

**YOU COULD WIN A \$3,000 SCOOTER**

IdahoStatesman.com/Promotions

**MASTERS COVERAGE IN SPORTS**

## MICKELSON MOVES UP

Tiger still in contention **B1**



**Plus, check out the Golf Course Guide**  
Course descriptions, tee times, maps and more

IDAHOSTATESMAN.COM/GOLFGUIDE

**The art of growing our economy**

SUNDAY INSIGHT, E1

**SUNDAY EDITION**

# Idaho Statesman



CLOUDY

\$2

APRIL 11, 2010

63° / 43° SEE A15

## Agency blamed for lax oversight

**Prompt action might have saved some of the \$170M an Idaho bank's failure cost.**

**BY BILL ROBERTS**  
broberts@idahostatesman.com  
© 2010 Idaho Statesman

Federal savings-bank regulators did not act quickly or decisively enough to confront problems at the First Bank of Idaho as the institution slipped toward collapse, an independent review says.

A report by the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Inspector General criticizes the Office of Thrift Supervision's oversight of the Ketchum bank, which failed one year ago.

The Office of Thrift Supervision did not take forceful action to address the bank's heavy concentration of risky land and development loans, and it gave the bank its highest rating in 2006 even though that rating wasn't consistent with First Bank's risk profile, the report says.

And the office should have spotted sooner what

the report called an inappropriate use at First Bank of a lending practice that regulators said masked the bank's delinquent loans.

The bank's failure forced the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. to tap its insurance fund as it took over many of the bank's troubled assets. The report suggests more aggressive action by the Office of Thrift Supervision could have prevented that.

One former member of the bank's board of directors, however, said the Treasury inspector general's report misses the point.

The institution could

See **BANK, A8**

**READ THE INSPECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT**  
IdahoStatesman.com  
Also, read our story from May 2009 about the bank's struggle to survive.

## Craigslist is still a place to buy sex

**What police found when an alarm sounded offers a glimpse into how Valley prostitution works.**

**BY PATRICK ORR**  
porr@idahostatesman.com  
© 2010 Idaho Statesman

When Meridian police responded to a home burglar alarm on Aug. 18 near Ustick and Locust Grove roads, officers didn't know what they would find.

But they didn't expect to be starting a prostitution case involving Craigslist.

That's what officers did after they were met by an "extremely anxious" man at the door, with his collared shirt turned inside

out and his socks in his pockets, surrounded by two much younger women.

Meridian police Chief Jeff Lavey said.

The man was apparently attempting to leave to end an argument over the cost of their services and exactly what they would do when someone inadvertently set off the alarm, officers say.

Police say the man had answered an ad Kaylan M. Speers posted on the free classified Web site for a "perfect brunette playmate (our place or yours)" — the latest in a small but growing string of prostitution arrests tied to the site.



Kaylan M. Speers

See **PROSTITUTION, A5**

## REFUGEES IN IDAHO



SHAWN RAECKE / sraecke@idahostatesman.com

Alexis Mpalirwa was a teacher in his native Congo but says he is strong and willing to work hard at any job. Nonetheless, the refugee has been unable to find work in the Treasure Valley and wonders how he will pay his overdue rent and support his family. He is one of many Idaho refugees frustrated with a flawed refugee-resettlement system.

## Tough times, outmoded aid dim dreams for many

**Resettlement programs don't always work, advocates say; reforms are under way**

**BY ANNA WEBB**  
awebb@idahostatesman.com  
© 2010 Idaho Statesman

**I**n his home country of Congo, and for a decade in a refugee camp in Rwanda, Alexis Mpalirwa taught civics and geography.

Today the father of five, who arrived in Idaho with his family just before the recession hit, is out of work.

He lives in a modest apartment on the Boise Bench. Bicycles lean against the kitchen wall. A calendar and a

woven crucifix hang in the living room. Used box springs with exposed nails and mismatched bedding cover the floor of the room he shares with wife, Josephine. A framed photograph of the Mpalirwas in better times — Josephine in a yellow headwrap, Alexis in a suit — sits on the floor in one corner. An overdue rent notice sits on a coffee table the Mpalirwas got from a friend at church. The family's eight months of refugee benefits

expired last year.

The Mpalirwa clan is one of many refugee families who fled trauma and war with hopes of building new lives in the U.S. But those dreams have come up against a bad economy that has left even longtime, middle-class Idahoans without jobs and homes.

