



**Shaky history**  
Idaho residents remember strong earthquake

**FACT CHECK**  
The Vote 2008

**Did Palin ban books?**

**QUESTION:** Did Sarah Palin cut special needs education funding by 62 percent as governor of Alaska? Did she ban books while mayor of Wasilla, Alaska?

**ANSWER:** Not long after Sarah Palin was picked as John McCain's running mate, FactCheck was flooded with queries about dubious Internet postings and mass e-mail messages making claims about the Alaska governor. FactCheck found many are completely false, or misleading.

Palin did not cut funding for special needs education in Alaska by 62 percent. She didn't cut it at all. In fact, she increased funding and signed a bill that will triple per-pupil funding over three years for special needs students with high-cost requirements. Many educators called it historic.

She did not demand that books be banned from the Wasilla library. Some of the books on a widely circulated list were not even in print at the time. The librarian has said Palin asked a "What if?" question, but the librarian continued in her job through most of Palin's first term.

She was never a member of the Alaskan Independence Party, a group that wants Alaskans to vote on whether they wish to secede from the United States. She's been registered as a Republican since May 1982.

**MONDAY**

**Boo ya!**

Stylish Halloween decorating tips. Only at [www.postregister.com](http://www.postregister.com)



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**Brandon Terramorse**



**Cloudy**  
High: 64 Low: 37  
Seven-day forecast, Page A2



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**Championship Saturday**

Idaho Falls Grid Kid football season comes to a close: D1



**Post Register**

**Eye of the storm**

The struggle over wolves in Idaho has become a fierce battle

What feeds the controversy over the wolves is that the hunted is also the hunter.

By KRIS MILLGATE  
Special to the Post Register

No other animal divides Idahoans like the wolf. It raises tempers, ignites extreme behavior and stews angry frustration. Both sides of the issue watch wolves with intense emotion. One side is desperately trying to keep wolves out of the maelstrom, the other side says those who released the wolves will reap the whirlwind. Caught in the eye of the storm is an animal released into Idaho's wild more than a dozen years ago, with a relentless instinct to survive no matter what happens between the people fighting over it.

**Protecting the Pack**

Twelve conservation groups sued U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, challenging the decision to take wolves off the endangered species list six months ago. Last week, they won when U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy put the animal back on the protection list. That guarantees the battle will stretch into a third presidential administration.

"In my mind, the really important question is, 'Should a species that's just come off the Endangered Species List be killed in such a large-scale manner in the first year it came off the list?'" said Anne Carlson, Defenders of Wildlife wolf campaign coordinator. "I don't think it would be acceptable if you said, for example, brown trout just came off the list, let's kill a third of them. If it isn't OK for one species, it isn't

OK for wolves, either."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced, the same day Judge Molloy reinstated wolves on the Endangered Species List, that next year it will seek to once again take wolves off the list, giving states the option to offer hunting seasons for them.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game sees no problem with that.

"Someday we hope to manage wolves like we manage all

other big-game species — deer, elk, antelope, black bear and mountain lion," said Daryl Meints, Idaho Department of Fish and Game regional wildlife manager. "We have a good plan in place and that plan will serve as the basis for the management of wolves and it will include hunting."

**Pack of Predators**

What feeds the controversy is that the hunted is also the

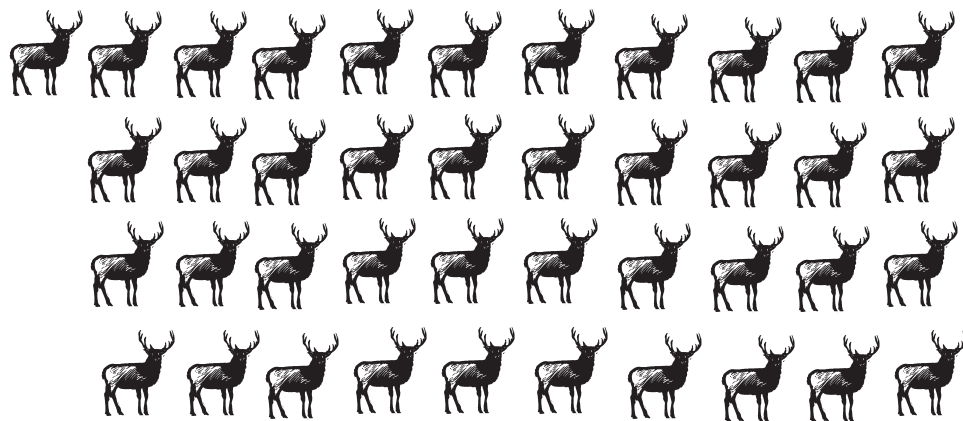
hunter. There are more than 700 wolves in Idaho and they hunt what passes through their territory, including cattle and sheep.

Federal livestock experts are experimenting with new ways to cut down on livestock losses.

