

Back from World War II, these heroes became neighbors, lawyers, school counselors

Idaho Statesman.com: Nov. 5- R.W. Bennett

"This won't last long," the draft board official in Mountain Home told John Arrillaga. "You'll be home within a year." That was March 1941, nine months before Pearl Harbor. Arrillaga, Elmore County's first World War II-era draftee, didn't make it home for five long, death-defying years. Five years in which more than 60 million people — 3 percent of the world's population then — would lose their lives. The suffering, cruelty and devastation in Europe, North Africa and Asia is now almost unimaginable. Forty-seven years later, John tried to describe the empty resignation many GIs felt. "It got to the point that it didn't really matter if you got killed or not," he told a newspaper interviewer. "You don't ever get used to the death and the killing, but you accept it."

A year and a month after John's induction, the same draft board sent **Bob McLaughlin** the following: "You are hereby ordered to report into the Armed Forces of the United States. ..." What made Bob's notice different was that he was on the island of Guadalcanal, in the midst of one of the deadliest battles in the Pacific Theater, when he received it. Years later, he saw enough humor in its absurdity to share it with his family. After Guadalcanal, Bob served in intelligence. He revealed very little, even to his family, about the years that led to his participation in the 1945 invasion of Okinawa and its three-month bloodbath. The carnage took more than 12,000 Allied and 77,000 Japanese lives.

After the war, Bob practiced law in Mountain Home, served as Elmore County's prosecuting attorney and made a bid for the U.S. Senate. I knew Bob well, but had no idea about his war service. Nor did I know about Leland Gridley, the brother of the neighborhood grocer, who survived the Bataan Death March. Or Dale Knox, the man who delivered gas to our ranch, who took a bullet to the face in an island battle near New Guinea. Or Joe Terrell, my next-door neighbor, who ended up a POW after parachuting out of a doomed plane over Germany. It wasn't until I read the obituary for Charles Lafontaine, my high school counselor, that I learned he flew missions over Germany as a B17 tail-gunner.

I didn't know that **Chuck Hoagland** received a Silver Star, a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for heroism in the Philippines. Chuck never talked about it. He came to my family's house in the winter late one night to repair our furnace because we had a baby. He was that kind of guy. He trimmed our trees and shod our horses. He had a charismatic sense of humor and the street smarts to do about anything. His son told me that his dad died of war-related radiation exposure from his service in Japan after Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Growing up in Mountain home in the 1950s, a town much smaller than it is today, I had no idea that so many everyday men had played significant roles during the war. Thinking back, there were other WWII vets I knew when I was young, most of whom lived only blocks from me.

I knew that Max Boesiger, a local general contractor, had been taken as a Japanese prisoner of war when Wake Island fell in 1942. He was one of 1,100 Morrison-Knudsen employees working to build a naval air base on the island. As a college kid, 24 years later, I worked for Max on a construction project. He treated me well. When I mentioned Max's Japanese prison confinement to someone else, I was told that Murray Kidd, who lived across the alley and a couple of houses down from me, was also on Wake Island for MK and was taken prisoner along with Max. I spent many hours with Murray's oldest son and other neighborhood kids shooting baskets at a hoop Murray installed over his garage door. Of the 1,100 MK employees on Wake, just 700 returned home after the war. Max went from 166 pounds to less than 100. To my knowledge, except to family, Max and Murray rarely talked about it.

Murray Kidd's daughter and Max's son both told me that after the Japanese captured the island, they lined all the captives on the beach and asked for volunteers to board a ship anchored off the island bound for prison camps. Murray and Max must have been standing side-by-side because a Japanese soldier looked at them and signaled discretely with his eyes to get on the ship. The 98 MK employees who stayed behind were lined up and machine-gunned to death. The camps were horrific. Murray's daughter told me her dad's assigned task at Fukuoka Camp 18 — where Max was also imprisoned — was to burn the corpses of dead prisoners. Max's son said that a guard took pity on his dad and risked his own life by giving Max a handful of rice each day. This small measure of kindness, Max told his son many years later, kept him from starving. After the war, Max tried to locate the guard to thank him for his kindness, as did Murray to thank the guard who motioned for them to get on the ship. Neither man could locate their good Samaritans. After hearing these stories, I now felt obliged, almost compelled, to ask other natives if they were aware of others from Mountain Home with extraordinary World War II experiences. As I expected, there were more.

"**Did you know about John Carr?**" a friend asked me. John owned a lumber and hardware store in downtown Mountain Home. John and his wife were good friends of my parents. I learned from John's son that his dad had trained in England for the invasion of Normandy. He landed on Utah Beach on the third day and fought his way through France into Belgium. In late 1944, as one of Europe's harshest winters set in, it became so cold in the Ardennes Forest during the Battle of the Bulge that John scavenged newspapers to line his sleeping bag. With his unit, he fought his way into Germany and helped liberate Nazi concentration camps near Nuremberg, the notorious Flossenburg camp likely one of them. John told his son about the heartbreak of carrying out living internees he described as being as "light as feathers ... you could see every bone in their bodies." War experiences are peppered with irony. John survived the Normandy invasion, the Battle of the Bulge and the march to Berlin with no serious injury. At the war's end in Nuremberg, as he knelt "on deck" waiting to bat in a camp baseball game, the barrel of a broken bat smashed into the back of his skull. John was injured so severely the doctors rushed him onto a hospital ship for the trip home to America. He was in a coma and not expected to live. But during the voyage, the damage in his skull from the bat miraculously healed. John was on his way to a full recovery.

Joe Terrell lived next door to me and was the administrator of our local hospital. He was a crew member on a B17 in Europe. He was a caring neighbor and a meticulous gardener. He mowed his lawn twice a week and trimmed both sides of the hedge that formed the boundary between our property and his. His daughter, a schoolmate of mine, told me that her dad enlisted in the Army Air Corps in February 1942. He was trained as a B17 navigator/gunner. On his first mission over Germany his plane was shot down; half the crew perished. Joe parachuted to safety but was injured in his landing, captured by the Germans and held in POW camp Stalag 17 from April 1943 to October 1945. For his heroism Joe was awarded a Purple Heart and a Congressional Medal of Valor.

Charles Lafontaine was my high school counselor. I learned from his obituary that he flew 35 missions in Europe as a tail gunner on a B17, 11 of those while he was still 18 years old. In his first mission he flew with 1,200 bombers over Cologne, Germany. He was recalled in 1951 for the Korean War and flew 34 missions as a tail gunner on a B-29. I've talked to many of his former students and not one of them knew about Mr. Lafontaine's heroic service. He was quiet and went about his job without fanfare. He administered achievement tests for his students, met with them individually about their plans for the future and popped popcorn for the concession stand at every home game I ever attended.

Leland Gridley, the brother of the neighborhood grocer, lived alone in a small house half a block from my house. I didn't know him well. He seemed quiet and kept to himself. His nephew, a Vietnam vet, told me Leland died young, possibly of complications from post-traumatic stress syndrome. Leland, I was told, suffered one of the most horrible experiences of the war — the Bataan Death March. On the island of Luzon in the Philippines after the Allied surrender to the Japanese in April 1942, American and Filipino prisoners were force-marched 65 miles in tropical heat without food or water to a railhead where they were crammed into box cars and transported to prison camps. As many as 11,000 prisoners died during the march and the subsequent train ride. Many later died in the prison camps, Camp O'Donnell being one of the more notorious. I tried to remember Leland, but his image has faded from my memory. I was unable to locate a photo.

