

# CROSSROADS

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## WE MAY BE IN THE “DOG DAYS” OF SUMMER BUT WHAT A SUMMER IT’S BEEN!

**WE’VE ALL HEARD** the saying, “Dog Days of Summer”. Well, the origin of that phrase goes all the way back to the ancient Romans and Sirius, the dog star. During a certain period in summer, Sirius rises and sets with the sun. The Romans called this phenomenon “dies caniculares” which translates: dog days. The event occurred during the hottest, most “stagnant” days of summer, hence, “Dog Days of Summer.”

Now, it may have been hot in Celebration Park this summer but there’s been nothing STAGNANT about how our time has been spent! No “Dies Caniculares” here!



*May 2007 Idaho Archeology and Historic Preservation Month: Rod Dotson created fire (left) and a bevy of Celebration Park interpretive specialists swept the Idaho State Women’s Atlatl competition. (Angel Woodall, Lucero Moreno, and Kersti Harter)*



*Improvements are made to the park all summer. Our fine interpretive specialist staff has many talents! (Kelly Hochhalter, and Sue Tachick)*

*American Field Service foreign exchange students visited the park to wrap-up their year long adventure in the United States.*



### *Thanks, Archie.*

*At a celebration only Celebration Park can host, Dan Tiller, Canyon County Waterways Commission chairman, honors Archie Yamamoto for his many years of service on the commission. Archie retired this summer.*



*“Cruisin’ on a summer afternoon...”  
What would a summer in Celebration Park be without Model T’s?!*

**HISTORIC GUFFEY RAILROAD BRIDGE**  
**“CELEBRATING 110 YEARS”**  
**SEPTEMBER, 1897—SEPTEMBER, 2007**



1989 - Canyon County paid \$1 to the Idaho State Historical Society for Guffey Railroad Bridge



The bridge now serves as a walkway across the Snake River for Celebration Park visitors

**Cal Poly Intern Working with Celebration Park**

**Rocky Mountain Juniper**  
*Juniperus scopulorum*

Rocky Mountain juniper is an important tree species in the Snake River Plain. This is due to the fact that it can grow in places that many other trees cannot, especially because it is drought tolerant and adapted to alkaline soils. Rocky Mountain junipers have thin, fibrous and shredded bark and grow to 20-50 feet tall.

Junipers themselves are very useful plants, and were heavily used by Native Americans. Although mostly famously used to flavor gin, they have many other uses. The seeds and berries were used in teas and salves to treat ailments such as backaches, stomachaches, dandruff, arthritis, fever, urinary problems, and circulatory problems. The fruits were eaten raw or cooked and often used for flavoring foods.



Rocky Mountain Juniper Photo credit: © 2007, BLM, Snake River Plain



Juniper berries and juniper flavored gin Photo credit: www.gin.com

Although a useful plant, junipers are easily killed by fire. This is due mostly to its thin bark and very compact crown of young trees. Older trees are less susceptible since their bark is thicker and the crown is more open. Junipers grow slowly however, so trees may be at risk for their first 20 years or more. Junipers also have a volatile oil in many of their lower branches, making them even more flammable. These junipers have a mean fire return interval of about 12-43 years.

**Did You Know...?**

Juniper is commonly used today for soil conservation and as a wind-break. They are also well suited for fence posts because the wood last a long time in the ground. The wood is durable, aromatic and has a beautiful close-grained pattern and is used for ornamental wood products.



Juniper berries on the stem Photo credit: © 2007, BLM, Snake River Plain

Fire is one of the main factors of controlling Rocky Mountain juniper distribution. These junipers have recently been moving out of their historic range and into Idaho's grasslands because of the fire fighting efforts of the last century which have removed fire as a natural inhibitor of these plants. Along with reduced fire frequency, climate change and the introduction of grazing has also allowed for the encroachment of the junipers.

IN THE APRIL, 2007 newsletter, we shared a preliminary glimpse of a project we are doing with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding wildfire education and the use of appropriate landscaping plants for the Canyon Crossroads Transportation Museum. This collaboration gives us another way to expand on our already popular education programs at Celebration Park. The project has been further enhanced with the addition of two more partners: Southwest Idaho Resource, Conservation and Development Council (SIRC&D) and California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly).

