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FOOD, C1

MEGA-MERGER

Citigroup combines brokerages with Morgan Stanley.

BUSINESS, C5

FUTURE CONFERENCE FORAY

Minico, T.F. boys tangle on the court.

SPORTS, B1



TIMES-NEWS

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

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Under Otter's plan, ed budgets will be cut

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

BOISE — Most legislators promise to do their best to keep education free from deep budget cuts. But many acknowledge the state's economic situation is so dire that something has to go. Exactly what that something is remains to be seen.

"Now, between K-12 and higher ed, you've got 67 percent of the budget. There is no way that we can make the budgets we need to make and hold harmless 67 percent of the budget," said Rep. Fred Wood, R-Burley, who sits on the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee. Trying to balance the state's budget during an eco-



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READ: Times-News political reporter Jared S. Hopkins' blog, Capitol Confidential

conomic crisis, Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter proposed reducing the public schools budget by more than 5.3 percent — nearly \$80 million — and trimming higher education by \$10 million.

It's the first week of the 2009 Legislature, and state agencies still have to make their own presentations to JFAC. But many lawmakers agreed Otter's proposal to reduce money for public

education will occur despite the rarity of the move. This year's state budget is \$1.4 billion, roughly half of which goes to public schools. "We've got a budget book this thick and we'll be looking for every bill of money we can find and trying to do whatever we can do to hold

Please see **CUTS**, Page A2

Gooding school still eyeing 4-day week

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

Gooding School District found strong support for the idea of a four-day school week in a recent survey.

Out of almost 300 people who responded to a survey, about 70 percent were in favor of switching to a four-day week.

The district surveyed 292 people, 206 of which were supportive of the idea, while 86 were not in favor, said Superintendent Heather Williams.

The survey included feedback from students, staff and parents. The district is considering making the switch from a five-day school week to a four-day school week because of declining enrollment, which will lead to less funding in

Please see **GOODING**, Page A2

Support found

206/86

Gooding School District surveyed 292 people in the district on whether they supported going to a four-day school week. Two hundred and six people supported the idea, opposed to 86 who were not in favor.

Added safety at Sawtooth

School adds bus route so students can avoid busy intersection

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

The Twin Falls School District is adding a bus route so students who live near Sawtooth Elementary School can avoid heavy traffic at the intersection of Falls Avenue and Madrona Street.

The district's school board on Monday night approved a request for a safety busing route covering streets north of Falls Avenue.

Usually, students do not have a bus route if they live less than 1.5 miles from school. In this case, the district added a bus route for safety after deciding that traffic was a concern. It also comes in a school year when four students were hit by vehicles, prompting discussions about their safety.

"That's a dangerous crossing," said Superintendent Wiley Dobbs. "It's a dangerous street and that's what safety busing is for. It's to improve the safety."

A study of the intersection of Falls Avenue and Madrona Street had 2,254 vehicles travel through those streets between 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. on a school day in November.

Kirk Brower, director of programs and assessment for the district, wrote in a memo to the board that 89 students walked from Sawtooth Elementary and crossed the intersection that was studied.

"When a safety bus is added, all of these students, as well as those who are riding with parents because of a parental concern about safety in this high traffic area, will be able to catch the bus at a couple of designated pickup



Hayden Jacobson, 12, a student at Sawtooth Elementary School, walks back to the sidewalk after helping fellow students cross the street Tuesday afternoon in Twin Falls.

Photos by JUSTIN JACKSON/Times-News



Sawtooth Elementary School students file onto a school bus Tuesday afternoon in Twin Falls.

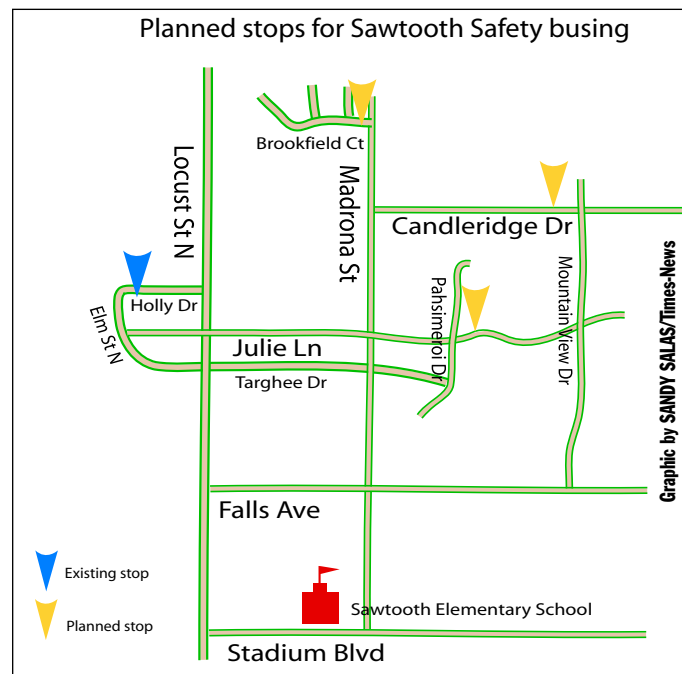
points and be transported safely across Falls and delivered to Sawtooth," Brower wrote in his memo.

When looking at the area north of Falls Avenue, there are about 190 students who would have the choice to ride the bus and avoid the intersection, according to the district.

The new route will begin on Monday, Brower said. It

will have three stops tentatively planned for the following locations: near the intersection of Madrona Street North and Brookfield Court; along Candleridge Drive west of Mountain View Drive and near the intersection of Julie Lane and Pahsimeroi Drive.

This week, the district will Please see **SAFETY**, Page A2



"It's a dangerous street and that's what safety busing is for. It's to improve the safety."

— Superintendent Wiley Dobbs on the intersection of Falls Avenue and Madrona Street

Convicted killer Baker claims rape

Woman now asking to be let out of jail

By Andrea Jackson
Times-News writer

A convicted killer is trying to get out of prison by saying she was kidnapped, raped and tortured in a murder that's locked her up for 12 years to life.

Nicole L. Baker, 25, has been lodged at the Pocatello Women's Correctional Center for more than nine months. She pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and criminal conspiracy in the killing of 19-year-old Jessie Coates, whose body was found shot and lifeless Dec. 26, 2006, in the South Hills.

Baker now says she didn't do it.

Prosecutors say she's just trying to escape responsibility and wasting taxpayer money along the way.

Two men accused of actually shooting Coates — James Roy John Jr. and Fredy Heredia Juarez — were convicted of first-degree murder and a third man, Michael Lee John, was convicted of second-degree murder.

Authorities say John Jr. and

Please see **BAKER**, Page A2



Baker

Press overhaul causes temporary changes

A major rebuild of a Times-News press unit will require some unusual section configurations this week. The changes are temporary, and may vary from day-to-day as the project progresses. Work should be completed by the end of the week. Thank you for your patience. Brad Hurd
Times-News publisher

Jerome zip-line creator seeks space to install it

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

The inventor of a motorized zip-line ride visited with Jerome County commissioners Tuesday morning about installing his creation somewhere in the county.

Martin Tilley's work first drew attention in 2007, when he set a "Flight Stimulator" zip line up on private property that crossed Devil's Corral. That line is now down, he said. But he's looking to work with county officials to set



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WATCH: A video of Pillar Falls, a site where Martin Tilley would like to install a zip line to the bottom of the Snake River Canyon.

up a line elsewhere in or on the canyon to operate as a commercial enterprise.

Tilley, with The Jerome Flightpath LLC, offers two products, he said — the motorized line, which can operate in both directions, and a "multi-vector" system that allows the rider to switch along a network of cables. The setup meets requirements in the

Americans with Disabilities Act, he said. And he emphasized that the thin line is nearly impossible to see against the rock wall of the canyon.

The plan Tilley presented Tuesday would have run his basic zip line more than 3,000 feet between two points of the north side of the rim near Pillar Falls. But county commissioners and

Find out more

To see a video of the zip line in action, visit <http://www.youtube.com/user/huntingii> For more information about the Flight Stimulator: Martin Tilley, 208-961-0760.

two members of the advisory committee helping to develop the county's North Rim Park nixed that for a number of reasons — among them, that the project doesn't fit at all with the Please see **ZIP LINE**, Page A2



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Classifieds.....D2-8
Comics.....C7

Commodities.....C6
Crossword.....D5
Dear Abby.....D3
Horoscope.....D3
Jumble.....D6
Movies.....A5
Nation/World.....B6, D1
Opinion.....A6-7

Service Directory.....D6
Sudoku.....D3
Today in History.....D3
Weather.....B8



High: 41 Low: 25

Mostly cloudy. Details: B8 and live at magicvalley.com/weather

500 W. overpass shut down

Friday collision causes closure expected to last several months

By Laurie Welch
Times-News writer

Minidoka County drivers who utilize the Interstate 84 overpass at 500 West Road will have to find an alternative route between Heyburn and Paul for the next four to five months while the overpass is repaired.

Idaho Transportation Department Spokesman Nathan Jerke said the structure was damaged Friday when a Jerome semitrailer driver failed to lower the top of a forklift below the 14-foot maximum height. The top of his load clipped the structure that provides a link from 21st Street in Heyburn to Idaho Highway 25, causing structural damage.

Jerke said this is the fourth incident of this nature in the area during the past year.

"It's more common than we would like," Jerke said.

The other incidents, which happened at the I-84 and U.S. Highway 93 junction, and the overpass one mile east of Eden and at the I-84 interchange two miles west of Kasota Road, were also caused by drivers who failed to lower equipment they were hauling.

According to a Friday



LAURIE WELCH/Times-News

A driver who failed to lower a piece of equipment on a semitrailer last week and crashed into the Interstate 84 500 West Road overpass near Heyburn caused extensive damage to the structure, which prompted a closure of the overpass for the next four to five months.

Idaho State Police release, Orville S. Drexler, 37, the driver of the semitrailer, was cited for not having an over-height permit.

"This looks like it was a mistake by the driver rather than the company's fault," Jerke said.

But the company's insurance company will be liable for the damages, which include damage to a sup-

port beam and shattered concrete.

"It really did a number on it," Jerke said.

Four other vehicles were damaged by debris that fell on I-84 before it was cleaned up by ITD employees dispatched from the Rupert maintenance shed.

Jerke said the inspector's report showed that the easternmost girder over the I-84

westbound lane was pretty much destroyed but three of the span's girders remain in good condition.

Although the road has been closed because of concern for the integrity of the overpass there is no concern that the whole structure may collapse, Jerke said.

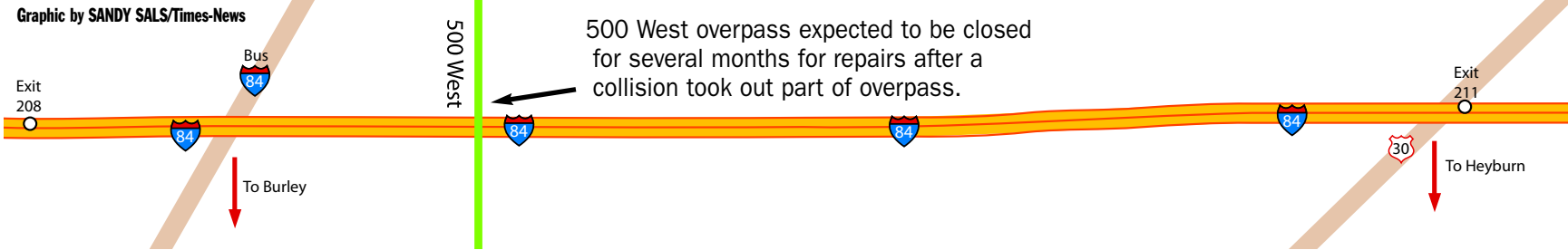
Jerke said the road will remain closed until repairs are completed. Motorists

will have to use alternate interstate crossings at Idaho Highway 27 between Burley and Paul and at Idaho 25 between Heyburn and Rupert.

A dollar amount for the damage has not yet been established.

Laurie Welch may be reached at 208-677-8767 or lwelch@magicvalley.com.

Graphic by SANDY SALS/Times-News



"(Collisions are) more common than we would like. ... (The collision) really did a number on it."

— Nathan Jerke, Idaho Transportation Department spokesman

Twin Falls prostitution case delayed

By Andrea Jackson
Times-News writer

Prostitution cases stalled Tuesday against two Korean-speaking women accused in November of giving more than backrubs at a former massage parlor in Twin Falls.

Five CDs of evidence from the Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office have only just made it to the defense table, said the attorney for the women, Hyong Pak.

The women, Myeong Sook Mickley, 46, and Sun Do Chong, 58, are both living out-of-state, said Pak Tuesday from 5th District Court, during scheduled pretrial hearings. Neither Mickley or Chong appeared in court on Tuesday.

Judge Roger Harris pushed the hearings forward three weeks, though, so Pak can review the material.

Pak also requested a Korean interpreter for the upcoming Feb. 3 pretrials.

Chong is charged with two counts of prostitution and Mickley is charged with a single count of the misdemeanor crime. They've pleaded not guilty.

Authorities assert the women led undercover male deputies into rooms at Osaka Massage and Spa on Addison Avenue and offered to perform sexual acts for money.

By early December the massage parlor was closed down, and police didn't charge any johns in the matter.

A woman listed in court records as co-owner of the property, Insuk Anderton-Groff, was charged in 1995 with prostitution in Boise. Pak recently told the *Times-News* he also represented Anderton-Groff.

Prostitution wasn't charged in 2007 in Twin Falls County, and these were the only cases last year, authorities have said.

Buhl awards water storage tank bid

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

Buhl awarded on Monday the contract for construction and installation of its new one-million gallon water storage tank to a company headquartered in New Mexico.

The decision to award the contract to Brown-Minneapolis Tank was made during Monday's City Council meeting, at the recommendation of City Engineer Scott Bybee and project engineers Forsgren Associates of Rexburg.

BMT bid the project at \$932,445, the cheapest of the four bids received. Other bids came in at \$1.2 million, \$1.34 million and \$1.38 million — all less than the \$1.5 million estimated for the tank and more affordable than bids rejected by the council last fall.

Many factors, including the declining market price for gas, steel and other construction essentials, in addition to few jobs available for contractors, led to the lower price, Bybee said.

"I think contractors are much hungrier for work," Bybee said.

In addition to BMT presenting a lower bid it, "appears to be a responsible contractor," according to the bid summary prepared by

Forsgren Associate Randall Johnson.

References submitted to Forsgren with bid materials indicated BMT was good to work with, performed quality work and was able to meet deadlines.

BMT will begin the project this spring, when the weather permits, said Bybee.

The tank is needed in order for Buhl to provide better fire protection to residents and buildings. The additional storage is required now, Bybee said, and will meet the city's need for years to come.

During the meeting the council also moved to help Buhl prepare to meet standards set by state code for water distribution and water treatment plant operators. Mayor Charles Sheridan said the move was so the city could hire those within the department when operators are needed in the future.

"If we get people started with getting their licensing now we can meet our operating needs in the future, without having to hire from outside," Sheridan said.

By passing the resolution, the city made an addendum to the personnel policy and procedure manual that "Employees will continue to upgrade certification levels to meet the grade of plant/system certification,

and city of Buhl expectations."

The resolution states position goals and intentions with timelines will be required by water department employees by the end

of January as well as obtain entry-level operator certificates by the end of the year.

Blair Koch may be reached at 208-316-2607 or blairkoch@gmail.com.

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5TH DISTRICT COURT NEWS

TWIN FALLS COUNTY TUESDAY ARRAIGNMENTS

Donovan J. Christensen, 24, Twin Falls; DUI, driving without privileges, resisting/obstructing, no insurance, racing on public highway; walk-in arraignment; Jan. 23 preliminary hearing; bond previously posted
Heath R. Christianson, 36,

Twin Falls; possession of a controlled substance; Jan. 23 preliminary hearing; \$30,000 bond; public defender appointed
Fernando J. Herrera, 27, Twin Falls; possession of a controlled substance; Jan. 23 preliminary hearing; \$16,000 bond; public defender appointed

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Idaho plans to cut off funding to Old Mission park

By John Miller
Associated Press writer

BOISE, Idaho — State officials say a tight budget will force them to end funding July 1 for the Old Mission State Park along U.S. Interstate 90 in northern Idaho, the site of the state's oldest standing building.

Bob Meinen, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation director, said Tuesday he's talking with the Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe, which owns the property that's home to the 155-year-old Cataldo Mission, on alternatives to keep the park open.

Last year, the state spent just short of \$300,000 to run the park, which includes a parish house and two cemeteries. Revenue was \$42,000, mostly from people making day trips. About 98,000 people visited last year, up 5 percent from 2007.

Just three years ago, then-Gov. Dirk Kempthorne pushed expansion of Idaho's state parks system through his \$26.5 million "Experience Idaho" plan. With Idaho's tax revenue set to fall 9.5 percent this year, Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter aims to cut back the state's general fund share of Parks and Recreation funding by \$9 million, or 56 percent, starting July 1.

If Old Mission State Park were to close, it could reopen once Idaho's budget picture improves, Meinen said.

"We've asked them if they can help us fund the operations of the park, to keep it open," he told The Associated Press, on a proposal to use tribal money to continue operating the park with the existing staff. "If they can't, because of financial considerations, then we would mothball it and preserve it."

Even with Otter's proposed cuts, Meinen is optimistic he'll be able to keep Idaho's 29 other state parks open through such cost-cutting measures as scaling back restroom roof repairs and campground improvements.

Idaho last closed a state

park in 1981, when managers temporarily shuttered Three Island Crossing on the Oregon Trail near Glens Ferry. That park reopened in 1983.

Other states are also looking to cut parks budgets. In Washington state, officials said last month they may close 14 of the 121 state parks to save money.

Coeur d'Alene tribal officials said a new \$3.8 million, 9,000-square-foot visitor center is nearing completion at the site between Coeur d'Alene and Kellogg, so news that state funding is due to be eliminated is especially disappointing.

"It's too bad that the budget crisis is affecting what has been a successful partnership between the tribe and the state," said spokesman Marc Stewart. "It's too early to speculate what the tribe is going to do. Hopefully, the tribe can find a way to keep the park open."

The Cataldo Mission, which became a state park in 1975, was completed in 1853 by Catholic missionaries and members of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. Paddlewheel riverboats docked at the mission's port on the Coeur d'Alene River to transport silver ore from nearby mines to a railhead downstream. Over the years, the mission has fallen into disrepair at least twice and needed significant renovations.

Local business leaders were taken off guard by the state's plan.

Norma Douglas, coordinator of the Silver Valley Chamber of Commerce in nearby Kellogg, said Old Mission State Park is an important stop on the 72-mile Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes bicycle path and lures people off Interstate 90 when they see its bright yellow, six-columned facade perched atop a grassy knoll.

She said the building, designated a National Historic Landmark in 1961, entices visitors to stay longer in the region and spend money at local restaurants and hotels. And generations of grade-school students from sur-

rounding towns have taken field trips to the site, to learn about early Jesuit missionaries and their encounters with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe.

"It's a national treasure," Douglas said. "It takes you back in time. Everybody who lives in this area should go once a year."

Sen. John Goedde, R-Coeur d'Alene, first learned of the plan Tuesday from a reporter and hadn't had time to scrutinize the details. Still, he said he hopes the park will stay open.

"My biggest concern is, we're not jeopardizing the integrity of the structure by cutting off maintenance money," Goedde said. "It's part of the tourist economy. If you cut off a source of revenue for businesses, that may have an adverse effect."



Bailee Schott, 11, of Boseman, Mont., takes a picture at the Cataldo Mission in Cataldo, Idaho, on Tuesday. State officials say budget cuts will force them to cut off funding on July 1 to the Old Mission State Park, the site of the state's oldest standing building.

Firefighters charged with using arson to get work

By Amanda Lee Myers
Associated Press writer

PHOENIX — Four firefighters have been arrested on suspicion of igniting between 15 and 20 fires in western Arizona so they could get paid for fighting them, officials said Tuesday.

Authorities also charged two men suspected of setting fires to get money from the firefighters, and were seeking arrest warrants for two former firefighters who have moved out of state.

The firefighters worked at the fire district in Ehrenberg, a town of about 1,200 people and about 140 miles west of Phoenix on the Arizona-California line. They got \$10 an hour per fire.

The six men arrested are suspected of igniting at least 15 fires in abandoned trailer homes, on open land and in expensive haystacks owned

by farmers between January 2006 and last week, La Paz County sheriff's Lt. Glenn Gilbert said.

No one was hurt in the fires, the most costly of which destroyed a \$200,000 haystack. Gilbert said the firefighters admitted to starting the blazes to make money and targeted haystacks because those types of fires can last for days.

Gilbert said the blazes were set with liter glass bottles of gasoline and lit rags.

The six men arrested Monday, all between the ages of 19 and 25, had their first court appearance Tuesday. They did not yet have lawyers.



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EDITORIAL

Our outsized — if temporary — clout in legislative budgeting

A decade from now, the dozen legislators who represent south-central Idaho may look back on the 60th Idaho Legislature with nostalgia.

Six of the 20 members of the budget-writing Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee — including the co-chairmen — for the legislative session that began Monday are from the Magic Valley and Wood River valleys.

By contrast, only three are from the Treasure Valley — home to 45 percent of Idaho's population. (The Idaho Panhandle also has six JFAC members and eastern Idaho has five).

This year and next will probably mark the high point of south-central Idaho's budgetary clout in the Legislature.

The 2010 federal Census will force the Legislature to reapportion itself. The 16 lawmakers who now represent the Magic and Wood River valleys will be replaced by no more than 12.

And JFAC? South-central Idaho may be tickled to have three members.

Our region has long had an oversized influence on JFAC, the committee that sets the agenda for the rest of the Legislature. Sen. Dean Cameron, R-Rupert, and Rep. Maxine Bell, R-Jerome, have been its leaders since 2002.

Sen. Dick High of Twin Falls and Rep. Bill Roberts of Buhl, who led the committee in the early 1970s, were perhaps the joint panel's most successful chairmen — but Cameron and Bell are extraordinarily influential in every aspect of public policy. Of JFAC's other four members from south-central Idaho, Rep. Wendy Jaquet of Ketchum spent a decade as House Democratic leader, Sen. Bert Brackett was a JFAC member in the House before he moved on to the Senate and Reps. Fred Wood of Burley and Jim Patrick of Twin Falls are effective second-term lawmakers.

So the Magic Valley's power on JFAC isn't just a question of numbers; it's about what the six local members bring to the committee table.

Cameron and Bell's long, steady tenure on JFAC has been a major factor in the College of Southern Idaho's success with legislative budget-writers over the past few years, but it's also driven the Legislature's philosophy of saving and spending. It's difficult to believe Idaho would have three large rainy day funds to tap in bad economic times without Cameron and Bell's insistence.

The two are gifted financial managers, but their effectiveness stems from bipartisanship and personal integrity. Bell and Cameron always put the interests of Idaho first.

So what happens after they, and many of their south-central Idaho colleagues on JFAC, are gone?

We hope their JFAC successors from the Magic Valley will be legislators of similar temperament, whose fairness is unassailable and whose parochialism is tempered. For the day will come — and soon — when Ada and Canyon counties will have six, seven or eight representatives on JFAC; south-central Idaho will be outvoted.

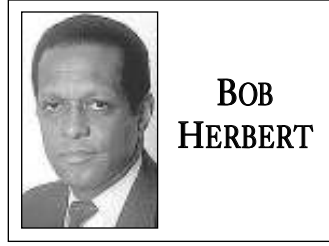
But not, if we're fortunate, muted.

Our view: South-central Idaho's influence on the Legislature's budget-writing Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee will likely never be greater.

What do you think? We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

The polite fiction that taxes won't go up

A trillion here, a trillion there ... President-elect Barack Obama is warning us to expect trillion-dollar budget deficits "for years to come."



BOB HERBERT

The economy is in a precipitous downturn and no one, on the left or right, is advocating tax increases that would jeopardize a recovery.

In the meantime, we're spending money as fast as we can: the Troubled Asset Relief Program (\$700 billion and counting); Obama's proposed stimulus program (\$800 billion and counting); and important initiatives still to come, like an overhaul of the way we pay for health care.

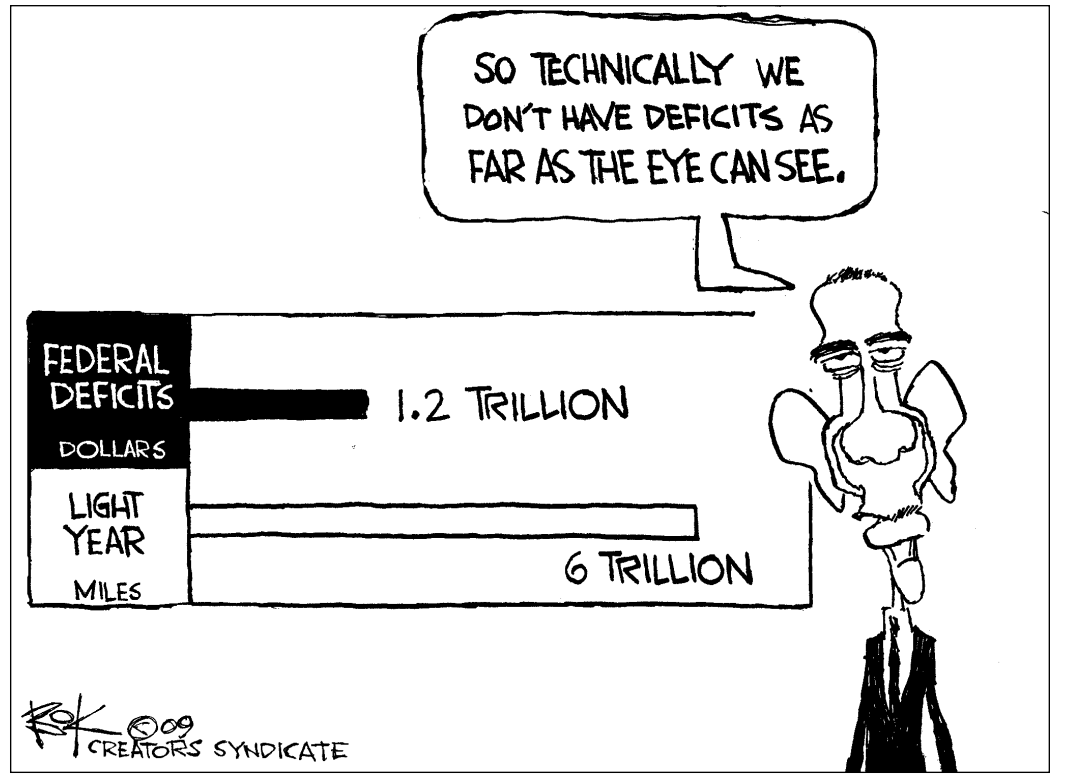
China, which has purchased more than \$1 trillion of American debt, is getting antsy. As Keith Bradsher of *The New York Times* has reported, the global downturn has prompted Beijing "to keep more of its money at home, a move that could have painful effects for U.S. borrowers."

