

## Steelers unplug Chargers

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## New cars, new strategies

Auto CEOs optimistic about new products.

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## Aubrey Watch

Gooding woman competes on NBC's "The Biggest Loser Couples."

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# TIMES-NEWS

Monday, January 12, 2009

MagicValley.com

# Impact fees, pool work on city agenda

By Nate Poppino  
Times-News writer

Impact fees, a contract for work on the city pool and possible new fees for hooking up to city services are among items on the Twin Falls City Council's agenda tonight.

Council members approved the city's revised comprehensive plan last week, paving the way for impact fees to be discussed. Tonight, the second of two public hearings will focus on a proposed ordinance creating the

fees, paid by builders before a building permit is issued as one way the city can pay for its growth.

According to a staff report, the proposed ordinance would set fees aside for police, fire, parks and street improvements, as well as detail the process of collecting fees and issuing refunds and exemptions.

Impact fees for a single-family home would cost \$1,606, retail space \$1.68 per square foot, industrial space 67 cents per square foot and

so on. The suggested amounts are largely the result of a committee that studied a consultant's recommendation, which first came in at \$4,977 for a single-family home.

A "fee administrator" would oversee collecting the fees, preparing an annual report for the council and other duties. The report suggests adding that role to Finance Director Gary Evans' duties.

The council will also consider awarding a bid for re-plastering work on the city

pool, a project officials budgeted \$110,000 for. The work would fully replace the plaster on the pool, which has only had minor patch work done as needed since the facility was built in 1989. A staff report puts the life expectancy of the type of plaster used at about 10 to 15 years, depending on maintenance and upkeep.

The city sent four requests for proposals to three Utah companies and one in Idaho,

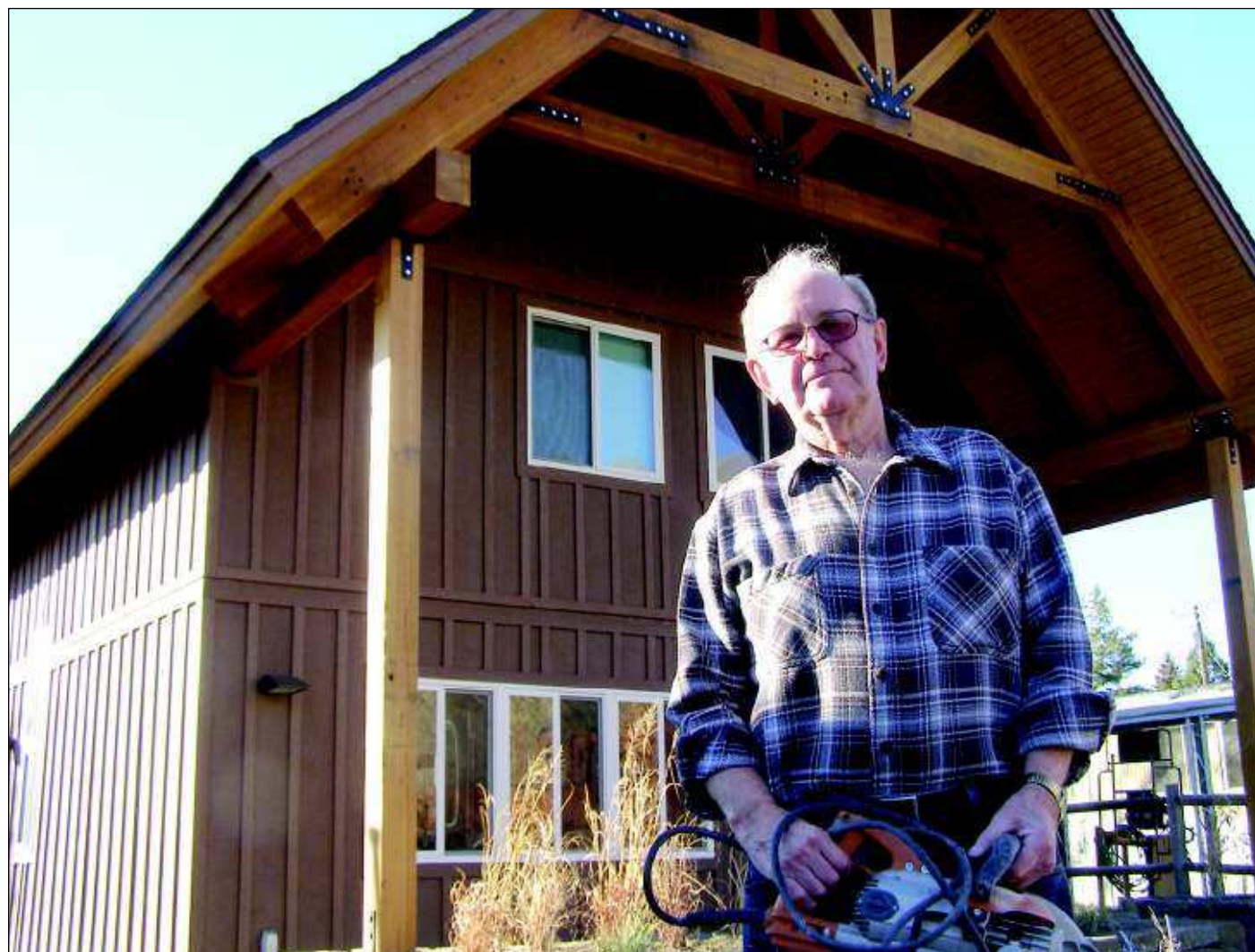
Please see **POOL**, Page A2



Times-News file photo

Workers assemble the huge bubble around the YMCA City Pool in September in Twin Falls. The Twin Falls City Council tonight will consider awarding a nearly \$100,000 contract for re-plastering the pool, one of several items on its agenda.

# An historic Habitat



KAREN BOSSICK/For the Times-News

Hailey resident Al Heath, 80, didn't let age stand in the way of working long days on the Wood River Valley's first Habitat for Humanity house. Workers hoped to have the house built by September, but the family moved in just in time for the holidays.

## Many assisted in Wood River Valley's first Habitat house

By Karen Bossick  
Times-News correspondent

Al Heath needed no introduction as he knocked on the door of Rene and Kristina Rodriguez's new home.

"Oh my gosh," Kristina excitedly blurted as she opened the door, immediately

giving Heath a big hug.

Heath is considered part of the Rodriguez family now, after spending three months hammering nails, sawing boards and swabbing 35 gallons of paint to make their home a reality.

Heath, 80, worked nearly every day on the Rodriguez's

house, the first Habitat for Humanity home built in the Wood River Valley.

The two-story home, located across the street from Bellevue Elementary School, enabled Rene, Kristina and their seven children to move from Eden to Bellevue to be closer to Hailey where Rene works as a sheriff's deputy.

"Before, there were days he couldn't even come home — he'd have to spend the night at a friend's house because we lived so far

away," Kristina said.

Many worked on the house, including Garth Callaghan, who oversaw its construction; architect Carolyn Wicklund, Realtor Cindy Ward and students from Wood River High School's Construction Academy.

The Magic Valley Habitat group even helped fast track the project because of the "serious" lack of community housing in the Wood River Valley, said Linda Fleming,

## Senate votes to move forward on lands bill

Final vote could be this week; Risch casts first vote in office

By Nate Poppino  
Times-News writer

The U.S. Senate moved forward on a landmark public lands bill Sunday, voting 66-12 to close debate on the bill and setting up a possible final vote later this week.

The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 is a holdover from last year, and contains more than 150 various land bills and related issues.

The package includes

several items affecting Idaho, including a proposal by Sen. Mike Crapo for an 807-square-mile Owyhee wilderness area, \$3 million tabbed by former Sen. Larry Craig for water storage projects in the state and suggested "wild and scenic" status for a 387-mile stretch of the Snake River and its tributaries in Wyoming.

It also would transfer 165 acres owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to the city of Twin Falls to become part of a park near Auger Falls, as well as provide funding to compensate ranchers who lose stock to wolves and approve changing the name of the Snake River Birds of Prey area to honor raptor and related issues.

Please see **LANDS**, Page A2

## City recovers Jesus statue at shopping mall

Staff report

A missing statue of the baby Jesus is back in the hands of the city of Twin Falls.

The statue, part of the city's Nativity scene put up every year in Twin Falls City Park, went missing sometime between Dec. 20 and Jan. 5. City officials spread word of the disappearance last week.

Parks and Recreation Director Dennis Bowyer said Sunday that the statue was recovered Friday evening after his oldest son noticed it in the back of a car parked at the Magic Valley Mall. He sent a picture of the car to his father by cell phone, and Bowyer

called police after running out to the scene at about 6 p.m.

The car, he said, belonged to "somebody working inside the mall" who said the statue was given to them by another person. Twin Falls Police were called and are now investigating the matter.

Police confirmed Sunday that one person was charged with possession of stolen property in the matter. Sgt. Steve Benkula said he was not sure whether she worked at the mall or was just shopping, and could not confirm whether anyone else is being investigated in connection with the case.

Please see **JESUS**, Page A2

# Times-News kicks off webcast

Times-News

There's a new way to watch the news in the Magic Valley — and beyond.

Starting today and continuing each weekday at 4:45 p.m. the *Times-News* will offer a concise review of the day's news and weather via the Internet, at [www.magicvalley.com](http://www.magicvalley.com).

Hosted and written by reporter Andrea Jackson, the webcast will be filled with

local and state news, highlighted by video and photos from the award-winning *Times-News* staff. It will be produced and directed by Pat Marcantonio, a longtime *Times-News* writer and former television reporter.

Unlike the broadcast medium, the TNW webcast provides news on demand. While initially offered at 4:45 p.m. daily, the video news production can be seen at any time simply by clicking on the Web

site video viewer or, in a larger format, on the TNW camera logo at the top of the [Magicvalley.com](http://Magicvalley.com) homepage.

"The TNW is an entirely new approach for the newspaper, and it allows us to bring the resources of the region's largest newsgathering team to a different form of media," said *Times-News* Editor James G. Wright. "We've offered news and video reports on the Web for some time, but this will be

our first regularly scheduled daily newscast."

The TNW reports will not replace the *Times-News'* traditional print edition or its online version, but will enhance it by offering a quick look at the news, Wright said.

In addition to its print and Web versions, the *Times-News* is also offered as an electronic edition that allows subscribers to read a digital form of the printed page over the Internet.



ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

Reporter Andrea Jackson and producer Pat Marcantonio prepare for the new TNW program to be presented each weekday from the *Times-News* newsroom.



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Bridge.....B9 Classifieds .....B6-17  
Calendar .....A2 Comics .....B5

Crossword.....B11  
Dear Abby .....B8  
Horoscope .....B8  
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Movies .....A12  
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Opinion .....A8  
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Today in History .....B8  
To do for you .....B2  
Weather .....B12



High: 41 Low: 29

Partly to mostly sunny. Details: B12 and live at [magicvalley.com/weather](http://magicvalley.com/weather)



# Idaho Power enters energy education discussion

## Proposals would expand on existing company programs

By Nate Poppino  
Times-News writer

Idaho Power Co. proposals for spending \$500,000 on energy education projects in southern Idaho schools dovetail nicely with suggestions from other groups, those involved in a workshop Thursday in Boise said afterwards.

The state Public Utilities Commission is considering whether to spend the money on energy-efficiency education at schools in Idaho Power's service territory. The

funds are left over from the sale of sulfur dioxide emission allowances last year.

The utility brought forward three areas of its programs it thought could be expanded for two years, using \$250,000 a year. About \$90,000 would pay for tying a home energy audit program more closely to the classroom. Student teams could use \$85,000 to examine energy use at their schools and present possible efficiency measures to district administrators and others. And \$75,000 could build on a pro-

**Speak out**

To submit comments on the energy education proposals, visit <http://www.puc.idaho.gov>, click on "Comments & Questions," fill in the case number (IPC-E-08-11) and enter your comments. Or mail them to: P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0074, or fax: 208-334-3762.

gram that puts solar panels on top of school buildings and uses them as an educational tool. The school in Castleford was the first to benefit from the solar program, and the panels will soon be installed at 11 schools total.

Theresa Drake, the utility's

manager of customer relations and energy efficiency, said the workshop went well and that company officials think the other proposals they've seen so far are also very good.

Buhl activist Bill Chisholm, who first suggested the funds be used for energy education, said he feels the process is moving forward and that he was pleased with the power company's ideas. Chisholm has suggested a couple of ways to spend the money through his Idaho Energy Education Project.

"I feel pretty positive," he said, adding that his only concern is that the materials provided through Idaho Power not be biased toward the company's practices.

Paul Kjellander, director of

the Idaho Office on Energy Resources and a former PUC commissioner, said the pieces seem to be coming together for a final proposal. OER and the Idaho State Department of Education made a joint proposal for use of the money.

"(Idaho Power's) options seem to capture a lot of what I think all of us were interested in trying to do," he said.

Beyond the benefits to the schools and students, he said, the energy saved through the projects could be used for expanding the state's business growth and development.

"So it's a win-win-win," he said.

Chisholm has pushed for some sort of ratepayer oversight of the funds, and said

he hopes the PUC tabs an existing energy-efficiency advisory board to watch whatever's approved. At the workshop, commissioners said they didn't want to create yet another separate regulatory board.

"If I was a farmer and I put a seed in the ground, I feel at least that I've now seen it sprout," Chisholm said.

Though the idea came up of using money from future sulfur dioxide sales for similar projects, Drake said she wasn't aware of any official proposal along those lines.

The PUC is collecting comment on the proposals through Feb. 5.

*Nate Poppino may be reached at 208-735-3237 or [npoppino@magicvalley.com](mailto:npoppino@magicvalley.com).*

# Many states' lottery sales are rising in recession

By Juanita Cousins  
Associated Press writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — In these tough times, many people appear willing to gamble a few precious dollars in the hope of winning instant deliverance from their economic woes.

More than half of all states with lotteries have reported rising sales over the past six months, and some researchers say financial insecurity might be driving people to risk more of their money than usual on \$1 and \$5 instant scratch-offs and other daily games in hopes of a big payoff — such as the \$1 million Raffle prize Gregg and Cathy Owen of Buhl recently won from the Idaho Lottery.



fluctuate as the value of their jackpots rise and fall. If there is no winner one week, the size of these jackpots increases the following week.

Some experts say economic hardships prompt people to justify small-stakes gambles even as they cut back on nonessential goods and services. Others pin the increased lottery activity on creative marketing by scratch-off makers and state governments, which cannot afford to lose this revenue stream at a time of extremely tight budgets.

Scientific Games Chief Executive Lorne Weil said states are doing whatever they can to keep sales from falling. "They are consciously working with us to launch new programs, offer tickets at new price points and increase the number of retail outlets," he said.

By law, many states' lottery revenues are designated toward education, parks or recreation and cannot be put into the general fund to help meet budget shortfalls in other areas.

Two out of every five states with lotteries are experiencing falling sales, according to Scientific Games' research. A Rockefeller Institute of Government study released in June says that revenue is at an all-time high but growth has slowed to about half of its long-term annual growth rate of 5.1 percent.

In Georgia, instant ticket sales increased by 7 percent from September to October of fiscal year 2008 but just 2 percent from September to

October of fiscal year 2009. "Scratch-offs are more addictive than other lottery games because they are inexpensive and purchased almost anywhere," said Gail Howard, author of Lottery Master Guide and New York Lottery News columnist. "People are playing because they hope to score so they can have something in their pockets."

The urge to wager on lotto does not extend to casinos with wavering gas prices and the prerequisite for vacation time contributing to a revenue decline at gambling destinations like Las Vegas.

Of course, many people do not realize that routine spending on lotteries can be just as costly as the occasional visit to a casino.

"Small ticket purchases add up over time," said Emily Haisley, a postdoctoral associate at the Yale School of Management who published a research paper on lotteries in The Journal of Behavioral Decision Making in July.

The Rockefeller study found nationwide total lottery revenue has climbed steadily since 1992, rising to \$17.4 billion in 2007, the most recent year for which data were available. Lottery revenue increased most rapidly over that 15-year period during the 2001 recession, according to the study.

Some researchers see a correlation between economic difficulties and the popularity of lotteries.

"When people feel like they are behind compared to where they were yesterday, they want to make up for that," Haisley said. "They become risk-seeking in order to catch up and the small hope of winning becomes more attractive."

John L. Mikesell, a professor at Indian University, published a study in 1994 illus-

trating lottery sales rise with unemployment rates.

"When times are tough, the prospect of spending \$1 on a remote chance to potentially change your life is appealing," Mikesell said.

Bill Cooper, a 60-year-old from Chattanooga, Tenn., was still savoring his \$500 win from a day earlier on a \$1 Cash 3 pick that helped the disabled painter pay a groceries, a title loan, some IOUs.

Allen Nevils, a 58-year-old moving company supervisor, put himself on a budget, driving less and purchasing groceries in bulk, but he still allots \$20 a week to play daily lottery games.

"I really don't want to win that much," Nevils said. "I just want to be alright."

Lottery officials say creative marketing is a key factor in the rising popularity of their games.

Since 2004, New York has added 13,000 blinking, beeping video lottery terminals similar to slot machines at eight harness tracks, adding \$875 million, or 13 percent annually, to sales, according to New York lottery spokesman John Charlson.

Maryland Lottery has partnered with Major League Baseball's Baltimore Orioles and the National Football League's Baltimore Ravens to promote bubble gum-scented scratch-offs, sell lottery tickets at games and give season tickets as prizes.

California's aging 30-minute lottery show is getting a \$14 million makeover and changing its name to "Make Me A Millionaire," where players can win a spot on the weekly show through \$1 scratch-offs.

Atwood, a 68-year-old telephone company retiree, said he has spent at least \$75,000 on lottery tickets since the Tennessee lottery began in 2000.

## Murtaugh house 'total loss' after fire

Times-News

A fire Sunday evening demolished an empty Murtaugh home despite attempts to fight it.

C.W. Bill Robison with the Rock Creek Rural Fire District said fire units were called to 305 Boyd St. W. in Murtaugh at about 7:23 p.m. to respond to the house fire. The home was "totally engulfed" when firefighters arrived, he said, and

was a complete loss.

The home was vacant at the time, Robison said. A supervisor with the Southern Idaho Regional Communications Center said the blaze displaced a family and the Red Cross was called to the scene. A neighbor called the fire in, Robison said.

Fire units were expected to remain on-scene to mop up from the blaze into the night, Robison said.

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# Renegade Nevada claims election bellwether status

By Martin Griffith  
Associated Press writer

RENO, Nev. — With its 24-hour casino gambling, legalized prostitution and drive-through wedding chapels, Nevada seems anything but conventional. But when it comes to voting in presidential elections, the maverick state is as mainstream as it gets.

After Missouri voters favored John McCain in November, Nevada now has the best record of any state since 1912 for siding with winners — including Franklin Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

The Silver State voted for the victor in 24 of the past 25 presidential elections. The lone exception was when Republican Gerald Ford won Nevada over Democrat Jimmy Carter in 1976 by a margin of fewer than 8,000 votes out of more than 200,000 ballots cast.

Missouri, Ohio and New Mexico closely follow, siding with the winners 23 times over the same period.

"Everybody is looking to the heartland for the bellwether state," said Guy Rocha, Nevada's state archivist. "But it's the renegade state of Nevada that has the best track record over nearly a century. We're a lot more mainstream than people are giving us credit for."

Eric Herzik, a University of Nevada, Reno political science professor, attributed Nevada voters' penchant for picking winning candidates to their lack of commitment to the major political parties and ideologies, saying it makes voters open to both Democrats and Republicans.

"We're No. 1 because we're not overwhelmingly partisan," Herzik said. "We're not like California next door, where if a Democrat is breathing they're elected."