Dale Knox lived near us across from Carl Miller Park. His children and their spouses are good friends of mine. Dale owned the local Texaco oil distributorship and delivered gas and diesel to our ranch. Here's what I didn't know about Dale: he took a bullet to his face during an unsuccessful amphibious landing attempt as his unit tried to take an island off the coast of New Guinea. He swam away from shore holding a fellow soldier who was more severely injured. Dale struggled in the water for six hours, keeping his buddy from drowning. Saltwater staunched their wounds and kept his buddy from bleeding to death. A rescue boat finally saved them from a watery grave. Dale was awarded two Silver Stars, a Purple Heart and a battlefield commission.

George Ascuenta was a Mountain Home farmer and high school Spanish teacher. George, a Marine, was on Oahu during the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, but at another air field across the island. Near the war's end in February 1945, during intense sniper fire in the jungles of the Philippines, he dragged his mortally wounded Marine commander away from the Japanese so the commander's body could be returned to his family. At the time, George, another sergeant and their commander were attached to a Philippine guerrilla unit, a dangerous assignment because of the deep Japanese hatred for the guerrillas. George was awarded a Silver Star for his bravery. I knew George well and knew that he'd been in Hawaii during the attack, but I did not know about the danger he faced in the Philippines.

George Brennan lived just two blocks from us. His son was a year behind me in school; his daughter was a good friend of my youngest sister. George was one of the glider pilots who flew over the Normandy beaches during the early hours of June 6, 1944, in advance of the Allied invasion of Europe. After landing, he remained on the ground with the troops he'd transported. They engaged the Germans in ferocious combat for an entire week. After the fighting, he and the squadron's surviving glider pilots were transported back to England to prepare for more operations. His last glider flight was into Holland for Operation Market Garden. He was badly wounded by ground fire and crash-landed in unfamiliar territory. Within hours he was in a firefight with the Germans. He was captured and, later, surprised his captors with a knife attack and escaped. His harrowing story is the kind movies are made of. It was retold in a June 2001 Idaho Statesman story by Dan Popkey. "He was a highly decorated pilot and received numerous medals from the governments of the United States, France and the Netherlands," George's obituary read. Among those awards was The Netherlands' highest decoration for bravery, the Militaire Willems-Orde Degree of Knight of the Fourth Class.

Richard Aguirre, son of a local sheep rancher, was a B17 navigator. On a mission in May 1943 in the Pacific over the island of Rabaul, his plane took intense fire from a Japanese J1N1 Night Fighter. The cannon fire penetrated the thin skin of the B17 and ignited its incendiary bombs, spreading fire throughout the plane. Richard died from either burns or cannon fire. Two crew members who parachuted to safety recounted the action. Richard Aguirre Park in Mountain Home is named in his honor.

Bill Cochran, my uncle, was in the second wave of Marines who took the beachhead in November 1943 in the terrible and senseless battle on the island Tarawa in the Pacific. He was shot in the leg on the second day while his platoon surged forward under heavy fire to cross an airstrip. He received a Purple Heart. At the end of the war, in gratitude for his leadership, his men gave him a large polished Japanese shell casing engraved with each of their names and the names of the islands they fought with him on: Tulagi, Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan and Tinian. In those five engagements, more than 12,000 Allies and 70,000 Japanese lost their lives. Tinian, Bill's last engagement, was seized in the summer of 1945 so a runway large enough to support B29s could be built. It was on this runway that Little Boy was loaded onto Enola Gay, the B29 that flew its historic mission over Hiroshima.

Worth Lee was my dad's best friend when I was young. Worth, a rancher like my dad, lived with his wife and daughter directly across the alley from us. After Worth's death in an airplane accident in 1963, Dad told me about his best friend's service. Worth participated in Operation Torch, the October 1942 Allied invasion of North Africa at Casablanca. He fought with Patton's II Corps to help defeat German Field General Erwin Rommel and participated in the subsequent invasion of Sicily. As a member of the 45th Infantry Division, he participated in the attack on Salerno in the 1943 Italian campaign. His division slowly advanced through Italy, fighting at Anzio and Monte Cassino. The division helped push the Germans north through Italy and France and in April 1944 captured the city of Munich. Once in Munich, the unit was ordered to participate in the liberation of the Nazi concentration camp at Dachau. His daughter told me she saw photos he took of the internees he liberated; she's haunted by those photos to this day and suspects that her dad suffered from PTSD. At some point in Italy, Worth was wounded. His former wife, a beautiful Swiss woman he met on leave at a German ski resort, told me that Worth had dark shrapnel wounds on his legs — but said only that he was wounded in the war. His daughter has his Purple Heart. Worth was eligible for an exemption from duty because his ranching father died in 1942, leaving only Worth to run the ranch. Worth chose to serve his country.

John Arrillaga was the bar manager at Mountain Home's iconic Joe's Club. Like Worth, he was sent to North Africa with Patton's II Corps. He served as a courier for Patton, first in a Jeep and later, as the fighting intensified, in a tank. John stayed with Patton through the invasion of Sicily and the capture of Palermo. John's next assignment was to England to prepare for the Normandy invasion. He was in the third wave of landings at Omaha Beach in June 1944. His Second Armored Division faced desperate combat for two months before breaking the Germans' hold on Normandy. He later rejoined Patton after Patton was given command of the Third Army. The Germans' surprise attack on the Third Army in December prompted the two-month Battle of the Bulge. John kept his war experiences to himself until 1988, when he was interviewed for a newspaper article that John's son saved and shared with me.

Harry Hamada owned and operated Little Harry's, a convenience store in Mountain Home and a favorite lunch and after school hang-out. Harry sold garden supplies and farmed not far from town. He was of Japanese descent. I didn't know him well, but it seemed everyone else did. He was active in the American Legion and participated in the Honor Guard at veterans' funerals. Until his daughter told me, I didn't know that Harry fought with Company K in the 442nd Infantry Regiment. Online, I learned the 442nd was the most decorated regiment in the history of American warfare. It was composed entirely of Americans of Japanese descent, one of whom was Daniel Inouye, the respected U.S. Senator from Hawaii. They fought heroically in Italy, southern France and Germany. Of the 14,000 who served the regiment, 9,486 received Purple Hearts and 21 were awarded Medals of Honor. The regimental motto was "Go for Broke." A movie of the same name was made in 1951 starring Van Johnson.

In November 1944 Company K was ordered by General John Dahlquist to rescue the "Lost Battalion," 275 men cut off by the Germans in the Vosges Mountains in southern France. Following the rescue, Dahlquist ordered a formation ceremony requiring all the men of the 442nd to stand in review. Annoyed that Harry's company, Company K, had only 18 of its 400 infantrymen present, Dahlquist ordered the company's colonel to provide an explanation. The colonel responded, "That's all of K Company left, sir." Harry and the soldiers of the 442nd fought bravely for their country overseas despite the heartbreaking irony that many of their families and fellow Japanese Americans were forced into internment camps back home. Harry, who died in 1988, was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

These heroes are all gone now, with no one but family members, letters and old newspaper clippings to tell the stories of their heroism. They rarely spoke of the war. It was only by contacting family members and friends that I was able to honor their sacrifices and incredible contributions to the freedom we enjoy today. Almost to the man, they were modest and reluctant to talk, so I am sure I missed contributions by others from my hometown. For this I am sorry. Also, I am under no illusion that war veterans from Mountain Home were somehow unique in their sacrifice. I know that similar stories could be told about vets from every town in America. On Veterans Day this Friday, more than 71 years after the end of World War II, I wish to pay my respects to all the veterans who served our country to protect our freedom throughout our rich history, particularly those heroes I knew as a child growing up in one small American town.

