

See the rest of your girls basketball state tournament results on Sports 1

'THEY'RE NOT HERE ALONE' >>> CSI club gives students a family away from home, FAMILY LIFE 1

Mostly cloudy.

Business 8

SUNDAY

February 22, 2009

TIMES-NEWS

\$1.50

MagicValley.com

CRASH COURSE

Northwest Twin Falls developments could mean gridlock for residents

Story by Joshua Palmer • Times-News writer

The once-quiet city streets in northwest Twin Falls are about to see a lot more activity.

That's because some of the biggest and busiest institutions in the community will begin operation in coming months — including a new high school, a 177-bed regional hospital, a college science center and a Wal-Mart Supercenter already under construction.

By 2011, what had been vacant farmland in the city's northwest corner will be covered by 1 million square-feet of new development. About 80 percent will be commercial, educational and medical facilities, while the remainder will be parking facilities.

Getting to and from those new classrooms, hospital rooms and shops will put countless more cars, trucks, buses, bicyclists and pedestrians on Pole Line Road and other streets.

How many? No one really knows.

The city of Twin Falls has never done a comprehensive study of how all those new buildings will impact arterials in northwest Twin Falls, and only two of the big projects had any traffic study at all.

Growing concern about traffic congestion has prompted the Twin Falls School District to consider making Canyon Ridge High a closed campus, just to keep student drivers out of the mix during the day.

Former Idaho AG possibly headed to Washington

Larry EchoHawk 'finalist' for Indian Affairs job

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

A former Idaho attorney general may return to government service soon, this time in the Obama administration.

Larry EchoHawk, now a law professor at Brigham Young University, offered no comment when the *Times-News* asked him Friday if he's being considered for assistant secretary for Indian Affairs. But a possible EchoHawk nomination has set news services and tribal leaders abuzz in recent weeks, and the Wyoming-born Pawnee seems to be preparing for the job.

President Carter created the

See ECHOHAWK, Main 2



EchoHawk

ST. LUKE'S MAGIC VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER

Square feet: 300,000

Completion date: 2011

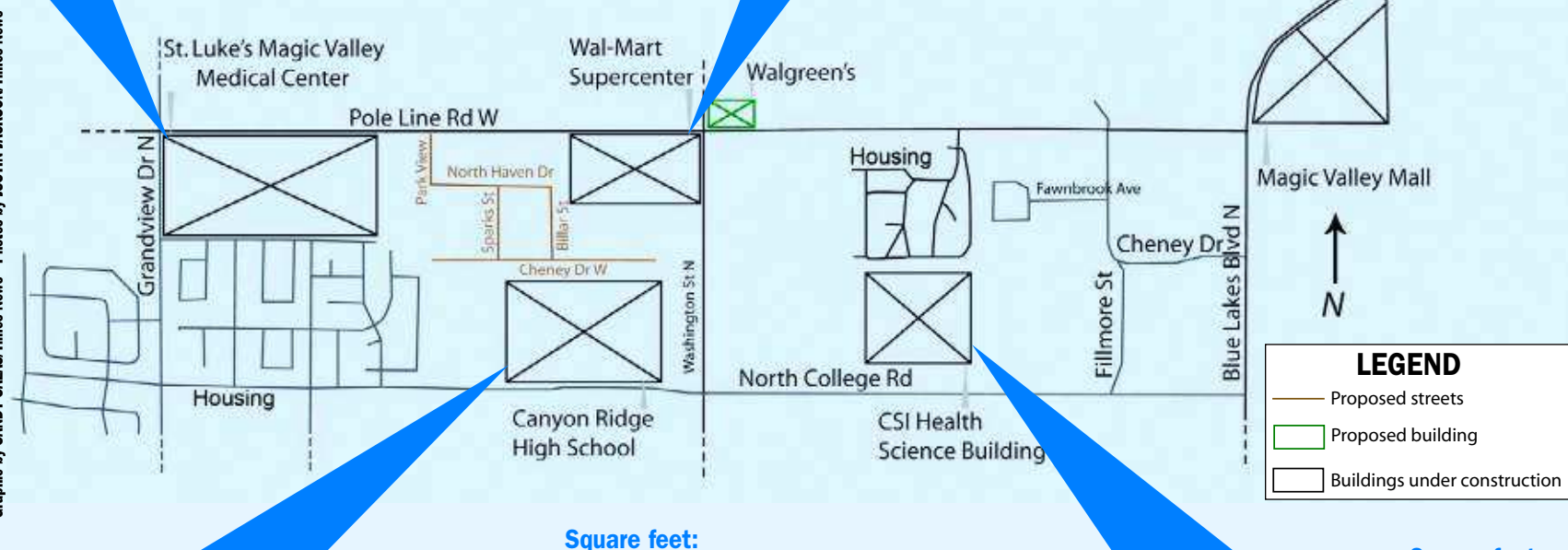
Employees: 1,600

WAL-MART SUPERCENTER

Square feet: 203,000 (retail)

Completion date: Summer 2009

Employees: 400



CANYON RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

Square feet: 219,716

Completion date: Fall 2009

Employees/students: 75/900



CSI HEALTH SCIENCE BUILDING

Square feet: 72,000

Completion date: Spring 2015

Employees/students: Unknown

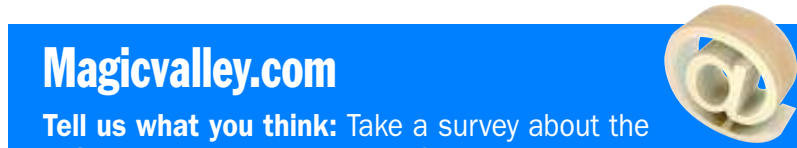
City officials have said traffic will increase on roads such as Washington Street North, Pole Line Road West, North College Road and the planned Cheney Drive.

But independent studies were not required for most projects before the City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission approved them, city employees say. Only Wal-Mart and St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center were required to provide traffic counts to the city.

And even when planning commissioners questioned the accuracy of traffic estimates provided by Wal-Mart, the project was approved by the City Council without independent study.

Magicvalley.com

Tell us what you think: Take a survey about the safety issues on Washington Street North.



Mitch Humble, community development director, said the city does not require traffic studies for all new developments.

"The city hasn't performed any real in-depth studies on the traffic numbers in that area," Humble said. "Generally speaking, we don't require traffic studies unless there is a significant impact."

Humble referred questions about what determines a "significant impact" to City Engineer

Jackie Fields, who did not respond to multiple requests for information made over several days.

City officials say the hospital and Wal-Mart Supercenter being built on Pole Line Road West were the only projects where traffic studies were required as part of the permit process.

Ryan Horsley, former planning and zoning chairman, said Wal-

Mart's studies were questionable — at best.

"Wal-Mart gave us a study that they did, but when the city said there would have to be restrictions because the traffic count was so high, Wal-Mart came back with a new study that cut down traffic numbers," Horsley said.

Nothing else in Wal-Mart's plan changed, but the traffic count was more favorable. It was accepted by the city without further review.

He said the initially proposed restrictions included requirements that Wal-Mart pay for street upgrades that would only

See CRASH, Main 2

"The city hasn't performed any real in-depth studies on the traffic numbers in that area. Generally speaking, we don't require traffic studies unless there is a significant impact."

— Mitch Humble, community development director

Most fertility clinics break the rules

By Stephanie Nano
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — The California fertility doctor who implanted the octuplet mom with lots of embryos was no lone wolf: Fewer than 20 percent of U.S. clinics follow professional guidelines on how many embryos should be used for younger women.

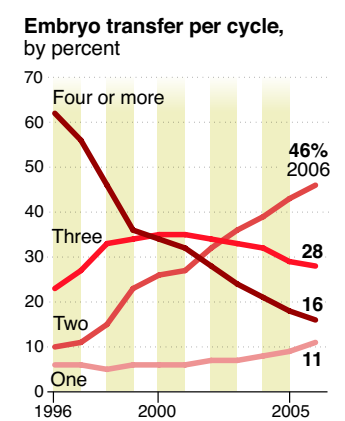
"Clearly, most programs are not adhering to the guidelines," said Dr. Bradley Van Voorhis, director of the fertility clinic at the University of Iowa.

The furor over Nadya Suleman and her octuplets has brought scrutiny to U.S.

See CLINICS, Main 3

Embryo implants

The transfer rate of four or more fresh-nondonor embryos during one cycle has steadily declined since 1996.



NOTE: Total does not equal 100 due to rounding; for all age groups. SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention AP



CrosswordClassifieds 7
Dear AbbyClassifieds 3
HoroscopeClassifieds 3
JumbleClassifieds 5
MoviesOpinion 7
ObituariesBusiness 6-7
Kids onlyFamily Life 1
SudokuClassifieds 6
Your BusinessBusiness 2

NO REST FOR THE WEARY

Jobless hit with bank fees > Business 1

Clinics

Continued from Main 1

fertility clinics and how well they observe the guidelines, which are purely voluntary. The controversy had led to talk of passing laws to regulate clinics, something that has already been done in Western Europe.

"There are enough clinics that quite openly flout professional guidelines that we really do need to start thinking about public policy in this area," said Marcy Darnovsky of the Oakland, Calif.-based Center for Genetics and Society, a public interest group. "I think it's way overdue."

The 20 percent figure is contained in reports filed by clinics with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Fertility doctors say there are many reasons clinics skirt the guidelines: pressure from patients who want to use more embryos to improve their chances of getting pregnant; financial concerns from those who are paying for their treatment out of their own pockets; and the competition among clinics to post good success rates.

And the only penalty for violating the guidelines is expulsion from some of the industry's professional organizations, though that can affect whether insurance companies will cover a clinic's treatments.

"You have patients who are desperate and you have doctors who are driven by success rates. It's not a good combination," said Pamela Madsen, founder and former head of the American Fertility Association.

When the guidelines were issued in 1996 by the American Society of Reproductive Medicine, the intent was to cut down the number of multiple births, particularly triplets and higher, that can result when many embryos are implanted and more than one takes. Big multiple births can lead to disastrous, life-threatening complications, lifelong disabilities such as cerebral

"You have patients who are desperate and you have doctors who are driven by success rates. It's not a good combination."

— Pamela Madsen, founder and former head of the American Fertility Association

palsy, and crushing medical costs.

The guidelines suggest how many embryos doctors should use, with the number varying by age and other factors. They also allow for some flexibility for more if previous attempts have failed or the embryo quality is poor.

The group credits the guidelines with reducing triplets and higher multiple pregnancies from 7 percent of attempts to 2 percent in 2006. Nearly two-thirds of the procedures involved four or more embryos in 1996; that has fallen to 16 percent.

But for women under 35, government records show that just 83 of 426 clinics followed the guidance calling for one and no more than two embryos. The average for fresh embryos (as opposed to frozen) implanted in women in that age group ranged from a 1.4 to 4.8. The vast majority of the clinics averaged between two and three embryos.

Dr. Mousa Shamonki, director of the IVF program at the University of California, Los Angeles, said his patients frequently ask for more embryos to boost their chances of getting pregnant. He tells patients that it's not OK to end up with triplets or even twins.

"The only thing that happens when you add additional embryos is you're increasing the multiple pregnancy rate," he said. "You're rarely increasing the overall pregnancy rate significantly."

Stimulus questions loom large in Boise

BOISE — The Legislature begins its seventh week Monday — one like never before.

The joint budgeting committee will hear four days of reports from its staff regarding possible ways to use Idaho's portion of the \$787 billion federal stimulus. The reports come as state agencies prepare to submit to Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter their proposals to use the stimulus. Otter has also appointed a panel of former governors and budget directors — some are now lobbyists — to give him recommendations for how to use the money.

Other news and events at the Capitol Annex:

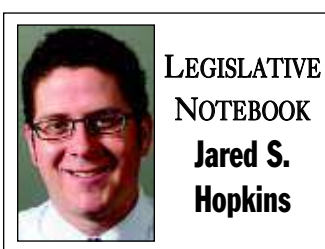
- Hearings on two controversial bills to change education to save money will not be held this week, House Education Chairman Bob Nonini, R-Coeur d'Alene, said on Friday.

The stimulus initially delayed the hearings, as well as the entire state budgeting process. The bills — which sparked outcry from Democrats and educators for lacking temporary clauses — are undergoing a review of a bipartisan four-member subcommittee that includes Rep. Donna Pence, D-Gooding, a former teacher.

"Things have been going real well," Nonini said. "They're trying to address how we can bridge some differences on these bills."

- Rep. Bert Brackett, R-Rogerson, and other Magic Valley legislators plan to introduce bills next week to give the State Board of Education more leeway when deciding whether to dissolve small schools.

Currently such closures are mandates for a handful of reasons, including



LEGISLATIVE NOTEBOOK
Jared S. Hopkins

when they have declining enrollments of less than five students.

Under Brackett's proposal, the word "shall" would be changed to "may," which means the board wouldn't be required to dissolve the schools.

"It would allow for discretion," Brackett said.

- Members of the House Transportation Committee met Friday to map out a schedule on the dozen or so bills to raise new revenue, which remains one of the top issues. Hearings are expected to begin on Tuesday and on Thursday the committee will hold hearings on the various proposals to raise the 25-cent-per-gallon gas tax.

- Rep. Eric Anderson, R-Priest Lake, held a forum Thursday on quagga mussels, a striped mollusk in the same family as the pesky zebra mussel that some fear will migrate to Idaho and clog lakes and water systems.

In the Magic Valley, many fear irrigators would be affected.

Anderson brought in experts from Michigan and Florida to speak to a task force of legislators studying invasive species. He said after the meeting that there's growing support for a bill that would require boat-owners to use stickers and regularly get their boats cleaned.

Funding could come from the state's emergency funding measures known as deficiency grants.

- Quote of the week: "We'd love to know what's driving the cheese market. The cheese market is a strange market," Idaho

Dairyman's Association Executive Director Bob Naerebout, on Wednesday, during his annual update to the House Agricultural Affairs Committee.

He said some national companies are using more cheese, including the chain Domino's Pizza, which is

preparing to offer a special pizza with 40 percent more cheese.

Jared S. Hopkins may be reached at 208-420-8371 or jhopkins@magicvalley.com. Read his blog, *Capitol Confidential*, at Magicvalley.com.

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Business Highlight

Magic Valley Spine



Dr. Sam Barker and Family Thank Ronald McDonald House

Two years ago in February my daughter Kylie was born with heart problems that required her to have open heart surgery. She was whisked away to Primary Children's Medical Center before my wife even had a chance to see her. Kylie needed two surgeries in that first month she was lucky just to survive. I had to shut down my chiropractic office and, for one month, my wife and I lived at the Ronald McDonald House in Salt Lake. That month was filled with a lot of tears and a lot of prayers.

Thanks to the wonderful staff at the hospital and the Ronald McDonald house, my entire family was able to make it through that terrible ordeal with our health and sanity.

Now it is our chance to give back. So each February we offer a special in Kylie's honor. Your loved one receives their initial exam, X-ray, and first adjustment in exchange for your \$35 dollar donation to the Ronald McDonald House.

This is your opportunity to see that there is a drug and surgery free way to be free from the pains of Headaches, Slipped/Bulging Discs, Sciatica, Degenerative Disc Disease, Arthritis, and many other problems. You can help others and see how chiropractic care helps you have a happier, healthier, pain free life.

Dr. Sam Barker, Chiropractor, and Family

Kylie's February Special



\$35.00
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In exchange for a \$35 dollar donation to the Ronald McDonald House Charities you receive your initial EXAM, X-ray, and First Adjustment with this coupon. Good for new patients only. *Coupon expires February 28th.*

736-8858

1139 FALLS AVE. E., SUITE B • TWIN FALLS Across From Hastings, Shop Ctr

Business Highlight

Economy Hearing Aid Clinic

Economy Hearing Aid Clinic, located at 532 Blue Lakes Blvd. North, in the Lynwood Shopping Center is owned and operated by Steve Lerohl, with a second office located in Burley on Overland. Economy Hearing features a collective staff with over 40 years of experience in the hearing aid industry in the Magic Valley.

Economy Hearing specializes in complete hearing health care including; hearing aids, hearing evaluations, repairs, fittings, maintenance, live speech mapping, ear molds, ear protection and wax removal. We also provide complete auditory rehabilitation services.

Steve is nationally board certified and the only certified Audiopros- thologist in the Magic Valley which makes him uniquely qualified to serve the hearing impaired. Economy Hearing deals with all manufacturers of hearing aids to provide you with the best solution for your hearing needs.

To provide excellent service and additional benefits to the residents of the community, Steve and his staff offer free monthly visits and services to those who reside in assisted living facilities.

For more information and to schedule a hearing evaluation and consultation, call 208.732.0506. We would love to HEAR from you.

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532 Blue Lakes Blvd. N Twin Falls, ID 83301

1430 Overland Burley, ID 83318



Don't ask me

Steve Crump



Stupid's fixable, but there's no cure for ugly

We've all had to come to grips with some hard truths these past few months — about our economy, about our priorities, about ourselves.

But I don't think American women have yet accepted the most difficult fact of all: American men are getting uglier.

Not spiritually or emotionally less attractive, mind you, but downright physically homely.

I reached this epiphany, of all places, while reading a biography of 1960s TV game-showmeister Chuck Barris, who claims to have been a CIA hitman all the while producing "The Gong Show," "The Newlywed Game" and "\$1.98 Beauty Show." (George Clooney, coincidentally one of the last remaining handsome men in America, made the book, "Confessions of a Dangerous Mind," into a movie a few years ago.)

Anyway, reading about "The Dating Game," another Barris project that ran on ABC from 1965-73, provoked enough nostalgia that I typed "The Dating Game" into the Google image search engine on my computer. Google found dozens of still photographs of the show.

It being the '60s, the male contestants were dressed funny and had bad haircuts — but they all had hair, none of their heads were shaved, none of them were sporting three-day beards, none of their ears or noses were pierced and all could actually tie a necktie.

My dears, in case you haven't looked outside lately, that's just not the case anymore.

Have you been to the DMV, the mall, the big-box home improvement store lately? They're male leper colonies.

I blame Brad Pitt, which is a roundabout way of saying I blame you.

Look, Mr. Pitt is a good-looking fella given to fashion, um, eccentricities. One day he decides not to comb his hair, the next he cuts it all off. One month he shaves; the next year he doesn't.

Fortunately, he's writing checks that his face and form can cash. That guy who wakes up next to you can't say that.

So every time the women of America sigh, "Brad Pitt is so hot!" another million guys shave their heads and stop shaving their faces. This is not a good thing.

And it's bad on two levels: Any man under 40 who cuts

all hair off is admitting to the world that he was going bald anyway — it's the moral equivalent of wearing sweatpants to work every day — and the specter of 5 o'clock shadow on chubby face makes the angels weep.

We — all of us — have inherited a beautiful country that we're rapidly sully-ing with poorly focused testosterone.

So for you women who are in a committed relationship with a man, I think your duty to your fellow citizens is clear: You must tell him that if he comes home from the barbershop looking like Michael Chiklis or Howie Mandel, his new sleeping quarters will be the old couch in the attic with the springs sticking out until such time as his hair grows back and he can rejoin civilization.

And you must never, ever let him get away without shaving on weekends. This is because by Sunday evening, he'll be spending time in front of the bathroom mirror thinking he looks a little like Hugh Laurie or Bruce Willis.

Listen, sweetie, the man's just bored, and you know what Dorothy Parker had to say about boredom:

"The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity."

Steve Crump may be reached at 735-3223. Hear him live on KLIX-1310 AM at 8:30 a.m. Fridays or on the Web at magicvalley.com/opinion.

5TH DISTRICT COURT NEWS

TWIN FALLS COUNTY THURSDAY ARRAIGNMENT
Robert Cassidy Hansen, 18, Twin Falls; minor consumption of alcohol; March 10 pretrial; \$100 bond; public defender appointed

FRIDAY ARRAIGNMENTS
James Galan, 18, Twin Falls; DUI; \$100 bond; March 10 pretrial; private counsel
Christopher Gene Galvin, 19, Twin Falls; possession of a controlled substance, minor consumption of alcohol; \$500 bond; public defender appointed; March 10 pretrial
James Russell Pyeatt-Hunt, 22, Twin Falls; domestic battery; \$1,000 bond; March 10 pretrial; public defender appointed

CIVIL FILINGS
Thomas E. and Daphne L. Weaver vs. Conley Dyer, Jim Lattimer and Does I-V. Seeking judgment against defendants for compensatory damages for medical expenses, pain and suffering, permanent disfigurement, and lost earnings; attorney's fees and costs. Plaintiffs seeking reimbursement for injuries sustained by Daphne Weaver. Plaintiffs allege that while riding her bike in a triathlon near Murtaugh a dog began to chase her and bit her foot causing her to be knocked into traffic where she was struck by a vehicle.
Bos'ero Group Inc. vs. Riedesel Engineering. Seeking judgment against defendants for an amount to

be proven at trial; attorney's fees and costs. Plaintiff states they entered into a contract with defendants to develop a tract of land in Twin Falls into a residential subdivision. Plaintiff alleges that defendants have breached the agreement by failing to perform the contractual obligations outlined and by failing to comply with the terms of the various tasks expressly identified in said agreement.

CHILD SUPPORT CASES
The State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare, Child Support Services have filed claims against the following:
Stephanie M. Antill. Seeking establishment of paternity; \$161 monthly

support plus 50 percent of medical expenses not covered by insurance; provide medical insurance.
Angel Castillo. Seeking establishment of paternity; \$682 monthly support plus 69 percent of medical expenses not covered by insurance; provide medical insurance.
Justin R. Rutherford. Seeking establishment of paternity; \$454 monthly support plus 81 percent of medical expenses not covered by insurance; provide medical insurance; \$3,498.02 for uncovered medical costs.
Moises Rosas. Seeking establishment of paternity; \$984 monthly support plus 74 percent of medical expenses not covered by insurance; provide medical insurance.

