



Sunny.

Business 4



Shoshone sheep farmers have an eye on cheese

See Food 1

FOR PETE'S SAKE >>> BSU football looks for leadership in spring camp, SPORTS 1

WEDNESDAY
March 11, 2009

TIMES-NEWS

75 CENTS

MagicValley.com

Twin Falls Western Days cancelled

Annual event lacks sponsors

By Nate Poppino and Ben Botkin
Times-News writers

Twin Falls' annual Western Days Parade will not happen this year, city officials have confirmed.

Dennis Bowyer, parks and

recreation director for the city of Twin Falls, said Tuesday evening that Lisa Cuellar — chairwoman of the event's board of directors — told him that board won't go through with it this year.

Board members of the privately-run event were having

problems securing enough from their usual sponsors to run the event, he said.

The long-running parade, a flagship event for Twin Falls, celebrated its 27th year last year.

But its board was also embroiled in controversy in the past two years, as a gay and lesbian community group was first turned down when it applied for a float, then allowed to be in the parade one year later under a

number of restrictions.

Board members could not be reached Tuesday evening for more details about their decision.

Official news of the closure hadn't seemed to reach some city officials besides Bowyer on Tuesday. Assistant City Manager Travis Rothweiler said he had seen a piece about it on

See WESTERN, Main 2

Curtailment order won't apply to local dairymen

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

Come Monday, Idaho water officials may have to shut off hundreds of Magic Valley wells.

But Dennis Boer's won't be one of them. Bill Stouder's groundwater will keep flowing, as well as Jack Verbree's and Luis Bettencourt's.

All are dairymen, and all are on a list of water rights covered under a 2007 mitigation plan by the Idaho Dairymen's Association.

Such plans detail how junior water users who have infringed on senior users' rights replace the missing water. Water users in the Magic Valley and North Snake groundwater districts are under pressure to submit such a plan to the Idaho Department of Water Resources.

Without a new plan, the groundwater districts will have to turn off more than 860 wells on Monday to provide missing water to Clear Springs Foods. But through their own plan, the dairymen are making up for their effects on the aquifer, said IDWR Director Dave Tuthill — meaning they'll still be allowed to pump, even if more-senior users won't be.

The dairy plan and one from the districts allowed both parties to avoid well shutoffs

See CURTAIL, Main 2

A greater demand



ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

Terry Hull, 60, of Twin Falls, uses food stamps, but does not plan on staying on them for the rest of his life — only until he finds full-time work. With the economy in turmoil, more people are turning to government food stamps and area charities for food.

Food stamp use up 31.9 percent

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

Terry Hull wants to work.

For years, he's made a living in jobs like a gatekeeper in a livestock yard and warehouse worker. At the end of January, he got laid off when the need for workers at a Twin Falls warehouse dried up.

Now Hull is trying to scratch out a living by finding temporary work through agencies — even if it's only one day at a time. Until he sees better times, Hull is getting by with \$176 a month of food stamps.

"I really try not to be on welfare unless I'm down and out," said Hull, 60, of Twin Falls.

Hull is among thousands in the area who depend on government aid to eat.

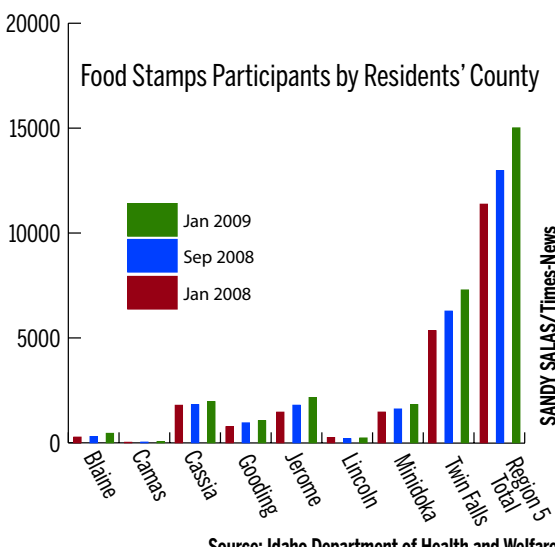
With a tanking economy, the number of people using food stamps has grown by 31.9 per-

cent in the region in the past year.

In January, 15,013 people in the Magic Valley and Wood River Valley were on food stamps, up from 11,375 a year ago, according to the Idaho

Department of Health and Welfare.

That increase mirrors a 32 percent increase in statewide food stamp recipients. In January, 128,809 Idahoans received food stamps, up



Source: Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

from 97,378 a year ago. Officials first noticed an increase in October 2007, said Tom Shanahan, spokesman for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

"We have seen an

increase every month since, which is unusual, for food stamp enrollments usually level off or decline during spring and summer months

See STAMPS, Main 2

Court sides with prosecutors on disqualifications

By Andrea Jackson
Times-News writer

The Idaho Supreme Court will leave a criminal rule unchanged despite claims from an area judge that it has been abused against him.

Criminal Rule 25 lets lawyers disqualify one judge per case, without giving a reason.

Since November, Twin Falls County Prosecutor Grant Loebs and Blaine County Prosecutor Jim Thomas have disqualified Blaine County Judge Robert Elgee from presiding over their criminal cases. The 5th District Court did not provide the specific number of disqualifications involving individual district judges. But a noticeable increase of disqualifications was recorded in November and December.

Elgee gave the Supreme Court recommendations, which the high court announced Tuesday it won't implement.

Elgee has said Loebs and Thomas are

See JUDGE, Main 2

Driver in three crashes, one fatal, near Hailey

Prominent environmentalist killed in crash

By Ariel Hansen
Times-News writer

HAILEY — In an apparent spree of unsafe driving, an unidentified man was involved in three crashes in Blaine County on Tuesday, one of which resulted in the death of another driver.

The driver killed was identified by Blaine County Coroner Russ Mikel as Bertilia Lyn Redfern, 53, of Hailey, who died as a result of severe trauma. Redfern, formerly a resident of Twin Falls County, moved to Blaine County years ago and became one of south-central Idaho's most prominent activists

on confined-animal feeding operations. She was a chairman for the Confined Animal Feeding Operation Accountability Project, and was also an influential member of local Sierra Club chapters.

The man, who has not been identified by Blaine county authorities, crashed into a tree south of Bellevue between 10 and

See CRASH, Main 2



ARIEL HANSEN/Times-News

Wood River Fire & Rescue personnel gather around a red Subaru that was driven off the road by a truck towing a trailer, resulting in the death of prominent activist Bertilia Lyn Redfern of Hailey.



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REGIONAL PAYROLLS SEE SMALL DECLINE

Report shows 1 percent decrease > Business 1

Otter: Idaho should see more credit for salmon recovery

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

BOISE — Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter said Tuesday that he wants Idaho to receive more credit for the work done in salmon recovery and sacrifices made by Idaho officials and water users.

Last week, U.S. District Court Judge James A. Redden said breaching hydroelectric dams is still a possibility to help keep salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River Basin. The judge said the federal agencies responsible for protecting fish should be ready in case removing dams on the lower Snake River is mandated.

The years-long legal debate has pitted federal agencies against environmentalists, who sued the agencies on the charge that salmon are doomed without removing some dams.

"I fully understand, at least from (Redden's) perspective, why he's chosen the path that he has. But I guess, in a nutshell, I just would've liked to have seen a little more credit for collaboration — time we've spent together, the money that we've spent and the habitat that we've made available —

resulting in the kind of numbers we're starting to see," Otter said.

On Tuesday, state officials said they expect increases in most of the fish in question: natural spring-summer Chinook salmon are projected to increase from 16,000 in 2008 to 23,000 in 2009, and hatchery-origin spring-summer Chinook salmon are projected to increase from 52,000 in 2008 to 106,000 in 2009.

Sockeye salmon are also projected to increase. Hatchery-origin summer steelhead are projected to remain stable at 135,000, while wild returns are projected to be 18,000, lower than the 32,000 count last year.

"We've been able to achieve some tremendous new numbers and some tremendous successes," Otter said. "Our focus now, here in Idaho, is going to be to continue the remarkable recovery we've seen this year of sockeye."

But Otter, responding to a reporter's question, said he wants to see the environmentalists acknowledge the work and money spent by public officials before engaging in further negotiations. He cited the increased power rates and sacrifices

Idaho water users have been forced to make.

"One side continues to move forward and the other side, as far as I'm concerned, has their pursuit and has their sincere effort going. But I think to now call for a compromise — which would suggest coming back to the middle is probable — I'd like to see a little more effort on the other side first," he said.

Otter declined to speculate on the possible impact

on Idaho if dams are ordered to be breached.

"After nearly 25 years, we're seeing strong indications today that we're making good progress on fish recovery," Bill Booth, chairman of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council said at the press conference.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Jared S. Hopkins may be reached at 208-420-8371.

'Mad Men' star in T.F. today

Times-News

Actress Christina Hendricks will be in Twin Falls today to film a segment with ABC's "Good Morning America."

Hendricks stars as Joan Holloway, the ambitious New York, circa-1962 Sterling Cooper advertising agency in the critically-acclaimed AMC cable network drama "Mad Men."

She and "Good Morning America Week-

end Edition" Co-anchor Bill Weir will tape an interview at 7:30 a.m. at the Depot Grill, followed by a tour of the area and a visit to the College of Southern Idaho Theater Department at noon.

Hendricks, 33, lived in Twin Falls between her third- and eighth-grade years of school and began acting on stage as a third-grader after auditioning for a JuMP Company production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever."

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Husband: woman jumped out of car in manic episode

By Andrea Jackson
Times-News writer

The Shoshone woman struck by a sheriff's cruiser in Lincoln County was going to the hospital for a psychological problem, but wasn't supposed to die there, her husband says.

Terra Mussaw, 29, threw herself out of a moving car Saturday night in a tragic manic-depressive episode while heading to St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center in Twin Falls, said her husband and driver of the car, Christopher Mussaw.

Mussaw, an unemployed mother of two, died at the Twin Falls hospital after she was struck by a Lincoln County Sheriff's deputy along U.S. Highway 93 at about 8:45 p.m. Idaho State Police, however, say she left the car for "unknown reasons."

Married for nearly a year, Mussaw said he is incredibly distraught over his wife's death.

"She was devoted and loving, and I loved everything about her," he said. "I just wish she was here right now. I haven't been home and I haven't eaten in days. I haven't slept."

The Lincoln County Sheriff's Office reserve deputy who struck Terra Mussaw, Mike Bright, was driving with his emergency lights on, in a marked cruiser, to another vehicle crash involving a deer.

Bright, who declined comment to the *Times-News*, is not being reprimanded, another Lincoln County deputy has said.

Terra Mussaw was lying in the highway when she was struck.

Terra Mussaw had a history of suicide attempts and cutting herself, her husband says.

"She had a good attitude when her moods were right," said Mussaw. "When she would get depressed, it would come and go."

Before the fatal ride, though, her cocktail of medication wasn't helping her, he said. "Her meds weren't stabilizing her. Prior to leaving she was trying to get help. She asked for a knife ... I said, 'Get dressed.'"

Mussaw said he packed his wife an overnight bag, which is still in the trunk of

his car, and took off to the hospital where she ultimately died.

"We were going for help," said Mussaw. "We were going to get her the medical treatment she wanted and needed."

Mussaw says his wife opened the door and put her feet on the road, as he decelerated his moving vehicle.

He had a hold of her, but lost his grip. "She didn't say anything. She opened up the door and she started dragging her feet and I'm like, 'What the hell are you doing?' I was like, 'Get back in here, think about your kids!'"

But Mussaw says his efforts failed. "I kept trying to grab her and she kept getting closer to the seat and the part where the door shuts. She just had this look on her face contemplating whether she wanted to do it. Next thing you know she just went."

The car was going at least 45 mph after slowing from 65, and Mussaw says he backed up immediately after seeing his wife was gone.

Idaho State Police are investigating the collision and say they haven't determined if a crime occurred.

"It wasn't the fall that killed her, it was probably the getting ran over," her husband said. "By the time I noticed him (deputy), I didn't see that he had struck her. The cop was going too fast for that call."

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Hailey takes water in lieu of cash from development

By Ariel Hansen
Times-News writer

HAILEY — The developers of the Old Cutter subdivision in Hailey came before the Hailey City Council on Monday to request a trade of water rights for overdue cash payments of annexation fees. The council approved the request, gaining \$930,000 in water rights that will continue to appreciate and can be used by the city for any purpose.

They also pushed back the deadline for the developer to make the next lump payment, after attorney Jim Speck said the developer would make installment payments as each unit sold in the interim.

"It's of benefit to the city of Hailey," said Hailey City Councilman Fritz Haemerle, who has been working closely with the developer and the city's attorney to reach an agreement.

He noted that if someday the city is in dire straits, it

could sell those water rights, probably for more than they are currently being traded for. The city can also use them to mitigate water demands under the state's upcoming conjunctive management system, since the rights in question are quite senior. "Water is a valuable resource to dry parts of the West. I don't think its value can be understated," Haemerle said.

The developer also asked that the city modify its obligations to build community housing, requesting that Cutters include more workforce houses in exchange for abandoning a requirement to build income-restricted houses. Speck noted that while community housing ordinance requirements in other towns have been successfully legally challenged, he would prefer not to litigate.

To allow the developer's request, the city's ordinances would have to change, requiring public

hearings and planning and zoning board involvement.

John Campbell, the developer and contractor, said there is a significant market for workforce housing, but little market for income-restricted housing, and that the margin on workforce housing makes it more doable for local contractors.

"I hate to sound harsh, whether these guys will have jobs or not, but it really comes down to that," Campbell said. "I can't afford to build something I'm going to lose money on."

The council said it would consider initiating the public hearing process.

"I like the concept," Haemerle said. "Having money spent in this community now is really important."

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Buhl to keep high school block schedule

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

BUHL — Trustees on the Buhl School District board voted Monday night to keep the high school on its alternative-block schedule knowing that "we may have some tough issues to work through."

Trustee Mike Hamilton said he is concerned that budget cuts may force the district to adopt a different schedule to save money. Students currently rotate between a three-period day and four-period day.

A seven-period day could be conducted with fewer teachers, which would save the district money.

For now, the 2009-2010 school year will be conducted on the current schedule, with the understanding that the decision could be changed depending on the district's economic standing.

District staff and parents said moving to a seven-period day could mean less opportunity for students to thrive in the classroom — especially in classes like math and automotive technology.

ARTEC Instructor Drew Barnes said students have to change into protective clothing before working on vehicles and clean-up takes time out of each period.

A seven-period day would give students only 50 minutes per class.

Changing to that schedule could also compromise the ability of students transferring to the district to enroll in the program.

Even if less money flows from the state into the district, Trustee Barbara Bremers said she wants what is best for students.

"I seriously hope (staff) is the last thing we look at," she said about possible cuts.

In other meeting news trustees again tabled making a resolution on the district's Reduction in Force policy.

Board President Jim Barker said the timing was "premature" to consider a reduction because the board doesn't yet know what next year's budget will be.

