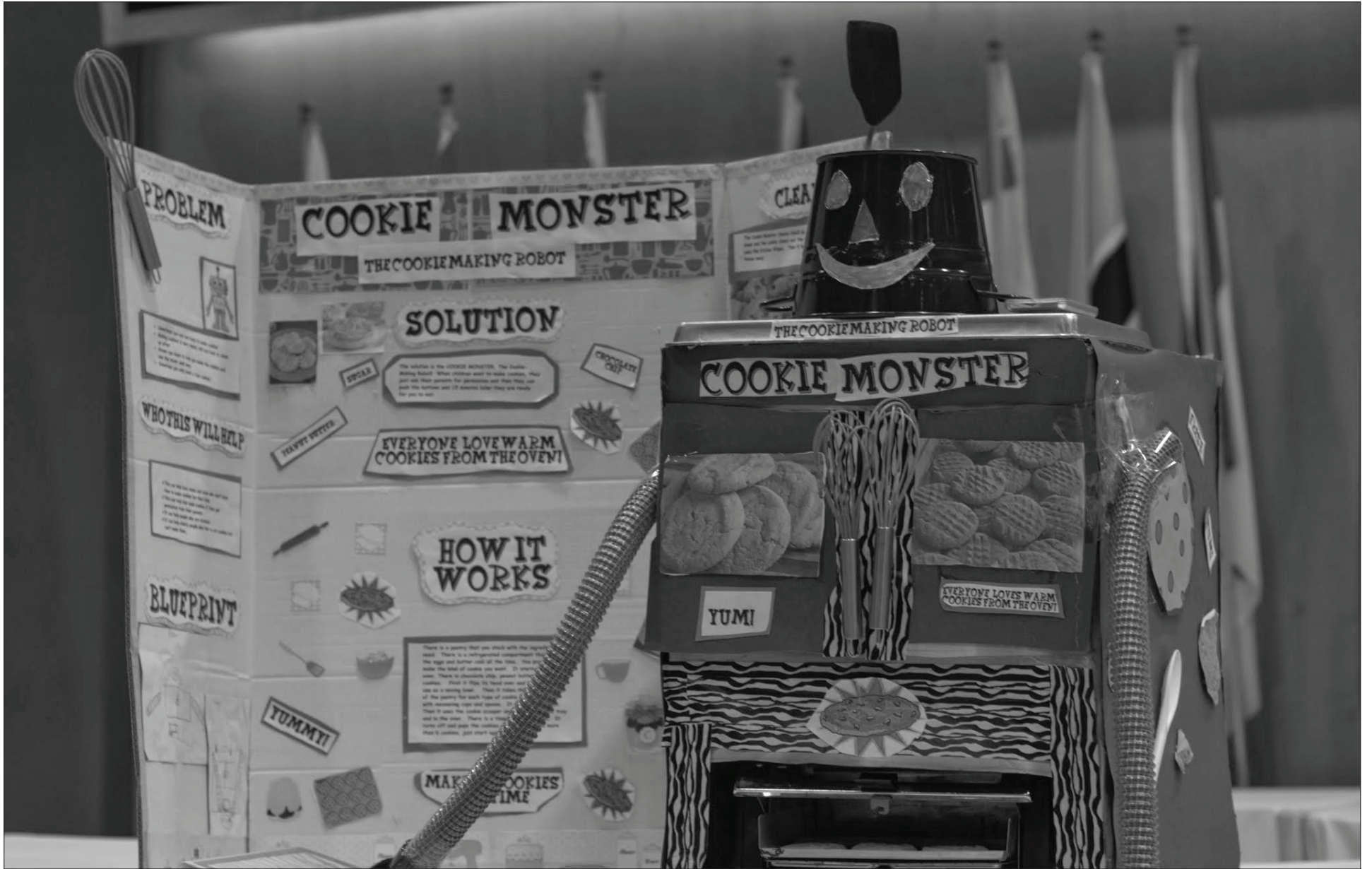
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COOKIE MONSTER



George Wood Jr. | Argonaut

Created by Garwood Elementary fourth grade students Holley Cass and Cole Daricek, The Cookie Monster is one of the many inventions that were presented at the 23rd annual Invent Idaho competition March 7 in the Student Union Building Ballroom. The machine is equipped with a toaster oven, lysol wipes and a mixing bowl that doubles as a head piece and makes cookies for all to enjoy.

PUSHING

FROM PAGE A1

farms to hire inmates to fill vacant jobs. Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Patti Lodge, R-Huston, sponsored the bill and said the bill demands inmates' earned wages go to the prison to offset cost of jailing, commissary items and to adjust back into society, but the inmates wouldn't displace any other local workers. Backed by the Idaho Farm Bureau and Idaho orchards, the bill was amended in the Senate yesterday and is moving toward the full Senate for discussion.

House Bill 504

Passing the Senate unanimously, this bill would give \$15.8 million in teacher leadership bonuses next year. The bill passed through the House on a 62-6 vote and now sits on Otter's desk for consideration. The bill is a part of bringing Idaho's education system in line with task force recommendations of increasing teacher pay to enable Idaho to hire and retain quality teachers.

H.B. 556

In efforts to bring Idaho's public education in line with the recommendations made by the Governor's Task Force to Improve Education, bill sponsor Rep. Steven Harris, R-Boise, created this bill to require input from students and parents in teacher evaluations. School administrators have raised concerns that evaluations from young students — especially students younger than 5 years old — will not be valid. The bill passed through the full House by a 35-31 vote and will now move to the Senate Education Committee.

H.B. 589

Sponsored by Rep. Patrick McDonald, R-Boise, this bill would amend existing law to give schools provisions to create school safety plans, as well as change required provisions regarding the Public School Income Fund. The bill is on the second reading calendar of the House and could come up for debate as soon as this week.

Chloe Rambo can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu or on Twitter @CRchloerambo

TRIBUTE

FROM PAGE A1

well as more than 60 teams from 17 states, competed in the national NALSA moot court competition — a law school extracurricular in which students participate in a simulated court proceeding and make an oral argument against an opposing team.

The topic for the 2014 NALSA moot court competition was American Indian gaming and whether the employment statute allowing collective bargaining could apply to a hypothetical tribe's casino. Rhylee Marchand, NALSA co-chair and competitor in the event, said she and her partner prepared for the competition months in advance.

"We went through a pretty rigorous practice schedule," Marchand said. "We practiced two to three days a week for a month and a half."

Marchand, a second-year law student, said the competition was a good opportunity to learn more about public speaking techniques.

Ashlee Ray, a third-year law student and NALSA co-chair, said the \$2,500 donation will pay for airfare, a hotel and registration costs at the FBA Indian Law Conference.

The Indian Child Welfare Act will be presented in a breakout session at this conference, in reference to a recent case concerning an adopted child named Veronica.

Ray said the case pertained

to a father who was a member of the Cherokee Nation and his estranged girlfriend — who wanted their daughter to be adopted to a non-Native American couple.

"According to ICWA, if there's an Indian child that's getting adopted out, the first preference is to the family and Indian couples within the tribe," Ray said.

According to Ray, last year this subject focused on mascots, specifically the Washington Redskins.

Another topic to be presented is reservation infrastructure as an economic driver.

Angelique Eaglewoman, associate professor of law at UI, said NALSA raises the profile of UI and gives undergraduates opportunities to learn about the pathway to law.

Eaglewoman said UI's NALSA chapter puts on a drive for incoming law students and donates LSAT prep material to the Native American Student Center. There is a dedicated shelf of LSAT material free for undergraduate students to utilize in this student center.

"Our students here not only get to connect with tribal communities locally, but also get to network with tribes across the country and other Native Americans that are planning on going into the field of law, as well as those interested in law school," Eaglewoman said.

Jake Smith can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu

LIVES

FROM PAGE A1



Being able to educate people and train them in the necessary procedures to take to make it so it's a safer area."

Steven Cleppe, IFC President

The Interfraternity Council hosted a CPR and AED certification course taught by the Cpl. Art Lindquist of the Moscow Police Department Saturday.

Steven Cleppe, IFC president, said every house on campus was represented at the training sessions. He said he originally wanted the president, risk manager and a freshman from every fraternity to attend, but due to scheduling conflicts, fraternities sent one to three members who they felt could act responsibly in an emergency situation.

Lindquist, an instructor for the Red Cross, said Cleppe approached him with the idea of teaching a certification course to address safety issues in the Greek community.

"There have been concerns in the past and issues that have popped up," Lindquist said. "When anything happens there, it tends to stand in the forefront."

Cleppe said alcohol related incidents have required IFC to be more proactive in educating the Greek community on safety procedures.

"When I had the idea to do this, I looked at past experiences that have happened on campus," Cleppe said. "Being able to educate people and train them in the necessary procedures to take to make it so it's a safer area."

Cleppe said IFC is involved in other safety training programs that increase the safety of fraternities, including alcohol poisoning talks and police programs. He said these safety trainings will reduce the severity of future incidents and teach members lifelong skills.

Cleppe said he thought the training would be too expensive for IFC's budget, but discovered the courses were affordable and signed up for two sessions to accommodate as many members as possible.

Swanstrom said the course covered first response techniques and warning indicators that responders should look for. Even though he has taken CPR classes before, he said it was important to review the process and necessary steps.

Swanstrom said the course strengthens the safety environment of fraternities and renews a sense of responsibility to fellow members.

"We want to hold ourselves accountable and help each other out, and so every tool we can have in our tool belt to help each other out is very helpful," Swanstrom said.

Ryan Tarinelli can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu

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OPINION



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OUR VIEW

Springtime safety

Spring break brings good times, stay safe

The weather is getting warmer, midterms are hitting everyone hard and we are all ready for spring break. Luckily for students and professors, the period of rest begins after the end of this week.

Whether you are staying in Moscow, going home to another state or heading off to an Alternative Service Break excursion, remember to stay safe and make wise choices. Use this break from stressful college life to relax and refresh, so we can all come back ready to finish out the semester with a bang. We're at

the tail end of the school year, one of the most difficult portions. Have fun and be safe.

Students driving home should practice safe driving habits. Don't drive at night, ensure that you've had plenty of sleep before making the trip and don't drive overly long stretches at a time without stopping to rest. Although pets can be cute, make sure they are locked up before driving to decrease distractions within the car.