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Shows Nightly 7:20 & 9:20
Confessions of a Shopaholic PG
A Fun Comedy
Shows Nightly 7:20 & 9:40
He's just not that into you PG-13
Drew Barrymore, Jennifer Aniston, Ben Affleck in A Romantic Comedy
Shows Nightly 7:25 & 9:30
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Donzas Fantásticas - Joaquín Turina
La Verbena de la Paloma - Tomás Bretón
La Boda de Luis Alonso - Gerónimo Giménez

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Selected for their service

Students receive Congressional Awards

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

There may not have been a congressman in sight.

But for the 15th year in a row, parents, public officials and others swelled the auditorium Saturday at Vera C. O'Leary Junior High School to celebrate student winners of the Congressional Award, designed to promote and recognize achievement, initiative and service in America's youth.

In all, 33 students from Boise to Blaine County worked their way into bronze and silver medals this year. Gold medalists get their awards in a separate ceremony in Washington, D.C.

U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, was set to deliver the welcoming remarks for the ceremony, but had to cancel at the last minute due to illness. Instead, new Idaho Lt. Gov. Brad Little — on his first official trip to Twin Falls, and serving as governor since Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter was out of the state — spoke in his place.

Little, whose wife is one of the state awards council's original board members, spoke of attending one of the D.C. ceremonies and of how the Idaho students stood out from their peers.

"That's what makes America, that's what makes Idaho what it is today," he said of the service work nurtured by the program.

Cynthia Jesinger, executive director of the state council, said the 33 students have contributed more than \$87,000 in volunteer labor and services, joined by more than \$190,000 from the state's gold medalists.

While many tended to go abroad for their work in past years, the medalists tended to stay in-state this year, she noted.

"They stand ready to help our state when we're facing a few economic challenges," she said.



JUSTIN JACKSON/Times-News
Idaho's Lt. Gov. Brad Little speaks at the Congressional Awards Ceremony at O'Leary Junior High School Saturday afternoon in Twin Falls.

Proud parents filled the room. Laird and Vickie Stone — picking up the award for their son, Grayson, who won bronze and silver awards last year and has since worked his way to a gold — seemed taken aback by what he'd accomplished.

"The kid has always been an incredible giver," Vickie Stone said.

This year, the state council will hold the 16th annual ceremony for Boise and the first ceremonies in eastern Idaho and the Panhandle, Jesinger said.

Congressional Award winners honored Saturday:

Boise High School:
Hanna Fischer, bronze

Isaac Makings, silver
Nellie Makings, bronze
Ashley Stucki, silver

Ashton Lupton, bronze
Jack Reidy, bronze
Kylee Richmond, bronze
Britton Stevenson, bronze

Home-schooled:
Katelyn Benton, Nampa, silver
Zach Edenfield, Star, bronze
Kyle Felzien, Meridian, silver
MacKenzie Felzien, Meridian, bronze
Elizabeth Knapp, Meridian, bronze

The Community School:
Jon Atkinson, silver
Julianna Lamb, silver
Bronwen Raff, silver
Emily Williams, bronze

Xavier Charter School:
Cole Meyerhoeffer, bronze

In addition, Laird Stone accepted a gold medal on behalf of his son, Grayson, who attends the University of Idaho and was unable to attend this year's ceremony. The medal was awarded in 2008, but Grayson Stone was also unable to attend last year's award ceremony.

Twin Falls High School:
Angela Bixler, bronze
Julie Bixler, bronze
Steven Boomhower, silver
Samuel Fitts, bronze
Marissa Freitas, bronze
Nathaniel Goss, silver
Elizabeth Middleton, silver

Vera C. O'Leary Junior High School:
Austin Dobbs, bronze
Dylan Dobbs, silver

Wood River High School:
Dakota Barnes, bronze
Sean Dahlman, bronze

Jerome High School:
Shelby Walters, bronze

Kimberly High School:
Cory Berry, silver
Samantha Breeding, silver
Kaitlyn Goetz, bronze

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Filer school project could come in under budget

By John E. Swayze
Times-News correspondent

FILER — A multimillion dollar expansion project in the Filer School District could come in under budget.

Earlier this month, school board members participated in reviewing dozens of bid proposals for the construction of an \$11 million intermediate school and \$1.2 million for a six classroom expansion at Filer High School.

The new 47,000-square foot intermediate school, to be built on land to the northwest of the existing Filer Elementary School, will house fourth through sixth grade classes and open up space at both the elementary and middle school.

Joe Reams, construction supervisor with Brennan Construction in Pocatello, used the results to develop a revised construction budget he presented Thursday for approval.

"A few of the individual

budgets have increased," Reams said. "But if you decide to go with the budget items I've presented, you'll save about \$1.8 million."

The original \$343,000 furniture and equipment budget for both the new school and high school addition have been increased to \$650,000. Filer Elementary School Principle Matt Mahannah was relieved to see the change.

"The old budget didn't leave any funds for computers, and we wouldn't have had much of a library," he said.

"We would have had to strip books from over here."

Three separate roofing projects will also see budget increases. The budget for repairs to Filer Elementary School's roof has jumped from \$450,000 to \$700,000. The budget for roof repairs at Hollister Elementary has been doubled to \$200,000.

Filer Middle School has been allotted \$200,000. About \$90,000 will be used



Filer Elementary School fourth-grade students are seated Friday where the new intermediate school will be built. 'This will be the first group of students to be part of the school,' Filer Elementary Principal Matt Mahannah said. 'They're seated in the area where their sixth-grade classroom will eventually be.'

JOHN E. SWAYZE/For the Times-News

to repair the gym roof and \$110,000 for any remaining repairs. Repaving of the west-end parking lot has also been moved from an estimated \$75,000 to \$350,000.

"I haven't bid out the roof projects yet, but each one will be done as a separate package," Reams said. "The

middle school roof budget might be a little heavy, but I really don't know the scope of what you have there."

An additional \$800,000 is earmarked for football field lights, restrooms, bleachers, concessions and a press box. These items will also be bid out separately.

Preliminary construction

activity, such as sod removal, could begin as early as next week. But board approval of the budget changes has been postponed a few weeks, until members of the district's long range planning committee have had a chance to meet.

"The committee actually got this whole thing rolling

in 2006 and there are some things here we really need to talk with them about," School Board Chairman Eric Williams said. "But this (under budget) is really a nice place to be."

John E. Swayze may be reached at 208 326-7212 or swayzef@aol.com.

T.F. county dissolves group of legal guardians

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

It may take a few years to cycle its last couple of clients out.

But barring a possible reorganization, the stage is now set for the Twin Falls County Board of Community Guardians to quietly dissolve.

County commissioners voted Tuesday to disband the little-known organization, largely over concerns about its operating practices and a lack of volunteers.

The board had existed for years with the goal of providing legal guardians on a volunteer basis to the elderly, the developmentally disabled and others who needed one but couldn't pay for the service. It served "the lost souls of the world,"

said Dennis Voorhees, a board member and Twin Falls attorney specializing in elder law.

It was a small yet serious service, he said, aimed at people who didn't have family to step in for them, but needed someone to speak for them — for example, people who tend to wander away or have behavioral problems at nursing homes.

Unlike some in the state, Twin Falls' board was completely a volunteer service, Voorhees said, limiting what its volunteers could take on. The board probably turned away three times as many client offers as it accepted because volunteers couldn't handle the more-complicated cases, he said.

The bigger problem, as commissioners saw it, was the ten-

dency over time for board members to take on clients rather than maintain a pool of volunteers. That practice resulted from the fact that not enough people needed help to justify a pool, Voorhees said, but meant some board members spent more time on their specific cases and less time guiding and running the board.

Those low client numbers mean it's not clear how much of a need the board's absence will create — though Office on Aging Director Jim Fields, whose office's adult protection service handles similar issues, said a county board is a valuable thing to have.

Commissioners last week said that they're allowing the current volunteers to finish their cases, then phase the board out and let the private

sector handle things. But they acknowledged that the board could eventually be reformed — though Commissioner Terry Kramer said at least 14 people would need to be signed up, half for the board and half to volunteer.

Voorhees said he plans to pursue that goal, and is actually glad the commissioners have forced the board to reexamine itself. He argued as part of the solution that the county needs to provide a less-than-part-time staffer to provide administrative support for the board — something Kramer said is already done through both his and the prosecutor's office.

"I'm looking at this dissolution resolution as a step in a procedure to improve our function, not to stop our function," Voorhees said.

Energy studies building dedicated in E. Idaho

IDAHO FALLS (AP) — Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, all members of Idaho's congressional delegation and the presidents of the state's three universities took part in the dedication of the \$17 million Center for Advanced Energy Studies in eastern Idaho.

"This represents the beginning of great things to come to the state, region and our nation through research going on here at CAES," facility director Harold Blackman said Friday, the Post Register reported.

The center is a public-private partnership involving Boise State University, Idaho State University, University of Idaho and the Idaho National Laboratory.

"This is a world-class facility the state of Idaho and its citizens should be proud of," said Shane Johnson of the U.S. Department of Energy.

The center will focus on energy science and engineering research, particularly nuclear power, biofuels, geothermal power and hydropower.

"The intent is to bring in students to work side-by-side with the scientists, and hopefully, many of them will stay right here for work," Idaho Falls Mayor Jared Fuhrman said after the dedication.

Business Highlight

COMFORT KEEPERS®

Celebrates 8th Anniversary in Magic Valley

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Lazy hikers may pay to ride down from the top of Pikes Peak

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — Hikers who climb to Pikes Peak's summit but don't feel up to walking the 12 miles back down could soon have to pay for their ride.

council is expected to vote Tuesday on a proposal from Pikes Peak Highway officials that would charge up to \$500 for each uninjured hiker who calls 911 for a ride down.

up the 14,115-foot peak, but the U.S. Forest Service owns the land.

"Some of the people just say 'I want to get to the top of this mountain,' and they don't realize they have to get back down," highway man-

ager Jack Glavan told The (Colorado Springs) Gazette.

The likelihood of the council's approval was not immediately known. Forest Service spokeswoman Barbara Timock said the agency is not involved in res-

cue operations and had no opinion on the proposal.

Some 15,000 people a year attempt to climb Pikes Peak, the second-most visited mountain in the world behind Japan's Mount Fuji.

Under the proposal, hikers who call for a ride before highway workers have gone home would pay \$100. The fee could go up to \$500 when hikers call 911 after hours, and it could increase if the road has to be plowed to fetch the caller.

The Swensen Stimulus Package.

While President Obama and the Federal Government are busy giving away billions of our tax dollars during their first 100 days in office, we at Swensens feel like we should provide our own version of Stimulus. Not only are we offering great values on many items this week, we are certain you will be impressed – no, stimulated – at the lineup of items and prices in our cased goods sales event happening from March 1st to March 14th.

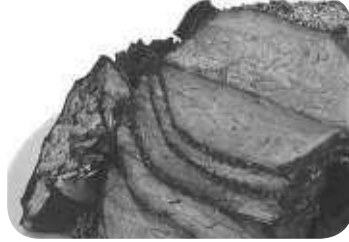
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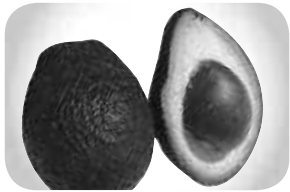


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Too predictable? Tonight's Academy Awards aim to shake things up

By David Germain
Associated Press writer

LOS ANGELES — Academy Awards organizers are going all out to inject more suspense into Hollywood's biggest party Sunday.

If only the competition itself would cooperate.

While there are close races in key categories, this year's show again suffers from a predictability factor for the top prize. Best picture is expected to go to "Slumdog Millionaire," the movie that has won the same honor at every other awards ceremony that matters.

Predictability can translate into a ho-hum attitude among TV viewers, who are less likely to sit through a marathon Oscar broadcast just to hear a winner announced at the end of the evening that everyone expected beforehand.

The Oscars had their lowest TV ratings ever last year, when the best-picture prize was handed to "No Country for Old Men," which dominated earlier awards shows just as "Slumdog Millionaire" has.

A best-picture nomination for "The Dark Knight" might have helped, since more viewers tend to tune in when such behemoth films are in the running. Though "Dark Knight" supporting-actor nominee Heath Ledger looks like a lock to become only the second performer ever to win an Oscar posthumously, the Batman blockbuster was left out of other top categories.

"Slumdog Millionaire," an infectious story of a Mumbai street orphan who finds fame, love and wealth in the face of terrible hardship, faces off for best picture against the romantic fantasy "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," the Richard Nixon tale "Frost/Nixon," the Harvey Milk drama "Milk" and the Holocaust-themed saga "The Reader."

Oscar planners are trying to spice up the show with an air of mystery. Filmmakers Bill Condon and Laurence Mark are overseeing the ceremony, their first time working on the Oscars, which they hope to shake up with new approaches to what has become a staid procession of awards, many of which the average viewer doesn't care about.

They won't reveal just what they have in mind, other than to say they want to try different methods of presenting the trophies and otherwise reinvigorate the festivities.

"That's what we're hoping to do across the board, just freshen them up and surprise people again with the way these awards are given," Condon said.

Organizers dropped their usual onslaught of announcements about A-list celebrities appearing as awards presenters. Their identities are being kept secret, and their presence — at least in some cases — is being kept off the red carpet.

Audiences can count on a healthy dose of stars among the acting nominees, who include past Oscar winners Meryl Streep, Sean Penn, Angelina Jolie and Marisa Tomei.

Jolie's romantic partner, Brad Pitt, also is nominated, along with Kate Winslet, Anne Hathaway, Penelope Cruz and Robert Downey Jr.

Downey crept in with a rare

comic performance, the sort that usually does not fare well among the heavy dramas favored by Oscar voters. He's nominated as supporting actor for "Tropic Thunder," in which he plays an awards-obsessed actor who buries himself in his roles — his latest as a black soldier in a

Vietnam flick, for which Downey's character underwent a radical procedure to darken his skin.

While Downey is almost certain to be an also-ran in his category because of the heavy odds on Ledger, there is suspense for lead-actress honors. Best actress shapes up as a

two-woman race between Streep as an old-school nun in "Doubt" and Winslet as a former concentration camp guard in "The Reader." It would be the third Oscar for Streep, who has a record 15 acting nominations, while it would be Winslet's first win after five previous losses.



AP photo
Three large Oscar statues stand under protective covers along the red carpet outside the Kodak Theater in Los Angeles on Saturday.

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Economy strains under weight of unsold items

From cars and trucks to dolls and electronics, U.S. has a glut of products without buyers

By Annys Shin
The Washington Post

The unsold cars and trucks piling up at dealerships and assembly lines as consumers cut back and auto companies scramble for federal aid are just one sign of a major

problem hurting the economy and only likely to get worse.

The world is suddenly awash in almost everything: flat-panel televisions, bulldozers, Barbie dolls, strip malls, Burberry stores. Japan this week said its economy

shrank at an 12.7 percent annual pace in the last three months of 2008 as global demand evaporated for Japanese cars and electronics. Business everywhere are scrambling to bring supply in line with demand.

Downsizing can be tricky,

though. No one knows how much worse the economy will get, and while everyone waits for the recession to peter out, businesses are grappling with how to cut costs and survive without sabotaging their ability to grow when the economy picks up.

And there is a lot to cut.

"There is over-capacity in everything," from "retail to manufacturing to housing," said Richard Yamarone, chief

economist at Argus Research. "If capacity is too large, you don't need that many people employed, which is another reason we're seeing such high job losses."

As long as capacity far outstrips demand, businesses have little reason to expand, buy new equipment or hire workers. Even if the government funds bridge repairs

See **GLUT**, Business 3

Idaho bank group seeks advice for bailout money

President to travel to southern Idaho for talks

The Associated Press

BOISE — A bank holding company based in northern Idaho that received \$27 million in federal bailout money is looking for ways to lend it in ways that will help improve communities.

Sandpoint-based Intermountain Community Bancorp has about 20 bank branches, including Magic Valley Bank, scattered across Idaho, one in eastern Oregon and two in Eastern Washington.

Curt Hecker, president and CEO of the company, said he plans to travel to southern Idaho next month to talk with government leaders, as well as economic development and nonprofit groups.

The bank received money from the \$700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program approved by Congress last fall.

Earlier this month, the nation's top bankers were called before the U.S. House Financial Services Committee to account for how the money is being spent.

The money was intended to be used to unfreeze credit markets and lead to more lending to avoid a worsening of the financial crisis. But reports have surfaced of bank junkets and big bonuses for executives of banks that received bailout money.

Hecker said the federal money Intermountain received came from the capital purchase program

See **BANKS**, Business 2

"It's time from my standpoint to go out and design new products and services. And who better to do it with than our customers and communities based upon what the real needs are."

— **Curt Hecker, president and CEO of Sandpoint-based Intermountain Community Bancorp**

"They're trying to use my money to make money. I just see banks trying to make that 50 cents or a buck and a half when I should be given the service for free."

— **Arthur Santa-Maria, a laid-off engineer who lives just outside Albuquerque, N.M.**

NO REST FOR THE WEARY

By Christopher Leonard
Associated Press writer

First, Arthur Santa-Maria called Bank of America to ask how to check the balance of his new unemployment benefits debit card. The bank charged him 50 cents.

He chose not to complain. That would have cost another 50 cents.

So he took out some of the money and then decided to pull out the rest. But that made two withdrawals on the same day, and that was \$1.50.

For hundreds of thousands of workers losing their jobs during the recession, there's a new twist to their financial pain: Even when they're collecting unemployment benefits, they're paying the bank just to get the money — or even to call customer service

to complain about it.

Thirty states have struck such deals with banks that include Citigroup Inc., Bank of America Corp., JP Morgan Chase and US Bancorp, an Associated Press review of the agreements found. All the programs carry fees, and in several states the unemployed have no choice but to use the debit cards. Some banks even charge overdraft fees of up to \$20 — even though they could decline charges for more than what's on the card.

"They're trying to use my money to make money," said Santa-Maria, a laid-off engineer who lives just outside Albuquerque, N.M. "I just see banks trying to make that 50 cents or a buck and a half when I should be given the service for free."

Missouri and Kansas both participate in the debit card programs, issuing the cards through Central Bank and Citigroup, respectively. The states say the contracts will save hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, but

See **FEES**, Business 3



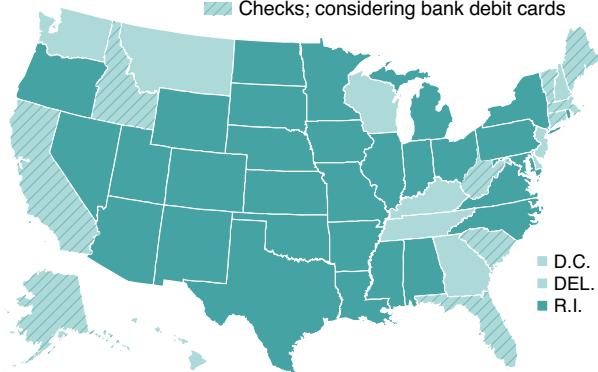
Recently unemployed engineer Arthur Santa-Maria poses for photot at a Bank of America ATM in Los Lunas, N.M. Santa-Maria was surprised to learn he must pay fees to withdraw his unemployment money using a state-issued Bank of America debit card.

Bank cards replacing jobless checks

Kansas is one of 30 states that outsources unemployment benefits distribution to banks. The state expects to save \$300,000 by not printing and mailing checks.

Distribution by state

- Use bank debit cards
- Use checks or direct deposit
- Checks; considering bank debit cards



SOURCE: AP reporting

AP

BENEFITING FROM NEW STIMULUS PLAN MEANS TAX PLANNING

The Associated Press

The \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is law, and government agencies are now working on how to get the money to those who qualify.

Here is a snapshot of some of the benefits and how to access them, according to the IRS and tax experts:

WORKERS

What: Making Work Pay tax credit.

How: Payroll administrators at your workplace will make the withholding adjustment in your paycheck automatically this spring. If you want your payment in a lump sum in tax refund instead of in paycheck, request to adjust withholding.



UNEMPLOYED

What: A \$25 weekly boost in unemployment checks. Exemption from federal taxes the first \$2,400. Extension of unemployment benefits. Federal subsidy to pay 65 percent of COBRA health insurance premium.

How: Contact the state agency administering your unemployment benefits for the pay boost and benefit extension. COBRA insurance coverage likely will be administered by former employer.

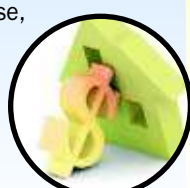
HOMEBUYERS

Benefit: A tax credit of 10 percent of the value of the home, up to \$8,000, for first-time buyers between Jan. 1 and Dec. 1, 2009. **How:** If you've already filed your taxes for 2008 to get the previous \$7,500 credit, you can file an amendment to get the full credit. Otherwise, file for the benefit when you do your 2009 taxes early next year.



HOMEOWNERS

Benefit: Tax credits for energy-efficient improvements such as furnaces, windows, doors. Applies to 2009 and 2010 tax returns, with a lifetime cap of \$1,500. **How:** Fill out IRS Form 5695 to claim the credits when you do your taxes.



CAR BUYERS

Benefit: Deduction of state and local sales and excise taxes on the first \$49,500 toward a new car, light truck, recreational vehicle or motorcycle bought by the end of the year. Tax credit of up to \$7,500 if you buy a plug-in hybrid. **How:** Claim it on your taxes next year or adjust your payroll withholding and get it spread out in additional money in your paycheck.



PARENTS

Benefit: A child tax credit of up to \$1,000 for each qualifying child under 17. Increase in earned income credit for families with three or more children. **How:** You can choose to adjust your withholding to get this money back through additional money in your paycheck or you can wait until you do your taxes for 2009 and 2010 and get it back in a lump sum. Talk to your tax professional.



YOUR BUSINESS

CAREER MOVES

Bank employees
D.L. Evans Bank announced its 2008 Employee of the Year recipients.