Expert: Extent of disease in Libby unheard of

MISSOULA, Mont. (AP) — A medical expert testifying Tuesday in the W.R. Grace trial described his disbelief when, arriving in Libby 10 years ago, he found that people who had never worked at Grace's vermiculite mine were dying from asbestos-related disease.

"To see an individual who had died of asbestos-related disease who was not a worker was unheard of," said Dr. Aubrey Miller, a physician and investigator with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "I had never seen a case or heard of a case like that."

The Missoulian newspaper reported Miller's testimony on its Web site.

U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy overruled defense motions to keep Miller off the stand or restrict his testimony.

Miller testified about a range of product tests that

Grace officials used to assess the hazards of Libby vermiculite. Among its findings, Grace learned that the vermiculite had a high tendency to release asbestos fibers into the air, Miller said.

"Grace had information about the asbestos, about the nature of the asbestos to become airborne, they had information about health effects on their workers and they had information about animal studies where the animals were being exposed to the same materials as the workers," Miller said.

The EPA team also set out to identify exposure pathways through which non-miners might have encountered asbestos fibers during the course of their daily lives.

After interviewing community members, Miller heard stories about people popping the vermiculite on stoves and riding four wheelers through the contaminated mine site.

"Playing in piles (of vermiculite) came up quite a bit," Miller said. "People said they were playing in piles at the ball field."

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OPINION

QUOTABLE

"I am sickened at the attempts by terrorists to destabilize Northern Ireland."
 — First Minister Peter Robinson, whose Democratic Unionist Party represents most Protestants in Northern Ireland

EDITORIAL

Stimulus madness: Let's take care of the basics first

The wish lists posted on the Idaho Division of Financial Services Web site last week — more than 1,000 private companies, school districts and government agencies seeking \$4.7 billion in federal stimulus money — would have set Santa Claus' head spinning.

So it's thanks to the co-chairman of the Legislature's budget-writing committee, Sen. Dean Cameron, for putting all that cash into perspective.

"There's a misconception there's all this money," the Rupert Republican said last week. "Everybody that's submitted requests for stimulus money will be disappointed. The bulk of it will be used to balance the budget."

Very little of the stimulus is headed our way for discretionary spending — money agencies can use as they please, Cameron said.

Which means the Magic Valley might not see \$10 million to help finance the University of Idaho's \$36 million livestock research center. Nor a Highway 93/30 Bypass, estimated at \$40 million, or \$4.9 million for a wildfire mitigation communications system.

The Department of Environmental Quality may have to wait for other sources of funding to address mercury pollution in south-central Idaho waters. So may the Idaho Transportation Department for \$1.8 million in road maintenance money, and South Central Public Health for \$760,527 to upgrade its data systems.

That's OK. The hooray-it's-Christmas philosophy of federal economic stimulus spending doesn't make sense when so many basic needs may be unmet.

First, there are the schools. We're confident that Cameron and Rep. Maxine Bell's Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee will move heaven and Earth to minimize the cuts in K-through-12 education.

Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, taking advice from three former governors, will make his own recommendations about stimulus spending, and they may be at odds with JFAC's priorities.

The governor told reporters Friday he'd prefer to use the money help create and retain jobs, not bail out the state budget.

He said funding new projects such as weatherization, energy conservation, and water systems in rural communities could rejuvenate the stale economy.

"All of those things — I think we can create a lot of jobs," Otter said. "If a person gets a job, that whole family suddenly gains confidence in tomorrow and they know it's OK to buy a new refrigerator and pick up a monthly tab of \$25 or \$35 in order to make the payments. I believe that's the kind of hope everybody had for the idea of a stimulus package when it was first mentioned."

True enough, but bailing out the state budget is at the very core of kick-starting Idaho's moribund economy — starting with mitigating some of the draconian losses that Idaho's higher education system is facing.

Idaho will be lucky to get out this recession with an adequate system of basic government services intact. The Legislature and the governor should concentrate on preserving that first; we can always build bridges and finish research centers in the years to come.

Our view:

Somehow, federal economic stimulus has come to mean goodies under the Christmas tree. Get real.

What do you think?

We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

Obama can't fix the world in 6 weeks

Barack Obama has only been president for six weeks, but there is a surprising amount of ire, anger, even outrage that he hasn't yet solved the problems of the U.S. economy, that he hasn't saved us from the increasingly tragic devastation wrought by the clownish ideas of right-wing conservatives and the many long years of radical Republican misrule.

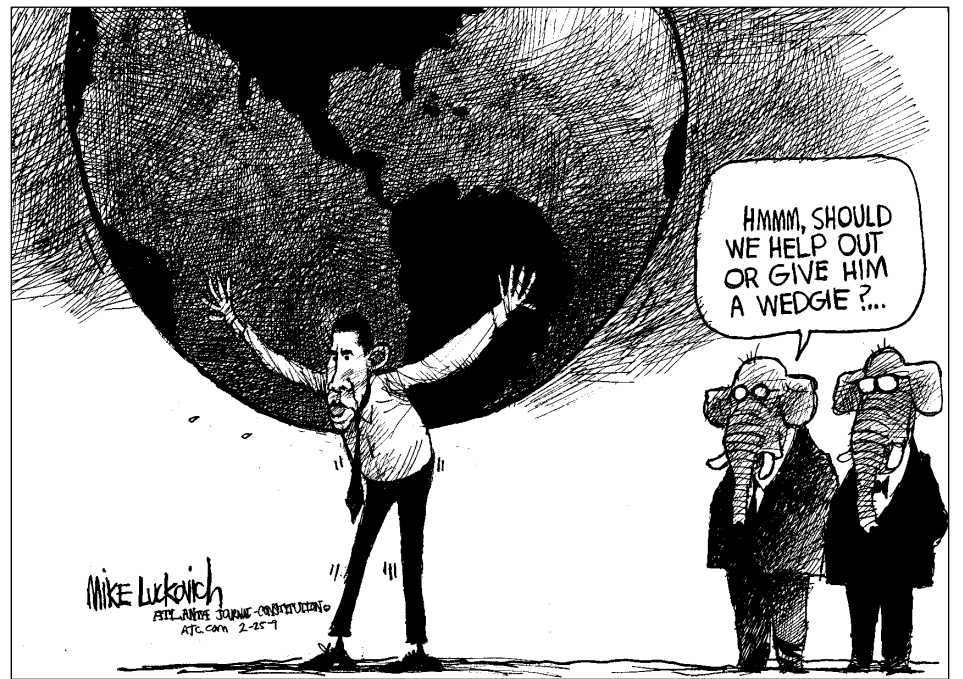


BOB HERBERT

This intense, impatient, often self-righteous, frequently wrongheaded and at times willfully destructive criticism has come in waves, and not just from the right. Obama is as legitimate a target for criticism as any president. But there is a weird hysterical quality to some of the recent attacks that suggests an underlying fear or barely suppressed rage. It's a quality that seems not just unhelpful but unhealthy.

Obama is being hammered — depending on the point of view of the critics — for the continuing collapse of the stock market, for not moving fast enough to revive the suicidal financial industry, for trying to stem the flood tide of home foreclosures, for trying to bring health insurance coverage to some of the millions of Americans who don't have any, for running up huge budget deficits as he tries to fend off the worst economic emergency since World War II and for not taking time out from all of the above to deal with — get this — earmarks.

More than 4.4 million jobs have been lost since this monster recession officially got under way in December 2007, and we've got people wiggling out over earmarks. Folks, get a grip. Some earmarks are good,



some are not, but collectively they account for a tiny, tiny portion of the national budget — less than 1 percent.

Freaking out over earmarks is like watching a neighborhood that is being consumed by flames and complaining that there is crabgrass on some of the lawns.

In the midst of the craziness, conservatives are busy trying to blame this epic economic catastrophe — a conflagration of their own making — on the new president. Forget Ronald Reagan and George Herbert Walker Bush and George Herbert Hoover Bush and the Heritage Foundation and the Club for Growth and Phil Gramm and Newt Gingrich and all the rest. The right-wingers would have you believe this is Obama's downturn.

The bear market would no doubt be magically turned around by now, and those failing geniuses at the helm of our flat-lined megacorporations would no doubt be busy manufacturing new profits and putting people back to work — if only Obama had solved the banking crisis, had lowered taxes on the rich, had refused to consider running up those giant deficits (a difficult thing to do at the

same time that you are saving banks and lowering taxes), and had abandoned any inclination that he might have had to reform health care and make it a little easier for ordinary American kids to get a better education.

As the columnist Charles Krauthammer was kind enough to inform us: "The markets' recent precipitous decline is a reaction not just to the absence of any plausible bank rescue plan, but also to the suspicion that Obama sees the continuing financial crisis as usefully creating the psychological conditions — the sense of crisis bordering on fear-itself panic — for enacting his 'big-bang' agenda to federalize and/or socialize health care, education and energy, the commanding heights of post-industrial society?"

That's a more genteel version of the sentiment expressed a couple of weeks ago by the perpetually hysterical Alan Keyes, a Republican who was beaten by Obama in the Illinois Senate race in 2004. "Obama is a radical communist," said Keyes, "and I think it is becoming clear. That is what I told people in Illinois, and now everybody realizes it's true?"

I don't know whether

Obama's ultimate rescue plan for the financial industry will work. He is a thoughtful man running a thoughtful administration and the plan, a staggeringly complex and difficult work in progress, hasn't been revealed yet.

What I know is that the renegade clowns who ruined this economy, the Republican right in alliance with big business and a fair number of feckless Democrats — all working in opposition to the interests of working families — have no credible basis for waging war against serious efforts to get us out of their mess.

Maybe the markets are down because demand has dried up, because many of the nation's biggest firms have imploded and because Americans are losing their jobs and their homes by the millions. Maybe a dose of reality is in order, as opposed to the childish desire for yet another stock market bubble.

Maybe the nuns in grammar school were right when they counseled that patience is a virtue. The man has been president for six weeks.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Galena cell tower worth its construction

By far, a clear majority of everyone in Idaho is for the Galena Cell Tower, including Idaho's governor, Homeland Security, adjacent fire districts, search and rescue, emergency medical services and the Division of Aeronautics. Mostly, opposition seems to be coming from a minority of cross-country skiers claiming that the cell site will scar the forest.

Interesting that this minority group advocated for the largest scarring of forest near Galena, namely 18 miles of gravel road construction between Galena Lodge and the Sawtooth National Recreation Area headquarters just north of Ketchum. This very large scarring, primarily for their use only, was OK even if the impact on the forest was significant compared to the very few hundred square feet needed for the pine tree-appearing cell tower that will have minimal impact but serve so many.

The cell tower will open up communications to so many using Highway 75 and the surrounding area of Galena Summit. By far, any negative with cell phone use when compared to the positive says let's get this cell tower built for all the benefits.

Here's a registered nurse who now lives in Sawtooth City at the base of Galena asking for your support to our area's communication needs. The lives alone that prompt communication will save will be worth this cell tower's construction.

GARY THIETTEN
Ketchum

Pacific Ethanol looking forward to better market conditions

The recent announcement by Pacific Ethanol to temporarily suspend operation of its facility in Burley is a set-back for all of us, but our company and our employees are looking forward to the day when improved market conditions allow us to once again

produce a product that has such far-reaching positive impacts on our community, our state and our nation.

The two basic values for the manufacture and use of ethanol as a gasoline additive are more significant than ever: the use of ethanol significantly reduces America's dependence on foreign oil and the use of ethanol significantly reduces tail pipe emissions, including a 30 percent reduction in carbon monoxide.

Consider the facts: American farmers produced the second-largest corn crop in history in 2008 with the second-highest yield-per-acre in history. In addition, continued yield improvements by farmers will be enough to support the increasing use of ethanol.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates a surplus of 1.8 billion bushels of corn at the end of the 2008-2009 marketing year.

Current land use can support production of enough corn for 15 billion gallons of ethanol per year

without the need to convert forest or grassland into crop land.

The construction and subsequent operation of an ethanol plant has a significant positive impact on a rural community. Nationwide, 449,000 jobs are related to the ethanol industry.

321 million barrels of oil did not have to be imported in 2008 because ethanol was used as an additive.

Every car using a 10 percent mix of ethanol is covered by warranty. In addition, studies show that ethanol can be mixed at a level of 20 percent with no adverse effects.

The use of ethanol helps support our farmers. Isn't that better than supporting overseas interests?

Why wouldn't we want to support a business that reduces transportation fuel's impact on the environment?

KEN WILSON
Burley
(Editor's note: Ken Wilson is the plant manager for Pacific Ethanol Magic Valley in Burley.)

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF POLITICS

Doonesbury



By Garry Trudeau

Mallard Fillmore

By Bruce Tinsley



QUOTABLE

"These kids are the innocent victims, yet it seems somehow or other they get left out. Why are they America's outcasts?"

— Dr. Ellen Bassuk of the National Center on Family Homelessness, which reported that one out of every 50 American children experiences homelessness.

"Our government has forced what I believe is a false choice between sound science and moral values."

— President Barack Obama as he signed documents changing U.S. science policy and removing Bush-era restraints on stem-cell research.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rep. Stevenson should offer apology over GLBT remarks

To Rep. Stevenson:
I read in the *Times-News* of Twin Falls that you stated nobody but gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender people have said anything about your troubling comments on your recent talk radio show appearance. So I am e-mailing you to challenge your statements.

To bundle a group of people according to their sexual orientation and then judge them to be fired for just cause and not that orientation with no specific or even general facts to back that up is, at best, foolhardy (which you must know as a politician) and at worse, dismissive of human suffering. Have you forgotten the purpose of a democratic form of government is for the majority to protect the civil rights of the minorities with which it co-exists?

Minorities are not "special people;" they are equal citizens under the rule of law. You, as a legislator, should not disavow their rights. Your statement that destruction of the human race is an intention of GLBT people is inflammatory and ignorant of the facts. First, only 10 percent of the population reports to being GLBT (more are presumed to be in hiding because they need to be employed. So make that 20 percent).

I have three married children, 14 living grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren so far. I know many like me. Rest assured there is no threat to the human race's existence other than over-population, famine, war, global climate change and lack of international fair trade laws to protect those who produce the products.

Since you are a decent human being and one of Idaho's elected leaders, I know you will rethink your position and issue the apology you owe to the GLBT community of productive citizens, workers, taxpayers and voters in Idaho. I'll be watching the *Times-News* to read your apology. With hope and expectation for peaceful coexistence.

SANDRA R. FACKLER
Twin Falls

Jerome P&Z a functional commission

I have a bone to pick with the editors of the *Times-News*.

It was quoted in Cheers and Jeers that the Jerome Planning and Zoning Commission was reduced from 12 to 7 because "last month, Horgan pointed out — correctly — that the commission has too often been dysfunctional, worked at

cross-purposes and, at times, let personality conflicts hamper its business." I can assure you and your readers that this is a completely inaccurate statement.

I have been a member of planning and zoning (and for a year, the zoning commission) for many years and never has this commission's business been impeded by any personality conflicts. This statement offends me. The reason we, the commission, agreed to a decrease in the number of commissioners is that we had some recent resignations and we felt that the remaining seven commissioners could function well at that level. We collectively have different opinions and backgrounds but always conduct our meetings with respect toward our applicants and toward each other. We don't always agree but are never inconsiderate of each other's points of view. We discuss our opinions and then compromise to make a decision. They aren't always unanimous decisions, but each person has voiced their views and they have been respectfully considered.

