



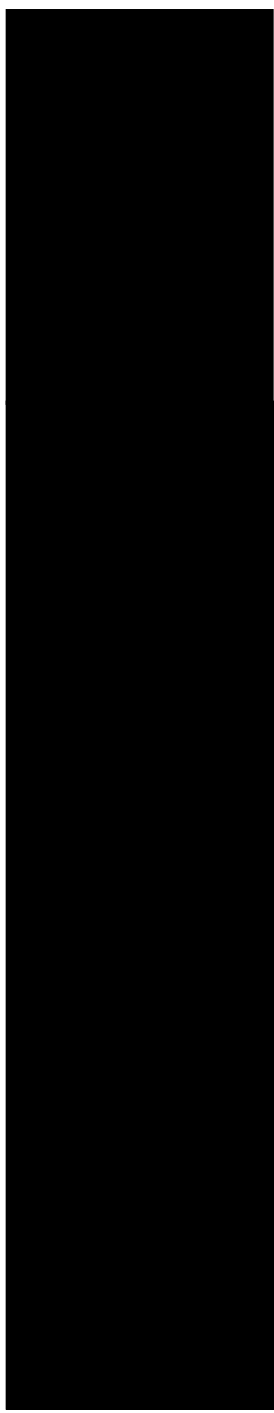
SUNDAY
March 22, 2009

TIMES-NEWS

\$1.50

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A GRAND SHOW ON THE SQUARE



ID Dems search for meaning — and a voice

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

BOISE — The economic downturn that's swept Idaho has forced unprecedented cuts to the state budget, a spike in unemployment and business closures.

Has it also swallowed Idaho's Democrats?

The 25 Democrats in the Legislature — less than one-quarter of both chambers — began the 2009 session with one less member than a year ago, and have been forced to elect new leaders and cope with the absence of influential legislators — all while trying to maintain their role as the loyal opposition in tough times.

Many Republicans say Democratic protests this year ebb and flow — louder when cuts to education

See **DEMS**, Main 3

Rupert's Wilson Theatre sprucing up with community support

Story by Laurie Welch • Photos by Meagan Thompson
Times-News

From a 65-year heyday as a theater to its decline during the latter part of the century — the Historic Wilson Building and Theatre has always stood at Rupert's heart.

The triangular-shaped flatiron building that housed the theater was built in 1920 by Daniel Ward Wilson at a fully-equipped cost of \$75,000, said Renaissance Arts Center Inc. Executive Director Chris Jackson.

Now with an estimated \$3.2 million renovation about 75 percent complete, the center is ready to host an open house within two to three months of celebrating the completion of the first two phases of renovation, Jackson said.

The first phase encompassed the restoration of the exterior of the building. The second phase includes renovating the lobby, building a grand brass and glass staircase, a convention center upstairs large enough to accommodate a crowd of 300 and four storefronts that will be rented out to help pay for the theater's operating costs, Jackson said.

Jackson said historically theaters are only 60 percent financially self-sustaining. The center hopes the convention center and storefronts

SEE WILSON, MAIN 6

ABOVE: Earl Corless walks past stained glass windows that are original to the Wilson Building and Theatre that was built in 1920. The building was once the social gathering place for Rupert, and Corless hopes the current restoration effort will bring people back to the building that sits on the northwest corner of the Rupert Square.

FAR LEFT: A giant historical puzzle: A portion of a decorative piece that adorned the Wilson Theatre will have elements of stucco that have been recast to resemble the original. 'The major thing, as far as I'm concerned, that we want here is a venue for the entire community,' says Earl Corless, a member of the board of directors for the Renaissance Arts Center in Rupert also known as the Wilson Theatre.

LEFT: The renovation of the Wilson Theatre started with the facade and includes interior work on the lobby, community room and theater. The building was originally a vaudeville house — a genre of variety entertainment performed on the stage that was popular in the U.S. from 1880 through the 1930s. The theater also housed theatre groups, silent movies and eventually 'talking movies' according to Earl Corless.



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VIEW: A video and photo gallery of the restoration process at the Wilson Building and Theatre in Rupert.



ABOVE: A section of the original stucco work has recently been uncovered after years of being hidden under alternative decor in the Wilson Theatre in Rupert. The restoration of the theater itself is under way, which is the last step before the old building — erected in 1920 — is restored to its original state. 'It's been quite a long, hard ordeal, or lots of work anyway,' says Earl Corless.

DEA, state mum on Twin Falls prescription fraud case

By Andrea Jackson
Times-News writer

A prescription fraud investigation involving a former Twin Falls detective may have been under way for nearly three years before the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and the Idaho Board of Pharmacy told city police about potential criminal misconduct by one of their own.

Curtis Gambrel, a Twin Falls Police detective of 24 years, resigned almost two years ago from the force, but is named in four of 16 charges of prescription fraud and conspiracy to commit prescription fraud levied late last year against local nurse practitioner Jan Sund in Twin Falls 5th District Court. While still working for the police department, he allegedly got medically unnecessary prescriptions for Oxycodone and Hydrocodone from Sund then split the drugs with her, according to court records.

