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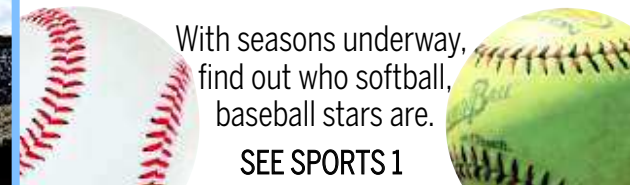
SEE OUTDOORS 1



CSI on the bases

With seasons underway, find out who softball, baseball stars are.

SEE SPORTS 1



ALABAMA SHOOTINGS >>> Gunman left list of those who wronged him; victims a mix of family and strangers, OUTDOORS 7

THURSDAY
March 12, 2009

TIMES-NEWS

75 CENTS

MagicValley.com

Tuthill: Economy not factored into water curtailment

865 south-central Idaho wells may be shut off on Monday

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

BOISE — Idaho Department of Water Resources Director Dave Tuthill told lawmakers Wednesday he's not authorized to factor in potential economic impacts of water curtailment, despite the possible blow the

order could have on south-central Idaho's economy.

In response to more than a half-dozen questions from Sen. Dean Cameron, R-Rupert, Tuthill said state law does not authorize him to consider the role of the economy when ordering curtailment. Tuthill issued such an order last week, and

unless an acceptable plan is submitted today, 865 wells across 41,000 acres of irrigated farmland would be shuttered Monday to make up about 2 cubic-feet-per-second of spring water owed to Clear Springs Foods in Buhl.

"In my understanding of Idaho water law, it is not

within my authorities to judge to those values," Tuthill told the Senate Resources and Environment Committee.

Cameron, co-chairman of the state's budgeting committee, pitched the question after Tuthill gave a briefing on the ongoing debate between the fish farm and



Magicvalley.com

READ: Capitol Confidential, a blog by Jared S. Hopkins

groundwater pumpers.

"We have a failing economy and from everything I can tell, the only thing that held the economy up through calendar year 2008 was our agricultural market, particularly down through

southern Idaho," Cameron said. "This curtailment order potentially places real devastating effects on (the Magic Valley)."

Pumpers withdrew their

See **WATER**, Main 3

A star comes home



Photos by MEGAN THOMPSON/Times-News

Christina Hendricks, star of the AMC network cable drama 'Mad Men' and a former Twin Falls resident, visited Twin Falls Wednesday morning for a segment on ABC's 'Good Morning America.' During a break in the early-morning interview at the Depot Grill, Hendricks reaches for sweetener for her coffee. The television star visited various spots in the Magic Valley for the interview, which will air next month.

'Mad Men' actress Hendricks tours area with ABC

By Eric Larsen
Times-News writer

Dawn had barely broken over the Depot Grill when she walked in.

As the sun washed over retirees and plates of the kind of food that fuels workmen's mornings, Christina Hendricks entered — a black beret atop hair on fire — and heads turned.

For a moment it was 1962 and Hendricks was Joan Holloway, the vivacious office manager from the AMC cable network drama "Mad Men." From the white 1958 Chevrolet Impala in the parking lot to the brushed stainless steel of the Twin Falls diner's coffee pots, the scene screamed "home" for Hendricks — and perhaps, the fictional Holloway.

"Exactly. Why not?"

Hendricks, 33, said. "Any one of the characters, I think, would be here."



Television star and former Twin Falls resident Christina Hendricks tries to stay warm in the foyer of the Depot Grill as she waits for her cue to join 'Good Morning America Weekend Edition' co-anchor Bill Weir for a breakfast interview at the local diner.

A crew of four cameramen and two producers grounded the diner in reality Wednesday as Hendricks and "Good Morning America Weekend Edition" anchor Bill Weir chatted over breakfast for an upcoming segment called "The Sunday Drive." Interested and a bit confused, diner regulars peeked at

Hendricks, Weir and the corner behind them — a tangle of lights, camera cords and eight bodies jostling in a space meant for six.

This was one of Hendricks' favorite places as a pre-teen growing up in Twin Falls.

See **HENDRICKS**, Main 3

Magicvalley.com

VIEW: A slide show of Christina Hendricks' visit to Twin Falls.

Red's and ATF reach agreement

Gun store to continue operation as 4-year case reaches conclusion

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

A case that drew national attention over a legal dispute between Idaho's oldest gun store and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives reached a quiet and uneventful conclusion on Wednesday.

Attorneys working on behalf of Red's Trading Post announced an agreement Wednesday that will

end litigation over allegations that the gun store "willfully" sold guns improperly.

An attorney representing Red's said neither party admitted any wrongdoing in the case, which lasted nearly four years before reaching an agreement in U.S. District Court.

Ryan Horsley, general manager of Red's, deferred

See **RED'S**, Main 2

Wilderness bill stymied in House over gun rights

By Matthew Daly
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The House on Wednesday defeated a bill to set aside more than 2 million acres in nine states as protected wilderness — the victim of a renewed Republican push to allow concealed, loaded weapons in national parks.

A majority of House members supported the

wilderness bill, but the measure was defeated because it did not receive the needed two-thirds vote. The vote was 282-144 in favor, two votes short of approval.

Supporters said the bill was brought up under a special rule, which severely restricts amendments, because majority

See **BILL**, Main 2

Sheriff: No ticket for trooper's lake crash

ISP won't say whether trooper followed policies

By Andrea Jackson
Times-News writer

The Idaho State Police trooper who totaled a cruiser after driving into a lake acted within the law, according to an investigation into the crash.

The collision happened

Feb. 28 at about 11:30 p.m. as Trooper Cris Clausing rushed to help another vehicle that had gone into Wilson Lake.

Clausing is back to work since the crash, which happened about a mile north of Hazelton, ISP Capt. Kedrick Wills confirmed Wednesday.

The Jerome County Sheriff's Office investigated the crash and decided the trooper won't get a

See **CRASH**, Main 2

Times-News file photo

Idaho State Police trooper Cris Clausing ended up in Wilson Lake while responding to an accident on Feb. 28.

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Twin Falls man charged in fatal Hailey crash

Four collisions were possible result of intoxication

By Ariel Hansen
Times-News writer

HAILEY — A 29-year-old Twin Falls man has been charged with vehicular manslaughter in the death of 53-year-old Bertilia Redfern of Hailey after a series of collisions on Tuesday.

Cody William Stevens was arraigned Wednesday in 5th District Court in Hailey, where he appeared by video from the Blaine County Jail. Stevens was booked into jail at about 10 p.m. Tuesday on charges of vehicular manslaughter, aggravated driving under the influence and possession of a schedule-two drug.

Stevens applied for a public defender, but Judge Ted Israel denied the application, citing Stevens' and his wife's incomes. The judge set Stevens' bond at \$75,000, and ordered that if he is released, he is not to drive or to possess alcohol or unprescribed drugs, and he must submit to random drug testing. Stevens, who was subdued during the appearance, told the judge he did not intend to flee if he made bond. "I'm not going to run away, sir," he said.

The prosecutor has also asked for Stevens to be charged "in the alternative" with aggravated DUI. "It gives you the option of proving either theory of the cause of the death," said Twin Falls Prosecutor Grant Loeb.

Members of Stevens' family in the courtroom declined comment. Also present were representatives from the Roark Law Firm, where Redfern worked.

Stevens is accused of having caused the crash that killed Redfern on Idaho Highway 75 south of Hailey Tuesday afternoon. He is also alleged to have been involved in three other crashes that day, one in

Lincoln County, one near Bellevue, and one in downtown Hailey just minutes after the highway crash.

According to court documents, Stevens — who until last August was employed by Roberts Electric in Hailey — allegedly left work at Idaho Milk Products in Jerome after a 12-hour shift at 6 a.m. on Tuesday, and drove north. In Lincoln County, he was allegedly reported as a reckless driver after he got close enough to "rub mirrors" with the reporting party at about 7:20 a.m. At about 9:45, he allegedly hit a tree south of Bellevue, telling police he swerved to avoid a deer.

After leaving his totaled truck in Bellevue and renting a truck in Hailey, Stevens returned to a Bellevue body shop, then was headed toward Ketchum when he allegedly caused the collision that killed Redfern. He then allegedly flipped his rental truck onto a curb in downtown Hailey, where police took him into custody.

Stevens failed two sobriety tests, court documents allege, and appeared increasingly intoxicated as police questioned him. Court records said he had taken Lexapro, an anti-anxiety and anti-depressant drug, and was taking Prozac, an antidepressant. A bottle of Baclofen, a muscle relaxant, was allegedly found in the rental truck, the record said.

Stevens was taken for testing to St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center for blood testing, and later was taken back to the hospital after becoming increasingly unresponsive and incoherent during police questioning, according to court documents.

Stevens is next scheduled to appear before the court on March 24.



Stevens

Valley residents recall Redfern

Bertilia Redfern, known to friends as Bert, was well-known in the Magic and Wood River valleys as an activist who fought for the causes she cared about.

She was involved in the movement against confined-animal feeding operations when she lived in Twin Falls County, and later in making sure Hailey residents had a strong voice on airport relocation in Blaine County.

In a comment on Magicvalley.com, Max Hatfield described Redfern as "a good neighbor, a friend who was always there for you, fierce in defending the little person and one of those people who always made you feel like you were somebody that counted in life."

Tracy Dunlap, at whose Hailey law firm Redfern previously worked for two years, said she was always one to "stand up for the little people." Redfern, who was married for about 30 years, lived "life to the fullest," Dunlap said.

Ken Midkiff, former director of the Sierra Club's Clean Water Campaign, remembered when Redfern gave him a ride out to a dairy when he was visiting the state. "On her bumper, she had a sticker that said, 'Got Milk? Got Manure!'" he said with a laugh. That apparently caused a local to stop and ask what they were doing taking pictures from the road. "I think the bumpersticker was a dead giveaway, and he probably recognized we were not dairy CAFO-friendly!"

— Ariel Hansen

Hendricks

Continued from Main 1

The now critically-acclaimed actress found her love for the stage in Twin Falls after auditioning as a third-grader for a JuMP Company production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." "I think everything about JuMP Company really formed how I felt about acting and theater," she said. "It really was just an amazing start for any kid."

After breakfast, Hendricks and Weir took to that shimmering white Impala — a rental from Caldwell — presumably headed for Shoshone Falls and the College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Center, among other stops.

With Weir behind the wheel, the Impala rolled north along Shoshone Street South to the first destination of Hendricks' choosing.

"You know what, that's what's beautiful about this — it takes all the pressure off me," Weir said. "She's the local, so she's navigating. I just get to drive."

Weir said the theme of the segment, which doesn't have a firm air date, is to "take a celebrity of some sort, put them in their favorite car and go to their hometown — or their favorite town."

Weir called Hendricks' portrayal of Holloway "one of the most compelling characters of the last couple TV seasons,"

but it took Hendricks time and some struggle to reach this point.

In 1997, she told the *Times-News*, "After seeing what goes on in TV, I don't want any part of that aspect of acting."

Much has changed after what Hendricks on Wednesday called a bad initial experience.

"Since then, I've had some of the most amazing opportunities. ... So I take that statement back."

Unlike her career, Hendricks said not much has changed upon her return to Twin Falls. "It feels the same ... it feels good. It's comforting."

Eric Larsen may be reached at elarsen@magicvalley.com.

Water

Continued from Main 1

The first mitigation plan, leaving only one that offers money to Clear Springs as payment for the owed water. Idaho law holds a first-in-time doctrine in which surface water users hold senior rights to groundwater pumpers. Tuthill said central to the debate is how pumpers offer repayment for the water, which the fish farm — considered the injured party — didn't agree with.

"The question is can the agency force you to accept dollars rather than water?" Tuthill said. "And my understanding of the law is the agency cannot force you to accept dollars in place of water."

The order applies to pumpers in six counties with water rights newer than Nov. 16, 1972, though members of the Idaho Dairymen's Association who participate in a plan from 2007 will not be affected. The shuttered wells are calculated to provide about 15 gallons of water every second to Clear Springs.

It's only a portion of the actual amount of water owed and it won't appear right away.

Lynn Tominaga, executive director of the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, has estimated the shutdown could cause more than \$100 million in damage to Magic Valley's economy.

Tuthill also said if curtailment eventually falls short — or exceeds — of providing the correct amount, the state would not be liable. He is confident in the models IDWR uses in its assessment. Over time, he said, the measures will provide the water demanded in the call.

"We've taken the steps using the best science available under the law and for us not to follow the output of the model would not be using the best science available," he said.

He told the committee he hasn't received any plan from the groundwater pumpers. The deadline is today.

In related news, the House Resources and Conservation Committee heard testimony on a bill to

provide state funding for the first phase of the Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan. A vote was postponed until next week.

Jared S. Hopkins may be reached at 208-420-8371 or jhopkins@magicvalley.com.

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Otter's liquor bill introduced

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

BOISE — The Senate State Affairs Committee on Wednesday agreed to give a full hearing to Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's proposal to modernize the state's liquor laws and eliminate the decades-old quota system.

The bill would transfer authority of granting liquor licenses at restaurants from the state to cities and counties while capping the approximate 1,000 licenses at bars and letting the state oversee them.

Currently, licenses are awarded by the state on a per-capita basis: one

license for every 1,500 people in a city's population. However, the process has drawn a waiting list and created a black market where licenses go for thousands.

"I really think the present system we've got has been dysfunctional," Otter told reporters last week. "It really hasn't allowed the local folks to be the architects of the character in their own communities. Why they should have to come to me in Boise to get a liquor license in Ketchum always escaped me."

The restaurant licenses would be non-transferable, administered by cities and counties. Restaurants cur-

rently with a license could decide whether to keep it or put it out on the market and receive a municipal license instead, a provision included to appease licensees.

Committee member Sen. Denton Darrington, R-Declo, said, "On the surface at this point it seems like it's time to get away from the state-controlled system and go to a system of local control."

It's the first attempt at such a comprehensive reform and is the product of almost three years of discussion by a task force consisting of lobbyists, lawmakers and business owners appointed by Otter.

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AROUND THE VALLEY

State water committee to assess supply

The third Idaho Water Supply Committee meeting of the current water year will start at 10 a.m. today at the Idaho Water Center in Boise. The committee, made up of water managers and hydrology experts from government agencies and the private sector, will review the latest data on this year's water supplies, as well as the potential for flooding. Topics include weather, climate, reservoir operation, river flows and snowpack. Recent winter storms have helped to improve Idaho's snowpack, but haven't made up for dry weather in January. About one month is left for the snowpack to grow.

I.P. sites down during transition

As part of a transition to a new, improved Web site, Idaho Power's various sites will not be accessible on Saturday and Sunday, the company warned this week. The sites include idahopower.com, idacorpinc.com, ipchydro.org and get-pluggedin.com. Customers will still be able to access an automated phone system by calling 800-488-6151 for many of the same transactions they could do online. The new, enhanced Web site will launch on Monday.

