



Cloudy.

Business 8



# Six-pack at state

Half a dozen area wrestlers win state titles

Read more about the state wrestling tourney on Sports 1

PAMPER YOUR PREGNANT BODY >>> Five ways to ease the strain of pregnancy, FAMILY LIFE 1

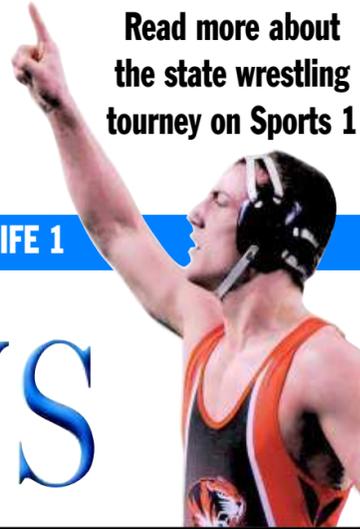
SUNDAY

March 1, 2009

\$1.50

# TIMES-NEWS

MagicValley.com



# SUNDAY LIQUOR

It's a question that triggers responses about God, the constitution and the pocketbook

Now Burley citizens and officials are putting that question to a vote

STORY BY DAMON HUNZEKER • PHOTOS BY ASHLEY SMITH  
TIMES-NEWS

## Legislature of hard knocks

In Idaho, four-year degrees are no pre-requisite for legislators

By Jared S. Hopkins  
Times-News writer

BOISE — Ask a good portion of the Idaho Legislature about their alma mater, and they'll give you a stock answer that could resemble a school fight song.

"I went to the school of hard knocks," said Sen. Shirley McKague, R-Meridian, one of Idaho's legislators without a college diploma.

She isn't alone.

Nearly 20 percent of Idaho lawmakers don't hold four-year college degrees, according to interviews with legislators and the Idaho Blue Book, a 400-page guide to government published by the state.

Of more than two dozen legislators interviewed for

See **DEGREES**, Main 2



Else Martindale, a bartender at Nelson's Café & Pilot's Lounge in Burley, makes a drink recently for a customer. Staff at the establishment say business has been slow, so Sunday sales of liquor would help both the lounge and the café where they serve meals.

**B**URLEY — At first glance, selling liquor by the drink on Sundays, especially when it's already legal to sell beer and wine, doesn't seem controversial. It is in Burley.

On May 6, citizens will vote on Ordinance 1249, which would allow the sale of liquor by the drink in city limits on Sunday, Memorial Day and Thanksgiving.

Tawnya Hale, manager of Nelson's Cafe and Pilot's Lounge, requested the change from the city last fall, which she said would allow the bar to compete equitably with others in the area. Rupert, for instance, allows the sale of liquor by the drink on Sunday.

Since the ordinance was first presented to the Burley City Council in October, several meetings were held that included comments about God withholding moisture

from crops, holy wars, police intervention, accusations of persecution from the religious community, and Biblical warnings against desecrating the Sabbath. One citizen used a piece of petrified dinosaur dung to illustrate his point that the laws were archaic.

Ultimately, the council voted 4-2 to avoid the issue and place the ordinance on the ballot, thus allowing a popular vote to determine its fate.



A selection of alcohol at Nelson's Café & Pilot's Lounge in Burley.

### Power to the cities

Idaho code allows cities, whether by council decision or popular vote, to establish the legal boundaries of liquor sales. Burley is one of the last

municipalities in the state to prohibit sale by the drink on Sunday.

Magic Valley towns have initiated new trends in recent years. The

See **LIQUOR**, Main 7

## Avalanche kills 3 on border of Wyoming, Idaho

By Matt Joyce  
Associated Press writer

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — A mile-long avalanche near the Wyoming-Idaho state line swept three snowmobilers to their deaths, authorities said Saturday.

Lincoln County officials said the three victims were among four snowmobilers caught by the snow slide Friday near Alpine Mountain in the Snake River Range. Sgt. Shane Tindall said the fourth person walked out and used his cell phone to call for help.

The survivor, 53-year-old Wade Clark of Soda Springs, told authorities that the snowmobilers had dropped off a ridge line and into a draw when they

See **AVALANCHE**, Main 7

## Home, and then what? Pondering the ex-presidents

By Ted Anthony  
Associated Press writer

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. — Each dawn through the 1950s and into the 1960s, he would emerge from the house on North Delaware Street and

amble through town in suit and Stetson hat, a snow-haired Midwestern retiree on a morning constitutional to the library where he volunteered.

He had been a farmer once, and after that a haberdasher

and a judge. But the slight man with the wooden cane became much more. He helped reconfigure Europe after World War II. He met Stalin and Churchill as an equal. On two August days in 1945, his decisions doomed

more than 200,000 people and saved uncounted others.

Now he was an old man on a walk — to a library that bore his name and chronicled his life.

"I don't think we thought of him as leader of the free world.

He mowed his own lawn," says Mary Sue Luff, 77, who learned to give tours of the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum from the man himself. "He was just a person."

The American presidency follows an arc unusual in

human history. Here, people don't become monarch for life. They don't get overthrown in coups and get exiled. They don't die in office — usually. A citizen emerges from among

See **PRESIDENTS**, Main 3



Crossword .....Classifieds 7  
Dear Abby .....Classifieds 2  
Horoscope .....Classifieds 2

Jumble .....Classifieds 5  
Movies .....Opinion 7  
Obituaries .....Business 6

Kids Only .....Family Life 6  
Sudoku .....Classifieds 6  
Your Business .....Business 2

**AND NOW FOR THE REST OF THE STORY**

Paul Harvey dies at age 90 > **Business 7**



# Presidents

Continued from Main 1

us, leads the planet's most powerful nation and then, if he lives through it, walks away and goes back to just being a citizen again.

Time has carried us away from the days when a former president could walk the streets of his Midwestern community unmolested. Today an ex-president is many things, but he is never obscure.

He is Jimmy Carter, freelance diplomat, house-builder and self-styled national conscience. He is George H.W. Bush, skydiver and proud father-in-chief. He is Bill Clinton, activist and deliverer of expensive oratory. And he is George W. Bush, blunt talker, mountain biker and brush-clearer, whose ex-presidency has yet to be defined.

Each shares one task with the others: Upon leaving the White House, he must carve a new life that will, in every way, be unlike the old one.

What do Americans do with those who have led when they return to walk among us? Are they a council of elders who dispense wise advice? Stewards of the bully pulpit who must forever watch their words, lest they be perceived as speaking for the country? Or are they old men who retreat into secure homes, guarding dusty memories of big deeds? Truth is, we're not sure.

From the beginning, we fretted about what would become of this odd breed of sudden spectators. A year before George Washington took office, Alexander Hamilton worried that former presidents would be left "wandering among the people like discontented ghosts, and sighing for a place which they were destined never more to possess."

That remains true today. We know what to make of our presidents while they're in office; after all, they belong to us. But in the national consciousness, former presidents are precisely what Hamilton foretold — phantoms who walk the

land, sometimes in the shadows and sometimes in the spotlight, daring us to figure them out.

At the beginning of the jet age he helped usher in, newly minted ex-president Harry Truman took the train home.

"I'm in the army of the unemployed now," he told the late-night crowd gathered at the Independence railroad depot for his homecoming in January 1953. To underscore his point, Truman added, "I'll be open to dinner engagements."

The man who once referred to himself as an "ordinary gink" did far more than that in his remaining two decades, in ways both productive and embarrassing. But the wistful spirit of his comments — and the tacit recognition that, politically, he was suddenly so five minutes ago — reflected the long-standing perception of the post-presidency in America.

The ex-president who went on to big things has been more exception than rule. Yes, there was John Quincy Adams, whose post-presidential Congressional resume outstripped his White House achievements. Yes, there was William Howard Taft, whose ascent to Chief Justice, for him, dwarfed his rocky executive tenure.

And no one can top Grover Cleveland, who became president, went home, then four years later returned for an encore presidency.

Quiet retirement was more common. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson went home and read, wrote (most famously to each other) and basked in founding fatherhood. James K. Polk made it home to Tennessee and promptly expired. Ulysses S. Grant, felled by cancer, worked feverishly to finish his memoirs and generate family income.

With the exception of some campaigning, implicit and otherwise, former presidents trotted themselves out

here and there but mostly remained part of the landscape of the past — living icons of the eras they shepherded us through, our partisan images of them mellowed by the passing years.

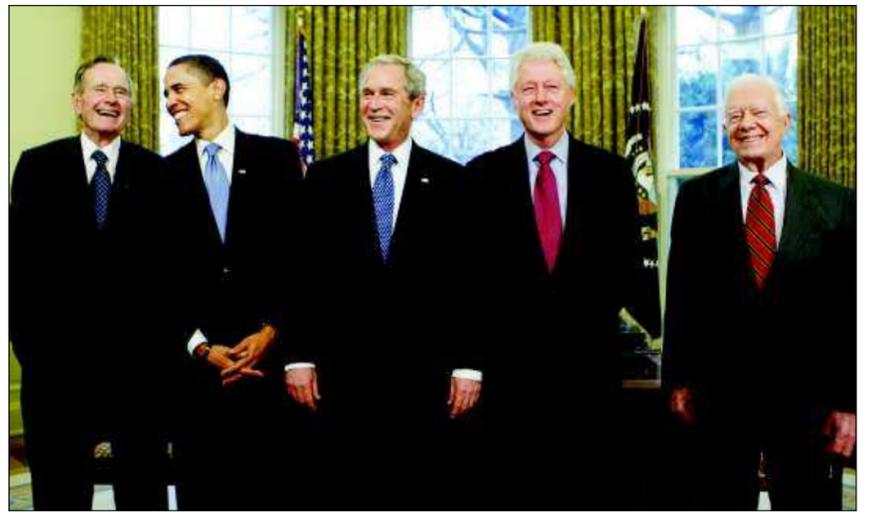
"Americans have been, by and large throughout history, puzzled by the notion of the ex-president," says Leonard Benardo, co-author of "Citizen-in-Chief: The Second Lives of the American Presidents."

"What do you do with these people?" he says. "There's a reservoir of intellectual, strategic and other resources that need to be tapped. How does one do that? It has confused and befuddled American public opinion and the American consciousness."

For the first eight years of Truman's post-presidential life, only one person shared his lot — Herbert Hoover. But Americans were starting to live longer and remain productive longer. Gradually, the country began to realize it had to start thinking about its former chief executives.

Truman helped shape this. Though his predecessor, Franklin D. Roosevelt, had commissioned the first presidential library, Truman was the first president to live to see his built — and work to mold it. And when Truman, whose only steady income was an Army pension, got into some financial discomfort — he refused to serve on corporate boards or endorse products, saying it cheapened the presidency — Congress decided to grant ex-presidents pensions in 1958.

Then, after the Kennedy assassination, Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower became the first former presidents to receive federal protection — something Bess Truman refused but finally agreed to after Lyndon Johnson called up and beseeched her to reconsider. After that, the Secret Service bought the house across from Truman's and an agent replaced



AP file photo  
President-elect Barack Obama is welcomed by then President George W. Bush for a meeting at the White House in Washington on Jan. 7 with former presidents, from left, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter.

Independence police Lt. Mike Westwood as Truman's companion on morning walks.

"It was a very dull duty. Several of the agents got graduate degrees," deadpans Randy Sowell, an archivist at the Truman Library.

It was Carter who really changed things for ex-presidents. Monitoring elections, building houses, establishing the Carter Center and conducting freelance diplomacy — often recklessly, his critics say — he has become known more for his accomplishments after the presidency than those during it. In effect, the guy who ran in 1976 as the humble peanut farmer from Georgia is a case study in the self-branding of a former president.

Sure, he went home. And sure, he takes walks. But the homespun folksiness of Truman — and of an earlier edition of Carter, for that matter — is absent. "Get out whenever you can," Carter said recently, when he was asked what a former president should do. "Use the tremendous influence that accrues to every former president trying to benefit as many people as possible."

And so it happens that George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, who jabbed at each other as campaign adversaries in 1992, travel the world together, helping out

people in need and cracking jokes about each other.

With four living former presidents, the opportunities today are myriad. Millions in speech honoraria is there for the taking — something Truman refused to do. Causes abound, as do book deals; Bill Clinton got a reported \$10 million advance for his memoirs. Second lives beyond politics are not only possible but, increasingly, inevitable.

"I wouldn't think they'd

want to retire and go sit on a porch somewhere," says Karen Mishra, a marketing expert at Meredith College in North Carolina who studies how leaders build trust. "They need to be intentional — to say, 'What is it that's really important to me? I'm not going to take on the world, but I'm going to choose one or two causes that matter to me.'"

They used to be the leaders of the free world. Now they have to pick their spots.

## Urgent Care in Twin Falls

BLUE CROSS  
PPO

+

Physicians

NO  
APPOINTMENT  
NECESSARY!

**Immediate Care Center**

Open 8:00am-7:00pm • 7 days a week  
Across From CSI on Falls Avenue

### 736-7422

## Business Highlight

# Dr. Sam Barker Relieving Your Pain

**Dr. Sam Barker** is a Twin Falls native that has been practicing in the Magic Valley for three years. He is the only chiropractic office in Twin Falls offering some of the newest non-surgical treatments for

- Herniated Discs,**
- Arthritis,**
- Back/Neck Pain,**
- Headaches.**

Accepts Medicare and Medicaid.

Call today and see how he can get you recovery, relief, & results.



Two years ago my daughter Kylie was born with heart problems that required her to have open heart surgery. We shut down my chiropractic office and, for one month, my wife and I lived at the Ronald McDonald House in Salt Lake. To celebrate Kylie's health, we are offering a coupon in which you can receive your initial exam, X-ray, and first adjustment in exchange for your \$35 dollar donation to the Ronald McDonald House.

Kylie's  
Special

\$35.00

X Ray & First  
Adjustment

(New Patient Special)  
Mention This Ad

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 March 14th.*

Call this  
week!

736-8858

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

## Business Highlight

www.northpointerealty.com

North Pointe Realty

SERVING ALL POINTS OF THE MAGIC VALLEY

324-SOLD

324-7653

733-SELL

733-7355

Only Our Name  
Has Changed!  
Same Service!  
Same Faces!  
Same Place!

Beckie Kukal  
Broker/Co-Owner

Melinda & Bill Bunn  
Co-Owner

111 Pioneer Court, Jerome Idaho  
Formaly Westerra Real Estate (Jerome Office)

# Lawmakers get stimulated but roads are feeling something else

**B**OISE — March is here, but don't expect your lawmakers to adjourn this month according to tradition.

And don't expect much legislation passed either. So far, fewer bills have been introduced since at least 2004.

Lawmakers continue to wrangle with Idaho's portion of the federal stimulus — Idaho's is estimated to get more than \$1 billion — and last week the joint budgeting committee held four days of informational hearings.

GOP lawmakers note there are indeed federal strings attached, but also concede there is also room for flexibility where they won't have to increase state funding. Now they wait back to hear from a special advisory panel organized by Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter.

• Discussion over the stimulus has allowed lawmakers to take extra time on other matters — particularly what to do with Otter's proposed transportation package to raise \$175 million.

Hearings were held Thursday on three proposals to raise the 25-cent-per-gallon gas tax, but lawmakers are saying there won't be a vote anytime soon. House leadership and Otter aides have said they are preparing a "compromise" on raising registration fees and the gas tax.

The idea, House Caucus Chairman Ken Roberts, R-Donnelly, said Friday, is to strike a balance since they are the biggest items and how lawmakers vote on one measure could determine a vote on another.

"You want to look at all the components together," Roberts said Friday.

Otter's plan to lift the tax exemption passed a House committee last week.

Otter will issue an executive order to implement many of the provisions in the recent audit of the Idaho Transportation Department, including a pavement maintenance system, said Cleve Edmunson, Otter's go-to guy on transportation.

A handful of lobbyists testified in support of Otter's annual 2-cent increase for five years to the gas tax, but



**LEGISLATIVE  
NOTEBOOK**  
**Jared S.  
Hopkins**

"... we have been told that the Department of Transportation is not working. Yet we are being told to give more money to them."

— Rep. Raul Labrador, R-Eagle

some legislators still resisted the notion more money is the answer.

"The concern I have as a business owner, as a legislator, as someone who represents constituents in my district is that we have been told that the Department of Transportation is not working. Yet we are being told to give more money to them," Rep. Raul Labrador, R-Eagle, said during the hearing. "I wouldn't spend more money if what I was doing was not working correctly."

• Rep. Maxine Bell, R-Jerome, said Thursday she understands the revenue target adopted a few months ago — at \$2.66 billion — could be lowered by around \$50 million because of up to 2,000 layoffs announced for Micron by the end of August. The drop in tax revenue is credited to the ripple effect of fewer people employed. An official number is expected to be released sometime over the next couple of weeks.

• The eighth week of the Legislature begins Monday, and its slow pace continues. Through Friday, just 608 new pieces of legislation had been prepared — a significant drop from the 931 pieces in 2006 at the same time period.

So far, only 330 bills have been introduced in both the Senate and House — the lowest number since at least 2004 at this point in the leg-

## Magicvalley.com

**READ:** Capitol Confidential, a blog about Idaho politics by reporter Jared S. Hopkins.



islative session.

• Quote of the week: "It was extremely heavy lobbying. They were on Web sites, blogs everywhere else. Over the weekend I got probably between 400 and 500 e-mails saying basically 'don't tax my beer.'" — Rep. Leon Smith, R-Twin Falls, one of five legislators on the House tax committee who supported raising the state beer and wine taxes. The measure — the increases, the first in decades, would help fund substance abuse treatment — failed on a 13-5 vote after three days of testimony.

Jared S. Hopkins may be reached at 208-420-8371 or [jhopkins@magicvalley.com](mailto:jhopkins@magicvalley.com).

## See what's new at [magicvalley.com](http://magicvalley.com)

### RED WING BOOT SALE!

MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY  
MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> - 7<sup>TH</sup>

Oxfords, 6" lace, 8" lace and slip-on. Full-grain leather uppers, long wearing sole. Sizes 6 1/2 to 16. Widths 2A to 4E.

**20% OFF**

REGULAR PRICE

Entire Stock of Red Wing Shoes & Boots

**Hudsons**  
SHOES

Lynwood Shopping Center  
Twin Falls, Idaho  
733-6280

**RED WING**  
SHOES®

## Don't ask me

Steve Crump



## I'm sorry, but have we been introduced?

**I** don't know who Chantelle Corday is, but she's my Friend.

So are Tina Icenhour, Nick Black and Diane Watters.

They're ALL my new Facebook Friends, which is alarming since I didn't have a Facebook account until about 45 minutes ago.

They invited me to join, by means of e-mail, and become Facebook Friends. To say no would have been ungenerous.

Well, that's not true. I signed up because my wife, a Facebook devotee of about an hour and a half now, threatened to post unflattering photographs of myself on her Facebook page if I didn't.

(She posted them anyway, but that's another story).

Facebook, for those of you who have been wintering on the dark side of the moon, is the popular online social networking site where people go to connect.

The five-year-old, California-based Web site has 175 million users, all of whom are Friends to somebody else on Facebook. I have — hang on just a sec while I check my Facebook page — 16 Friends already.

Nice people I'm sure, but they don't have a lot to say. Apparently, the chief purpose of serial friending is to accumulate LOTS of

Friends, not necessarily to hang out with them in Cyberia.

Facebook itself, I think, is to blame because it poses, at the top of every user's page, this question: "What are you doing right now?" The answers make for the duller content on the Internet.

You know, stuff like, "Jo really wanted a slab of cake, but is chewing some Doublemint. It's inadequate."

Kevin Cowherd, a writer for the *Baltimore Sun*, says he considered soliciting column material on his Facebook account, but decided that would be too racy.

"So my next status update read: 'Kevin is enjoying a small garden salad for lunch. Ken's Raspberry Vinaigrette dressing, if you care.'"

My wife insists she joined Facebook for the sole purpose of embarrassing our two daughters, 20 and 18, who are now so appalled that their MOTHER joined Facebook they might quit.

My motivation isn't as lofty. I just wanna know what Chantelle Corday is putting on her salad.

Steve Crump is the Times-News Opinion editor. Write to him at [scrump@magicvalley.com](mailto:scrump@magicvalley.com).

## Introducing Friends & Family.®

Unlimited calling to any 10 numbers. Anywhere in America. Anytime.

Get the best value in wireless.

Choose **10** numbers to share on any Nationwide Family SharePlan® with 1400 Anytime Minutes or more.

Choose **5** numbers on any Nationwide Single-Line Plan with 900 Anytime Minutes or more.

Activation fees, taxes & other charges apply.\*

Choose any numbers on any network. Even landlines.

---

Plus, get unlimited talk with America's Largest Mobile to Mobile Calling Family. Over 80 million strong.

**100% amazing. 50% off!**

Our best Samsung phones.

**Samsung Alias™**  
Now **\$49.99** only

\$99.99 2-yr. price - \$50 mail-in rebate debit card. With new 2-yr. activation.

**Samsung Sway™**  
Now **\$29.99** only

\$79.99 2-yr. price - \$50 mail-in rebate debit card. With new 2-yr. activation.

**Samsung Omnia™**  
Now **\$99.99** only

\$169.99 2-yr. price - \$70 mail-in rebate debit card. With new 2-yr. activation on voice plan with email feature, or email plan.

**Switch to America's Largest and Most Reliable Wireless Network.**

**Call 1.800.2.JOIN.IN**

**Click [verizonwireless.com](http://verizonwireless.com)**

**Visit any store**

**VERIZON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS STORES**  
Open 7 days a week. Technicians available at select locations.

**BOISE** 280 N. Milwaukee St. 208-375-7693  
**IDAHO FALLS** 2183 E. 17th St. 208-525-2000  
**MERIDIAN** 1400 N. Eagle Rd. 208-895-0103  
3327 N. Eagle Rd. 208-855-5881  
**POCATELLO** 4333 Yellowstone Ave. 208-237-0173  
**NAMPA** 1320 Caldwell Blvd. 208-442-2549  
**TWIN FALLS** 1239 Poleline Rd. 208-736-2022

In Collaboration with

**BUSINESS CUSTOMERS**  
**1-800-VZW-4BIZ**  
[verizonwireless.com/smallbusiness](http://verizonwireless.com/smallbusiness)

**AUTHORIZED RETAILERS**  
Equipment prices, rebates & return policy vary by location. Authorized Retailers may impose additional equipment-related charges, including cancellation fees.

**BURLEY**  
MyBullfrog.com 208-678-6850  
Wireless Innovations 208-678-5800  
**JEROME**  
Wireless Innovations 208-644-9100  
**TWIN FALLS**  
Alert Cellular 208-733-2502

\*Our Surcharges (incl. Fed. Univ. Svc. of 9.5% of interstate & int'l telecom charges (varies quarterly), 7¢ Regulatory & 85¢ Administrative/line/mo. & others by area) are not taxes (details: 1-888-684-1888); gov't taxes & our surcharges could add 4%-31% to your bill. Activation fee/line: \$35 (\$25 for secondary Family SharePlan lines w/ 2-yr. Agmts).

**IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION:** Subject to Customer Agmt, Calling Plan, rebate form & credit approval. Up to \$175 early termination fee/line, up to 40¢/min after allowance & add'l charges apply for data sent or received (incl. Mobile Web ads). Friends & Family: Only domestic landline or wireless numbers (other than directory assistance, 900 numbers or customer's own wireless or Voice Mail access numbers) may be added; all qualifying lines on an account share the same Friends & Family numbers, up to account's eligibility limits; My Verizon required to set up and manage Friends & Family numbers. Device capabilities: Add'l charges & conditions apply. Offers & coverage, varying by service, not available everywhere. Network details & coverage maps at [verizonwireless.com](http://verizonwireless.com). Rebate debit card takes up to 6 weeks & expires in 12 months. In CA: Sales tax based on full retail price of phone. © 2009 Verizon Wireless. 76043

# Republicans meet for Lincoln Day Banquet

By Ben Botkin  
Times-News writer

Sen. Mike Crapo held up a 1,100-page document on Friday night in front of the people attending the Twin Falls County Republican Lincoln Day Banquet.

The document was the \$787 billion federal stimulus bill that was recently approved by Congress. Crapo, an Idaho Republican, told the audience at the Turf Club in Twin Falls why he had opposed the proposal.

"Big government is back in Washington, D.C.," Crapo said.

The economic stimulus bill, he said, is based on the concept of spending your way to prosperity.

"Why wouldn't we just do that every year?" Crapo said. "We'd never have a downturn in the economy."

Republican Rep. Mike Simpson, who had also opposed the bill, said laws need to go through the legislative process of debate, discussion and amendments, which didn't happen with the stimulus.

"I wasn't upset; I was pissed off," he said, as the audience applauded. "And you should be too, because they are destroying the fabric that makes this country great."

Simpson said he was proud how fellow Republican law-



Idaho Sen. Mike Crapo speaks during a meeting with Times-News staff at the newspaper office Friday afternoon in Twin Falls.

makers responded to the federal stimulus proposal, which didn't receive one Republican vote of support in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"I think for the first time in some time, we found our voice," Simpson said.

He also questioned how timely the stimulus money will be in helping the current economic downturn.

Some of the stimulus funding won't happen until two and a half to four years from now, Simpson said.

In a short speech, Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter praised the Idaho delegation's work in

Washington, D.C., noting that other states, including Tennessee and Kentucky, have concerns about the federal stimulus.

Otter read a passage from the book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible that says there is "no new thing under the sun."

"While change seems to be today's newest mantra, much of what we're seeing unfold before us fits with what history has revealed to us through the ages," Otter said.

Ben Botkin may be reached at 208-735-3238 or bbotkin@gmagicvalley.com.

## T.F. holds wood collection in March

City of Twin Falls Wood Waste Diversion Facility will be open in March for city residents to dispose wood products during the following times: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 4; 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 7; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 11; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 25.

Residents can drop off untreated lumber, wood pallets, tree limbs up to 32 inches in diameter and eight feet or less in length, stumps less than 32 inches in diameter with no root balls, cedar shingles, lath (no plaster) shrubs, prunings and Christmas trees.

The facility is on Rose Street off of South Park Avenue. Residents must verify residence by bringing a utility bill. The chipped wood will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

More information is available at www.tfid.org or at City Hall.

## Business Highlight

### You're Invited to the Cleaning Center's Seminars

Don Aslett's Cleaning Center opened June 2008 in Twin Falls. Located at the corner of Washington Street North and Filer Avenue, the Cleaning Center has experienced tremendous growth as Magic Valley customers learn to clean the "Don Aslett Way." America's #1 Cleaning Expert, Don Aslett has proven the theory... "THERE IS LIFE AFTER HOUSEWORK!"



Sandra Phillips  
Home Expert

As part of The Cleaning Center's ongoing emphasis on educating customers of the pros' cleaning secrets, a series of Free Seminars are being offered during "Ladies Night Out," Friday, March 6, featuring Home Expert Sandra Phillips. Mother of 8, inventor, and general contractor, Sandra has written several books, including *A Clean Break*. Her passion is to make housekeeping easier. She has appeared 3 seasons with Home & Garden channel in Los Angeles, and is a frequent guest on KSL's Studio 5 program in Salt Lake.



### LADIES NIGHT OUT!

Friday, March 6, from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Leave your worries at home (with your man) and enjoy the evening at Don Aslett's Cleaning Center! Call ahead and sign up for the following FREE SEMINARS.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 6:15 Who Says It's A Woman's Job to Clean?                                     | 7:45 Get Fit NOW! ...Start Your Household Cleaning, Calorie-Burning Workouts! |
| 6:45 Clean Living with KITTY & POOCH (101 "Pet Peeves" for Paws, Claws & Fins) | 8:15 Clean Your MESS FOR LESS And Save The Environment                        |
| 7:15 Getting Your Children to Clean Without You Getting Too Mean!              | 8:45 How to Clean Your Bathroom In Less Than 3 1/2 Minutes                    |

**FREE PRIZES**

- \* Massage Therapy
- \* Facial
- \* Oil Change

**Don Aslett's  
CLEANING  
CENTER**

734-2404

**FREE PRIZES**

- \* Tanning Session
- \* Gift Certificates
- \* Refreshments

483 Washington St. N. Twin Falls, ID (Corner of Washington St. N. and Filer Ave.)

## Hey, Milkshake, that's a big pile of Rewards!

See the difference  
interest can make.

	free REWARDS CHECKING	Other Banks
Yearly Interest on \$1,000.00	\$50.12	\$4.00
Yearly Interest on \$5,000.00	\$250.58	\$20.00
Yearly Interest on \$10,000.00	\$501.16	\$40.00
Yearly Interest on \$25,000.00	\$1,230.69	\$100.00

Why settle for traditional free checking when you can have Rewards Checking?

5.01%

ON BALANCES  
UP TO \$25,000

1.01%

ON BALANCES  
OVER \$25,000

0.10%

IF QUALIFICATIONS  
NOT MET

Exclusively at  
First Fed

Free ATM Access Nationwide\*\* ScoreCard Rewards Points No Minimum Balance! No Fees! No Tease!

**FIRST  
FEDERAL**

Twin Falls • Rupert • Jerome • Buhl • Burley • Kimberly

Visit our website at  
[www.firstfd.com](http://www.firstfd.com)

Each depositor insured to at least \$100,000

**FDIC**

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation - www.fdic.gov

**EQUAL HOUSING  
LENDER**

\*5.01% Annual Percentage Yield (APY) paid on balances between one penny and \$25,000, and 1.01% APY paid on all amounts above \$25,000 each cycle the minimum qualifications are met. If you do not meet the qualifications per cycle, your account will still function as a free checking account earning 0.10% APY; however, it will not receive ATM refunds for that time period. Rates as of 02/06/2009. We may change the interest rate and APY at any time after the account is opened. No Minimum Balance Required. Free Online Billpay. No monthly service charge. The Minimum balance to open this account is \$100 \*\*ATM refunds up to \$25 per cycle if qualifications are met.





# Tamarack Resort closing amid foreclosure lawsuits

By Keith Ridler  
Associated Press writer

BOISE — Tamarack Resort in north-central Idaho, once hailed as America's newest all-season resort but now mired in foreclosure lawsuits, plans to shut down operations by Wednesday.

"It's disheartening," said resort spokesman Ken Rider, who wasn't sure how many

employees will lose their jobs. "We all knew that this was a possibility."

Tamarack is currently being run by a court-appointed receiver, San Diego, Calif.-based Douglas Wilson Co.

Rider said late Saturday that he couldn't discuss details because Douglas Wilson had not officially released its plan. Employees on Friday were told of the resort's impending closing.

Workers answering phones at the resort on Saturday said they were not authorized to comment.

The resort 90 miles north of Boise opened in December 2004 intending to lure vacationers from across the nation for winter fun on its ski slopes. Summer visitors had an array of options, includ-

ing an 18-hole golf course.

Despite the sporting allure, the resort was being financed by real-estate sales. Development plans called for more than 2,000 lots to be sold over the next decade and a half to pay for \$1.5 billion in expansion.

But those plans began to stall with the credit crisis and sputtering economy. Then last year Bank of America threatened to remove two ski lifts after Tamarack Resort fell behind on lease payments.

A \$250 million loan ran out, real-estate sales slumped and construction on the resort ground to a halt.

Tennis stars Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf bailed out of the project and, while owners sought new money, Zurich-based Credit Suisse successfully ousted them from man-

agement. Douglas Wilson Co. stepped in to manage the project as its finances — and multiple court cases — get sorted out.

Ski lifts opened in December, but skier visits hit just 27,000 this year through late January as the national economy faltered and snow conditions were less than optimal, leaving the resort with an operating deficit of \$304,000 as of Jan. 23 — more than twice the \$133,555 deficit anticipated two months ago by Douglas Wilson Co.

In January, Tamarack's largest shareholder, Jean-Pierre Boespflug, said talks with potential buyers had collapsed due to credit-market turbulence, the precarious state of resort real estate, and Tamarack's unresolved financial problems.

It's unclear what kind of plans there are, if any, for the resort to someday resume operations following the closure.

"It's a fantastic area," said Rider. "It really is."

## Siegfried and Roy stage comeback for charity

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Illusionists Siegfried and Roy headed back to the stage for a one-night-only comeback performance Saturday, more than five years after a brutal tiger attack ended the careers of the longtime Las Vegas duo.

The charity performance was promoted as the "the final bow" for Roy Horn and Siegfried Fischbacher, the German-born showmen responsible for one of the most successful shows in Las Vegas history.

The two had been stage partners for 45 years when a 380-pound Bengal tiger named Montecore sank its teeth into Horn's neck during a live performance and dragged him offstage in front of a stunned audience.

Horn, now 64, was partially paralyzed, suffering a damaged neck artery and crushed windpipe in the October 2003 attack.

The long-running "Siegfried and Roy" show immediately went dark.

Promoters wouldn't say if the duo's big cats would be involved in the single illusion planned for Saturday night.

## Car with 5-year-old inside sinks in icy Utah river

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Crews on Saturday were using sonar to search the bottom of the Colorado River for a car and a 5-year-old girl that disappeared in the icy water south of Moab.

The car, with a Colorado family inside, plunged down a 60-foot canyon and fell into the river Friday afternoon.

The driver, Evelyn M. Maestas, 60, of Mancos, Colo., and her adopted daughter, Tori, 11, were able to escape through a broken window and get out of the river, highway officials said. They told authorities they saw Maestas' granddaughter, 5-year-old Danica, also of Mancos, Colo., still inside the Nissan as it sank.

Crews searched for the car and the girl on Friday. They resumed early Saturday, walking the river's shoreline and using the sonar technology, Sgt. Jeff Nigbur, a Utah Highway Patrol spokesman, told The Associated Press. The sonar, attached to a boat on the surface, provides underwater

images of the river bottom.

By Saturday afternoon the sonar crew had covered about mile of the murky river. One of the problems is that the river bottom is strewn with large boulders, Nigbur said.

"We're having a hard time looking through all the nooks and crannies," Nigbur said Saturday afternoon. "The Colorado River is also very dirty and you can't see a thing."

Crews also don't know how much air the car had in it — which would allow it to move farther down the river — or if it sank quickly, he said.

"We're looking everywhere we can," Nigbur said.

Utah Highway Patrol Sgt. Darrel Mecham said Maestas and the 11-year-old girl suffered from hypothermia and were taken to the hospital after Friday's crash. Their condition was not immediately available Saturday afternoon.

## Steering committee member could benefit from Boise transit center

BOISE — A member of a steering committee helping to decide where to build a transit center in Boise would benefit financially from the two sites that are being considered for the hub for buses, bikes, pedestrians and taxis.

However, city leaders say Jim Tomlinson's membership on the Downtown Policy Advisory Committee is not a conflict of interest because Tomlinson has been straightforward about his downtown interests and has recused himself from votes pertaining to the property he owns.

Tomlinson owns a parking lot that could become an off-street transit center on 11th Street. He also owns a building that would likely be used for indoor space if the center was instead built along 10th Street.

"My interest in serving is to do whatever I can to ensure a state-of-the-art transit facility that will benefit the whole community, including our downtown properties," Tomlinson told the Idaho Statesman.

"Given his ownership interest in both recommended Site H (11th Street) and alternative site 10th Street, it would seem unrealistic for Mr. Tomlinson to remain completely impartial and objective."

— Steven Rumpp, a downtown business man

Tomlinson told the Idaho Statesman.

Tomlinson is a board member and current president of the Downtown Boise Association, and represented that group on the committee.

The committee includes leaders with representatives from Ada County, the Ada County Highway District, the city of Boise, the Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce, and others.

The committee makes recommendations to the Valley Regional Transit Board of directors, who will make the final decision on the transit center.

"The Downtown Boise Association recommended Tomlinson be on the committee," said Valley Regional Transit spokesman Mark Carnopis. "Early on, he was straightforward in informing the committee of his downtown interests, and he did recuse himself during votes pertaining to his downtown holdings."

"I think (Tomlinson's) interests are for the best interest of downtown,"

said Karen Sander, director of the Downtown Boise Association. "When it comes to land use or acquiring property, I think he would definitely step aside."

If the 11th Street site is chosen, Valley Regional Transit would either lease or partner with Tomlinson to use his land.

If the 10th Street site is selected, the agency would have to lease space for public restrooms and other amenities. Tomlinson is the only property owner on 10th Street so far willing to lease space to Valley Regional Transit.

Steven Rumpp, a downtown business man, isn't sure Tomlinson should be on the committee.

"Given his ownership interest in both recommended Site H (11th Street) and alternative site 10th Street, it would seem unrealistic for Mr. Tomlinson to remain completely impartial and objective," said Rumpp, spokesman for Witticatber Corp., which owns the building at the southeast corner of 10th and Bannock.



Arts on Tour  
Presents:

# Bearfoot

March 4, 2009 - 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored By:  
**TIMES-NEWS**  
magicvalley.com

*Bearfoot is a fast rising, young acoustic bluegrass band based out of Anchorage, Alaska featuring powerful, emotive vocals, touching arrangements and instrumental excellence backed up by solid rhythm.*

Tickets: \$18/ Adults \$13/ Children. To buy tickets, go to [www.csi.edu/artsontour](http://www.csi.edu/artsontour) or you can also order tickets by phone at (208) 732-6288. Or purchase tickets in person at the CSI Fine Arts Center Box Office, 315 Falls Avenue in Twin Falls, Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. or 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. on performance nights.



# BUFFETED BUT NOT BOWED

Berkshire has worst year, Buffett still optimistic.

See Business 7

Your Business, Business 2 / Idaho/West, Business 5 / Obituaries, Business 6-7 / Weather, Business 8

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2009

BUSINESS EDITOR JOSHUA PALMER: (208)735-3231 JPALMER@MAGICVALLEY.COM

GLASS CLEANER AS A NEW CAR WASH  
DYING YOUR OWN HAIR  
STARTER SEWING KITS  
**AMERICANS**  
DIY LANDSCAPING  
FEWER TRIPS TO THE VET  
MORE GARDENING  
**FORCED TO**  
WORKING OUT AT HOME  
BECOMING YOUR OWN MECHANIC  
HOMEBREWED COFFEE  
**'INSOURCE'**

Anxious economic times has many Americans learning how to fend for themselves

By Ylan Q. Mui  
The Washington Post

**W**ASHINGTON — The economic downturn is forcing America's households to learn a tough lesson: how to fend for themselves.

Sales of starter sewing kits have shot up by 30 percent at Wal-Mart as families forgo the tailor. Landscaping companies have suffered a 7 percent drop in revenue over the past year. Procter & Gamble said that it has noticed more questions from customers about how to dye their hair at home to match salon coloring.

The recession has had a powerful effect on the American state of mind. A Washington Post-ABC News poll released this week shows Americans have grown increasingly insecure about their finances since mid-September, as fears about making mortgage payments have spread and more believe the economy is in a long-term, serious decline.

These feelings have helped set off a change in behavior so pronounced marketers and businesses have coined a name for it. They call it "insourcing": doing yourself what you once gladly paid others to do for you.

Two-thirds of those responding to the new poll said they've cut back on their spending, including nearly a third who have pulled back "sharply."

Americans across income groups said they are opening their wallets less often these days.

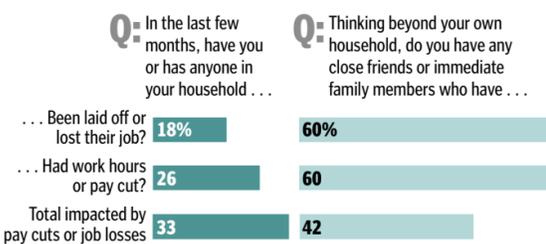
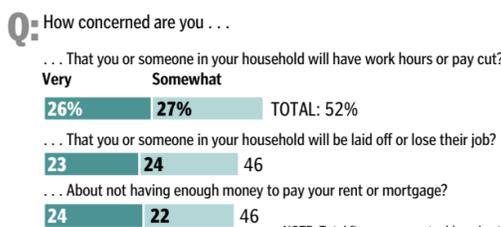
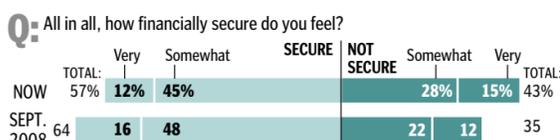
"There are many of us that have been spending money that we can't afford to spend and have taken on habits that we had no business taking on," said Paco Underhill, who studies consumer behavior and wrote the book "Why We

See **INSOURCE**, Business 3

The Washington Post-ABC NEWS POLL

The Real Life Impact

The recession has had a noticeable impact on nearly two-thirds of Americans, resulting in diminished feelings of financial security, increased stress, and widespread concern about future job losses or pay cuts.



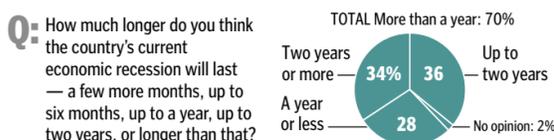
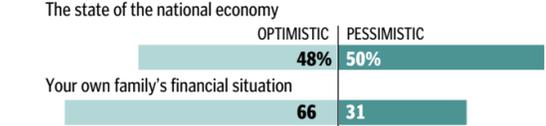
Among those in households experiencing a job loss or pay cut:



Among those who said they've been hurt a great deal by the recession:



Q: Thinking about the next 12 months, would you say you feel optimistic or pessimistic about . . . ?



SOURCE: This Washington Post-ABC News poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Feb. 19-22 among a random national sample of 1,001 adults. Results from the full survey have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus three percentage points. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS of Horsham, Pa.

Complete data from the poll can be found at [www.washingtonpost.com/polls](http://www.washingtonpost.com/polls).

Washington Post

## Splitting that spaghetti? You're not the only one

Restaurants see increase in frugal customers; some charge a fee

By Lauren Shepherd  
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Can we split that?

The question — once considered a bit gauche in some circles — is now being asked by diners of all

kinds at restaurants in every price range. With the economy still souring, splitting an appetizer, dessert and even an entree is becoming, for many, an easy way to save a few dollars without sacrificing the indulgence of a dinner out.

"My husband and I try to either split dishes or use a 'buy 1, get 1' coupon every time we go out nowadays," said Jessica Secord of Grand Rapids, Mich., adding that they usually split an entree and other items. "We don't always

order dessert or appetizers, but when we do you can guarantee that it's shared."

Restaurants say they are seeing more and more customers like Secord who are using the tactic to slice their eating-out budget.

"People are splitting things like they never have before," said David Pogrebin, general manager of French restaurant Brasserie in New York, where a hamburger costs

See **SPLITTING**, Business 2



A Spicy Barbeque Chicken Sandwich is shown in June 2008. With the economy still souring, splitting an appetizer, dessert and even an entree is becoming, for many, an easy way to save a few dollars.

## Got money? Get a car deal. Why it's a good time to buy

By Kimberly S. Johnson  
Associated Press writer

DETROIT — General Motors Corp. is still burning billions in cash, reporting a \$9.6 billion loss for the fourth-quarter. Domestic and foreign automakers alike are suffering, reporting industry sales at dismal levels not seen in 26 years.

GM and Chrysler have received financial help from the government,

and they're asking for more. But the only way car companies will be able to turn their fortunes around is by getting consumers to return to dealerships and purchase new cars.

What are the government, automakers and dealers doing to try to nudge weary customers back to showrooms?

Here are some questions and answers about buying a car during this tumultuous time for

the auto industry.

Q: Is now a good time to buy a car? Can I get good deal?

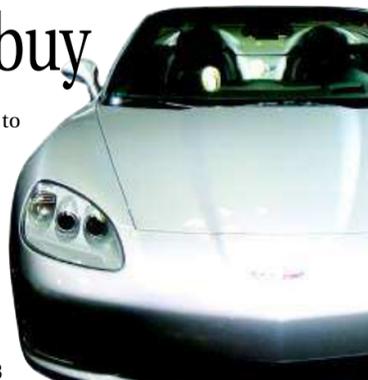
A: Yes and Yes. Dealers are anxious to make sales to bring in cash and move inventory off their lots. Many automakers are offering employee pricing, which in some cases shaves as much as 10 percent off the price. There are also additional incentives and rebates buyers can take advantage of, varying from manufacturer to

manufacturer and dealer to dealer.

Q: Is there aid in the stimulus bill if I decide to buy a new car? And would I have to purchase an American-made vehicle?

A: The stimulus bill gives consumers a state sales tax and excise tax deduction on

See **BUY**, Business 3



## Financial bailout cost could be nearly \$1.5 trillion

Lawmakers call for boosting regulation of financial system

By Jim Puzanghera  
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The White House raised the price tag for bailing out the financial system, saying it could more than double to nearly \$1.5 trillion.

President Barack Obama's fiscal 2010 budget outline warns that, should economic conditions worsen, an additional \$750 billion could be required on top of the \$700 billion financial rescue fund authorized by Congress last fall.

"We hope that it will not be necessary," Peter R. Orszag, director of the Office of Management and Budget, said of increasing the bailout fund. "We have no plans to go to Congress at this point to ask for additional money."

Highlighting the industry's problems, the government reported Thursday that banks and savings institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. incurred a net loss of \$26.2 billion in the last three months of 2008, the first such quarterly loss since 1990.

Obama's budget outline for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 also calls for greater spending on oversight of financial markets, with budget increases of 13 percent for the Securities and Exchange Commission and 44 percent for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. In addition more money would be provided to the Justice Department to investigate mortgage fraud and other financial activities, although an exact amount isn't specified.

Some lawmakers have called for boosting regulatory enforcement efforts, particularly at the SEC, which has been sharply criticized for failing to identify Bernard L. Madoff's alleged Ponzi scheme.

SEC chief Mary L. Schapiro said additional money for the agency would allow it to increase its staff and use new technology "to pursue risk-based approaches that would better detect fraud and ensure stronger oversight of the nation's securities markets."

Analysts expressed little surprise that the cost of the bailout might top \$1 trillion, in part because some of the money has been used for other purposes, such as assisting automakers and reducing home foreclosures.

"You just look at how quickly the government went

See **BAILOUT**, Business 3

# YOUR BUSINESS

## CAREER MOVES

### Magic Valley Rehabilitation Services

Magic Valley Rehabilitation Services Inc. announced new employees and employee promotions.

With funding made available through a grant from the U. S. Department of Education, **Hallie Barnes** has been hired as a project with industry employment specialist where she will be responsible for working in partnership with a Regional Business Advisory Council to coordinate the preparation and placement of individuals with disabilities into employment. She has earned 104 credit hours toward a bachelor's degree in business management and marketing and has worked as owner/operator of a day care, customer service representative, and rural carrier for the U. S. Postal Service, and as a paraprofessional with the Twin Falls School District.