Albion branch, Sue Keller; North Burley branch, Shelly Wolf; Rupert branch, Diane Allen; South Burley branch, Suzette Wilde; Idaho Falls Branch, Joy Storer; North Pocatello branch, Stephanie Micheel; Twin Falls Blue Lakes branch, Blake Roemer; Twin Falls downtown branch, Corie McCarthy; Twin Falls Financial Center, Jessica Laraway; Jerome branch, Sandy McIntyre; Hailey branch, Penny Hogan; Meridian branch, Lori Elliott; Nampa branch, Monty Law; Nampa Karcher branch, Karma Gardner; Boise West State branch, Andrea Kinslow; Boise Vista branch, Vickie Peugh; Boise Cole and Emerald branch, David Marshall; Boise downtown branch, Alissa Sorensen; Twin Falls real estate, Marlys Taylor; Boise real estate, Kyndra Kirby; data center, Nestor Lopez; Central, Jason VanBuskirk; Burley operations center, Linda Kester; corporate, Tina Harman.

Shirley Lee

Shirley Lee, personal publishing consultant with Heritage Makers, received two awards at the Regional Conference Training held Feb. 6-7 in Sandy, Utah.



Lee

For the second year in a row, Lee was awarded First Place Personal Volume for Consultants in the Region. In addition, she was awarded First Place Sponsoring for Consultants in the Region. She has been with Heritage Makers for two years and helps her customers create custom books with their own photos about family history and life events.

Kim Brackett

The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture recently appointed Idaho beef producer Kim Brackett to a three-year term on the Cattleman's Beef Promotion and Research Board, which oversees administration of the national Beef Checkoff Program.



Brackett

Brackett took the oath of office during the 2009 Cattle Industry Convention in Phoenix, Ariz., and was seated during the Cattleman's Beef Board meeting on Jan. 31, becoming one of 106 producers and importers nationwide representing all cattlemen by making recommendations about how to invest beef checkoff dollars.

Brackett is a cow-calf/stocker from Castleford. She has been an active member with the Idaho Beef Council, serving as chair,

vice chair and treasurer; Idaho Cattle Association, serving as committee and sub-committee chair; and the 71 Livestock Association.

Lori Johnson

The National Certification Board for Diabetes Educators (NCBDE) announced that Lori Johnson, Registered Dietician for Minidoka Memorial Hospital, achieved Certified Diabetes Educator (CDE) status by successfully completing the Certification Examination for Diabetes Educators.



Johnson

Achieving certification status demonstrates that Johnson possesses distinct and specialized knowledge, thereby promoting quality of care for people with diabetes.

She joins the almost 16,000 diabetes educators who hold NCBDE certification.

Johnson lives in Rupert with her husband, Dac, and two children and works closely with patients at Minidoka Memorial Hospital Home Health and Hospice as well as treats patients on an out-patient basis for proper nutritional education.

Dave Kiesig

Dave Kiesig, horticulture instructor at the College of Southern Idaho, has been awarded the Gold Medal of Horticulture from the Idaho Nursery and Landscape Association.

Kiesig is involved with the Idaho Community Forestry Advisory and is an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist and Proctor. He is also the adviser to the CSI Horticulture Club, is the CSI Hort Club worm farm manager, and assists with several CSI Foundation projects.

He oversees the annual FFA contest in floriculture and nursery/landscape and is also an adviser for the CSI's award winning campus landscape.

Brian Lopez

Local Lawn and Tree Spraying Service of Twin Falls announced that Brian Lopez has become a full time service technician. Lopez completed all the required state certified tests through the Idaho Department of Agriculture. His spray categories include, ornamental herbicide, ornamental insecticide and law and safety.



Lopez

He has worked for Local Lawn and Tree Spraying Service for three seasons and his services include lawn and tree spraying, and pest control. He is also a part of Buy Idaho.

MILESTONES

IDAHO WATER SPORTS



Courtesy photo

Malibu Boats recognized Idaho Water Sports for their achievements in customer service and sales during the 2008 model year. Malibu Boats, the World's leading water sports boat manufacturer, recently recognized their 2008 outstanding dealers in sales and customer service. Malibu Boats lauded Idaho Water Sports for its efforts and achievements as a water sports boat dealer, presenting it with two awards in 2008. In the category of customer service, Idaho Water Sports was recognized for outstanding customer satisfaction, which is determined with voluntary surveys sent in by boat buyers. They secured a Malibu Boats Sales Achievement Award as one of the top selling Malibu Boats dealerships in the nation. Pictured from left, Mike Lee, Carol Warr and Gordon Hansen.

BUHL WINKLE



Courtesy photo

Buhl Winkle, located at 119 S. Broadway in Buhl, recently held a ribbon cutting conducted by the Buhl Chamber of Commerce. The store features a huge and unique inventory variety of one-of-a-kind creations, consigned by 70 local artisans and crafters. Mary Davidson, assistant manager, is pictured holding the ribbon on the left with Donna Legler, owner, cutting the ribbon. Information: 543-5946.

RIO HONDO



Courtesy photo

Rio Hondo recently held a grand opening ribbon cutting conducted by the Buhl Chamber of Commerce at their new 220 N. Broadway location in Buhl. Rio Hondo offers a complete line of Hi-Hog livestock equipment, S & S Barns and Buildings, professional farrier supplies, tack, Vaquero protein tubs and a new line of affordable Roper clothing. The business is owned by the Richard and Lynn Brook family and managed by Kevin Donovan. Pictured from left, are Kevin Donovan, Richard Brook, Liz Ditz, Lynn Brook, Al Legalsi, Travis Brook, Rick Brook and Denny Cramer. Information: 543-2798 or visit www.riohondo.com.

CANYON FLORAL



Courtesy photo

Canyon Floral located at 1563 Fillmore St., Unit C, Twin Falls, cut a red ribbon to celebrate the opening of their new floral business and becoming a member of the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber's Ambassadors were there to assist. Canyon Floral is a full service florist doing flowers for everyday living. Their designers have more than 90 years of experience. Every order placed is personally designed and arrives artistically arranged. Information: 733 9292 or toll free (877) 355-9292. Pictured from left, Jennifer Lehmann, Iona Lehmann, Robin Roult and Elizabeth Lehmann.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Junior high students win Zions Bank drawing

O'Leary Junior High School student Coby Carter and Gooding Junior High School seventh grader, Andrea Bigler have won the Twin Falls and Gooding area drawings for a \$100 scholarship savings account from Zions Bank's Pays for A's program.

Open to all Idaho students ages 13 through 18, Zions Pays

for A's offers cash incentives for good grades. Teen students take their most recent report cards from the current academic year into any Zions Bank location. They'll receive \$1 per "A" deposited into their Teengreen savings accounts, or .50 cents per "A" if they opt for cash. For each "A" on their report cards, students receive automatic entries into one of 182 drawings for scholarship money worth up to \$1,000.

Banks

Continued from Business 1

aimed at banks that are considered healthy financially but in need of capital to make loans. He said the bank is required to pay back the money with interest.

"It's time from my standpoint to go out and design new products and services," said Hecker. "And who better to do it with than our customers and communities based upon what the real needs are."

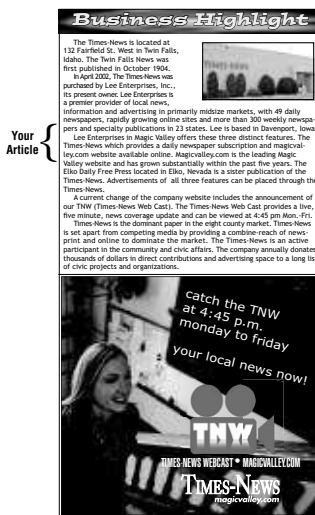
Intermountain's branches include Panhandle State Bank branches based in Sandpoint, Intermountain Community Bank branches in southwest Idaho, and Magic Valley Bank branches in

south-central Idaho. "I am going to start the idea generation. If I can support it, that means I can (put) dollars into it." — Curt Hecker, president and CEO of Sandpoint-based Intermountain Community Bancorp

has a branch. "Who knows better what the needs are?" Nampa Mayor Tom Dale said banks could lend money to help improve the city's downtown district to

renovate old buildings or build new ones. "That is going to take some banks to believe in the people who are investing," Dale said. Hecker said he doesn't know where his community meetings will lead. "I am going to start the idea generation," he said. "If I can support it, that means I can (put) dollars into it."

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BUILDING PERMITS

Twin Falls City

RESIDENTIAL
TKO Construction, 648 Braden Court; new house; \$108,474.
TKO Construction, 648 Braden Court; new house; \$87,785.
TKO Construction, 0 Orchard Drive; demo; \$7,500.
Pat Florence, 2707 Pole Line Road E.; addition-master bedroom, guest room and garage; \$85,932.
Sid Lezamiz, 592 Washington St. N.; re-roof; \$3,000.
David Becker, 580 Carriage Lane N.; finish basement; \$10,082.
Weather Vane Homes, 612/614 Garnet St., duplex; \$199,920.
Eaglewood Homes Inc., 325 Jeweler St.; new house; \$111,211.
Ann Fuller, 182 Polk St.; re-roof; \$5,200.
Moreen Crooks, 2942 Elizabeth Blvd.; storage shed; \$2,023.

COMMERCIAL

Liberty Tax Service, 1565 Fillmore St., No. 2E; wall sign; \$1,820.
Gregg Olsen, 484 Grandview Drive; monument sign; \$5,378.
A.I.M. Northwest, 166 River Vista No. B; two wall signs; \$900.
Ameripride Linen and Apparel, 403 Main Ave. W.; wastewater treatment addition; \$55,522.
J&C Towing, 1830 Osterloh Ave.; 8' screening fence; \$2,000; pole sign; \$200.
Project Mutual Telephone, 1080 Frontier Road; fibre optic storage building; \$5,268.

City of Burley

Sparr McKnight; 2601 Washington Ave.; warehouse; \$320,000.
TKO, 917 Zion; new house; \$95,596.
Ernest Bell; 235 W. 25th St.; garage; \$10,000.
DOT Foods, Inc.; 1541 W. 27th St.; commercial remodel; \$9,000.08.
Greg Peterso; 2701 Mt. Harrison; new house; \$155,263.
Cassia Jt. School District No. 151; 2100 Park Ave.; new building; \$60,000.
Kauffman Medical Suite; 1945 Hiland; new sign; \$2,400.
Instant Auto Credit; 504 E. Main; new signs; \$1,800.
JLA Salon, 709 N. Overland, Suite B; new sign; \$2,400.
Mike McGill; 370 N. Burton Ave.; shop; \$20,000.
Modern Construction; 2609 Miller Ave.; new house; \$203,212.
Elliot Traher; 1057 Oakwood; new house; \$179,568.
Cody Liljenquist; 1700 Overland; remodel storage/treatment rooms; \$25,000.
David and Lorna Phillips; 1400 Pomerelle St.; alteration; \$5,000.
Jose Delgado; 335 W. 3rd St. N.; carport; \$3,000.
Burley Inn; 800 N. Overland; new cabinet/sign; \$11,600/\$43,700.

Cassia County

TKO Construction; 41 E. 210 S., Burley; new house; \$130,679.
TKO Construction; 50 W. 160 S., Burley; new house; \$93,664.
TKO Construction; 312

Ranchette Drive, Burley; new house; \$121,431.
James and Maria Fitzhugh; 481 S. 50 E., Burley; garage/shop; \$50,400.

City of Rupert

Lance Stevenson, 715 6th St.; remodel; \$4,000.
Juan Dominguez, 206 Linden; addition; \$16,704.
Lance Stevenson, 715 6th St.; garage; \$8,360.
Arturo Dominguez, 123 I St.; addition; \$19,140.
Ramiro Ruiz, 510 S. C St.; re-roof; \$3,000.
TDW Enterprises, 1524 A St.; \$2,000.

City of Heyburn

Bryon Larson; 1535 15th St.; multi-unit house; \$58,000.
Jim Stone; 1860 Brockie Ave.; garage; \$9,720.
Rex Schorzman; 300 18th St.; shop; \$16,704
Ned Seamons; 2109 Mona Ave.; carport; \$2,128.
Bill Loughmiller; 820 J St.; new commercial; \$111,264.
Mettler Construction, 480 22nd St.; finish top floor; \$65,882.

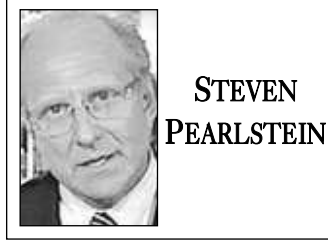
City of Paul

James Ray Construction; 662 Crocus; \$78,407.
Ray Greer; 224 N. 4th E.; addition; \$16,704.

Minidoka County

Jared Orton; 608 S. 125 N. W., Rupert; new home; \$132,536.
Minidoka County; 715 G. St., Rupert; remodel.
Frank Suchan, 413 W. 100 S., Rupert; re-roof/re-side.
Paul Aston, 283 E. 350 N., Rupert; finish interior; \$32,472.
Clay Harrison, 350 S. 1250 W., Paul; garage; \$8,640.
Amalgamated Sugar; 50 S. 500 W., Paul; commercial building; \$41,600.
Amalgamated Sugar; 50 S. 500 W., Paul; commercial building; \$90,000.
Juvenito Juarez; 314 S. 500 W., Heyburn; new house; \$94,986.
Ken Slack; 496 S. 100 W., Rupert; foundation; \$4,048.
Les Tyler; 496 S. 100 W., Rupert; re-roof; \$1,600.
Roger Fairchild; 101 S. 161 W., Rupert; re-roof; \$1,620.
Delis Farms; 20 S. 500 W., Paul; re-siding; \$3,000.
Sprinkler Shop; 365 W. 100 S., Paul; re-siding; \$55,000.
Wayment; 269 N. 125 W., Rupert; garage; \$9,120.
Adan Arteaga, 20311 4th St., Acequia; mobile home placement; \$93,300.

The turning point where Wall Street and Detroit intersect



STEVEN PEARLSTEIN

The Detroit autoworker and the Wall Street investment banker live in totally different economic realities — or so it seems to just about everyone.

One is unionized, the other not. One is semi-skilled, most likely with a high school diploma, the other an MBA from some fancy school.

One is middle class, dependent on generous hourly wages and benefits, the other reliant on lavish performance bonuses that have put him squarely in the economic elite.

Yet in some important ways, the autoworker and the investment banker are really variations on the same story — a story that in both instances has reached a crucial turning point.

From the 1950s until — well, until just now — the unionized workers at General Motors, Ford and Chrysler were the aristocrats of the blue-collar workforce, earning well above what others made with similar skills and education. In the 1950s and '60s, before the advent of foreign competition, their companies competed in almost every way except price, earning above-average profit margins. And thanks to a strong union, favorable labor laws and a generally paternalistic attitude on the part of corporate America, autoworkers captured a significant portion of those above-market returns.

Over the past 30 years, the returns have gradually disappeared under the pressure of foreign and domestic competition. Yet despite the gradual decline in the power of the union movement, autoworkers have nonetheless been able to negotiate pay and benefits, job security and work rules that have remained significantly more favorable than those at nonunionized factories run by foreign firms in the United States. Now, as General Motors and Chrysler enter the final phase of what amounts to a bankruptcy-like reorganization under the auspices of

The government is still trying to fashion a restructuring plan for Wall Street, but the principles that now govern the auto bailout are likely to apply there as well.

pay of workers in other industries with similar skills and work ethics.

Indeed, just as the unionized autoworkers were the aristocrats of the blue-collar world, Wall Street traders and investment bankers were the aristocrats of the white-collar world. Both came to look on their above-market pay not just as the result of hard work and good fortune, but as an entitlement. In time, this sense of entitlement led firms to pursue strategies that drained the companies of financial strength and led them to the brink of a collapse that now requires a massive government rescue.

At the most fundamental level, what did in Citigroup was the same thing that did in General Motors — an arrogant and insular business culture that failed to put the customer first, failed to rein in employee pay and failed to make the difficult decisions necessary for the survival of the enterprise.

The government is still trying to fashion a restructuring plan for Wall Street, but the principles that now govern the auto bailout are likely to apply there as well.

Excessive, above-market compensation will be reined in — in Wall Street's case by reducing the reliance on outsized performance bonuses that encourage short-term thinking and undue risk-taking.

Customers will be afforded greater protection through more aggressive regulation, greater transparency and higher capital requirements.

Shareholders and creditors will benefit from a moderation of the boom-and-bust cycle that has wiped out most of their winnings even as it has enriched many employees and top executives.

It would be premature to declare that all of this adds up to a new model for American-style capitalism, one that achieves a fairer and more stable balance among the interests of customers, employees and shareholders. The one bit of good news from the current crisis, however, is that it is pushing us quickly in that direction.

Steven Pearlstein is a columnist for the Washington Post.

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On Wall Street, sky-high payouts may fall to Earth

By Samantha Gross
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — With the economy in the throes of a historic meltdown, financial workers everywhere fear layoffs. But even those who keep their jobs may face a far different future than they had imagined — one without the big payouts that have long made Wall Street a beacon for the ambitious and the acquisitive.

Those finance industry workers still standing after the brutal banking collapses of the past year had to contend with a major slash in bonus pay — with many losing as much as one-third of their total compensation. Then the Obama administration imposed a pay cap of \$500,000 on certain senior executives whose companies receive substantial bailout money.

Now, analysts anticipate pay will sink even further, and some question whether the shift could permanently downsize the high-flying culture of Wall Street.

"It's going to drop again in 2009, so it's a huge change," compensation consultant Alan Johnson said of the falling bonus payouts.

Johnson noted that pay has often dropped as part of a cyclical downturn and then rebounded after a few years. But he said the new federal pay caps have changed the equation and have many Wall Street workers concerned that their incentive pay could disappear altogether, cutting their compensation to one-third of what it was.

In the neighborhood surrounding the New York Stock Exchange, many finance industry employees say they

"You eat what you kill. It's a performance-based industry."

— Broker Drew R. Alexander

are more worried about keeping their jobs than they are about their paychecks dwindling. Some believe the loss in compensation goes with the territory.

"You eat what you kill. It's a performance-based industry," said broker Drew R. Alexander, who has seen his pay drop since October and reports that some friends have lost upward of 60 percent of their income.

Even many of those performing well are being forced to cut back on some expenses. Most finance sector employees have come to depend on bonuses and incentives to cover about two-thirds of their total income — but in 2008 that bonus pay was sliced by about 45 percent, cutting total compensation by about one-third, Johnson said.

That means, according to Johnson, that workers who recently got their MBAs and once would have expected more than \$150,000 in yearly pay likely got about \$105,000. Vice presidents, who in flush years have made \$300,000 to \$500,000, saw a drop of \$90,000 to \$150,000. Even secretaries, who including a small bonus often make about \$50,000 a year, have seen a drop.

At the big investment firms, where historically hundreds of employees have made millions, and thousands have made \$300,000 to \$500,000, workers are struggling to come to grips with a world gone suddenly awry.

"Morale is terrible right now," Johnson said. "People are getting laid off. Pay is down. You're working really hard."

A number of firms have seen a jump in the employee hours spent at the company gym, as people try to cope with declining opportunity and rising stress, he said.

Analysts believe the federal pay caps imposed on some of the highest-level executives, combined with public anger surrounding Wall Street bonuses, may very well trickle down to reduce the pay of employees at all levels of finance firms.

"It will have a deflationary impact on the organizations," said Pearl Meyer, executive compensation consultant with Steven Hall & Partners. "But I don't know how permanent that is."

"At the lower level, you're hitting Christmas money" with such cuts, along with home and car payments, Meyer said. New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg recently noted that more than half the city's financial services sector employees make less than \$100,000 a year.

And at the upper range of the ladder, long-term pay cuts could permanently shift the character of Wall Street — long famous for drawing daredevil risk-takers seeking a luxe lifestyle.

Growing up in suburban Summit, N.J., David Gunther was surrounded by invest-



AP file photo

A businessman walks his son to school past the New York Stock Exchange in New York in October 2008.

ment bankers and luxury sedans. After visiting a cousin on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, he was hooked.

"Being down there, everyone's yelling. They have their own language, their own talk, their own swagger," said Gunther, 23. "It always seemed like fast easy money" and was "portrayed as one big party."

Gunther thought he might land a job making \$80,000 out of college. Instead, shortly after graduation he was living with his parents and looking for his first job — hoping now for \$30,000 a year, and considering other industries.

"The game's completely changed," he said.

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Obama administration tries to kill e-mail case

By Pete Yost
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration, siding with former President George W. Bush, is trying to kill a lawsuit that seeks to recover what could be millions of missing White House e-mails.

Two advocacy groups suing the Executive Office of the President say that large amounts of White House e-mail documenting Bush's eight years in office may still be missing, and that the government must undertake an extensive recovery effort. They expressed disappointment that Obama's Justice Department is continuing the Bush administration's bid to get the lawsuits dismissed.

During its first term, the Bush White House failed to install electronic record-keeping for e-mail when it

switched to a new system, resulting in millions of messages that could not be found.

The Bush White House discovered the problem in 2005 and rejected a proposed solution.

Recently, the Bush White House said it had located 14 million e-mails that were misplaced and that the White House had restored hundreds of thousands of other e-mails from computer backup tapes.

The steps the White House took are inadequate, one of the two groups, the National Security Archive, told a federal judge in court papers filed Friday.

"We do not know how many more e-mails could be restored but have not been, because defendants have not looked," the National Security Archive said in the court papers.

"The new administration seems no more eager than

the last" to deal with the issue, said Anne Weismann, chief counsel for Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, the other group that sued the EOP.

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Official says Obama wants to halve budget deficit

By Liz Sidoti
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Barack Obama wants to cut the federal deficit in half by the end of his first term, mostly by scaling back Iraq war spending, raising taxes on the wealthiest and streamlining government, an administration official said Saturday as the president worked to finalize his first budget request.

Obama's proposal for the 2010 fiscal year that begins Oct. 1 projects that the estimated \$1.3 trillion deficit he has inherited from former President George W. Bush will be halved to \$533 billion by 2013. That's a difference of 9.2 percent of the overall economy now vs. 3 percent in four years.

