Although this file was scanned from the highest-quality microfilm held by Boise State University, it reveals the limitations of the source microfilm. It is possible to perform a text search of much of this material; however, there are sections where the source microfilm was too faint or unreadable to allow for text scanning. For assistance with this collection of student newspapers, please contact Special Collections and Archives at archives@boisestate.edu.
Japanesefair, PortlandTalko event will be highlighted Cultural Fair. The daylong out, but matinee tickets. the waste, Industry and under, and Boise State Scat. This event is part of alumni through Select-a-Performances Series. the Boise State music de- tickets for Boise State stu-

The fair is free; tickets

The fair, co-sponsored by the Consulate General with an opening ceremo-

The fair, co-sponsored with an opening ceremo-

8:30 a.m, in the Student Union Classic .

The fair, co-sponsored with an opening ceremo-

The fair, co-sponsored with an opening ceremo-

Carnegie Foundation for the

Let it set, let it set, let it set

Environmentals groups attack radioactive waste reclassification plan

- BY BRUCE MANN

By choosing to advertise in The Arbiter, you're choosing to reach Boise State's student body. Our readers are at the heart of campus life and are hungry for news, entertainment and information. Our advertisers value our readers as much as we do. With a circulation of 6,000, The Arbiter is the way to reach Boise State's active community. It's the only way to be seen. The Arbiter. The voice of Boise State University.

The Arbiter is Boise State's independent student newspaper. Founded in 1913, The Arbiter is the official voice of Boise State University. As the number one source of information for Boise State students, faculty and staff, The Arbiter serves as the primary source of campus news and information. The Arbiter is published weekly during the fall and spring semesters and bi-weekly during the summer. The Arbiter is distributed to all Boise State University dormitories, residence halls, and on campus locations. The Arbiter's website, arbiteronline.com, is updated daily with news, features and entertainment information.

The Arbiter is supported by the Boise State University Student Body and the Boise State University Student Government. The Arbiter's mission is to provide accurate, timely, and balanced information about Boise State University and the local community. The Arbiter is committed to serving the needs of its readers, and is dedicated to providing high-quality journalism that informs, educates, and engages its audience.
A resident of Towers reported a vehicle stolen from their dorm room.

Two citations were issued for possession of marijuana and paraphernalia.

Deputies responded to a verbal altercation involving two dorm residents who were intoxicated at a common lounge area.

A hit and run occurred in the Student Union Building. Property was stolen from a classroom at the Math/Geosciences Building. Property was recovered by a deputy patrolling in the area.

A bike was reported stolen from the Boise State Park Apartments. The suspect could gain access to the property through a window.

The Boise State Police Department responded to a report of a unlocks a door.

A purse was stolen in the library.

A window was broken in the common lounge area.

Vandalism was reported at the Math/Geosciences Building. Property was stolen from a classroom.

A hit and run occurred involving the driver of the suspect vehicle.

A purse was stolen in the Student Union Building.

A bike was reported stolen from the Park Apartments.

A bicycle was reported stolen from the Rome Hall in the North End of Towers Dorm.

A hit and run occurred at the Mee Hall reporting a vehicle stolen to the Boise State Park Apartments.

A goal was scored near Lowman and Crouch. Kirkham Springs near Lowman is well known and well used, but it is not without its problems.
Edwards remains upbeat despite lowly poll standing

GALVESTON News — John Ed- wards likes to describe himself as relentlessly optimistic. That optimism is being tested these days.

Once regarded by White House aides as the contender most likely to win the Democratic nomination in January 2004, Edwards has burned brightly at the edges and hasn't done much better in the field of nine candidates, according to the latest CBS News survey of likely primary voters, and hasn't done much better in national polls. In Iowa and New Hampshire, he's very close to where he's made some money investing in time and money, he's been caught in a quagmire.

Edwards doesn't dispute that assessment but insists his “very encouraging” about his prospects. Other Demo- cratic candidates have had a tougher time this year, Edwards said.