See **REFUGEES, A6**

**READ MORE ABOUT REFUGEES**  
▶ How many refugees are in Idaho? **A6**  
▶ Is the system broken? **A7**  
▶ What other areas are doing. **A7**

## In Mississippi Delta, recession is a way of life

**The birthplace of the blues and home to some of the nation's richest farmland is bleeding dry.**

**BY SHASHANK BENGALI**  
MCLATCHY-NEWSPAPERS  
MIDNIGHT, Miss. — The young men were camped out on the street corner by 10:30 a.m., talking loudly, looking bored. They cracked open tall beer cans and passed

them around. Before long someone pulled out a joint and lit it up.

On a weekday morning in the Mississippi Delta, the poorest part of the poorest state in the country, these men in their 20s and 30s had nothing to do. No work. A few had broken their backs picking cotton, when it was cotton season, or bled their hands farming for catfish, until those jobs started

to disappear, too.

Now, Leonard Dorsey said, they improvise. A 29-year-old with a mouthful of gold-encrusted teeth, Dorsey had a friend who snagged a truck-driving job, so he rode with him up to New York, taking turns behind the wheel and splitting the pay. Back in Midnight, the guys on the corner laughed when Dorsey described how cold it was in

Syracuse.

"Ain't nothing like home," Dorsey said, puffing absently on a cigarette. "But home is so slow."

The Delta, which stretches like a sun-ripened skin across the flatlands of northwest Mississippi, has been slowing down for decades. In this predominantly African-American region, farm jobs

See **RECESSION, A14**

Vol. 145 • No. 260 • 5 Sections • 46 pages • © 2010 Idaho Statesman



See **PROSTITUTION, A5**

**ULTIMATE CHECKING**

**3.01%\***  
APY

**NO MINIMUM BALANCE. NO MONTHLY FEES. ATM FEE REFUNDS.**

Free Checking, with interest



\*APY Annual Percentage Yield • No minimum balance required. Some restrictions apply. Member FDIC

**PROSTITUTION**

CONTINUED FROM A1

**CRAIGSLIST CONNECTION**

Prostitution, usually a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine, isn't high on the priority list of Treasure Valley police. None of the five law enforcement agencies in Ada County actively pursues prostitution arrests — which haven't exceeded 20 county-wide in any of the past five years, according to Idaho State Police reports.

But a few arrests each year link prostitution to Craigslist. "When you have a free online classified site, you find people selling grandma's crafts to people trying to sell stolen cars," Ada County sheriff's Capt. Ron Freeman said. "It serves a useful purpose for law-abiding citizens, but it also allows people with (criminal) motives to advertise."

Craigslis made a deal with the attorney generals of 14 states, including Idaho, in 2008 to eliminate its "erotic services" section and replace it with an "adult services" section, which requires advertisers to provide a working phone number. This section isn't free: Users must pay a \$10 fee with a valid credit card. The Web site will provide that information to law enforcement if subpoenaed.

Craigslis officials did not respond to an Idaho Statesman e-mail Thursday requesting comment, but spokeswoman Susan McCavish told the Statesman in 2008 when asked about illegal ads that Craigslist "is an extremely unwise choice for those intent on committing crimes, and criminals inevitably leave an electronic trail to themselves that law enforcement officers will follow."

Craigslis also requires people entering the adult services section to go through a disclaimer screen that asks users to flag inappropriate ads for removal.

But Craigslis's cooperation from not stop people from advertising illegal acts like prostitution.

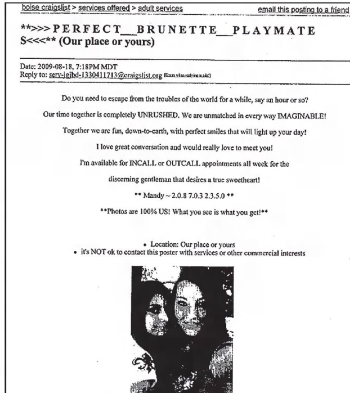
A check of the Boise Craigslis adult-services Web page Tuesday showed several ads that could be interpreted as offering sex for money. They had messages like: "I am a blonde. Why don't you come meet me today?" "Hey there, I'm back in town for a few days, call." "I offer both in-call and out-call appointments." "Hello guys, I offer massage and escort services."

**THE MERIDIAN CASE**

Neither Speers nor anyone else was arrested the day Meridian police responded to the home alert. The home belonged to a relative of Kaylan Speers, police said. Charges were filed later after Meridian police turned their investigation over to the Boise city attorney's office. Kaylan Speers, 22, is now charged with misdemeanor prostitution and is scheduled for a court appearance April 22. Sheyann Janice Gallegos, 21, of Boise, was charged with misdemeanor prostitution, too. Robert E. Speers, 52, of Star, was charged with a misdemeanor count of patronizing a prostitute.