Once a month, most of us work an eight to 10-hour workday, have an hour to prepare, spend four to five hours listening to testimony, then discuss the evidence to make a decision. Sometimes we even come back another day in the month to do more of the same — all for free. How many people are willing to do this? I do this because of my commitment to my community and the respect of my fellow commissioners. All I ask is that you don't print inaccuracies about this great group of fellow citizens.

Fellow commissioners, thank you.
PATRICIA HEATH
Eden

Idaho is too great for hate

I travel regularly to the Magic Valley to visit family and friends. I've always appreciated the kind folks and scenic vistas that grace south-central Idaho. But I was dismayed when I heard Rep. Bert Stevenson from Rupert utter some pretty hateful things about gay people. He made comments to Zeb Bell's listening audience that indicate gay people are lazy and intend to bring about the end of humanity.

Now, I'm married with two children and have a few friends also with children and who happen to be gay. But these folks are literally afraid to go some places in Idaho. Some of them even fled places like the Magic Valley because of attitudes like Rep. Stevenson's that are freely expressed on the radio.

I'm sure many of you either have or know someone with a gay brother, sister, son or daughter but who no longer live in the area in whole or in part because of it. None of them "choose" to bring that kind of hatred upon themselves. As a fifth-generation Idahoan, I'm ashamed when I hear things like Rep. Stevenson's comment.

Now having listened to Zeb, I'm troubled that he still is able to hold on to a radio spot. He seems to be an equal opportunity hater targeting not only gays but Hispanics, Native Americans and the race of our president. He refers to people as "cockroaches," "despicable, filthy and low classed" even to the point of encouraging violence. I for one will never set foot into businesses that sponsor this hate. And my state is too great for hate.

JOHN THIEL
Boise

Oh, yes, he's the great pretender

WASHINGTON — To those who believe that Barack Obama is a different kind of politician — more honest, more courageous — please don't examine his administration's budget. If you do, you may sadly conclude that he resembles presidents stretching back to John Kennedy in one crucial respect. He won't tax voters for all the government services they want.

That's the main reason we've run budget deficits in 43 of the past 48 years.

Obama is a great pretender. He repeatedly says he's doing things that he isn't, trusting his powerful rhetoric to obscure the difference. He has made "responsibility" a personal theme; the budget's cover line is "A New Era of Responsibility." He says the budget begins "making the tough choices necessary to restore fiscal discipline." It doesn't.

With today's depressed economy, big deficits are unavoidable for some years. But let's assume that Obama wins re-election. By his last year, 2016, the economy presumably will have long recovered. What does his final budget look like? Well, it runs a \$637 billion deficit, equal to 3.2 percent of the economy (gross domestic product), projects Obama's Office of Management and Budget. That would match Ronald Reagan's last deficit, 3.1 percent of GDP in 1988, so fiercely criticized by Democrats.

As a society, we should pay in taxes what it costs government to provide desired services. If benefits don't seem equal to burdens, then the spending isn't worth having (exceptions: deficits in wartime and economic slumps).

If Obama were "responsible," he would conduct a candid conversation about the role of government.

Who deserves support and why? How big can govern-



ROBERT SAMULSON

using the crisis to advance an ambitious long-term agenda. The two sometimes collide. The \$787 billion "stimulus" is weaker than necessary, because almost \$200 billion for extended projects (high-speed rail, computerized medical records) take effect after 2010. When Congress debates Obama's sweeping health care and energy proposals, industries, regions and governmental philosophies will clash. Will this improve confidence? Reduce uncertainty?

A prudent president would have made a "tough choice" — concentrated on the economy; deferred his more contentious agenda. Similarly, Obama claims to seek bipartisanship but, in reality, doesn't. His bipartisanship consists of including a few Republicans in his Cabinet and inviting some Republican congressmen to the White House for the Super Bowl. It does not consist of fashioning proposals that would attract bipartisan support on their merits. Instead, he clings to dubious, partisan policies (mortgage cramdown, union check-off) that arouse fierce opposition.

Obama thinks he can ignore these blatant inconsistencies. Like many smart people, he believes he can talk his way around problems. Maybe. He's helped by much of the media, who seem so enthralled with him that they don't see glaring contradictions. During the campaign, Obama said he would change Washington's petty partisanship; he also advocated a highly partisan agenda. Both claims could not be true. The media barely noticed; the same obliviousness persists. But Obama still runs a risk: that his overworked rhetoric loses its power and boomerangs on him.

Newsweek columnist Robert Samulson writes about economics.

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Bill aims to ease tension between charter, regular schools

By **Jessie L. Bonner**
Associated Press writer

BOISE — An Idaho lawmaker wants to require more communication between new charter schools and existing regular schools as a way to prevent the two types of public educational systems from brawling over students.

Rep. Wendy Jaquet, D-Ketchum, has proposed legislation in response to a conflict in Gooding, where the traditional public school system lost about 100 students to a new charter school last year.

The bill, which the House Education Committee unanimously approved on Tuesday, would give regular schools written notice on public hearings for new charter schools petitioning the state to open.

The legislation would also require written notice to traditional public school districts when operating charter schools want to increase

their student enrollment by more than 10 percent.

The bill aims to bring more transparency to the process and ensure there is ample opportunity for regular schools to weigh in when charter schools bring their



Jaquet

proposals to the Idaho Public Charter School Commission, Jaquet said.

"Right now, you have to look for the hearing notice online," Jaquet said. "They should have to notify the traditional public schools to talk about the impact."

In Gooding, the regular school district was not aware of plans by the North Valley Academy charter school to expand this fall because the proposal was

posted online and not sent directly to administrators, Jaquet said.

The North Valley Academy charter school now has about 162 students in kindergarten through eighth grades and the charter school is scheduled to open grades 9-12 at the beginning of the next school year.

"The traditional school district should have a chance to comment," Jaquet said.

The Idaho law allowing charters was approved more than a decade ago and since then, more than 30 of the schools have been established by teachers, parents and community members. They are public schools paid for with state money and educate about 11,000 students. Another 7,000 are on waiting lists, according to the state Department of Education.

Charter schools in Idaho

had to seek backing from local school districts until 2004, when state lawmakers created the public charter school commission and provide an alternative route for approval.

North Valley Academy founder Debra Infanger said the charter school wanted to open with grades K-12 last year, but the commission recommended they start out smaller and wait to include a high school.

AROUND THE STATE

BOISE

Lawmakers to hear online payday loan bill

A Senate committee has agreed to consider a bill that would require licenses for online payday lenders.

Payday lenders provide short term loans with high interest rates and usually cater to lower-income borrowers, and currently online payday lenders are not required to be licensed by the state.

Sen. Shawn Keough, a Sandpoint Republican, told The Associated Press Tuesday that online payday lenders who cater to Idaho consumers should adhere to the same consumer protection laws as payday lenders who operate actual stores in the state.

Keough says the state currently has no authority to help any Idaho consumer harmed by an online payday lender.

Idaho's payday loan law was last revised in 2003 to cap the maximum amount a customer can borrow in any 24-hour period at \$1,000.

WALLACE

Man sentenced in hunting shooting case

A Coeur d'Alene man convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the accidental shooting death of his hunting partner last year has been sentenced to 180 days in jail and had his hunting privileges revoked for life.

James Egan, 64, was sentenced Monday in the Nov. 18, 2008, shooting of Jim Hinchliff, 57, of Deer Park, Wash. Egan was also convicted of using an out-of-season hunting weapon during the episode, which occurred near the small town of Murray.

Fifth District Judge Fred Gibler also gave Egan a five-year suspended sentence, a fine of \$1,000 and ordered him to serve five years probation.

The penalties came amid requests by the victim's family that Egan not serve jail time.

"This was a tragic accident," Don Dudney, a friend of Egan's and relative of Hinchliff, read from a letter signed by the victim's relatives. "We do not want to see him put in prison. Jim Egan will carry this with him the rest of his life and we think this is more than enough suffering and pain."

Egan, who was also ordered to perform 200 hours of community service with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, said he is committed to educating hunters about safety.

"I can't bring him back, but maybe I can do some good in the future," Egan told the judge.

Police say Hinchliff, who was not wearing hunter's orange clothing, was less than 50 yards away when he was shot in the chest.

— Wire reports

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"Thank God we have a government."

Museum reveals engraving hidden in Lincoln watch.

>>> SEE BUSINESS 4

Stocks and commodities, Business 2 / West, Business 3 / Weather, Business 4

Dow Jones Industrial ▲ 379.44 | Nasdaq composite ▲ 89.64 | S&P 500 ▲ 43.07 | Russell 2000 ▲ 24.49

Business

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2009

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

Payrolls in region sees small decline

Unofficial report shows that payrolls fall less than 1%

By **Joshua Palmer**
Times-News writer

Payrolls in south-central Idaho have declined by more than \$6 million in less than six months as large employers slashed jobs during the fourth quarter of 2008, according to an unofficial report by the regional office of Idaho Department

of Labor.

Labor officials emphasized that the decline represents less than 1 percent of total payroll in the region, which totaled more than \$620 million during 2008.

Total reported payroll in Idaho is more than \$65.5 billion.

"It's certainly nothing to sound the alarm about, but it does have an effect on the local economy," said Jan Roeser, regional economist with Idaho Department of Labor.

Roeser added that the

report is conservative in its estimates.

The report does not include businesses that are not required to report payroll to the Department of Labor, nor does it include businesses like Pacific Ethanol, which have not officially closed.

"You're not looking at a huge drop in payroll because during the third quarter of 2008 we actually saw jobs grow about seven-tenths of a percent," Roeser said. "So, it's probably safe to say that many people

who lost their jobs, were able to find other jobs later on."

She added that some large employers such as Jayco Manufacturing Inc. in Twin Falls are hiring back some employees to fill seasonal order.

An official payroll report will be released by the the Bureau of Labor Statistics in April.

Joshua Palmer may be reached at 208-735-3231 or at jpalmer@magicvalley.com

Bernanke says regulatory overhaul needed

Fed chief says U.S. recession may end in '09

By **Jeannine Aversa**
Associated Press writer

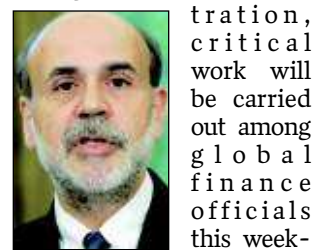
WASHINGTON — The nation's financial rule book must be rewritten to prevent a repeat of the global economic crisis now gripping the United States and other countries, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Tuesday.

"We must have a strategy that regulates the financial system as a whole ... not just its individual components," Bernanke said in a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations.

Bernanke offered new details on how to bolster mutual funds and a program that insures bank deposits. He also stressed the need for regulators to make sure financial companies have a sufficient capital cushion

against potential losses.

The Fed chief's remarks come as the Obama administration and Congress are crafting their overhaul strategies. For the adminis-



Bernanke

tration, critical work will be carried out among global finance officials this week-end in London ahead of next month's meeting of leaders from the world's 20 major economic powers.

The patchwork of U.S. financial rules dates to the Civil War. Congress, the administration and the Fed want to strengthen the system to avoid any future financial crises from plunging the U.S. economy and many others into recession.

Bernanke said there's a "good chance" the U.S. recession could end this year

See **OVERHAUL**, Business 2



MICHAEL ROBINSON CHAVEZ/Los Angeles Times
Students at Allen F. Daily High School in Glendale, Calif., listen as an instructor warns them about the perils of racking up high credit card debt at a financial literacy program in Los Angeles.

An education in the real world

Demand grows for financial instruction as youth realize perils of economy

By **Tiffany Hsu**
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The current economic crisis is providing a teaching moment about the perils of financial ignorance for parents and their children alike.

Millions of Americans are learning the hard way about the pitfalls of teaser mortgage interest rates and runaway credit card debt. Sadly, their kids might be doomed to repeat the mistakes.

Financial instruction at home and in the nation's schools is skeletal at best, educators say. American youngsters who can Twitter, text and blog with ease are clueless when it comes to balancing a checkbook or understanding retirement savings.

"We've been going for years without that education, and it's one of many factors contributing to the whole mess we're in," said Karen P. Varcoe, a consumer economics specialist for the University of California.

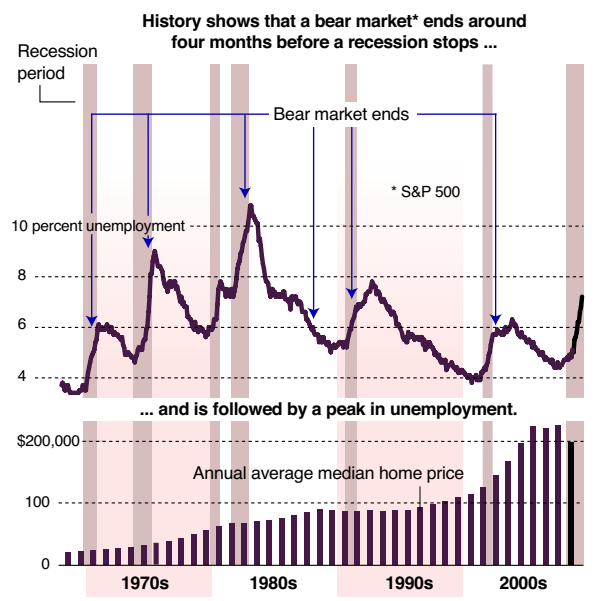
See **EDUCATION**, Business 2

"We've been going for years without (financial instruction) education, and it's one of many factors contributing to the whole mess we're in."

— **Karen P. Varcoe, a consumer economics specialist for the University of California**

Predicting the future of the economy

Analysts may be uncertain about forecasting shifts in unemployment and the markets, but a look at the numbers over time reveals patterns that may see a change this time around.



SOURCES: Standard & Poor's; National Association of Realtors; Bureau of Labor Statistics AP

BUSINESS BRIEFS

WOOD RIVER VALLEY and fall, Horizon officials said.

Horizon suspends Los Angeles flights

Horizon Air announced it will drop its daily, seasonal airline service between Friedman Memorial Airport and Los Angeles this summer because of a shortage of aircraft.

The Fly Sun Valley Alliance, a consortium of business interests that seeks to promote air service to and from Blaine County, offered subsidies to retain the Los Angeles flights. Horizon officials said the company could not spare aircraft for the route.

Horizon will continue to provide daily, year-round service from Sun Valley to Seattle. As of March 30, the Seattle-Sun Valley route will convert to the planned "slack season" schedule.

Because of the lack of aircraft, the spring schedule for Seattle flights will continue through the summer

MAGIC VALLEY CSI North Side Center to host financial aid workshops

GOODING — The College of Southern Idaho North Side Center will hold two advising/financial aid workshops at the North Side campus in Gooding on March 24.

The first workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to noon; a repeat of the workshop will be held from 2 to 4 p.m.

The workshops will focus on providing students with advising and registration information for the upcoming summer and fall terms and the process of obtaining financial aid and scholarships.