— Staff reports

Election consolidation bill waiting Senate hearing

By Jared S. Hopkins Times-News writer

BOISE — A bill to consolidate Idaho elections to four dates that passed the House last week could face hurdles both in funding and from skeptical senators. The proposal to consolidate most of Idaho's approximate 450 yearly elections passed the House 52-17, and supporters say voter turnout will increase and elections would be run entirely by counties and cheaper in the long run. Idaho's May primary and November general election would remain unchanged, but dates in March and August would be created for schools to hold bond or levy votes.

The 98-page bill has the support of the Idaho Association of Counties and Idaho Secretary of State Ben Ysursa. It could receive a hearing Friday or Monday in the Senate State Affairs Committee, said Chairman Cut McKenzie, R-Nampa. Other provisions:

- All partisan races on the state, federal and county levels will be held in even-numbered years, while all nonpartisan races — city councils for example — would be in odd-numbered years.
- If school districts choose March and August dates for votes, they must pay for the elections.
- The bill doesn't affect same-day registration and

absentee ballots, and recall provisions. Sen. Chuck Coiner, R-Twin Falls, said the legislation would allow local governments to wrap their hands around elections in a more efficient matter and increase turnout. "It seems we should get together around that," he said. But the legislation, which has been proposed more than a dozen times, has historically stalled in the Senate. The State Affairs Committee includes Sen. Denton Darrington, R-Declo, the longest-serving senator, who has opposed consolidating election dates in the past. He said Tuesday he's unlikely to change his opin-

ion but is willing to listen. Darrington supported this year in committee a bill to tighten day care regulations, which in the past he had opposed. He said as long as the voting entity — such as a school district — brings enough publicity then the election should get enough of a turnout. "Some elections are held and those districts need to be autonomous out there," he said. Meanwhile, another hurdle for the bill to clear could be securing the \$3.1 million for funding. The bill would go into effect in 2011, which gives lawmakers some time to stew. Sen. Bert Brackett, R-Rogerson, who sits on

the joint budgeting committee, said he supports the concept and while he has concerns about funding, noted the funding doesn't kick in immediately. "It won't be implemented for (a year or two)" he said. "Kickin' the can down the road." Last year, 30 percent of registered voters cast ballots in the May primary, and 78 percent voted in the general election. Education groups told House members last week they opposed the bill, arguing the price tag is too high, particularly with school districts facing budget cuts. But the bill's backers point out that districts pay for their own bond and levy elections, anyway.

Blaine schools see positive results from dual immersion program

By Karen Bossick Times-News correspondent

HAILEY — Wood River Middle School students who have been in Blaine County School's dual immersion program for the past several years have a good working knowledge of Spanish, a schoolteacher said Tuesday. The students — many who claim English as their native language — would rank right in the middle of a bilingual scale of one to five, Wood River Middle School Dual Immersion Teacher Raul Vandenberg told the Blaine

County School Board. "They can read in Spanish. They can contribute to class discussions in Spanish," he said. "I never see them holding back. They could easily travel in a Spanish-speaking country or order something in Spanish." Half of the students now entering a kindergarten class in Blaine County are enrolled in the dual immersion program, which the district introduced several years ago, according to Superintendent Jim Lewis. At the elementary level, classes are equally divided between children whose

primary language is English and those whose primary language is Spanish. Each class has two teachers who take the class first through an exercise in English, then through the exercise in Spanish. Teachers read stories in both languages and students write and talk in both. Blaine County undertook the program after studies showed that students enrolled in dual immersion programs can surpass their counterparts in cognitive thinking. Dual immersion programs can also offer intangible benefits, like

increased self-confidence among Hispanic children about their ability to communicate, according to elementary teacher Juan Salamanca. The use of English and Spanish is split evenly in grades kindergarten through fifth grade, said Jean Bohl, Wood River High School's foreign language chairman. But it shifts to 60 percent English and 40 percent Spanish as students move into middle and high school and adjust to schedules with multiple teachers. Spanish is used, for instance, in language arts,

social studies and humanities classes at the middle-school level, and the science teacher is offering Spanish words for some scientific terms. Planning ahead before the dual immersion students enter high school allows the district to recruit teachers who are capable of utilizing some Spanish in their curriculum, Vandenberg said. "We don't want to focus too much on one subject area," he added. "We don't, for instance, want the student to graduate with Spanish vocabulary only in social studies."

Gooding School District adopts four-day week to save money

By Ben Botkin Times-News writer

Starting this fall, Gooding School District students will have four days of class instead of five. The district's school board on Tuesday approved changing the district's schedule to a four-day

week. The move is intended to save money and keep staff intact at a time when enrollment is dropping and state cuts are anticipated for the next school year. "It has been talked about a lot certainly in the last year but certainly in the last few years," Superintendent Heather Williams said. "I

think they just wanted to bring certainty to the staff. It's really going to take the community's support for this to work." About \$140,000 in savings is estimated for the district. Besides saving on costs like utilities, transportation and substitute teachers, district officials

hope to boost average daily attendance, which the state uses to determine funding levels. Students will have class from Monday through Thursday, with Fridays off. The district is still looking at how the four school days will be structured. Currently, the district has

early release on Fridays with four hours of instruction, so it's not the same as losing a full day of instruction, Williams said. She said that a recent survey indicated strong support within the community for a four-day week. The board's vote was split 3-2, with trustees Lois

Wartluft and Elaine Bryant opposed. Wartluft said she heard some concerns about students getting home later in the day after extra-curricular athletic activities and still having homework to complete. Others had concerns about finding child care on Fridays, she said.

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Western Days still in limbo

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

In 2008, Twin Falls Western Days ended up with a still-unpaid \$5,200 bill for police security from the city of Twin Falls.

As for 2009, the future of Western Days is in limbo.

Western Days organizers and the city police department are talking today in a private meeting about what would be needed for a parade. However, it's unknown if Western Days will continue at all this year.

Lisa Cuellar, chairwoman of the Western Days board, said people have approached her and expressed a desire to see the event continue after news broke that a lack of funding would end the event.

"My whole problem is because of the economy, people are tightening their belts as far as business owners in the area," she said.

Cuellar said it's possible that a trimmed-down Western Days — maybe just a parade — might happen. She expects to know next week if Western Days has the funding to continue this year.

The first invoice for the police protection was sent out about six months ago, and the city followed up



Times-News file photo

A float in the Western Days Parade makes its way along the route in Twin Falls in 2008. Concerns over funding have put the long-running festival and parade in limbo in 2009.

with a second invoice in February, said Sgt. Dennis Pullin of the Twin Falls Police Department.

"It has not been paid," he said.

Cuellar said that the bill hasn't been paid yet because Western Days' budget wasn't prepared for the city's decision to require police last year. If there's a Western Days this year, police security will be budgeted in and last year's bill will be paid off, she said.

In May 2008, the Twin Falls City Council decided

that a police presence was needed as a deterrent and for a quick response, Pullin said. In 2007, the department responded to 16 calls at Western Days, which included three battery or fight incidents.

The city didn't charge for the parade in 2008, but decided that \$5,200 was needed to cover 130 hours of overtime for additional officers at Western Days.

Assistant city manager Travis Rothweiler said the city will send another invoice and "take it from there."

The Southern Idaho Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Community Center's president, James Tidmarsh, said he would support efforts to have an event. The center has generated controversy with a float that was in last year's parade.

"It was my hope to be able to work with the board and smooth out some of those issues," Tidmarsh said.

Ben Botkin may be reached at bbotkin@magicvalley.com.

Police: Woman deposited meth with check at bank

By Andrea Jackson
Times-News writer

A Twin Falls woman allegedly tried to deposit more than just a check recently at a local bank, police say.

Police assert a Jan. 31 deposit by Twin Falls resident Tracie Walker also included methamphetamine.

Walker, 48, was arraigned Wednesday in Twin Falls 5th District Court on two charges of possession of a controlled substance.

She told the *Times-News* that she's innocent.

"I did see it in the drawer," said Walker. "I don't know where it came from."

Twin Falls Police say in court records that Magic Valley Bank on Main Avenue called authorities Jan. 31, after the alleged deposit.

"This customer wanted to make a deposit and when she placed her deposit slip and a check into the drawer, this bag of methamphetamine was stuck to the check," police wrote in court records.

The bank told police "the name of the customer who had made the deposit with the methamphetamine stuck to her check," according to court records.

Police assert the bag seized from the bank had .2 grams of meth in it, according to court records.

Authorities say Walker had .6 grams of meth in two other bags at her house, but she said she doesn't know how meth would have gotten into the bags.

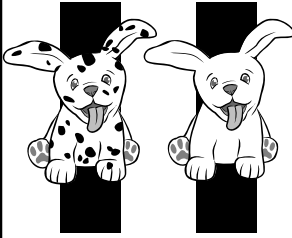
"I try to be a law abiding citizen," Walker said.

"I'm not out raping or murdering or selling drugs ... I'm being punished for something I haven't been convicted of."

She has a preliminary hearing set for March 20.

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FOR THE RECORD

Cassia County police reports for March 10

Larceny:

A 46-year-old man in Declo reported that his garbage can was stolen by PSI Waste Systems. The company claims it's their garbage can. The man claims it's his, and he'll try to find a receipt. According to the report, the man "is not wanting to file charges, but just wants his garbage can back."

Family dispute:

A 27-year-old Burley woman reported that she had been arguing with her boyfriend, 33, after he came home intoxicated. The woman said the dispute was entirely verbal. After her boyfriend discovered that she called the police, he "turned off the power to the lights at the trailer, then came back to the trailer, argued with

her some more, then left again, restoring the power to the trailer." No charges filed.

Abandoned vehicle:

A white 2000 Ford Escort with Arizona plates has been sitting at Smith's Repair in Burley "for several months." The owner didn't want to pay to have the car inspected, so he or she left it there. The car has been towed.

Burglary:

Two male teenagers were charged for burglarizing CAL-Ranch Stores in Burley. One of them entered wearing a red baseball hat and left wearing a brown cowboy hat valued at \$52. He purchased two candy bars. Despite a four-page police report, it remains unclear why the accomplice was needed.

— Damon Hunzeker

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OPINION

QUOTE

“Our nursing staff broke down in tears ... realizing they weren’t going to be able to help.”
 — An official at Wiregrass Medical Center in Geneva, Ala., after a gunman killed at least 10 people in two Alabama counties

EDITORIAL

Don't resurrect Western Days; reimagine it

Taking nothing away from the hundreds of volunteers and dozens of sponsors who made Western Days happen every spring in Twin Falls, but it is clear that the 27-year-old festival has run its course.

City officials said Tuesday that the annual three-day event, centered around Twin Falls City Park, won't return in 2009 because of a lack of sponsors.

Although attendance remained high last year for the Saturday parade and the concert in the park, Western Days has become increasingly less western and more commercial, alienating some families. Others stayed away because of rowdy celebrants in the park: Police have had to break up Western Days-related disputes more than 50 times since 2005.

And the Western Days Committee's handling of attempts by a local gay rights organization to be included in the parade politicized the event, and polarized the community.

That's a shame. The original small-scale equestrian festival was a truly grassroots event full of local character, not a generic celebration that could take place in any small city.

So what next? We'd like to see a wider community festival tied to something uniquely Twin Falls, like the new Snake River Jam — successor to Jazz in the Canyon — to debut in June. Or perhaps an expanded Independence Day celebration tied to the popular fireworks display on the College of Southern Idaho campus.

Or maybe even a retooled Perrine Bridge Festival, which celebrates BASE jumping in early September.

Whatever the format, the festivities must have a broad base of community support — financial and volunteer — from the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, local service clubs and major businesses such as Con-Agra, St. Luke's, Jayco and Dell.

It doesn't have to happen right away. Let's think through what we want Twin Falls' signature summer event to look like, line up financing, organize volunteers and do it right.

Western Days isn't the first big-name summertime community party to lose its way in southern Idaho. Boise's River Festival died for lack of sponsorship in 2003, despite drawing more than 100,000 spectators the year before. Its demise coincided with the contraction of Micron Technology, Albertsons, Hewlett-Packard, Washington Group International and Boise-Cascade — local firms that support events in the Treasure Valley.

Sponsorship money has gone to other, smaller events ranging from jazz to cycling to women's fitness.

That's a good model for Twin Falls. There are other ways to have fun besides marching up Shoshone Avenue.

Our view:

For all of the fun that Western Days brought to Twin Falls, it's time to move on to something else.

What do you think?

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



Government should buy bank stocks — and then some

Hope is in short supply during these trying economic times. Nowhere is this clearer than in the financial system. Since Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner's recent announcements, shares of the main U.S. financial institutions have imploded yet again. The Dow Jones industrial average keeps falling.

And to make matters worse, politics has decidedly entered into the process of economic policymaking, which makes it all the more likely that we will end up with the wrong policy response, one that is probably too late anyway.

Talk of nationalizations has become widespread, as if government takeovers were a panacea, further reinforcing the deadly spiral of fear and panic.

Already, this illness has spread to the global economy. It has ravaged the wealth of citizens around the world by about \$40 trillion, according to some estimates. This continuous wealth destruction has frozen consumers and companies alike, so the real economy is in a free-fall as well. How do we stop and reverse this process?

Here is a proposal: The



RICARDO J. CABALLERO

government pledges to buy up to twice the number of bank shares currently available, at twice some recent average price, in five years.

While the policy is about future (and unlikely) interventions, the immediate impact would be enormous. In particular, it would turn around the negative dynamics of stock markets, and it would allow banks to raise private capital.

The most direct effect would be an increase in the price of banks' shares, as the pledge puts a floor on the price, but the upside potential is huge once we get over the hurdle posed by this crisis. That is, buying equity from these banks would become like buying Treasury bonds plus a call option on the upside. By the strong forces of contagion, this rise would immediately spread to non-financial shares. Consumers, especially retirees, would see some of their wealth replenished; insurance compa-

Here is a proposal: The government pledges to buy up to twice the number of bank shares currently available, at twice some recent average price, in five years. While the policy is about future (and unlikely) interventions, the immediate impact would be enormous.

nies' balance sheets would improve; destabilizing short sellers and predators would be wiped out (as happened in Hong Kong in 1997); and we would have the foundations for a virtuous cycle.

The second, and reinforcing, effect would be the stabilization of the financial sector, as banks would possess the conditions necessary to raise private capital. Until now, banks have not wanted to raise capital because it would be highly dilutive at current prices. Potential investors have no interest in injecting capital because there is an enormous fear of further dilutions, especially through public interventions or, worse, outright nationalizations. A pledge to support the shares would reverse these dynamics and quickly recapitalize the banking sector.

How much would this cost taxpayers? Probably nothing.

It is unlikely that the

crisis will last five years, especially in the presence of an aggressive policy response, and most banks' shares are likely to soon trade for many times current prices. If the market prices surpass the government-pledged sale prices, there would be no cost to taxpayers.

There would be implementation issues, including how to customize to each bank's needs and the extent of the liquidity discount of the different portfolios.

But the market needs good news sooner rather than later. And there is no real reason not to try such a proposal — not unless the “cut off your nose to spite your face” attitude grows even more prevalent.