Remember to watch out for friends and acquaintances, whether out for a night on

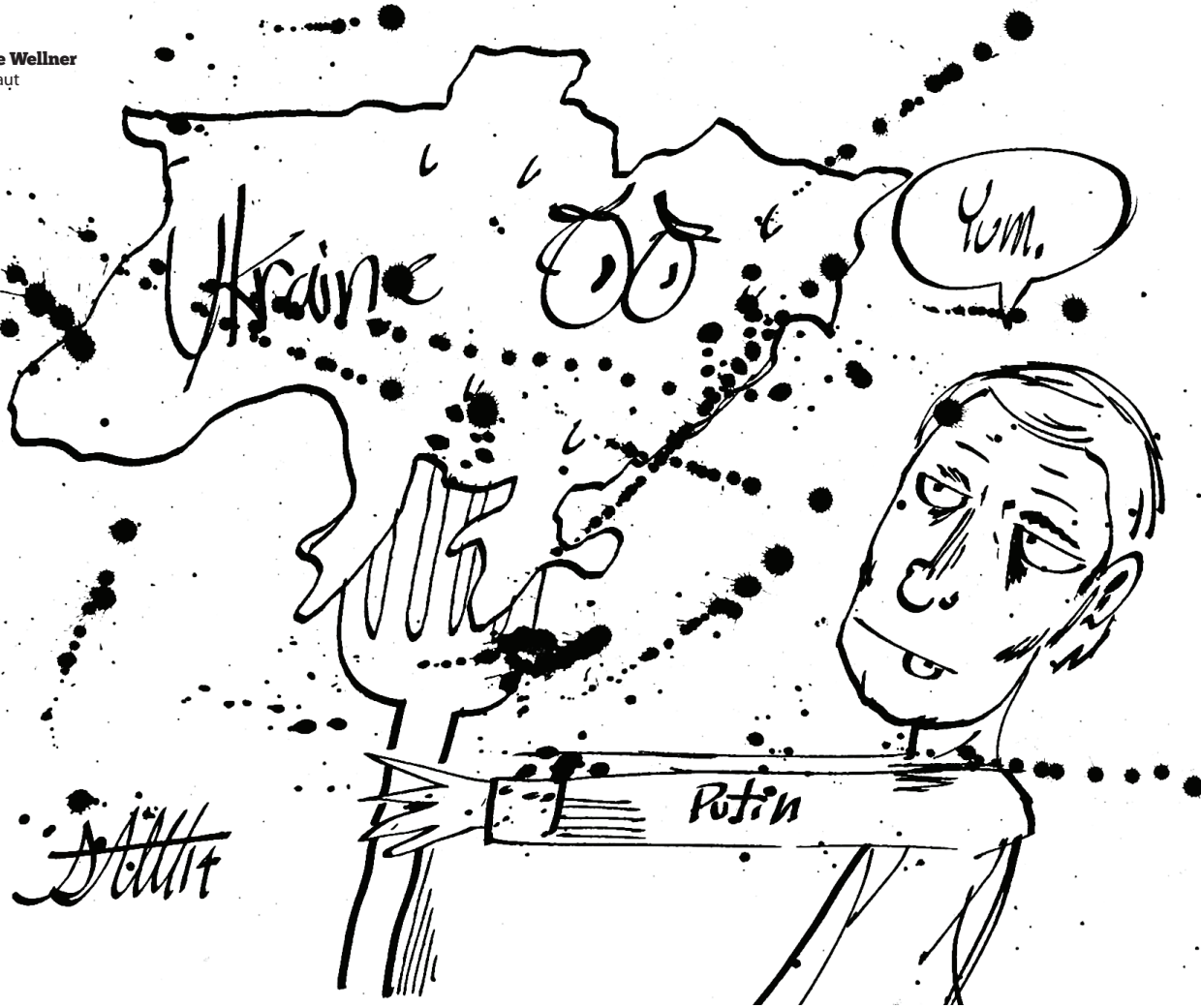
the town in Moscow, or exploring a new city. Stick to a buddy system and make sure whatever activities you're participating in, that you do them safely. Don't be afraid to step in and help a friend out, if it looks like they might be getting into a sticky situation.

It's a tough time of year, and spring break is exactly the thing most of us need to get through the rest of the semester. Let's guarantee we all come back safe and sound. Have fun, take a break and be smart.

-KM



Shane Wellner Argonaut



'Ag-Gag' animosity

Idaho S.B. 1337 hurts Idaho and gives nothing

Last time you saw Jared from the Subway commercials, he probably didn't say anything about cancerous meat. When Jim Gaffigan does his hot pocket bit during a show, he never really joked about the inconsistently heated snack's dubious origins.

Recently, both of these companies have struggled with the backlash of selling contaminated meat, which made it to market as a result of botched regulation. According to the FDA, this lack of regulation allowed contaminated beef to reach 35 states.

It may have failed in these particular instances, but the FDA was formed in part by reform minded citizens such as Upton Sinclair. During the early 1900s, many people went out of their way to report the true nature of the American food industry — a practice which continues today.

The Idaho Legislature recently passed S.B. 1337, which Idaho Gov. C. L. "Butch" Otter promptly signed into law. This bill does a few things, but most importantly, prohibits citizens from recording both audio and video of agricultural operations in the state.

It was passed in response to a Los Angeles based animal rights group video that detailed abuse in Idaho dairy farms. The law hopes to curb further bad press, but in doing so, Idaho's legislators have pushed yet another problem under the rug.

Undercover workers and hidden cameras have be-

come the last line of defense against wrong doing in the food industry. Preventing this practice doesn't benefit anyone, it just brings Idaho's largest industry further away from the trust and transparency needed for it to flourish.

One less source of uncensored information on the inner workings of Idaho's farms should not make anyone feel better about the quality of their food. Combine that with the potential First Amendment violation and it seems like a loss for the citizens of Idaho, so it must be another check on Otter's "pro-business" rap sheet.

This business minded approach would make sense, nobody wants bad press. However it's not quite that simple, many businesses in Idaho have spoken against the newly passed law. Including Chobani, the popular yogurt company that recently opened the self-proclaimed world's largest yogurt processing facility in Twin Falls.

This isn't a case of Idaho protecting it's businesses, at least it's not that cut and dry. This doesn't increase the safety of Idaho citizens, in fact it does the opposite.

Idaho is worse off with this bill, because it removes the public's right to know.

The state lost an important protection against unethical practices with S.B. 1337, which once again leaves citizens questioning Otter's motivations and judgment.

Justin Ackerman can be reached at arg-opinion@uidaho.edu



Justin Ackerman Argonaut

OFF THE CUFF

QUICK TAKES ON LIFE FROM OUR EDITORS

Mediocre

When you try Wigan with a sorry defender like Demichelis, that's the result you're gonna get.

-Sean

What?

Weirdest weekend of my life. Yikes.

-Hannah

Lost time

Losing an hour of my life isn't very helpful right before midterms.

-Emily

Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370

I really hope they find this missing Boeing 777 not just for the sake of the families of the 300 passengers, but because the lengthy lists that have started surfacing with details of all the possible horrible things that happened are enough to make me never want to fly again.

-Kaitlyn

Fun idea for people with tattoos

Next time a random stranger asks you about your tattoo, look really confused. Then look at your tattoo and say "I wonder how that got there." Then shrug and walk away. The look of confusion will save you from having the same conversation over and over again.

-Aleya

My thought on this week

"And here we... go..." -The Joker in "The Dark Knight."

-Ricky

Sneaky snack

Ritz Toasted Chips sour cream and onion flavor is my new favorite snack. They are so addictive!

-Rainy

March Madness hype

For me, March Madness is arguably the No. 1 annual sporting event of the year above the Super Bowl and BCS Bowl games, and it's finally here. Let the madness ensue.

-Stephan

Be careful what you wish for

Indeed, it might come true.

-Kaitlin

Up all night

The all nighter I pulled Sunday might have done great things for my productivity, but definitely negatively impacted my sanity. Is it spring break yet?

-Jessica

Mediocrity

Richard Sherman is not my favorite player, but his favorite of our Vandal Nation tweet earlier was pretty sweet.

-Theo

Indian food

Sometimes you think that eating an entire family-sized portion of chicken tikka masala is a good idea — ask next-day Phil and he'll disagree with you.

-Phil

Signed up

Just signed a new lease with the best landlord in Moscow. The apartment is one year old, and my roommate owns a stupid amount of jazz albums, this is going to be fun.

-Ryan

Passing comments

It may mean nothing to you, but it can mean everything to someone else. Be conscious of your words today.

-Danielle

Mailbox

The meaning of religion

The word "religion" comes from the Latin root, "religare," which means to re-bind. The purpose of any religion, then, should be to strengthen the ties between people and their God and between people and their brothers and sisters. As we strengthen our ties to God, we deepen our faith, find strength and guidance in our living and experience the deep peace and unconditional love that has traditionally been labeled "grace."

As we strengthen our ties to one another, we practice compassion, kindness and civility. We learn to love our enemies, embrace those who are different and forgive those who have sinned against us. In fact, I, like many of the straight allies who advocate for gay and lesbian equality, am moved to do so by my faith.

I mention all of this because as an ordained minister, a "Christophile" and a human being, I am deeply offended by the so-called freedom of religion act and some of the tactics and terms being used by its defenders. The biblical case against homosexuality is shaky at best, rife with incorrect translations and verses taken out of context. Even if one chooses to believe otherwise, there is simply no way to make the case that the Bible teaches discrimination.

Nowhere does it say, "thou shalt not do business with people whose sexuality makes you uncomfortable."

If people are advocating for the right to discriminate, I suppose they may do so. However, it would be more accurate to call the proposed legislation the "freedom of discrimination" act, or perhaps "freedom to be uncivil." What happens between a person and their God is private. What happens in our bedroom is also private. In the public sphere, our national values are clear. All people are created equal, and deserve to be treated with dignity and kindness.

-The Rev. Elizabeth Stevens

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Palouse

Not an 'us v. them' issue

This is a contentious time in our national culture for LGBTQ rights and religious freedom. There have been several acts by legislatures in many states over the last few months that provide businesses, professionals and practitioners the legal right to determine service based on strongly-held religious beliefs.

While these bills do not specifically name LGBTQ identities and people as the source of the legislation, the LGBTQ community is the community most cited as affected by the current proliferation of bills.

