Take a hike

Kamiah Butte, home to the Pine Ridge Trail, provides a fun, easy hike that's close to home. See page 8.

Spinning away

Barbara Sater teaches fiber arts from the lamb to the wheel to the weaving. See page 5.

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Moscow-Pullman Highway gets a makeover

By Ryl Hennessey
Summe Arg

The commute along the Moscow-Pullman Highway may never be the same again.

A $30 million project to improve Washington State Route 270 from Pullman to the Idaho border begins this month. The project will add two lanes and a center turn-lane to the 6.5-mile stretch. According to a Washington State Department of Transportation press release, the project will add to traffic capacity and improve safety on the busy roadway.

Construction is slated to begin June 12 with sign installation. Major roadwork will follow soon after.

The highway will remain open during construction. However, lanes and shoulders will be narrowed and the speed limit will be lowered to 45 miles per hour. Traffic will be stopped for approximately 15 to 20 minutes at a time for blasting operations. The project is expected to be completed in late fall 2007.

There will be a groundbreaking ceremony at 11 a.m. June 7 to mark the start of the widening project at the intersection of SR 270 and Airport Road to the east of Pullman.

WSDOT will host an open house from 4-7 p.m. June 15 at the Pullman Holiday Inn Express. There will be displays and project staff will be on hand to answer questions.

Project engineer Chad F. Simonsen said traffic will be an issue during school events like football games and home weekends. On average, about 14,000 vehicles travel on the road each day, but the number increases during big events at the local universities. During times like this when student traffic will be high on the road, Simonsen said he wants to shut the construction down, giving workers a day off.

Simonsen said the Bill Chipman Trail that runs parallel to SR 270 will most likely not be affected by the construction. It may be rerouted, but it will remain open.

Peg Motley of Wheatland Express said the bussing company, which runs a route between Moscow and Pullman, is concerned about the effect the construction will have on its tight commuter schedule. She said she hopes delays won’t be too bad until the fall, when Wheatland will have more buses running and will be better equipped to deal with the problem. Motley also said that even with the commute concerns, she is happy about the benefits the improvements will bring.

“We’re just really excited we’ve finally got a highway that’s going to be safe between Pullman and Moscow,” Motley said.

She said Wheatland employees have learned there will always be construction projects and they will just have to deal with them.

“We’ve just learned to adjust on a daily basis,” she said.

Part of the plan is to make the corridor between Moscow and Pullman more urban in nature, according to the WSDOT Web site. There are only a few businesses that currently operate along the route, including Crossroads Nursery, Champion Electric and Prairie Bloom Nursery.

Jon Becker of Crossroads said he is not concerned about the construction. He said there have been too many close calls as well as a death on the road, and the light that will be added will make it safer for everyone.

“I don’t have anything negative to say,” he said.

In fact, he said he thinks the improvements will increase business.

“I’m just thrilled,” Becker said. “I don’t think I will lose any of the people coming here just because of construction.”

**SudokuPUZZLE**

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

**Solutions**

```
8 9 1 6 2
7 4 3 5 1
5 1 4 2 9
4 6 5 7 8
6 8 2 9 3
9 7 3 1 4
3 5 1 4 2
1 9 7 5 2
2 8 6 3 4
```

**Correction**

In the May 5 edition of The Argonaut, the photo titled “Check Mate” contained incorrect information in the caption. The artwork is part of a context assignment Web site. There is a drawing of a chess piece and a typewriter, but the caption referred to the drawing of a chess piece. The caption should have read, “The chess piece and typewriter are part of a context assignment Web site. There is a drawing of a chess piece and a typewriter.”
**Local BRIEFS**

**Dial-in modem service ends June 30**

UI's dial-in modem Internet service will be permanently discontinued June 30. Those who use the service will receive an e-mail notifying them.

The Faculty IT Committee, President's Cabinet, ASUI and the Student IT Committee agreed to discontinue the service due to diminishing numbers of users, operating costs and maintenance levels.

For a list of other free and low-cost Internet providers, visit [www.all-free.isp.com](http://www.all-free.isp.com). For more information on the end of dial-in service, e-mail the ITS Help Desk at helpdesk@uidaho.edu.

**Help find pink experiment capsule**

Members of the NASA Idaho Space Grant Consortium are asking anyone who spends time on Moscow Mountain to be on the lookout for a missing experiment capsule. The 15-by-6-inch capsule, known as "Pepto Gizmo" is bright pink and connected to a red and blue parachute. Students who launched the capsule believe it is stuck in a tree.

The capsule is part of a high-altitude experiment by UI engineering students involving temperature, acceleration and real-time telemetry. The students launched it in October using a balloon that can travel up to 100,000 feet before bursting. The capsule's tracking equipment malfunctioned after its launch and has been missing since.

The Space Grant Consortium will give a $100 reward for information that leads to the return of the capsule. Anyone who finds the capsule is asked to bring it to the consortium office at the Janssen Engineering Building, Room 140. To contact the consortium, call 885-6438 or e-mail isgc@uidaho.edu. UI employees are ineligible for the reward due to the university's financial stewardship policy.

**Cloned mules win some and lose some**

Despite winning their qualifying heats, UI's cloned mules, Idaho Gem and Idaho Star, did not fare as well in the final race at the Winnemucca Mule Races, Show & Draft Horse Challenge Sunday.

According to the Associated Press, Idaho Gem, the first mule to be cloned, came in third with a time of 21.246 seconds and Idaho Star came in seventh at 22.181 seconds. Eight mules competed in the 350-yard race.

The mules will continue to race in the California fair circuit throughout the summer.

**Renfrews receive university award**

To honor Malcolm and Carol Renfrew, the UI Alumni Association will host a free reception from 1-3 p.m. June 25 at the University Inn. The Renfrews will receive the Distinguished Idahoan Award, which recognizes people who have brought distinction to the state and UI.

They will be light refreshments at the reception, and casual attire is suggested. To attend, RSVP by June 21 to Nancy Lyle at 885-6154 or nancyl@uidaho.edu.

Malcolm Renfrew earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry at UI in 1932 and a master's degree in chemistry in 1934. He earned his doctorate from the University of Minnesota in 1938, then helped create Teflon during his time at E.I. DuPont de Nemours, Inc. in 1939. He returned to UI as department head of physical sciences, and became department head of chemistry in 1967. He retired in 1976.

Carol Renfrew earned a bachelor's degree in economics at UI in 1935 and a master's degree from Brown University in 1939. She is a former president of UI. UI Associates and has served in many groups in the Moscow community.

**Good Samaritan hosts blood drive**

The Moscow Good Samaritan Village will host a blood drive for the American Red Cross from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 15 in the Good Samaritan Village Community Room.

