

# OPINION

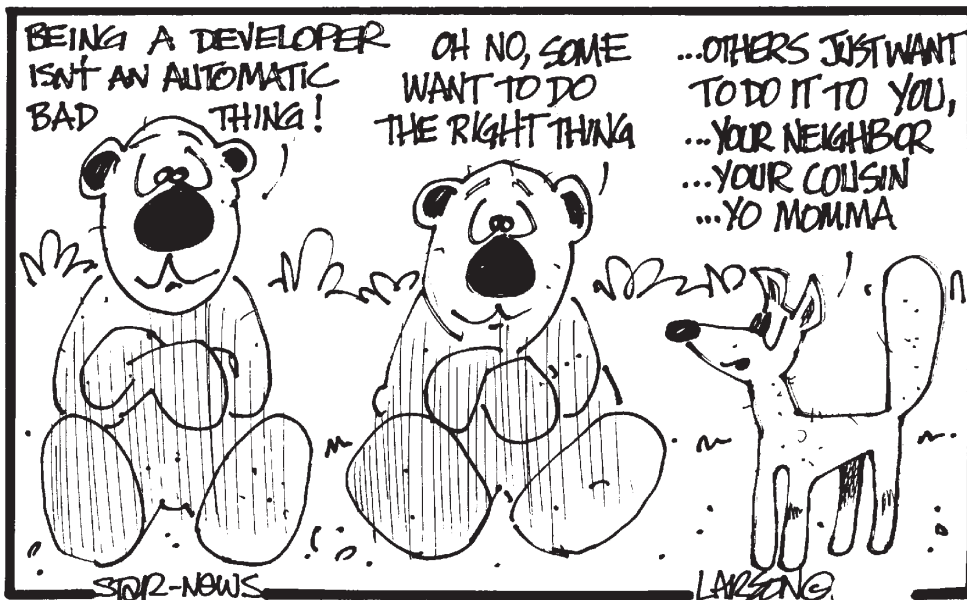
## Blackhawk sets the bar for other projects

It is easy for land developers to promise their buyers open space as an amenity for the future. Those developers will eventually go away, however, after which the future of the open space is thrown into doubt. The developers of Blackhawk, however, have decided to carve their pledge into stone, and they should be commended for it.

The Blackhawk development is now underway five miles south of McCall along a scenic stretch of the North Fork of the Payette River. In return for buying a lot or home, customers are promised a variety of "extras," such as an equestrian center, community lodge, hiking and biking trails and groomed Nordic ski trails. Those are all well and good, but over time an equestrian center can fall into disrepair, a community center can be converted into a mansion and sold, and maintenance of trails can wither away due to neglect. These are the risks of buying into a so-called planned development, in that the maintenance of the amenities is largely up to the homeowners once the project sells out.

Not so with Blackhawk Wildlife Preserve, which totals 152 acres of the project's 1,551 acres total and stretches nearly two miles along the North Fork of the Payette River. The promise of leaving these acres as pristine habitat for wildlife is not made with fingers crossed, but in writing and in partnership with the Payette Land Trust. The Blackhawk developers have signed a legal and binding agreement with the trust placing the land into a conservation easement, which means there is nothing they or their successors can do to take it back.

Of course, the motivation to set aside the land for wildlife habitat is not entirely altruistic. Much of the land cannot be built upon due to wetlands and flood plains. And, the developers receive a substantial tax break for their action. Nevertheless, Blackhawk is the first large project in Valley County to draw a line around part of their land and declare it off-limits - forever. It is a grand gesture and should serve as a challenge to those now building planned communities in the region and others who are contemplating such projects.



Star-News Cartoon by Mark Larson

## Letters to the editor



### Pollution for progress is a poor trade for McCall

To the Editor:

How much longer can the citizens of McCall, of Idaho, and of the U.S. as a whole continue to sacrifice our health on the sacred altar of "business?"

The absentee owner of Valley Paving and Asphalt can become wealthier by increasing production at his plant to 600,000 pounds per hour - vomiting out all the corresponding carcinogens into our air, water, and soil - while the people who live and work in McCall are forced to suffer the inevitable repercussions.

I urge everyone who has the most rudimentary awareness of how pollutants destroy not just the human body, but all life, to come out Thursday Jan. 11 to the McCall Golf Course Clubhouse and let your voice be heard.

Rheumy-eyed children, wheezing teens, and ulcerated adults aren't an equitable trade-off for Mr. Seubert's increased profit share. Let's put society's needs before individual greed, for once.