Judge keeps Renfro public defenders

Coeur d'Alene Press: Nov. 5- Keith Cousins

COEUR d'ALENE — Kootenai County public defenders will continue to represent the man accused of murdering Coeur d'Alene Police Sgt. Greg Moore despite attempts from prosecutors to have the Public Defender's Office disqualified. Jonathan Renfro, a 26-year-old Rathdrum resident accused of killing Moore in a Coeur d'Alene neighborhood on May, 5, 2015, faces the death penalty if found guilty. During a hearing at the Kootenai County jail on Friday morning, District Court Judge Lansing Haynes heard motions from the prosecution and defense teams in the case, beginning with a motion asking the judge to remove the public defenders from the case. Kootenai County Deputy Prosecutor David Robbins said the public defenders argued in September that because there is inadequate funding to defend Renfro, the man's constitutional rights are being violated by the prosecution's pursuit of the death penalty. Robbins said that was equivalent to an admission by the defense team that they are unable to provide an adequate defense for Renfro. "The state must emphatically reiterate to the court that we have not seen any ineffective counsel," Robbins said. "(But) a lawyer cannot take a case unless they are competent to do so. The solution is not to dismiss the case, the solution is to get new counsel." Capital cases, Robbins added, are far more likely to be overturned when they are appealed. He also said that by alleging they do not have the funds to provide adequate defense, the public defenders are "willfully injecting a taint into the proceedings." "They must be removed, disqualified, and new counsel must be appointed," Robbins said. Kootenai County Public Defender Linda Paine noted to Haynes the prosecution was essentially using an argument — lack of funding for the public defender's office — that Renfro's attorneys used in an attempt to preclude the death penalty from the case. Haynes, Paine added, "shot down" that line of reasoning in an earlier decision. "But if you believe it now, that's what this court should do," Paine said, adding ruling in favor of the prosecution's motion would be costly because the closest death penalty-qualified attorney is in Payette. "I'm having a hard time believing the state would suggest this, go out and cost taxpayers millions of dollars." "If it is expensive, so be it," Robbins argued in response. "Cost does not factor into this. It's about justice, not financial calculus." Following the arguments, Haynes announced he was denying the prosecution's motion, and he had some degree of concern his reasoning would appear as an attack directed toward the prosecutors. "I tend to view this as a bit of posturing," Haynes said. "I tend to view this as a bit of tit-for-tat. That's just an opinion though, and it's worth what a person pays for it: next to nothing." There is every reason to believe, Haynes added, that Renfro has had effective legal representation. "They have argued well, constructively and forcefully," Haynes said, adding the original argument made by the defense team felt exaggerated. "I do not think one can accept they are prevented from effective assistance of counsel by a lack of funds." Haynes also ruled in favor of a motion made by Renfro's defense team to postpone the originally scheduled trial date in February 2017 because it needs more time to prepare for the trial. The new date for the jury trial, which Haynes said could last up to eight weeks, is tentatively scheduled for April 3, 2017.

Two vie for open Idaho Supreme Court seat

Idaho State Journal: Nov. 5- Betsy Z. Russell

The two attorneys facing off for an open Idaho Supreme Court seat have taken decidedly different approaches to their campaigns. Curt McKenzie, a seven-term GOP state senator from Nampa, has leaned hard on partisan ties and interest group endorsements, though the position he's seeking is a nonpartisan one. The approach backfired in August, when the Fraternal Order of Police — which had long worked with McKenzie on legislation — withdrew its endorsement after he twice represented criminal suspects who unsuccessfully sued police officers for using excessive force. But McKenzie did get a boost last month when a prominent Idaho business lobbying group, the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry, launched an independent radio ad campaign in his favor through its political action committee. Robyn Brody, an attorney in private practice from Jerome, has tallied up endorsements from individuals, rather than groups, and they've been decidedly bipartisan, though she has past GOP ties as well. Over the years, Brody has made campaign contributions to several Idaho legislative candidates, according to state records, all of them Republicans. Three weeks ago, she announced the endorsements of an array of prominent people in law enforcement in Idaho, including eight sheriffs and 18 county prosecutors — some of whom were still upset with McKenzie over the excessive force lawsuits. Brody's campaign has been backed by attorneys all over the state; in a new Idaho State Bar survey released last week, she was rated nearly twice as high in her qualifications for the high court as McKenzie. She's also drawn \$34,900 in campaign contributions since June, all either from individuals or law firms; McKenzie's \$14,901 in campaign fundraising during the same period largely came from GOP state legislators, lobbyists and PACs. But there is precedent in Idaho, which is heavily Republican, for an approach like McKenzie's paying off. Current Justice Dan Eismann portrayed himself as the conservative candidate and courted GOP and anti-abortion groups during his campaign, as McKenzie has; he defeated then-Justice Cathy Silak with 58.6 percent of the vote in 2000. McKenzie, 47, says he believes his background as a state legislator will serve him well on the state's highest court. "I won't try to impose policies that differ from what's expressed in the plain language in statutes, because in part I've got the background," he said. "I think it's a useful background to have for someone who goes on the bench." Brody, 46, believes her 20 years of practicing law in Idaho prepares her for the court. She's a past president of the Fifth District Bar Association and 2014 recipient of the Idaho State Bar's Professionalism Award. "Frankly, I think it's time that a woman be back on the bench," she said. "I'd also like to see someone from rural Idaho there." Idaho's highest court has been all-male since Justice Linda Copple Trout retired in 2007. The two candidates are in a runoff in the November election after coming out on top in a four-way primary race for the position in May. Brody was the top vote-getter in that contest, with 30.3 percent of the vote; McKenzie was second, with 27.7 percent.