Ricardo Caballero is head of the Economics Department and director of the World Economics Laboratory at MIT. He wrote this commentary for The Washington Post.

Idaho's legislators depend on lobbyists to help them make informed votes

It's easy for an editorial writer to sit in front of a computer and “shoot from the hip” with opinions. The Times-News does a lot of that, as demonstrated with its recent editorial pertaining to lobbyists in the Idaho Legislature.

The Times-News is entitled to its opinion, but this editorial reflects little knowledge of legislators, lobbyists or the process.

The Times-News assumed that the House Transportation Committee's vote against a 6 percent excise tax on car rentals was because the



READER COMMENT
Rep. Jim Patrick

rental companies had a well-connected lobbyist fighting for their cause. The editorial writer uses that same assumption regarding the failure of the proposed beer and wine tax — dismissing the impact that a 246 percent increase the tax would have on the beer and wine industries in Idaho. From my standpoint, I

don't need lobbyists to tell me that the times are bad ... that businesses are closing ... that people are losing their jobs ... that this is not the time to raise taxes — especially on the businesses that provide jobs. Some people keep looking for politicians to come up with the magic formula for getting us out of this economic mess, but in my mind there are no political solutions. The answers lie with the entrepreneurs and businesses that have helped make the United States the greatest country in the world — not Congress or the

Idaho Legislature.

The Times-News seems to have the philosophy that any tax on a business or corporation is a good tax. I can't disagree more.

The bigger issue raised in the editorial concerns lobbyists, with the underlying message that the Legislature somehow would be better off without them. Again, I disagree.

It's true that lobbyists represent certain interests, or groups of individuals and that becomes transparent when they approach legislators on issues or testify before committees. When I

want to learn more about certain issues, I am undecided on a vote, I make it a practice of visiting with lobbyists on both sides.

What I learn often goes beyond the contents in legislation and I make more informed votes.

In a citizen's legislature such as Idaho, legislators do not have personal staff; committee chairmen have secretaries, but those secretaries do not research and analyze bills. In many ways, lobbyists serve the function of legislative staff — and it's a valuable service.

As with any profession,

there are some good lobbyists and some not so good. In time, legislators are able to identify both. As a whole, the vast majority are solid people who represent their clients honorably and speak well on the issues they are presenting.

The process would be a lot worse if legislators were “winging it,” or making decisions in a vacuum.

Jim Patrick, R-Twin Falls, has represented Twin Falls and Owyhee counties in Idaho's House of Representatives since 2007.

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF POLITICS

Doonesbury

By Garry Trudeau Mallard Fillmore

By Bruce Tinsley



OTHER VIEWS

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



... scenery vs. safety
Idaho Mountain Express

The massive infusion of cell phones into American culture was bound to create controversy in places like ours where civilization meets the Great Silence. Cell phones have provided electronic connections between people and services unknown to earlier generations. The earlier generations knew that if a tire blew out on their car in the middle of nowhere they would have to change it themselves or accept the help of a stranger to drive them to the nearest town where they could contract a wrecker to retrieve the disabled car. They also knew that if they became injured in the backcountry, it would be many hours, if not days, until help might arrive. The knowledge was just a fact of life in the Great Silence — and, rarely, of death.



Today, people drive with the idea that if the car's transmission seizes up, help is no more than a cell-phone call away. On major highways, that's more often true than not. But on scenic byways and dirt tracks, it's not always true. Today, many people explore the backcountry with the often mistaken belief that if they get in trouble, that help is just a phone call and a helicopter away. The controversy that has sprung up over a proposed 90-foot cell tower near Galena Summit inside the Sawtooth National Recreation area was inevitable. As proposed, the tower would be camouflaged as a tree, one very much taller than all of the real trees. The proposal ran smack into the SNRA's enabling legislation under which taxpayers spent millions to purchase scenic easements from developers in the center of what is arguably the

most beautiful place in Idaho ... Yet, the efforts of people who were driven to the bargaining table by an insistent U.S. Forest Service and who became willing to listen and work with people of unlike minds resulted in a use agreement that governs where snowmobiles may operate and where skiers can find utter solitude in the SNRA. A similar process could resolve the safety vs. scenery debate that's raging. Many issues and options exist that haven't been fully explored together by cell tower advocates, emergency service providers, protectors of the Great Silence, the U.S. Forest Service and the public. Negotiations are surely worth a try.

... use the Teton Dam money
Post Register, Idaho Falls

Wasting \$400,000 is bad enough when times are

flush. It's inexcusable when the state is so broke it's contemplating cutting education and human services. Last year, Idaho was swimming in cash. Lawmakers squirreled away \$1.4 million to look at raising the Minidoka Dam by 5 feet to store another 50,000 to 60,000 acre-feet of water and \$400,000 to assess building water storage — a dam — in the Teton Basin. The Minidoka project has been contracted. But so far, Teton's share hasn't been spent. Idaho's Department of Water Resources is waiting for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to provide matching funds. It may be a long wait. Nothing in the new budget bill just passed by the Senate is earmarked for Teton. So unless the Bureau of Reclamation wants to pull discretionary dollars out of its own accounts, Teton's next opportunity for federal help may not

come until Congress adopts the spending blueprint that takes effect Oct. 1. What could possibly turn up that we don't know already? Built in the early 1970s over the objections of critics ... the ...Teton Dam collapsed June 5, 1976. Eleven people perished. More certainly would have died if the dam failed at night rather than midday when the communities of the upper Snake River had time to respond. Compensating the region for its losses cost the American taxpayer \$400 million. DWR says the study would look at the entire Teton Basin, not just the dam site. But how can a \$400,000 study find a more suitable water storage location that a \$104 million federal project missed? ... Could Idaho's cash-strapped 2009 Legislature face any easier decision than this one? This is throwing money away. Cancel this project and spend these dollars where they will do some good.

familiar plight, but the political environment finally may be favorable to the fish. A federal judge has exhorted the region to save its iconic ocean-going fish for once and for all, and he's sending the right message. Let's see if a new White House and new regional lawmakers take up the challenge. We hope they do. This may be as fresh a chance as the fish will get. James Redden took a noncommittal position Friday when he convened a hearing in a Portland courtroom. The U.S. district judge has thrown out two federal government plans for salmon recovery in the Northwest. He has on his docket a third plan, a holdover from the Bush administration. Redden didn't drop any hints to the Obama administration — seeming to prefer a wait-and-see approach. Makes sense. We haven't seen how this new administration will try to save salmon, including the Idaho runs that have spent nearly two decades on the endangered species list. We want the administration to make the most of the opportunity. There's a chance to bring together agency experts, water users, Indian tribes and salmon advocates in an effort to move this issue out of the courts and move the fish away from the brink of extinction. Compared to its predecessors, we think this new administration will almost have to be more likely to heed Redden's call for consensus ...



... solving salmon
Idaho Statesman, Boise

Idaho's salmon face a

Time to put filibuster out of our misery

During a time when the nation will need a lot of legislation quickly, it seems absurd that the Senate binds itself to an obsolete supermajority rule requiring 60 votes to end a filibuster and force a vote. What's so magic about the number 60? Why should 41 senators — coincidentally the current number of Republicans — be able to block public policy indefinitely? It's not because the Constitution requires it. It's because of Senate Rule 22 on cloture, adopted in 1917 and changed in 1975 (requiring a three-fifths vote instead of two-thirds) — and it's merely a Senate tradition. (The House, which originally also practiced filibusters, found them cumbersome and, by 1842, eliminated them.) Once the Senate has a quorum, a majority vote on any issue carries the day, with five exceptions enumerated in the Constitution: impeachment, expulsion of members, veto overrides, confirmation of treaties and constitutional amendments. Otherwise, all that the Constitution tells the Senate is that it is free to make up its own rules. However, the Senate has its reasons for keeping a supermajority requirement, and here are two they will say out loud: It preserves fellowship among

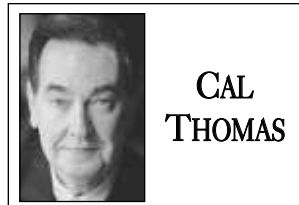
GEORGE KENNEY

the senators, and delayed legislation often results in improved legislation. But there are other reasons — perhaps more important to the Senate and not usually openly acknowledged: The senators like being insulated, when convenient, from the rough-and-tumble of national politics, and this rule helps spread the political risk on controversial decisions. They also see themselves as a sort of House of Lords — elite rather than democratic. But the question is whether Senate traditions and rules should be of greater importance than the country's welfare. Absent a strong demand for change, however, the Senate is unlikely to drop Rule 22. Nevertheless, with a 59-to-41 majority (assuming Minnesota's Senate race is finally decided in Al Franken's favor), Senate Democrats should suck it up and change the rule. Otherwise, they will bear full responsibility for missing this opportunity to move the country forward.

George Kenney, a U.S. diplomat during the George H. W. Bush administration, wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Obama's reckless decision on stem cell research

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step," said Confucius. But a journey of whatever length presumes one has a destination in mind. With President Obama's executive order authorizing expanded federal funding for research using stem cells, produced from the destruction of human embryos, the destination will be left up to scientists, as will any "speed controls." The sky, or in this case the depths, will be the limit. In the classical style of a brilliant politician, President Obama sought to invoke an ethical standard for his decision, while simultaneously denying a standard that might restrain scientists from going too far. He said that as a "person of faith," he believes "we are called to care for each other and work to ease human suffering. I believe we have been given the capacity and will to pursue this research — and the humanity and conscience to do so responsibly." The president didn't say who gives such a calling or who gave us such a capacity. In his carefully crafted language, we are supposed to believe God is behind this. Yet, David wrote of God in Psalm 139, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb ... I am fearfully and wonderfully made." And again in Jeremiah 1:5, the prophet quotes God, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you." Those and other verses would seem to trump



CAL THOMAS

not only science, but whatever "faith" the president has in such matters. President Obama wants a "faith" unconnected to anything outside of himself to advance his policy on stem cell research, but he appears agnostic when it comes to abortion. Apparently, Obama's "faith" serves his politics, not the reverse. This places science in the place of God, or ethics. Whatever can be done, should be done. Shifting moral sands will allow almost anything as soon as the public can be conditioned with images of a trembling Michael J. Fox, or an average American in a wheelchair pleading for the chance to walk again. The unborn have no voice except for those that cry out on their behalf. If science is to be supreme, why didn't Obama advocate for the advances made with adult stem cells that do not require the destruction of a human life? At first, some scientists expressed doubt

that adult stem cells would be able to achieve the goals they sought through embryonic stem cells, but now many of them think differently. My wife faced a rare ailment that was shut down after her own stem cells were harvested and re-introduced into her bone marrow following treatment. No life was destroyed and one life has been saved and enhanced. What will constrain science? The president says it will be up to the National Institutes of Health to come up with "guidelines" for the use of embryonic stem cells. He specifically came out against creating embryos for the purpose of human cloning. But the question is this, if there are to be no moral, ethical, or religious restraints on the initial experiments, why should

anyone expect them to be invoked later? One can only be a virgin once. After a moral or ethical line has been erased, it is nearly impossible to re-draw it. Removing restraints on stem cell research is another step on a journey leading us to a distant somewhere. Do enough people care that it might just be leading us not only to the destruction of more pre-born human life, but also ultimately to our own end?

Syndicated columnist Cal Thomas can be reached at tmseditors@tribune.com.

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Gov. Otter: Spend \$1.24B in stimulus; ed cuts still on

By John Miller
Associated Press writer

BOISE — For a governor initially reluctant to participate in the federal stimulus windfall, Idaho chief executive C.L. “Butch” Otter gave every indication Wednesday that he’ll eagerly spend \$1.24 billion through 2011 in hopes the cash will create jobs and boost the economy.

Despite the new money, Otter still wants to slash 5 percent from state personnel costs, leading to a cut of about \$100 million from public education in fiscal year 2010, starting July 1.

And he’d leave nearly \$200 million in education money in reserve, in case the economy sours further in 2010 and 2011. The plan to sock away so much is already raising objections from lawmakers in both parties.

Otter’s stimulus spending recommendations, which included \$408 million for health and welfare, \$260 million for public education and \$229 million for highway projects, didn’t mention any of the 1,095 suggestions, adding up to \$5.5 billion, that came from outside state government. Still, local water and sewer projects will likely benefit from millions pumped into state-run low-interest loan funds.

He praised three former governors and five former state budget directors for helping him quickly sort through thousands of proposals. Originally, the recommendations weren’t due until next week.

“These decisions are difficult, and I took them very seriously,” Otter said in a statement. “We don’t get any do-overs here.”

Otter’s budget chief, Wayne Hammon, planned to outline the recommendations Thursday to legislative budget writers on the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee.

Lawmakers will still have to approve the spending plan.

Aides to the governor declined comment Wednesday, saying Otter would meet with reporters later.

The biggest beneficiaries include the Department of Health and Welfare, due \$408 million through fiscal year 2011, and the state Department of Education, which under Otter’s recommendations would get \$260 million.

Still, the money doesn’t mean the agencies will be spared the budget knife.

Health and Welfare, for instance, plans to continue trimming welfare-related services including non-emergency transportation for basic Medicaid recipients and freezing payments for nursing homes.

And while Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna will use about \$85 million from the stimulus to shield public education from cuts in the current 2009 fiscal year that ends June 30, Otter would slash \$109 million from public education funding in fiscal year 2010, including \$47 million from the 5 percent cut in teacher personnel costs.

Following that plan would leave public schools with nearly \$200 million in reserves starting in July in

case the economy sours further, something Otter fears.

“Even this influx of taxpayer dollars from the federal government will be insufficient to keep education whole during our nation’s deepest recession since World War II,” Otter said.

As lawmakers were absorbing his recommendations, his plans for education cuts in 2010 — and holding on to so much money, just in case, appeared to be the biggest area of contention among Republicans and Democrats.

“I’m hopeful we can find a way to use some of those funds in 2010 and 2011” instead of stockpiling reserves, said Senate Majority Leader Bart Davis, R-Idaho Falls, following a meeting with Otter.

Energy Dept. sides with INL whistleblower

IDAHO FALLS (AP) — The U.S. Department of Energy has upheld a 2008 ruling in favor of an Idaho National Laboratory employee who said he was mistreated after filing a whistleblower complaint against the company that operates the lab.

The department issued its ruling Tuesday in the case of Dennis Patterson, a former 27-year employee at INL.

When he filed his whistleblower complaint in June 2006, Patterson was manager of employee concerns and business ethics for Battelle Energy Alliance, the contractor that runs the sprawling research complex

near Idaho Falls. Patterson accused Battelle managers of retaliating against him repeatedly after he filed the complaint. He said he was suspended, given a lower performance appraisal and pay increase and reassigned to another job.

A department hearing officer sided with Patterson last year and Battelle appealed.

Department officials rejected the appeal, ruling that Patterson proved he was protected from retaliation under federal law.

“The decision was just, but quite frankly, when an employee working with a DOE contractor has to go

through almost three years of retaliation and intimidation ... that is not justice in my view,” Patterson told the Post-Register.

