A series of articles on

Sexual Abuse

Published in the



May 28, 2008 – May 30, 2018

Uyless Black





www.postfallspress.com

One Lakeside rising on site of Mudge Building

Monday

May 28, 2018



Sunny and warm High 80, Low 50

Weather, A2

Pressing news

Local

Memorial Day events honoring those who have fallen in the service of our country are listed on A3.

Sports Presented by Knudtsen Chevrolet See photos from the NIC softball team's victory in the Northwest Athletic Conference on B3.

LeBron James lifted the Cavaliers over the Celtics to win the Eastern Conference finals. B1

Other A Utah man held captive in Venezuela has been released thanks to diplomatic efforts. A5



Those who study such things say that mammals from rodents-to-elephants urinate for approximately

By RALPH BARTHOLDT Staff Writer

Demolition of the Mudge Building — a brick structure on the corner of First Street and Lakeside Avenue in downtown Coeur d'Alene — is set for Tuesday.

Peck and Peck Excavating Inc. of Post Falls will raze the structure to make way for a long-awaited, 15-story, 170,000-square-foot downtown condominium complex that has been planned for years.

For the past several weeks, the Coeur d'Alene Fire Department used the vacant Mudge Building for firefighter training, Greg Peck said.

The property's developer, One Lakeside LLC, which owns the 20,000-square-foot lot, filed a \$419,000 permit with the city of Coeur d'Alene to build a \$20 million structure that includes a recreational, club floor on the roof.

Since it was first proposed years ago, the building project had to overcome hurdles. Builders faced a lawsuit from neighbors who argued the proposed high rise would impede their view and cause their property values to plummet.

Property owners at the Coeur d'Alene North complex in 2013 filed a civil suit against One Lakeside LLC and the city, but the suit was dismissed two months later. They argued the proposed high rise would block views of Tubbs Hill, City Park, the lake and downtown.

They also accused the city of not adhering to a review process, but the court ruled the suit erroneous because the city had followed its own rules when it approved the project for construction.



Coeur d'Alene firefighter Eric Paul bashes through a window to vent "smoke" during a recent training exercise at the Mudge Building at the intersection of Lakeside Avenue and First Street in See MUDGE, A7 downtown Coeur d'Alene.



BILL BROOKS He's on your side **Small local**

business, giant target

A local couple who run a small business from home got slammed by a professional scammer. Here's how this one went down:

Like many couples, these two work hard at their business and share the labor. Each morning they sign onto their bank's website, do various financial chores including checking balances and seeing that all deposits have been posted and which checks have cleared - pretty normal stuff. One day last week, the sign-on didn't go as smoothly as it usually does.

The online service of the bank asked for additional information in order to complete the login. Eventually, the online banking information popped up — as usual. Here's what really happened: The scammer had broken through the firewall of the computer and planted a "Trojan Horse" virus directly into the computer (this is a program that is totally invisible to the user). The program added the "extra' verification step to the sign in process for the banks' normal sign in. Once the "extra" verification step had been completed, the program allows the user to go to the bank's website and sign in as usual. In the meantime, the "Trojan Horse" virus sent the banking ID and password to a computer somewhere else in the world. The illicit recipient was then free to sign into the bank account, posing as the legitimate owners of the account.

This government harmed us'

For Vietnam vet, PTSD is the second enemy

By MATTHEW GWIN Staff Writer

More than 13,000 military veterans reside in Kootenai County, so it should be quite easy to thank a few for their service this Memorial Day.

If former Marine Sgt. Stan Spain had it his way, that praise would go to those who didn't make it back home.

"People always tell me, 'Thank you for your service,' but the real thank you should go to those men who sacrificed their lives," Spain said. "And it was a sacrifice." Spain, 72, served two tours in Vietnam from 1964 to 1968. However, he learned about the horrors of war before he ever shipped out. In June 1965, a military plane carrying 72 Marines from El Toro Marine Air Station in Orange County, Calif., to Vietnam crashed into a mountain shortly after

Analysis

This three-part article

First of three parts

By UYLESS BLACK

Special to The Press

deals with the recent

headlines about well-

known men who have

abusing or harassing

adult women, and in

some cases, children.

been accused of sexually



how many seconds? 8, 13, 16, 21

What state's flag displays a head image of George Washington in a field of green? Washington, Virginia, Vermont, New Jersey

Which direction is also known as withershins or widdershins?

