

Monday  
December 28, 2015



Occasional snow  
High 28, Low 19

Weather, A2

Pressing news

Local

■ Weather column: It was an extreme December across North Idaho, Randy Mann writes. A2

■ This week's list of suspected law-breakers, as sought by area law enforcement agencies, can be found in Warrants. A5

■ What's for lunch at area senior centers? A6

Sports

■ The play-off-bound Seattle Seahawks lost at home for the third time this season, falling to the St. Louis Rams to snap a five-game winning streak. B1

■ Holiday hoops take over Coeur d'Alene today through Wednesday, with high school boys and girls tournaments, and a college men's event at NIC. B1

■ Check out the top local sports photos of 2015, as compiled by Press photographers. B3

■ Dave Henderson, who played outfield for the Seattle Mariners as well as a few other major league clubs, dies of heart attack. B5

Other

■ An Arizona hotel's dine-in gingerbread house hits the sweet spot. A4

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SHAWN GUST/Press

Jerry Agre, 89, has been given an eviction notice from his trailer space of 15 years.

Told to pack it up

89-year-old vet grapples with eviction notice he received just before Christmas

By BRIAN WALKER  
Staff Writer

POST FALLS — Jerry Agre received a surprise delivery just before the holidays.

But this wasn't nicely bundled in festive wrapping.

The 89-year-old single veteran was hand delivered an eviction notice from his trailer space of 15 years in River City Village behind Super 1 Foods.

"It's a vendetta against me," said Agre, adding that he wasn't given a

See EVICTED, A3

Inspired by life

Rathdrum woman named 2015 Artist of the Year

By MARY MALONE  
Staff writer

The decay of old metal and concrete from bridges, signs and cars help inspire Judy Minter in the creation of multicolored textures on walls and canvas.

The artwork placed around her two-story Rathdrum home is evidence of this inspiration. Canvas paintings adorn the walls, demonstrating the faux painting she specializes in — a painting technique that creates the appearance and feel of wood, marble or stone on any surface.

One painting in particular, her latest, sits on her easel on the second story landing she uses as her workspace. The work illustrates a textured faux background of a copper patina, with a chicken focused in the bottom half of the painting.

Minter was named 2015 Artist of the Year by the Coeur d'Alene Art Association, of which she has been a member for about four years.

"I was pretty surprised because there are



JAKE PARRISH/Press

Judy Minter, who specializes in murals, faux finishing, three-dimensional work and portraits of animals, is the Coeur d'Alene Art Association 2015 Artist of the Year. She is pictured here in her studio space in her Rathdrum home. Her work is displayed in galleries in Kootenai County, and at Triple Play Family Fun Park.

a lot of really good artists in that group," she said. "It's a good group to be in. They encourage you to do paintings and bring one in every month to their meeting, which gets me motivated to at least paint."

Through her interior design business she started 32 years ago, Design Details, Minter does faux finishing and murals in homes and businesses on walls, concrete countertops, furniture, and kitchen cabinets. She

said she is also inspired by her life experiences to create "whimsical" paper mache art. One of these hanging in her dining room is a paper mache of herself from when she rode an ATV, a zebra alongside her donning

sunglasses.

Minter incorporates animals into her art and said she has a fondness for the Humane Society, and for animals like her

See ARTIST, A6

Muslims in America, a personal look

By UYLESS BLACK  
Special to The Press

This article is related to a two-part series that appeared in the Coeur d'Alene Press Nov. 27-28. Below are three emails a dear friend and I exchanged recently.

First email from my friend: My primary care physician is [Dr.'s name] and my housekeeper is [housekeeper's name]. Yes, both are Muslims, but not Jihadi Islamists. I've been with them for years and cherish them dearly. Where am I going wrong? Thanks, [name of my friend]

Second email from me:

[My friend's name], you are doing nothing wrong! I have stated in the article if Muslims are not dedicated to having their religion subsume the state, and they do not practice this aspect of religion, they are more than welcome.