"We can't generate sustained growth without getting our deficits under control," Obama said in his weekly radio and Internet address that seemed to preview his intentions. He said his budget



New York Times/AP photo

President Obama speaks about foreclosures on Wednesday in Mesa, Ariz. He is to release his budget Thursday.

will be "sober in its assessments, honest in its accounting, and lays out in detail my strategy for investing in what

we need, cutting what we don't, and restoring fiscal discipline."

He's expected to outline

some broad themes of his budget request Monday at a White House summit on fiscal policy and touch on it during

his first speech to Congress on Tuesday evening. He is slated to officially send at least a summary of it to Congress on Thursday, barely a week after his \$787 billion economic stimulus plan becoming law.

Obama's budget also is expected to take steps toward his campaign promises of establishing universal health care and lessening the country's reliance on foreign oil.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the president has not yet released his budget, said Obama hopes to achieve his deficit-reduction goal by generating savings as he follows through on three core campaign promises over the next four years.

He has pledged to wind down the Iraq war by withdrawing most combat troops within 16 months of taking office. He also has said he would let the temporary Bush tax cuts expire in 2011 for people making more than \$250,000 a year, effectively

raising taxes on those people. And, he has vowed to scale back spending and improve government efficiency by eliminating programs that don't work.

The budget projections suggest that Obama hasn't backed off of any of those priorities, despite relatively little movement on them and at least one misstep in his first month in office as he concentrated on lobbying for the economic stimulus plan and rescuing the housing, auto and financial sectors.

Pentagon officials still are trying to determine exactly how to scale back the U.S. troop commitment in Iraq. The president's sweeping economic plan didn't include any of the tax increases Obama, as a candidate, had said he would impose on wealthy taxpayers. And, Nancy Killefer, his selection for a newly created position charged with eliminating inefficient government programs, withdrew amid personal tax issues.

AROUND THE NATION

ILLINOIS Source: Feds interview Burris about Blagojevich

CHICAGO — Federal authorities interviewed U.S. Sen. Roland Burris on Saturday as they continued their corruption investigation of former Gov. Rod Blagojevich, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Burris, who left his home for several hours Saturday, declined to talk to reporters standing outside. Earlier in the week, he said federal investigators wanted to talk to him about their probe into Blagojevich. Burris said his attorneys had been trying to set up a meeting with investigators for some time.

A person familiar with the matter confirmed Saturday's meeting to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because the matter was confidential.

Burris spokesman Jim O'Connor declined comment, as did U.S. attorney's office spokesman Randall Samborn.

The Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Sun-Times and WMAQ-TV, citing people they did not name, reported that the meeting occurred at the Chicago offices of Burris' lawyer.

CALIFORNIA Man faces fallout from stint on 'Wife Swap'

SAN FRANCISCO — It's safe to say Stephen Fowler probably wishes he never appeared on "Wife Swap."

Fowler's stint on the ABC reality show last month, in which he called a rural Missouri woman spending two weeks in his San Francisco home stupid and simple, has made him famous in the worst way.

His performance has inspired a Web site, StephenFowlerSucks.com, a Facebook group, "I Can't Stand Stephen Fowler from 'Wife Swap,'" and public condemnation by his own wife, who on her blog urged him to get professional help.

What has generated such wrath is Fowler's condescending treatment of Gayla Long, a mother of four from rural Missouri whose family likes fast food and paintball. In wine-producing remarks, Fowler, who is British, wrote off middle America with such pronouncements as "Your two languages seem to be bad English and redneck."

Three weeks later, Fowler's "Wife Swap" antics are still a YouTube sensation, with at least 10 postings from the show's Jan. 30 episode displayed on the Web site, most with headings such as "ridiculous elitist" and "elitists gone wild."

Fowler, an environmental entrepreneur who develops biofuels, apologized in a statement posted on his wife's blog for behaving "like a complete jerk" and said he has resigned from the boards of two nonprofit corporations for reflecting badly on the organizations.

PENNSYLVANIA Journal Register files for bankruptcy protection

PHILADELPHIA — The Journal Register Co. filed Saturday for protection from creditors and said slumping advertising revenue and circulation are to blame.

In the Chapter 11 filing in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Manhattan, Journal Register proposed a restructuring plan in which it would cancel its stock and become a closely held company controlled by its lenders.

The Yardley, Pa.-based newspaper publisher reported \$596 million in assets as of Nov. 30 and \$692 million in debt, including unpaid interest. Revenue has fallen more than 20 percent since 2006, the company said in the filing.

In the documents, company Chairman and Chief Executive James W. Hall said the recession had placed an even greater burden on an already distressed industry.

On Thursday, JP Morgan Chase & Co. and 26 of the company's 37 lenders agreed to the reorganization, according to a statement posted Saturday on the Journal Register's corporate Web site.

The Journal Register owns 20 daily and 159 non-daily newspapers and has about 3,500 employees.

— The Associated Press

Salmonella outbreak highlights inspector shortage

ATLANTA (AP) — Tight state budgets have led some of the biggest farm states to leave dozens of food inspection jobs vacant at a time when hundreds have been sickened by a nationwide salmonella outbreak tied to a filthy peanut processing plant.

Georgia, the site of the plant, has about 60 inspectors for some 16,000 sites, while budget cuts have forced the state agriculture department to keep 15 inspector positions vacant.

California, Texas and Florida are among other states facing the same problems while food experts say the federal government relies increasingly on states to monitor the nation's food supply.

"You can only shift the pawns on the table so many times before the game catches up with you," Georgia deputy Agriculture Commissioner Oscar Garrison told legislators earlier this month while asking for more money to hire inspectors.

The salmonella outbreak linked to Peanut Corp. of America has sickened hundreds, may have caused nine deaths and prompted one of the largest food recalls in the nation's history. Federal investigators have launched a criminal

investigation, and Virginia-based Peanut Corp. faces mounting lawsuits and a bankruptcy filing.

Food safety experts warn each loss of an inspector increases the possibility that food problems could elude detection.

In the Georgia salmonella case, a state inspector found only minor problems when she probed the Blakely plant in October for less than two hours; less than three months later federal agents found roaches, mold, a leaking roof and other problems.

In Texas, eight of 42 manufactured food inspector positions are vacant, leaving 34 people to inspect about 21,000 facilities, from distributors to food salvage operations.

That's about one inspector for every 618 facilities, said Doug McBride, a spokesman

for the Texas Department of State Health Services. So inspectors have to focus on sites that make higher-risk foods or those with reported problems.

The agency was lobbying to add seven more positions even before a Peanut Corp. plant in Plainview tested positive for salmonella and was shut down.

The family of Macelino Gomez of Burley would like to extend our deepest gratitude to those who offered support and prayers during his life-threatening injuries sustained from a car accident. The strength of your prayers was felt and experienced in a deep way, which we consider to be miraculous. He continues his recovery at St. Alphonsus Hospital in Boise. Your calls & concerns meant so much to our family. Your friendship is a reflection of the many lives he has touched throughout the years. We especially want to thank the EMTs, the staff of Minidoka Memorial Hospital, St. Alphonsus, the Idaho State Police and everybody involved in his rescue and recovery. God bless you all,
Paula Gomez and family

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TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Variably to mostly cloudy skies. Highs, 40s. Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Lows, 30s. Tomorrow: Becoming windy with developing showers may mix with a little snow for a time. Highs, 40s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Mostly cloudy skies. Highs, 40s. Tonight: Likely still dry. Lows, 20s. Tomorrow: Strong winds at times with incoming showers and a little snow. Highs, 40s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

Map of Idaho showing weather forecasts for various regions including Sun Valley, Boise, and Northern Utah.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table showing weather forecast for Today, Tonight, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday with icons and temperature ranges.

Yesterday's Weather

Table showing weather data for various cities like Boise, Burley, Challis, etc., including high, low, and precipitation.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Almanac section including Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, Sunrise and Sunset, and Moonrise and Moonset data.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table providing weather forecasts for various cities across the region, including Boise, Burley, and others.

NATIONAL FORECAST

Table providing weather forecasts for major national cities like Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, etc.

WORLD FORECAST

Table providing weather forecasts for international cities like Acapulco, Athens, Beijing, etc.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP

National weather map showing fronts, cold, warm, and stationary systems across the United States.

Quote of the Day by Gregg Middlekauff: "Make the most of today. Translate your good intentions into actual deeds."

CANADIAN FORECAST

Table providing weather forecasts for Canadian cities like Calgary, Toronto, Vancouver, etc.

Wolf sighting raises questions about Oregon return

BEND, Ore. (AP) — A wolf sighting in Central Oregon has raised questions about whether the wild animal is making a comeback or whether it was a pet that escaped.

Chris Mortimer was driving over Santiam Pass several weeks ago when a large, dark animal ran out in front of his car.

The encounter lasted just long enough for Mortimer to grab his camera and snap a couple pictures before the animal ran into the woods.

Stephenson saw the pictures taken by Mortimer and followed large tracks for miles in the snow.

Biologists say it could be a wild wolf that made its way from Idaho, where wolf populations have thrived since they were introduced in 1995.

The animal Mortimer saw on Santiam Pass could also be some kind of wolf hybrid.

Large advertisement for CommercialTire.com featuring various coupons for oil changes, wheel alignment, brakes, and tire sales, along with promotional sizes and contact information for various locations.

Arrest warrant prepared in Chandra Levy case.

See Opinion 5

Other views, Opinion 3 / Nation, Opinion 4-5 / World, Opinion 6-7

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2009

OPINION EDITOR STEVE CRUMP: (208) 735-3223 SCRUMP@MAGICVALLEY.COM



EDITORIAL

Aquifer management plan is as good as we're going to get

It's not a breakthrough. No global solutions are in the offing in the Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan for the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer, which will go before the Legislature Monday. But it's a good road map — a balanced mix of the tried-and-true and the innovative.

Our view:

The Idaho Department of Water Resources' Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan for the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer, which the Legislature will consider this week, is a solid blueprint for addressing southern Idaho's ongoing water crisis.

Lawmakers should endorse it and find the money to get it started. The Legislature itself commissioned this plan nearly three years ago. Idaho was mired in drought at the time, threats of water-rights lawsuits were flying right, left and sideways, and during the irrigation season there were almost daily warnings that pumps might soon be padlocked. The plan, drawn up by Idaho Department of Water Resources staff, consultants and stakeholders, envisions restoring the aquifer's flows by using a variety of tools — recharge, ground-to-surface water conversions, buyouts, buydowns, subordination agreements, rotating fallowing of cropland and even weather modification.

The long-term goal is to incrementally "save" 600,000 acre-feet a year by 2030. To accomplish that, the state and water users will have to chip in between \$70 million and \$100 million during the first 10-year phase of the plan. Three-fifths of the funding would come from various user groups. The Idaho Department of Water Resources has asked for \$3 million from the Legislature to get the plan started, but that's in doubt this tight budget year. It's possible the IDWR may be able to come up with the money by diverting funds already reserved for other purposes, but the agency may not need the full \$3 million right away because these projects won't be implemented immediately. Our fear is that legislators will tinker with the delicately negotiated compromise on how much each group of water users will pay. If that happens, it's a dealbreaker. The list of folks who had a hand in drafting this plan includes representatives from across the economic spectrum in southern Idaho. A significant number of stakeholders aren't on board yet, but in its broad outlines this is the best blueprint we're going to get.

TIMES-NEWS

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

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

Beer, wine and prisons

Raise beverage taxes to pay for substance abuse treatment

KEITH ALLRED

Members of The Common Interest — Republicans, Democrats, and Independents from every corner of Idaho — have proposed raising the beer and wine tax. But why would anyone propose any kind of tax hike in these tough economic times?

We support raising the beer and wine tax to provide dedicated funding for substance abuse treatment because we believe it's the fiscally responsible thing to do. Idahoans will pay for substance abuse. The only question is how much we'll pay and when. Right now, we pay for substance abuse in prison costs (roughly \$50,000 per inmate serving an average sentence of 2 1/2 years), victim costs (including the costs we confront when we're hit by a drunk driver and those that family members incur when an abuser becomes violent), and in medical insurance premiums that are higher because substance abusers or their victims couldn't get preventative treatment and ended up in ERs. There is a better solution. We could pay less, earlier, by investing in substance abuse treatment. The Common Interest began to think seriously about the costs of substance abuse a year ago when we investigated the overcrowded prison problem. The Department of Correction had just estimated that we'd need to build \$1 billion in new prisons over the next ten years. We didn't like the tax burden this would create. Those costs definitely seemed too high.

So, recognizing that 85 percent of incarcerated offenders have substance abuse problems — problems that frequently factor in their arrests and that make rearrest upon release more likely — we looked at solutions that might be more cost effective than building prison capacity. The 226 members of The Common Interest who studied our policy brief were impressed by the research that finds that, on average,



Idaho's tax on beer hasn't increased in 49 years.

AP photo

How Idaho compares

Beer taxes (\$ per gallon)		Wine taxes (\$ per gallon)	
1, Alaska	\$1.07	1, Alaska	\$2.50
2, Hawaii	.93	2, Florida	2.25
3, South Carolina	.77	3, Iowa	1.75
4, Alabama	.53	4, Alabama	1.70
Tie, North Carolina	.53	Tie, New Mexico	1.70
6, Florida	.48	6, Georgia	1.51
7, Mississippi	.427	Tie, Virginia	1.51
8, New Mexico	.41	8, Hawaii	1.38
Tie, Utah	.41	9, Tennessee	1.21
10, Oklahoma	.40	10, Montana	1.06
11, Maine	.35	11, West Virginia	1.00
12, Georgia	.32	12, Delaware	.97
Tie, Louisiana	.32	13, Nebraska	.95
14, Nebraska	.31	Tie, Nevada	.93
15, New Hampshire	.30	15, South Carolina	.90
16, South Dakota	.27	16, Washington	.87
17, Vermont	.265	17, Arizona	.84
18, Washington	.261	18, North Carolina	.79
19, Virginia	.26	19, Arkansas	.75
20, Arkansas	.23		
21, California	.20		
Tie, Michigan	.20		
23, Connecticut	.19		
Tie, Iowa	.19		
Tie, Texas	.19		
26, Illinois	.185		
27, Kansas	.18		
Tie, Ohio	.18		
Tie, West Virginia	.18		
30, Arizona	.16		
Tie, Delaware	.16		
Tie, Nevada	.16		
Tie, North Dakota	.16		
34, Idaho	.15		
Tie, Minnesota	.15		
36, Montana	.14		
Tie, Tennessee	.14		
38, New Jersey	.12		
39, Indiana	.115		
40, Massachusetts	.11		
Tie, New York	.11		
42, Rhode Island	.10		
43, DC	.09		
Tie, Maryland	.09		
45, Colorado	.08		
Tie, Kentucky	.08		
Tie, Oregon	.08		
Tie, Pennsylvania	.08		
49, Missouri	.06		
Tie, Wisconsin	.06		
51, Wyoming	.02		
U.S. average	.188		
20, Illinois	.73		
21, Oklahoma	.72		
22, Nevada	.70		
Tie, New Jersey	.70		
24, Oregon	.67		
25, Connecticut	.60		
Tie, Maine	.60		
Tie, Rhode Island	.60		
28, Massachusetts	.55		
Tie, Vermont	.55		
30, Michigan	.51		
31, Kentucky	.50		
Tie, North Dakota	.50		
33, Indiana	.47		
34, Idaho	.45		
35, Maryland	.40		
36, Mississippi	.35		
37, Colorado	.32		
38, DC	.30		
Tie, Kansas	.30		
Tie, Minnesota	.30		
Tie, Missouri	.30		
Tie, Ohio	.30		
43, Wisconsin	.25		
44, California	.20		
Tie, Texas	.20		
46, New York	.19		
*47, Louisiana	.11		
U.S. average	.69		

Source: Federation of Tax Administrators

The particular image that haunts me is of the mother who will try to keep her family together on her own because her husband sits in prison. Especially in these hard times, we can't afford to lose the struggle to substance abuse and leave an empty chair.

for every \$1 a state invests in substance abuse treatment, there is a \$17 return — \$8 that won't be lost by victims of crime and \$9 in taxpayer savings. Funding substance abuse treatment saves tax

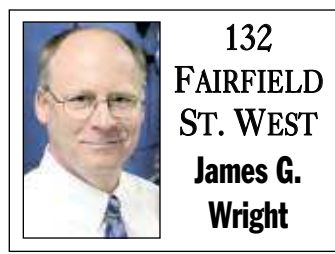
dollars. That's just as true in a tough economy as in a robust economy. It's just more needed now. Idaho has struggled to fund substance treatment adequately. Last year, the

governor vetoed nearly \$17 million in treatment, then, meeting resistance in the Legislature, settled for cutting funding by 10 percent.

See ALCOHOL, Opinion 2

Idaho newspapers aren't immune to tough times

Times are tight. No doubt about it. Last week the Idaho Falls-based Post Register announced that starting March 2 it will print papers just six days a week, dropping its Monday edition. Publisher Roger Plowthow said he didn't want to do it, but that "... financial realities require all businesses, including the Post Register, to make hard but necessary decisions to ensure we continue to thrive during down times." Those down times have hit the news industry much like a pit bull on a raw steak. Several major media organizations are in bankruptcy or could soon be; big papers in places like Denver and Seattle will close in coming weeks; waves of layoffs have decimated newsrooms nationwide. Closer to home, the Standard Journal in Rexburg



132 FAIRFIELD ST. WEST James G. Wright

is becoming a three-day-a-week paper, down from five. The reasons for the rapid decline of money for news are many and complex — and they go far beyond newspapers or issues of how we cover things. Rick Edmonds, who tracks news industry trends for the Poynter Institute, wrote last week that spending on all forms of advertising nationwide was fallen by about 20 percent compared to the same quarter last year. That means tight times not only for all forms of media that depend on ad dollars to pay the bills. South-central Idaho is

doing better than some regions — including parts of Idaho that were booming just months ago — but we're not immune to the downturn. We're running fewer display and classified ads, which translates into fewer pages in the paper for news because ad volume drives that calculation. Does that mean we'll stop printing on some days? All I can say is that the Times-News remains in the black and we have no plans to eliminate days of the week. And we had some good news last week: Lee Enterprises, the company that owns this paper and dozens more around the country, announced that it has negotiated more favorable terms on \$1.1 billion in debt, much of it stemming from past purchases of other newspapers. The refinancing gives Lee

a lot of breathing room while we weather the recession, but nothing is certain. No one can say how deep the downturn will go or when it will end. All I can say is that we'll keep slugging away in the face of adversity and doing the best we can with what we have until things get better. Idahoans are stubborn that way. Last week we wrote about Jason C. Smith, a former Twin Falls man who successfully sued the state to get out from under the designation of "violent sexual predator." In the response to that article was this note: "My concern is that Jason Smith is a pretty common name for young men of that age, (quite a few living in

Idaho) and how the article may affect their lives. Would you consider a follow up article regarding how common the name is and for folk to be sure that when they encounter someone with that name to check before assuming the worst? "My son has that name and is an Idaho resident. I would hate to think that he might be treated unfairly or receive threats due to the article." While an article about this one name would be overkill, let's take a minute to explore the ways we present information to prevent exactly that kind of confusion. In almost all stories about crimes you'll see the age of the accused. Often you'll see the person's hometown and, if it's known, their address and middle initial. To some readers that might just seem like unnecessary detail, but it's there for a reason: All of

those points of information help narrow the field and prevent some innocent bystander from being confused with a legitimate bad actor. Take Jason Smith, for example. As noted in last week's story, Smith the former VSP is 33 years old and he now lives somewhere in the Midwest. Those details alone rule out every other Jason Smith in Idaho. But wait, there's more. We ran a mug shot of the former VSP — not just so that people would know what he looks like, but also so that our readers know that the Jason Smith down the street, who is blond and 50, isn't the same guy. Times-News Editor James G. Wright may be reached at 735-3255 or james.wright@lee.net.

Legislature has done right by public schools

In reading James Cobble's opinion on school funding in the newspaper on Feb. 15, I would respectfully wish to offer a little different view.

Mr. Cobble is correct; Idaho's public school funding formula, like most other states, is famously complex. However, an attempt to describe the funding system through a few bullet points actually does a disservice to the public.

I would have to disagree with Mr. Cobble on his state-



READER COMMENT
Rep. Maxine Bell

ment that public school funding is built on an unstable tax system. Quite the contrary. The state portion of the public school funding relies on sales tax, personal income tax, corporate income tax, product taxes, miscellaneous

revenues, lottery dividends and endowment fund dividends. This is a system that absorbs downturns in various sectors and continues to pay for the growth of new students in the school system every year. Additionally, teacher compensation rose by 4 percent in 2008 and 2.5 percent in 2009. Further, since 1995, the public schools appropriation from the Legislature has outpaced inflation.

Most other states are in dire straits with some having to

cut more than 10 percent of their school budget from their current year. The Idaho Legislature has built reserve funds for these situations and, in the face of drastic revenue decreases, the schools and school children will be held harmless during the current school year. FY 2010 will be the challenge, as we don't know where the bottom is. Stimulus funds could help but are only a one-time reprieve. Therefore, we need to continuously look for ways to be more efficient. Raising

taxes is not an option. Lastly, let's be clear on charter schools. Traditional schools and charter schools use the same funding formula, same staff allowance, same base salaries and same set of divisors to determine the annual appropriation. This is detailed in Title 33, Chapter 10, Idaho Code. The exception is that charter schools with less than 100 students use a smaller divisor to determine support units. However, there is only one charter school in the state with less

than 100 students. While some may view the issue of education funding a little differently, Mr. Cobble and those of us in the Legislature share the same goal. We both want to provide quality education for the children of Idaho.

Maxine Bell, a Republican from Jerome, represents Jerome and Minidoka counties in the Idaho House of Representatives. She is the chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee.

GOP played hardball on stimulus — and lost badly

Arlen Specter was one of just three Senate Republicans to buck his party and vote in favor of President Obama's stimulus package. After he announced his decision, he says, a fellow GOP senator approached him in private to offer congratulations.