Advance registration is requested. Call 934-8678 for more info or to register.

— **staff reports**

Gov. Otter announces Innovation Council

The Innovation Council is just getting underway and will schedule its first meeting soon.

The Council replaces the former Idaho Science and Technology Council, and is tasked with technology transfer and finding ways to commercialize and bring to market the research and



IDAHO BUSINESS
Julie Howard

development conducted by Idahoans — especially the Idaho National Laboratory and our state colleges

and universities.

The Council is an eight-member, non-partisan group of advisors to Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, the Department of Commerce, the state's colleges and universities, and other government agencies.

The Council, which is governed by a board of directors who live

throughout Idaho, is charged with addressing issues and challenges related to innovation industries—particularly related to state policy.

Good news

It does seem ironic,

See **BUSINESS**, Business 2

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Lithia Mo.	2.32 ▲ .26	Micron	2.88 ▲ .30	Supervalu	14.49 ▲ .65

COMMODITIES

For more see Business 2

Live cattle	82.88 ▼ .33	April crude	45.71 ▼ 1.36
April Gold	899.4 ▼ 18.6	March silver	15.53 ▼ .43

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with 3 columns: NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ. Each column lists 'Most Active', 'Gainers', and 'Losers' with columns for Name, Vol(00), Last, and Chg. Includes a 'DIARY' section at the bottom.

INDEXES table with columns for Index Name, Value, and Change. Lists Dow Jones Industrials, Dow Jones Transportation, NYSE Composite, etc.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST table with columns for Company Name, Price, and Change. Lists AlliantEgy, AlliantTch, AmCasino, etc.

HOW TO READ THE REPORT

Explanation of stock symbols and report details. Includes sections for Fund Name, Stock Footnotes, Dividend Footnotes, Mutual Fund Footnotes, and Source information.

COMMODITIES REPORT

CLOSING FUTURES

Table listing commodity futures with columns for Month, Commodity, High, Low, Close, and Change. Includes categories like Live cattle, Feeder cattle, Wheat, etc.

BEANS

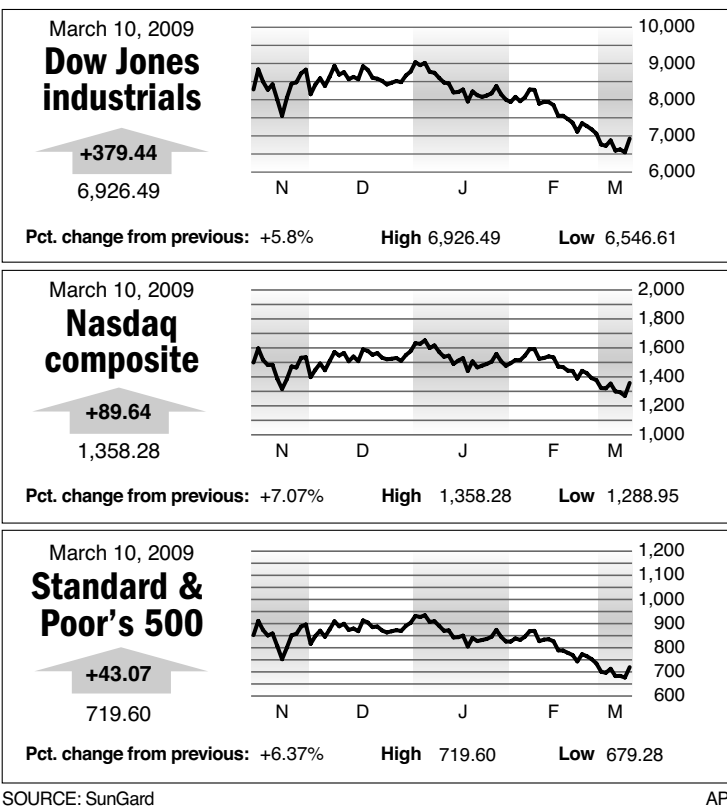
Valley Beans section detailing prices for various bean types and grades, including Pinto, Navy, and Great Northern beans.

GRAINS

Valley Grains section detailing prices for wheat, corn, and other grains, including soft white wheat and hard red winter wheat.

Intermountain Grain section detailing prices for Idaho Farm Bureau Intermountain Grain and Livestock Report.

TODAY ON WALL STREET



Textual analysis of the market performance, mentioning the Dow's biggest point and percentage gain since late November, and the Nasdaq's rise.

Accountant tracking money in E. Idaho fraud case

The Associated Press

IDAHO FALLS— It will take months and possibly years to unravel where \$40 million worth of investment money went, a court-appointed forensic accountant looking into a possible Ponzi scheme in eastern Idaho says.

Commission late last month filed a lawsuit against Palmer and Trigon Group Inc. in U.S. District Court in Boise. Federal regulators accuse Palmer of conning at least \$40 million from investors and using the money to make credit card payments, pay for snowmobiles and a mansion in Idaho Falls.

quartered in Idaho Falls. The SEC filed a civil lawsuit against Palmer saying he defrauded at least 55 investors by promising high returns through an allegedly riskless trading program. U.S. Judge Edward Lodge last month ordered Palmer to turn over financial records to Klein, as well as "all funds, property and other assets."

Overhaul

Continued from Business 1. If the government is successful in getting financial markets to operate more normally again. The recession, now in its second year and already the longest in a quarter-century, has turned out to be more severe than anticipated, he acknowledged after his speech.

failures. Such "too big to fail" companies must be subject to more rigorous supervision to prevent them from taking excessive risk, he said. The bailouts of insurance giant American International Group Inc., Citigroup Inc., Bank of America Corp., and mortgage finance companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have put billions of taxpayers' dollars at risk over the past year and angered the American public.

Bernanke said. That could be done by imposing tighter restrictions on the financial instruments that money markets can invest in or through a limited system of insurance for certain funds. Bernanke also called for a review of regulatory policies and accounting rules, suggesting a larger financial buffer for the FDIC's insurance program for bank deposits that could be used when conditions worsen.

Education

Continued from Business 1. The good news, Varcoe said, is that teenagers are keenly interested in learning about money. Arming them with fundamentals might help them weather the next recession better than their parents. It's a dangerous cycle, said Adam Levin, chief executive of consumer education Web site Credit.com: Parents are so pre-occupied with - or embarrassed by - their financial affairs that they don't have time to mentor their kids about money.

with a weapon but no ammunition." Many young people agree that acquiring good money habits and setting financial goals are critical to success, according to surveys and studies. But high school seniors correctly answered less than one-half of the questions on a 2008 test of basic financial knowledge, said the Jumpstart Coalition, a financial literacy group. Nearly three-quarters of the 1,000 teenagers surveyed for Charles Schwab financial services company in 2007 predicted an average annual salary of \$145,500 for themselves. But just 13 percent knew what a 401(k) plan was.

Last spring, more than 46,000 teenagers took a personal finance test from the Treasury Department, but only 35 students achieved a perfect score. Currently, only nine states require students to demonstrate proficiency in personal finance. Although many young people attribute their financial knowledge to their parents, only 30 percent of students surveyed for Schwab said their parents ensured some economic education. As the economy worsens, demand for financial education seems to be booming. Web sites like Practical-MoneySkills.com and Bank High School offer free lesson outlines, worksheets and activities. In the summer, Creative Wealth International puts on Camp Millionaire programs to teach children about money management and investing.

Business

Continued from Business 1. considering the state of the economy, that Idaho exports set a record in 2008. Despite the current recession, total Idaho exports reached \$4.9 billion, an increase of more than 6 percent over 2007. The lower value of the dollar, making Idaho products more attractive to overseas buyers, is one reason exports continued to rise.

"Finance companies are better off with customers being financially illiterate," Levin said. "And financial literacy organizations have to scratch and claw for every penny—it's like going into battle with a weapon but no ammunition."

Advertisement for Perkins, Smart & Boyd, Inc. featuring the headline 'When You're Serious About Investing...' and listing services like IRAs, Roth IRAs, and mutual funds.

The Idaho Business column welcomes questions. Send an email to the Idaho Department of Commerce at Julie.howard@commerce.idaho.gov.

Advertisement for Westerra Real Estate featuring a photo of a white mouse and the text 'Let your mouse take you on a tour of our homes. www.westerrarealestate.com'.

Shoving sheep

By Virginia Hutchins
Times-News writer



Photos by ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

Above, Laura Sluder's lactating sheep wind their way to the new milking barn Thursday morning at Blue Sage Farm northwest of Shoshone, getting used to the new routine before actual milking begins. Their milk will be sent to a Gooding cheesemaker, and the result should soon be sheep cheese for the southern Idaho market. At top, sheep drink Thursday morning at Blue Sage Farm. Because of recession-slowed buying, most of this year's crop of lambs will go to a feedlot, sold as live lambs instead of cuts.

With their eyes on cheese, Shoshone farmers get ewes used to milking routine

SHOSHONE — By 8 a.m. Thursday, sheep farmer Laura Sluder had sent her children to school and milked the two cows that feed this year's bum lambs.

The lambs were satisfied, the ewes were grouped in readiness, and Laura was nervous. This was day two of an experiment that couldn't afford to fail.

Laura paused between the pens and her new \$65,000 dairy parlor and confessed to nightmares: "I've been imagining sheep in the pit, sheep everywhere."

The "pit" runs between two rows of milking equipment, positioned to handle the ewes feeding from two troughs. Their milk, Laura has decided, will add sheep cheese to southern

Idaho's lineup of specialty local foods. Perhaps an aged, nutty-flavored Petit Basque cheese. Perhaps another variety.

But first, the Sluders' 180 ewes must learn milking-parlor manners. And Thursday was just the second day that Laura, her husband, Paul Sluder, and a pair of neighbors intended to shove and tug the ewes through a dry run of the routine — with milking equipment hanging idle and lambs bawling in the pens outside.

"It worked yesterday, I swear," Paul said.

The Sluders, at Blue Sage Farm northwest of Shoshone, have been running sheep for meat since moving there from the Bellevue area in 2001. They sold whole lamb to friends and family, then began three years ago marketing cuts of lamb processed at Nampa's Northwest Premium Meats to restaurants and farmers markets.

See **SHEEP**, Food 2



Prodding and pushing, Laura Sluder keeps the train of sheep moving into her new milking barn northwest of Shoshone. Having Ballard Family Dairy & Cheese nearby in Gooding was a factor in Sluder's decision to expand her lamb meat business into sheep's cheese. 'I'm not interested at all in cheesemaking,' she says. 'I just want to milk and raise the sheep.'



Lamb front shanks are stacked in the freezer inside the Sluders' new milking barn before shipping. In 2007, 193 lambs from Blue Sage Farm were butchered, and 200 in 2008. But sales dropped because of the economy, Laura Sluder says, so this year there's still frozen inventory on hand.



Laura Sluder watches as some of her sheep stand in the new milking barn for only their second time. About 18 sheep lined up during this Thursday practice run, before milking was expected to start over the weekend.

Asparagus – a delicious sign of better weather

By Jim Romanoff
For The Associated Press

Asparagus not only is a pleasant and affordable harbinger of spring, it also does great things for a healthy diet.

Asparagus is extremely low in calories and is packed with vitamins. When buying asparagus, choose stalks with dry, tight tips and firm, unwrinkled stalks. And fat stalks don't necessarily mean tough asparagus. Older plants produce thicker spears, but they can be just as tender and flavorful as thin ones.

It's more important to select spears that have a uniform thickness so they cook at the same rate.

Asparagus loses its vitamins and sugars quickly when left at room temperature and is best eaten the day it is purchased. To keep asparagus for longer, treat it as you would a bouquet of flowers by cutting off a bit of the woody base and standing the bunch in an inch of water in a container in the refrigerator.

To preserve nutrients and flavor, don't boil asparagus. Better is to steam the stalks for 5 minutes. Other options are to grill them for 2 minutes per side, stir-fry for 3 to 4 minutes, or microwave in a covered, vented container with 1/4 cup of water on high for 4 to 6 minutes.

Cooking asparagus at high heat in the oven concentrates its flavors and yields stalks that are delicately wilted and beautifully browned.

This recipe for roasted asparagus with spring onions and sun-dried tomatoes straddles seasonal flavors with the deep richness of the tomatoes and the freshness of scallions. The dish has only a small amount of added fat, which comes from the flavorful oil the tomatoes are packed in.

ROASTED ASPARAGUS WITH SPRING ONIONS AND SUN-DRIED TOMATOES

Start to finish: 25 min-



AP photo
The vitamin-packed vegetable shines in this Roasted Asparagus With Spring Onions and Sun-dried Tomatoes.

utes (10 minutes active).
Servings: 4.

1 1/2 pounds asparagus, bottoms trimmed

2 bunches scallions, ends trimmed

2 tablespoons finely chopped oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes, plus 1 tablespoon of oil from the jar

1/4 teaspoon salt

Ground black pepper, to taste

Heat the oven to 450 degrees. In a large bowl, toss the asparagus and scallions with the oil from the sun-dried tomatoes. Transfer to a baking sheet and arrange in an even layer. Season with salt and pepper.

Roast for 7 minutes. Stir the vegetables and roast until tender and slightly browned, about another 5 minutes.

Sprinkle with chopped sun-dried tomatoes and toss to combine. Serve immediately or at room temperature.

Per serving: 94 calories; 36 calories from fat; 4 g fat (1 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 11 g carbohydrate; 5 g protein; 5 g fiber; 161 mg sodium.

Whole-grain dinner in 25 minutes

By Bonnie S. Benwick
The Washington Post

If you've been trying to work more whole grains into your weeknight meals, let one night a week be the place to start.

Cookbook author Lorna Sass is sharing a recipe from her latest cookbook. She's done much work in testing new whole-grain products.

With instant brown rice, Sass prefers using (Kraft) Minute brand, because it ends up with a better texture than other brands on the market, she says. Toasting the quick brown rice before steaming it enhances the grains' flavor.

The recipe can be cut in half, but it's best to use the same amount of oil (1/4 cup). Serve this surprisingly hearty main dish on its own or with a side salad. Leftovers taste great cold.

Adapted from Sass' "Whole Grains for Busy People" (Clarkson Potter, 2009).