**Sara Lind** has been hired as employment services specialist Aide where she will provide ongoing support to adults with disabilities who are working in the community. She has years of experience providing developmental therapy and experience in sales and manufacturing.

**Elia Rey** is a new employee of the Rehabilitation Division. She is an employment services specialist who will help adults with disabilities to maintain their jobs in the community. She has experience in customer services, as a legal assistant and a health coordinator, aide and migrant coordinator.

**Marianne Schmidt** has been hired as a developmental specialist in the Community Access Program where she will evaluate the strengths, needs and interests of program participants and develop service plans and intervention strategies that result in the acquisition of various personal, social and independent living skills. She also supervises

Therapy Technicians. Schmidt has a bachelor's of science degree in psychology from the University of Utah, a master's of science degree as a rehabilitation therapist from the University of Arizona, experience as a teacher for individuals with vision impairments, and experience working as a vocational rehabilitation counselor for the Utah Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Hired initially as an employment services specialist aide, **Dean Smith** has accepted a position as floor supervisor II/industrial division coordinator. In addition to supervising participants who are involved with work projects such as assembly and car detailing, he is responsible for assisting with implementation of the organization's safety program. He has completed the

Human Services program at the College of Southern Idaho, has experience providing developmental therapy, and work experience as a restaurant manager, truck driver and sprinkler/curb laborer.



LaJambe



Koyle



Sanderson



Carreno

### Professional Truck Driving School

Professional Truck Driving School announced its recent graduates.

**Derek LaJambe** graduated Jan. 22, **Gordon Koyle** graduated Feb. 2, **Jerid Sanderson** graduated Feb. 11, and **Daniel Carreno** graduated Feb. 13.

The four graduates each received a Class A Commercial driver's license with endorsements.

### Jon Melone and Mike Shawver

Two Magic Valley residents attended and successfully completed Sommelier training in Boise recently. They are **Jon Melone**, Sommelier who works for Canyon Crest Dining and Event Center in Twin Falls, and **Mike Shawver**, the district manager for Hayden Beverage in Twin Falls.

Sommelier is French for wine steward.

The class taught the finer points of wine service, food pairing, components of tasting and wine region.

It also touched on elements of beer, sherry, spirits, liqueurs and cocktails and finished off with an intense exam.

### Terry R. Downs

**Terry R. Downs**, a Modern Women of America representative from Twin Falls, attained the Fraternal Insurance Counselor Fellow designation. The FICF title is an educational designation that can be earned by career life insurance representatives associated with fraternal insurance societies.

Representatives devote more than a year to meet examination and career development criteria set by the Fraternal Field Managers Association followed by three advanced courses in estate planning, business insurance and financial products to earn the advanced designation.

### Benita Conway

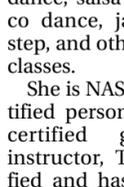
**Body IQ Women's Total Fitness and Wellness Center** at 259 Shoshone St. S. in Twin Falls has added **Benita Conway** to its group of fitness instructors.

Conway comes to Idaho from Los Angeles, Calif., where she has taught cardio dance, salsa dance, flamenco dance, jazz, Latin, tap, step, and other group fitness classes.

She is NASM and ACE certified personal trainer, ACE certified group fitness instructor, Turbokick certified and has had TRX suspension training.



Conway



Smith

## MILESTONES

### HEALTH FAIR



Courtesy photo

**Dr. Margo Saunders**, occupational health Medical director from Minidoka Memorial Hospital, explains laboratory results to **Gary and Deborah Jones** at the United Electric Health Fair.

United Electric recently held its first annual Health Fair for its employees and board of directors. United Electric receives a discount on health insurance premiums if they participate in a wellness program, and one of the requirements is that they hold an in-house health fair for employees and spouses.

Minidoka Memorial Hospital's Occupational Health Departments **Joye Simpson**, registered nurse, and **Ruth Edwards** helped coordinate the event.

### MI TESORO



Courtesy photo by JIM SCOTT

**Hagerman** has a new Mexican restaurant called **Mi Tesoro (My Treasure)**. The Hagerman Valley Chamber of Commerce welcomed the new business and its newest member with a ribbon-cutting ceremony recently. Pictured from left, Mayor **Jacob Rice**, Chamber Vice-President **Jasmine Call**, President **Mark Bolduc**, Heriberto 'Eddie' Salazar, Monica Salazar, Treasurer **Judy Osborne** and board member **Sandy Gleason**.

## CONTRIBUTION

### FOOD CHECK-OUT DAY



Courtesy photo

The Cassia County Farm Bureau celebrated Farm Bureau's Food Check-Out Day on Feb. 21 by sponsoring an agricultural/nutrition question and answer game for the shoppers at Stokes in Burley. There were 20 balloons and one grand prize balloon of having all of the food items in their shopping cart paid for by the Cassia County Farm Bureau. The lucky shopper was **Marcela Villanueva** who was accompanied by her two children and **Jose Meraz**. Her groceries totaled \$357.42.

'Food Check-out Day should hold meaning for most Americans,' **Garth Steed**, president of the county bureau, said. 'As food producers, we are concerned that some Americans cannot afford to buy the food they need, but we are proud of the role Idaho farmers play in making our food supply more affordable for all.'

## We want

### YOUR BUSINESS news

We welcome announcements about new businesses as well as employee changes or advancements. To submit contributions to YourBusiness, send announcements and photographs to Times-News business Editor **Joshua Palmer** at [jpalmer@magicvalley.com](mailto:jpalmer@magicvalley.com).

The deadline to submit an announcement for the following Sunday is Wednesday at noon.

Announcements must be 150 words or less. The Times-News reserves the right to edit content.

### HERITAGE MAKER



Courtesy photo

**Joyce Moore** is a certified Heritage Maker consultant in the Magic Valley. Moore also teaches a Heritage Makers Community Education class at the College of Southern Idaho. Her next class will run from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays April 1-May 6. The cost of the class is \$99 plus supplies and you can register at CSI's Community Education Center. For information on Moore's business: 734-8417 or [www.booksandmoore.com](http://www.booksandmoore.com).

### Kitchen Tune-Up owners celebrate anniversary

**Noel and Donna Erickson**, owners of the Kitchen Tune-Up of Twin Falls franchise, just celebrated the 12th anniversary of their remodeling business.

The Ericksons recently returned from their annual national training conference in Las Vegas, following three days of specialized seminars, including the latest in cabinet refacing, custom cabinetry, advanced kitchen designing, and commercial work.

Kitchen Tune-Up was rated the No. 1 home remodeling

franchise again this January by Entrepreneur Magazine. Their eco-friendly company offers kitchen and bath solutions for every budget, from economical wood reconditioning to full kitchen remodeling. Information: 736-1036.

### Insurance, financial advisers to gather

The National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors will hold its general meeting at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at the Loong Hing restaurant in Twin Falls.

A health insurance update will be given by **Steve Moore** of Blue Cross.

## Splitting

Continued from Business 1

\$18 and an entree can rise above \$30.

**Pogrebin** said he recently noticed three people sharing an iced tea, which comes with unlimited refills. The restaurant didn't stop them.

"Now all bets are off," he said. "People are not ashamed of being frugal."

Thriftiness hasn't always been met with a smile at restaurants. Most diners who have ever asked to split an entree know well the withering look from a server that brands them a penny-pincher.

But in these days of high unemployment and shrinking paychecks, many consumers just don't see being frugal as such a crime.

"I do worry sometimes about people thinking we are being cheap, but I tend to feel that I am still spending money there over eating at home, and I try not to worry about it," said **Marcy Robison**, a stay-at-home mom from Columbus, Ohio. "In the end, we are trying to be wise stewards of our finances and if someone finds fault with that, so be it."

**Robison**, who also writes a blog called "Stretching a Buck," said she and her husband typically eat out two or three times a week and frequently split an entree or

order two entrees and split them with their 3-year old daughter.

She said that by sharing dishes, the family saves between \$5 and \$12 each time, depending on where they go.

Of course, the savings can dwindle at restaurants that charge a splitting fee, which can go as high as \$5 for an entree.

Some restaurants assess the fee if the chef splits the dinner into two before bringing it to the table. Some dishes aren't easily splittable — pork in bone, for example, can't be cut exactly in half without one person receiving more fat or more bone.

But the hassle may be worth it if it brings more diners to the table. Restaurants have been hard hit by the recession as more consumers cut back or eat at home to save money.

According to industry data service **Knapp-Track**, which collects monthly sales data from more than 10,000 sit-down restaurants, same-store sales — or sales at stores open at least a year — for sit-down chains dropped an estimated 4.1 percent in January from the same month a year earlier.

For those restaurants and servers willing to accommodate diners asking for halves on an entree, some customers may offer at least a small reward — a bigger tip.

**REMODEL or BUILD**  
Our Professional Staff  
is ready to help you!



**Franklin**  
BUILDING SUPPLY  
SERVICE IS OUR SPECIALTY

1390 Highland Ave. E.  
Twin Falls • 733-5571

515 West Main Street  
Jerome • 324-8168

Find more news at  
[www.magicvalley.com](http://www.magicvalley.com)



# Global fallout

WASHINGTON — For the past two years, Europeans have tended to view their own financial and economic problems as largely imported from the United States. The impacts on their own economies, they reasoned smugly, would be modest and short-lived.

Turns out they were wrong. Over the past two weeks, the bottom has fallen out of Asia's export economy while Europe has come face to face with a financial crisis that is as bad as ours and will probably become even worse without the kind of unified response that individual countries have so far resisted.

And what does that mean for us? Nothing good. It means that our downturn will be longer and deeper than many had hoped and that we can't rely as much on export growth to pull us out of the ditch.

Basically, there are two stories to tell here about the sudden downturn in the global economy.

The easiest to understand is the collapse of industrial production in East Asia, where the supply chain starts in places like Taiwan and Vietnam and moves through places like China and Japan before cars, shoes, computers and flat-panel TVs arrive at stores in the United States, Western Europe and everywhere else.

According to Barry Eichengreen, an economist at the University of California at Berkeley, the 40 percent decline in Taiwan's industrial production at the end of last year was the "canary in the coal mine" of Team Asia's formidable export machine. At about the same time, Japan's exports fell 35 percent, Korea's 17 percent, and China's fourth-quarter gross domestic product was essentially flat — no economic growth at all.

As did a number of other economists, Eichengreen told me he'd never seen declines this fast and this steep, even during the Asian economic crisis when he was working at the International Monetary Fund's war room here in Washington. It all reflects not only the sharp pullback in consumer spending around the world but also an equally sharp pullback in the flow of foreign investment that was used to build factories and shopping centers and has been an important driver of growth in the region.

Demand for Asian exports will pick up again before too long, but it will be a long time before they reach the levels attained at the height of the bubble economy. And it will be longer still before foreigners will be eager to invest in expanding capacity again.

Ideally, Asians would respond to this challenge by reducing their reliance on exports and foreign investment and reorienting their economy more toward domestic consumption. But as Raghuram Rajan of the University of Chicago points out, that's not that simple.

For starters, the things Asians might want to consume aren't necessarily the things they produce to export, so production would need to be reoriented and workers retrained and redeployed. And to replace the foreign investment, these economies would need to develop financial institutions that can raise and invest risk capital, which right now they don't really have. Most significantly, Asian governments would have to create safety-net programs like Social Security so people don't save so much and spend so little.

In short, the Asian downturn is probably manageable, particularly now that the Chinese government has responded with a massive stimulus package. But it will take time for the region to make the necessary adjustments to get the region humming again.

The second story concerns Eastern Europe. Since the fall of communism, these countries have developed remarkably quickly on the strength of their industrial exports,



STEVEN PEARLSTEIN

mostly to Western Europe. And like the Asian tigers, they benefited from direct investment and credit by multinational companies and Western banks.

Unlike the Asians, however, Eastern Europeans didn't save a lot of the money they earned from exports. After years of living under communism, they were eager to catch up to Western European living standards. So they spent their earnings — and then some — borrowing heavily in foreign currencies to finance the accoutrements of middle-class life. They also wanted more and better government services, some of which were also financed through government borrowing.

Now, with Western Europe in recession, demand for Eastern European exports has suddenly dried up, and even the companies with orders to fill find it impossible to get the working capital they need. As in Asia, plants are closing, unemployment is rising and stock prices are nose-diving.

What is different from Asia, however, is that the exchange rates of local currencies have also plunged, which means the cost of paying back all those loans denominated in foreign currencies has suddenly become 20, 30, even 40 percent more expensive. Not only are households and companies defaulting, but a number of countries are also in jeopardy of defaulting on their sovereign debt.

As we've all learned, this isn't just a borrower's problem. It's also a problem for the lenders — in this case, major banks in Western Europe that, collectively, have about \$1.6 trillion in outstanding loans to Eastern Europe. What makes the situation particularly fragile is that many of these highly leveraged European banks don't have a financial cushion against losses of this scale.

In big countries such as France and Germany, the government can probably afford to step in and recapitalize troubled banks, much as the U.S. government has done with Citigroup. But in smaller countries with big banking sectors — Austria, Italy, Ireland, Belgium, Sweden and the Netherlands — the exposure to troubled loans is a sizable percentage of GDP. In those cases, any government rescue would cripple the economy, as it has in Iceland.

The obvious solution is for European nations to pull together, with each contributing to a TARP-like program to rescue systemically important banks. And as finance ministers from Eastern Europe recommended recently, the European Union should set up a facility to rescue countries in danger of defaulting and taking the common currency down with them.

But this is Europe, so you won't be surprised to learn that things seem to be moving in the opposite direction. Leading politicians in Western Europe have vowed they will not ask their taxpayers to bail out other countries or their banks. And other countries are threatening to follow the lead of France, which last week threw a financial lifeline to Peugeot and Renault on condition they make their job cuts somewhere else.

Meanwhile, European banks are said to be quietly pulling capital out of their subsidiaries across the continent and bringing it home.

If allowed to continue, this kind of financial protectionism will set the European economic project back a generation and suck all of Europe into a recession. That would be bad news for Team USA.

Steven Pearlstein is a columnist for the Washington Post.

# Feeling the crunch



Betsy Sanders and her son, Scott Joiner, pose with cases of peanut butter that were part of the nationwide recall, Feb. 19 at her company, Dough-To-Go, Inc., in Santa Clara, Calif.

## Peanut butter recall bites smaller businesses

By Emily Fredrix  
Associated Press writer

MILWAUKEE — To Betsy Sanders, the nationwide salmonella outbreak tied to peanut butter has been a hurricane. Her tiny cookie dough business is the debris.

Reimbursing customers for recalled products has already cost her Dough-To-Go Inc. business as much as \$7,000, she says — a big chunk for a company that turned little profit last year. She also has 2,500 pounds of peanut butter that she can't use because it came from Peanut Corp. of America — the company that was the source of the outbreak and that has since filed for bankruptcy protection.

"We're the victim, too," said Sanders, who started the business off an idea her son had at age 12. "We've done nothing wrong and we're doing everything we can to make sure everyone's safe."

With at least nine deaths suspected of being tied to the outbreak, hundreds of people sickened and thousands of products recalled, companies from name brands like Kellogg Co. down to small ones like Dough-To-Go have been affected. But while big companies have equally large public relations departments, smaller ones have limited budgets and fewer ways to cope.

The timing could hardly be worse, as the recession has already crimped how much people are spending.

Sanders, who has run the Santa Clara, Calif.-based business for 26 years with her son, said she's worried about the half of her sales — which reached a total of \$1.7 million last year — that come from school groups like the PTA or marching bands for fundraisers that help pay for uniforms and school trips.

The peak selling season for that starts next month. But parents could be leery of buying anything at all with peanut butter.

The outbreak has already forced the maker of Detour energy bars, Forward Foods LLC, to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. The Minden, Nev.-based company plans to stay in business but needs money to pay to replace recalled products.

Meanwhile, even companies that didn't have to recall products still have plenty to worry about.

Jarred peanut butter sales have been tumbling, even though that category has generally not been involved in the recalls. In the four weeks ending Jan. 24, about 33.8 million pounds of peanut butter in jars were sold — a 22 percent drop from the same period last year.

It's too soon to tell, whether those kinds of declines are because stores are pulling items off the shelves or because consumers are turning away from peanut butter products, said Todd Hale, senior vice president for consumer and shopper insights at Nielsen.

"Generally speaking, any time we have a scare like this, there are probably more manufacturers that are hurt than should be," he said.

Girl Scouts of the USA, whose member troops sell a total of 200 million boxes of cookies a year worth \$700 million, won't know for months what effect the nervousness had on its sales, said spokeswoman Michelle Tompkins. About one-fourth of its cookies contain peanut butter.

The group, which uses the proceeds of the cookie sales to fund trips and projects for its member troops, has been putting out news releases telling people that its products are not involved in the recall. Some scouts are even carrying official Girl Scout statements saying the cookies are safe when they go to make sales.

Total sales of cookies listing peanut butter in their description are slumping, according to Nielsen. The number of pounds sold of cookies with peanut butter in them tumbled 14.6 percent in that four-week period ending Jan. 24 compared to the prior year.

People like Nina Perez-Bauschka have put a lid on their peanut butter spending. The 34-year-old mother of two in Grayson, Ga. recently scraped her last jar clean and doesn't know what she's going to do now.

"I want to, but I'm afraid," she said of buying more peanut butter. "I know it sounds so silly, but I'm afraid."

Lance Inc., the maker of

### THE PEANUT BUTTER PINCH

**THE ISSUE:** Consumers are leery of peanut butter products after the nationwide salmonella outbreak. Small companies are feeling the pinch, even if they're not involved in the recall.

**THE COMPANIES:** The recall has affected big companies like Kellogg Inc. and smaller ones like Dough-To-Go Inc., a maker of cookie dough in Santa Clara, Calif., and Lance Inc., a leading maker of peanut butter crackers.

**THE REACTION:** Lance, which is not involved in the recall, has enacted a big public relations campaign, with a Web site, newspaper ads and videos. Some Girl Scouts, at the height of cookie sale season, are passing out official statements from Girl Scouts of the USA to reassure prospective customers that their cookies are not involved in any recalls.

— The Associated Press

the nation's best-selling peanut butter crackers, saw its sales dip after the outbreak — it won't say by how much — but says they rebounded after the company launched a campaign to tell consumers its products are safe.

The Charlotte, N.C.-based company, whose 4,800 employees make it nearly one-twentieth the size of the nation's largest food maker, Kraft Foods Inc., went from doing practically no marketing in 2008 to taking out half-page ads in 50 newspapers, setting up a Web site — <http://www.lancecrackers.com> — and putting up a video on YouTube featuring Chief Executive Dave Singer talking about how the company makes peanut butter and its safety methods.

"I basically couldn't think

of anything that could get in our way" after a multiyear turnaround effort, Singer said. "So when I found out about it, I was like 'Oh great.' But we'll get through this. There's always something you have to deal with. I just wish it wasn't this."

Dough-To-Go had to recall all of its varieties of peanut butter dough last month because Peanut Corp. was a supplier.

Scott Joiner, Sanders' son, said the recalls will most likely cost the 12-employee company at least \$20,000 in unused product, unused peanut butter and to provide customers replacements. They'd like to be reimbursed by Peanut Corp., but figure that's unlikely since the Lynchburg, Va.-based company plans to liquidate its operations.



**C E L E B R A T E !**

- Engagements! view engagements
- Weddings! view weddings
- Anniversaries! view anniversaries
- Birthdays! view birthdays
- Celebrations! view celebrations
- Scouting! view scouting
- Quinceañeras! view quinceañeras

Log on to  
[magicvalley.com/celebrate](http://magicvalley.com/celebrate)  
to share your family events  
and special happenings  
with the rest of the world.

Display your story and photos  
in an easy to view location.

**TIMES-NEWS**  
[magicvalley.com](http://magicvalley.com)

**NOVUSGlass**  
Repair, Replacement & Accessories

**FEBRUARY SPECIAL**  
Get your 2nd Rock  
Chip Repair FREE  
(Non-Insurance Repairs Only)

80% of Windshield Damage can be repaired if caught on time!  
2359 Overland Ave ~ Burley  
[burley.novusglass.com](http://burley.novusglass.com) **678-3309**

# Family fears losing cave home in recession

By Betsy Taylor  
Associated Press writer

FESTUS, Mo. — A lot of people are struggling to keep their homes in these tough economic times. One suburban St. Louis family is trying to keep its cave.

That is, a cave that's also a home. Curt and Deborah Sleeper of Festus bought 3 acres of property and a cave in Festus in 2004, after they spotted it online. They fell in love with the unique geography of the old mining cave and figured out how to build a house inside of it.

But they've got a big payment coming due on the property and don't think they can afford it. If they can't secure new financing, they've got a backup plan — auctioning their cave home through eBay. Bidding starts at \$300,000.

"I get the financing, or I sell the property, or I lose everything," Curt Sleeper, a self-employed Web designer and small business consultant, said Thursday while giving a tour of the home.

Missouri has its share of homes built into the geography — houses built into the ground or in a hillside. The Sleepers' home is unique even among them.

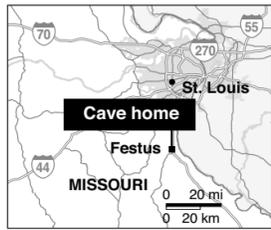
In the late 1800s, limestone mining created their bowl-shaped yard at the base of a hill. The 17,000 square foot cave where they live was hollowed out by sandstone mining through the 1930s.

Festus resident Sue Morris bought the cave in 1958. In 1960, she opened a roller rink there and hosted concerts, including shows by Ted Nugent and Bob Seger. The rink closed in 1985. A glass recycling center moved in until 1990, when the property switched hands between a private owner and then a realty team.

The Sleepers enlisted friends to help build the unique structure. A gray timber frame exterior was con-



Curt and Deborah Sleeper, their son Perry, 12, left, and daughter Kian, 15, far right, are seen Feb. 13 in the kitchen area of their three-bedroom home that was built in a one-time mining cave in Festus, Mo. The Sleepers bought the property and cave in 2004 after they saw it on the Internet. Now they are putting it up for sale on eBay. Bidding starts at \$300,000.



SOURCE: ESRI AP

structed in the 37-foot-tall opening of the cave. Thirty-seven sliding glass doors also are used as windows throughout the three-story, three-bedroom home, allowing natural light throughout the finished sections of the home.

Inside, the walls and ceiling are comprised of the natural cave stone. A huge umbrella is positioned above the living room furniture to catch grit that falls from the rock. Three large dehumidifiers keep the interior from getting too damp or musty.

The home has electric, water and sewer, a decked-out kitchen and a whirlpool tub. It also has a goldfish pond.

## What do you bid?

Cave Home listing on eBay:  
<http://sn.im/cqzgz>

Behind the living quarters sits a large cave chamber that serves mainly as storage.

Curt Sleeper said there are no bats in the cave, and no bugs beyond the normal stuff. "Nothing a cat or two won't handle," he wrote on a Web site.

Sleeper said he'd never want to own a traditional house after his time in the cave home.

The cave home sits alongside a working class neighborhood just a few minutes away from the shopping centers and gas stations of Festus' business district. The community of 11,000 residents is about 30 miles south of St. Louis.