In Idaho, LGBTQ rights activists and supporters have recently received national press with rallies and non-violent protests in the Idaho Capital Building. Photos of activists show people of different ages, backgrounds and religious beliefs. This is important to note. LGBTQ equality and religious freedom are not mutually exclusive ideals.

The LGBTQ community is made up of a vast diversity of people from a variety of different religious and spiritual backgrounds. There is no way to solely classify people based on the two categories. The larger issues that have been part of the national discussion for the past few months is creating a polarized "us vs. them" mentality that creates unsafe climates and inequalities for LGBTQ people.

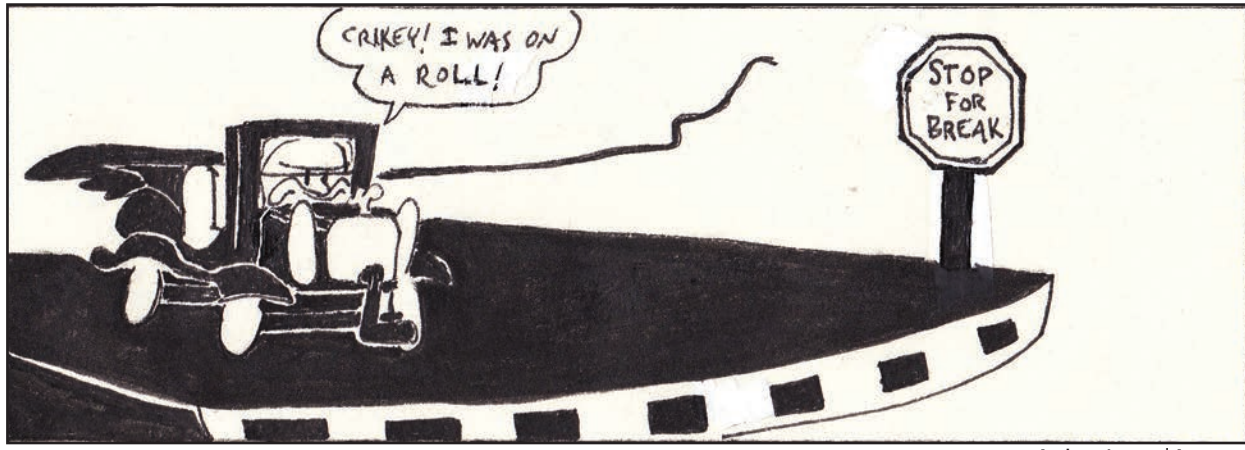
No one should ever have to fear they will be denied important life-saving services because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity. And no one should be worried about losing their children, home, job, or support in the state of Idaho because of their sexual orientation and gender identity, either. It is important to remember that we are all human beings, and that each of us should be guaranteed the same access, safety and freedom to be ourselves.

-Julia Keleher

LGBTQA Office coordinator

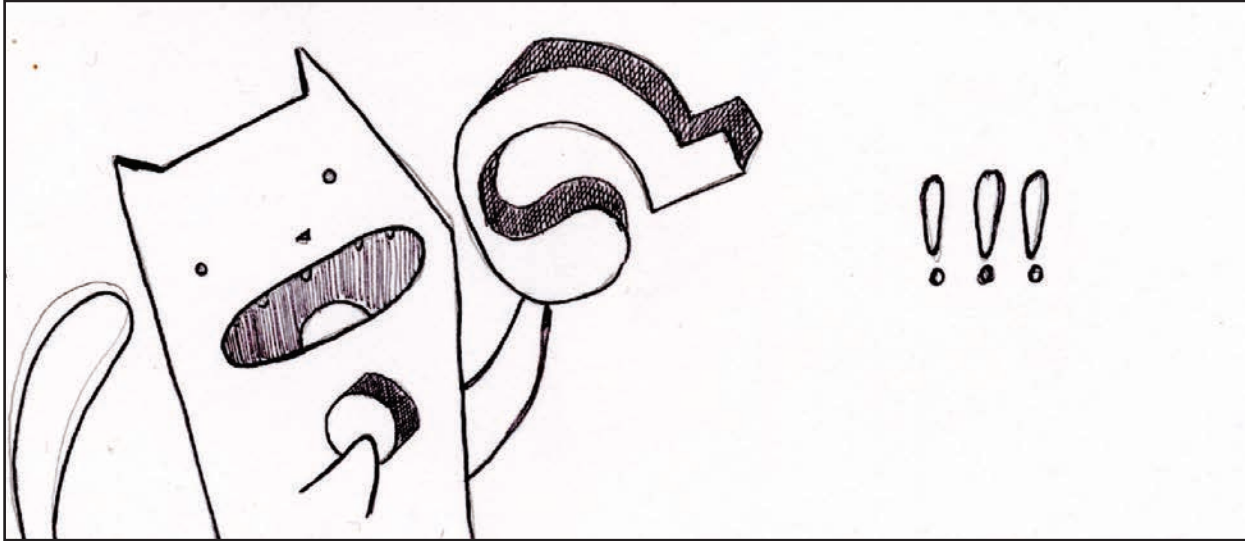
COMIC CORNER

Cloud Nine



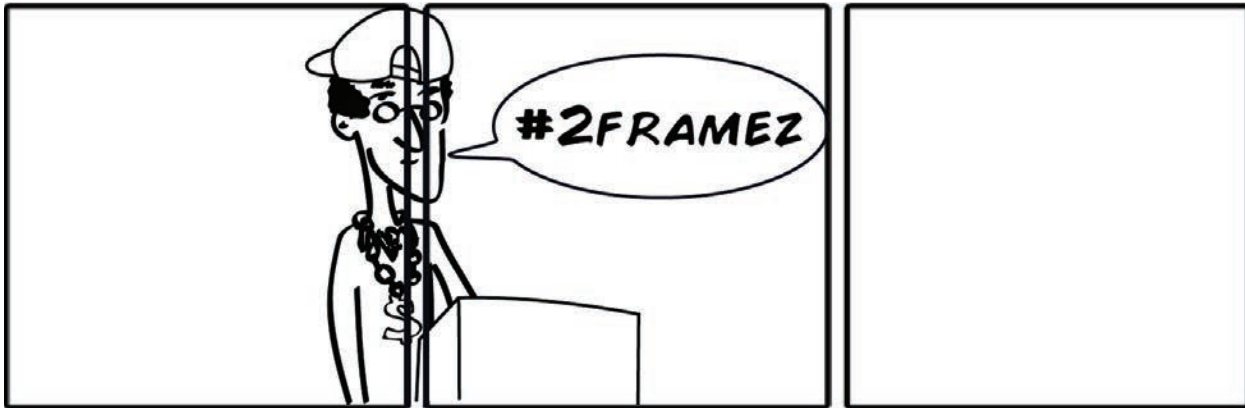
Andrew Jensen | Argonaut

Pigeons



Jesse Keener | Argonaut

The Honest Professor



Karter Krasselt | Argonaut

ANDAL VOICES

Q: Do you think there should be physical boundaries to the expanded student code of conduct? Why or why not?



I think that giving the UI absolute authority to investigate infringements in the student code of conduct, no matter the location of infringement, is acceptable because odds are that any violation is going to cause some sort of interference with a number of students in their objective to learn, and the University has the obligation to maintain an atmosphere that is optimal for teaching and learning. Also it gives students the option to go to the Dean of Students for assistance when the code is violated by other parties, instead of going to law enforcement where the process to get matters resolved will take way longer.

-Michael Green

This issue is like a tightrope, and deciding whether behavior teeters on the edge of student conduct or personal freedom. While I understand the concept behind extended boundaries, I think it's important to define when a person's behavior is conceived as representative of the university, and when it is not. Students are not selling their souls to become Vandals and I think it's important to remember that we are all individuals with free will. Our choices may not always be flattering, but that's part of growing up a process that takes place most drastically during our college years.

-Darby Lam Baldwin



Limiting definitions of jurisdiction to physical boundaries can leave the Dean of Students office unable to help a large portion of the victims of harmful interactions. If two students go home to Boise for a break, and something happens there, that interaction still affects those students when they return to campus. I think it's more important to limit the jurisdiction to things that interrupt the learning environment, or cause a fear for personal safety on campus.

-Kellie Koester

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Wednesdays — 7 p.m.

CCF Campus Christian Fellowship
Fridays at 7:30 p.m.
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Weekly Mass: Tues. - Fri. 12:30 p.m.
Wed. 5:30 p.m.
Spanish Mass: Every 4th Sunday @ 12:30 p.m.
Latin Mass: every Saturday 9:30 a.m.

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Email: stauggies@gmail.com

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9am — Sunday Classes
10:15am — Sunday Worship & Children's Church

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IT'S SPRING BREAK! GO MAKE SOME MEMORIES!!!



Just remember what Joe Vandal says:

Being a Vandal is a 24/7 thing. Being a Vandal never ends - not with graduation and never when you leave campus and go around the globe or just back home on a break. Make memories you want to hold on to and relive, not the kind that haunt you for the rest of your life because you could have done something to stop somebody from hurting somebody else. And you didn't.

Vandal Green Dot says:

Look out for your friends! If your gut says something's wrong, listen to it. You don't have to do everything, but you have to do something. It's OK if you don't want to get involved. Make a phone call. Grab a Friend. Keep the party going with good times and get rid of people who are bad news.



Students brought Green Dot to our campus. Visit Vandal Green Dot on Facebook and learn how you can be a Green Dot! Find out what your Green Dot is. Or email greendot@uidaho.edu



Alyssa Charlston


2014 WAC WESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT PREVIEW SECTION



B2 **'Program changer'**
Alyssa Charlston has led Idaho from losing seasons to WAC Tournament favorites

B3 **Exceeding his expectations**
Stephen Madison balances fatherhood, leadership role during senior season

B4 **Bracket previews**
Women's team favorites at No. 1 seed while men's team enters tournament as No. 5 seed

 See regular basketball and tennis weekend recaps online at uiargonaut.com



Program changer

Philip Vukelich | Argonaut

Idaho senior Alyssa Charlston has helped lead Idaho from losing seasons to WAC favorites. The Vandals head into the WAC Tournament as the No. 1 seed coming off a 22-win season and 15-1 conference record. Last year, Idaho won the conference as the No. 3 seed for its first conference championship since 1985.

After four years, Charlston will leave Idaho as one of the most accomplished players in program history

Sean Kramer
Argonaut

Alyssa Charlston wanted to take one last look around the arena, moments before tipoff, just to revel in the position her team was in. She looked across from her and saw the name written out on the opponents' jerseys — "UConn."