Obama has tried to assure the public that his administration will be as careful as possible with its monumental spending, promising to invest wisely and manage the expenditures well. And he has made it clear that he is aware of the minefields that accompany mammoth long-term deficits.

At some point, however, someone is going to have to talk about raising revenue. The dreaded T-word is going to come up: taxes.

Well, there's a good idea floating around that takes its cue from the legendary Willie Sutton. Why not go where the money is?

The economist Dean Baker is a strong advocate of a



financial transactions tax. This would impose a small fee — ranging up to, say, 0.25 percent — on the sale or transfer of stocks, bonds and other financial assets, including the seemingly endless variety of exotic financial instruments that have been in the news so much lately.

According to Baker, the co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, the fees would raise a ton of money, perhaps \$100 billion or more annually — money that the government sorely needs.

But there's another intriguing element to the proposal. While the fees would be a trivial expense for what the general public tends to think of as ordinary traders — people investing in stocks, bonds or other assets for some reasonable period of time — they would amount to a much heavier lift for speculators, the folks who bring a manic quality to the markets, who treat it like a casino.

"It raises money in a way that comes primarily at the expense of speculation," said Baker. "The fees would be a considerable expense for

someone who is buying futures, or a stock, or any asset at 2 o'clock and then selling it at 3. The more you trade, the more you pay.

"For the typical person holding stock, who is planning to hold it for a long period of time, paying the quarter of 1 percent on a trade is just not that big a deal."

The fees, though small, could amount to a big deal for speculators because in addition to the volume of their trades they often make their money on very small margins. Someone who buys an asset and then sells it an hour later at a 1 percent appreciation might feel quite pleased. He or she would be less pleased at having to pay a quarter-percent fee to purchase the asset in the first place and then another quarter percent to sell it.

This, according to Baker, is part of the beauty of the transfer tax; it tends to curb at least some speculation. "It's a very progressive tax," he said, "that discourages nonproductive activity."

A hallmark of the Bush years has been the rampant irresponsibility — by the White House, Congress and

the general public — when it comes to matters of finance. The costs of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were placed on credit cards and off the books. Their ultimate overall costs will be in the trillions.

Incredibly, President Bush and Congress cut taxes in wartime, which is insane.

Budget deficits and the national debt are streaking toward the moon. And the only remedy anyone has come up with for fending off Great Depression II has been deficit spending on a scale reminiscent of World War II.

Excuse me, but did somebody say the baby boomers are about to start retiring?

Maybe the piper will never have to be paid. Maybe the deficits will someday magically right themselves. Maybe some prosperous future generation will be more than happy to clean up the mess we left behind.

If none of that is true, we should start looking now for some real money somewhere. A stock transfer tax is not a bad place to start.

Bob Herbert is a columnist for The New York Times. Write to him at bherbert@nytimes.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mayor Anderson shows class under attack

I would like to congratulate Burley Mayor Jon Anderson for his professional conduct during recent city council meetings. During these meetings and afterward, Mr. Anderson was repeatedly assailed by unprofessional attacks from two city councilmen in a local weekly newspaper partially owned by one of the council members, seemingly because our mayor was not in agreement with their views.

Another blatant attacker is our own John Walsh, who though not elected to do so by Burley voters, has appointed himself public attack dog. Mr. Walsh apparently needs some gainful employment.

Please, Mr. Walsh, stop the abusive rhetoric. You have manipulated the facts, made up stories and wasted good ink and paper entirely

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.

too many times. You already look silly enough. There are several clowns in Burley, but I assure you Mayor Jon Anderson is not one of them.

Footnote: The flag donated by the Veterans Association is not regulation size for outdoor display. It will be displayed on the wall of the Burley City Hall. The flag flying near the City Hall at the Veterans Memorial Monument is the correct size for outdoor display.

I am signing my name, Mr. Walsh.
JOHN BLASIUS
Burley

Jerome needs to care for disabled during winter

To live in the city of Jerome in the winter can be hard, especially if you're disabled after a big snowstorm. To get from the north side of Jerome to the south for food takes courage, planning and faith. I live on North Lincoln so I have it a lot better. Because Lincoln is a main road, it gets plowed. I do not know how anybody who relies on a scooter and lives on a side street gets to the store at all.

The city of Jerome has intermittent handicap-available sidewalks, mostly on

Main and Lincoln streets. When it snows, some businesses do shovel a path in front of their stores. It's the handicap ramp from street to sidewalk that gets forgotten. The city of Jerome sets no great example: in front of the courthouse, sidewalks are clear but ramps are blocked. Main Street going south: sidewalks are clear until in front of Jerome City Council; ramp blocked.

When the weather did clear and I was able to get my scooter out to the road to go get food, I had to maneuver out in traffic, thus causing many drivers to be upset at me, many times in unsafe situations. I only want to be able to get to the store and back, safe and alive. So I would hope the city and people clear their sidewalks and ramps to the street. This way other people, who do not drive cars, can get to the store and back home safely.

MARK GRAMMER
Jerome

Join the discussion

Voice your opinion with local bloggers: Progressive Voice, Conservative Corner and In the Middle. On the opinion page at Magicvalley.com.

TIMES-NEWS

Brad Hurd publisher Steve Crump Opinion editor

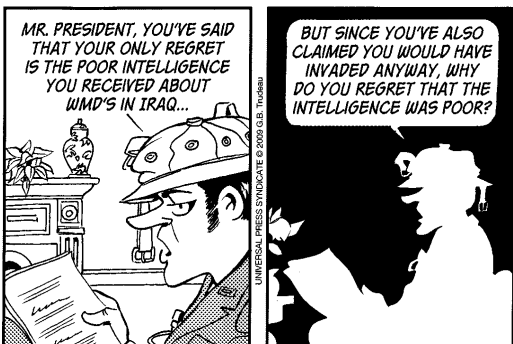
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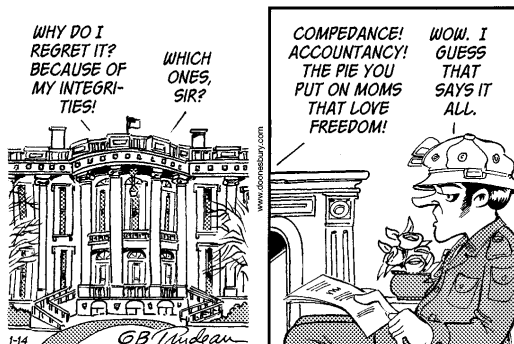
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THE LIGHTER SIDE OF POLITICS

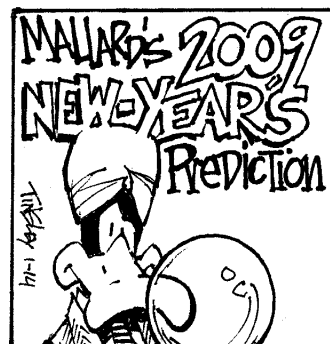
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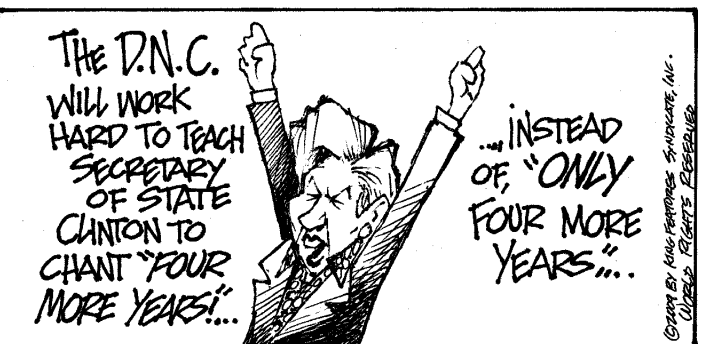
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Mallard Fillmore



Mallard Fillmore



Putting a scientist in charge of science policy

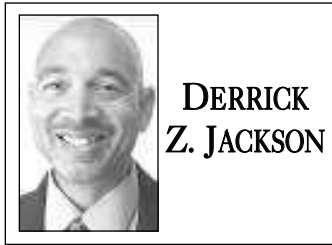
Jane Lubchenko's tenure at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will be a good place to gauge how much lost ground can be reclaimed for science. Her appointment by President-elect Obama to run the administration will be particularly interesting since NOAA is under the Department of Commerce, which will have many lobbyists surely fighting any environmental regulations that come from scientific assessments. It will be challenging because even though the Obama administration is science-friendly in appointments, research funding remains questionable because of the recession.

Lubchenko, a marine scientist at Oregon State, has been president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the International Council for Science and was on the Pew Oceans Commission and the National Science Board under President Clinton. In 1995, she warned that a proposed massive congressional cut in nondefense science funding "has very profound implications for the future of the country." She told the Oregonian newspaper, "The consequences are likely to be a massive dismantling of a research system that has served us very, very well."

In 1997, evidence of global overfishing, coastal development and pollution was so profound that a panel of marine scientists that included Lubchenko proposed that 20 percent of the world's oceans be designated as marine preserves. Only one-quarter of one percent of ocean surface was under protection. Lubchenko, who by then was warning of "ecological tsunamis" in the oceans, said the level of existing protection was "a drop in the bucket, especially relative to the magnitude of the changes that we humans are causing."

It was no surprise that she was a critic of a Bush administration that denied for eight years the magnitude of human impact on the planet. In 2003, when the Pew Oceans Commission said overfishing and the degraded conditions of America's rivers and coastlines constituted a "crisis," Lubchenko said, "We have squandered their natural bounty." She added, "The system is broken. It's not working for the fishermen; it's not working for the fish."

At Oregon State, Lubchenko and other researchers saw a major expansion of low-oxygen dead zones in the Pacific



DERRICK Z. JACKSON

Northwest that was killing so much marine life that she told the Los Angeles Times, "We couldn't believe our eyes. It was so overwhelming and depressing. It appeared that everything that couldn't swim or scuttle away had died." She said it was a sign that "We seem to have crossed a tipping point."

The Bush administration paid so little attention to any of this that Lubchenko told the Associated Press a month before the presidential election, "The Bush administration has not been respectful of the science."

Lubchenko probably does not believe her own eyes that she is suddenly a key player in the revival of respect for science, at an agency where scientists complained of censorship from the Bush administration. If she cannot change the atmosphere, probably few can. In a 1998 essay for the journal Science, she called for a new social contract for science that recognizes "the extent of human domination of the planet." She warned "If current trends continue, humanity will dramatically alter virtually all of Earth's remaining natural ecosystems within a few decades ... Many of the human activities that modify or destroy natural ecosystems may cause deterioration of ecological services whose value in the long term dwarfs the short-term economic benefits society gains from those activities."

Lubchenko represents Obama's claim of forging a new social contract with the environment, after eight years where the Bush administration had a contract out on it. In her October AP interview, she said, "I know there have been many times in the past where public opinion can shift very, very rapidly on an issue, ranging from cigarette smoking to slavery. I think we are getting closer and closer to a tipping point on climate change and other issues that affect our health, prosperity, and well-being globally. And I am hopeful we will get there in time."

She no longer has to hope. The question now is if she can get there in time.

Derrick Z. Jackson is a columnist for the Boston Globe. Write to him at jackson@globe.com.

All together now: 'It wasn't my fault'

WASHINGTON — In the past week, I've twice been close enough to Dick Cheney to kick him in the shins.

I didn't. It's probably a federal crime of some sort. But a girl can fantasize. I did, however, assume the Stay-away-from-me-you've-got-cooties stance that Jimmy Carter used when posing with Bill Clinton at the presidents' powwow in the Oval.

The first time was Tuesday, when Cheney left the ceremony where he gave the oath of office to senators. The senators seemed thrilled, especially Joe Biden, who was getting sworn in for just two weeks and was excitedly showing off a family Bible the size of a Buick. But I thought it gave the ceremony a satirical edge to have the lawless Vice presiding over lawmakers swearing to support and defend the Constitution that he soiled and defiled — right in the heart of the legislative branch he worked to diminish.

The second time I crossed paths was Thursday night, at a glitzy party at Cafe Milano for Brit Hume, stepping down as a Fox anchor. It required extreme defensive maneuvers — much zigging and zagging — to avoid Cheney, Wolfie and Rummy, all three holding court and blissfully unrepentant about the chaos they've unleashed on the world.

"My conscience is clear,"



MAUREEN DOWD

Rummy volunteered to Bob Woodward, talking about how he's interviewing people for his memoir.

Woodward was stunned. "I was as speechless as I was in July 2006 when I interviewed him and he said he was not a military commander, that he could make the case that he was 'by indirection, two or three steps removed,'" Woodward told me afterward.

At least Ernst Stavro Blofeld would have the decency just to leave the scene.

From Gaza to the unemployment figures to the \$10.6 trillion debt, things keep spiraling while W. keeps fiddling. Just as when he was in the National Guard and didn't bother to show up, now, as the scabrous consequences of his missteps shake the economy and the world, he doesn't bother to show up. He's checked out — spending his time on more than a dozen exit interviews that do nothing to change his image as a president who was over his head and under Cheney's spell.

Asked by People magazine what moments from the last eight years he revisited most

often, W. talked passionately about the pitch he threw out at the World Series in 2001: "I never felt that anxious any other time during my presidency, curiously enough."

Asked by Fred Barnes and Bill Kristol of *The Weekly Standard* if he had made progress in some areas for which he hasn't gotten credit, the president put trying to privatize Social Security at the top of his list. It's frightening to think where a lot of people would be now if that effort had succeeded.

After he leaves office, W. wants to go on more bike rides, because biking through Katrina was not enough. He wants to write a memoir, even though the offers are not pouring in as they did for Laura. And he wants to encourage debate at his presidential library on "big ideas."

The vamoosing Vice has no apologies about turning America into a country that tortured; indeed, he denies it ever happened. "Torture," he told Barnes, "that word gets thrown around with great abandon."

He's going back to Casper, Wyo., and said he's giving "serious thought" to writing a book, so he can continue his extremist makeover. The only thing he can do now is shoot a big lie across the bow and see if it lands.

Cheney's theory of executive "unitary" power and preemptive war and frightening

the world was a theory of Constitutional thuggishness.

Asked last week by Mark Knoller of CBS Radio in one of his exit interviews to name the "biggest misimpression" people had about him, Cheney replied with a laugh, "That I'm actually a warm, lovable sort."

He went on to seriously assert that his image as "a private, Darth Vader-type personality" has been "pretty dramatically overdone."

"I think we made good decisions," he told Knoller, adding with even grander delusion, "I think we knew what we were doing."

He protested "the notion that somehow I was pulling strings or making presidential-level decisions. I was not. There was never any question about who was in charge. It was George Bush. And that's the way we operated. This whole notion that somehow I exceeded my authority here, was usurping his authority, is simply not true. It's an urban legend, never happened."

The fact that Cheney is now putting all the blame for all the messes squarely on W. shows once more how the bureaucratic master outmaneuvers his younger partner.

Even on his way out, Vice is still on top.

Maureen Dowd is a columnist for *The New York Times*. Write to her at mdowd@nytimes.com.

QUOTABLES

"The phrase 'burdens of the office' is overstated. You know, it's kind of like, why me? Oh, the burdens, you know. Why did the financial collapse have to happen on my watch? It's just — it's just pathetic, isn't it, self-pity?"

— President George W. Bush in his final press conference.

"We can't fire our bears or furlough our sea lions. This is critical collection care money for us."

— John Calvelli of the Wildlife Conservation Society, which operates the Bronx Zoo and the New York Aquarium, on the New York governor's plan to cut funding for the Zoo, Botanical Garden and Aquarium Program.

50th Wedding Anniversary

Nevoy J. and Mary L. Tracy



1959



2009

Mark (Cassie) Tracy of Heyburn, Idaho, and Susan (David) Puckett of Pasco, Washington, would like to announce the 50th Anniversary of their parents, Nevoj and Mary Tracy.

They were married January 18th, 1959, in Elko, Nevada, and have six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

The Tracys would like to invite everyone to come and celebrate this wonderful occasion with them at an open house: **Saturday, January 17th, from 1:00-4:00 pm**, at the Rupert Elks Lodge, 85 So. 200 West, Rupert, Idaho.

Nevoj and Mary request no gifts.

Newspaper In Education

Special Delivery



Anthony Dominguez and the rest of Mrs. Roundy's students at East Minico in Rupert provide classrooms with the daily newspaper through their special delivery service. They also use the newspaper to track the weather for science. NIE provides the most up to date and inexpensive text book there is, the daily newspaper. Thanks to teachers like Mrs. Roundy, students like Anthony and the generous support from our community, everybody benefits from NIE.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Obama will bring more debt

Kudos to Sen. Mike Crapo for his excellent piece in which he states, "What is needed is a strong dose of fiscal responsibility on the part of Congress." I might submit our incoming president-elect to a double dose of the same elixir.

The problem is that most members of Congress and much of our population are guilty of being functionally illiterate in their understanding of the principles of economics. "There is no such thing as a free lunch" is a basic principle poorly understood. Expecting the government to spend its way to prosperity using our money is an error of Neanderthal-type reasoning. "Low tax rates: People will produce more when they are permitted to keep more of what they earn" is something that liberals never seem to comprehend.

Essentially, we have in Congress a situation akin to the "monkeys being in charge of the zoo," wherein we have Barney Frank, Chris Dodd, Harry Reid and Nancy Pelosi, et al., "overseeing" the financial workings of "Fannie May," "Bernie Mac" and other fiascoes passed on to us from Carter to Clinton to present. To have these idiots in charge of financial matters is akin to having Dracula in charge of the blood bank!

I was watching our president "who promised change" coming up empty when questioned about specifics of any of his proposals and the only "change" I heard him mention was the horrific increase in the national debt which we and our great-grandchildren will be saddled with. Is this the "change" you giddy "Obamamites" were expecting? Think again!

DON PUDDER
Twin Falls

Come see what's new at magicvalley.com

Lots of snow, but just average Wash. snowpack

By Nicholas K. Geranios
Associated Press Writer

SPOKANE, Wash. — You might think that the record-breaking snowfall so far this winter in Washington state would ensure there will be plenty of water to avoid drought when it melts this spring and summer.

You would be wrong. The federal government says the state's mountain snowpack is just average so far this winter.

"For all those residents who have been digging out their driveways and sidewalks for the past month, the notion of an 'average' snowpack must seem like pure hydrological nonsense," said Scott Pattee, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, which estimates whether the state will have enough water to get through the dry summer months.

"But the numbers don't lie," Pattee said. "The depth and water content of the snowpack statewide is just about average."

The NRCS measures the depth and water content of snow at more than 100 locations around the state. That data is used to estimate how much water will flow down rivers and streams and into



Norm Carveth of the Spokane Public Schools maintenance department uses a handsaw to cut snow into shovel-sized chunks as he helps clear the roof of the bus loading area at Ferris High School in Spokane, Wash. Jan. 5. AP photo

reservoirs as the snow melts. A shortage of water has been a regular problem in recent summers.

Pattee said the heavy snowfall in December dramatically improved water prospects for this summer.

Before the big storms, the snowpack was only 24 to 40 percent of normal around the state.

"In just a few weeks, we've closed the gap and now stand at 106 percent statewide," Pattee said.

Spokane was hit by a record snowstorm in December that dropped more than 6 feet of snow on the city. But the snowpack that feeds the Spokane River Basin is just at 97 percent of normal, Pattee said.

"Typically, 50 percent of the total annual snow accumulation has fallen by mid-January," Pattee said. But he noted this season has been atypical.

The National Weather Service has issued a report on

the snowstorms that nearly paralyzed Spokane in recent weeks.

After a dry beginning, heavy snowfall began in mid-December, with "an incredible" 23 inches falling on Dec. 17-18, the agency said. More storms followed in quick succession, including 6 inches on Christmas Eve. In subsequent days, winds gusting to 50 mph caused massive snowdrifts and closed roads. The last major storm was Jan. 4, dropping 5 to 12 inches in the region.

The storms set a 24-hour record for Spokane of 19.4 inches of snow on Dec. 17-18, breaking the record of 13 inches set Jan. 6-7, 1950. The city's snowiest month ever was December, when 61.5 inches fell, breaking the record of 56.9 inches set in January 1950.

Spokane typically averages only four days a year in which snowfall totals 3 inches or more, but this winter has already seen nine such days in a span of just 20 days.

The typical winter in Spokane has about 48 inches of snow. Total snowfall so far this winter is 80.3 inches. Last winter, the second snowiest on record, saw 92.6 inches fall on the city, but the two winters before that saw just 27 and 34 inches.

AROUND THE STATE

BOISE

Democrats: Otter wrong on roads, ed priorities

Minority Democrats demanded Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter tap millions more in reserve funds to plug budget holes, rather than cutting education and welfare programs so deeply.

The party's Senate and House leaders on Tuesday said the governor set the wrong priorities by asking to trim \$216 million from the 2010 budget, while leaving

\$253 million in reserves and proposing fuel tax and registration fee increases to pay for roads.

Sen. Elliott Werk said Democrats won't support a tax increase "on struggling families to maintain roads while cutting education."

Republican leaders said the Democrats' press conference amounted to grandstanding.

House Majority Leader Mike Moyle, R-Star, conceded his caucus also may balk at raising taxes for roads — but said he needs time to

assess the budget cuts coupled with Otter's request for higher taxes before making a decision.

Otter, lawmakers clash on computer request — again

Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter and lawmakers are fighting over computers — again.

Wayne Hammon, the governor's budget chief, told the Joint Finance-Appropriations budget writing committee Tuesday that Otter

didn't appreciate a "sneaky move" to tuck a \$142,300 request for computer services into the Legislature's base budget request.

Last year, the Republican governor vetoed a similar line item, forcing lawmakers to find money elsewhere in their budget to buy new laptop computers.

"He would consider vetoing it again," Hammon told The Associated Press.

Meanwhile, lawmakers insist there was nothing sneaky; they say they need the money to help pay for

running their new laptops.

Sen. Jim Hammond, R-Post Falls, said the screen on his old laptop wasn't working before he got a new one.

He says, "Obviously we had to replace them. Those computers were crashing."

KETCHUM

Ketchum gets \$8.8 million for housing

Housing officials in Ketchum are getting nearly \$9 million in federal tax credits to use for adding

more affordable housing in the spendy resort community.

The Idaho Housing and Finance Association last week awarded \$8.8 million in credits to the Ketchum Community Development Corporation.

Michael Carpenter, head of the CDC's Affordable Workforce Housing Team, says the credits will be dedicated on the construction of 32 units of affordable, rental housing planned for public land in the city.

— Wire reports



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Kimberly girls hang on for win

Filer rally falls just short

By Bradley Guire
Times-News writer

They almost gave it away, but the Kimberly girls held off a late Filer rally to preserve an undefeated Sawtooth Central Idaho Conference basketball record Tuesday, defeating the Wildcats 46-43 at home.

"We were not good offensively all night," Kimberly coach Rich Bishop said. "We were too passive. We should have had 15 more than that."

The Bulldogs entered the final quarter with an 11-point lead, but the shots stopped

falling. Kimberly hit only one of its nine field goal attempts, relying on free throws for the bulk of its fourth-quarter points. The Wildcats were a possession away from tying the game with less than five seconds remaining and committed a foul to stop the clock. Kimberly's Nellie Makings lined up at the free-throw line and connected twice to make even a full-court miracle shot irrelevant.

"To people watching, it seems like we're playing scared," Kimberly forward Megan Crist said. "But I don't know. It doesn't feel like that."

Filer outscored the Bulldogs during the fourth, but the rally came too late.

"There was no real flow to the first three quarters," Filer coach Gary Mellinger said. "It's hard at any level to get into that flow. They tried to turn it on, but there wasn't enough time."

Crist led all scorers with 15 points, and three Wildcats scored in double digits. Rocco Gutierrez hit seven of her dozen points during the fourth quarter.

"We needed to clam down," she said of the team's play late in the contest. "Before, we were frustrated and not doing the right things."

Specifically, the Bulldogs

frustrated the Wildcats on defense during the first half. Kimberly stole the ball 11 times during the half and went on a 14-point run during the second quarter. The Wildcats trailed by roughly eight to 10 points until their rally.

Kimberly (10-2) will host Buhl on Thursday, while Filer (7-7, 3-3) will host American Falls on Saturday.

Kimberly 46, Filer 43
Filer: 8-15-18-43
Kimberly: 8-14-14-19-46
FILER (43)
Katie Vierstra 2, Lacie Heimkes 2, Ari Wight 4, Taylor Twitchell 10, Rocco Gutierrez 10, Natalie Hughes 12, Darby Litterer 3. Totals 14 12-22-43.
KIMBERLY (46)
Alex Pfefferle 12, Jessica Funk 5, Nellie Makings 5, Whitney Carlton 1, Avenie Schroeder 2, Megan Crist 15, Kelsy Molyneux 6. Totals 10 24-43-46.
3-point goals: Filer 1 (Twitchell); Kimberly 2 (Pfefferle, Funk). Total fouls: Filer 24; Kimberly 20. Fouled out: Filer, Wight; Kimberly, Crist. Technical fouls: none.