After buying the cave, the Sleepers lived in tents inside of it as they spent about four years on the construction. The home was completed last

year. Sleeper said the family paid about half of the \$160,000 purchase price for the cave up front. The seller agreed to allow them to pay the rest of the property costs after five years. They've also invested another \$150,000 to build the home, he said.

But the balance of the purchase price is due in May, and the family doesn't have the money. Sleeper said the seller has been generous. He doesn't want to try and renegotiate with them, but says banks have been wary of offering a loan on the unconventional property.

The Sleepers also are not willing to accept donations. At a time when people are losing their jobs or seeking government assistance, Curt Sleeper doesn't consider his family to be in a bad financial way.

Hence the eBay auction, which has generated a lot of interest. The TV networks have come calling. The Sleepers have received some 6,000 e-mails in the last two weeks.



Marsaw, 9, plays with a family cat outside the Sleeper cave home, Thursday in Festus, Mo.

**SPRING SPECIALS**



CASE IH customized maintenance inspections help lower your operating costs and extend machinery life.

Using a detailed checklist: Trained technicians inspect your equipment. Perform routine maintenance and provide you with a written report that includes their observations, suggestions, and recommended repairs.

With a minimum purchase of \$750.00 get these great terms:  
**FREE** one-way hauling. • **15% Discount** on CASE IH parts and labor. • **Cash or payment** by the 10th of the following month.

**BUHL IMPLEMENT CO.**  
 20355 Hwy 30 Buhl  
**208-543-8232**  
**CASE IH**  
 AGRICULTURE

## Kentucky army officer gets 25 years for detainee murder

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP) — An Army officer was sentenced to 25 years in prison by a military jury Saturday for shooting and killing an Iraqi detainee during an interrogation.

First Lt. Michael Behenna of Edmond, Okla., was convicted a day earlier of murder and assault, but acquitted of making a false statement. He had faced up to life in prison.

"We are disappointed at the jury's verdict and the sentence," Behenna's attorney Jack Zimmermann said.

Zimmermann said he has filed a motion for a mistrial, claiming prosecutors withheld evidence that could help Behenna's defense. The judge has scheduled arguments on

the motion Monday, Zimmermann said.

Behenna testified he was trying to defend himself when he shot Ali Mansour Mohammed and that the detainee reached for the officer's gun in a secluded railroad culvert near Beiji, Iraq, in May.

Prosecutors said the detainee was defenseless against Behenna and the officer's threats and other actions showed he had planned to kill the man.

Zimmermann said Behenna wouldn't have brought along an Iraqi translator if he had planned to kill the detainee.

Behenna testified that he threatened Mohammed and

pointed his gun at him to scare out information about a roadside bombing that killed two members of his platoon. Behenna said he believed Mohammed was involved in the bombing and could provide names of the insurgents responsible.

After the detainee was shot twice, once in the head and once in the chest, another Fort Campbell soldier testified that he tossed an incendiary grenade on the body.

Staff Sgt. Hal Warner, pleaded guilty this month to charges of assault, maltreatment of a subordinate and making a false statement. Warner, from Braggs, Okla., was sentenced to 17 months in prison.



WaMu<sup>®</sup> is becoming CHASE

## The free checking of WaMu. The power of Chase.

Now **WaMu Free Checking<sup>™</sup>** customers can experience the power of Chase:

- Free ATM cash withdrawals
- 14,000 WaMu and Chase branded ATMs nationwide
- Free checks
- Free online banking with free bill pay
- One overdraft fee waived per year
- Free outgoing wire transfers (Domestic or Foreign)

To learn more, stop by your local WaMu, call 1-866-700-0054, or visit [wamu.com](http://wamu.com).

The WaMu Free Checking<sup>™</sup> account is available only at WaMu branded branches and [wamu.com](http://wamu.com), and comes with free image style checks, others available at regular prices. ATM operator may charge a nonrefundable fee. Nonrefundable foreign currency exchange and other banks' fees may apply to wire transfers. WaMu branded products are only available at WaMu branded branches, by telephone at 1-866-700-0054, and [wamu.com](http://wamu.com). Chase branded products are only available at Chase branded branches and [chase.com](http://chase.com). Deposit products and services provided by JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., and are subject to change without notice. Washington Mutual, a division of JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.  
 © 2009 JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. Member FDIC

Oh, give me a home...



...Nah, just a great cup of joe!

Coming Soon to

**WILD WEST BUSINESS PARK**









**Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius tapped to lead HHS, Opinion 5**

Letters to the editor, Opinion 2-3 / Nation, Opinion 4-5 / World, Opinion 6-7

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2009

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

EDITORIAL

# What did Burley learn from Pacific Ethanol mess?

Since J.R. Simplot Co. closed its Heyburn potato-processing plant in 2003, the Mini-Cassia area's economic development efforts — and its economic renaissance — have been darn near bulletproof.

But not perfect, as Burley residents learned last week when Pacific Ethanol announced it would indefinitely close its \$120 million, 10-month-old production facility.

You read that right: 10 months.

Hard luck for Pacific Ethanol and 24 of 36 employees in Burley, but bad news for taxpayers as well: Between July and December 2007, about \$1.45 million in federal and state grant money was given to Burley to help pay for utility connections and road upgrades for the plant.

In its defense, the publicly-traded, Sacramento, Calif.-based company has been hammered by volatile corn prices, plummeting fuel prices, a collapse of credit markets, and a 95 percent drop in the value of its shares.

Those economic forces could not have been foreseen, but the lesson in Burley's experience with Pacific Ethanol is to be wary about placing too much trust — or too many public resources — in any single prospective employer.

Especially one with a questionable future. Even as the plant was opening last April, there was a glut of corn-based ethanol just as production of cellulosic ethanol — made from residue such as wheat straw, corn cobs and wood chips — was coming on stream.

Now, more than a fifth of U.S. ethanol production capacity has been idled because of weak demand and poor profit margins. According to ethanol producer and grain processor Archer Daniels Midland, ethanol plants with a capacity of 10.2 billion gallons were operating at the beginning for February, down from 12.9 billion last summer.

Market conditions may eventually rebound enough to allow Pacific Ethanol to resume production in Burley, but not soon.

Meanwhile, there were complaints from the plant's neighbors about odors, concerns about Pacific Ethanol's impact on the city's infrastructure and hundreds of thousands of dollars paid in tax incentives.

So what did Idaho taxpayers get for their money? We'll see.

Ten months isn't long enough to tell.

**Our view:** As Mini-Cassia's recent experience illustrates, economic development is a notoriously — and perilously — inexact science.

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.



The site of a proposed nine-story cell phone tower near Galena Summit in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area north of Ketchum. Idaho Highway 75 is in the foreground. U.S. Forest Service

# Galena tower isn't a public safety issue

CECIL D. ANDRUS

The *Times-News* reported on a recent Ketchum meeting where proponents of a 90-foot tall, commercial cell tower at Galena Summit in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area tried to spin the facts by suggesting that the tower is critical to public safety.

That is wrong, but the article leaves the impression that public safety will suffer unless the Forest Service grants a permit that many of us believe will violate both the letter and the spirit of the law requiring conservation of the scenic and recreational values of the Sawtooth NRA, one of America's true crown jewels.

The promoters gloss over the fact that the tower, with its 900-square foot equipment building and chain-link fence, would be adjacent to a heavily used, year-round ski and hiking route in the SNRA, and would be in clear view of a dispersed campsite. The project is hardly a "stealth" proposal, and is simply not compatible with Congress' mandate to preserve visitor views in an area set aside precisely to preserve an important part of Idaho as it was before the days when cell phones became pervasive.

Here are some important facts. The Galena tower will not even provide full cell

phone coverage; the tower promoter's own study says service to the south will be "spotty." The company concedes that a second tower, which it proposes adjacent to the SNRA Headquarters, also would not provide phone coverage up to Galena, and instead would reach only the area around North Fork itself (where many already have adequate cell coverage). Moreover, representatives of the Idaho Homeland Security office, Ketchum Fire District and the Blaine County sheriff stated that they seek to enhance radio communication in the area; none on these speakers promoted cell phones. Instead, they propose a 700-megahertz radio upgrade, which is part of federal bandwidth consolidation program to enhance interconnection between first responders. Furthermore, these representatives made clear that such an upgrade does not need a 90-foot tower on Galena; 60 feet would be adequate for their radio system.

Overall the public safety arguments are at best speculative and certainly incomplete and misleading. There must also be acknowledgement of the added danger presented by cell phone use, especially on twisting mountain roads such as that crossing Galena. We cannot take public safety into account without assessing the implications of drivers attempting to make calls, check for coverage, or push out a text while navigating a mountain road—a road used by many cyclists to boot.

Finally, there are alternatives. The Forest Service is assessing a plan to place land line phone service at the Galena Overlook. Solar powered emergency phones are in place along Highway 12 in northern Idaho. It is quite possible an existing Forest Service radio repeater on Horton Peak could be upgraded to allow use by state and local responders. If radio communication is the issue concerning public safety, let's develop an approach

that doesn't do lasting damage to the scenic and recreational values of one of the most spectacular places in Idaho.

Fundamentally, the cell tower proposal is not about public safety, but about a commercial enterprise's desire for significant financial return through tower space rentals. At best, the public will be offered a narrow band of cell coverage near the top of Galena Summit, which will almost certainly stimulate requests for more locations, more towers and more diminishment of the scenic and recreational value of the SNRA."

The Forest Service rejected this bad idea once and I hope they will again.

*Cecil Andrus of Boise, a Democrat, served as governor of Idaho from 1971-77 and again from 1987-95, and as secretary of the interior from 1977-81. He was an early proponent of the creation of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.*

# What you're not hearing from the city of Twin Falls

"Twin Falls city officials did not respond to requests for information."

You may start seeing variations of that sentence more often in the paper because of a new city "media policy" that appears aimed at restricting the flow of information about city government.

The new policy was apparently hatched on Feb. 19, and announced without further explanation in a terse e-mail that read: "With the exception of criminal investigations, the City of Twin Falls is asking all members of the media to initiate requests for information with Julie Pence, the City's public information coordinator. One of her responsibilities is to assist the media in coordinating interviews with city staff. City staff believes this to be a more efficient method for the media to get the information they are seeking."

But that's not how it works in practice.

Last Wednesday, Business Editor Joshua Palmer was working on an article about development on the north-



132 FAIRFIELD ST. WEST James G. Wright

west side and wanted to know what traffic studies the city had done there. Palmer placed five calls over three days to City Engineer Jackie Fields; and two calls over two days to City Manager Tom Courtney.

The only response he received was an email announcing the new city policy and a call, on Thursday, from Pence, who complained about something he had written in the past but did not answer his questions about traffic.

On Friday, Palmer again called the city to clear up a minor detail that anyone who fills potholes could answer off the top of his head. City officials told him that only Pence is authorized to speak, and she wouldn't be on duty until the following week. Palmer's article appeared

INSIDE

Read City Manager Tom Courtney's response to Joshua Palmer's article.

See Opinion 2

on the front page last Sunday, with a variation of the "did not respond" sentence in two places. Then the city's real "media policy" kicked in.

First thing Monday morning city officials started burning up the phone lines to call everyone Palmer had quoted in the story. Some told Palmer they received multiple calls from more than one city worker, and some later described the treatment as "an interrogation." Pence, however, said Friday that no such calls were made.

The city's flying squad didn't find anything wrong with the article, but Courtney produced a list of road improvements expected in the area. That would have been good information for last Sunday's article, but it didn't come close to answering the questions Palmer wanted to pose to someone from the city.

Call me a cynic, but it seems odd that no public employees could take a minute from their busy schedule over three days to provide information to Palmer, but they reportedly had unlimited time to track down his sources after the story appeared.

Now any public agency has a perfect right to develop media policies and designate employees to deal with reporters. A good public relations person can help both her employer and a reporter by getting routine facts in a timely way, help cut through the bureaucratic curtain to set up interviews with policy-makers or assist the agency in shaping the message it wants to present to the public.

But does a city the size of Twin Falls really need someone to deal with the crushing burden of talking to one newspaper?

Twin Falls has a city manager, an assistant city manager and a small army of other full-time administrators who are quite capable of speaking for themselves — though earlier this week Pence refused

to allow a reporter to videotape an interview with Courtney, saying the well-seasoned and widely respected city manager couldn't risk "having to submit to 20 or 30 minutes of nonstop footage where if you slip up you wind up looking, well, less than dignified or intelligent."

When Pence was first hired, she visited our offices and said she wasn't expected to be the city's initial contact person — a wall to prevent reporters from getting to those who actually know what's going on and who have custody of the public's information. No, she said, she was just there to give city workers media advice, write some press releases and post things on the city Web site.

What changed? When asked, Pence sent a letter long on words but short on details:

"When I started the job, I was not acting as a spokesperson; it is still preferred that I find people to talk to the media rather than actually comment myself," it said in part. "City Manager Tom Courtney and Assistant

City Manager Travis Rothweiler are strong proponents of open government, and as such, they like reporters to have access to people in city government. Nonetheless, for effective information flow between your news outlet and the city's many, diverse departments, it makes more sense for the public information coordinator to track down the person(s) who can give the best answers. Also, sometimes city employees are so busy with their jobs that they can't get back to the reporter right away. Again, the public information coordinator can convey that to the member of the media who is seeking information. In addition, this tact (sic) gives employees time to formulate their thoughts on what to say before engaging the media."

So expect to see more sentences along the lines of "Twin Falls city officials did not respond to requests for information."

*James G. Wright may be reached at 735-3255 or james.wright@lee.net.*

# City of Twin Falls has traffic well in hand

Your Sunday story entitled "Crash Course" might have given readers the impression that traffic will soon be completely out of control in the northwest area of Twin Falls.

But that's not reality. The city, the state of Idaho, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., School District 411, North Haven Development, St Luke's Magic Valley Regional Center, the College of Southern Idaho and the North Point Ranch Homeowners Association have for years worked proactively to make sure a safe and orderly flow of traffic ensues as the area develops. The notion — as implied in the story — that tens of millions of dollars'



READER COMMENT  
Tom Courtney

worth of road construction could be approved without numerous credible traffic studies is implausible.

But one good thing about Joshua Palmer's story is that it gives the city an opportunity to summarize what you will see in new road construction in this fast-growing area. Here is a list:

- As the result of traffic studies, in 2009 Wal-Mart will

reconstruct and widen the store's side of Washington Street North from roughly Pole Line Road to the south side of Cheney Drive. Wal-Mart will also transform Cheney into four lanes with turn bays for the entire length of Wal-Mart's property. Wal-Mart is paying for a signal at Cheney and Washington. This work by Wal-Mart saves the school district a significant amount of money.

- Beginning in 2010 the city and the state will reconstruct and widen the balance of Washington Street North to five lanes all the way to Filer Avenue, with another project to follow. Traffic counts were conducted to get

the federal funds for this.

- Before the new hospital opens, St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Center will reconstruct and widen Cheney Drive to four lanes with turn bays from Grandview Drive to the west end of hospital property. St. Luke's is paying to widen the half of Grandview on the hospital side and a signal at Grandview Drive and Pole Line Road West, as well as a portion of the signal at Parkview Drive and Pole Line Road West. St. Luke's paid for a comprehensive traffic impact study to do this.

- Using projected traffic counts, the North Haven and North Pointe Park developments will complete the gap

in Cheney between Wal-Mart and St. Luke's and pay for construction of Park View Drive from Cheney to Pole Line Road West. Partners will also participate in paying for the signal at Park View and Pole Line.

- Using traffic count projections, in 2009 or 2010 the city will reconstruct and widen Falls Avenue West into three lanes from Washington Street to Grandview Drive.

- School District 411 will construct Park View Drive on the west side of this school property from North College Drive to Cheney Drive.

- In future years the College of Southern Idaho will pay for more construction on Cheney Drive from

Washington Street North along the north side of the campus, connecting Cheney with North College Drive near the Expo Center. CSI has developed a traffic impact study.

You can learn more about the city's Master Transportation Plan at [www.tfid.org](http://www.tfid.org). Meanwhile, the city is working on making city staff more available to the media so reporters can get the facts they need. At the same time, we would ask the media to exhibit more patience when requesting information that takes time to gather.

*Tom Courtney is a city manager of Twin Falls.*

# A magic bullet for housing market recovery

WASHINGTON — How to rescue housing? The Obama administration doesn't have a plan — or, more accurately, has only half a plan. It presupposes that preventing or minimizing home foreclosures is a formula for revival.

It isn't. Almost everyone agrees that a housing recovery is essential for a broader economic upswing, in part because housing's collapse brought on the recession. Mortgage delinquencies triggered the financial crisis. Tumbling home prices (down 26 percent from their peak) ravaged consumer confidence, borrowing and spending. Since late 2007, housing-related jobs — carpenters, realtors, appraisers — have dropped by 1 million, a quarter of all lost jobs.

Housing's distress is too much supply chasing too little demand. Huge inventories of unsold homes have depressed prices and construction. Given that prices rose too high in the "bubble" — homes were affordable



ROBERT SAMUELSON

only because credit was dispensed so recklessly — much of this painful adjustment was unavoidable. But that process should be mostly complete.

Here's a little-known fact: Housing may be more affordable now than at any recent time, thanks to lower prices and falling mortgage rates (now about 5 percent). The National Association of Realtors has an "affordability index" that estimates the family income needed to buy a median-priced house, assuming a 20 percent down payment and monthly mortgage payments equal to 25 percent of income.

Affordability is now the highest since the index's start in 1970.

Unfortunately, demand hasn't followed affordability.

In January, sales of new and existing homes continued prolonged declines, dropping 10.2 percent and 5.3 percent, respectively, from December. There's a buyers' strike. Why? Shouldn't lower prices spur demand?

Well, yes. There are many theories as to why they haven't. Perhaps prospective buyers can't get loans. Or people are so gloomy that they're afraid to buy. But the most important explanation is probably deflationary psychology. If yesterday's \$250,000 house is now \$200,000, it may be \$175,000 by June. Waiting is better. Unless this deflationary psychology is broken, it becomes self-fulfilling. The more buyers wait, the more prices fall; and the more prices fall, the more buyers wait. The Obama administration essentially ignores this problem, though it can be addressed.

The simplest way is to bribe prospective buyers not to wait. For example: Give them a 10 percent tax credit, up to \$15,000, on the purchase price of a new home.

Anyone who bought a \$150,000 home would get a \$15,000 tax break. The credit would expire in a year. Waiting would be costly.

Buyers would delay only if they thought home prices would drop as much or more.

Precisely this proposal comes from the National Association of Home Builders. Normally, it would be an atrocious idea, because it would reward people who would buy anyway and would be skewed toward wealthier buyers.

But now it's worth trying.

Somehow, we need to cut bloated inventories (13 months of supply for unsold new homes), curb falling prices and stimulate new construction. The hope is that once buying improves, it would feed on itself. People would join from the sidelines. The NAHB says its plan would create 250,000 jobs and cost \$40 billion — big money but tiny compared with the hundreds of billions lavished on recovery programs. The Senate included the plan in its stimulus, but it

was later dropped.

It wasn't an Obama priority. Some administration proposals, focused on foreclosures, are desirable. It's sensible to allow Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to refinance older mortgages, at lower interest rates, even if homeowners' equity has dropped below today's requirement of 20 percent.

This would reduce defaults and increase borrowers' spending power.

Other ideas seem more dubious. For \$75 billion, another proposal would subsidize homeowners so their monthly mortgage payments dropped to 31 percent of their income. Because that's still high, many of these homeowners would probably default anyway. Even worse is the "cramdown" proposal, backed by the administration. This would allow bankruptcy judges to cut mortgage payments. If passed, this would probably raise future mortgage costs, because lenders would have less access to collateral.

In any case, minimizing foreclosures alone won't

revive housing. If the recession and unemployment worsen, foreclosures will increase, because people without jobs and income can't meet their monthly payments.

The best way to limit foreclosures is to achieve a housing and economic recovery by stimulating buying. It's true that the recent "stimulus" plan included a tax credit of up to \$8,000, but that was restricted to first-time buyers and made "refundable," meaning people could receive the money even if they didn't owe taxes. These are younger and poorer buyers — the weak credit risks of today's crisis. They won't rescue housing.

All this is telling. The administration and Congress, though pledging to restore economic growth, care more about protecting foreclosure "victims" and promoting homeownership among the young and poor. Politics trumps economics.

*Newsweek columnist Robert Samuelson writes about economics.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Dogs shouldn't roam free

This is a letter in regard to Cami Priddy complaining about the dog-at-large fine.

Honestly, I really feel the fine is great. Maybe it should be more. You are complaining about \$140, which, in all reality, if you compare that with a \$500 medical bill if that dog attacks and plus a lawsuit, that would make you think twice about what you are complaining about.

I give thanks to Officer Rathbun for doing his job and protecting the public. A responsible dog owner would not allow his or her animal to get free and be a danger to kids or anybody else, for that matter. Pay your fine and learn a lesson from this not to let your animals run free.

Lawmakers need to make the laws tougher for irresponsible dog owners who can't contain their animals. I would hate to see any other family go through what my family and I have because a pet owner wasn't responsible in keeping their animal restrained.

CHRIS PAGE  
Paul

### Ethanol a 'scam'

Would you knowingly and willingly put an additive into the gas tank of your car or truck that would decrease your gas mileage by 5 percent or more? Would you use a gas additive in your small engine or boat motor that could corrode or rust fuel system components or damage the engine itself?

What if the production of this additive had significantly increased the cost of food for people and livestock? When mixed with gasoline and used as fuel, what if it was exempt from paying the state fuel tax, which effectively robs Idaho's highway budget of an estimated \$4.1 to \$12.3 million yearly?

Now what if this additive was mandated by the government and its production was heavily subsidized? What if

there were those who wanted to eliminate your freedom of choice and force you to use it so their taxpayer-subsidized profits could continue indefinitely?

We're talking about the ethanol that's probably diluting the gasoline you buy. If you can handle the truth, do

an Internet search for "ethanol" followed by "scam, fraud, subsidies, mandates"; then tell your state legislators to eliminate the ethanol gas tax exemption. That would be a start on undoing the great ethanol scam.

NEIL PARKER  
Boise



Bob

What's important to you?

3 MARK FINANCIAL  
161 5th Ave. S, Ste. 201  
732-0088

## Call for Nominations

### 2009 Max Dalton Open Government Award

The Idaho Newspaper Foundation will present \$2,000 to the winner of this 11th annual award, which is given to a citizen or group judged to be an outspoken advocate of openness for public records or open meetings on the state or local level.



Nominations should include examples of the use of Idaho's open meetings and public records law to enforce the public's right of access to government.

Send nominations to: Idaho Newspaper Foundation, 1000 First St., McCall, ID 83638 or e-mail to: [starnews@citlink.net](mailto:starnews@citlink.net). Deadline: April 1, 2009

Idaho Newspaper Foundation  
For Details, go to [www.idnewsfound.org](http://www.idnewsfound.org)

## Come see what's new at [magicvalley.com](http://magicvalley.com)

### Brillion Pulvi-Mulchers

**BRILLION'S PULVI-MULCHER IS THE IDEAL ONE PASS SECONDARY TILLAGE TOOL TO PROVIDE THE PERFECT CLOD-FREE SEED-BED FOR HIGHER YIELDS.**

- Available in widths from 7'4" to 30' to accommodate any size operation.
- High-clearance frame allows free flow of trash through the machine.
- Choice of 20" notched or crowfoot ductile iron roller wheels with five year limited warranty against breakage.
- Heavier duty, longer drawbar to accommodate dual wheeled tractors.
- Units in stock – ready to go.
- Call Today!