Battelle must pay Patterson’s attorney fees, reimburse him for lost income and vacation time, and find him a comparable job within the company. Since 2007, Patterson has been assigned to an engineering department position he says he’s not qualified for.

The appeal decision becomes final in 30 days unless Battelle attorneys request a review by Secretary of Energy Steven Chu. Battelle attorney Mark Olsen said in an e-mail

message Tuesday that the decision is disappointing and that the company is not likely to appeal.

“We firmly believe that Battelle Energy Alliance did not retaliate against Mr. Patterson and that the evidence fully supported that position,” Olsen said.

Patterson told a DOE hearing that he became the ethics officer in 1994 and ran into problems in 2005 when he investigated the case of a construction worker who had his clearance privileges for the site revoked after officials said five criminal violations had been uncovered. That employee was a cousin of Patterson.

Pocatello high school teacher sells ad space on tests

POCATELLO (AP) — A high school history and economics teacher in eastern Idaho is selling advertising space to a Pocatello pizzeria on his student handouts, tests and worksheets.

High School teacher Jeb Harrison says he wanted to save money and teach kids about advertising.

The school recently cut back on paper allowances for teachers to prevent shortages. Harrison says

he approached Molto Caldo Pizzeria about two weeks ago and now he has enough paper to last through the next school year.

Pizzeria owner Dan McIsaac bought about \$315

in paper and paid to print advertisements on the pages.

At the bottom of an economics test in Harrison’s class, students are now reminded they can buy a 14-inch pizza for \$5.



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PET OF THE WEEK



“Dora,” a spayed female long-hair tabby was exploring with her family and journeyed safely to the shelter in hopes of finding a new home.

Thanks for supporting the “Furr Ball” fundraiser!

TWIN FALLS ANIMAL SHELTER
420 Victory Avenue
736-2299

Filmmaker conceals camera in prosthetic eye

Business 4

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

Dow Jones Industrial ▲ 3.91 | Nasdaq composite ▲ 13.36 | S&P 500 ▲ 1.76 | Russell 2000 ▼ 1.45

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2009

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

Bank stocks carry Wall Street to another gain

By Madlen Read
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Citigroup, its stock trading under \$1 just a week ago, cleared \$1.50. Other bank stocks rallied, too. The CEO of JPMorgan Chase said his bank, like Citi, made a profit for January and February.

Wall Street, which managed to avoid losing ground immediately after a big rally for the first time all year, held its breath. Were the banks actually be showing the

beginnings of a turnaround? No one was saying the financial crisis was over. But stock in Citigroup, JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo all advanced again one day after Citigroup's CEO surprised investors by saying the bank ran at a profit in January and February.

It was enough to carry the Dow Jones industrial average to a paltry but nonetheless significant gain of nearly 4 points — the first time since early February the average has strung

together two days of gains. Wall Street hopes a blitz of government efforts to repair the financial system may be starting to pay off — and it's fixes behind the scenes, not the headline-grabbing infusions of billions of dollars, that appear to be doing the trick.

For months now, the Federal Reserve and Treasury Department have been guaranteeing and buying corporate debt, paying interest on the cash banks have in reserve and purchas-

ing mortgage-backed securities.

The first sign that those efforts are starting to work may have come when Citi CEO Vikram Pandit said in a letter to employees that the bank expects to post a quarterly operating profit for the first time since 2007.

Why? Because banks don't just loan out money — they borrow it themselves, too. And when they can borrow more cheaply, as the government rescue moves have helped them do, the bottom

line looks a lot better.

"Cash flow will build up, like a river builds up in flood time," said Roy Smith, a professor of finance at the Stern School of Business at New York University, who said he thinks the banks could be on the road to recovery, barring any more market panics.

The good news from Citi fueled a 379-point gain for the Dow Jones industrials on Tuesday, by far the biggest market rally of the year. The average gained 3.91 on Wednesday — not much, but

good for the Dow's first two-day win streak in five weeks.

Citi was shaky enough that the government had to take a 36 percent stake and pump \$45 billion into its coffers. But at the very least, the announcement appeared to relieve fears that Citigroup is in imminent danger of becoming insolvent.

"I am most encouraged with the strength of our business so far in 2009," Pandit wrote.

See **BANK**, Business 2

Double-digit unemployment



Hundreds jam a hallway waiting to enter the National Career Fairs job fair event in search of employment at a hotel in San Francisco on Wednesday. Four U.S. states — California, South Carolina, Michigan and Rhode Island — registered unemployment rates above 10 percent in January and the national rate is expected to hit double digits by year-end.

Four states see double-digit jobless rates in Jan.

- Mich. 11.6%
- S.C. 10.4%
- R.I. 10.3%
- Calif. 10.1%

Sportsman's Warehouse in Twin Falls survives

Sportsman's Warehouse put more than half of its 67 stores on the chopping block — closing 23 locations and selling 15 to UFA-Cooperative United.

The Twin Falls location was one of the few stores that was unaffected by the company's recent efforts to reduce bank debt.

CEO Stu Upgaard, said the company is trying to avoid bankruptcy by reducing bank debt.

He said two Idaho stores — Pocatello and Nampa — will close their doors in the "next few months."



BIZ BITES
Joshua Palmer

Sun Valley developments to be lead by East West Partners: Sun Valley Resort has contracted with East West Partners to review plans for its new River Run property and White Clouds multi-family property.

East West Partners, which has worked on developments in North Lake Tahoe, Calif., and Vail, Colo., will serve in an advisory role to help develop the next phase of building, architecture and massing for both properties.

For the next several months East West Partners will be talking to Sun Valley residents, collecting information and input and doing its homework.

As for the developments being planned ... expect to be impressed, say officials.

Adding to the stocks of local interest: We added McDonalds Corporation and Intermountain Bancorp to the stocks of local interest.

McDonalds was added because people who worked with regional potato processors — both current and past — were heavily involved in profit sharing with the fast food chain.

Intermountain Bancorp is the holding company for Magic Valley Bank, and generated reader interest because of its participation in CPP.

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

Idaho remains below national average despite some business closures

By Jeannine Aversa
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Four states — California, South Carolina, Michigan and Rhode Island — registered unemployment rates above 10 percent in January, and the national rate is expected to hit double digits by year-end.

The U.S. Labor Department's report on state unemployment, released Wednesday, showed the increasing damage inflicted on workers and companies from a recession, now in its second year. Some economists now predict the U.S. unemployment rate will hit 10 percent by year-end, and peak at 11 percent or higher by the middle of 2010.

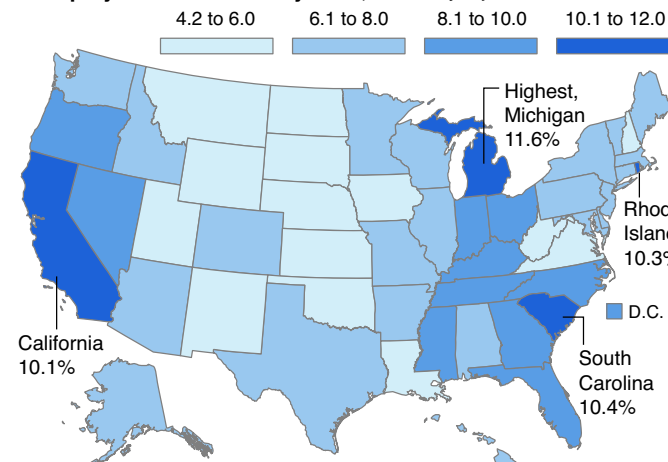
Idaho has remained below the average national unemployment rate despite significant layoffs at Micron Technology Inc. in Boise.

Idaho Department of Labor reported that the state unemployment rates was 6.6 percent

Unemployment state rates jump

In January, California, South Carolina, Michigan and Rhode Island reported double-digit unemployment rates — higher than the national rate of 8.1 percent.

Unemployment rate January 2008, seasonally adjusted



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

in February — well below the 8.1 percent national unemployment rate.

South-central Idaho reported

an unemployment rate of 5.5 percent in the Twin Falls area and 4.4 percent in the Burley area.

In December, only Michigan had a double-digit jobless rate. One month later, four states did and that doesn't count Puerto Rico, which saw its unemployment rate actually dip to 13 percent in January, from 13.5 percent in December.

California's unemployment rate jumped to 10.1 percent in January, from 8.7 percent in December, as jobs have disappeared in the construction, finance and retail industries.

Michigan's jobless rate jumped to 11.6 percent in January, the highest in the country. The second-highest jobless rate was South Carolina at 10.4 percent. Rhode Island was next at 10.3 percent, which marked an all-time high for the state in federal records dating to 1976. California rounded out the top four.

Forty-nine states and the

See **UNEMPLOYMENT**, Business 2

Obama administration to reinvent Mexican truck program

By Suzanne Gamboa
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration will try to reinvent a program to allow Mexican trucks full access to U.S. highways.

An 18-month-old pilot program that allowed a few Mexican trucks beyond a

border buffer zone died when President Barack Obama signed a sweeping \$410 billion government spending bill on Wednesday. The bill barred spending on the pilot program.

A spokeswoman for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Debbie Mesloh, said Obama has told

the office to work with Congress, the Transportation and State departments and Mexican officials to come up with legislation to create "a new trucking project that will meet the legitimate concerns" of Congress and U.S. commitments under the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Obama's nominee for trade representative, former Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk, is awaiting Senate confirmation.

The U.S. prohibits most Mexican trucks from driving more than about 20 miles, or 75 miles in Arizona, beyond the border. But the U.S. agreed to lift that ban after

signing the 1994 NAFTA deal with Canada and Mexico.

Canadian trucks have no limits on where they can go. But most Mexican trucks can't travel beyond a buffer zone along the southern border. The limits were imposed after lawmakers raised safety concerns. But Mexico has long called it an

unfair effort to protect U.S. jobs.

The previous pilot program allowed access for up to 500 Mexican trucks from 100 operators. It also allowed the U.S. to conduct inspections and other safety activities.

See **TRUCK**, Business 2

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|--------|---------|-------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|
| Con Agra | 14.01 | ▼ .57 | Dell Inc. | 8.98 | ▲ .22 | Idacorp | 21.58 | ▲ .03 | Int. Bancorp | 3.95 | ▲ .55 |
| Lithia Mo. | 2.75 | ▲ .43 | McDonalds | 51.03 | ▼ 1.57 | Micron | 3.20 | ▲ .32 | Supervalu | 14.38 | ▼ .11 |

COMMODITIES

For more see Business 2

| | | | | | |
|-------------|--------|---------|--------------|-------|--------|
| Live cattle | 82.55 | ▼ .32 | April oil | 42.33 | ▼ 3.38 |
| March gold | 910.40 | ▲ 14.80 | March silver | 12.82 | ▲ .26 |

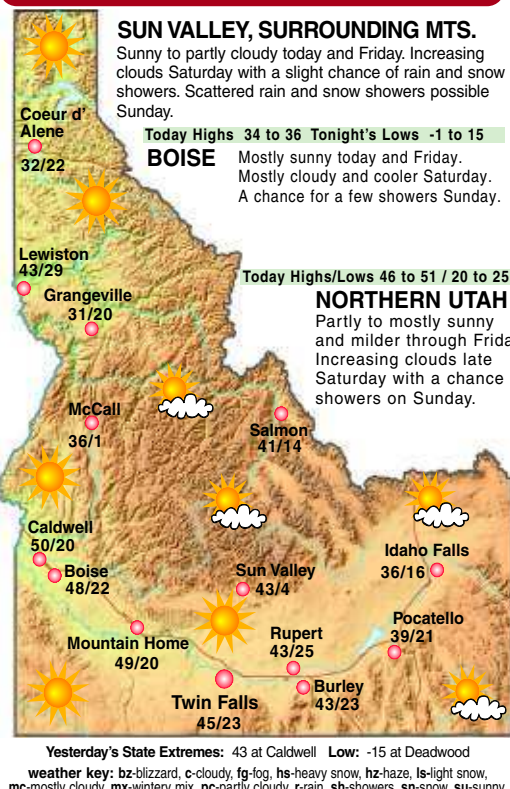
TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Mostly sunny. Near normal temperatures with highs around 45.
Tonight: Mostly clear. Overnight lows 20 to 25.
Tomorrow: A bit warmer under mainly sunny skies. Highs near 50.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Mostly sunny. Near normal temperatures with highs 40 to 45.
Tonight: Mostly clear. Overnight lows 20 to 25.
Tomorrow: A bit warmer under mainly sunny skies. Highs 45 to 50.

IDAHO'S FORECAST



TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 7 columns: Today, Tonight, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges (High/Low).

Yesterday's Weather

Table with 4 columns: City, Hi, Lo, Precip. Lists weather for various Idaho cities.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 4 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure. Includes sunrise and sunset times.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: Today, Tomorrow, Saturday. Lists weather for various regional cities.

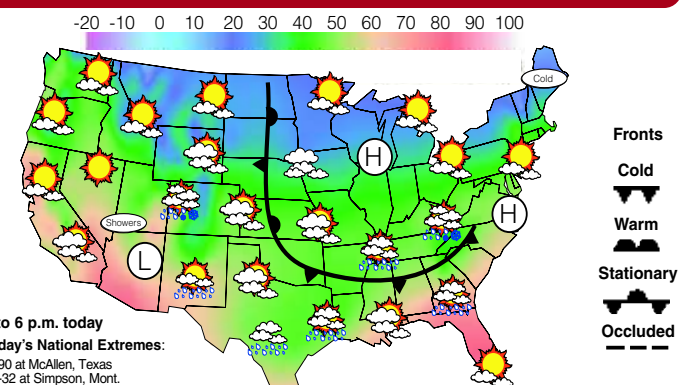
NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: Today, Tomorrow, Saturday. Lists weather for various national cities.

WORLD FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: Today, Tomorrow, Saturday. Lists weather for various world cities.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



CANADIAN FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: Today, Tomorrow, Saturday. Lists weather for various Canadian cities.

Advertisement for Gregg Middlekauff's quote of the day: 'Few things help an individual more than to place responsibility upon them and to let them know that you trust them.'

Highway crews busy clearing roads after Midwest snowstorm

By Dave Kolpack
Associated Press writer
FARGO, N.D. — Highway crews labored Wednesday to carve through snowdrifts that a blizzard piled up 10 feet high as hundreds of stalled motorists waited in bitter cold.



A huge sandstorm engulfs Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Tuesday. The storm disrupted flights at the city's international airport and closed schools.

Saudi capital covered in dust after sandstorm

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Residents of Saudi Arabia's capital are cleaning up after a huge sandstorm blanketed the city with a thick layer of yellow dust.

One-eyed filmmaker conceals video camera in prosthetic eye

By Holly Fox
Associated Press writer



Canadian filmmaker Rob Spence shows his prosthetic eye during an interview with the Associated Press in Brussels, March 4.

BRUSSELS — A one-eyed documentary filmmaker is preparing to work with a video camera concealed inside a prosthetic eye, hoping to secretly record people for a project commenting on the global spread of surveillance cameras.

will consist of a camera, originally designed for colonoscopies, a battery and a wireless transmitter. It's a challenge to get everything to fit inside the prosthetic eye, but Spence has had help from top engineers, including Steve Mann, who co-founded the wearable computers research group at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Canadian filmmaker Rob Spence shows his prosthetic eye during an interview with the Associated Press in Brussels, March 4.