When asked, however, that unknown senator declined to join Specter because he was too afraid of drawing a primary challenge. He was glad somebody was doing the right thing, but he wouldn't risk it himself.

As Specter put it, "there are a lot of people in the Republican caucus who are glad to see this action taken without their fingerprints, without their participation. ... I think a good part of the caucus agrees with the person I quoted."

In the House, of course, not a single Republican voted in favor of the stimulus bill, a fact the GOP celebrated as a great victory. As Republican Party chairman Michael Steele later told the House GOP, "The goose egg that you laid on the president's desk was just beautiful."

Given such remarks, it's pretty clear that Republicans in Congress decided to approach the stimulus measure not on its merits but as a matter of party discipline; they voted not as individuals with minds of



JAY BOOKMAN

their own, but in lockstep, as a party following a herd instinct.

Before the vote, the small number of GOP members who had expressed support for the stimulus or were waffling were pressured not to betray their fellow party members, and the pressure worked.

In parliamentary systems such as Great Britain, of course, such party-line votes are common, but until the early '90s, they were relatively rare in Congress. That changed when Newt Gingrich became House minority whip and began to use party-line votes as a way to define the GOP brand to the American public.

In 1993, for instance, President Clinton proposed a major tax increase to help bring down soaring deficits and restore fiscal confidence on Wall Street. The proposal passed, but without a single Republican vote in the House. After that vote, Gingrich made a prediction about its economic impact:

"We'll be in a recession by next year, and I think (Clinton's) tax increase will

increase the deficit by putting Americans out of work."

In economic terms, Gingrich could not have been more mistaken. The deficit did not increase; it fell annually from \$300 billion in 1993, reaching surplus in 1999. The average unemployment rate — 6.9 percent in 1993 — also declined in every subsequent year of Clinton's presidency.

However, if Gingrich's stand was bad economics, it proved to be good politics. The party unity they displayed helped define the Republicans as tax-cutters and the Democrats as tax-hikers in the public eye, contributing significantly to the surprise Republican takeover of the House in 1994. That's the model House Republicans are trying to emulate.

However, there's another example that may prove more telling. In late 1995, Gingrich again used party discipline to block passage of a federal budget and forcing a shutdown of the government. The American people were not amused, and this time they sided not with the Republicans but with Clinton. Gingrich was forced to publicly back down, a humiliation he never overcame.

At a time of perceived crisis, in other words, public tolerance for partisan games proved pretty low. And the standoff of 14 years ago

doesn't compare in severity to the economic emergency confronting us today.

In poll after poll, roughly 60 percent of Americans say they approve of how Obama is handling the economy. More tellingly, in a CNN poll 60 percent of Americans say they approve of how congressional Democrats are handling it, while 55 percent disapprove of Republican congressional leadership.

A new AP poll puts it even more starkly — 68 percent approve of Obama's handling of the economy, 49 percent approve of how congressional Democrats are approaching it. Only 33 percent approve of the Republican approach, with 59 percent disapproving.

In times of stress, people naturally seek comfort in unity. The Republicans, hurting politically, turned to each other for that comfort. But the American people, also under stress, also sought unity and instead saw the GOP act in boldly partisan fashion. They clearly don't approve.

Jay Bookman is a columnist for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Write to him at jbookman@ajc.com.

QUOTABLE

"(Human rights concerns) can't interfere with the global economic crisis, the global climate change crisis and the security crises."

— Secretary of State Hillary Clinton ahead of talks with Chinese leaders in Beijing

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Alcohol

Continued from Opinion 1

This year, with tax revenues shrinking, the governor has proposed to scale back the treatment request again. By providing more dedicated funding for substance abuse treatment, we would ensure that we're always making the smart investment. We would also help to ensure treatment capacity. With our volatile funding history, Idaho has struggled to attract substance abuse providers. With a stable, dedicated funding source in place, those providers will come.

We're proposing a modest increase. We'd like to restore revenues to just less than half of the original purchasing power of the tax and shift the tax from volume to price so that as the costs of alcohol abuse climb, our revenue will climb as well. This translates into pocket change for the average alcohol consumer. The beer tax, which

hasn't risen since 1961, will go from 1.4 cents to 4.9 cents per can while the wine tax, unchanged since 1971, will rise from 1.8 cents to 6.1 cents per glass. Someone who drinks a six-pack a week will pay about \$1 more each month. The 20 percent of drinkers who consume 88 percent of the alcohol and are most prone to abuse alcohol will pay much more. And they should, since they are responsible for most of the costs that the rest of us otherwise must bear.

So, we have a choice. We can impose a modest cost on all drinkers or live with the higher costs that substance abuse imposes on all. We already know what those costs look like. The particular image that haunts me is of the mother who will try to keep her family together on her own because her husband sits in prison. Especially in these hard times, we can't afford to lose

the struggle to substance abuse and leave an empty chair.

The House Revenue and Taxation Committee will hold a hearing on House Bill 140 on Monday at 9 a.m. You can find out more about the details of the bill at www.TheCommonInterest.org. We hope you'll join us in supporting this effort to be more fiscally responsible in these challenging times.

Keith Allred of Eagle is the president of The Common Interest, a nonpartisan, Boise-based public interest group. A former public policy professor at Harvard University, he's a native of Twin Falls and a 1983 graduate of Twin Falls High School.

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OTHER VIEWS

Here's what Idaho newspapers are saying about ...

... give it back

Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum

Idaho will receive up to \$1 billion from the \$787 billion stimulus package approved by Congress late last week.

With 50,000 Idahoans out of work and more on the way, businesses struggling to keep the doors open, a few thousand homes facing foreclosure and families in distress, passage of the package came none too soon. The news also led the state Legislature to halt consideration of draconian cuts to public education because of expected federal cash infusions.

Yet, Idaho's two senators made a special trip home ... to explain to Idaho why its entire four-man congressional delegation ... voted against the federal stimulus bill.

Idaho Sen. Mike Crapo told the supermajority of his fellow Republicans in the state Legislature that he opposed the bill because he isn't convinced that a nation can spend itself into prosperity.

He and Idaho junior Sen. Jim Risch warned that the bill is being financed with debt that will burden the nation's children and grandchildren and will ultimately do more harm than good ... Crapo admonished legislators to be careful how they spend the money.

We have a better idea. They shouldn't spend it at all. If the stimulus package is really so awful and so harmful to younger generations, Idaho should make itself an example and refuse to accept the money.

The state should not create jobs that would put an estimated 18,000 Idahoans to work, extend the unemployment benefits of others or improve the roads, bridges



and schools that are the backbone of the state's economy ...

There should be only one exception. The state should allow the three Idaho counties with a majority of voters who supported President Obama — Blaine, Latah and Teton — to receive money for projects in those counties ...

Otherwise, Idaho is just a state full of chattering hypocrites.

... human rights for some

Lewiston Tribune

It's bad enough that Idaho legislators repeatedly refuse to extend the state's anti-discrimination law to include sexual orientation, but thanks to appointments from the state's two most recent governors, now the Idaho Human Rights Commission won't even back such a move.

... the commission voted 5-4 to reverse its previous support for giving sexual minorities the same protection provided to victims of discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender and disability.

Commission President Estella Zamora said she was disappointed and saddened by the vote, Nathaniel Hoffman of the *Boise Weekly* reported.

No kidding? The commission and its staff, under the consecutive directorships of Marilyn Shuler and Leslie Goddard, have long been staunch advocates for equal treatment of all Idahoans. But state law has yet to



agree that sexual minorities merit equality.

And if the state's commission charged with overseeing claims of discrimination won't agree to it, how can legislators be expected to?

That's a good question for Butch Otter and Dirk Kempthorne, each of whom appointed people to the commission who might be good Republican activists but, judging from their votes last week, are anything but promoters of equality for all.

The most stupefying vote against the motion to continue supporting inclusion of sexual minorities in the law came from Vernon Baker of St. Maries ... in 1996, when President Clinton awarded him the Medal of Honor he had earned 51 years earlier while fighting in Italy during World War II.

Baker's heroism had not been rewarded until then because he is black.

And it is no credit to him that he today refuses to help lift discrimination against people who are gay ...

... soft on child molesters?

Post Register, Idaho Falls

Idaho would rather continue the failed war on drugs than wage one against child molesters.

Startling as that sounds, consider the evidence:

Last week, a group of lawmakers blocked activist Paul Steed's bill to impose mandatory minimum prison sentences on people who sexually abuse children



younger than 16. Some, notably Senate Judiciary Chairman Denton Darrington, R-Declo, said they simply don't like interfering with local judges — although recent examples of judicial leniency suggest we should.

But others simply said locking up more pedophiles ... would break the state budget.

If Steed had proposed Jessica's Law, which involves sentences of 25 or 30 years in prison, costs would skyrocket. Idaho now spends \$185 million a year on its prison system. Jessica's Law would add \$50 million to those costs within 30 years.

But Steed didn't want Jessica's Law. He wanted people convicted of lewd conduct with a child to serve at least seven years. Those convicted of sexual abuse of a child would serve at least five. Once released, they would serve a strict, supervised parole. That would expose child molesters to the inside of prison while impressing judges with the public's emerging intolerance for this crime.

To say Idaho can't afford Steed's plan is a cop-out. Idaho need not build new prisons to house more molesters. It just needs to make better choices.

For instance, more than 20 percent of the people sitting in prison — 1,388 — were convicted of drug offenses. Ironically, some of them are serving mandatory minimum sentences ...

Allowing an untreatable predator back on the streets after a few months in jail risks subjecting a child to a lifetime of pain ...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Idaho should refuse bailout funds

Hip, hip, hooray, ole, etc. You hit the nail on the head with "we're hypocrites."

My feelings exactly and I back it with a letter to Walt Minnick in Washington.

I'm thinking since our Idaho representatives voted 100 percent against this stimulus that we should refuse it — give to some states that really care and need it. Why, Idaho just saved the American taxpayers millions! So, Idaho should now say no to the stimulus and give it back. Or will Idaho stand with its hand out like Batt did when we had flood damage but, like Batt, not be the one to accept the check in person and take it anyway?

As an editor, you realize you stick your neck out on each opinion and, sure, you will get some flack, but realize some do agree, and when I write a letter, I also realize the flack will come.

JEANNE MEYER
Twin Falls

Reader wants answers from Crapo and Simpson

To Sen. Mike Crapo and Rep. Mike Simpson:

It is my understanding that both of you voted against the Congressional Stimulation Bill last week. I would like to know why you voted against it, and what you proposed or will propose to help our country in this financial crisis, how you would restore the thousands of dollars in retirement funds that I lost because of the financial crisis, and what you would do to prevent this from happening again in the future.

Since you voted against the bill, do you feel it appropriate to recommend that Idaho not receive any of the stimulation bill funds?

Finally, my local televi-

sion station went digital Feb. 17. I cannot receive the signal because I have been unable to get coupons from the Digital Conversion office because Congress did not authorize enough funds to provide coupons.

Thank you for your service to all residents of Idaho.

GEORGE E. BROWN
Twin Falls

Immigrants should learn English

I recently received a flier advertising the "Gooding County Food Distribution." It was held Feb. 19 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Wendell Fire Department. Fresh produce, milk, bread, meat, and more was provided to anyone in need of assistance with food on a first-come, first-served basis. This wonderful and greatly needed event was sponsored by Idaho Food Bank, Wendell and Hagerman United Methodist churches, and Hagerman Christian Center.

This reminded me of pictures I've seen during the Depression of the '30s, when people lined up in soup lines; only now, we have food banks. I think we've only seen the tip of the iceberg as far as food lines in our communities.

But the main reason I'm writing this letter is that on the back of this flier, the same words were written in guess what? You guessed it, Spanish. How long are we going to tolerate putting up with this foreign language in our country that speaks English? If I moved to Mexico, the first thing I would do is learn the language, not expect them to learn mine. Wake up, people; put your foot down and demand they learn English!

BONNIE SMITH
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Business Highlight

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Karyl Myers and Chet Suiter are proud to introduce Glimpse Intuitive Skin Care to the Magic Valley. Glimpse is a revolutionary skin nutrition system that offers men and women a choice for non-toxic skin care products. Each day the average woman uses 12 personal care products containing 168 chemical ingredients, and the average man uses 6 products containing 86 chemicals. These prevalent toxins have been linked to the rising rates of cancer, learning disorders, fertility complications, and other diseases.

After a brief retirement (Karyl after 37 years with CSI and Chet after more than 40 years in construction), they found that they had the energy and drive to embark upon building a business of their own. At about the same time, Glimpse Intuitive Skin Care presented them with the opportunity they were looking for. Karyl and Chet feel strongly about health and well being and wanted to be involved with distributing these quality products.

Glimpse Intuitive Skin Care is brought to you through network marketing. Karyl and Chet offer these products to you at retail. The four step system consists of Creamy or Gel Cleanser, Skin Toner, Serum, and Moisturizing Cream for dry skin or Moisturizing Lotion for combination skin. These revolutionary products offer 30 times the anti-oxidant power of Green Tea — with no harmful ingredients. Glimpse promotes and protects clearer, younger-looking skin at prices comparable to department store products. For a free sample and consultation, give Karyl and Chet a call today at 208-733-9412 or 320-6759.

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Business Highlight

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Boy charged with killing dad's pregnant girlfriend

By Ramit Plushnick-Masti
Associated Press writer

WAMPUM, Pa. — An 11-year-old boy shot his father's pregnant girlfriend in the back of the head while she was lying in bed in their western Pennsylvania farmhouse, then got on the school bus and went to school, authorities said Saturday.

Jordan Brown was charged Saturday as an adult in the shooting death of Kenzie Marie Houk, who was 8 months pregnant, Lawrence County District Attorney John Bongivengo said at a news conference.

Brown, the son of Houk's live-in boyfriend, was charged with criminal homicide and criminal homicide of an unborn child, Bongivengo said. He was being held in Lawrence County Jail.

The fifth-grader was picked up from school Friday by Pennsylvania State Police,

who found Houk's body after her 4-year-old daughter told tree cutters on the property that she thought her mother was dead, Bongivengo said.

The boy had told police there was a suspicious black truck on the property that morning, causing investigators to look into a false lead for about five hours, he said.

Inconsistencies in Brown's description of the vehicle led police to re-interview the victim's 7-year-old daughter, who implicated the boy in the killing, Bongivengo said.

"She didn't actually eyewitness the shooting. She saw him with what she believed to be a shotgun and heard a loud bang," Bongivengo said, adding that the weapon, a youth model 20-gauge shotgun, was found in what police believed was the boy's bedroom.

The shotgun, which apparently belonged to Brown, is designed for children and

such weapons do not have to be registered, Bongivengo said.

Brown's attorney, Dennis Elisco, said the evidence points to the gunshot wound being "consistent" with the boy's hunting gun, but he wanted to see stronger proof that it was Brown's.

"I believe Jordan did not do this and I'm looking forward to seeing the physical evidence to see if it matches with what I think happened," he said Saturday after meeting with the boy in jail.

The attorney also said he met with the boy's father, Christopher Brown, and planned to file a motion Monday to have the boy released on bail and move the case to juvenile court.

The attorney said Christopher Brown was "in a state of actual shock and disbelief." There was no indication the boy had a problem with Houk, he added.

Hundreds attend memorials held for two Buffalo plane crash victims

CLARENCE, N.Y. (AP) — Hundreds of mourners gathered Saturday to remember a Sept. 11 widow killed in a commuter plane crash and the owner of the suburban Buffalo home that was destroyed by the crash.



Eckert

The two were among the 50 people who died when Flight 3407 from Newark, N.J., fell from the sky as it approached the Buffalo airport on Feb. 12, killing all 49 people aboard

and a man who was in the house.

Beverly Eckert, 57, was aboard the Continental Connection turboprop on her way to her hometown to celebrate what would have been the 58th birthday of her late husband Sean Rooney.

Bill Bourque, her brother-in-law, said in a Buffalo church that Eckert carried the grief of Rooney's death in the burning World Trade Center by becoming a prominent advocate for the families of the Sept. 11 victims.

"She was not in it to be a hero," he said. "She was in it so that this would not happen to anyone ever again. ... She

did what she set out to do. We love you Beverly."

Another service, in an auditorium at the Clarence Middle School that Douglas Wielinski's four daughters attended, honored the owner of the two-story house who died when the plane fell on the Clarence home.

Wielinski's wife, Karen, and their 22-year-old daughter, Jill, survived with minor injuries by crawling through a hole in the wreckage. A house next door also was damaged.

"The pain is great, but the memories are greater and the love will remain," Karen Wielinski said in a message read by a friend at the service.

Business Highlight

-- Dr. Alan Fox -- My Family's Introduction to Chiropractic

I came to understand the importance of health when I was sixteen years old. My father, a former WWII hero and a very athletic man, began to deteriorate before my eyes. He began to suffer from pain in his entire right side. It was in his shoulder, neck, arm and even his right hip and leg. At first pain pills helped, but over a period of weeks and months, the pain grew worse. The pills upset his stomach, and he became more ill and depressed. I saw the adverse effects of his illness on my mom and our family. Doctor after doctor just gave him the same advice – take more pills. He got to a point that he could only sleep for 15 minutes at a time. A friend suggested he see Dr. Pangle, a Doctor of Chiropractic. At the time, Dad did not know what a chiropractor was, but he was desperate. Dr. Pangle conducted a spinal examination and x-rays to find the cause of the condition, not just a treatment of the pain. He located a small misalignment (subluxation) in Dad's neck. The irritated nerves coming from that area were the source of the problem. Dad had a series of adjustments over several months. Miraculously, in less than 90 days, after being sick for over a year, Dad not only received relief but function back in his right side. It was truly amazing for Dad, but it was fantastic to me to see such a wonderful change in my family. I learned that illness affects the entire family unit, and I never forgot that experience. Later I experienced first hand the wonderful benefits of chiropractic after I suffered many sports injuries as a former athlete. Chiropractic added years to my life and life to my years!



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Business Highlight

Dunkley Music, located at 1160 Blue Lakes Blvd. North in Twin Falls, is a locally owned, full-service music store that opened in 2003 under the management of Linda Schoepp. We also offer a second location in Boise. Our stores offer a complete line of pianos, keyboards, digital pianos, band and orchestra rent-to-own, drums, guitars, print music, teaching materials, accessories and repair and moving services.

We have recently expanded our services, and now provide a Lowrey Organ Learning Center in downtown Twin Falls which offers adult keyboard lessons and lots of fun. We are also a multiple award winning Steinway & Sons dealer, which is the premier piano company in the world. We carry the very best products available, and win our awards with outstanding customer service. We pride ourselves on our friendly, approachable, knowledgeable staff, developed from a base of over 59 years total in business.

Our original location in Boise was founded by William K. Dunkley in 1950. In the past twenty years we have experienced huge growth, which lead to our expansion into the Twin Falls location in 2003. We are still family owned and operated, now under the ownership and direct, hands-on management of Mark Dunkley.

Our company is all about education - both of adults and children. To that end, we sponsor teacher clinics and professional organizations, student recitals, in-store lessons, and financial and in-kind donations to schools, including the College of Southern Idaho. We send our representatives to the local schools, even making hand deliveries when needed.

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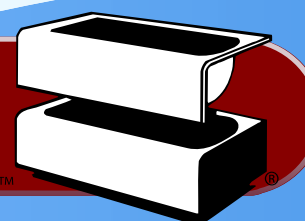


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Arrest warrant prepared in Chandra Levy case

By Gillian Gaynair
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Investigators in the 2001 slaying of Chandra Levy have prepared an arrest warrant for a Salvadoran immigrant convicted of similar attacks in the park where the former intern disappeared, a person close to the investigation said Saturday.

The person told The Associated Press that Ingmar Guandique's arrest is imminent and an official announcement is expected soon. The person was not authorized to discuss the case publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Levy had just completed an internship with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons when she went missing in May 2001 in Washington, D.C. The 24-year-old was wearing jogging clothes when she vanished, and her remains were discovered in Rock Creek Park a year later.

Authorities questioned former U.S. Rep. Gary Condit in Levy's disappearance, but he was never a suspect in her death. Condit was reportedly having an affair with Levy, and the negative publicity from the case was cited as a main reason the California lawmaker lost re-election in 2002.

Guandique, 27, has denied any involvement in Levy's disappearance and killing. However, investigators interviewed him in the Levy case after he was convicted of attacking two women joggers in Rock Creek Park shortly after her disappearance.

Guandique was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for those attacks. The federal Bureau of Prisons lists an inmate in California with the same sentence and age, but with the spelling Guandigue instead of Guandique. A message seeking comment



AP file photo

Chandra Ann Levy, a 24-year-old graduate student from University of Southern California, seen in this undated photo, has been missing since April 2001, after completing a federal internship.

was not returned.

Levy's father, Robert Levy, said Washington, D.C., Police Chief Cathy Lanier called his home late Friday and said there would be an arrest in a few days.

Robert Levy said he and his wife, Susan, were not told the identity of the person to be arrested "but we all know who it is." He would not elaborate but said they would favor a life sentence for the killer.

"If someone is executed, they really don't suffer too much," he said from his home in Modesto, Calif.

A second person aware of the investigation, a law enforcement official who spoke to investigators, said Saturday that the break in the case came in part from DNA evidence. The official, who spoke on the condition of

anonymity because the Levy investigation is ongoing, said DNA evidence was either retested or collected, and it was connected to Guandique.

The official said D.C. police have interviewed Guandique at least twice, and the case has been sent to a grand jury.

An attorney for Condit said the new revelations clear the former congressman.

"This should give the Levys the answer and closure they deserve, and remove the unfair cloud that has hung over the Condit's for too long," said Abbe Lowell, a Washington lawyer.

Condit did not return several messages left by The Associated Press but said in a statement to WJLA-TV in Washington that he is glad the Levy family is finally getting answers.