If you were to ask [Dr.'s name] and [housekeeper's name] if they believe Islam and its associated laws should supersede the laws of America that separate church and state, that Catholicism would be



Black

out the door, what would be your reaction? [My friend is a devoted Catholic.] Mine would be of uneasiness, especially if they were activists seeking to achieve this goal. If they did not practice this aspect of their religion, I would be completely at ease with them. (Of course, in some areas of the world, Christians and Muslims co-exist.)

Compromise is part of living, certainly part of politics. But for this issue, compromise to the extent of allowing people to practice a religion that if it comes to power, and it adheres to its basic tenets, means others cannot practice their religion... that's where I draw a line...and I very rarely draw lines.

Of course, if it were not Islam, it would be something else. The Jews have been denied throughout their history the right to practice their religion in many parts of the world. Recently, the Buddhists in parts of Asia are slaying Muslims on the pretext that the Muslims are taking over their societies.

Third email from my friend:

I am not against Muslims. I cherish mine. I AM against Sharia. My guys are also against Sharia. Thanks, [My friend's name]

See UYLESS, A3



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# EVICTED

from A1

reason for the notice stating that he needs to be out of the park by March 31.

Under Idaho law, landlords who have month-to-month contracts with tenants aren't required to provide a reason for evictions as long as a 90-day notice is given.

Tenants don't have a case to fight evictions unless they have proof that they were retaliated or discriminated against.

Agre said he has been faithful on the monthly payments for the space that his 1965 trailer sits on. He said he's also tried to keep his place up and is willing to correct any park violations — if he knew what the violations are.

Larry Gilman, the park's owner, declined to comment to The Press.

Agre's son Jason, who is visiting his father from Alaska during the holidays, contacted Gilman via telephone with The Press present, trying to find out what his father did to prompt the notice and seeing if the matter could be resolved.

"There's nothing to be worked out," Gilman told Jason in the phone conversation. "It's just time for his (rental) agreement to terminate. There isn't a cause."

When Jason asked Gilman if the age of his father's trailer had anything to do with the notice, Gilman said it didn't.

When Jason said that his father has been a good tenant for 15 years and wondered if there's anything specific about

how his father has acted, Gilman told him that it wasn't his place to be commenting on his father's private business.

Jason said that while Gilman owns the property and has the right to evict tenants for no reason, he said the timing of the notice just before the holidays made it especially unfortunate.

"This is like the grinch who stole Christmas," Jason said.

Jerry admits he's been threatened with evictions twice before. In December 2005 he received a warning for harboring a dog, which is a violation of the park's rules. Jerry's sister-in-law was evicted around Christmastime that same year.

Jerry said he was taking care of his sister at the time when the dog was present and

that the dog helped her well being. A letter from a doctor was obtained to that effect, but Jerry wrote a letter of apology to park management and ceased having the dog at his trailer.

Jerry said he was also warned in 2008 for having a cat, which he said he has for medical reasons. Further, management OK'd him having the cat, he said.

"They've got it in for me — that's all," Jerry said.

Jason added: "They don't want to get into the reason (for the eviction). Maybe it's from something that has been festering and they're trying to even up the score?"

With the eviction notice in hand and resolution unlikely, Jerry said he's uncertain what the future holds. He said he plans to consult with

an attorney and is willing to give talking with management another try.

He said he has relatives in the area, but would prefer to continue to live on his own while he is able.

"He wants to live on his own, but the world is working against him," Jason said of his father.

Jerry can't drive due to poor eyesight.

With a total monthly income of \$1,100 per month between Social Security and Veterans Administration checks, he said the \$222 monthly lot rent payment is reasonable cost-wise.

Jerry said he's not sure if he'll consider moving his trailer to a different location because its age poses hurdles.

If homes are manufactured on or before June 15, 1976, governmental agencies require proof

that it has gone through a rehabilitation process and has been approved by the state before a setting permit is issued.

The Agres are grappling with how the situation got to the point of Jerry being evicted from his living space of 15 years.