It was that moment, she said, the reality of the situation hit her. Connecticut, a team that had never missed the NCAA Tournament for as long as Charlston has been alive, was Idaho's reward for its WAC Tournament Championship win in 2013.

Idaho was in Storrs, Conn., for its first round NCAA Tournament pairing. Idaho was a No. 16 seed, while UConn held a No. 1 seed.

"Right from the tipoff I was looking around and I was like, like their jerseys literally say UConn," Charlston said. "I had been thinking about this since fifth grade. Either you dream to play with them or against them, and it was crazy the fact that UConn was truly on their jerseys when you're going for that tipoff."

UConn eviscerated Idaho 105-37 that day, but that's not what Charlston recalls from the afternoon.

She recalls what it was like to face what seemed like super-human talent coming at her non-stop for 40 minutes. Charlston remembers that her team was also a Division I team that was on the court with them, learning what it's like to play against the best team in the nation.

She recalls an experience that gave the senior captain perspective heading into this season.

"It's like, those girls dominated in high school, and to play against all those kind of players was humbling, but it gave us a lot of feel for the next year," Charlston said. "We've played against the best. What do we have to fear, really? There's no one else that can come in our gym and play better than UConn."

That kind of thinking paid off in a historic season for Charlston and the Vandals, cementing the senior's legacy as one of the greatest in Idaho women's basketball history.

Legacy

All Charlston said she wants to be remembered for is leaving Idaho's program in a better place than she found it.

If she wants to leave the program in a better place, it's safe to say that's been accomplished already.

Putting her four-year career into context, Charlston came into a program in 2010 that hadn't achieved a winning record since 2005 and a program that hadn't been to an NCAA Tournament since 1985.

Now, she'll be leaving a 20-win program behind, transitioning into the Big Sky Conference next season.

Charlston's third straight season making an All-WAC team culminated with Idaho's first regular season conference championship since 1985 — with Idaho running through the WAC at 15-1 this season.

If she has anything to do with it, the program will qualify for back-to-back

NCAA Tournaments for the first time since the program was inception in 1974. Idaho is overwhelmingly favored to win the WAC Tournament this week as its No. 1 seed.

"She's special, she's a part of some really special years at Idaho and she'll always remember that," Newlee said. "She's a humongous part of that and she can be proud for the rest of her life of what she's done here, the height she's helped elevate the program to."

Charlston still has at least one more week to finish what her legacy at Idaho will be. Whether or not Idaho completes the greatest season in program history will depend on what happens at the Orleans Arena this

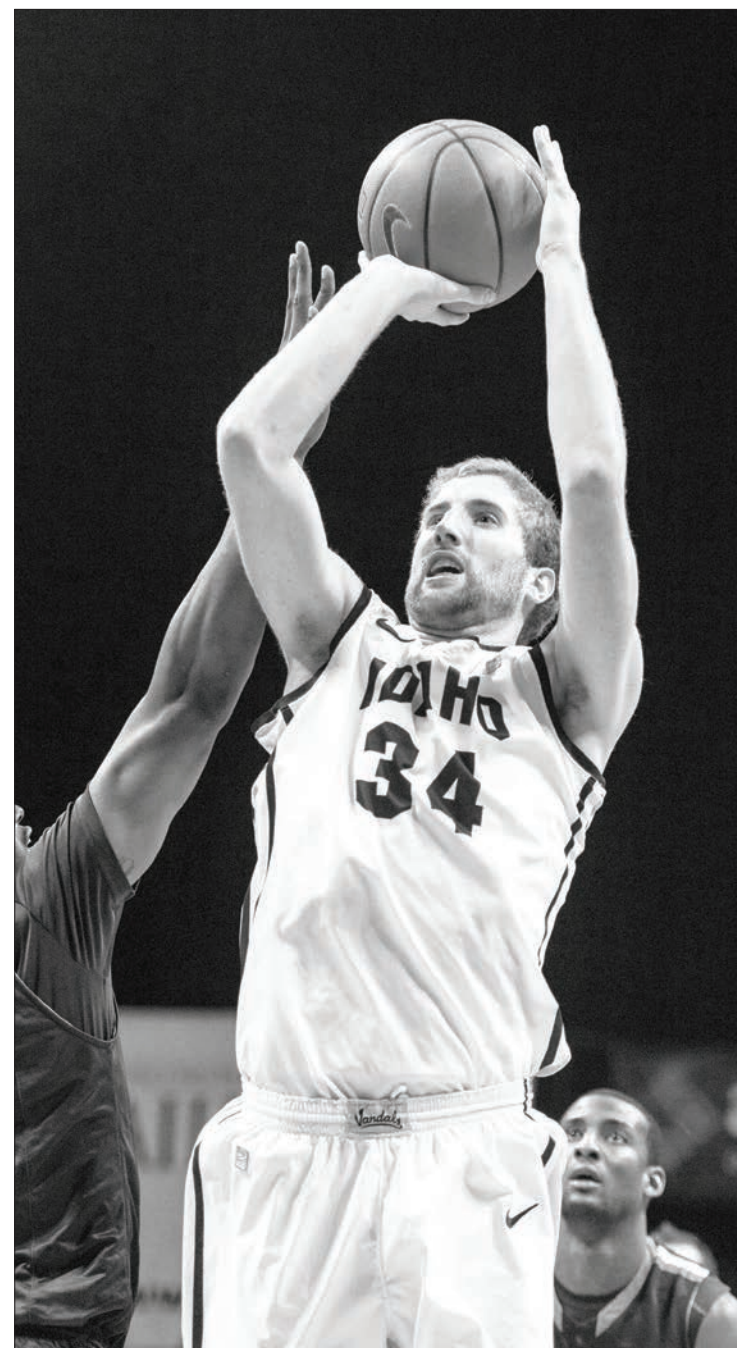
Charlston's progression

	FRESHMAN	SOPHOMORE	JUNIOR	SENIOR
POINTS	6.9	14.5	13.4	14.4
REBOUNDS	3.8	8.8	6.9	6.9
MINUTES	658	980	888	922

SEE CHANGER, PAGE B7



Philip Vukelich | Argonaut



Philip Vukelich | Argonaut

Idaho senior Stephen Madison has taken on a variety of roles in his final season as a Vandal. Madison is a new father in addition to leading the Idaho men's basketball team in eight statistical categories this season. Madison and the Vandals play Missouri-Kansas City in the first round of the WAC Tournament Thursday.

Becoming 'The Man'

Stephen Madison finding familiarity with leadership roles on court, as new father

Theo Lawson
Argonaut

Stephen Madison hobbled off the court in Orem, Utah, hardly able to do so without help.

There was a limp in his step and an expression of agony on his face — it wasn't just a light bump that had sent the senior to the Idaho bench 20 points later, but rather a head-on collision which would leave Madison tangled up on the floor after hitting the deck.

Referees whistled for a charge, though the call paled in comparison to the effect that an injured Madison would have on Idaho's chances against Utah Valley, top dogs in the Western Athletic Conference.

He'd tweaked his ankle and banged up his knee. The knee has bothered him ever since.

And in the moment, it would have been understandable, possibly wiser, had Madison opted to throw in the towel. Most players at the collegiate level wouldn't have any reservations in doing so, especially those expected to be in top form come March.

Then again, most players haven't been in the adverse situations Madison has been in.

"I just think it's the competitive nature in myself," he said. "I have to admit there was a little bit in me that was almost thinking maybe I shouldn't play to make sure nothing else happens to my ankle. At the same time, this is my last year, you only get a certain number of games in your career."

The kink in his knee and tweaked ankle were distractions, but the grimace on his face was gone and Madison put together the best half of his collegiate career, scoring 22 points in the period to total a career-high 42. He shot 76 percent from the field.

But it wasn't an outing that left Madison content. His Vandals, who led by eight at the half, would succumb their lead to the Wolverines. Two missed shots with less than 10 seconds remaining meant that Idaho wouldn't emerge victorious.

"It was tough, it hurt," said Madison, who pulled down Sekou Wiggs' missed free throw with 13 seconds remaining, only to watch Glen Dean and Connor Hill miss last-ditch shots.

Idaho coach Don Verlin would say that his

“

I have to admit there was a little bit in me that was almost thinking maybe I shouldn't play to make sure nothing else happens to my ankle. At the same time, this is my last year, you can only get a certain number of games in your career.

Stephen Madison

forward was in a zone.

"To be honest with you I didn't know he had 42," Verlin said. "He was on fire, he was very aggressive that night. The thing I'd tell you is he missed one shot from inside the arc ... Once in a while you get in those zones."

For Madison, it's more than a "once-in-a-while" type of thing. Those around him would say he's been in that zone most of his life.

The WAC's leading scorer would say he's needed to be, carrying the load of his team and now for five months, the title of "father."

The adversity isn't a recent development in Madison's life. He met it on a regular basis in high school and especially between his junior and senior years when a move across the Columbia River meant sacrifices both on the court and in the classroom.

The open gyms at Jeff

Kentucky's John Calipari was a regular, as was ex-UCLA coach Ben Howland. In fact, everybody who was anybody in terms of the country's major college coaches came out to watch the open gyms at Jefferson High School. Open gyms that felt more like Portland-area all-star games.

And as the Arizonas and Oklahomas of the nation piled in, the casual pick-up sessions occasionally become heated free-for-alls.

Madison transferred from Prairie High in Vancouver, Wash., to Jefferson, based in Portland, before his senior year. Though it would pit him with the state's top players on a team that would eventually claim the state's top prize, the move was academic-based.

Madison knew Prairie wasn't the right fit and Jefferson provided him with a fresh start and opportunity to retake classes in the evening.

Madison's progression

	FRESHMAN	SOPHOMORE	JUNIOR	SENIOR
POINTS	3.7	12.1	14.1	19.9
REBOUNDS	2.0	5.5	4.7	7.6
MINUTES	370	948	928	1066

However, it meant his parents, Mike and Phyllis Madison, would have to pack their bags too.

"We thought that we could pay it what it cost to educate Stephen in the Portland public schools and still live in downtown Battle Ground. That wasn't the case," Mike Madison said. "We made a decision to get an apartment in northeast Portland ... We did it by the buck and we lived six blocks away from Jefferson."

It was a sacrifice they were willing to make. "We came down and met with the principal at Jefferson. Great lady," he said. "She spent five minutes talking to Phyllis and I and about 50 minutes talking to Stephen ... She got the picture."

