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President Bush visits Valley County

his wife, Louise, who live in McCall and are friends with Bush's father, former President George H.W. Bush.

The Bushes stayed in a 4,000-square-foot, four-bedroom home owned by Marc and Sue Warnke of Boise.

The homesits on Pinnacle Court and is one of the highest homes at Tamarack in terms of altitude, with a striking view of Lake Cascade.

Tamarack CEO Jean-Pierre Boesflug called the house "medium-sized" when compared to some of the resort's larger homes, but it was the closest to being ready for a high-profile visitor, he said.

The home was selected for Bush by the Secret Service because was relatively easy to secure, Boesflug said.

Everyone who traveled up the hillside road to see Bush was screened by the Secret Service and then ferried to

the house, Boesflug said. That included Tamarack's Executive Chef, Gary Kucy, who prepared dinner for the Bushes on Monday evening.

Dinner at home

On Wednesday, Kucy said he had provided possible menus to Bush ahead of time and he was ready to serve dinner in Tamarack's fine-dining restaurant, Morels.

But at the last minute, Bush decided to have dinner at the house, and Kucy cooked in the Warnke's kitchen, just a few feet from the president.

"He initiated a lot of personal conversation," Kucy said. "He seemed very relaxed - very much like he was on vacation."

On Tuesday, Kucy served dinner at Morels to a group of about 14 people, including the Bushes, Kempthorne

and his wife Patricia, Idaho Sen. Larry Craig, Idaho Sen. Mike Crapo, Idaho Rep. Mike Simpson and Idaho Rep. Butch Otter.

Kucy said cooking for the president was "a little more stressful" than his usual guests, but he served what Morels normally serves - wild salmon, Kobe beef, and other items culled from local farmers' markets.

"We wanted to show them that we can cook more than potatoes here," Kucy said.

Secret Service agents watched over the food preparation and tasted food before it was served, Kucy said. The Bushes seemed "very happy" with the food, he said.

"I'm guessing it was good," Kucy said. "They ate breakfast, lunch and dinner here."

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Photo courtesy Paula Sutherland
President Bush and Tamarack Resort CEO Jean-Pierre Boesflug pause during a bike tour of the resort on Tuesday.

Bush relaxes at Tamarack with long bike rides, fishing

BY BEN SALMON

The Star-News

President George W. Bush seemed relaxed and friendly during his stay at Tamarack Resort this week, according to resort staffers who visited with him.

Bush and his wife, Laura, arrived at Tamarack on Monday aboard the Marine One helicopter, which landed on hole No. 4 of the resort's brand new golf course.

Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne traveled with the Bushes from Salt Lake City to Boise and then to Tamarack.

The group was greeted on the ground by former Idaho Sen. Jim McClure and



◆ **UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL**
 At left: Tamarack golf course worker Paula Sutherland of Cascade managed to get President Bush to pause long enough on his bike ride Tuesday to have their photo taken by a Secret Service agent.

Photo courtesy Paula Sutherland

◆ **MEET THE PRESS**

Lower left: President Bush and Gov. Dirk Kempthorne meet with the news media during their visit to Tamarack Resort.

Photo courtesy Tamarack Resort

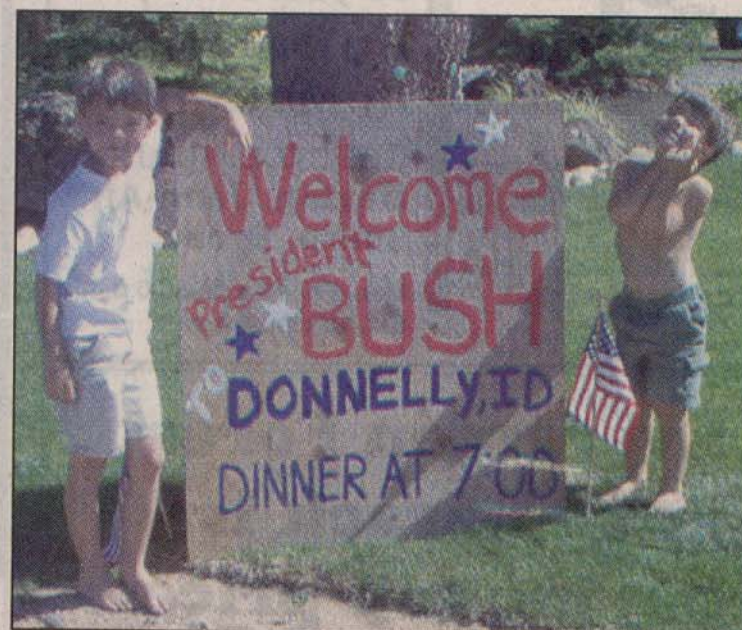
◆ **COME TO DINNER**

Below: Keaton Davis, 6, left, and his brother, Kendall, 4, of Boise stand by a sign put up at their vacation home on Roseberry Road by their parents, Darbi and Gary Davis. "We are so excited to share our piece of heaven with President Bush, our sons thought it would be fun if he could come for dinner," Darbi Davis said.

Photo by Darbi Davis



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Bush

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Full day Tuesday

The president was likely hungry by dinner time on Tuesday after a day full of activities. He met briefly with a small group of reporters in the morning and then joined Boespflug, Kempthorne, and Secret Service agents on a 16-mile ride on Tamarack's bike trails.

The ride started on a roadway to "loosen (Bush) up," Boespflug said. Before long, however, Bush had left his riding partners in the dust, Boespflug said.

"He was making (me) sweat real hard and (Kempthorne) as well," he said. "He is a very strong rider and very fit."

Bush "liked to ride a little of everything," including single-track and dual-track trails, a skill feature called a "biker cross," and a variety of other paths.

He rode for nearly two hours on Tuesday and "seemed to be enjoying himself immensely," Boespflug said.

"He commented on the variety (of terrain) compared to (his ranch in Crawford, Texas)," Boespflug said.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Bushes and Kempthorne took a two-hour boat tour of Lake Cas-

cade in a Tamarack boat guided by Greg Boll.

Boll said the quartet was very warm and relaxed, as the boat headed south past the Duck Creek Wildlife Management Area on the lake's western shore.

Later, the men fished north of Sugarloaf Island and the women watched for birds and wildlife. The group saw osprey, white pelicans and western grebes, and Laura Bush often asked about the animals, Boll said.

"There was lighthearted conversation," Boll said. "They enjoyed seeing the mountains from the lake perspective."

Experienced angler

Bush was clearly an experienced fisherman, Boll said. He and Kempthorne "got a few nibbles" but never pulled a fish out of the water, Boll said.

At about 6 p.m., they turned around and headed back to the resort to prepare for the dinner at Morels.

On Wednesday morning, Bush again hit the bike trails before boarding Marine One for his speech to military families in Nampa. This time, Bush biked alone.

He followed generally the same path as the day before and was done in about one hour and 20 minutes, Boespflug said.

"I think he realized we have

something very special here in Idaho," Boespflug said.

Tamarack's golf course, with nine of its 18 holes ready for play, was manicured and ready for an executive tee time, but Bush did not hit the links, Boespflug said.

Many of his staffers, however, played a lot of golf during the visit, he said.

Bush's two trips around the bike park pleased Boespflug, who made the trails a focus of early construction efforts.

"It feels like a fantastic reward for our hard work," he said of the successful visit. "We had a vision of connecting our guests to the wonderful nature here and I think he felt that connection."