**TWIN FALLS TRACTOR & IMPLEMENT CO.**  
1935 Kimberly Rd. • Twin Falls • 733-8687  
**800 293-9359**

**NORTHSIDE IMPLEMENT CO.**  
1922 S. Lincoln • Jerome • 324-2904  
**800 933-2904**

NEW HOLLAND  
[www.twinfallstractor-imp.com](http://www.twinfallstractor-imp.com)

# Have the Pakistanis lost their minds?

**L**AHORE, Pakistan — Maulana Sufi Mohammed, a radical cleric who was freed last year after spending six years in jail for leading 10,000 Pashtun tribesmen in opposition to the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, has begun a new campaign. He is leading a peace march through the strategic Swat Valley in an attempt to persuade his son-in-law, Maulana Qazi Fazlullah, to accept the government's offer of a cease-fire and enforcement of an Islamic system of justice in the valley.

The fact that Mohammed has embraced the government's offer is a sign of how fully Islamabad has capitulated to the demands of extremists in the region. And the fact that the peace deal has not yet been accepted by Fazlullah, who leads the Swati contingent of the Pakistani Taliban and is closely allied with al-Qaida, is a sign of how radicalized some of the region has become.

Pakistan's concessions to the Taliban in the Swat Valley, just 80 miles north of Islamabad, are a watershed in the country's steady slide toward chaos. The situation there has added to the prevailing sense of public gloom in Pakistan that the Taliban is rapidly making inroads into the world's second-largest Muslim nation — and the only one armed with nuclear weapons.

Fazlullah's men have fought bloody battles with the army over the last two years, finally driving it out and taking control of most of Swat last year. The fighting has led to about 1,200 civilian deaths and the forced exodus of an estimated 350,000 people out of a population of 1.5 million. Fazlullah has blown up 200 girls schools, hanged policemen, set up Sharia (Islamic law) courts and established a parallel government.

Now, rather than order the army to retake Swat, the Pakistan People's Party government in Islamabad led by



**AHMED RASHID**

Benazir Bhutto's widower, President Asif Ali Zardari, and the Awami National Party (ANP), a Pashtun secular party that runs the provincial government of the North-West Frontier Province, have capitulated to the Taliban's demands in order to avoid more violence.

While the government insists the legal change will allow only a limited application of Islamic justice through the local courts, the Taliban interprets it as allowing the full application of Sharia, affecting all aspects of education, administration and law and order in the region.

However the deal may be interpreted, it is an unmistakable defeat in the country's losing battle against Islamic extremism. Even though the military regime of former President Pervez Musharraf entered into several controversial, short-lived cease-fires with the Pakistani Taliban in the Pashtun tribal belt, Musharraf's army never conceded major changes in the legal or political system. Even in Afghanistan, where the Afghan Taliban controls several provinces, the Kabul government has never conceded the writ of the state, insisting that such provinces remain contested.

The Pakistani Taliban ultimately hopes to conquer all of Pakistan. Already it has made inroads into the largest province of Punjab and in the southern industrial city of Karachi, where it is facilitated by multiple Pakistani extremist groups that have spent two decades fighting in Indian Kashmir or are masters of urban terrorism.

The army is demoralized and overstretched, and has declined to accept U.S. offers to retrain its regular forces in

counter-insurgency because it still perceives a much larger threat from its traditional enemy, India.

The Swat crisis will further weaken an already devastated Pakistani economy, which faces increasing joblessness, inflation and capital flight.

U.S. President Barack Obama's administration has promised Pakistan \$1.5 billion a year for the next five years to be spent on social programs, but it is difficult to envisage when the U.S. Congress will make such large sums available and what fresh conditions it will impose — conditions that the Pakistani state may be incapable of fulfilling.

The crisis comes just as the Obama administration has to conceive of a new strategic policy toward Afghanistan and Pakistan before the NATO summit on April 2.

Afghanistan, despite dramatic advances made by the Taliban as a result of neglect by President George W. Bush's administration, requires obvious common-sense policies — a comprehensive increase in foreign troops, money, development and reconstruction by the international community and real efforts to get the Afghan government and army on their feet.

For Pakistan, the U.S. and its allies have far fewer policy options. Large injections of money are desperately needed to give the government and the army the time and space to reestablish the writ of the state. Nevertheless, the question being asked in Washington and other capitals, as well as by millions of Pakistanis, is whether the government and the army have the will and the capability to do so.

*Ahmed Rashid is a Pakistani journalist and the author of "Taliban." He wrote this commentary for the Los Angeles Times.*

Come see what's new at [magicvalley.com](http://magicvalley.com)

## Business Highlight

**Primary products(s) and/or service(s)** Many consumers are not aware that pharmacists play a critical role in preventing medication errors, advising Doctors and prescribing nurses on the best drug choices, and working directly with patients to ensure they understand how to use their medications safely and effectively.

Orchard Drug will be holding a free Medication Brown Bag Event. The goal of a "brown bag" program is to improve patients' use of medications and knowledge of medication safety. During these sessions, attendees bring in all their medications, including prescriptions, over-the-counter (OTC) medicines, vitamins and herbal remedies. (Hence the term "brown bag.") Pharmacists review the complete medication regimen, an essential step in ensuring that those who take multiple medications do so safely. If changes are warranted, the pharmacist will work with the patient and the appropriate physician(s) to make the changes.

Pharmacists are experts on the thousands of medications available, how each one works in the body, and the ways to use each one safely and effectively. Pharmacists who graduate receive six years of education focused on medication therapy, and many pharmacists practicing in hospitals and health systems also complete post-graduate residency programs. They advise doctors and nurses on the best medications and monitor every patient's medication therapy and provide quality checks to detect and prevent harmful drug interactions, reactions, or mistakes.

### What Sets Us Apart!

- Health Mart pharmacists are locally owned by members of your community
- Care for you like a member of their very own family.
- Always offer the highest quality products and service.
- Provide you with exceptional everyday value.
- Deliver leading-edge knowledge and expertise.
- Dedicate themselves to being there in your times of need.

## Time for your Medicine's "Check-up"

**Better Service, Less Wait and Same Copy!**

**Brown Bag Event**  
**March 10th & 12th**

Gather your medications (prescription and non-prescription), and call to schedule a time to meet with our Pharmacist for a free consultation to learn about

- \*Overdoses
- \*Appropriateness of treatment
- \*Unnecessary use
- \*Avoidable side effects
- \*\*\*\*\*and more\*\*\*\*\*

*Introducing your locally owned*



**Caring for you and about you**

Orchard Drug Health Mart Pharmacy  
Located inside Swensen's Market,  
995 Washington Street South  
Twin Falls, ID, (208) 726-7060

Health Mart pharmacies honor your prescription plans, including Medicare.  
Visit us on the web at [www.healthmart.com](http://www.healthmart.com)

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Wolves have negative impact on elk herds

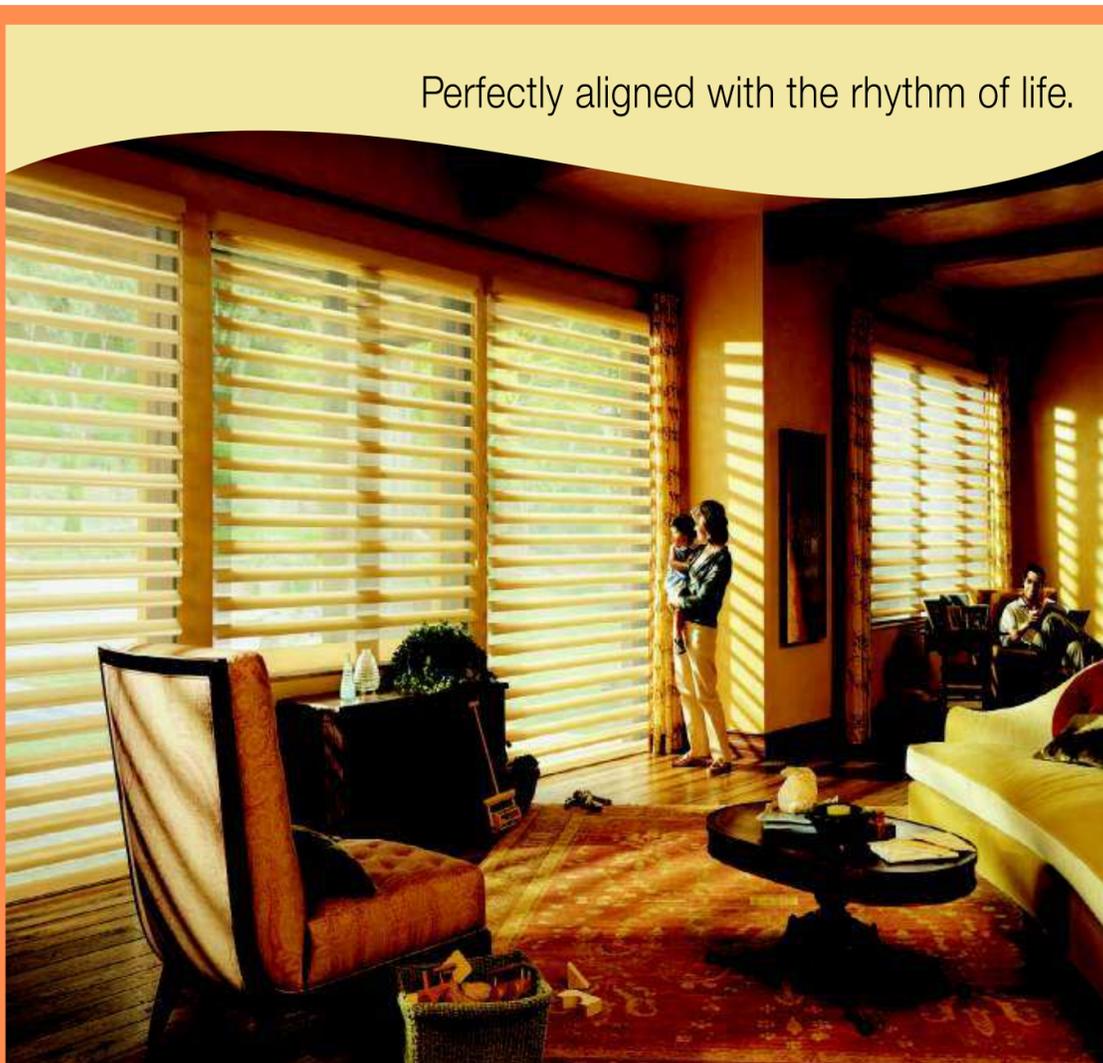
Wolf population in Idaho certainly does have a negative impact on the local economy where elk herds once roamed. For many years, I hunted in Valley County. My father, brother, nephews and friends would all come from out of state every year to hunt the great Wapiti. They would spend untold thousands of dollars on everything from food and camping supplies to tires, radiators, horse feed, ranch panels, etc., and would always buy locally. In 2002, I hunted archery in my normal area and discovered dozens of predator-killed elk. During the general season, my family saw no elk, though they did see three separate packs of wolves. This was their last time coming to Idaho to hunt.

I sought new elk area and

was somewhat successful in the eastern part of the state until 2005. The next year, though, I can find only anecdotal evidence, I heard from no less than three sources that that Fish and Game allowed nearly 500 elk to be slaughtered in one day on their wintering range in what was called the "Tex Creek (zone) Massacre." The elk were slaughtered by so-called sportsmen and women who had purchased depredation-hunt permits. The Jerome Fish and Game department did not confirm these stories.

I have thence discontinued hunting elk in Idaho. If the herds don't return, it seems only fitting that every wildlife biologist in the state has to find new employment due to lack of funds from disenchanting hunters like myself and my family.

**VAN HADDOX**  
**Jerome**



Perfectly aligned with the rhythm of life.

**PIROUETTE®**  
Window Shadings

Introducing an innovative new product from Hunter Douglas that gracefully combines the personality of a classic fabric shading with the ability to control light in an entirely new way. Pirouette® window shadings. Your life. Your style. Call or stop by today to learn more.

*The Creative Eye*  
Interior Design  
& Window Coverings  
Sherry Morrill  
423-5839 • 731-4000 •  
email: [creative@onezwest.net](mailto:creative@onezwest.net)

**HunterDouglas**

South Idaho  
**FOOT & ANKLE**  
Clinic



**Now accepting Saturday appointments!**



**INGROWN TOENAILS?**

*Simple Permanent Correction*

Andrew L. McCall, DPM

Jason B. DeVries, DPM

*Serving the Magic Valley since 1986*

Twin Falls • 733-3881

Burley • 678-1515

# Obama challenges lobbyists to a duel over budget

By Charles Babington  
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama challenged the nation's vested interests to a legislative duel Saturday, saying he will fight to change health care, energy and education in dramatic ways that will upset the status quo.

"The system we have now might work for the powerful and well-connected interests that have run Washington for far too long," Obama said in his weekly radio and video address. "But I don't. I work for the American people."

He said the ambitious budget plan he presented Thursday will help millions of people, but only if Congress overcomes resistance from deep-pocket lobbyists.

"I know these steps won't sit well with the special interests and lobbyists who are invested in the old way of doing business, and I know they're gearing up for a fight," Obama said, using tough-guy language reminiscent of his predecessor,



The New York Times/AP photo

In a still image from his weekly radio and Internet address Saturday, President Obama describes his expansive budget proposal as 'a threat to the status quo in Washington.'

George W. Bush. "My message to them is this: So am I."

The bring-it-on tone underscored Obama's combative side as he prepares for a drawn-out battle over his tax and spending proposals. Sometimes he uses more conciliatory language and stresses the need for bipartisanship. Often he favors lofty, inspirational phrases.

On Saturday, he was a full-throated populist, casting himself as the people's champion confronting spe-

cial interest groups that care more about themselves and the wealthy than about the average American.

Some analysts say Obama's proposals are almost radical. But he said all of them were included in his campaign promises. "It is the change the American people voted for in November," he said.

Nonetheless, he said, well-financed interest groups will fight back furiously.

Insurance companies will dislike having "to bid com-

petitively to continue offering Medicare coverage, but that's how we'll help preserve and protect Medicare and lower health care costs," the president said.

"I know that banks and big student lenders won't like the idea that we're ending their huge taxpayer subsidies, but that's how we'll save taxpayers nearly \$50 billion and make college more affordable," he said. "I know that oil and gas companies won't like us ending nearly \$30 billion in tax breaks, but that's how we'll help fund a renewable energy economy."

Passing the budget, even with a Democratic-controlled Congress, "won't be easy," Obama said. "Because it represents real and dramatic change, it also represents a threat to the status quo in Washington."

Congressional Republicans continued to bash Obama's spending proposals and his projection of a \$1.75 trillion deficit this year.

Almost every day brings another "multibillion-dollar government spending plan

being proposed or even worse, passed," said Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., who gave the GOP's weekly address.

He said Obama is pushing "the single largest increase in federal spending in the history of the United States, while driving the deficit to levels that were once thought impossible."

"... I know they're gearing up for a fight. My message to them is this: So am I."

— President Obama, on the special interests and lobbyists who oppose his budget proposal

## Video shows Washington deputy in violent attack on teen in jail

SEATTLE (AP) — A King County sheriff's deputy kicks a 15-year-old girl, slams her to the floor of a jail cell, strikes her and pulls her hair in violence captured on videotape.

Prosecutors released the surveillance video Friday in the assault case against Deputy Paul Schene, who is accused of using excessive force on the girl. Schene, 31, pleaded not guilty to fourth-degree assault in Superior Court on Thursday.

The incident last November began after the

girl was brought in for an auto theft investigation, according to court documents. The footage shows the attack beginning after the girl enters the cell at suburban SeaTac City Hall and kicks off one of her shoes toward the deputy.

"We believe this case is beyond just police misconduct, it's criminal misconduct," King County Prosecutor Daniel Satterberg said. "This is clearly excessive force."

Schene was investigated previously for shooting two

people — killing one — in the line of duty in 2002 and 2006. Both times his actions were found to be justified, said Ian Goodhew, prosecutor's deputy chief of staff.

Calls by The Associated Press to Schene's lawyer, Anne Bremner, were not immediately returned Friday. Bremner, however, released a statement to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer in which she said the video does not tell the whole story. Bremner had asked Judge Catherine Shaffer not to release the video to the media.

Smokin' the Competition for More than 60 Years.

AMERICA'S #1 CAR INSURANCE.



Jim Bieri Agent 734-6666  
Matt Stokes Agent 734-3400



1821 Addison Ave. E.

**LIFE** doesn't have to **HURT**

**Kathleen McKay, DC**  
Chiropractic Physician

777 Addison Avenue  
**734-2343**  
Saturday Appointments Available

**Call me...Let's Change Things**

**GO MADISON**  
The Ultimate Visitor's Guide to Wisconsin's Capital Region

The Madison, Wisconsin area is the perfect retreat — for business or for fun.

For more information on one of the Midwest's hottest destinations, order your free copy of Go Madison — The Ultimate Visitor's Guide to Wisconsin's Capital Region by calling (800) 362-8333 or visiting [madison.com](http://madison.com).

**madison.com**

## Business Highlight

Toni Hafliger has owned and operated her Interiors by Decorating Den franchise in the Magic Valley since 2006.

Beginning primarily as a shop at home, custom window treatment company 40 years ago, Interiors by Decorating Den has evolved into one of the most prominent and comprehensive full service interior decorating companies in the world. Representing over 100 quality brand name manufacturers, nearly \$60 million of buying power allows them to meet the needs of their broad client base. Interiors by Decorating Den was rated number 1 in the Decorating Services category by Entrepreneur Magazine, with over 400 franchise partners throughout the U. S. and Canada. The company is proud of its merchandising relationships, marketing and advertising programs, ongoing owner training, field support and technology resources.

Let Toni bring her decorating expertise right to your home. She'll discover your taste, style and budget- and create the perfect decorating solution. From custom window treatments to whole homes, she'll take care of all the details: designing, measuring, ordering and installing- everything to make your house a home. You can contact Toni for a free consultation, at (208) 420-6681 or by going to the company website at [www.decoratingden.com](http://www.decoratingden.com).

Interiors by Decorating Den is in partnership with the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, and Toni donates her time, resources and services to many charities throughout the Magic Valley.



**coloryourspring** Interiors by Decorating Den  
Toni Hafliger, Owner  
208.420.6681



custom window treatments | furniture | lighting | floor coverings | accessories

**Call today for a consultation... we bring our expertise to you!**

**INTERIORS** by Decorating Den  
[www.decoratingden.com](http://www.decoratingden.com)

## Business Highlight

### Headache Relief...



There are many types of headaches, including migraine, tension, cluster, sinus and cervicogenic (originating from the neck). Science is still determining the exact causes. Evidence is pointing to mild trauma to the head, neck or upper back that increases the risk of onset of headaches. "Cervicogenic" headaches can begin immediately

following the trauma or take years to develop. You may not even remember the event that has caused your headaches.

If you have tried everything, but you have not tried chiropractic care, headache relief may be a phone call away. The purpose of chiropractic care is to improve the alignment and function of the neck; reducing irritation to the nerves and blood vessels that may play a role in headaches.

#### Here's what our patients have to say:

"I suffered with headaches so badly I was unable to properly do my job. I work as an accountant and imagine trying to do calculations with headaches all the time. A co worker told me about Dr. Fox. I was amazed at the quality of care. Within two weeks my headaches reduced and I was back to feeling hope. I have not had a headache for 3 months -- work and home life is fantastic." *Kevin*

"I had no idea chiropractic was so technical and scientific till I went to Dr. Fox. He analyzed my spine and nerve systems and amazingly I was out of balance. The headaches I had for over 12 years are gone. I have not found anything work as well as chiropractic care done in a gentle specific approach. I would recommend Fox Chiropractic to anyone. They really care." *Jimmy*

**Live an Active, Healthy Lifestyle Through Chiropractic Care!**

#### March Special for Headache Sufferers

New Patient Consultation, examination, computerized sEMG/Thermography testing and cervical x-rays (if needed)...

**\$99.00** for first two visits

(including Exam, Scans and X-rays(if needed) and any care given.)  
Regular value \$425

Offer Expires March 20, 2009

By law, this offer excludes Medicare/Medicaid patients.

**FOX**  
CHIROPRACTIC  
WELLNESS CENTER, P.A.

1126 Eastland Dr. N • Suite 300  
Twin Falls, ID 83301  
**208-734-7077**  
[www.foxchirowellness.com](http://www.foxchirowellness.com)



# Two months into 2009, U.S. deaths spike in Afghanistan

By Jason Straziwo  
Associated Press writer

KABUL — U.S. deaths in Afghanistan increased threefold during the first two months of 2009 compared with the same period last year, after thousands more troops deployed and commanders ramped up winter operations against an increasingly violent insurgency.

As troops pour into the country and violence rises, another sobering measure has also increased: More Afghan civilians are dying in U.S. and allied operations than at the hands of the Taliban, according to a count by The Associated Press. In the first two months of the year, U.S., NATO or Afghan forces have killed 100 civilians, while militants have killed 60.

President Barack Obama recently announced the deployment of 17,000 additional troops to bolster 38,000 already in the country, increasing the U.S. focus on Afghanistan while a draw-down begins in Iraq. The latest casualty toll among U.S. forces could portend a deadlier year in Afghanistan than the U.S. military has experienced since the Taliban's ouster in 2001.

"I think that because you are going to see that additional engagement, there is a risk of greater additional casualties in the short term, just as there was in Iraq," Obama told the Pentagon Channel on Friday from Camp Lejeune, N.C. "That is something we will have to monitor very carefully."

Twenty-nine U.S. troops died in Afghanistan the first two months of 2009 — compared with eight Americans in the first two months of 2008.

Part of the increase is due to the influx of troops. In early 2008 there were about 27,000 forces in the country, some 10,000 fewer than today.

But U.S. troops are also operating in new, dangerous areas. A brigade of 10th Mountain Division soldiers deployed to two insurgent-heavy provinces outside Kabul in January — Wardak and Logar. And American forces are increasingly operating in Taliban heartland in the south.

"It has a lot to do with the fact that we have a presence in places and going into places and disrupting insurgents in area where they haven't been bothered much," Col. Greg Julian, the top U.S. spokesman in Afghanistan, said Saturday. That, he said, means more



AP photo  
Afghan and U.S. soldiers carry a colleague to an ambulance during a training session Saturday as part of a graduation ceremony for Afghan medical soldiers at the U.S. air field in Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

battles and more attacks.

American troop deaths occurred at a much higher rate in Afghanistan than in Iraq in January and February. Thirty-one U.S. forces have died in Iraq so far this year, but there are roughly 140,000 American troops in Iraq, more than three times the number in Afghanistan.

The decreasing U.S. death toll in Iraq coincides with an

overall decline in violence largely attributed to a cease-fire by anti-U.S. cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and a Sunni decision to join forces with the Americans against al-Qaida in Iraq.

Julian said that troops in Afghanistan have "maintained the pressure throughout the winter months" this season, though in previous years there had been a lull.

About a third of the 29 deaths this year were caused by roadside bombs, including an attack in Kandahar province on Tuesday that killed four U.S. troops. Julian said insurgents are using more IEDs and fewer direct attacks because militants die in large numbers when they fight the U.S. head on.

