

TIMES-NEWS

Boise State Broncos Focused on Improvement, Not UW Rematch (Yet) • S1

Prostitution in Twin Falls

Prostitution arrests are rare in Twin Falls, according to local police, but the interstate system in the Magic Valley brings with it human and drug trafficking across our borders.

BY ALISON GENE SMITH
alagene@magicvalley.com

TWIN FALLS • Across the country this week, during a three-day FBI sweep, police arrested 150 pimps and rescued 105 children who had been forced into prostitution.

While there were no Idaho arrests, local investigators say they know human trafficking happens here.

The Magic Valley lies along a main corridor of the interstate system, which means drugs and humans are being trafficked across

our borders. Prostitution arrests are fairly rare in Twin Falls, and detectives with local police and the Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office say they haven't seen a case of child prostitution in their careers.

In many local cases, women who may or may not have a pimp come into town, advertise they're at a hotel, then move on, said sheriff's Lt. Perry Barnhill.

"I wish we could look into it more," Barnhill said. "I think we could find out a lot more about it."

The sheriff's office was extremely productive in its Rock Creek Park strip operation last summer, he said.

"We were there for a short time and had two customers right away," Barnhill said despite couples could stand to do more operations, but the time it takes to set them up is

a roadblock. "It is solely time and manpower," he said. "It's not a funding issue."

The sheriff's office and police monitor free classified websites, such as Craigslist and Backpage, for posts about possible prostitution.

Those sites usually contain contact information police try to use, Barnhill said.

Please see **PROSTITUTION, A7**

SKILLED SENIOR



ASHLEY SMITH • TIMES-NEWS

Emery Petersen plays tennis with friends on Friday at the College of Southern Idaho tennis courts in Twin Falls. Petersen just came back from winning the National Senior Games in Cleveland, where he and his tennis doubles partner took first in their age category.

Octogenarian Twin Falls tennis player wins at National Senior Games.

BY TETONA DUNLAP
tdunlap@magicvalley.com

TWIN FALLS • Emery Petersen isn't much for bragging. If you ask about his recent title win, don't expect a long answer.

Petersen and his doubles partner, Jack Largent, of Las Vegas, Nev., recently won first place in tennis in the 80- to 84-year-old category at the 2013 National Senior Games.

The pair had to qualify to compete at the games, held July 19 to Aug. 1 in Cleveland.

The nonprofit National Senior Games are designed to motivate healthy lifestyles among adults 50 and older. This year's event drew 10,800 contestants in 19 sporting events. Competitors must qualify the year before through NSGA-sanctioned state qualifying games

Just before the national contest, Petersen and Largent won in their age category at a tennis tournament sponsored by Nike in Portland, Ore.

"It does not mean we are the best in the U.S.," Petersen said. But ask those who play with Petersen, and they might say it does make him one of the best.

"It's quite an accomplishment," said Ann Vogt, Magic Valley area league coordinator for the Idaho Tennis Association. "He's our hero in the tennis world."

Vogt is a tennis coach at Twin Falls High and coordinates the summer league for the Magic Valley Tennis Team on which Petersen plays.

"Not only does he whip us all, he's twice our age," Vogt said. "He beats the high school kids. These kids could learn a lot from Emery."

Petersen and Largent are ranked fifth nationally in their age division, accord-

ing to the U.S. Tennis Association.

Petersen, 80, said it's the highest ranking he has reached since he resurrected his love for tennis almost 40 years ago and started pursuing it seriously 15 years ago.

He first picked up a ball and racket when he was a student at Twin Falls High. There wasn't much of a tennis team, he said. They didn't even have a coach.

"The basketball coach would come around once a week and ask, 'How you guys doing?'" Petersen said.

After high school, he played now and then. But between college, work and life, there wasn't much time.

It was when he retired in 1998 and started spending winters in Palm Desert, Calif., that Petersen started becoming a fixture at tennis tournaments. Over the past 15 years, he has completed

Please see **PETERSEN, A7**

MAN SHOT IN TWIN FALLS

TIMES-NEWS

TWIN FALLS • A man is in the hospital with non-life threatening injuries after getting shot at the Rivercrest Apartments in Twin Falls Friday night.

According to Staff Sgt. Mike Covington, with the Twin Falls Police Department, a male was injured in a shooting at apartment #204 at Rivercrest Apartments on building 2029 in Twin Falls.

The injured man was transported to St. Luke's Magic Valley in an ambulance with non-life threatening injuries, according to Sgt. Covington.

Police have no approximate age of the male injured.

According to Sgt. Covington, the man shot was able to walk down the stairs near his apartment under his own power.

At press time, there were at least five police vehicles at the scene. The incident is still under investigation.

Firefighters Control Most of This Week's Area Wildfires

TIMES-NEWS

TWIN FALLS • All 17 wildfires that burst across south-central Idaho Wednesday evening are expected to have been suppressed by today.

The blazes started by Wednesday's lightning storm scorched more than 20,700 acres. Most of the wildfires sparked in remote areas, causing few structures to be threatened by flames.

The public's quick response to report the fires helped keep damage to a minimum. Cooler weather Thursday

night aided firefighters in putting out many of the active fires. As of Friday, firefighters had controlled the Coorskin, Crows Nest, Buck Flat, Millland, 3 Well, Red Bridge, Red Bridge 2 and Black Ridge fires.

Two more are expected to be controlled today. The Southeast Red Bridge Fire, about 4 miles east of Natch Butte, stretching south toward Eden, was contained Friday.

The 4,240-acre Cinder Road Fire, 14 miles northeast of Hazelton, also was contained Friday.

Twin Falls Chobani Plant Wins Design-Build Award

Page A3.

WinCo Model Setting New Grocery Industry Standard

BY AUDREY DUTTON
idahostatesman

BOISE (AP) • About once a month, Burt Flickinger III walks into a WinCo supermarket and stares down the "Wall of Values" — a trademark wall-to-wall display just inside WinCo entrances that catches customers' eyes with marked-down crackers, canned soup, boxed pasta or s'mores supplies.

Flickinger lingers in the store and talks to everyone he can. He asks vendors for intimate details about WinCo. He gets the dirt on its discount structure. And when the New York-based retail analyst, who specializes in the art of grocery, heads back to the

East Coast and talks with university students, he'll use WinCo Foods as a case study in shrewd retailing.

"WinCo arguably may be the best retailer in the Western U.S.," he says.

Tell us how you really feel, Flickinger.

"WinCo is really unstoppable at this point."

One more time? "They're Wal-Mart's worst nightmare."

In his career of touring retailers, Flickinger says he found one comparable business when it comes to employees, efficiency, customer service and sanitation. It's called Pak 'N Save. It's in New Zealand.

Flickinger is far from the only

fan of the Boise-based company. Its lack of a membership fee for access to lower-priced goods made it popular enough to grow from a single store on Overland Road east of Orchard Street in 1967 into a regional chain with about \$5.5 billion in sales last year, making it one of Idaho's largest for-profit companies.

WinCo has almost 15,000 employees and close to 100 stores open or coming soon. It has two stores opening in 2014 in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and plans additional locations in Texas, its latest conquest.

The company is privately held and doesn't disclose profits. It keeps a low profile and

Please see **WINCO, A7**



AP PHOTO/THE IDAHO STATESMAN, JOE JAZZISEWICZ

People shop at a WinCo supermarket on July 1 in Boise.