The goal is to collect 25 pints of blood. Good Samaritan administrator Tim A. Schneider said, "Hospital patients count on volunteer blood donors to help provide needed medical treatment. Because blood can be separated into different components, each blood donation can help save more than one person's life."

**UI students attend UN sustainability conference in NYC**

UI seniors Justin Saydell and Mark Moroge were among 20 delegates representing the United States Youth Network for Sustainability at the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development in New York City in May.

The network, known as SustainUS, is a "nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of young people dedicated to sustainable development and youth empowerment," according to a UI press release.

UI supported Saydell and Moroge's trip to attend a series of meetings that focused on energy consumption, industrial development, air pollution and climate changes issues.

Saydell, vice president of the Environmental Club and director of sustainability for ASUI is an ecology and conservation biology major. He is a leader of the initiative to create a UI sustainability center. Moroge, who is studying ecology, conservation biology and Spanish, attended another U.N. commission meeting earlier this year as part of SustainUS.

For more information about SustainUS, visit [www.sustainus.org](http://www.sustainus.org).

**Learn about Palouse birds Tuesday**

Friends of the Clearwater will host a potluck at 6:30 p.m. June 13 at the UI Arboretum. Charles Swift, co-president of the Palouse Audubon Society, will speak about the breeding birds of the Palouse. Anyone is welcome to attend and bring a favorite dish or beverage. The potluck will meet at the picnic tables at the arboretum's West Palouse River Drive entrance.

For more information, contact Will Boyd at (208) 882-9735.

**Help new students practice English**

The American Language and Culture Program is seeking student volunteers to be conversation partners for new international students this summer. Volunteers work through the ASUI Center for Volunteerism and Social Action and give international students an opportunity to practice English after their morning classes.

To sign up, visit the Volunteer Program Office in the Idaho Commons Room 301. For more information, e-mail alcp@uidaho.edu.

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**WHEN BRAS ATTACK**

"Booby Traps" by Karen Templeton is on display with other decorated bras for "The Embellished Brassiere," an art show that raises money for women who can't afford mammograms. "The Embellished Brassiere" is on display at the Above the Rim Gallery until June 12.
THE MAKING OF

Shorn to Worn

Local weaver gives spinning newbies a chance to create handmade yarn.

For Barbara Sater of Moscow, homemade gifts take on a whole new meaning.
For 20 years, Sater has been spinning her own yarn from wool and other kinds of fiber. When she lived in Tennessee, she owned her own sheep and Angora rabbits.

"I've birthed the lamb, sheared the wool and dyed it with plants I've grown," she said.

Now she's moving to Troy and plans to get more sheep and rabbits. She offers spinning and weaving classes and teaches both groups and individuals. I met Sater while she was spinning at the Renaissance Fair in early May and picked up her card on a whim. I already knit and crochet, and have always been attracted to the idea of spinning and weaving, but never gave it much thought until now. I recently took my first class from Sater and learned there's more to spinning than pedaling and pinching wool.

"Wool isn't the only kind of fiber spinners are able to use. Hair and fur from camels, llamas, dogs, muskrats and even humans can be used for spinning, as well as non-animal fiber, such as cotton, soy and silk. Experienced spinners like Sater can tell which fiber is which by touch."

"One night, I turned off the lights and figured out I can spin in the dark," she said. "It's all by touch."

Spinners don't have to see at all to produce high-quality yarn. Members of Sater's spinning guild in Tennessee taught blind people how to spin. The fiber was dyed with Kool-Aid so they could smell the difference between colors, she said.

During our lesson, Sater handed me different skeins of yarn and taught me to feel the difference between wool and mohair, llama and alpaca, silk and angora. Each kind of fiber has its own unique texture and staple length. Different breeds of sheep produce varying qualities of wool. Even wool from the same breed of sheep can have different characteristics.

"I have a favorite sheep that I buy from every year," she said.

Even the best wool sheep have bad years, however. If the sheep is sick or malnourished one year, the quality of its wool won't be as good as it was in previous years.

"You can read wool like you can rings on a tree," Sater said.

Just as there are many kinds of fiber, there are several methods to dye the yarn to get the desired color. Sater showed me rusty oranges from plant roots, warm pinks from crushed cochineal bug shells and soft greens from rusty copper pipes.

Sater then showed me the spinning wheel. There are several types of spinning wheels and drop spindles, but they all essentially work the same way and have remained unchanged for hundreds of years. Sater taught me how to spin on an Elizabeth spinning wheel, one of the most popular and traditional wheels.

My first experience with spinning wasn't as successful as I had hoped it would be. I began by just pedaling the wheel alone to get the muscle memory down. After five minutes, I thought that surely I had the rhythm down and was ready to add in the hand gestures required for drafting.

"I've birthed the lamb, sheared the wool and dyed it with plants I've grown."

- Barbara Sater, Appalachian Mountain Handspun

DO IT YOURSELF

For information about spinning or weaving lessons, contact Barbara Sater of Appalachian Mountain Handspun at (208) 596-5542 or saterba@yahoo.com.

Experienced spinners wanting to join a guild can contact Sarah Swett of Hog Heaven Spinners at 882-1657.

The Elizabeth spinning wheel is one of the most classic spinning wheels on the market. Left: Large balls of wool can be drafted and spun into yarn for knitting, crocheting and weaving.

- Barbara Sater, Appalachian Mountain Handspun

JUNE 14 - 15
10 am - 4 pm
UI Bookstore's Sidewalk Sale

Pre-Inventory Clearance
ALL DEPARTMENTS

See SPINNING, page 11
ARG ADVENTURES

More than a concert

About 10 years ago, when I was on the verge of becoming a teen, my “Cool Aunt” gave me her spare “Pretty Hate Machine” CD. It was Nine Inch Nails’ first album, and in many ways it was my first album as well. Up until that point I had been a passive music listener, only experiencing the music my father listened to when he was a teen. “Pretty Hate Machine” began my journey of finding out what music I liked.

When I was a teenager, one of the bands shaping the music world was Bauhaus. After the post-punk collapse, Bauhaus helped bring about the deep and gloomy style that eventually became the Goth scene. In many ways, Bauhaus is to what Nine Inch Nails is to me. The most devastating similarity though, was that neither of us had seen the bands that had shaped us so much in concert.

Two weeks ago, we fixed that. Nine Inch Nails played at the Idaho Center in Nampa, with Bauhaus as an opening band, and my aunt and I went together to see them.

Bauhaus was not in my music repertoire, so seeing a week before the concert during my visit to Boise my aunt began my education. We spent the week listening to Bauhaus and Love and Rockets, a spin-off band made up of members of Bauhaus, excluding lead singer Peter Murphy. There’s not much my aunt has shared with me that I didn’t like, and this was no exception.