The number of other NATO soldiers killed so far this year

has risen as well, but not at the same rate. Last year 13 soldiers from other NATO countries died in January and February, compared with 18 in the first two months of 2009. Of those 18 deaths, 12 were British.

Gen. David McKiernan, the top U.S. and NATO commander in the country, said he thinks that Taliban militants are "resilient" but not necessarily stronger.

"I'm not with the group that says everything is in a downward spiral, that the Taliban are resurgent and stronger than they were. I think they're very resilient, but I don't necessarily think they're stronger," McKiernan told the Chicago Tribune in an interview published Friday.

"And I do see some measures of progress in this country. Now I'm not going to say everything is going to improve dramatically in 2009, but I think as a military commander, I am not going to be pessimistic about this. I'm going to be glass-is-half-full."

Violence in all categories is up in general so far this year. Militant deaths rose from 129 in early 2008 to 308 in early 2009, according to numbers compiled by The Associated Press based on figures from U.S., NATO and Afghan officials.

# Pakistan says Taliban beaten back in border region

By Chris Brummitt  
Associated Press writer

KHAR, Pakistan — Pakistan has beaten the Taliban in a major stronghold close to the Afghan border, is close to victory in another and expects to pacify most of the remaining tribal areas before the end of the year, commanders said Saturday.

The upbeat assessment of conditions in the arid, mountainous regions of Bajur and Mohmand follows international criticism of Pakistan for accepting a cease-fire with

militants behind a bloody campaign in Swat Valley, just next to the tribal regions.

Many analysts also fear that growing political turmoil between the government and opposition could distract attention from the fight against al-Qaida and the Taliban just as Washington wants more concerted action.

The United States and independent analysts have praised the offensive in Bajur, saying it has helped stem the passage of militants from Pakistan into Afghanistan, where violence against American and NATO

troops is running at its highest level since the U.S. invasion in 2001.

Pakistan's tribal regions are believed to be a likely hiding place for Osama bin Laden and other al-Qaida leaders. Foreign governments fear extremists there could be plotting attacks on the West.

Maj. Gen. Tariq Khan, commander of the paramilitary Frontier Corps, said the insurgency had been "dismantled" in Bajur after six months of battles between well-armed militants and soldiers backed by tanks and

helicopter gunships.

He said 1,600 militants had been killed and 150 civilians had died. Both figures were impossible to verify independently.

"Their resistance has broken down. We control the roads," he told reporters flown to the northwestern region by helicopter. "They have lost."

Col. Saif Ullah, commander in the neighboring region of Mohmand, said troops had repelled insurgents from most of the territory and it would soon be cleared.

"There are no more no-go

areas. The militants are running away," he said.

The army took reporters to witness a ceremony marking the victory over the militants conducted by tribal elders and military commanders close to a Bajur town that was the site of a major battle last week. Rows of shops selling household goods and furniture were destroyed, and tanks were parked amid the debris. Residents — most of whom fled before the battle — had not returned to the town in a valley leading to Afghanistan.



AP photo  
A Pakistani army colonel congratulates a tribesman during a ceremony Saturday in Barkhalozo, Pakistan.



## TAKE THE MONEY & RIDE SPRING EVENT

### SAVE UP TO \$50 BY MAIL WHEN YOU BUY A NEW SET OF 4 QUALIFYING TIRES\*

**With Cooper, you don't have to give up a thing. Grab four eligible tires right now and get unbeatable performance.**

- \$50 OFF Discoverer CTS, ATR, H/T, LSX† tires
- \$40 OFF CS4 Touring and Cooper Zeon Sport A/S tires
- \$25 OFF Lifeline GLS tires

**That's a total savings of up to \$100.00 off four tires!**

**COMMERCIAL TIRE**

Apply Today and get an **ADDITIONAL \$50.00 OFF** your purchase of 4 tires with your new Commercial Tire Card\*\*



**COOPERTIRES**  
DON'T GIVE UP A THING.

**PLUS 6 MONTHS Interest Free\*\***

\*\*Finance charges waived on qualifying Promotional Credit Plan purchases that are paid in full within 6 MONTHS. MINIMUM MONTHLY PAYMENTS REQUIRED. Regular Rate: 21.84% APR. Delinquency Rate: 24.84% APR. Minimum Finance Charge: \$1.00. CFNA reserves the right to change APR, fees and other terms unilaterally.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO COOPERTIRE.COM OR CALL 1.800.426.2637

\*GO TO COOPERTIRE.COM FOR REQUIRED DOWNLOADABLE OFFICIAL REBATE FORM AND FOR OFFICIAL TERMS & CONDITIONS, FORMS AND TERMS & CONDITIONS ALSO AVAILABLE AT POINT OF PURCHASE. OFFER IN EFFECT FOR TIRES PURCHASED FROM MARCH 2, 2009 TO APRIL 30, 2009. OFFER BASED ON AVAILABILITY OF ELIGIBLE NEW TIRES AT TIME OF PURCHASE. ELIGIBLE TIRES ARE: COOPER CS4 TOURING, COOPER ZEON SPORT A/S, LIFELINE GLS, DISCOVERER CTS, DISCOVERER ATR, DISCOVERER LSX AND DISCOVERER HT. ACTUAL AMOUNT OF REBATE DEPENDS ON TYPE OF ELIGIBLE TIRES PURCHASED. DISCOVERER LSX IS AVAILABLE ONLY AT SELECT RETAILERS.

COUPON	COUPON	COUPON	COUPON
<p><b>COMMERCIAL TIRE</b></p> <p><b>FREE Alignment Check</b></p> <p>with any Tire Purchase</p>	<p><b>COMMERCIAL TIRE</b></p> <p><b>Fluid Maintenance Service</b></p> <p>Buy One, Get 2nd 1/2 Price</p> <p>Transmission Fluid, Cooling System Fluid, Power Steering Fluid, Brake Fluid or Fuel Injection Flush</p>	<p><b>COMMERCIAL TIRE</b></p> <p><b>Complete Brake Service</b></p> <p>Starting at <b>\$99.95</b></p> <p>Tru-Stop Brake Service • Complete Brake System Inspection • Install Tru-Stop Brake Pads • Machine Rotors or Drums • Road Test Vehicle</p> <p>Warranty: 12,000 Mile Free Replacement Warranty</p>	<p><b>COMMERCIAL TIRE</b></p> <p><b>Tires &amp; Custom Wheel Packages</b></p> <p>For Cars...For Light Trucks...For SUVs</p> <p><b>\$50 off</b> When you purchase up to \$500 on a Wheel &amp; Tire Package</p> <p><b>\$75 off</b> When you purchase \$501 to \$999 on a Wheel &amp; Tire Package</p> <p><b>\$100 off</b> When you purchase \$1,000 or more on a Wheel &amp; Tire Package</p>
NOT valid with any other offer. NOT redeemable for cash or credit. Only one per person per visit. Valid through 4/30/09	NOT valid with any other offer. NOT redeemable for cash or credit. Only one per person per visit. Valid through 4/30/09	NOT valid with any other offer. NOT redeemable for cash or credit. Only one per person per visit. Valid through 4/30/09	NOT valid with any other offer. NOT redeemable for cash or credit. Only one per person per visit. Valid through 4/30/09

**Visit the store nearest you or see us online at [CommercialTire.com](http://CommercialTire.com)**

<p><b>Twin Falls</b> 2030 Kimberly Road (208) 733-8761</p>	<p><b>Twin Falls</b> 679 Poleline Road (208) 733-8742</p>	<p><b>Gooding</b> 621 South Main (208) 934-5614</p>	<p><b>Burley</b> 320 Overland Road (208) 678-5651</p>
--	---	---	---





# MOUNTAIN HOME AUTO RANCH



The Largest Incentive Package EVER!!!

Employee Price + REBATES + 0% APR!!!

## EMPLOYEE PRICING PLUS ++

### TO GOOD TO BE TRUE? ONLY IF YOU WAIT!

MSRP ..... \$17,670  
Ranch EP Discount .... -\$2,921  
Factory Rebate..... -\$1,750  
Credit Union CASH..... -\$500  
Military Rebate..... -\$500

**2008 Chrysler PT Cruiser**

5 Speed, A/C, Power Equip, Cruise, Tilt



**YOU SAVE \$5,671**

**\$219/MO**  
\*75 Month term at 6.99% APR O.A.C

**0 DOWN**

**0 DOWN**

**2008 Dodge Avenger SXT**  
Automatic, M.GiG, Sport Appearance Group Flex Fuel

MSRP ..... \$23,310  
Ranch EP Discount .... -\$3,311  
Factory Rebate..... -\$1,500  
Bonus CASH..... -\$500  
Credit Union CASH..... -\$500  
Military Rebate..... -\$500

**ONLY \$16,999**



**\$299/MO**  
\*72 Month term at 5.99% APR O.A.C

**YOU SAVE \$6,311**

**2008 Jeep Liberty Sport**

6 speed Transmission  
4x2, Popular Equip Group, V6

MSRP ..... \$22,345  
Ranch EP Discount .... -\$3,746  
Factory Rebate..... -\$1,500  
Credit Union CASH..... -\$1,000  
Military Rebate..... -\$500

**ONLY \$15,599**

**0 DOWN**  
**\$269/MO**  
\*75 Month term at 5.99% APR O.A.C



**YOU SAVE \$6,746**

**2008 Jeep Patriot 4x4**

Yes Essentials, Automatic, CD Charger, Moonroof, Premium Sound.

MSRP ..... \$22,730  
Ranch EP Discount .... -\$3,031  
Factory Rebate..... -\$1,250  
Bonus Cash..... -\$500  
Credit Union CASH..... -\$500  
Military Rebate..... -\$500

**ONLY \$16,949**

**0 DOWN**  
**\$299/MO**  
\*72 Month term at 5.99% APR O.A.C



**YOU SAVE \$5,091**

**2008 Dodge Dakota EXT Cab**

V6, 5 Speed, Cloth Bucket Seats, Engine Block Heater

MSRP ..... \$20,115  
Ranch EP Discount .... -\$3,366  
Factory Rebate..... -\$3,250  
Credit Union CASH..... -\$1,000  
Military Rebate..... -\$500

**ONLY \$11,999**

**0 DOWN**  
**\$219/MO**  
\*75 Month term at 6.99% APR O.A.C



**YOU SAVE \$8,116**

**2008 Dodge Ram 2500 Quad Cab 4x4**

Diesel, Auto, SLT Pkg, Big Horn, Engine Block Heater

MSRP ..... \$46,585  
Ranch EP Discount .... -\$9,586  
Factory Rebate..... -\$4,000  
CU/CFC Bonus Cash..... -\$1,000  
Military Rebate..... -\$500

**ONLY \$31,499**



**SAVE OVER \$15,000**

**2009 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad Cab 4x4**

Protection Group, Popular Equip Group, Tow Pkg, Automatic

MSRP ..... \$32,490  
Ranch EP Discount .... -\$5,491  
Factory Rebate..... -\$1,000  
CU/CFC Bonus Cash..... -\$1,000  
Military Rebate..... -\$500

**ONLY \$23,499**



**YOU SAVE \$8,991**

**2008 Dodge Caliber SE**

Auto, Bucket Seats, Chill Zone Storage, A/C

MSRP ..... \$16,825  
Ranch EP Discount .... -\$2,826  
Factory Rebate..... -\$500  
Credit Union CASH..... -\$500  
Military Rebate..... -\$500

**ONLY \$12,499**

**0 DOWN**  
**\$224/MO**  
\*72 Month term at 5.99% APR O.A.C



**YOU SAVE \$4,326**

## Auto Ranch Price = BEST PRICE

### No Haggle - No Hassle!!

<p><b>2007 FORD EXPEDITION</b></p> <p>Limited Package, Headrest DVD, Navig., #1574P <b>\$29,998</b></p>	<p><b>2006 CHRYSLER 300 SRT 8</b></p> <p>Leather, SRT 8, Sunroof, Navig., #19003A <b>\$25,998</b></p>	<p><b>2006 DODGE RAM 2500</b></p> <p>Cummins Diesel, 48K Miles, #D1085P <b>\$24,995</b></p>	<p><b>2008 PONTIAC SOLSTICE GXP</b></p> <p>Convertible, Turbo, Only 819 Miles! #D5861A <b>\$23,998</b></p>	<p><b>2006 FORD F350</b></p> <p>Diesel, 42K Miles, #3048P <b>\$23,998</b></p>
<p><b>2005 FORD F350 DUALY DIESEL</b></p> <p>Manual Trans., 65K Miles #48436A <b>\$23,995</b></p>	<p><b>2005 JEEP WRANGLER RUBICON</b></p> <p>42K Miles, Very Clean! #48336A <b>\$16,995</b></p>	<p><b>2006 TOYOTA RAV4</b></p> <p>33K Miles, #48354B <b>\$15,998</b></p>	<p><b>2006 MERCURY MARINER</b></p> <p>Premier, 4x4, Loaded #3037P <b>\$14,995</b></p>	<p><b>2007 BUICK LACROSSE</b></p> <p>26K Miles, #D1078P <b>\$13,995</b></p>
<p><b>CHEVY 1500 LS</b></p> <p>56K Miles, #D5998A <b>\$13,995</b></p>	<p><b>2004 GMC ENVOY XL</b></p> <p>61K Miles, Leather, Loaded, 7 Pass., #48231B <b>\$13,988</b></p>	<p><b>2006 HYUNDAI SANTA FE</b></p> <p>4x4, Auto, 35K Miles, Still Under Warranty #D6085A <b>\$12,998</b></p>	<p><b>2007 DODGE CALIBER SXT</b></p> <p>Automatic, 14K Miles, #D6187A <b>\$11,995</b></p>	<p><b>2002 JEEP WRANGLER</b></p> <p>AC, Lift Kit, 55K Miles, #D1131A <b>\$10,995</b></p>
<p><b>2000 DODGE CARAVAN</b></p> <p>42K Miles! #D1046P <b>\$5,995</b></p>	<p><b>MITSUBISHI MONTERO SPORT 4x4</b></p> <p>88 K Miles, #D1084C <b>\$5,995</b></p>	<p><b>SUBARU OUTBACK</b></p> <p>114K Miles, #1596A <b>\$5,995</b></p>	<p><b>KIA SPECTRA</b></p> <p>78K Miles, Auto, #48392A <b>\$5,995</b></p>	<p><b>POLICE INTERCEPTOR</b></p> <p>All Black #S034A <b>\$3,495</b></p>

All New! MOUNTAIN HOME AUTO RANCH

**1-800-GO-RANCH**

Only 1 Hour From Twin Falls, Right On The Freeway! Exit 95

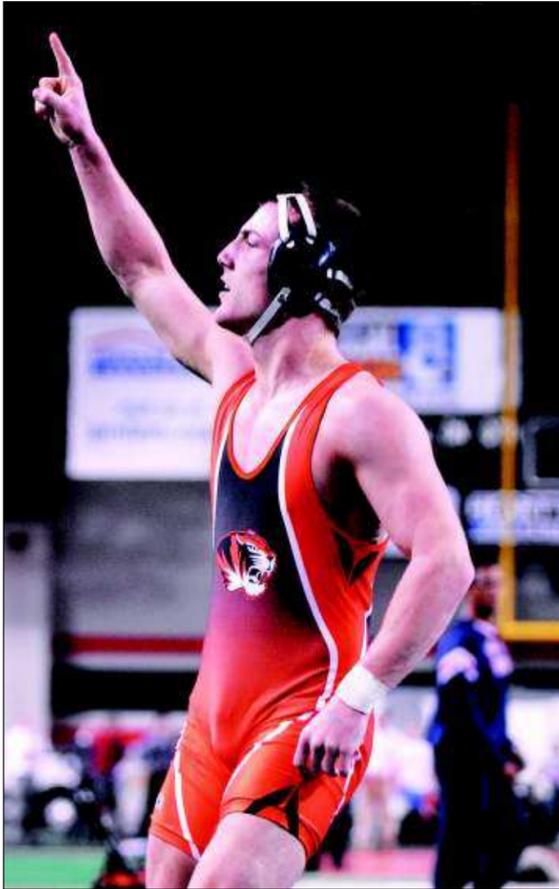
WE'LL BUY YOUR GAS, LUNCH OR DINNER JUST TO COME BY & SEE!



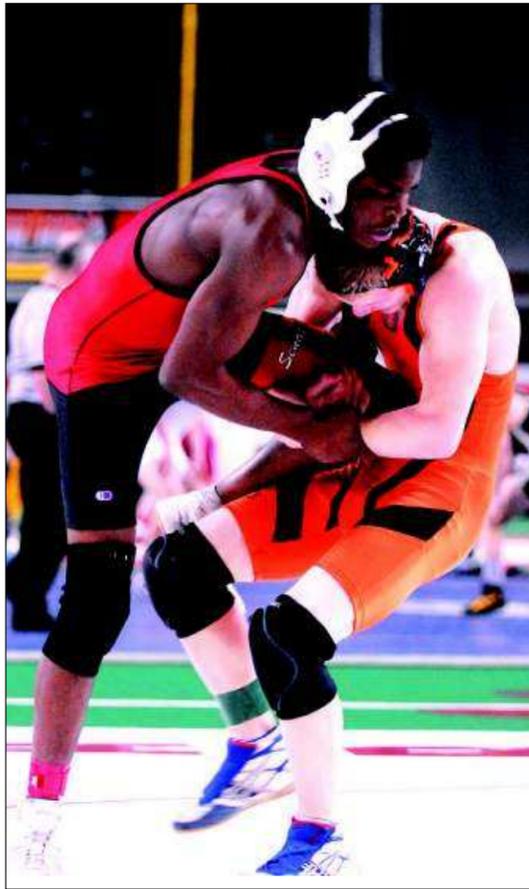
[www.mhautoranch.com](http://www.mhautoranch.com)

All prices plus tax, title & doc fee of \$288.08. Dealer not responsible for typos. Pictures for illustration only. † May affect transaction price of vehicle. Invoice may not reflect dealer cost.

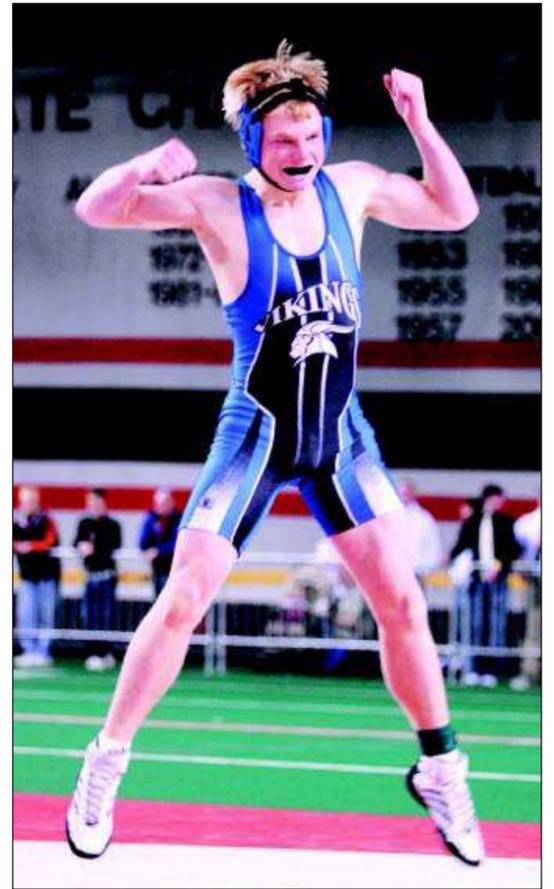
## IHSAA STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT



Jerome's Wade Bennett celebrates his 189-pound Class 4A state championship Saturday at Holt Arena in Pocatello.



Brandon McBride of Gooding finishes off his undefeated freshman season with a Class 3A state championship at 145 pounds Saturday at Holt Arena in Pocatello.



Valley's Derek Gerratt celebrates his Class 2A state championship at 135 pounds Saturday at Holt Arena in Pocatello.

## Magic Valley trio grab 4A titles

### Minico finishes in fourth

By Ryan Howe  
Times-News writer

POCATELLO — For three senior wrestlers from the Magic Valley, their Class 4A state championships were a long time coming.

Jerome's Wade Bennett and Keenan Allen, along with Minico's Jake Hruza, each earned state titles in their respective weight classes during Saturday's championships of the Class 4A state wrestling tournament at Holt Arena in Pocatello.

Bennett was down 1-0 heading into the third peri-

od, but was able to come alive in the final frame for a 5-2 decision over No. 1 seed Miles Hunsinger of Nampa. Hunsinger (38-2) and Bennett (38-1) each only had one loss heading into the title bout.

"I tried not to let the score determine the match," said Bennett. "I knew I was down, I had to get something done. I just tried to focus on my strong points and hope they break his weak points. And I think some of them did and it came down to who wanted it

See **TRIO**, Sports 8

## Gooding freshman McBride completes unbeaten season

By Ryan Howe  
Times-News writer

POCATELLO — One down, three more to go.

Gooding freshman Brandon McBride has been on much bigger stages than the one he dominated at the Class 3A state wrestling tournament at Holt Arena in Pocatello this weekend. But that doesn't mean his first state title at 145 pounds wasn't fun.

"I like this a little better because I'm with my team," McBride said. "Before I was wrestling for myself, now that I'm wrestling for a team and it

gives me a little more confidence and strength to win for them."

McBride, a five-time USA Wrestling national champion capped his 40-0 undefeated season with an impressive pin of Wayde Rabidue of Priest River on Saturday. Rabidue was 34-5 heading into the match and seeded No. 1.

"One of my career goals for high school is to be a four-time state champion," said McBride. "So far, so good."

McBride's was the only individual championship

See **GOODING**, Sports 8

## Valley junior Gerratt wins 135-pound title to cap 43-0 season

By Ryan Howe  
Times-News writer

POCATELLO — Valley coach Rick Hall knows the secret to junior Derek Gerratt's success.

"He's got a huge heart," Hall said, after watching Gerratt cap his undefeated (43-0) season with a 135-pound championship at the Class 2A state wrestling tournament Saturday at Holt Arena in Pocatello.

Gerratt, who placed third for Class 3A Gooding at the 2008 state tourney, pinned every opponent he faced in this year's tournament, highlighted by his pin of Mat Gonzales of Aberdeen

in the final.

"I've been wrestling since first grade and have worked my butt off," Gerratt said. "I was ready. Every guy was tough, I just took one match at a time. I'll keep working because next season starts today."

Said Hall: "His work ethic is unbelievable. It's all business. His energy in the room has done a lot for our program. It's fun coaching kids like him."

Gerratt was the only Class 2A wrestler from the Magic Valley to win a championship. Hansen's Koltin Kenney lost to Dusty Lish of

See **VALLEY**, Sports 8

**INSIDE: Twin Falls junior Will Keeter wins 135-pound title • Final team scores and Day 2 individual results • More state wrestling photos and coverage Sports 7-8**

## CSI men enjoy blitz of CNCC

### Montreal, Watkins shine in final home outings

By Mike Christensen  
Times-News writer

Next stop: Coeur d'Alene. If the Golden Eagles have their way, it won't be the last.

The College of Southern Idaho men's basketball team capped the regular season Saturday with a 107-63 rout of Colorado Northwestern Community College.

The game was the final home outing for CSI sophomores Jay Watkins and Daequon Montreal and both went out in style.