Fight over open Supreme Court seat top competitive race in Idaho

Lewiston Tribune: Nov. 8- Kimberlee Kruesi

BOISE - The fight over an open seat on the Idaho Supreme Court is expected to be the top competitive race in the state. Twin Falls attorney Robyn Brody and Republican Sen. Curt McKenzie are in a runoff election for the little known-judicial position - this is the first runoff election for an Idaho Supreme Court seat since 1998. The fight over the seat has taken center stage as Republicans are expected to dominate in today's election. GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump is expected to win Idaho's four electoral votes, and all three Republican congressional candidates will likely secure their bids for re-election. Brody has ranked high among her fellow attorneys, which has resulted in large campaign donations from firms across the state. McKenzie has won the endorsements of Idaho Chooses Life, an anti-abortion organization, and the National Rifle Association, which are favorable among Idaho's strong conservative voting base. The two candidates are in a runoff election after failing to get a majority of the vote in a four-way race in the May primary. The last time there was a runoff election for an Idaho Supreme Court seat was in 1998. There is only one statewide constitutional amendment on this year's November ballot and it's a familiar one. Two years ago, Idaho voters said no to amend the state constitution to allow lawmakers veto power over administrative rules submitted by the executive branch. Convinced the amendment's failure was due to uninformed voters, legislative leaders have launched an expensive new campaign this year urging the public to vote yes. Nothing will change if the amendment fails or passes. Nearly 25 years ago, the Idaho Supreme Court ruled that Idaho's legislative veto power is legal. That ruling has never been challenged and Idaho lawmakers have been using legislative vetoes ever since. However, Idaho lawmakers said they fear that that ruling could be challenged and so they want that permission expressly enshrined in the Idaho Constitution. On the legislative level, all seats of the 105-member Idaho Legislature are on ballots. But 37 of those incumbents are Republican incumbents without opponents because they survived the May primary election. In District 1, Democratic officials pulled a volunteer from the field after alleging that supporters of Republican Rep. Heather Scott harassed and stalked volunteer. Scott has since denied the claims, but the Attorney General's office has confirmed it his reviewing allegations made by the volunteer. For the congressional races, all three incumbents face first-time Democratic challengers. U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo faces Democratic candidate Jerry Sturgill, a Boise businessman. Crapo is seeking a fourth term. U.S Rep. Raul Labrador is running for re-election against Democratic candidate James Piotrowski, a Boise attorney. While the 1st Congressional District tends to swing Republican, Piotrowski's campaign has out raised Labrador in the final weeks of the campaign. Labrador is seeking a fourth term. Finally, U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson faces Democratic opponent Jennifer Martinez, a community activist from Twin Falls. Simpson is seeking a 10th term in the state's 2nd Congressional District. Idaho voter turnout - for both day of and early voting - is highest for presidential elections. The Secretary of State's office isn't giving out an exact estimate of voter turnout, but presidential election years traditionally attract 70 percent turnout or more among registered voters.

The right technology can keep lawyers one step ahead

Idaho Business Review: Nov. 8- Jessica Stephen

When it comes to law-office technology, there are the must-haves, the don't-needs and the wish lists. "It's easy to fall into the trap of seeing something flashy and imagining how it's going to make your firm more efficient," said Michael Brennan, owner of The Virtual Attorney, which provides various business-law and estate-planning services largely over the Internet. But for attorneys, figuring out which technology will actually work depends on the type of law you practice. "It's easy for young attorneys hanging out their shingle to get overwhelmed finding out, 'Do I need video chat? Do I need calendaring? What am I doing to do for billing? How do I store my documents?'" Brennan said. "But ask yourself, 'What do I need to just open the door?' I need to communicate with clients. I need to manage things clients send me, and I need a way to do my work, whether that's in an office or on the road. And you build from that. But starting small is the key." For more established attorneys, Brennan suggested turning to their pasts. "Look at the core of your practice," he said. "What's important to you and your clients? Are you working with them over email a lot? Are you meeting a lot in person? Are you in person frequently? Are you exchanging documents, and what's your internal practice for managing your firm? Looking at the core of how your practice is structured enables you to define what you're looking for and do your research from there. Keep it simple."

Keep it simple

For Brennan, an estate-planning and transactional-business attorney licensed in Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota, keeping it simple meant keeping it mobile. "I don't have the brick-and-mortar office. I don't have the office furniture. I work out of the second bedroom of my home or a coffee shop. My office fits in my computer bag," Brennan said. "So I started with my website and I started with my practice-management suite, and I put the two in sync and built off that core." Zeshan Usman does have a brick-and-mortar office — two, in fact — but his operation is similarly slim. "My basics are a phone — a cellphone or a landline phone — a computer, external hard drive or online backup service and all-in-one printer," said Usman, a personal-injury and debt-relief lawyer in Madison. "Maybe a scanner, too? Those are the basics. Those are the bare minimum you can get by with." Brennan and Usman got together this past year at a state bar conference and chatted about their experiences. When it came to using computers, both suggested laptops with an additional plug-in monitor. Brennan also suggested cloud-based systems for practice management. He uses MyCase, but said Clio and Rocket Matter are also good options. "A new one comes out every three months at this point," Brennan said. "But for a new attorney having a laptop, having a good practice-management suite that's essentially going to act as their virtual office, even if they have a brick-and-mortar space, will help them manage the paper."

Needs rather than wants

Often, figuring out what you need also means figuring out what you don't. "I guess that depends on your perspective," said Brennan, who has been practicing since 2010. "For younger attorneys who are starting lean and trying to create something that's flexible, things you don't need — a copier is probably becoming obsolete; fax machine, there's no need for a fax machine, there are numerous e-fax services you can sign up for \$10 a month; on-site servers are a big expense that I think solos, for a long time, have been shying away from. And I think even larger firms are looking to remove them. And I think we're only a few years from being cloud-based; and desk top computers — I don't know anyone who has one anymore." Management suites that track sales and clients can also be unnecessary. "I think there are other ways to do that, even if it's just plugging into a spreadsheet," Brennan said. For accounting, programs such as QuickBooks and Wave, a free cloud-based program, are a step up from the more popular options such as Quicken for invoicing and tracking numbers from day to day. For invoicing, Usman suggested FreshBooks, which can automatically send bills to clients. When it comes to phones, Brennan downplayed the need for an elaborate system, especially in the age of smartphones. "Google Voice is my office number, and it forwards to my office phone. I get a text when I get a voicemail," Brennan said. Even email can be done in new ways. Instead of Outlook, or even free services such as Gmail or Hotmail, Brennan suggests getting a custom URL that ties back to a firm's website.

What's on your list?

When it comes to wish lists, Brennan and Usman agree that the Fujitsu ScanSnap scanner should be at the top of any list, since it offers double-sided scanning, text recognition and digital copy printing. "It might be better than a copier," Brennan said. Usman also loves his Dymo label maker, which he uses to address mail and print postage. Neither Usman nor Brennan has staff, but Brennan said a so-called virtual receptionist — a person who answers calls coming into a firm but does not work onsite — can be a great help. And websites such as Calendly can assist with scheduling since they allow clients to log on to see when an attorney has time to meet and to make appointments. Usman suggested Apptoto, a Google Calendar-compatible scheduling service that confirms appointments using text messages. "It's like \$10 a month," he said. "It scans my calendar for me, and it's cut down on clients missing appointments." For attorneys who are often working out of state, an online notary service with a webcam can also be helpful, Usman said. As for paying for these not-quite-necessary upgrades, Usman, an attorney for nine years and a solo for eight of those, suggested going slow and making smaller upgrades from year to year. Also, he said, larger purchases should be tied to tax deductions to maximize the financial benefit. Beyond that, Brennan said, getting gear for a law office comes down to your own preferences. "I think we're all kind of in the same boat trying to do what's best for the consumer and best for ourselves. The point I always make is to embrace what's out there and find what works and what doesn't," Brennan said. "I just try to make technology central to the way I practice."

Judge rules on Idaho Democrats' lawsuit to extend voting hours at 5 precincts

Idaho Statesman.com: Nov. 8- Sven Berg

U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill has extended voting at five Boise precincts until 9 p.m. Mountain time Tuesday — the same time polls close in North Idaho, which is in Pacific time. Early Tuesday afternoon, the Idaho Democratic party asked to extend voting time to 10 p.m. — by two hours — at the five Boise precincts. Deputy Chief Clerk Phil McGrane said the court's primary concern was for voters arriving to one of the old polling locations just before closing. "We will have people at the old locations to help make sure people get to the right place," he said. The party's request was in the form of a civil lawsuit. It named Ada County Clerk Christopher Rich and Idaho Secretary of State Lawrence Denney as defendants. Ada County changed the polling places for those precincts — 1602, 1711, 1806, 1810 and 1901 — this year.