Kimberly's Megan Crist, left, and Filer's Natalie Hughes race for the ball Tuesday night during the first quarter of their game at Kimberly High School.

ASHLEY SMITH/
Times-News

Fast start helps Bruins handle Minico

By Ryan Howe
Times-News writer

The last time Twin Falls raced out to a big lead over a local rival, it blew that lead and lost to Burley.

This time, the Bruins made sure the game was over almost as quickly as it got started.

Jon Pulsifer poured in 17 points and Jake Hanchey added 14 off the bench to lead Twin Falls to a 53-38 road win over Minico in nonconference boys basketball action Tuesday.

The Bruins made a 19-2 run in the first half and cruised from there behind a strong defensive effort from its guard line and dominating inside play.

Twin Falls has now won seven of its last eight and is 8-2 overall.

"It's good to get out on the road and play well," said Twin Falls coach Matt Harr.

With a big Region Four-Five-Six road game at Madison coming up on Thursday — heading into Tuesday's action Twin Falls was in first place with Madison tied for second — the first-place Bruins can feel confident about winning away from Baun Gymnasium.

Twin Falls' senior guards took advantage of Minico's youth and inexperience. And with Minico's leading big man Shad Hubsmith battling bronchitis, Pulsifer and company went to work on the inside. Twin Falls had 24 points in the paint to Minico's 16.

One of the Bruins' only hiccups was when Minico went to a zone defense. Consequently, the Bruins turned the ball over several times and allowed the Spartans to creep within 10 with four minutes remaining in the game.

But a 3-pointer by Braden Box was followed by a coast-to-coast lay-in by Marcus Jardine and the Bruins were back in control.

"We're getting better (against zone defenses)," Harr said. "We have about three guys who are confident now. We need five out there on the floor. It's a timing thing that we've got to figure out."

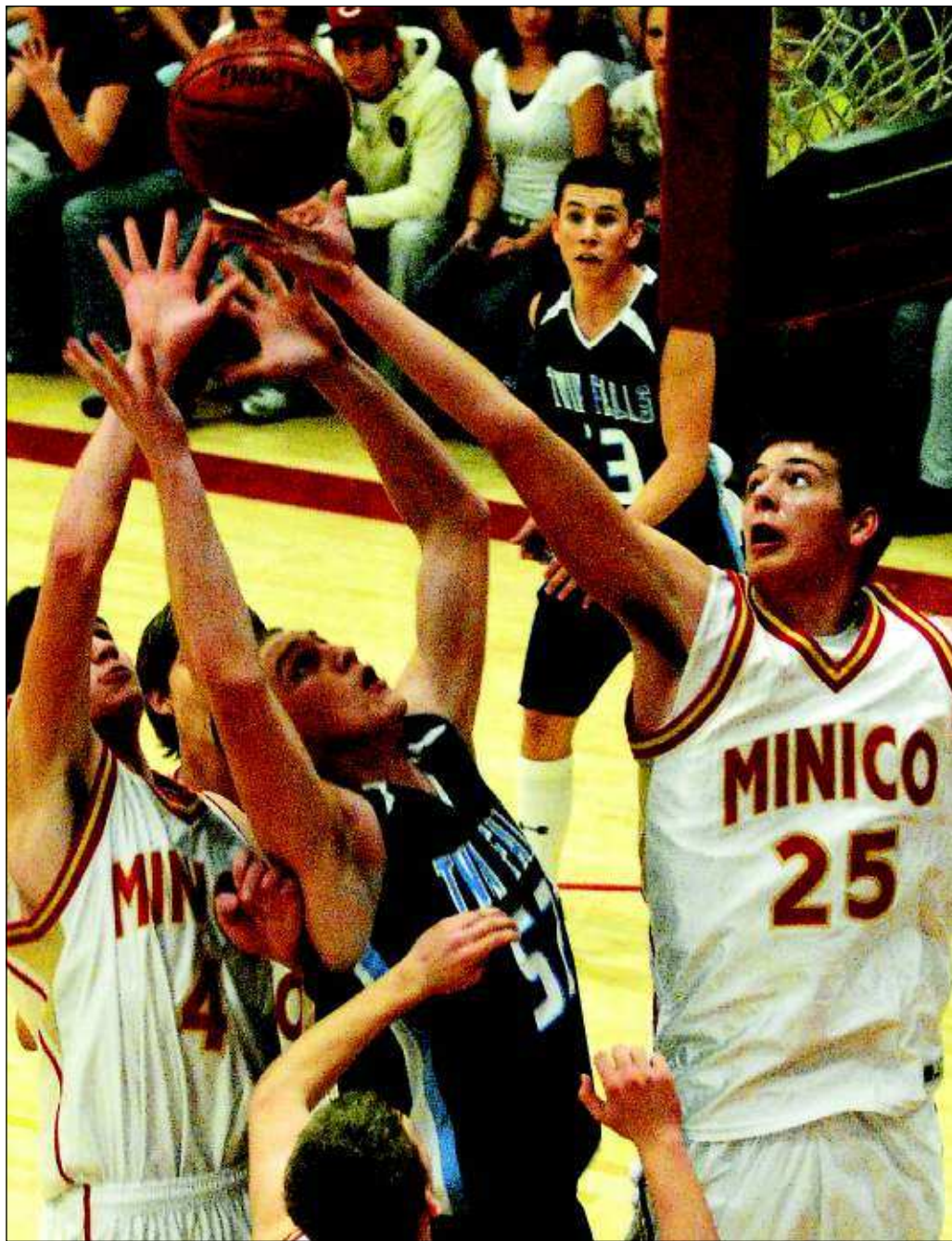
After the game, Harr listed off a few things his team needs to improve on, including attacking a zone more effectively and getting a few more players to hit shots. Those areas of concern, according to Harr, are easy issues to address.

"The things that we're nit-picking about effort, we're not talking about defense. We're not talking about the things that come from the heart, or desire things. We're talking about little things that will help us win down the road (and) that are very fixable," Harr said.

Coltin Johnson led Minico (5-5) in scoring with 14 points and Mark Leon added 10.

The Bruins physically handled the Spartans and Minico coach Mike Graefe hopes his team learned

Please see **FAST**, Page B2



Twin Falls post Brad Davis (52) battles for a rebound with Minico's Shad Hubsmith (4) and Kevin Jurgensmeier during the Bruins' 53-38 win Tuesday in Rupert.

RYAN HOWE/TIMES-NEWS

CSI men slip in poll after road defeat

By Mike Christensen
Times-News writer

It doesn't get any easier for the College of Southern Idaho men's basketball team. On the heels of a road loss at the College of Eastern Utah on Saturday, the Golden Eagles return home this week to face undefeated North Idaho College (17-0), a team ranked No. 12 in the latest NJCAA Division I Men's Basketball Top 25, released Tuesday.

CSI (14-3) fell six spots in the rankings to No. 24 after splitting its Scenic West Athletic Conference games at Colorado Northwestern Community College and CEU.

As for the 94-78 loss to Eastern Utah, ranked No. 17 this week, CSI head coach Steve Gosar sees the experience as a valuable one.

"Our guys understand how much harder they have to play in league to win," he said.

The Golden Eagles, who share the No. 24 spot with the College of Coastal Georgia, will host North Idaho at 5 p.m., Saturday in CSI Gymnasium.

Minutes for Miles: Freshman forward Nate Miles Jr. is on course to play for the Golden Eagles when he becomes eligible next month. A 6-7 forward with an incredible outside shooting touch, Miles joined CSI's roster in late October. He was expelled from the University of Connecticut on Oct. 2 after allegedly violating a restraining order issued Sept. 22.

Miles appeared in Rockville (Conn.) Superior Court last week, facing three counts of disorderly conduct stemming from his alleged abuse of a fellow student. As long as Miles completes the counseling he is undergoing, Gosar said the charges will be dropped when Miles returns to court on Feb. 24.

"This really vindicates the kid," said Gosar. "It shows that there was no substance

Please see **CSI**, Page B2

On rebound from Smoltz, Braves turn to Lowe

By Paul Newberry
Associated Press writer

ATLANTA — The Braves bounced right back from the disappointment of losing John Smoltz.

Determined to rebuild a once-proud pitching staff that fell into disarray, Atlanta reached a preliminary agreement Tuesday on a \$60 million, four-year contract with Derek Lowe and finalized a deal with Japanese all-star pitcher Kenshin Kawakami.

Just like that, the Braves' rotation — once the most dominant in baseball — suddenly looks a whole lot stronger with spring training just a month away.

"You've got to have pitch-

ing," manager Bobby Cox said. "You could have the best hitting team in the history of baseball and you still may not get it done. We will feel confident now that whoever toes the mound on any particular night, we've got a good chance of winning."

The Braves would not comment on the preliminary agreement with Lowe, which was subject to the pitcher passing a physical, according to a person familiar

with the negotiations. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the contract had not been completed.

Atlanta general manager Frank Wren said Lowe would be a welcome addition to a rotation devastated by injuries last year. As an added bonus, Atlanta would be landing a pitcher who also was being sought by the rival New York Mets.

"We wanted get back to being a pitching team," Wren

said. "If we can do another couple of moves, we can get back to that point."

Last season, Smoltz, Tim Hudson and Tom Glavine all went down with season-ending surgeries, and the Braves slumped to fourth in the NL East with a 72-90 record — their worst since 1990. Glavine has yet to resume throwing off a mound, while Hudson isn't expected back until August.

As for Smoltz, after playing all 20 of his major league seasons with the Braves, the only pitcher in baseball history with 200 wins and 150 saves is starting over at age 41 with the Red Sox.

"I'm as determined and I'm as focused as I've ever

been," Smoltz said Tuesday. "The uniform has changed. The desire won't change."

The right-hander who says he's "doing great" after major shoulder surgery finalized his \$5.5 million, one-year agreement, confident he can still contribute and eager to pitch beyond 2009.

"Age," he said, "is just a number."

In Atlanta, the 35-year-old Lowe becomes the new ace of the staff.

He was a 21-game winner for the Red Sox in 2002 and spent the last four seasons with the Los Angeles Dodgers. He went 54-48, never had an ERA higher

Please see **BRVES**, Page B4



Lowe



Smoltz

Be heard

Log on to Magicvalley.com/sports and vote for the winter sports you most enjoy reading about in the *Times-News*.

- Boys high school basketball
- Girls high school basketball
- CSI men's basketball
- CSI women's basketball
- High school wrestling
- NBA basketball
- Boise State men's basketball
- Idaho Vandals men's basketball
- Regional college basketball



Bryant shoots Lakers to win

HOUSTON — Kobe Bryant sank a 3-pointer with 27 seconds left and scored 33 points, and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the undermanned Houston Rockets 105-100 on Tuesday night.

Bryant scored 13 points in the fourth quarter, finally getting the better of Houston's Von Wafer, who scored a career-high 23 points in place of the injured Tracy McGrady.

Carl Landry had a season-high 21 points and eight rebounds for the Rockets, who also played without Ron Artest.

McGrady is out at least two weeks to fully recuperate from a sore left knee that's bothered him for months. Artest has missed five of the last six games with a sprained right ankle. An MRI exam also showed a bone bruise that the Rockets say will keep him out seven to 10 more days.

NUGGETS 99, MAVERICKS 97

DENVER — Chauncey Billups made two free throws with 2.2 seconds left, and the Denver Nuggets overcame 44 points from Dirk Nowitzki to beat the Dallas Mavericks 99-97 on Tuesday night.

Billups scored 23 points and Nene had 20 to lead a balanced attack that helped Denver recover after blowing a 17-point lead.

Jason Terry had 16 points for the Mavericks, who have lost three straight.

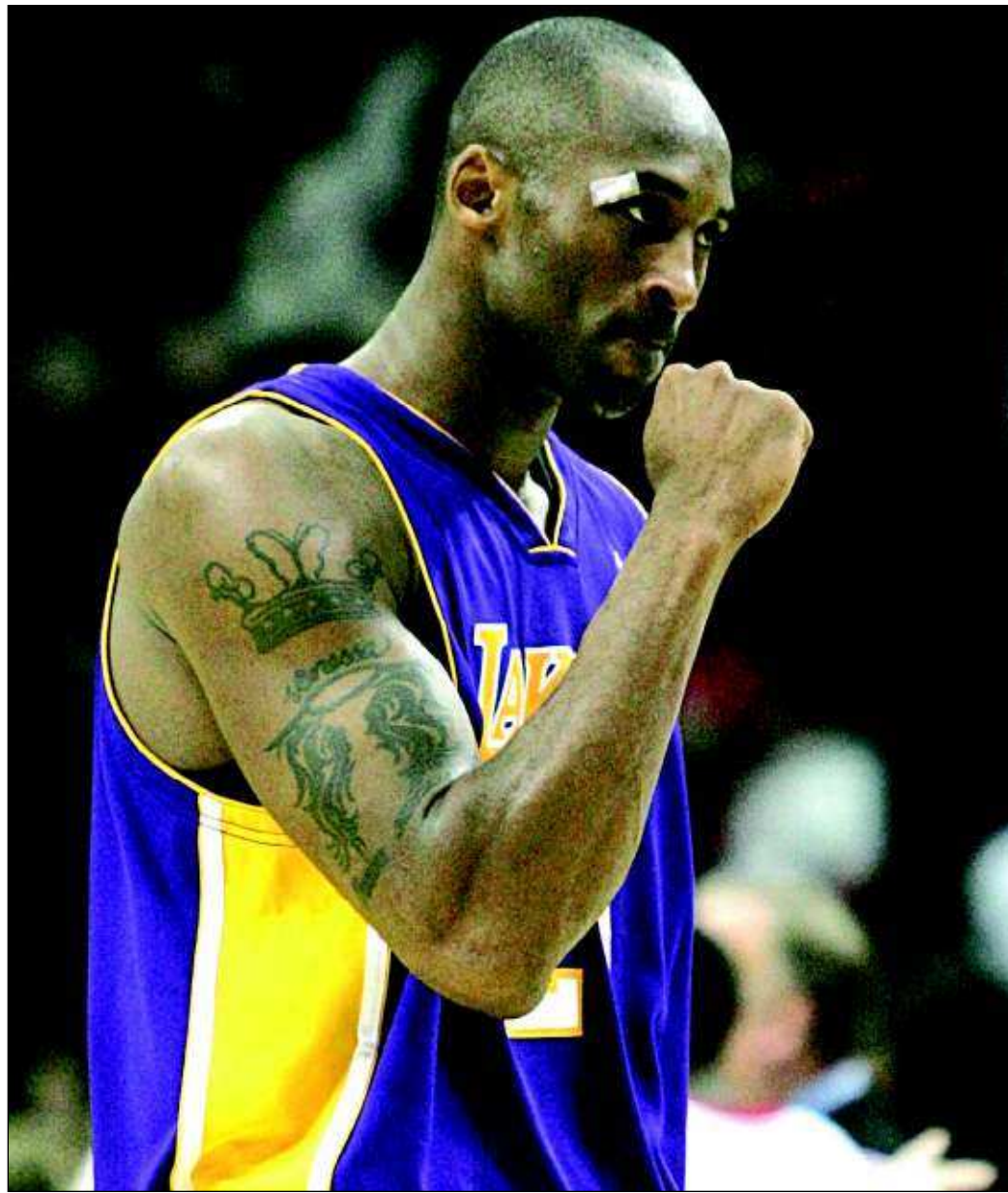
SUNS 107, HAWKS 102

PHOENIX — Shaquille O'Neal had 26 points and 10 rebounds, and the Phoenix Suns won their third straight Tuesday night with a 107-102 victory over the Atlanta Hawks, who lost their fourth in a row.

In winning for the sixth time in seven games, the Suns (22-13) improved to nine games over .500 for the first time this season.

After a tight fourth quarter, O'Neal put the Suns ahead for good, 99-98, with a foul shot with 1:49 remaining. Steve Nash followed with a jumper and Amare Stoudemire made a jump hook, giving the Suns a 103-98 advantage.

Nash finished with 23 points and six assists, Leandro Barbosa scored 22 points and Stoudemire had 17 for the Suns. Matt Barnes added 10 rebounds.



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant pumps his fist during the final seconds of an NBA basketball game against the Houston Rockets on Tuesday in Houston. The Lakers won 105-100.

AP photo

CAVALIERS 102, GRIZZLIES 87

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — LeBron James had 30 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for his second triple-double of the season, leading Cleveland to the victory.

James scored only nine points in the opening half, then had 17 in the third quarter and completed his triple-double with a behind-the-back pass to J.J. Hickson for a layup in the fourth.

Delonte West added 19 points and Mo Williams 16 for the Cavs.

Kyle Lowry led the Grizzlies with a career-high 25 points, including 15 from the free-throw line, and reserve Hakim Warrick had 16 points and seven rebounds. The Grizzlies also got 13 points in 13 minutes from Darius Miles.

HEAT 99, WOLVES 96

MINNEAPOLIS — Dwyane Wade had 31 points and eight assists for Miami, and Shawn Marion hit the go-ahead free throws with 22 seconds left.

Randy Foye scored 14 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter, but it wasn't enough to get the Timberwolves their sixth straight victory.

Foye had a shot to take the lead after Marion's free throws, but Wade swatted the layup attempt away and Rodney Carney rushed a 3-pointer that was off the mark.

Wade missed the back end of his two free throws, but rookie Michael Beasley got the rebound and made one of two foul shots.

Foye's desperation 3-pointer just before the buzzer was off the mark, and

the Wolves lost for the first time in 2009.

Marion finished with 16 points and 11 boards.

BOBCATS 80, PISTONS 78

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Raymond Felton's jumper with 0.7 seconds left gave Charlotte the victory.

The Bobcats scored the game's final nine points, including seven from Felton, to win their second straight.

Richard Hamilton returned after missing eight games with a groin strain, meaning the Pistons went back to a three-guard lineup despite going 6-2 without Hamilton.

Felton led the Bobcats with 23 points. Gerald Wallace added 18 points and 10 rebounds.

Rodney Stuckey scored 22 points for Detroit.

— The Associated Press

Cummard, BYU rip visiting TCU

PROVO, Utah — Lee Cummard had 22 points and seven rebounds to lead BYU over TCU 73-61 on Tuesday night.

The Cougars (14-2, 2-0 Mountain West) led by as much as 24 and never let TCU (11-6, 2-1) get any closer than 12 in the second half.

Jonathan Tavernari had 14 points and Jimmer Fredette finished with 11 points and six assists for the Cougars, who won their third straight. Jackson Emery scored 11 for BYU.

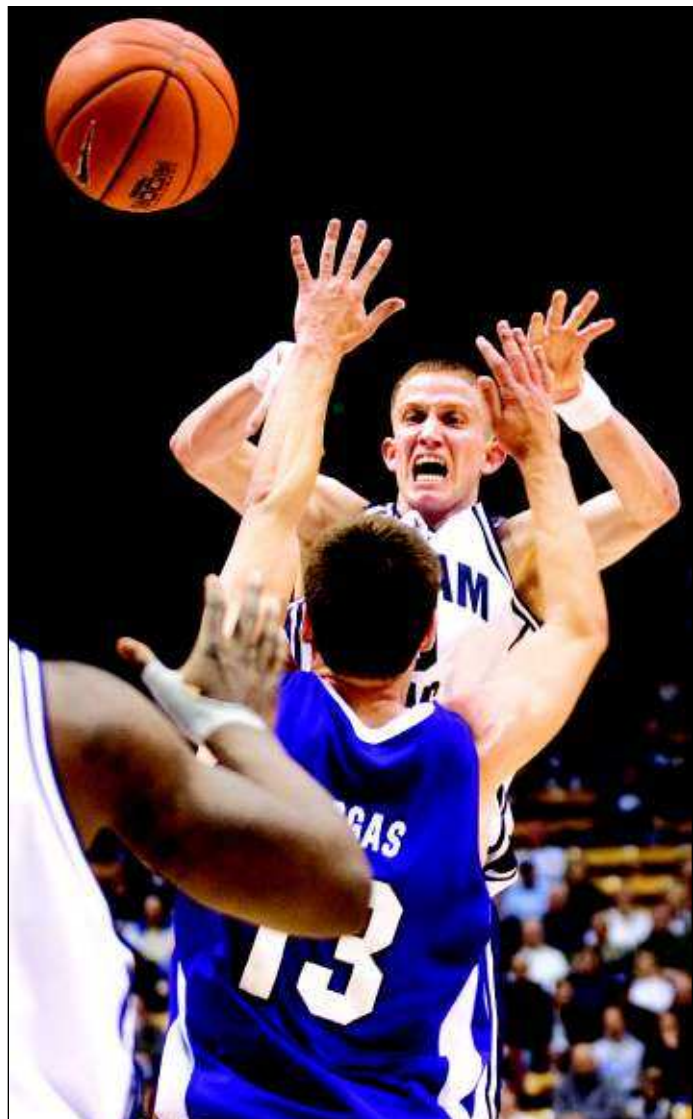
The Horned Frogs had won four straight, but had a dismal game at the foul line. TCU made 11 of 21 foul shots and never recovered after shooting 31 percent from the field in the first half.

Kevin Langford led TCU with 14 points. Zvonko Buljan had 10 points and 12 rebounds and Edvinas Ruzgas scored 10 for TCU.

KENTUCKY 90, NO. 24 TENNESSEE 72

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Jodie Meeks scored a school-record 54 points to help Kentucky cruise to a 90-72 win over No. 24 Tennessee on Tuesday night.

Meeks, who broke Dan Issel's 39-year-old record of 53 points set at Mississippi, was mobbed by his Kentucky teammates in the middle of the Thompson-Boling Arena court, where the Wildcats (13-4, 2-0 SEC) handed the Volunteers their third loss



Brigham Young's Lee Cummard throws a pass to a teammate over TCU's Edvinas Ruzgas (13) Tuesday in Provo, Utah.

AP photo

in January. The Southeastern Conference's leading scorer surpassed his previous high of 46 points, which he set Dec. 20 against Appalachian State,

with 4:50 left as he hit an open 3, one of 10 3-pointers he would make for the night. He set the record on free throws with 1:31 left.

Down by 6 at the half, Tennessee (10-5, 1-1) cut Kentucky's lead to 43-41 on a fastbreak basket by Wayne Chism a minute and a half into the second half.

But the Vols' spotty defense couldn't contain Meeks, who hit a layup and two 3-pointers to help the Wildcats on a 10-0 run that gave them a 53-41 lead. Even contested shots sank perfectly through the nets.

MEMPHIS 55, TULSA 54

TULSA, Okla. — Antonio Anderson's driving basket at the buzzer lifted Memphis to a 55-54 victory over Tulsa Tuesday night.

Memphis coach John Calipari set up the play after Tulsa's Ben Uzoh hit two free throws to give the Golden Hurricane their first lead of the game with 4.5 seconds to play.

The play called for all the Memphis players to go the left side of the court except for Anderson, who caught the inbounds pass near midcourt on the right and drove to the basket where he lofted in a double-clutch layup over Tulsa's 7-foot center, Jerome Jordan.

Tyrece Evans led the Tigers (13-3, 3-0 Conference USA), with 23 points.

— The Associated Press

NCAA, colleges looking for ways to pinch pennies

OXON HILL, Md. (AP) — When members of the NCAA selection committee are setting up those brackets for the men's basketball tournament, they'll be able to plug in a school's name and first-round site into a software program and get a quick idea as to how much it will cost for the school to make the trip.

If a school in the NCAA baseball tournament find itself 375 miles away from its regional site, it can take the bus instead of fly.

And, for those athletes who fly to an NCAA championship event, forget about taking as many bags as you want. The limit is now two.

The San Jose State football coach says he'll avoid hotels when possible on recruiting trips. The athletics director at George Washington is wondering whether it's time to turn out the gym lights earlier each night to save on electricity and heating bills.

Like the rest of the country, college sports is in economic meltdown mode, and not even a grand locale for the NCAA's annual convention — along the Potomac River just south of Washington, D.C. — can mask the belt-tightening that is under way.

"It's going to affect travel," George Washington AD Jack Kvancz said. "It's going to affect lodging. It's going to affect all those things that you would obviously think it's going to effect. You're going to see schedules affected."

A good robust debate about the BCS usually steals the show at any NCAA event this time of year, but the economic hard times have officials focused on other matters. Penny-pinching schools arriving for the first full day of activities Wednesday will no doubt be interested in attending the seminar entitled "Athletics Travel in Today's Volatile Environment."

The NCAA, unlike some other major sports bodies, hasn't announced any layoffs itself — but the organization is finding other ways to trim the budget.

"Can meetings and the like be conducted by phone? By videoconference? By e-mail?" said Greg Shaheen, the NCAA's senior vice president for basketball and business strategies. "Whatever in a way to recognize that these dollars add up."

Several measures were implemented at the start of the 2008-09 academic year. The software program, now

in use for all 88 NCAA championships, lets officials know the travel costs for any team assigned to any part of a bracket.

The program is unlikely to make much of a difference for the men's basketball tournament in March because the pod system introduced in 2002 essentially does the same thing.

Also, as with all its championships, the NCAA insists it will not alter seeding or create an unfair bracket just to give a school a shorter trip.

"We are clear that we are not making any alterations to the bracketing principle," said Joni Comstock, the NCAA's senior vice president for championships.

A more tangible change has been in the fly-drive threshold. Division I schools can take the bus to NCAA championship events within 400 miles of campus, up from 350 miles, a policy switch that saved about 19 flights in the fall.

