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MEDIA NOTICE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Virtual Tours of the State Capitol now online at Capitol Commission Website

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(BOISE) – Anyone with an interest in looking inside the Idaho State Capitol from their internet browser is just a couple of clicks away now that the Capitol restoration team has launched a virtual tour of what the building looked like in the last week of the 2007 legislative session. The Capitol is currently closed for the most comprehensive restoration, rehabilitation and expansion in its 102-year history, but visitors can see the Capitol as it looked when it last functioned as the seat of Idaho government via the World Wide Web.

“This is a great way to keep the public in touch with the Capitol until we reopen to the public in 2010,” said Dr. Stephen Hartgen. Hartgen, from Twin Falls, has served on the Capitol Commission since its inception in 1998.

“We encourage citizen input to improve the tours and hope that our elementary school teachers find ways to incorporate the tours into their curriculum,” said Commissioner Sandra Patano from Coeur d’Alene. “We expect that we will hear from forth grade educators who need this material to supplement the year-long social studies topic over Idaho.”

The tours take visitors through a 360 degree journey of the Idaho Capitol by viewing 13 of the building’s public areas. Easy to follow buttons and icons are designed into the virtual tour viewer so that no previous computer experience is necessary to enjoy a visit. The easiest way to begin is from the virtual tour icon at the center of the Commission’s home page (www.capitolcommission.idaho.gov).

“We appreciate the public’s understanding thus far with disrupting the streets and grounds of the Capitol,” said Jack Kane, Commission Chairman. “We hope this is something we can give back to the public while they wait,” he said.