But Terry Jones, a University of Missouri-St. Louis political science professor, said he doubts Nevada will continue its hot streak because its demographics aren't representative of the nation.

Jones said the state has more Hispanics, service workers and urban residents than the national average, and fewer evangelicals and blacks. He said Missouri lost its bellwether status because it has more evangelicals and fewer Hispanics than the national average.

Ohio is a more reliable bellwether because its demographics more closely match the national average, Jones said.

Jones offers another explanation for Nevada's record of predicting presidential victors: sheer coincidence.

"It's an accident of probability, not a case of 'as Nevada goes, so goes the nation,'" he said. "I'm not willing to label Nevada a bellwether state. Nevada is by far more libertarian on social issues than other states."

Herb Asher, an Ohio State University political science professor, agrees that Ohio's demographics make it a more reliable bellwether. He also notes no Republican has ever won the White House without capturing Ohio.

Asher also echoed Jones, saying that with Nevada's large numbers of service workers, a growing union movement and Hispanics who could mobilize politically, the state may not mirror the national vote in the future.

From a population of 1.2 million in 1990 to 2.7 million

today, growth has dramatically changed the face of the state. Hispanics who made up just 10.4 percent of the state's population in 1990 now account for one of every four residents.

"You can imagine a decade down the road Nevada might be more reliably Democratic, while Ohio will probably still be more in competition," Asher said.

David Damore, a University of Nevada, Las Vegas political science professor, said he thinks Nevada's growing numbers of Hispanics and other minorities reflect change that faces the entire nation.

"I think we're a microcosm of the future of America," he said.

Besides Nevada's weak political parties, an influx of newcomers less anchored to the parties has contributed to the state's bellwether status, Damore said. Independents account for 16 percent of Nevada's registered voters, and more than one of every five when splinter parties are included.

Nevada, which led the nation in growth almost continuously over 21 years before falling to eighth last year, has become a swing state over the past two decades, with presidential candidates spending more time vying for its five electoral votes.

Its 25 percent Hispanic population compares with 15 percent nationally, while blacks account for 7 percent of the state's population compared with 12 percent nationally, according to 2007 estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Service workers at businesses such as restaurants and hotels make up 26 percent of Nevada's work force compared with 8 percent nationally, while urban residents account for 92 percent of the state's population compared with 79 percent nationally, according to the 2000 U.S. Census.

Exit polls show white evangelicals made up 16 percent of the state's electorate in November compared with nearly 25 percent nationally.

"There's not a demographic answer for our ability to be a bellwether because we are somewhat atypical," Nevada professor Herzik said. "Nevada is fun to look at as it kind of defies some of the traditional explanations like demographics."

Experts say New Mexico also can make a case for being a bellwether because it has the best record since 1912 for picking the winner of the presidential popular vote, missing only once.

Like Nevada, New Mexico also went for Ford in 1976. Unlike Nevada, New Mexico in 2000 supported Democrat Al Gore, who won the national popular vote but lost the electoral vote to Bush.

Nevada archivist Rocha warns that candidates and others ignore Nevada at their own risk.

"We may not have been perceived by the media, but when you do your analysis you realize Nevada has been a bellwether state and it has been elevated with Missouri's outcome," Rocha said.

# Salmonella prompts peanut butter recall

By Kantele Franko  
Associated Press writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio — An Ohio distributor says it has recalled two brands of its peanut butter after an open container tested positive for salmonella bacteria.

Federal health officials said the company's peanut butter had not been conclusively linked to a national salmonella outbreak.

King Nut Companies said in a statement that it asked customers to stop distributing all peanut butter under its King Nut and Parnell's Pride brands with a lot code that begins with the numeral "8."

The peanut butter was distributed only through food service providers in Ohio, Michigan, North Dakota, Minnesota, Arizona, Idaho, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Florida. It was not sold directly to consumers.

Preliminary laboratory testing found salmonella

bacteria in a 5-pound container of King Nut brand creamy peanut butter, the Minnesota Department of Health said Friday.

The Minnesota tests had not linked it to the type of salmonella in the outbreak that has sickened almost 400 people in 42 states, but the department said additional results are expected early next week.

The federal Food and Drug Administration also is analyzing samples of peanut butter from King Nut and Peanut Corporation, spokeswoman Stephanie Kwisnek said Sunday. The agency has not conclusively linked the peanut butter to the strain of salmonella that has sickened people in the outbreak, she said.

King Nut's president, Martin Kanan, said Sunday that the recall involved approximately 1,000 cases of peanut butter. He said he did not know the names of the company's customers,

but he planned to release more details Monday.

"We don't know exactly where they sell to," Kanan said. "They could sell cross-state, too."

"We just want everybody to know that safety is our highest priority," Kanan said. "We just wanted to recall it right away."

King Nut, based in Solon, Ohio, said it canceled all orders with the manufacturer of its two peanut butter brands, Peanut Corporation of America, based in Lynchburg, Va.

Peanut Corporation said in a statement posted on its Web site that it is working with federal food and health officials to determine whether its products are connected to the national outbreak. PCA does not sell its products at grocery stores or directly to the public.

The Lynchburg company said the tainted container was found in the kitchen of a nursing facility, leaving it

open to the possibility of cross-contamination from another source. The company did not say where the nursing facility was located or when the contaminated product was discovered.

Peanut Corporation's owner and president, Stewart Parnell, declined to comment further on Sunday until the FDA and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention complete their investigation.

CDC spokeswoman Bernadette Burden said Sunday that she had no new information on the case and did not know when additional test results would be available.

The CDC said Friday that 399 cases had been confirmed nationally, with about one in five of victims hospitalized. California has reported the most cases, with 55, followed by Ohio with 53. All the illnesses began between Sept. 3 and Dec. 29, but most of the people grew sick after Oct. 1.

## N. Idaho school district looks to cut \$6M

COEUR d'ALENE (AP) — Administrators of a school district in northern Idaho say they may have to put employees, athletic programs and afterschool activities on the chopping block as they prepare for decreases in funding.

The Coeur d'Alene School District will attempt to cut nearly \$6 million in expenses

next year and officials are also considering plans to scale back on advanced programs for students.

Public schools across Idaho are clamping down on spending due to the economic downturn.

But Coeur d'Alene School District Superintendent Hazel Bauman says she is worried after years of relying

on property taxpayers to support levies and make up for shortfalls in state money for education.

Bauman says the district has become very dependent on levies in recent years, more so than any other school district in Idaho, but she is concerned voters won't be so willing to support a tax increase this time around.

## Record number of concealed weapons permits sought in Utah

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — State officials received a record number of applications for concealed weapons permits in 2008.

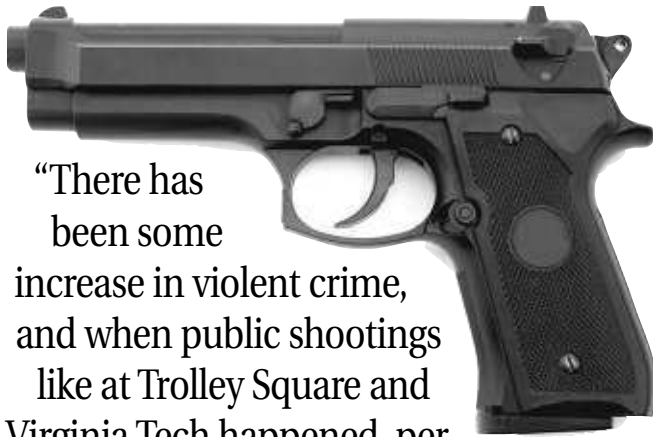
The Bureau of Criminal Identification says nearly 45,000 people sought concealed weapons permits last year, quadrupling the figure from four years ago.

In December, alone, BCI received 6,000 permit requests — the highest number ever, capping a year with six record-breaking months.

In all, about 71,000 people in Utah have a license to pack a concealed weapon. Another 71,000 out-of-state residents have a Utah permit, which is recognized in 33 states.

"There has been some increase in violent crime, and when public shootings like at Trolley Square and Virginia Tech happened, permit applications began to spike up," said Lt. Doug Anderson, Bureau of Criminal Identification manager. "But another reason why people are wanting to get the Utah permit is its wide-ranging reciprocity."

The Salt Lake Tribune reports that with the surge in applications, about one in every 25 Utah residents over age 21 could be carrying a



"There has been some increase in violent crime, and when public shootings like at Trolley Square and Virginia Tech happened, permit applications began to spike up."

— Lt. Doug Anderson, Bureau of Criminal Identification manager

licensed concealed weapon.

Experts say the increase can be attributed to several factors: national politics, the economic downturn and well-publicized shootings.

Clark Aposhian, chairman of the Utah Shooting Sports Council, said gun owners worried about the gun control stand of President-elect Barack Obama wanted to get permits before he took office.

"Sen. Barack Obama comes from a state that has, if not the most, then the second-most restrictive gun laws in the nation," Aposhian said.

Fears of increased crime

because of a weak economy also has people applying for permits, he said.

"People would rather have it and not need it than need it and not have it," he said.

The increase in permits concerns Steve Gunn, a member of the board of directors of the Gun Violence Prevention Center of Utah.

"People who carry guns or who even own guns should understand that a gun is far more likely to be misused than be for the protection of the individual," Gunn said. "People ought not to be buying or carrying guns."

## Coroner: methadone likely killed S. Idaho baby

BOISE (AP) — An Ada County coroner prosecutor says there is no evidence a mother in southwestern Idaho meant to harm her 11-month-old baby, who likely died of a lethal dose of methadone in October.

Ada County Deputy Prosecutor Cathy Guzman says 25-year-old Denyel Loos has been charged with three counts of felony injury to a child in connection to the death.

Loos and Christopher Azary, 31, had two other young children, a 2-year-old son and 6-year-old daughter who were removed from the Meridian home and placed in state custody.

## N. Idaho jobless rate higher than statewide rate

COEUR d'ALENE (AP) — The unemployment rate in northern Idaho shot up slightly higher than the statewide and national averages last month as the region shed logging, construction and manufacturing jobs.

The state Department of Labor says the Kootenai County unemployment rate was 7.3 percent last month, while the Idaho jobless rate was 6.6 percent.

The federal Department of Labor says the national jobless rate in December was 7.2 percent.

More than 50,000 Idaho workers did not have jobs last month, which is about twice as many compared to a year ago.

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## McNabb, Eagles beat Giants, reach NFC title game

By Ben Walker  
Associated Press writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Donovan McNabb will get another chance to chase that elusive Super Bowl title. Eli Manning threw away his opportunity to defend it.

McNabb made all the big plays that Manning did not, and the Eagles eliminated the New York Giants 23-11 Sunday to reach the NFC title game for the fifth time in eight seasons.

"He is the best quarterback in the NFL," Eagles coach Andy Reid said. "I don't think I have to say anything more than that."

Manning, meanwhile, never resembled the poised quarterback who won last year's Super Bowl MVP award with that one perfect spiral to Plaxico Burress.

Five times New York got inside the Eagles 20. The result? A mere three field goals.

"When we needed to get something done, get a spark to make a big

play, that's when we didn't do our best," Manning said.

Credit Philadelphia's hard-hitting, ball-hawking defense, and maybe blame the wind gusts a bit. Either way, these NFL playoffs are now for the Birds — the underdog Eagles, Cardinals and Ravens all won on the road this weekend.

McNabb lunged for one touchdown, threw for another and converted several key third downs to move the sixth-seeded Eagles (11-6-1) into next Sunday's title game at Arizona (11-7). Philadelphia beat the Cardinals 48-20 on Thanksgiving night.

David Akers added three field goals — extending his NFL record to 18 straight in the postseason — to fend off the top-seeded Giants (12-5).

"I am very, very disappointed," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said. "I am sorry to see the season come to an end. There is remorse for opportunities lost."

The swirling winds played havoc

with any ball in the air, and also helped skew the score: This was the first game in NFL history to finish 23-11, the Elias Sports Bureau said.

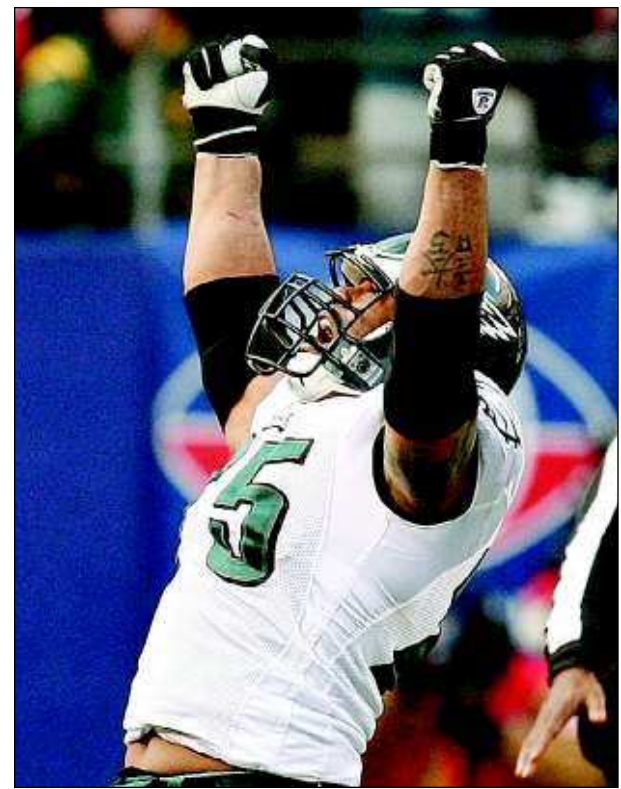
A year after road success fueled the Giants' route, the Eagles are taking the same path. They opened the postseason by winning at Minnesota and, after their sixth victory in seven tries, look nothing like a team that needed several breaks on the final day simply to make the playoffs.

Benched by Reid in late November for half a game, McNabb never has acknowledged that the slight hurt him. He has, however, seemed to play with a huge chip on his shoulder, to the Eagles' benefit.

McNabb converted a third-and-20 set up Akers' 34-yard kick for a 13-11 lead in the third quarter. On the first play of the fourth quarter, he made a perfect play-action fake for a 1-yard TD toss to Brent Celek.

"The players executed like crazy," Reid said. "They never wavered on

Please see **EAGLES**, Page A6



Philadelphia Eagles defensive end Juqua Parker reacts after an Eagles' fourth-quarter interception by Quintin Mikell in their NFL divisional playoff football game at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., Sunday. The Eagles defeated the New York Giants 23-11.

AP photo

## Steelers unplug Chargers

Pittsburgh tops San Diego 35-24, now hosts Baltimore for AFC title

By Alan Robinson  
Associated Press writer

PITTSBURGH — Fittingly enough, the Pittsburgh Steelers brought back the home-field advantage to the NFL playoffs. Now they get to stay at home for the AFC championship game, and against the rival they dislike more than any other.

The team with the NFL's best home-field record since the 1970 NFL merger shook off a 7-0 deficit barely two minutes into the game, shut down pint-sized playmaker Darren Sproles and returned some normalcy to the NFL postseason by beating the San Diego Chargers 35-24 in an AFC divisional game Sunday.

With a now-healthy Willie Parker running for 146 yards and two touchdowns, Ben Roethlisberger ignoring his late-season concussion to throw for a score and lead an efficient offense, the Steelers did what the favored Titans, Panthers and Giants couldn't do by winning at home. It was the first time since 1971 that three road teams won during a single playoff weekend, and the Steelers made certain that road teams didn't go 4-for-4.

The Steelers had the worst offense of any playoff team coming in, only to put up 35 points to support the NFL's top-ranked defense. Now, it's time for Ravens vs. Steelers Part III next Sunday — the third and most intriguing matchup this season between the can't-stand-each other AFC North rivals.

"What else would you expect, us and the Ravens," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said. "It would be big if it was a scrimmage. This is for the

Please see **STEELERS**, Page A6



Pittsburgh Steelers' Santonio Holmes leaps over San Diego Chargers' Legedu Naanee on a 67-yard punt return for a touchdown in the first quarter Sunday, in Pittsburgh.

AP photo

## Tebow gives the word: He's back

By Mark Long  
Associated Press writer

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Tim Tebow started to walk off stage, then called an audible. The Florida quarterback turned around, grabbed the microphone and told teammates, coaches and fans exactly what they wanted to hear.

"Oh, by the way, let's do it again. I'm coming back," Tebow said.

Tebow thrilled more than 40,000 at the school's national championship celebration Sunday by announcing plans to return for his senior season, with hopes of leading the Gators to their first undefeated season and fourth national title.



Tebow

"Overall, I just felt loyal to this place," Tebow said. "I feel like I'm a role model, and a lot of times people start things and don't finish them. I didn't want to be like that. I wanted to be loyal to the university. I wanted to finish what I started and play another year."

Tebow threw 32 touchdown passes in 2007, ran for 23 more scores and became the first sophomore to win the Heisman Trophy. He did less this season, but accomplished more by leading Florida to its second national title in three years.

Tebow completed 64 percent of his passes for 2,746 yards with 30 touchdowns and four interceptions. He also led the team in rushing for the second straight year, gaining 673 yards and scoring 12 touchdowns.

The 6-foot-3, 240-pound left-hander was 18-of-30 passing for 231 yards, with two touchdowns and two interceptions in Thursday night's 24-14 victory against Oklahoma in the Bowl Championship Series title game. He also ran for 109 yards, most of it in the second half.

There was speculation he might head to the NFL, especially since he has talked about wanting a bigger platform to share his religious message and expand his community work, but Tebow said he never strongly considered leaving early.

Coach Urban Meyer set him up with several NFL coaches to talk about his pro prospects. Although Tebow said he got mixed feedback, nothing he heard swayed his decision.

"It was tough because some of that stuff is tempting at the next level and everything that goes along with it, especially ending on a great note ending with the national championship and moving on from there," Tebow said.

## No. 4 Wake tops No. 3 UNC 92-89

By Joedy McCreary  
Associated Press writer

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Jeff Teague scored a career-high 34 points and No. 4 Wake Forest held on to beat third-ranked North Carolina 92-89 on Sunday night.

Chas McFarland matched a season high with 20 points for the Demon Deacons (14-0, 1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference), who remained one of three unbeaten in Division I and matched the 1980-81 team that also won its first 14 games.

Danny Green scored 22 points and Tyler Hansbrough added 17 on 3-of-12 shooting — he went without a field goal in the second half for the Tar Heels (14-2, 0-2).

In a span of eight days, the once-unanimous No. 1 team in the nation has lost two of three and shares last

place in the ACC with Georgia Tech. The Tar Heels have lost its first two league games for the first time since 1996-97, when they started 0-3.

North Carolina has been hampered by the absence of top defender Marcus Ginyard, who missed his second straight game and has been slow to recover from offseason foot surgery.

Wake Forest led for most of the second half, but the Tar Heels made things interesting late by twice closing within three points in the final minute.

After Will Graves' 3-pointer made it 91-89 with 4.7 seconds left, Teague knocked down a free throw with 3.3 seconds remaining to end the scoring.

Graves' desperation heave from halfcourt hit off the backboard and sent the tie-dye-clad Screamin' Demons student section onto the

Please see **WAKE**, Page A6



Wake Forest's James Johnson, from Cheyenne, Wyo., drives on North Carolina players Will Graves and Ed Davis and Deon Thompson (21) during the first half in Winston-Salem, N.C., Sunday.

AP photo

# Celts top Raptors, end 4-game skid

TORONTO — Ray Allen was on a roll, so the Boston Celtics kept going to him.

Allen scored a season-high 36 points, including eight 3-pointers, and the Celtics withstood a late Toronto rally to beat the Raptors 94-88 on Sunday afternoon, snapping a four-game losing streak.