Straight down, Clockwise, Counterclockwise, Due north

What main color is the top front portion of a Campbell's soup can label? White, Green, Red, Blue

The late Andy Warhol created how many finished Time Capsules" 84, 190, 415, 612

What's the main difference between a samurai and a ninia? Age, Clothes, Weapons, Code

> 612, Code Counterclockwise, Red, ʻuoʻtgninseW **FUSWERS:** 21,

INSIDE

CLASSIFIEDS	Β7
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MATTHEW GWIN/Press

Marine Sgt. Stan Spain, of Coeur d'Alene, flips through documents related to his military service and his medical benefits. Spain, 72, served two tours in Vietnam and now struggles with PTSD. "I probably have enough of these papers to fill this whole table 3 feet high," he said.

takeoff.

All 84 passengers died time. instantly, making it the deadliest air disaster in

Spain, also stationed at El Toro, was one of

California history at the the men sent to Vietnam in their place.

See VETERAN, A3

Sexual abuse: Physical and collateral damage males who have been confirmed

as abusers. what can an ordinary

person Black make of

them? It is incomprehensible to the normal human. Yet it seems to be a rather common occurrence.

Recently, women are taking up the cause of sexual abuse of females.

For those It is a movement that is overdue and the number of alleged abusers who are coming out of the woodwork is astounding; Bill Cosby, Kevin Spacey, and Charlie Rose, to name only three.

Bill Cosby was found guilty recently of drugging women in order to have sex with them. If this accusation had been made by only one woman, one might be skeptical. But it was made independently by several women. His

actions surprised me. I asked myself: Why would a handsome, personable rich man need to drug women in order to have sex with them? The answer is that he did not have to go to these extremes. He could (almost) have his pick of sexual partners.

Cosby and I were young single men when we were living in the 1970s. The pill was out.

See BLACK, A7

See BROOKS, A7

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BROOKS

from A1

What the scammer did next was to send a couple of wire transfers to other bank accounts under the scammer's control.

The couple had firewall and virus protection on their computer but the crooks still got through. The loss was almost \$80,000. They realized they had been hacked and immediately called their bank here in Coeur d'Alene. The bank didn't exactly "spring into action." according to the couple. Eventually, the narrative of what happened reached an executive who realized the gravity of the situation and started to take action. So far, the bank has not admitted any responsibility for what happened.

It seems to me that the bank is partially responsible in two areas: one, the ease with which their sign-

BLACK

from A1

Willing partners were there for both sexes to enjoy. Women, as well as men, were sexually liberated by the pill.

This fact still holds true. Then why are so many cases of male sexual abuse or harassment of females making the headlines? I do not have the expertise to answer this question, but I will venture a guess. It comes from the DNA of both sexes and centuries of assertion of the males' testosterone. It comes from the long history of males assuming the dominant role in the male-female relationship; to stay on top

on process was spoofed, and two, the bank's lackadaisical response once the fraud was reported. Hopefully, the bank will step up and take some responsibility. We'll see and I'll let you know.

THE LESSON:

When you sign on to a financial website, if something doesn't feel or look right, stop. Don't proceed; back out if you can and in any case, turn off the computer, unplug from the wall, wait a couple of minutes and then try again. If it still doesn't work — call me, day or night, but don't proceed or you could lose BIG!

•••

RULE #1: Never give any financial or personal information to ANYONE who calls you — NEVER! I don't care if the caller is a family member, a friend, a government agency or a crafty foreigner informing you that you've won the sweepstakes — Irish or

otherwise.

of the pecking order. Without making excuses for my gender's sexual predator-like behavior, which was part of surviving in those distant times, it also comes (at least recently in our evolution) from the fixation of many western cultures on the desirability of the female body, all the while ignoring the fact that the female may have the same proclivity to desire an attractive male. But that latter approach does not sell TV ads on a Sunday afternoon. Remember the movie The Outlaw (1943)? Jane Russell posed seductively in a haystack, skirt pulledup, without a bra, as shown in the figure (thank you Wikipedia). These scenes were criticized by

If you follow this rule, you may slightly inconvenience the clerk at the hospital or bank, but you will almost never get scammed. If someone has called you, ask for information identifying the caller and to whom they purport to represent. Hang up and verify the proper phone number to whom you should return the call. Don't use the number the caller gives you, unless you have independently verified the number. Otherwise, you may be calling the scammer right back at "scammer central." Look for the real number on the Internet or in the phone book. If you can't find independent verification of the number, call me, and I'll help you find a

KUDOS TO POST

legitimate telephone

number.