The day Gambrel publicly announced he was leaving the department — April 2, 2007 — also marks the end of Sund's alleged conspiracy with him to commit prescription fraud, according to court records. Twin Falls police say they didn't know about Gambrel's alleged involvement until

See **FRAUD**, Main 2

AIRLINES RETIRING MORE AND MORE PLANES

Aircraft 'boneyards' fill up > **Business 1**



CrosswordClassifieds 6
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HoroscopeClassifieds 3
Kids OnlyFamily Life 6
JumbleClassifieds 4
MoviesOpinion 2
ObituariesBusiness 6-7
SudokuClassifieds 5
Your BusinessBusiness 2

MORNING BRIEFING

Pat's Picks

Three things to do today

Pat Marcantonio



• If the weather remains sunny, get in your car and take a drive to some of the unknown gems of the region. In Castleford, there's Jean's Park, with its playground and ball fields. If you drive on a bit farther, there is the famous Balanced Rock and its interesting formations, as well as the beautiful Balanced Rock Park. Take food and a camera.

• If you haven't seen it, there's "Forever Plaid" at 7:30 p.m. in the Boiler Room

at Sun Valley Village. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12.

• The Snake River Challenge Tournament takes place at the Twin Falls Rifle and Pistol Club. There will be .22-caliber matches for kids 14 and up and adults. Call 733-5234 or e-mail pittsart@netzero.net for more information.

Have your own pick you want to share? E-mail me at patm@gmagicvalley.com.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Forever Plaid, 6:30 p.m. doors open and 7:30 p.m., Boiler Room, Sun Valley Village, \$12, 622-2135.

EXHIBITS

New works by Dutch artist Sjer Jacobs, oil paintings and bronze sculpture, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Gallery DeNovo, 320 First Ave. N., Suite 101, Ketchum, free admission, gallerydenovo.com or 726-8180.

SPORTS

Snake River Challenge Tournament, .22 matches for classes: J3 - ages 14 and under; J2 - ages 15-17; J1 - ages 18-20; Adults - ages 21 and older; NRA-approved matches include five events hosted by Twin Falls Rifle and Pistol Club, 733-5234 or pittsart@netzero.net.

To have an event listed, please submit the name of the event, a brief description, time, place, cost and contact number to Suzanne Browne by e-mail at sbrowne@gmagicvalley.com; by fax, 734-5538; or by mail, Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0548. Deadline is noon, four days in advance of the event.

Crash shears power pole, snarls traffic in T.F.

Times-News

A truck that crashed into a power pole Saturday afternoon along Blue Lakes Boulevard North snarled traffic for almost an hour, cutting off signals at four major intersections in Twin Falls, police said.

The driver of a moving truck told authorities the brakes weren't working in his truck and rather than hitting vehicles, the driver hit the pole near Perkins Family Restaurant, said Twin Falls Police Sgt. Steve Benkula.

There were no injuries nor was anyone charged with a

crime, though police are still investigating, he said.

Six city police officers and a state trooper manned the intersections until the traffic lights came back on by about 2 p.m. "People were driving pretty reasonably," Benkula said.

Intersections affected were: North College Road and Blue Lakes Boulevard North, Pole Line Road and Blue Lakes Boulevard North, Filmore Street and Pole Line Road, and Bridgeview Boulevard and Blue Lakes Boulevard North.

The damaged power pole will be replaced by Idaho Power, Benkula said.



JUSTIN JACKSON/Times-News

An Idaho Power employee uses a lift to begin repairs on a downed power pole on Blue Lakes Boulevard North Saturday in Twin Falls.

IDAHO LOTTERY

Powerball Saturday, March 21
19 23 27 49 52 Powerball: 21
Power Play: 4

Wild Card Saturday, March 21
5 12 18 23 31
WILD CARD: King of Clubs

Pick 3 Idaho
March 21 1 2 8
March 20 0 0 3
March 19 7 2 4

Hot Lotto Saturday, March 21
2 10 11 14 28 HB: 1

In the event of a discrepancy between the numbers shown here and the Idaho Lottery's official list of winning numbers, the latter shall prevail.
www.idaholottery.com 208-334-2600

Snowpack levels

Watershed	Seasonal percentage	
	% of Avg.	peak
Salmon	89%	81%
Big Wood	81%	74%
Little Wood	85%	81%
Big Lost	86%	78%
Little Lost	86%	78%
Henry's Fork/Teton	84%	78%
Upper Snake Basin	74%	83%
Oakley	74%	72%
Salmon Falls	82%	78%

As of March 21

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PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY



Photo courtesy of the Twin Falls Public Library



ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

The Twin Falls County Courthouse was finished in 1911, and at the time was the tallest building in the area. It was also one of the first buildings to have an elevator. Courtrooms were located on the third floor, and at one time the building housed the library for about a year. The building was designed by C. Harvey Smith, who also was the architect for many other buildings in the area. In 1978, the courthouse was added to the National Register of Historic Places. At right, a current view of a conference room on the third floor of the Twin Falls County Courthouse.

Fraud

Continued from Main 1

June 2008, after the DEA and the Idaho Board of Pharmacy gave them a report.