With a growing appreciation for Bauhaus, and with the need to sate my thirst for Trent Reznor live, I could not wait for the week to end.

Wanting to get good seats, and still needing to get a ticket for a last-minute addition to our party, we arrived at the Idaho Center half an hour before the doors opened. Already the line was huge, quite easily the longest line I’ve ever seen, stretching even those at infamous LAX.

I’ve been to many concerts, and am quite used to the costuming many concert goers prefer to wear, but the joined forces of NIN and Bauhaus fans summoned a special mix. Even the customary black t-shirt and jeans combos, usually compared to the overwhelming amount of old punk and over-the-top goth that was in attendance, it must have been a red-letter week for Hot Topic.

Once inside the doors I had the same two priorities as everyone else: get a good seat and find where they were selling the beer. After two seat changes, one chorizo and beer combo, a frantic search to find where everyone had gone off to, we were ready for the show to start. Opening up the night was Radio on the TV. The band stuck to the traditional role of opening bands and was too bloody loud to hear. Valiantly trying to overcome this problem, the lead singer started singing into the mic through a megaphone. Unfortunately, this didn’t help.

Up next was Bauhaus, and it was immediately obvious that my aunt wasn’t the band’s only fan in attendance. Appearing out of the dark and gloom one at a time, the members of Bauhaus were greeted with thunderous applause and shameless fandom.

It was simple to see why Bauhaus was so influential. The entire band oozed a dark yet glittery and sexy style. The guitarists, David J and Daniel Ash, swayed like serpents to their music, turning their mirrored guitars and slicing the concert hall with swords of white light.

The only word to describe how Peter Murphy moved is prancer. Nine Inch Nails bassist Jeordie White performs at a concert in December.

See CONCERT, page 11

Where to be and what to look like when you get there

By Sean Aguilar and Ryli Hennessey

Venues:

The Idaho Center

The Idaho Center in Nampa bills itself as “The Crossroads of the Northwest.” Featuring conventions, sporting events, equestrian events and more, Idaho Center offers an outdoor amphitheater. Tickets for events at the center can be purchased online at www.ticketmaster.com, at the Idaho Center box office, at Jack’s Drive-In in Caldwell and at any Boise, Nampa, Meridian or Mountain Home TCBY. To purchase tickets by phone call (208) 442-3322. For more information, visit www.idahoheartcenter.com or call (208) 468-1000.

Dress for success: Deck out to rock out

For the full concert experience, your apparel is just as important as the band, the venue and your seat. Here are some simple guidelines to follow while picking out your concert threads.

1. NEVER wear a shirt of the band whose concert you’re attending, unless you buy it at the show.
2. If you’re in the audience, don’t wear any of your favorites because they’ll just get trashed. You’re going to get subjected to sweat (mostly not your own), beer (again, mostly not your own), bumping, pushing, punching, shanking (hopefully not), grabbing and groping (boys aren’t safe either). Also, wear some shoes that will protect your toes from any clumsy pogo activity, and make sure they’ll stay on if you decide (or someone decides for you) that you’re going crowd surfing.
3. Take some creative liberty with how you dress. Think Halloween sans candy bag.
5. No matter how good you think you look, don’t take skimpiness to the extreme. You’re allowed to have fun, so go ahead and show a little cleavage and wear that short skirt. But if you look like you could be walking a street corner, you’ve probably taken it too far.
6. Cool hair and makeup are a must. Don’t stick with your everyday look; spike it, tease it, hawk it and have some fun!
7. Go androgynous. If you’re a boy, throw on some makeup, dye your hair and don’t be afraid to wear those tight jeans. And girls, never, never be afraid to get your Peter Pan on.
8. With rule No. 3 in mind, leave the opera cap and purse at home.
9. No twinnies. Dressing just like your friends may seem like a good idea, but you’ll be the only one thinking so.
10. Lastly, just rock out.
‘X-Men’ little more than pyrotechnics

By Tyler Wilson
Summer Arg

With “X2: X-Men United,” director Bryan Singer initiated an element of prestige to superhero movies. It was a movie that proved comic book adaptations could be both intelligent and exhilarating. But a mix of distractions, including the addition of Sentinels, Magneto, a few other old friends and villains, and the absence of the original cast, has created a film that is forgettable and unmemorable. The result is a film that is not worth the price of admission.

The story begins with the X-Men, a group of mutants with special powers, struggling to protect the innocent from the forces of evil. However, the film takes a turn for the worse when the Sentinels, a race of machines created by humans to combat mutants, begin to attack humans and mutants alike.

The film also features a variety of new characters, including the X-Men's new leader, Professor Charles Xavier, played by Patrick Stewart. However, the character development is weak, and the actors struggle to make their characters believable.

The film's special effects are also a disappointment. The fight scenes are often too long and drawn out, and the Sentinels are not as impressive as they were in the first film. The cinematography is also lacking, with the film often appearing flat and uninteresting.

In the end, “X2: X-Men United” is a disappointing sequel to an otherwise enjoyable film. The story is weak, the characters are not developed, and the special effects are not as impressive as they were in the first film. It is a film that is not worth the price of admission, and it is a letdown for fans of the X-Men franchise.

ArtS BRIEFS

Summer of Peace across the region

In recognition of the last 200 years of Nez Perce history, the Nez Perce tribe is celebrating the Summer of Peace Among the Nimiipuu in June with events in Lewiston and Moscow.

The First Peoples Fashion Show will be 7-9 p.m. Friday at the Hamilton-Loew Recreation Center in Moscow. The show will display fashions worn by the Nez Perce Tribe during the past 200 years, including styles of the 19th century.

Appaloosa Fest 2006 will be from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at the Appaloosa Museum. For more information, contact museum@apaloosa.com.

Official opening ceremonies for the festival will begin at 9 a.m. June 14 at the Nez Perce National Historical Park in Spalding. The ceremony will feature a Tribal Grand Entry, Nez Perce Nation Drum, a horse regalia parade, a tribal flag ceremony, giving of gifts by Nez Perce children and a welcome dance with crowd participation.

To download a free ticket, visit www.northcentralidaho.info.

Also on June 14, the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps will join with Nez Perce Drum to perform a concert at 7:30 p.m. at Harris Field on the Lewis-Clark State College Campus.

A mural dedication will be at 11 a.m. June 15 at the Lewis-Clark Visitor Center on Snake River Ave. in Lewiston. The murals to be unveiled are "Wetxuuwiis (Woman Who Was Captured and Returned)" by John Seven Wilson and "Wetxuuwiis (Mother Earth)" by Sara Penney.