Restricting athletes to two bags has already accounted for about \$1 million in savings, Comstock said. Kvancz said his staff at George Washington has already held many meetings focused on cost-cutting ideas that could take effect for the 2009-10 school year. Preparing for the worst-case scenario means serious discussions on things such as gym-closing times on campus, but he predicts the biggest pinch nationwide will be felt by low-revenue sports.

"Your Olympic sports are going to have to take a hard look at what they're doing," Kvancz said. "We're have X amount of teams and they're going to play X amount of games and that's going to cost X amount of dollars. ... If you have a conference with 16 teams in it, maybe you play 12 a year."

Other schools have taken more drastic measures. Last week, Division II Western Washington announced it was dropping football altogether.

Even big-time sports schools aren't immune. Ohio State football coach Jim Tressel said athletics director Gene Smith talked with the staff in December about upcoming cuts.

"We have to tighten our belts just like everyone else's in the midst of tightening theirs," Tressel said at the American Football Coaches Association in Nashville, Tenn.

San Jose State coach and new AFCA president Dick Tomey is already cutting back.

Braves

Continued from page B1

Japan available this offseason. He was 9-5 for the Chunichi Dragons last year, though he missed several weeks with a strained back.

The Braves were confident about his health after the 5-foot-10 right-hander passed a physical on Monday, and they spoke with numerous Japanese people in the community to make sure he would feel comfortable in his new home.

"One of the things we found at dinner last night was Kenshin speaks a little more English than we originally thought," Wren said.

Though many Atlanta fans were outraged over the loss of Smoltz, Wren and his staff moved quickly to shore up the beleaguered rotation.

The deals brightened what had been a disappointing offseason. The Braves failed to work out a trade for San Diego ace Jake Peavy and was rebuffed by free agents A.J. Burnett and Rafael Furcal. Injury plagued left-hander Mike Hampton also turned down a chance to return to the team, signing instead with Houston.

Then came the biggest blow of all: the loss of Smoltz, who had spent his entire big league career with the Braves but was coming off major shoulder surgery.

The 2004 Central League MVP won 112 games in 11 seasons in Japan and was regarded as one of the top free-agent pitchers from America as well.

The 2004 Central League MVP won 112 games in 11 seasons in Japan and was regarded as one of the top free-agent pitchers from

Tomlin quickly puts stamp on Steelers

PITTSBURGH — The message is delivered differently, and with no spittle accompanying it. Mike Tomlin took over Bill Cowher's team two years ago next week, yet he never promised to be just like Bill.

He hasn't been, either, even if the results are strikingly similar. The Pittsburgh Steelers changed coaches for only the third time in 38 years when Tomlin replaced Cowher, but they didn't change the way they do business.

As Tomlin related Tuesday, Steelers owner Dan Rooney wouldn't stand for that. That's why the franchise's five Super Bowl trophies line a hallway linking the practice field to the coaches' offices — not to intimidate, but to inspire.

"I love the high expectations that come with this job. I'd rather have high ones than low ones," Tomlin said. "The



Ravens at Steelers

4:30 p.m., Sunday, CBS

tradition is awesome. You can't put a price tag on it. It's inspiring. ... Those who come before us set the standards for us. We understand that when we come into the building, when we take to the field, and we hope the way we go about our business honors those guys."

Much like Cowher in 1992 and, too, Chuck Noll in 1969, Tomlin wasn't well known outside the NFL when the Steelers hired him. The job was expected to go to either offensive coordinator Ken Whisenhunt or assistant head coach Russ Grimm, but Tomlin beat them out in the interview process.



Pittsburgh Steelers coach Mike Tomlin will lead his team against the Baltimore Ravens Sunday afternoon in the AFC championship game.

AP photo

Whisenhunt, passed over by the Steelers, has since resurrected the Arizona Cardinals and has them in Sunday's NFC championship game. Grimm is one of his assistants.

Some Steelers players who

had friends with the Vikings, where Tomlin was the defensive coordinator in 2006, or the Buccaneers, for whom he coached the defensive backs from 2001-05, called to ask about Tomlin, who was only 34 when Pittsburgh

hired him.

"I think everyone's unsure about the direction of this team," safety Troy Polamalu said before Tomlin's rookie season. "He inherited a team. He didn't build it up from 13 years of being in the league, for example. Obviously, it's going to take time, as a natural product of being a new coach."

Didn't take that long. Tomlin made certain there was no time for the Rooneys to be second-guessed for choosing him, getting the Steelers off to a 9-3 start in 2007 before injuries wore them down. They were eliminated by Jacksonville in a wild-card playoff game.

Cowher's record his first season: 11-5. Tomlin's: 10-6. Cowher's record his first two seasons, counting the playoffs: 20-14, with no playoff wins. Tomlin's: 23-11, with one playoff win.

This season, the Steelers withstood a brutal schedule (the Giants, Colts, Chargers, Patriots, Cowboys, Ravens and Titans among their final 10 opponents), a slow-to-develop offensive line, numerous injuries and the free-agent departure of former All-Pro guard Alan Faneca to put together the franchise's fourth 12-win season since 1979.

"I think we're more comfortable (with Tomlin)," Hines Ward said. "He's probably more comfortable with us."

Like Cowher, Tomlin is a hands-on coach during practice. He can be seen talking to players about subject matters big and small, but he is certainly not a coach controlled by his players, no matter their salary or level of stardom.

Cowher yelled more frequently and visibly along the sidelines than Tomlin does,



AP photo

The Arizona Cardinals as an organization have never been here before. Their coach has. Ken Whisenhunt, center, won a Super Bowl ring in Pittsburgh, and he brought some of that Steelers toughness to the desert.

Whisenhunt sets tone for incredible Cardinals

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — The man who performed a football exorcism in the desert is keeping his cool with his Arizona Cardinals a win away from the Super Bowl.

Then again, Ken Whisenhunt just about always keeps his cool.

The Cardinals franchise never has been here before, but Whisenhunt has. He was offensive coordinator of the Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers before taking on the formidable challenge of coaching the NFL's laughingstock of a franchise.

No one's laughing now, except maybe in disbelief. Whisenhunt brought Steelers toughness and an organized, unflappable style. He didn't get one vote for coach of the year this season. If the balloting had waited a few weeks, no doubt he would.

"You go how your leader goes," quarterback Kurt Warner said. "He deserves a tremendous amount of credit, most importantly for bringing in a belief that we could accomplish something that had never been before."

This week, Whisenhunt again is leading his team through uncharted territory. After all, Arizona's 9-7 record marked only their second winning season since 1984. They hosted Atlanta in a wild-card game that was the Cardinals' first home playoff contest since they beat Philadelphia to win the NFL title 61 years ago. As the Chicago Cardinals.

Now it's Philadelphia again on Sunday for the NFC championship and a trip to the Super Bowl in Tampa. The 45-year-old coach from Augusta, Ga., is trying to keep his players from getting too carried away with the moment.

"Anytime you get to this



Eagles at Cardinals

1 p.m., Sunday, FOX

level, whether you're an assistant coach, whether you're a player, whether you're whatever, it's a fantastic feeling," Whisenhunt said. "But you don't want to get so wrapped up in that that you don't realize this is an important game for us and we have to keep our focus on that."

Asked what the biggest areas of concern were, Whisenhunt said "dealing with distractions."

"You also have to handle not getting too big for your britches," he said. "When the 32-team field gets down to four teams and all that attention comes to you, a lot of times guys start feeling they're a little better than they are, maybe losing that work ethic that got them to that point."

Whisenhunt had to rely on that work ethic to make it as a tight end in the NFL after being drafted in the 12th round by Atlanta out of Georgia Tech in 1985. He played from 1985 to 1993 with Atlanta, Washington and the New York Jets before turning to coaching.

He had stops as an assistant for Baltimore, Cleveland and the Jets before joining Bill Cowher's staff at Pittsburgh as tight ends coach in 2001. He moved up to offensive coordinator in 2004.

Passed over for the Steelers job, he came to Arizona and went 8-8 in his first season, then won the NFC West title in his second. Along the way, he has made some difficult decisions, most significantly making Warner the starting quarterback over Matt

Leinart this season.

Whisenhunt wanted a strong staff, and the Cardinals' front office allowed him to spend some money to get one that includes his former Steelers colleague Russ Grimm as associate head coach and offensive line coach; Todd Haley as offensive coordinator; and John Lott as strength and conditioning coach. He retained defensive coordinator Clancy Pendergast from Dennis Green's Arizona staff.

On the sideline, he rarely shows much emotion, studying his clipboard and talking calmly on his headset. He has let his feelings show at times as the games grew more important.

After the playoff victories at home against Atlanta and on the road at Carolina, he ran along the stadium front row slapping hands with Cardinals fans.

Whisenhunt's demeanor, and that of the ex-Super Bowl champion and MVP Warner, keep a mostly young team steady, fullback Terrelle Smith said. Whisenhunt is low-key normally, Smith said, and even more low-key when things go bad. He's got a staff that can make up for it, especially the vociferous Haley.

Whisenhunt said he learned from Cowher not to get caught up thinking about how far the team has come. As usual, he's homed in on the task at hand.

"I've had the great fortune of being in this game a number of times, in the championship game, and being in the Super Bowl and I know how special it is," Whisenhunt said. "My focus right now is really on trying to do the best job we can do this week to play well and hopefully advance."

BSU's Childs leaving early for NFL

BOISE — Wide receiver Jeremy Childs will enter the NFL draft, leaving Boise State after his junior year as the school's No. 2 all-time pass catcher.

Childs' decision was announced by head coach Chris Petersen. Childs was the Broncos' leading receiver last season, catching 72 passes for 802 yards and seven touchdowns. He was a first-team all-Western Athletic Conference selection for the second consecutive season.

Childs finished his Boise State career with 168 catches for 1,999 yards and 17 TDs.

TEXAS TECH WR CRABTREE HEADED TO NFL

PLANO, Texas — Two years of college football, two years of being chosen the best receiver in the country. There wasn't much left for Texas Tech's Michael Crabtree to accomplish.

So now he's eager to see how he'll do in the NFL.

Crabtree said Tuesday he's giving up his final two years of eligibility because he thinks he's ready for pro football. The first challenge is finding out how high he'll go in the draft.

"As far as I've seen, top 5. That's what I'm striving for," Crabtree said.

Tall, strong and fast enough, Crabtree averaged 120.3 yards and 1.6 touchdowns per game in college, extraordinarily high numbers even in coach Mike Leach's video game-esque offense.

His career totals of 231 catches for 3,127 yards and 41 touchdowns would be remarkable over three or four years. Compiled over only two years, it's no wonder he was an All-American both seasons and was a two-time winner of the Biletnikoff Award as the nation's top receiver. He was fifth in voting for the

Heisman Trophy this past season.

"I feel like the next level will be a big challenge for me and I'm looking forward to it," Crabtree said.

BALL STATE QB DAVIS TO ENTER NFL DRAFT EARLY

MUNCIE, Ind. — Ball State quarterback Nate Davis has decided to give up his senior season to enter the NFL draft.

Cardinals coach Stan Parrish made the announcement Tuesday in a news conference at the school.

Davis, a junior, led Ball State to a 12-0 start this past season, during which the Cardinals were ranked as high as 12th. The Cardinals lost to Buffalo in the Mid-American Conference championship game, then to Tulsa in the GMAC Bowl.

PENN STATE DE MAYBIN DECLARES FOR NFL DRAFT

ELLICOTT CITY, Md. — All-American defensive end Aaron Maybin will skip his final two seasons at Penn State and declare for the NFL draft.

The 6-foot-4, 245-pound sophomore led the Big Ten with 12 sacks and finished with 49 tackles — 20 for loss — as the Nittany Lions went 11-1 before losing 38-24 to Southern California in the Rose Bowl.

UTAH'S WHITTINGHAM NAMED COACH OF YEAR

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Utah coach Kyle Whittingham may have been the only coach to cast a No. 1 vote for his team. On Tuesday, his fellow coaches gave him a consolation prize by naming him the American Football Coaches Association's Coach of the Year award in the Football Bowl Subdivision.

Whittingham's Utes went 13-0 and beat Alabama in the Sugar Bowl for the best record in the school's 115-year history. Utah also has the longest current bowl winning streak at eight with Whittingham winning the last four. But Utah finished No. 2 in The Associated Press

poll and fourth in the coaches' final poll.

Coaches voted for the top coach in each division during the AFCA convention here, and the winners were announced Tuesday before the AFCA's annual awards dinner.

BC HIRES VETERAN ASSISTANT SPAZIANI AS COACH

BOSTON — Frank Spaziani is the new football coach at Boston College, promoted after spending 12 seasons as an assistant with the Eagles.

Spaziani's appointment will be announced at a 3 p.m. news conference Tuesday, according to a person with knowledge of the decision who requested anonymity because the school had not made an announcement.

Spaziani takes over for Jeff Jagodzinski, who was fired after he interviewed for the coaching job with the New York Jets. Jagodzinski, who had three years left on his five-year contract, had been told by athletic director Gene DeFilippo that he would be fired if he went through with the interview.

2 COACHES FALL THROUGH HOTEL WINDOW AT CONVENTION

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Two assistant coaches apparently wrestling with each other fell through a hotel window Tuesday morning and fell four stories to a concrete sidewalk, leaving one in serious condition.

The American Football Coaches Association is holding its annual convention at the Opryland Hotel, and hotel security had been called around 4:10 a.m. with a noise complaint when officers found a broken window and Scott Coy and Darren DeMeio outside on the ground below.

"They wrestled each other too close to the window going through it and down to the ground floor," Nashville police spokeswoman Kris Mumford said. "That's four floors."

— The Associated Press

Chiefs hire Pioli as new GM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Scott Pioli, who helped build and lead a dynasty in New England, is now in charge of a Kansas City franchise which hasn't won a playoff game in 14 years.

The 43-year-old Pioli will be introduced on Wednesday as Chiefs general manager, replacing Carl Peterson.

"He will have complete charge of football operations," Ryan Petkoff, a spokesman for Chiefs chairman Clark Hunt, told The Associated Press. "He will report only to Clark."

The fate of coach Herm Edwards and his staff was not immediately known.

Pioli, who became vice president of player personnel for the Patriots in 2002 and spent nine years working with head coach Bill

Belichick, also interviewed for the general manager vacancy this month in Cleveland.

He inherits a young team coming off a 2-14 season, but is stepping into a situation that seems ripe for a quick turnaround.

The fan base is loyal, though restive, and the team will be playing next year in a virtually new stadium. Arrowhead, which opened in 1972 and is notorious for being loud and rough on visiting teams, is undergoing a \$325 million renovation, which includes new luxury boxes, wider concourses and enhanced amenities in addition to new practice facilities, an enlarged indoor field and a brand new state-of-the-art headquarters building.

JUDGE UPHOLDS \$28.1M VERDICT AGAINST NFL UNION

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal judge has upheld a jury award of \$28.1 million to retired football players who sued the NFL Players' Association for allegedly failing to market their images.

The judge said Tuesday there was sufficient evidence presented at trial in November that the union actively sought to cut out the retired players from lucrative contracts for the benefit of current players.

The jury said the union owed the retirees \$7.1 million in actual damages for failing to include them in lucrative marketing deals with Electronic Arts Inc., the maker of the popular "Madden NFL" video games.

— The Associated Press

Obama Treasury nominee Geithner failed to pay taxes

By Brett J. Blackledge
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — President-elect Barack Obama's choice to run the Treasury Department and lead the nation's economic rescue failed to pay \$34,000 in taxes from 2001 to 2004, but the last-minute disclosure didn't stop Senate Democrats from moving forward with his nomination.

Timothy Geithner had paid some of the back taxes in 2006 after the IRS sent him a bill. When the Obama transition team discovered he owed even more back taxes, Geithner paid those additional taxes days before Obama

announced his choice in November, according to materials released by the Senate Finance Committee considering his nomination.

Obama's staff told senators about the tax issues on Dec. 5.

Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., said he still hoped Geithner could be confirmed on Inauguration Day, asking senators for unanimous consent to skirt rules and schedule a hearing as early as Friday.

"These errors were not intentional; they were honest mistakes," Baucus said after he and other committee members met with Geithner behind closed doors on Tuesday.

It was not clear Tuesday whether committee Republicans would sign off on Baucus' request for a quick hearing.

The panel's senior Republican, Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, hasn't decided whether the revelations are reason enough to oppose Geithner, said spokeswoman Jill Kozeny. He believes they are "serious, and whether or not it's disqualifying is to be determined," she said.

Another prominent Republican, however, spoke up for Geithner.

Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch, another committee member, said he continues to support the nominee.

"I have no problem," Hatch told Fox News. "He's a very, very competent guy."

After senators met with Geithner, the panel released 30 pages of documents detailing his tax errors — and also how he came to employ a housekeeper whose legal immigrant work status had briefly lapsed in 2005.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., dismissed the events as "a few little hiccups," and said he was "not concerned at all" about the impact.

Geithner, plucked from his job as

president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to serve as Obama's treasury secretary, told transition officials and senators that he didn't know he owed self-employment taxes when he worked for the International Monetary Fund.

He failed to pay self-employment taxes for money he earned 2001 to 2004 while working for the IMF, according to materials released by the Senate committee. In 2006, the IRS notified him that he owed \$14,847 in self-employment taxes and \$1,885 in interest from 2003 and 2004, which he paid after an audit. The IRS waived penalties for those tax years.



Geithner

Crash mystery solved

Parachuting investor caught in Fla. after fleeing

By Allen G. Breed and Jay Reeves
Associated Press writers

HARPERSVILLE, Ala. — With his world crumbling around him, investment adviser Marcus Schrenker opted for a bailout. However, his plan to escape personal turmoil was short-lived.

In a feat reminiscent of a James Bond movie, the 38-year-old businessman and amateur daredevil pilot apparently tried to fake his death in a plane crash, secretly parachuting to the ground and speeding away on a motorcycle he had stashed away in the pine barrens of central Alabama.

But the captivating three-day saga came to an end when authorities finally caught up to Schrenker at a North Florida campground where he had apparently tried to take his own life, said Alabama-based U.S. Marshals spokesman Michael Richards.

Schrenker was taken into custody around 8 p.m. MST after officers from the U.S. Marshal's office in Tallahassee, Fla., found him inside a tent at a campground in nearby Quincy, Richards said.

"He had cut one of his wrists, but he is still alive," Richards said.

The missing pilot was tracked down after investigators developed leads that he might be in Florida and forwarded to U.S. Marshals officers there, Richards said.

Schrenker was on the run not only from the law but from divorce, a state investigation of his businesses and angry investors who accuse him of stealing potentially millions in savings they entrusted to him.

"We've learned over time that he's a pathological liar — you don't believe a single word that comes out of his mouth," said Charles Kinney, a 49-year-old airline pilot from Atlanta who alleges Schrenker pocketed at least \$135,000 of his parents' retirement fund.

The events of the past few



AP photo

A single-engine Piper Malibu Meridian flown by Marcus Schrenker is seen after it crashed in East Milton, Fla. The Indiana businessman whose financial management companies were under investigation apparently crashed the plane in what may have been an attempt to fake his own death.

days appeared to be a last, desperate gambit by a man who had fallen from great heights and was about to hit bottom.

On Sunday — two days after burying his beloved stepfather and suffering a half-million-dollar loss in federal court the same day — Schrenker was flying his single-engine Piper Malibu to Florida from his Indiana home when he radioed from 2,000 feet that he was in trouble. He told the tower the windshield had imploded, and that his face was plastered with blood.

Then his radio went silent. Military jets tried to intercept the plane and found the door open, the cockpit dark.

The pilots followed until the aircraft crashed in a Florida Panhandle bayou surrounded by homes. There was no sign of Schrenker's body. They now know they should never have expected to find one.

More than 220 miles to the north, at a convenience store in Childersburg, Ala., police picked up a man using Schrenker's Indiana driver's license and carrying a pair of what appeared to be pilot's goggles. The man, who was wet from the knees down, told the officers he'd been in a canoe accident.

After officers gave him a lift to a nearby motel, Schrenker apparently made his way to a storage unit he'd rented just the day before his flight. He

climbed aboard a red racing motorcycle with full saddlebags, and sped off into the countryside.

At 38, Schrenker was at the head of an impressive slate of businesses. Through his Heritage Wealth Management Inc., Heritage Insurance Services Inc. and Icon Wealth Management, he was responsible for providing financial advice and managing portfolios worth millions.

And by outward appearances, he was doing quite well.

He collected luxury automobiles, owned two airplanes and lived in a 10,000-square-foot house in an upscale neighborhood known as "Cocktail Cove," where affluent boaters often socialize with cocktails in hand. In May 2000, he wowed onlookers by flying a special airplane at 270 mph, 10 feet above the water and under two bridges in Nassau, Bahamas.

"This stunt should not be attempted by any pilot that wishes to stay alive," read the caption on a self-made video of the flight posted on YouTube.

He'd come a long way from his humble beginnings in northwest Indiana, where he and his two brothers were raised after their parents' divorce by their mother and stepfather, a Vietnam veteran who worked at U.S. Steel Corp.

But officials now say Schrenker's enterprise was ready to topple.

Authorities in Indiana have been investigating Schrenker's businesses on allegations that he sold clients annuities and charged them exorbitant fees they weren't aware they would face.

State Insurance Commissioner Jim Atterholt said Schrenker would close the investors out of one annuity and move them to another while charging them especially high "surrender charges" — in one case costing a retired couple \$135,000 of their original \$900,000 investment.

"That amount of money doesn't even exist! It's like saying, 'I want a kajillion bajillion dollars!'"

Semmel calls these numbers "flabbergastingly large, yet people bandy them about in computers as if they're nothing."

But still, you're saying, this Age of the Trillion doesn't apply to money. It's just cute math-class examples that don't translate to actual cash.

Your honor, we call Zimbabwe to the stand.

In 1997, \$1 was equal to about 10 Zimbabwean dollars. Today — well, as of late Monday — \$1 equals 10,148,113.00 Zimbabwean dollars. The country just printed a 50 billion note, which will, at least for a day or two, buy two loaves of bread.

Obama team will try to engage with Iran, Clinton says

By Glenn Kessler
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State-designate Hillary Rodham Clinton said Tuesday that the incoming Obama administration will seek to engage directly with Iran in an effort to persuade it to abandon its nuclear program and become "a constructive regional actor," underscoring a dramatic shift in U.S. foreign policy from the Bush administration.



Clinton

In prepared testimony

and remarks during her confirmation hearing — which were supplemented by 79 pages of formal answers to questions posed by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee — Clinton was careful not to tip her hand on specific plans or policies that the new administration may pursue. But she struck a consistent theme of active engagement and unyielding diplomacy, a sharp contrast to President Bush's policy of refusing to deal with countries that did not first meet conditions set by the United States.

"I don't get up every morning thinking only about the threats and dangers we face," Clinton said. "With every challenge comes an opportunity to find promise and possibility in the face of adversity

and complexity."

Clinton also pledged greater involvement in the quest for Middle East peace but was not drawn into specific questions about how the incoming administration might handle Israel's invasion of the Gaza Strip.

But she drew the line at the idea of the United States engaging in immediate talks with Hamas, the militant group battling Israel. Clinton said it is appropriate to set conditions in dealing with what she called "non-state actors," which in the case of Hamas means renouncing violence, recognizing Israel and respecting previous agreements between Israelis and Palestinians.

The 61-year-old former first lady and current senator from New York was warmly embraced by senators on both sides of the aisle who praised her intellect and her policy-making skills. She fielded nearly six hours of mostly polite queries, the only exceptions being a handful of questions about potential conflicts posed by former president Bill Clinton's charitable foundation.

The committee plans to vote on her nomination Thursday morning, and she is expected to be confirmed easily.

Clinton's daughter, Chelsea, sat behind her during the hearing, but the former president watched the hearings on television with his wife's 89-year-old mother, Dorothy Rodham, a spokesman said.

Police say Calif. dad sold 14-year-old into marriage

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A California man has been arrested for arranging for his 14-year-old daughter to marry a neighbor in exchange for \$16,000, 100 cases of beer and several cases of meat, police said.

Authorities in Greenfield, a farming community on California's central coast, said they learned of the deal after Marcelino de Jesus Martinez, 36, asked them for help getting back his daughter after payment wasn't made.

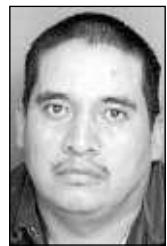
Martinez was arrested Sunday. He's scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday in Monterey County Superior Court on felony charges of procuring a child under age 16 for lewd and lascivious acts, statutory rape and cruelty to a child by endangering health, according to the prosecutor.

The prosecutor's office said Martinez did not have an attorney of record yet.

Police also arrested the intended groom, 18-year-old Margarito de Jesus Galindo, on suspicion of statutory rape, but prosecutors have not decided whether to charge him. Police did not return a message Tuesday for information on whether Galindo had an attorney.

Martinez is a member of an indigenous Mexican Trique community. Greenfield police Chief Joe Grebmeier said the case highlights an issue confronting local authorities in that arranged marriages with girls as young as 12 are not uncommon among the Trique.

He hesitated to say the girl was being sold into marriage, as the money was intended as a dowry and the beer and meat were for the wedding. But, he added, the arrangement violates California law, where the age of consent for marriage is 18, and with parental approval, 16.



Martinez

Age of a Trillion: Real money, lots of zeros

By Neely Tucker
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — When did it get to be the Age of the Trillion?

Late autumn? Just before Christmas? The leaves were gone, and it just slipped into the language: a trillion dollars. People started talking about it as if they knew what it meant. It was like a terabyte on your hard drive: something everybody seemed to know about, but nobody understood.

"Trillion" used to be a whoop-de-do word from science class. Like the amount of time it took for light from Supernova G-338 to reach Earth or something. It wasn't tangible. In 1987, the entire federal budget passed that

amount for the first time, but everybody knew it wasn't an actual deposit of money.