"It's difficult to understand because there hasn't been a real big issue going on that we're aware of," Jason said.

"Ultimately, they do own the property, but it would have been nice if they had waited until after Christmas."



- Although the Rose Bowl football game was first played in 1902 what replaced it the following year and until 1916? Polo, Soccer, Baseball, Chariot races
- What do/did more people worldwide put atop their Christmas tree? Fruit, Star, Angel, Snowflake
- How many days did the ancient Babylonians celebrate a new year at the beginning of spring? 3, 7, 11, 21
- What New Year's gift did the ancient Persians give to symbolize productivity? Cakes, Eggs, Bowls, Robes
- The original St. Nicholas was a bishop in what is now? Italy, Germany, England, Turkey
- What team quit in the very first Rose Bowl after trailing 0-49? Southern Cal, Stanford, Michigan, Wisconsin

Turkey, Stanford  
races, Angel, '11, Eggs,  
ANSWERS: Chariot

# UYLESS

from A1

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## Hopeful Indicators

"I cherish mine." My friend has his own Muslims! What an endearing thought, and his statement is one of pride and friendship. My friend is a very conservative Catholic. His words speak volumes about the magnanimity of the American spirit as well as the concern of earnest Americans.

With these thoughts in mind, I return to the themes of the essay "Keep Ancient Lands" to pose a question: Why are the incidences of radical Islamic-based terrorism in America relatively few?

First, American Muslims have blended into our melting pot in a more homogeneous way than other parts of the world, notably France, and, of course, the Middle East, where Sunnis and Shias routinely kill off each other. American Muslim citizens are better educated than many Muslim populations of other countries. They number

less than one percent of the United States' population, yet account for almost 10 percent of its doctors. Fewer than one-half of the Muslims in America say most of their closest friends are Muslim. In essence, Muslims in America are not as interested in deadly religious zealotry as Muslims in other parts of the world.

Second, America is farther removed from the Middle East than are France and Belgium. As well, we have relatively effective law enforcement and surveillance systems. The FBI's counter-terrorism staff has grown by 2,000 agents in the past few years and is investigating IS activity in all states.

American Muslims are prone to report suspected jihadists in their midst. According to a study by *The Economist*, 42 percent of uncovered jihadist plots in the United States were reported by suspicious Muslims.

Since 9/11, over 400,000 people in the U.S. have been killed by firearms while 45 people have been killed by jihadist Islamic fanatics. France has already suffered nine attacks this year alone. America has experienced nine in the past 14 years.

## Opposing Views

The recent massacre in San Bernardino (Dec. 2) by a Muslim couple has baffled the experts. They were affluent, middle-class citizens. Some terrorist specialists attribute the killings to workplace rage. President Obama asks Americans to view this killing of 14 people in the context of "an already violent society." Others contend it is part of an Islamic conspiracy to turn America into a Muslim caliphate. Donald Trump says, "Look at all mosques. ... [there should be] a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on."

## Success and Security for All

I was taken to task by some readers for my "Keep Ancient Lands" essay. I stand by my contentions, which are reinforced by the emails about the Muslim friends of my Catholic friend. This example is just one of many in America: Members of two substantially different religions and cultures can come together, yet both can blend

into America's melting pot of religious tolerance and the separation of church and state.

My friend's Muslim friends have indeed embraced "Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" In so doing, they have achieved success and have likely been granted freedom from death and torture in their "ancient lands."

By their willingness to assume aspects of the American fabric, and subsume parts of their past to this country's laws, America has benefited from their presence. This approach is a reasonable and pragmatic compromise to their taking in America's succor.

\*\*\*

The statistics, data, and direct quotes in this article are sourced from "The Home-grown Threat," *The Economist*, Dec. 12, 2015, pages 29-30.

*Uyless Black is an award-winning author who has written 40 books on a variety of subjects. His latest book is titled "2084 and Beyond," a work on the origins and consequences of human aggression. He resides in Coeur d'Alene.*

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