The old polling places were:

- 1602: Collister United Methodist, 4400, W. Taft St., Boise
- 1711: Euclid Community Church of the Nazarene, 1308 W. Hale St., Boise
- 1806: Brookdale Assisted Living, Site No. 2, 739 E. Parkcenter Blvd., Boise
- 1810: Riverside Elementary School, 2100 E. Victory Road, Boise
- 1901: Hidden Springs Fire Department, 5871 W. Hidden Springs Dr., Boise

The new polling places are:

- 1602: Collister Community Church, 4709 W. State St., Boise
- 1711: 1173 W. University Dr., Boise
- 1806: Ada County Indigent Services, 252 E. Front St., Boise
- 1810: Our Lady of the Rosary, 1500 E. Wright St., Boise
- 1901: Hidden Springs Community Clubhouse, 5525 W. Hidden Springs Dr., Boise

Signs are placed at the former locations saying where the new location is and will be updated to indicate polling places will be open until 9 p.m., according to a news release from Ada County. All locations have free parking and will be accessible for voters with disabilities. The Ada County Clerk's office gave routine notification of the polling place changes, including ads in the Idaho Statesman, as required by law, said Phil McGrane, chief deputy clerk of Ada County. The office also sent mail to every voter in the five precincts to let them know of the change, McGrane said. That step isn't required, he said. Still, those efforts weren't enough, said Dean Ferguson, spokesman for the Democratic party. "That makes it pretty clear that at least a few people out there that didn't get the word," Ferguson said. "If one person doesn't get to vote, that's a problem. The burden was on Ada County to do this right, and they didn't."

Robyn Brody wins race, becoming Idaho's 3rd female Supreme Court Justice

Idaho Statesman.com: Nov. 8- Audrey Dutton

Robyn Brody won about 54 percent of the vote for a seat on the Idaho Supreme Court. Brody led Curt McKenzie by about 40,000 votes on Wednesday morning, after all precincts in the state had reported. Brody had 297,989 votes, while McKenzie had 257,374, according to the Idaho Secretary of State's Office. The candidates competed to succeed Jim Jones on the Idaho Supreme Court. Reached at home in the early hours Wednesday, Brody said she was grateful to "all the terrific folks in Idaho who have helped me along the way. This has been such an amazing journey, and the best part of this process so far has been traveling Idaho, meeting people." She said supporters have gone "out of their way to help," from a plumber who helped her at a coffee shop while she was sewing a button onto a jacket, to someone putting together a demolition derby car at the Eastern Idaho State Fair in support of her campaign. Brody and McKenzie were the top vote-getters of four candidates in May's primary, when the high court seat usually would be decided. But no single candidate took more than 50 percent of the vote in that election, so Brody and McKenzie went on to compete in the first Supreme Court runoff since 1998. McKenzie, of Nampa, is an attorney and seven-term Republican state lawmaker who is leaving the Legislature. Brody has been an attorney for about 20 years. She currently practices in Rupert and has practiced in Twin Falls.

WHERE DOES BRODY STAND? Brody said earlier this year that she could bring "a perspective of being connected to the people, being connected to the decisions that are being made." She wrote in the Idaho Statesman's voter guide that she believed she could "bridge the gap" between rural and urban issues. Both candidates said they supported transparency in Idaho's court system, as long as technological changes do not violate privacy in juvenile cases, for example. The Supreme Court is shifting to a digital record system and considering how to enable online viewing of court documents.

WHO SUPPORTED BRODY? The race for Supreme Court is nonpartisan. However, the candidates took in plenty of contributions and endorsements, including from people and organizations that could end up going before the Supreme Court. Brody received at least 260 contributions totaling \$188,083, based on records compiled as recently as late October by the National Institute on Money in State Politics. Most of her largest contributions came from attorneys and law firms throughout the state, according to the institute. The Idaho Statesman's editorial board — which is separate from its newsroom — endorsed Brody in September. Members of the Idaho State Bar twice this year rated Brody as the top candidate for integrity, temperament and professional abilities.

Attorney retiring from Asotin County PUD post

Lewiston Tribune: Nov. 9

A longtime attorney is opting to retire as general legal counsel for the Asotin County Public Utility District. In a news release issued Wednesday, General Manager Tim Simpson said Scott Broyles will not be renewing his contract, and his last day is Dec. 31. Broyles served the district 32 years, including a stint as the utility district's first manager. Simpson said the Clarkston attorney was instrumental in helping form the district and has provided solid legal guidance from the PUD's infancy into a mature utility. "It is with some sadness, knowing that all good things must come to an end, and that ends portend new eras and beginnings, that I want to indicate to you that I'm not going to renew my contract as general legal counsel for the PUD," Broyles said in a letter to the board. "It has been an amazing 32-year ride and it is now time for younger hands and minds to take the reins of this institution." Simpson said the board expressed its gratitude for Broyles' service.

Two of three suspects in Boise heroin-trafficking ring sentenced to prison

Idaho Statesman.com: Nov. 9- Kristin Rodine

Audri Perkins, 28, will have to serve the mandatory minimum 10 years for selling heroin to an undercover officer, but District Judge Michael Reardon called her situation "sad" and handed down a substantially shorter total sentence than recommended by the prosecutor. But Tyler Knarr, 29, accused of supplying the drugs that Perkins and another codefendant sold, must serve at least twice the mandatory minimum six years for the crimes he pleaded guilty to. Reardon sentenced him to 12 years fixed, plus up to eight additional years if he is not granted parole. The prosecutor recommended 10 to 20 years in prison for both defendants. Reardon gave Perkins up to three years indeterminate in addition to the 10-year fixed sentence, saying she would likely need support and services from the Department of Correction after completing a decade in prison. "I think turning you loose at the end of 10 years without any support would not serve your interests," the judge told Perkins. "You have had the potential for a much more successful life before you became addicted to opiates." Deputy Ada County Prosecutor Heather Reilly noted Perkins had no previous felony record before the nine charges she faced in this case, although she has a history of substance abuse that stretches back to age 11. Perkins pleaded guilty to two of the heroin trafficking charges in September. Knarr, who faced four felony charges in this case, also pleaded guilty to two charges in September. But unlike Perkins, he has a substantial criminal record including three drug convictions, and was on parole when he was arrested in this case, Reilly said. "While on parole for trafficking controlled substances, this defendant was trafficking heroin," the prosecutor said. Knarr's defense attorney, Rob S. Lewis, recommended the mandatory minimum of six years, saying Knarr is a welder with the potential to earn a good living and start anew with his wife and young children. He argued that Knarr had sought help for his substance-abuse problems and denies being the source of the heroin Perkins and codefendant Caven King sold to an undercover officer. The trafficking investigation led police to Knarr, Reilly said, and police found more than three grams of heroin in Knarr's bathroom. Before sentencing Knarr, Reardon said he believes Knarr was "more likely than not" the source of the heroin that was sold to the undercover officer, and that his criminal history shows he is not receptive to corrective and rehabilitative services. "It no longer appears to matter what services we provide, you are still extremely likely to reoffend," the judge said, "and when you reoffend you're going to engage in conduct that puts the rest of the community at risk." The third person charged in the case, Caven King, is scheduled for sentencing Nov. 30 for heroin trafficking. On Wednesday, both Knarr and Perkins made short statements in court. "I'm not trying to dodge responsibility ... I wish I'd have never gotten involved with heroin. It really grabbed me," Knarr said. "I recognize that I've made mistakes, but ... it's not who I am, and I just wanted you to know that," Perkins told the judge.