Today, it's the amount of cash in Hank Paulson's desk drawer.

"Governors Call for \$1 Trillion Stimulus." "Obama Warns of Prospect of Trillion-Dollar Deficits." "The U.S. steel industry is currently lobbying for ... \$1 trillion" in public works.

These are real news reports, but nobody knows how much money it really is. A million million, yeah, but what's that? There are millionaires and billionaires, but no trillionaires. Nobody holds anybody ransom for a trillion dollars; there are no pictures of anybody's trillion-dollar home on the Riviera.

Ralph Semmel, head of the

applied information sciences department in the Applied Physics Laboratory at Johns Hopkins University, says that if you started earning \$27 million every day, from the day you were born, you'd have \$1 trillion in your bank account around your 100th birthday. His colleague Andy Cheng, head scientist in the space department, adds that it's only about 3 billion miles to Pluto.

It's insane, this amount of money. It's come to feel like that moment in the Austin Powers movies, in which time-traveling Dr. Evil wonders how much money to demand to spare Washington, D.C., and comes up with ... 100 billion dollars! "Dr. Evil, this is 1969!" the president roars in laughter.

That amount of money doesn't even exist! It's like saying, "I want a kajillion bajillion dollars!"

Semmel calls these numbers "flabbergastingly large, yet people bandy them about in computers as if they're nothing."

But still, you're saying, this Age of the Trillion doesn't apply to money. It's just cute math-class examples that don't translate to actual cash.

Elwood Wesley Becker

JEROME — Elwood Wesley Becker, 85, passed away Sunday, Dec. 28, 2008, at his home in Jerome.

Elwood was born in Lewis, Iowa, on Sept. 20, 1923, to William and Minnie Becker. He came to Jerome shortly afterward, where he remained his entire life. After completing high school, he attended the College of Idaho and Utah State University at Logan, Utah, where he studied agriculture. In 1943, he married Nita Williams, whom he had known since the age of 8.

Elwood farmed northeast of Jerome. He was a member of the First Presbyterian

Church of Jerome and was an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA). From 1971 until his death, Elwood served the Presbytery of Kendall as its stated clerk. Over many decades, he served the denomination at every level, in the local church, the presbytery, the synod and the general assembly.

Elwood is survived by his three children, Sylvia Becker Goetz, Ted and Jonathan; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A celebration of Elwood's life will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 17, at the First Presbyterian Church of Jerome. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to First Presbyterian Church of Jerome, 262 E. Ave. A, Jerome, ID 83338.



Anthony 'Tony' J. Colella

JACKPOT, Nev. — Anthony "Tony" J. Colella, 63, of Jackpot, Nev., died Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center in Twin Falls.

Tony was born March 15, 1945, in Auburn, N.Y., the son of Joseph and Bridget Cecora Colella. He grew up and attended schools in Willard and Auburn, N.Y., graduating from Mount Carmel High School in 1964. Tony was involved in the culinary arts, where he attended and graduated from The Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y., in 1973.

Following his graduation, Tony became an instructor for The Culinary Institute of America in New York from 1973 to 1995. Tony then moved to West Palm Beach, Fla., where he was the hospitality instructor, department head for the Florida Culinary Institute.

In 1998, Tony took the position of director of purchasing for Cactus Petes Resort Casino, job that he loved and cared for until the time of his death. Tony

enjoyed his boats and cars, tinkering with them in his spare time. His love was the water and spending time with his family and friends.

Tony is survived by his sister, Judy Watters of Fairfax, Va.; three brothers, Daniel Colella of Auburn, N.Y., David Colella of Carrollton, Texas, and Joey Colella and Honey Kalar of Auburn, N.Y.; as well as his companion, Kathy Samano of Sun Valley and Jackpot, Nev.; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Bridget and Joe Colella.

A celebration of Tony's life will be held as a gathering from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, in the Gala Room at Cactus Petes Resort Casino in Jackpot, Nev.

At Tony's request, there will be no public viewing. Arrangements and cremation are under the direction of Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls.

The family suggests memorials be given to the Tony Colella Memorial Fund. Contributions may be mailed to the Tony Colella Memorial Fund, in care of Judy Grindstaff, Jackpot Baptist Church, P.O. Box 301, Jackpot, NV 89825.



Cheree Cluff and Jan Cluff

Alabama Jim's Café cook, Cheree Cluff, and waitress, Jan Cluff, were taken from us Friday, Jan. 2, 2009.

Cheree was born Oct. 21, 1984, to Harvey Cluff and Dianne Wolfe Cluff, in Stone. Cheree loved learning and school, where she excelled as a straight "A" student. She loved to compose music, sing and dance. Cheree was a gifted artist and athlete. She was very energetic — her motto was "a girl's just gotta have fun." She loved to baby-sit her brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews, and the little neighbor boys. She enjoyed camping and fishing with her best friend and love, Geordie Oates. She was easy to get along with and was a very caring person. She loved to cook and dreamed of purchasing the restaurant as a family business. Cheree was a sweetheart who gave light and love to everyone.

Jan was born Nov. 1, 1992, (all Saints Day) in Snowville Flats, Utah. She was shy, conscientious, humorous, perceptive and goal oriented. She was a scrapbook junkie. She shared the same love for school and learning and artistic talents as Cheree. She had dignity and loved and respected herself and others. She loved to snowboard with her sisters. Her favorite entertainment was movies. She really wanted to go to church, and she loved her teachers. Her dream was to be a cheerleader, and she indeed had the gift to cheer up everyone.

They are survived by their baby sister, Shannon; older sisters Angela and Wendee; and brothers Robert (Bobby), John, and Ethan and parents. Cheree is also survived by the love of her life, Geordie Oates of Parkdale, Ore. Surviving relatives of the girls are parents, Harvey Cluff of Elko, Nev., and Dianne Cluff of Parkdale, Ore.; and siblings, Angela (Tom Perry) of Garland, Utah, with



Brandon, Justin, Lance, Ashley, Jaden, Katie, Sarah; Wendee (Jason Warr) of Malta, with Kaleb and Kassie; Robert and John Cluff of Darby, Mont.; Ethan Cluff of Elko, Nev.; and Shannon Cluff of Parkdale, Ore.; aunts and uncles, Dolores and George McClain of Philipsburg, Mont., with cousins, Dee, George, Becky and Forest; Merrilan and Harold Simper of Grand View, with cousins, Kelly, Patra, Nathan, Tiffany, Jolene, Melanie, Brian and Porter; John and Lorene Wolfe of Anaconda, Mont., with cousins, Shane, Bryan, Melissa, David, Laura and Julie, and Randy Wolfe of Los Angeles, California; Charollette and James Given of Anaconda, Mont., with cousins, David, Wayne, Brent, Bryce and Jamie; Marylyn and Clyde Biggs of Orem, Utah, with cousins, Warren, Mark, Brad, Scott and Kelly; Sharon and Darwin Johnson of Peoria, Ariz., with cousins, Kevin, Julie, Keith, Steven, Tyler and Brian; Larry and Denise Cluff, with cousins, Travis, Ryan and Alisha; and Susanne and Randy Shinkle, with cousins, Kari, Danielle and Nikki.

A funeral was held Jan. 7 in Hood River, Ore.

The family suggests that donations be made to the Cluff Memorial Fund and sent care of Anderson's Tribute Center, 1401 Belmont Ave., Hood River, OR 97031. Please visit our Web site to sign the family guest book at www.andersontributecenter.com.

Robert J. Johnson

WESTMONT, Pa. — Robert J. Johnson 40 of Westmont, Pa., and formerly of Twin Falls, died suddenly Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009, at home.

He was born Feb. 9, 1968, in Johnstown, Pa., the son of Kenneth and Joanne (Casale) Johnson.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Joseph and Esther Casale; father; and aunt, Jean Casale. He is survived by his mother, Joanne; wife, Susan Denny; and daughters, Carolyn and Shannon; sister, Polly, married to Archie Klingel of Port Allegany, Pa.; mother-in-law, Carol Denny; sister-in-law, Melinda Elliot; and nephews, Sean and Sam Elliott.

He graduated in 1986 from Bishop McCort High School, in 1992 from the ITT Technical Institute specializing in CAD Systems and in 1999 from the School of

Truck Driving in Oregon. He spent eight years driving in Nevada and Idaho. He had a deep love for his wife, children and family and will be sadly missed. Robert and Susan home schooled their daughters and are affiliated with the youth group at Camp Harmony.

A private funeral is requested by the family. Arrangements are under the direction of the Frank Duca Funeral Home, Westmont Chapel, 1622 Menoher Blvd., Johnstown, PA 15905

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to OMOS Catholic Church School Fund, 430 Tioga St., Johnstown, PA, 15905, or contributions may be made to establish a memorial fund in Robert's memory, in care of Susan Johnson, 2308 Pitt Ave. Ext., Johnstown, PA 15905.

SERVICES

Boni Espinoza Villanueva of Rupert, Mass of Resurrection at 11 a.m. today at the St. Nicholas Catholic Church, 802 F St. in Rupert; visitation one hour before the funeral today at the church (Hansen Mortuary-Rupert Chapel, 710 Sixth St.

Frieda Amelia Mason (Freda) of Twin Falls, funeral at 2 p.m. Friday at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls; visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday and one hour before the funeral Friday at the mortuary.

Pearl Etta Watts Patton of Buhl, funeral at 2 p.m. Friday at the Filer LDS Church; visi-

itation from 1 to 1:50 P.M. Friday at the church; graveside service at 1 p.m. Monday at the Ashton Cemetery in Ashton (Farmer Funeral Chapel in Buhl).

Cleo Estelle Anderson of Sedro Woolley, Wash., and formerly of Twin Falls and Ketchum, memorial service at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Lemley Chapel in Sedro-Woolley, Wash.

Betty L. Sept of Buhl, funeral at 2 p.m. Saturday at the First Christian Church, 1005 Poplar St. in Buhl; visitation from 4 to 7 p.m., with the family greeting from 5 to 6 p.m., Friday at the Farmer Funeral Chapel in Buhl.

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. 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 online guestbook, go to www.magicvalley.com and click on "Obituaries."

Decorated Vietnam pilot dies at 73

NEW YORK (AP) — James T. Newman, a Vietnam War helicopter pilot whose rescues of downed airmen earned him the Distinguished Service Cross and other honors, has died. He was 73.

Newman's son, Jay, said he died Sunday at the University of North Carolina medical center in Chapel Hill of complications associated with lung cancer.

Newman was twice nominated for the Medal of Honor, the highest military award for valor. While he did not receive that medal, he did get a Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second-highest award for combat valor, the Silver Star, four Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and 23 Air Medals, among others.

In an interview years later, the Georgia native said he could "get the shakes" in recalling such incidents although at the time he had felt "no fear."

He first served in Vietnam in 1966, suffering a leg wound that nearly led to an amputation. Regaining flight status, he returned in 1970 as commander of C Troop, 2/17 Air Cavalry, 101st Airborne Division.

His first nomination for the Medal of Honor came in February 1971, when he rescued four U.S. crewmen from a crashed medevac helicopter on a mountaintop base in Laos where South Vietnamese Rangers were under heavy attack by North Vietnamese troops.

The same week, he rescued two other downed pilots by chopping down small trees with his main rotor blade, an act that astonished helicopter experts but earned Newman a Silver Star.

Five months later, Newman rescued two more pilots injured in a crash near the Laotian border, spotting a flash from their signal mirror and extracting the men with seconds to spare.

Richard Frazee, another former C Troop member, called Newman "a man of immeasurable courage who made us all feel invincible."

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Australian aviation pioneer Nancy Bird-Walton dies at 93

By Kristen Gelineau
Associated Press writer

SYDNEY, Australia — Aviation pioneer Nancy Bird-Walton, who became the first woman in Australia to operate a commercial aircraft, died Tuesday. She was 93.

Walton, who was named a Living National Treasure by the National Trust of Australia in 1997, died at her Sydney home Tuesday afternoon, her granddaughter Anna Holman said.

"I most remember her as my grandmother, who was a part of my everyday life and who was exceptionally inspirational to women all over Australia," Holman said. "But most of all, she made great chocolate cakes with peppermint icing."

Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith, the first man to fly across the mid-Pacific, taught Walton how to fly in 1933, when she was just 17 years old. Two years later, she obtained a commercial pilot's license and began taking paying passengers for joyrides around the country.

She later ran an air ambulance service for remote Outback areas of New South Wales state, becoming known as the "Angel of the Outback." In 1950, she founded the Australian Women Pilots' Association, which mentors female pilots.



AP file photo

This undated image shows aviation pioneer Nancy Bird-Walton, who became the first woman in Australia to operate a commercial aircraft.

Last year, she attended the inaugural Australian landing of Qantas Airways' first A380 super jumbo aircraft, which was named in her honor.

"I was asked if Qantas could name this plane after me at my 90th birthday three years ago and I made it my decision to stay alive," she said at the ceremony in Sydney.

In a statement Tuesday, Qantas Chief Executive Officer Alan Joyce praised Walton for her "boundless energy, her courage and her vision for the role of women in aviation."

Walton is survived by her two children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Patient Spotlight

"The staff at Professional Hearing Aid Services is very professional and courteous."

Karl Brown, Twin Falls

"The staff at Professional Hearing Aid Services is very professional and courteous. They have helped me so much with my hearing aids. I feel as if a whole new world has been opened for me. Thank you, Professional Hearing Aid Services."



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TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Mostly cloudy skies. Light and variable winds. Afternoon highs around 40. Tonight: A good deal of cloudiness. Winds remain light and variable. Lows near 25. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy. Calm morning winds become light southeast. Highs near 40.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Morning fog possible, then mostly cloudy. Light winds with highs 35 to 40. Tonight: Mostly cloudy with patchy fog redeveloping. Light and variable winds. Lows 20 to 25. Tomorrow: Areas of fog lift by noon. Partly cloudy in the afternoon with highs near 40.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

Map of Idaho showing weather forecasts for various cities including Boise, Idaho Falls, and Pocatello. Includes a 'SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS.' section with fog forecasts.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table showing 5-day forecast for Twin Falls: Today (Mostly cloudy), Tonight (Mostly cloudy), Thursday (A little better look at the sun), Friday (Sunny and seasonably cool), Saturday (Partly to mostly sunny), Sunday (Sunny and fairly seasonal). Highs and lows are provided for each day.

Yesterday's Weather

Table of yesterday's weather for various cities: Boise (Hi 35, Lo 29), Burley (Hi 49, Lo 38), Challis (Hi 42, Lo 22), Coeur d'Alene (Hi 39, Lo 34), Idaho Falls (Hi 35, Lo 30), Jerome (Hi 43, Lo 35), Lewiston (Hi 38, Lo 33), Lowell (Hi 40, Lo 33), Malad (Hi not available, Lo 55), Malta (Hi 55, Lo 32), Pocatello (Hi 41, Lo 36), Rexburg (Hi 30, Lo 25), Salmon (Hi 37, Lo 21), Stanley (Hi 27, Lo 6).

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Almanac data for Twin Falls including Temperature (Yesterday's High 51, Low 38), Precipitation (0.00"), Humidity (79%), Barometric Pressure (30.38 in.), and Sunrise/Sunset times (Sunrise: 8:05 AM, Sunset: 5:29 PM).

Moonrise and Moonset information: Today (Moonrise: 10:16 PM, Moonset: 10:09 AM), Thursday (Moonrise: 11:26 PM, Moonset: 10:31 AM), Friday (Moonrise: none, Moonset: 10:53 AM).

REGIONAL FORECAST

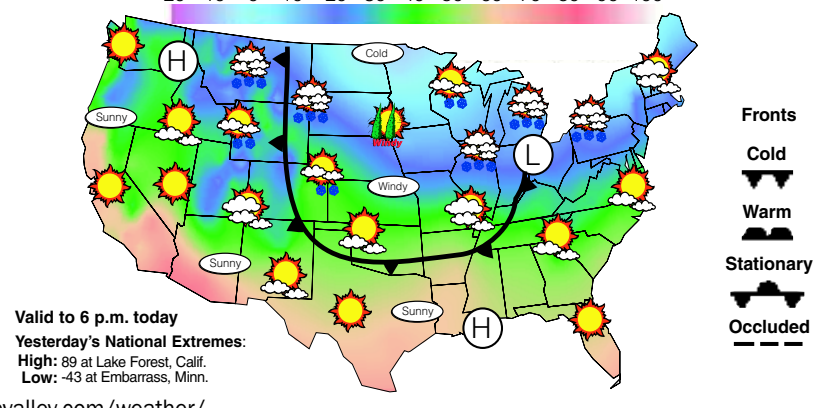
Regional forecast table for various cities including Boise, Idaho Falls, Pocatello, and others, providing high/low temperatures and weather conditions for today and tomorrow.

Gregg Middlekauff's Quote of the Day: 'It is only when people shake off the baggage of financial misinformation they have acquired from their parents, teachers, friends and past financial disasters that they are able to advance themselves financially.'

CANADIAN FORECAST

Canadian forecast table for cities like Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, and others, showing high/low temperatures and weather conditions.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



Shocking cold wave drops temps to 40 below zero

By Amy Forliti, Associated Press writer. MINNEAPOLIS — Temperatures crashed to Arctic levels Tuesday as a severe cold wave rolled across the upper Midwest on the heels of yet another snowstorm, closing schools and making most people think twice before going outside.

Deputy Tim Zeigle said. Some Minnesotans took it as just another winter day, even in the state's extreme northwest corner where thermometers bottomed out at 38 degrees below zero at the town of Hallock and the National Weather Service said the wind chill was a shocking 58 below.



Runner Keith Golke of Minneapolis resembles an icicle while jogging around Lake Calhoun, Tuesday morning on the coldest day in Minnesota since 2004. An Arctic blast has descended on much of the Midwest causing temps to plummet with record-breaking lows approaching minus 40 degrees in parts of North Dakota.

With economy sour, consumers sweet on herbal medicine

By Lindsey Tanner, Associated Press writer. CHICAGO — The choice between \$75 prescription sleeping pills or a \$5 herbal alternative is a no-brainer for Cathy and Bernard Birleffi, whose insurance costs have skyrocketed along with the nation's financial woes.

an increase in sales of nutritional supplements and herbal products in the past several weeks. That's "noteworthy" given the retail industry's financial slump, said Whole Foods spokesman Jeremiah C. McElwee.

Buyer beware. Tips on use of herbal supplements: Know that herbal medicines aren't as strictly regulated as conventional medicines and that evidence on their safety and effectiveness is often lacking.

increase compared with the previous year, according to Jason Phillips of the Nutrition Business Journal, an industry-tracking publication. Sales of animal oil supplements — mostly fish oils — were up 29 percent from 2006. While that was a decline from the previous year, both categories continued to show strong growth in a faltering economy.



INSIDE: Business, C5-6 | Comics, C7



Local chefs prepare for annual Death by Chocolate

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

FILER — Displayed under a glass case, the eclairs at Filer's Hooked on Chocolates steal the show from other treats on the shelf — even from dark chocolate turtles, temptingly coated in sliced almonds and cashews, and from milk chocolate haystacks.

In presentation the eclairs appear as tediously cared-for works of art: Bavarian cream seems suspended between a pair of golden, flaky crusts, the top crust drizzled with melted milk chocolate, and a lone maraschino cherry relaxes atop a pillow of whipped cream.

In reality, the decadent dessert is elementary to create. However, even the most basic recipes can wreak havoc in the kitchen, said Hooked on Chocolates baker Shawnee McKendry.

McKendry will bake a

thousand miniature eclairs for the upcoming Fourth Annual Death by Chocolate, a charity fundraising event organized by the Rotary Club of Twin Falls.

The *Times-News* caught up with McKendry as she worked through a trial run of making the miniature desserts — one of the shop's signature treats — for Death by Chocolate. The Rotary fundraiser is attracting many participants, each of whom is expected to

Please see **CHOCOLATE**, Page C2



Photos by BLAIR KOCH/For the Times-News
Shawnee McKendry, a baker at Filer's Hooked on Chocolates, scoops freshly made dough into a pouch for shaping eclair shells. The shop will enter its eclairs in the Rotary Club of Twin Falls' annual Death by Chocolate fundraiser Jan. 29.



Times-News file photo
Keagan Hornaday, 2, sits back after thoroughly enjoying a plate of Death by Chocolate goodies at the 2008 event.

A tasty way to die

The Rotary Club of Twin Falls hosts its Fourth Annual Death by Chocolate from 6 to 9 p.m. Jan. 29 at Canyon Crest Dining and Event Center at 330 Canyon Crest Drive, Twin Falls. If you go, expect to circle the room, collecting bite-sized portions of treats from each competing chef. Then you'll vote on your favorites. Cost is \$15 per person in advance and \$20 at the door. Advance tickets are available at Everybody's Business in Twin Falls. Information: committee chairwoman Jill Skeem at 320-2786 or jillasherman@yahoo.com.

Culinary classes give cooks a boost

By Melissa Davlin
Times-News writer

Want to learn how to chop and slice like a pro? How about make killer Dutch oven recipes or scrumptious appetizers?

Follow the lead of foodies-in-the-know and take advantage of the abundance of local cooking classes.

On the surface, humble Magic Valley might seem a bit bland when it comes to culinary education. But between passionate chefs, a community college and county Extension offices, we have our share of gourmet class offerings.

Dutch oven cooking classes at Twin Falls' A Happy Camper usually sell out, said owner Donna Arrington. Classes run from January to May every year and feature all-new recipes.

"By the time camping season's here, they're all ready to go," Arrington said.

Jane Rice, co-owner of Ein Tisch Inn in Hagerman, hosts classes year-round with her husband and business partner, Jake.

"We've done classes on all types of different subjects," Rice said. Barbecue, garlic, salads, soups, pizza and desserts are just a few of the

menu items their students have learned how to prepare.

"We try and use as many local ingredients as we can," she said.

Often, Rice's class ideas come from conversations with her customers, including loyal Ein Tisch fan Judy Osborne.

Osborne, a Hagerman real estate agent, has been to four or five classes at Ein Tisch. At one recent class, she learned a recipe for a oatmeal cookie with baked almond topping that was a hit during the holidays. The classes give her a chance to learn culinary skills hands-on, she said.

Even if she hasn't used every recipe at home, she uses the tips she gleaned from the classes — like which wood chips produce what flavors and different ways to prepare garlic.

"They make it look and sound easy, even though it's delicacy," Osborne said. "They make it so much fun."

Here's a sampling of the local winter and spring class lineup. So don't settle for learning your skills from impersonal cooking shows.

Melissa Davlin may be reached at 208-735-3234 or melissa.davlin@lee.net.

Rudy's — A Cook's Paradise
147 Main Ave. W., Twin Falls
Information: 733-5477

"Escape to Jamaica!" with Aaron Lewis
7 to 9 p.m. Jan. 20
Cost: \$40

"Knife Skills — Hands-On" with Chris Kastner
9 to 11 a.m. Jan. 31
Cost: \$60

"The Mother Sauces" with Randy King
Part 1: 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 12
Part 2: 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 19
Cost: \$45 each or \$80 for both

"Native American Cuisine" with Joe Szerwo
7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 25
Cost: \$40

"Sweets and Treats" with Nadina Keller
7 to 9 p.m. March 12
Cost: \$40

Rudy's other upcoming spring classes include using local ingredients, handmaking pasta and using colorful ingredients to fight cancer. For a complete list of classes, visit cooksparadise.com.

A Happy Camper
1848 Addison Ave. E., Twin Falls
Information: 736-8048

"One Pot Meals"
6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 10
Cost: \$10 per person, \$15 per couple

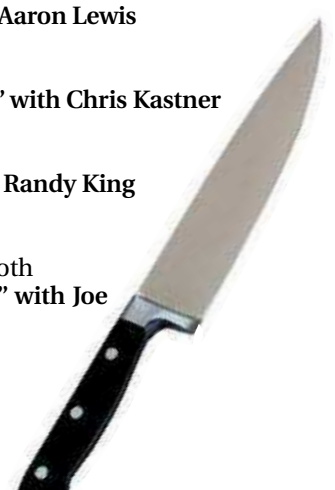
"Breads & Desserts ... & Corn Beef & Cabbage"
6:30 to 8:30 p.m. March 24
Cost: \$10 per person, \$15 per couple

"Main Meals Made Simple"
6:30 to 8:30 p.m. April 14
Cost: \$10 per person, \$15 per couple

"Prime Rib, Hands-on"
6:30 to 8:30 p.m. May 19
Cost: \$10 per person, \$15 per couple

All classes are taught by Dutch oven guru Colleen Sloan of Utah.

Please see **CLASSES**, Page C2



Chocolate

Continued from page C1
bring at least 1,000 sample-sized portions for guests and judges.

Death categories include chocolate cake, brownie, cookie, candy and unique dessert. Attendees, no arm twisting necessary, are given the duty of tasting and then voting for their favorite chocolate delights. A panel of judges will also decide their favorites in each category.

McKendry's eclairs will compete in the unique dessert category.

"The trick is in the dough. You have to decrease the oven's temperature as the dough cooks. You really have to watch the color," McKendry said. "The dough is basic: just flour, a little salt and a little sugar put into boiling water and butter. It's cooked into a paste, and then you're ready to shape the crusts."

After baking, the crusts can be frozen or cut in half, lengthwise, for the cream filling. Setting the Filer shop's eclairs apart is the "secret ingredient" added into the purchased Bavarian cream, McKendry said.

The shop plans to bring both powdered sugar- and chocolate-covered versions of the recipe, which McKendry brought to Idaho from the Las Vegas LDS temple.

"Of course people came to the temple for spiritual reasons, but many came for the eclairs too, as an extra treat," McKendry said.