The Idaho Board of Pharmacy got a tip about Sund much earlier than that from Gambrel's wife in 2005. She wrote a letter to the board "stating Sund was over-prescribing pain medication for her husband, Curtis Gambrel." The letter also said Sund was "abusing her prescribing rights" and "receiving kickbacks from patients," according to court records.

Twin Falls Police say they would have liked to have heard sooner about Gambrel.

"We would have preferred to know about those allegations as soon as possible," said Twin Falls Police Capt. Matt Hicks.

The DEA and the Idaho Board of Pharmacy are mum about when Twin Falls Police were told about Gambrel.

"The DEA does not make comments in on-going criminal proceedings," said DEA Spokeswoman Jodie Underwood.

Idaho Board of Pharmacy Director Mark Johnson said much of the same. "The Board of Pharmacy doesn't comment on details of an investigation," he said. "That information is not part of public record as per statute."

Court records filed by the Idaho Attorney General's Office say the Idaho Board

of Pharmacy and the DEA received numerous complaints about Sund dating back to 2002. "The complaints ranged from allegations that she was splitting prescriptions with her patients to practicing as a nurse practitioner while impaired," court records show.

Sund surrendered her controlled substance registration by October 2007, according to meeting minutes from the Idaho State Board of Pharmacy. Almost a year later, in November, the AG's office was given the Sund case by Twin Falls County Prosecutor Grant Loebs, AG Spokesman Bob Cooper confirmed.

City police finished their investigation in October, more than a year after Gambrel resigned without giving a reason, said Hicks. "He (Gambrel) got no preferential treatment in this investigation."

The AG's office, however, criticized city police for investigating allegations against Gambrel "despite the apparent conflict of interest."

Twin Falls Police wouldn't give the AG's office Gambrel's personnel file without a subpoena and Gambrel may have been the subject of another complaint, according to an AG court filing in the Sund case.

Loebs asked Ada County prosecutors to decide whether to prosecute Gambrel to avoid any possible conflict of interest. No



ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

The drug OxyContin (Oxycodone) uses a time-release formula to relieve pain. Former Twin Falls Police Detective Curtis Gambrel is named in felony charges against local nurse Jan Sund, accused of 16 counts of prescription fraud and conspiracy to commit prescription fraud. Sund allegedly prescribed Gambrel with Oxycodone and Hydrocodone, which he would get filled and then split with Sund.

charges have been filed against him or four other people named in the allegations against Sund, according to online court records Saturday.

While on the force, Gambrel had a 98 percent confession rate from suspects and helped put 17 people away for murder.

"The credibility of an officer involved in illegal activity while employed

with that department is highly relevant when that officer gives testimony in subsequent criminal proceedings," according to an AG court filing in the Sund case.

The Gambrels couldn't be reached at a phone number listed to Gambrel's wife. A telephone listing for Sund has been disconnected.

Sund's trial is set for June 16 in Twin Falls.

End of session is still in doubt

BOISE — In the middle of the noon hour Thursday, the House rejected Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's proposal to raise Idaho's gas tax.

Now, some lawmakers said an adjournment date is unclear.

"We really don't know," Assistant Majority Leader Joe Stegner, R-Lewiston, said. "It is certainly possible we could be out in the second or third week of April, but there is certainly the potential at the moment to have us here longer than that — and by that I mean weeks not months."

In a normal year, legislators leave Boise by the end of March. Of course, 2009 hasn't been a typical session.

Delayed budget-writing because of the federal economic stimulus efforts initially delayed adjournment. But some lawmakers said slow progress on approving bills to create new revenue to fix Idaho's crumbling roads and bridges has also thrown adjournment into limbo.

The longest session — in 2002 during the last recession — lasted 118 days and ended in May. Meanwhile, taxpayers shell out about \$30,000 each day for the Legislature to meet.

• A House committee is delaying a vote on the Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan and corresponding legislation as members wait for amendments to be submitted. House resources committee chairman Rep. Bert Stevenson, R-Rupert, said he hopes to have the bill with all amendments from various water users shortly.

The plan for managing the ESPA — designed to deter the rising number



LEGISLATIVE NOTEBOOK
Jared S. Hopkins

of delivery calls and water lawsuits — would cost as much as \$100 million in its first 10 years, but state budget writers have indicated funding is unlikely this year and the state water board is searching for alternatives.

• House Health and Welfare Chairwoman Sharon Block, R-Twin Falls, will hold a hearing Thursday on a bill to strengthen safety regulations of small day care providers, said the bill's sponsor, Rep. George Saylor, D-Couder d'Alene.

Provisions of the bill would apply to day cares with at least four children and require criminal history background checks, and safety and fire inspections. Currently, licenses are only required for facilities with 13 or more children.

The bill already passed the Senate. Such measures have historically stalled in the Legislature, particularly in the conservative House Health and Welfare Committee.

• The Senate State Affairs Committee voted 5-4 Friday to kill a bill consolidating Idaho elections. The bill, which passed the House 52-17, would have brought most of the some 450 different kinds of elections in Idaho to just two dates a year, in May and November. School districts would have gotten two additional

dates in March and August.