"When Ray gets it going, that's our focus," Boston coach Doc Rivers said. "Feed the pig, that's what we always say. He was the hot guy, so we want to keep feeding him."

Allen, who made a career-high 10 3-pointers against Charlotte on April 14, 2002, went 8-for-10 from 3-point range Sunday, making his first six attempts.

Allen wasn't sure what to make of Rivers' farmyard metaphor.

"We don't want the pig to get as fat as it possibly can," Allen said with a laugh. "One day you have to slaughter the pig."

Paul Pierce said the Celtics know when to give Allen his turn at the trough.

"When you see a player having a good night like that, it's our duty as other players to try and get him the ball," Pierce said. "We just rode his hot hand tonight."

Allen had been held below 20 points in 10 of Boston's past 11 games, but Rivers never worried about him losing his touch.

"It's funny, I get so many calls saying 'What's wrong with Ray?' and I say 'There's nothing wrong with Ray, he's a great shooter, he'll be a great shooter again and eventually make them,'" Rivers said. "That's why Ray is great and a lot of other players in the league are good. A lot of players will have three or four games like Ray had and go away for a month. Ray believed the next shot had to go in. He knows he's a great shooter and we want him to keep shooting."

## 76ERS 109, HAWKS 94

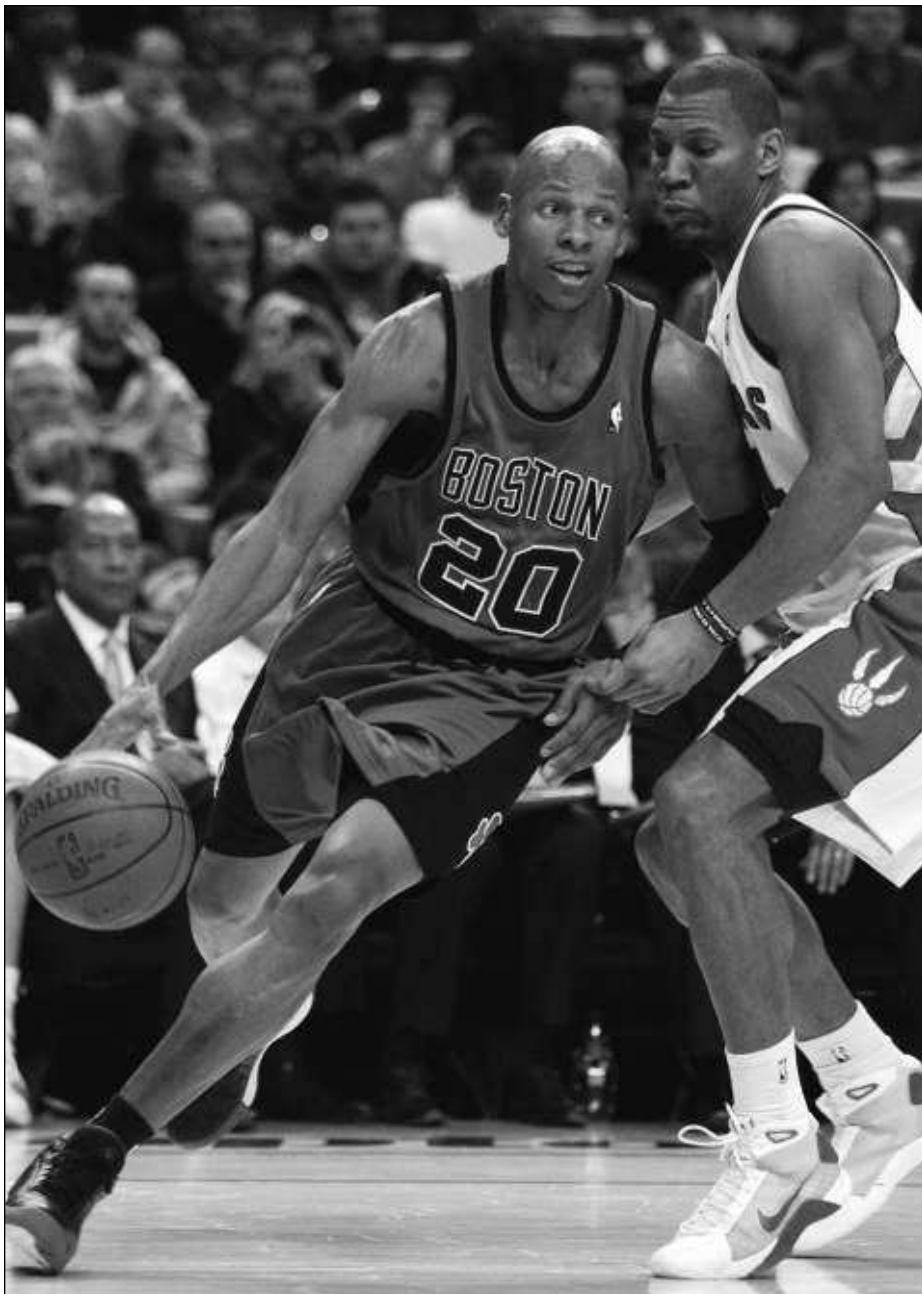
ATLANTA — Andre Iguodala scored 27 points, and Philadelphia took advantage of Al Horford's absence to dominate near the basket and beat Atlanta for its first four-game winning streak of the season.

The 76ers scored 56 points in the paint and had a combined 49 points by their starting forwards. Thaddeus Young added 22 points and nine rebounds as the Hawks struggled without Horford, the starting center who was held out with a knee injury.

## SUNS 109, CLIPPERS 103

LOS ANGELES — Amare Stoudemire overcame early foul trouble to score 26 points, Jason Richardson and Grant Hill each had 21, and Phoenix sent Los Angeles to its 11th straight loss.

Steve Nash had 14 points and 12 assists for the Suns, who blew a 15-point lead before moving a season-best eight games over .500. They have won five of their last six overall, including a 106-98 victory over the Clippers on Jan. 2 at Phoenix.



**Boston Celtics guard Ray Allen drives around Toronto Raptors forward Joey Graham, right, during the second-half in Toronto on Sunday. The Celtics won 94-88.**

## MAGIC 105, SPURS 98

SAN ANTONIO — Dwight Howard scored 24 points, Jameer Nelson had eight of his 22 in the final two minutes, and the Orlando Magic beat the San Antonio Spurs 105-98 on Sunday night.

Hedo Turkoglu added 21 points for the Magic (30-8), who are tied with the Boston Celtics for the Eastern Conference lead in victories. Orlando has won four straight and 13 of 15 games.

The Magic were 14-of-22 from 3-point territory.

Tony Parker scored 31 points for the Spurs (24-12), but he missed a pair of layups in the final two minutes as San Antonio closed the game by missing six of seven shots.

## SACRAMENTO 102, DALLAS 95

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Kevin Martin scored 21 points, Francisco Garcia had seven during a key fourth-quarter

stretch, and the Sacramento Kings ended their five-game losing streak with a 102-95 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Sunday night.

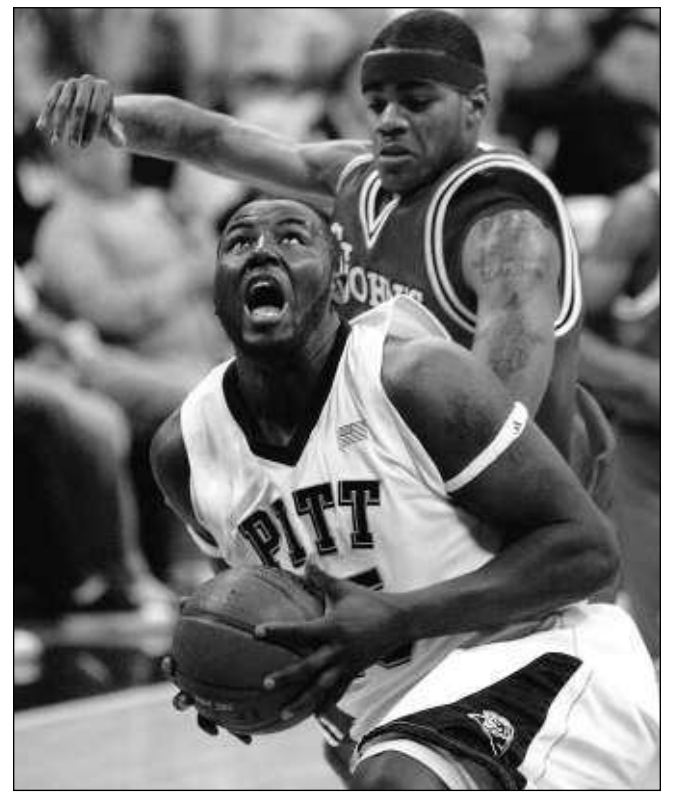
Beno Udrih had 16 points, five rebounds and six assists for Sacramento, which hadn't won since beating the Los Angeles Clippers 92-90 on Dec. 30. John Salmons and Brad Miller added 13 points apiece for the Kings in only their second win in the last 10 games against the Mavericks.

## WARRIORS 120, PACERS 117

OAKLAND, Calif. — Jamal Crawford scored 32 points and hit the go-ahead 3-pointer with 11.3 seconds left in a pell-mell fourth quarter, and the Golden State Warriors snapped their five-game losing streak with a thrilling 120-117 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Sunday night.

—The Associated Press

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL



**Pittsburgh's DeJuan Blair, bottom, looks to the hoop to shoot in front of St. John's D. J. Kennedy in the first half in Pittsburgh, Sunday.**

# Pittsburgh pounds St. John's 90-67

PITTSBURGH — Just before the opening tip, Pittsburgh's punishing center DeJuan Blair jumped and performed a two-handed pullup on the rim.

The Panthers seem to like lofty views.

Blair scored 23 points with 18 rebounds and Jermaine Dixon added 17 points as Pittsburgh, playing for the first time as the nation's top-ranked hoop team, ran away from St. John's in the second half for a 90-67 win on Sunday over one of the few Big East Conference members not among the Top 25.

Leading by just five points at halftime, Pitt (15-0, 3-0 Big East) clamped down on defense and found its shooting range, knocking down three 3-pointers in a 17-4 spurt in the first seven minutes of the second half. By the time Blair came out for a rest with 8:47 left, the Panthers were up by 23 and putting on a show.

## NO. 14 PURDUE 65, WISCONSIN 52

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — JaJuan Johnson had 20 points and 10 rebounds, Robbie Hummel scored 16 in his return from a back injury and Purdue beat Wisconsin.

Joe Krabbenhoft had 13 points and seven rebounds for Wisconsin (12-4, 3-1 Big Ten), which had won three straight. Marcus Landry, Wisconsin's leading scorer, finished with nine points on 3-for-15 shooting.

It was the first conference win for the Boilermakers (12-4, 1-2) after losses to Illinois and Penn State.

Hummel had missed the loss to Penn State with back spasms and had been considered questionable to play in Sunday's game until late last week.

## NO. 16 XAVIER 86, FORDHAM 60

NEW YORK — B.J. Raymond scored 18 points to lead six Xavier players in double figures. It was the fourth straight victory for Xavier (13-2, 2-0 Atlantic 10), which shot a season-best 53.8 percent from the field (28-for-52) and finished with a 45-29 rebound advantage.

Derrick Brown had 14 points, Jason Love 13, Terrell Holloway and Brad Redford had 11 each and C.J. Anderson added 10 for the Musketeers, who have beaten Fordham five straight times.

Alberto Estwick had 20 points for Fordham (2-12, 0-2), which has lost five straight games.

## NO. 22 MINNESOTA 79, PENN STATE 59

MINNEAPOLIS — Reserve Devron Bostick scored 19 points to lead Minnesota, which made all nine of its 3-point attempts in a win over Penn State.

Fellow junior college transfer Paul Carter added 14 for the Gophers (15-1, 3-1 Big Ten), who shot 62.5 percent.

Talor Battle had 19 points and nine assists for Penn State (13-4, 2-2). But the Big Ten's leading scorer didn't get on the board until 15 minutes had passed Teammate Stanley Pringle, who averaged 19.3 points in the first three conference games of the year, was held to seven points on 2-of-8 shooting.

—The Associated Press

# Ogilvy wins PGA Tour's opener by 6 shots

By Doug Ferguson  
Associated Press writer

KAPALUA, Hawaii — Geoff Ogilvy finished the final round the way he started Sunday, six shots clear of a winners-only field at the Mercedes-Benz Championship.

It was the part in the middle he could have done without.

Ogilvy was on the verge of an unseemly collapse, his six-shot lead down to one as he stood in the ninth fairway, when he drilled his approach onto the green and holed a 30-foot eagle putt to steady his nerves and send him on his way to victory at Kapalua.

With four straight birdies on the back nine to restore the margin, he sailed home to a 5-under 68 to join Ernie Els and Vijay Singh as the only wire-to-wire winners since the season-opening PGA Tour event moved to Kapalua in 1999.

Anthony Kim nearly made double eagle on the last hole for a 67 to tie for second

with Davis Love III, who also had a 67.

It was the fifth PGA Tour victory for Ogilvy, adding to his U.S. Open title in 2006 and a pair of World Golf Championships. He finished at 24-under 268, earned \$1.12 million and moved up to No. 6 in the world.

"When Geoff plays well, it never looks like he's going to hit a bad shot," Adam Scott said.

But there were a few too many on the front nine, which was no walk on the beach.

Ogilvy had made only one bogey in the first three rounds, but doubled that count after this first two holes Sunday.

With the Plantation course soft from overnight rain that lasted into the morning, Ogilvy missed the fairway to the right on the opening hole and couldn't reach the green, missing an 18-foot par putt. He found a bunker with his tee shot on the second hole, blasted out to about 6 feet and missed that putt.



**Geoff Ogilvy, of Australia, tees off on the third hole of the Plantation Course during the final round of the Mercedes-Benz Championship golf tournament in Kapalua, Hawaii, Sunday.**

Just like that, his lead was down to three shots over Kim, who birdied two of the opening three holes.

And even after Ogilvy appeared to steady himself

with an up-and-down birdie on the par-5 fifth, followed by another good pitch to 5 feet for birdie on the sixth, he was grinding.

—The Associated Press

## Wake

Continued from page A5

court to celebrate Wake Forest's most significant victory since the Chris Paul-led team — also ranked No. 4 — knocked off the then-No. 3 Tar Heels four years ago.

That team under Skip Prosser made it to No. 1 for the first time in school history. With the best friend of the late coach on the bench, these young but talented Demon Deacons also are starting to develop that type

of look.

And just as then, a star guard with an uncanny knack for hitting the big shots has Wake Forest clicking.

Teague clearly outplayed his counterpart — North Carolina's Ty Lawson, who finished 4-for-12 from the field, missed all four of his 3s and turned it over four times.

Teague entered with an ACC-leading average of 19.6 points — Hansbrough's average of 22 points would have been tops in the league had

he played in at least 75 percent of North Carolina's games.

He finished 9-of-17 from the field, hit three of four 3-pointers and was 13-of-15 from the free throw line. During one second-half stretch, Teague slashed his way through the lane for layups on three consecutive possessions.

Playing in front of a record Joel Coliseum crowd of 14,714 that included one-time Wake Forest guard

Muggsy Bogues, former coach Dave Odom — and a student dressed as Dino from "The Flintstones" in honor of coach Dino Gaudio — the Demon Deacons started strong and twice led by nine.

And just as he did in last season's upset of then-No. 2 Duke, Teague started strong.

He scored 10 of his team's first 14 points, and Wake Forest forced the Tar Heels to miss 11 of their first 15 shots before things tightened up.

## Eagles

Continued from page A5

bit. That's tough to find in this league."

Manning was in trouble from the start. His first pass wobbled out of his hand, got caught in the wind and missed a wide-open receiver.

Manning ended up 15-for-29 with two interceptions, often overthrowing his targets. The Giants did not score a touchdown and lost for the fourth time in five games.

"It all comes down to what you do in the play-

offs. That makes your season a good one or a disappointment," Manning said. "This is a disappointment."

"We felt this was a special team that could go far. The defense played outstanding today and gave us opportunities."

Offensively, we didn't do our job. We didn't score enough points."

By the final two minutes, more than half the crowd had left; Big Blue hasn't won a playoff game at Giants Stadium since 2000.

## Steelers

Continued from page A5

AFC championship."

The Steelers have never beaten the Ravens three times in a season although they've never had the chance, but they did beat Baltimore's forerunners, the old Cleveland Browns, three times during the 1994 season.

Pittsburgh won the earlier two games, 23-20 in

overtime in Pittsburgh — when the Ravens supposedly put bounties on several Steelers players — and by 13-9 during the Dec. 14 rematch in Baltimore that secured the divisional title for Pittsburgh.

They were two of the NFL's most physical games this season, with injuries all around.



## EDITORIAL

# M.V. economy stays remarkably resilient

Is there a "floor" beneath south-central Idaho's economy, a recession-proof set of assets that prevent the Magic Valley's well-being from cratering? No, but there's probably the next best thing, and we learned just how important it is last week.

The University of Idaho reported that the state's milk sales rose to \$2.1 billion last year — more than two-thirds of it in the Magic Valley.

Milk's rise from 25 percent of the state's total farm cash receipts in 1998 to 34 percent in 2008 shifted the geographic center of Idaho's agricultural economy to south-central Idaho — a change that regional economists say has helped insulate the region against a more severe economic downturn.

That's not likely to change, even though times for dairymen won't be as good in 2009 as they were in 2008 because of falling milk prices tied to the weak national economy and because of operating costs that remain high.

But Bob Naerebout, executive director of the Idaho Dairymen's Association, still expects the industry to grow this year — although not at the 8 percent clip it expanded in 2008.

"A 4 percent increase this year might be aggressive," he told *AG Weekly* recently.

Most Idaho industries would be delighted with 4 percent growth in 2008, and the strength of dairy is underscored by the fact agriculture land values haven't fallen at all in the Magic Valley — despite a nearly 8 percent decline in commodity prices since March 2008.

The appraised value of large agricultural acreage — 150 acres or more — has remained unchanged since futures peaked 11 months ago.

With the growth of the dairy industry in south-central Idaho during the past decade, more acres have been devoted to growing corn silage and other feed products for dairy cows. Dairy feed provides more consistent returns than other crops, which are more susceptible to market fluctuation.

Meanwhile, the value-added dairy industries — cheese and milk products — are healthy, with new manufacturing facilities in Heyburn, Burley and Jerome.

Remarkably, given the state of the economy, Idaho is exporting more than ever — nearly \$5 billion last year — because of the weak dollar. That's a record, and a significant percentage of those exports comes from the Magic Valley.

Does that mean things won't get worse before they get better in south-central Idaho? Certainly not. There are still big problems with credit markets, and a national recession that drags into 2010 would further erode commodity prices and drive some weaker milk and row-crop producers out of business.

But we have more than our share of blessings just now in the Magic Valley, and it's time we counted them.

## TIMES-NEWS

Brad Hurd . . . publisher Steve Crump . . . Opinion editor

The members of the editorial board and writers of editorials are Brad Hurd, James G. Wright, Steve Crump, Bill Bitzenburg and Ruth S. Pierce.

### Want to express your opinion?

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# How Burriss finagled a Senate seat after all

WASHINGTON — It was not lost on anyone that the president-elect of the United States, riding the crest of his popularity, and the Democratic leadership of the U.S. Senate were outsmarted last week by a state politician who won his last election almost 20 years ago.

When and if Roland Burriss claims the Senate seat from Illinois formerly occupied by Barack Obama, it will represent the greatest climb-down by an incoming president since Sam Nunn turned Bill Clinton around on the issue of gays in the military at the start of Clinton's first term.



DAVID BRODER

Fortunately for Obama, the voters are much more concerned with the economy and Obama's effort to fix it than they are with the infighting over the Illinois Senate seat.

