

# TIMES-NEWS

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**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2017**

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PAT SUTPHIN PHOTOS, TIMES-NEWS

Daniel Olmstead of Idaho Power talks about a solar panel Wednesday in the desert north of Shoshone.

# Idaho Power uses solar panels to solve rural low-voltage issue

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RICHFIELD — Some 16 miles north-east of Shoshone, farmland sprawls between houses, and sheds protect irrigation pumps along canals. Abandoned vehicles sit crumpled and rusted while cows graze in a field nearby.

Just beyond one of the ranch buildings, a power line ends abruptly. At its base, a chain-link fence protects the 72 south-facing panels soaking up the sun's rays.

What are these solar panels doing out in the middle of Idaho's desert? Here, at the end of the line, they're helping to maintain voltage for 13 farm and ranching customers — a solution that's the first of its kind in Idaho, and possibly anywhere.

"We're able to provide voltage supply by generating energy locally," said Patrick Perry, one of the electrical engineers for Idaho Power Co. who helped get the project in place. "In this situation, it works because we're out of alternative solutions."

The power line here runs 26 line miles from the nearest substation, north of Magic Reservoir. It's unusually long for a "feeder line," which typically serve only



Daniel Olmstead of Idaho Power inspects a solar panel Wednesday that sits in the desert north of Shoshone.

10 to 20 line miles of customers, Idaho Power spokesman Dan Olmstead said.

Just like a garden hose, the longer a power line is, the less pressure (or voltage, in this case) is at the end, he said. That's partly because of the resistance of the overhead line itself.

In this case, the older conductor, Perry said, has a relatively high resistance in it. As a result, voltage wasn't staying up to the company's quality standards.

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# CSI upgrading Wi-Fi infrastructure

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TWIN FALLS — It was a common complaint among College of Southern Idaho students: Wireless Internet access wasn't always reliable — or even existent in some places.

But now, that's changing. CSI is upgrading wireless infrastructure at its Twin Falls campus to include 185 access points — both indoor and outdoor. The college plans to wrap up

the project by the end of 2017.

Students often complained about not having wireless access in outdoor public spaces such as gathering areas and parking lots. Plus, CSI's old wireless system was outdated and the manufacturer is no longer supporting the equipment.

"Before, if you ever asked any students on campus what our wireless was like, they said 'it was terrible. It sucks,'" said Bruce Nukaya, systems and net-

work architecture director for CSI.

The \$160,000 project includes two phases and started last year. The first one, which is complete, included installing new wireless access points inside campus buildings.

Now, CSI information technology employees are wrapping up the second phase: installing outdoor access points. It has about 25 left to go.

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# Jerome County crash kills 2, injures 6

TIMES-NEWS

JEROME — Two people died and six people were injured Saturday night in a crash in Jerome County.

Martina E. Rivera Sandoval, 44, of Jerome was killed in the crash at 150 West, 100 North. A child later died at a hospital.

According to the Idaho State Police, Shentasha L. Bybee, 20, of Rexburg, was driving a BMW north on 150 West when she failed to yield for a stop sign, colliding with a vehicle driven by Luis V. Ortiz Vega, 48, of Jerome, who was driving a Dodge minivan.

Bybee was taken by ambulance to St. Luke's Jerome Medical Center. Bybee's passengers, Michael J. Wornell, 29, of Twin Falls, and Cole A. Hatcher, 23, of Jerome, were flown via to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise.

Vega and two children were also flown to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise. One child was taken to St. Luke's in Jerome. The condition of those injured was not available Sunday night.

The intersection was blocked for about 5 1/2 hours.

ISP is investigating. Jerome Police Department, Jerome County Sheriff's Office, Jerome County Rural Fire Department, Magic Valley Paramedics, Life Flight Network and Air Saint Luke's assisted.

# City to consider developer's request

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TWIN FALLS — The developer of the Canyon Village subdivision on the corner of Pole Line and Eastland roads wants to remove architectural restrictions the city put on his residential and professional properties.

Kent Taylor, a partner with Northeast Developments, says the restrictions don't make a lot of sense for the development now that it's been developed.

A house constructed on the north of Cheney Drive had a garage facing Cheney Drive, which is prohibited in the agreement. Taylor, however, noted there is fencing obscuring it from Cheney Drive, and the entrance to the home is not along that street.

"It's kind of a moot point, and it was never intended to restrict the development, as it was developed," he said.

The house was also built with materials not strictly permitted in the agreement, but Taylor doesn't see that as an issue.

The Planning and Zoning Commission recommends the City Council remove the restrictions on residential and professional units on the property, but keep the restrictions on the townhouses planned for the development.

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■ **If you do one thing:** Buttons 'N Bows will hold a new session of beginning square dance lessons at 7 p.m. at the Jerome High School cafeteria, 104 Tiger Drive. First lesson is free.

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SUDOKU	B6	JUMBLE	B9		



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## General Exhibition

Open to the public Nov. 18-20, 2017  
Saturday 9am-5pm • Sunday 12pm-5pm • Monday 9am-5pm

**Free Breakfast & Pictures with Santa**  
(with admission)

**Breakfast with Santa**  
Saturday Nov. 18th  
9am-11am

Hot Breakfast Provided by:  
McDonald's, Jack-in-the-Box, Chick-fil-ee

**Family Day** PLANT THERAPY\*  
Sunday • Nov. 19th  
12pm-5pm

**Pictures with Princesses**  
1pm-3pm

**Live Entertainment All Day Every Day**

## Senior Social

**Monday November 20th**  
10am-4pm

Serving Cookies, Tea, Hot Cocoa, Coffee and Cider  
Free Ornaments to All Seniors.

Detailed information at [www.MagicValleyFestivalOfGiving.com](http://www.MagicValleyFestivalOfGiving.com)  
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