

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Donation of Old Towne site bodes well for area's future

The big blue granary behind the Depot Grill is a great location, but it isn't much of a building. It should be torn down to further the tasteful renaissance of Old Towne.

The structure, which resembles a big water tank, was recently donated to the Twin Falls Urban Renewal Agency. It may be suited for a variety of uses.

The question now is what to do with it. Urban Renewal Director Dave McAlindin, who also is the city's economic development director, is taking an appropriately cautious stance.

The idea of turning the land into a small "pocket" park makes sense over the short term, McAlindin says. Costs would be minimal and the land would be available for more substantial development in the future.

The deeper issue is what to do with the land over the long term. Urban renewal projects sometimes take years to reach fruition, and that may be the case here. Still, the Urban Renewal Agency's acceptance of this land bodes well for revitalization of the area.

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The Times-News

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The members of the editorial board and writers of editorials are Stephen Hargen, William Brock, Clark Walworth, Steve Crump, Kevin Richter and Michael Journe.

LETTERS

The brain resembles a computer

I was pleased to read in article that The Times-News printed about this fascinating new game called Saints of Virtue. I am a sheriff's deputy, and I see the effects that violence and perceived violence has on kids and adults. I have watched people play these horrific games where you get to rip off people's heads, blow them up and kill. When they leave the game, they are wired; it is a programmed adrenaline rush that makes them feel invincible.

Remember the brain is like a computer - what goes in comes out. The more negative, and violence, that you let into your kid's brain, the more violence comes out. This new game, Saints of Virtue, is extremely challenging with a positive message. It's about time someone has created a personal computer game that challenges us the right way. I found the web site - www.saintsofvirtue.com - that explains the whole game. Parents, please listen, pay attention to what your kids are doing on the computer and their games. I deal with the out-of-control kids almost every day. What goes in, comes out.

MATTHEW EDEN
Twin Falls

TF animal shelter does well

Last fall, my family lost its faithful companion of more than a decade when Lacy, our marmoset Siamese-cross cat, died. When we got over our loss enough to think of acquiring another cat, we knew that we wanted another mature, female, Siamese-cross. I called Laurie Simons down at the Twin Falls animal shelter and she said she would keep an eye out for one. Well, she had a solid black cat at the time that was nursing two Siamese-looking kittens, so she went to work on me to adopt both kittens! That wasn't what we had had in mind, but after some consideration (like of the fact that only about 5 percent of the shelter's cats even find homes), we decided to take them both. Laurie asked us to wait a week while the kittens got the full advantage of their mother's nursing.

When we finally got to pick them up - what a delight! Two kittens are far more than twice the fun of one! We love 'em dearly - thanks for talking us into taking them both. Laurie!

As for Tom Griggs ("TF pound wastes its chance," Aug. 8), I'm sorry that he didn't get what he wanted when he wanted it, but even in the best-run operation, things do fall through the cracks. Did he call back once or twice, or did he just sit home and stew because Laurie had not returned his initial call?

If he really thinks that she was sitting around with her feet up and not "busy" as he was told, I suggest he walk in her shoes for a day. He is certainly right in pointing out that the Boise shelter is "much more than Twin Falls could ever dream of having due to the larger population base and the public interest there," but I can state flatly that the Twin Falls shelter is a much better place because of the years that Laurie and her sister, Debbie, have put in there.

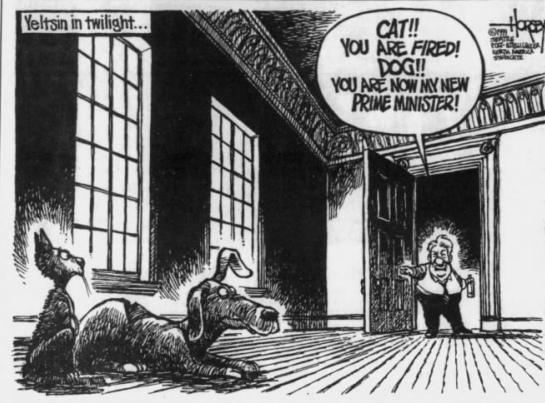
So how 'bout it, Tom? Why not show some public interest and put in a decade or more of volunteer work at the pound? I'm sure that Laurie and Debbie could use more help in disinfecting runs after they've been sprayed with parvo-infected vomit and feces - a task that these selfless, tireless women perform over and over again on behalf of the discarded animals of our small, uninterested community.

JOHN BOLING
Huxton
Alert neighbor puts out fire
On Aug. 4, someone set off a fireworks rocket in the location of an Accession soccer field and it landed in one of our six matching junipers.

Thanks to an alert neighbor, John Riffle, the fire was doused before it could spread through our yard as well as our neighbor's.

Since the guilty party did not have the intestinal fortitude to react in a responsible manner, we are fortunate to have a neighbor such as John.

KAY AND BILL KOCH
Twin Falls



Separating wheat from the chaff in Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa - Considering that he has spent only eight days in the state and that he has barely bothered to devote time to the short and simple stump speech he delivered on his announcement day, the 7,418 votes that Texas Gov. George W. Bush

corralled to win the Iowa Republican straw poll last weekend speak well for his drawing power. It was the combination of broad public appeal and skillful organization - certainly not his oratory, which Pat Buchanan accurately described as "unimpressive" - that won the day for Bush and cemented his status as the man to beat for the Republican presidential nomination.