Business Highlight

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Business Highlight

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We analyze your face shape, natural coloring and lifestyle...and then we help you choose just the right frame for you. Your vision is very important to us so we have searched globally for all your eyewear needs. You may believe that all of this is expensive. Don't worry we have frames and lenses for all budgets. Come see us for your next pair of glasses...you will never forget the service level dedicated to you and your experience. The ambiance of the office brings a mixture of Asia, Indian, and European artwork. Pleasant music, joyful surroundings, a warm café latte, homemade candy, hot apple Turkish tea is all yours to enjoy while you are being consulted. In the boutique you may well meet other clients from all over the world including South America, Australia and Europe. Ann's love of optics and her client service have contributed to her success.

Optometrist Dr. Frederick Prins is here to help you with even the most difficult prescriptions. His examinations are exact and precise, giving you the best in correction for your vision.

Owner Ann Rangen-Braga and her staff are committed to "Service Above All," a work ethic was inspired by her father Thorleif Rangen, a successful businessman himself, who immigrated from Norway at the age of three.



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Business Highlight

2nd Time Around, located at 689 Washington St. North, is a locally owned business operated by Claudia Reese. They have been open for business since 1997.

Within the past year, they have opened a second location in Shoshone in The Whistle Stop building at 102 S. Rail St. They have also done some remodeling, changed displays, and added more services. "Our store does a good business, so new items are added constantly making both stores take on a new look all the time" says Claudia. Over the next year, they plan to increase their presence in the community of Shoshone, and to become more involved in community activities. Claudia's son, Payson Reese, is the manager of the store in Shoshone. In addition to his involvement in the Shoshone Chamber of Commerce, Horizons Group, Arts in the Park, Farmer's Markets and the Historical Society, he has also started a new Flea Market at the Twin Falls County Fairgrounds.

With 25 dedicated dealers between the two stores, the inventory at 2nd Time Around is always changing. With that much inventory coming in and out of the stores, nothing ever stays the same. The two stores provide quality antiques and collectibles - everything from antique furniture, cowboy collectibles, fine glassware & pottery, books, country & cabin décor, decorator items, backyard garden items and much more. The dealers also provide Refinishing Services, Estate Sales, an Auction Service and a certified appraiser.

We are open year-round at both locations, Monday through Saturday. Both stores provide a clean & friendly environment and the coffee is always on. Many of their dealers have been with Claudia for years, but they keep up with current trends.

For over 8 years we have provided FREE Antique Appraisal Fairs at the Twin Falls store sometimes in conjunction with Twin Falls Parks & Recreation. Claudia also teaches a class on antiques for CSI Northside Center, and has been superintendent for the Twin Falls County Fair Antique Department for the last six years.

For more information, check out their Web site at www.idahoantiquemall.net, or call the store at 208.734-6008. You can also reach them via email at 2ndtimearound@onewest.net.

2nd Time Around
Antique Mall



689 Washington St. North
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301
10:00-5:00 Mon-Sat
208-734-6008
Toll Free:
877-734-6008

Owner: Claudia Reese
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2nd Time Around
at the
Whistle Stop



102 South Rail St. East
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A MEXICAN KIDNAPPING: Police apathy, few answers

By Alexandra Olson
Associated Press writer

MEXICO CITY — Manuel Ramirez carries a tattered briefcase with wrinkled court documents and photos of his daughter, now missing for four long years. He no longer wants revenge. He just wants to know what happened.

His wife, Adela Alvarado, spends her days praying. She no longer uses mascara because she is frequently on the verge of tears. She once worked as a clown at children's parties. Now, she wears her orange wig and baggy harlequin costume to draw attention in the streets when handing out fliers with her daughter's picture.

To uncover the truth, they have gone to three different police agencies, battling apathy and the suspected complicity of some officers. And still they search, despite being driven from their home by death threats.

Their daughter, Monica Alejandrina Ramirez, is among thousands of Mexicans who have simply disappeared as kidnappings multiply.

Once, mostly millionaires were targeted. But like Monica, the daughter of a government doctor, more and more victims are middle- and working class. Since citizens fear police and most crimes go unsolved, kidnappings have become an increasingly sure bet. Even the poorest people are snatched off the streets now, for ransoms as low as a few hundred dollars.

"We try to live as normally as possible but do we forget? Or suddenly say, 'Oh I don't feel as bad,' or the pain is not as suffocating? No. No. No. No," said Adela Alvarado, her eyes welling as she clutched her prayer books to her chest. "It's not like clothes that you can take on and off."

About 70 abductions are reported monthly, but the government acknowledges that many more are never logged because Mexicans believe police may be incompetent, or involved in the crime themselves. The non-profit Citizens' Institute for Crime Studies estimates actual kidnappings are closer to 500 a month, which would make Mexico a world leader.

Most kidnap victims survive, but a growing number simply vanish, private investigator Max Morales said. He has worked on hundreds of kidnappings over the last 20 years, and says the crimes are increasingly going awry as petty thugs take up what was once the province of organized gangs.

The federal government could not provide nationwide figures on missing people, but the Mexico City Attorney General's office alone has posted more than 4,000 pictures of people reported missing in the capital in the past year who have not been found.

The Ramirezes' daughter disappeared after leaving home on Dec. 14, 2004, to turn in a university assignment. She was 19.

Scouring hospitals and posting fliers, her family feared their beloved "Ale" had been killed in an accident or robbery. They doubted anyone would kidnap the daughter of a government doctor with a \$3,000 monthly salary.

Then Ramirez got the text message from his daughter's cell phone: "If you ever want to see Ale again, pay us 250,000 pesos," some \$25,000 at the time.

Meanwhile, Ramirez had gone to the local state police office, thinking they might help.

"I was desperate. My daughter had not shown up, and they were refusing to take my statement. They sat drinking coffee, bureaucracy, I don't know," Ramirez said.

Ramirez says he never got a straight answer about the investigation. Only years later did he learn that the son of an officer from the same station was involved in her disappearance.

So Ramirez turned to the



Adela Alvarado, the mother of kidnap victim Monica Alejandra Ramirez, holds a picture of her daughter at a family member's home in Mexico City, in October 2008.

AP photo

feds, hoping they would be more professional. Officers spent several weeks at their house, waiting for the kidnappers to call. And Ramirez got two more text messages — the last one read, "Do you have the money, or do you want her back in pieces?"

He left several voice messages saying he was ready to negotiate and begging them not to hurt Monica.

Nobody ever called back — Ramirez now wonders if they knew police were standing by.

Ramirez eventually turned up the first lead on his own. He went to the phone company and got records showing someone was still calling from his daughter's phone to acquaintances of Jesus Contreras, one of Monica's university friends, who had denied seeing her the day she disappeared.

Ramirez brought this information to a face-to-face meeting with Noe Ramirez, no relation, who then led the federal police's anti-kidnaping unit. If he ever acted on it, the family was never told.

"We poured out our grief, our anguish," Manuel

Ramirez said. "But in the end, he brushed us off."

Later promoted to Mexico's drug czar, Noe Ramirez was fired in July and charged on Sunday with accepting \$450,000 to leak details of police operations to Sinaloa drug cartel members.

"We went to the federal police thinking that it was the most professional, least corrupt institution in our country," Manuel Ramirez said.

"Now we see that it

was the opposite."

President Felipe Calderon has pledged to clean up the police, but expressed dismay last year, when half of the officers nationwide failed new security and background checks designed to root out corruption and inefficiency. The government also is trying to improve abduction investigations, including creating a cell phone registry to help trace phones used for ransom demands.

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U.S., China agenda focuses on economy, climate change

By Paul Richter and Barbara Demick
Los Angeles Times

BEIJING — Chinese officials and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton agreed Saturday to step up their cooperation on the global economic crisis and climate change, while treading carefully around the human rights issues that often have strained the U.S. relationship with Beijing.

In the final day of Clinton's inaugural trip to Asia, Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi

said his government had agreed in principle to Clinton's proposal to add discussions of environmental and security issues to the high-level economic talks that dominate the official relationship.

"The two sides believe that energy and the environment will play an increasingly important role in the growth of bilateral relations," Yang told a news conference after a meeting lasting more than an hour.

Clinton has been eager to expand discussions between

the two countries, believing U.S. cooperation with the Asian giant is key to easing many world problems, including security challenges from North Korea and Iran.

Yang and Clinton announced that the two countries have agreed to divide their discussions into a "strategic" track, which will include political and environmental questions, and an economic track.

The two countries' relationship has been built around a so-called "strategic economic dialogue" between top

Chinese officials and former U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson. Under Clinton's proposal, she and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner would be closely involved in talks; it remains unclear which Chinese officials would take part.

Yang made no commitment on how China, the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, would be willing to deal with climate change.

Although the Chinese government acknowledges the problem, it is heavily focused

on strengthening its economy to provide jobs, and believes the developed world needs to put up more of the money to deal with the problem. Yang said China's biggest contribution to easing the economic crisis was going to be in its effort to continue to expand its economy.

Clinton said that promotion of human rights "is an essential aspect of our global foreign policy," and said she had brought up the subject with Yang, as U.S. officials do regularly with the Chinese government.



AP photo
Artist Peng Xiaoping poses with a dough figurine of U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton holding a stick of candied plums and a pinwheel, Saturday in Beijing.

Mass migrations and war: Dire climate scenario

By Charles J. Hanley
Associated Press writer

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — If we don't deal with climate change decisively, "what we're talking about then is extended world war," the eminent economist said.

His audience Saturday, small and elite, had been stranded here by bad weather and were talking climate. They couldn't do much about the one, but the other was squarely in their hands. And so, Lord Nicholas Stern was telling them, was the potential for mass migrations setting off mass conflict.

"Somehow we have to explain to people just how worrying that is," the British economic thinker said.

Stern, author of a major British government report detailing the cost of climate change, was one of a select group of two dozen — environment ministers, climate negotiators and experts from 16 nations — scheduled to fly to Antarctica to learn first-hand how global warming might melt its ice into the sea, raising ocean levels worldwide.

Their midnight flight was scrubbed on Friday and Saturday because of high winds on the southernmost continent, 3,000 miles from here. While waiting at their Cape Town hotel for the gusts to ease down south, chief sponsor Erik Solheim, Norway's environment minister, improvised with group exchanges over coffee and wine about the future of the planet.

"International diplomacy is all about personal relations," Solheim said. "The more people know each other, the less likely there will be misunderstandings."

Understandings will be vital in this "year of climate," as the world's nations and their negotiators count down toward a U.N. climate conference in Copenhagen in December, target date for concluding a grand new deal to replace the Kyoto Protocol — the 1997 agreement, expiring in 2012, to reduce carbon dioxide and other global-warming emissions by industrial nations.

Solheim drew together key players for the planned brief visit to Norway's Troll Research Station in East Antarctica. Trying on polar outfits for size on Friday were China's chief climate negotiator Xie Zhenhua, veteran U.S. climate envoy Dan Reifsnyder, and environment ministers Hilary Benn of Britain and Carlos Minc Baumfeld of Brazil.

But it was Stern, former chief World Bank economist, who on Saturday laid out a case to his stranded companions in sobering PowerPoint detail.

If the world's nations act responsibly, Stern said, they will achieve "zero-carbon" electricity production and zero-carbon road transport by 2050 — by replacing coal power plants with wind, solar or other energy sources that emit no carbon dioxide, and fossil fuel-burning vehicles with cars running on electric or other "clean" energy.



Brig. Gen. Michael A. Ryan, U.S. Forces Afghanistan, hugs an Afghan man Tuesday as he offers his condolences to the families of civilians who were killed in a U.S. operation targeting insurgents near Herat province, Afghanistan.

US military hand-out/AP photo

U.S. says 13 civilians died in Afghanistan strike

By Jason Straziou
Associated Press writer

KABUL — An operation the American military at first described as a "precision strike" instead killed 13 Afghan civilians and only three militants, the U.S. said Saturday, three days after sending a general to the site to investigate.

Civilian casualties have been a huge source of friction between the U.S. and Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who has stepped up demands that U.S. and NATO operations kill no civilians and that Afghan soldiers take part in missions to help prevent unwanted deaths.

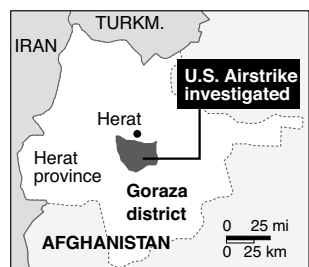
A U.S. military statement said the decision to dispatch a general to the western province of Herat to investigate shows how seriously the U.S. takes civilian casualties. The U.S. rarely releases the findings of civilian casualty investigations, and the disclosure this time could show the effect of Karzai's criticisms.

The U.S. military originally said 15 militants were killed Tuesday in a coalition operation in the Gozara district of Herat province, but Afghan officials said six women and two children were among the dead, casting doubt on the U.S. claim.

Afghan officials say the group targeted in the airstrikes were living in two tents in a remote area. An ethnic group of Afghans

In harms way

A U.S. general's investigation at the site of last Tuesday's U.S. military airstrike concluded that 13 civilians and only three militants were killed.



SOURCE: ESRI AP

known as Kuchis travel the countryside with livestock and live in tents. Photographs obtained by The Associated Press from the site showed the body of a dead young boy — bloodied and dirtied.

In response, Brig. Gen. Michael Ryan traveled to the site to meet with Afghan elders. Investigators found weapons and ammunition, but concluded that 13 civilians were killed along with three militants, the U.S. said.

An expert on civilian casualties said she was "cautiously optimistic" the U.S. is taking a new approach in dealing with civilian casualties.

China says gas explosion traps nearly 100 miners

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese state media say nearly 100 miners are trapped underground after a gas blast ripped through a coal mine in a northern province.

The official Xinhua News Agency said 96 miners were trapped in Sunday's the pre-dawn blast at a mine belonging to the Shanxi Jiaomei Group in Gujiao city near Taiyuan, the capital of Shanxi province.

It said there were 436 miners underground at the time but that 340 managed to escape.

An official with the provincial government duty office confirmed the accident, but did not have any details. He would give only his surname Chen. China's mining industry is the world's deadliest. In 2008, coal mine accidents claimed about 3,200 lives in China.

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Sat - Sun 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:45

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Sat - Sun 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45

Twilight (13) Daily 7:00 9:30
Sat - Sun 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30

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Sat - Sun 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45

Jerome Cinema 4
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Sat - Sun 12:30 3:30 7:15 9:45

Coraline (PG) *Not in 3D* Daily 7:00 9:20
Sat - Sun 12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20

Taken (13) Daily 7:30 9:45
Sat - Sun 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45

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Sat - Sun 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45

Inkheart (PG) Daily 7:30 9:45
Sat - Sun 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45

Taken (13) Daily 7:00 9:20
Sat - Sun 12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20

Coraline (PG) *Not in 3D* Daily 7:00 9:20
Sat - Sun 12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20

Uninvited (13) Daily 7:30 9:45
Sat - Sun 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45

Hotel for Dogs (PG) Daily 7:00 9:20
Sat - Sun 12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20

Pink Panther 2 (PG) Daily 7:00 9:10
Sat - Sun 12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:10

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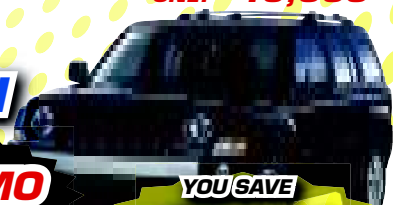
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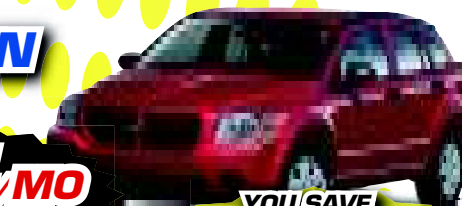
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Photos from the 2009 Idaho High School Girls Basketball State Championships will be available at <http://gallery.pictopia.com/magicvalley/> beginning Monday afternoon.

IDAHO HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS: DAY 3

Jerome girls rebound to take third-place trophy

By David Bashore
Times-News writer

MERIDIAN — It wasn't the blue trophy that the Jerome girls wanted, but the Tigers had to fight just to get the green one.

Tied at the half, Jerome went on an 18-2 second-half run to put Lakeland away and take the third-place trophy with a 69-52 win Saturday at Mountain View High School, in the girls basketball Class 4A state tournament.

Aubree Callen scored 22 of her 24 points and pulled in seven of her nine rebounds in the second half, after a minor adjustment gave Jerome (22-5) all the success it needed.

"With the zone they were playing, we thought if we moved Aubree into the high-post it would give them some problems," said Jerome head coach Brent Clark.

It worked to great effect. Callen either got to the line or sliced to the bucket, and when she didn't do either of those, she found a cutting post player for an assist.

Allison Bruckner and Jordann Hollifield, two of the team's three seniors (Hailey Long is the other), were primary beneficiaries of back-cut passes and lay-ins.

Bruckner finished with 10 points and Hollifield added 14 as they capped their careers with a trophy to bring back home.

"It's bittersweet," said Hollifield, her eyes red and her face streaked with tears. "It's sad because it's over, but it's an amazing feeling to be bringing a trophy home."

See **JEROME**, Sports 6



Jerome post Jordann Hollifield (22) goes up for a shot Saturday during the Class 4A state third-place game against Lakeland at Mountain View High School in Meridian.

STAN BREWSTER/
For the Times-News



MEAGAN THOMPSON/Times-News

Richfield players call out to their fans Saturday as they celebrate their victory over Dietrich for the Class 1A Division II girls state basketball championship at the Idaho Center in Nampa.

Richfield girls claim 1A Div. II title

By John Derr
Times-News writer

NAMPA — A perfect ending to a perfect season.

The Richfield girls accomplished that rare feat of going undefeated and walking away with the title.

Close for much of it, the Tigers eventually wore down Dietrich, earning the first ever Class 1A Division II girls state basketball championship Saturday at the Idaho Center in Nampa.

Teenie Kent scored 20 points after the break to lead the Tigers to the 59-37 victory.

"My shots weren't falling the first half, but I just kept telling myself the next one is in," said Kent, who finished with 23 points and four assists, both game highs. "Dietrich played really good, but we knew they had two tough games. We wanted to go on the attack."

Both teams already have at least one state title under their belts. The Tigers won in 2007 and 1979 while the Blue Devils were the champs in 1999 under Gene Shaw. It was just a matter of who would get their next one.

Richfield threatened to run away early, grabbing a 6-0 lead, but the Blue Devils

clawed their way back in. Jesse Dill's NBA-range 3-pointer early in the second gave Dietrich the 13-12 advantage. It would be their only lead of the game.

The second time the Tigers ran away, it was quickness.

With the Blue Devils crashing the boards Richfield started to run. A trio of lay-ups along with a three-pointer from Michelle Kent made it a nine-point game at the half.

The teams traded buckets for much of the third quarter with Dietrich getting the best of it, but still down by seven heading into the final period. Nakia Norman, who chipped in seven points, knocked down a 3-pointer for the Blue Devils.

It wouldn't stay close for long. The third time Richfield ran away it was determination, and it would be for good.

Teenie Kent stepped behind the arc and drained one then took the assist from Michelle Kent on the fast break layup. Then Michelle Kent took over, and with a look of intensity she scored six points during a decisive 15-2 run in the fourth.

"I didn't want them to

See **TIGERS**, Sports 5

Wendell falls in title game

By John Derr
Times-News writer

NAMPA — Sadly it will be a dream unfulfilled.

Back in fifth grade Wendell's current seniors had a dream of making state as juniors and winning as seniors.

The Trojan girls got the first part, in fact were a year early as they made it both sophomore and junior years. As seniors the Trojans made it to the title game.

But down a player and facing a team that had steamrolled through the season, it just wasn't meant to be.

Wendell stayed close early, but could not hold off Sugar-Salem in the Class 3A girls state basketball title game, falling 63-40 Saturday afternoon at the Idaho Center in Nampa.

The Trojans do not leave Nampa empty handed — a second place trophy, a first ever of any kind in girls basketball and the first two state tournament wins in 3A com-



MEAGAN THOMPSON/Times-News

Wendell senior Jaci Lancaster goes to the floor for the ball Saturday during the Class 3A state girls basketball championship game at the Idaho Center in Nampa. Sugar-Salem topped the Trojans 63-40 to take the title.

petition, third overall, coming in the past two seasons.

"We finished second, and we are pretty happy with that. Sugar-Salem is a good team, and we played as hard as we could," said Jaci Lancaster, who had a team-high 15 points and three steals.

The Trojans got some bad news mere minutes before

the game started. Starting junior post Kristen Brandsma injured her knee in the semifinal victory over Teton. After an examination by a trainer it was diagnosed as a partial tear of the ACL. The decision was made for her not to play.

"I hurt it around halftime,

See **WENDELL**, Sports 6

West Jefferson smothers Valley in Class 2A title tilt

By David Bashore
Times-News writer

NAMPA — The Valley girls' magical run to the state championship hit a brick wall on Saturday.

West Jefferson, a squad 15 deep, hassled and harried the Vikings on the way to a 40-25 win in the Class 2A title game at the Idaho Center in Nampa.

Valley (21-4) trailed 9-8 after one period of play but went without a field goal during the next 13 minutes as West Jefferson (17-8) smothered the Vikings with a full-court press defense that left Valley guessing rather than running on instinct.

"I think we hesitated, and by the time we decided to make the pass it was too late, and they were already there," said Valley head coach Brian Hardy. "We



MEAGAN THOMPSON/Times-News

Valley seniors Katie Hall, left, and Camelle Sizemore embrace after losing the Class 2A girls basketball state championship to West Jefferson Saturday afternoon at The Idaho Center in Nampa.

were so concerned just with breaking the press that we didn't get very good shots off."

Ashley Kraus led Valley

with eight points, with Gabi Nava scoring seven and Katie Hall six. But a 14-1 run

See **VALLEY**, Sports 5

Golden Eagles fall short against Bruins

By Mike Christensen
Times-News writer

SALT LAKE CITY — The bad news: The College of Southern Idaho men's basketball team came up short in its quest for a road sweep of No. 9 Salt Lake Community College.