AP photo

Advertisement for 'Going on Vacation?' promoting literacy donation. Includes text: 'Give the gift of literacy to the kids back home by donating your newspaper while you're away to Newspaper In Education.'



SILLY SKIING

Racers turn out for 'Classic' to raise money for Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation.

SEE OUTDOORS 3

Outdoors briefs, Outdoors 2 / Skywatch, Outdoors 2 / Community, Outdoors 4-5 / Obituaries, Outdoors 6

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2009

OUTDOORS EDITOR ANDREW WEEKS: (208) 735-3233 A WEEKS@MAGICVALLEY.COM

Simpson requests hearing on youth OHV sales ban

Says new lead law overreaches

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

Off-highway vehicles still aren't being sold to riders under age 12, but a move by Idaho's Republican Rep. Mike Simpson is giving hope that a decision banning sales will soon be overturned.

Last week, Simpson's office announced he sent a letter to House Energy and

Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman requesting an oversight hearing to explore the affects of certain mandates of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008.

The new federal law restricts the amount of lead in products for children younger than 12. On Feb. 10 it became illegal to sell the vehicles because parts of

them contain lead with levels greater than 60 parts per million.

Congress tightened lead limits on children's products after imported Chinese-made children's toys led to massive recalls in 2007 over concerns of lead poisoning.

"Simpson is specifically concerned that the implementation of the bill has now banned the sales of children's off-highway vehicles," according to a press release from

Simpson's office.

Idaho has the second highest OHV participation rate in the country with more than 100,000 OHV's currently registered and another 10,000 added to the registry annually.

While Simpson voted in support of CPSIA when it passed in the House, he said the new law overreaches. The original intent of the law was to prevent children from ingesting lead contained in toys, jewelry and other items.

"In this light, an exemption for children's OHV's would be prudent," Simpson said in the release.

John Dandurand of Crystal River, Fla., who contacted the *Times-News* by e-mail following a previous story about the ban, said his son's ATV has less lead than the power chair he must use to get around. His 11-year-old son Hunter has Recessive Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa, a

See **BAN**, Outdoors 3



KAREN BOSSICK/For the Times-News Nancy St. George skis recently at Sun Valley. Despite a thaw in January that melted much of the snow off some of the hills surrounding Sun Valley, downhill and Nordic skiing remains excellent. With the end of the ski season coming, skiers and snowboarders can find great deals at resorts.

End of ski season makes for good bargains

By Karen Bossick
Times-News correspondent

Sun Valley's loss is your gain.

The grand lady of America's destination ski resorts is limping through the economic slowdown, like all destination ski resorts.

Consequently, skiers and snowboarders can get some great bargains through April 12, when Sun Valley plans to hang it up for the 2008-09 ski season.

"Now is an especially great time to ski Sun Valley. You're never going to get a value like this too often," said Jack Sibbach, the resort's marketing director.

Snow conditions are excellent as Sun Valley heads into spring, despite a wacky winter that saw three weeks of 50-degree-plus temperatures on top of the mountain in January.

A burst of snow last week sugarc coated the mountain with prime midwinter ski conditions and the corduroy the groomers laid down on Tuesday was soft.

All the groomed runs are well-covered and there's still plenty of good bump skiing in the Bowls and other parts of the mountain, such as Brick's Island, and Upper Hemingway and Cozy.

"The skiing is just fabulous," said Ketchum resident Renee Kuross Tuesday.

Conditions are excellent, as well, at Sun Valley's Nordic Center where groomers have been tilling the snow with miles of corduroy ribbons that often get hardly a mark on them until mid-day.

See **BARGAINS**, Outdoors 3



DESTINATION: GOOSE CREEK RESERVOIR



Photos by JUSTIN JACKSON/Times-News

Above, a view of Goose Creek Reservoir as it appeared March 5. The 70-mile long body of water is located southwest of Oakley and stretches into the northern parts of Nevada and Utah. Top, a large ice sheet from Goose Creek Reservoir, blown to shore by heavy winds, lay broken and fragmented March 5. 'It took my hook, sinker — everything,' said fisherman Ira Coltrin, of Burley, who was fishing at the time the ice sheet crashed into shore.

Reservoir a nice getaway for fishermen

By Andrew Weeks
Times-News writer

OAKLEY — The road seemed endless. Perhaps it seemed especially long because it was a dirt road, which wound between farms, among cattle and eventually up a steep grade.

By the time we reached the top, however, we realized the trip was worth it.

The scenery — a larger-than-expected reservoir that stretched between rocky hillsides, with blue sky above dotted with cotton swabs of clouds that stretched farther and wider than the water — was not breathtaking. It wasn't the Everglades, after all. But it was refreshing — different

than the dry, cow-infested fields we had witnessed all morning.

It was last Thursday. My outdoors companion was *Times-News* photographer Justin Jackson. The reservoir — Goose Creek on the outskirts of Oakley.

We could have travelled farther, because Trapper Creek Road continued onward, down a slope and around a bend in the mountain. But we exited below the dam onto an access road that led down to the reservoir and one of its in-flowing streams, in an area known as Lower Goose Creek.

A lone fisherman, who had been at the reservoir since sun up, was reeling in a

See **GOOSE CREEK**, Outdoors 3



Ira Coltrin, of Burley, visited Goose Creek Reservoir on March 5. 'I had a can of corn and some marshmallows. So, just for the fun of it, I thought I'd come out here to see if I could catch anything,' he said. Though he didn't stay for much more than an hour due to cold winds, he said the trip was worth it, because he saw deer on his way to the lake.

A soft spot for versatile, multi-season, light weight REI tents

There is a soft place in my heart for REI tents. As a burgeoning backpacker in the early '90s, I bought an REI tent on sale for about \$150 and kept it for years, staking the two-person shelter out on dozens of trips around the country.

This winter, I tested a small backpacking tent from the company (www.rei.com) that reminded me of that original shelter. The REI Cirque ASL 2 is built for three-season use — spring, summer, fall — plus "light winter weather," according to the company.



THE GEAR JUNKIE
Stephen Regenold

Made for two people, the Cirque ASL 2 costs \$269 — not as cheap as my first tent years ago, but still a value. The tent, a two-pole design, sets up quickly and provides the bare bones essentials expected in a backpacking model plus dual doors and vestibules for

stowing packs and gear.

For transport, the tent stuffs down into a small cylindrical package that weighs a bit under 6 pounds (5 pounds, 11 ounces, as per REI's specs). On a backpacking trip, you can split the weight — one person carries the tent, the other the stakes and poles — and have a minimal haul on the trail but still a substantial shelter to share when you get to camp.

Don't expect to comfortably hang out for long periods

inside the Cirque ASL. You're not going to want to play checkers in there. The tent is made mainly for

sleeping, and it is cozy with an 88x56-inch floor and a peak height of 40 inches.

Two people sleeping in this tent will take up almost all the available space. On my recent trip with bulky winter sleeping bags, a friend and I filled its capacity width-wise in the shoulder area.

It snowed six inches one night on my trip. The heavy white stuff accumulated on the roof of this



See **GEAR**, Outdoors 3

COMMUNITY

Jerome

Covering the communities of Edén, Hazelton, Jerome

A new adventure



MARY HANSON/For the Times-News

Jerome Public Library's volunteer Used Book Store developer and manager Mary Johnson sits in the library recently.

Volunteer spearheads book store at Jerome Library

By Mary Hanson
Times-News correspondent

JEROME — What do you do when you retire and then lose the beloved husband and soul mate who shared in your adventures?

If you're Mary Johnson, you move from California — where you spent most of your adult life — back to your birth state of Idaho and closer to your son.

While Johnson's decision to return to Idaho and Jerome was rooted in family, the Jerome Public Library has also benefited from her decision. Johnson joined Friends of the Library, the

library's volunteer, support and fundraising organization.

Quickly she saw the need for a used book store at the library and found that the facility had the perfect spot for what is now called The Book Store.

According to Library Director Laura Burnett, "The small store has begun turning out \$100 profit per month which goes to the operation of the library."

Johnson says she has been volunteering about 30 hours or more per week in the months since she began setting up the store.

A visit to the store reveals

an array of books from paperbacks to hard covers on various topics. There are books on tape, large-print books and all categories from fiction to how-to manuals.

"We get used books from donations, other libraries, estate sales," Johnson said. "You name it, they come from everywhere."

"We have customers who leave here with boxes full of books," Friends of the Library volunteer Bill Portsmann said. "When they are finished with them, they donate a lot of them back."

It may be the prices that are generating so much business. Paperbacks sell five for

\$1, hardbacks are \$1 each and new hardbacks are \$2 each. At present, books on tape are available only on cassette but Johnson says the store will offer CDs soon.

"I've a back office just stacked with used books. I don't know of a subject we don't have books to cover and they are surprisingly up-to-date," Johnson said. "It's a small space and the turnover is high."

The Jerome Public Library is located at 100 First Ave. E., Jerome.

Mary Hanson may be reached at 208-944-4421 or mhansonmbd@aol.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Walk for Babies kick-off event held today

The annual Walk for Babies sponsored by the March of Dimes will be held May 2 at Twin Falls City Park. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the race will begin at 9 a.m. The walk will follow Shoshone Street to the Singing Bridge and down to the Rock Creek Canyon Trail and Rock Creek Park and then back to the City Park for a picnic and post-walk activities.

Anyone wishing to form a team should contact Cindy Beer, 737-2297 or 326-5363. Team captains will meet for a kick-off meeting from noon to 1 p.m. today at Pizza Hut on Blue Lakes Boulevard in Twin Falls.

Jessup, Bandolin on Eastern Oregon dean's list

More than 460 students enrolled at Eastern Oregon University for fall term 2008 have been named to the dean's list.

Students making the dean's list from the Magic Valley include Janet Jessup of Jerome and Norkamari Bandolin of Twin Falls.

To qualify for the dean's list, students must achieve and maintain a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale while completing a minimum of 12 hours of graded coursework for the duration of the term.

Lincoln lectures continue in Jerome

The Friends of the Jerome Public Library and the Jerome County Historical Society are sponsoring a series of lectures in honor of Abraham Lincoln's bicentennial.

The second of these, Lincoln's Environmental Legacy, is scheduled for 7 p.m. March 26 at the Jerome Library, 100 First Ave. E.

Boise State University history professor Lisa Brady will talk about a lesser-known aspect of Lincoln's presidency, his tremendous influence on the nation's environment. She will examine issues related to the Homestead Act of 1862, the ramifications of the Civil War and the end of slavery. This program is made possible by funding from the Idaho Humanities Council and is free to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Information: Lorna Irwin, 324-7544.

Area 4-H club meets today

The Handy Workers 4-H club in Twin Falls held its first meeting of the year recently which entailed the election of new officers.

The outgoing officers are President Benjamin Miller, Vice President Jonathan Bruce, Secretary Sara Graff, Treasurer Anna Graff, and Reporter Ashley Rivers.

New officers for 2009 are President Jonathan Bruce, Vice President Sara Graff, Secretary Rebecca Kelly, Treasurer Julia Martinez, and Reporter Christina Bruce.

The club's next meeting is at 6:30 tonight at Bridgeview Estates, 1828 Bridgeview Blvd., Twin Falls.

Open enrollment will be held at the meeting. Projects offered include: cake decorating and cooking with leader Diana Sweet; rocketry with leader Paul Graff; photography with leader Vicki Graff; knitting with leader, Samantha Graff; black powder rifle with leader Carl Sweet; art with leader Cheryl Bruce; quilting and advanced knitting with leader Mary Ann Alleman; and sewing with leader Renae Kelly.

Information: Diana Sweet, 734-5333.

— staff reports

Oakley Valley Arts Council installs board members

The Oakley Valley Arts Council (OVAC) held its annual meeting in December.

Denny Davis, Jolene Smith and Mary Wells were re-elected to the board, with Aaron Martsch, Joyce Merrill and Walt Robberson filling the remaining positions. Kent Evensen, Nick Greenwell and Burton Anderson were thanked for their service

whose terms were expired, decided not to run for another term and Anderson resigned due to time commitments. OVAC elections were held at the January meeting resulting in the following: Kent Severe, president; Gail Gillette, vice president; Gloria Muhlestein, treasurer; and Mary Wells, secretary.

The Johnson Memorial Scholarships will again be

awarded to two area high school seniors who have participated in the arts. The awards are for \$250 each.

The Johnson Memorial Scholarship fund is from donations in remembrance of Aaron and Gloria Johnson who were killed several years ago in an automobile accident. Applications can be obtained by downloading the application at www.oakley-

valleyarts.org, or from area high schools. Forms must be completed, returned and postmarked no later than March 25.

The next scheduled performance by OVAC is "Oliver," directed by Harlo Clark. Dates of the performance are at 7:30 p.m., March 26-28, 30, April 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, and 2 p.m. April 4 and 11. Information: 677-2787.

Wendell salutes PeaceBuilders

The following Wendell Elementary School students earned PeaceBuilder certificates and pencils for following the PeaceBuilders Principals of praise people, give up put-downs, notice hurts and right wrongs, and seek wise people:

Kindergarten: Carlos Villagomez, Lizette Cuevas, Edgar Camacho, Abby Rasmussen, Jaquelin Rojas, Karina Cruz, Alan Magana, Misael Juarez, Rylee Cutler, Michelle Solorzano, Remington Winnmill, Rigo Ocaranza, Aria Bruffett, Sinai Beltran, Seth Koch, Isaac Slade, Veronica Perez, Fatima Jaimas, Yadira Alvarez, Alli Tree, Ricky Gomez, and Victor Macias.

First grade: Julissa Linares, Eduardo Jimenez, Jason Perez, Orion Lesneski, Jesse Carroll, Maria Aguilar, Carmen Salinas, Diana Osuna, Milana Runser, Juan Jimenez, Lupita Teco-Garay, Ivonne Vasquez, Christian Rodriguez,

Ashley Newport.

Second grade: Cruz Orozco, Bryana Connell, Jorge Guadarrama, Carolina Castillo, Jaycob Francis, Reagan Talbert, Alondra Diaz, Celia De la Cruz, Katie Iniquez, Rigo Rodrigues, Emilie Hansen, Dillon Duran, Nadia Guadarrama, Sara Laub.

Third grade: Skott Hansen, Jackie Hollenbeck, Kymber Murphy, Chris Bernabe, Ignacio Barraza, Jacob Wilson, Ulisess Ortiz, Lupita Alvarado, Emily Lewis, Ivonne Castro, Adam Finley, Noelya Espino, Jaret Sargent Leticia Garcia.

Fourth grade: Abby Runser, Manuel Martinez, Mariela Mendoza, Zindi Lara, McKayla Dawson, Abrahm Ledesma, Ana Torres, Michael Mansisor, Edwin Connell, Hannah Hansen, Brandy Neace, Shayley Connell, Cassandra Gonzalez, Esteban Hurtado.