While this year's Death by Chocolate competition will be a first for Hooked on Chocolates, it is old hat for Twin Falls restaurant Rock



Photos by BLAIR KOCH/For the Times-News
Eclair shells are crafted, left, with the use of a pouch. The dough is squeezed out the tip, carefully shaped on a pan, then baked. Above, in addition to topping its eclairs with melted milk chocolate frosting, Hooked on Chocolates tops the decadent dessert with a fine dusting of powdered sugar. Each variety is yours to taste at Death by Chocolate.

Creek, which has entered the competition since its inception.

Manager Wes Miller is partnering with restaurant chef Phillip Couch to bake Super Rich Chocolate Fudge Cake. They brought the cake to the event a few years ago, earning a third-place award.

After hearing accolades for the dessert and disappointment it hadn't done better in competition, Miller said, it was time to bring back the cake. This year they're going for first place.

"Now that we've done this a few times, we know what we're doing," Miller said. "The cake really speaks for itself."

Fresh raspberries boiled

down with sugar and cream and poured on top of the cake are sure to delight the crowd, but the hint of coffee mixed with the rich flavors of cocoa will wow judges and attendees alike, Miller said.

"The coffee, brewed and added to the mix, makes the cake's distinct flavor," Miller said.

While competitors iron out their entry plans, the Rotary Club is finalizing event details. In addition to chocolate and treat tasting, event highlights include a silent auction, raffle, no-host bar and live music by bluegrass band Strings Attached. Organizers expect more than 1,000 people and hope to

surpass last year's \$23,000 raised.

"With all the money Rotary raised with this event we are able to help a lot of local charities over the year," said committee chairwoman Jill Skeem.

As great as the 25,000 pieces of chocolates and other sweets to be presented at this year's Death by Chocolate, they aren't as important as the charities that will benefit, like Valley House and The Salvation Army.

Raising money never tasted so good.

Blair Koch may be reached at 208-316-2607 or blairkoch@gmail.com.

Resolutions that involve better eating could start right here

The Washington Post

Here, firm-fleshed fish takes kindly to chutney with fall-winter flavors.

From "1000 Gluten-Free Recipes," by Carol Fenster (Wiley, 2008).

PAN-SEARED MAHI-MAHI WITH APPLE-PEAR CHUTNEY

4 servings

For the fish:

- 4 mahi-mahi fillets (about 4 ounces each; may substitute sustainable red snapper fillets)
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 tablespoon olive oil

For the chutney:

- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter (may substitute vegan margarine, such as Earth Balance, or canola oil)
- 1 Bosc pear, peeled, cored and cut in 1/2-inch dice
- 1 small, firm apple (such as Granny Smith), peeled, cored and cut in 1/2-inch slices
- 1/4 cup finely chopped white onion
- 1 medium clove garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 tablespoon dried cranberries
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/8 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- 1/8 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/8 teaspoon ground ginger
- Salt
- Freshly ground black pepper

Combine the chili powder, salt and pepper in a small bowl. Press the mixture onto both sides of the fillets.

For the chutney: Heat the butter in a large, heavy skillet over medium heat. Add the pear and apple (about 1 3/4 cups total), onion and garlic; cook for 5 to 7 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the mixture has slightly softened.



Add the vinegar, lemon juice, honey, cranberries, cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice and ginger, stirring to combine. Reduce the heat to medium-low and cook, stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes, until the chutney has darkened in color and is fragrant; season with salt and pepper to taste. Remove from the heat and let stand while you cook the fish.

Heat the oil in a separate large skillet (preferably not cast-iron) over medium-high heat. Add the mahi-mahi fillets and cook for 8 to 10 minutes total (turning halfway through) or until the fish is just barely opaque when cut at the thickest point. The outside should be browned with caramelized spices.

Divide among individual plates; serve with a few tablespoons of the chutney alongside.

Per serving: 236 calories, 24 g protein, 18 g carbohydrates, 8 g fat, 3 g saturated fat, 49 mg cholesterol, 219 mg sodium, 2 g dietary fiber.

For the fish: Use paper towels to pat the fish fillets dry.

Classes

Continued from page C1

College of Southern Idaho Community Education
315 Falls Ave., Twin Falls
Information: 732-6442

"Introducing the Pressure Cooker"

9 to 11 a.m. Jan. 31
Cost: \$30

Taught by Dianne Jolovich, this class will introduce you to pressure cooker basics.

"Pressure Cooking: Appetizing Soups"

9 a.m. to noon Feb. 7
Cost: \$40, plus \$10 for supplies

Taught by Jolovich. Recipes include Sausage and 5-Bean Soup, Butternut Squash Soup and Cream of Tomato.

"Pressure Cooking: Ethnic Cuisine"

9 a.m. to noon Feb. 21
Cost: \$40, plus \$10 for supplies

Taught by Jolovich. Recipes include Green Chili Enchiladas, Herbed Greek Chicken and Chicken Cacciatore.

"Pressure Cooking: Delightful Entrees"

9 a.m. to noon March 14
Cost: \$40, plus \$10 for supplies

Taught by Jolovich; includes pork ragu, lasagna and pot roast.

"Pressure Cooking:

Yummy Desserts"

9 a.m. to noon March 28
Cost: \$40, plus \$10 for supplies

Taught by Jolovich. Recipes include Peanut Butter Fudge Cheesecake, Neapolitan Cheesecake and Blueberry Pudding Cake.

"Basic Cake Decorating"

6 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 25 through March 11
Cost: \$35

Taught by Vickie Brannen, this class will cover how to use decorating tools, bake and assemble cakes, color frosting and create beautiful frosted masterpieces.

Other classes are available, including a healthy cooking class taught by Jill Skeem. Information: csi.edu.

Twin Falls County

Extension Office
246 Third Ave. E., Twin Falls
Information: 734-9590

"Seafood at its Best"

6 to 8:30 p.m. Jan. 27 and 29
Cost: Free

This two-part class focuses on how to select, handle, store and prepare seafood. Limited to 25 participants. Register by Jan. 21.

Cassia County

Extension Office

1013 W. 16th St., Burley

Information: 878-9461

"Food preservation"

6 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays, March 18 through April 1; lab session, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 11

Cost: \$35; register by March 11

Learn food-safety aspects of food preservation, water bath canning, pressure canning, freezing and drying. The class, taught by Grace Wittman, is limited to 10 participants.

College of Southern Idaho North Side

Center
202 14th Ave. E., Gooding
Information: 934-8678



"Cooking with Garlic"

7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 23
Cost: \$35

Jake and Jane Rice of Ein Tisch Inn will teach you how to use garlic in a menagerie of dishes from pesto to desserts. Class will be held at Ein Tisch, 165 W. Valley Road in Hagerman, instead of at the Gooding center.

"Dutch Oven Cooking"

6:30 to 9 p.m. March 10
Cost: \$20

Instructor Colleen Sloan will teach Dutch oven basics in this St. Patrick's Day-themed class.

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- Text by Audrey Grant
- Lessons by Max Thompson

Starting January 22, 2009 • 7:00pm

Location: 2679 Poleline Rd. E., Twin Falls
735-8308

MATERIALS PROVIDED - Cost \$45.00
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Location and date yet to be determined.



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Scripture baking blends spirituality, cooking

**By Maria Noel Groves
For The Associated Press**

Spoons and bowls and baking pans and ... a Bible?

Most modern bakers probably don't associate The Good Book with pulling together a batch of their favorite treats, but during the late 1800s some Christians began using scripture as a code for turning recipes into riddles.

"This was a cutsey way of letting people know that they knew their Bible. If you knew it off the top of your head, you felt proud of yourself," says Joan Houston Hall, chief editor of the "Dictionary of American Regional English."

Recipes for so-called scripture cake fell out of popularity by the mid-1900s, but recently have enjoyed a revival among faith-based youth groups and parents looking to use the kitchen as another conduit to faith.

"Since I teach Hebrew School one of the beauties of these recipes is that they are a great way to force my students to read/translate and interpret the Hebrew Bible," says Michael Twitty, culinary historian and teacher at Temple Beth Ami religious school in Rockville, Md. "This year I'm teaching Torah to the seventh-graders again, and it makes it fun for them because otherwise they would have no interest whatsoever in picking up the world's best-seller."

Recipes can be found online on sites such as MormonChic.com and at numerous recipe sites. Some youth ministry groups even set up races between groups to see who can decipher and bake the ingredients first.

"It is very fun to do," says Evelyn Birge Vitz, author of faith-based cookbook "A Continual Feast." She enjoys not only the riddle of making the cake, but also comparing recipes to find different passages that refer to the same ingredients.

Scripture recipes call for ingredients by citing passages from the Bible; the cook has to sort out which ingredient



Having a Bible on hand may not be a common tool in the kitchen unless you are ready to try the recipe for this Scripture Cake. The names of ingredients are turned into references in passages in the The Good Book, and your Bible knowledge is tested in a fun way.

each passage refers to. For example, 2 cups of Jeremiah 6:20 is one way of calling for 2 cups of sugar.

Not obvious? It works because the 20th verse of the sixth chapter of the Book of Jeremiah includes a reference to "the sweet cane from a far country."

Some ingredients aren't quite so clear. Amos 4:5 calls for "leaven," often interpreted as baking powder. Other passages leave even more room for interpretation.

"In the Second Book of Chronicles, it calls for spices in the general sense. So, you can use nutmeg and cinnamon, or make it more gingerly," says Evelyn Birge Vitz, author of the faith-based cookbook "A Continual Feast."

Despite some claims that scripture baking dates to colonial times, most historians trace it to the late 1800s. Recipes first appeared in church cookbooks and later in mainstream publications, including a Good Housekeeping cookbook.

Recipes varied slightly — as

did the Bible passages — but, in general, they produced a basic cake seasoned with spices and dried fruit, such as raisins and figs. Sometimes it was served with Burnt Jeremiah (Sugar) Syrup.

"In the 1880s there was this explosion of cake making. There were a lot of cakes named after historical figures or 'tipsy' cake, made with as much white wine as the cake would absorb. Scripture Cake is in that period between 1880 and 1910 when there were just loads of cake recipes," says Kathleen Fitzgerald, co-author of "America's Founding Food."

It's a concept that is easily adapted for most baked goods. The Bible has numerous references to sugar, flour, eggs, spices, milk, honey and other common ingredients, particularly in the Old Testament.

And which Bible you use generally doesn't matter, though some versions may not have your key word. Several versions of the Bible can be searched simultaneously at various Web sites.

SCRIPTURE CAKE

*Start to finish: 1 hour (15 minutes active)
Servings: 8 to 10*

Ready to turn baking into a biblical brainteaser? This dense, fruity cake calls for ingredients by way of scriptural references. Ingredients are grouped for ease of method explanation. A more standard version and translation of the recipe follows.

PART 1
3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) Psalms 55:21
1 cup Jeremiah 6:20
3 Jeremiah 17:11
1/4 cup Judges 4:19
1 tablespoon I Samuel 14:25

PART 2
2 1/4 cups Leviticus 6:15
1/4 teaspoon Leviticus 2:13
1 tablespoon Amos 4:5
1 teaspoon II Chronicles 9:9

PART 3
1 cup I Samuel 30:12
1 cup Numbers 13:23
1/2 cup Numbers 17:8

Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Lightly coat a 4 mini loaf pans with baking spray (a blend of oil and flour).

PART 1: In a large bowl, use an electric mixer to beat the first ingredient until light and creamy. Add the second ingredient and beat until fluffy, about 2 minutes, scraping down the sides of the bowl after the first minute.

One at a time, add the third ingredient, beating well after each addition. Mix in the fourth and fifth ingredients. Set aside.

PART 2: In a large mesh strainer or flour sifter, combine the ingredients listed in part 2. Sift the ingredients together onto a sheet of parchment paper or into a bowl. Reserve 1/4 cup of the mixture.

With the mixer on low, add half of the remaining part 2 mixture to part 1. Mix only until thoroughly blended, scraping the sides of the bowl as needed. Add the remaining part 2 mixture and mix until blended. To create the batter.

PART 3: In a medium bowl, combine the part 3 ingredients. Add the reserved part 2 mixture and toss to lightly coat. Add this mixture to the batter and use a silicone spatula to gently fold it in.

Transfer the batter to the prepared cake pans, filling them 3/4 full.

Bake for 35 to 40 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted at the center comes out clean. Cool on a rack for 15 minutes, then remove the cakes from the pans and cool completely before serving. If desired, dust with powdered sugar.

(Recipe adapted from Evelyn Birge Vitz' "A Continual Feast: A Cookbook to Celebrate the Joys of Family and Faith Throughout the Christian Year," Ignatius Press, 1991)

SCRIPTURE CAKE (TRANSLATION)

3/4 cup (1 1/2 sticks) Psalms 55:21 (butter)
1 cup Jeremiah 6:20 (sugar)
3 Jeremiah 17:11 (eggs)
1/4 cup Judges 4:19 (milk)
1 tablespoon I Samuel 14:25 (honey)

2 1/4 cups Leviticus 6:15 (all-purpose flour)
1/4 teaspoon Leviticus 2:13 (salt)
1 tablespoon Amos 4:5 (baking powder)

1 teaspoon II Chronicles 9:9 (baking spice blend or 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon, 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg and 1/4 teaspoon allspice)

1 cup I Samuel 30:12 (raisins)
1 cup Numbers 13:23 (chopped dried figs)
1/2 cup Numbers 17:8 (chopped toasted almonds)

Heat the oven to 350 F. Lightly coat a 4 mini loaf pans with baking spray (a blend of oil and flour).

In a large bowl, use an electric mixer to beat the butter until light and creamy. Add the sugar and beat until fluffy, about 2 minutes, scraping down the sides of the bowl after the first minute.

One at a time, add the eggs, beating well after each addition. Mix in the milk and the honey. Set aside.

In a large mesh strainer or flour sifter, combine the flour, salt, baking powder and baking spice blend. Sift the ingredients together onto a sheet of parchment paper or into a bowl. Reserve 1/4 cup of the flour mixture.

With the mixer on low, add half of the remaining flour mixture to the wet ingredients. Mix only until thoroughly blended, scraping the sides of the bowl as needed. Add the remaining flour mixture and mix until blended.

In a medium bowl, combine the raisins, figs and almonds. Add the reserved 1/4 cup flour and toss to lightly coat the fruit and nuts. Add this mixture to the batter and use a silicone spatula to gently fold it in.

Transfer the batter to the prepared cake pans, filling them 3/4 full.

Bake for 35 to 40 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted at the center comes out clean. Cool on a rack for 15 minutes, then remove the cakes from the pans and cool completely before serving. If desired, dust with powdered sugar.

A tasteful way to eat lighter

**By Stephanie Witt Sedgwick
Special to The Washington Post**

Once we're past the holiday season, desserts can become an afterthought.

The end of a meal is a perfect opportunity to get in another serving of fruit. In the summer, we can make do with a simple bowl of berries, peaches or a sliced-melon course. In the winter we have to get a little more creative to make what's available just as good.

One of my favorite winter fruits to work with is pineapple. Sweet, juicy pineapples are almost always available. I slice the pineapple and roast it for just 10 minutes, then top it with a strawberry sauce made with frozen berries. It's a delicious combination and could just as easily be served at a Sunday breakfast or brunch. It also happens to be fat-free.

To make it a little more indulgent, add a scoop of nonfat or low-fat frozen yogurt.

Frozen strawberries are less expensive and better-tasting than the strawberries shipped in from warmer parts of the world. Cooking the berries gives them a deep, wonderful flavor. The sauce is easy to prepare and can even be made a few days in advance. It makes a wonderful topping for yogurt, cot-

tage cheese and pancakes. Refrigerate any leftover sauce for up to 1 week.

ROASTED PINEAPPLE WITH STRAWBERRY SAUCE

6 servings

1 pound frozen unsweetened strawberries
1/3 cup brown sugar, or more to taste
1/3 cup water
3 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
2 teaspoons cornstarch
3 1/2- to 4-pound pineapple, peeled, cored and cut crosswise into 1/4- to 1/2-inch thick slices to yield about 1 pound of fruit
1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees.

Combine the strawberries, sugar and water in a 2-quart saucepan over medium heat; cover partially so the saucepan lid is slightly ajar. Cook until the berries thaw, then uncover and cook until the berries are soft, allowing the mixture to maintain a low boil. In all, the process will take about 25 minutes.

Combine the lemon juice and cornstarch in a small bowl, then add to the saucepan, stirring until the mixture comes back to a low boil. Remove from the heat and let cool for 10 to 15 minutes.

While the sauce is cooling, line 1 or 2 large rimmed baking sheets (depending on the size of the pineapple) with parchment paper or alu-

minum foil.

Lay the pineapple slices on the prepared sheet(s) in a single layer, then roast in the oven for 10 to 15 minutes, until any excess liquid has evaporated and the slices look dry. (They should not be brown.)

Use a large spoon to mash the cooled berries against the sides of their saucepan to form a slightly chunky sauce. Add the vanilla extract; taste and add sugar as needed.

Divide the pineapple slices among individual plates. Spoon about 3 tablespoons of the sauce down the center of the slices and serve warm.

Per serving (with half the sauce used): 64 calories, 0 g protein, 17 g carbohydrates, 0 g fat, 0 g saturated fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 1 mg sodium, 2 g dietary fiber.

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Time: 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.

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For reservation call: 208-734-9590 or
E-mail: rlantini@uidaho.edu or gafornsh@uidaho.edu

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How to prepare food when times get tough

By Mary MacVean
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — When she was a kid, for a treat Pat Box and her seven siblings got “water cocoa,” which is pretty much what it sounds like and nothing special today. But that was in the 1930s, when her father's business was reselling bakers' barrels to coopers, and the family would get first crack at them, scraping the wood for any traces of sugar or cocoa left behind.

With luck, they'd also have rye bread and fresh butter they'd buy on Brooklyn Avenue.

“It was wonderful,” said Box, 87, one afternoon while she gathered with friends at the Claude Pepper Senior Center on the west side of Los Angeles.

At a time when Americans face frightening and disorienting economic uncertainty, the Great Depression provides valuable lessons. For many people, putting a meal on the table without turning to processed or takeout foods is no longer something just for a weekend dinner party but a skill they must learn. People who remember what it was like to eat during the Depression talk about thrift, growing their own, sharing with neighbors and learning to cope with what they had.

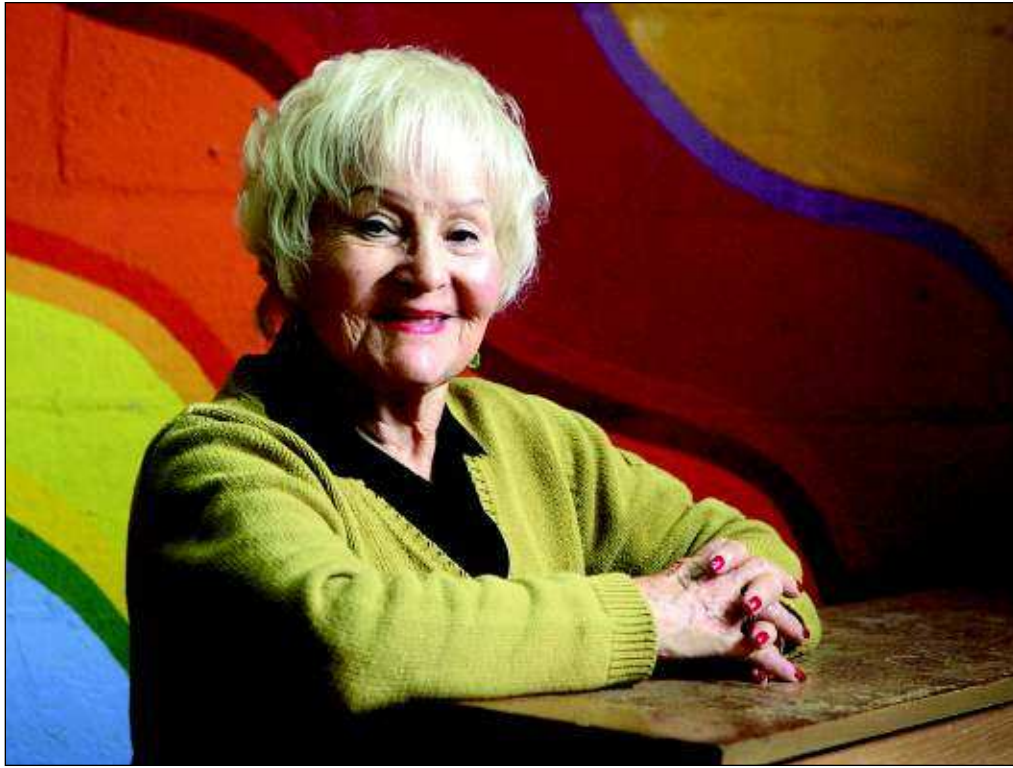
Box grew up in the Los Angeles area in a time of desperate need, but no one went hungry at her family's house, though it took work and ingenuity.

Her mother baked bread and made krepelach. Her father turned flour sacks into towels to sell, and her aunt sold chickens. “You'd stick your hand in, feel for fat around the stomach” and make your choice. Her mother made pillows with the feathers.

It was a time when leftovers were planned. A roast chicken — for Jewish Shabbat or Sunday dinner — lasted for days, as chicken with rice, chicken and dumplings, pot pie, stew or soup or salad. Women used the wrappers on margarine to butter baking pans. People ate what they could grow or kill or find.

Be honest now: Can anybody in your house skin a rabbit?

Know what to do with milkweed pods? (Boil them and top with grated cheese.) Get your kids to eat sour grass soup? Those recipes,



Pat Box grew up in a large family in the Boyle Heights section of Los Angeles. No one went hungry, but it took ingenuity.

“If you want to save money, you're going to have to learn to cook.”

— Kelly Alexander, co-author of ‘Hometown Appetites’

from “Dining During the Depression,” a collection of recipes edited by Karen Thibodeau, are unlikely to find their way into kitchens today, despite the state of the economy.

But in the 1930s, making do was a kitchen art, honed by necessity.

“In the times when the economy is really bad, it becomes an even more important question of how you're going to put food on the table for your family,” says Kelly Alexander, co-author of “Hometown Appetites,” a biography of the pioneering newspaper food columnist Clementine Paddleford.

“If you want to save money, you're going to have to learn to cook,” Alexander says.

She says she recently saw a pot pie recipe that called for precooked pieces of chicken, a premade crust and vegetables from a salad bar — essentially directions for assembling, not cooking. So by appealing to people who are too busy to cook or unwilling to learn, a modern version of a dish invented to make leftovers appealing becomes a collection of expensive ingredients.

Many Americans never learned to cook as they grew up, and they rely on takeout or packaged food, but dinner was a very different experi-

ence during the Depression.

“We ate a lot of mashed potatoes, and I'm still hung up on mashed potatoes,” says Rosalyn Weinstein, 79, pointing to an uneaten scoop on her plate. Although she does not cook much these days, she says she still makes “mix 'n' match” soup from whatever is on hand.

“Cooking is becoming a lost art,” she says. “I've never been a takeout person. And I've never been a fast food person.”

Joe Bagley, 81, who moved to Los Angeles during World War II, was born in Texas and raised for a time on a farm. “We were never wanting for food, but you had to raise your own,” he says, adding that his family saw plenty of hungry people wandering in search of work. They'd stop at the farm, and Bagley recalls that he'd be sent inside to get whatever was there to feed them.

Although the country is not in a depression today, signs of tough times are all around.

The market is in shreds, food is pricier. A spokesman for Ralphs and Food 4 Less says more people are turning to house brands, and Albertsons has seen more sales of “stretcher” products such as Hamburger Helper, a spokeswoman says.

Even Gourmet magazine offered in a recent e-mail

newsletter some “recession special” recipes, including a potato gratin adapted from an Edna Lewis recipe.

A few generations ago cooking was a family affair, with children sent to pick food from the garden or shell peas. With SAT prep classes or soccer or ballet, many families are lucky to get their kids to the dinner table at all.

Gretchen Sterling, who has managed the Villa Park farmers market in Pasadena for 28 years, recalls that her mother, the daughter of a Minnesota butcher, made soap from lye and bacon fat, and canned her own meat. Getting what you needed rarely meant going shopping; do-it-yourself was not a hobby centered on a Home Depot. “Now kids don't even know that carrots grow underground,” she says.

Cooking everything that came their way was a way of life for Hattie Adkins' family. She was just a girl in the '30s, when her family lived on a farm in Raeford, N.C., but her memories are strong. Her family and those around them ate what was ripe and ready, never thinking of themselves as “locavores,” just taking advantage of what was cheapest and best-tasting.

“When it came time to harvest the corn, we had all the corn we could eat,” Adkins said.

Sake surges in the U.S.

By Kelly Dinardo
Associated Press writer

For years, most Americans knew sake — assuming they knew it at all — as a hot, jet fuel-like drink sipped from thimble-sized cups between bites of sushi.

Turns out, we were swallowing schlock.

“There wasn't a lot of selection and what did come to us was an inferior brew,” says Ed Lehrman, founder of Vine Connections, a wine and sake importer.

“Distribution of sake was limited to Japanese trading companies. They sell you the food, the plates, the sake. It's one-stop shopping for sushi restaurants. In that environment, sake wasn't getting its due. And the majority of the sake exported was table sake, which isn't very good.”

But about 10 years ago, two things changed that.

In the U.S., Asian food trends boomed. Asian and Asian-fusion restaurants flourished, non-Asian restaurants served dishes with ingredients such as miso, wasabi and edamame, and grocers offered more ethnic fare.

At the same time, the Japanese began turning up their noses at sake. In Japan, young drinkers view sake as old-fashioned, favoring beer and wine instead. As a result, sake consumption has fallen sharply since 1995.

To survive, premium sake (pronounced SAH-kay) brewers in Japan turned to Americans and began working with importers, who introduced sake to the fine wine market.

“Non-Japanese companies started importing sake and doing dog-and-pony shows to educate people about it,” says Beau Timken, author of “Sake: A Modern Guide.”