QUICK BROWN RICE WITH TUNA AND GREEN BEANS

4 servings

12 to 16 ounces frozen cut green beans

1 1/2 medium red or yellow onions

1/2 cup oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes

2 6-ounce cans oil-packed tuna, oil reserved from 1 can

2 teaspoons dried Italian seasoning blend

1 teaspoon granulated garlic powder (do not use garlic salt)

2 cups (uncooked) instant brown rice, preferably Minute brand

2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar

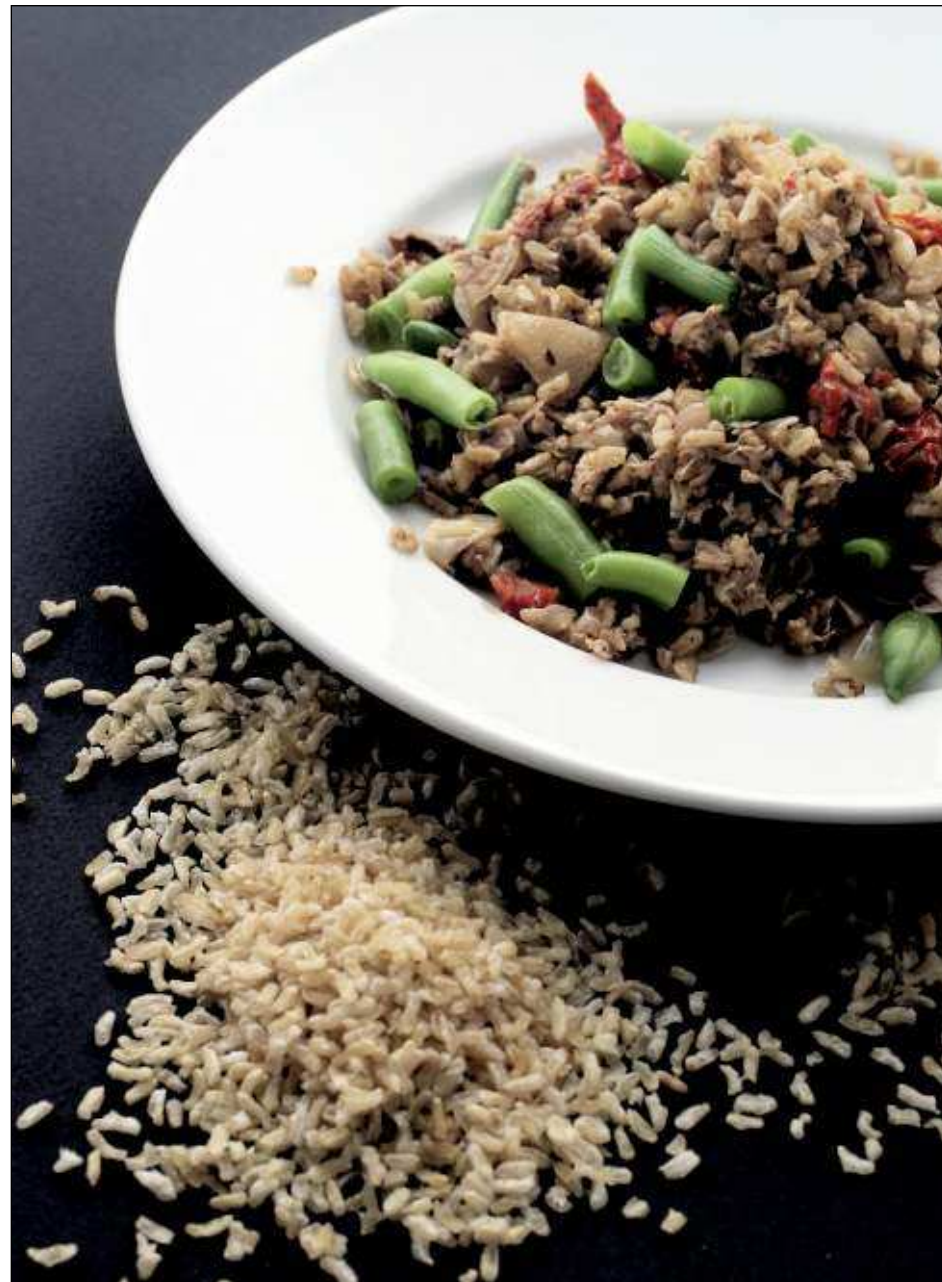
2 cups water, plus more as needed

Salt

Freshly ground black pepper

Place the green beans in a colander and run hot tap water over them to take the chill off and help separate any beans that are frozen together.

Coarsely chop the



JULIA EWAN/Washington Post

onions; there should be 1 1/2 to 2 cups. Coarsely chop the sun-dried tomatoes (no need to blot them dry).

Drain the oil from 1 of the cans of tuna into a large skillet; there should be about 1/4 cup total. Reserve the oil from the second can, reserving the tuna.

Heat the oil over medium-high heat, then add the onions, Italian seasoning blend and garlic powder, stirring to coat. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes, stirring. Add the rice and mix to incorporate;

cook for 3 to 4 minutes, until the rice has lightly browned. Add the balsamic vinegar and cook for about 20 seconds, stirring, until it evaporates.

Add the water and let the mixture come to a boil, then reduce the heat to medium, cover and cook for 5 to 7 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Add the defrosted green beans and the sun-dried tomatoes, mixing well, then cover and cook for 5 to 7 minutes, until the green beans and the rice are just

tender. Uncover to stir occasionally; if the mixture seems dry add a few tablespoons of water as needed.

Add the tuna from both cans, flaking it with a fork as you work. Mix well and remove from the heat. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve hot, warm or at room temperature.

Per serving: 578 calories, 33 g protein, 83 g carbohydrates, 12 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 26 mg cholesterol, 438 mg sodium, 8 g dietary fiber.

Seafood class returns

Times-News

If you relish seafood and want to know all you can about it, consider signing up for "Seafood at its Best."

The Twin Falls County Extension Office is offering the class a second time because of its popularity, said Rhea Lanting, family and consumer sciences Extension educator.

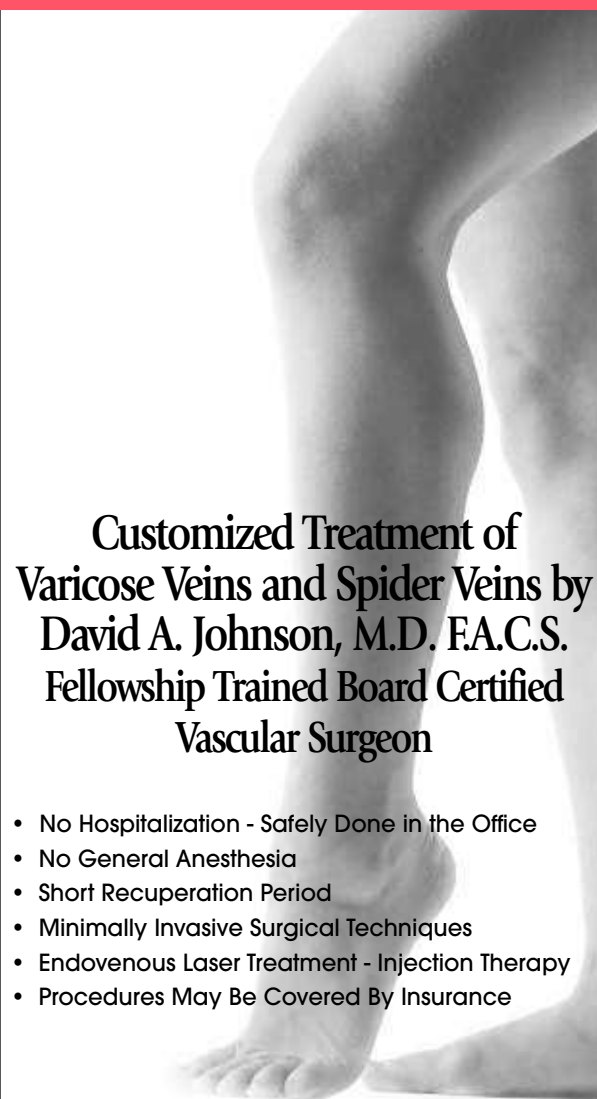
Class will be held from 6 to 8:30 p.m. March 23 and 25 at the county extension office, 246 Third Ave. E. in Twin Falls.

Discussion will focus on where seafood comes from; how to select, handle, store and prepare seafood; and the benefits and risks of eating seafood.

Limited to 25 participants. Cost is \$20 per person or \$25 per couple. Organizers encourage pre-registration.

Information: Lanting, 734-9590.

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Business Highlight

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"They told me I was having migraines. I went to several specialists. Pills, pills and more pills - but no change in the severity of the headaches. They would knock me out and, of course, while I was out I didn't really know what was going on. But when the pills wore off, there were the headaches again only they were getting worse. I started chiropractic care with Dr. Fox and the headaches are nearly gone. Don't think everything has been done until you try chiropractic." **Dale**

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The seeds of a million meals

By Amy Scattergood
Los Angeles Times

Every time I go to Viet Noodle Bar in Los Angeles' Atwater Village, I order the same thing: a bowl of brown rice, laced with mung beans and tofu and fresh herbs. I know, it sounds too boring and, well, just too wholesome to be so addictive. But grain dishes can surprise you like that. A bland bowlful can put you off the stuff for good, but try a well-made dish centered on grains like farro or brown rice or bulgur or spelt, one that's deeply flavorful and perfectly balanced, and you'll be eating quinoa tabbouleh like chocolate chip ice cream too.

Not only are grains ancient foods, trailing history and marking cultural roots like scattered footprints, but they're also the foundation of many easy and healthful dishes. And though the flavors of grains can be very different — quinoa is subtle and faintly grassy, farro is nutty and surprisingly sweet — they're often virtually interchangeable within recipes and in cooking technique. Which makes putting a basic grain dish in your cooking repertoire a very good idea.

Once you find a dish you like, you can make it again and again, substituting whatever grains you have on hand or even experimenting with new ones, adjusting the flavors of the dish to match any differences.

Grains, like pasta, can be cooked with other ingredients, but a simpler and more direct method is to cook the grains separately first, just by boiling them until tender in lightly salted water. This increases the versatility of the grains and the recipes themselves, since you can add cooked grains to any number of dishes, or make the same dish with a variety of different grains.

Cook a big pot of bulgur or millet or barley at the start of the week, then use a cup of it in a garden salad, tossed with a vinaigrette dressing and spiked with fresh herbs. Another cup might go into a just-finished pot of hearty minestrone soup; another, added to a hot pan of caramelized onions, into a warm side dish of roasted vegetables and feta cheese.

One of the most appealing things about grains is that they can be treated in essentially the same way. Start cooking a pot of grains by following the instructions on the package. Use a cup or two of brown rice or spelt, quinoa or farro, bulgur or millet, and simmer the grains in lightly salted water in a ratio of 2 or 3 parts water to 1 part grain. The amount of water and the cooking time will vary slightly, depending on the grain. Quinoa takes about 15 minutes to cook; wild rice can take upward of 45.

Drain off any excess water — what's important is not that all the water is absorbed but that the grains are cooked correctly, and are not mushy but are tender and al dente; you can add more water during cooking if you think the grains are in danger of scorching. Then allow the cooked grains to cool slightly while you assemble the rest of the components. (The cooked grains will keep nicely for about five days stored in a sealed container in the refrigerator, so making more than you'll use in a single dish can be very handy.)

Consider cooked grains as you would a bowl of pasta or brown rice: as the basis for a one-dish meal, a stir-



An easy meal of quinoa and shiitakes.

Photos by BOB CHAMBERLIN/Los Angeles Times

fry or composed salad or even a casserole.

Taste them first, and think about what would best suit the flavors and textures. Tart or salty cheeses such as feta or Parmesan match up really well with grains, as do the more assertive flavors of bitter greens and grilled vegetables.

The mild, earthy flavors of grains also make them terrific in salads, as they contrast well with the brightness of greens and herbs and the zing of a good vinaigrette.

For a terrific one-meal dish, try this easy recipe, inspired by my favorite Atwater Village nosh food. If you've never cooked Asian food, stir-frying in a wok is about as easy as it gets.

Start by simmering two cups of quinoa in a covered saucepan. While the grains are cooking, heat some peanut oil in a seasoned wok. One ingredient at a time, stir-fry slices of garlic and fennel and remove them from the hot wok. Then stir-fry shiitake mushrooms and add scallions, but before you take the vegetables out of the wok, add a dash of soy sauce and rice vinegar and let the flavors come together for a minute. Finally, toss everything together in a serving bowl with the quinoa, stirring in fresh cilantro, parsley and the zest and juice of a lime, and you have a terrific side salad or one-dish meal.

Stir in some toasted cashews (or peanuts if you prefer) at the end too, as nuts pair extremely well with the intrinsically nutty flavor of grains. Nuts also add a boost of protein, which can easily elevate a

side dish to a main course.

Quinoa is extremely versatile, so if nuts aren't your thing, try something else. Throw some shrimp or cubes of tofu into the hot wok. If you don't have fennel on hand, stir-fry thinly sliced carrots or celery, or add in little florets of broccoli, or chopped kale, mustard or beet greens. And if you like heat, add sliced Thai chiles to the wok too.

You can flavor the grains by simmering them in chicken or vegetable stock instead of water, or adding a chile, a sprinkle of Aleppo pepper or a bouquet garni to the pot.

Although most grains can be cooked in much the same way, some might need to be treated slightly differently. For example, quinoa (pronounced keen-wa) — a Peruvian seed that contains more protein than most other grains — should be thoroughly rinsed before cooking to remove any lingering saponin, a bitter protective coating. (Use a fine strainer or cheesecloth, since uncooked quinoa is very small.) And although quinoa works fine when cooked at this point, both the taste and texture benefit enormously if you first briefly toast the drained seeds in a hot skillet (or the wok you're using to make the dish).

Unlike other grains, bulgur — a cracked wheat that's long been a staple in Middle Eastern cuisine — comes in many sizes. The finest grades of bulgur only need to be soaked in boiling water before using.

Medium and large grades of bulgur should be simmered in about twice their volume of salted liquid, like rice, until tender — about 25 minutes or so,

depending on the grade.

Once bulgur is soaked or cooked, it is tremendously versatile. Nuttier and with a firmer texture than quinoa, bulgur can stand up to stronger flavors and earthier ingredients.

You can replace the quinoa in this recipe with bulgur for an easy variation. Or instead of the fennel and shiitakes, stir-fry slices of red bell pepper and eggplant. Replace the cashews with walnuts, the lime with lemon, then add a dash of pomegranate juice instead of the soy sauce. The process is the same, but the flavor profile will be Middle Eastern instead.

Or you can make a simple salad with tart, wilted greens and a hefty shot of pepper or chiles; stir the grains into an herby tabbouleh; or fold them into ground lamb with herbs and spices for the Middle Eastern meatballs kofte.

Farro is another grain with an ancient provenance — the name comes from the original word for wheat in Latin — that has recently regained popularity. Similar to spelt, another European wheat, farro is a terrific grain, with a sweet, earthy flavor that makes it particularly well suited to salads and pilafs. Cook the farro as you would rice or bulgur, in boiling salted water until tender, maybe 30 minutes, then drain.

Simply toss the farro into the same fennel stir-fry. Or play to the distinctive qualities of the grain — larger and sweeter than quinoa — and stir-fry asparagus and haricots verts, then add a splash of sherry vinegar instead of the rice vinegar and soy sauce.

Leave out the cashews, and shave Parmesan over

the top of the dish.

Because of its innate sweetness, farro even more than other grains plays well against assertive flavors, so add salty feta cheese to a salad of farro, diced tomatoes and herbs, or combine the grain with roasted vegetables and a hearty balsamic vinaigrette.

Stir farro into a Tuscan vegetable and bean soup, and top with grated Parmesan. Or try making a grain version of mac 'n' cheese with farro — just undercook the grains slightly, combine them with grated cheese and a bechamel sauce, top with breadcrumbs and even more cheese and bake for about half an hour.

