

Today's laughter

"President Obama had a 24-hour vacation on the Gulf Coast of Florida. Some Republicans are attacking him for not staying longer. They have a point. President Bush used to vacation for weeks at a time."
— Jimmy Kimmel

FROM THE COMEDIANS



ABOUT TOWN

Adoption Day

The Museum of Idaho will play host to Adoption Day from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday at the Museum of Idaho, 200 N. Eastern Ave. in Idaho Falls. Nine rescues and shelters and veterinarians will be on-site. For animal portraits, call 528-7654.



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RACHEL COOK
SCHOLARLY STARS

A life of education

Charles Barber has been in Idaho schools for almost all of his 63 years. Barber graduated from Rigby High School in 1965. He attended and played basketball at Idaho State University, where he earned a master's degree in physical education with a minor in English. He taught in Rockland for several years before moving back to Rigby and then taking a job in Ririe in 1974.

"I just enjoy the small-school atmosphere because I knew every kid," Barber said. "Believe it or not, there's very few enemies you make in a small school."



Barber

By the time he retired as principal of Ririe High School in the spring, Barber was supervising the education of students whose parents he had taught at the same high school. During a career that spanned almost 40 years, Barber taught English, drama and speech and briefly coached basketball and football. He made strong connections and friendships across the state officiating high school basketball and football for more than two decades.

"I felt at one time if I had car trouble in any city in Idaho, I could find someone I knew (to help)," he said.

During his years of teaching, Barber watched his district expand and the rise of standardized tests as a measure of schools' success.

"(The tests) changed the way we taught because we were pressured to teach in a certain area rather than well-rounded," he said. "(Testing has) just gotten more and more emphasized as far as I'm concerned."

Barber became certified as an administrator in 1996 and became principal of Ririe High in 2003. He served as principal until he retired this spring.

Barber said he still misses teaching every day and the people it connected him with.

"I'll miss (association with people) most of all," he said. "People change and the kids forget you

■ Former principal plans to travel to the eastern states

SCHOLARLY, Continued on Page B8

For more information about the children's gardening program, contact the Idaho Falls Community Garden Association at www.growifcga@gmail.com or 524-0383.

Little green thumbs

Youngsters join in tending community garden patch

By **KRIS MILLGATE**
www.tightlinemedia.com

Small green thumbs reach into the berry patch to snag a snack. Tiny toes carefully weave around plants and smiling faces peek through cornstalks with wonder. A dozen kids have free rein in one of the city of Idaho Falls' community gardens and they couldn't be more excited.

"I just love everything about gardening," said Laurie Mortensen, 9. "It's so fun and Kristi makes it so fun. We get to do so many activities in the summer."

On this particular day, Kristi Appelhans, president of the Idaho Falls Community Garden Association, is teaching her students about bugs with the ICKK acronym — identify, classify, keep or kill.

The kids, in bucket hats and sandals, scramble to the picnic table for a bug sucker. It's an empty pill bottle with plastic tubes coming out of the lid and cheesecloth under the lid.

The kids suck on one tube, pulling bugs down the other tube into the bottle.

"I have a locust! Well, I think it might be an injured locust because it's not flying," said Josh Rios, 10. "We're probably going to kill it so it doesn't eat our plants."

The kids visit the gardens, located off of Woodruff Avenue, every week from May through September. They water, weed and harvest.

Thus far, they've produced a handful of carrots, a bucket of raspberries and, the talk of the class, purple cauliflower graffiti.

"It tastes a lot sweeter and crisper than normal cauliflower," Rios said.

"There are a lot of different plants out there that people just hide. Like, there are green eggs. Did you know that?"

The Idaho Falls Community Garden Association coordinates the summer program for kids 7 to 18. The youngest class is known as sprouts. Kids 10 to 14 are considered spud buds. *Solanum tuberosum*, the scientific term for potato, is for students 15 and older.

"Being a lover of growing things, it's just a great thrill to be out here and watch the kids learn that same passion," Appelhans said.

Each student pays \$50 for a 4-by-10-foot plot in the community garden. The association provides the plants. The kids provide the manpower.

"I don't like getting all of the weeds out," Mortensen said. "That's kind of a pain."

By September, the kids have their own little field of fine food plus two community gardens. There's a pizza garden, including wheat for the crust, and a giving garden, which is what they grow for the food bank.

"The long-term reward is that we're creating kids who understand you can work hard for something," Appelhans said. "You can stick with it on hot, yucky days and cold, yucky days, both of which we get. If you do that, in the end you get to this wonderful place, which is the reward of being a great gardener."



Kris Millgate / www.tightlinemedia.com

Sunflowers are popping up all over the community garden where kids grow their own food.



Kris Millgate / www.tightlinemedia.com

Josh Rios, 10, uses a bug sucker, made of a pill bottle and tubing, to collect bugs from his garden for examination.



Kris Millgate / www.tightlinemedia.com

Lance Huston, 9, helps pick buckets of raspberries and cherries to make jam at the end of the summer.



Kris Millgate / www.tightlinemedia.com

Purple cauliflower, known as "graffiti," grows well in eastern Idaho. Grower Josh Rios, 10, says it's sweeter and crisper than regular cauliflower.

LIFE MADE SIMPLE

Microwave magic
You can disinfect and deodorize sponges in a microwave oven. Soak them in water spiked with white vinegar or lemon juice, then heat it on high for one minute. This will also disinfect any sponges you used to wipe up the juices from a raw chicken. — Realsimple.com

THAT'S ODD

The whole town's hoppin'
No kangaroos in Austria? Wrong! The search is on for a missing marsupial in the Alpine republic. Sumsi disappeared from a private zoo in the southern village of Preding about two months ago and is keeping locals busy by popping up and then quickly getting away again.
— reprinted from the Portland Oregonian's "The Edge"