"If they can come back and provide for those schools I'd support it," said Sen. Denton Darrington, R-Declo, a retired teacher, who opposed it because the \$3.1 million didn't provide funding for schools.

• Before state budget writers approved a 5 percent cut in personnel costs for state workers — through a 3 percent salary cut and 2 percent in other cost-savings like furloughs — they met Thursday afternoon for a workshop.

State budget writers voted 20-0 on Feb. 13 to outline the cut, but Democrats said they wanted to review the figure once Idaho learned details on the federal stimulus.

But when the GOP chairman said a 5 percent cut was the only option — it was recommended by Otter two weeks ago — Democrats said a fast one was pulled over them.

"I thought we were going to revisit that," said Rep. Wendy Jaquet, D-Ketchum, at the meeting. "I guess that's what we're doing here."

Rep. Shirley Ringo, D-Moscow, was more frank afterward: "I'm disgusted."

Quote of the week: "I resent Congress for taking a pound of flesh out from my taxpayer hide. I also resent the state for taking a knife and fork and picking at the leftovers." — Rep. Lenore Barrett, R-Challis, on the House floor explaining her opposition to Otter's proposed gas tax.

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

Dems

Continued from Main 1

and social services are debated and more muted the rest of the time — but generally lack the partisan fire displayed in past sessions.

“That’s the bottom line — it seems quieter,” said Rep. Jim Patrick, R-Twin Falls. “We’re not doing the same debates that we’ve done. Some of the issues we were addressing don’t even come up.”

Jasper LiCalzi, chairman of the College of Idaho Political Economy Department, said the difference is notable.

“Typically what they should be doing is keeping the majority honest. When the governor or majority throws out a proposal, they have to challenge it, so it’s not just getting approved easily,” LiCalzi said. “I think the reasons they’re not doing it as well is because they’ve got a new group. Two of the senators are gone. You have new leadership there.”

• • •

The 2008 elections saw a reversal of fortune for Democrats nationwide as President Obama swept into office, solid majorities in both houses of Congress and gains at the state level, as well.

Idaho bucks that trend as one of just 11 states where Republicans control both legislative chambers, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Moreover, Idaho has a solid slate of Republican statewide officeholders and just one Democrat in the congressional delegation, newly elected Rep. Walt Minnick.

State Senate Minority Leader Kate Kelly, D-Boise, said Minnick’s election in the 1st Congressional District has energized Democrats in the Legislature, though her party’s lack of prospects there are daunting. She may soon pass the minority leader’s baton — she’s applied to be the Obama administration’s U.S. District Attorney for Idaho.

“We’re living in an analog bubble in a digital world ... and why am I here?” Kelly said when asked about GOP dominance in Idaho. “I keep wondering, ‘why am I not where the action is happening?’”

• • •

Democrats are accustomed to being the minority in the Legislature, which last saw that party running both houses in 1961. Yet even in years of Republican domination voters often elected Democratic governors, giving the party more political clout in Boise.

All that ended in 1995, when Republicans won the Governor’s Office and began their 15-year run of comfort-

able legislative majorities.

Political observers say the Democrats’ time in the wilderness isn’t just about numbers. Two of the seven members of the Senate Democratic Caucus are newly elevated from the House, and the caucus’ two most influential members are sidelined. Longtime Minority Leader Clint Stennett, D-Ketchum, is recovering from brain surgery; and Sen. Edgar Malepeai, D-Pocatello, is attending to his ailing wife. Stennett missed some of the last legislative session, as well. Malepeai has missed two in a row.

GOP senators say they work well with Kelly, but relationship-building is slow. And while Stennett’s replacement, Sen. Jon Thorson, D-Sun Valley, has earned bipartisan praise for trying to fill large shoes, he introduced his first bill on Wednesday.

“The Senate (caucus) is playing the game without their main starters,” said John Watts, a veteran lobbyist and past Fish & Game commissioner.

The leadership vacuum has been tough to fill, Kelly acknowledged.

“It’s definitely been challenging,” Kelly said. “I’m not gonna say it has been easy. It’s not been easy, from a relationship standpoint, from just a depth-of-understanding-the-issues standpoint. It’s been tough to get members of the caucus on the same page — have them even trust each other.”

House Democrats are also breaking in new leaders, with Minority Leader John Rusche of Lewiston replacing Wendy Jaquet, D-Ketchum, who left the post after 10 years to join the joint Finance-Appropriations Committee.

The recession and pressure on the state budget also undercuts the Democrats, who traditionally have focused their limited influence on creation of new programs.

“This is not a good situation for Democrats,” LiCalzi said. “When it’s a declining budget and you have to make cuts, Democrats aren’t good at that. It’s tough for them to come up with something to cut.”

• • •

While thin in numbers, Democrats in the Legislature aren’t irrelevant. They have had some success in moving energy efficiency bills through committee, but those measures use tax cuts popular among Republicans, and also have GOP co-sponsors.

And some have won Republican praise for their willingness to work across the aisle to amend two controversial bills — reorganization of retirement benefits for state workers and pro-

State leaders



Kate Kelly,
Boise
Senate Minority
Leader



John Rusche
Lewiston
House Minority
Leader

posals to cut school spending.

