

Thursday, March 20, 2008

[From the Coeur d'Alene Press](#)

- No education stories posted online today.

[From the Idaho Spokesman-Review](#)

- No education stories posted online today.

[From the Moscow Pullman Daily News \(password required\)](#)

- No education stories posted online today.

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- Poet, Colton school kids have some fun
- LCSC switches gears on trucker training project

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- Canyon County schools wary of 'No Pants Day' in May

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- College of Idaho President Bob Hoover says he will retire

[From the Twin Falls Times-News](#)

- N. Idaho program helps student apprentices

[From the Idaho State Journal \(password Required\)](#)

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- Building schools with a wink, nod (Editorial)
- Salmon school transportation department under fire again

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FROM THE IDAHO SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

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FROM THE LEWISTON TRIBUNE (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

Poet, Colton school kids have some fun

Poetry composition becomes group project

By Jodi Walker

Thursday, March 20, 2008

My horse is wearing dentures
his teeth look way too small.
They do not fit his face,
though he found them in his stall.
He was digging in the hay
when he found them underneath.
Now he loves his shiny choppers
and my gramps can't find his teeth.

COLTON - Applause broke out in the rows of folding chairs as Colton students were pleased with their newly created poem on the easel in front of them.

With the help of Spokane author Kenn Nesbitt, the students of this Palouse town learned that poetry is more than "flowers and trees and clouds and love," as Nesbitt demonstrated his flair for humorous poetry.

Sandwiched between an engagement in Michigan last week and New York next week, Nesbitt kept his talent closer to home Wednesday with a day trip to talk to the Colton students and host an evening event for families.

"What is really worthwhile is I can see it in the kids," he said during a brief respite between classes. "I know it gets these kids really excited."

Nesbitt's high-energy presentation defies the common image of poetry. But then, so does his poetry.

"Robot monkeys with laser beams," he said, describing one poem he created based on "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

The students laughed.

Any poem topics that are based on experience?

There is the one about falling down and bruising his behind, he said, showing the page in a book.

"See, that's me," he said, pointing to the picture. "Well, that's me as a young Chinese girl, but you get the idea."

The students were mesmerized. Even the older students who tried hard to not be entertained broke into an occasional smile. Some even found themselves contributing to the group poem. Nesbitt's delivery changed as the ages of his audience grew throughout the day. The kindergarten through second- grade students playfully mimicked his "round of applause" by clapping in a circle. They happily pitched in to create new words to well-known nursery rhymes and songs.

"You just have to find the words that rhyme," he simply summed up poetry writing.

And rhyme he did, singing his version of "Take Me Out to the Ball game."

"Let Me Out of the Classroom" tells the story of a student who will do anything to get out of school, until his mom shows up to take him to the dentist. Then he begs his teacher to stay.

For his preteen audience, he broke out the scary poems.

"There are two kinds of scary poems," he said. The first are about ghosts and vampires.

"This one is extra, extra scary because it's a love poem."

He went on to read "I Love Me."

Nesbitt has published numerous books and contributed to anthologies, textbooks and magazines, bringing his published poem total to somewhere around 200. A large hardcover book is due out next spring that will more than double his published poem collection.

"I hope that is going to make the difference," he said of his growing recognition and success.

Nesbitt wrote his first poem at the age of 32 while working in computer programming at Microsoft.

"Don't get me wrong, I have nothing against Microsoft, but this is more fun," he said.

What's his favorite poem in his repertoire?

"My puppy punched me in the eye."

The poem didn't exist yet Wednesday morning. It was an idea brought up in the work session with the students, an idea involving kung fu fighting. He promised to read it at the family event later in the day.

But how can it be his favorite if it doesn't exist, one student asked.

"The stuff I wrote yesterday is old. I'm done with that. I like to write new poems because I can crack myself up."

How long is he going to write, another student asked.

"I'm going to write poems the rest of my life and I plan to live to be 174 years old."