Several events will be ongoing from June 14-17. The Summer of Peace Quilt and Hide Show will be at the Lewiston Union Building at LCSC. The Bicentennial Film Festival will be at the LCSC Library. Featured films include "Surviving Lewis and Clark: The Nimiipuu Story," which was commissioned for the event; the award-winning "Confluence of Time and Courage," the official bicentennial film; and the series of Sacagawea, York, the Nimiipuu and other tribes along the trail. The Summer of Peace Village will be home to events every day from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at LCSC. Activities are included as storytelling, traditional arts and crafts demonstrations, traditional games, re-enactments and arts, crafts and food vendors.

For a full calendar and more information, visit www.summerofpeace.org.

ARTWALK showcases local artists’ work

The third annual Moscow ARTWALK will begin June 16 and run through September 9. Local artists’ work will be displayed by 31 area businesses and organizations. The City of Moscow and the Moscow Arts Commission at dheath@cl.moscow.id.us or visit the MAC office at Moscow City Hall, 206 E. Third St.

Local photographers explore ‘Faces’

The Third Street Gallery will be home to “Faces of the Land: Photographing Journey Through Native America” by Ben and Linda Marra this summer. An opening reception is scheduled for 5-9 p.m. June 16. The show will run through August 11. The Third Street Gallery is located in Moscow City Hall.

Bras of all designs at Above the Rim

Above the Rim Gallery is currently showcasing “The Embellished Brassiere,” an exhibit of bras designed with and made of a variety of unusual materials.

The bras have been shown previously at the Latah County Fair and local events and businesses, but this is their last show.

After the exhibit ends June 12, the bras will be auctioned off to fund annual mammograms for women who cannot afford them.

The project was co-organized by Terry Johnson-Huta and Wendy Lawrence of Moscow. According to a brochure about the exhibit, Johnson-Huta and Lawrence were inspired by an art bra calendar that was sold to raise money for breast cancer research.

People interested in creating their own embellished bra still may submit a bra to the collection. For more information, contact Johnson-Huta at terrajhuta.com.

Above the Rim Gallery is located above Paradise Bicycles at 513 S. Main St. For more information, visit www.aboverethimgallery.com.

Summer noontime concerts begin

Acoustic folk/pop artist Chris Cunningham will be the first artist featured in the Idaho Commons and Union Summer Noontime Concert Series. He will play noon-1 p.m. June 14 on the Commons Lawn.

Acoustic alternative rock artist Michael James is next in the series on June 21. Indie pop singer Kate Tucker follows on June 28.

Learn ‘Imagination arts’ and dance

Festival Dance Academy will host the Imagination Arts Summer Dance Program June 17-28 at its Moscow studio. The program features workshops in dance, musical theater, arts and crafts taught by Kim and Sigge Havel.

The $165 classes run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily. A $50 non-refundable deposit is due by July 3.

For more information, contact Festival Dance at 883-3267.

Festival Dance is also hosting summer sessions in Celtic dance, Kinderdance and advanced dance. For more information, visit www.festivaldance.org.
A butte with a view

The Pine Ridge Trail climbs Kamiak Butte, the Palouse's second-highest landform.

By Tara Roberts
Summer Arg

From the top of Kamiak Butte, the Palouse never seems to end. Hills patchworked with green and brown and peppered with tiny towns flow into distant mountains. Look to the right, and you'll see the brick towers of Washington State University. To the left, the Kibbie Dome rests on a hilltop like a tiny toy building. And the beauty of it all is this view can be reached without breaking a sweat.

Kamiak Butte, named after Chief kamiak of the Yakima tribe, is home to a national trail: the 3.5-mile, relatively easy Pine Ridge Trail. The trail begins with a quick, half-mile shot to a scenic lookout. On the hike up, it's hard to imagine just what you'll see from the lookout meadow, but when you get there, you'll believe that the butte is the second-highest landmark on the Palouse.

A sign at the base of the trail gives a little background as to how this unusual landmark came to be part of the area. The butte is geographically considered a steppe, "isolated hill or mountain surrounded by low flows." Formerly sand at the bottom of a sea, the quartzite butte is now surrounded by basalt that is part of the Columbia River Basalt Flows. At the end of the last ice age, the wind blew in silt that covered the flows but left the butte standing 1,000 higher than the surrounding hills at an elevation of 3,641 feet.

But the view is not Kamiak Butte's only appeal. After relaxing for while in the meadow— it's an ideal place to enjoy a picnic lunch or dinner— continue up Pine Ridge's winding path. The meadow offers the most panoramic views of the surrounding area, but just a bit farther up is the true summit. To get there, you'll wander across cubic rock formations in fields of blue and yellow flowers and past the twisted remains of lightning-struck trees. The forest thickens as the summit spur approaches (beware — the tip top is privately owned, so hunting is allowed there during hunting season) and grows wilder as the trail winds back down.

As you work your way down the butte be on the lookout for plant and animal life. A self-guided nature walk brochure is available at www.visitpalouse.com/todo/kamiak, but casual hikers need only keep their eyes open to find something interesting. This time of year, the butte is particularly lush with greenery and wildflowers, and there are a few gems to be found. Several orchid species grow on the butte, including pinkish-purple Venus' slippers (Calypso bulbosa). Animal life includes a variety of spiders and insects (watch the yellow flowers for neon-yellow, long-legged spiders) as well as small mammals and a huge variety of birds, including owls.

At the bottom of the trail, stretch your legs, take a break and be proud you've completed the hike. The Pine Ridge Trail isn't a huge challenge (it's easygoing enough for inexperienced hikers and even kids), but it's an interesting journey to take that isn't too far from home.
Local/CALENDAR

Thursday
Ashley Raines concert
Indie artist Ashley Raines will perform at 10 p.m. at John's Alley.

“The World’s Fastest Indian”
The PG-13 film “The World’s Fastest Indian” will play at 7 p.m. at the Kenworthy Performing Arts Center.

Friday
“The World’s Fastest Indian”
7 p.m. at the Kenworthy.

Stegner open forum
Idaho District Court Judge John Stegner will interview for the UI general counsel job June 8-9. An open forum with Judge Stegner will be at 4 p.m. in the Idaho Commons Clearwater Room. For more information and to submit comments, visit president.uidaho.edu.

BoiseCALENDAR

Today
Mon Frere concert
Pop band Mon Frere will perform at 5:30 p.m. at The Record Exchange. The concert is free.

Alive After Five
David Andrews will perform at 5 p.m. at the Grove in downtown Boise. The concert is free.

Thursday
Junior Brown concert
Country-rock artist Junior Brown will perform at 8 p.m. at The Egyptian Theatre. Tickets are $24 and available at the Boise Co-op, the Record Exchange, the theater’s box office or charge by phone at (208) 387-1273.