“Some educators started coming online,” he says. “Restaurateurs are making an incredible effort to get people to try something they're not used to. Sake started getting more face time.”

Americans' thirst for sake exploded. The U.S. has become the largest importer of Japanese sake worldwide.

During the past five years, the volume of sake brought from Japan has grown about 14 percent a year (987,475 gallons in 2007 and estimated at more than 1 million gallons for 2008), with an estimated total retail value around \$150 million.

Now, restaurants such as Shibuya at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas even have a sake sommelier on staff to guide guests through their 110 sake offerings.

It's even increasingly common to find sake on the wine lists of non-Asian eateries. Chanterelle, New York's famously high-end French restaurant, has been hosting an annual sake tasting dinner for the past nine years.

Drinking sake at home also has become easier as premium sakes show up at more grocers and wine shops.

And single-serve, sake drinks such as sake2me, a lightly carbonated sake that comes in Asian-themed flavors such as yuzu and ginger



AP photo

As better sake becomes more available in the U.S., the Japanese drink is finding fans in all areas of the country. Restaurants with a large sake selection, some with over 100 choices to consider, find themselves putting a sake sommelier on staff.

mango, are on the upswing; sake2me launched last year and is already available in 16 states.

Despite the upswing in consumption, most people still know little about it. Though often called rice wine, sake is brewed like a beer. “Sake is built like beer and drinks like wine,” explains Timken.

Like beer, sake is fermented from a grain — in this case rice — whereas wine is made from fruit. Brewers polish the grains of sake rice to remove the outer coating.

How much of the outer layer is milled away is part of what determines the sake's grade. Brewers then steam the rice and add yeast to it so it will ferment before aging. Filtering and pasteurizing the sake completes the process.

“Another common misconception is serving temperature,” says Timothy Sullivan, who runs the UrbanSake blog and teaches a Sake 101 class. “Some people think it must always be served cold. Others think it must be served hot. The truth is it depends on your mood and what kind of sake you're drinking.”

Heating often is used to mask lower quality sakes, but some do blossom with a little warmth. However, for the most part, high-quality sakes are best consumed cold and out of wine glasses.

And as French, American and other non-Asian restaurants have demonstrated, sake isn't just for Asian food.

In general, delicate sakes — those that have more of the outer layer milled away — pair better with lighter food so the sake is not overwhelmed by the meal. More robust sakes can stand up to heartier flavors.

“Part of sake's appeal is that there's no snob factor,” says Timken. “Don't be afraid to experiment, taste lots of different types and ask questions. That's how you learn. I have all these sake licenses. I'm even a sake samurai. But I'm just a guy from Ohio. If I can learn to understand sake, anyone can.”

Turnips add a flavor flourish to this gratin

Los Angeles Times

This recipe is adapted from Craig Strong, chef de cuisine at the Langham, Huntington Hotel & Spa.

TURNIP-POTATO GRATIN

3 cups heavy cream
2 whole star anise
2 pounds turnips
4 pounds potatoes
1 teaspoon salt, divided
1/4 teaspoon pepper, divided

Heat the oven to 350 degrees. In a small sauce pan, bring the cream and star anise to a boil, then remove from heat. Set aside to cool to room temperature.

While the cream cools,



MICHAEL ROBINSON CHAVEZ/
Los Angeles Times

peel the turnips and potatoes and cut each crosswise into slices 1/8 inch thick. Place the sliced turnips and potatoes in separate bowls. Strain and discard the star anise from the cream. Divide the cream evenly, pouring it over the turnips and potatoes, tossing to coat.

Butter or grease a 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Arrange one layer of the potatoes in the bottom of the dish, overlapping them slightly (you might not use all of the potatoes; reserve any extra for an additional layer). Season with 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/8 teaspoon pepper. Repeat with a layer of turnips and season with the remaining salt and pepper. Continue with an additional layer of potatoes if any are left, but do not season.

Pour the cream from the bowls over the vegetables

and cover the dish with foil. Bake, covered, for 45 minutes.

Remove the foil cover and continue baking until the top layer of vegetables is browned, 15 to 25 minutes. Remove and cool slightly before serving.

Total time: 1 hour, 20 minutes. Serves 12.

Each serving: 331 calories; 4 grams protein; 31 grams carbohydrates; 3 grams fiber; 22 grams fat; 14 grams saturated fat; 82 milligrams cholesterol; 263 milligrams sodium.

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BUSINESS C5

Citigroup, Morgan Stanley agree to merge brokerages

Analysts say new CEO is 'government'

By Madlen Read Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Citigroup Inc. and Morgan Stanley agreed Tuesday to combine their brokerages in a deal that shows how much Citigroup wants to slim down and build up cash.

Morgan Stanley is paying Citigroup \$2.7 billion for a 51 percent stake in the joint venture. Citigroup will have a 49 percent stake.

Citigroup's retail brokerage, Smith Barney, was once the crown jewel in its wealth

management business.

The new unit, to be called Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, will have more than 20,000 advisors, \$1.7 trillion in client assets; and serve 6.8 million households around the world, the companies said.

Citigroup will recognize a pretax gain of about \$9.5 billion because of the deal, or about \$5.8 billion after taxes, the companies said. The joint venture is expected to achieve total cost savings for the two companies of around \$1.1 billion.

The deal was announced after the market closed. Shares of Citigroup rose 30 cents, or 5.4 percent, to

\$5.90 on Tuesday, and Morgan Stanley shares rose 7 cents to \$18.86.

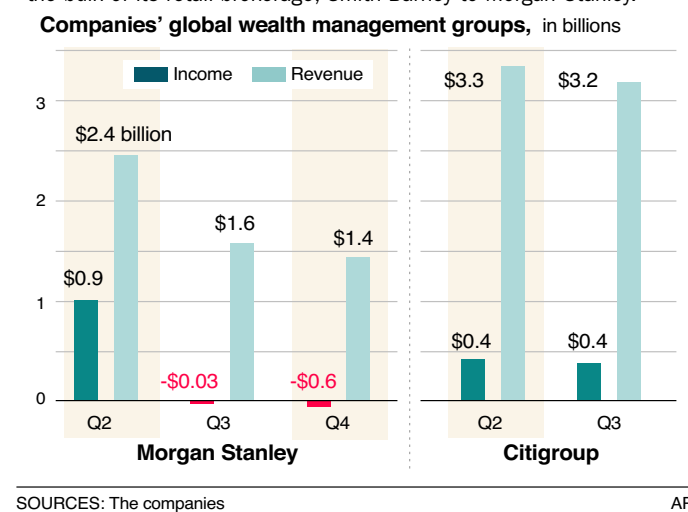
CEO Vikram Pandit has been saying for months that he plans to sell assets to raise cash, but the executive, according to media reports, is getting ready to announce that Citigroup is abandoning the financial "supermarket" model. That term described the aim of Citigroup — created over the last couple decades by former CEO Sandy Weill — to service all of individuals' and businesses' financial needs, from saving to borrowing to investing to deal-making.

Citigroup has fared worse than other banks in recent years, particularly during the recent credit crisis. The New York-based company is expected to post a fifth straight quarterly loss next week. The government has already lent it \$45 billion — more than other large banks received — and agreed to absorb losses on a huge pool of Citigroup's mortgages and other soured assets.

Some investors believe Citigroup is headed for a larger-scale breakup now that the government is involved and that President-elect Barack Obama is rethinking how to dole out the remaining \$350 billion of bailout money.

Mega-merger finalized

Citigroup Inc. in an effort to raise capital, hammered out a deal to sell the bulk of its retail brokerage, Smith Barney to Morgan Stanley.



SOURCES: The companies AP

HOPPIN' TO SUCCESS



BLAIR KOCH/For the Times-News

Hop 2 It owner Sharyl Wasden poses for a photo at the facility, which has a variety of large, inflated play equipment like an obstacle course, slides, a ball pit and gladiator-like arena. The business has been open for four months and is open for walk-in clients, parties and private events.

New Twin Falls business cures kids' cabin fever

By Blair Koch Times-News correspondent

After getting the opportunity to jump, climb and pretty much let loose at Hop 2 It, on Saturday, 9-year-old Cade Doggett was sweating but hooked.

"It's really cool, all of it," said the Kimberly youngster of the party pad. "You just get to go crazy."

Their father Cory Doggett said his boys spend a lot of time indoors during the winter. Saturday's trip to Hop 2 It, located at 2042 Fourth Ave. E. in Twin Falls, was free, thanks to the promotional Cabin Fever Days sponsored by the city of Twin Falls Parks and Recreation, but Doggett said

"I have four kids and I know there isn't much to do around here. One of the great things about a facility like this is it gets kids moving around."

— Sharyl Wasden, owner of Hop 2 It in Twin Falls

the usual entry fee is reasonable.

Children four and older are \$5.99, kids two to three are just \$4.99 but free with a paid sibling. Even a parent, after paying for a child, can jump for free.

"This is affordable and the kids liked it. Plus, it's self sufficient. The kids can go do what they want," Doggett said. "In this area its hard to something in the winter for

kids to do indoors. Opening this up was a great idea, we've needed something like this for a long time."

His sentiments expressed the need owner Sharyl Wasden, 33, wanted to meet for Magic Valley families. Her resume highlights include managing a Chucky Cheese, so working with rambunctious kids wasn't a new avenue for Wasden.

With an obstacle course,

slides, a ball pit and gladiator-like arena, to name just a few inflatable attractions, kids have an array of indoor entertainment suitable for an afternoon out, birthday party or family fun day.

"I have four kids and I know there isn't much to do around here," she said. "One of the great things about a facility like this is it gets kids moving around."

Although bouncy play facilities are found across the country it is new to southern Idaho.

"Before we opened this up in Twin Falls we checked out quite a few facilities like it in other states but there wasn't

Please see HOP 2 IT, Page C6

Give him the money

Obama presses for remaining \$350B in bailout funds

By David Espo and Jim Kuhnhenn Associated Press writers

WASHINGTON — President-elect Barack Obama asked Democratic senators Tuesday not to stand in the way of an additional \$350 billion in bailout funds, calling the money essential to

helping the ailing economy.

Obama made his pitch at the Capitol, where he attended the Democratic senators' closed-door luncheon as part of his stepped up campaign to have economic tools at the ready shortly after he assumes office next week.

Lawmakers who emerged from the session said the president-elect pledged to correct what they believe were shortcomings in the

Please see OBAMA, Page C6

Idaho to capitalize on 2010 Winter Olympics

Q: Is Idaho doing anything to capitalize on the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, B.C.?

A: We are fortunate to again have the world focus on a nearby region for the Winter Olympics. Although we do not anticipate the impact that the 2002

Olympics in Salt Lake City had on Idaho's citizens and businesses, our products and services will benefit as attention is given to the Games.

Tactics to capitalize on the 2010 Winter Olympics



ABOUT IDAHO BUSINESS Julie Howard

include promoting Idaho ski areas for Olympic training sites, raising awareness of Idaho's year-round tourism opportunities through advertising in the

Please see IDAHO, Page C6

BUSINESS BRIEFS

MAGIC VALLEY Economist to discuss economic impact of local construction

The Magic Valley Builders Association, the Greater Twin Falls Association of Realtors, and the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce will host Elliot Eisenberg, senior economist of the National Association of Home Builders, who will discuss how home building affects the local economy.

The Economic Report will cover:

- The number of Jobs created.
• How local dollars are spent.
• How much tax revenue is generated.

The meeting will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29 at 1162 Eastland Drive N. Suite 1, Twin Falls.

For more information or

to reserve a seat, send an email to: support@twinfallsrealtors.com.

Workshop to focus on small businesses

The College of Southern Idaho and the Idaho Small Business Development center, in partnership with the Twin Falls and Jerome Chambers of Commerce, will host E-Myth workshops on strengthening existing businesses.

The workshops help businesses think about systems and consistency that may offer them the freedom from the common small business owner's daily grind.

The workshop will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 19 in the Herrett Center at the College of Southern Idaho. The registration deadline was Monday.

For more information about the E-Myth program, visit http://www.e-myth.com.

— staff reports

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table with columns for stock name, price, and change. Includes Con Agra, Dell Inc., Lithia Mo., Micron, Idacorp, and Superval.

COMMODITIES

For more see page C6

Table with columns for commodity name, price, and change. Includes Live cattle, Feb. oil, Feb. gold, and March silver.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ sections, including Most Active, Gainers, and Losers lists with columns for Name, Vol, Last, and Chg.

Table with INDEXES and STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST sections, including Dow Jones Industrials and various local stock listings.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT. Explains stock abbreviations, dividend rates, fund names, and how to interpret price changes and volume.

Refunds available from Dell settlement

Idaho customers who experienced problems with Dell computer company's financing promotions, rebate offers, technical support and repair policies might be entitled to receive restitution, according to an agreement between the State of Idaho and Texas-based Dell, Inc.

credit terms connected with the purchase may be eligible for a refund under the settlement. Dell admitted no liability or wrongdoing under the settlement.

fillment of rebate offers, its provision of warranty services and its account collection procedures. Idaho residents can download a claim form from the Attorney General's website, www.ag.idaho.gov.

Obama

Continued from page C5 way the Bush administration handled the first \$350 billion of the Troubled Asset Relief Program, also known as TARP. They said he would veto any attempt to block his own administration's use of the funds.

Obama's transition team is ready to dispatch top aides to meet with Senate Republicans this week in anticipation of a possible vote Thursday on whether to release \$350 billion from the embattled rescue fund for the financial sector.

money," he said. Frank was presiding over a hearing on the bailout program in advance of legislation that would place tough new restrictions on recipients of the money and require spending to reduce mortgage foreclosures.

Idaho

Continued from page C5 Canadian market, and working with the Pacific Northwest Economic Regional Commission in support of their programs associated with the 2010 Olympics.

Q: Whatever happened to Commerce's Office of Science & Technology? A: It's not gone, just changed. The office was renamed the Commercial Innovation division to highlight the division's more inclusive application of innovation in traditional industries.

Q: Is it true that an Idahoan played a lead role in the new Tom Cruise movie? A: Yes, it's true, as long as you can call an airplane an Idahoan. The movie "Valkyrie" features the Curtiss P-40E World War II aircraft that usually resides at the Warhawk Air Museum in Caldwell.

Auction Calendar Through January 20th. Lists dates and times for various auctions including Public Auto, Hunts Auto, and Musick Auction.

Public Auto Auction, Twin Falls. Lists dates and times for various auctions including Hunts Auto Auction, Musick Auction, and KLAAS Auction Barn.

Hop 2 It

Continued from page C5 anything even like this in Idaho, as far as we know," said Wasden, who moved to Twin Falls not quite five years ago.

ment on the costs involved but said, "It was less than buying a house and we'll be in debt for a few years but it's been pretty affordable."

MUSICK AUCTION www.musickauction.com. TUESDAY, JAN. 20, 5:00PM Household • Tools • Antiques Houseworn Oddities • Jewelry KLAAS AUCTION BARN 208-324-5521 www.klaasauction.com

While Wasden is leasing the building currently, a purchase option may be discussed with the owner in the future. "Right now we're just focusing on the set up," Wasden said. Since opening, business has been steady. On Saturday, Hop 2 It hosted 11 parties, a record number of special events held in one day.

Blair Koch may be reached at 208-316-2607 or blairkoch@gmail.com. "Even for a group party, the prices seemed affordable. It's another option," he said.

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COMMODITIES REPORT

CLOSING FUTURES. Table listing commodity prices for various items like Live cattle, Soybeans, Wheat, and Corn, with columns for High, Low, Close, and Change.

BEANS

Table listing bean prices for various types like Pinto, Navy, and Lima beans, with columns for Price and Change.

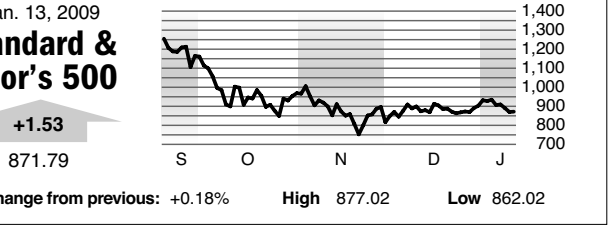
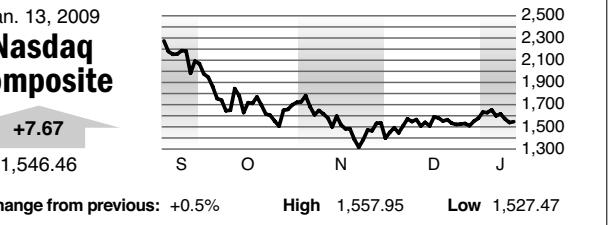
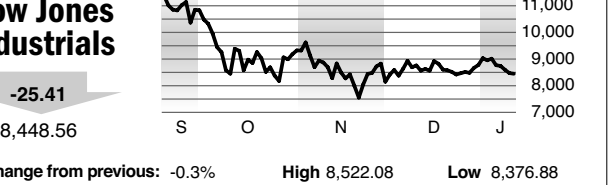
GRAINS

Table listing grain prices for items like Corn, Soybeans, and Wheat, with columns for Price and Change.

METALS/MONEY

Table listing metal prices for Gold, Silver, and Platinum, with columns for Price and Change.

A DAY ON WALL STREET



SOURCE: SunGard AP NEW YORK (AP) — Stock prices shot up 24 percent from late November to January, fell 7 percent in the first week of the new year — and then stood still. Welcome to the bear market. Wall Street has lost some of the enthusiasm that powered its late 2008 rally.

B.C. By Johnny Hart

THE CUTE CHICKS' BOYFRIEND ALWAYS BRINGS FLOWERS BEFORE A DATE.

IT WOULDN'T KILL YOU TO DO THAT, YOU KNOW?

WHAT KIND OF FLOWERS DOES SHE LIKE?

READY?

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Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

...means being willing to eat the crusts.

DO YOU WANT ME TO MAKE YOU A SANDWICH?

NAH. I'M GOOD.

© 2009 Baby Blues Features, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Beetle Bailey By Mort Walker

WHO WERE YOU ON THE PHONE WITH ALL THAT TIME?

A ROBOCALL FROM A LOAN COMPANY.

WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST HANG UP?

THAT WOULD BE RUDE!

GREG & MORT WALKER

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Blondie By Dean Young & Stan Drake

DO YOU EVER DREAM ABOUT HOW SPECIAL MY WEDDING DAY WILL BE, DADDY?

OF COURSE, HONEY!

NICE COLD BUCKETS OF SHRIMP AND OYSTERS... A ROAST BEEF CARVING STATION... A CHOCOLATE FOUNTAIN...

HEY, C'MON! WHY SHOULDN'T I BE ALLOWED TO PUT MY 'TWO CENTS' WORTH' IN? I'M PAVIN' FOR IT!

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Dilbert By Scott Adams

I'M TENSE BECAUSE THE COMPANY IS DOWNSIZING AND I HAVE NO PROJECT.

BEING WORTHLESS AT WORK IS ONLY HARD FOR THE FIRST TEN YEARS. AFTER THAT, IT'S A LIFESTYLE.

I DIDN'T SAY I WAS WORTHLESS.

NOW YOU'RE MAKING ME NOSTALGIC FOR MY OLD PLEASANT PHASE.

© 2009 Scott Adams, Inc. Dilbert by UFS, Inc.

The Elderberries By Phil Frank and Joe Troise

What is it you women want, Evelyn?

Beg pardon?

Knowing how you ladies think will greatly enhance my chances of finding a date.

I can tell you we don't want to be asked what it is we want...

I've led countless men into battle, fought the greatest evil, but still can't crack the code of the female brain.

Apples and oranges, General...

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For Better or For Worse By Lynn Johnston

ARE YOU WAITING FOR SOMEONE, MICHAEL?

NO.

LAWRENCE SAID YOU WERE GONNA HAVE A FIGHT!

I DON'T WANNA TALK ABOUT IT.

HE SAID YOU WERE GONNA FIGHT ABOUT ME!

OH, SURE! WHO'D BE STUPID ENOUGH TO FIGHT ABOUT A GIRL?!!

I AM SO STUPID!

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Frank and Ernest By Bob Thaves

...AND IF YOU BUY IT, YOU CAN WRITE OFF YOUR TAXES AND INTEREST AND MY WEEKENDS, TOO.

© 1999 Thaves / Dist. by NEA, Inc.

Garfield By Jim Davis

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Hagar the Horrible By Chris Browne

I'M ON A TIGHT SCHEDULE...

SO I'M WILLING TO STRIKE A BARGAIN...

TO SAVE TIME TELL ME WHERE YOU'VE HIDDEN YOUR VALUABLES AND I'LL LET YOU KEEP TEN PERCENT OF THEM !!

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Hi and Lois By Chance Browne

HEY, THAT'S THE SAME LADY THAT WALKED BY JUST A WHILE AGO...

SHE MUST BE LOST.

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Luann By Greg Evans

DELTA CAN'T BE CUT FROM THE TRIP!

SHE'S WAITED 3 YEARS FOR THIS!

I'M TRULY SORRY. IT WAS A FAIR DRAW.

THEN I OFFER MYSELF INSTEAD!

WAIT. WHY NOT JUST RAISE MORE MONEY?

HOW WILL YOU EARN \$800 IN 3 WEEKS?

HM...

WHAT? WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME?

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Classic Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz

NO, IF YOU'RE GOING TO HERD SHEEP, YOU DON'T WANT ME... YOU NEED A BORDER COLLIE...

BORDER COLLIES STARE AT THE SHEEP LIKE THIS...

I ALWAYS BLINK...

© 1986 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis

WHAT ARE YOU DOING PIG?

I HAVE TO GIVE A SPEECH NEXT WEEK, SO I'M PRACTICING IT IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR TO BUILD UP MY CONFIDENCE.

WHY BOTHER? YOU STINK.

IT'S NOT HELPING.

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Pickles By Brian Crane

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, THAT I LOVE MY CAT MORE THAN MY GRANDSON?

NO...NO. OF COURSE NOT. THAT'S CRAZY TALK.

THANK YOU. THAT'S BETTER.

WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU MASSAGED YOUR GRANDSON'S EARS?

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Rose is Rose By Pat Brady

IT'S OKAY TO SKATE, PASQUALE... JUST AVOID THE STICKS AND THAT GIANT HEAP!

WHAT IS IT?

A WALNUT HOCKEY PILEUP?

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Non Sequitur By Wiley

I TOLD YOU WE SHOULD'VE USED A DOVE FIRST...

THE PART NOAH LEFT OUT OF HIS JOURNAL

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Dennis the Menace By Hank Ketcham

"MY DAD SAID THAT WHEN IT COMES TO SAVING ENERGY... YOU'RE THE CHAMP!"

© 2009 WILEY WILK, INC. - DIST. BY UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

The Wizard of Id By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart

HOW CAN THESE NEWSPAPERS CALL ME AN ILLITERATE, SAWED-OFF, RUTHLESS, SKINNY PICTATOR?

BECAUSE THEY'VE NEVER SEEN YOU IN A SPEEDO

© 2009 Creators Syndicate, Inc. www.JohnHartStudios.com

Zits By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott

DAD??

I'M OKAY, JEREMY.

I JUST PULLED A MUSCLE LIFTING THESE BOXES OUT OF MY CAR.

THIS IS A SET OF WEIGHTS

'YEAH, I GUESS I'M IN WORSE SHAPE THAN I THOUGHT.

SO YOU WERE...

IF YOU SAY THE WORDS "PUMPING IRON" YOU'RE DOING THE DISHES FOR A WEEK.

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AS HEARD ON PAUL HARVEY NEWS

New 3rd generation of famous EdenPURE® heater heats faster, better, quieter, saves more money

Can cut your heating bills up to 50%, cannot start a fire, heats room evenly, does not reduce humidity or oxygen

By John Whitehead, Media Services

As you have probably heard on Paul Harvey News and on radio, television, and newspapers across the nation, BioTech Research has announced the 3rd generation of the EdenPURE® Infrared Portable Heater.

The famous EdenPURE® heater has sold well over 1 million units of its past 2 generations to satisfied customers across the nation. Customers have raved how it has cut their heating bill and amazingly kept them much warmer than they were with other heating products. Many customers say it is the only heating product that has ever kept their feet warm. That is because the EdenPURE® heater heats the room evenly floor-to-ceiling and wall-to-wall.

The 3rd generation of the EdenPURE® Infrared Portable Heater heats faster, better and quieter. Even though the past generations were safe and reliable, the 3rd generation is even safer and more reliable.

The EdenPURE® GEN3 can pay for itself in a matter of weeks and then start putting a great deal of extra money in your pocket after that.

And that's just the start of the benefits for the new EdenPURE® GEN3 Quartz Infrared Portable Heater.

A major cause of residential fires in the United States is portable heaters. But the EdenPURE® GEN3 cannot cause a fire. That is because the quartz infrared heating element never gets to a temperature that can ignite anything.

The outside of the EdenPURE® GEN3 only gets warm to the touch so that it will not burn children or pets. Pets can sleep on it when it is operating without harm.

The EdenPURE® GEN3 will also make you healthier. That is because, unlike other heating sources, it will not reduce humidity or oxygen in the room. Typical heating sources reduce humidity which dries out your sinuses, makes you more susceptible to disease and makes your skin dry. With other heating sources, you'll notice that you get sleepy when the heat comes on because they are burning up oxygen.

The advanced space-age EdenPURE® GEN3 Quartz Infrared Portable Heater also heats the room evenly, wall-to-wall and floor-to-ceiling. Other heating sources heat rooms unevenly with most of the heat concentrated high in the room and to the center of the room. And, as you know, portable heaters only heat an area a few feet around the heater. With the EdenPURE® GEN3, the temperature will not vary in any part of the room.

Unlike other heating sources, the EdenPURE® GEN3 cannot put poisonous carbon monoxide into a room or any type of fumes or any type of harmful radiation.