If you want to get really creative, try amaranth, kamut, millet or wheat berries — or whatever pretty grains you find at your local market. Adjust the cooking times, rinse or toast the grains if indicated.

Earthy and with a beautifully chewy texture, grains have a subtle nuttiness that provides a terrific foundation for many dishes and a great backdrop for other, bolder flavors. And the fact that they are inexpensive and, yes, exceedingly good for you just makes them taste that much better.

QUINOA SALAD WITH SHIITAKES, FENNEL AND CASHEWS

2 cups quinoa
1 quart water
Salt
1/4 cup peanut oil
5 cloves of garlic, thinly sliced
2 cups thinly sliced fennel (about 1 large bulb)
2 cups sliced fresh shiitake mushrooms
1 cup sliced green onions, both white and green parts (about 1 small bunch)
1 tablespoon soy sauce
1 tablespoon rice wine vinegar
1/2 cup toasted, salted cashews
4 tablespoons minced fresh parsley
4 tablespoons minced fresh cilantro
Finely grated zest and juice of 1 lime

1. **Rinse** the quinoa under

cool running water, then drain well with a fine-mesh sieve or cheesecloth-lined strainer (the grains are very small and will slip through a coarse strainer). Heat a wok over medium-high heat and toast the quinoa, shaking the pan frequently, just until the grains dry, are just beginning to color and have a nutty aroma, about 4 minutes. Set aside in a bowl.

2. **In a medium**, lidded pot, bring 1 quart of water to a boil over high heat. Stir in the quinoa with a pinch of salt, then reduce the heat to a simmer and cover. Cook the quinoa until the grains are translucent and tender and the germ has spiraled out from the grain, 12 to 15 minutes (be careful not to overcook). Remove from heat, drain and set aside.

3. **Meanwhile**, heat the wok again over high heat. Add the peanut oil and heat until it just begins to simmer. Stir in the garlic and fry, stirring constantly, just until the garlic is golden, about 30 seconds (the garlic can burn quickly). Remove the garlic with a slotted spoon, keeping the oil in the pan, and set aside.

4. **Add the fennel** to the oil and fry, stirring or tossing frequently, until it is caramelized, 5 to 7 minutes. Remove from the oil and set aside. Add the shiitakes to the oil and stir-fry until caramelized, 4 to 5 minutes. Stir the green onions in with the mushrooms and continue to stir-fry just until the green onions begin to wilt, 1 to 2 minutes. Add the soy sauce and vinegar to the mixture and stir or toss to combine, then remove from heat.

5. **In a large bowl**, gently toss the quinoa with the warm shiitake-green onion mixture, the fennel, garlic, cashews, parsley, cilantro, lime zest and juice. Season to taste with additional salt if desired and serve immediately.

Total time: 40 minutes. Serves 4 to 6.

Each serving: 497 calories; 17 grams protein; 65 grams carbohydrates; 9 grams fiber; 18 grams fat; 3 grams saturated fat; 0 cholesterol; 273 milligrams sodium.

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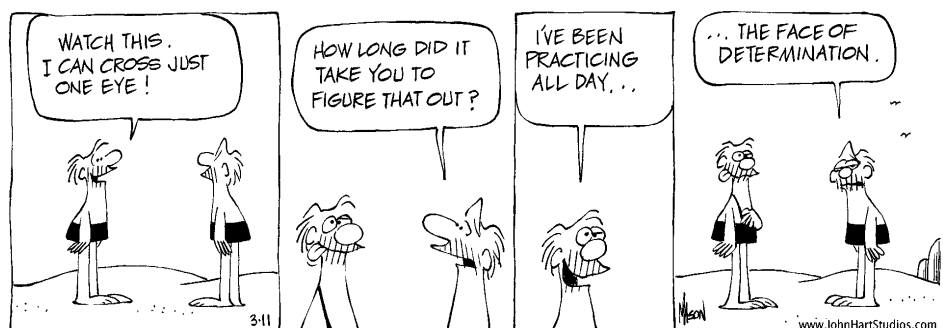
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NATION & WORLD

Cartels on the ropes?

Federal police officers take a suspect into custody in connection with a shooting Monday in Tijuana, Mexico. Mexico's cartels are losing their grip on the prized U.S. drug market, largely because of a cross-border crackdown and a regional shift in worldwide cocaine consumption.



AP photos

Progress in Mexico drug war is drenched in blood

By Traci Carl
Associated Press writer

MEXICO CITY — Headless bodies in Tijuana, kidnapped children in Phoenix and shootouts on the streets of Vancouver: These are the unwanted byproducts of progress in the Mexican drug war.

While the headline-grabbing chaos creates the appearance of a drug trade escalating out of control, evidence suggests Mexico's cartels are increasingly desperate due to a cross-border crackdown and a shift in the cocaine market from the U.S. to Europe.

Those pressures are forcing Mexico's criminal networks, once accustomed to shipping drugs quietly and with impunity, to wage ever more violent battles over scraps and diversify into other criminal enterprises, including extortion and kidnapping for ransom on both sides of the U.S. border.

"This is not reflecting the power of these groups," Attorney General Eduardo Medina Mora told The Associated Press in an interview. "This is reflecting how they are melting down in terms of capabilities, how they are losing the ability to produce income."

As evidence of that pressure, the U.S. government says the amount of cocaine seized on U.S. soil dropped by 41 percent between early 2007 and mid-2008. Reduced supply is said to have raised street prices by nearly a third to about \$125 a gram in the U.S. and lowered purity by more than 15 percent. Both the U.S. and Canadian governments are even seeing prolonged shortages of cocaine.

"The reason you see the escalation in violence is because U.S. and Mexican law enforcement are winning," Garrison Courtney, spokesman for the Drug Enforcement Administration, said Tuesday. "You are going to see the drug traffickers push back because we are breaking their back. It's reasonable to assume they are going to try to fight to stay relevant."

Mexican cartels are being cut out of the U.S. methamphetamine market as well, the U.S. and Mexican governments say, though smuggling of marijuana from Mexico has increased



A federal police officer arranges packages of marijuana and a bag of cocaine seized in a house allegedly occupied by drug dealers during an operation Monday in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

steadily since 2005 as demand increases.

The trouble for Mexico's illicit trade began on Sept. 11, 2001, when terrorist attacks in the United States prompted heightened security at the border. President Felipe Calderon upped the ante by directly confronting the cartels on his first day in office two years ago, sending 45,000 soldiers and federal police to battle the cartels across the country.

Improved cooperation with the U.S. since then led to the recent arrests of 755 Sinaloa cartel suspects in U.S. cities and towns as small as Stowe, Iowa. Mexican authorities, meanwhile, rooted out more than two dozen high-level government security officials, including Mexico's former drug czar, who were allegedly paid to protect the same gang, Mexico's most powerful.

The U.S. Embassy reported a record 85 extraditions from Mexico to the U.S. in 2008, contributing to a power vacuum that sparked an all-out war among the cartels as they battle for routes to the U.S. and control of Mexico's growing domestic drug market.

These successes, however, come with a brutal cost: skyrocketing violence in Mexico, with twice as many deaths last year and more than 1,000 people killed in the first eight weeks of this year; more than 560 kidnappings in Phoenix in 2007 and the first half of

2008, and more than two dozen shootings so far this year in Vancouver, British Columbia, where a shortage of cocaine from Mexico has pushed prices from \$23,300 to almost \$39,000 a kilo.

The Mexican government estimates that 90 percent of those killed are linked to the drug trade, and many kidnappings in the U.S. are also drug related.

Mexico was just a token player in the cocaine trade some two decades ago, when the U.S. cracked down on the Caribbean routes for Colombian cocaine.

Suddenly, Mexican cartels that already trafficked marijuana and heroin controlled the main routes to the coveted U.S. cocaine market.

Today, 90 percent of all cocaine that ends up in the U.S. moves through Mexico, according to the U.S. State Department, and the gangs make an estimated \$10 billion in annual profits.

But the U.S. market is being eclipsed by booming demand for cocaine in Europe, where users now pay twice the going U.S. rate, and Colombian gangs don't need Mexican middlemen when shipping across the Atlantic.

Mexican gangs have tried to develop their own routes into Europe, even forging ties to the Italian Mafia. But they have had limited success and Medina Mora predicts the Colombians will win out in the end.

Lawyer: Madoff will plead guilty to all charges

By Larry Neumeister and Tom Hays
Associated Press writers

NEW YORK — Disgraced financier Bernard Madoff unexpectedly revealed Tuesday that he will plead guilty to all charges — without a plea deal — and face a prison sentence of up to 150 years for swindling billions of dollars in one of the largest investment schemes in U.S. history.

An attorney for the 70-year-old former Nasdaq chairman told the judge during what was expected to be a routine hearing that he intends to plead guilty this week to all 11 felony counts, including securities fraud and perjury.



Madoff

Madoff is accused of running a gigantic Ponzi scheme, defrauding billions of dollars from retirees, charities, school trusts and even Holocaust survivors.

Madoff, who wears a bulletproof vest, arrived more than three hours before the hearing in an attempt by authorities to avoid confrontations with investors. Several lawyers for investors showed up as spectators, but the courtroom was largely packed with reporters.

Madoff buttoned his jacket and straightened it as he rose from his seat to speak. Aside from occasionally speaking with his lawyers or writing on a sheet of paper in front of him, he looked forward.

Asked by the judge if Madoff would plead guilty Thursday, his attorney Ira Sorkin said: "I think that's a fair expectation." U.S. District Judge Denny Chin

asked Sorkin if Madoff would plead guilty to all 11 counts.

"Yes your honor," Sorkin answered. Madoff slumped back in his chair during the exchange.

Chin said he would not sentence Madoff for several months after Thursday's hearing.

In court documents, prosecutors revealed some details of how the fraud was carried out since the 1980s, saying Madoff hired many people with little or no training or experience in the securities industry to serve as a "back office" for his investment advisory business.

Madoff generated or had employees generate "tens of thousands of account statements and other documents through the U.S. Postal Service, operating a massive Ponzi scheme," prosecutors said.

The money wasn't invested, but was used by Madoff, his business and others, prosecutors said.

Authorities said he confessed to his family that he had carried out a \$50 billion fraud. In court documents filed Tuesday, prosecutors raised the size of the fraud to \$64.8 billion, saying Madoff's records falsely claimed that amount was in 4,800 client accounts in November.

Experts say the actual loss was more likely much less and that higher numbers reflect false profits he promised investors. So far, authorities have located about \$1 billion for jilted investors.

Prosecutors reserved the right to pursue more than \$170 billion in criminal forfeiture, according to court documents. That represents the total amount of money that could be connected to the fraud, not the amount stolen or lost.

Adding billions more to the budget

The Senate cleared a \$410 billion bill awarding domestic agencies increases averaging about 8 percent for 2009 — on top of \$289 billion doled out by the just-passed economic stimulus bill.

DEPARTMENT	BUDGET, in billions	PERCENT CHANGE, from fiscal 2008
Transportation/Housing and Urban Dev.	\$54.9	13%
State/Foreign Operations	36.6	12
Commerce/Justice	57.7	11
Agriculture	20.5	11
Legislative Branch	4.4	11
Financial Services	22.7	9
Energy and Water	33.3	8
Labor/Health/Education	152.3	5
Interior/Environment	27.6	4

NOTE: The spending bill includes nine appropriations bills for Cabinet departments and other agencies that were not passed last year. These agencies are currently funded through March 11, 2009.

SOURCES: Congressional Budget Office; U.S. Senate Republican Policy Committee AP

Congress sends \$410B spending bill to Obama

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats opted against Congress on Tuesday sent President Barack Obama a once-bipartisan bill to fund the domestic Cabinet agencies that evolved instead into a symbol of lawmakers' free-spending ways and penchant for back-home pet projects.

The Senate approved the measure by voice after it cleared a key procedural hurdle by a 62-35 vote. Sixty votes were required to shut down debate.

Obama is expected to sign the measure Wednesday to avoid a partial shutdown of the government. But the White House has kept the bill at arm's length, calling it last year's business. Obama is also set to announce steps aimed at curbing lawmakers' so-called earmarks.

The \$410 billion bill is chock-full of those pet projects and significant increases in food aid for the poor, energy research and other programs. It was supposed to have been completed last fall, but

Democrats opted against election-year battles with Republicans and former President George W. Bush.

The measure was a top priority for Democratic leaders, who praised it for numerous increases denied by Bush. It once had the support of Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. But the bill ran into an unexpected hailstorm in Congress after Obama's spending-heavy economic stimulus bill and his 2010 budget plan forecasting a \$1.8 trillion deficit for the current budget year. Republicans seized on Obama's willingness to sign a bill packed with earmarks after he assailed them as a candidate.

"If it had not been for the stimulus and the budget proposal it might have been ... noncontroverial," said House GOP leader John Boehner of Ohio. "The stimulus bill riled an awful lot of people up. ... And then the budget proposal comes out."

Citigroup profit helps Wall Street rebound

By Madlen Read and Stephen Bernard
Associated Press writers

NEW YORK — The news from Citigroup Inc. was surprising, and for a change, upbeat.

The struggling bank was profitable through the first two months of the year, Chief Executive Vikram Pandit told employees in a letter. And it's having its best quarter since late summer 2007 — the last time it posted a profit.

The memo helped power Wall Street's best day of 2009 as Citigroup shares soared 38 percent and sent other financial company stocks barreling higher. But investors' fears are far from quelled about Citi and the broader banking business. The company's

stock is still trading near the all-time low of 97 cents a share it fell to last week, and Bank of America Corp., also seen as having been in a precarious position, is still below \$5 a share.

Before investors truly commit to bank stocks, they want official results, not just chief executives' letters to their staff. In Citi's case, they want earnings reports that show the government can shut off the funding spigot. Citigroup remains down more than 60 percent since the government came to its



Pandit

rescue in November. Pandit told employees that during January and February, Citi's operating revenue was \$19 billion, just \$2 billion shy of the full-quarter average during 2008. Expenses were \$8.1 billion — leaving the company with operating earnings for the two months of \$10.9 billion.

Although the stock market was pleased, some analysts said Pandit's letter wasn't enough to sustain a longer-term advance. One-time items, including credit losses, write-downs and additions to loan-loss reserves, could end up bringing Citigroup to its sixth straight quarterly loss if March is worse than January and February.

"It's a P.R. gimmick," said Alois Pirker, bank ana-

lyst at the research and advisory firm Aite Group, said of Pan. "This memo alone won't do the trick. For Citi, it's the same old problems: How do we take this business and turn it into a viable entity?"

Citigroup has been working to set itself up for profitability for several quarters by cutting costs, selling businesses and raising cash. The company recently sold control of its Smith Barney brokerage to Morgan Stanley.

If this month is as profitable for Citigroup as the previous two, the bank could prove to the naysayers in Congress and the investor community that Citigroup is not, in fact in dire straits and that government crutches were unnecessary.

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Three more teams don their dancing shoes.

