

Tigers fall short

Early 3s lead Poky to win over I.F. girls: B1

Post Register



www.postregister.com

SATURDAY

December 12, 2009

Science & Tech

Hubble spies new galaxies Online



Finding FAITH

Goodfellow Fund helps agency provide housing and support B5



Your views

What readers are saying about holidays and lawmaking A6



Under pressure



Robert Bower / rbower@postregister.com

Jordan Evans shows his 6-year-old son, Jed, a pressure gauge on the new Ammon pumping system that he worked on for the past year. The city had a ribbon-cutting and small open house Friday.

Higher ed cuts coming

Senate Majority Leader Bart Davis said Idaho's colleges and universities won't be adequately funded next year.

By NICK DRAPER
ndraper@postregister.com

Idaho's colleges and universities can expect more cuts when lawmakers set budgets for fiscal year 2011 this winter.

Senate Majority Leader Bart Davis, speaking at an Idaho Falls City Club luncheon Friday, said declining state revenue projections mean less money for higher education.

"I don't think that we will adequately fund higher education this year," said Davis, an Idaho Falls Republican.



Davis

During the 2009 session, the higher education budget was reduced by \$38 million from what lawmakers had originally appropriated in 2008, and another \$15.2 million was cut in September to help offset the state's projected \$150 million revenue shortfalls.

Legislators have consistently looked to reduce funding at Idaho's colleges and universities when faced with budget holes.

"I've watched over nearly a dozen years where these budgets have been whipsawed," said Davis of higher education funding. "It is a source of constant

Davis said he sees no support for any sales tax increase
CUTS, Continued on Page A4

Ammon celebrates water upgrade

A new complex in the foothills features a 2 million gallon water tank and a booster station.

By SVEN BERG
sberg@postregister.com

Ammon celebrated the latest step in a multiyear, \$15 million upgrade to its water system Friday with a ceremony to dedicate a \$4.4 million complex that quintuples the city's water storage and boosts water pressure.

The complex, located in the Founder's Pointe housing development in east Ammon, includes a 2 million gallon tank and a booster station complete with 10

pumps ranging between 350 and 25 horsepower.

City engineer Lance Bates said the tank and booster station, which became operational about eight months ago, has already increased water pressure for city residents living in the foothills.

"Before, we were having to pump (water) uphill," Bates said.

Ammon residents who live at lower elevations should benefit in the near future, he said.

Lines connecting the new tank to the rest of the city's water system will be opening soon, Bates said, allowing gravity to boost pressure at lower elevations.

After complaints of dropping pressure kept city officers scrambling last summer, addi-

tional water pressure and storage are a welcome addition in Ammon.

"This next year, we're going to have a lot fewer calls coming in," he said. "It'll be a relief."

Water to fill the tank is drawn from two city wells and distributed into Ammon's system of water lines. The new booster station is programmed to react to the system's fluctuating pressure by turning on and off a series of pumps. The station's most powerful pumps, capable of pushing somewhere around 4,000 gallons per minute, were designed to handle fire suppression, Bates said. If electricity to the station goes out, a 750-kilowatt diesel-powered generator will automatically provide power.

Besides increasing water availability for Ammon's current residents, upgrades to the city's water system should provide for growth in coming years, city officials said. The next upgrade is a 1.5 million gallon tank and booster station already under construction east of the Ammon Wal-Mart and slated for completion by spring.

"When we get that done, we're basically there," Mayor Bruce Ard said of the city's push to complete its water upgrades. "It's great not to have those water problems anymore."

Sven Berg can be reached at 542-6755. Comment on this story on Post Talk at www.postregister.com/posttalk/.

YNP opens for winter Tuesday

A lack of snow has Yellowstone officials