For more details on the amazing EdenPURE® GEN3 Quartz Infrared Portable Heater, here is my interview with Julius Toth, Director of Product Development for BioTech Research®.

Q. What is the origin of this amazing heating element in the EdenPURE® GEN3?

A. This advanced heating element was discovered accidentally by a man named John Jones. He had a large old farmhouse that was impossible to heat. Jones had a coal furnace in his basement. Jones placed a sheet of cured copper near the furnace to store it. Cured copper is a type of copper that goes through an extensive heating process to give it special properties.

After the fire went out in the coal furnace, Jones noticed that the sheet of copper was heating his entire basement evenly, even though the furnace was no longer putting out heat. He also was amazed as to how long the heat stayed in the copper and continued to warm the room. Jones was so taken back by

Never be cold again



Cannot start a fire; a child or animal can touch or sit on it without harm

Beware of inferior imitations of the EdenPURE® heater

Since the EdenPURE® heater was launched in the marketplace, a number of inferior portable heaters and portable fireplaces have been marketed that imply the same benefits of the EdenPURE® heater. These imitations are far inferior to the EdenPURE® heater. These imitations simply took the old technology space heater heating units and put them into a larger portable heater or a portable fireplace. These inferior portable heaters and portable fireplaces only heat a small area of the room, will not heat the room evenly, will reduce humidity, and can start a fire.

One thing the imitations cannot do is use the EdenPURE® trade name which is registered with the U.S. Patent office. So, if the portable heater or portable fireplace you are considering buying does not have the trade name EdenPURE®, it is not the EdenPURE's® patented advanced technology. It is old inferior technology.

this that he started to experiment. He formed a company to develop a heating source out of this cured copper. But Jones had a number of children and he did not want a heating source that would cause a fire or create other hazardous situations like creating carbon monoxide or radiation. He also did not want his children to get burned.

To make a long story short, through a great deal of research and development, Jones developed a heating source that utilized cured copper and commercial infrared quartz tubes.

Q. What advantages does infrared quartz tube heating source have over other heating source products?

A. John Jones designed his heating source around the three most important consumer benefits: economy, comfort, and safety. The final development of this infrared quartz heat source cannot be matched by any other heating system in the world.

In the EdenPURE® GEN3 system, electricity is used to generate infrared light which, in turn, creates a very safe heat. Infrared is the safest form of heat because it does not create carbon monoxide or harmful radiation. And, most importantly, infrared heat does not reach a burning temperature.

After a great deal of research and development, very efficient infrared heat chambers were developed that utilize three unique patented solid copper heat exchangers in one EdenPURE® GEN3 heater. Over 5 years of research, development and real life field testing stand behind this heat source. It has now worked in residential and commercial applications worldwide for over 25 years.

Q. Why is it that this quartz infrared heating source uses less energy to create heat than other sources?

A. Actually, there is more

than one reason. One of the primary reasons is that heat at combustion level, which is what all other heat sources use, causes the heat to instantly rise to the ceiling. Therefore, the heat is not evenly distributed, causing a very inefficient and uncomfortable heat source.

The EdenPURE® GEN3 Quartz Infrared Portable Heater does not use burning heat. Once the heat exchanger absorbs the infrared heat, it exhales the heat into the living area which is carried by the existing humidity in the air. This causes the heat to travel rapidly and evenly throughout a room.

In actual studies, photos using infrared lighting demonstrated that the heat was almost perfectly even from floor-to-ceiling and wall-to-wall. The EdenPURE® GEN3 Quartz Infrared efficiency is based on the distribution of energized air, not on just fan movement. This heat is coined as "soft heat" due to how comfortable it is.

Q. What are the other disadvantages of combustion heat sources?

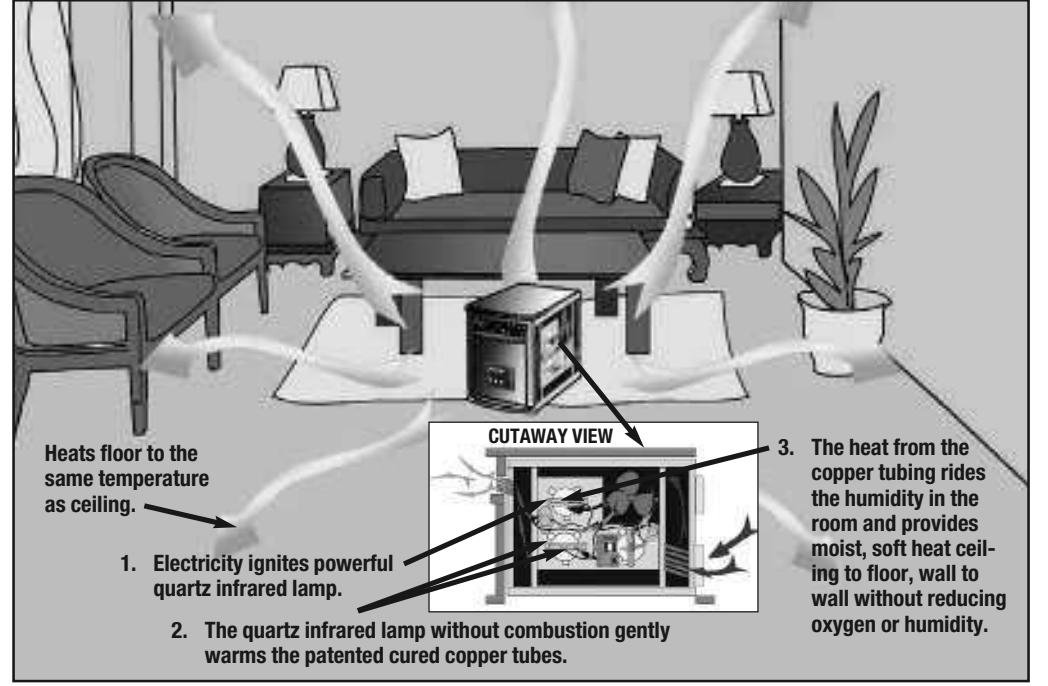
A. Heat sources that are above the burning level have many unhealthy side effects. One of these is that it creates dry, irritating indoor air. It also burns a great deal of oxygen in the air. If you remember, when you sit in front of a fireplace or a portable heater or close to a heat source, you will remember yawning. This is because you are not getting enough oxygen.

This dry irritating heat and lack of oxygen dries out sinuses and mucus in the throat, and makes people susceptible to disease. The lack of oxygen causes fatigue.

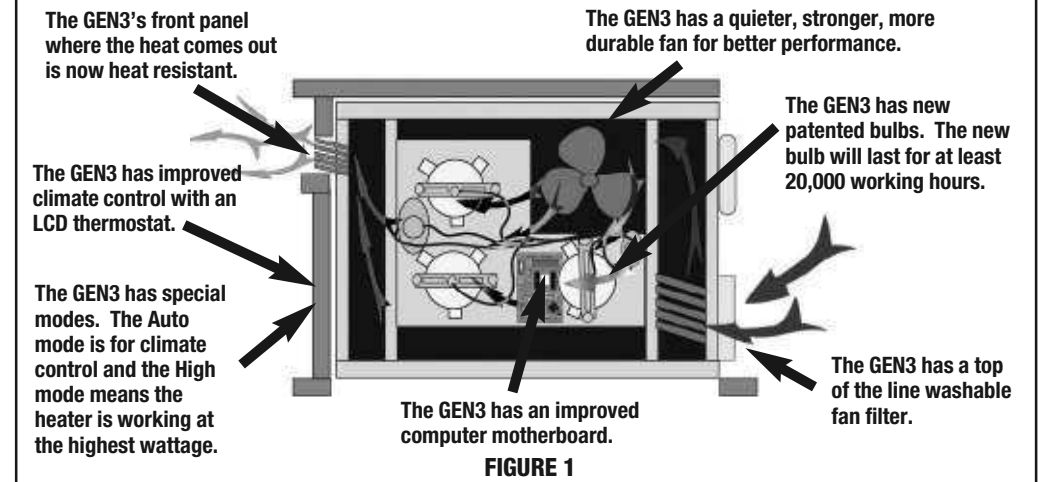
Also, many combustible heat sources produce carbon monoxide, static cling, and some produce radiation.

Q. So you're saying that children or pets can come up to this unit and touch it and not be harmed?

How it works:



GEN3 New Improvements



A. That is absolutely correct. As a matter of fact, pets are actually drawn to this heat because it is a natural source of heat, just like the sun heats the earth. Animals are much more instinctive than humans. This heat not only heats the air, but it also heats the objects in the room. It is a perfectly balanced heat.

Q. How can a person cut their heating bill by up to 50% with the EdenPURE® GEN3?

A. First, the EdenPURE® GEN3 uses less energy to create heat than other sources, but that is just part of why it will cut a person's heating bill. The EdenPURE® GEN3 will heat a room in minutes. Therefore, you can turn the heat down in your house to as low as 50 degrees, but the room you are occupying, which has the EdenPURE® GEN3, will be warm and comfortable. The EdenPURE® GEN3 is portable. When you move to another room, it will quickly heat that room also. This can drastically cut heating bills, in some instances, by up to 50%.

Q. What are the improvements in the 3rd generation EdenPURE® GEN3 Infrared Portable Heater?

A. The improvements include a new look, patented far infrared bulbs that produce a more soothing heat and it is fire retardant. Another improvement is a climate control function with 2 modes: Auto - heater is working at full power and will keep room temperature within 1 degree of desired temperature; High - heater is working at high speed at all times regardless of room temperature.

Q. I also understand that the EdenPURE® GEN3 produces clean fresh air without furnace filters. How can it do that?

A. A furnace generates a lot of dust due to the combustion. By lowering the furnace temperature, you are using your furnace less and therefore reducing the requirement for the furnace filters. Also, when there's no combustion, there are no harmful fumes.

Q. So, the EdenPURE® GEN3 is totally safe to use?

A. It absolutely is. The EdenPURE® GEN3 has zero

clearance, which means you can push it up against the wall or furniture without risk of fire. Tests prove the unit does not transmit any energy into the atmosphere that will burn or harm anyone regardless of distance between the person and the EdenPURE® GEN3.

The EdenPURE® GEN3 will pay for itself in weeks. It will put a great deal of extra money in a users pocket. Because of today's spiraling gas, oil, propane, and other energy costs, the EdenPURE® GEN3 will provide even greater savings as the time goes by.

The EdenPURE® GEN3 comes in 2 models. Model 500 heats a room up to 300 square feet and Model 1000 heats a room up to 1,000 square feet.

End of interview. Readers who wish can obtain the EdenPURE® GEN3 Quartz Infrared Portable Heater at a \$75 discount if they order in the next 10 days. Please see the Special Reader's Discount Coupon on this page. For those readers ordering after 10 days from the date of this publication, we reserve the right to either accept or reject order requests at the discounted price.

SPECIAL READER'S DISCOUNT COUPON

The price of the EdenPURE® GEN3 Model 500 is \$372 plus \$17 shipping for a total of \$389 delivered. The GEN3 Model 1000 is \$472 plus \$27 shipping and handling for a total of \$499 delivered. People reading this publication get a \$75 discount with this coupon and pay only \$297 delivered for the GEN3 Model 500 and \$397 delivered for the GEN3 Model 1000 if you order within 10 days. The EdenPURE® GEN3 comes in the decorator color of black with burled wood accent which goes with any decor. There is a strict limit of 3 units at the discount price - no exceptions please. Check below which model and number you want:

- GEN3 Model 500, number _____
- GEN3 Model 1000, number _____
- To order by phone, call TOLL-FREE 1-800-588-5608 Ext. EPH9911. Place your order by using your credit card. Operators are on duty Monday - Friday 6am - 3am, Saturday 7am - 12 Midnight and Sunday 7am - 11pm, EST.
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This product carries a 60-day satisfaction guarantee. If you are not totally satisfied, your purchase price will be refunded. No questions asked. There is also a three year warranty.

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

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 - I am ordering past 10 days of the date of this publication, therefore I pay shipping and handling and full price totaling \$389 for GEN3 Model 500 and \$499 for GEN3 Model 1000.

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INSIDE: Classifieds, D2-8 | Dear Abby, D3 | Sudoku, D3 | Crossword, D5 | Service directory, D6 | Jumble, D6 | Bridge, D7

Russia, Ukraine trade blame in Europe gas crisis

By Jim Heintz
Associated Press writer

MOSCOW — Hopes that Russia would get natural gas flowing again to shivering Europeans vanished like a winter's breath Tuesday when Moscow turned on the taps, then alleged hours later that Ukraine was blocking the shipments.

Ukraine in turn blamed Russia in the weeklong dispute, saying the Kremlin had demanded the Europe-bound gas go by a laborious route that would require Ukraine to cut off supplies to its own people.

European Union monitors brought in to keep tabs on gas flows in both countries weren't saying who was at fault, but the EU was clearly angry at the crisis that has deprived millions of heat, light and even work.

"We are not entering a blame game here, but the commission reminds both parties of their responsibilities," EU spokesman Johannes Leitenberger said. "The European consumer cannot, shall not, be held hostage to what is clearly a bilateral situation."

Europe gets about 20 percent of its gas from Russia through pipelines that cross Ukraine. Russia stopped selling gas to Ukraine on Jan. 1 in a dispute over prices and debts, then stopped sending any gas into its vast pipeline system on Jan. 7, alleging Ukraine was siphoning off supplies destined for Europe.

The crisis raises high risks for both ex-Soviet countries. European countries that are already spooked by Russia's increasing military assertiveness — underlined by last summer's war with Georgia — could redouble their efforts to wean themselves from Russian gas. That would be a blow to Russia's already-struggling economy.

Ukraine risks angering the EU, which leaders in Kiev want deeply to join. Its refusal to pay market prices for Russian gas — one of the roots of the dispute — would make it look like a beggar in the eyes of the West. And if Ukraine is forced to cut off gas shipments to its eastern region in order to deliver gas to Europe, that could hit hard at its industrial heartland, which is also the power base for the opposition to Kiev's pro-Western leadership.

Israelis push into Gaza

Israel sends lead negotiator to Cairo for 'decisive' cease-fire talks

By Ibrahim Barzak and Christopher Torchia
Associated Press writers

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Terrified residents ran for cover Tuesday in a densely populated neighborhood of Gaza City as Israeli troops backed by tanks thrust deeper into the city and sought Hamas fighters in alleyways and cellars.

On the diplomatic front, Egyptian mediators pushed Hamas to accept a truce proposal and, in a hopeful sign, Israel sent its lead negotiator to Cairo for "decisive" talks on a cease fire. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also headed for the region to join diplomatic efforts.

Israeli military officials say that depending on what happens with what they described as "decisive" talks in Cairo, Israel will move closer to a cease-fire or widen its offensive. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were discussing sensitive policy matters.

Asked if Israel's war aims had been achieved, Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak said: "Most of them, probably not all of them."

Israeli troops now have the coastal city of 400,000 virtually surrounded as part of an offensive launched Dec. 27 to end years of Palestinian rocket attacks on its southern towns.

Palestinian medical officials reported at least 42 deaths from the conflict on Tuesday throughout Gaza. The army said three soldiers were wounded, including an officer who was searching a northern Gaza house when a bomb exploded.

Palestinian hospital offi-



AP photo

An explosion from an Israeli airstrike is seen in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, Tuesday. Israeli troops advanced into Gaza suburbs for the first time early Tuesday, residents said, hours after Prime Minister Ehud Olmert warned Islamic militants that they face an 'iron fist' unless they agree to Israeli terms for an end to war in the Gaza Strip.

cials say more than 940 Palestinians, half of them civilians, have been killed in the fighting. A total of 13 Israelis, 10 of them soldiers, have died.

Palestinian rocket fire has dropped significantly since the offensive was launched. Some 15 rockets and mortar shells were fired toward Israel Tuesday, causing no injuries, the army said.

Fireballs and smoke plumes from Israeli bombing have become a common sight in the territory of 1.4 million people, who are effectively trapped because of blockaded border cross-

ings. Recent fighting has focused on Gaza City, where Israeli soldiers could be increasingly exposed to the treacherous conditions of urban warfare.

The operation in Tel Hawwa neighborhood, one mile southeast of downtown, matched fast-paced forays into other areas designed to avoid Israeli casualties. Residents said troops entered overnight, reconnoitered the area, and then pulled back to more secure positions.

One Israeli military officer told The Associated Press that Hamas fighters often

operate in small groups of up to four and have largely refrained from confronting Israeli troops at close range.

"Their strategy has mainly been to use lots of booby-traps, shooting guns and missiles from afar," the Israeli officer said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

"Soldiers are taking lots of precautions, they are being more careful than the army has ever been before in any war," he said. "Soldiers shoot at anything suspicious, use lots of firepower, and blast holes through walls to move

around." Gabi Ashkenazi, chief of staff of the Israeli military, said Hamas militants also have put on Israeli military uniforms to try to approach troops and carry out suicide bombings.

Hamas, which is backed by Iran, cannot hope to score a battlefield victory over the powerful Israeli military, but mere survival could earn it political capital in the Arab world as a symbol of resistance to the Jewish state. Lebanon's Hezbollah, another Iran-backed group, largely achieved that goal in its 2006 war with Israel.

AROUND THE WORLD

IRAN Two men stoned to death for adultery

TEHRAN — Two men convicted of adultery were stoned to death in northeastern Iran last month but a third convicted man managed to escape, Iran's judiciary spokesman said Tuesday.

Ali Reza Jamshidi said the stoning took place in the city of Mashhad in late December but did not provide the names of the convicted men.

Under Iran's Islamic law, adultery is punishable by stoning, but such sentences are rare. International human rights groups have long criticized stoning in Iran as a cruel form of punishment. Jamshidi did not describe

how the stonings were carried out. But typically under Islamic rulings, a man is buried up to his waist, while a woman is buried up to her neck. Those carrying out the verdict then throw stones until the person dies. If the person manages to escape from the hole, he or she will remain free under Islamic law.

"Given that the third person managed to pull himself out of the hole, the verdict was not carried out," Jamshidi told reporters.

AUSTRALIA Tourism office offers 'best job in the world'

SYDNEY — Position: Island caretaker. Duties:

Lazing around Australia's Great Barrier Reef for six months. Salary: 150,000 Australian dollars (\$100,000).

It sounds too good to be true, but it's for real. Billing it the "Best Job in the World," Australian tourism officials say they are seeking one lucky person to spend six months relaxing on Hamilton Island, part of the country's Whitsunday Islands, while promoting the destination on a blog.

Within 24 hours, more than 200,000 prospective applicants had clicked onto the Web site advertising the sweet gig.

The eager reaction — and worldwide media attention — delighted tourism officials, who listed the job as

part of a AU\$1.7 million (\$1.1 million) campaign to publicize the charms of northeastern Queensland state.

"The global response in the first 24 hours has outstripped even our expectations," Australia's Tourism Minister Desley Boyle said.

In exchange for the plush salary, free accommodation in an oceanfront villa and airfare from the winner's home country, the employee will be required to stroll the island's white sand beaches, snorkel, maybe take a dip in the pool — and post photos and videos of his or her experiences on a weekly blog.

Applications are open until Feb. 22. The job begins on July 1.

BRITAIN Chemists successfully recreate Dickens' workhouse gruel

LONDON — Britain's Royal Society of Chemistry says it has perfected the recipe for Oliver Twist's most famous meal — workhouse gruel.

Members of the society consulted historical sources and Charles Dickens' beloved novel to recreate the porridge, which is made from water, oats, milk and an onion.

They planned to ladle out bowls brimming with the gruel, which they describe as "barely palatable," in central London Tuesday.

— Wire reports

India toasts success of 'Slumdog' at Golden Globes

By Ramola Talwar Badam
Associated Press writer

MUMBAI, India — In a city that worships the movies, people are proudly embracing "Slumdog Millionaire" as the newest addition to the cinematic pantheon — never mind that it hasn't hit the screens here yet.

The "Slumdog" sweeps at the Golden Globes on Sunday were enough to make an unseemly sensation of this Mumbai-based fairy tale of love and riches. It became the talk of Mumbai, where the vast Hindi-language movie industry known as Bollywood is based.

Now, many are predicting blockbuster sales when it opens in India on Jan. 23.



AP photo

A man sleeps near a poster of 'Slumdog Millionaire' on a pillar in Mumbai, India, Tuesday. On Sunday, 'Slumdog,' with its cast of actors unknown outside India and its story set on the gritty streets of Mumbai, went home with four Golden Globe awards, and became the movie to beat at the Academy Awards.

The movie tells the story of Jamal Malik, a poor kid from the slums of Mumbai who becomes the champion of India's "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" as he searches

for his lost love. "Indian tale catches global fancy," the Hindustan Times said in a proud headline. "The Slumdog Has Its Day," said the Times of India.

Despite its setting and partial Hindi-language dialogue, "Slumdog" isn't true Bollywood. It has a British director, Hollywood backing and a \$14 million budget that — while small in the West — is enormous by Indian standards.

"Danny Boyle is a culturally sensitive director and I'm sure it will be a good film, but you cannot describe it as a Bollywood film," said director Kabir Khan.

But when the movie won four Golden Globes and became the movie to beat at

the Oscars, it was immediately adopted.

Shobhaa De, a chronicler of India's new wealth and changing social mores, watched it on a bootleg DVD — and was entranced.

Mumbai is a city of extremes: wealth and poverty; multiculturalism and ethnic bigotry; gleaming skyscrapers and vast slums. To the country's poorest, it is spoken of as a financial Shangri-La, and thousands of people arrive every day in search of new jobs and lives.

The movie is Boyle's "gift to Mumbai," De wrote in the Times of India. "He has unblinkingly shown us the rather hideous face of this devastated metropolis that still remains the magnet for the rest of India."

But, she added, Boyle shows "there is still lyricism, tenderness and love under all that grime."

For many in India, though, the loudest cheers were saved for A.R. Rahman, who won the award for original score. Rahman, who has composed music for more than 130 Indian movies, is a musical institution in Bollywood.

"Rahman has seen huge success in India, but the U.S. is a totally different market," said Subir Malik, a well-known Indian musician. "For Rahman to win a music award in a language that the critics don't even understand is fantastic. Now when the movie releases here it's going to be a sell-out."

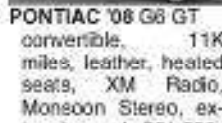
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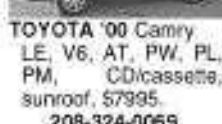
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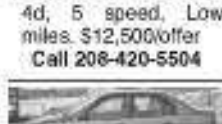


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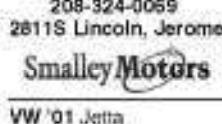
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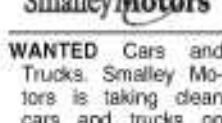
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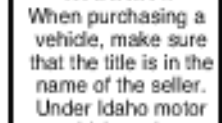
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RAFT RIVER HIGHWAY DISTRICT CALL FOR BIDS

Raft River Highway District is accepting bids for supplying and delivering approximately 1,900 tons of liquid Magnesium Chloride to its Storage Facility located at 320 N. Main Street in Malta Idaho, for its Road Stabilization Program during 2009.

The District will accept sealed bids mailed to P.O. Box 636, 320 N. Main, Malta, Idaho 83342-0636 or delivered to the District office on Highway 81, until 1:30 p.m. prevailing local time, February 4, 2009, at which time the bids will be opened and publicly read.

Specifications may be obtained by contacting the District office at the above address or calling (208) 845-2463 between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., Monday through Friday.

PUBLISH: January 14 and 21, 2009

LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC COMMENTS SOUGHT ON THE LOW INCOME WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The State of Idaho will accept public comment on its annual funding plan for the U.S. Department of Energy's Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program. The State Plan is available for review at Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho, located at 5400 W. Franklin Rd., Suite G in Boise, Idaho.

PUBLISH: Jan 14 through Jan 23, 2009

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Loan No 0059763250 T S No 057-005451 Notice of Trustee's Sale On 4/30/2009, at 11:00 am (recognized local time), at the following location in the County of Twin Falls, State of Idaho.

PUBLISH: January 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2009

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

On 5/19/2009, at 11:00 am (recognized local time), at the following location in the County of Twin Falls, State of Idaho: Lobby of Title Fact 163 4th Avenue North Twin Falls, ID 83301.

PUBLISH: Jan 14, 21, 28 and Feb 4, 2009

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Loan No 0060442373 T S No. 057-005338 On 5/19/2009, at 11:00 am (recognized local time), at the following location in the County of Cassia, State of Idaho: Lobby of Land Title & Escrow 211 W 13th St Burley, ID 83318.

PUBLISH: Jan 14, 21, 28 and Feb 4, 2009

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PUBLISH: Dec 31, 2008, Jan 7, 14 and 21, 2009

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CUSTER

Case No. CV-08-104 SUMMONS SCOTT JOHNSON, Plaintiff, vs CORY AINSLIE, Defendant.

TO: CORY AINSLIE HIGH ADVENTURE RIVER TOURS 1211 E 2350 S HAGERMAN, ID 83332 208-837-9005 and/or 208-731-2045 and/or 208-589-8082

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You are hereby notified that in order to defend this lawsuit, an appropriate written response must be filed with the above designated court within 20 days after service of this Summons on you.

PUBLISH: Dec 24, 31, 2008, Jan 7 and 14, 2009

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Loan No. 8452658571 T.S. No. ID-08-212155-TD On 4/28/2009, at 10:00:00 AM (recognized local time), at the following location in the County of JEROME, State of Idaho: In the front lobby of Land Title & Escrow located at 237 N. Lincoln, Jerome, ID 83338.

PUBLISH: January 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2009

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Loan No. 0061825204 T S No 057-005441 On 5/1/2009, at 11:00 am (recognized local time), at the following location in the County of Lincoln, State of Idaho: Inside north doors of Lincoln County Courthouse 111 W "B" Street Shoshone, ID.

PUBLISH: January 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2009

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