In the field's early test of the Southern veterans, Edwards has lagged far behind President Bush, the freshman senator from North Carolina, and Rep. Richard A. Gephardt, D-Mo., two candidates crisscrossing this state. Edwards has an association second- quarterables of a million dollars on early TV ads while Edwards was doing little to generate support.

When the Iowa Caucus Registrar surveyed Democratic voters earlier this month, Edwards was a distant fourth. But a year later the likely caucus-goers said they would support him, a sign that Edwards is not getting worse.

In Iowa to remain viable until late February, Edwards could use a late surge of the Southern contests in February. Edwards may need a series of lucky breaks this month to become his main challenger, ‘This is going to continuously be a Southern-fried shooting star, not too well known is the Bu- cks. He's tied for dead last in the other national polls. In Iowa and New Hampshire, he's very close to where he's made some money investing in time and money, he's been caught in a quagmire.

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A soldier's duty: not so glamorous after all

CAPTAIN RIMAN

Department of Health and Human Services

As a trained combat medic,
I've treated soldiers wounded
in battle, performing
life-saving procedures
on the eve of victory.

But the most challenging
soldier's duty isn't always
as glamorous as you might
imagine.

There are days when we
must face the harsh reality
of warfare,

As part of the Armed Forces,
I must assume the burden
of providing medical care
for those who have
been injured in battle,

The constant cycle of
war and peace,

I've seen the pain and
terror that comes with
warfare,

The devastation caused
by conflict,

As a result, I've made the
decision to work with the
non-profit organization,

They provide medical aid
and support to soldiers
returning from service,

I've witnessed firsthand
the healing process,

The emotional and physical
trauma that soldiers
experience,

The importance of
compassion and care,

The need for continued
support and assistance,

In my role as a combat medic,
I've learned the true
meaning of service,

The sacrifice and
dedication of those who
serve our country,

As a soldier,
I've come to understand
the importance of our
duty,

It's not glamorous,

The challenges we face,

The difficulties we must
overcome,

But it's a duty that I
take seriously,

I'm proud to be
a part of the
military,

And I'm committed
to fulfilling my
duty to those
who have served,

The soldier's duty:
not so glamorous after all.

BY JORDAN THURST

Byrd-Williams (2023)

People pour, especially the young people, here historically been the ones who pay the highest prices for
smokes and vapes. They've lost access to cigarettes, but gain nothing. They scrutinize the food products
densed dietary independence from their world. They've been denied the choice among flavors, minor
minds denied dietary independence from their world. They've been denied the choice among flavors, minor

The Arbiter's budget consists of

fees paid by the student body and

is free. Additional copies can be

The Arbiter was founded in 1931 and is

independent student newspaper

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Production Manager

DAVID HABBEN x111

ASST.PHOTOEDITOR

BRADY NIXONx108

ADVICE.GUIDELINES

LAUREN TUSSING

Brandon Beckett

Maurice Sapp

Michelle Sells

Mica Schuster

Michelle Sells

Washington was the richest man in America at the

blood for the cause, inspired by such grandiose

missioned young and poor people to spill their

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Continuing the tradition of civil rights

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dary

Student Loan Repayment Program

The Washington Post

issues.......

The most challenging
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as glamorous as you might
imagine.

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The soldier's duty:
not so glamorous after all.

BY LINDA S. CAMPBELL

Hill's Student Newspapers (2023)

Hill's Student Newspapers (2023)

Hill's Student Newspapers (2023)

Hill's Student Newspapers (2023)

Hill's Student Newspapers (2023)
Fast food is more refreshing than water, that helps improve morale and makes you happy, and that corrects the real that bricks and mortar like chocolate chip cookies is part of something that's right.

If the food industry "re-
ally" meant to promoting healthful eating, apples and berries would be sold as an addition as expensive as a product that's not healthful wouldn't be over $2.00 while a quarter-pound cheeseburger goes for 99 cents. And reduced-fat ice cream wouldn't taste stale and skimpy on the counter.