But politicians keep score on each other all the time. And, after a near-perfect month of transition operations, Obama has stumbled twice in two weeks, first being caught unaware by the investigation of Bill Richardson, his choice for commerce secretary, and then being outmaneuvered by Burriss and his tawdry sponsor, Gov. Rod Blagojevich.

There are lessons for Obama in both incidents, starting with the importance of really knowing the other players in the game. Obama has had such a rapid rise in national politics that there are many key figures in both parties he barely has had time to size up.

But Richardson was a familiar fellow traveler on the 2007-08 presidential cam-



paign trail, and Obama should have known that there were reports of a grand jury investigation of pay-for-play in New Mexico.

As for Blagojevich, Obama had to know, from his years in Springfield and Chicago, about the governor's tawdry and ruthless reputation. But Obama seriously underestimated him.

Harry Reid, the Senate majority leader, got all 50 members of his caucus to sign a statement vowing they would never accept a Senate appointee from Blagojevich's tainted hands, after prosecutors had published excerpts of wiretaps in which the governor had salivated obscenely over the way he could cash in on Obama's Senate vacancy.

Obama personally endorsed that hard-line stand against seating anyone "tainted" by Blagojevich, issuing a statement that backed Reid and the others. But Burriss was no more impressed than Blagojevich had been.

When the governor called the senators' bluff, Burriss launched a public relations

### INSIDE

No. 2 Senate Democrat hopes deal near on Burriss.

See page A11

blitz on television, insisting that it would be unfair to punish him for the governor's alleged sins. Ignored for the moment was the fact that Burriss had been rejected by the voters in three straight Illinois Democratic gubernatorial races and in one primary for mayor of Chicago. Had the Democratic-controlled Legislature ordered a special election, the odds against Burriss would have been enormous.

But Burriss' ego is limitless. And it turned out that Reid had, once again, failed to do his homework or line up his votes. When Chicago black congressman Bobby Rush played the race card, questioning why anyone would stand in the way of Burriss succeeding Obama as the lone African-American senator, you could feel a wave of anxiety go through Democratic ranks.

Soon, Sen. Dianne

Feinstein, the outgoing chairman of the Rules Committee and a potential candidate for California governor next year, publicly called on Reid to relent. The Congressional Black Caucus weighed in on Burriss' behalf. By the time Burriss sat down with Reid and Majority Whip Dick Durbin of Illinois, the fight was effectively over and Burriss was gracious about accepting their surrender. Obama conceded as well, saying that if the Senate seated Burriss, "then I'm going to work with Roland Burriss just like I work with all the other senators."

Obama justifiably figured that Burriss was not worth a knockdown fight when he has so many bigger battles ahead of him. But the lesson that other politicians have drawn is that Obama may not always be able to count on his congressional allies and they may not be able to count on him. That is not the way he wanted to begin.

Washington Post columnist David Broder can be reached at [davidbroder@washpost.com](mailto:davidbroder@washpost.com).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Sheriff grateful for those that voted for him

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that played a part in my election to Twin Falls County sheriff last November. I chose to make this statement to coincide with the day I take office because I wanted to emphasize the enormity of my gratitude to all the people that made this possible.

I have spent the last couple of months in meetings, seminars and classes so that I am prepared to serve the people with the greatest efficiency while maintaining a smooth transition for everyone currently there. My dedication to making the sheriff's office a model of teamwork and skill is still my driving force. I take the responsibility given to me by the people of this county very seriously and will spend my time in office diligently returning the sheriff's office to the gold standard of law enforcement.

I cannot stress enough how appreciative I am to the

### Tell us what you think

**ON PAPER:** The *Times-News* welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Please limit letters to 300 words. Include your signature, mailing address and phone number. Writers who sign letters with false names will be permanently barred from publication. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls office; mailed to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to (208) 734-5538; or e-mailed to [letters@magicvalley.com](mailto:letters@magicvalley.com).

excellent team of people working on my side: public service personnel, businessmen and women, my wonderful family and friends, the voters of Twin Falls County and especially my campaign staff led by the incomparable Rich Stivers.

The effort you all made on my behalf is humbling.  
**SHERIFF TOM CARTER**  
Twin Falls

### Editorial on leadership off, beer and wine tax spot on

I strongly disagree with your Jan. 4 editorial assessment of our governor, our Legislature and our legislative leadership.

"Do not judge a person unless you have walked a

mile in their moccasins." I would guess the present editorial board has never tried walking in anyone else's moccasins but their own, and yes, I realize you buy your ink by the barrel.

With that said, I must agree with the editorial on the beer and wine tax. There are volumes of material on the social and financial impact from drug and alcohol addiction on county, state and federal budgets. There is a natural progression from tobacco to alcohol to drugs.

In 2005, the State Liquor Dispensary sales alone were \$86 million; by 2008, the sales had increased to \$130.8 million.

The Legislature, however,

refuses to sponsor legislation that would impose a 5 percent user fee on tobacco, beer, wine and hard alcohol to be dedicated to early intervention, prevention and treatment. This legislation could raise more than \$20 million per year, and if you do not drink or smoke, it costs you absolutely nothing. There may even be dollars left to fix the potholes in our roads which seem to be the No. 1 priority.

The proposed cut in mental health services is another serious issue.

Developmentally delayed children are not planned. Parents of these special children are hard-working people that need services for their children so they can continue to work and support the every day needs of their families. Cutting funding for mental health services will force some parents to quit their jobs and seek help from other government programs. It is really not a tax saving, it is only a tax shift.

**WILLIAM J. BROCKMAN**  
Kimberly

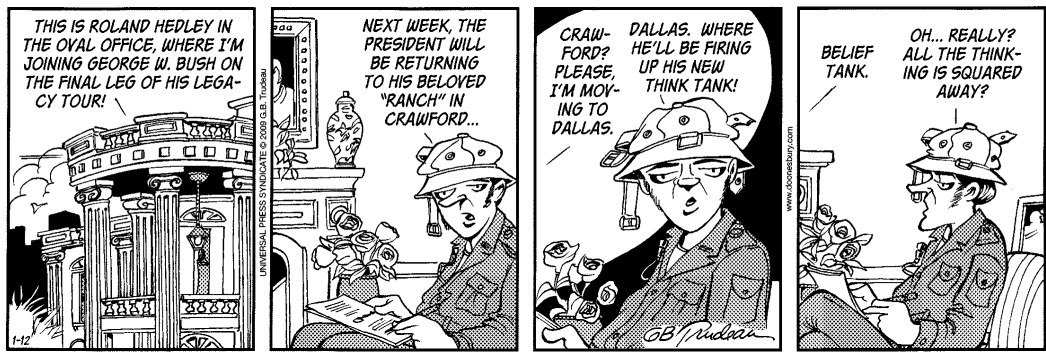
### Join the discussion

Voice your opinion with local bloggers: Progressive Voice, Conservative Corner and In the Middle. On the opinion page at [Magicvalley.com](http://Magicvalley.com).

## THE LIGHTER SIDE OF POLITICS

### Doonesbury

By Garry Trudeau



### Mallard Fillmore

By Bruce Tinsley





# A president forgotten but not gone

We like our failed presidents to be Shakespearean, or at least large enough to inspire Oscar-worthy performances from magnificent tragedians like Frank Langella. So here, too, George W. Bush has let us down. Even the banality of evil is too grandiose a concept for 43. He is not a memorable villain so much as a sometimes affable second banana whom Josh Brolin and Will Ferrell can nail without breaking a sweat. He's the reckless Yalie Tom Buchanan, not Gatsby. He is smaller than life.

The last NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll on Bush's presidency found that 79 percent of Americans will not miss him after he leaves the White House. He is being forgotten already, even if he's not yet gone. You start to pity him until you remember how vast the wreckage is. The discrepancy between the grandeur of the failure and the stature of the man is a puzzlement. We are still trying to compute it.

Iraq burned, New Orleans flooded, and Bush remained oblivious to each and every pratfall on his watch. Americans essentially stopped listening to him after Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005, but he still doesn't grasp the finality of their defection. Lately he's promised not to steal the spotlight from Barack Obama once he's in retirement — as if he could do so by any act short of run-



FRANK RICH

ning naked through downtown Dallas.

Bush is equally blind to the collapse of his propaganda machinery. Almost poignantly, he keeps trying to hawk his goods in these final days, like a salesman who hasn't been told by the home office that his product has been discontinued. Though no one is listening, he has given more exit interviews than either Clinton or Reagan did. Along with old cronies like Karl Rove and Karen Hughes, he has also embarked on a Bush "legacy project," as Stephen Hayes of *The Weekly Standard* described it on CNN.

To this end, Rove has repeated a stunt he first fed to the press two years ago: He is once again claiming that he and Bush have an annual book-reading contest, with Bush chalking up as many as 95 books a year, by authors as hifalutin as Camus. This hagiographic portrait of Bush the Egghead might be easier to buy were the former national security official Richard Clarke not quoted in the new *Vanity Fair* saying that both Rice and her deputy, Stephen Hadley, had instructed him early on to keep his memos short because the president is "not

a big reader."

Another, far more elaborate example of legacy spin can be downloaded from the White House Web site: a booklet recounting "highlights" of the administration's "accomplishments and results." With big type, much white space, children's-book-like trivia boxes titled "Did You Know?" and lots of color photos of the Bushes posing with blacks and troops, its 52 pages require a reading level closer to "The Pet Goat" than "The Stranger."

This document is the literary correlative to "Mission Accomplished." Bush kept America safe (provided his presidency began Sept. 12, 2001). He gave America record economic growth (provided his presidency ended December 2007). He vanquished all the leading Qaida terrorists (if you don't count the leaders bin Laden and al-Zawahri). He gave Afghanistan a thriving "market economy" (if you count its skyrocketing opium trade) and a "democratically elected president" (presiding over one of the world's most corrupt governments). He supported elections in Pakistan (after propping up Pervez Musharraf past the point of no return). He "led the world in providing food aid and natural disaster relief" (if you leave out Brownie and Katrina).

If this is the best case that even Bush and his handlers can make for his achievements, you wonder why they

bothered. Desperate for padding, they devote four risible pages to portraying our dear leader as a zealous environmentalist.

But the brazenness of Bush's alternative-reality history is itself revelatory. The audacity of its hype helps clear up the mystery of how someone so slight could inflict so much damage. So do his many print and television exit interviews.

The man who emerges is a narcissist with no self-awareness whatsoever. It's that arrogance that allowed him to tune out even the most calamitous of realities, freeing him to compound them without missing a step. The president who famously couldn't name a single mistake of his presidency at a press conference in 2004 still can't.

He can, however, blame everyone else. Asked (by Charles Gibson) if he feels any responsibility for the economic meltdown, Bush says, "People will realize a lot of the decisions that were made on Wall Street took place over a decade or so, before I arrived." Asked if the 2008 election was a repudiation of his administration, he says "it was a repudiation of Republicans."

This presidency was not about Him. Bush failed because in the end it was all about him.

*Frank Rich is a columnist for The New York Times. Write to him at frich@nytimes.com.*

# The din of squeaky wheels

Everyone knows about the incoming Obama administration's commitment to transparency. You remember how they dealt with the Rod Blagojevich scandal: The president-elect dumped a prepared statement on the news media and jetted off for a two-week photo op in Hawaii. His chief of staff — the guy who actually talked to Blago — took French leave on a "previous scheduled family vacation in Africa."

The cornerstone of the New Transparency is the official website of the Office of the President Elect, [change.gov](http://change.gov). You can do all sort of things there: send billets doux to the Obama-Biden team; apply for a job; or toss policy proposals over the transom, assuming that someone might read them.

One prominent feature: "Join the Discussion." "Our policy teams will be sharing new developments with you, the American people, and asking for feedback," says the website, which includes a brief video come-on from Paul Schmitz, a transition team member responsible for social innovation and civic engagement. "It's up to you to respond," quoth the site.

Inevitably, spews forth the gaseous unwisdom of crowds. Hundreds if not thousands of commenters have responded, although not to the canned question, "What social causes and service organizations are you a part of that make a difference in your community?" Many have e-mailed in to trash Obama's decision to invite the Rev. Rick Warren, who supported California's anti-gay marriage Proposition 8, to officiate at the inauguration. Buried deep in the comments, I found a note from a gay rights supporter named Terry Carroll who donated \$4,600 to Obama during the presidential campaign and now



ALEX BEAM

wants his money back. "I am seeking the return of my campaign contributions to Barack Obama for President."

No word from the Obama-ites about a refund, so far. Indeed, no response at all to my inquiries about the site. There was a note posted last week saying that "further commenting on this blog post has been disabled by the blog admin." Translation: That's enough transparency for now.

Also featured on [change.gov](http://change.gov): "Your Seat at the Table," where you can theoretically track discussions between major interest groups and the Obama transition team. It is a cacophony of special pleading. The Port of Los Angeles wants the Federal Maritime Commission to back off its enforcement of environmental regulations. The National Agricultural Aviation Association — crop-dusters, yes? — is worried about the proliferation of cellphone and wind energy towers in agricultural regions. The Air Conditioning Contractors of America want money for proper air conditioning maintenance.

Gary Vallon of the Wyoming State Denturist Association wants the American Dental Association "to back off the dentist who provides better denture care ... This is the way to more jobs, more education and a more affordable and competitive healthcare system." Better living through dentures. That's change I can believe in.

*Alex Beam is a columnist for the Boston Globe.*

# Should America build The New Bomb?

For all their agreement on matters such as Afghanistan and defense spending, President-elect Barack Obama and Defense Secretary Robert Gates are on record disagreeing over a central matter for U.S. security: the future of nuclear weapons.

The issue is whether the United States should build the "reliable replacement warhead," a matter that has major ramifications for all U.S. nuclear policy, including whether to ratify the comprehensive treaty banning nuclear tests and whether we will be able to work with other countries to stem proliferation.

The reliable replacement warhead, known as the RRW, which Congress has refused to fund despite repeated requests from the Bush administration, would not require nuclear testing — in contrast to today's high-performance designs with their low margins for error. It would use more plutonium or enriched uranium, and deliver a lower explosive yield for a warhead of a given size and weight.

Gates declared his support for the RRW in October, saying that "there is absolutely no way we can maintain a credible deterrent and reduce the number of weapons in our stockpile without either resorting to testing our stockpile or pursuing a modernization program."

Obama, however, has been emphatic that the country would not build new nuclear warheads on his watch. He wants to reinvigorate U.S. arms control and nonproliferation efforts.

If Obama wants the Senate to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and commit the United States never to test weapons again, it appears that he will have to gather votes in the face of opposition from his defense secretary. Waiting until Gates leaves the Pentagon is not a good option: A review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty is scheduled for early 2010, and



MICHAEL O'HANLON

U.S. ratification of the test ban treaty is probably a prerequisite for strong international support to extend and strengthen the NPT.

In theory, as president, Obama could simply overrule Gates. Reality, though, is not so simple. It was no accident that Gates made his speech to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace a week before Election Day, when rumors were floating that he might be asked to stay on. Gates apparently wanted his differences with Obama on this matter to be on the record.

And Gates' views on this are important. Not only is Gates highly regarded, but given historical Republican wariness about the test-ban treaty, Gates' hesitation would reinforce that of lawmakers. Only four GOP senators supported the treaty when the Clinton administration pushed for ratification in the late 1990s. Even if Obama could get the next Senate to ratify the testing ban, the issue creates a political fight he does not need.

Obama's Catch-22 appears to be to either lose the support of his defense secretary and most Republicans on a crucial arms control vote, or to reverse a campaign pledge and pursue what the world is likely to view as a renewed U.S. drive for nuclear modernization while asking others to show restraint. This double standard infuriates nonnuclear states and weakens our ability to gain support for tougher nonproliferation rules.

Thankfully, there is another option. The right strategy has two elements: redefine the RRW program as a remanufacture of an older design, and delay that program to allow Obama to cre-

The reliable replacement warhead, known as the RRW, which Congress has refused to fund despite repeated requests from the Bush administration, would not require nuclear testing — in contrast to today's high-performance designs with their low margins for error. It would use more plutonium or enriched uranium, and deliver a lower explosive yield for a warhead of a given size and weight.

ate momentum for arms control.

It's a reasonable move. The United States developed more conservative weapons designs in the early years of the nuclear era that might be usable. Even if they had to be modified, the designs would remain more "old" than "new." Moreover, building such warheads would not create new capabilities for American war planners but would deprive them of some targeting options they possess today, while emphasizing safety and reliability.

Delaying pursuit of this remanufacturing program would not present a problem. We have little reason to think that today's nuclear arsenal is unreliable. Bomb designers are more concerned about the arsenal 25 or 50 years from now; if we delay a few years in building

more conservative designs, deterrence will not suffer.

Obama's budget request should not include money for the reliable replacement warhead, but his administration's first nuclear review should commit the United States to building more conservative and less deadly bombs by about 2015. With any luck, Gates will consider this a reasonable compromise, and with his support the United States will ratify the long-delayed comprehensive test ban treaty during Obama's first year in office.

*Michael O'Hanlon, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, was a nuclear weapons analyst at the Congressional Budget Office from 1989 to 1994. He wrote this commentary for The Washington Post.*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Times-News could have written different story

What a sad day for the family of Steve "Ike" Damron, a son, a father, a nephew laid to rest due to the stupidity of another. What a sad day for his family to wake up to the front-page, above-the-fold article smearing his name for the entire valley to see.

I wonder what exactly the purpose of the article was; he was not convicted of his charges and, due to

his death, the charges are a moot point.

If the *Times-News* needed a filler story for that exact space, perhaps it could have written the story about what the events were leading up to this tragic and senseless accident and not denigrate the victim.

To Ike's family, my deepest and sincere condolences. To the *Times News*, shame on you.

JODIE JOHNSON  
Heyburn

## QUOTABLE

"It was crazy. It was like killers on the loose."

— Joshua Glaze, 15, a freshman at Paul Laurence Dunbar Vocational Career Academy in Chicago after five people were shot as spectators left a crowded high school basketball game

## Auction Calendar

Through January 17th

**MONDAY, JAN. 12, 6:00PM**  
General Merchandise, TF  
Furniture • Household • Tools  
Collectibles • Consignments Welcome  
734-1635 • 731-4567  
**IDAHO AUCTION BARN**  
[www.auctionsidaho.com](http://www.auctionsidaho.com)

**TUESDAY, JAN. 13, 5:00PM**  
Household • Tools • Antiques  
Outrageous Oddities • Jerome  
**KLAAS AUCTION BARN**  
208-324-5521  
[www.klaasauction.com](http://www.klaasauction.com)

**SATURDAY, JAN. 17, 11:00AM**  
Guns & Silver Dollars, TF  
Hunting • Fishing • Knives  
Consign your items now!  
734-1635 • 731-4567  
**IDAHO AUCTION BARN**  
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## Betty L. Sept

BUHL — Betty L. Sept, 80, of Buhl, died peacefully at her daughter's home in Meridian on Friday, Jan. 9, 2009, following a courageous battle with cancer.

Betty was born in Minneapolis, Minn., on Jan. 18, 1928, to Lewis and Jewel Hamilton. At age 9, following the death of her father, Betty moved to Idaho with her mother and three sisters. She attended school in Twin Falls and met her future husband there.

Betty married Eafon "Bob" Sept on June 13, 1948, in Twin Falls. They made their home in Buhl and raised two daughters. Betty graduated from Boise State College in 1971 with an education degree and taught science in the Buhl School District for 17 years before retiring in 1986.

Betty's most admirable qualities were her positive outlook on life and her unwavering devotion to her family. She enjoyed every opportunity to spend time

with her daughters and grandchildren. Extra-special moments included welcoming her two great-grandsons to the family. In addition, Betty enjoyed reading, gardening, shopping and spending time at the West End Senior Citizens Center with her friends.

