



STICKING WITH IT

Skyview baseball player Cody Balle thrives despite almost being cut as a freshman. | SPORTS B1



SHOOTER TARGETS D.C. REPUBLICANS

GOP leader in U.S. House remains in critical condition after shooting

NEWS, A6

IDAHO PRESS-TRIBUNE

Thursday, June 15, 2017

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After 38 years, it's time to say goodbye



CHRIS BRONSON/IPT

Pat Cook is retiring after 38 years of service as the Caldwell Fire Department's secretary. The public is welcome to attend an open house to say goodbye to Cook on her last day, June 30.

Caldwell Fire Department secretary Pat Cook announces retirement

BY EMILY LOWE
elowe@idahopress.com

CALDWELL — For 38 years, Pat Cook has been the secretary for the Caldwell Fire Department — and she's been making friends every day since.

"She knows everybody at the city, and you can't find anybody that has a bad word to say about Pat," said Steve Donahue, deputy chief of the Caldwell Fire Department.

The community shed tears when Cook's retirement was announced Tuesday during the Caldwell Chamber luncheon.

Cook said her duties at the department include payroll, other paperwork and being support for Caldwell Fire Chief Mark Wendelsdorf. But she didn't stop at that.

Other workers from city offices would reach out to Cook if they ever needed help, Donahue said.

Whether the firefighters needed help with payroll or any paperwork, Capt. Jay Coulter said, "Pat is the one to talk to."

"She is like the mother to everybody," Donahue said.

Cook made other friends while at the department, although they are furry and bushy-tailed.

These friends are squirrels, and she has been feeding them unsalted peanuts every day at the station. She said they wait outside for her to feed them.

While growing up in Chicago, looking up at the trees and seeing squirrels became a fond

memory. When she came to Idaho and saw the squirrels were the same as in Chicago, she said she knew it was fate.

She has never looked for another place to work after taking this job 38 years ago, she said.

What started as a part-time job she found in the newspaper became a full-time job and her "home away from home," she said.

"I have never not wanted to be here," she said.

The reason she has never looked for another job is because of the people, she said.

"The firefighters there are the best," Cook said. "They're compassionate. They're funny. They're there for you. To me they're heroes. They do an awfully hard job. They do a lot and they see a lot. I admire them very much."

While she was not at work, she planned vacations outside of the country.

More GOODBYE | A7



Resignation triggers residency check for appointees

Mayor Henry verifies candidates' residency after Gibbons resigns

BY ERIN BAMER
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NAMPA — In response to Councilwoman Kelly Gibbons' resignation, the city of Nampa is working on a formal process to verify the residency of appointees to city government.

Nampa Mayor Bob Henry said there is already a verification process in place for candidates in elections. He confirmed that all candidates running for City Council seats and for mayor this November are Nampa residents.

Gibbons stepped down Tuesday after she learned she was not technically a Nampa resident, though she has a Nampa address.

Henry appointed Gibbons when former Councilwoman Pam White resigned to join the Canyon County Board of Commissioners. Henry said he selected Gibbons out of the approximately 30 candidates because he liked her bluntness. She took up the role in January.

Recently, Henry received an anonymous tip that Gibbons was not a Nampa resident at the time of her appointment. The mayor met with Gibbons on Tuesday to ask her about it and he said she assured him she was a Nampa resident.

More RESIGNATION | A7



Gibbons



Henry



Idaho hop-growing acreage increased 27 pct. in 2017

Gem State still the nation's third-largest hop producer

BY TORRIE COPE
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WILDER — Idaho is closing in on Oregon for hop acreage, but remains in the No. 3 spot for 2017.

Idaho is the third-largest hop producer in the U.S., with more than 7,000 acres strung for harvest in 2017, according to a report released Friday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The acres strung for harvest in Idaho increased by 27 percent in 2017 over the previous year. Hop acreage grew by about 1,500 acres in Idaho in 2017.

Oregon meanwhile is the second-largest hop producer with more than 8,000 acres strung for harvest in 2017. Oregon bested Idaho's total acreage by more than 2,100 acres in 2016, but Idaho narrowed Oregon's lead to 876 acres this year.



IDAHO HOP ACREAGE

- 7,169 acres in 2017
- 5,648 acres in 2016
- 4,863 acres in 2015
- 3,743 acres in 2014

Source: USDA

More HOPS | A7

Highway district seeks urban renewal funding for Caldwell bridge

BY TORRIE COPE
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CALDWELL — A one-lane bridge spanning the Boise River in Caldwell is in need of a modern replacement.