College basketball & NBA, Sports 2 / Scoreboard, Sports 3 / MLB, Sports 3 / World, Sports 4

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2009

SPORTS EDITOR MIKE CHRISTENSEN: (208) 735-3239 SPORTS@MAGICVALLEY.COM



RYAN HOWE/Times-News
First-year Burley head coach Devin Kunz is hoping to turn around the Bobcats program.

Kunz takes over Burley team boasting speed and defense

By **Ryan Howe**
Times-News writer

BURLEY — When first-year Burley baseball coach Devin Kunz was ordering gear and uniforms for this year's club, it didn't take long for him to realize what type of team he would have.

No size XXL. Not even an XL.
At least Kunz won't have to worry about steroid testing.

But it doesn't seem to

bother Kunz much, as the biggest Bobcats grab larges and mediums.

"We're going to work with what we have, and that's speed and defense," Kunz said. "We're fast. We're not big, but we will play hard and we'll score runs."

Burley will rely on small ball — base hits, moving runners around — to get the job done this season.

"We want to be really aggressive on the bags," said senior Kace Redder. "Last

"This is the most hard-working group I've played with so far."

— **Burley senior Kace Redder**

year we would be lucky to get one stolen base a game. This year we want to manufacture runs because we don't have any really power hitters."

The Bobcats have a core of solid leadership, including Redder, John Cummings and Garrett Lyons. For what it lacks in size, Burley makes

up for with work ethic.

"This is the most hard-working group I've played with so far," Redder said.

Kunz, who played college ball at BYU and was drafted by the Texas Rangers organization, had coached the Twin Falls Class A American Legion baseball team since 2003. Last summer he was

contacted about the Burley job and once he found out he could bring his buddy Mike Hill along as an assistant, it was a done deal. It also helped to receive encouragement from former Burley coach Matt Harr, who led the Bobcats to their last state title in 2002.

"I like it," Kunz said during a preseason practice last week. "The kids are great and the facilities are great."

See **BURLEY**, Sports 2

CSI men's program aims to get 'back on track'

By **Mike Christensen**
Times-News writer

Next week, the NJCAA Division I national men's basketball tournament will tip-off in Hutchinson, Kan. But for the second consecutive season, the College of Southern Idaho team won't be there.

For CSI, which boasts the best winning percentage in NJCAA history, that's not acceptable.

"We've got to get back to Hutch," said CSI head coach Steve Gosar. "It's been two years and we've got to get this thing back on track."

The Golden Eagles went 22-9 this season, finishing third in the Scenic West Athletic Conference at 9-6. Their season ended with a loss to Salt Lake Community College in the Region 18 tournament semifinals.

With a freshman-laden roster, CSI should be poised for a big 2009-10 season. The team had only two sophomores this year in Utah signee Jay Watkins and preseason All-American Daequon Montreal. Montreal will be taking recruiting trips in the coming weeks as he decides where he'll play next year.

But the bulk of CSI's roster should return next season, and joining the returning sophomores should be a strong recruiting class. When the NJCAA's signing period begins April 8, Gosar hopes to add a few key pieces. The Golden Eagles expect to sign an athletic power forward similar in build and athleticism to former CSI and current Oklahoma player Juan Pattillo.

An athletic wing player and another point guard are also on Gosar's priority list.

At least one in-state player will join the Golden Eagles as a walk-on. Timberline High's Zach Peterson, a 6-foot-2 shooting guard, is expected to walk-on and redshirt next season. He averaged 18.1 points this past season.

Two freshmen from this year's CSI roster that won't be around next winter are 6-5 guard Louis Garrett and 6-8 center Seth Weinheimer. Garrett, who averaged 5.2 points and 1.9 rebounds, has received an LDS mission call to Singapore and begins his two-year church service July 1. Weinheimer redshirted after transferring midseason from Dixie State College. He

See **CSI**, Sports 2

INSIDE

Find out if SLCC men advanced to the national tourney.

See **Sports 2**



Photos courtesy
BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
Boise State coach Chris Petersen is seeking leaders on a young Bronco roster.

BSU working to get one point BETTER

Broncos look for answers in spring practice

By **Dustin Lapray**
Times-News Correspondent

BOISE — College football doesn't really have an offseason anymore. Boise State players took about a month off after their 17-16 loss to Texas Christian in the Poinsettia Bowl, but they worked through the break.

Since the spring semester started, the Broncos have been right back at it, pounding in the weight room, trying to engineer a fresh squad from the ranks. Spring practice offers those players hoping to start a chance to prove their worth, and forces last year's stars to re-ignite their luster and re-prove their position on the depth chart.

With that in mind, here's four topics of note during the 12 practices and three scrimmages that make up spring practice.

1. Spitting out the foul flavor of a Frogstomp

One point. Just one. And just like that a perfect season crumbled. The 2009 Broncos won't soon forget that taste.

"It's still right here in the back of my head," Kyle Wilson said. "I think every day, 'How can I get one point better today?' It's not only one little thing I do each day, it's all things accumulated, through all these weeks, all these training sessions, 'How can I get one point better?'"

Wilson is the lone remaining starter from the 2007 Fiesta Bowl, the last bowl game BSU won. When teams win bowl games, they pretend to forget it the next season, but when they lose one, it fuels desire through spring camp.

"Win or lose, we try to take the lessons we've learned and move forward," BSU head coach Chris Petersen said. "We're not going to dwell on the TCU game, but we're certainly going to use the lessons we've learned to make us better."

— **BSU head coach Chris Petersen**

See **ANSWERS**, Sports 2



Defensive back Kyle Wilson is one of six seniors on the 2009 Boise State football roster.

All-stars hit the hardwood one more time

By **Diane Philbin**
Times-News writer

SHOSHONE — A talented group of Class 2A and 1A seniors from District IV met at Shoshone High School for the season-ending high school all-star basketball games.

In the girls game, the North team, led by 13 points by Gabi Nava from Valley, chalked up 70-43 a victory over the South team. The North team hit eight 3-pointers and Nava had three of those.

"I was a little nervous," said Nava. "But I was really looking forward to the game because it will probably be one of my last games. I enjoyed playing with Michelle Kent from Richfield. She really works hard. All the girls are really talented."

Nava spent last summer to

improve on her shooting but said she will not be taking her game to the next level.

"I'm going to focus on school," said Nava. "I'm going to Idaho State to be a pharmacist."

Declo's Sydney Christensen, a member of the South team, scored nine points. She would have liked to play in college, but a health problem won't allow her to continue.

"This game was fun," said Christensen who went to junior high with Marli Manning and enjoyed being on the same team as the Raft River senior. "You get to play some real ball, and it's nice to be able to play with players in your skill level."

Sally Hansen of Raft River led the South squad with 14 points.

Connor Garner of Declo was the

player of the night for the winning South team with 17 points, and teammate Tanner Owen of Hagerman scored 16 as the South defeated the North team 85-69.

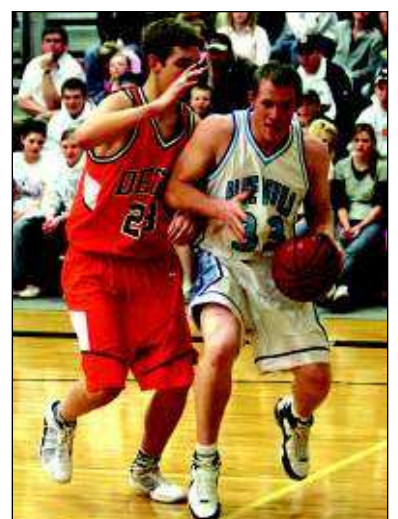
The South team had two other players in double figures with Bridger Barrett of Raft River with 11 and Shaylon Fenstermaker of Declo tossed in 10.

Garner enjoyed the game and would like to continue his game in college, he said. He enjoyed playing with the Hagerman players "because they are pretty good, and they went to state."

What will he miss the most? "Getting the chance to play for a state title," said Garner.

The North team was led by Brody

See **ALL-STARS**, Sports 2



STEVE MERRICK/For the Times-News

Declo senior Shaylon Fenstermaker (23) defends Dietrich senior Luke Hubert (33) Tuesday during the Class 2A/1A District IV All-Star Basketball Game at Shoshone High School.

AROUND
THE WORLD

N. IRELAND

IRA dissident
killing unites
Northern Ireland

BELFAST — The Protestant and Catholic leaders of Northern Ireland mounted an exceptional display of unity against rising violence from Irish Republican Army dissidents — and vowed Tuesday to defeat hard-liners with the power of popular will.

Former IRA commander Martin McGuinness, who long hoped that slaying police officers would help him achieve his dream of a united Ireland, stood shoulder to shoulder with his Protestant partner atop the government, Peter Robinson, and Northern Ireland police commander Hugh Orde.

The scene itself was an unprecedented surprise. More stunning were the clear-cut words from McGuinness, whose Sinn Fein party has faced years of outside pressure to embrace British law and order. He pledged his personal support to the English police chief, and demanded that his own police-loathing supporters abandon their traditional code of silence and expose the IRA dissidents in their Irish Catholic communities.

"I have to keep my nerve, and to appeal to my community to assist the police services north and south to defeat these people," McGuinness said.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe mourns
for wife of
rival-turned-partner

HARARE — President Robert Mugabe joined thousands of Zimbabweans mourning the wife of a rival turned government partner, calling Tuesday for an end to political violence and wishing Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai strength for the nation-building work ahead.

Mugabe addressed about 1,000 government and political leaders and diplomats in the Methodist church attended by Susan Tsvangirai, who died in a car crash Friday. Her husband and children were also in the church, where her body rested in bronze coffin, as a crowd massed outside.

"We are sincerely saddened by the death of Susan and we hope that Morgan will remain strong," Mugabe said.

The president, who visited the injured Tsvangirai in the hospital the day of the wreck, said their fledgling coalition government has only just begun efforts to bring rebuild a country beset by political and economic crisis.

INDIA

Dalai Lama:
Tibetans 'suffering'
under China

DHARMSALA — Life for Tibetans under Chinese rule has been "hell on earth," the Dalai Lama said Tuesday, attacking Beijing in a speech to mark 50 years since the failed uprising that forced him into exile.

The unusually harsh rhetoric from the Nobel Peace laureate, who accused the Chinese government of treating his people "like criminals deserving to be put to death," highlighted the widening gulf between the two sides since last year when violence engulfed the region and talks broke down.

"These 50 years have brought untold suffering to the land and people of Tibet," the 73-year-old Buddhist spiritual leader told some 2,000 Tibetan exiles gathered to commemorate the 1959 rebellion.

Tibet's unique religion, culture and language are "nearing extinction," he said.

— The Associated Press

Iraqi suicide attack kills 33

U.S. blames al-Qaida

By Robert H. Reid
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD — A suicide bomber struck Sunni and Shiite tribal leaders touring an outdoor market after a reconciliation meeting in a Baghdad suburb Tuesday, killing up to 33 people in the second major attack in the capital area in three days.

The bombings are raising fears that Sunni insurgents may be escalating operations as the U.S. phases out its combat role in Iraq and prepares to withdraw troops from cities by the end of June.

The attacks also suggest that insurgents are capable of exploiting weaknesses in Iraqi security procedures. The Iraqis have been relatively successful in curbing huge truck bombings that were common years ago — but less so against other tactics.

More than 40 people were wounded Tuesday when the bomber detonated an explosives belt as tribal leaders, security officials and journalists strolled through the market in the town of Abu Ghraib, site of the infamous prison at the center of the 2004 detainee abuse scandal.

Violence spikes

Tribal leaders were targeted by a suicide bomber Tuesday, the second deadly attack in two days.



SOURCE: ESRI AP

The leaders had just left a meeting called as part of a government campaign to reconcile local Sunni tribes and Shiites who fled the mostly Sunni town of Baghdad's western outskirts two years ago but have been trickling back to their homes.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack, but U.S. and Iraqi officials blamed al-Qaida, suspecting the extremists want to sabotage government overtures to the Sunnis — the terror group's support base.

"These are small al-Qaida-related cells that are conducting these attacks," the top U.S. commander, Gen. Ray Odierno, told The Associated Press. "The



AP photo

Hiba Mohammed, an 8-year-old Iraqi girl, is comforted by her mother at a hospital in Baghdad after she was wounded in a suicide bombing Tuesday in Abu Ghraib, in Baghdad, Iraq.

unfortunate part is they're still able to recruit people to do this."

Iraqi police, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to release the information, said 33 people died in the blast and 46 were wounded.

A military spokesman, Maj. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi, said 29 people were killed, including at least three children. He said 41 people were wounded.

The dead included two Iraqi journalists for independent Baghdad TV —

cameraman Haidar Hashim Suhail and reporter Souhaib Adna — as well as an Iraqi battalion commander, whose troops began firing wildly after the blast.

Four staffers for government television were wounded, one of them critically — reporter Ibrahim al-Katib, the station said. It quoted its employees as saying gunmen also opened fire from nearby buildings, sending terrified survivors scurrying for cover.

Mayor Shakir Fizaat blamed al-Qaida, saying the militants "seized on today's

big meeting to carry out the attack." He also said some of the casualties were caused by the ensuing gunfire from security forces.

"This terrorist attack was aimed at stopping reconciliation and the improvement in the security situation," Fizaat told the AP.

"But we will not be deterred by the acts of the vicious group against innocent civilians."

Ahmed Ali, who owns an auto repair shop in the market, said he heard someone shout "God is Great," just before the blast.

China blames U.S. for naval confrontation

By Don Lee
Los Angeles Times

SHANGHAI, China — China blamed the United States on Tuesday for a naval confrontation in the South China Sea over the weekend, contending that an American surveillance vessel was illegally conducting activities in China's special economic zone.

The U.S. Defense Department had complained that five Chinese ships surrounded and harassed the Impeccable, a submarine-surveillance ship, in international waters on Sunday. The Chinese boats dropped wood debris in the Impeccable's path, and one of the ships came within 25 feet of the unarmed U.S. vessel, the Pentagon said, calling the actions dangerous, unprofessional and in violation of international law.

The incident, the latest of several recent confrontations between Chinese boats and aircraft and American surveillance vessels, heightened geopolitical tensions and triggered a jump in oil prices Monday.

The U.S. Embassy in Beijing said a protest had been lodged with the Chinese Foreign Ministry as well as the Chinese Embassy in Washington.

But a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Ma Zhaoxu, said Tuesday that "the U.S. claims are gravely in contravention of the facts and confuse black and white, and they are totally unacceptable to China."

"We demand that the United States put an immediate stop to related activities and take effective measures to prevent similar acts from happening," Ma said at a regularly scheduled news briefing.



U.S. Navy/AP photo

A crewmember on a Chinese trawler uses a grapple hook in an apparent attempt to snag the towed acoustic array of the USNS Impeccable in the South China Sea on Sunday.

Ma did not describe what happened, nor did he say in what way the U.S. ship had violated international and Chinese laws. But China regards most of the area of the South China Sea as its

territory.

The confrontation took place about 75 miles south of China's Hainan Island, near a naval base where Beijing has started operating new nuclear-attack and

ballistic-missile submarines, said Hans M. Kristensen, nuclear-information project director at the Federation of American Scientists.

Writing in the federation's blog, Kristensen said the incident was "part of a wider and dangerous cat and mouse game between U.S. and Chinese submarines and their hunters."