SIRC&D provided the services of a summer intern, Elizabeth Lucas, who has spent a lot of time researching plants and developing a template for the educational signage at Celebration Park (example, left). The Project will feature fire adapted plants of our Idaho deserts

Elizabeth will graduate in December from Cal Poly with a degree in Forestry and Natural Resources with an emphasis on Urban Forestry. She has been delighted with the experience of this internship. “Last year I did timber cruising (marking and measuring trees for a timber sale) in a state forest in California which was a great learning opportunity about the field of traditional forestry. This internship has been very different from my previous internship and has definitely shown me more about what “community forestry” is like.” Elizabeth is unsure about “what” job she’ll seek upon graduation but she is sure about the “where”. She plans to return to Boise.

Visitors and students can learn about the fire adaptation of dozens of native plants while enjoying the new trail system to Canyon Crossroads Transportation Museum.

# Fire Near Celebration Park

**IT'S BEEN** a summer of wild fires and it seems no area of Idaho has been spared. On July 1, it came a little too close to "home" when land west of Celebration Park caught fire. Although not a huge fire relative to others that have occurred in Idaho this summer, it still required a lot of fire fighting resources—manpower, equipment and fuel. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) estimates that this fire cost their agency \$24,958.61. Imagine how much has been spent fighting all the Idaho fires this summer! It is believed the fire was human caused so it, and all the other fires, serve as a reminder that we need to be very careful when recreating and enjoying our wild areas of Idaho.



The volunteer fire fighters of Melba Rural Fire District (MRFD) was the first responder to the fire when the call came in on that Sunday afternoon.

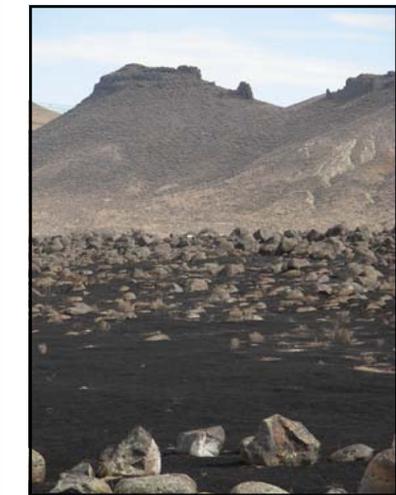


The actual cost to that department is hard to determine but when called, eight (8) volunteers left jobs and other obligations to protect and serve their community. According to Kenny Hoagland, MRFD Captain, the district took four of their trucks—3 brush trucks (300 gallon water capacity) and a tanker. Just the fuel for these vehicles cost this dedicated volunteer unit hundreds of dollars.

The Boise Interagency Dispatch Center received report of the fire at 3:30 p.m. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) dispatched an array of equipment to the scene along with a Battalion Chief, two unit superintendents and at least a dozen fire fighters. Buckets of water taken from an area pond were dropped by air attack helicopter. Four heavy engines with three (3) fire fighters each, a dozer and water tender were also on scene. A Fire Information Officer and two Fire Investigators were also present. The fire was contained by 8:00 p.m. that evening and was considered completely controlled by 2:00 p.m. the following day. In all, 135 acres were burned—ninety-five acres owned by the BLM and 40 acres privately held.



Any one who has visited Celebration Park and is familiar with the area knows that it is high desert terrain. It is not thickly forested or composed of vegetation that one would think of as highly combustible in the case of a wild fire. However, non-native grasses like cheatgrass and medusa-head-wildrye had overtaken the land where this fire occurred. This carpet of grass fueled a fire that already had dry, hot, windy conditions on its side.



Unfortunately, a healthy stand of sagebrush had gradually been re-vegetating the area. That too, was a casualty of the fire and in a desert ecosystem it was a substantial loss. Sagebrush is part of an ecological chain that provides shelter for small animals that are prey for raptors. The loss of that vital piece of the chain changes greatly the entire habitat.