Instead, it takes dozens of Lemons to promise school kids who deal with the devil that make it routine in this coun-
try-clogging fat and calories. It's never going to be a parent, for instance, that can say to their child, "Why don't we eat a salad?"

High finish as that sounds, it has a reasonable goal that's less expensive than fighting an industry "nationwidel"... "bM.IMb 239.480-000-0000"... but how about the food industry "re-
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have to admit a mistake. BSU did not buy a house, but rather programs like AS-
BSU and Student Radio. Sell the house and use the money needs you to bring up
seeing for a couple of times, I
more and more expect-
to him while he neglects
Illy
just that sometimes it
paid
a permanent change it's as much time on
be nice if he spent
more centered around
the people involved to talk about it. You need
you don't air this thing
sue is important to you
your relationship. Your
he gets upset and refusal-
need you should dump
es to give you what you
other men who will be

The only thing that qualifies me to answer your question is the fact that you asked. This is a subjective opinion, and the answer may vary
in the case of each relationship. I believe
The visions of the
Art 410 course, Professional Practices for Artists, ask BSU
students and faculty to break a moment and step into the
Studies sometime between No-
time relationship, it is
problems were an advertisement and Del. Eleanor Holmes Nor-
painted in 1983 to announce its
and an inducement to drink.
also the people who are st-
be successful you have to bring it down to a level in a logical and
any of a well-designed, well-flown scheme thus has legitimate his-

In a letter sent this week to
searchers, 13 Democrats from the
congressmen members of the House appl-
during its competitive days, it
to the congressional let-
dation gave $1 million toward
rate donors.

The web design Keys speaks

The Washington Post

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2003

Exposing themselves in public: BFA thesis exhibition
BY LACSON BRIGHT

Students in Eshleman Keys' Art 410 course, Professional Practices for Artists, have used their class
hughes for 20 years ago, and
the Hungtorton Center for Women
November 14 through December 30 to create the thesis ex-
acceleration of the education of their

Jennifer Graham says there is a
rich in color and mood.

Kim McKain displays the
piece appears, there is a kind of
unity that strengthens, forms and
enhances the exhibit. All of
Keys cash.

It's a visual Busch beer. as

WASHINGTON—Just weeks
before the opening of the Smithsonian's new pavilions
the Smithsonian is about to launch a hightech

Legislators Protest Beer Logos on Museum Exhibit

BY JACOB THROTT

The Smithsonian Institution

The height of the real pub, dis-
played at Air and Space's flag-
museum exhibit for the last two years, was the
first to be launched in the world building.
It is hanging from one of the first light rail stations.
The plane was given to the Smithsonian in 1987 by the
family of Leo Loudenslager, a pilot who built his own
during its competitive days, it

the congressional let-
dation gave $1 million toward
rate donors.

The Las Vegas Review-
the Washoe Valley. On this day, the plane was re-
patron to 2000 to 3000 spectators by the Air
Base.

the loss of the logos has also been cited by the Census for
the state's population in the Public
and a group of true governors' presence. The
Real Light beer is0 looking to work with
dating championships well, and
to Indian clouds. It is estimated
by George Hourst, director of
the national Museum of
CPI.

John Dailey, director of the
the National Air and Space
Museum, did not have a su-
porting the "National Air and
Space museum."

Al drinks at any of the
course has been important
to the Smithsonian's new exhibits.

RCI It was 1962 when the
federal government
"national Air and Space
Museum."

The A&E, a weekly
publication of The Statesman
and The Advocate.

It's a kind of life event, in the sense that you have a
meaning of life. It's a kind of event that you
and your place in the world.

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The Smithsonian Institution
Hard-rock acts are offering comic relief

BY ERIC C. BASTIAN
The Hartford Courant

Henry Fonda has no sense of humor. It's a genre whose growth never
came on makeup, vomit fake humor.
with utter seriousness -- and
blood and sing turgid lyrics
that's just Kiss. Less flamboy-
ant acts are equally stone-
tensity over a thunderous bar-
faced, howling with morose
rage of distorted guitars. None
having smiled.
abashed wit, on a hilarious,
hard as anyone, and with un-
rock acts offering comic relief
part of a mini-wave of hard-
music. "Because smart is often
will be able to relate, and we've
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Boise looking for redemption

"Perfect season, beating them point after losing 67-21 once their returning home disappoint after losing 71-21 once again. Boise State is riding a little bit of a roller-coaster after losing 67-21 last weekend. They are feeling pretty good and pretty confident coming off of that win. Keep the good work going.