Walker may be contacted at jodiw@lmtribune.com or (208) 848-2275.

LCSC switches gears on trucker training project

Contraption will simulate hazardous road conditions

By Elaine Williams

Thursday, March 20, 2008

Lewis-Clark State College is acquiring a SkidTruck that will allow drivers to feel what it's like when a rig is approaching a skid or collision.

Port of Lewiston commissioners approved an extension of a five-acre lease for LCSC on Wednesday for property near Third Ave. N., and 18th St. N. The move clears the way for the project, which has changed dramatically since it was first proposed as a skid pad in 2005.

Initially the college planned to install it on property along Warner Avenue where LCSC owns about 50 acres near land belonging to the city of Lewiston and the Lewiston School District.

LCSC has no definitive plans for its holdings there now other than to find something compatible with what other landowners do, said Chet Herbst, vice president for finance and administration at LCSC.

The skid pad project stalled when the college was unable to find \$1.6 million in grants to build it. LCSC will use a new technology reducing the cost to between \$600,000 and \$700,000 making it possible to go forward with a grant the school already obtained from the federal Department of Transportation, said Rob Lohrmeyer, dean of the LCSC's professional and technical programs.

A tractor-trailer will be placed on a SkidTruck, a sturdy metal grid with tires where the movements of the wheels are much like those of supermarket carts, Lohrmeyer said.

Drivers will get to see the results of decisions they make when entering potentially hazardous conditions on an asphalt surface that will measure about 300 by 500 feet, Lohrmeyer said.

The previous plan involved flooding a pad and then allowing tractor-trailers to go into controlled skids.

The training, which has not been priced, is expected to have broad appeal when offered as early as this fall, Lohrmeyer said.

The timing will depend on how quickly the Swedish company that makes SkidTrucks can process the order, Lohrmeyer said.

Among those who might take the course are those who drive garbage, utility, UPS trucks or long-haul tractor-trailers.

Lohrmeyer expects businesses who have drivers receive regular training at the site may qualify for discounts in insurance.

That's happened in other parts of the country where similar training is offered, Lohrmeyer said. "It's risk management. That's what it boils down to."

The training site was moved to the port because less space and infrastructure was needed, Lohrmeyer said.

It also fits well with how LCSC already uses the site and the other businesses in the area. The college has a work force training center there where it provides software training and flagging courses.

A terminal for Swift Transportation, one of the largest trucking companies in the nation, is in the vicinity.

To accommodate the college, the port changed the structure of what had been a month-to-month lease with a 90 day cancellation clause. The new agreement is for 10 years and penalizes the port if it withdraws from the lease by having it pay for a portion of the vehicle SkidTruck site, said David Doeringsfeld, manager of the Port of Lewiston.

The amount the port would owe for cancellation decreases as the number of years remaining in the lease diminish.

"This is an exciting project and the port is pleased to continue its partnership with LCSC," Doeringsfeld said.

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FROM THE IDAHO-PRESS TRIBUNE, NAMPA

Canyon County schools wary of 'No Pants Day' in May

COMMUNITY: Annual observation aims to draw attention to valley transit issues this year

By Christin Runkle
crunkle@idahopress.com

TREASURE VALLEY — A day designated to bring awareness to valley transportation issues may be a little risqué for school, local education officials say.

No Pants Day, which is observed on the first Friday in May, has been going on in the U.S. and several other countries since as early as 1985.

A group called Improv Everywhere also regularly holds "No Pants Subway Rides." Combining both concepts, organizers say the area's first No Pants Day will be held May 2 to draw attention to the Treasure Valley's transit needs.

According to the Boise No Pants group's Web site, the day will "generate awareness about the Treasure Valley's need for more intelligent transportation solutions by gathering with friends and family and utilizing existing public transportation."

Participants are encouraged to use existing public transportation while wearing only their underpants. The site suggests thick and modest boxer shorts, bloomers, slips or briefs.