Watkins scored a game-high 29 points to go with 10 rebounds, while Montreal had 20 points and a game-best 11 boards.

"My teammates were looking for me and I just did what I could and played my game," said Watkins. "I just tried to go out, have fun and enjoy myself."

Montreal was emotional during pregame ceremonies honoring him and Watkins and struggled from the field early. But he settled in for a



The College of Southern Idaho's Charles Odum attempts to dribble past Colorado Northwest Community College defender Justin Nixon during the first half of their game Saturday evening in Twin Falls.

memorable final night at CSI years," said Montreal. "It's been a great two

See **CSI**, Sports 2

## CSI sophs shine in final home game

### Golden Eagles rout CNCC to finish regular season

By Mike Christensen  
Times-News writer

One by one, the College of Southern Idaho's four sophomores subbed out of the game to the fans' applause.

Every clap was well deserved.

The No. 11 Golden Eagle women capped their 25-4 regular season with a resounding rout of Colorado Northwestern Community College on Saturday.

The 95-56 win gave the Scenic West Athletic Conference champions a 14-1 league mark and a four-game cushion over second-place North Idaho College in the final standings.

CSI started its four sophomores and all delivered with LaCale Pringle-Buchanan tallying 23 points, seven rebounds and six steals, while Soana Lucet added a 15-point, 11-board double-double. For the second straight game, Martina Holloway came close to a triple-double, finishing with 11 points, eight assists and eight steals. Cassie Wood added eight rebounds and three assists.

"We know that Colorado is a hard team to play, so we said all we're going to try to do is have fun," said Pringle-Buchanan.

Mission accomplished, as smiles abound during the lopsided win. With 3:15 remaining, Rogers subbed out his sophomores one at a time. "That's fun," he said. "You want to make sure they get that small little moment."

For Lucet, the game and the moment were bitter sweet.

"I'm sad because our fans are awesome



JUSTIN JACKSON/Times-News

The College of Southern Idaho's Emilya Yancheva drives with the ball during the Golden Eagles' game against Colorado Northwestern Community College Saturday afternoon in Twin Falls.

and I don't think wherever I'm going to go the fans will be as awesome as they are here," said Lucet.

Freshman Shauneice Samms had 16 points, nine boards and five blocks to aid the Eagles' cause.

Lucet, Samms and Pringle-Buchanan all reached double-figure scoring by halftime.

Pringle-Buchanan and Holloway hit treys during an 8-0 and a series of steals and

See **SOPHOMORES**, Sports 2















Photos by RYAN HOWE/Times-News

Minico's Jake Hruza won the Class 4A state championship at 140 pounds over Lakeland's Brandon Richardson Saturday at Holt Arena in Pocatello.

"He beat me at districts. You just have to put it behind you. You can't dwell on the past. In my mind, I was going to win. I just went out there and did my own thing, kept my cool."

— Keenan Allen

## Valley

Continued from Sports 1

Soda Springs in the 119-pound final by major decision, 14-6. Kenney's junior season ended with a 33-12 record.

Declo's Jose Alonzo, who battled through broken ribs, lost an 8-5 decision to Taylor Walker of Firth in the 130-pound final. Alonzo finished his senior season 22-3.

Jaime Alonzo of Declo placed fourth at 103 pounds, while Casey Ivey was sixth.

Josh Anderson of Declo took sixth at 112, Andrew Juarez of Declo placed sixth at 119 and Justin Cameron of Declo was fifth at 125. At 130 pounds, Stephen Ortiz of Oakley took fifth. Oakley's 135-pounder Caleb Greenwell finished third, while fellow Hornets Brian Babbitt and Braxton Sagers each placed fourth at 171 and 215 pounds, respectively.

Javier Ortiz of Glens Ferry finished fifth at 285.



Jerome's Keenan Allen wrestles his way to the Class 4A state championship at 112 pounds over Tyler Praska of Pocatello Saturday at Holt Arena in Pocatello.

## Gooding

Continued from Sports 1

from a Magic Valley wrestler at the Class 3A level.

No. 1-seeded Andrew Juarez of Filer saw his streak of three straight state tournament pins end as he was beat by American Falls' Kasey West at 103 pounds, 15-9.

No. 2 seed Blake Finney of Buhl met up with No. 1 V.J. Giulio of American Falls in the 160-pound final. Finney was unable to dethrone the returning state champ, as

Giulio earned a 7-4 decision.

Andrew Ringling of Wendell placed fifth at 130 pounds, while Tucker Mulberry of Kimberly was third at 135.

Nolan Ward of Kimberly placed fourth at 145, Chance Share of Buhl earned sixth at 152 and Ryan Slade of Wendell finished fifth at 160.

In the upper weights, Nick Fleenor of Filer took fourth at 189 pounds and Jamie Folk of Kimberly was third at 285.

Come see what's new at [magicvalley.com](http://magicvalley.com) Sign up online to receive breaking news e-mails.

## Trio

Continued from Sports 1

more. I've worked so hard all four high school years to get this."

Allen's 10-6 victory over Tyler Praska of Pocatello in the 112-pound finals was sweet revenge for the Tiger wrestler.

"He beat me at districts," said Allen, who finished his season 31-8. "You just have to put it behind you. You can't dwell on the past. In my mind, I was going to win. I just went out there and did my own thing, kept my cool."

Hruza admits to hearing songs in his head while he wrestles. Sometimes he hears voices. During his 140-pound title match against Lakeland's Brandon Richardson, a discouraging thought somehow entered into Hruza's mind after Richardson scored the initial takedown.

"He got the first takedown and I thought how easy it would be to just quit. Then I was like, 'I can't do that,'" Hruza said.

He didn't quit. In fact, Hruza tied it up 3-3 heading into the third period, scored an escape point with just more than a minute left and held on for the 4-3 victory. It was Richardson's (43-1) first loss of the season. The close match was new to Hruza in this year's state tourney, as he cruised through the first three rounds by outscoring opponents 44-2.

While Hruza was Minico's only state champion, the Spartans earned enough team points to take home the fourth-place trophy. Garth Crane finished fourth at 112, Kegan Schell fifth at 130, David Borden fourth at 145, Landon Barnes and Colby May sixth at 152 and 160, and Miguel Simental and Nate Barclay fifth at 171 and 215.

Jerome had last year's 103 champ Cory Cummins place fourth at 119, Nick Thorn went sixth at 135 and Riley Argyle placed fifth at 160 — beating May in the placement match.

Burley sophomore Christian Parke lost his semifinal match but recovered to take fourth at 125.

# BUY ONE HUE II™ | GET ONE FREE\*

by Samsung



Only **\$19.99**

after \$50 mail-in rebates and 2-yr. service agreement on each line

Make your **Hue II™** more **you** with fun faceplates!

- 2.0 MP camera with video
- Music player
- GPS-capable

**SAMSUNG**

Optional faceplates shown are available for purchase.



**Touch-screen phone**

Samsung Dolve™

**ONLY \$49.99**

after \$100 mail-in rebate and 2-yr. Smart Choice Pack agreement.

Includes Alltel e-mail, Alltel Navigation, no fee\* & more!

**Call more people. Use zero minutes.**

Alltel is now a part of Verizon Wireless, creating America's Largest Mobile to Mobile Calling Family – more than 80 million strong.

**Plus, choose who you call for free on any network with My Circle.®**

Certain Alltel customers not joining Verizon Wireless. See [alltel.com](http://alltel.com) for updates & eligibility.



now a part of **Verizon Wireless**

**Call more people. Use zero minutes.**  
Alltel is now a part of Verizon Wireless, creating America's Largest Mobile to Mobile Calling Family – more than 80 million strong.  
**Plus, choose who you call for free on any network with My Circle.®**  
Certain Alltel customers not joining Verizon Wireless. See [alltel.com](http://alltel.com) for updates & eligibility.

<p><b>Promotional offers available at the following locations:</b></p> <p><b>Alltel Retail Stores</b></p> <p><b>Blackfoot</b> 1211 Parkway Village   (208) 782-1124</p> <p><b>Burley</b> 2161 Overland Ave.   (208) 677-8909</p> <p><b>Idaho Falls</b> 1185 E. 17th St.   (208) 522-1000</p> <p><b>Pocatello</b> 235 W. Quinn   (208) 235-1000</p>	<p><b>Twin Falls</b> 799 Cheney Dr.   (208) 733-8000</p> <p><b>Shop at a participating retailer:</b> Equipment &amp; promotional offers at these locations may vary.</p> <p><b>American Falls</b> Linx Wireless   (208) 226-2525</p> <p><b>Blackfoot</b> Valley Medical Shoppe   (208) 782-0456 Vision Comm.   (208) 785-7200</p> <p><b>Burley</b> Vision Comm.   (208) 679-7255</p>	<p><b>Gooding</b> Western Cellular   (208) 934-4851</p> <p><b>Idaho Falls</b> Vision Comm.   (208) 528-7255</p> <p><b>Jerome</b> Western Cellular   (208) 324-7300</p> <p><b>Montpelier</b> Linx Wireless   (208) 847-1521</p> <p><b>Pocatello</b> Ball Brothers Music   (208) 932-4484 Linx Wireless   (208) 478-5469</p>	<p>Vision Comm.   (208) 233-7255 Vision Comm.   (208) 238-7255</p> <p><b>Preston</b> Swainston Cellular   (208) 852-3151</p> <p><b>Reclurg</b> Valley Wireless   (208) 656-8880 Vision Comm.   (208) 359-2455</p> <p><b>Rigby</b> The Talk Shop   (208) 390-7445</p> <p><b>Salmon</b> Salmon Cellular &amp; Satellite   (208) 756-2531</p>	<p><b>Soda Springs</b> Linx Wireless   (208) 547-4444</p> <p><b>St. Anthony</b> Rocky Mountain Cellular   (208) 624-0235</p> <p><b>Twin Falls</b> Vision Comm.   (208) 733-7255</p> <p><b>Walmart</b></p>
--	--	--	--	---

**For Business & Government Accounts call 1-866-WLS-BIZZ or visit [alltelbusiness.com](http://alltelbusiness.com)**

Federal, state and local taxes & charges apply. In addition, Alltel may charge monthly connectivity, regulatory, administrative & 911 surcharges up to \$2.19 & federal & state Universal Service Fund fees (both may vary by customer usage). These additional fees may not be taxes or government-required charges & are subject to change. Additional information regarding your taxes, fees & surcharges is available from your Alltel customer service representative & on your monthly bill. Phone Details: Phones & applicable rebates available for a limited time, while supplies last, with activation of a qualifying rate plan. Rebate will be in the form of a VISA gift card. Limit 1 rebate per qualifying purchase. Phone may be returned within 15 days of purchase. If mail-in rebate certificate has been submitted, Alltel will refund the purchase price less the rebate amount. Customer pays applicable taxes. See rebate certificate for details. Blue & silver faceplate included with purchase of The Alltel Hue II. Optional faceplates available at an additional charge. **Smart Choice Pack Requirement:** All new or existing customers activating or upgrading to a smart device are required to purchase & maintain a Smart Choice Pack for the duration of their contract in order to qualify for the in-contract phone price. **Applications: Features, including Alltel e-mail, Alltel Navigation & nuTie only available for use in Alltel digital wireless & roaming partner markets. Qualifying Alltel rate plan & approved wireless phone required. Airtime, text messaging &/or kilobyte charges may apply when downloading or using features. Features are subject to change & may not be available in all markets or on all phones. Usage outside of your calling plan is subject to additional roaming & long-distance charges. Before you accept any Alltel application offering please review the Alltel Terms & Conditions at [alltel.com](http://alltel.com). By using certain downloadable applications, customer agrees to the Alltel Shop End User License Agreement. All GPS applications are subject to the Alltel GPS Terms & Conditions available at [alltel.com](http://alltel.com). For download questions or problems, call Alltel customer service at 1-800-alltel-1. **Mobile to Mobile:** Certain Alltel customers not joining Verizon Wireless. See [alltel.com](http://alltel.com) for updates & eligibility. Mobile to Mobile minutes apply to calls between eligible Alltel Wireless & Verizon Wireless customers that begin & end in your plan's calling area. Call forwarding, 411 & voice mail calls excluded. **My Circle:** Available to new & existing customers on current select rate plans. Minimum rate plan of \$49.99 for 5 Circle Plan numbers; \$59.99 for 10 numbers; \$89.99 for 20 numbers. For Smart Choice Pack customers, minimum rate plan of \$69.99 for 5 Circle Plan numbers; \$89.99 for 10 numbers; \$139.99 for 20 numbers. My Circle numbers must be shared among all lines on the primary account. Customer may not designate own wireless or voice mail number. Directory Assistance or 900 numbers as any of the available numbers. Calls must begin & end in your plan's calling area. Designated numbers must be within the 50 U.S. states. Feature may be discontinued at the discretion of Alltel. Allow 24 hours for changes to Your Circle numbers to become effective. Restrictions apply to Business & Prepaid customers. See representative for details. **Additional Information:** This offer may be limited due to time, supplies, coverage, or participating locations. \$25 non-refundable activation fee & possible \$200 early termination fee apply per line. Offers are subject to the Alltel Terms & Conditions for Communications Services available at any Alltel store or [alltel.com](http://alltel.com). All product & service marks referenced are the names, trade names, trademarks & logos of their respective owners. nuTie & the nuTie logo are trademarks of Melodeo, Inc. nuTie is an iTunes affiliate. iTunes is a trademark of Apple, Inc. Screen images are simulated. ©2009 Alltel Communications, LLC. All rights reserved.**

Read more sports results online at [magicvalley.com](http://magicvalley.com)



















SEE FAMILY LIFE 3



SEE KIDS ONLY, FAMILY LIFE 6

# 5 ways to pamper your pregnant body

By Melissa Davlin  
Times-News writer

Glowing? Yeah right. Try sore, cranky, tired and nauseated.

Pregnancy isn't comfortable, but it doesn't generally have to be miserable. Besides taking care of yourself by exercising, eating well and drinking plenty of water, you can take advantage of these five ways to pamper your pregnant body — or one you love.

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

## Chiropractic

Lower back killing you? Suffering from sciatica? Heading to the chiropractor might alleviate those symptoms.

Chiropractor Chad Nielson of Nielson Family Chiropractic in Twin Falls said many first-time mothers don't come to him until the later stages of the pregnancy, "when they get kind of miserable." Regular clients, however, will take advantage of his services throughout the nine months to make the term more comfortable.

Brandy Furniss of Twin Falls, who gave birth to her first son, Korbin, on Feb. 9, said she came to Nielson for help with a breech presentation. Nielson helped flip the baby with what's called the Webster technique, then adjusted her.

"A lot of my hips and stuff were out of place," Furniss said.

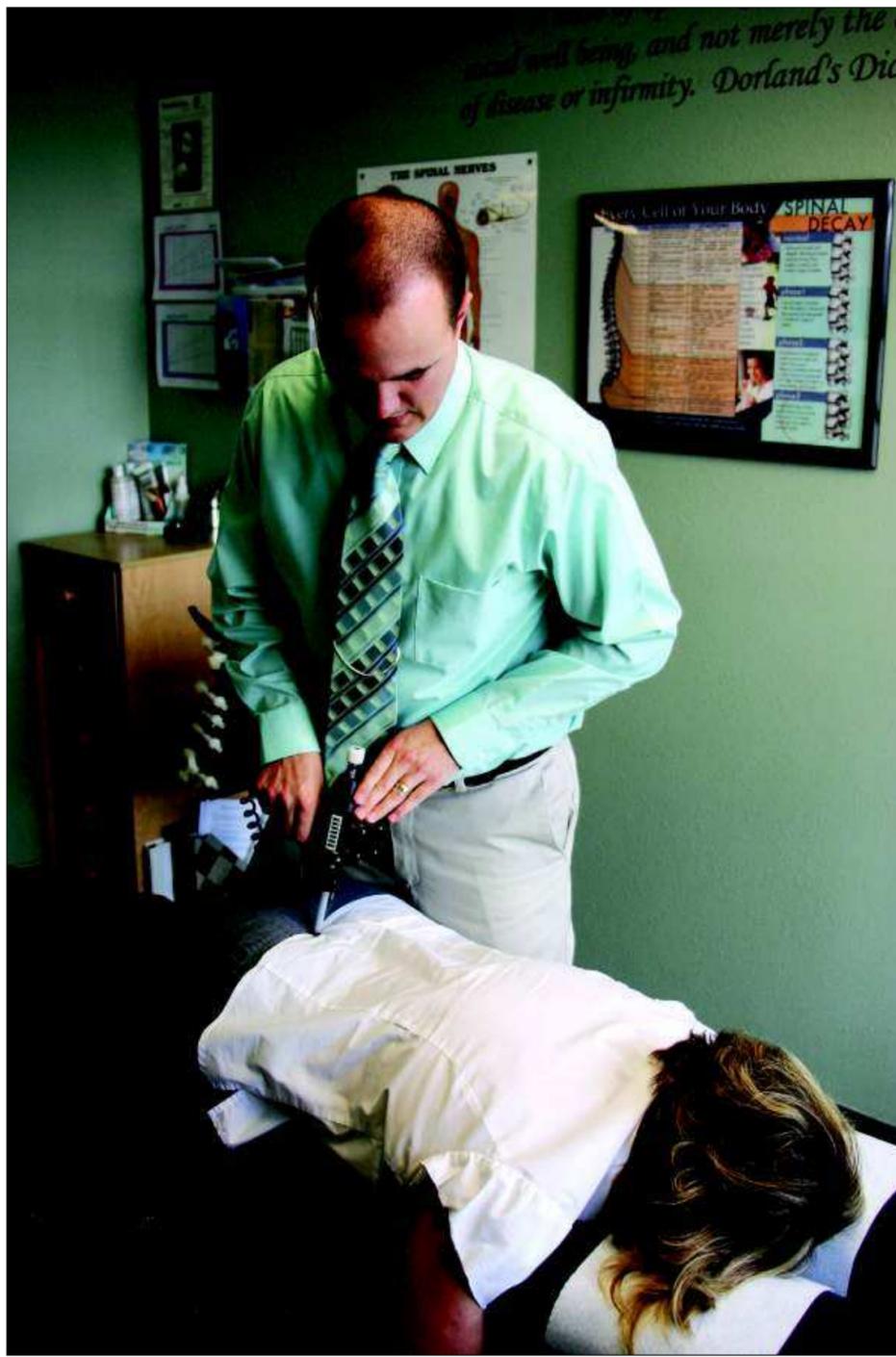
## Acupuncture

Unfamiliar with acupuncture? In a nutshell, acupuncturists use super-thin needles to manipulate points in the body to relieve pain and other symptoms. Acupuncture can be used alone or with other health practices, like chiropractic and massage.

Mark L. Dunlap of Acupuncture Works in Burley said some of his pregnant clients turn to acupuncture to ease nausea and discomfort. Acupuncturists can also trigger uterine contractions for women who are past their due dates. Dunlap said he has helped two ladies avoid Cesarean section by helping them go into labor.

A word of warning: Those same points can be used to stimulate a miscarriage earlier in the pregnancy, so make sure you go to someone you're comfortable with, Dunlap said. As long as the acupuncturist is experienced and knowledgeable, though, you don't need to worry.

"As far as the risk, almost the worst-case scenario is they're just not going to see results," Dunlap said.



Twin Falls chiropractor Chad Nielson demonstrates the instrument that he uses to safely and gently adjust pregnant women without having to twist them or push on them. For comfort, the woman lies on a shaped pillow with depressions for belly and breasts.

## Put your feet up

Pampering yourself doesn't have to be an event. Take some time twice a day, every day, to put up your feet and relax, Wolcott said. Elevating your feet will help reduce painful swelling in your ankles.

While you're sitting still, savor a cup of red raspberry leaf tea. Available in most health food stores, this herbal tea has been recommended by midwives for centuries to reduce nausea and labor pains.

So kick up your heels, enjoy your hot drink and make sure your family knows not to disturb you. You've earned it, girl.



## Massage

If you've ever had a traditional Swedish massage, you know you're in for a treat. And if not, what better time to give massage a try than when you're feeling so sore?

Many massage practitioners have pregnancy-specific techniques to ease the strains and stresses of child bearing. Instead of lying on your stomach, you'll lie on your side.

Other types of massage can be beneficial. Julie Kodesh, owner of Le Duke Salon in Twin Falls, said many clients just want foot or upper-body massages when they're pregnant. And new mother Brandy Furniss said she enjoyed cranial sacral massage in the later stages of her pregnancy.

## Daylight savings reverts to Dark Ages

O darkness! O in vain!  
O I am very sick and sorrowful. ...  
— Walt Whitman

Just when you thought winter couldn't grow any grayer, colder or more depressing, along comes daylight savings time.

Making matters worse, it arrives earlier than ever this year.

Starting next Sunday at 2 a.m., the semi-annual event where we move clocks ahead one hour in spring, one hour back in fall, will hit your alarm clock. And if your house is like mine, the prospect of losing an hour of wintertime sleep is as welcome as Hannah Montana with a flaming case of strep throat.

Thanks to Congress and its 2005 energy bill, daylight savings — traditionally planned for October and April — was expanded a few years ago to start on the second Sunday in March, and end in the first week of November.

That makes next Sunday, March 8, the earliest recorded date from which we've started daylight savings time. We're "springing ahead" and it's not even spring yet.

Even for a pragmatist like Benjamin Franklin — who conceived the notion of daylight savings — that idea is as cracked as the Liberty Bell.

Actually, Franklin isn't officially responsible for introducing daylight savings time. That distinction falls to the Germans, who adopted it during World War I. So along with mustard gas, machine guns, the League of Nations and the Treaty of Versailles, just consider daylight savings another war byproduct that has resulted in misery or failure.

Winter, especially in northern regions such as ours, has long been a season offering inspiration to some of the most depressing poems and prose — from Edgar Allan Poe to Samuel Beckett to Bruce Springsteen — known to pen and paper.

But when March creeps around, a glimmer of hope fills the sky and soul. The sun becomes the first to greet you, and mornings become just a tad bit more welcoming and tolerable.

Ronald Reagan owes his legacy in part to the theme "It's morning in America."

When there's too much darkness, however, the kids start to act like vampires or raccoons.

Who can blame them? When you go to bed and wake up in the dark, eat dinner and breakfast in the dark, then walk to school in the early dawn, childhood can feel more like a Zoloft commercial.

I'm not alone in my parental disdain for a pre-spring daylight savings. When Congress debated the bill almost four years ago, both the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Parent Teacher Association opposed the change because it jeopardized kids' safety when walking to school in the dark.

Among those who did favor the early DST were sporting goods manufacturers and convenience store lobbyists. Best of all, candy producers also pushed it so Halloween night could be lengthened by an hour of daylight and kids could get in more trick-or-treating. Just what your kids need — another dozen Snickers bars just before the holidays.

Really, though, my kids try their best to understand daylight savings time, but usually it just leads to a meandering discussion filled with repetitive questions.

"Does this mean we lose an hour of sleep for the rest of the year?"

"If I'm waking up earlier, how does that save energy?"

"So do we get out of school an hour early now?"

I'd love to tell them simple answers. But the fact is nobody understands daylight savings time. Until the tulips bloom, we're all, literally and figuratively, in the dark.



SPILT MILK  
David Cooper



## Soak

You don't have to splurge to feel better. Certified nurse-midwife Connie Wolcott recommends simple warm baths to ease the strains of pregnancy.