We thank the agencies involved—Melba Rural Fire District and the Bureau of Land Management—for their work that day in keeping the fire from reaching Celebration Park. Let's all continue to do



what we can to be careful in the use of our wild lands .

## “Inspiring youth.....”

ENCOURAGING KIDS TO have fun while they’re learning is just one of the many ways that Celebration Park reaches out to our youth. With almost 15,000 children visiting the Park each year on



school field trips, it’s always rewarding for the staff to assist kids in expanding their education outside the classroom.

For one week this summer, a group of 7th and 8th grade students participated in the Homedale Summer Science Camp 2007. Lead this year by teachers Debby Turner and Dave Hann, the camp was begun in the early 90’s by Homedale Middle School teachers who wanted to incorporate more science into their students’ education. The camp curriculum includes field trips which allow the kids to have “real world” experience or observation of things they’ve learned in the classroom. This year, Celebration Park was included in the camp itinerary.



*Waiting for a turn on the atlatl range*

During a week in June, the kids began each day at Homedale Middle School with classroom lab work. By midday, they would leave on that day’s field trip. For example:

- One morning their study of weather and meteorology led to a visit at the Channel 6 TV station and a meeting with meteorologist , Scott Dorval.
- Hydroelectric power lessons and learning about the importance of water in this area ended with a trip to the Owyhee Dam.
- At St. Alphonsus Medical Center, the kids got to see the DaVinci surgical robot in action after learning how robotics allow surgeons more accuracy and precision in some of their surgical procedures.



*Students “show-off” their atlatl artwork*

Celebration Park was included in the impressive curriculum because a lot of the kids had visited the park on field trips when they were younger. They remembered the fun they had with the atlatl—the ancient Indian device used to propel darts. Mr. Hann, also an atlatl enthusiast, and Mrs. Turner incorporated an atlatl day into the camp.

Leading up to their park visit, the kids each got to customize their own atlatl by sandpapering and decorating them. They learned about “simple machines”, a category the atlatl falls into as a primitive lever. They also discussed the ancient cultures that had existed on the Snake River. Then, off to Celebration Park for a trial run of their personal atlatls.

It was a great learning experience for the kids and their teachers. After a lot of time on the atlatl target range, the kids began to identify design improvements that would make their simple machines even better. For the staff at Celebration Park, it was exciting to work with the kids and help them arrive at solutions to improve their atlatls. To be able to throw darts with more distance and accuracy, they all enthusiastically agreed they would go “back to the drawing board” and come back with better atlatls!



*Trying out their personal atlatls*



*2007 Homedale Summer Science Camp students*

## ....to reach their highest potential.”

**WE'RE GLAD WHEN** we can play a role in helping any student achieve their highest potential. At Celebration Park, our mission—to create an environment that protects our cultural and natural resources, while providing recreational and educational opportunities for our citizens and visitors—is one we work daily to fulfill. We certainly recognize that in order to continue that mission, we need to tap an even greater resource—our youth. Whether it be students studying the physics of the atlatl or a college student moving on to graduate school, it's exciting to be a part of their success.

At Celebration Park, we're always on the lookout for college students that would like to work with us as they continue their education. In the summer of 2006, Kersti Harter, a Boise State University anthropology major, joined the staff at Celebration Park as a seasonal interpretive specialist. Kersti, now a BSU graduate, has worked with us again this summer while awaiting her departure in September for a new adventure – graduate studies at the University of Washington.

It was an early interest in dinosaurs and paleontology that led Kersti to study anthropology. Having lived in Boise since the age of 12, she chose to attend college in her hometown since BSU offered what she needed for her undergraduate degree. And as a college freshman, Kersti discovered her real interest in paleo and bio-cultural anthropology.

As a graduate student, Kersti will focus on bio-cultural anthropology—how human behavior has changed because of biological adaptation. Her senior thesis at BSU dealt with cultural contributions that cooperative child-care networks have affected in the LDS religion. In her graduate studies, she will continue to research religious behavior as a biological adaptation - how that behavior and adaptation affect our world cultures.