Lewiston man faces new charges before pleading guilty to burglary, other counts

Lewiston Tribune: Nov. 9- Ralph Bartholdt

Police say Michael Greene was charged with misdemeanor battery Tuesday for allegedly striking a man with a wooden dowel in a North Lewiston altercation before he met with attorneys Wednesday to mediate a number of unrelated charges in an effort to reach a plea bargain in three criminal cases. Greene, 35, who was exonerated in the shooting death last year of James Allen "Dog" Davis, faced felony charges of conspiracy to kidnap, grand theft and burglary, as well as a felony charge of manufacturing or delivering a controlled substance in a separate case. He was released from jail on a \$75,000 bond in September after being married behind bars. Wednesday afternoon in Lewiston's 2nd District Court, Greene pleaded guilty to burglary and possession of a controlled substance as part of the plea bargain hammered out earlier in the day. It calls for between three and six years in prison, with the court retaining jurisdiction, allowing Greene to attend a prison rehabilitation program followed by probation if he fares well in the program. The other charges will be dismissed. Prosecutors said they entered into the plea bargain unaware of Greene's altercation the night before mediation. On Tuesday evening, police allege Greene got into a fight around 6 p.m. with a 49-year-old man at a residence on the 1800 block of Eighth Avenue North. The victim told police Greene owed him money and he wanted to press charges against Greene, who allegedly struck him with a wooden dowel below the ear before fleeing. Police cited Greene, and an hour later responded to another altercation, where they allegedly found Greene walking on the 1400 block of Seventh Avenue in Lewiston nursing a bloody arm with a large gash near the elbow, according to police. "He was all bloody," Lewiston police Sgt. Rick Fuentes said. "He had an 8-inch gash under the elbow of his right arm." Greene told police he fell on some glass. He appeared Wednesday afternoon in Lewiston's 2nd District Court wearing a long-sleeved shirt after having spent the morning with his attorney, Chuck Kovic, and prosecutors hammering out the plea arrangement.

Judge Jay P. Gaskill ordered a presentence investigation and set sentencing for Jan. 19.

Judge sentences burglar to prison rehab program

Lewiston Tribune: Nov. 9- Ralph Bartholdt

An Orofino man with an extensive criminal history who pleaded guilty to grand theft for his role in the August burglary of a Lewiston restaurant will get a last chance to show the court he can go straight, a 2nd District Court judge ruled at a Wednesday sentencing. Kyle B. Cornelius was sentenced to between two and five years in prison for burglary and possession of a controlled substance. He was charged with burglary, a felony that calls for a maximum 10 years in prison, for allegedly breaking into Zany Graze restaurant at 2006 19th Ave., carting off the business' safe and hiding it in a friend's shop. Video surveillance from the restaurant showed a suspect wearing a hooded sweatshirt, face mask and red and gray athletic shoes wheel away the safe with a hand cart. Police allegedly found the same clothing at a Lewiston residence where Cornelius stayed, and the safe in a backyard shop. Judge Jeff M. Brudie retained jurisdiction, allowing Cornelius to take part in a drug rehabilitation program called a rider. "You're a drug addict," Brudie said. "That's pretty obvious." Cornelius' two felony convictions in Idaho, a parole violation and a firearms conviction in Washington for which he served prison time, as well as his prior failures at drug court were tied to his addiction, Brudie said. "But it puts me in a difficult spot when people keep committing crimes," Brudie said, indicating that options for Cornelius' rehabilitation were almost depleted. "This is a 2 o'clock in the morning burglary of a business with the designed purpose of seeing what you can steal," Brudie said. Deputy prosecutor Anne Kelleher asked the court to consider restitution for the burglary as well as a series of other break-ins to which police have allegedly tied Cornelius, but for which he has not been charged. Restitution includes \$1,000 to Zany Graze restaurant, \$3,751.85 to Nationwide Insurance Co., \$2,047.83 to Hells Canyon Smokehouse in Lewiston, \$1,000 to KC's Burger and Brews in Lewiston and \$1,936.22 to Allied Insurance. Brudie said he will address restitution at a later hearing. The rider will likely be Cornelius' last chance, the judge said, and doing poorly in the prison rehabilitation program could trigger the prison sentence. He said it's up to Cornelius to apply himself to overcome his addiction. "I'm going to be interested ... in how you deal with that," Brudie said.

Boise, Payette counties elected prosecutors Tuesday — but both have already left

Idaho Statesman.com: Nov. 10- Katy Moeller

Boise County Prosecutor Ross Pittman, who ran unopposed in Tuesday's election, has resigned to take a position in another county. The 34-year-old is going home to run the Payette County Prosecutor's Office. He was appointed to that job on Monday, according to outgoing Payette Prosecutor Anne-Marie Kelso. Pittman was at the Boise County Prosecutor's Office Thursday but did not return a call for comment. Boise County Commissioner Alan Ward said the Republican Central Committee was notified Thursday of Pittman's departure. Ward said the committee has 15 days to recommend three qualified candidates to the commissioners to fill the vacancy. In the meantime, the office is in the capable hands of Chief Deputy Prosecutor Jay Rosenthal, a longtime prosecutor. The Boise County prosecutor's job pays \$80,408. The Payette County prosecutor salary is \$91,581. Kelso, 46, has worked on and off since 1998 as deputy and elected prosecutor for the Payette Prosecutor's Office. She won her fourth election for the position Tuesday. But, she said, she had already decided to take another job before Tuesday's election. That decision came too late to get her name off the ballot. Kelso is going to work as director of legal and human resources at Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario, Ore. Thursday is her last day at the prosecutor's office in Payette. "I needed a change after 20 years," she said. Pittman was appointed to the Boise County prosecutor's job in May, a month after Jolene Maloney's departure following a felony DUI charge (Maloney's jury trial is set for Dec. 20). Maloney hired him as a deputy prosecutor in July 2015. Pittman was a write-in for the May primary this year. He won decisively over Maloney and Eagle attorney Aaron Tribble. He told The Idaho World, the weekly newspaper that serves Boise County, that taking the Payette job was a personal decision — he has family there, and he and his wife recently found out they are having a child. "I think it's important to have a support system in raising a child," he told the paper. Boise County has had a series of recent appointees in the prosecutor's office, and whoever replaces Pittman will be the county's third prosecutor this year. Maloney was originally appointed in April 2015, when then-Prosecutor Ian Gee left to return to private practice in Boise. Gee, too, was an appointee in 2012. But he ran for the position that same year and was elected.