Mary Jasionowski  
McCall

### McCall senior center remodeling finally done

To the Editor:

Yahoo!! The McCall Senior Citizens Center is going to open on Thursday, Jan. 11, after the remodel. There are still some little finishing up to do, but it is being opened up at regular time.

There is lots to do to be ready for Winter Carnival, and our annual Winter Carnival breakfast each weekend, and our midweek public lunch and entertainment, elect new board members, and the Lord & Lady of the Lake.

Everyone please look in your heart and think about what you can do for the senior center. We welcome everyone over 60 or under 60 and it is such a good community project. If possible even look in your wallet to see if any is scheduled for some nonprofit project.

We all know what food, building, and just plain living cost and it is going up all the time. I am always remembering the seniors in the past who have even kept it going and how it even started in the first place. All they wanted was to get together and socialize, thus today's senior centers.

In the past also, everything that was done was strictly volunteer, which a lot is still going on today. We sometimes forget the place where some of our parents go when younger people move here, then move their parents here and somebody else is here helping your parents survive the snow or cold (some of which have never even seen before). But that is OK, because we all love our senior center and wish all could join us who wish to. Dinners will be Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30 p.m. After dinner we always play pool and cards, etc. Happy New Year, everyone.

Karen Alford  
McCall

### Thanks for firefighters who missed Fiesta Bowl for fire

To the Editor:

We would like to take this time to thank the McCall Fire Department for their quick response to our garage fire on New Year's night. Besides doing a remarkable job at putting the fire out in record time, they all left one of the best football games of all time to do it.

Once I was allowed back into the house, I came in to warm up and of course check the score of the game. It was just before half time and the score was 21-10 Broncos, so my daughter told me to go out and tell the firefighters the score. I did and they all seemed quite thrilled.

We would also like to thank our neighbors, Rory and Amy, for coming to our aid in what was a very scary time for us. Too bad that is how we met our neighbors, but I am glad that we did, they are great. Bottom line is the garage and all contents were lost but the house was saved, we are all fine and we got to finish the best game we have ever watched.

And we hope the firefighters all got to go back and watch the end of the game too. It was a nice feeling that with all the change to our area in the last few years, we still knew most of the young men and women fighting the fire that night. It made it feel like the "old" McCall again.

Randy, Patty and Holly Hickman  
McCall

### Community provides jobs to complete court service

To the Editor:

Valley County Court Services and the Community Service Program would like to thank the community for providing juveniles with opportunities to complete their court-ordered community service.

In 2006, 3,200 hours of community service were completed by juveniles on probation. Each hour of community service is equal to \$6 per hour, which is based on the federal minimum wage. The total monetary value of hours contributed to Valley County in 2006 equalled \$19,200.

Juveniles have contributed community service hours to organizations such as the Central Idaho Historical Museum, Cascade and McCall senior citizens centers, MCPAWS Regional Animal Shelter, McCall Fire & EMS station, Snowdon Wildlife Sanctuary, McCall Parks and Recreation Department, WICAP, local schools, libraries, camps, churches and many more. They have also been involved in projects such as Paint the Town, trail crew with the U.S. Forest Service, McCall Winter Carnival, and the AWESOME! Program.

Again, we want to thank all of you who have helped to make the Community Service Program a success and to the juveniles for all their hard work.

If you are a non-profit or government organization and are interested in providing community service opportunities for Valley County Court Service, contact Sylvia Ryan in McCall at 634-5652 Ext. 221.

Sylvia Ryan,  
Community Service Coordinator  
Valley County Court Services

## VIEWPOINT

# Saddam's end a reminder of his horrific deeds

BY SEN. LARRY CRAIG

In mid-December 1989, a rebellion took hold in communist-ruled Romania, and quickly gained momentum. Within days, anti-government demonstrations spun out of control, and dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife were forced to flee the capital of Bucharest.

Though they eluded angry mobs for several days, the Ceausescus were eventually caught and executed on Christmas Day.

Such a quick and violent end is not uncommon when a dictator is overthrown. And that's what makes the trial and execution of Saddam Hussein so remarkable.

Let's put aside much of the debate about U.S. involvement in Iraq for a moment and focus on Saddam Hussein himself.

Anyone who regularly watches the History Channel has probably seen at least one documentary on the genocides and mass murders Saddam carried out while in power.

He ordered the Iraqi military to systematically bombard the Kurdish town of Halabja with chemical weapons, resulting in the deaths of more than 5,000 men, women and children.