Friday
God-Dess and She concert
God-Dess and She will perform at 8 p.m. at The Big Easy. Tickets are $10 in advance at www.ticketweb.com and $15 at the door. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Saturday
Pride rally and parade
Your Family, Friends, and Neighbors, an Idaho group supporting gender identity and sexual orientation advocacy in Idaho, will sponsor a pride rally and parade as part of Boise’s Pride 2006. The rally begins at noon on the Statehouse steps, and the parade heads out from the steps at 1 p.m. and will end at the Grove. The festivities will continue at the Grove until 3 p.m.

Sunday
Pride Picnic
The Metropolitan Community Church will host the Pride Picnic from 1-3 p.m. at Municipal Park. There is a $5 suggested donation. The Pride Worship Service will follow at 5 p.m.

SpokaneCALENDAR

Thursday
Jucifer at Fat Tuesday’s
Rock band Jucifer will play at 7 p.m. at Fat Tuesday’s. Tickets are $8 at www.ticketwest.com.

Saturn to the World’s Fastest Indian”
7 p.m. at The Kenworthy.

Monday
Summer session begins
The four-to-eight-week summer session begins at UI.

On campus: basketball camp
UI’s Summer Basketball Camp will be on campus through June 15. The camp, which is for junior high and high school students, teaches the basic skills of basketball.

Tuesday
Live music at the Co-op
Zugunruhe will play at the Moscow Food Co-op today at 6 p.m. There is no cover charge, though the Co-op will offer $2 food and drink specials.

Wooly Day for kids
Co-op Kids! presents Wooly Day from 9-10 a.m. at the Moscow Food Co-op. Children ages 3-5 are invited to come with a parent or caregiver to this activity. Melissa Lines of SkyLines Farm will bring a baby lamb for the kids to meet. Other activities include felting and spinning. Please RSVP to Rebekka at amamaswork@yahoo.com.

June 14
Bookstore sale
The UI Bookstore will host a sidewalk sale from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. featuring pre-inventory clearance items.

Noontime concert
Chris Cunningham will perform from noon-1 p.m. on the Commons Lawn as part of the Noontime Concert Series.

“Dreamer”
The film “Dreamer,” rated PG, will show at 1 p.m. at the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre.

June 15
Face Down concert
Face Down will perform at 10 p.m. at the Alley.

Biodiesel conference
“From the Farm to the Field: Biodiesel One-Day Course” will feature workshops and speakers beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the Coeur d’Alene Resort. To register, call 1-866-651-5322.

Bookstore sale
The Bookstore’s sidewalk sale continues from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Fresh Aire concert
The Moscow Arts Commission Community Band will perform as part of the Fresh Aire Concert series from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at East City Park.

See CALENDAR, page 11
Ascending:

By Mackenzie Stone
Summer Arg

When climbers are clinging to a rock wall with two fingers and a sketchy foot placement, they'll do just about anything to hold on for a little longer before falling back to where they started.

Climbers will attempt spider-like positions, stretch two inches taller than they can reach or burn off their fingertips when the rock is scorching hot from baking in the sun all summer. But for some climbers it’s worth the pain.

Anything to keep them from putting weight on the rope.

Some students will continue to scale rocks at the Student Recreation Center climbing wall to escape the summer heat, but others may want to take advantage of some natural rock in the area, even if it means singed hands.

The University of Idaho Outdoor Program is offering several cooperative climbing trips this summer along with route information for outdoor climbing areas in the Palouse.

Signup for summer climbing instruction begins June 9 at the Outdoor Program’s office in the SRC. The program’s coordinator Mike Beiser said the climbing classes are sequential in difficulty and developing skill sets. He also said it’s a good time to develop climbing skills because there are fewer people on campus and climbing season is in its prime when the weather is most stable.

The first class is at the climbing wall and the sequence finishes with an ascent of Mount Rainier. The courses begin with basic techniques and gradually teach students the skill sets and knowledge to be a mountaineer.

“Rock climbing is confronting a puzzle. It’s not about getting to the top; it’s about overcoming a problem,” Beiser said. “Mountaineers try to climb a peak in the wilderness.”

Beiser said that mountaineers obtain skills that go beyond rock climbing, such as map reading, route finding and snow and ice skills. The Outdoor Program’s ideology behind the stepping-stone process is to help students transform from bouldering at the climbing wall to ascending mountains. The three trips combined cost $170, but Beiser said a similar class outside the university could run up to $4,000.

The trips are as follows:

Climbing Skills for Mountaineering: This is a basic rock-climbing skills course for mountaineering and high mountain travel. Students can spend an evening learning proper technique, safe equipment use and how to glue themselves to a wall with some chalk and a little muscle. They will get a basic run-down of the terminology and safety practices when climbing in the gym or on natural rock. Idaho has the largest university climbing wall in the Northwest with a 55-foot-high pillar and about 6,000 square feet of wall. The clinic is on July 6 for $10 at the SRC, welcoming any skill level.

Instructional Mountaineering Trip: For the second stepping stone, students will travel to Kootenai Glacier in Canada to develop basic mountaineering skills and will be introduced to snow and ice climbing. Beiser said students learn skills that go beyond the stereotypical ice climbing seen on TV with ice picks on a vertical wall. Students will learn how to safely ascend snow or ice walls that change and move constantly, which are less dependable than a solid ice wall. The trip is July 21-23 and cost $60, including transportation and instruction. Nice weather doesn’t mean students will spend the weekend in swimsuits or shorts —

See CLIMB, page 11

Climbers scale Mt. Rainier on one of the annual expeditions hosted by the UI Outdoor Program.

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See CLIMB, page 11

The UI Outdoor Program offers students progressive climbing program and area routes

The Web site can be your friend. Read about the new education dean’s big plans at argonaut.uidaho.edu

Glossary

Top rope climbing: a style of climbing during which protection is anchored at the top of the climb.

Lead climbing: a style of climbing in which climbers place protection in the rock as they climb, usually involving a multipitch climb.

Pitch: a section of a route in between two belay points.

Jamming: wedging any available body part in a crack in an attempt to hold on.

Smeared: using the friction of a climber's shoe against the rock wall.

Bouldering: climbing short, low routes without any protection. Climbers practice technique, gain confidence and build strength with this free climbing.

Belay: a form of safety in which a grounded person protects a climber through ropes and hardware.

Hardware: any metal equipment used in climbing, such as belay devices and lead climbing gear.

Rating system: climbing routes are rated on a scale from 5.0 to 5.13. There are specific rules for classifying different routes but in general, the number gets higher with the difficulty. Also, some systems include an a-d rating after the number system, which increases with difficulty as well. For example, a 5.2c climb is harder than a 5.2b climb. However, a 5.2b climb is easier than a 5.2d climb.
CALENDAR
from page 9

“Friends with Money”
The film “Friends with Money,” rated R, shows at 7 p.m. at the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre.