Police said there is no reported relationship between Robert and Kaylan Speers. Robert Speers was eventually found guilty of the patronizing charge during a March jury trial in which Gallegos appeared as a witness, according to court records. He was given a withheld judgment, which means if he completes one year of probation without any problems, he can ask a judge to remove the charge from his record. Boise city lawyers dropped the prostitution charge against Gallegos in exchange for her cooperation in the case.

An arrest warrant was issued for Kaylan Speers in February after she did not respond to a court summons filed on the prostitution charge in late December, according to court records. She turned herself in at the Ada



Courtesy photo  
 The Craigslis ad that police say solicited the prostitution they learned about when a fight between a male customer and two prostitutes set off a burglar alarm.

County Jail last week. If someone is arrested on a prostitution charge three times, the crime is then charged as a felony, with a maximum sentence of five years in prison.

**CITIZEN COMPLAINTS**

Local law enforcement officials say officers don't have the time or resources to scrutinize Craigslis for potential prostitution cases but will investigate citizen complaints. Most investigation time spent on the Internet by Ada County sheriff's detectives is to protect children from online predators or to investigate tips from the public about stolen property, Freeman said.

Local prostitution cases — like a January parlor on Asian massage rail in Boise that led to four arrests — generally begin with citizen complaints, Boise police spokeswoman Lynn Hightower said. None of those cases has gone to trial yet.

But Boise police are aware of the questionable ads on Craigslis and other online classified Web sites, Hightower said.

**OTHER CASES**

In 2009, Boise police arrested two men on charges

of interstate trafficking for prostitution after officers received a tip that a female teen had been brought to Boise from the Seattle area for prostitution and was advertised on Craigslis.

In 2008, a 50-year-old Meridian man and an adult Boise couple were convicted after having sexual contact with a 15-year-old girl, taking pictures and videos of her, and advertising her on Craigslis. All three adults were sentenced to prison.

"When an activity becomes something that rises to a level that citizens start paying attention, we respond to those concerns," Hightower said. "We have made (prostitution) arrests involving Craigslis, and I am sure we will make more such arrests in the future."

Patrick Orr: 373-6619

Patrick Orr has covered hundreds of court cases, including numerous death-penalty cases, since becoming the Statesman's public safety and courts reporter in 2000. Patrick, a craft-beer aficionado, writes a beer column that appears in Scene the first Friday of every month.



IdahoWest

**Funeral home owner wants to boost organ donations**

His life was saved, and he's asking others to sign up with the Idaho Donor Registry.



MEAGAN THOMPSON / The Times-News  
 Mike Parke, of Twin Falls, wasn't a big booster of organ donation until it touched him personally.

**BY NATE POPPINO**  
 THE TIMES-NEWS  
 TWIN FALLS — Mike Parke was prepared to die in 2008.

Then he was handed a lifeline in the form of a brand-new liver. And one transplant surgery later, Parke, 42, is feeling the best he has in years.

The surgery swapped in a new organ for his original liver, which was shrunken and crippled by a genetic disease. But now Parke also has a new perspective on life. And he's made it his mission to encourage everyone to sign up with the Idaho Donor Registry. The owner of Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home in Twin Falls said that he plans to start a foundation to help cover the many medical costs for transplant patients. Parke will offer a \$1,800 discount on funeral services to families of people who donate organs, and plans to talk to area service groups and anyone else who's interested about the value of donating a liver, kidney, heart or other organs.

He's timed his announcement with National Donate Life Month, a nationwide push to encourage donations. And he's transformed, he said, from someone who wasn't very supportive of donations into a passionate advocate still astonished by the gift he received.

"Somebody died for that," he said. "Somebody died so I could live."

Though Idahoans seem to participate fairly well in the state registry, officials

say more donors are always needed.

Dixie Madsen with Intermountain Donor Services, the Utah-based Idaho's list, said about 65 percent of the state's licensed drivers choose to register as donors on their licenses. Though it's hard to be sure how many Idahoans are waiting for transplants, she said, they likely number 300 to 400

in, which the body absorbs more iron than it can process and the rest is left to build up in a person's bloodstream. But more than a year after his surgery, he once again owns the funeral home he was forced to sell off. Despite a couple serious health scares, Parke is doing well.

Before, Parke said, he thought poorly of donations because it makes it harder to prepare a person's

body for a funeral. But he makes it a point now to thank every donor who comes through the doors of his home.