Stokes takes alternate path to Idaho National Guard

Idaho State Journal: Nov. 10- Shelbie Harris

It's usually the men and women fresh out of high school who enlist in the service. But in the case of Cpt. Stephen Stokes of the Army National Guard, his service career started a little differently. A lifelong resident of Pocatello, Stokes graduated from Pocatello High School and attended Idaho State University before getting his law degree from the University of Idaho. "From there, I came back to Pocatello and clerked for a judge before going into private practice," Stokes said. "In 2009, I joined the National Guard as military attorney and judge's advocate." With his father also serving in the National Guard, Stokes said he always had this feeling that he needed something more. "I felt like it was my calling," he said. "It was my desire to serve, but the timing just never really worked out." Stokes recalled being in college when the World Trade Center buildings fell on 9/11 and figured it was too late for him to join. During law school, he considered joining the Air Force, but again just felt like it was too late in his professional career for such a demanding commitment. "But in 2008 I worked a case for a friend of mine who was in the National Guard," Stokes said. "We got to talking and the next thing I know, I'm putting in an application." In 2010, he was mobilized and deployed to the Victory Base Complex, a ring of bases that surrounded the international airport in Baghdad, Iraq. "It was our unit's job to administer those bases for the Army, and we were what's called the Garrison Command," Stokes said. "We were there toward the end of the war, and it was our job to draw down. When we first got there, there was about 70,000 people on that installation. By the time we left, there was only about 8,000 people." Though he was deployed for a year, he spent just more than nine months in Iraq. Different than previous wars, the Iraq War was what the military defines as an "asymmetrical war." "That means there's really no frontline," Stokes said. "We were in an urban setting fighting a guerilla war basically. At our base, we were rocketed probably every other day or so. They were shooting mortars and rockets at us during the night. It was nothing like you saw on TV." Stokes said he remembers the "voice in the sky" saying, "incoming, incoming" on a regular basis. The most memorable rocket attack occurred in 2010 on Christmas Eve. "They would like to attack us on holidays," he said. "I was walking back from the bathroom, and we had this really cool anti-rocket defense system that was like a giant Gatling gun connected to a radar. Its job was to shoot down the rockets as they came in. It was dark, and all the sudden these rockets were coming in and all these tracers started flying above me. It was sort of beautiful and terrifying at the same time. It was almost like Christmas lights." The rockets would come in and would hit somewhere, but they were horribly inaccurate, Stokes added. "It was an interesting experience professionally because figuring out how to get rid of all the stuff that had accumulated since 2003 was a challenge," he said. "That and working with the Iraqis to turn things over to their government, consolidate our footprint and close things down was professionally rewarding." Stokes was married for six years before he joined the National Guard. "I had a 2 1/2-year-old and then I had a child that was born while I was at my basic training," he said. "So by the time I got back from Iraq, he was 18 months old, and I had only been with him for three of those months, which was really hard." Once his active duty was complete, he returned to private practice until 2014. Then the National Guard sent him to Boise full time as attorney-adviser to the adjutant general and brigade judge advocate for the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team. "Essentially, I am an attorney for a big cooperation," he said. "It's my job to help the Army with legal issues that come up in our operation." But Stokes' all-time favorite experience has nothing to do with his work as an attorney. "I got to shoot a Paladin, which is basically a mobile howitzer," he said. "It's a 155-mm artillery piece that drives on tracks and I got to shoot one once, and it was awesome."

I.F. man put on probation for molesting girl

By TOM HOLM Post Register November 2, 2016

District Judge Bruce Pickett sentenced an Idaho Falls man to 10 years of probation for molesting a 13-year-old girl. Jordan Ray Jensen, 20, pleaded guilty Aug. 9 to rape of a victim younger than 16 when the perpetrator is 18 or older. The charge was amended from lewd conduct with a child younger than 16. Pickett suspended a two- to 10-year prison term and placed Jensen on probation. If Jensen is unsuccessful on probation Pickett could impose the underlying prison term. Pickett added special terms to Jensen's probation that he have no unsupervised contact with girls younger than 18. Pickett also ordered Jensen complete 100 hours of community service. Jensen was added to the sex offender registry. Jensen has frontal lobe damage to his brain and a low IQ that a psychosexual evaluator noted made him more comfortable interacting with juveniles. Defense and prosecution attorneys jointly recommended probation and that he stay at least one year in a group home that Jensen has been staying at since his release to pretrial services Aug. 9. Jensen has been housed at Boise-based Bethel Ministries, where he obtained a job and has undergone counseling. Court records show Jensen was in a dating relationship with the victim whose parents were aware of the relationship. The victim's mother discovered a note the victim wrote in November 2015 to Jensen asking if they could "wait till they are older because it hurt." When confronted about the note Jensen said the victim was referring to him giving her a back massage and hurting her by touching a pressure point. The victim told investigators Jensen molested her twice and that the note was about Jensen pressuring her into having sex. John Dewey, Bonneville County chief deputy prosecutor, said a presentence investigator recommended Jensen serve a rider. A rider is a six-month to yearlong intensive rehabilitation program held at a minimum security prison. Dewey said he recommended probation because there are several mitigating factors including Jensen's mental health as well as the group home's commitment to treat Jensen. "I think he was a little bit infantilized in his living situation in Idaho Falls and it contributed to his problems with mental health issues," Dewey said. Dewey said the victim and her family told him that they didn't want Jensen imprisoned and wanted him to receive treatment. Jensen's attorney, Neal Randall, said Bethel Ministries had committed to treating Jensen for at least a year in its facility. "I think he's shown to the court by staying in a group home that he's manageable," Randall said. Jensen made a brief statement prior to being sentenced. "I would just ask that you extend the no contact order. I don't want nothing to do with her at all," Jensen said. Pickett extended the no contact order to July 2020. Pickett said he was encouraged by a report given by Bethel Ministries executive director that Jensen had no problems at the group home. Pickett said if the group home had not been available he would have placed Jensen on a rider.

Specialty vets court has first standalone meeting

By TOM HOLM Post Register November 2, 2016

Following the pledge of allegiance, eight veterans stood before District Judge Dane Watkins Jr., most with hands in the parade rest position — palms out, thumbs overlapping behind the back. Tuesday's meeting at Bonneville County Courthouse was the group's first since the county separated one of its many specialty courts to service veterans convicted of felonies. Beginning Tuesday, Veteran's Treatment Court will meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month with the aim of serving service members of every branch of the military. Of the eight participants all branches but the U.S. Navy were represented. The specialty court is aimed at rehabilitation through counseling, programming and accountability measures to reduce recidivism. Participants are evaluated by a team of counselors prior to being accepted and begin the program with incarceration which can run from several days up to six weeks or more. Rex Thornley, Wood Court and Veterans Treatment Court coordinator, said there are two other veteran-focused specialty courts in Idaho. The veteran's court has been in existence for about a year in Bonneville County but held its first separate meeting Tuesday. The program previously operated in tandem with other specialty courts but was separated to focus solely on veterans. Thornley is a veteran and so is his father. He said he has always admired veterans. "Even as a little kid I've looked up to strong veterans and I see all people in the military as my heroes, even today with you guys," Thornley said. Tuesday's presentation ended with a congratulatory praise of each of its members. The Veterans Treatment Court program, which lasts a year or more, runs in four phases with varying degrees of supervision in each phase. Watkins invited each participant to stand up and describe their past week and any challenges or successes they had. "I feel absolutely honored to preside over this court," Watkins said. "I also want to honor, sincerely, the participants. I believe each one of you will help change the way the criminal justice system responds to servicemen and servicewomen who often, because of the affects of war, end up interacting with the criminal justice system." Jason Elliott, a former Marine, recently moved to phase three of the program and said he planned on attending a Marine Corps Ball in Pocatello. He told Watkins he had attended balls in the past but would drink alcohol and couldn't remember many of the events. Thornley said he thought it was risky to be put in that situation but knew Elliott could handle the temptation. Elliott was convicted of felony DUI in September 2015 and accepted into Wood Court in February. Elliott turned around and asked a counselor if he could bring a date to the ball, drawing a laugh from the crowd of about 30. Watkins said he was proud of Elliott's progress and called for a round of applause before inviting the next participant. If a participant violates terms of probation Watkins sanctions them, typically with local jail time. "We care, we care about each one of you. It's true we care about them, but they are here in the program because they are being held accountable and that's the balance we have with one another and sometimes that means a sanction," Watkins said.