FALLS VW: A consumer, who's well over 90 and sharp as a tack, called me last week. He reported

some, semi-censored by others. The result for the film makers and Jane? Dollars poured in.

However, during those times, we did not see a movie with Gary Cooper posed in his Jockey briefs on a haystack.

With a few exceptions, we still do not see the male body advertised as a sex object in relation to the female. As one example among hundreds, the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders are wrapped in undisguised sexually evocative clothing. They do not have a male counterpart. Our culture has been built for men to revere and desire the female body beyond --and I emphasize beyond what is built into a man's genome.

that he contacted the VW dealership in Post Falls to find out what it would cost to have his rig cleaned and detailed, inside and out. The cost was \$250. He made an appointment and dropped off his car.

From the front

Later, he went back to pick up his newly cleaned vehicle and was told there would be "no charge" for the service. The dealership personnel noticed that he had a "Pearl Harbor Survivor" license plate on his car.

What a wonderful, quiet gesture, from one of our local great businesses! Veterans, especially those who have served our country during times of great turmoil and often at great sacrifice, should be specially recognized. Thanks Post Falls Volkswagen dealership! (I am honored to have a Pearl Harbor Survivor as one of my faithful readers.)

THANK YOU TO ALL VETERANS: A big heartfelt "thank you" to all Veterans! Don't forget what these men and women have sacrificed so that you and yours can live in peace and freedom in this wonderful land.

REMEMBER BILL BROOKS: "He's On Your Side"

...

I have many more tips and interesting cases that I'm working on. Call me at (208) 699-0506, or email me at BillBrooksAdvocate@ gmail.com (#GoGetEmBillBrooks) You can follow me at www. billbrooksconsumeradvocate. com. I am available to speak about consumerism to schools, and local and civic groups. Bill Brooks is a consumer advocate and the Broker and Owner of Bill Brooks Real Estate in Coeur d'Alene.

MUDGE

from A1

Greg Hills, the Colorado-based developer behind the project told The Press that his company was prepared to alter the design of the building in an effort to block less of the view.

The latest design is one story taller than the original design, but it has fewer living spaces.

According to the city, the high-rise will use both the existing Mudge Building lot, as well as the parking lot it owns to the north.

The first three floors of the unit will include parking garages, retail and office space. The new construction will include long and shortterm lease units.

Once completed, the One Lakeside building with its 15 floors would be the third-tallest building in Coeur d'Alene behind the 20-story Parkside Tower across from McEuen Park, and The Coeur d'Alene Resort's 18-story hotel.

Some readers will criticize me for trying to dismiss the behavior of the recently revealed male sexual predators as being little more than Darwinianordained behavior or spurred on by the media.

•••

Those assertions are partially true. But to claim there is no reason for the sexual predator behavior of these men is intellectually vacuous. In order to get to the root of the problem, we must address the reality of those roots. That is what I am attempting to do in these articles. I look forward to your comments.

Uyless Black is an author, researcher and frequent Press analyst and commentator. He and his wife, Holly, reside in Hayden.



United Artists via Wikipedia Movie poster for The Outlaw (1943) featuring Jane Russell

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ANPL	184	229	47	765	Yeti or Not Dr. Mark Evans explains the "Yeti." (TVPG)				The Lost Kingdom of the Yeti An expedition into the Hima- layas. (N)				Sudden deadly collisions. (N) Monsters (TVG)		(11:08) River Monsters
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The Press, Tuesday, May 29, 2018



For news or story ideas, contact City Editor Maureen Dolan at mdolan@cdapress. com or call 664-8176 Ext. 2005

Legals / C3 Kid Scoop / C4



IDAHO: Judge rejects sex offender registration lawsuit / C2

Behind the words 'ethics,' 'morals'

Hearing the words, "that's immoral" or "it's unethical" induces contemplation. What makes it so? As perceptions shift over time, some believe we don't hear such laments often enough — that morals have somehow degraded. Others see the same changes as ethical improvements.

Is there a difference between morals and ethics?

Most ethicists (scholars or philosophers who study ethics) consider the terms interchangeable. Both



Sholeh **Patrick**

by group norms and change with societal development. While humans across centuries and cultures have generally agreed it's unethical to murder, it was once considered immoral, for example, for ladies to show their ankles. Puritans considered dancing immoral.

judgments

which vary

At least some of what is moral and ethical is mutable.