Recipients are encouraged to write thank-you letters, but even he has struggled ever since his surgery to properly express his thoughts, he said.

He plans to finally drop off his letter Monday at a transplant patient conference in Murray, Utah.

statewide.

Many people see the value in registering, Madsen said, but others sometimes need a little push. A donor or recipient sharing a personal experience can help.

"All of a sudden it puts a face and a name to this broad concept," she said.

That's what Parke hopes to do with his story. His liver was destroyed by a disease called hemochromato-

sis, in which the body absorbs more iron than it can process and the rest is left to build up in a person's bloodstream. But more than a year after his surgery, he once again owns the funeral home he was forced to sell off. Despite a couple serious health scares, Parke is doing well.

Before, Parke said, he thought poorly of donations because it makes it harder to prepare a person's

body for a funeral. But he makes it a point now to thank every donor who comes through the doors of his home.

Recipients are encouraged to write thank-you letters, but even he has struggled ever since his surgery to properly express his thoughts, he said.

He plans to finally drop off his letter Monday at a transplant patient conference in Murray, Utah.

statewide.

Many people see the value in registering, Madsen said, but others sometimes need a little push. A donor or recipient sharing a personal experience can help.

"All of a sudden it puts a face and a name to this broad concept," she said.

That's what Parke hopes to do with his story. His liver was destroyed by a disease called hemochromato-

sis, in which the body absorbs more iron than it can process and the rest is left to build up in a person's bloodstream. But more than a year after his surgery, he once again owns the funeral home he was forced to sell off. Despite a couple serious health scares, Parke is doing well.

Before, Parke said, he thought poorly of donations because it makes it harder to prepare a person's

body for a funeral. But he makes it a point now to thank every donor who comes through the doors of his home.

Recipients are encouraged to write thank-you letters, but even he has struggled ever since his surgery to properly express his thoughts, he said.

He plans to finally drop off his letter Monday at a transplant patient conference in Murray, Utah.

statewide.

Many people see the value in registering, Madsen said, but others sometimes need a little push. A donor or recipient sharing a personal experience can help.

"All of a sudden it puts a face and a name to this broad concept," she said.

That's what Parke hopes to do with his story. His liver was destroyed by a disease called hemochromato-

**WESTSIDE DRIVE IN**  
 Westside Quality... It's a Given  
**Sunday Fish & Chip Dinner**  
 Fresh Cut & Hand Dipped By Our Chefs  
 Reg. \$8.49  
**\$6.99!**  
 Good on Sundays Only 11am-9pm  
 21st & State • 342-2957

**Sinusitis, Cold or Allergies?**  
 If you suffer from 3 or more symptoms, Sinus Center-Idaho can help!  
**433-9300**  
 Boise • Nampa • Fruitland

SYMPTOM	SINUSITIS	COLD	ALLERGIES
FACIAL PRESSURE/PAIN	yes	sometimes	sometimes
DURATION OF ILLNESS	over 10-14 days	under 10 days	varies
NASAL DISCHARGE	thick, yellow green	thick, whitish or thin	clear, thin, watery
FEVER	sometimes	sometimes	no
HEADACHE	sometimes	sometimes	sometimes
PAIN IN UPPER TEETH	sometimes	no	no
BAD BREATH	sometimes	no	no
COUGHING	sometimes	yes	sometimes
NASAL CONGESTION	yes	yes	sometimes
SNEEZING	no	yes	sometimes

**My Choice for Weight Loss Surgery**

Luella lost 125 pounds after bariatric surgery at St. Luke's — along with high blood pressure and unrelenting pain in her ankles. Today she greets every day full of energy and ready for the next big adventure.

**Choose to Take the First Step**  
 Visit [stlukesonline.org](http://stlukesonline.org) to watch videos of Luella and other patients telling their stories, and use our Smart Assessment Tool to find out if you may be a candidate for bariatric surgery.

While you're there, sign up for an informational seminar by one of our surgeons, **Dr. Christian Oakley, Dr. Robert Korn, or Dr. Jim Valentine.** Or you can register by calling (208) 381-9000.

**Free Seminars in Boise, Meridian, Ontario, and Twin Falls.**

**St Luke's Clinic**  
**Center of Excellence**  
 BARIATRIC SURGERY

Service provided by St. Luke's Boise

**CASA DEL SOL**  
 BEST A LA CARTE TACOS UNDER THE SUN!  
 ONLY \$2  
 409 S. 8TH STREET IN BOBO • 287-3660