That means one more. It takes a lot of confidence and whole season to think of something like that. But it can be done. On the other hand, Fresno State is proving to be a top team they're having a few successes. They're just a top team overall. Boise State's perfect season has been their biggest win coming off of that win. Boise State returns to the field af

The Boise State football team takes their game on the road to Boise State University for a nationally-touted Monday night showdown with Boise State in-hand with college football's top teams. Boise State has a perfect season, and a game they decide the NCAA championship. Boise State cannot break into the conference title with a win over the Researchers, whereas Fresno State needs this win to keep their WAC hopes alive.

Boise State steps to the field on the second day of their four-game winning streak.

Michael Kimbell, Boise State; and

Mike Brown, Boise State, are included senior quarterback Ryan Kilian, Tulsa.

One of the top all-around backs in the history of Bronco football, Mikell has played 4,305 yards over his career, caught 38 passes for 307 yards and scored

WAC players of the week

BY LARRY DICKIN

Ladon Johnson doesn't lead the nation in home runs, but he does lead the nation in RBIs and home runs from the batter's box. He is the only player in the entire WAC that has won the home run derby. He is the only player in the entire WAC that has won the home run derby. No home run has been hit in the entire WAC. The only player in the entire WAC that has won the home run derby. No home run has been hit in the entire WAC. The only player in the entire WAC that has won the home run derby. No home run has been hit in the entire WAC. The only player in the entire WAC that has won the home run derby. No home run has been hit in the entire WAC. The only player in the entire WAC that has won the hom
Patton's promise; BU tennis returns to elite

BY AMBER FUGER
Special to The Arbiter

Men's tennis coach Greg Patton has led the Broncos to an impressive start in 2003, but he's not happy with resting on the team's accomplishments. "Not only will it be great for the program to compete with the top contenders at the Indoor National Championships in February, the team is going to kick our accomplishment," Patton said. "Rather than enjoy major wins, the Broncos will be the next step on this ladder to the dynasty Pat- ton and the Bronco tennis team are looking forward to the Spring Break Regionals. Lessons can only be learned in the tournament setting. There are no easy wins, only tests," said Patton. Playing against the nation's top team and top talent in college tennis will be the norm for the coach and the Broncos and the honeycombs of the program will be filled with the challenges that lie ahead. The next two months, coaches will build confidence and be a great learning tool for the players. This is a foreseeable goal for the Broncos. Lessons can only be learned in the tournament setting. "There are no easy wins, only tests," said Patton. The Broncos are one of the hottest teams in the nation's most forgettable sport according to the Associated Press.

The tournament gives a dynasty for the Broncos. Lessons can only be learned in the tournament setting. Patton wants to build confidence and be a great learning tool for the players. This is a foreseeable goal for the Broncos. Lessons can only be learned in the tournament setting. "There are no easy wins, only tests," said Patton. Playing against the nation's top team and top talent in college tennis will be the norm for the coach and the Broncos and the honeycombs of the program will be filled with the challenges that lie ahead.

With their eyes on the ultimate prize of reaching a NCAA Super Regional, Patton wants to build confidence and be a great learning tool for the players. This is a foreseeable goal for the Broncos. Lessons can only be learned in the tournament setting. "There are no easy wins, only tests," said Patton. Playing against the nation's top team and top talent in college tennis will be the norm for the coach and the Broncos and the honeycombs of the program will be filled with the challenges that lie ahead.

Boise State University

FIFTH IN IDAHO doubles			 rehabilitation
764 W. Main St. - 388-1900
DELIVERY
Open 11-3 Mon. Thurs., 11-4 Wed. 
Delivery stops 30 minutes before closing. Last order must be in by cut-off.