But it also opened up some scenarios that were not visible before Ames. Karl Rove, Bush's Austin-based strategist, says that soon after Bush came into the race two weeks ago and said he didn't get what he wanted when he wanted it, but even in the best-run operation, things do fall through the cracks. Did he call back once or twice, or did he just sit home and stew because Laurie had not returned his initial call?

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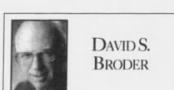
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Twin Falls



DAVID S. BRODER

people in Ames than Forbes did - and more than twice as many as third-place finisher Elizabeth Dole.

It was Dole's achievement in motivating scores of women and young people to take up her tickets that surprised party veterans. When the former Red Cross president and Cabinet member asked at a pre-vote rally which of her supporters were first-time straw poll participants, hundreds of hands went up. If Bush wins the nomination while Dole continues to demonstrate a significant drawing power among those constituencies, the view expressed by one longtime Iowa GOP power - "That's our ticket" - could certainly become a reality.

Dole's emergence is very bad news for Arizona Sen. John McCain, who skipped the straw poll and plans to duck the caucuses here at the end of January - waiting to test his strength in early primaries in New Hampshire and South Carolina. He now faces a real challenge in staying in the news while the campaigning is concentrated next January in Iowa. The caucuses could well turn into a huge fight between Forbes and Dole for second place, and the winner of that "alternative to Bush" banner could come into New Hampshire, which votes just eight days later, with momentum that could blow McCain away.

No one can predict whether Forbes or Dole will win the battle for second place, but he seems to have problems, while she enjoys bright

prospects. Forbes' troops have bruised some feelings here already. Iowa Republican Chairman Kayne Robinson, who is neutral, told me that the loud balloon-popping that drowned out the first half of Forbes' speech in the Coliseum on Saturday was "payback" by other campaigns for "the barbs and barbs" Forbes' staff have been launching.

Forbes has the added difficulty of having had both Gary Bauer and Pat Buchanan do well enough in the straw poll to keep him from locking up the Christian conservatives - a vital constituency in the caucuses.

On the other hand, Dole lost one competitor for the establishment vote when former Tennessee governor Lamar Alexander, who put up a strong battle against her husband in Iowa and New Hampshire in 1996, took his weak showing in the straw poll as a cue to give up the race. And another such contender, former Vice President Dan Quayle, is barely holding on after finishing eighth in a field of nine.

It is a striking fact, as Alexander pointed out on "Meet the Press," that the four candidates who finished behind Alexander and Bush in the straw poll - Forbes, Dole, Bauer and Buchanan - have never been elected to public office. This is an obvious advantage for Bush, especially in a year when, as Kayne Robinson says, "finding someone who can beat Al Gore or Bill Bradley is the most important thing to most Republicans."

Whether Bush is really that man is another question. He won three of every 10 votes among these Iowa activists. The remainder still have to be convinced.

David S. Broder is a Washington Post columnist.

LETTERS

Fees go to benefit forest users

I see The Times-News editorial board is continuing its irresponsible attitude. I refer to the editorial regarding the Forest Service trailhead fees.

First, you should work on your accuracy. The fees don't sting everybody. The vast majority of the people will never park at a trailhead and, therefore, will never be affected by the parking fees. As to the need for the fees, you simply stated it in the first of your editorial. You don't like the condition of the road.

Obviously since you know the condition of the road, you must use it. It sounds like you want every one to pay for a road they for the most part don't use, but you do.

The fact is that costs are rising and the Forest Service has shrunk rapidly over the last several years. If you can run your newspaper on 25 percent less budget

than five years ago then you can complain about the Forest Service. However, I notice your rates haven't went down.

By the way, I got my facts about the Forest Service budget from the articles in your paper, so I'm misinformed, you did it, so you still don't know what you are talking about. Maybe you ought to read your own paper sometime.

WAYNE FRANSEN
Twin Falls

Shoshone is a popular name

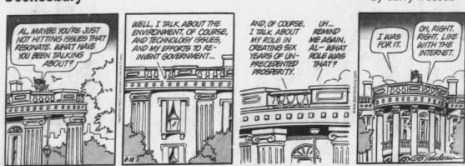
If travelers through the town of Shoshone feel betrayed by the fact that Shoshone Falls is 20 miles away (see The Times-News, Aug. 6), they would be amazed to learn that Shoshone Basin is 60 miles to the south on the Nevada border. And Shoshone County is in the Idaho Panhandle far to the north. And Shoshone Lake is in Yellowstone Park.

And the Shoshone Indians are at Fort Hall near Pocatello.

RALPH W. MAUGHAN
Rupert

Write to us
The Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Because of space constraints, please limit letters to 10 column inches, which is about 400 words. Include your signature, mailing address and telephone number. The Times-News reserves the right to edit all letters. Letters considered libelous, obscene or in bad taste will be rejected, as will material expressing racial, ethnic or religious bigotry. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls or Burley office, mailed to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to (208) 734-5538; or e-mailed to timesnews@mtcnet.net.

Doonesbury



By Garry Trudeau

Mallard Fillmore



By Bruce Tinsley