Hundreds of thousands of Iraqis were murdered by Saddam and his followers, and new mass graves all over Iraq are uncovered almost every day, more than three years after coalition forces invaded.

I could go on about his brutality, but the point is made that Saddam Hussein clearly needed to be brought to justice.

Having said that, it is important that we demonstrate to the Middle East and the world the difference between a republican democracy, governed by the rule of law, and a strongman dictatorship.

It is also important that the new Iraqi government demonstrated that to Iraqis themselves, sending a message that a brutal chapter in their national history is over, and life has changed for the better.

While Saddam Hussein's trial may not have been perfect, for the most part, it was conducted professionally and openly, and it met international standards of justice. The execution phase encountered serious problems, as Saddam was taunted before his sentence was carried out, and unauthorized video footage of the event has been circulated.

The Bush Administration has correctly voiced concerns to the Iraqi government, and the Iraqis are investigating.

In the end, White House spokesman Tony Snow put it into perspective, saying, "There seems to be a lot of concern about the last two minutes of Saddam Hussein's life and less about the first 69 (years), in which he murdered hundreds of thousands of people. That's why he was executed."

History will prove that the removal, trial, and execution of Saddam Hussein was justified, and I believe it has helped lay more of

the ground work for a stable and democratic Iraq. Will Saddam's passing be a magic bullet that will quell the violence in Iraq?

No, of course not. It may even be used as an excuse for extremists to commit more violence in the days and weeks to come. But it obviously removes any hope his loyalists may have had of restoring the man to power.

It bears repeating that stability and democracy in Iraq will not spring up overnight. It has been - and will continue to be - a long, difficult process.

Saddam Hussein's trial and execution are essential steps in that process. They are important signals that power now rests with the people, who elect leaders to write the laws, and that true justice comes from the rule of law. It will no longer come from a strongman or the whim of a mob.

(Sen. Larry Craig is a Republican who represents Idaho in the U.S. Senate.)

### LAURENCE "LARRY" REMAKLUS

Laurence "Larry" Remaklus, "a nice guy," formerly of McCall, died on Dec. 24, 2006 in Arizona.

There will be a memorial for Larry in McCall at the Strike cabin in late June. Contact Dan Sharp, Dee Remaklus or Kris Strike for exact dates.

Larry was born in 1927 in Buffalo, Mont., and raised in McCall. He was the youngest of the four Remaklus boys. Their parents owned and ran a hotel in McCall, where the Manchester Ice and Event Centre now stands.

Larry was an exceptional skier and competed in downhill and jumping events in the northwest as a young man. In later life he skied in Austria, Germany and Switzerland.

Larry had a strong love for Idaho and the mountains. He and his brother, Bob, own the Deadwood mine, where Larry spent many summers running the old hotel and trading stories with passers by.

Larry was president of the Sons and Daughters of Idaho Pioneers. Larry lived life as most of us would like to. He worked when he wanted and got a lot of enjoyment out of life.

He spent most of his summers in the mountains, he snowskied most winters, and in later life he loved white water rafting.

He outlived three wives: Beverly Strike, Myrtus, Blanche, and then Beverly again.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Phil and Theo.

He is survived by his brother Bob of Cascade, his daughter Kris Strike of Carefree, Ariz., and McCall, grandson Everett DePue and wife Nicole of Cave Creek, Ariz., and a great-grandson who will be born in January.

Larry will be missed by those who knew him. His quick wit, sense of humor, stories, and his knowledge of the history of Boise and McCall will be sorely missed.

### MABEL G. "MICKY" FORTIN

Mabel G. "Mickey" Fortin, 85, of McCall, died Sunday Jan. 7, 2007, at her home in McCall.

Services will be conducted 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, at the Heikkila Funeral Chapel, McCall with burial to follow in the McCall Cemetery.

Mickey was born April 7, 1921, in Harper, Ore., to Robert Ray and Sarah Elizabeth Rumiser. She was raised in and around the Round Valley area of Idaho with her eight brothers and sisters.

She fell in love and married Dale Fortin in 1939. Together they raised two daughters, Dena and Roxie. They were married for 66 years until Dale passed away in 2005.

Her joys in life included cooking for the Brown Tie and Lumber Logging Crew on the South Fork of the Salmon River and working as a nurse's aide in the McCall Memorial Hospital for several years.