Betty is survived by her two daughters, Deborah (John) Knapp, Meridian, Christine Sept, Heyburn; two sisters, Jessie Lingnaw and Violet Becker, both of Twin Falls; grandson, Jon Knapp, Kuna, granddaughter, Nicole (Bill) Wandrie, Crookston, Minn.; and great-grandsons, Isaac and Brandon Wandrie, Crookston, Minn.

She was preceded in death by her husband Bob, sister Dorothy and her parents.

Funeral services will be 2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 17, at The First Christian Church, 1005 Poplar St. in Buhl. Burial will follow in the West End Cemetery. A viewing will be 4-7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 16, with family greeting from 5-6 p.m. at Farmer Funeral Chapel, Buhl. Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society or Buhl First Christian Church.



## DEATH NOTICES

### Frieda Amelia Mason

TWIN FALLS — Frieda Amelia Mason, 97, of Twin Falls, passed away on Jan. 10, 2009, at a local care facility.

Services will be announced by Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home.

### Floyd Tudor

KIMBERLY — Floyd Tudor, 71, died Saturday, Jan. 9, 2009, at his home in Kimberly.

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home.

## SERVICES

**Barbara M. Howard Osborne** of Gooding, celebration of life at 11 a.m. today at the First Christian Church in Gooding (Demaray Funeral Service, Gooding Chapel).

**Kerma D. Craner Bernard** of Boise and formerly of Twin Falls, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the LDS Chapel, 3200 Cassia St. in Boise; visitation from 10 to 10:45 a.m. today at the church (Relyea Funeral Chapel in Boise).

**Michael A. Graham** of Twin Falls, funeral at 1 p.m. today at the First Assembly of God Church, 143 Locust st. N. in Twin Falls (White Mortuary in Twin Falls).

**Randy A. Crowley Sr.** of Twin Falls, celebration of life at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Addison Ave. E. in Twin Falls; visitation from 5 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral chapel.

**Virginia Rose Schell** of

Twin Falls, celebration of life at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Eternal Life Christian Center in Twin Falls; visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. today at Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home in Twin Falls.

**Clifford Ray Morgan** of Twin Falls, funeral at 1 p.m. today at the Twin Falls LDS 9th Ward Chapel, 3155 Elizabeth Blvd.; visitation one hour before the service today at the church (Accent Funeral Home in Meridian).

**Miriam L. 'Ginger' Cook** of Jerome, celebration of life at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Jerome Free Will Baptist Church; visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. today at Hove-Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome.

**Bonifacia "Boni" Villanueva** of Rupert, funeral at 11 a.m. Wednesday at St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Rupert; visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the church (Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel).

For obituary rates and information, call 735-3266 Monday through Saturday. Deadline is 3 p.m. for next-day publication. The e-mail address for obituaries is [obits@magicvalley.com](mailto:obits@magicvalley.com). Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 4 p.m. every day. To view or submit obituaries online, or to place a message in an individual online guestbook, go to [www.magicvalley.com](http://www.magicvalley.com) and click on "Obituaries."

## Randall, named Fender Stratocaster guitar, dies

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — Don Randall, the marketing dynamo who gave Fender's Stratocaster guitar its name and led the brand to onstage ubiquity, has died. He was 91.

Randall died of age-related causes Dec. 23 at his home in Santa Ana, his son, Tim, told the Los Angeles Times.

Randall's marketing savvy elevated electric guitar designer Leo Fender's instruments, played by such musicians as Ritchie Valens, Jimi Hendrix and Eric Clapton, into a hugely successful franchise during the brand's first two decades.

Tom Wheeler, a former editor of Guitar Player magazine, said Randall changed the way the public viewed guitars and playing music, adding: "It's highly unlikely that Fender could have achieved anywhere near as worldwide success without Don Randall."

Randall was born Oct. 30, 1917, in Kendrick, Idaho, and

moved with his family to California when he was 10.

He was managing an electric parts wholesaler in Santa Ana when he learned about the lap steel guitars and small amplifiers Fender was building in his small radio shop in nearby Fullerton. The two teamed up to form what is now the Scottsdale, Ariz.-based Fender Musical Instruments Corp.

He named Fender's first commercially available guitar the Broadcaster in 1950, then renamed it the Telecaster following a trademark dispute with another company. In 1954, he tapped into his background as an aviation enthusiast and pilot to dub Fender's newest guitar the Stratocaster.

Randall negotiated the 1965 sale of Fender's firm to CBS for \$13 million. In 1970, he founded Randall Instruments in Irvine, which he sold in 1987. Fender died in 1991.

## Storm blankets snow across Midwest, New England

By Kantele Franko  
Associated Press writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A weekend winter storm blanketed parts of the Midwest and Northeast with up to a foot of snow, causing a 59-vehicle pileup and at least four traffic fatalities.

In New Hampshire, three buses and two tractor-trailer rigs were among 59 vehicles that crashed on snowy Interstate 93, sending a dozen people to hospitals Sunday morning and temporarily shutting down a stretch of the highway's northbound lanes.

None of the injuries were life threatening, but it took emergency crews about an hour to remove one man from a car wedged under the back of a tractor trailer, Derry Fire Battalion Chief Jack Webb said.

A car that slid on ice caused a 13-car pileup Sunday afternoon near Greenwich, Conn., sending two people to the hospital and closing the northbound side of Interstate 95 for two hours. Police said no serious injuries were reported.

A Maryland teen was killed Sunday when he lost control of his SUV on an icy road and ran into a telephone pole near Union Mills. Authorities in Michigan said a 49-year-old man died when his snowmobile collided with a snow plow Saturday in Dorr Township. Motorists also died Saturday in Illinois and Indiana.

The snow was a boon to Ohio ski resorts, which called



AP photo  
Anthony Sanfilippo, of Gloucester, Mass., shovels snow from his 22-foot boat following a winter storm Sunday at the Jodrey State Fish Pier in Gloucester, Mass.

it a stimulus package for their industry.

"We've been in business for 47 years and — this is what I can't believe — yesterday was by far the best gross sales day we've ever had," said George Shaffer, area manager of the Alpine Valley ski resort east of Cleveland in Geauga County, where 11 inches of snow fell.

Most residents in New England heeded the authorities' warnings to stay off roads after the storm dumped up to 9 inches of snow in some areas in Massachusetts and sleet and freezing rain across Rhode

Island. Some communities declared snow emergencies to help cleanup crews plow streets.

A transportation department worker in Delaware suffered a broken leg Sunday when an SUV plowed through a section of highway near Wilmington that had been closed because of icy conditions.

The National Weather Service reported 8 inches of snow at Blissfield and Morenci in Michigan, and more than 6 inches of snow fell on Detroit. The service also issued a winter storm

watch across Michigan for Monday night through Tuesday.

The Pacific Northwest remained on alert Sunday with three flooded rivers in Washington, where state officials were assessing the damage from heavy rain and melting snow on roads and property.

National Guard troops were deployed in Lewis County, which was one of the state's hardest hit counties by flooding, said Rob Harper, a spokesman for the state division of Emergency Management.

## Quick tapping of unspent \$350 billion in works

By Andrew Taylor  
and Philip Elliott  
Associated Press writers

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats prepared Sunday to answer a request for the remaining \$350 billion in financial industry bailout funds as the Bush administration and President-elect Obama undertook a tag-team effort to obtain the money from reluctant lawmakers.

A vote in Congress is likely as early as this week, several senators predicted after receiving a rare Sunday briefing from top Obama economic adviser Larry Summers on the Wall Street bailout, as well as on Obama's separate \$800 billion-or-so economic recovery plan.

President Bush would request the additional money for the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP, but the incoming administration would make the case for it by laying out a series of changes in how the program is run. More of the

money would go directly to relieve homeowners threatened with foreclosure, said Senate Banking Committee Chairman Christopher Dodd, D-Conn. A fuller accounting of the money already spent is needed as well, Dodd said.

"Larry Summers made a very strong argument for why it's important and critical for the overall recovery," said Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass. "And I think that's an argument that most senators understand."

Summers sought to win over Senate Democrats even as the GOP leader of the House, John Boehner of Ohio, warned that any effort to release the additional money would "be a pretty tough sell." Boehner appeared on CBS' "Face The Nation."

A request would force a vote within days on whether to block the funding, but the deck is stacked in favor of Bush and Obama winning release of the remaining \$350 billion. Congress can pass a resolution disapprov-

ing the request, but the White House could veto the resolution; then, just one-third of either chamber would be needed to uphold the veto and win release of the money. Senate leaders would prefer to win a majority vote, Dodd said.

The idea is to make the money available to the new administration shortly after Obama takes office Jan. 20. The unpopular bailout has featured unconditional infusions of money into financial institutions that have done little to reveal what they've done with it.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson originally promised the money would be used to buy up toxic mortgage-related securities whose falling values have clogged up credit markets and brought many financial institutions to the brink of failure.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid indicated Sunday that Bush and Obama officials are near agreement on submitting notice to Congress about using the remain-

ing \$350 billion.

"We're waiting to hear from President Bush and our President-elect Obama as to what, if anything, they're going to do," said Reid, D-Nev., "and that's occurring as we speak."

"The likelihood is that we'll have some kind of vote on that somewhere in the course of the week," Kerry said.

But to prevail, Obama and his team must soothe senators who feel burned by the way the Bush administration has used the TARP.

"The (incoming) administration ... is going to fundamentally alter how this is being managed," Dodd said. "The concept is still very sound and solid and it is needed. But it's not going to pass around here unless there's a strong commitment to foreclosure mitigation."

Dodd said lawmakers were demanding other conditions, such as more concrete steps to limit executive compensation and make recipients of the funds be more accountable.

## Student uses guerrilla tactics at Utah oil-lease auction

By Karl Vick  
The Washington Post

LOS ANGELES — Instead of joining his protester friends on the snowy sidewalk outside the Bureau of Land Management in Salt Lake City, Tim DeChristopher took a seat inside. In a room milling with oil and gas men who knew one another by sight, he was the unknown in a red parka, registering as a bidder in an auction for the rights to drill on 149,000 acres of federal land. DeChristopher was handed a red paddle bearing the number 70.

Half an hour later, he was raising it. "I leaned forward to one of my colleagues and said, 'This guy behind us is just running up the prices,'" said David Terry, a Salt Lake City oil-land man who routinely attends the BLM auctions. "And my friend said, 'Yeah, he's going to get stuck with a tract.'"

The University of Utah economics student got stuck with 13. Promising the federal government \$1.8 million he does not have, DeChristopher emerged holding leases on 22,000 acres in the scenic southeast corner of Utah.

He might have gone home

with more had federal agents not led him out of the room after he secured the rights to a dozen parcels in a row, finally just holding his paddle over his head, even between offers. The U.S. attorney is mulling charges that a spokeswoman declined to specify.

Even before DeChristopher subverted the proceedings, the Dec. 19 auction sized up as one of the most controversial during the Bush administration, whose policies critics have characterized as a bonanza for oil and gas extraction on public land. Opponents of the policies said the 35,000 drilling permits issued over the past eight years reflected the boom in petroleum prices and the administration's zeal to accommodate the oil and gas industry, even on public lands deemed "special" because of their beauty or fragility.

"This whole business of 'drill, baby, drill' totally ignored the fact that we are a well-drilled country," said Dave Alberswerth of the Wilderness Society, noting that by the count of oil field services company Baker Hughes, more drill rigs are operating inside the United States than in the rest of the

world combined. "BLM's oil and gas program has been just out of control."

The parcels DeChristopher snapped up stand near two national parks and a national monument that environmentalists and the National Park Service warned might be endangered by drilling. The outrage, which rivaled the outcry over the BLM decision to lease atop Colorado's majestic Roan Plateau, was aggravated by the timing: The agency announced the Utah auction on Nov. 4 — Election Day. Environmental groups answered with administrative filings and news conferences, including a National Press Club event featuring Robert Redford.

DeChristopher wanted to do more.

"I've been an environmen-

talist for pretty much all my life and done all the things that you're supposed to do that are supposed to lead toward change," DeChristopher said, accounting for action that, as he tells it, surprised even him. "I've marched and held signs. I've volunteered in national parks. I've written letters and signed petitions. I've sat down with my congressman, Jim Matheson, for a long time."

"Ultimately, I felt like those things were only mildly effective. And it was having a very tiny effect on a very large problem."

The guerrilla bidding did not go down well with the oil and gas regulars. The companies recommend parcels for the BLM to sell and can hold them for decades if they prevail at the quarterly auctions.

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## Israeli forces advance deep into Gaza urban areas

By Ibrahim Barzak and Christopher Torchia  
Associated Press writers

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israeli ground forces made their deepest foray yet Sunday into Gaza's most populated area, with tanks rolling into residential neighborhoods and infantry fighting urban warfare in streets and buildings with Hamas militants who kept up their rocketing of southern Israel.

An Israeli army spokeswoman said residential neighborhoods in Gaza are riddled with homemade bombs and booby traps, including mannequins placed at apartment entrances to simulate militants and rigged to explode if

soldiers approach.

The army "is advancing more into urban areas," said the spokeswoman, Maj. Avital Leibovich. "Since the majority of Hamas militants are pretty much in hiding in those places, mainly urban places, then we operate (there)."

Late Sunday, dense plumes of smoke from explosions rose over Gaza City and heavy gunfire was heard just south of the city. Early Monday, Israeli navy gunboats fired more than 25 shells at Gaza City, setting fires and shaking office buildings, including the local bureau of The Associated Press. The military said that in general, the targets are Hamas installations but had no immediate information about the

shelling that began just after midnight.

Gaza medical officials say at least 870 Palestinians, about half of them civilians, have been killed in the conflict that began Dec. 27 with Israeli airstrikes on Hamas buildings, as well as suspected rocket launch sites and smuggling tunnels on the Egyptian border. Thirteen Israelis, including 10 soldiers, have died.

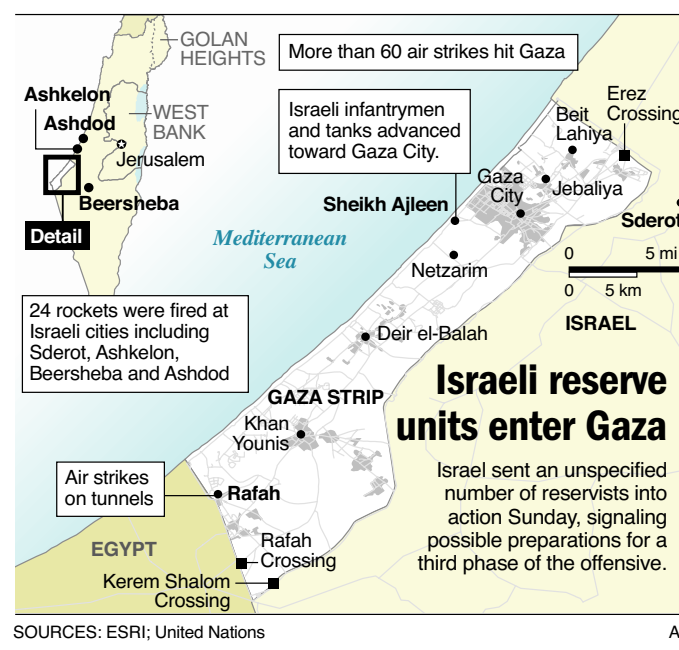
German and British envoys pressed efforts to negotiate an end to the war even though Israel and Hamas have ignored a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for an immediate cease-fire.

Outgoing Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Israel had made progress in its objectives

in the Gaza offensive but was not finished yet.

"Israel is nearing the goals that it set for itself," Olmert said. "However, further patience, determination and effort are necessary in order to achieve those goals in a way that will change the security reality in the south."

While Olmert's comment signaled no immediate end to the offensive, it indicated that Israel is wary of an open-ended conflict with an unclear agenda. Israel wants to end years of rocket attacks by Hamas on its southern population, a complex goal that could require Egyptian or international help in shutting off routes to smuggle weapons into Gaza from Egypt.



## No. 2 Senate Dem. hopes deal near on Burris

By Laurie Kellman  
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The Senate's second-in-command, Sen. Dick Durbin, said Sunday that he is moving away from resisting former Illinois Attorney General Roland Burris as President-elect Barack Obama's successor and hopes a resolution to the disagreement will be reached soon.

For his part, Burris said he and his lawyers will be in Washington on Monday to begin paving the way for him to join the Senate. But Durbin said lawyers still need to sign off on Burris' paperwork and review his testimony before the Illinois House, which later impeached Gov. Rod Blagojevich on corruption charges.

"I started off obviously skeptical, as all of the Democratic members did," Durbin, D-Ill., said on "Face the Nation" on CBS. "But as time has gone on and we've looked closely, we want to be fair to Roland Burris. If he has the proper certification and papers, then we're going to take one look at the process and move forward from there."

Senate Democrats have opposed Burris' appointment because of federal charges that Blagojevich tried to sell the seat to the highest bidder. Although they have argued that any Blagojevich appointee is tainted because of the scandal, no one has accused Burris of wrongdoing.

Burris, also appearing on CBS, said his appointment by Blagojevich is legal. On Friday, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled that under state law, Burris' appointment paperwork is valid and that it's up to the Senate to decide whether to seat him. But Durbin, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and other Democrats have said that unless the appointment is signed by both the governor and the Illinois secretary of state, it violates Senate rules.

Durbin said Senate lawyers are reviewing a document received Friday night to see whether it complies.

# New cars, new strategies



Troy Clark, president of General Motors North America and GM group vice president, introduces the Buick LaCrosse at the North American International Auto Show on Sunday in Detroit. AP photo

## Auto CEOs optimistic about new products, recovery

By Tom Krisher  
Associated Press writer

DETROIT — Just weeks after ending a year marked by dismal sales and a federal bailout of General Motors and Chrysler, U.S. automakers Sunday touted new products with a focus on fuel efficiency that they say will help ensure that their cars and trucks will roll off assembly lines for years to come.

Amid a crowd of several hundred cheering employees, dealers and retirees at the North American International Auto Show, General Motors Corp. announced plans to build a 40-mile-per-gallon minicar for the U.S. market, and it unveiled an electric-powered Cadillac concept car.

Meanwhile, Chrysler LLC's chief executive told reporters that while its key new products won't show up in dealer showrooms until next year, the Auburn Hills automaker expects to survive 2009 and remain an independent company.

"We'll be in a position to run the business at break-even or profitable at a much, much smaller industry than frankly a year ago that we ever felt would be possible to deal with."

— GM CEO Rick Wagoner

Ford Motor Co. said that by 2011, it will sell an electric car that can go up to 100 miles on a single charge, and it will offer plug-in versions of its gas-electric hybrid vehicles a year later.

Late last month, the Bush administration approved \$1.74 billion in short-term loans for GM and Chrysler after both automakers warned that they could run out of cash soon without federal help. Ford didn't take any government money because its executives say it has access to enough credit to get through the industry's sales slump.

The chief executives of all the automakers told reporters Sunday that their companies are on a path to

recovery and are here to stay.

GM CEO Rick Wagoner said the company's restructuring plans submitted to Congress, which include concessions from the United Auto Workers union and other cost cuts, combined with GM's lineup of new products, will make the company prosper when the worldwide auto market recovers.

"We'll be in a position to run the business at break-even or profitable at a much, much smaller industry than frankly a year ago that we ever felt would be possible to deal with," Wagoner said.

Chrysler's Robert Nardelli said that while his compa-

ny's plan for new vehicles has a hole in it for 2009, the automaker will make it to 2010, when it plans to introduce an electric car and a subcompact. It also has a new 300 sedan, Charger performance car and Jeep Grand Cherokee in the works.