“We’ve tried to do our best to reach to them and have input from the Democrats,” said House Majority Leader Mike Moyle, R-Star. “If we can get support from them that’s good, and if we can’t then we go the other way. I’d rather try to work through the process where we have everyone involved versus alienating people.”

By contrast, a gay-rights bill sponsored by Rep. Nicole LeFavour, D-Boise, that received a hearing last year failed to get that far this session, and not one of a half-dozen bills put forward by the Senate Democratic Caucus have received a hearing.

“Most people are either totally focused on the budget or at least are realistic enough to know any new programs or any social type issues that the minority typically brings each and every year aren’t going to be successful this year, not because of politics but because of the economy,” said Senate President Pro Tem Bob Geddes, R-Soda Springs.

Rep. Donna Pence, D-Gooding, agreed that budget issues have made Democrats less confrontational, and said Republicans have responded by being more inclusive.

“When you have a really tough budget year, everybody gets together,” Pence said. “Sometimes you’re shut out completely, and I think this year we haven’t been as much.”

• • •

House Assistant Minority Leader James Ruchti, D-Pocatello, said his caucus is satisfied with the way the session is going — so far.

“Maybe what members of the Legislature are perceiving is that everybody is fighting less because we realize that in years like this, the fights better be meaningful and they better really be about the most essential aspects of what state government ought to do or not do,” he said.

Democrats say they demonstrated their ability to influence legislation when they helped rework bills aimed at cutting education funding that were introduced by House Education Committee Chairman Bob

Local Democrats



Donna Pence
Gooding



Wendy Jaquet
Ketchum



Jon Thorson
Sun Valley
(Substitute for
Clint Stennett)

Nonini, R-Coeur d’Alene. Nonini convened a bipartisan committee to develop a compromise.

Ruchti said Democrats chose to work with Republicans rather than pitch their own proposals on issues such as retiree benefits, school cuts or spending of federal stimulus money.

“It’s just a negotiation technique,” he said. “You can throw out your position and have 75 percent of this body rip it to shreds, which is exactly what they would do if we chose to run with a specific proposal.”

But that doesn’t mean all Democrats avoid contention.

Malepeai’s replacement, Sen. Dick Sagness, has pushed controversial ideas such as a temporary moratorium on charter schools and revamping how state lottery revenue goes to schools. A retired Idaho State University dean, he said he’ll push controversial legislation when it’s within his realm of experience.

“Why would I be intimidated by tackling significant issues?” Sagness said. “Why would I be intimidated by anyone who is here? They’re here on the same footing I am.”

Nor are the Democrats willing to go along to get along. On Thursday Gov. Otter’s transportation funding bills were soundly rejected on a 43-27 House vote with just three Democrats backing him.

At the start of the legislative session in January the Democrats also scored points by challenging Otter just moments after he delivered his State of the State address, causing a furor by suggesting Republicans favor “potholes before people.”

And minority party leaders pounced when Otter unveiled his plan for spending Idaho’s federal stimulus package, cornering him for a public debate after his announcement.

“We are very much a part of the discussion this year,” said Kelly, the Senate minority leader. “You saw it at the beginning of the session with the State of the State and ‘people and potholes,’ and you saw it just this past week in ... response to the governors’ budget. We’re just getting out there, but more importantly (we’re)

unified to the extent that Democrats can be unified.”

• • •

Democratic influence only goes so far, however.

Nonini said he involved Democrats in re-crafting his education bills because they deserve a seat at the table, their constituents include educators and to avoid a floor fight.

“It would be easier to alleviate some of their concerns in four weeks of negotiations rather than to try to deal with it in floor debate,” he said.

Jaquet, the former minority leader, said Democrats

this year have a significant role to play in pushing for federal stimulus money to help maintain education funding.

“I don’t feel like I’m being run over yet. You should ask me in a week,” said Jaquet. “I believe in the process and so far the process, I hope, is going to work.”

Looking to future elections, Kelly said Minnick, a moderate to conservative Democrat, has shown the way for others.

“Now we have to shift the perception of who we are and make sure people understand our values,” she said. “The Democratic Party — we kind of have been one place, but we’re going to another. Montana, Colorado, even Utah to some extent, and Wyoming, Nevada — they’re going Democratic. I do think we have a lot of opportunity here in Idaho, but we need to make sure what we’re doing is conveying to people what our values are — which is consistent with what Congressman Minnick has been doing.”

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

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Don't Ask Me

Steve Crump



Why doesn't USAF 'fess up to booms?

I have a friend who went to grade school in Hollister back in the 1960s. Often, students would be distracted by something flashing past the school's big windows. Seconds later, the classroom would shake, the glass would rattle and a fine dusting of plaster would float down on the desks.

"Phantom jets from Mountain Home (Air Force Base)," he recalls. "We thought it was kind of cool."

Not much has changed in 40 years, except the Air Force's resolute denial that it's responsible for things that go bump in the night around here.