Jefferson coach Pat Strickland got it too and Madison's first practice fell on a Monday evening that would coincide with night class. Months later, Strickland would call his first-year forward the most valuable player in two state tournament games — but the coach was adamant with his class first, basketball second philosophy.


"And I knew that was the right decision, right then," Madison's father said.

Sacrifices came on the court too, where Madison was no longer "the guy" on his varsity squad. He would have to coexist on the practice court with Terrence Jones, reigning Oregon Class 5A Player of the Year, along with Terrence Ross, whose role was limited to being a practice player due to OSAA transfer regulations.

Jones wound up at Kentucky with Calipari, where he won a National Championship with the Wildcats his sophomore year before declaring for the NBA Draft and eventually digging up a starting spot on the Houston Rockets.

Ross followed a similar path, but did his two-year stint at Washington. The 2013 NBA Slam Dunk Contest champion starts occasionally for the Raptors and tied Vince Carter's franchise record with his 51

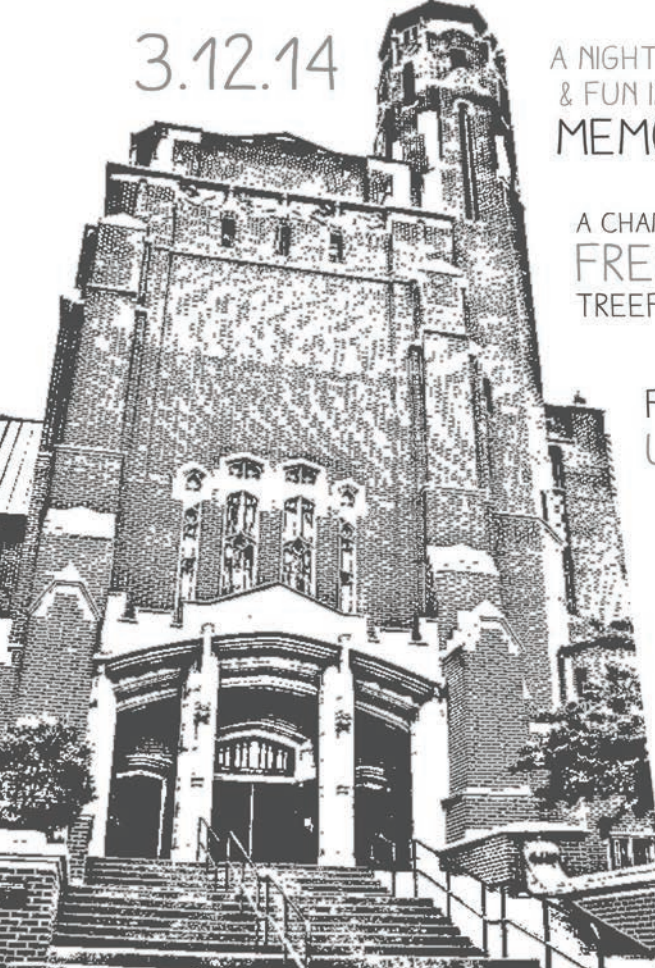
SEE BECOMING, PAGE B7



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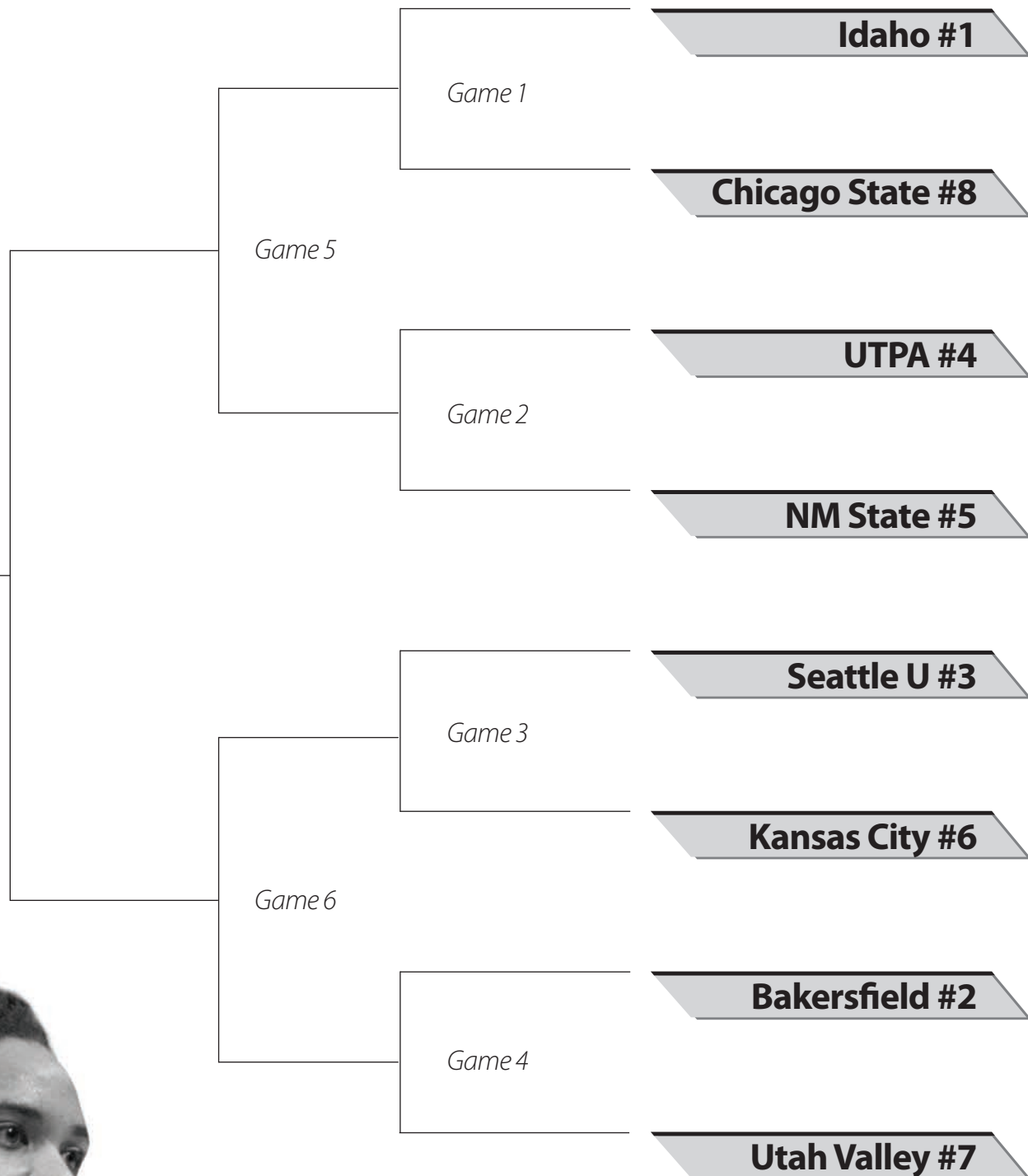


Photo by Philip Vukelich | Argonaut

GOING IN AS FAVORITES

Vandal women enter WAC Tournament at No. 1 seed with 22 wins

Stephan Wiebe
Argonaut

Last season, the Idaho women's basketball team went into the WAC Tournament as underdogs with something to prove and they did just that, winning the conference title. This year, the Vandals are the overwhelming favorites to repeat as champions. They head into the tournament with a 15-1 WAC record and the No. 1 seed in the tournament.

"We're going to be playing teams we've beat, everyone we beat at least once and all the rest twice," Idaho coach Jon Newlee said. "We lost those close games at the end of the WAC last year and kind of went in with a chip on our shoulder, like 'We're better than this and we're going to prove it in Vegas.' But now we've got to prove that the regular season wasn't a fluke."

Idaho's first round opponent is Chicago State on Wednesday in Las Vegas — a team that went winless in the WAC this season. The Vandals destroyed the Cougars by a combined 100 points in two games in conference play. Chicago State eked into the WAC Tournament — despite its winless record — because Grand Canyon, a would-be No. 3 seed, is ineligible for postseason play due to being in transition to Division I.

Even though Chicago State has been a poor team in the WAC this season, Newlee and his players said they try to go into every game with the same mindset.

"I'm glad we play every game the same. Even if it was the last one or if we have the No. 1 seed, it doesn't matter," junior Stacey Barr said. "It's still a game of basketball that we need to win. Hopefully we can bring all this excitement ... and get the wins there (Las Vegas)."

Barr went into the WAC Tournament after earning WAC Player of the Year honors Monday. The guard from Melbourne, Australia,

ended the season ranked second in the conference in defensive rebounds (6.44 per game), fourth in scoring (19.7) and 3-pointers per game (2.5), sixth in rebounding (8.6) and 10th in assists (2.94). She also had nine games in WAC play with 20 or more points.

Barr also earned first-team All-WAC honors, while senior Alyssa Charlston made the second team and sophomore Ali Forde made the All-Defensive Team after leading the league in blocks. Meanwhile, Newlee earned regular season honors as the WAC Coach of the Year leading Idaho to 22-8 overall record.

Newlee said the main thing the Vandals have to focus on going into their round one game against Chicago State is guarding against overconfidence.

"We have to know we're there and can't waste any of our minutes out in Vegas," he said. "We just have to go execute, get in there, get in tournament mode and not worry about them as much as worry about us and what we have to do to execute offensively and defensively."

If Idaho beats Chicago State, it will face either No. 4 seed Texas-Pan American or No. 5 seed New Mexico State on Friday.

The Vandals won't face their conference rival, Seattle U, or the only WAC team to beat them this season, Cal State-Bakersfield, until the championship game on Saturday — if the teams make it that far.

"I think we need to have the mindset we've had going into each week, and that's to get another win," Charlston said. "You can't overlook any team. One of my favorite quotes, I think it might be (Seattle Seahawks coach) Pete Carroll's philosophy, is every game is like a championship game. You go into every game and then you're prepared for it."