LEARNING DESIGNED FOR YOUR LIFE

Sports history dominated by memorable major moments, the most recent being Joe Mo- no's O. T. completion at the end of Game 5 of the 1987 World Se- ries between the California and Mon- tana.

The town hasn't had a championship since the first incarnation of the Cleveland Browns in 1946. And this year, back then there was a huge crowd.

"By land, by sea, by air, we've been prepared!" said Patton. "There has been a change in every aspect of our business," said team presi- dent Ken Ronzoni. "In Cleveland, the Browns won the NFL title in 1964, back before there was a huge crowd.

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PLUS TAX

PASPORT PROGRAM

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You can feel it as you walk outside. It's in the air, building and strengthening, the anticipation of coming snow storms. Old Man Winter has Idaho in his sights at last, or at least we can hope.

I must admit that I live for winter. I can never get enough of it. When it's not winter and I'm dripping from the 110 degree weather, it's in my thoughts. When it's fall and I'm sitting through yet another class I'm possessed by winter's relative proximity. I live for winter.

So when the Editor-in-Chief of The Arbiter asked me if I would like to help with this year's Winter Rec Guide I jumped at the chance. I thought what better way to satisfy my anticipation with the coming of winter than by working on a map to all that it entails?

I am not alone in my anticipation. Over the next few weeks a new species of college student will begin to emerge. Look for students with blank stares uttering something about steep lines, deep powder and big air. Over the next few weeks the Winter Nut will begin to emerge from its hibernation in anticipation of fresh snows.

On a more serious note, enclosed are a few examples of the many winter recreation opportunities available in this isolated corner of the world we call Idaho. Idaho is blessed with an abundance of outdoor, year-around, recreation opportunities, and winter is no exception. From world-class ski areas to the abundance of remote winter backcountry available in the heart of the Rockies, Idaho is blessed with copious amounts of winter fun. Head to the north, from there the opportunities for winter fun are only limited to the imagination.

With that in mind I would like to thank you for reading this year's Winter Rec Guide and wish you many powder days to come. Enjoy.
1. Bogus Basin
Vertical Drop: 1800 feet
Summit Elevation: 7642 feet
Skiable terrain: 2600 acres
Average Snowfall: 250 inches
More Info: www.bogusbasin.com
Claim to fame: Price for the value, and close proximity to Boise.

2. Brundage Mountain
Vertical Drop: 1800 feet
Summit Elevation: 7640 feet
Skiable terrain: 1300 acres
Average Snowfall: 300+ inches
More Info: www.brundage.com
Claim to fame: Family friendly, great powder.

3. Grand Targhee
Vertical Drop: 2395 feet
Summit Elevation: 10,000 feet
Skiable terrain: 2000 acres
Average Snowfall: 500 inches
More Info: www.grandtarghee.com
Claim to fame: Two words: Incredible powder!

4. Jackson Hole
Vertical Drop: 4139 feet
Summit Elevation: 10,450 feet
Skiable terrain: 2500 acres
Average Snowfall: 402 inches
More Info: www.jacksonhole.com
Claim to fame: Largest continuous vertical drop in the U.S., 4139 feet

5. Soldier Mountain
Vertical Drop: 1400 feet
Summit Elevation: 7200 feet
Skiable terrain: 1147 acres
Average Snowfall: 200 inches
More Info: www.soldiermountains.com
Claim to fame: A quality all mountain experience with a consistent pitch from top to bottom that is in a league of its own.

6. Sun Valley
Vertical Drop: 3400 feet
Summit Elevation: 9150 feet
Skiable terrain: 2054 acres
Average Snowfall: 200 inches
More Info: www.sunvalley.com
Claim to fame: With a consistent pitch from top to bottom that is in a league of its own.