For more than a year, mysterious rumblings have taken place at unsocial hours across southern Idaho. Everything from extraterrestrial visitors to "mud quakes" (shifting subterranean mud) have been blamed, but Boise State University Professor Jim Zollweg says evidence is overwhelming that the disturbances are sonic, not seismic. That pretty much narrows it down to supersonic aircraft.

And that's OK. Look, let's say you're a 22-year-old fighter jock settling into the cockpit of an F-15C jet, the hottest plane on the planet. The voice of your CO crackles over the two-way radio inside your helmet.

"Remember, Anderson, 767 mph (the speed of sound, and the point at which aircraft start to create sonic booms) and not a mile-per-hour faster!" he says.

"Yes, sir!" you reply smartly.

But when you get airborne over, say, Castleford, you feel just what Tom Cruise felt in the movie "Top Gun:" The need for speed.

Believe us, Idahoans understand. What annoys us is when the Air Force — and sometimes the Navy — plays make believe with something that's as plain as the noses on our upturned faces.

We know there are unannounced, classified operations taking place around Mountain Home and its training ranges and elsewhere in the Intermountain West. We've known that

since the Air Force was testing the first Stealth aircraft — the B-2 bomber and the F-117 fighter — at bases in central Nevada in the 1970s and '80s.

One theory I've heard about our mysterious nocturnal disturbances — and it's a pretty good theory — is that we're overhearing aircraft based at Beale Air Force Base north of Sacramento, Calif.

Beale has long been home to most advanced — and secret — long-range spy planes that the Air Force flies. If you plot the shortest course from California over the North Pole to the precincts of Russia and China, that course crosses southern Idaho.

Cool.

Look, we live in a hyper-litigious society, and we understand why the Air Force doesn't want to become legally liable for cracking fine china. But we're all patriots here, happy to do — or endure — our bit to make America a little safer.

We're on the same team. Stop insulting our intelligence.

AROUND THE VALLEY

Twin Falls officials emphasize ordinance on yard-sale signs

Twin Falls City Code Enforcement Officer Sean Standley said residents holding yard sales must obey the city's sign ordinance, a Friday city release stated.

Under city code, yard-sale signs:

- cannot be posted any earlier than noon the day prior to the sale.

- must be taken down no later than noon the day after the sale

- cannot be placed any closer than 60 feet from another yard-sale sign

- can be placed only on private property with the owner's consent

- can be placed no closer than 10 feet from the street pavement

- cannot be larger than 6 square-feet in area

Standley said signs cannot go up on utility poles and street signs. They must be placed on private property.

Idaho Power granted 1 percent rate increase

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has adjusted its decision in an Idaho

Power Co. rate case, giving the utility an average 4 percent increase.

Commissioners decided in January to allow only a 3.1 percent rise in rates after the utility asked for an average jump of 9.89 percent. But Idaho Power petitioned the PUC to reconsider, and it announced Friday a decision to grant the utility 1 percent more overall.

For residential customers, the rate increase changes from 1.6 percent to 3 percent. The jump corrects for a calculation error regarding the utility's operations and maintenance expenses, as well as \$6 million not included in annual payroll expense. Other Idaho Power requests were still denied.

The PUC also denied a U.S. Department of Energy petition to reconsider how costs are assigned to each customer class. The federal agency made the request on behalf of the Idaho National Laboratory.

The commission's new order is final, and any appeals must be made to the Idaho Supreme Court.

DEQ announces date for free nitrate testing

Private well owners in

Cassia, Minidoka and Twin Falls counties will be able to get their drinking water tested for nitrates this spring.

Free water tests will be performed at two planned water-quality fairs, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality has announced. Mini-Cassia well owners can get the tests from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 28 at the College of Southern Idaho Mini-Cassia Center, 1600 Park Ave. in Burley. In Twin Falls, the fair is planned for the same times on April 4 at the KMVT Community Center, 1100 Blue Lakes Blvd. N. Well owners should bring a water sample in a clean glass jar, and results will be confidential.

Parts of all three counties have been identified as priority areas by the state due to elevated nitrate levels in groundwater — in some cases exceeding state and federal standards. Twin Falls County is the No. 1 priority area in the state. The substance, a chemical form of nitrogen, can present a risk to human and animal health.

For more information on the testing and the fairs: John Bokor, 208-736-2190 or john.bokor@deq.idaho.gov.

— Staff reports

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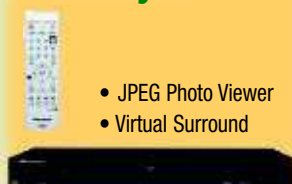
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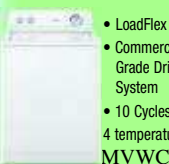
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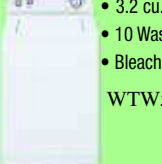


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will eventually pay the other 40 percent of operation costs.

To date, the Renaissance Arts Center, governed by a board, has raised more than \$1.4 million of the cost through grants, donations, fundraisers, in-kind labor and materials for the project, Jackson said.

"There is no indebtedness," Jackson said. "And we do not use any local taxpayer money." The center has received some federal grant money.