Encyclopedia Britannica probably gets the closest, distinguishing between morality as personal and normative, and ethics as a standard applied to groups or communities. Religious mores, while defining a group, are designed to apply to individuals; thus morality is associated with religion, especially today. Adultery is a common example of what societies generally consider immoral. Very personal conduct, with personal consequences — the effects of adultery can drastically change individual and family lives, but have little to no effect on the surrounding community, or industry where the individual works. Speaking of industry, modern understanding of the term "ethics" most often applies to professions and group settings. For example, the medical and legal industries include detailed rules, departments, and great efforts dedicated to what constitutes legal and medical ethics; what is right and wrong in those fields, and where to draw the constantly shifting

Sexual abuse and harassment: Whom do we believe?

Second of three parts

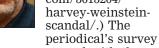
By UYLESS BLACK Special to The Press

Time magazine published

Black

started with the time when Harvey Weinstein

a list of 122 men who have been accused of sexually abusing someone else. (See http://time. com/5015204/ harvey-weinsteinscandal/.) The



was cited in the media (autumn Time's article. The percentages

ANALYSIS

2017). Thus, it does not include the accusations that have been made against Donald Trump.

I have listed below a summary of what the Time report had to say about the subject of male sexual abuse. These numbers are approximations as Time's reportage is not consistent in its description of each incident/ allegation or the alleged abusers' reactions. Nonetheless, the numbers accurately reflect

in this summary add up to over 100 percent because one incident in the report provides multiple entries to this list. Here is a summary of Time's article:

Outright denial of the accusation: 40 percent No comment or an

equivocation: 30 percent Acknowledgment of the accusation: 17 percent

Corroboration of accusation by 3 or more people: 33

percent Monetary settlement of the

accusation: 10 percent My analysis of the Time article is anecdotal, nonacademic, and subject to inference of the text in the article. That said, I have been careful to record the data in the article to compile this list.

What is to be gleaned from this information? I suspect it depends on one's social and political leanings. For this writer: Regarding the men in Time's list, men's sexual predations upon females were verified by three women or more in 33 percent of the alleged abuses.

Stellar speller returns to Scripps

Joseph Moran prepared for second year at national bee

By DEVIN WEEKS Staff Writer

North Idaho Regional Spelling Bee winner Joseph Moran is back in Washington, D.C., for Bee Week for the second consecutive year.

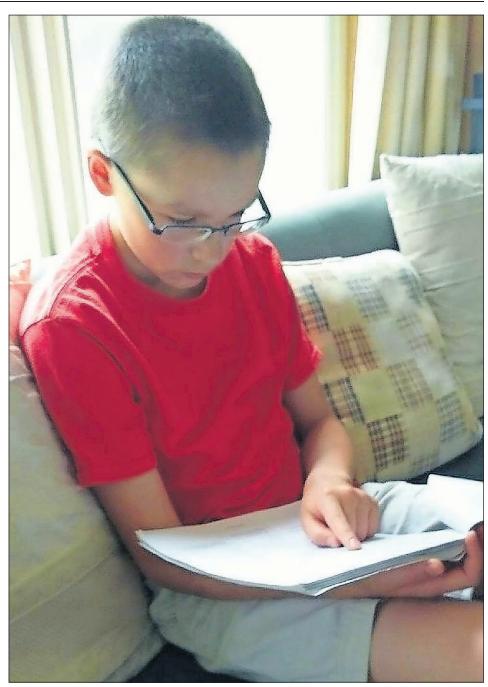
This time, he's feeling more prepared and ready to storm the stage of the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

'Well, it's going to be maybe a little less hectic this year. We know what to expect. I'm probably going to be more confident because of that," Joseph told The Press on Friday. "I did well in that first year, and now, studying even harder, I'm thinking I can do even better this year." Joseph stepped up his studying to about two hours every day, spending mornings looking over lists and having his mom, Sally, quiz him in the afternoons.

prepared," Sally said. "He's as prepared as he can be at this point."

The North Idaho Home Educators Association sixthgrader from Hayden wowed the world when he earned the North Idaho regional championship title as a fifth-grader competing for his first time. This year, he hung on for one of the bee's longest tournaments,

coming out on top after 26 rounds. He is only the second speller to ever win two North Idaho bees in a row, and he plans to



"I feel like we're

return next vear after another shot at the national title.