Many analysts have predicted, however, that Chrysler will be acquired by another automaker by next year, or sold in pieces by its majority owner Cerberus Capital Management LP, a New York private equity firm.

Ford's executive chairman, Bill Ford Jr., said the Dearborn company is working on four high-mileage electric vehicles to be introduced in the coming years. Ford plans to have a battery-powered commercial van on the market in 2010.

"We're employing a comprehensive approach to electrification that will tackle commercial issues such as batteries, standards and infrastructure," Bill Ford said.

## National council: total ban on cell phones while driving

By Joan Lowy  
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — A national safety group is advocating a total ban on cell phone use while driving, saying the practice is clearly dangerous and leads to fatalities.

States should ban drivers from using hand-held and hands-free cell phones, and businesses should prohibit employees from using cell phones while driving on the job, the congressionally chartered National Safety Council says, taking those positions for the first time.

The group's president and chief executive, Janet Froetscher, likened talking on cell phones to drunken driving, saying cell phone use increases the risk of a crash fourfold.

"When our friends have been drinking, we take the car keys away. It's time to take the cell phone away," Froetscher said in interview.

No state currently bans all cell phone use while driving. Six states — California, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Utah and Washington — and the District of Columbia ban the use of hand-held cell phones behind the wheel, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Also, 17 states and the district restrict or ban cell phone use by novice drivers.

Council officials acknowledged a total ban could take years.

"Public awareness and the laws haven't caught up with what the scientists are telling us," Froetscher said. "There is no dispute that driving while talking on your cell phone, or texting while driving, is dangerous."

Froetscher said the council examined more than 50 scientific studies before reaching its decision. One was a study by the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis that estimates 6 percent of vehicle crashes, causing about 2,600 deaths and 12,000 serious injuries a year, are attributable to cell phone use. Hands-free cell phones are just as risky as hand held phones, she added.

"It's not just what you're doing with your hands — it's that your head is in the conversation and so your eyes are not on the road," Froetscher said.

John Walls, vice president of CTIA-The Wireless Association, a cell phone trade group, objected to a complete ban. He said there are many instances where the ability to make a phone call while driving helps protect safety.

"We think that you can sensibly and safely use a cell phone to make a brief call," Walls said.

## 'Slumdog Millionaire' wins 4 at GGs

By David Germain  
Associated Press writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — "Slumdog Millionaire" lived up to its underdog theme at Sunday's Golden Globes, sweeping all four of its categories, including best drama and director for Danny Boyle.

Kate Winslet won two Globes all on her own, best dramatic actress for "Revolutionary Road" and supporting actress for "The Reader." "The Wrestler" also had two, dramatic actor for Mickey Rourke

and best song for Bruce Springsteen.

"Golden Globes, or the GGs as we very affectionately refer to them — your mad, pulsating affection for our film is much appreciated. Really, deeply appreciated," Boyle said.

"Slumdog Millionaire" also won best screenplay and musical score, firming up its prospects for the Academy Awards. The film features a generally unknown cast in the story of an orphan boy in Mumbai who rises from terrible hardship to become a champ on

India's version of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," all the while trying to reunite with a lost love from his childhood.

"We really weren't expecting to be here in America at all at one time, so it's just amazing to be here," said Simon Beaufoy, whose winning script was adapted from Vikas Swarup's novel "Q & A."

Winslet won for her role as a woman in a crumbling marriage in "Revolutionary Road" and as a former Nazi concentration camp guard in "The Reader."



Mickey Rourke poses with the actor drama award for 'The Wrestler' backstage at the 66th Annual Golden Globe Awards on Sunday in Beverly Hills, Calif. AP photo

# Biden: U.S. will help fight terror in Afghanistan

By Fismik Abrashi  
Associated Press writer

KABUL, Afghanistan — Vice President-elect Joe Biden promised U.S. support for Afghanistan's struggle against terrorism, drugs and corruption, in surprise visit Sunday to a dangerous Taliban-stronghold area of Afghanistan.

The future of the region where al-Qaida planned the Sept. 11 attacks, Biden said, "affects us all."

Underscoring the difficulties of the fight to come, hundreds of militants crossed from eastern Afghanistan and attacked paramilitary forces in the lawless frontier of neighboring Pakistan on the same day Biden visited Afghanistan's southern Kandahar and Helmand provinces.

Six troops and 40 insurgents were killed in the clash in the Mohmand agency along the volatile border, said a military official speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not permitted to talk to the media.

President-elect Barack Obama has promised to end the war in Iraq and refocus U.S. military efforts on Afghanistan, where al-Qaida-linked militants and the Taliban are making a comeback after initial defeats in the U.S.-led invasion in 2001.

The U.S. is rushing up to 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan and some will go to these southern provinces.

Southern Afghanistan is one of the centers of the Afghan Taliban-led insurgency, which left some 6,400 people — mostly militants — dead in 2008 alone.

The southern provinces are also the world's largest drug producing areas, and hundreds of millions of dollars from the trade finance the insurgency, as well as feed the corruption among government officials.

Biden said the U.S. will continue with its struggle against terrorism, but also fight the drug trade and help the government tackle the corruption in its midst, said Daud Ahmadi, spokesman for Ghulab Mangal, the gov-



ISAF/AP photo

In this handout photo provided by the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), U.S. Vice President-elect Joe Biden shakes hands with an ISAF soldier at the ISAF Regional Command South Headquarters Conference Room in Kandahar province south of Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday. The commander of NATO-led forces in Afghanistan told U.S. Vice President-elect Joe Biden on Saturday that thousands of new American troops expected in the country's south will need more helicopters and other support to beat back surging Taliban violence, an official said.

"I am very interested in what becomes of this region because it affects us all."

— Vice president-elect Joe Biden

ernor of Helmand province.

Biden met Mangal and other Afghan officials inside a coalition base on the outskirts of Helmand's provincial capital of Lashkar Gah, Ahmadi said.

"I am very interested in what becomes of this region because it affects us all," Biden said during his visit to the neighboring Kandahar province, according to a statement issued by the NATO-led force. Biden was on the second day of his trip to Afghanistan.

Biden was briefed on activities of coalition forces in the south by Dutch Maj. Gen. Mart C. de Kruif, NATO's regional commander.

They discussed "the future of southern Afghanistan, to include the addition of American troops later this year," the statement said.

Some 32,000 U.S. troops already in Afghanistan serve alongside 32,000 other NATO-led and coalition troops, the highest number since the U.S.-led invasion to oust the Taliban from power began in 2001.

American, British, Canadian, and Dutch troops bore

the brunt of the fighting in this region in the last two years, and NATO's call for other nations to join the fight have fallen on deaf ears.

Biden "reaffirmed his and President-elect Barack Obama's pledge to fully support troops and their efforts in the region," the NATO statement said.

America's top general in Afghanistan, Gen. David McKiernan, told Biden on Saturday that thousands of new American troops expected in the country's south will need more support items "like helicopters, engineers, military police, transportation assets," said Col. Greg Julian, a U.S. military spokesman.

Biden's two-day visit to Afghanistan follows his trip to neighboring Pakistan, where he met with President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

He will conclude his visit with a trip to Iraq, the NATO statement said.

The U.S. senator from Delaware will take office as vice president on Jan. 20.

# Private citizen poses as jihadists to help fight war on cyber terrorism

Woman learned Arabic, infiltrated Web sites, chat rooms looking for terrorists

By Erika Hayasaki  
Los Angeles Times

NEW YORK — The nervous woman in a gray suit clicked on a photo lineup on an overhead screen labeled, "Jihadi Martyrs." It flashed two mug shots of men with names like Abu Issa, an al-Qaida recruiter, and Abu Jabber, a trainer.

A man in one photograph pointed a machine gun.

"They are all me," said the blond mother from Montana, speaking before an audience of computer experts, law enforcement agents and investigators at the first International Conference on Cyber Security, which was held last week in New York. "These are all individuals I acted as on the Internet."

Shannen Rossmiller, 39, is a cyber-spy and former judge who taught herself Arabic after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and began infiltrating Web sites and chat rooms to hunt for terrorists. "I learned to act like them," she said. "I learned to be them."

As her children slept, she spent nights and mornings posing as more than two dozen different Muslim militants from her home computer to gain information about planned attacks and terrorist cells across the world. Her investigations have led to two terrorism-related convictions in the U.S., and she has provided intelligence in more than dozens of other international cases.

Now, she is trying to expand her one-woman operation by creating a "cybercore," of experts in language, data mining and technology, dedicated to helping the government

track terrorists. Rossmiller, who was invited to the conference, unveiled the idea at the FBI-sponsored gathering of 400 people from 40 countries at Fordham University.

With 5,000 terrorism-related Web sites operating at any given time, it's overwhelming to try to monitor all of them, Rossmiller said. "As soon as you take one down ... they can upload the contents on another server in another part of the world. In a day or a couple of hours they can be up again. It's kind of like playing Whac-A-Mole."

She asked the audience, "How do we supplement what the government is already doing?"

Experts from Bulgaria, the Netherlands, China and the U.S. spent three days in New York to tackle the issue of fighting cyber crime — from terrorism, to child pornography, to the underground online economy in which passports, bank accounts and Social Security numbers are stolen, bought and sold.

U.S. counterterrorism agents have grown increasingly aware of how important it is for leaders from different countries to share their solutions and challenges in fighting cyber crime. FBI Special Agent Anthony J. Ferrante was part of the New York squad that in 2006 uncovered a plot to blow up the PATH tunnel. Law enforcement agencies lurked on Internet jihadi meeting rooms, monitoring chatter about the plans.

"That case involved targets scattered in 22 countries," said Ferrante, who helped coordinate the Fordham conference.

"Clearly, the Internet is a tool for recruitment, radicalization and raising money

for terrorists," said Thomas Nicpon, a special agent for the FBI. "Working on our mission, it has become apparent to me that many of these countries do not possess the cyber skills we have in New York."

Even so, law enforcement is limited in its manpower and rules, Rossmiller said. "I'm just a private citizen," she told conference attendees, but by working within the confines of the law, her information led to the 2007 conviction of Michael Curtis Reynolds in 2007, who went on terrorist Web sites looking for money to blow up the trans-Alaska and transcontinental pipelines.

Rossmiller posed as a jihadist, tricking Reynolds into disclosing his plan. She also helped convict Ryan Anderson, a National Guardsman embarking on an Iraq tour, who planned to sell U.S. military secrets to al-Qaida and kill U.S. soldiers. Anderson disclosed his plans to Rossmiller's fictitious personality online.

But she did not encourage untrained amateurs who simply are bored to take the risks she has. Rossmiller has received numerous death threats, been forced to move her family for safety and had her home broken into. Her car was stolen and later found riddled with bullets.

"I'm not out there saying, 'Sure, join up the effort, do it from home.' ... You might find yourself in legal trouble. You might mess up something ongoing and not realize it."

Her life has changed in the last seven years, but watching the recent terrorist attacks unfold on television in Mumbai, India, reminded her of how important the sacrifice is.

"I feel it's the right thing to do," she said. "If you have something to offer that is valuable or helpful why not offer it?"

# Storm sinks Indonesian ferry, around 250 feared dead

18 survivors rescued by fishing boat

By Irwan Firdaus  
Associated Press writer

JAKARTA, Indonesia — A ferry capsized in a severe storm and crashing waves in central Indonesia on Sunday and officials said around 250 people were feared dead.

Eighteen survivors were rescued by fishing boats, but the fate of the others remained unclear, said Taufik, a port official at Parepare on the island of Sulawesi, where the ferry began its journey. Taufik uses one name, as is common in Indonesia.

About 250 passengers and 17 crew are believed to have been onboard the ferry when it went down 30 miles off the coast off western Sulawesi. Indonesians generally don't know how to swim and it was feared that most onboard would have drowned.

Transport Minister Jusman Syafi'i Djamil said the captain — who was among those pulled alive from the sea — reported that 150 people jumped off the boat before it sank, but he did not know what happened to them.

"We have prepared a



search and rescue operation, but now there are high waves hampering the process," Djamil said.

The 700-ton Teratai Prima sank en route from the western port of Parepare on the island of Sulawesi to Samarinda, East Kalimantan, on the Indonesian half of Borneo.

The ship, carrying around 18 tons of cargo, radioed that it was "hit by a storm" before

it went down, said Nurwahida, a port official.

Eighteen passengers and crew were saved by fishermen who found them drifting on three life rafts, Taufik said, citing a survivor's account.

The closest town to the accident site is Majene, about 850 miles northeast of capital, Jakarta.

Boats are a major form of transportation in Indonesia, an archipelago of more than 17,000 islands and a population of 235 million. Poor enforcement of safety regulations and overcrowding causes accidents that claim hundreds of lives each year.

In December 2006, a crowded Indonesian ferry broke apart and sank in the Java Sea during a violent storm, killing more than 400 people.

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**INSIDE: To do for you, B2 | Comics, B5 | Classified, B6-12**

# 5 ways to be a healthier senior

 By Ariel Hansen  
Times-News writer

It's an old adage that you don't have anything if you don't have your health. While health is important at any age, for seniors it's especially important because a fall or illness — or mental deterioration — can be impossible to recover from.

To give seniors a little advice on how to be healthier, we talked to two local experts: Burley Senior Citizen Center manager Sharon Hardy-Mills and St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center internal medicine specialist Dr. Ron Miciak. Seniors at Hailey's Senior Connection also had a lot to say about what keeps them healthy and happy.



ARIEL HANSEN/Times-News

Jorjan Sarich giggles and shakes as she stands on a TurboSonic machine at Senior Connection in Hailey. The machine, like other exercise, helps oxygenate cells, stimulate circulation and tone tissue. For seniors, getting enough exercise is important to overall health.

## 1 See the doc

An apple a day may keep the doctor away when you're young, but as folks age, it takes more than fresh fruit to keep out of that waiting room chair.

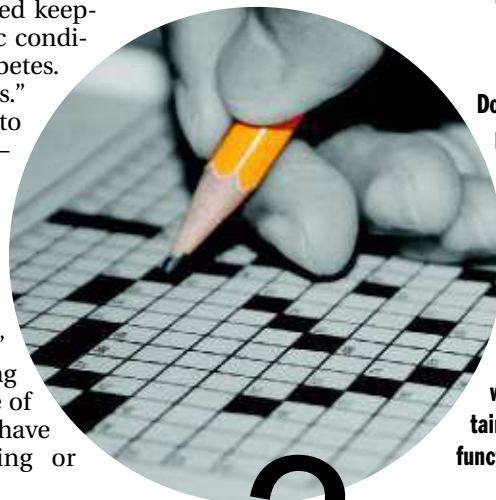
"The annual visit at least when you're in your 40s and 50s, and more as you get older," said Miciak. He emphasized keeping on top of potential or chronic conditions like heart disease and diabetes. "They need to know their numbers."

While at the doctor, don't forget to talk about nutritional needs — especially if you require a modified diet with low salt or extra attention to blood sugar.

Hardy-Mills said she has seen seniors cut their pills in half if they're feeling well. "I know pills are expensive, but that's a no-no," she said. She also suggested asking your doctor when is the best time of day to take each pill, as they can have different effects in the morning or evening.



# 2



Doing crossword puzzles or other mentally challenging activities helps aging brains create new pathways, maintaining mental function.

## 3 Keep thinking

Crosswords, Sudoku, jigsaw puzzles, Trivial Pursuit, word searches? Even Pac-Man if that's your thing.

"I think anything that keeps the brain going is a great idea," Miciak said. "The brain is a use-it-or-lose-it organ."

Martha Connor at Senior Connection said her preferred activities are painting portraits in oil and translating Homer's "The Odyssey" from ancient Greek into English.

In the senior center's back room, Clyde Voss of Bellevue and Jimmy Brown of Hailey regularly challenge each other to pool. Voss said he used to walk to the post office every day, but "...now I do my walking around a pool table." The games may have him moving a little less, but he's thinking more — about how to sink that eight ball.

Or try doing something you've never done before, Hardy-Mills suggested. It takes a lot of brainpower to learn a new skill.



ARIEL HANSEN/Times-News

The best way to stay healthy and happy is to get out and live life: visit friends, play games, volunteer your time. At Senior Connection, billiards buddies Clyde Voss of Bellevue and Jimmy Brown of Hailey often shoot the balls while shooting the breeze.

# 4

## Don't go it alone

This one's critical, agreed the experts and seniors.

"I can't stress enough staying active and staying involved," Miciak said. "That's the factor I've associated with the best results." He said he often has difficulty distinguishing between growing dementia and depression, and recommends antidepressants to patients showing mental sluggishness and social withdrawal. Spending time with friends and family can forestall both depression and mental deterioration — and it's fun, too.

"Attitude's a big thing: If you do the 'woe is me,' then it will be 'woe is me,'" Hardy-Mills said. "It's not an easy thing to convince yourself, but it's something we need to work on."

Jorjan Sarich, who now comes to Senior Connection in Hailey regularly, remembers the impact the senior facility's community made on her father. "People were truly treasuring him for who he was," she said. "He made friends here, and I saw him blossom."

## Move

No, we don't mean pick up stakes and buy a place near the grandkids, though that would probably be a lot of fun, too. We mean move your body.

"The main thing is, get off the couch, or you never will," said Hazel Mountain, a senior and caregiver at Senior Connection. She learned to ski a few years ago, and in one December week got out on the snow three times.

Both aerobic and strength training are important. "We see so many people with a minor stumble who go down and break their hip," Miciak said. "The more we can keep people active and exercising, the better." He often recommends College of Southern Idaho's senior exercise program to his patients. (For details on CSI's "Over 60 and Getting Fit" program, call coordinator Jan Mittleider at 732-6488.)

Even if most of your exercise is indoors, don't forget to spend time outside. "You've still got to have some fresh air sometime," Hardy-Mills said, also emphasizing the importance of sunlight for overall health.

## Set the table

It's a lot of work to cook a meal, especially one that is balanced, with plenty of whole grains, fruits and vegetables. And if you're cooking for just yourself, it's easy to turn to TV dinners or unbalanced snacks.

"Most people know what they should be eating, but getting to that point can be difficult," Miciak said. He suggested getting assistance from Meals on Wheels or volunteer groups, or going to the local senior center to ensure your meals are complete — plus you get the social interaction. (For a weekly guide to south-central Idaho senior centers and their menus and activities, see the Family Life section inside the Sunday *Times-News*.)

It's also easy to forget to drink enough water, especially when your body fails to trigger the thirst mechanism. "That's part of the aging process, is you lose the desire to drink," said Senior Connection member Jorjan Sarich.

Hardy-Mills recommends that seniors take out the fine china, good jewelry and nice clothes regularly, because that breaks routine and makes an evening more exciting.

"Go ahead and do it; who cares?" she said. "Make it be a special day today."



# 5

**Aubrey's starting weight:** 249 pounds  
**Weight lost this week:** 13  
**Current weight:** 236



Photo courtesy of NBC

# AUBREY WATCH

In 2008, Aubrey Cheney of Gooding flew to California with her sister, Mandi Kramer of Boise, to compete in season seven of NBC's "The Biggest Loser Couples." The sisters are the Yellow Team.

Last week's episode: Aubrey and Mandi are cho-

sen to work with kick-butt trainer Jillian Michaels. In their first weigh-in, Mandi doesn't hold back her tears when she weighs in at 262 pounds. "I don't even let my husband see me like this," she says.

The sisters work out their aggression during the challenge, though, finishing a

close second to the Black Team and debuting as one of the most competitive teams this season.

After the weigh-in, the duos find out they'll have to send one member home for 30 days while the other teammate continues at the ranch. The sisters decide Aubrey will return to Gooding. As long as

Mandi avoids elimination, Aubrey will be able to come back.