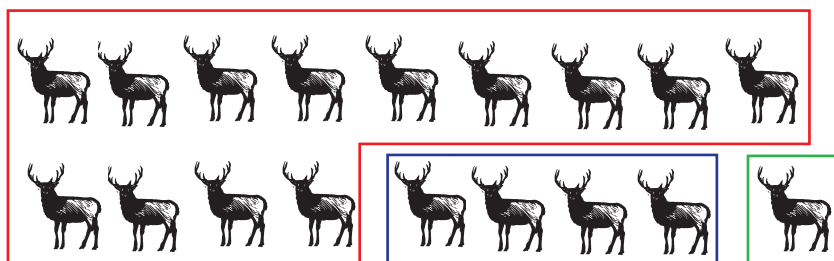
A new idea in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area aims to curb the easy kill appeal of

Hunters say wolves are taking a shot at the elk population  
**WOLVES**, Continued on Page A4

In 2005-06, Idaho Fish and Game radio collared 41 elk in Island Park



In 2007, 18 of the collared elk died



13 killed by hunters

4 deaths, cause unknown/other

1 predator kill

Source: Idaho Department of Fish and Game

**ONLINE EXTRA**

**VIDEO:** Two special reports by outdoor videographer Kris Millgate show you the story from ground-level in wolf country.

**TEXT:** Read in-depth information about the struggle to deal with the federal government's wolf-protection policies.

**SLIDE SHOW:** Veteran Post Register photographer Robert Bower has collected historic photos of the Idaho wolf experiment into two slide shows, one of which he narrates.

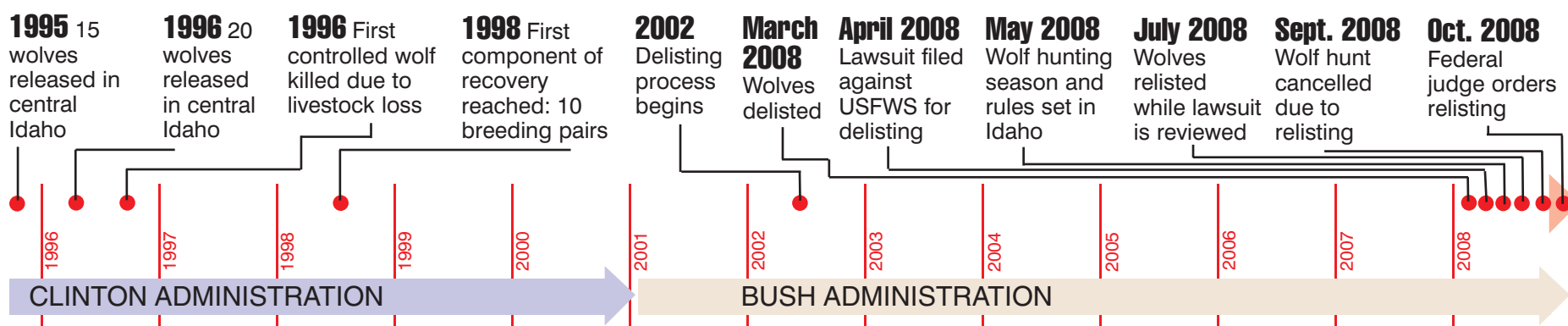
"Finding ways to coexist is going to be crucial."

**MIKE STEVENS**  
Lava Lake Lamb and Livestock

"The calves just aren't there. If you don't have calves, you don't have replacement bulls coming into the herd."

**TRAVIS BULLOCK**  
Mile High Outfitters

**Following the wolf**



**Meet the candidates: U.S. Representative, 2nd Congressional District**

**ONLINE EXTRA**

**TEXT:** The Post Register asked Debbie Holmes and Mike Simpson, the candidates running to represent Idaho's 2nd Congressional District in the House, several questions, including whether U.S. troops need to leave Iraq and whether the federal government should be constitutionally required to balance its budget every year. To view their answers, go to [www.postregister.com/election](http://www.postregister.com/election).



**Debbie Holmes**

**Age:** 46  
**Family:** Husband, Randall, three kids  
**Education:** Bachelor's degree in chemistry from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y. Master's degree in chemistry from SUNY Binghamton, Binghamton, N.Y.  
**Occupation:** Real estate agent  
**Campaign funds raised as of Sep. 30:** \$10,724  
**Last book you read:** "Miracle at Speedy Motors" by Alexander McCall Smith  
**Last movie you watched:** The Dark Knight  
**Music you just listened to:** Something on NPR  
**Public figure you admire most:** Barack Obama. He has a vision for the future that I agree with. He is brilliant, has solid, real-world solutions to the problems we face, and can lead us through these troubled times.  
**Make and model of your car:** 1998 Mercury Grand Marquee



**Mike Simpson (incumbent)**

**Age:** 58  
**Family:** Wife, Kathy  
**Education:** Bachelor's degree from Utah State University and DDS from Washington University School of Dental Medicine  
**Occupation:** United States representative  
**Campaign contributions as of Sep. 30:** \$595,211  
**Last book you read:** "Patriotic Grace" by Peggy Noonan  
**Last movie you watched:** The Great Debaters  
**Music you just listened to:** Michael Buble  
**Public figure you admire most:** Former Idaho Sen. Jim McClure  
**Make and model of your car:** Toyota Prius, Jeep Grand Cherokee

**Friendly competition**

Democrat Debbie Holmes has been complimentary to her incumbent opponent.

By PHIL DAVIDSON  
[pdavidson@postregister.com](mailto:pdavidson@postregister.com)

At times, it's hard to tell if Democrat Debbie Holmes is running against U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson or stumping for the Republican who's represented Idaho's 2nd Congressional District for 10 years.

Holmes, a first-time candidate, has been atypically complimentary of her opponent in statements, appearances and interviews. At last week's candidate's debate sponsored by Idaho Public Television, Holmes mentioned

Holmes said she believes every election should be contested

**COMPETITION**, Continued on Page A4