At the University of Washington, Kersti will begin a 6-year course of study: a 2-year Masters program, followed by 4-years of Doctoral studies. The recipient of a Recruitment Fellowship, Kersti will be tuition-free for the first three years of the program working as a research assistant the first year, a teaching assistant the following two years.



*School kids listen intently as Kersti Harter teaches them Indian life ways.*

programs at Celebration Park allowed me to work with kids and present programs about the petroglyphs and Indian life ways. I've gained first-hand experience at handling the repetition of teaching a class over and over, making it interesting each time for both the kids and me.” Kersti also said that working at the Park raised her awareness of career opportunities other than those within academic fields.

She gives kudos to Tom Bicak, Director of Canyon County Parks, Recreation and Waterways. “He's a great mentor. Not only has he been a 'sounding board' for my academic and career decisions, but we've been able to discuss a lot of things related to our similar interests. His extensive education and career experiences have lent another perspective to my well-rounded education.”

Congratulations, Kersti! We all wish you the best.



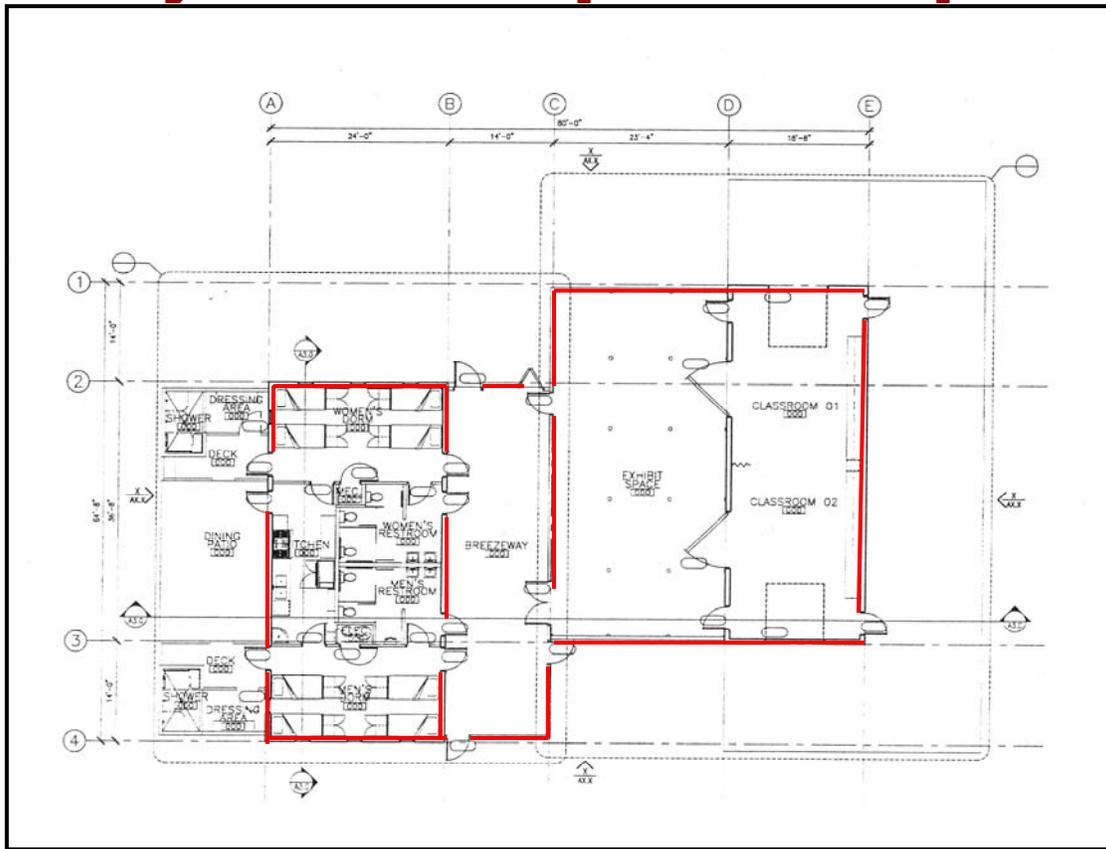
*May, 2007: Congratulations, Kersti!*

Kersti joined the staff at Celebration Park when one of her professors, Dr. Mark Plew, suggested she put her studies and experience to work in Idaho's only Archaeological park.