The good news: The Golden

Eagles know they can play with and beat the Bruins in Salt Lake City, the likely site of the Region 18 Tournament March 5-7.

The 23-4 Bruins (9-3 Scenic West Athletic Conference) ended CSI's hopes of earning a piece of the SWAC crown with an 81-67 win Saturday night.

The Golden Eagles (20-8, 7-6 SWAC) trailed just 67-64 after a free throw by Aziz Ndiaye with 4:00 remaining, but went dry on offense down the stretch as Salt Lake pulled away. The Bruins went 10-for-10 at the foul line in the final 2:22 to ice it.

"We had some shots just go

in and out, shots we normally make," said CSI head coach Steve Gosar. "We missed some free throws, missed some shots and (Salt Lake) capitalized."

DJ. Wright had 31 points and 10 rebounds to pace Salt Lake, while Logan Magnusson hit 7 of 8 shots in scoring 16

No. 9 SLCC pulls away to beat CSI

points. Rick Shoff added 10. Nate Miles went 5-for-8 from 3-point range and led CSI with 21 points. The Golden Eagles' starting front line of Aziz Ndiaye, Daequon Montreal and Jay Watkins battled foul trouble all night, with Montreal and Ndiaye fouling out. Montreal scored 11 and

Watkins 10 while Ndiaye had a game-high 13 boards.

"We've beat everybody in the league, and we've been beaten by almost everyone in the league," said Gosar. "I told the guys, 'We're a dangerous team because we can beat

See **CSI**, Sports 3

Fireballer Strasburg a big hit

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The buzz surrounding Stephen Strasburg seems to grow with every pitch, which makes sense considering that some of his electrifying fastballs have hit triple digits on the radar gun.

The big San Diego State right-hander already has an Olympic bronze medal and a 23-strikeout game among his career highlights — every strike of that gem is on YouTube for the whole world to see, including the final one when he hops off the mound, pumps his fist and hugs his catcher.

If he stays healthy and has a big junior season, Strasburg is expected to be the No. 1 overall pick in the June amateur draft.

Before the millions of dollars come rolling in, though, Strasburg would really like to help get Tony Gwynn's Aztecs into the NCAA regionals for the first time in 18 years.

"I have a full year left here, at least, and I definitely want to make an impact," Strasburg said.

He already has, becoming a big name as quickly as one of his fastballs reaches home plate.

Strasburg first gained national attention last April 11 when he had 23 strikeouts in a 1-0, one-hit victory against Utah. The 23 whiffs set school and Mountain West Conference records, and tied for the third-highest total in NCAA history.

In Beijing, he was the only amateur on the U.S. Olympic team.

In September, he was the focus of the "Strasburg Sweepstakes," in which being worst meant being first. By losing 102 games, the Washington Nationals earned the first pick in the draft over the Seattle Mariners (101 losses) and the San Diego Padres (99).

"I don't see him getting past one," Padres general manager Kevin Towers said. "I think the Mariners will be doing hand springs if he got there at two, and we'd be jumping off the La Jolla cliffs if he was there at three."

Gwynn, who's entering his seventh season at his alma mater, calls Strasburg an overpowering pitcher "with really kind of freakish talent. But he has a level head about him."

The 6-foot-4, 220-pound Strasburg has been named a preseason All-American and the preseason national pitcher of the year by several publications and Web sites. He tops the list of candidates for the Golden Spikes Award and the Brooks Wallace Award.

A local kid who grew up in suburban Santee and idolized Gwynn, Trevor Hoffman, Jake Peavy and other Padre stars, Strasburg just wants to be known as the Aztecs' ace. He was scheduled to start the season opener Friday against Bethune-Cookman in the MLB Urban Classic in Compton.

"I've grown up so much just from three years ago, being at West Hills High School," Strasburg said on a recent Saturday morning at Tony Gwynn Stadium. "I really can't explain what happened. I got thrown into the fire here, I did everything that the coaches told me to do, and I tried to do more than that. It's just worked out so far."

Strasburg was undrafted out of high school. He wanted to pitch for Stanford but wasn't accepted. Although SDSU recruited Strasburg, Gwynn admits that he didn't think the pitcher was tough enough mentally for college ball. Plus, he was overweight. Pitching coach Rusty Filter, however, was high on Strasburg.

The righty got into shape and his fastball went from 91 mph to being consistently around 97 mph or more. He was the closer his freshman year and a starter last year, going 8-3 with a 1.57 ERA.

Gwynn said Strasburg has often pitched with 25 to 30 scouts in the stands.

Although Strasburg has matured, he sometimes has his moments.

"I really believe there are times he goes out on the mound and he just doesn't expect to be hit," said Gwynn,



San Diego State pitcher Stephen Strasburg, the projected first choice for baseball's amateur draft this spring, loosens up before practice on Feb. 18 in San Diego.

who had a .338 average and 3,141 hits in 20 seasons with the Padres. "And when he does get hit, sometimes his emotions start to come out. Again, you just try to teach him about composure and focusing in on the next hitter and that stuff, and for the most part he's been unbelievable."

During a scrimmage a few weeks ago, one of Strasburg's fastballs reportedly was clocked at 103 and two others at 101.

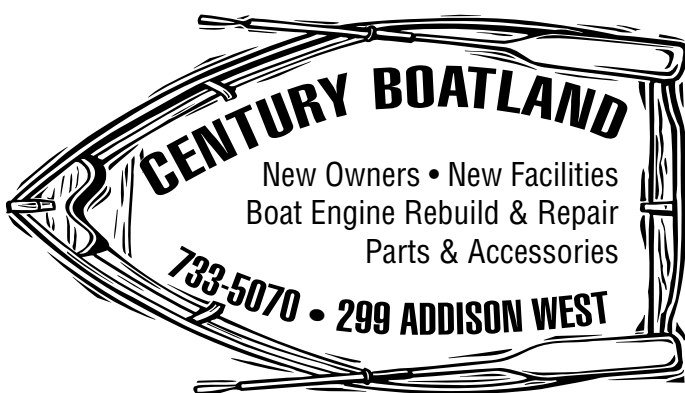
"What comes out of the hand is just electric, and it's moving," the GM said. "That's the amazing thing with him. I've seen guys throw 96, 97, but it's true. This guy's ball

sails, it cuts, it sinks at times. It's hard to believe somebody could throw triple digits and get movement. And his movement is around the plate. It's not way up here or way over here.

Gwynn doesn't put a whole

lot of credence in radar guns. He says SDSU's gun tops out at 99 mph. "He's always at 99," the coach said.

Strasburg also throws what Towers calls a "wipeout slider," as well as a better-than-average changeup and a cutter.



CSI basketball, baseball, softball and high school sports are just some of the topics found at Magic Valley Overtime.

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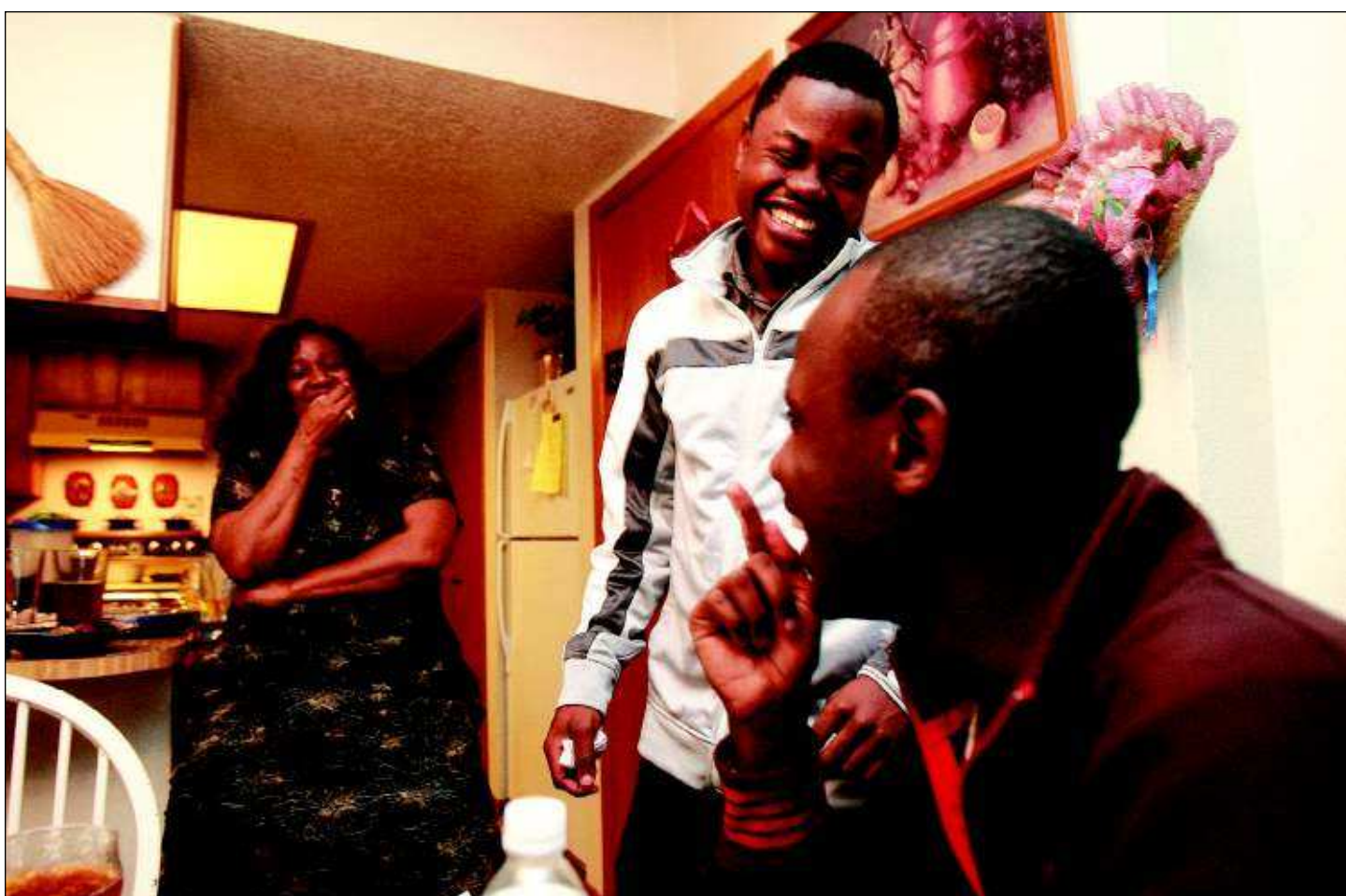


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Photos by ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News
Hugues Kutambula, center, a member of College of Southern Idaho's Black Student Alliance, jokes with Kevin Nakaha while Patrice Walker, who made dinner for the group Monday, looks on at her home in Twin Falls. The alliance formed two years ago, and this year it has about 25 members from across the country and the world, including Africa, Denmark and Mexico.

It's time to bottle up excess ketchup

You can tell a lot about your family by its laundry. Usually there's the common fare of mud, dirt, grass and, with a new baby, some meals in their entirety.

Then there's the frequent stain that's a scarlet letter of gluttony and sloppiness: ketchup.

After 12 years of fatherhood and cleaning houses, cars, picnic tables and strollers, I'm absolutely certain that Americans eat too much ketchup. Actually, we don't eat the stuff, we imbibe it like summer lemonade.

The stuff is simply everywhere: breakfast, lunch, dinner, barbecues, drive-ins, school cafeterias, potlucks and fine restaurants. We use ketchup more than we use toothpaste, sunblock, deodorant and motor oil, for all their respective purposes. And frankly, it's turning Americans into sour-breathed slob.

I confess to be as guilty as the next guy. As a kid, I wouldn't touch eggs, ham or mashed potatoes unless they were swimming in the glop. Therein lies the paradox. Ketchup's ingredients individually — tomato concentrate, vinegar, corn syrup, salt, onion powder and garlic powder — would gross out most kids. But put it all together in a glossy puddle next to their hot dogs, and they devour it like Ronald McDonald cooked up a souffle for their birthday.

Apparently even Wall Street sees the Midas touch of ketchup. Just last summer, the stock price for H.J. Heinz, the world's premier ketchup maker, was over \$50 a share. Even in today's deflated market, it's holding at around \$35. In November, Forbes.com reported Heinz's ketchup sales were up 12 percent because people are dining out less and trying to "compensate for lower-quality tasting meats with the condiment."

There's a problem with that culinary approach. If you're going to hide the flavor of low-quality meat, you must have high-quality ketchup. And believe me when I say ketchup can be very low quality.

The top of the line is the restaurant quality that has a heavy texture, rich flavor and good color. Heinz ketchup seems to be the high standard in restaurants. For years, it boasted of a slow thickness that also explained why customers routinely splattered by shaking the bottle. This led to the convenient, squeezable bottle, which fueled ketchup consumption and fried-food metabolism for small children.

Then there's the bulk ketchup that cafes buy in large cans, just as the military does. Some of my favorite burger joints here in Twin Falls rely on this ketchup, and I can't always say it's the most savory way to enjoy a meal. But it also proves the dietician standard, if you want to lose weight: Give up foods with ketchup.

Finally, we come to the lowest-grade ketchup, which, sadly, is found in our public schools. I've occasionally eaten lunch in my kids' school cafeteria on days when ketchup fare is served. The food distributor provides small packets of it, and it has none of the texture, consistency or color of regular ketchup. In fact, the most drunken Englishman wouldn't dare put it on his fish and chips.

This is where my story comes full circle, since my son is now wearing the ketchup more than eating it. He blames his stains on the runny nature of this rancid goo, and claims other students don't touch the stuff. If that's so, we told him, consider it a rare case where peer pressure has merit. He swears he's off the stuff for good now.

When it comes to moderation, perhaps the Greeks taught it best when they wrote on their temples *meden agan*, meaning "nothing in excess."

Or in a culinary definition: "Ketchup and calamari do not mix."



SPILT MILK
David Cooper

'They're not here alone'

CSI club gives students a family away from home

By Erica Littlefield
Times-News correspondent

Adjusting to college life is tough enough. But when Kevin Nakaha came to Twin Falls from his home in Africa's Burundi to attend the College of Southern Idaho, he also had to adapt to differences in practically everything, from customs, to language, to weather.

At CSI, the Black Student Alliance helps multicultural students like Nakaha ease into life in college and the Twin Falls community. Kim Prestwich, coordinator of CSI's Multicultural Student Services office and the group's adviser, said students in the alliance have grown close and become like a surrogate family.

"You hear about the connections the students make," Prestwich said. "One of the goals of the group is to serve as a welcome for the students who are here. You go through an adjustment, and this group is good about understanding that and being supportive of one another."

The Black Student Alliance formed two years ago when Prestwich and Graydon Stanley, the college's dean of students, saw a need for an organization to help multicultural and international students make the transition into the community. This year the group has about 25 members from across the country and across the world, including Africa, Denmark and Mexico. Linda Jam, vice presi-

dent of the alliance, joined to meet people soon after she came to CSI from Cameroon last semester.

"I just love the diversity," Jam said. "It's not just about the black students. You get to know the most awesome people around."

The alliance does a variety of things to help multicultural students get their feet on the ground and adjust to the community. It holds events like last night's Soul

Food Dinner to educate the community about African American culture. Last year it held a drive to collect personal hygiene items for students in need. During election season, some students went to a campaign party at Pandora's, and earlier this month they hit up a Super Bowl party.

"We want to know the culture of this country we're living in, the community we're in," said Nakaha, president of the organization this year. Nakaha said taking on a leadership role helped him overcome the shyness he felt when he first arrived.

Patrice Walker was one of the first students to get involved with the club.

The 50-year-old mother moved to Twin Falls from Long Beach, Calif., two years ago, and three of her five sons have since joined her here. They didn't feel welcome at first. When she lived downtown, Walker said, she could count on one hand the people who would look up and say hello to her on the street.

"When you're coming into this community, it's hard to get acclimated," Walker said. "You have people that will put walls up in front of you. They won't invite you into the midst of their group out of

SEE HOME ON FAMILY LIFE 3



Patrice Walker's home is one of the main places Black Student Alliance members gather. Clockwise from left are Alma Jam, Murielle Shimba, Anne Nissen, Hugues Kutambula, Walker and Kevin Nakaha. The alliance also participates in a variety of things in the community, like campaign and Super Bowl parties.

David Cooper is a father of five. Reach him at david.cooper@lee.net.

At the Toy Fair, how about a nice cheap board game?

By Margaret Webb Pressler
The Washington Post

NEW YORK — Last week was Toy Fair time, when thousands of grown-ups who live and breathe toys — as inventors, manufacturers and retailers — gathered in the toy capital of the world to show and see what's new for the coming year. If there were a Furby-like frenzy in our future, this is where you'd find it.

Except that toymakers are definitely playing it safe. The scene at Toy Fair was a lot like the scene at home — anxious and thrifty, but still trying to find a way to have fun. That effort was evident in the constant crashing, flying, spinning, whirring and beeping of

demo toys all around.

What was missing from Toy Fair this year was the “wow” factor — the cool ideas that cause so many conversations to start with “have you seen ...?” This year, even reliable innovators like Spin Master — whose recent revolutionary hits include the car that drives on walls and the molding sand called Moon Sand — were flaunting only additions and improvements to their existing lines.

“Kids are still going to play, and parents are still going to buy toys. We just have to adjust to these new economic realities,” said toy analyst Chris Byrne. Those realities mean toy buyers such as Brad MacIntyre, who owns three

stores around Toronto, were walking around Toy Fair looking in vain for that one “big” toy. “We've seen a lot of little things that are good,” he said with a shrug.

Toymakers have gotten the message that Mom and Dad want to buy toys that will be enjoyed over and over: dolls, games, arts and crafts, activity toys like yo-yos, sporting goods such as scooters. Lego is doing extremely well in this economy, and Crayola had the biggest sales week in the history of the company right before Christmas, when nearly everyone else in the industry was scraping by. “It's play that's powered by kids' imaginations,” said Stacy Gabrielle, a Crayola spokeswoman.

And no batteries required.

Toywise, this year will feel awfully familiar. Toymakers are rushing to license brands we already know and love (think Disney) and to resurrect anything that was once a hit and could be again. There is an industrywide focus on games, too.

“In this particular economic environment, parents tend to do more things at home,” explained Neil Friedman, president of Mattel. “They do more play dates, so games are always really strong in this type of economy.”

Hasbro is about to launch a huge media campaign about how wonderful it is to stay home and play a game with the whole family.

“Staycations have replaced vacations,” said John Frascotti, global chief marketing officer for Hasbro, maker of Monopoly and Trivial Pursuit, among others. “For \$20 you can get a great (game) and have a terrific family activity. We think it's a great return to family time together, but with new games that are culturally relevant.”

That relevance can be found in Team Trivial Pursuit, where the players are in teams so the clueless (or youngest) kid in the family won't get clobbered and start sulking.

(It's also a little easier than the Trivial Pursuit of yore.) Or there's a new version of Clue that will send clues to your phone by text message,

appealing to even the most disconnected teens.

And Boggle can now be played on a Wii, because once you own that expensive system, well, you really ought to use it more.

Plenty of Toy Fair attendees thought there may be a blessing in the state of the economy: Maybe it will get us to appreciate our toys more. With fewer trips to the toy store to buy something fun (for kids or adults), we better really like what we do buy.

“Our kids have lost the value of toys,” said Ruth Morace, a girl-toy inventor from Texas who sells her ideas to bigger companies. “I'm hoping kids are going to get back to playing.”



When toddlers point a lot, more words will follow

By Lauran Neergaard
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Don't just talk to your toddler — gesture, too. Pointing, waving bye-bye and other natural gestures seem to boost a budding vocabulary.

Scientists found those tots who could convey more meaning with gestures at age 14 months went on to have a richer vocabulary as they prepared to start kindergarten. And intriguingly, whether a family is poor or middle class plays a role, the researchers report.

Anyone who's ever watched a tot perform the arms-raised “pick me up now” demand knows that youngsters figure out how to communicate well before they can talk. Gesturing also seems to be an important precursor to forming sentences, as children start combining one word plus a gesture for a second word.

University of Chicago researchers wondered if gesturing also played a role in a serious problem: Children from low-income families start school with smaller vocabularies than their better-off classmates. It's a gap that tends to persist as the students age. In fact, kindergarten vocabulary is a predictor of how well youngsters ultimately fare in school.

One big key to a child's vocabulary is how their parents talked to them from babyhood on. Previous research has shown that higher-income, better-educated parents tend to talk and read more to small children, and to use more varied vocabulary and complex syntax.

Do those parents also gesture more as they talk with and teach their children?

To see, university psychology researchers Susan Goldin-Meadow and Meredith Rowe visited the homes of 50 Chicago-area families of varying socioeconomic status who had 14-month-olds. They videotaped for 90 minutes to count both parents' and children's words and gestures. Quantity aside, they also counted whether children made gestures with specific meanings.

This is not baby sign-language; parents weren't formally training their tots. Instead, they used everyday gestures to



AP photos/Science

Don't just talk to your toddler. Pointing, waving bye-bye and other natural gestures seem to boost a budding vocabulary.

point something out or illustrate a concept. A child points to a dog and mom says, “Yes, that's a dog.” Or dad flaps his arms to mimic flying. Or pointing illustrates less concrete concepts like “up” or “down” or “big.”

The researchers found an income gap with gesturing even in toddlerhood, when children speak few words.

Higher-income parents did gesture more and, more importantly, their children on average produced 25 meanings in gesture during that 90-minute session, compared with an average of 13 among poorer children, they reported in the journal *Science*.

Then the researchers returned to test vocabulary comprehension at age 4 1/2. The poorer children scored worse, by about 24 points. Researchers blamed mostly socioeconomic status and parents' speech, but said gesturing contributed, too.

It's not just that richer parents gesture more, stressed Peggy McCardle of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, which funded the work.

“It's that there's a greater variety of types of gesture that would signal different types of meaning,” McCardle said. “It sure looks like the kids are

learning that and it's given them kind of a leg-up.”