But generally, Treasure Valley students are not advised to participate in No Pants Day during the school day, at least not without consulting with administrators first.

Schools typically have dress codes barring excessively short or revealing clothing, and many districts forbid students from sagging their jeans and baring the tops of their underwear.

Wyatt Tustin, principal of Vallivue High School, said students aren't allowed to show their underwear at school, even if it's just poking out of the tops of their pants.

"If we see underwear, we make (the student) change or cover it," Tustin said.

According to board policy at the Caldwell School District, "extreme deviations (in dress) that are considered to be disruptive or call undue attention will be dealt with on an individual basis." Recently, the district enacted a dress code prohibiting clothing that would reveal, among other things, buttocks or undergarments.

Caldwell Schools public information officer Vickie Ashwill said she believes that code would apply this year, even though it won't formally go into effect until this fall.

"Students ... would have to follow dress code," Ashwill said. "They would be sent home to put clothing on."

But Ashwill also said that students are free to ask the district office if they can participate in the day. The dress code isn't always unyielding: Caldwell High, like many schools, holds spirit days on which students can wear clothing they might not otherwise be permitted to wear on campus.

Nampa High School building administrator Byron Holtry said that if students approach No Pants Day in a manner that truly brings awareness to transportation issues and if they came up with a method and solution to the problem of transportation with an adviser, something might be arranged that would be acceptable.

"It would depend on the attitude and means by which they did it," Holtry said. "The spirit of helping address issues might not be a bad thing."

FROM THE IDAHO STATESMAN

College of Idaho President Bob Hoover says he will retire

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Hoover's letter

Dear C of I Students:

My five years at The College of Idaho are among the most rewarding I have had in my 37 years in higher education. The trustees are wonderful to me. I enjoy the faculty, staff and students immensely. For all of these reasons, it is with sadness that I must tell you I have arrived at the difficult decision to retire.

Beginning last August, I began to have misgivings about how much longer I could serve the College as its 11th president. Leslee and I gathered our two families under one roof in Coeur d'Alene at that time and we had a spectacular several days. It was difficult to return to Caldwell

after that family gathering. However, the excitement of the Albertson Foundation gift, the name change and my role in that gift and everything else overcame many of my growing misgivings about continuing as president. However, since the first of the year, I had growing doubts about continuing as president.

As much as I have loved being president of this college, my focus has changed. I love my wife, children and grandchildren and I want to be with them and enjoy them more often. I hope all of you understand this. In my heart, I know this is the right time for me to leave and the college is at a time in its history when a new president can come in and provide the leadership necessary for a 10-year comprehensive campaign and long-range planning.

I believe The College of Idaho is a stronger institution than when I joined the community five years ago. The J.A. and Kathryn Albertson gift provides the foundation for a successful college in the years ahead. Further, with Foundation's support, the college has maintained the important core of its faculty and staff strength during those difficult crisis years. And we have now secured an equally talented group of professionals on the administrative side of the campus — Finance, Admissions, Advancement, and Student Services. I suspect this is as talented a team as has been assembled at the college in recent memory; certainly it is far stronger than when I joined the staff.

I am prepared to continue as president until June 30, 2009, but will leave earlier should a successor be found before that date or should the Board of Trustees desire an earlier exit. They have begun working on the process for the selection of the next president.

I sincerely thank all of you for your support. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Hoover

President BY BILL ROBERTS - broberts@idahostatesman.com
Edition Date: 03/18/08

Bob Hoover, who pulled the College of Idaho out of tough financial times, will retire as the school's president in June 2009. Hoover was president of the University of Idaho until problems with its Boise-based campus expansion led to his resignation from U of I in 2003.

Hoover sent a letter to C of I students Monday morning saying he wanted to spend more time with his family. He has served as president of Caldwell's C of I for five years.

Trustees are seeking a firm to conduct a national search for Hoover's replacement, said Gerald Baur, trustee chairman.