Asked if she found the job experience at Celebration Park to be helpful, Kersti gave a resounding, “Yes!” She went on to say, “It helped me make some money while working in a job that is directly related to my studies. With that money, I've been able to attend conferences and workshops that expanded on the education I received in the classroom.”

Kersti also said that her work as an interpretive specialist provided an opportunity for a “teaching” experience that she wouldn't have had otherwise. “The school field trip

# Canyon Crossroads Transportation Museum Update



**WE'VE BEEN TALKING** about, planning for and steadily working on the Canyon Crossroads Transportation Museum project for some time now—since February, 2006 to be exact. It's been a time consuming process but soon we'll be putting the construction contract out for bid. That means we'll be breaking ground later this fall and that you should be looking for a new building in Celebration Park when you visit beginning in the spring of 2008!

Canyon County Parks, Recreation and Waterways, Boise State University and the Idaho Transportation Department are collaborating on this project. The facility will include a display atrium, classrooms, laboratories and student dormitories (see proposed floorplan). We're excited about the prospect of being able to provide more events, programming and other educational opportunities for our visitors. With the addition of larger indoor classroom space, we look forward to being able to lengthen the season for field trips—good news for schools who have a hard time fitting into our jam packed field trip schedule!

Take a look at our budget summary. We're proud that this museum is being built entirely with monies acquired through grants and donations. Our success in attracting the needed funding makes us confident that we will reach our goal as we continue to seek capstone funds. Most recently, we were awarded a \$45,000 grant from the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation—we appreciate their support!

BUDGET SUMMARY	
\$500K (45%)	Secured Real Estate
\$434K (39%)	Secured Construction Grant Funds
\$60K (07%)	Cash Gifts
\$115K (09%)	Capstone Funding
<b>\$1,109,000 TOTAL</b>	
<b>CANYON CROSSROADS IS 90% FUNDED</b>	

## 2007 Fall School Field Trip Schedule

**SEPTEMBER 2007**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 LABOR DAY	4 Monroe Elem.	5 St. Joseph	6 Canyon Springs	7 Idaho Arts Charter	8
9	10 New Plymouth M.S.	11 Valleyview	12 Chaparral	13 Pepper Ridge	14 Central Academy	15
16	17 Lincoln 3rd grade	18 Linder Elem. 4th grade	19 Eagle H.S.	20 Melba Elem.	21 Cole Valley	22
23/30	24 Middleton H.S.	25 Boise Valley Collister	26 Reed Elem.	27 Fruitland H.S.	28 Washington Elem.	29

**OCTOBER 2007**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Horizon Elem.	2 Middleton H.S.	3 Koelsch	4 Richard McKenna	5 NO SCHOOL	6
7	8 River Valley	9 Donnell	10 Summer Wind	11 McKinley	12 Rose Hill Meridian Acad.	13
14	15 Franklin	16 St. Mary's	17 Maxine Johnson Elem.	18 Adams	19 Amity Elem.	20
21	22 Desert Sage	23 Crimson Point	24 Crimson Point	25 Pioneer Elem.	26 Van Buren	27
28	29 Paramount	30 Chief Joseph 4th grade	31 Discovery			



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From Nampa or Caldwell, take 12th Ave. south to Hwy 45. Turn left on Ferry and right on Hill Road. Follow the curves around and turn right on Sinker Road. It will take you to the Guffey Bridge where you turn left on Hot Spot Lane. From Meridian and Boise, take Meridian Road to Kuna and turn left on Swan Falls Road. Turn right on Kuna Cave Road and left on Robinson Road. Follow the curve onto Dickman and turn left on Can-Ada Road. Can-Ada takes a jog to the east at Baseline Road, but continue south to Warren Spur. Turn right and follow Warren Spur to Sinker Road.