Nampa man sentenced after DUI crash left one dead

By SEAN BUNCE Idaho Press Tribune November 4, 2016

NAMPA — The Nampa man involved in an August crash that killed Jeffery Hiscox, 19, of Boise, was sentenced Thursday. Orion Blumenfeld, 47, received 180 days of jail time, with 170 days suspended, two years of supervised probation, a \$500 fine and a suspended driver's license for 180 days, District Judge John Meienhofer ruled. Blumenfeld also can't refuse a breathalyzer test, and have any illegal substances or new crimes. He was given 50 hours of community service in lieu of six days in jail and was credited for two days' time served. Meienhofer said after the sentencing that if Blumenfeld is found to have drunk one drop of alcohol in the next two years, he will serve his 180 days, no option. Blumenfeld was driving west on Greenhurst Road in a Jeep Wrangler when he struck a Pontiac G6 in which Hiscox was a passenger. The driver of the Pontiac was attempting to turn north onto Locust Lane when Blumenfeld's Jeep struck his vehicle, according to Idaho State Police. Hiscox was taken to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center, where he died.

I.F. man gets 5 to 20 years for stabbing man

By TOM HOLM Post Register November 7, 2016

District Judge Joel Tingey on Monday sentenced an Idaho Falls man five to 20 years in prison for stabbing a man outside a convenience store. Cristian Salgado, 21, pleaded guilty Aug. 1 to aggravated battery and an enhancement charge of use of a deadly weapon in the commission of a felony. Charges of felony eluding, DUI, a driver's license violation, aggravated assault as well as an unrelated misdemeanor and a felony case were dismissed, pursuant to a plea agreement. Salgado will be eligible for parole in 2021. Court records show Salgado saw his ex-girlfriend on April 9 at the Common Cents store, 520 E. 17th St., as she was shopping with 39-year-old Hector Manuel Lara-Gonzales. Salgado followed the woman around the store before leaving. As the couple exited, Salgado tried to run Lara-Gonzales over with his truck. After missing Lara-Gonzales, Salgado exited his truck and stabbed the man twice. Lara-Gonzales' shirt was "soaked in blood," court records show. Bonneville County Deputy Prosecutor Tanner Crowther said Lara-Gonzales underwent emergency surgery to remove portions of his intestines that had been damaged. Salgado had fled the scene when Idaho Falls Police officers arrived. Court records show officers found Salgado after he fled the scene, and he sped away from police reaching speeds up to 119 mph. Salgado lost control of his truck and it rolled multiple times on the 600 block of East 65th Street. Crowther recommended a six- to 20-year prison term. He said presentence investigation found Salgado to be a high risk of reoffending. Crowther said the attack was unprovoked and showed Salgado reacted violently and that he was too high risk to be supervised outside of prison. Salgado's attorney, John Thomas, recommended a rider program. A rider is a six-month to yearlong intensive rehabilitation program held at a minimum security prison. Thomas said his client has addiction issues with methamphetamine and an auditory disorder that makes Salgado susceptible to manipulation, and that a prison environment would only exacerbate his problems. Crowther requested \$69,000 in restitution for Lara-Gonzales' surgery. Thomas contested the amount and said he had an expert review the restitution and found a discrepancy of about \$30,000. Tingey did not order restitution and set a hearing to determine the amount. Salgado told Tingey he wanted to change himself and take responsibility for the crime. "I know what I did was wrong, but I can't take it back," Salgado said.

I.F. man sent on rider for lewd conduct

By TOM HOLM Post Register November 14, 2016

District Judge Dane Watkins Jr. on Monday sentenced an Idaho Falls man to a rider program for lewd conduct with a 13-year-old girl. James Potts Jr., 19, pleaded guilty Sept. 15 to lewd conduct with a child younger than 16. Watkins suspended a three- to 13-year prison term and placed Potts on a rider. A rider is a six-month to yearlong intensive rehabilitation program held at a minimum security prison. If Potts is unsuccessful on his rider Watkins could impose the underlying prison term. Potts was added to the sex offender registry. Court records show the victim told a school counselor Potts had sex with her once. The victim has "a number of mental issues that make (her) unstable," court records show. John Dewey, Bonneville County chief deputy prosecutor, said Potts is "low-functioning," and had a difficult upbringing. Dewey said a psychosexual investigation determined Potts to be a high risk to reoffend. Dewey said due to Potts' youth and developmental delays he should be given a chance to be rehabilitated. He recommended a rider program with an underlying three- to 20-year prison term. "This is a very serious incident and he may be a significantly high risk, but going forward he should be given a chance on sex offender rehabilitation," Dewey said. Potts' attorney, Trent Grant, also recommended a rider but with an underlying prison term that would not exceed 10 years. Grant said his client has yet to mature and that time spent on a rider would give him the opportunity to grow up. "As he grows he will reach a stage in his life where he has better impulse control and develop age-appropriate relationships," Grant said. Potts chose not to comment at his sentencing. Watkins said if the attorneys had not both recommended a rider he may have imposed a prison sentence. "Some things must occur before I would release you to the community," Watkins told Potts. "I'll retain jurisdiction for at least a year; you must engage in treatment and provide another evaluation prior to placing you back in the community."

Montana man gets probation for pot

By TOM HOLM Post Register November 14, 2016

District Judge Dane Watkins Jr. on Monday sentenced a Billings, Mont., man to 3 1/2 years of probation for possessing about 15.6 ounces of marijuana. Dean Remmich, 31, pleaded guilty Sept. 16 to possession of a controlled substance with intent to manufacture or deliver, amended from trafficking in 1 pound or more of marijuana but fewer than 5 pounds. Watkins entered a withheld judgment and placed Remmich on probation. If Remmich complies with his terms of probation he could apply to have the charge dismissed under his withheld judgment. Watkins also ordered Remmich serve nine days in local jail. Remmich's co-defendant Steven Dunn, 31, of Shepherd, Mont., has a jury trial scheduled Jan. 31. Idaho State Police stopped Remmich and Dunn for having black-painted tail lights while traveling on Interstate 15 on June 5. Dunn, the driver, is reported to have told a trooper that there was marijuana in the car. The trooper found marijuana in the center console and passenger door as well as two marijuana plants in the trunk. Just under a pound of marijuana was found. Remmich told the trooper he owned all of the marijuana. He told the trooper they bought the marijuana in California and were headed to Montana.

Shelley woman sentenced for insurance fraud

Morning News November 16, 2016

Attorney General Lawrence Wasden says a Shelley woman was sentenced Monday for one count of insurance fraud. Seventh District Judge Dane Watkins gave Cristian D. Ceja-Aguilar a two-year fixed sentenced with a three-year indeterminate prison sentence. The court suspended the sentence and placed Ceja-Aguilar on probation for four years, ordered her to perform 150 hours of community service and pay a \$1,000 fine plus court costs. Ceja-Aguilar, 33, pleaded guilty to one count of felony insurance fraud on August 9, 2016. By pleading guilty, she admitted that she provided Geico Insurance a false statement when she reported her 2003 Chevy Avalanche was insured at the time of an accident. Geico Insurance referred the case to the Idaho Department of Insurance's Fraud Investigation Unit for additional investigation. The case was prosecuted by Deputy Attorney General Nicole Schafer of the Attorney General's Crimes Unit