

Welcome Home



DREW NASH • TIMES-NEWS

Sophia Lozada, 3, smiles up at her father, Spc. Henry Lozada, during the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team's homecoming at Joslin Field Monday in Twin Falls. Eleven soldiers returned home to the area.

Eleven Magic Valley guardsmen embraced family members Monday, among the first to return from a year in Iraq.

BY JULIE WOOTTON jwootton@magicvalley.com

or Sasha Lozada, the past year hasn't been easy. While her husband, Henry, was serving his first tour of duty in Iraq with the Idaho Army National Guard, she was raising two young children alone.

"It's very stressful," the Gooding native said about the experience. "It was like being a single mom."

She said the family stayed close during Henry's deployment through videoconferencing software. But now, some of those stresses can be put to rest and the software put away.

Henry Lozada was one of 11 guardsmen with the 116th Cavalry Brigade

More Online

VIEW more photos of 116th members returning home at *Magicvalley.com/gallery*.

Combat Team who arrived home Monday at Joslin Field, Magic Valley Regional Airport after a yearlong deployment.

Members of the unit arrived about an hour earlier than schedule, at 10:25 a.m. on a charter flight from Boise. But dozens of family members and friends were still on hand to greet them.

Sasha Lozada and her daughter Sophie, 3, carried a sign reading "Welcome Home, Daddy," and decorated their family's car for the occasion.

Although their 6-year-old son, Taven, couldn't make it to the airport, he was in for a treat later in the day when his father surprised him at Gooding Elementary School.

Please see **GUARD, M3**



ASHLEY SMITH • TIMES-NEWS

Gary Hoskins hugs his son, Idaho National Guard Spc. Cody Hoskins, as he returns from a yearlong tour in Iraq on Monday at the Twin Falls airport.

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New Redistricting Panel to Form

BY JOHN MILLER

Associated Press

BOISE • Officials are working to name an entirely new panel of people to define Idaho's political boundaries after the previous redistricting effort failed last week amid bitter rancor between Democratic and Republican members.

Democratic and Republican members.
Secretary of State Ben Ysursa told reporters Monday that he has asked Idaho Senate and House leaders, and the chairmen of the Democratic and Republican parties, to name new members to the six-person redistricting committee by Wednesday, with meetings to begin Monday morning.

That's after the Idaho Supreme Court on Friday rejected an appeal by Ysursa and GOP commissioners Lou Esposito, Lorna Finman and Evan Frasure to reconvene the commission that

"There's been a lot of work done. Hopefully, the new commissioners will see that and complete their work expeditiously,"

—Ben Ysursa

adjourned last week.

According to an Idaho law modified in 2009, six new commissioners must be named because panelists from previous commissions are forbidden from serving again, except when courts intervene. Ysursa was optimistic that the foundation the previous commission laid — it met for 92 days before going home empty-handed — will help a Please see REDISTRICT, M2

ALSO MAKING NEWS

Idaho Ed Panel Issued Warning on Laptop Program

A task force helping implement Idaho's plan to phase in laptops for high school teachers and students was cautioned Monday against contact with computer vendors that might be eyeing a potentially lucrative contact with the state. The 39-member panel is making recommendations for how Idaho should procure the laptops, and some members objected to the warning.

Read more on M4

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BY BEN BOTKIN

bbotkin@magicvalley.com

Twin Falls residents will soon get to weigh in on higher utility rates.

The Twin Falls City Council on Monday unanimously decided to set a public hearing on proposed utility rate increases for Sept. 26. The rate increases, which aren't a done deal yet, include 6 percent for water, 8 percent for sewer and a \$3 monthly increase to sanitation rates. For water users, the increase amounts to \$1.99 more per month for an average user who goes through 18,000 gallons monthly.

A city memo to the council stated Twin Falls has cut expenses and personnel to keep shortfalls down. In the water fund, for example, costs for this year have been reduced by \$109,315. For the sewer fund, costs have been trimmed by \$144,830.

The council also got an unusual view: video of underwater "dye tracer" tests done with dive teams. The divers did the tests at the upper and lower Blue Lakes to get more information about how the lakes, which store city water, are leaking.

Chuck Brockway of Brockway

Please see COUNCIL, M2

Sportsmen, Officials Join to Curb Animal Road Deaths

A migration study in southeast Cassia County will examine where along I-84 mule deer need the most help.

BY KIMBERLEE KRUESI

kkruesi@magicvalley.com

Interstates can be scary places — fast cars and distracted drivers are only

two of the hazards.

And that's just for the humans.

For mule deer hoping to cross In-

For mule deer hoping to cross Interstate 84, the trek becomes a life or death activity. The opening of the interstate in 1969 had a direct effect on the deer, hurting herd populations on top of the damage to vehicles and motorists who hit them.

To curtail the collisions, a sportsman and state officials are looking into improving herd migration near a 10-mile stretch of the interstate.

Jack Oyler is vice chairman of Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife-Idaho and a member of a state committee dedicated to reducing wildlife collisions with vehicles. He has spearheaded a study that will analyze herd migration patterns near a stretch of I-84 close to the Utah border

Please see **DEER, M2**

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