Every morning Wendell Elementary School peace-building students, Paloma Castillo and Itzel Martinez, prepare Mrs. Thompson's third-grade classroom for school by sharpening pencils, setting up charts and displays and turning on computers. Well-behaved Wendell Elementary School students were honored by Principal Kevin Rogers on March 2 at the school's monthly PeaceBuilders Awards Assembly. Courtesy photo

Birth control pills linked to blood-clot formation

DEAR DR. GOTT: My 24-year-old granddaughter recently had a stroke due to a clot because of her birth-control medication. She got fast treatment and will be OK, but now I am concerned about the other young women out there.

I have talked to several members of the medical community who say that this is primarily due to the medication, ortho-tricyclin. Manufacturers state that 5 percent of women taking it will develop a blood clot. To

me, this still means hundreds of thousands of women are at risk.

Please raise awareness about blood clots and birth control.

DEAR READER: Consider it done.

For many years now, gynecologists and physicians have known about the risk of developing blood clots because of birth-control pills. Any prudent physician will tell all potential users of the risks associated with their use, and it is



ASK DR. GOTT
Dr. Peter Gott

then talked to the patient to decide whether the medication is worth it.

As for ortho-tricyclin being the main culprit, I cannot comment because I am not a gynecologist and

have never prescribed birth-control pills. However, to the best of my knowledge, all hormonal forms of contraceptives carry the risk of stroke due to blood clot formation. These risks are higher if a woman is over the age of 35 or smokes cigarettes.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Contraception." Other readers who would like a copy should send a self-addressed, stamped No. 10

envelope and a check or money order for \$2 to newsletter, PO Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I had a mastectomy at the end of 2005. The drain was removed 30 days later. Following that, I developed a seroma. Subsequently, I had to have it drained about every three weeks. Then, in March 2006, I had a pulmonary embolism and was put on warfarin. I was advised at that time that I

had to continue it indefinitely because of a personal history of superficial phlebitis and a family history of related conditions.

To date, I still have a seroma, which must be drained once a month, and now my surgeon wants to do another surgery to see what is wrong. Have you ever heard of this problem?

DEAR READER: A seroma is simply a build-up of fluid that usually follows surgery,

See **DR. GOTT**, Outdoors 5

Conservation district names poster winners

Fifth- and sixth-graders throughout Cassia County had the opportunity to draw their ideas on how "Water is Life" for the annual Soil and Water Conservation District's poster contest.

The posters were judged on their conservation message, visual effectiveness, originality and universal appeal. All of the work was required to be completed by the student.



East Cassia Soil and Water Conservation district poster contest winner, Taylor Woodbury, from Declo Elementary.

Placers from east Cassia County were: 1. Taylor Woodbury, fifth grade, Declo Elementary;

2. Sydney Smyer, sixth grade, Declo Junior High; 3. Rachel Moore, sixth grade, Declo Junior High.

Honorable mention posters from east Cassia included: Gunner Adams, Kelsie Rushton, Sidney Wilson, Kaitlin Rushton, and Blakely Peterson from Declo Junior High's sixth grade and Shandler Kidd, Emily Belt, Alissa Fries, Jared Darrington,



West Cassia winners, Chrystal Godfrey, Erika Robinson and Xochitl Garcia.

Tori Simkins, and Tucker Briggs.

West Cassia placers were: 1. Chrystal Godfrey, sixth grade, White Pine Intermediate School; 2. Erika Robinson, sixth grade, White Pine

Intermediate School; 3. Xochitl Garcia, fifth grade, White Pine Intermediate School.

Honorable mention posters from West Cassia included: Taylee Mathis, Bethany Whitehead and



East Cassia second- and third-place finishers, Sydney Smyer and Rachel Moore, from Declo Junior High School.

Mariah Rasmussen from White Pine School and Jessica Hansen, Clayton Bedke, Lauren Woodhouse, Kyle Mitton, and Kyanna McKenzie from Oakley Elementary School.

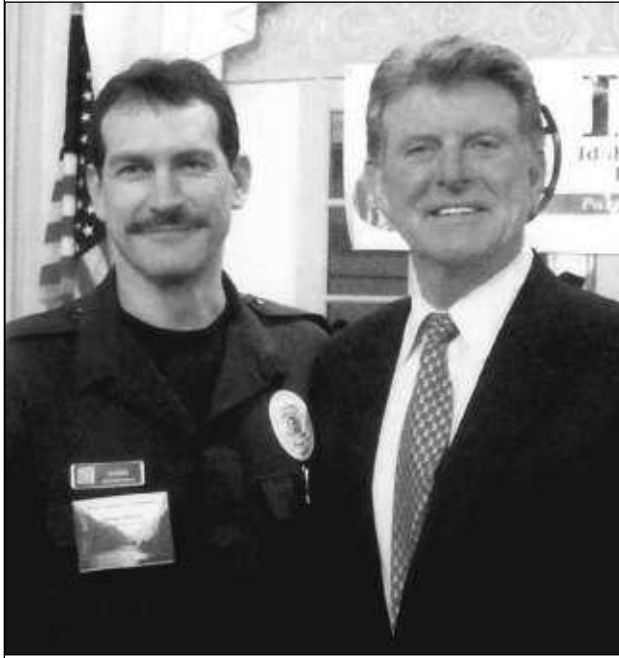
CHILI CHAMPS

Magic Valley Les Schwab Tire in Paul held its 10th annual chili feed Feb. 21, with 10 cooks entering their personal recipes in the competition. Pictured from left are Max Twiss, owner of Magic Valley Tire; Mark Martin, first place; Alesha Ketterling, second place; and Delbert Sutliff, third place. Those attending enjoyed sampling the entries, as well as cinnamon rolls and homemade root beer.



Courtesy photo

LUNCH WITH LAWMAKERS



Courtesy photo

College of Southern Idaho Law Enforcement student Jim Blasius, left, stands next to Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter during the recent Idaho Professional-Technical Education student day at the Idaho Legislature. Each year, Idaho vocational student organizations welcome legislators to a lunch that describes the function of professional-technical education at the secondary and post-secondary levels. Business and industry representatives and members of the Technical College Leadership Council also attend the event. Blasius was selected following a nomination process at the College of Southern Idaho during the fall semester.

5TH DISTRICT COURT NEWS

Recent activity in Blaine County 5th District Court included the following:

MISDEMEANOR SENTENCINGS

Chad Erwin Smith, 37, Hailey, possession of controlled substance, \$300 fine, \$282.50 court costs, 24 months probation, 180 days jail, 178 suspended; possession of drug paraphernalia, dismissed; battery amended to disturbing the peace, \$300 fine, \$150 suspended, \$72.50 court costs, 24 months probation, 90 days jail, 88 suspended.
Christopher D. Pothier, 31, Bellevue, harassing phone calls amended to disturbing the peace, \$1,000 fine, \$500 suspended, \$235.50 court costs, 180 days jail, 165 suspended, 24 months probation.
Yufre M. Astuhuman, 32, leaving scene of an accident, \$74.50 fine, \$75.50 court costs.
Carlos Palomera, 28, driver's license violation, \$68.50 fine, \$77.50 court costs.
Joshua M. Piper, 27, driver's license violation, \$68.50 fine, \$75.50 court costs.
Brent K. Wintle, 55, hunting or fishing without a license, \$26 fine, \$85 court costs.
Jose Sustaita-Aguayo, 24, open container alcohol, \$36.50 fine,

EDITOR'S NOTE

Jerome County 5th District Court records were unavailable at the Jerome County Courthouse this week.

\$75.50 court costs.
Martha Garcia-Hinojo, 29, driver's license violation, \$68.50 fine, \$75.50 court costs; speeding, \$33.50 fine, \$41.50 court costs.
Rafael Patlan, 33, driver's license violation, \$68.50 fine, \$75.50 court costs.
Alejandro Reveles-Aguayo, 19, open container alcohol, \$57 court costs.
Travis John Thelan, 36, open container alcohol, \$36.50 fine, \$75.50 court costs.
Alberto-Bolanos-Yanez, invalid license, \$68.50 fine, \$75.50 court costs.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE SENTENCINGS

James L. Wright, 50, driving under the influence, \$1,000 fine, \$90.50 court costs, 180 days jail, 172 suspended, 24 months probation, driver's license suspended 180 days.
Dennis A. Lyke, 37, driving under the influence, \$1,000 fine, \$400 suspended, \$330.50 court costs, 180 days jail, 170

suspended, 24 months probation, driver's license suspended 180 days.

CIVIL FILINGS

Ryan T. Davidson vs. City of Hailey and City of Ketchum. Dismissal with prejudice.
Idaho Capital Inc. vs. Robert E. Burns, for money owed. Judgment against defendant for \$333,383.57.
Action Collection Service vs. Deborah J. Miles, for money owed Sawtooth Diagnostic Imaging and Valley Pathology Assoc. Default judgment against defendant for \$799.39.
Pioneer Federal Credit Union vs. Christopher D. Pothier, for money owed. Default judgment against defendant for \$8,968.03.
Lubovski, Wygle, Fallowfield vs. April L. Wiesen, dismissal without prejudice.
AAA Rent to Own vs. John Robinson, dismissal without prejudice.
AAA Rent to Own vs. Laurie Robinson, dismissal without prejudice.
AAA Rent to Own vs. Levi Morton, dismissal without prejudice.
AAA Rent to Own vs. Amy Minar, dismissal without prejudice.
Credit Bureau of Twin Falls Inc. vs. Jason and Jamey Colter, for

money owed Wood River Family Medicine. Order to dismiss.

Anita Northwood vs. Ginger Kaufman, dismissal without prejudice.

Blaine County Collectors vs. Kelly West, for money owed King's, Blaine Count Fitness Center, James Azumano, Clear Creek Disposal, Blaine County Recreation District and Wood River Dental. Default judgment against defendant for \$5,066.82.

Blaine County Collectors vs. David and Sherilyn Haskins, dismissal without prejudice.
Brent Craven vs. Kimberly Larson and Kraig Alden Orchard, dismissal without prejudice.

DIVORCE FILINGS

Joey Petelle vs. M. Renee Petelle
Carolyn Gutches vs. Mitchell T. Gutches

DIVORCES GRANTED

Christopher R. Roebuck vs. Karen A. Roebuck
Douglas Abram vs. Heather Abram.

CHILD CUSTODY CASES

Melissa Marie Lewis vs. Lonnie Wayne Cole; ruling in favor of all parties.

MURTAUGH HONOR ROLLS

Murtaugh School District announced its first semester honor roll.

Murtaugh Middle School 4.0 to 3.5 grade-point average

Forest Adams, Rocio Alcantar, DeVon Andersen, Randi Cummins, Maida Damian, Angelica Gonzalez, Abbie Hepworth, KaeLee Rae Hepworth, Makayla Huizar, Andrea Hurtado, Mari Luz Martinez, Alejandra Pacheco, Kylee Perkins, Brice Wojcik, Brooklyn Worthington, Paige Worthington, Jeniffer Zavala.

3.49 to 3.0 GPA

Jaun Aburto, Karina Aguilar, Jose Aguilera, Adrian Cabral, Jorge Cabral, Ailja Cummins, Maida Frandsen, M. Patrick McConaha, Jose Miranda, Berenice Orozco, Victor Orozco.

Murtaugh High School 3.5-4.0 GPA

Luis Aburto, Takisha Baxter, Ashley Bridges, Miguel Cabral, Rodolfo Cabral, Sonia Cabral, Vanesa Cabral, Tyson Clark, Zach Cummins, Guadalupe Gomez, Hector Guevara, Daniel Hepworth, Isaac

Huizar, Raul Hurtado II, Filiberto Martinez, Fatima Miranda, Rosy Orozco, Yolanda Orozco, Humberto Pacheco, Trey Perkins, Alexa Stanger, Makenzie Titcomb, Corbin VanLeeuwen.

3.49 to 3.0 GPA

Kelsey Adams, Hayley Bridges, M. Lupita Zavala.

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SERVICES

Leona Peterson Carlson of San Antonio, Texas, and formerly of Burley, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Burley LDS West Stake Center, 2420 Parke Ave.; visitation from 10 to 10:45 a.m. today at the church (Rasmussen Funeral Home in Burley).

Dr. Bruce J. Bradley of Jerome, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Jerome LDS Stake Center, 26 N. Tiger Drive; visitation one hour before the service today at the church; graveside service at noon Friday at the Springfield-Sterling Cemetery in Springfield (Farnsworth Mortuary in Jerome).

Domingo Jimenez Sr. of Twin Falls, celebration of life at 2 p.m. today at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Addison Ave. E. in Twin Falls.

Gayle Mills Nielsen of Pinedale, Wyo., funeral at 11 a.m. Friday at the Pinedale LDS Church in Pinedale, Wyo.; graveside service at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Logan Cemetery in Logan, Utah (Colville Funeral Home in Pinedale, Wyo.).

Claude Ernest Boden of Ripon, Calif., and formerly of Burley, remembrance of life at 2 p.m. Friday at the Chesapeake Landing clubhouse on Red Sky Way in Ripon, Calif. (Eaton Family Funeral Home in Modesto, Calif.)

Charles R. "Bob" Larson of Rupert, memorial service at 11 a.m. Saturday at the United Methodist Church in Rupert (Hansen Mortuary in Rupert).

Yoneko Abo Kikuchi of Burley, memorial service at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Burley United Methodist church, 450 E. 27th St.; visitation one hour before the service Saturday at the church (Rasmussen Funeral Home in Burley).

David L. Dellett of Twin Falls, memorial service at 1 p.m. Saturday at the First Baptist Church, 910 Shoshone St. in Twin Falls (White Mortuary Chapel).

Henry E. Brothers and **James F. Brothers**, both of Wendell, joint memorial service at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Wendell Middle School; visitation and refreshments will continue until 4 p.m. (Demaray Funeral Service, Wendell Chapel).

Joe Anne Lucretia Reed of Hailey, graveside service at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Hailey Cemetery; visitation from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Wood River Chapel in Hailey.

Blaine Anderson of Twin Falls, graveside service at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Gold City Cemetery in Blackfoot; visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday at White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Sam O. Holtan of Twin Falls, celebration of life at 4 p.m. Sunday at the Turf Club.

DEATH NOTICES

Cecil R. Bowyer

Cecil Ray Bowyer, 91, of Twin Falls, died Tuesday, March 10, 2009, at Brookdale Senior Living Center in Twin Falls.

Arrangements will be announced by Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls.

Veronica H. Barron

Veronica H. Barron, 88 of Boise and formerly of Fairfield, died Monday, March 9, 2009, at Park Center Assisted Living in Boise.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date (Demaray Funeral Service, Gooding Chapel).

Lawmakers scoff at Obama vow to fight earmarks

By Paul Kane and Scott Wilson
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Obama's call to rein in the use of earmarks was met with derision Wednesday even from some of his past reformer allies, dealing an early blow to his attempt to change how business is done in Washington.