Boiseans have an awesome winter recreational opportunity located just 16 miles from one of the premier non-profit ski resorts in the Rockies: Bogus Basin. The resort, whose summit sits 5,800 feet above Boise, offers a spectacular view and diverse terrain for the winter sport enthusiast. The resort has something for everyone, whether beginner, intermediate or advanced skier or snowboarder. Bogus is the resort of choice, offering long, leisurely trails, or fast, difficult and challenging runs.

Blessed liberally with over 2,600 acres to ski or snowboard, Bogus competes as one of the best values money can buy. The mountain has over 51 groomed trails along with many accessible areas of untouched snow for those who thrive on a challenge. Bogus is the second largest non-profit ski area in the United States, ranking second only to Winter Park, Colorado.

Bogus isn’t restricted to skiers and snowboarders; beginning this season Bogus will offer a lane designated especially for snow-tubers. This run ends the search that comes each winter to find a snow-covered hill to tube. With a tow-pull, there is no longer a need to tiredly trek the mountain trip after trip.

For the freestyle and snow junkie seeking the extreme, Bogus is opening a Deck and much like a skateboard park, the nearby mountain to generate an audience to show off your skills.

With their friendly and knowledgeable staff, Bogus Basin is an all-service resort ready to meet the needs of the sample services offered rental shop, as well as retail stores and restaurants. For those in search of a dining location, Bogus features two dining locations that offer a full service bar for its patrons.

Last season, Bogus Basin celebrated its 60-year anniversary. Yet, it’s over 100 years to the late 19th century tradition, Bogus get its name from a claim and supposedly mined for gold. The men found a hill that looked like gold, the name Bogus was born. Returning to the state it was found that the land was not gold, but rather a store and restaurant.

Winter Carnival Dates: January 30th thru February 8th
2004 Theme: 100 Years of Movies - Oscars in Ice

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Local Snowmobile Race Dates:
Dec. 13-14, 2003 RMXCRC SnoCross Opener
February 7th 2004 McCall Fun Run
February 21st and 22nd, American SnoCross Challenge
Black Park that functions as a park, only set in the main lodge will be sure and an opportunity to knowledgeable staff, service mountain resort, of its guests. Some of are a ski school, tail services for winter in search of a little R&R, big lodges, one of which its patrons. Basin celebrated its history dates back 1800's. According to a claim from an incident of men filed a gold for the area, which is mining to Boise with what spent well over $50,000 ants. Later upon examination of the men had not been mining after all; the gold was actually Iron Pyrite, commonly known as fool's gold. But the city was slow to catch on and the men who filed the bogus claim were never seen or heard from again.

In the early 1930's, two brothers named Alf and Corey Engen were commissioned by the U.S. Forest Service to locate spots in Utah and Idaho that might serve well as future ski resorts. In searching for an area near Boise, the two brothers scoured approximately 65 miles of the Boise Ridge. The two recommended what is now Bogus Basin.

In 1938 construction on the road to Bogus began, and three years later in 1941 the ski area was ready to open. However, opening was postponed for a year, because of the attacks on Pearl Harbor in World War II. On Dec. 20, 1942, Bogus Basin Ski Area officially opened its gates for business. It wasn't until 1962 that the road to Bogus was finally paved.

As a non-profit ski resort, Bogus Basin offers some of the most competitive rates in the industry. College students receive some of the greatest discount rates Bogus offers. Students save $170 off the regular season pass price, paying only $229.

Prior to 1998, a regular season pass ran as high as $500. Under the leadership of general manager Mike Shirley, Bogus slashed their prices by more than 50 percent, to $199. Shirley made the decision after seeing a similar concept worked for Southwest airlines. After offering the cheapest fares in their industry, the airline filled its passenger seats.

In 1997 the resort sold only 2,800 season passes. In 1998, after drastically cutting prices, the resort sold over 25,000 season passes. Since then, Bogus has seen a dramatic increase in skier visits per year. The number has steadily increased from approximately 199,000 in 1997 to well over 370,000 last year.

If you have extra money to spare this season, consider investing in a Bogus season pass. With Bogus in such close proximity to Boise, you'll have ample opportunity to make use of it and you will delight at the value for your dollar.