June 16
Janna Jones at the Co-op
The Co-op will host a reception for local artist Janna Jones from 5 to 8:30 p.m. at the Co-op café, which will open the ART-WALK exhibit featuring work by the artist.

Damon Castillo concert
The Damon Castillo band will play jazz at 10 p.m. at the Alley.

“Friends with Money”
7 p.m. at the Kenworthy.

June 17
Farmers’ Market
The Moscow Farmers’ Market will be open between 8 a.m. and noon at Friendship Square. Septilege will play at 9:30 p.m.

Young Immortals concert
Portland band The Young Immortals will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the Alley.

Contra dance
The Palouse Folklore Society will sponsor a contra dance at 7:30 p.m. at the Blaine Schoolhouse. House Blend from LaGrand, Ore., will provide music and Joseph Erhard-Hudin of Moscow will call the dance and teach. Admission is $4 for newcomers, $5 for members and $7 for nonmembers. For information or directions, call 892-0730 or visit www.palousefolkore.org.

Rose Creek work day
The Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute will host a work day at Rose Creek Preserve from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The work will include aspen restoration, trail care and weeding. Transportation will be a carpool from PCEI. For more information, e-mail Aly Bean at aly@peci.org or call 882-1444.

“Friends with Money”
4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Kenworthy.

June 18
Jazz at John’s
Local musicians will perform jazz classes beginning at 5 p.m. at the Alley.

“Friends with Money”
7 p.m. at the Kenworthy.

June 19
Moscow Library Book Club discussion
The Moscow Library Book Club will discuss “Outwitting History” by Aaron Lanksy from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Moscow Public Library. For more information, e-mail chris81@iastate.edu.

June 20
Summer barbecue and film
UI will sponsor a summer barbecue beginning at 6 p.m. and featuring steak with baked potato, salad, ice cream and a beverage for $5.50. Following will be the film “Glory Road” at dusk on the Rec Center lawn for free.

SPINNING
from page 5
add in the hand gestures required for drafting (controlling the thickness and twist of the fiber) and pinch- ing the wool into yarn.

“You're doing great,” she reassured me.

"You'll love this yarn in a year," she said.
"Experienced spinners can't get kinky yarn like this."
Learning how to card, draft and spin the wool, I became exhausted, but not discouraged. Already, I could envision the rainbow of skeins I would soon be producing and the projects I could knit from this homemade yarn.

I have a long way to go before I can crochet a poncho from yarn I made with my cat’s hair, but Sater has determined to become skilled at spinning.

CLIMB
from page 10
instead, they'll gear up in snow pants, helmets and spiked shoes. The Outdoor Program requires students to have previous backpacking and technical climbing experience, such as the first climbing clinic.

Mount Rainier climb: The final leg of the sequence is a cooperative trip up Mount Rainier, the highest volcano in the Cascade Range. It is a four-day trip August 3-6 in Washington, which will lead students in an attempt up 14,099 ft. to the summit.
Beiser has been atop Mount Rainier more than 30 times, mostly on cooperative trips with the Outdoor Program. The Outdoor Program requires students to have previous ice and snow climbing experience or attend the Kokanee trip. The cost is $80, which covers student transportation, equipment, peak fee and leadership. In addition to the summer climbing trips, the Outdoor Program is offering a climbing camp for teens at the end of June and a parent/youth adventure program that includes a day of outdoor top rope climbing. The SRC climbing wall summer hours are 3 to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday, and noon to 6 p.m. Saturday. The climbing wall staff offers basic instruction in belaying, and harness and rope use. It is $6 for students or $11 for non-students. Clinics can be scheduled or students can drop in during slow times.

"It's a good opportunity because there are lower numbers and it's less intimidating," Beiser said of the wall's summer availability.

He also said climbing helps students develop emotionally and mentally, as well as build physical strength.

Students that are already familiar with outdoor climbing have a few local options. There are three natural rock sites in the area with a few additional sites in Spokane. Each site has varying difficulties to accommodate any level of climber.

Moscow Mountain: This climbing area is best suited for beginning climbers and those who want to practice lead climbing. It is a low-populated area where students can practice basic techniques such as jamming and smearing through top rope or lead climbing. The granite rock is about 11 miles northeast of Moscow in a secluded area that may be hard to find. For directions, please contact the Outdoor Program.

Grain Point: With top ropes in mind, this climbing area is the most extensive and versatile in accommodating different levels of climbers. Routes range from 5.0 to 5.15a, with only a few solo routes and pitches for leading. It is a more populated area than Moscow Mountain, but has 29 top-roping routes.

The majority of the climbs are above a 5.10. While there are climbs that are for beginners, most of the routes are for intermediate to advanced climbers.

The climbing area is located past Pullman near the Snake River. The Outdoor Program office has difficulty charts and directions available upon request.

Southfork of the Clearwater River:
For lead climbers only, this area is the closest multi-pitch area to Moscow, with routes ranging from two to six pitches. There are multiple rock faces in the canyon but the most prominent routes are Lightning Dome. These routes require prior lead experience and students should not attempt these routes otherwise. The climbing area is south of Grangeville.

Climbers rest during during the annual mountaineering trip to Mount Rainier hosted by the UI Outdoor Program. This year’s trip will be Aug. 3-6 and costs $80. For more information about these climbing hot spots and other surrounding areas, please visit the Outdoor Program office. The outdoor rental center in the SRC also offers students with basic-to-advanced climbing equipment. However, the rental center does not lease ropes or all climbing hardware.
After three ‘X-Men’ movies, Rogue image fine with Paquin

By Mike Antonucci
Knight Ridder Newspapers

One question in particular really bugs Anna Paquin.

“Honestly,” she says, “the next person who comes up to me and says, ‘Aren’t you the little girl from ‘The Piano’?’ — I’m going to die.”

Fortunately, there’s a solution on the big-screen horizon. When “X-Men: The Last Stand” opens Friday, she will zoom back into the public consciousness as Rogue, one of the comic-book superheroes who have evolved from cult icons to pop-culture VIPs.

No one snickers anymore about the artistic merit of movies based on comics. Almost everyone is conscious of the breadth of their appeal, and film critics have found plenty of highbrow grist in flicks such as “Sin City” and even the two “Spider-Man” blockbusters.

It’s no wonder that Paquin appreciates the reverence that fans have for the X-men characters.

“I will take being Rogue for the rest of my life,” she says. She also adds — with boisterous fierceness — that she feels a profound sense of ownership about the stamp she has put on Rogue’s persona.

Paquin says moving from New Zealand to the United States at 16 was followed by a “distinctly awkward period of time where I was trying to ditch my accent.” Ramirez describes the same type of experience, coming “from the Dominican Republic and not speaking the language and walking into a brand-new culture.”

Ashmore, who read X-Men comics growing up, says the substance of the X-Men movies is just as important as the special effects and revamped interest from hard-core fans.