The third phase, which encompasses the renovation of the theater, is already under way and is estimated to cost \$1.8 million. But Jackson said the cost will probably be less due to the troupe of volunteers who stepped forward to donate materials and labor like Renaissance Arts Center Board Member Earl Corless and local artist KriSan Hardcastle, who hand-crafted the molds that duplicate the decorative plaster pieces within the building.

Corless said his volunteer work at the old theater has become a passion because there is no other venue in the area that gives both the young and old a place to perform.

"When I see the kids and the old people all on the same stage, that is what drives me," Corless said. "It's stuff like that."

Jackson said many people have been willing to get involved with the project because of the

deep tradition and history associated with the old theater. Many volunteers recollect their own personal memories of the building, ranging from kissing on the balcony with a date to a young rowdy Lou Dobbs throwing chickens off the balcony.

Despite the massive renovation the theater has been in constant use. Last year it hosted 35 events and the unfinished convention center is already attracting crowds as well, Jackson said.

"The tons of people using it before it is even finished shows it is really needed," Jackson said.

Jackson said the success of the renovation is due in part to the attention to detail paid by the Renaissance Arts Center board. Those highlights can be seen throughout the building — from the stained glass windows that inspired the colors and patterns for other décor, to the convention center's five-panel doors with frosted glass inserts that echo the stained-glass window patterns.

"The board does detail well," Jackson said. "If they see something that was originally in the theater they get the money to do it right — and then when it is done it has all the detail to be a real showpiece and a place the community can be proud of."

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



Photos by MEAGAN THOMPSON/Times-News

A worker concentrates on a portion of the balcony in the Wilson Theatre on March 5 in Rupert. "It was always a movie house and we get all kinds of people coming through talking about, 'Oh, I got my first kiss over on the balcony right over there.' Or one lady says, 'Well, I proposed to my husband right over there,'" said Earl Corless, a member of the board of directors for the Renaissance Arts Center.



Earl Corless walks through the unfinished lobby of the Wilson Theatre in Rupert.

HISTORIC WILSON THEATRE AND BUILDING TIMELINE

1919

Daniel Ward Wilson and Mennie Wilson, who ran two movie theaters on the Rupert Square, are urged to build the theater.

1920

Wilson Theatre opens to a packed house during an era of silent movies featuring celebrities like Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks. A local pianist is hired to perform from the stage while moviegoers read the captions.

1925

Bank takes possession of the theater.

1925 to 1938

Bank leases the theater to Mini-Cassia showhouse owners Harris and Vollumer.

1938

Harris purchases the theater and operates it until the mid-1980s.

1990

Dago Martinez purchases theater, which becomes a church along with retail stores. The main lobby is used as a café.

1999

City of Rupert buys the building.

2000

The Renaissance Arts Center Inc. leases the building from the city for 25 years at a cost of \$10 a year, and begins the three-phased renovation.

2001

The theater is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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FOR THE RECORD

Cassia County police reports for March 19

Information report:

A woman from Wisconsin called the sheriff's office just to let them know that her brother had been driven from Burley to Georgia by his nephew.

Racing: Maria Ortiz-Marquez, 26, and Candido Romero, 28, were arrested for racing each other in north Burley. The race occurred in a 35 mph zone. They were speeding. Ortiz-Marquez was driving with two children in the back seat. When asked why only

one of her children was in a car seat, she told the officer that she had only one car seat.

Grand larceny: A 29-year-old Burley man reported that someone had stolen his 2007 Roketa four-wheeler sometime within the past three weeks. It was parked in the

man's driveway, but he didn't immediately notice that the camouflage four-wheeler was missing. No suspects.

Curfew violation: A 13-year-old Burley female was arrested for a curfew violation at 10:50 p.m. after she was almost hit by a police car. The girl said

she had left her mom's house and was walking to her dad's house.

Lewd conduct with a minor: A Burley male was questioned for having sex with his 14-year-old girlfriend. The male, 16, is also a minor. They both told police that it was consensual. The female

said they had sex once. The male said it was twice. The case has been forwarded to the prosecutor.

Gun found: A Declo man found a .25-caliber pistol in a canal and turned it in.

— Damon Hunzeker

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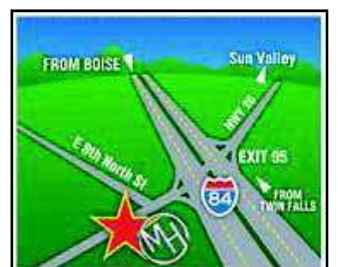
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FINDING NEW DISAPPOINTMENT

Economy a bitter pill to swallow for laid-off 20-somethings. >> See Business 4

Your Business, Business 2 / Bankruptcies, Business 3-4 / Obituaries, Business 6-7 / Weather, Business 8

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2009

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

AIRLINE LIMBO

With the U.S. economy in a tailspin, aircraft 'boneyards' across the country are filling up with Boeing 747s and other jetliners no longer needed to ferry passengers.



Photos by IRFAN KHAN/Los Angeles Times

Ron Pye of Pacific Aviation Group, which sells the parts removed from airplanes, is dwarfed by jet engines stored at the Southern California Logistics Airport in Victorville, Calif.