Hoover was not available for comment Monday. But in the letter to students he said, "The college is at a time in its history when a new president can come in and provide the leadership necessary for a 10-year comprehensive campaign and long-range planning."

C of I faculty credit Hoover with keeping the college doors open through severe economic problems he inherited when he was named president in 2003.

When Hoover took over, money was so scarce that the faculty were cleaning their own offices and mopping their own floors, Baur said.

Under Hoover's leadership the school received \$80 million in grants and gifts, including \$50 million from the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation.

"He saved the college," said Jasper LaCalzi, C of I political economy professor.

Under Hoover's leadership, the school stabilized, Baur said. "He brought a knowledge of higher education that had not been there for a while," he said. "He obviously brought some money. He brought much more harmony to the faculty than before."

He is also popular among students. If students see him at games, they begin a "Hoover" chant, said Matt Weaver, student body president. "He helped recreate an identity for the college."

C of I's next president will face challenges, Baur said. The school needs about 200 more students, up from the 850 it now has, he said.

And C of I is launching a major fund-raising campaign just as a new leader is coming on board.

Fund raising, however, is often built on relationships.

"I don't fault (Hoover) for the decision that he made," said Denny Clark, religion and philosophy professor. But now "is not a good time."

Bill Roberts: 377-6408

FROM THE TWIN FALLS TIMES-NEWS

N. Idaho program helps student apprentices

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho - A pilot program in northern Idaho that employs high school student apprentices could help the region meet a need for more skilled workers while serving as a model for the rest of the state.

"I kind of was leaning toward going to college," said Chris Hanley, a student at Coeur d'Alene's Lake City High School. "When I found out I could learn wire feed welding and get paid, I jumped on it."

Hanley works in the machine shop at Bay Shore Systems, a Rathdrum manufacturing company.

The program is the School-to-Registered Apprenticeship Program, or STRAP. It was developed by the U.S. Department of Labor and offers high school students the opportunity to receive long-term career and occupational training both in the classroom and at an approved job site.

Bay Shore Systems has a hard time finding welders and machinists, said Shawn Martel, production manager.

"If we can bring an apprentice in, it teaches a trade and fills our position," Martel told the Coeur d'Alene Press.

Also participating in the program are Empire Airlines, Stratford Homes, Ground Force Manufacturing, and Kimball Office.

"We have jobs here that pay very well that people can enter without a four-year degree," said Jonathan Coe, general manager of the Coeur d'Alene Area Chamber of Commerce. "We're bucking the trend in north Idaho and adding manufacturing jobs. We're trying to reinvigorate interest in these jobs."

Students as young as 16 can take part.

"Normally you can't get a 17-year-old into a manufacturing setting," Coe said.

The program started with a grant from the Idaho Department of Professional-Technical Education. Many organizations support the program, including the Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls, Hayden/Hayden Lake and Rathdrum chambers of commerce.

Also taking part are Jobs Plus, the Department of Commerce and Labor, the North Idaho Manufacturers Consortium, North Idaho College, and the Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls and Lakeland school districts.

Riverbend Academy is a professional-technical program located in Post Falls that serves students from Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls and Lakeland high schools.

Jason Green, administrator at Riverbend, said the program helps students like Hanley get an early start on their careers. Hanley also attends Riverbend.

"He'll have no student loans and he'll have a good wage," Green said.

Information from: Coeur d'Alene Press, <http://www.cdapress.com>

A service of the Associated Press (AP)

FROM THE IDAHO STATE JOURNAL (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

No education stories posted online today.

FROM THE IDAHO FALLS POST REGISTER (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

Building schools with a wink, nod (Editorial)

OURVIEW

Marty Trillhaase

Legislators provide virtually nothing in state dollars for school construction, forcing educators to turn to the dreaded property tax. Worse yet, school districts must persuade voters to approve school bond levies by a two-thirds majority.