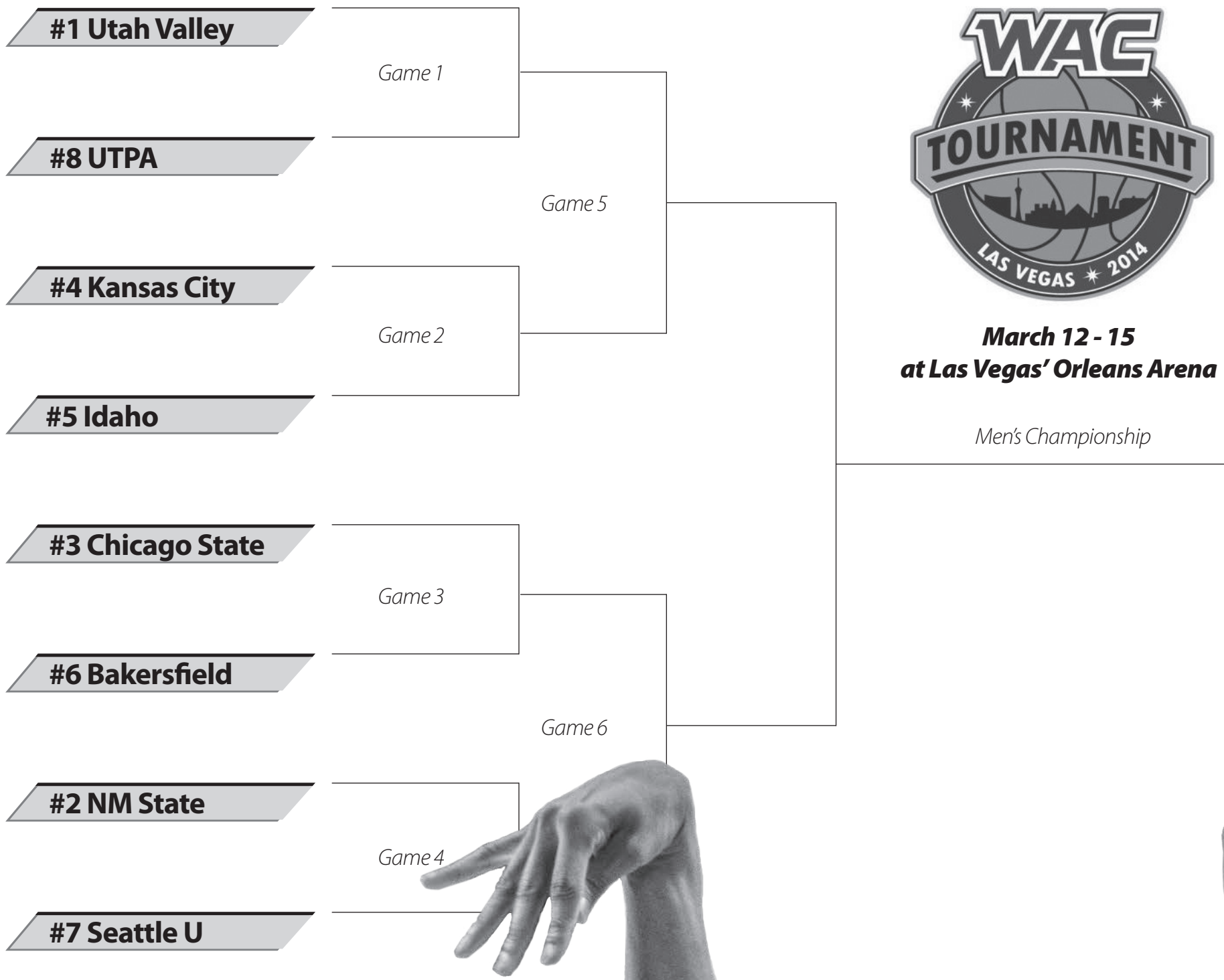
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LONG TIME, NO SEE

Vandals to play UMKC again to start WAC Tournament

Korbin McDonald
Argonaut

The Idaho men's basketball team received an excellent scouting report for its first WAC Tournament opponent, seeing as it beat them in its last game of the season.

Idaho clinched the No. 5 tournament seed and will be facing off against No. 4 seed, Missouri-Kansas City — the same team it beat Saturday night 87-80.

"It's a myth that you can't beat someone two times in a row, because we've seen it in sports a million times," Idaho coach Don Verlin said. "What we got to do is get our basketball team ready to go, get them prepared, make sure we clean up some things. We've got to defend the ball better."

Verlin said success would come if the team can hold UMKC to a lower shooting percentage. The Kangaroos shot 48 percent from the field and 47 percent from 3-point range on Saturday. If the Vandals expect to win, they will need to play better defense and not give up as many points, he said.

The two teams split the season series at one apiece, with Idaho losing 80-74 to UMKC on Jan. 2. The Kangaroos are 10-19 overall and 7-9 in conference play. Late in the WAC season, they lost six in a row. But the Kangaroos followed that up with winning three straight, before losing to Idaho in their last game of the season.

Idaho finished the season 14-17 overall and 7-9 in confer-

ence play. The Vandals have won four of their last five, with their most recent loss on March 1 at Seattle U.

"I'm really proud of our guys," Verlin said. "I thought they really came on this trip and were aggressive and have done a lot of really good things and this team is really starting to come together. I've said all year that this team is going to play some good basketball and, well, we're getting there. I like where we're at. I think we're peaking at the right time."

Over his six years as head coach at Idaho, Verlin's teams have not found any success in the WAC Tournament. He will be looking to snap that streak against UMKC.

If Verlin and the Vandals can find a way to get past UMKC, barring an upset from Texas-Pan American, they will be facing No. 1 seed Utah Valley in the semifinals.

UVU is one of two teams the Vandals failed to beat during conference play this season, along with Seattle. Though the two games they played against UVU were close, losing by a combined total of six points in both games.

"I really believe over these last four, five weeks, we've played some really good basketball," Verlin said. "I really like where this basketball team is heading into the conference tournament. Now we just got to ride that momentum."

Korbin McDonald can be reached at arg-sports@uidaho.edu



Photo by Philip Vukelich | Argonaut

Managing expectations



Pete Slippy | Argonaut

Seniors Alyssa Charlston and Addie Schivo led their team to a 70-63 victory over Missouri-Kansas City Saturday in the Cowan Spectrum to finish off the regular season. The Vandals claimed their 22nd win on the season and 15th WAC win with the victory. They head into the WAC Tournament as the No. 1 seed.

On to WAC Tournament

Madison needs to shine, defense improve for Vandals to get first tourney win in Verlin era

After a horrid 2-6 start to WAC play this season, the Idaho men's basketball team seemed destined to place near the bottom of the league.

Instead, the Vandals improved during the second half of the season, going 5-3 over the last eight conference games. That was good enough to get them the No. 5 seed in the WAC Tournament and an opening round game against a team — Missouri-Kansas City — that they had previously defeated just last Saturday.

Things are certainly looking up for this Idaho team. The Vandals look to be getting hot just at the right time of the season and the players are finally starting to mesh together as a team.

But one thing Vandal fans have learned over the course of coach Don Verlin's tenure at Idaho is when it comes to WAC Tournament play, getting a win is tough.

Verlin has been at the helm

since 2008 and has led the Vandals to be seeded as high as No. 3 over those years, but they have never been able to produce a win in the tournament.

If Idaho wants to get that win, there are a few things they need to do or continue to do to be successful.

First and foremost, the Vandals need Stephen Madison to continue to do what he has been doing all season.

The senior that just missed out on earning WAC Player of the Year has had 13 straight games where he has scored in double digits. He is showing people that an off-night for him is an 18 point, four rebound performance. For most players, an off night like that would be considered a great game.

The Vandals need him to be on top of his game in Vegas, if they want to have a shot at winning and moving on to the later rounds.

The second thing they need to do is to continue to get Sekou Wiggs and Connor Hill in the game plan. Madison, unfortunately, can't do this all by himself.

After his 42-point performance at Utah Valley, teams are focusing on Madison and double-teaming him to cut down on his production.

This leaves guys like Wiggs and Hill to try and capitalize on the open shots. Over the

last half of the WAC schedule, Wiggs is averaging in double-figure points.

Meanwhile, over the last five games, Hill only missed on double-digit scoring once and in three of those games has scored 20 or more points. With his shooting performance, he could be shedding some light on what he can do for this team after Madison graduates.

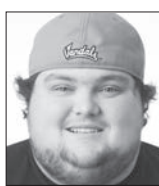
If those three can pick up the slack with scoring, the third and final thing the team needs to do is tighten up on defense.

Idaho could probably survive a shootout in its first round game against UMKC, but in the later rounds against the likes of Utah Valley or New Mexico State, they are more likely to win if they are able to shut down the offense.

Idaho did well, specifically in its last game against New Mexico State, because the Vandals were able to out-rebound the Aggies, who are one of the best rebounding teams in the nation.

If the Vandals are able to do these three things, they could surprise the other teams in the tournament. They certainly have the talent to make a run in the tournament, but they need to play like they have in the last few games of the regular season if they want to make a run in the tourney.

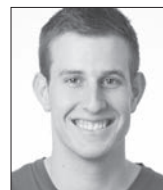
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Rick Clark
Argonaut

WAC Tournament Predictions

Men's:



Theo Lawson
Editor-in-chief

Champion: New Mexico State.

The Aggies have been there and done that one too many times to falter in a watered down conference.

Dark Horse: Idaho. Idaho has went tit-for-tat with Utah Valley and the Vandals topped New Mexico State. Don Verlin's team has won six of its last nine, too.



Stephan Wiebe
Sports Editor

Champion: Utah Valley.

UVU showed it is the best team in the conference when it beat New Mexico State in overtime on Feb. 27 to claim the No. 1 seed.

Dark Horse: Chicago State. The Cougars may not have any star power but their 8-8 WAC record shouldn't be ignored in a conference where most teams have losing records.



Sean Kramer
Vandal Nation Manager

Champion: New Mexico State.

Aggies are still the most talented team in the conference, Menzies makes it three straight.

Dark Horse: Seattle. Cameron Dollar has the second most athletic team in the conference. Umipig going off is the key here.

Women's:

Champion: Idaho.

The Vandals are unbeatable when they play their best ball and that usually comes when Idaho plays on the road.

Dark Horse: Texas-Pan American. These Broncs have won two of their last three games and have been able to keep it close with the league's top dogs.

Champion: Idaho.

It's impossible to pick against a Vandal repeat. Idaho grabs its second straight championship.

Dark Horse: New Mexico State. The Aggies, led by Danesia Williamson, are better than their No. 5 seed suggests. They could win some games if teams underestimate them.

Champion: Idaho.

What else can you say about them? They are the best team in the WAC.

Dark Horse: Seattle.