To help cover the cost of building a new bridge over the river, Canyon Highway District No. 4 is turning to the Caldwell Urban Renewal Agency for funding.

The Old Highway 30/Plymouth Street bridge north of Caldwell has been deemed structurally deficient and can't handle current traffic volumes as a single-lane bridge, according to the highway district. The plan is to build a replacement bridge nearby, while preserving the existing his-



GREG KRELLER/IPT

Vehicles wait to cross the one-way Old Highway 30 bridge over the Boise River Wednesday morning in Caldwell.

toric bridge and repurposing it as a pedestrian bridge that will become part of the Caldwell pathway system that runs along the Boise River in that area.

To complete the pedestrian upgrades, a concrete deck would be poured and railings for pedestrians would be installed.

The bridge was built in 1922 and crosses the Boise River to connect Old Highway 30 and West Plymouth Street, providing access to nearby neighborhoods and the river.

Tim Richard, engineer for Canyon County Highway District No. 4, said funding for the project is coming

from a few different sources, including federal dollars. The highway district is asking urban renewal to allocate about \$3.1 million in funding for the balance of the project, which is expected to cost an estimated \$13.4 million.

"It's a pretty major project putting a new bridge across the Boise River," Richard said.

Richard said the funding from urban renewal represents the tax revenue that would have come to the highway district if the urban renewal agency didn't exist. The bridge project is still several years away from construction, Richard said. It's now in the concept phase, but construction isn't expected until 2021 or 2022.

The bridge project was on the agenda for the urban renewal agency's meeting on June 12, but the item was continued until the next meeting.



Deaths
Jeannie Bennett
David Bowman

Kathleen Cribbs
Todd Perkins
Douglas Strate

Lillian Vaughn
Obituaries, A5

Keep up-to-date with us, comment on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/Idaho.Press.Tribune](https://www.facebook.com/Idaho.Press.Tribune)



Opinion/Stocks..... A4
Weather..... A7
Outdoors..... C1

Puzzles/Comics..... C2-3
Classifieds/Legals..... C4-8
Jumble..... C5



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Vol. 37, 293, 20 pages

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST

Table with 7 columns: TODAY, TONIGHT, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY. Each column contains weather icons, descriptions, and temperature forecasts (High/Low and RealFeel).



WEATHER CONTROL

Look for more clouds today with highs in the low 80s. This flow will usher in a weak storm that will generate a slight chance of a showers in the Treasure Valley later in the day.



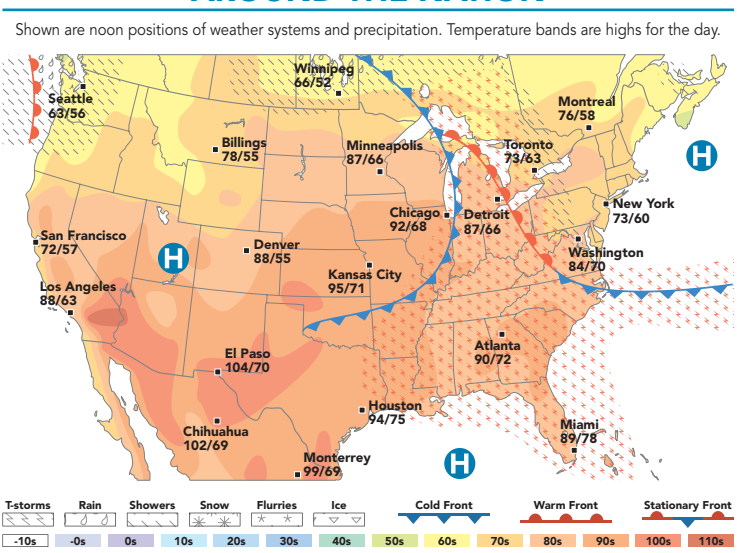
WORLD CITIES

Table with 2 columns: Today, Tomorrow. Lists cities like Beijing, London, Madrid, Mexico City, Moscow, Paris, Rome, Sydney, Toronto with their respective high/low temperatures and conditions.