The study doesn't prove gesturing leads to better word-learning, but it's a strong hint. Now scientists wonder if encouraging low-income parents to gesture more could translate to toddlers who do, too, and in turn improve school readiness.

“It wouldn't hurt to encourage parents to talk more and gesture more,” Rowe said.

Note to cell phone junkies: Txtng + date :(

By Martha Irvine
Associated Press writer

CHICAGO — So you're on a first date and you notice your potential love interest looking down and fiddling with a cell phone under the table. Or maybe he or she isn't even attempting to hide it.

Call it a sign of the times. Or maybe a sign that he or she is just not that into you.

Whichever, many people who play the love scene have a story — usually a gripe — about texting while dating.

“Oh, the fun of pretending to be interested in what someone else is typing to someone you don't know,” says an exasperated Tyler Barnett, a 25-year-old businessman in Los Angeles who calls himself a “textaholic” but says he rarely does it on a date.

Not so for some of the women he has gone out with. He recalls one double date where the women he and his friend were with were both texting right at the table. Barnett suspected they were typing messages to one another, so he casually asked to see one of the women's new iPhones, and immediately checked her text message inbox.

He was right. “And they were not singing our praises,” Barnett says. “How ugly is his shirt!” read one text about his friend. “Who the hell does this guy think he is!”

Texting can, of course, have its advantages in a relationship, for flirting, for connecting.

But often, it just gets in the way. Betsey Usher broke up with a boyfriend because of his constant cell phone usage



AP photo
Tyler Barnett poses for a portrait with his cell phone in Los Angeles on Feb. 11.

with friends and ex-girlfriends during movies and dinners out.

“I don't think he ever got the message in spite of the fact that we talked about it many, many times,” says the 39-year-old, who works at the nursing school at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn. “I think he's just addicted!”

Since 2001, the number of text messages sent in this country has risen from about a million a month to 75 billion, according to Alex Campbell, chief executive of Vibes Media, a Chicago company that helps businesses market themselves via text message. A survey done in December for the Pew Internet & American Life Project found that half of adults 18 and older have a cell phone and use it to send or receive text messages.

In other words, while it

“Oh, the fun of pretending to be interested in what someone else is typing to someone you don't know.”

— Tyler Barnett

might be a red flag if a date would rather text than talk, we are a nation that expects to be in constant contact, Campbell says.

“People understand it's not right, but they still do it anyway,” he says. “The information they're getting back is worth the risk.”

Liz Nelson, 25, managed to text her way out of a bad date. She was sitting in a steakhouse with a guy who couldn't stop talking about himself. She quietly texted a friend and asked her to call and rescue her.

“This might be bad or rude on my part, but I told him my friend had an emergency and needed me,” says Nelson, who lives in Santa Clara, Calif. He later confronted her — “Totally called me out — whoops!”

Michael Volpatt, a 37-year-old San Franciscan, has found his own way to deal with texting while dating, a habit he has grown to hate since the last five people he went out with did it. One of his dates went outside to use a phone.

“So after 15 minutes I got up, told the bartender that my friend would take care of the bill and walked out,” Volpatt says.

Home

Continued from Family Life 1

either not knowing what our race is about or who we are or what we're going to bring to their environment.”

Being part of the club has helped Walker feel more accepted on campus and around town. Walker says that if students don't feel like they have a support system or acceptance, they are likely to drop out.

“Every new African American or multicultural student that I see I try very hard to get to know them and let them know they're not here alone,” Walker said. “They're not by themselves.”

Group members said they have bonded over common experiences, and they often get together outside of school and Black Student Alliance activities. They congregate in Prestwich's office in the afternoons, and Walker, whom the other students call “Miss Patrice,” frequently invites them over to watch movies or share a home-cooked meal.

Student Beauty Chabuka of Zambia said being part of

the group and the simple act of meeting like-minded students has helped her feel at home here.

“When you come to a new place, you don't expect people to get close to you,” Chabuka said. “Here, you find out that you're not so different. We come together as one group.”

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Redoing a kid's room: 3 parents' stories

Kids seem to outgrow their bedrooms every few years. Clutter accumulates; tastes change. Older children suddenly need a desk to organize school work; motifs that were cute for a toddler don't work for a kindergartner.

Here are three do-it-yourself stories about making over kids' rooms under different circumstances: one for a 4-year-old in a roomy, rural Victorian, another for tween and teen brothers in a city apartment, and a third for two sisters in a suburban Colonial.

BUILDING IN FLEXIBILITY

Our 4-year-old has averaged a new obsession about once every six months — outer space, construction vehicles, pirates, knights and now trains. So when it came time to update his room — mostly unmodified since we transformed a spare room into a gender-neutral yellow nursery — we were reluctant to embrace any particular theme.

Blue is his color of choice, so painting the walls was an easy call. We paid a premium for fume-free paint (\$45 a gallon) but it was worth it, as our son was able to "help" with the job. (Imagine! Drawing on the wall and *not* getting yelled at!)

New furniture was a must, as his clothing had long outgrown the changing table repurposed as a dresser, and the twin mattress sans headboard looked a little too frat pad. We got deals on a natural birch bed and dresser set, with the bonus that the bed was high enough to allow for storage beneath it.

Our son's large, bright room is "L" shaped, so we decided to visually divide it into zones. The sleeping zone is the top of the "L," with his bed, storage bins on either side for stuffed "critters," and a wall light mounted over the headboard for reading. At the footboard, we put a kid-size table and chairs for Lego projects.

The corner of the "L" is home to his deep but frustratingly narrow closet, as well as his dresser. With dresser and under-the-bed storage, we no longer needed the closet as much, so we got hanging fabric storage cubes from Ikea for out-of-season stuff (and room to grow).

The other branch of the "L" became a reading zone. From Ikea we got a bargain on a huge, nearly floor-to-ceiling shelving unit, perfect for taming his massive book collection.

Next to it, we placed an easy chair and ottoman, which four years ago had been a nursing chair. Inexpensive dye changed the slipcover from now-faded yellow



A book shelf in Parker Hirsch's room.

low to coordinating green.

Decorations we kept simple. We used some of his favorite items (stuffed animals, books, ceramic banks, etc.) to adorn free shelf space. For the walls, we went with three framed prints with a cartoonish knights and dragons theme. This is the only decorative nod to one of his current fascinations, making it easy to swap out when the next one hits.

Our total cost was about \$1,000, thanks in part to repurposing of stuff we already had (mattress, chair, table), and my wife's crafty skills. She dyed the chair slipcover she had made four years ago, sewed new curtains for the windows and closet door, and made a quilt with a color-wheel pattern that she convinced our son looked like "King Arthur's Roundtable."

We also got bargains online. The prices were affordable on etsy.com, and we used a coupon to get a discount on the frames. On Craigslist, we found two small wall shelves for next to the bed. They were the same Pottery Barn shelves we'd liked in the catalog, but for \$10 instead of \$100. Sure, they were pink, but \$3 for a can of blue spray paint made them a great find.

Now we had a room that our son not only loves, but that will grow with him and his ever-changing interests.

— AP writer J.M. Hirsch



Parker Hirsch, 4, of Concord, N.H., reads in his redecorated room.

AP photos

My 5-year-old wasn't going to stand by while her sister's room got a makeover. Her room, she pointed out, was full of hand-me-downs, including the sunshine-themed sheets and quilt that came with the lovely wicker sleigh trundle bed a friend gave us when she was moving.



Isabella Critchell, 8, applies wall decals in her room in Ridgefield, Conn.

ROOMS TO LAST THROUGH TWEENDOM

When a stack of catalogs came pouring into our suburban mailbox and my 8-year-old reached for PB Teen, Pottery Barn's newish venue to reach the one demographic not covered by its other businesses, I knew what was coming.

She made her (strong) case for redecorating by telling me her room looked like a little girl's room. It did. Pretty much everything was baby pink with a heart motif.

I agreed it was time for an update. I insisted her princess-worthy, four-poster double bed was staying. She had gone from a crib to an adult bed because I thought there was value to buying furniture that would last longer than a little girl's fickle taste.

She would need a desk for her increasing load of homework and supplies. I would again insist on a decent piece of wood furniture that would have a long life. This turned out to be harder than I thought; apparently there are two categories of desk, sturdy and expensive or cheap and flimsy.

Eventually I turned to a seemingly unlikely choice, JC Penney's Web site, on the recommendation of a friend who bought nursery furniture there. It had the mid-price range I wanted: \$350 and no shipping if I picked it up at the mall.

My 5-year-old wasn't going to stand by while her sister's room got a makeover. Her room, she pointed out, was full of hand-me-downs, including the sunshine-themed sheets and quilt that came with the lovely wicker sleigh trundle bed a friend gave us when she was moving. Nothing besides the paint hastily applied

two years ago really reflected my daughter and her very pink personality. (Surely there would be a way to switch some of her sister's stuff into her room, right?)

Bedding was the first purchase, since its colors and patterns would set the tone for the room. We made a rule: no characters or too-trendy patterns, particularly cheetah print, that surely they'd tire of. This stuff had to last until the next stage of tween-dom.

We discovered the clearance section of The Company Kids Web site and the girls went to town. My older daughter ended up with a geometric theme — never mind that the base color is pink — and the younger went with butterflies and flowers.

There were complementary rugs and curtains, plus furry hot-pink decorative pillows.

They were pleased with all of this, but it still wasn't quite the drastic change they were hoping for.

The game-changer turned out to be wall decals. For about \$15 per package, there is a whole world out there of decals that are easy to handle, easy to move and, best yet, leave no trace once they're removed.

There were several dozen stickers in each of the packets, and we all had a ball slapping psychedelic on the older girl's walls, while the younger one's room was transformed into a garden scene.

And in two years — or, possibly, two months — when they decide they have to have blue or purple, rainbows or stars, we'll be able to "redecorate" again for less than \$50.

— AP writer Samantha Critchell

MAKING THE MOST OF TINY BEDROOMS

My two boys, 11 and 16, had outgrown their tiny bedrooms in our New York City apartment. They needed a new look and more storage space.

My sister told me that "everything starts with the bedspread." So first thing, I ordered a cool blue comforter set with accent stripes from Nautica for the teenager, and for his little brother, bedding with a "wolves in winter" motif.

The downside of buying bedding online is that you can't feel the fabric. The wolf design turned out to be uncomfortably scratchy. I later found many complaints from parents online about elaborately patterned children's bedding feeling rough to the touch. One Web site recommended washing in hot water with fabric softener and baking soda but no detergent. After four washes, the bedding was fine.

Next, storage. Our closets are tiny; I have no carpentry skills and didn't want to pay for a fancy redesign.

The Container Store had a terrific solution: inexpensive mesh stacking shelves. They were easy to assemble and small enough to fit into our foot-deep closets. The shelves are designed for shoes but look great holding neatly folded sweaters and jeans. I crammed four shelves in each closet. "Awesome!" was my 11-year-old's response.

A friend helped us attach rows of brass coat hooks to each closet door so the kids could easily hang up sweat shirts and jackets.

The teenager got a new mattress to replace one that was old and sagging. But instead of a box spring, we bought a captain's bed, which greatly expanded storage space. My younger son already has a captain's bed; between that and the new closet shelves, he no longer needed his dresser, which had a broken drawer. And without the dresser, he now has room for a desk.

The older boy scavenged a desk from a friend who was discarding one. An aunt bought him a desk chair from Staples as a gift and he assembled it himself.

Both boys also got rid of old clothes, toys and other knick-knacks. Still to come: paint jobs and maybe window blinds to replace the shower curtains — yes, shower curtains! — hanging there now.

— AP writer Beth J. Harpaz



Parker Hirsch plays in his redecorated room — a room that will grow with him and his ever-changing interests.

Are you looking out for your parents' health?

Are you struggling to help (or push) your mother and father to live a healthier life? If you're trying to convince your parents to lay off the bacon, quit smoking or get a breast cancer exam, let us know. If you're a parent whose children have taken an interest in your health, we'd like to hear from you, too.

Contact features reporter Melissa Davlin at 208-735-3234 or melissa.davlin@lee.net.

Bad habits spread to adulthood

The Washington Post

A new study from researchers at the University of Minnesota brings new meaning to the term couch potato.

According to their findings, high school kids who watch

too much TV are more likely to have bad eating habits five years later.

The impact was especially profound when kids were transitioning from adolescence to young adulthood — a critical developmental period wherein lifelong behav-

iors are formed. Kids who watched more than five hours of TV per day ate fewer fruits, vegetables and whole grains and more snack foods, fried foods and trans fats years later.

So encourage your kids to put down that remote and find

new, healthier activities to occupy their free time.

Check out what's
new online at
magicvalley.com

Kids Only

IN CENTRAL ASIA, HELPING KIDS FOR PEACE

By Valerie Strauss
The Washington Post

Imagine that you are climbing down the world's second-largest mountain, and suddenly you realize you are lost and alone. You have no water and only one protein bar. And you haven't taken a shower for three months!

That's what happened to Greg Mortenson.

At that moment, he began an adventure that changed his life — and the lives of countless people in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

It all started when Mortenson decided to climb Pakistan's K2 mountain in 1993 to honor his sister Christa, who had died from epilepsy.

But the 28,251-foot-high mountain was tough. Five of 12 climbers in his expedition died on the way down. Mortenson never made it to the top, got lost in the Karakoram Mountains and stumbled into the Pakistani village of Korphe.

The people of the village were so poor that children used sticks to write out school lessons in the dirt. Their parents could not afford \$1 a day for a full-time teacher.

The villagers saved his life. Over tea with village chief Haji Ali, Mortenson said, he learned many life lessons — and this custom:

"Haji Ali told me, 'If you want to do business here,

take three cups of tea. The first cup, you are a stranger. The second cup, a friend. The third cup, you become family.'"

Mortenson became very close to the villagers and wanted to repay their kindness.

He returned to the U.S. and raised money to build a school by telling Americans about Korphe. He got help from kids at Westside Elementary School in River Falls, Wis. They donated 62,380 pennies from their banks after he visited their school.

And that started Pennies for Peace, a program that teaches kids about giving to others (a practice known as philanthropy) and about cultures. It is now in many schools. (Learn more at www.penniesforpeace.org.)

"The kids learn that they can make a difference and that even a penny can help," Mortenson said.

Since 1996, Mortenson has built about 80 schools in poor and sometimes violent areas of Central Asian countries. His goal: to help bring peace, one school at a time.

"Education is the key to making the world a better place," he said. "Empowering people through education is the best way to fight terrorism."

Mortenson said he came to realize how important it is to educate girls. Why? Because, he said, girls use what they have learned to improve life in their home villages far more than boys do.

"Unless the girls are educated, the society won't change," he said.

Mortenson has endured a lot of hardship in his work.

He once was kidnapped and held for eight days by armed Afghan militants. He survived a battle between Afghan warlords by hiding under animal skins in a truck. And he spends half of each year away from his wife and two children.

Mortenson first told his story in a book called "Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace ... One School at a Time," which became a best-seller.

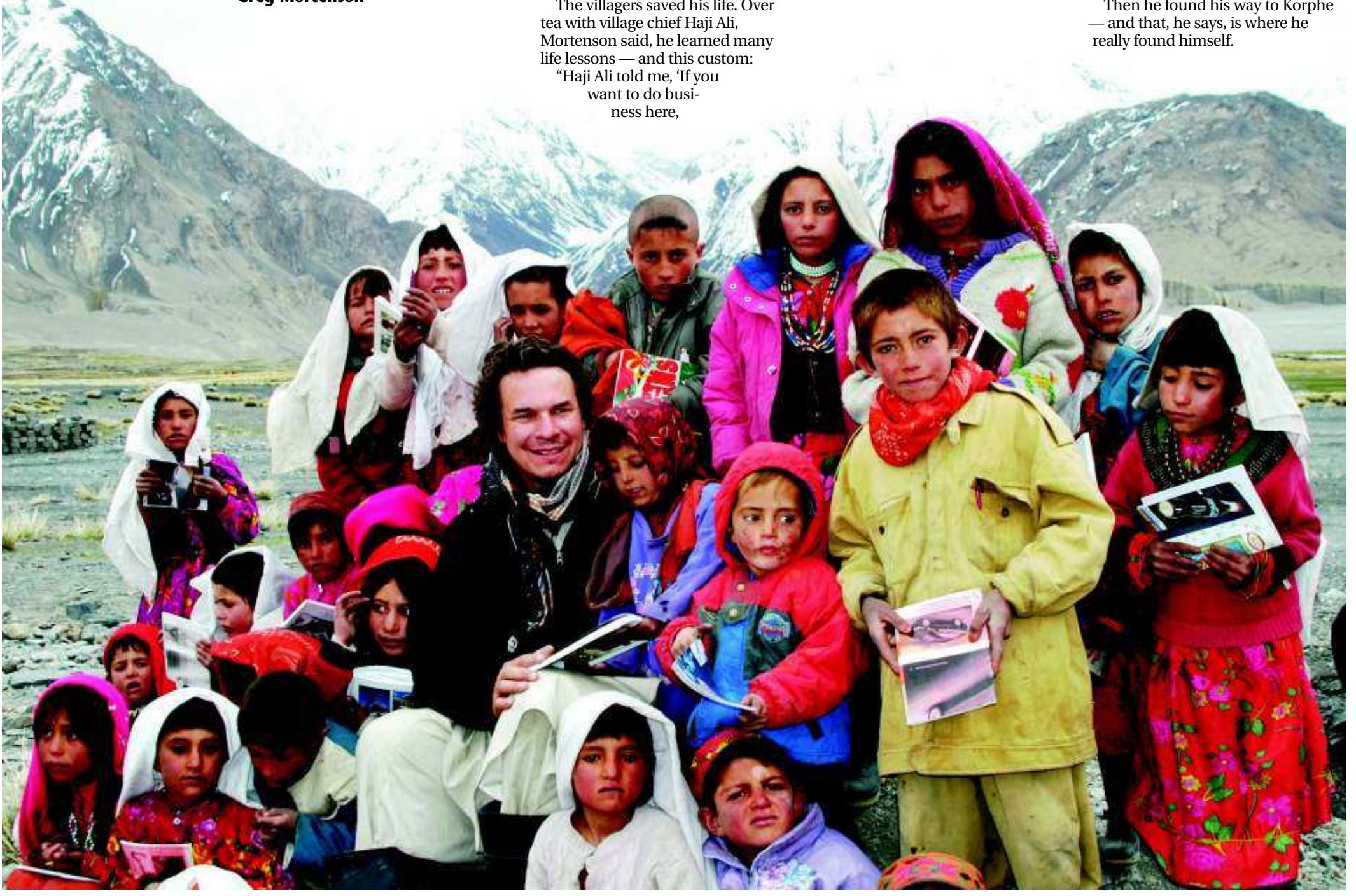
Now he is publishing two new versions: a young reader's edition for kids age 8 and older, and a picture book for kids ages 4 to 8 titled "Listen to the Wind." All three versions tell about Mortenson's life.

He was born in Minnesota and grew up in the African country of Tanzania. There his dad founded a medical center and his mom started a school. He always liked to help people, and he became a nurse.

Then he found his way to Korphe — and that, he says, is where he really found himself.

"The kids learn that they can make a difference and that even a penny can help."

— Greg Mortenson —



Greg Mortenson with schoolchildren in Afghanistan, one of the Central Asian countries where he has helped improved education.

Photo courtesy Central Asia Institute

Even the biggest sports heroes still aren't perfect

By Fred Bowen
Special to The Washington Post

USA Swimming suspended Olympic superstar Michael Phelps from competition for three months. The national body took that action after a British newspaper published a photograph that seemed to show the 14-time gold medal winner using marijuana, an illegal drug, at a college party last fall.



Phelps

Phelps admitted that his behavior was "regrettable" and that he had used "bad judgment."

USA Swimming said it was punishing Phelps because it wanted to "send a message to Michael" and especially because he is "a role model and hero to hundreds of thousands of kids."

So should all the kids who look up to Phelps and were so excited when he won a record eight gold medals in the 2008 Summer Olympics take down posters of him from their bedroom walls?

I'm not so sure they should. Let's be clear. I think using illegal drugs is wrong. It's wrong for adults, for kids and for Olympic champions. And I agree that Phelps should be punished for his actions.

But I also think it is good for kids and their parents to remember that just because someone is good at a sport does not automatically mean that he is a good person or good at something else. Being a hero in a game or a match or in the Olympics does not make you a hero in every part of your life.

For example, recently Tiger Woods' wife gave birth to their second child. Woods has won 65 PGA golf tournaments, including 14 majors. He may be the greatest golfer who has

ever lived. But all of his skill as a golfer won't help him be a good dad. Being a good dad is very different from being a good golfer.

Think of your own school. Is the kid who is the best athlete in your grade always the best student? Or the best friend? Or the nicest kid?

Phelps is a dedicated, hard-working swimmer. Reports indicate that he is back in the pool training hard, despite the suspension. Just because Phelps can swim faster than anyone in the world does not mean he doesn't make mistakes.

Kids can still admire Phelps for his swimming skill and for the effort he showed in becoming an Olympic champion. And kids can use him as a good example of how they can become better at their favorite sport if they work hard.

But that doesn't mean that kids should always try in every way to be like Mike.

Jokes for kids

Newsday

Why was the broom late for work?
He over swept.

What kind of bears like rain?
Drizzly bears.

What fairy tale is about a wolf that's bald?
"The Three Little Wigs."

How many feet are there in the world?
Twice the number of people.

What doesn't move but travels in a corner?
A postage stamp.

How did King Arthur see in the dark?
With a knight light.

Where do you find smart hot dogs?
On the Honor Roll.

Why didn't the chicken cross the road?
Because KFC was on the other side.

Knock knock. Who's there?
Cow.
Cow who?
No they don't, they moo.

Poor people have me, rich people don't have me, and if you eat me, you will die.
What am I?
Nothing.

What happened to the bad egg in school?
It got egg-spelled.

What fairy tale is about a princess who cries a lot?
"Weeping Beauty."

Why didn't the dog play soccer?
It was a boxer.