The WAC is a three-team race for the tournament title. The No. 3 seed Redhawks have the best chance to beat Cal State-Bakersfield and dethrone the Vandals to make the NCAA Tourney.

Vandals just need to play their game *Idaho's biggest threat going into the WAC Tournament is itself*

The 2012-13 Idaho women's basketball team is a testament that anything can happen in the WAC Tournament. The Vandals went in as the No. 3 seed and winless against No. 1 seed Seattle U during the regular season — the team they beat in the championship game.

This year, the 2013-14 Vandal squad goes into the WAC Tournament as the No. 1 seed and thus the favorites to win a consecutive championship. Now, they are the ones that could be victims of an upset.

Idaho beat every team in the WAC twice, except for Cal State-Bakersfield. But the Vandals previously beat Bakersfield by 27 points on the road, before slipping up at home on Feb. 13. Idaho (22-8, 15-1 WAC)

has beat every team in the WAC by double-digits at least once.

So if Jon Newlee's team can just play its game how it's been playing all season, it should roll through the WAC Tournament. The biggest potential roadblock to Idaho is itself.

The two things that could hurt the Vandals are getting overconfident against their opponents and losing composure in close games. When players get nervous, they can make mistakes and lose focus on the game plan. Luckily, this shouldn't be a major problem for this year's Idaho team.

Both Newlee and his players have said they need to guard against being overconfident, so to guard against the threat. And despite blowing out many of their oppo-

nents, the Vandals have experience playing in six games decided by five or less points, so far this season. They also have the experience of being in an intense tournament atmosphere, since they made it all the way to the NCAA Tournament last year.

Another negative trend for Idaho this season has been playing at home. The Vandals lost to Bakersfield at home and overall ended up playing much closer games at home than they did on the road. Idaho's road-warrior mentality should turn into a strength in the WAC Tournament, as all the games will be played in Las Vegas.

The only other thing to examine is what went wrong for Idaho in its loss to Bakersfield. The Vandals shot a measly 13.3 percent from the 3-point line in that game, compared to the Roadrunners' 41.2 percent.

Bakersfield also outrebounded Idaho 58-43. Losing the battle from long range, while also failing at the rim, are what doomed Idaho in its loss.

Unlike most teams, Idaho has a solid all-around lineup. All five starters have contributed in a significant way. Stacey Barr is the WAC Player of the Year, Alyssa Charlston is an All-WAC player, Ali Forde is an All-Defensive Team honoree, Christina Salvatore has made more 3-pointers than any other WAC player this season and Connie Ballesterio leads the WAC in assist to turnover ratio.

If the Vandals just do what they've been doing all season, they will repeat as conference champions.

Stephan Wiebe can be reached at arg-sports@uidaho.edu



Stephan Wiebe
Argonaut

CHANGER

FROM PAGE B2

weekend in Las Vegas.

With a run through the conference tournament, Idaho will have a 25-win season and an opportunity to grab as high as a 12-seed or 13-seed pairing in the NCAA Tournament. That means Idaho would get to play a team far more manageable than the beasts of UConn.

Regardless, Idaho is already on the map. National women's basketball pundits have pegged Idaho into the NCAA Tournament all season. The program has become a point of pride for a school that hasn't gotten much of it from football or men's basketball.

Charlston has arguably become the most recognizable face to Idaho's basketball resurgence on the women's side.

"I was at a luncheon ... and a booster was thanking me and our team for putting Idaho on the map and that's what you want, you want to put your team and your name out with the best of them," Charlston said. "You want to compete with the best and be thought of with the best. We're still getting there, all the media attention and the RPI stuff and getting to the tournament I think has helped us.

"I think since it's been so long before now since we've been to the NCAA Tournament, since we've won the WAC, refreshing those records, making them more current. That's what you do, that's what you want to do, that's your goal."

Program changer

Newlee remembers the day he won the recruiting battle for Charlston.

Big 12 power Iowa State made Charlston one of

the handful of players they offered scholarships to. Schools all over the Big Sky and Ivy League were heavily interested. She had unofficial visits to Oregon State and Washington State.

Iowa State offered her a scholarship, along with four other girls, for only four spots on the team. Three of the players committed on the spot. The fourth committed weeks before Charlston was scheduled to visit Ames, Iowa. Her offer was pulled and some schools cooled off, because

“

Alyssa just has the leadership gene in her, she's always so vocal. I would never say that she's shy, she's always had it in her. I just think it progressed, as the years went on.”

Jessica Graham, former teammate

those coaches assumed she was a Cyclone commit. In the end, Charlston made the decision between Idaho and West Coast Conference program Saint Mary's.

Newlee had the ultimate sales pitch, in the end.

In so many words, Newlee asked Charlston if she wanted to be just another part to an already successful program, or did she want to come to Idaho and build something from the ground up and be remembered as the catalyst for that.

Newlee had one message for his staff, after he got that commitment.

“Our program just changed,” he remembers

telling his assistants. “We just got Alyssa Charlston.”

Newlee saw what everyone else saw, the summer following her sophomore and junior seasons at Eastlake (Snohomish, Wash.) High School — a match-up nightmare.

For four years, that's what Charlston presented for any team that's stepped on the court against Idaho. It's the very reason Newlee targeted her as the centerpiece for the offense he wanted to run at Idaho.

At 6-foot-1, she can match-up anywhere on the court. She came into Idaho as a guard who would take defenders off the dribble and set up at the 3-point line, with the ability to post if needed. Her game has moved more inside out as her career has progressed, the nightmare match-up for opposing coaches has remained.

“When I saw her, I knew it was the kind of kid I wanted, because of our offense and the way we run it,” Newlee said. “I knew when she got here and we started working with her that she was going to be the best 4 (versatile post position player) I've ever had, just because of her physical talent and how it fit perfectly with what we do from an offensive standpoint.”

The only part of that game she didn't necessarily have coming out of high school was the tendency to shoot from range. Newlee got that out of her right away her freshman year. Her first ever basket for Idaho was a trey against Eastern Oregon, which followed her hitting three of them in an exhibition against Lewis-Clark State.

The long road

Newlee had a vision for his new star recruit. That vision meant NCAA Tournament appearances and WAC Championships by now.

BECOMING

FROM PAGE B3

points in a January game against the Los Angeles Clippers.

According to his prep coach, stepping out of the limelight didn't bother Madison.

“A lot of times people won't step into a situation where they're coming out of a school where they are the guy, they're going to another school where there's another guy or two that could probably be in front of them,” Strickland said. “It says a lot about his character.”

Without Madison, Jefferson was a top contender in the state's 5A classification. With him, the Democrats were all but poised for a three-peat at the 2010 state tournament.

“We just knew how good he was ... We knew we would have a better team with him playing with us,” said Ross, who had a close-up view of Madison's development into a complete player when the pair played AAU ball together, though Ross was only an onlooker at Jefferson.

“Growing up I saw him as a shooter,” Ross said. “And now he has an all-around game so he just developed at such a fluid rate that really, it was fun to see.”

Madison, nicknamed “Potsi” by his teammates, even learned a thing or two about dunking, Ross' bread and butter.

“Potsi always had bounce, he could jump, he could really jump,” Ross said. “He always had the upper hand in that department.”

Madison led all scorers — including Jones — with 20 points to beat Grand View in the championship game, the final stamp on his high school career.

By the time it was over, Madison was a vital piece to one of the famed Jefferson squads.

“I thought the transition was great, it really looked like he was there for four years,” Strickland said.

While Madison conversed with Pac-12 coaches, most preferred he take the junior college route initially.

Ben Howland, the longtime UCLA coach who led the Bruins to three Final Four appearances, was one of a few who envisioned him playing in Moscow.

“He knew coach (Ray) Lopes who's at WSU now, and he was like ‘Yeah that would be a great place for you,’” Madison said. “It was always cool to have those big schools out there who knew of me and put my name out there.”

Verlin was keen on nabbing the Rivals.com two-star prospect and had been since Madison impressed at an Idaho summer camp.

“It was a good steal,” Verlin said. “What we sold Stephen on was a chance to turn the program around ... and he's done that.”

Letting the game come to him

In the Madison household, the stakes were higher than high.

Mike and Phyllis Madison met while playing on the respective men's and women's basketball teams at Concordia University in Portland, oldest sister Darcy followed suit also playing for the Cavaliers and Katie Madison split years at the Palouse universities, playing two at Idaho before transferring to neighboring Washington State for three more.

“I feel like that's pretty high expectations ... I think it motivated him seeing his sisters accomplish that and for him to do it in the fashion that he's done it,” Katie Madison said.

His dad says he's always had a knack for the game, which allowed him to play a high level at a young age. From the third- and fourth-grade games at the Montlake Community Center, the same one that Washington Wizards small forward Martell Webster played at, to the seventh- and eighth-grade northwest Rotary Style circuit, where Madison's teams played the likes of Georgetown's Josh Smith.

While some players plateau, Madison has drastically improved each year. His numbers at Idaho can confirm that.

As a freshman, Madison averaged 3.7 points per game coming off the bench for the Vandals. That year, 21 of his 39 made field goals came from 3-point range. Idaho fans watched those numbers balloon his sophomore and junior seasons, when Madison averaged 12.1 and 14.1 points per game, respectively.

But even as the WAC's leading scorer this season, tallying almost 20 points per game, Verlin has seen bigger gains in other areas.

“Where Steve has improved the most is rebounding,” he said. “You look at his rebounding stats year-to-year-to-year-to-year, he's become a really, really, good rebounder.”

He's averaging more assists, steals and blocks than he has in previous years and for a brief period of time, led his team in all five major statistical categories — the only player in

“

A lot of times people won't step into a situation where they're coming out of a school where they are the guy, they're going to another school where there's another guy or two that could probably be in front of them.”

Pat Strickland, former coach

the nation to do so.

Thus, he's helped to nullify the absence of 2013 WAC Player of the Year Kyle Barone, who carried a bulk of the scoring and rebounding load from a season ago.

“I really think a lot of times the guys who have the best senior years are the ones who let it come to them,” Verlin said. “I hadn't seen a guy step in and make that kind of transformation and that's just a credit to him.”

Does the do-it-all senior wish his teammates would pick up the slack in a few areas? Sure, but as long as W's continue to appear in the win/loss column, he'll have it either way.

“Other people should have more assists or more rebounds, either way for me, as long as we're winning it doesn't really matter,” Madison said. “It's a tough thing.”