ALMANAC

as of 6 p.m. Wednesday
Caldwell Airport
High temperature 74°, Low temperature 45°, Normal high 84°, Normal low 53°, Precip., 24 hrs through 6 p.m. Wed. 0.00"
Idaho Press-Tribune
High temperature 75°, Low temperature 50°, Normal high 82°, Normal low 51°, Precip., 24 hrs through 6 p.m. Wed. 0.00"
Boise Airport
High temperature 73°, Low temperature 49°, Normal high 81°, Normal low 53°, Record high 105° in 1974, Record low 35° in 1976, Precip., 24 hrs through 6 p.m. Wed. 0.00", Month to date 1.27", Year to date 11.06", Last year to date 4.51", Normal year to date 6.65"
Moon Phases
Last New First Full
Jun 17 Jun 23 Jun 30 Jul 8

AROUND THE NATION



Areas from Maine to Delaware, eastern Maryland, eastern Pennsylvania and much of New York state can expect dry weather today. A mosaic of showers and thunderstorms will affect areas from the central Great Lakes to the Gulf and southern Atlantic coasts.

REGIONAL CITIES

Table with 2 columns: Today, Tomorrow. Lists regional cities like Arco, Burley, Butte, Caldwell, Challis, Coeur d'Alene, Emmett, Grangeville, Hailey, Idaho Falls, Jerome, Lewiston, McCall, Missoula, Mtn. Home AFB, Ontario, Pocatello, Rexburg, Rupert, Salmon, Shoshone, Silver City, Spokane, Stanley, Twin Falls, Weiser with their respective high/low temperatures and conditions.

NATIONAL CITIES

Table with 4 columns: Today, Tomorrow, Today, Tomorrow. Lists national cities like Albuquerque, Anchorage, Atlanta, Atlantic City, Austin, Baltimore, Billings, Bismarck, Boston, Buffalo, Casper, Charlotte, Cheyenne, Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Colo. Springs, Columbus, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, El Paso, Eugene, Fargo, Flagstaff, Great Falls, Hartford, Helena, Honolulu, Houston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Juneau, Kansas City, Key West, Las Vegas, Little Rock, Los Angeles, Louisville, Memphis, Miami, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Myrtle Beach, Nashville, New Orleans, New York, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Orlando, Palm Springs, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Phoenix, Portland, ME, Portland, OR, Providence, Raleigh, Rapid City, Reno, St. Louis, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Fe, Savannah, Seattle, Sioux Falls, Syracuse, Tampa, Topeka, Tucson, Wash., DC, Wichita with their respective high/low temperatures and conditions.

WEATHER HISTORY

Ben Franklin's famous experiment on June 15, 1752, in Philadelphia, demonstrated the existence of electricity. Franklin narrowly avoided electrocution, however, by flying a kite in a thunderstorm.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: What only happens between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn?
A: Twice each year, the sun is directly overhead.

Forecasts and graphics, with the exception of KBOI forecast, provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2017 Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice

Reports say Mueller probe now examining possible obstruction

WASHINGTON (AP) — The special counsel appointed to investigate Russian influence in the 2016 presidential campaign is now examining whether President Donald Trump tried to obstruct justice, The Washington Post reported Wednesday evening. Accusations of obstruction arose last month when Trump fired FBI Director James Comey. Comey testified in a Senate hearing last week that he believed he was fired "because of the Russia investigation." Comey also testified he had told Trump he was not under investigation. The Post and The New York Times both reported that Mueller was seeking interviews with three Trump administration officials who weren't involved in Trump's campaign: Dan Coats, the director of national intelligence; Michael Rogers, the head of the National

Security Agency; and Richard Ledgett, the former NSA deputy director. Mark Corallo, a spokesman for Trump's personal lawyer, responded Wednesday evening to the Post report by saying: "The FBI leak of information regarding the president is outrageous, inexcusable and illegal." The Post report cites anonymous sources who were briefed on requests made by investigators. It was not known whether the FBI was the source of the information. Mueller met Wednesday with the leaders of the Senate Intelligence Committee in an effort to ensure their investigations don't conflict. The leaders of the Senate Intelligence committee said in a statement issued Wednesday that they "look forward to future engagements" with Robert Mueller. Senate Intelligence Com-

mittee Chairman Richard Burr, R-N.C., and Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, the panel's top Democrat, didn't provide any other details regarding the meeting. An aide familiar with the meeting said it was held to discuss the investigations, including ways that the parallel inquiries don't interfere with one another. The aide spoke on condition of anonymity because the meeting was private. The meeting comes a day after lawmakers questioned Justice Department officials about the probe and Mueller's independence, and after a friend of Trump said the White House was considering firing Mueller. Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who appointed Mueller last month, testified Tuesday he has seen no evidence of good cause to fire Mueller. Also Wednesday, Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles

Grassley said his panel will investigate the removal of former FBI Director James Comey and "any alleged improper partisan interference in law enforcement investigations." Grassley announced the investigation in a letter to California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the panel's top Democrat. Grassley's office said the letter is in response to a recent letter from Feinstein requesting that the committee seek details from senior FBI leadership about Comey's interactions with President Donald Trump before he was fired. The letter said the investigation will also probe Comey's testimony that Loretta Lynch, as President Barack Obama's attorney general, had directed him to describe an FBI probe into Hillary Clinton's email practices as merely a "matter" and to avoid calling it an investigation.

Goodbye/from A1

Trinkets from foreign places are displayed on a shelf in the corner of her office. A llama from Peru, clogs from Holland and a tiny replica of the Colosseum make up just a few. A trip to Brazil later this year awaits her, she said. Before she had to plan trips around work, but she said she looks forward to planning trips whenever she wants. She said she also looks forward to reconnecting with old friends and meeting up for walks. She also has eight cats to keep her busy at home, she said. After doing the job for many years now, Cook said she finds her work to be simple, but the new secretary, Lisa Richard, said she knows she has some big shoes to fill. An open house will be held on Cook's last day of work, June 30, at the Caldwell Fire Department for a celebration of Cook's retirement. The community is welcome to join. Emily Lowe is the cops/courts and digital first reporter.

Resignation/from A1

To be sure, Henry said he went to Public Works Director Michael Fuss to verify that her address was within city limits. Fuss confirmed that while she had a Nampa address and zip code, her home technically resided in Caldwell. Idaho Code mandates that qualified electors live within the limits of the city they were elected to represent, which left Gibbons no choice but to resign immediately. "She was devastated," Henry said. Gibbons rents her home in the Blackhawk subdivision, so Henry said she was not subjected to property taxes like homeowners would be, which would have indicated her true residence was in Caldwell. "My confusion was honest and sincere, and I regret any difficulty or inconvenience this has caused," Gibbons said in a press release. Henry said he does not yet know about the legality of the City Council votes that took place since Gibbons took office in January. He asked Nampa City Attorney Mark Hilty to look into the matter. Gibbons' appointment to the Nampa Urban Renewal Agency and the Healthy Impact Nampa Coalition are also void. Erin Bamer is the city of Nampa reporter. Contact her at 208-465-8193, or ebamer@idahopress.com. Follow on Twitter @ErinBamer.

Hops/from A1

Both states are still far behind Washington, the nation's top hop producer, which has more than 54,000 acres strung for harvest this year. Brock Obendorf, chairman of the Idaho Hop Commission, said Idaho's increase comes from a few new farmers who have entered the market. The growth has been driven by the needs of the hop market, but Obendorf said that need has now been fulfilled and there are too many hops in Idaho, so that growth won't be sustained. Hops are used to make beer, and the popularity of craft beer has led to a demand in hops in recent years. "It would be good if Idaho



Hops hang on vines before harvest at Brock Obendorf's farm.

2016 NORTHWEST HOP FACTS
Idaho: 5,648 acres harvested, 1,646 pounds yield per acre, \$51.1 million in production value
Oregon: 7,765 acres harvested, 1,596 pounds yield per acre, \$65.1 million in production value
Washington: 37,444 acres harvested, 1,748 pounds per acre, \$382.2 million in production value
Source: USDA

processing facilities. A new hop pelletizing mill, Mill 95, is under construction outside Wilder. The facility is the first of its kind in Idaho. At a groundbreaking for

the facility in November, co-founder Dean McKay said he hopes the facility will help elevate Idaho's hop profile. "The hop-growing community (in Idaho) is small, but we carry a lot of impact of a lot of people and brewers around the region and around the world," McKay said at the time. "Our new hop-processing facility will be able to put Idaho, we feel, on the map as a world-class hop-processing region and growing region." According to the USDA report, the top five hop varieties strung for 2017 harvest are Cascade, Centennial, Citra, Simcoe and Zeus. Of the hop varieties grown in Idaho, the highest acreage is in Zeus for 2017 with 1,031 acres followed by Cascade with 886 acres.