"Mandi is a competitor, and she will guarantee that I will be back in 30 days," Aubrey says.

But will it work?

Watch Aubrey's progress at 7 p.m. Tuesdays on NBC.

# To do for You

Reservations: 734-9422.

## Asthma education

Asthma education class for people with asthma, their families and caregivers, 6-7 p.m. Thursday in the Sage Room at St. Luke's Education Building, 588 Addison Ave. W. in Twin Falls.

The class follows guidelines set by the National Asthma Education and Prevention Program and the American Lung Association.

Free. Preregistration required: 737-2007.

## Learn CPR

"Heartsaver Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation" class, 6-10 p.m. Thursday, in the Sage Room at St. Luke's Education Center, 588 Addison Ave. W. in Twin Falls.

Topics: infant, child and adult CPR, and automated external defibrillators.

Cost is \$36. Preregistration required; 737-2007.

## Learn belly dancing

The College of Southern Idaho's Community Education Center offers two classes in Middle Eastern dance in Room 236 at the CSI gymnasium. Cyndie Woods will instruct.

• "Beginning Middle

Eastern (Belly) Dance I" will be from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 28 through March 4; cost is \$65. The dance form is derived from traditional women's dances of the Middle East and North Africa. Belly dance is an art form that embraces all body types and enables participants to create self-confidence through artistic self-expression, organizers said.

• "Beginning Middle Eastern (Belly) Dance II" will be from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays, Jan. 28 through March 4; cost is \$65. Isolation movements and dance steps learned in the first class will be reviewed, and new movements and combinations will be taught. Belly dance can help develop postural alignment, core strength and flexibility, organizers said.

Students should wear comfortable exercise clothing, bring a scarf to tie around the hips and wear socks or non-slip dance shoes.

Register: 732-6442 or [www.communityed.csi.edu](http://www.communityed.csi.edu).

"To do for you" is a listing of health-related activities, events and education. Submit information by Thursday for publication in the following Monday's Healthy & Fit section. E-mail notices to [ramona@magicvalley.com](mailto:ramona@magicvalley.com).

## 'Baby and Me'

St. Benedict's Family Medical Center's "Baby and Me" classes, from 11 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, at Jerome Public Library, 100 First Ave. E.

The session is for parents of children from infancy through toddler years.

Free; 324-6133.

## Infant safety and CPR

Infant safety and cardiopulmonary resuscitation, 6:30-9 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, in the lobby of St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center's downtown campus, 660 Shoshone St. E. in Twin Falls.

New parents, grandparents and caregivers learn CPR and what to do if a baby chokes.

No registration required; free; 732-3148.

## Learn strength training

"A Stronger You" strength training program for ages 45 and older, from 5:30 to 7 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, this week through Feb. 19, at Cassia County Extension office, 1013 W. 16th St. in Burley. Grace Wittman, extension educator, will instruct.

Topic: proper use of weights to increase strength, balance and independence.

Cost is \$10. Class size limited to 10. Preregistration required by today: 878-9461.

## Alzheimer's support

Alzheimer's Support Group meeting, 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, at Rosetta Assisted Living, 1177 Eastridge Court in Twin Falls.

Open to Twin Falls County residents who have family members with Alzheimer's.

# How fit are you?

## Try these tests at home

By Howard Schneider  
The Washington Post

Signing up for a new exercise program may lower the level of guilt, but that alone won't get the work done. Instead, I asked a few trainers to offer simple tests you can do at home or on the way to work to check your strength, aerobic fitness, balance and all the other stuff we want to keep intact. Some are pretty basic. Others are a bit more challenging.

• **Aerobic capacity:** There are lots of ways to evaluate fitness, but one of the most fundamental is to look at your ability to raise your heart rate, increase your breathing and use more oxygen to allow the muscles to do more work. Actual measurement requires access to the right equipment, but there are plenty of ways to get a rough idea of where things stand.

Such as walking up a long staircase. Lance Breger, head private trainer at Washington-based Mint Fitness, says: Check your breathing at the end. If you can speak in reasonable sentences without gasping for air, then you're in decent shape. If you have to make stops along the way or are breathless by the time you reach the top, then think about regular cardio training (such as taking the stairs every day?).

Mary Layne, owner of LifeStages Fitness in Northern Virginia, suggests a one-mile run or jog. For her younger clients, Layne would want them to cover the distance in maybe 13 minutes, or roughly 4.5 mph; if you are older, strive for a brisk walking pace of 3.5 mph, or about 17 minutes per mile.

Finally, Kenn Kihui, who trains out of the Sport & Health chain's Rio facility in Gaithersburg, Md., offers this simple test for lung



Howard Schneider undergoes a 'gas exchange' test — part of figuring out how fit you really are — with the help of trainer Stacey Kirschbaum.

function (which also can serve as a basic deep breathing exercise). Good breath control figures into many types of exercise, and a slow controlled breath can be healthy and meditative in its own right. So get a full belly of air and see if you can perform a steady 30-second exhale. If not, try to work up to it: You'll find the practice itself relaxing.

• **Strength:** Upper body, lower body, back, abs: where to begin? Kihui offers a simple (but challenging) test and exercise rolled into one: the wall squat. With your back against a wall and your feet shoulder-width apart, slide down and move your feet out until your knees are at a 90-degree angle, with the hips parallel to the floor. If you can hold the pose for a minute, Kihui says, it is a good measure of lower-body strength and a strong indication that you'll avoid the routine pulls and strains that an unfit person can suffer from such simple motions as standing up or bending over. If you fall short, you can use the pose as an exercise to try to build strength. If needed, use a table or chair for support while moving into or out of position. Be extra careful if you have weak or problem knees.

For the upper body and for general core strength, Breger says to pay attention to some basic, everyday functions: Can you get your overhead bag into the compartment on the airplane without help? Can you get the grocery bags into the house and up the steps without a rest? Can you lean over the sink to shave or wash your face without a pain in your back? Can you get out of bed without rolling to one side and pushing up with your hands? (We hope you're saying yes.)

If you're in pretty good shape and looking for a goal, try the bench press, a classic measure of strength, Layne says: If men can press their body weight and if women can press half their body weight, that's a sign of good conditioning.

• **Flexibility:** Can you touch your toes? Can you wash your back? Enough said.

• **Balance:** Balance becomes increasingly important as we age. Falls and fractures are serious

injuries for the elderly. Poor balance can stem from neurological and other problems, but it can also be a sign of poor muscle control and inadequate strength.

Layne recommends playing stork: Stand on one foot for half a minute, then switch sides. If you think you are going to have trouble, do the test near a wall.

Successful? Now try it with your eyes closed. Layne notes the importance of visual cues in helping us stay upright, and without that orientation it is easy to start wobbling or even make yourself a bit nauseated from the disorientation.

Now that you have the tools to test yourself, don't be afraid to give them a try. The truth is out there. What you do with it is up to you.

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Cherie Ansuini, right, talks with Amy Peters, left, during a walking conference room meeting at the Healthy Living Support Network in Clarence, N.Y., on Oct. 23.

AP photos

# Board meeting too boring?

## Take a hike instead

By Carolyn Thompson  
Associated Press writer

CLARENCE, N.Y. — For anyone who has ever sat through a meeting with long-winded speakers and diet-busting doughnuts, Jennifer Baran offers an antidote.

In her "walking conference room," there is no sitting through anything. Everyone is walking on treadmills or elliptical machines.

The rest of the room, which Baran recently began renting out at the suburban Buffalo health center she owns, looks like most any other meeting room with its monitor for PowerPoint presentations, conferencing telephone and coffee pot.

Only here, participants work out while they work.

"Exercise? I don't think so!" was teacher Michele Ganschow's initial reaction when her principal, Cherie Ansuini, called a staff meeting there.

But a few minutes in, it was feeling like a good idea after all.

"You're using your time more efficiently. You get to do two things at once," Ganschow said.

There are potential pitfalls — sweating in front of your colleagues, for one thing. (And, be honest, there is something to be said for doughnuts.)

"It's funny to see everyone's expressions on the machines," gym teacher John Grzymala said as he worked the elliptical while taking in Ansuini's presentation. "Probably I'm beet red," he said, drawing laughs from his colleagues.

On the upside, comfy T-



Michele Ganschow smiles as she exercises in the walking conference room at the Healthy Living Support Network.

shirts and sweats replaced anything dry-clean-only, and monitors on the machines flashed calories burned, a reminder that the meeting was productive from a health standpoint, too. Another benefit: This is not a forum where rambling off-topic tangents would be tolerated, or even possible. There's nothing like a little burn to keep a speaker on point.

Baran opened her Healthy Living Support Network to offer nutrition and fitness education, and motivation. For the walking conference room, she drew inspiration from Dr. James Levine, a Mayo Clinic obesity researcher who assembled his own walking desk after publishing a study that found thin people were on their feet an average of two hours more and burned 350 more calories daily than those who are obese.

Pacing or fidgeting, considered non-exercise activity, makes a difference.

"We're trying to incorporate exercise into everyday life," said Baran, who has a master's degree in social work and was recently certified as a personal trainer. She hopes book clubs, movie watching parties and businesses will try out the new walking conference room, or a second room with a collection of recumbent exercise bikes. Regular rental fees range from \$60 to \$90 an hour.

While most who attended Ansuini's meeting for her staff at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary School worked out at a rigorous pace, a slower gait over a longer period of time is beneficial, too.

Reached by telephone at his office in Minneapolis, Craig Dexheimer was walking 2 mph on a treadmill — in full business dress, cufflinks and all. His professional staffing firm, Salo, has installed two walking conference rooms — also inspired by Levine's research — and he said the idea seems

to be catching on.

The company partnered with Levine late last year to study the effects of incorporating more movement into the workplace, including using walking workstations with treadmills that won't go any faster than 2 mph.

The pace is under the average 3 mph stride but allows workers to go along without breaking a sweat and becoming out of breath. At midmorning, Dexheimer, the company's director of operations and administration, had logged 4.3 miles and planned to walk until lunchtime.

He said he regularly fields phone calls and gives tours of the company to other businesses interested in the idea.

"You can check e-mail, you can log into the database," said Dexheimer, who lost 25 pounds in six months, weight loss he attributes to a number of lifestyle changes that started with walking. "There are cer-

tain things that are a little trickier to do while walking and that would be handwriting, making notes, just because you're bouncing around a little bit.

"It takes about two to three days to get used to it. I compare it to almost having sea legs when you get off. But it's something your body gets used to," he said.

Back at Healthy Living, tethered with a clip that would stop the treadmill if dislodged, Ansuini delivered her pages of notes smoothly if a bit breathily while walking slowly on a treadmill. The equipment's cup holders did double duty cradling water bottles and pencils. Acrylic clipboards at each machine held notes and provided a writing surface.

"I have an article on each of your clipboards ..." she said as the rhythmic footsteps and hum of the machine disappeared into the background.

"I think we're more productive because our energy level's high, our adrenaline's a little higher than usual," teacher Marc Bandelian said during a water break.

And by the end, he'd burned 268 calories.

# A quick pick-me-up

By Lindsey Minnema  
The Washington Post

In winter's grey and cold days, the midday work blues can hit hard. If you feel tired, lethargic or unmotivated during the day, try these pick-me-up tips from GoodElements.com:

- **Drink some green tea:** Its small amount of caffeine will give you a boost, and its antioxidants will help protect you from some chronic conditions, such as heart disease and diabetes.

- **Take a walk to get the blood pumping to your heart and brain.** A walk outside in the sun will also activate Vitamin D in your body and improve your mood.

- **Munch on a snack rich in protein, not sugar.** A sugar high comes with a subsequent sugar low, so try something else: a slice of whole-wheat toast, a handful of nuts, yogurt and granola or hummus.

- **Take a moment to stand up and stretch.** Focus on the muscles in your shoulders, neck and upper back. Breathe deeply as you stretch, inhaling through your nose and exhaling slowly through pursed lips.

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# A running program that fits your stride

By Jeannine Stein  
Los Angeles Times

The best-laid resolutions to get fit can quickly crumble with no plan in place and no budget for a personal trainer. Don't worry — we've asked a fitness expert to map out a program designed to remove the confusion and intimidation. Here's a running program courtesy of Andrew Lockton ([www.andrewlockton.com](http://www.andrewlockton.com)), a professional triathlete, private running and triathlon coach, and track coach for the L.A. Leggers running club.

## Week 1

The main goal is to establish a routine, Lockton says — so set a time to run and hit the ground. "The key is making this a part of everyday life."

That means determining the best time to run every day — mornings before work, in the middle of the day or in the evening — without making excuses about having to take the dog for a walk or needing to pick up dinner on the way home.

Getting into that routine is key, he says, because it tamps down the desire to put it off. "You shouldn't be making a decision about what you're going to do each time," he says. "You've already decided, so just keep it going."

Don't worry too much about distance in the very beginning — just run, and do it consistently. But, ideally, strive for covering three miles five to six days a week via running, walking or a combination (if you're skipping two days, don't make them consecutive — it's too easy to fall off the wagon). While that might seem daunting, it can be worked up to gradually. "The key isn't so much pushing yourself really hard," Lockton says, "but getting into a pattern and covering that distance."

Run on whatever terrain is available — track, sidewalk, dirt road. Save the treadmill for emergencies only — Lockton isn't a fan of the machines, because the biomechanics of running on a moving surface are different from running on a stationary one. Most of your running will be done outside, so get used to that.

There are various schools of thought on stretching. Lockton advises to do some light stretching after a run when the body is warmed up but never before. When you start running, begin at a pace that's about a minute or two slower than your usual speed to warm up the body and prepare it for the work ahead.

Take this week to set goals. "If you're just going out haphazardly, it's harder to find an internal motivation," Lockton says. "Have a clearly



ALLEN SCHABEN/Los Angeles Times

Coach Andrew Lockton lays out a routine you can stick to.

defined goal, whether it's losing weight, being able to run consistently or doing a race — something tangible that keeps you motivated." If motivation is a recurring problem, consider running with a friend or joining a running group. "Having people you're accountable to is huge," Lockton says. "It helps keep you to that routine and structure and offers fewer opportunities to let yourself slack off."

## Week 2

Continue the same running routine and aim for running the entire three miles if starting from a walk or walk/run.

During this time, runners might experience a few aches and pains; some can be chalked up to using new muscles. But chronic discomfort shouldn't be ignored. "When something hurts, don't run through it," Lockton says. "Figure out the problem and fix it, and then continue." An orthotic could be in order to correct an overpronation (excessive inward rolling of the foot), or a complete running-gait overhaul might be needed. You might need the help of a running coach to work on biomechanics or to consult a

podiatrist or orthopedist who works with athletes.

Diet will vary depending on whether the goal is weight loss, weight gain or weight maintenance, but Lockton suggests all runners eat more fresh fruit and vegetables and avoid going heavy on the bread and pasta. "The biggest mistake people make when they're starting a running program is to compensate for the amount of work they think they're doing by eating more," he says. "They end up overcompensating. If you're running three miles a day, you shouldn't need any extra calories unless you're at the bare minimum, since you're only burning about 300 calories during the run."

## Week 3

This week is about progression. Begin to incorporate 20- to 30-second bouts of acceleration five or six times during two runs a week, not on consecutive days. Don't try for an all-out sprint; just push a bit more and stay relaxed. Make sure you leave enough energy to complete the run. Allow yourself time to recover after the interval; walk or jog slowly to bring the heart rate down.

"You're getting the heart used to bursts of speed," Lockton says, "and you're letting the muscles also get used to running fast." This eventually will help increase speed and muscle growth as well as improve the cardiovascular system to make longer runs easier. Lockton adds that it's important to stay focused on how your body feels. Let it tell you how hard you can push.

In addition to speed work, increase the length of one weekend run by a mile or two.

As the running intensifies, so does the need for sleep, because this is when the body recovers from its efforts, Lockton says. "If sleep is cut short, it's more likely you'll feel little strains and wear and tear." Missing an hour or two here and there isn't critical, but as a sleep deficit accumulates, recovery might be compromised.

## Week 4 and beyond

Repeat the routine for Monday through Friday of Week 1. "By the end of the third week, we're putting a lot of stress on the body it wasn't used to," Lockton says, "and you need to let your body adapt to the changes."

So, to give the muscles a break, decrease the amount and intensity of the runs, or ditch the running altogether and cross-train. Bicycle, swim, hike — any activity that's not too taxing, is aerobic and doesn't involve a lot of strength work. Whenever possible, to maintain your routine, do these activities at the same time you normally schedule your runs and take the same days off.

As your program progresses, go back to this five-day recovery plan every four weeks to allow the body to recuperate. Then, on the weekend, resume the running plan and increase the distance by a mile or two.

In the ensuing weeks, as you become more fit, gradually increase the speed bouts to 45 seconds or a minute, and strive to decrease the recovery time in between. Continue to increase distance on weekends until you can run easily for an hour.

At this point, you might want to reassess your running goals and decide whether you want to work with a running coach or join a group to begin training for a race. Once a routine is established and the running kinks have been worked out, Lockton says, runners begin to look forward to training. "It becomes easier on the body, and it's a much more enjoyable experience."

# Flower power for fitness



## Gardening can help you stay active

By Jeannine Stein  
Los Angeles Times

Does gardening count as a moderate workout? In the fitness world, it's an ongoing debate. Yes, say some people: The walking, bending, digging and pruning is strenuous enough to gain fitness benefits. No, say others: More vigorous movement is needed.

A recent study might put this discussion to rest, at least for older people. Researchers from Kansas State University studied the gardening habits of 14 men and women ages 63 to 86.

They noted how much time the participants spent on tasks such as watering, walking, cleaning tools, weeding and harvesting. Heart rates and oxygen

uptake were measured to determine how hard they worked. Standard measures that rate the intensity of physical activities were used to evaluate the work.

Activities such as digging, raking and mulching used upper and lower body muscles and scored as moderate-intensity exercise. Mixing soil and hand weeding engaged only the upper body and were scored as lower intensity. Overall, the gardeners' activity was of moderate intensity but changed with the seasons. In logs, the gardeners reported spending 33 hours a week on average gardening in May, and 15 hours a week in June and July.

The study, published in the journal HortTechnology, noted that older people often become sedentary — and that the dynamic qualities of gardening could help them stay active.

## Slimming your student

How to help your overweight teen.

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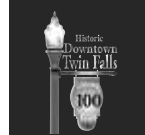
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Although nobody can predict what will happen with our economy or when it will recover, you may find some comfort in the following information:

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The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) has reported that we've been in a recession since December 2007.