Tough may be the best way to describe Idaho's season thus far. Unfulfilling may be another.

The Vandals, who will be a No. 5 seed at the upcoming WAC Tournament, finished conference play 7-9 after dropping six of their first eight conference games. Madison, just like his sixth-year coach, has never won in the conference gala, played at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas.

Hooping for Harper

The newest member of the Stephen Madison fan club can't articulate the difference between a pick-and-roll and a moving screen but she's been the fuel behind many of his 20-, 30- and 40-point games this season.

Madison's girlfriend Hilary gave birth to Harper on Oct. 19, 2013, 21 days before Idaho opened up its 2013-14 slate.

Since then his now four, almost 5-month-old daughter, has been to nearly all of the Vandals' home games and makes the trip from

Earlier in her career, she was challenged by adversity.

Idaho was senior-laden, during Charlston's freshman season, and the team battled through the WAC to an appearance in the conference tournament semi-final — before falling short to Nevada.

At the time, she was just a freshman coming off the bench, appearing in every game and starting sparingly. She was scoring 6.2 points per game and inserting herself into the lineup on a regular basis.

From the start, it was a clear she was going to have a key role in the program. Once those seniors graduated, the pressure of leadership quickly shifted to Charlston, even if she only had one game under her belt.

It was a tough transition at first, Idaho limped out to a 5-17 start her sophomore season, before recovering to finish 12-20 after another conference tournament semi-final end to the season.

“I think she knew that (it would be difficult at first). She was fitting in with the other girls who were here before and she was getting better, our team was up and down,” Newlee said. “We had stuff going on, she knew when that class graduated, it was her, it was her team, it was her program, it was her time to lead ... Everything really clicked, and I think she knew ‘hey it is my time to step it up.’”

Charlston remembers her sophomore season as her hardest on campus. She turned to her parents for help on staying positive and taking the losses in stride. Idaho finished winning three of its last four that year, with Charlston having the first of her first-team All-WAC seasons.

“Alyssa just has the leadership gene in her, she's always

so vocal,” former Idaho teammate Jessica Graham said. “I would never say that she's shy, she's always had it in her. I just think it progressed, as the years went on.”

Charlston's collegiate career has somewhat mirrored the challenges she faced at the high school level playing in the greater Seattle area. Eastlake Wolves coach Scott Sartorius was in the process of trying to build a successful program, when Charlston joined his team as a sophomore.

It only took until her junior season in 2009 for Charlston to insert herself as an all-league performer, and for Eastlake to breakthrough to the state tournament for the first time since 1997.

“She was always the hardest worker on my team and I think that's a coach's dream. I don't think it comes along very often where you get the most talented player to be your hardest worker and I got to experience that for her in her high school career and the leadership that comes from that,” Sartorius said. “I was trying to develop the whole culture, what she could do in terms of modeling, how to act, how to be a leader and she created a trend of hard work in that program by who she was.”

Beyond legacy

Newlee is putting Charlston up with the best players he's ever coached, and he's coached some good ones. Specifically he brought up Natalie Doma, who took his final team at Idaho State to the NCAA Tournament while graduating as the Big Sky's all-time leader in points.

Doma ended up getting an opportunity with the WNBA's Seattle Storm as an undrafted free agent before playing a

season overseas.

The physical and specialized nature of the WNBA may keep Charlston from breaking through in that league. It won't keep her from the European game, where her current style of play would fit in perfectly.

She's already getting messaged and texts from agents and scouts wondering about her post-collegiate plans.

“It's something that I'm probably going to plan on doing, overseas,” she said. “I'm getting Facebook requests and messages and stuff and I can't respond to any of that but the goal is to play overseas after this. Because I don't think I'm done quite yet, I have to play a little more.”

Charlston is a 3.9 GPA student majoring in broadcast journalism with plenty of experience to put into that career path if she so chooses. Though she can't imagine what her life would be like without the liberating feeling of having a basketball in her hand.

“It's a way to take out the competitive side of things out of daily life, things that shouldn't be competitive,” she said. “People have that thing that will take you out of the real world for a while and it's ridiculous because you're playing this whole game and you're complete focus is on that.”

“That's such a cool thing that everything can be centered on one thing and you're completely out of your whole life and then you go back at the end once the buzzer goes, so that's what I love about it. It's just a great diversion when things aren't going right.”

Sean Kramer
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Spokane with Hilary whenever the opportunity arises.

Initially, the unexpected newborn meant long nights for Madison, who often contemplated how he would make ends meet.

“It's a lot to take on even when you are ready for it. Being not ready for it was a lot to think about,” Madison said. “It was a crazy experience.”

That's where his support crew came in handy.

The first conversations didn't come easy for Madison, who breathed a sigh of relief once his family, friends and coaches backed him.

“He came home at the beginning of April then told us and he asked for some advice and he did what we told him to do,” Madison's father said.

The first tip: schedule a one-on-one with Verlin.

“He went to Verlin, not to the assistant coaches that's easier to talk to. He went to Verlin and had an unbelievable meeting, in Stephen's eyes, for an hour,” Mike Madison said.

Verlin said the key to handling such a unique situation is, “embracing it, not fighting it.”

The coach has seen other players go through the same scenario, most of who did so with the utmost success.

“That was my message to Steve when he told me that was going to happen. One thing you have to realize is you're not the first person who's had this wonderful opportunity,” Verlin said.

“Embrace” is exactly what Madison has done, although Harper has forced him to restructure, reorganize and fine-tune his time management skills.

Those close to him were confident the experience wouldn't be too overwhelming for Madison.

“I think he was ready for it,” Katie Madison said. “I knew he would be a great father someday and I knew he would be able to handle it. He's stepped up to a lot of challenges throughout his career. He's proved it along the way so I knew he'd be alright.”

The stresses of being a father, which initially were “a lot to take on,” have somewhat subsided and the 22-year-old relishes the time spent with Harper.

“There's nothing like having a kid of your own,” Madison said. “I don't really look at it like a stressful situation because my daughter makes me happy every time I see her. She just makes me want to be

a better person.”

Madison, who would love to follow in the footsteps of his ex-high-school teammates Jones and Ross, is grateful to have them in his corner.

“To be able to workout with them, it gives you a good taste of what the next level is like,” he said.

His performances as of late may be worthy of an opportunity to play in the NBA's Summer League. The breakout showing at Utah Valley was telling of that, but Madison would rather point to another game — Idaho's Senior Day match-up against third-place Grand Canyon.

Madison put on a clinic, his team echoed and Idaho etched out a crucial conference victory, and everyone was on hand to see it. The onlookers included Mike and Phyllis, Katie, who made a surprise visit from San Antonio, Darcy, Hilary, Harper and Madison's 90-year-old grandparents, who also surprised their grandson.

It was another signature performance from Madison. Thirty-four points, 80 percent from the field, 9-of-10 from the free throw line and six rebounds.

Most importantly, it was an 83-77 win.

“It was great to play well in front of all of them and get the win. It was just a great day,” Madison said.

Next up, the daunting conference tournament in Las Vegas, where the Vandals have fallen short one too many times, and exactly three times while Madison has been with Idaho.

People are anticipating he'll help turn the tide for a program that has built a sense of desperation in recent years.

But Madison's story is littered with these expectations and he comes through more often than not.

“You put yourself at the bottom and you're looking up and you want to reach everything you got,” he said. “I mean, I couldn't be happier with what I've done here. I've done probably a lot more than what a lot of people expected.”

That's not to say topping Missouri-Kansas City Thursday at the Orleans Arena wouldn't be a sweet beginning to the end of Madison's career.

“We just want to win.”

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WINNING ROAD

Key games on the Idaho women's road to WAC regular-season title

Nov. 8 — @ Gonzaga, 64-56 L



Dec. 3 — vs. Carroll College, 67-39 W



Dec. 6 — @ Montana, 59-56 L



Dec. 28 — @ Texas, 87-58 L



Dec. 14 — @ Eastern Washington, 85-84 L



Dec. 11 — vs. Lewis Clark State College, 84-53 W



Jan. 2 — @ UMKC, 81-64 W



Jan. 23 — vs. Grand Canyon, 58-54 W



Feb. 1 — @ Seattle U, 77-59 W



Feb. 15 — vs. Utah Valley, 69-61 W



Feb. 13 — vs. Cal State-Bakersfield, 79-60 L



Feb. 8 — @ UTPA, 85-52 W



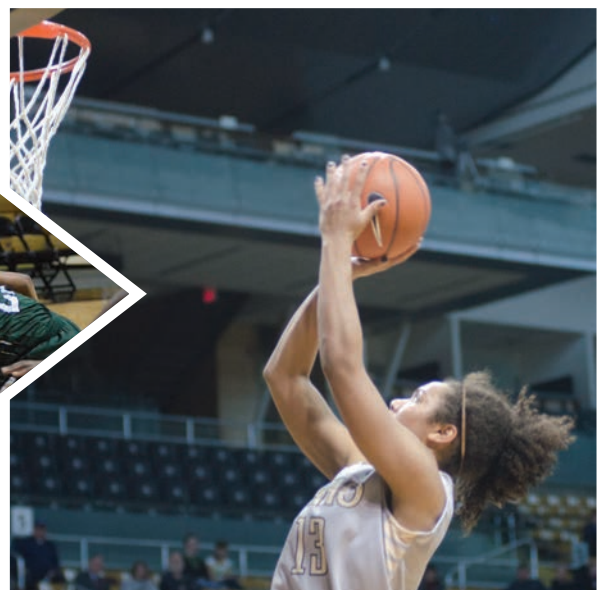
March 1 — vs. Seattle U, 60-57 W



March 6 — vs. Chicago State, 91-41 W



March 8 (Senior Day) — vs. UMKC, 70-63 W



Left to right. Top row: Cameron Stahl, courtesy; Tony Marcolina, Argonaut; University of Montana Athletics, courtesy. Second row: University of Texas Athletics, courtesy; EWU Athletics, courtesy; Tony Marcolina, courtesy. Third row: UMKC Athletics, courtesy; Philip Vukelich, Argonaut; Seattle University Athletics, courtesy. Fourth row: Philip Vukelich, Argonaut; Philip Vukelich, Argonaut; Dana Cowgill, courtesy. Bottom row: Andrew Deskins, Argonaut; Hannah Sandoval, Argonaut; Pete Slippy, Argonaut