The Pentagon reported that Chinese vessels had engaged in other aggressive behavior in the last week, including Chinese maritime aircraft performing fly-bys and a patrol vessel shining a high-intensity spotlight on a U.S. ship in the Yellow Sea.

The latest incident "will make life harder for those in the Obama administration who want to ease the military pressure on U.S.-Chinese relations, and easier for hard-liners to argue their case," Kristensen said.

Iran not making bomb-grade uranium, lawmakers told

By Peter Finn
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Iran has not produced the highly enriched uranium necessary for a nuclear weapon and has not decided to do so, U.S. intelligence officials told Congress Tuesday, an assessment that contrasts with a stark Israeli warning days earlier that Iran has crossed the "technological threshold" in its pursuit of the bomb.

Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair said that Iran has not made a decision to pursue the production of weapons-grade uranium and the parallel development of the ability to load it on to a capable ballistic missile.

"The overall situation — and the intelligence community agrees on this — (is) that Iran has not decided to press forward ... to have a nuclear weapon on top of a ballistic missile," said Blair in testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"Our current estimate is that the minimum time at which Iran could technically produce the amount of highly enriched uranium for a single weapon is 2010 to 2015."

The five-year spread, he explained, was a result of differences in the intelligence community about how quickly Iran could develop a weapon if it rekindled a weapons program it suspended in 2003.

Sept. 11 suspects: 'We are terrorists to the bone'

By Ben Fox
Associated Press writer

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The self-professed mas-termind and four other men charged in the Sept. 11 attacks declared they are "terrorists to the bone" in a statement that mocked the U.S. failure to prevent the killings and predicted America will fall like "the towers on the blessed 9/11 day."

In a rambling response to the government's case, the men also sought to justify the attacks, citing a violent interpretation of Islam and a series of grievances against the U.S., including support for Israel, the Iraq

war and abuses at Abu Ghraib prison and in Guantanamo.

"To us, they are not accusations. To us they are badges of honor, which we carry with pride," the men wrote in the six-page document, which was released Tuesday by a military judge over the objections of the Pentagon-appointed lawyers for two of the men.

"So, you are the first class war criminals," they added, "and the whole world witnesses this."

The five, who are among 245 prisoners held at the U.S. military lockup in Cuba, include Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the professed architect of the Sept. 11

attacks, and Ramzi Binalshibh, allegedly one of his key lieutenants in al-Qaida.

Both men previously said they were proud of their role in the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon — and all five had said they wanted to plead guilty. But this is their most detailed statement to date.

The men do not go into details of their roles in the plot, but they call the charge of conspiracy "laughable" and mock U.S. authorities for being unable to prevent the attacks. "Blame yourselves and your failed intelligence apparatus,"

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Free 1 1/2 hr consultation
30 years experience
Competitive Rates
We are a debt relief agency.
We help people file for bankruptcy
relief under the bankruptcy code.
May, Sudaweks & Browning
733-7180

**0113
Child Care
Services**

Licensed Child Care
Days and even. Meal's and snacks.
ICCP accepted. All ages welcome.
735-4193.

NEED PERSON to care for children,
occasional weekend nights.
712-326-8352

**EMPLOYMENT
200**

**200
Work Wanted**

**PUBLIC SERVICE
MESSAGE**

Federal Employment
information is free.
Remember, no one can
promise you a federal job.
For free information about
federal jobs,
Call Career America
Connection.
478-757-3000

**0202
Clerical**

CLERICAL
Part-time Secretary at the Walker
Center in Twin Falls.
Send resumes to
judy@thewalkercenter.org

**206
Drivers**

DRIVER
Looking for a part-time job working
mornings & afternoons?
We have the perfect job for you!
Now hiring **Bus Drivers**
Paid Training
Western States Bus
Call 208-733-8003

DRIVERS
Ag Express Inc.
Paul & Twin Falls, ID
Class A CDL Drivers
needed Full & Part Time year
round local & interstate hauling.
Benefits include medical/
dental/vision/401-k and vacation.
Minimum age 21.
Call 438-8886 or Jason at
431-4620 in Paul
Call 732-6065 or Alan at
731-2496 in Twin Falls

DRIVERS
Come join our team!
Enjoy benefits such as:
Home time, good pay, vacation
pay, health insurance & multiple
safety bonuses. Team, Solo, or
Relief. New Equipment
1-888-806-5785 between 8am-5pm

DRIVERS
OTR Drivers needed.
Experience & self-motivated,
with Class A CDL.
Excellent Benefits
208-324-8644

CLASSIFIEDS

It pays to read the
fine print!
Call The Times-News to place
your ad
208-733-9331 ext. 2
▲▲▲▲▲▲

**Now is the time to
check out a career!**

**Sunrise has:
Deluxe late-model Equipment
Health Insurance • 401(k)**



**207
Education**

EDUCATION
Kimberly Middle School,
with 350 students in grades 6-8,
is seeking a **Principal**
to provide leadership for a highly
skilled staff. An educator with
middle school experience who
believes in a team approach
and understands the
importance of character
education will find leading this
innovative and energetic faculty a
rewarding experience. If you
understand the stages of child
development, enjoy working
with young teens, have an
outgoing, optimistic personality,
and would like to be part of a
high-performing school district
Please contact **Cathy at**
(208) 423-4170 x3308
or cooper@kimberly.edu.

EDUCATION
One on One working with special
needs children. Must have
degree in Social Services or
education. Pay DOE,
tax 208-928-7120

**208
Farm**

**Classified Private Party
Ads** Requires pre-payment
prior to publication. Major credit/
debit cards, and cash accepted.
733-9331 ext. 2 Times-News

FARM
Seeking Farmer/Irrigator for
Rift River Farm.
Must have pivot experience.
Call Mark at 208-731-5414

**209
General**

GENERAL
2-Shift Supervisors needed.
Warehouse exp. necessary
Twin Falls 733-7300
Jerome 324-9400
Burley 678-4040
www.personnelinc.com

GENERAL
Cold Stone Creamery is currently
hiring a **Cake Decorator**.
20-25 Hrs per week.
Some experience necessary.
Applications available at
Cold Stone Creamery
or call 539-1261

**GENERAL
DISCOVERY**

Day & Swing Shift
Positions Available!

- No Sales Involved!
- Base Pay up to \$11.00 an hour!
- All Paid Training!
- Flexible Scheduling - You Pick the Days you Want to Work!
- Shift Start Times Coincide with School Schedules!
- Bonuses Offered on Monthly Basis!
- Fun, Positive Work Environment! Great for First Time Job or Career!

Please apply at
840 Meadows Dr #1
Twin Falls or please call
(208) 735-6601
Walking distance from CSI!

GENERAL

Insurance Inspector
Information Providers, Inc. is
seeking a

PT field inspector to perform
residential dwelling inspections
in the Twin Falls area. You will
provide dimensions, photographs
and complete a condition
assessment of the dwelling for
underwriting purposes.
A reliable vehicle, home
computer with XP or Vista, high
speed internet and a digital
camera are required. Interested
applicants should email
resumes to
jgilbreath@useipi.com
referencing Job Code TW42ID in
the subject line.

**GENERAL
WANTED!!**

Marketing Representative's
Potential income
\$3000+ per month.
Dinner Provided.
Gertie's Pizza, Twin Falls
802 2nd Ave.
Seating is limited.
Thursday 03/12/2009 @ 6:30 pm
(208)243-1178

**209
General**



PhoneBase Research
currently has immediate
openings in our interviewing
department. This position
involves conducting public opinion
polls over the telephone.
PhoneBase Research offers:
• Flexible evening, day and
weekend hours.
• Up to \$12 an hour
• Casual working environment
• Monthly interviewer incentives
• Absolutely no sales or soliciting
• Health benefits available
To apply stop by our office at
840 Meadows Dr. Ste #2
in Twin Falls or call us at
208-736-2851

PUBLIC WORKS



Public Works Technician
\$12.11 + benefits
P/T-varied shifts
Must reside within 15 min.
response time and have
Customer service skills -
Construction background -
HSDGED work outdoors
Apply by 3.20.09 with cover
letter, resume and application.
For details:
www.ci.jerome.id.us
324-8189
hr@ci.jerome.id.us

RESTAURANT
Experienced Server
Lunch & Dinner shift.
Apply in person at Prasa's
428 2nd Ave. E
Twin Falls.

**210
Management**

MANAGEMENT

**Pest Abatement District
Manager**
The newly formed Twin Falls
County Pest Abatement District
is seeking a Pest Abatement
Manager to oversee the
district activities, including
development and execution of a
pest abatement plan, management
of staff, budgeting and
cooperative activities with
agencies and organizations
affected by the district.
A detailed job description is
available at twinfallscounty.org
or by writing to P.O. Box AC,
Twin Falls, ID 83303-0094.
Please send cover letter, resume
and salary requirements to the
above address.
References will be required.
For additional information contact
John Snelling at 208-326-6119.

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with
several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9
in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each
3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level
of the Concepts Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		7	6	9				
	2							
3			8	1				
6			2					
7			1			2	3	
5					6	8		4
	7							
		1					4	
			2	4	5	9		

Difficulty Level ★★

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Answer to previous puzzle

9	8	2	4	3	1	6	5	7
3	5	1	7	2	6	9	4	8
7	6	4	9	5	8	3	2	1
8	7	5	6	4	2	1	9	3
4	9	3	1	8	5	7	6	2
2	1	6	3	9	7	4	8	5
5	4	7	8	1	9	2	3	6
1	3	8	2	6	4	5	7	9
6	2	9	5	7	3	8	1	4

Difficulty Level ★★

**211
Medical**

All advertising
is subject to the newspaper's
standard of acceptance.
The Times-News reserves the
right to edit, abbreviate, decline
or properly classify any ad.
Receipt of copy via remote entry
(fax, e-mail, etc.) does not
constitute final acceptance by
this newspaper. The advertiser,
not the newspaper, assumes full
responsibility for the truthful
content of their advertiser
message.

**211
Medical**

DENTAL
Busy Twin Falls Practice seeks
exp. **Dental Hygienist**.
3-3 1/2 days/week.
Send resumes to
Box 939967
c/o Times News
P.O. Box 548
Twin Falls, ID 83303

**211
Medical**

MEDICAL
Fast paced medical
office seeking Part-time
Medical Assistant. Some exp.
needed. Call for appointment.
208-420-9310

MEDICAL
Therapists
Immediate need for licensed,
caring physical, occupational &
speech therapists/ aids. PRN or
full time work in the Magic
Valley's best facilities.
Idaho owned/managed.
Optimal Therapy Staffing.
Competitive pay, mileage,
benefits. Contact
cweatherson@ierh.org
208-677-7932

REMEMBER

That birthday or anniversary
picture you ran in the paper.
Now is the time to come in
and pick up your pictures.

SALES
RANGEN, INC.
AQUACULTURE FEED
SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Rangen, Inc. is currently accepting resumes for the position of
Aquaculture Feed Sales Representative.
Duties include sales of product, servicing accounts, solicitation
of new accounts, and marketing. Traveling is required.

Candidates should have a college degree in sciences or
business. Experience working in aquaculture is required.
Sales experience, experience in business and knowledge of
feed manufacturing would be helpful.

Resumes may be sent to
PO Box 706, Buhl, ID 83316
Attn: Human Resources or email to
ckoeplin@rangen.com.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
DRUG FREE WORKPLACE

SALES SUPPORT ASSOCIATE



Standlee Hay Company is looking for an assertive, persistent,
self-motivated and results-driven individual to join our team.
This individual will contact regular and prospective customers
to explain product features, provide customer service and
solicit orders along with preparing documents such as packing
lists and invoices.

The successful candidate should possess excellent verbal and
written communications skills, effective time management and
organizational skills, and the ability to market and promote
hay forage products. This position requires someone that is
willing to travel occasionally to prospective client locations
and trade shows across the states.

We offer a competitive salary and an excellent benefits
package which includes medical, dental, vision, paid holidays,
sick leave and vacation.

To apply, go to
www.standleehay.com/employmentopportunities
Attach a resume and fill out an
online application.

**This is a GREAT
way to earn some
extra cash!
Start a Delivery Route Today!**

- Buchanan St.
• Lincoln St.
• Pierce St.
• Terrace Dr.
TWIN FALLS
735-3346
- Buckingham
• Filer
• Knottingham
• Eastland
TWIN FALLS
735-3346
- Adams St.
• Heyburn St.
• Jefferson St.
• Monroe St.
TWIN FALLS
735-3346
- 9th Ave. East
• Laura Circle
• Sherry Dr.
• Morningside Dr.
TWIN FALLS
735-3346
- 11th Ave. E.
• Keegan Lane
• Maple Ave.
• Poplar Ave.
TWIN FALLS
735-3346
- Motor Route
\$600-\$650
**WENDELL/
JEROME**
735-3302
- Park Ave.
• 16th St.
• 20th St.
• Overland Ave.
BURLEY
677-8733
- 1st Ave. West
• 6th Ave. West
• N. Idaho St.
• Lewiston St.
WENDELL
735-3302
- 3rd Ave. East
• 6th Ave. East
•ocatello St.
• Gooding St.
WENDELL
735-3302

**Super Tuesday
Routes
Available
BURLEY/
RUPERT**
677-8733



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

- Twin Falls...735-3346
- Burley, Rupert, Paul...677-8733
- Kimberly, Buhl, Filer, TFRW...735-3241
- Gooding, Shoshone, Halley, Jerome...735-3302

CLERICAL
**PATIENT FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUPERVISOR**



We have an exciting full-time opportunity for a
Patient Financial Services Supervisor.
This role provides supervision of the business office and
patient registration. Requires previous hospital billing,
supervisory, and computer experience. Must have a high level
of personal presentation and excellent communication skills.
Send Resume to: Sara Otto,
Director of Human Resources
1120 Montana St. Gooding, ID 83330
208-934-4433 x1109
www.goodinghospital.org
GCMH is an equal opportunity employer and promotes
diversity in its workforce



**Licensed Social
Worker**
Full-time, Monday-Friday
**Full time & part-time
CNAs Days/Evenings**

Competitive pay, full benefits. Apply in person
with resume. Contact Derrick for LSWs,
Beverly Nipper for CNAs. Questions: 208-734-8645.



640 Filer Ave West, Twin Falls. Phone: 208-734-8645

ACCOUNTING



Northwest Farm Credit Services, a financial leader in
agricultural lending, is seeking a
Financial Specialist
to work in the Burley, Idaho branch.
Position assists the credit officer in completing financial
information by gathering customer information, inputting loan
data, reviewing customer loan documents and presenting to
customer for signing. Comply with closing requirements and
disburse, book and certify loans within authorities. Respond to
customer inquiries and process customer transactions.
Perform intermediate/advanced clerical duties such as word
processing, establishing and maintaining files, answering
telephones and processing mail. Position requires high school
diploma or equivalent, knowledge of financial statements,
customer service experience, advanced computer knowledge
and a minimum two years' related work experience.
Competitive compensation and benefit package available.

For full job description or to apply, please visit
www.magnificentcareers.net