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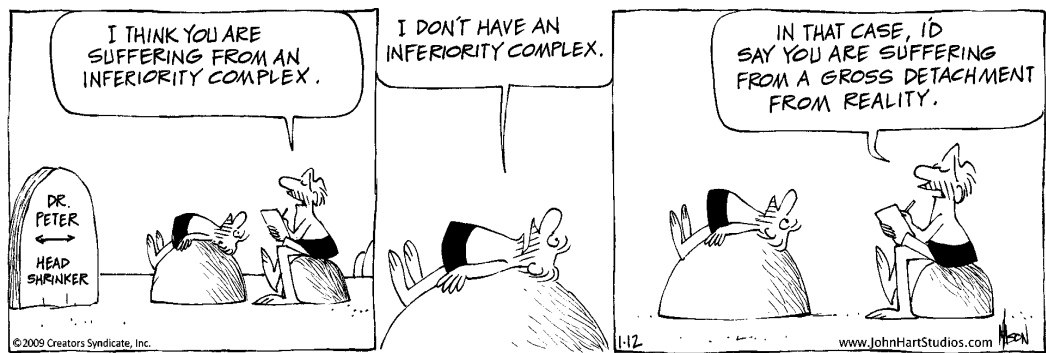
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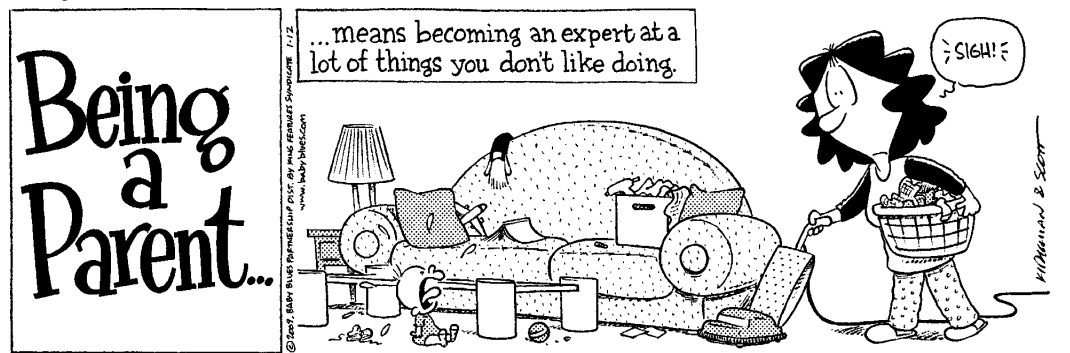
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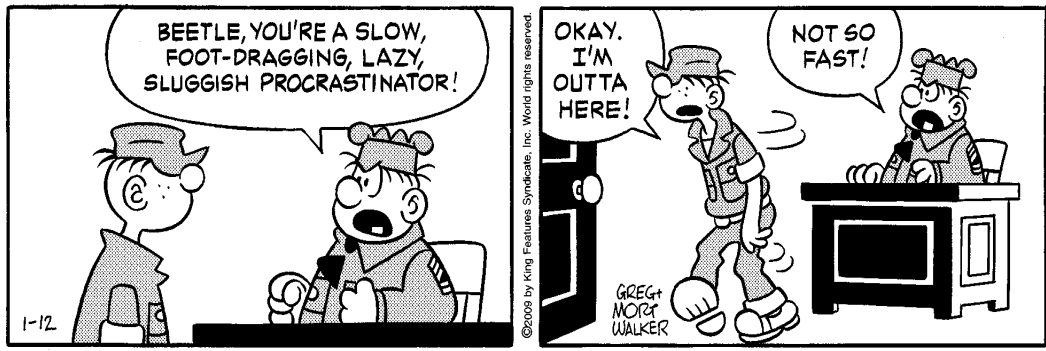
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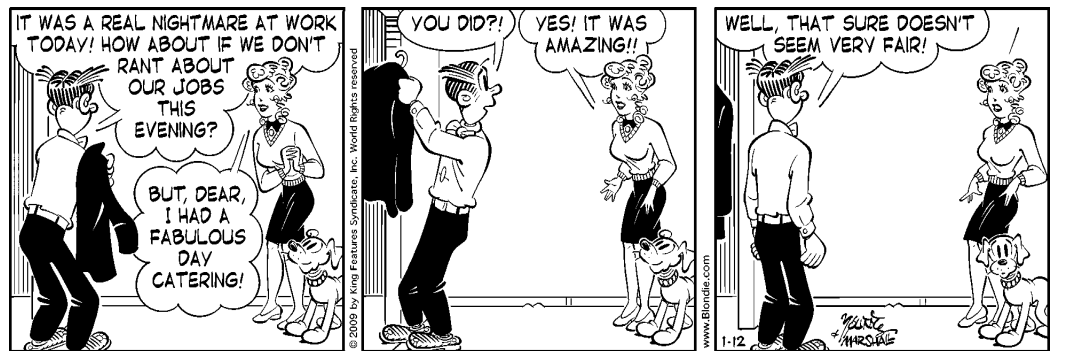
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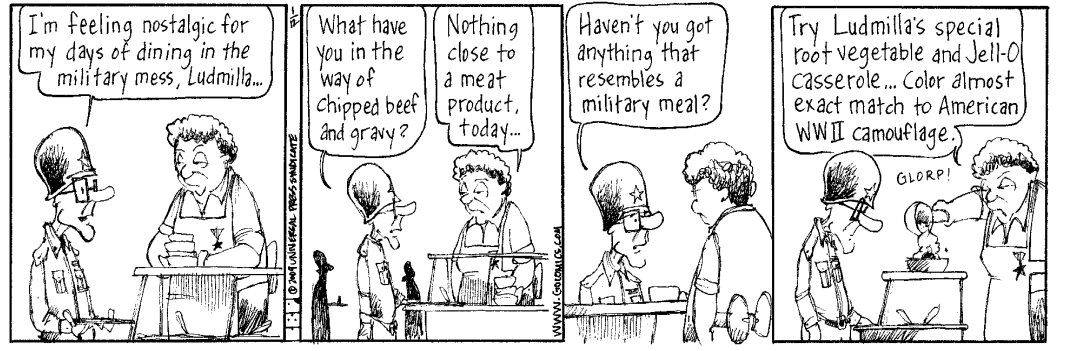
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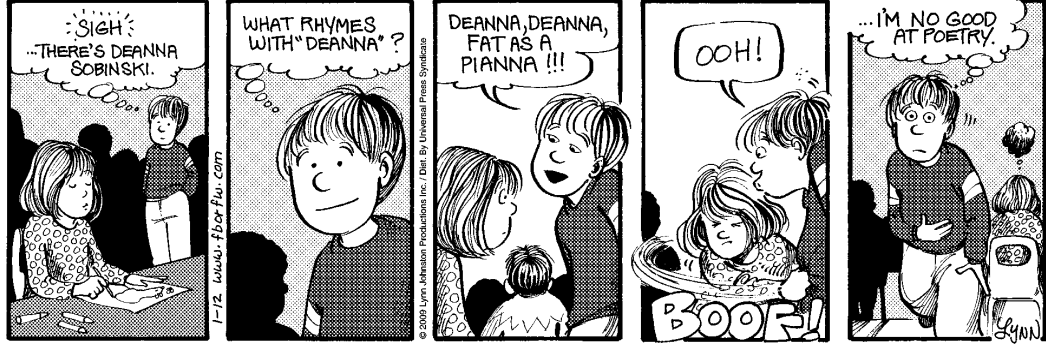
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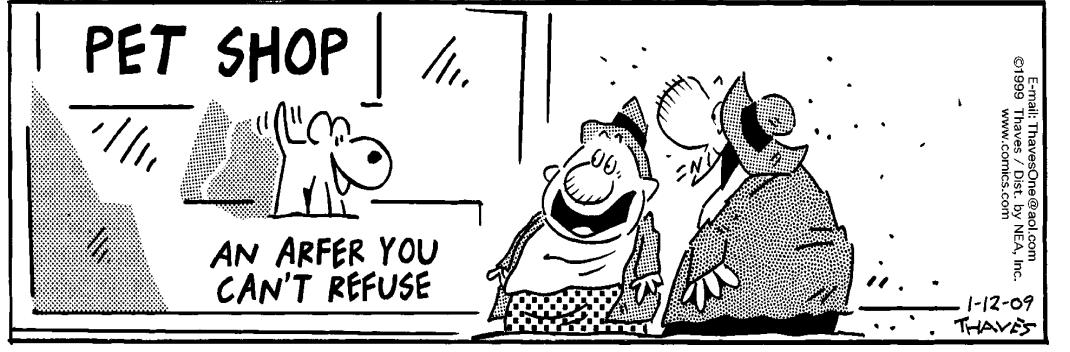
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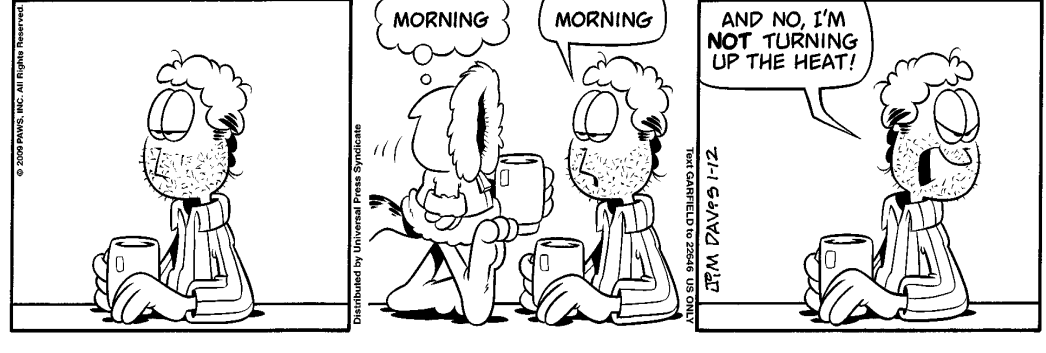
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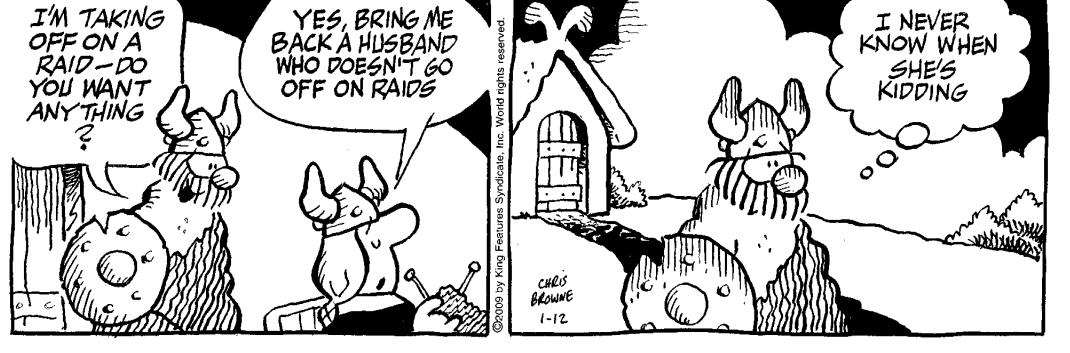
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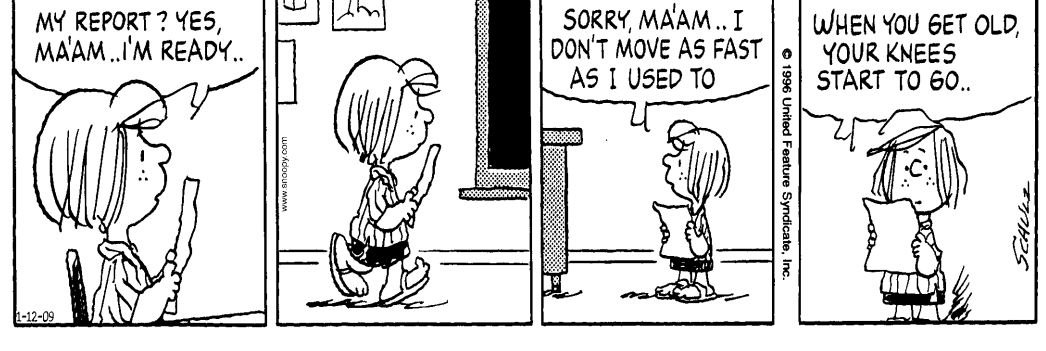
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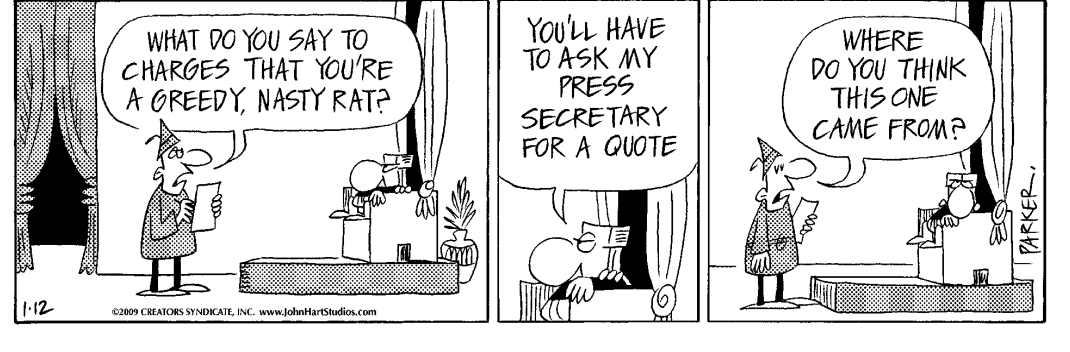
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300 FINANCIAL DENTAL Dental Assistant needed in Wendell. Must have exp. and expanded functions. Profit sharing and retirement. 410 N. Idaho St. Wendell, ID. 208-536-5441 or fax 208-536-5873

304 Investments GENERAL DRACO INVESTMENT CORP CASH for Deeds of Trust, Mortgages and Real Estate Contracts. Call today for a free, no-obligation quote. (208)733-3821

While other companies are cutting back WE ARE HIRING! Satellite Technicians Wanted! Experience a plus. Health Ins. & 401k Work as a Remote Technician! PAID TRAINING! Year-Round Work! Receive pay per WORK ORDER and reimbursement for MILEAGE! Must have own work vehicle. Also hiring experienced Satellite Installation Subcontractors High Earning Potential! Start ASAP! Proof of Certificate & Insurance req. Contact Tara @ 406-522-3203 Email resume to: swscreener@starwestsatellite.net www.starwestsatellite.net

300 REAL ESTATE 500

304 Investments PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE Selling Property? Don't pay any fees until it's sold. For free information about avoiding time share and real estate scams, write to: Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. 20580 or call the National Fraud Information Center, 1-800-876-7080.

400 EDUCATION 400

401 School Instruction 401 School Instruction

PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE Big profits usually mean big risks. Before you do business with a company, check it out with the Better Business Bureau. For free information about avoiding investment scams, write to the Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. 20580 or call the National Fraud Information Center 1-800-876-7060

MEDICAL MRI Technologist ARRT registered or registry eligible, for part time work in an attractive, modern outpatient facility. Day time hours and no call. Call Dennis Swaer at 208-734-5888 and/or fax resume to 208-734-5899

CLASSIFIEDS It pays to read the fine print. Call Times-News to place your ad 208-733-0931 ext. 2

REAL ESTATE 500

501 Open House PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE Selling Property? Don't pay any fees until it's sold. For free information about avoiding time share and real estate scams, write to: Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. 20580 or call the National Fraud Information Center, 1-800-876-7080.

502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale

BUHL ACREAGES 401 School Instruction

BARKER REALTORS Call 543-4371

BURLEY Like new, great location, 5 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home. Fenced in backyard, new flooring paint, lights and kitchen cabinets. 3500 sq. ft. Won't last long. \$189,000. Call Troy 208-431-8916.

FILER Lease purchase. New home, 4 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath, 2 car garage. Sale price \$229,900. Rent \$1000/month. Kathleen 280-0214

GOODING/WENDELL New home on 21 dry acres, 3264 sq. ft. \$88 per sq. ft. 3 full baths, 4 bdrms, playroom, carpeted throughout, AC & furnace. Will consider smaller house or farm ground on trade. 208-934-5370

TWIN FALLS 1474 sq. ft. 3 bdrm, 2 bath, like new, great neighborhood, near O'Leary School, motivated seller. Must sell. \$179,900. Reduced to \$159,900. 858 Green Tree Way 733-2323 or 426-9195 or 733-7051

TWIN FALLS 3 bedroom, 2 bath home, 1488 sq. ft. Fully fenced yard, automated sprinkler system, deck, RV pad, and much more. \$144,900. 1898 Spring Lane 208-734-8943

TWIN FALLS 4 bdrm, 3 bath, gas fireplace, 2,581 sq. ft. of living space. Landscaped, 3 car garage. \$279,900. 2165 Settlers Lane Financing Available First Federal Bank 208-733-4222 Ask for Ron Rasmussen or Shawna Daily

TWIN FALLS Free Home Search www.howtofindhomesinfo.com Free list of foreclosures www.twinfallforeclosures.com Exit Realty

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin or an intention to make any such preference limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodian; pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD Toll-free telephone number at 800-669-9777. The Toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 800-927-8275.

It won't MAKE YOU RICH But look on the bright side. IT JUST MIGHT KEEP YOU FROM BECOMING POOR. Eastland Park Dr., Falls, Capri Dr., Chase Dr. FOLLS AVE. W., Bracker, Caswell, Robbins Ave. WASHINGTON, Filer Ave. W., Dubois, Borah. MIDWAY, Stevens Street, Palamina, 6th Street. East Ave. E, East Ave. F, East Ave. G, East Ave. H. Adell Ave., Union St., Idaho Ave., Yakima Ave.

A WAY TO MAKE MONEY THAT MOST PEOPLE ONLY Dream About (Mainly because they're still asleep) Call now for more information about routes available in your area. Twin Falls . . . 735-3346 Burley, Rupert, Paul . . . 677-8733 Kimberly, Buhl, Filer, TFRW . . . 735-3241 Gooding, Shoshone, Hailley, Jerome . . . 735-3302

Call now for more information about routes available in your area.









TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Partly to mostly sunny. Highs low 40s.
Tonight: Partly cloudy. Areas of patchy fog possible late.
Lows upper 20s to near 30.
Tomorrow: Increasing clouds. Highs low 40s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Periods of sun and a stiff breeze. Highs low 40s.
Tonight: Partly cloudy. Lows near 30.
Tomorrow: Comfortable with sunny periods. Highs low to middle 40s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

Map of Idaho showing forecast for various regions including Boise, Idaho Falls, and Pocatello. Includes text about sun valley surrounding mountains.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Five-day forecast for Twin Falls with icons for Today, Tonight, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and high/low temperatures.

Yesterday's Weather

Table with columns: City, Hi, Lo, Prop. Lists weather for various Idaho cities like Boise, Burley, and Idaho Falls.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Almanac section containing Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, Sunrise and Sunset, Moon Phases, Moonrise and Moonset, and U.V. INDEX.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table with columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Wednesday. Lists forecasts for cities like Boise, Burley, and Idaho Falls.

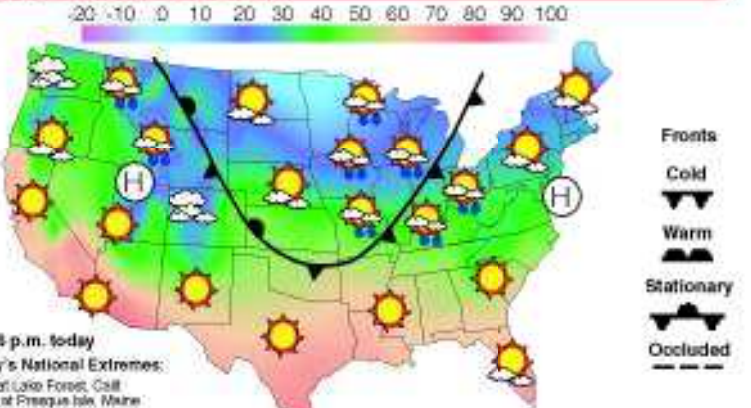
NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for cities like Atlanta, Baltimore, and Boston.

WORLD FORECAST

Table with columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for cities like Acapulco, Adelaide, and Ankara.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



CANADIAN FORECAST

Table with columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists forecasts for Canadian cities like Calgary and Edmonton.

meineke car care center advertisement with address and phone number.

Large advertisement for Thrifty Car Sales and Smalley Motors, listing various vehicles like SUVs, vans, and buses.

Large advertisement for Assisted Auto Brokerage, listing various cars and services.

Large advertisement for Middlekauff Ford, listing various cars and services.

WARNING: When purchasing a vehicle, make sure that the title is in the name of the seller. Under Idaho motor vehicle code a vehicle cannot be sold unless the title is in the name of the seller.

WHO can help YOU sell your car? Classifieds Can! 733-0931 ext. 2