Obama signed what he called an "imperfect" \$410 billion measure to fund most government agencies through September. He used the occasion to criticize the more than 8,500 projects costing more than \$7.7 billion that lawmakers inserted into the bill and declared that "this piece of legislation must mark an end to the old way of doing business and the beginning of a new era of responsibility and accountability that the American people have every right to expect and demand."

Spending bill adds billions to budget

President Barack Obama signed a \$410 billion bill awarding domestic agencies increases for fiscal 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

But as he vowed to press Congress to shun earmarks in the future, a bipartisan collection of lawmakers said the proposals he offered Wednesday would do little to curb the practice and would do nothing to address the appearance of a connection between campaign contributions and spending programs ordered up by lawmakers.

While Obama cam-

aigned on a promise to bring reform to Washington, the reality remains that most lawmakers believe it is their constitutional prerogative to direct money to their districts.

Earmark supporters and opponents alike said Obama's words would carry little weight unless he also vowed to veto critical legislation that is full of spending projects.

"Absent a genuine veto threat, he's just spitting in the wind," said Rep. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., an earmark opponent who walked through the House chamber Wednesday carrying almost 100 pages of approved spending requests from a lobbying firm that is under federal investigation.

"I think they're completely out of hand, completely out of control. Most of them are driven by lobbyists," said Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., who as commerce committee chairman is quarterbacking much of Obama's agenda. But Waxman added that he is dissatisfied with reform proposals from Obama and Democratic leaders in Congress and that he will maintain his prohibition against seeking earmarks.

Representing less than 2 percent of the discretionary federal budget, earmarks have become a lightning rod for critics who say they

waste taxpayer money on projects that are requested more to win votes for lawmakers at home than they are for their merits.

The connection between earmark recipients and the lobbyists who made campaign donations to lawmakers to secure their passage was central to criminal investigations that landed former lobbyist Jack Abramoff and former congressman Randall "Duke" Cunningham, R-Calif., in federal prison.

"The problem is not earmarks, the problem is secrecy which led to abuses in the past," said Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Obama and congressional Democratic leaders offered a proposal that would require lawmakers to publish on their Web sites all requests they make to the appropriations committees.

SHOOTING RAMPAGE IN ALABAMA



AP photo

Josh Myers, left, a deputy with the Geneva County Sheriff's department whose wife and daughter were killed in a Tuesday shooting in Samson, Ala., is consoled by a friend, Wednesday in Samson.

Deputy chasing gunman loses wife, daughter

By Jessica Gresko and Desiree Hunter
Associated Press writer

SAMSON, Ala. — Deputy Joshua Myers was headed home in his police cruiser when he got a call that officers were chasing a man who'd fired on a trooper.

Myers joined in the pursuit of a gunman who turned out to be responsible for the worst mass shooting in Alabama's history, arriving at a metals plant where officers exchanged gunfire with the shooter Tuesday.

Myers thought of his young family and called a friend to check on them. The friend told him simply: "Get home now."

That was the first indication that Myers' own wife and daughter were among the 10 people Michael McLendon killed before taking his own life.

Andrea D. Myers, 31, and 18-month-old Corrine Gracy Myers were gunned down while visiting neighbors across the street.

The deputy hasn't been allowed back to that blood-soaked porch. Now he's left to care for a young son and his 4-month-old daughter, Ella Grace, who was injured in the shooting. She was in fair condition at a Florida hospital, awaiting surgery for a leg wound.

"It still seems like I should be able to walk in the house and my wife should be there and my baby girl should be in there climbing on me," Myers said Wednesday, the morning after the shootings. He did not know the shooter. "I never in my life am gonna be able to fully understand it."

Andrea and Corrine

Myers died alongside McLendon's uncle and two of his cousins, on the porch next door to McLendon's grandmother, who also was killed.

A witness said they had no time to react as their kin wordlessly and expressionlessly pulled the trigger, killing all of them.

The hourlong rampage began when he killed his mother and set her house ablaze, and he would kill three others seemingly at random and spray more than 200 bullets before shooting himself at the Reliable Metals plant in Samson.

Puzzled investigators found several clues as to what set off the rampage in these rural communities near the Florida state line — but the people who might be able to explain are all dead. Authorities hoped a list found in the charred skeleton of McLendon's home might give them insight into what happened.

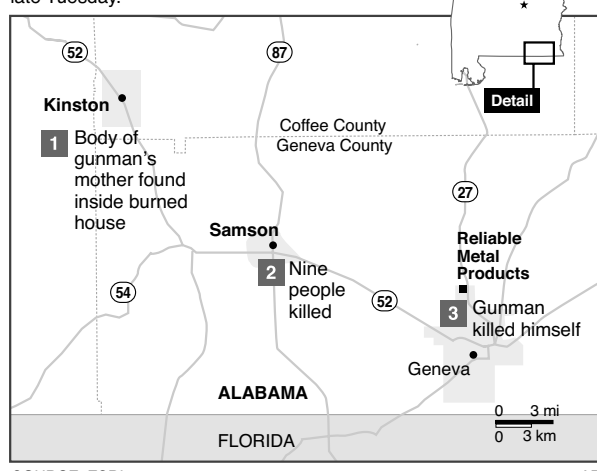
"We found a list of people he worked with, people who had done him wrong," said Coffee County District Attorney Gary McAliley.

The lists included a metals plant that had forced him to resign years ago and where he ended up killing himself Tuesday to end the rampage, McAliley said. Also on the list were a sausage factory from which he suddenly quit last week and a poultry plant that suspended his mother, McAliley said.

The pages torn from a spiral notebook included names of co-workers who he felt had wronged him, including one who reported him for not wearing earplugs, another who made him clean a meat grinder

Gunman's path

Ten people and their assailant are dead following a rampage across a mostly rural area in Alabama late Tuesday.



SOURCE: ESRI AP

and a supervisor who didn't like the way he cut pork chops, McAliley said.

A co-worker at the sausage factory, Jerry Hysmith, said McLendon was shy, quiet and laid-back.

McLendon was briefly employed by the police department in Samson in 2003 and spent about a week and a half at the police academy, dropping out before he received firearms training, said Col. Chris Murphy, director of the Alabama Department of Public Safety. More recently, he worked nearly two years at food manufacturer and distributor Kelley Foods in Elba, about 25 miles north of where he shot most of his victims.

The company didn't specify what his position was, but said in a statement that he was a "reliable team leader" who was well-liked. McLendon quit last Wednesday.

Though Kelley Foods said he left voluntarily, the company was on the list of those the gunman felt slighted by, McAliley said. So was the Reliable plant, and a Pilgrim's Pride plant near Enterprise where his mother had worked. The district attorney said the mother had recently been laid off from the plant.

The other victims were identified as McLendon's mother, Lisa McLendon, 52; his uncle, James Alford White, 55; his cousin, Tracy Michelle Wise, 34; a second cousin, Dean James

Wise, 15; and his grandmother, Virginia E. White, 74. Also killed were James Irvin Starling, 24; Sonja Smith, 43; and Bruce Wilson Malloy, 51.

The first killed Tuesday was McLendon's mother. Authorities said he put her on an L-shaped couch and set her afire. He said McLendon also shot four dogs at the house.

A dozen miles away, he gunned down the other relatives and sent panicked bystanders fleeing and ducking behind cars. His uncle's wife, Phyllis White, sought refuge at a neighbor's house after being chased out of her house.

McLendon returned moments later in his car as if he were still looking for her. Neighbor Tom Knowles then made eye contact with him. "He had cold eyes. There was nothing. I hollered at him. I said, 'Look, boy, I ain't done nothing to you,'" Knowles said. McLendon then left for good.

McLendon shot more victims at random as he drove toward the metals plant where he once worked. Smith was struck down as she walked out of a gas station. Malloy was hit while driving. Starling was shot as he walked.

At the Reliable plant, McLendon got out of his car and fired at police with his assault rifle, wounding Geneva Police Chief Frankie Lindsey, authorities said. He then walked inside and killed himself.

Germans charge U.S. immigrant with Nazi war crimes

The Washington Post

German prosecutors said Wednesday they have issued an arrest warrant for an 88-year-old retired autoworker in Ohio, charging him with complicity in the murder of thousands of people at a Nazi death camp six decades ago.

Prosecutors in Munich charged John Demjanjuk, a native Ukrainian who emigrated to the United States in 1952, with 29,000 counts of accessory to murder. U.S. and German authorities allege that Demjanjuk worked in 1943 as a Nazi guard at the Sobibor concentration camp in what is present-day Polish territory.

If Demjanjuk is transferred to Munich, his case could mark Germany's final major Nazi war-crimes trial. Although authorities say they are pursuing other targets, the few former Nazis still alive are in their 80s or 90s, raising doubts about their fitness to stand trial.

Demjanjuk's family has maintained his innocence and argued that he is suffering from kidney and blood disorders, and is too ill to survive the rigors of a lengthy prosecution in another country.

Ex-Saddam officials get prison time

Los Angeles Times

BAGHDAD — Tariq Aziz, who once represented Saddam Hussein's Iraq to the world, was sentenced to 15 years in prison Wednesday for his involvement in the 1992 killing of 42 merchants accused of price-fixing.

The court found Aziz guilty of premeditated murder and crimes against humanity. It was the first conviction for the one-time foreign minister and deputy premier; last week the Iraq High Tribunal dismissed charges against him regarding Saddam's crushing of a 1999 Shiite uprising.

The case focused on the execution of the 42 merchants who were killed by Saddam's regime for allegedly planning a dramatic increase in food prices in 1992, when the country was suffering the harsh effects of U.N. trade sanctions.

Saddam's first cousin, Ali Hassan al-Majid, known as Chemical Ali for his use of chemical weapons against Kurdish populations in the late 1980s, received a 15-year sentence as well.

Teenager kills 15 in Germany before taking own life

By Vanessa Gera
Associated Press writer

WINNENDEN, Germany — The 17-year-old had no criminal record and authorities say he was barely noticed in school until he returned Wednesday with a handgun and a purpose.

Entering the high school where he graduated last year, he burst into morning classes and opened fire, taking students and teachers by complete surprise.

"Children were sitting at their tables, with pencils still in their hands, their heads fallen over on the table," said regional police director Ralf Michelfelder, describing the grisly scene that his officers found. "Most of them had shots in their head — it must have all happened in seconds."

Police identified the gunman only as Tim K. But the name on the mailbox at his parent's home was Kretschmer and local media identified him as Tim Kretschmer.

The suspect went to three classrooms, killing 9 students and three teachers before fleeing the building when police arrived on the scene.

It was there the plan seemed to break down.



Pupils place flowers and candles in front of the Albertville school in Winnenden near Stuttgart, southern Germany, on Wednesday.

Police said he left a cache of ammunition at the school, indicating that he had planned more killings there.

"Our officers were very quick," said Baden Wuerttemberg state interior minister Heribert Rech. "Through the immediate police intervention they were able to prevent a further escalation of the crime."

There was no immediate

indication of motive, but the gunman's victims were primarily female: eight of nine students killed were girls, and all three teachers were women. Three men were killed later as the suspect fled.

Friend Fabienne Boehm, 12, said she recently met the shooter and that he had claimed fellow students at the high school had mocked him and teachers

there ignored him.

Three weeks ago, she said he showed her a note. "He wrote to his parents that he's suffering and he can't go on," she told the AP outside a memorial service at a town church late Wednesday.

A 17-year-old who would give only his first name, Aki, said he had been studying this year with the shooter at a private business school, and described him as a



SOURCE: ESRI AP

people walking by a psychiatric clinic, killing one and injuring the other, police said.

The gunman then hijacked a car and forced the driver to head south while threatening his life from the back seat, triggering a land and air manhunt involving 700 police officers and four helicopters, according to Stuttgart prosecutors, who are leading the investigation.

The driver swerved off the road to avoid a police checkpoint and managed to escape, while the suspect fled into an industrial area in the town of Wendlingen, about 24 miles from Winnenden.

He entered a car dealership, where he shot and killed his final victims — a salesman and a man shopping for a car — and then went back outside, prosecutors said.

He opened fire on police swarming the area. They shot back and hit the suspect, who fell to the ground, Michelfelder said.

But he got back up, reloaded his weapon, and fled into what turned out to be a dead-end street. Police found him there dead, having apparently shot himself in the head.



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CSI softball, baseball teams have big guns in SWAC 'arms race'

CIRCLE COMPOSURE

BACK TO THE MOUND



ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

College of Southern Idaho softball pitcher Generra Nielson is off to a strong start in her freshman season.

CSI freshman pitcher Nielson standing tall against nation's best

By Bradley Guire
Times-News writer

Generra Nielson doesn't give in to pressure when she steps in the chalk circle.

Rather, the College of Southern Idaho freshman pitcher thrives under it.

"I kind of like to work under pressure," Nielson said.

The coaching staff saw that much last season. Nielson, who is from Blanding, Utah, led her high school team, the San Juan Broncos, to Utah's Class 2A state championship.

"Knowing that she won that state title and was 2A state player of the year, that gave us an idea of what we have," CSI head coach Nick Baumert said.

Now that she's at CSI, Nielson has wasted no time establishing her presence on this Golden Eagle squad, compiling a 9-2 record with a 1.67 ERA in 75.1 innings pitched while playing against some of the toughest junior college programs in the country. She's struck out 65 batters and held opponents' batting average to .245. The only SWAC pitcher with comparable numbers across as many innings is Salt Lake Community College's Sarah Clark (1.68 ERA in 62.2 innings).

Composure in the circle is just as important as hitting spots when it comes to pitching, and Nielson can at times be one of the calmest hurlers out there.

"I try to keep a poker face as much as I can," she said. "I'm always smiling so it's hard to keep serious. But I don't get too flustered when I'm on the mound and bases are loaded."

Her confidence in her teammates in the

See **NIELSON**, Sports 4

CSI SOFTBALL ON DECK

This weekend's doubleheader: No. 13 College of Southern Nevada (19-6, 16-4 SWAC) at No. 27 CSI (20-10-2, 13-5 SWAC); 1 p.m., Friday; noon, Saturday

Last time they met: The Golden Eagles won three games of a weekend series against the Coyotes last April, sweeping the first day with victories of 6-5 and 3-2 then splitting the final day with a 7-1 victory and a 7-6 loss in extra innings.

Nick's notes: "What we've been keying on last week and what we have been this week is just playing good, solid defense. When a team gives us outs, we need to take those outs, whether they're little pop fly fouls balls, running mistakes or something like that. We need to make sure we don't give outs away by not taking care of those opportunities. ... Obviously, have to score runs to win, so we need to keep hitting the ball the way we have been."
— CSI head coach Nick Baumert

On deck: The Golden Eagles will host Colorado Northwestern Community College (0-18, 0-18 SWAC) next week.

CSI SEASON LEADERS

Batting — Average (minimum 100 at bats): Ashley Chappel .452. **Hits:** Chappel 47, Megan Zimmerman 47. **2B:** Zimmerman 10. **3B:** Zimmerman 3, Cassi Merrill 3. **HR:** Zimmerman 14. **RBI:** Zimmerman 54. **Runs:** Zimmerman 51. **BB:** Merrill 12. **SB:** Zimmerman 15.
Pitching — Record: Generra Nielson 9-2. **SV:** none. **ERA (minimum 50 innings):** Nielson 1.67. **Innings pitched:** Nielson 75.1. **CG:** Nielson 11. **Shutouts:** Nielson 4. **SO:** Nielson 65. **Opponents' average (minimum 50 innings):** Nielson .245.