"Mavbe I can set a record for Idaho for the most consecutive bees won," he said. "I know there's at least people coming to the nationals who are coming for their fourth time. I could make that happen."

If Joseph reigns at the national bee and out-performs more than 500 other stellar spellers,

The northern

Courtesy photo

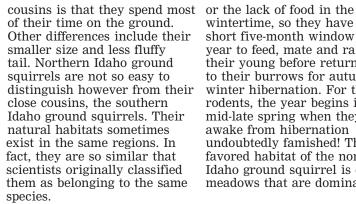
North Idaho Regional Spelling Bee champ Joseph Moran carefully studies his spelling list Friday before leaving for the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. Bee Week started Sunday and goes through Friday with finals on See SPELLER, C2 Thursday. This is Joseph's second time competing for the national title.

Critters of North Idaho: Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel

By CHRISTIAN RYAN Special to The Press

What pops into your mind when I say ... "Squirrel!" Aside from that line in the Pixar movie "Up," you probably just envisioned a small furry rodent with a big fluffy tail that lives in trees, eats nuts, and often buries nuts for later. This is true of tree squirrels, but the squirrel we're going to focus on is the ground squirrel, specifically the northern Idaho ground squirrel (Urocitellus brunneus).

Idaho ground squirrel is one of the smallest species of ground squirrels, measuring only 9 inches long and Ryan weighing 3.8 to 9.1 ounces. Their furry pelts are most often dark reddish-gray in color, and as you probably already figured out based on their name, one of the main things that distinguishes these little guys from their tree squirrel



Northern Idaho ground squirrels don't like the cold wintertime, so they have a short five-month window every year to feed, mate and raise their young before returning to their burrows for autumn/ winter hibernation. For these rodents, the year begins in mid-late spring when they awake from hibernation undoubtedly famished! The favored habitat of the northern Idaho ground squirrel is dry meadows that are dominated

See SQUIRREL, C5



See PATRICK, C2

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See BLACK, C6

North Idaho

BLACK

from C1

Not surprisingly, 40 percent of the men denied the accusations and 30 percent offered no comment or made an equivocal statement to the media. Approximately 17 percent acknowledged their mistakes. I read about one man committing suicide shortly after allegations about his behavior became public.

Who is to be believed?

While I was writing this article, The Associated Press (AP) released an article (by David Bauder, April 28, 2018) that Tom Brokaw, the famous former news journalist, has been accused of sexual misconduct by a former NBC and Fox News

Channel correspondent, Linda Vester. Brokaw immediately denied the accusation, and over 60 fellow journalists, including many women, went to bat for Brokaw. Quoting the AP article:

She said Brokaw went to her New York hotel room once in the mid-1990s, proposed an affair, and tried to forcibly kiss her. She said he tried to kiss her one other time at her apartment in London and once grabbed her from behind and tickled her on her waist.

Brokaw denies these accusations, stating he never sought an affair with Vester, further saying he "may have leaned over for a perfunctory good night kiss" on the cheek in London. He continues, "I am angry, hurt, and unmoored from what I thought would be the final passage

of my life and career, a mix of written and broadcast journalism, philanthropy, and participation in environmental and social causes that have always given extra meaning to my life."

What was Brokaw doing in Vester's hotel room in the first place? Who is to be believed: one accuser or the 60 supporters? Perhaps Tom only had the hots for Linda and no one else. Perhaps Linda is unhappy with Tom's fame and her obscurity. Who knows except the two of them?

What is at stake with all these allegations and in some instances, confirmations? Reputations, livelihoods, and lives are at stake, all being played out in an ill-defined social and legal landscape.

Yes, ill-defined, but no means no. Regardless



AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, File

In this Nov. 24, 2014, photo, journalist Tom Brokaw is introduced before being awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington. A woman who worked as a war correspondent for NBC News says Brokaw groped her, twice tried to forcibly kiss her and made inappropriate overtures attempting to have an affair.

of DNA and the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders, that fact has been lost to many members of our author, researcher and

Uyless Black is an

society.

frequent Press analyst and commentator. He and his wife, Holly, reside in Havden.