"Warm baths are never a bad idea," said Wolcott, who operates Magic Valley Midwifery in Jerome. Make sure the water isn't hot enough to make your skin red, though, as the high temperature could put the fetus in distress.

If you usually sprinkle essential oils in your baths, hold off until after talking to your doctor or midwife. Some oils are off-limits during pregnancy, while others are OK only during specific trimesters. In the meantime, try fragrance-free bubble bath to add a sense of luxury.



# Kids can help Arthur the aardvark find new friend

By Leanne Italie  
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — A boy aardvark with his own TV show is looking for a little help from his fans to help children better understand peers with special challenges.

Arthur, of book and PBS fame, and creator Marc Brown have tackled blindness and dyslexia, head lice and peanut allergies among the gang in Elwood City, the small town where the man and the aardvark first settled together in 1976.

Now they're teaming up to invite children to create a new Arthur character, but not just any friend. They're looking for one with a unique ability, character trait or disability that might make life different, but no less fun.

Through March 31, children can send in drawings and descriptions of their creations for a chance to appear on TV in a short live-action segment. The winner will also get to meet Brown, who as author and illustrator has put out about 70 Arthur titles that have sold more than 65 million copies in the U.S. alone.

The contest, Brown said, is aimed at helping young people see past differences to accept that peers come in all shapes, sizes and abilities, like the variety of species in Arthur's world. Brown is proud of his efforts to promote inclusiveness and diversity through his Arthur work but acknowledged such issues are often confined to secondary story lines in children's television programming.

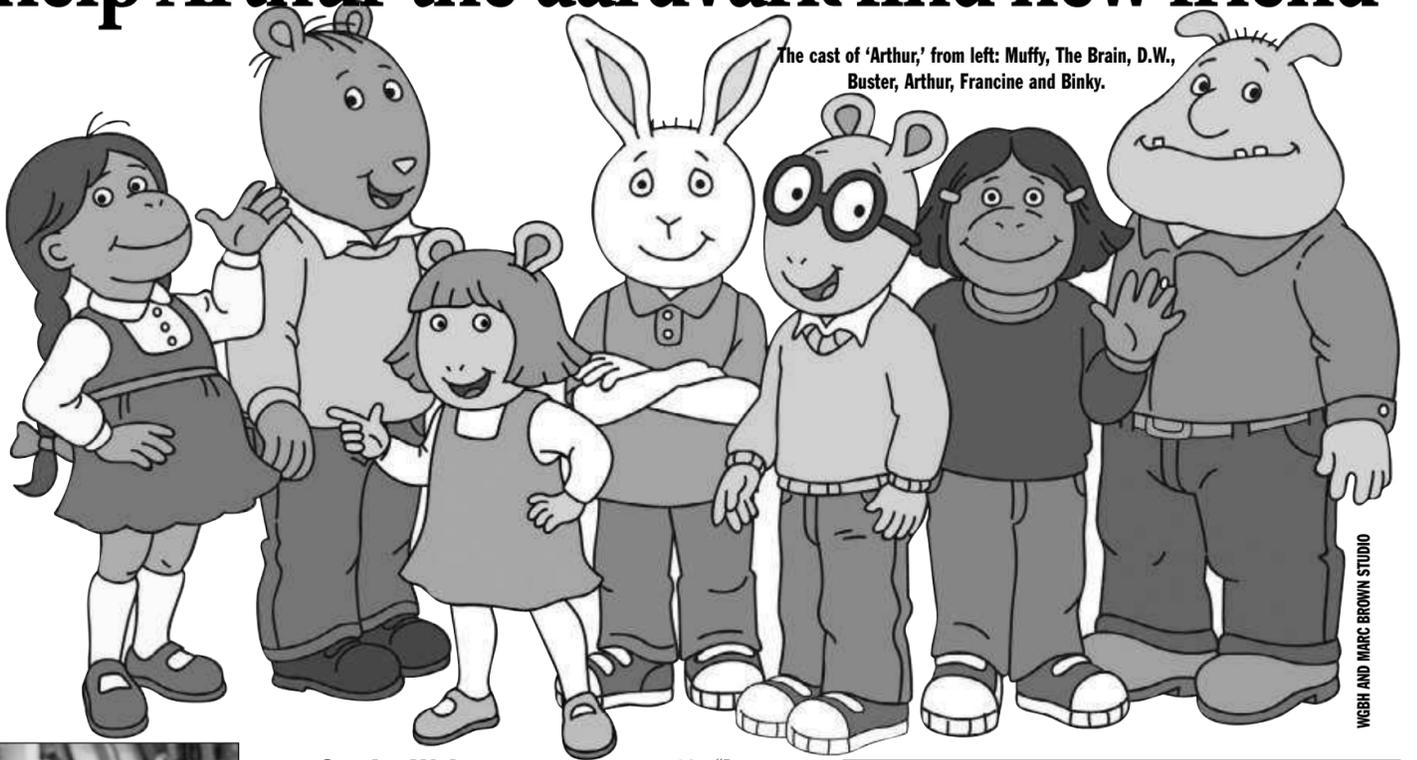
"I wish I had a very good answer for why that is," he said. "Arthur has included more diversity than a lot of other shows." The contest is "baby steps," Brown said, "but the more people who step up to the plate, it's going to become more and more comfortable."

Arthur himself was conceived on the basis of a challenging trait after Brown's oldest and now-grown son Tolon asked for a bedtime story one night when he was 5. Brown had just lost a job teaching art in Boston at a junior college that closed when Tolon begged: "Tell me a story about a weird animal."

Tired and a little depressed, Brown said he relied on the top of the alphabet to come up with both an aardvark and the name Arthur, making up an Everyboy who had a long, droopy snout. Arthur hated his nose so much that he visited a "rhinologist" to have it changed, but he soon realized he just wanted to be himself.

"Then Tolon wanted a picture, and I drew a picture. It was wonderful. I forgot all about where to find a job, how to buy diapers."

It took Brown only six months to get his first aardvark book, "Arthur's Nose," into print, relying on his sister and other relatives to flesh out his characters. Tolon, whose name and those of his two siblings are often hidden in



The cast of 'Arthur,' from left: Muffy, The Brain, D.W., Buster, Arthur, Francine and Binky.

WGBH AND MARC BROWN STUDIO



AP Photo/Rob Muller

Arthur, of book and PBS fame, and creator Marc Brown have tackled everything from blindness and dyslexia to head lice and peanut allergies among the gang in Elwood City.

Brown's Arthur drawings, now helps oversee on-screen media for his dad and will be one of the contest judges.

Growing up in Erie, Pa., Brown and his three sisters were treated regularly to stories from their grandmother. He later trained at the Cleveland Institute of Art, working as a truck driver, cook, freelance illustrator and TV art director along the way. Transitioning Arthur to TV in 1996 was nerve-racking for Brown.

"I had to learn to share," he said. "That was a really good lesson for me. Those characters had been all mine. I wasn't prepared for that really. It took a little while to get to the point where I thought, 'OK, I love the idea that Arthur's going to be on TV.'"

Over the 30 years Brown has been drawing Arthur, the long snout has slowly disappeared while his popularity exploded. Last season, the Arthur show reached more than 6 million

## On the Web:

Contest rules and entry form:  
<http://pbskids.org/arthur/allkidscan/index.html>

people in the U.S. each week. The cartoon, co-produced by public television station WGBH in Boston, has six Emmys and a Peabody and is seen in 100 countries.

While Brown has allowed the characters to be used on a variety of merchandise, from backpacks to food, he remains suspicious about the commercial impact of television on kids.

"I have a problem with the majority of children's television, where it's really used as a vehicle to sell products," Brown said. "That's not really our focus. Arthur is what television should do — look for ways to be helpful to kids. It's such a positive medium if it's used well."

For the contest, Arthur is partnering with pharmacy and health care corporation CVS Caremark. Eileen Howard Dunn, a senior vice president for the company, considered Arthur a perfect vehicle to promote the "importance of friendship and the value of accepting and including kids with different abilities from all walks of life." It's a goal CVS has promoted through a broader program that lent its name to the contest: "All Kids Can."

"One of the reasons why we chose children with disabilities is because of the lack of awareness of the issue," said Dunn, who has five kids ages 2

to 10. "I just think you have to keep working at it and you've got to have new ways of explaining it and evolving it."

Dunn recalled a time years ago when a mother whose name and face she couldn't immediately conjure accosted her outside preschool to fawn over her oldest son, Jack.

"She was going on about how he was the most amazing child ever and I said, 'Thank you very much, blah blah blah,'" then Dunn asked Jack who she was.

"She was the mother of the deaf child in the class and Jack had interacted with her on a regular basis. He had lunch with her and played with her on the playground. He was explaining her trouble speaking when he said, 'If you just wait a little bit you can pretty much get what she means.'"

The experience "always stuck in my brain," Dunn said. "We want our kids to see kids as kids, not the wheelchairs or the walkers or the speech delays. Arthur teaches that, the value of inclusion."

## CLEANING CORNER

### Question:

I have three bathrooms and three boys. Need I say more? How do I get the guys in my house to more accurately hit the toilet? I'm tired of cleaning up overspray!

"Latrine Queen"



Lori Chandler  
Cleaning Center owner  
734-2404

Watch for  
**Ladies' Night Out**  
Fri., Mar. 6

### Answer:

First of all, teach those macho-missers to clean up after themselves. This will improve their aim by 90%! Getting your children to clean up messes as quickly as they make them will improve your family's well being. Come to "Ladies' Night Out" on Friday, March 6 from 6-9 p.m. Attend helpful seminars such as "Teaching Your Family to Clean the Bathroom in Less Than 3½ Minutes," presented by author, home expert and mother of eight, Sandra Phillips. We'll see you there! (Bring a friend too!)

Frustrated with a stubborn cleaning problem? Write or e-mail your questions to:  
[lchandler@cleaningcenters.com](mailto:lchandler@cleaningcenters.com)

483 Washington St. N. Twin Falls, ID  
(Corner of Washington St. N. and Filer Ave.)

Don Aslett's  
**CLEANING CENTER**

011

**Immanuel Lutheran School**  
Open registration begins March 2 for the 2009-2010 school year

- Preschool • Pre-kindergarten
- Kindergarten • 1st - 5th grade

Applications are available from our website:  
[www.immanuel.lf.org](http://www.immanuel.lf.org)

Birth certificates and immunization records are required.  
To Register call 733-7820, office hours are 8-4, M-F

Rite Aid Pharmacy Customers!

## Try Shopko Pharmacy Today & Save!

**FREE \$20 Shopko Gift Card**  
with any new or transferred\* prescription at your Twin Falls Shopko

Coupon good through Saturday, March 28, 2009. Coupon must accompany purchase. Limit 1 Gift Card per family. Redeemable for merchandise only. Not good on prescriptions previously filled at another Shopko Pharmacy. Not good with any other offers or in conjunction with any restricted insurance plans or state or federal subsidized programs. \*Our pharmacist will contact your physician for authorization.

SHOPKO pharmacy

compare our service  
Easy prescription refills:  
Drop them off, call ahead or go online

convenience  
Convenient evening & weekend hours to fit your busy lifestyle

plan coverage  
Hassle-free insurance processing

Thousands of plans accepted

Workers' comp prescriptions gladly filled

plus... \$2 extra savings with any local competitor's coupon

prescription rewards!  
my Rxtra savings  
**TEN \$ for 10**

## CLUB

Purchase ten prescriptions & you'll get \$10 off your next Shopko store purchase of only \$20 or more!  
See store for details. Must present my extra savings card.

Don't have a card? Sign up in store.  
**Membership is FREE!**

**FREE DELIVERY BY MAIL**  
Call our pharmacy for details  
(208) 734-3791

## A COLON CANCER TEST SAVED MY LIFE

"I was shocked to learn I had colon cancer because I'm healthy, I eat right, exercise, and there's no history of cancer in my family."

If you're 50 or over get tested.

For more information visit:  
The American Cancer Society  
[www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)  
or call the Idaho CareLine

*Karen Echeverria*  
Idaho Resident Idaho CareLine • IDHW

**2-1-1**  
Get Connected. Get Answers.  
Dial 2-1-1 or 1-800-926-2588

COLON CANCER IN IDAHO  
Preventable, Treatable, Beatable.

Take the test. Save your life.

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & WELFARE

# SHOPKO®

my life. my style. my store.

1649 Pole Line Road East, Twin Falls, ID 83301 • Phone: 208-734-3791  
Store Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9-7, Sat. 9-6 & Sun. 11-4





# Kids Only

## Is it safe to eat? Sometime laws can't protect us

By Valerie Strauss  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — You might have heard about people across the U.S. and Canada who got sick from eating some food products made with peanuts.

Government officials believe they have figured out why it happened and are taking steps to prevent more people from eating the contaminated food.

What they learned is that products made with peanuts from a company called Peanut Corporation of America were contaminated with bacteria called salmonella. More than 635 people got sick, and at least nine died.

Before you get worried about eating a peanut butter sandwich, you should know that major brands of jarred peanut butter found in grocery stores, such as Jif and Peter Pan, are not involved. They are safe to eat.

In fact, one reason this story about food being contaminated has become such big news is that it is rare. Most of the food Americans eat is perfectly safe — and we eat a lot! In the U.S., people spend about \$1 trillion a year on food, and 16.5 million people work in the food industry.

Laws require safe handling of food, and a number of U.S. and state government agencies inspect the food as it is processed.

"People are very aware

today about keeping food safe," said Diane Van, director of the Agriculture Department's food safety hotline. "Twenty years ago they didn't know about salmonella. Today they do."

In the current case, government officials say the peanut company in question allowed illegal and unhealthy conditions that led to salmonella poisoning.

Salmonella is a group of bacteria identified in the laboratory of American scientist Daniel Salmon. It causes diarrhea, fever and stomach cramps, which usually last four to seven days. But rarely, it can cause serious illness and death.

That's why officials have ordered a recall of some 2,000 products that might be contaminated. It is one of the largest product recalls in history. Some of the recalled products are peanut butter crackers, snack cakes and granola bars.

The job of food inspectors has become more difficult in recent years. As the amount of food that needs to be inspected has gone up, the number of inspectors has declined.

The Food and Drug Administration, responsible for the safety of most U.S. food, has cut inspections by about 80 percent since the early 1970s. Why? Decreases in the budget are a big reason.

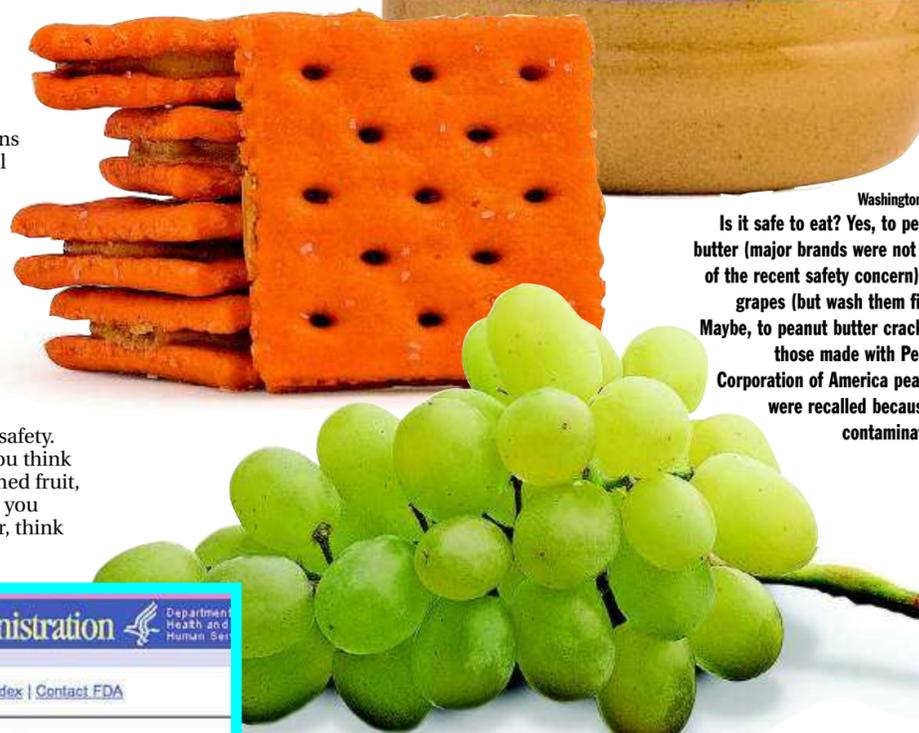
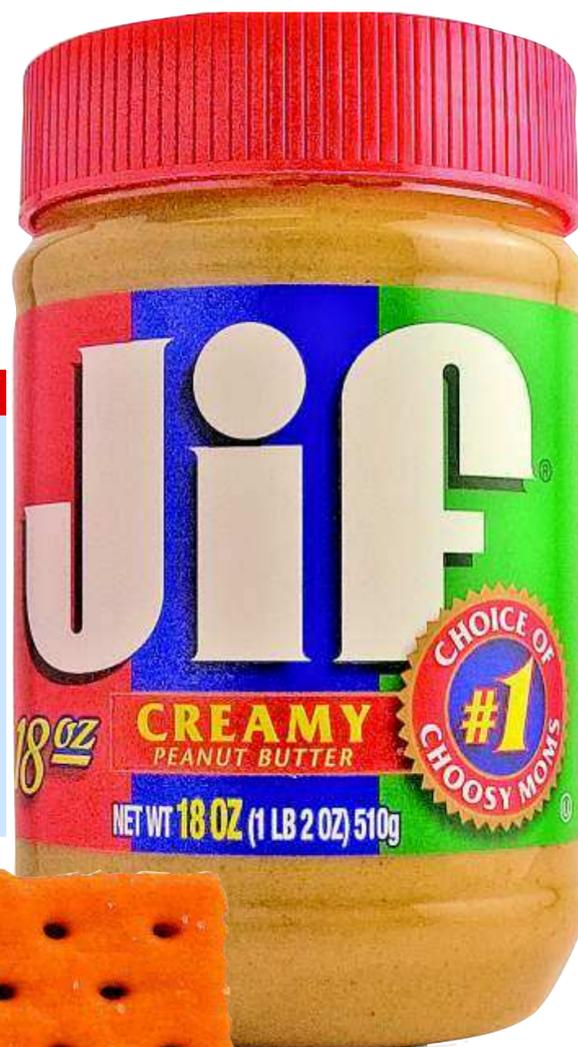
### KEEPING YOUR FOOD SAFE

- **Wash and dry** your hands before you make or eat a snack or meal.
- **Wash fruits** and vegetables in warm water before you eat them. Don't use soap, but dry them off with paper towels. (Then throw the paper towels away!)
- **Put milk**, yogurt, mayonnaise, luncheon meat and eggs back in the refrigerator right away. (That's because foods that are meant to be refrigerated can spoil when left out at room temperature. Eating spoiled food can make you sick, too.)
- **Put backpacks** on the floor, not the counter. (You don't want dirt from your backpack on a counter where food is being prepared.)
- **Keep pets** away from kitchen counters and tables.
- **Pack lunch** with ice for cold foods and a thermos for hot foods.
- **Don't let** raw foods touch ready-to-eat or cooked foods.

Another factor is that about 15 percent of the food Americans eat comes from other countries. That means the U.S. can't control how it is grown or processed. And the percentage is doubling about every 10 years.

All of this means that you can play an important role in making sure you eat safe food.

Learn about food safety. And the next time you think about eating unwashed fruit, or eating something you dropped on the floor, think again.



Washington Post  
Is it safe to eat? Yes, to peanut butter (major brands were not part of the recent safety concern) and grapes (but wash them first). Maybe, to peanut butter crackers; those made with Peanut Corporation of America peanuts were recalled because of contamination.

### FIND OUT MORE

If you want to know more about food safety, a number of helpful Web sites offer information, quizzes and games. (Always ask a grown-up before going online.)

• **A great** interactive site can be found at [www.fda.gov/OC/OPACOM/KIDS](http://www.fda.gov/OC/OPACOM/KIDS). This site from the Food and Drug Administration includes an "inspect the warehouse" game that will let you learn about the kinds of things that can contaminate food.

• **Go to** [www.foodsafety.gov](http://www.foodsafety.gov) and click on "Kids, Teens, and Educators." This is a Food and Drug Administration site that includes a section for kids of different ages.

• **Check out** [www.fooddetectives.com](http://www.fooddetectives.com) to play a game and learn more ways to keep food safe.

### Food safety fact

If you left out a piece of pizza for more than two hours and want to eat it — don't! Bacteria spreads fastest at temperatures between 40 and 140 degrees.

### THE 'FIVE-SECOND RULE' MYTH

Pretend that you are about to eat a delicious cookie, and it suddenly drops onto the kitchen floor. Is it safe to eat? Some people would tell you to go ahead and enjoy it if it hasn't been on the floor for more than five seconds. According to this so-called rule, food that comes in contact with a dirty floor for five seconds or less doesn't have time to pick up enough bacteria to make you sick. Well, experts say the rule is a myth. Don't eat the food. Studies by scientists have shown that the longer food stays on a dirty surface, the more unsanitary it can get. But in even as little as five seconds, food can pick up enough bacteria to make you sick. For example, researchers at Clemson University in South Carolina showed that bologna and bread left for five seconds on a surface that had been contaminated with salmonella collected between 150 and 8,000 bacteria. Just a handful of the bacteria can make you sick. The surface your food falls on might not always be dirty, but you can't be sure. So to be safe, go get a fresh cookie.

## Learning the U.S. presidents, in order

By Valerie Strauss  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — You probably have no trouble remembering the first U.S. president, George Washington.

But what about the others? Barack Obama is the 44th president of the U.S. (though he is the 43rd man to be president, because Grover Cleveland was the 22nd and 24th). That's a lot of names to remember.

Memory experts say there are tricks that can help you remember information.

One way is to break up information into groups, which is called "chunking." You could memorize states by region, for example, and the

presidents by historical era: the earliest years, pre-Civil War, Reconstruction.

Or you could use what is called a "mnemonic device" (pronounced ni-MAH-nik). It's any kind of formula to help you remember. For example, if you want to remember the planets in order from the sun, think: "My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas." The first letter of each word is the first letter of the planet: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto (if you still count Pluto as a planet).

Make up your own device for the presidents. Start with the first seven: Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Adams and Jackson.

How about: "Will And Jeff Made Many Awful Jokes!"

If none of this works, you can learn "The American Presidents" song.

It was created by Genevieve Madeline Ryan, 19, of Potomac, Md., now a student at Princeton University. When she was 12 or 13, her dad asked her to memorize the order of the presidents as a Father's Day gift. With the help of presidential historian Hugh Sidey, she came up with rhymes to help her remember. She then got former National Symphony Orchestra conductor Leonard Slatkin to help her put her rhymes to music.

You can hear the song and see a visual presentation by going to the White House

Historical Society's Web site, [www.whitehousehistory.org](http://www.whitehousehistory.org), and clicking on "The American Presidents." There is lots of other information on U.S. history there, too.

The song starts: "America's president number one, "Founding Father Washington. "John Adams, second president, "The very first White House resident" And it ends: "George W. Bush, number forty-three, "Strengthened Homeland Security. "First to be elected of African descent, "Obama our Forty-Fourth President."

### RECIPES FOR FUN?

Our panel of kids puts homemade toys to the test. NEXT WEEK IN FAMILY LIFE