“The X-Men,” he says with emphasis, “have a very important message.”

The X-Men’s movie future has generated lots of speculation, although most of the chatter has been about spinoffs that highlight selected characters, rather than an “X-Men 4.” Asked for comment last week, 20th Century Fox sent this statement to the San Jose Mercury News: “This is the last of the X-Men movies, and while spinoffs are a possibility, there are NO current plans for another full X-Men movie.”

Some fans will focus on the capitalized “NO.” Others will take comfort that it’s just a matter of “current plans” (things change, right?). But Paquin won’t be surprised if “The Last Stand” was the last chance to “round this many of us up — I think it was a scheduling nightmare.”

“I’m just grateful to have been part of it,” Ashmore says. “I had a great run. I got to grow with the character.”

Indeed, Ashmore’s role will echo through years of fan convention trivia contests: “I auditioned and was hired as Pyro, and once I started working, they made me Iceman.”

Paquin, whose Rogue character is romantically connected to Iceman, thinks the recasting of Ashmore gave extra luster to the X-Men’s sense of personality.

“Take a look at the man,” she says, mulling over the choice between the fire-powered Pyro and the fast-freezing Iceman.

“Those are the most beautiful clear blue eyes you’ll ever hope to see. You couldn’t waste that.”

Don’t cook your own goose by ignoring propane-grill safety

By Nick Harder
The Orange County Register

With the traditional start of the barbecue grilling season, it’s a good time to take safety precautions with your propane grill.

“We always have a few grilling accidents about this time of year,” said Capt. Stephen Miller, spokesman for the Orange County (Calif.) Fire Authority.

The number of people who use propane grills at home is substantial compared with other types of home grilling. The Propane Education & Research Council estimates that 65 percent of those who barbecue use propane. Whenever I visit a home center these days, I notice a vast number of barbecue grills on display as I walk in the door. Propane grills dominate the lineup.

Almost 60 percent of those surveyed last year by the trade group said they planned to spend Memorial Day weekend barbecuing with family and friends. Of that number, 72 percent of those who are parents said barbecuing at home was their favorite way to spend the weekend.

That’s a lot of people using propane grills.

So here are some tips from the Propane Council — and me — to help you get your propane grill ready for the coming season and to keep it — and you — in one piece.

When you take in your propane cylinder to have it refilled, ask the supplier to check it for dents, rust areas or leaks.

Once it is determined that the cylinder is OK and it’s refilled, take it home immediately. Don’t leave it in your vehicle where it could be a risk from outside heat or an auto accident.

Once home, store the cylinder in a well-ventilated space keeping the cylinder valve closed and capped.

If possible, use and store the propane cylinder outdoors and in an upright (vertical) position. This may seem obvious, but don’t smoke while you’re handling a cylinder.

When you connect the cylinder to the grill, check for leaks. This can be as simple as putting thick soap suds on the connection point. If you see bubbles forming by gas leaking from the connection, don’t fire up your grill.

For heaven’s sake and yours, don’t test the connections using a match or lighter. (You’d be amazed at how many people do that every year, Miller said.) Make sure the grill top is open when you light the fire.

Never leave the grill unattended when using it, even for a short time just to bring out food, utensils or fixings. Have someone watch the grill or do the legwork for you.

Don’t let children play near the grill. They could bump it accidentally, causing it to fall over or a connection to become loose.

After you’ve used the grill, turn its controls off and make sure the cylinder valve is closed.

Miller added one final precaution.

“Don’t barbecue right next to something like plastic lawn furniture,” he said. “That sort of thing can ignite pretty fast.”
Twin Lakes: Natural refuge

Near Coeur d'Alene there are two lakes connected by a narrow thoroughfare. Their waters provide for different types of fishing as well as an abundance of plant and animal life. Above, a moose splashes around while below ducklings prepare to jump into the water. On the right, a lilypad floats in the shallows of one of the lakes; on the left a heron takes off.
CONCERT
from page 6

ing, yet the crowd, including myself, ate it up. Unfortunately, there seemed to be some problems with Bauhaus' equipment. It was difficult to make out the words in the music, and there was a roadie on stage messing with panel boards and amplifiers almost constantly. This problem aside, when the band ended its last song, sung by a cape-wearing and madly twirling Peter Murphy, I was sad to see their set end.

While the roadies set up the NIN show, I quickly headed off to the bathrooms, along with a few hundred other people. I'm sorry, my fellow men, but beer plus long line does not equal permission to pee in a sink or break the "one man to one toilet" rule.

The horrors of the men's room behind me, I returned to my seat scant minutes before NIN came on. The stage was now hidden behind curtains of metal links and bars, obscuring nearly everything. Slowly the backlights came on, revealing the current members of NIN and a noticeably buff Reznor, proving to me that he has traded in heroin for endorphins are true.

Reznor is famed for his manic perfectionism, releasing only four albums in 17 years, but it has definitely paid off. I have never been to a rock concert where the sound was so crisp, the lyrics so clear. The audience followed every word, singing every song in unison with Reznor. NIN songs have always been engaging, not speaking to the listener but screaming and evoking raw emotion and feeling. It's not necessary to understand what the lyrics mean, it's that raw element of the music itself, that tribal rhythm that makes a good lad go all "Altered States."

Always on the cutting edge, NIN's light show and stage effects were breathtaking. Metal screens covered the whole stage moved around during the performance, acting as a see-through projection screen, in one case dripping blood and bathing the band in crimson. What touched me most at the concert, though, wasn't the special effects or the live renditions of the songs I have grown up loving. It was the heartfelt apology Reznor gave to the audience for never coming to Boise before. I can only hope that means he'll come again and play "Perfect Drug."

After a few encores, the concert ended, and so did my last. My aunt finally got to see Bauhaus, a band she will probably never have the opportunity to see again. And I was able to see Nine Inch Nails live with her, the band she helped me discover. Lastly, NIN played in Boise, an event the city has waited 17 years for, and, Reznor willing, will always be a destination displayed proudly on all NIN shirts from this day forth.

SportsBRIEFS
Three Vandal's qualify for NCAA National meet

Three UI track and field athletes qualified for the NCAA National meet Saturday during the final day of the 2006 NCAA West Regional competition May 26-27 in Provo, Utah.

Russ Winger finished fifth in the men's shot put with a throw of 59-11 3/4 to qualify for Nationals in his second event. Winger qualified in the discus on Friday.

Dee Olson pulled in a fourth-place finish in the 1500m run with a time of 4:25.42 to qualify for her first trip to Nationals, while Bevin Kennedy placed fifth in the 8k steeplechase with a time of 10:36:80 to qualify.

Other finishes included Jen Bronchewe placing 11th in the women's hammer throw with a personal best mark of 190-10.