Local schools survive by cherry-picking voters. Elections are held in winter -- when people who might vote aren't leaving town. Educators get out the pro-school vote by holding events such as "Doughnuts with Dad" or "Back to School Night" simultaneously with school bond elections.

Wink, wink.

Nod, nod.

Now lawmakers want to change the rules. Under their bill, schools would have four -- or maybe two -- dates to hold a bond election yearly. Each would coincide with elections for state and local office or other taxing district issues.

Sponsors pulled it Wednesday, but promised to revive it in 2009.

By restricting election dates, they would encourage more people to participate in our representative democracy. Just the same, you can see where this leads -- a widening gap between the haves and have-nots.

Some high-growth school districts such as Bonneville District 93 may continue to pass bonds. They're building new schools, which are easier to sell, especially when an expanding tax base leaves property tax rates unchanged.

Districts with flat enrollments and older schools -- Idaho Falls District 91, for instance -- must persuade taxpayers to upgrade and maintain facilities. Maintenance isn't sexy and it's hard to sell.

Poorer districts such as Snake River and even, to some degree, Madison will have a tougher time still because it takes big tax hikes to generate relatively small amounts of money.

You'll see more inefficiency. Building elementary schools is an 18-month process. If you overshoot, kids have to transfer in mid-year. If you undershoot, a completed building -- with

mounting utility and insurance bills -- sits empty for a few months. Force schools to hold bond elections in March or September, or worse May or November, and you virtually guarantee one of those scenarios.

But that assumes anything passes. And how likely is that when the Legislature stacks all manner of property tax issues -- say a city police station, a county jail and a new school -- on the same election ballot. Sticker shocked voters will turn down everything.

Overly cynical?

Possibly.

Maybe next year, legislators will amend this bill and respect the state constitution and Supreme Court rulings by funneling state money into school projects. Perhaps they'll reduce the margin required for bond passage to a simple majority so school districts don't have to play games with election dates. They even could impose impact fees, making new growth pay for the schools it requires.

Otherwise, this will be less about consolidating elections and more about legislators displaying their contempt toward public schools.

Salmon school transportation department under fire again

By LAURA ZUCKERMAN krolston@postregister.com

SALMON -- Barely a week after two people were fired over a controversial bus ride, the Salmon School District's transportation department is again facing criticism.

Salmon resident Christina Bundash said a bus driver dropped off her 5-year-old autistic son alone near a major road in early February.

Bundash's son, who attends the district's program for developmentally challenged children, usually rides the bus with his older brother.

On the day of the incident, though, the older brother stayed home sick. Bundash said she tried to meet the bus at its usual stop, which abuts U.S. Highway 93 about 7 miles north of Salmon, but got stuck in a mudslide.

The boy was OK; a man who remains anonymous gave the boy a ride home, apparently finding him wandering down a road near the highway, Bundash said.

District officials said they've taken disciplinary action against the driver.

Bundash, however, feels the driver should be fired, as were the district's transportation supervisor and a bus driver involved in a separate incident on Feb. 14 in which the driver took

roughly 30 students, ages 7 to 15, on a 40-minute detour instead of delivering them to their homes.

The district's transportation supervisor advised the driver to take the detour as punishment for the students' misbehavior.

Parents were livid when they found out, prompting administrators to suspend the two until an investigation was complete. The school board voted last week to fire them.

Bundash said her son's treatment was equally egregious.

"Why did my bus driver not get fired and those two lost their jobs?" she said, adding that she's met with trustees and the school superintendent. "You don't drop a kid off on a highway by himself."

Bundash admits that she is not always at the stop when her sons are dropped off but added, "I'm always en route. They've tried to make the focus on me as a parent."

School officials deny any shift in blame for the incident, which they say should not have happened.

Superintendent Tana Kellogg has pledged to revisit policies designed to ensure students' safety.

"We do what we feel is right and what supervisors feel is appropriate," she said. "That doesn't mean everyone is going to be happy."