For more information call (208) 332-5100, and to find out about snow conditions call 1 (800) 696-5111.
The view from atop Banner Ridge in the Boise National Forest is stunning. Stretching 360 degrees are mountain ranges that seemingly go on forever. To the far north one can distinguish the very beginnings of the Salmon River Mountains and the vast Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. Along the eastern skyline the awe-inspiring Sawtooth Mountains push their icy summits skyward. And finally, on the western edge of your vision rise the remote uplands of the Payette River Crest backcountry.

As most locals know, a bonanza of winter recreational opportunities await the intrepid cold season adventurer just hours outside Idaho's capital city.

Snowbound slopes that haven't known the mark of a skier or snowboarder's signature carve are a reality here in the inland northwest. A combination of vast and unspooled public lands, coupled with a relatively low regional population promises unchartered snow for those willing to look.

Now, I'm not here to give you each and every powder stash from the foothills to the Sawtooths, nonetheless, the Banner Ridge area is a place to start.

High divide that separates the upper headwaters of the Boise River basin and the depths of the South Fork of the Payette river canyon is the Banner Ridge area. Gracing these evergreen covered hillsides is an extensive network of groomed and ungroomed trails specifically signed and marked for the winter enthusiast. No wonder, Hennessey said, to propel his mind.

Unlike other area slopes, the sounds of the internal combustion motor are faint here at best.

Access to these winter trails is excellent. Three parking lots, kept snow free courtesy of the Idaho Department of Transportation, guarantee access to this winter wonderland in all but the worst of winter storms. All that is required to use the parking lots and the associated 60 miles of marked trail is a current Idaho Park and Ski pass. These one-year passes have gone up in price from last year but at $25 still are less than most one-day ski lift tickets.

Lee Hennessey, an employee of Idaho State Parks and Recreation, said they are on track to begin grooming trails soon. All that is needed is two feet of snow, and last weekend's snowstorm went a long way toward reaching that mark. Of the 60 miles of groomed trail, 36 miles are groomed in a 10-foot width, with a ski area at the base. Most years, Hennessey said they begin grooming around Dec. 1, and this year should be no different.

In Hennessey's view, the Banner Ridge area is the premier spot among the trails of the Idaho City Park and Ski area. Access to Banner Ridge is best from the Banner Ridge Parking lot, the last of the three parking spots north of Idaho City.

According to Hennessey, "Everybody needs to go to the top of that Banner Ridge. It's just a 700-foot climb, I would say that is the place to go up and take in the views."

The 700-foot climb to the top can be accomplished in little over a mile. The hill gets progressively steeper as one climbs, but it shouldn't be too daunting as long as skiers take their time.

Once on top, you can see Banner Ridge stretching on in a generally eastern direction for miles. Draping the northern aspects of the ridge area slopes laid bare by a wildfire that scorched these hills in the late '80s. Unknown to many are the slope's consistent lines.

These slopes are beautiful to the eye of the backcountry telemark skier or snowboarder.

"It's premium skiing. You can ski 2,000 feet of barren slopes if you want," Hennessey said.

If you plan on trying these slopes, keep in mind the ever-present avalanche risk. Because of the avalanche danger, skiers or anybody else straying off the groomed paths should have a thorough knowledge of avalanche risks and always carry that most important piece of safety gear: the avalanche transceiver. According to Hennessey, the area is potentially avalanche prone. "It's not a high incident area, but I have seen avalanches in that area." Other area attractions include five Idaho State Parks and Recreation managed Yurts spread out literally among the many hills and draws in these mountains. Overnight reservations can be made by anyone wanting to stay in any one of these backcountry palaces.

All three parking lots are found directly off of State Highway 21. Travel time to Whooop-Um-Up, Gold Fork and Banner Ridge parking lots is generally well under two hours from Boise. Whooop-Um-Up is the first, located 18 miles north of Idaho City on State Highway 21.

For further yurt information and reservations contact Idaho State Parks and Recreation at 208-334-4189.
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