See **T.F.**, Sports 4



ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

College of Southern Idaho pitcher and first baseman Trent Johnson is back this season after having nerve surgery on his right elbow.

CSI's Johnson hoping to pitch again after recovery from nerve surgery

By David Bashore
Times-News writer

College of Southern Idaho sophomore Trent Johnson sat in a plastic chair in the bathroom area of the CSI clubhouse, his right arm enveloped in an ACE bandage and strapped to a machine designed to both stimulate the arm and deaden any pain therein.

His treatment done, the Idaho Falls product bundled himself up and headed out into the breezy, bitter 35-degree cold for a bullpen session. The words Johnson uttered just minutes before heading to the pen: "I hope this is the week," seemed to resonate louder and louder with each pitch that popped into catcher Remington Pullin's glove.

His comments were a hint at the payoff for taking a long, hard road back to the hill — 2 1/3 early-season innings in the 80-odd-degree Southwest heat notwithstanding, Johnson hasn't taken the mound in meaningful competition in nearly two years.

The bullpen session went well, CSI head coach Boomer Walker said, with the righty throwing at about 70 percent. That may be enough for an inning here or there to start, he added, but this could indeed be the week Johnson returns to the hill in front of the home crowd.

The last time CSI fans saw Johnson on the mound at Skip Walker Field, it was late in the 2007 season. A freshman at the time, he was polishing off a season-long effort that would net him all-conference honors as a closer.

A three-sport athlete at Idaho Falls High

See **JOHNSON**, Sports 4

CSI BASEBALL ON DECK

This week's doubleheader: Western Nevada College (12-8, 6-2 SWAC) vs. CSI (9-12, 3-5), 1 p.m., Friday; noon, Saturday

WNC last week: 2-2 at College of Southern Nevada (L 8-5, L 5-1, W 7-4, W 2-0)

CSI last week: 2-2 at Salt Lake CC (L 5-4, W 7-3, L 4-3, W 11-4)

Last meeting: WNC eliminated CSI from the Region 18 Tournament with a 12-4 win on May 9, 2008.

About the Wildcats: WNC was the preseason favorite to win the Scenic West Athletic Conference, and so far the Wildcats haven't disappointed. Outfielder Lance Ray leads the SWAC with a .455 batting average, five home runs and 24 RBI. Brian Barnett, co-Player of the Year last year in the SWAC, also returns and has clubbed four round-trippers.

Boomer's breakdown: "Offensively they're real good, and pitching-wise we expect them to be solid. We're excited to play at home, and we know we're going to have to fight it out."

CSI notes: Tyler Chism, the second-leading hitter in the SWAC, said Tuesday his hamstring felt "a lot better" and he hopes to be near 100 percent this weekend. ... Friday's opening game is the first of 10 straight home games for CSI, which played 17 of its first 21 away from Skip Walker Field. ... Sam Armstrong, the Saturday Game 2 starter, is third in the SWAC with a 1.41 ERA, tops among starting pitchers.

INSIDE

Find out who season leaders are for the Golden Eagles.

See **Sports 4**

T.F. baseball team opens 2009 campaign

By Bradley Guire
Times-News writer

Despite losing a talented group to graduation in 2008, the Twin Falls baseball team has the expectation to win another region title and head back to the state tournament. Last year's group, including graduated players like Kasey Jerou and Remington Pullin — now on the CSI roster — won 25 games, the Region Four-Five-Six championship and the Class 5A state consolation trophy.

squad appears to be the pitching staff, according to first-year head coach Tim Stadelmeir.

"We're looking for our pitching to keep us in games," he said. "Our pitching staff is one of the best I've seen, depth-wise, that I've seen in the past seven or eight years that I've been here."

The Bruins return pitchers Jacob Coats and Zeb Sneed to the mound, where they'll start games along with sophomore Cy Sneed and

See **T.F.**, Sports 4

Despite roster questions, Minico aims to keep winning

By Ryan Howe
Times-News writer

Many of the names and faces have changed, but the expectation remains the same for Minico baseball: Win.

And we're not just talking about staying above .500 and vying for a conference title, either. Those goals would be as anticlimactic to Minico as Evel Knievel jumping a bicycle over a curb.

The Spartans' one and only focus is to win a



state title. In head coach Ben Frank's six seasons as Minico's baseball coach, the Spartans have a .793 winning percentage (142-37) and five state tournament trophies, including

See **MINICO**, Sports 4

WAC will consider Vegas for future tourneys

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The Western Athletic Conference will consider moving the league's postseason basketball tournament to Las Vegas in the future based partly on some schools' desire to play at a neutral site, WAC Commissioner Karl Benson said.

Benson said there has been a strong push to do away with a home court advantage, like the one the Nevada Wolf Pack will enjoy this week and at next year's WAC tourney in Reno.

Salt Lake City and Las Vegas have been considered

INSIDE

Complete men's tournament schedule.

See **Sports 4**

as possible neutral sites in the past and Vegas has bolstered its chances thanks to the success of the recently concluded West Coast Conference tourney at the Orleans Arena, he said.

"I'm really impressed," said Benson, who attended the WCC title game in Las Vegas between Gonzaga and Saint Mary's.

See **WAC**, Sports 4

B.C. By Johnny Hart

HEY, PETER, DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?
 I'D SAY IT'S ABOUT 11:53 AND 32 SECONDS.
 WOW! HOW ARE YOU ABLE TO PULL THAT OFF?
 GULLIBILITY, MOSTLY.

Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT YOU CAN'T GROW UP TO BE A KOMODO DRAGON, HAMMIE.
 BUT YOU CAN BECOME A HERPETOLOGIST AND STUDY KOMODO DRAGONS! HOW DOES THAT SOUND?
 BUT I WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO HAVING DEADLY SALIVA AND RAZOR-SHARP TEETH!
 I'VE SMELLED YOUR BREATH. YOU'RE ONE FOR TWO.

Beetle Bailey By Mort Walker

THIS IS A TOUGH TIME FOR SARGE. WHY?
 THERE'S NOT MUCH ON BETWEEN THE SUPER BOWL AND MARCH MADNESS.
 UM-OH! HE SANK THE 8-BALL IN THE SIDE POCKET!

Blondie By Dean Young & Stan Drake

WE'RE PLANNING A COMPANY PICNIC AND WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THERE ARE PLENTY OF RADISHES IN THE SALAD!
 THAT'S RIGHT! LOTS AND LOTS OF RADISHES!
 OH, AND ALSO, SOME EXTRA PLATTERS HERE AND THERE, LOADED WITH NICE, CRISP RADISHES.
 YES, FRESH BRIGHT RED RADISHES.
 YOUR COMPANY WOULDN'T BE IN THE RADISH BUSINESS, WOULD IT?
 WHY, AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT IS!
 WOULD YOU LIKE A COMPLIMENTARY HANDFUL?

Dilbert By Scott Adams

DO YOU HAVE TIME TO TALK TODAY?
 SURE. CALL ME NEXT WEEK.
 DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE TO HEAR ABOUT MY DAY?
 SURE. CALL ME YESTERDAY.

The Elderberries By Phil Frank and Joe Troise

Why aren't you two painting my walls?
 We ain't machines, Miss O... We needed a break.
 You've only painted a quarter of one wall.
 Ya can't ask for our help an' then question our work routine!
 YOU BEGGED ME to let you paint the walls!
 I suppose this is my fault for not seeing this coming sooner.
 See that there? Feels good to take a little responsibility fer yer actions, don't it?

For Better or For Worse By Lynn Johnston

DADDY? EXACTLY HOW LONG WILL MOM BE GONE?
 FOR SIX SLEEPS.
 THAT'S A LONG TIME!
 NO IT'S NOT MICHAEL. IT'S GOING TO GO BY SO FAST!
 YOU'VE GOT SCHOOL AND THINGS TO DO AT HOME... WE'RE GOING TO GO OUT TO EAT AND SEE SOME MOVIES...
 AN' THEN WHAT? - WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO THEN!
 SIX SLEEPS IS GOING TO BE A LONG TIME!

Frank and Ernest By Bob Thaves

HOW DO YOU LIKE MY ZITHER PLAYING?
 ZITHER A WAY I CAN GET YOU TO STOP!

Garfield By Jim Davis

WHY THE SAD FACE, MISTER?
 YOU'VE GOT IT ALL! GOOD LOOKS, PERSONALITY...
 BURP...TUNA BREATH

Hagar the Horrible By Chris Browne

I HATE TO GO HOME!
 HELGA IS IN THE MIDDLE OF HER SPRING CLEANING MANIA!
 WHEN DID SHE START?
 RIGHT AFTER CHRISTMAS

Hi and Lois By Chance Browne

"A BAD CASE OF WRITER'S BLOCK" BY CHIP FLAGSTON.
 THAT'S IT?
 MY MOTHER SUGGESTED I WRITE MY ESSAY ABOUT SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED TO ME.

Luann By Greg Evans

OOP. SORRY, MRS. D!
 TJI! I'M TAKING A BATH!
 WAS THAT MY MOM SCREAMIN'?
 YEAH. I WALKED IN ON HER IN THE TUB, BUT DON'T WORRY - THERE WERE LOTS OF BUBBLES.
 SHE SOUNDED PRETTY FREAKED...
 I THINK THAT'S CUZ SHE DIDN'T HAVE ON ANY MAKEUP.

Classic Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz

I'M HAVING TROUBLE GETTING STARTED WITH MY HOMEWORK..
 WELL, SOMETIMES YOU JUST HAVE TO OPEN THE BOOK, AND GO RIGHT AT IT..
 I HATE OPENING THE BOOK!

Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis

WHAT IS THIS I HEAR ABOUT YOU FIGHTING DUELS?
 DUELS WERE A PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE WAY OF RESOLVING DISPUTES IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY. I'M BRINGING THEM BACK.
 YOU'RE FIGHTING DUELS OVER ACORNS AND PARKING SPACES! WHAT ARE YOU, A NUTCASE??
 AN UNFORTUNATE CHOICE OF WORDS.

Pickles By Brian Crane

OPAL, WHY DID YOU LET ME LEAVE THE HOUSE WITHOUT TELLING ME I HAD PUT ON YOUR BIG RED HAT INSTEAD OF MY OWN?
 SORRY.
 THERE I WAS WALKING HAPPILY THROUGH THE PARK. EVERYONE WAS SMILING AND WAVING AT ME. I WONDERED WHY I WAS SO POPULAR.
 OH, WELL. AT LEAST THE HUMILIATION IS OVER NOW.
 HEY, GRAMPA, I JUST SAW YOU ON YOUTUBE WEARING GRAMMAS HAT!

Rose is Rose By Pat Brady

SWITCH?
 SURE!
 RECENT STUDIES SUGGEST THAT MORE AND MORE FAMILIES ARE PARTICIPATING IN SOME SORT OF LAP EXCHANGE PROGRAM!

Non Sequiter By Wiley

UM...WHY ARE YOU STARING AT A NUD HOLE?
 I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET JEFFREY TO JUMP IN IT.
 AND WHY WOULD YOU WANT HIM TO JUMP INTO IT?
 'CUZ HE DOESN'T LIKE IT.
 WELL, YOU COULD JUST RESPECT THAT AND DEAL WITH MORE IMPORTANT THINGS.
 OH, SORRY. I FORGOT WHO I WAS TALKING TO FOR A SECOND THERE.
 HONESTLY, I SOMETIMES WONDER WHAT PLANET YOU LIVE ON.

Dennis the Menace By Hank Ketcham

"WE'RE PRACTICIN' FOR MY BIRTHDAY!"

The Wizard of Id By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart

MOTHER'S COMING TO VISIT. WILL YOU TRY AND BE NICE TO HER?
 I PROMISE I'LL GIVE IT MY BEST SHOT.
 ZOT!
 I GOT HER! I GOT HER!

Zits By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott

UM, IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR CAR KEY WENT THROUGH THE LAUNDRY AGAIN.
 IT'S RUINED!
 MOM, IT'S TOTALLY MY FAULT AND I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY.
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NOTICE OF SALE
North Side Rentals, Inc., under provision of Idaho Code 28-7-210 will sell at Klass Auction on March 24, 2009 the stored items of: Janet Ward, Wendell, Idaho

NOTICE
Pursuant to Idaho Code Section 59-514, the Jerome Urban Renewal Agency ("Agency"), the duly authorized urban renewal agency of the City of Jerome, Idaho, a public body, corporate and politic, organized under the laws of the state of Idaho, Chapter 20, Title 50, Idaho Code, provides notice that it has entered into a Consultant Agreement with Scott Bybee. The maximum compensation is expected to exceed \$10,000 annually. The purpose of the Consultant Agreement is to assist the Agency with administrative duties.

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Idaho Code 50-1807, the Jerome City Mayor and Council shall meet on March 17th, 2009 to correct the 2009 City Irrigation Assessments. Said meeting shall be held at the Jerome City Council Chambers at 5:30 pm on the 17th day of March, 2009.

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an election will be held on March 30, 2009, from 12:00 noon to 8:00 PM at the Hagerman City Office for election of three members to serve on the Lower Snake River Aquifer Recharge District Board of Directors. The elected members shall be a water user or representative of a water user within the District.

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LOST Black Lab female puppy on Sunday 3/8/09 at 261 E. 700 N. Jerome. Wearing orange collar. Reward! Call 208-420-3963

LOST Cat long haired black and gray Addison/Hankins area. 208-733-0712

LOST Chihuahua, brown female, between N. College and Northstar. Reward. 410-9689 or 212-2991

LOST Dog, Long haired Chihuahua, 9 yrs. black and white. Last seen Thursday 2/23 in Skyline trailer park. No collar. Reward!! 208-731-8922

LOST Min Pin, female, chocolate brown, small. Lost in the Declo area. 208-654-2668.

LOST Mini Dachshund in SW Burley area on March 3rd. Dapple color, wearing red collar. 208-431-0789

106 Special Notices
BIRTHDAY PHOTOS
Have you forgotten to pickup your birthday photos? We have some photos we are sure you don't want us to toss. These can be picked up at The Times-News Classified Dept.

LAW ENFORCEMENT
The City of Twin Falls is accepting applications to fill several RESERVE POLICE OFFICER positions. Application packet, including job description and qualifications, can be picked up in the lobby of the Twin Falls Police Department, located at 356 3rd Avenue East. This is a volunteer position.

The Reserve Officer position requires the applicant to be at least 21 years of age, possess a High School diploma or equivalency; a valid driver's license; have good written and oral communication skills, good reading comprehension skills; and the ability to successfully complete and pass all testing requirements.

If you have questions regarding this announcement, please e-mail Staff Sergeant Ron Fustos at rfustos@tfd.org. Closing date for this announcement is April 10, 2009.

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