She served as Worthy Matron and was a lifetime member of Valeria Chapter No. 76 Order of the Eastern Star. She spent many weekends taking her daughters' Girl Scout Troops on camping adventures where she shared her expertise in cooking over the campfire.

She was involved in Girl Scouts for many years not only as troop leader but also as the director of the McCall Day Camp every summer while her daughters were growing up.

One of her greatest pleasures later in life was the time spent with her great grandchildren, Tiger, Quentin, Eliza and Riley.

She is survived by her sister, Cleo Colter of Lewiston; her daughters and son-in-laws, Dena and Ken Lucker of New Meadows, Roxie and Phil Pryor of Fruitland; four grandchildren, Wendy Rosselli of Lake Fork, Angie Mettie of Boise, Tracy Peterson of New Meadows and Mike Pryor of Nampa; four great-grandchildren, Eliza Jane and Riley Rosselli, Dale "Tiger" Peterson and Quentin Mettie; a special niece, Betty Ricker, Haines, Alaska; and special nephew, Cecil Fortin, Durkee, Ore.

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he no services at this time, but he will be interred in the family plot in Pleasant Grove, Utah, at a later date. Cremation arrangements are being provided by Zeyer Funeral Chapel, Nampa.

Born on April 29, 1925, in Mapleton, Utah, Doyle was the youngest of seven children born to Charles William and Annie Hutchison Brown Pulsipher.

Doyle spent his youth in Utah Valley and joined the Army Air Corps during World War II. His active duty took him to the Pacific arena in the 5th bomber division of the Jolly Rogers, where he admits to single-handedly winning the war in the air. He was also re-called during the Korean War.

He met and married Dorothy June Goode in July 1946, with whom he spent the next 61 years. They had 3 children, Michael, June (deceased) and Judy.

During Doyle's life he spent many years in the steel industry both in Utah and Wyoming. After retiring, he and his family crafted fine wood products and sold them on the craft circuit. Doyle was also a master antique restorer and could repair anything.

He never met an enemy and was truly a gentle man. He will be missed more than our hearts can express.

Doyle is survived by his wife of 61 years, Dorothy; his son Michael (Diane) Pulsipher; his daughter, Judy Sterrett; his grandson Clinton (Diana) Pulsipher; his granddaughter, Jacqueline Sterrett; his great-granddaughters Sydney and Aubrey Pulsipher; and his sister Belma Jex, as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Remembrances in Doyle's name can be made to the Mercy Home Health and Hospice, 215 East Hawaii Avenue, Nampa, ID 83686.

The family wishes to thank with heartfelt sincerity the Mercy Hospice for their gentle and constant care for Doyle through the painful struggle he endured. Your care made his journey much easier. Thank You!

### DARRELL GENE HINKLEY

Darrell (Dutch) Hinkley, 50, of Secesh Meadows, passed away on Dec. 15, 2006 doing what he always loved, snowmobiling.

Services will be held at a later date, all will be notified.

He was born Sept. 26, 1956, in Columbus, Ohio to Walter (Ike) and Carolyn (Jane) Hinkley. He grew up on the South Fork of the Salmon River in Warren then resided in Secesh Meadows to help work the Hinkley Logs and Lumber mill with his parents.

Dutch went into the Army in 1974 and was released with an honorable discharge in 1977. He served his country with honor.

He is preceded in death by his brother, Butch, and father, Ike, along with two nephews and one niece.

He married Sheryl Pugsley on May 7, 1983, at the home of Ken and Shannon Nealey.

Dutch was a man who could do almost anything but his love of work was being a gold miner. Dutch loved life and everyone in it. He lived his life wanting to be there for his friends, family and even many strangers.

The most helpful, giving person with the great laugh and biggest heart we will ever know. He cared for everyone and always prayed for those whose lives seemed less fortunate than his own.

Dutch is survived by his wife, Sheryl, of 24 years; and his loving son, Arron G. Hinkley; a stepdaughter, Jennifer Hayden of Wash., and one granddaughter.

Also surviving whom he loved so much are his loving

(See "Deaths," Page A-5)

## BIRTHS

### CHARLES MICHAEL RYAN

Born Jan. 7, 2006, at McCall Memorial Hospital to Luke Ryan of McCall and Katie Ryan of Wendell.

A boy, 7 pounds, 2 ounces and 21 inches long.

Immediate family: Sister, Jesse Michele Ryan, 11.

Grandparents: Maternal, Michele Trevino of McCall. Paternal, Mike Ryan of McCall.