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The best of the best as allstar girls basketball game turns 25 /**B1**





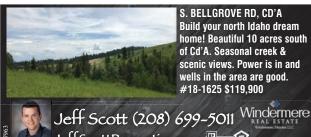
Starbucks closes thousands of stores for training/ **R7**



Delicious cake pops at home/ C14

COEUR d'ALEN

KOOTENAI COUNTY



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Flying

toward

future

Changes to roads, runways planned

for Cd'A Airport

By JUDD WILSON Staff writer

POST FALLS -

possible changes to

North Ramsey Road,

two runways at Coeur

d'Alene Airport were

presented at a master

plan open house here

Airport director

See AIRPORT, A7

Tuesday night.

Steven Kjergaard

explained that for

Though far from final,

North Huetter Road, and

the

JeffScottProperties.com 🛯 🛲 🖆

Wednesday

SERVING

May 30, 2018



Partly cloudy High 68, Low 44

Weather, A2

Pressing news

Local

Editorial: The Coeur d'Alene School Board didn't get exactly what it wanted in a recent land purchase, but at least trustees are looking ahead again. A4

Observant citizens helped **Post Falls police** track down two auto burglary suspects. C1 Columnist Steve Cameron wants to know: Doesn't anyone watch cartoons on TV? C1

Timberlake's Class of 2018 valedictorian will be honored tonight for winning the DAR Good Citizen Essay Contest. C1

■ Main Street: Butterflies were a joyful addition to Monday's Memorial Day remembrance ceremony in Post Falls, writes columnist Kerri Thoreson. C1

Sports

Wind and waves

www.cdapress.com

SINCE 1892



Jeff Yates, of Coeur d'Alene, rides his kiteboard on a windy Tuesday afternoon on Lake Coeur d'Alene near Independence Point.

Grants will help suicide prevention

By DEVIN WEEKS Staff Writer

Idaho schools are getting a boost in their efforts to combat teen suicide and provide emotional support for students.

Rathdrum considers 113-acre request school through Sources

By BRIAN WALKER Staff Writer

RATHDRUM — A 113acre annexation request with light industrial

Bonneville Power Administration easement that can't be

use than trying to turn it

Duce said a public

tentatively set for June

A 300-foot buffer zone

developed. "It matches up

our future

map," Duce

said. "Light

industrial

is a better

into residential."

Commission is

20 at 6 p.m.

hearing before the

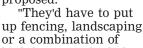
Planning and Zoning

between the site and

land-use



property zoned highdensity residential is proposed.



Brandon Marshall says he is signing a one-year deal with the Seattle Seahawks. B2

Other

Political turmoil in Italy sent global markets reeling. B7

INSIDE

BUSINESS B7	
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"I don't think we're alone in having issues with suicidal thoughts or behaviors," said Aiden Rohwer-Nutter, a school counselor at Kootenai Junior-Senior High School in Harrison. "It's definitely affecting our students. The Idaho State

Department of Education on Tuesday announced that 17 middle and high

be used for peer-topeer programs where students will connect with other students. Each school will design its Sources of Strength programming according to the needs of its student population. Over the holiday weekend, at least two more local students

schools across the state

will receive \$2,400 per

of Strength grants to

advisers to decrease

positive influences.

risk factors and build

These funds will

work with adult

See GRANTS, A9

zoning has been proposed well with for the south side of Rathdrum near the Rathdrum Power plant.

Beyond Green Inc., an Idaho corporation with a Spokane address, is seeking to annex the site at the southeast corner of Lancaster and Greensferry roads.

City Administrator Leon Duce said he believes light industrial zoning is a good fit for the property since a portion of it is a



both between the light industrial and highdensity residential," Duce said.

The property proposed to be annexed is just south of where water and sewer were recently extended and near the future \$1.5 million Greensferry lift station, which will be constructed starting this week.

See RATHDRUM, A9

Sexual abuse and harassment: Do morals matter in politics?

Third of three parts

By UYLESS BLACK Special to The Press

Black

What is sexual abuse? What is sexual annoyance? What

is nonsexual flirtation? What is sexual flirtation? What is a sexual innuendo? What is a tap on the knee or shoulder? What are fingers on the knee or the shoulder that

ANALYSIS

do not tap but remain there? What is a slight peck on the cheek? What is a prolonged peck? What is a brief hug? What is a prolonged hug? What is a distant hug? What is a close hug?

After reading the Time magazine article, after talking with friends and recounting my own experiences, I came to believe that many of the sexual abuse allegations in the Time article are true. But some are

not; not in the sense of sexual predation that could destroy a career and life.