It was the heartfelt apology Reznor gave to the audience for never coming to Boise before. I can only hope that means he'll come again and play "Perfect Drug."

Torgison and Davis tied for fourth-place in the women's javelin fall with a personal best mark of 154-3.

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Three Vandal's qualify for NCAA National meet

UI earned a tie for fifth place in the fourth annual Western Athletic Conference Commissioner's Cup standings.

In Idaho's inaugural season competing in the WAC, the Vandals earned 82.50 points, capturing a conference title in women's cross country and finishing second in both the indoor and outdoor track championships.

Boise State claimed the first-place ranking (96.50), followed by Nevada (93.75) and Fresno State (89.50). Utah State finished fourth (87) while Hawaii (82.50) tied for fifth. San Jose State (75.75), Louisiana Tech (74.25) and New Mexico State (73.50) rounded out the standings.

The WAC awards its Commissioner's Cup to the school that performs the best in each of the conference's 19 men's and women's championships. Nine points are awarded for first place, eight for second place, etc., in every sport (regardless of the number of teams). Points are averaged between a team's regular season finish and its WAC championship finish. Ties are not broken but instead are averaged between the tied teams. Affiliate members are not eligible for the Commissioner's Cup but their standings in WAC championships are still used for determining points.

Former Vandal new basketball head coach in Kansas

Former UI basketball player Kris Baumann was announced as Garden City Community College's new men's basketball head coach on May 24. He takes over in Garden City, Kan., after serving one season as assistant coach for the Broncbusters at University of Texas-Pan American.

"I'm humbled," Baumann said. "This is indeed an honor to have an opportunity to be a part of the rich tradition and history that is associated with this program and this college." Baumann, a native of New Plymouth, played basketball at New Plymouth High School and became the 1994 Idaho Gatorade Player of the Year. He was also selected for the prestigious Nike All-American Basketball Camp prior to his senior year. He became one of UI's top three-point shooters, ranking third in all-time career three-pointers with 150. He also holds the fifth-highest single-season total for three-pointers attempted at 184.

Baumann was the Vandals' team captain in both his junior and senior seasons. He earned his bachelor's degree from Idaho in 2000.
War dissenters again finding voice in music

By Dan DeLuca
Knight Ridder Newspapers

"War! What is it good for?"
"Absolutely nothing!"

Edwin Starr got it wrong. "War," the Motown singer's 1970 hit, is not good for "absolutely nothing!"

War — or at least the ever-more-unpopular war in Iraq — can be good for at least one thing: protest music.

As presidential approval ratings spiral downward, pop artists are letting loose antiwar and anti-Bush salves, and venting their frustration with everything from the Hurricane Katrina aftermath to the mounting death tolls in a three-year-old war with no end in sight.

There isn't a groundswell to rival the golden years of protest music during the civil rights and anti-Vietnam War movements of the '60s and '70s.

But war is good for Neil Young, who has shaken himself awake with "Living With War," the cranky, noisy song cycle he rushed out this month. The Canadian citizen and longtime U.S. resident makes his feelings plain in the song "Let's Impeach the President."

It's good for Pearl Jam, the Seattle rockers led by Eddie Vedder, whose fired-up new album damning the Iraq war as "World Wide Suicide" is their best work since their mid-'90s heyday.

And it's good for the Dixie Chicks, the country-pop superstars who take an unapologetic stance on "Not Ready To Make Nice," the lead-off single from "Taking the Long Way," released Tuesday. The album is their first since 2003, when singer Natalie Maines brought on an avalanche of criticism by saying she was "ashamed of the president of the United States is from Texas."

Criticizing George W. Bush during the run-up to the invasion of Iraq was a real risk, and earned the Chicks the ostracism of the country music establishment — not to mention death threats. But three years on, nobody seems afraid to target a president whose approval ratings have dropped to a record low. And like Stephen Colbert at the White House correspondents' dinner, pop singers across the musical spectrum are taking shots at the chief executive.

Some of the dissenters are unsurprising. Though just last year Young was in a becalmed, elegiac mood on his "Prairie Wind" album, he's made a come-over-abrupt about-face, and his protest-music pedigree reaches back to "Ohio" in 1970. Bruce Springsteen, who spearheaded the Vote for Change tour in 2004, went on the attack last month in New Orleans, where he dedicated a rewritten version of Blind Alfred Reed's stock-market-crash song "How Can A Poor Man Stand Such Times and Live?" to "President Bystander." And the Boss has been including both the Irish antiwar anthem "Man of Harlequin" and Pete Seeger's "Bring Em Home" in his live shows in Europe.

Bohemian artists such as the Flaming Lips, who are not known for overly political music, have little to lose with all-rock audiences by releasing a song like "Fainten's Got a Clue," which — referring to Bush — rhymes, "Every time you state your case, the more I want to punch your face."

But criticism has also come from unexpected quarters. Frustration over Katrina has opened up a domestic front alongside the antigwar protests. Country music's first couple, Tim McGraw and Faith Hill, both from Gulf states, let Bush have it in March, calling the lack of progress in Louisiana and Mississippi "embarrassing" and "humilitating" and "bull—"

Perhaps the most unpredictable example is "Dear Mr. President," which marks the emergence of Pink as a protest singer "who might actually get played on terrestrial radio," as it was put by politically minded rock historian Dave Marsh.

In her (less-than-stellar) song written with the Indigo Girls, Pink goes after W. with guns blazing: "You've come a long way," she sneers, "from whiskey and cocaine."

Do all these disparate acts airing their discontent add up to a new flowering of protest music? Not necessarily. It's not blooming out of the fertile soil of a social movement, as it did in the '60s.

With the Internet and their own celebrity on their side, today's protesting pop acts have the power to get their messages out. But as they try to force a cultural tipping point, they risk preaching to the converted.

"With Vietnam, you had a movement," says Marsh. "Now you don't have a movement. You have a president with low approval ratings, and a bunch of songs."

Pop music is not monolithic, and not everybody's out to get W. Bush was backed by country acts Brooks & Dunn and Lee Ann Womack in 2004. Boston alt-metal band Godsmack, whose album "AWake" entered the Billboard chart at No. 1 this month, have allowed their songs "Awake" and "Sick of Life" to be used in military ads. "Somebody in the Navy loves this band," singer Sully Erna told Arthur magazine. "I'm proud of it."
SUMMER CONCERTS
SUMMER 2006
ON THE GREEN

COMMONS LAWN 12pm-1pm

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STUDENT REC CENTER LAWN
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JUNE 20 ★ JULY 18 ★ JULY 25 ★

Tues June 20
Glory Road, PG

Tues July 18
National Treasure, PG

Tues July 25
Curious George, G

http://www.sdsu.edu/nocomes