Sexual explorations from both sexes

Most young people engage in some sort of sex. It may be flirting, foreplay, or the actual act of copulation. Who starts the process? Or rather, who should start the process? From my youth, it was a matter of awkward investigation on the part of the boy and the girl, maybe gradually leading to sex. But in those days, usually no actual sex took place; just

clumsy groping.

During those youthful times, I was a lifeguard at a country club. After reading the Time article, I concluded that I could easily have been identified as being sexually harassed (pursued is a more accurate word) in those earlier days. Truth is, I welcomed the attention, and the idea of sexual exploitation was buried in the social milieu of those times, both from the male and female sides

See BLACK, A8



A8 | Wednesday, May 30, 2018 BLACK

from A1

How many humans, female or male, do not want to think of themselves as being desirable? But recently, there has been exposed a cult of males who aggressively target females for harm, even

death, because they believe they cannot manage to have sex with a woman. In the last few weeks, people (mostly females) have been killed because of the ineptitude and self-deprecation of these misguided men.

But what about the sane adults of today? How does one show interest without being tagged as sexist or an

aggressor? An indirect: "Would you join me for a drink?" To a more direct: "I must say that I find you attractive." To an explicit: "Lay down, I think I love you." Or to the most direct, "I'm laying you anyway, regardless of your desires toward me." In the Time article, some of the men accused of sexual misconduct

never touched the female the list because he accuser. One man was taken to task for using crude language. Yet there he is, listed with his picture in the gallery of 122 alleged sexual abusers. If this were an established criterion, Time's list would include a lot of famous women, as well as millions of men.

Another man is on

made "insensitive" and "offensive" comments to a woman. That was it, nothing else but language. But language itself can be a sexual weapon. It can traumatize a person. Yet in a loving milieu, that very same language can be one of tenderness. These words, these sentences, matter only

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in the context in which they are spoken. One could make the argument that in situations such

as those cited in the previous paragraphs, a substantial amount of collateral damage has been inflicted, as these men have lost their good name and all that goes with a good name.

But let us not lose our focus. There has been horrible physical damage inflicted on the women. Many men on the list did much more than curse or spout out sexual utterings. They inflicted mental (and sometimes) physical damage on their victims. For many of these men, their actions have brought forth comments from scores of women that back up the females' contentions. These men are serial sexual predators and opportunists.

They have given up their rights to be treated with anything but contempt and isolation, especially those who took advantage of a work environment in which the victims were at the mercy of a powerful male. For these men: Hang 'em high so they are exposed. Not on a gallows with a rope, but on the gallows of social censure.

For some of the others, whose offenses were maybe not even offenses, but boorish, it might not be a bad idea to cut them some slack. Think carefully, reader. That population likely includes many of the male readers of this article.

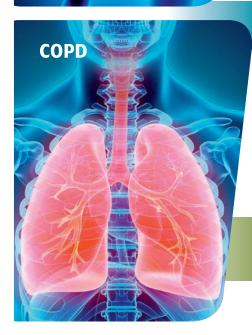
It includes this writer. My inappropriate behavior never took place in the workplace. Nonetheless, in my youth, and being reared in a macho southwestern cowboy culture, I had to learn that a simple no meant just that.

More men should do the same. The recent assertions and revelations of respected and high-profile women will go a long way to address this problem.

What to make of all this?

Regardless of the innocence or guilt of these 122 men, the question our society needs to ask itself is: What constitutes sexual abuse and harassment? Another question we should ask ourselves: Do s "rules" matter for our politicians? Perhaps these answers should come from Donald Trump. But my statement about President Trump should be taken in the context of the following facts: President Eisenhower had a long affair with his secretary. President Kennedy had affairs with just about anybody who was nearby. Was Eisenhower or Kennedy hindered in their governance abilities because they "fooled around?" I could go on: President Roosevelt was long estranged from sexual intimacy with Eleanor in favor of his long-time lover. Should we care about the sexual behavior of our leaders? Many have had affairs. If Mamie Eisenhower, Jacqueline Kennedy, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Melania Trump do not protest, should we? Should our political agenda take place over our moral agenda? And whose moral agenda? Yours may be the same as mine, but likely, it will be different. Whose is correct? Where do we draw the line? Should a line even be drawn? Many countries consider our concern about sexual peccadilloes to be inane. Those are questions each of us should answer before we go to the polls. It is your call.

The Press



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Uyless Black is an author, researcher and frequent Press analyst and commentator. He and his wife, Holly, reside in 194311 Hayden.