California boneyard counts more planes that most major airports

VICTORVILLE, Calif. — Call it airline limbo. Air carriers are grounding airplanes at a rate not seen since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and industry experts say 2009 figures will set a record for planes sitting on the ground rather than flying.

That has meant job security for Richard Robertson, an aircraft mechanic at the Southern California Logistics Airport in Victorville, formerly George Air Force Base, now one of the nation's busiest boneyards.

Robertson has perfected the art of "pickling" airplanes, aviation jargon for disassembling parts and draining fluids from aircraft so they can be stored for a long time.

"It's unfortunate, but when the economy is bad we're doing good," Robertson said as he pulled a cockpit instrument off a Boeing 727 last week so it could be stored for later use.

The jet, its windows covered in aluminum foil and engines removed, will be towed to a sprawling lot that resembles a used-car dealership. It is filled with rows of planes that months earlier had crisscrossed the Pacific Ocean or hopped across the American Midwest.

High fuel costs last sum-



Mechanic Richard Robertson works on a Boeing 727. Preparing planes for storage — taking them apart and draining their fluids — is called 'pickling.'

MORE INSIDE

Fares for summer trips are often among the highest of the year and start rising in the spring, but not this year. **SEE BUSINESS 2**

mer drove many airlines to ground older, gas-guzzling planes. Since then, a recession-induced travel slump has led carriers to take even more planes out of the sky.

Passenger traffic for the nation's largest carriers dropped an average of 11 percent in February compared with a year earlier, with United Airlines plunging 17 percent. It marked the carriers' 18th consecutive monthly decline.

Several big airlines that already had pared their schedules over the past six months said last week that they would slash even more flights than planned because demand was falling further.

The latest rush of airliners to Victorville began in October. Before long, there were 100 aircraft on the tarmac, then 150, and by last week the roster had swelled to nearly 200, making the Victorville outpost more crowded at times than Los Angeles International Airport.

Located about 80 miles northeast of Los Angeles, Victorville is home to one of three major commercial boneyards in the U.S. The others are in Arizona and New Mexico, where **SEE BONEYARDS, Business 2**

New student loans require payments while in school

Changes could lower private student loans by 40 percent

By Candice Choi
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — The running joke about student loans: Don't ever graduate, since you don't have to start paying them back until you do.

Starting Monday, that will no longer be the case for students borrowing from Sallie Mae, the nation's largest private student lender.

The company, formally known as SLM Corp. is replacing its signature loan with a shorter-term version that requires students to make interest payments while in school. For many families, the move is

expected to push private loans out of reach in an already tight credit market.

The upside is that the cost of a private student loan will be cut by about 40 percent, said Jack Hewes, chief lending officer for Sallie Mae, which is based Reston, Va.

Families would also repay loans between five and 15 years, compared with the previous 15 to 30 years. Despite the shorter term, Sallie Mae says the monthly bills upon graduation wouldn't rise dramatically.

This is because the interest payments students make while in school would avoid negative amortization, where the loan balance grows because of deferred interest.

The loans will be available for the 2009-2010 calendar year.

As an example of how the loans will work, Sallie Mae paints the scenario of a

See **LOANS, Business 4**

Recession doesn't deter innovation as startups retain optimism

By Rachel Metz
Associated Press writer

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. — With many established businesses just trying to survive, you might not think it's a good time to start a company, let alone ask anyone for money to help get it rolling. But if a series of presentations from fledgling Silicon Valley startups is any indication, innovation is not braking for the recession.

Over three hours Wednesday, more than a dozen startup founders — most of them in their 20s —

gave rapid-fire talks to a group of peers, journalists and potential investors about their companies.

Many of these startups are just a few months old, and some have not yet launched. Those on display ranged from an online marketplace selling gourmet treats to a company offering Web-based voice conferencing. Another is developing dating applications for the iPhone.

The presentations comprised "Demo Day," an event held twice a year by

See **OPTIMISM, Business 3**



AP photo

Jodie Griggs, demonstrates a kiss on her Web site Nambii at a 'Demo Day' for startups in Mountain View, Calif. Griggs, who co-founded Nambii, has made iPhone dating applications like 'Kiss or Miss' and 'Pick Me Up' that can be used to flirt with people near you.

Let's put down the pitchforks and focus on the elephant in the room

We're angry. We're frustrated. We feel cheated and abused. We're not going to take it anymore.

But then again, we don't have much choice, do we? Sure, we can demand that a few more heads roll on Wall Street, or at the Treasury, or that a few hundred million are clawed back from financiers who never deserved it. But the reality is that no matter what we do now, tens of trillions of dollars in wealth have been lost. All that's left is simply an elaborate exercise in settling up the accounts.

At the end of the day, the thing to get outraged about is not the \$440 million in bonuses at AIG or the \$10



PEARLSTEIN
Steven Pearlstein

million that Citigroup is spending to redesign its shrunken executive suite. These may seem like princely sums, but they are almost insignificant compared with the real outrage: the hundreds of billion dollars of taxpayer funds that have been put at risk to keep AIG and Citi from failing and taking the whole financial system down with them. Let's keep our attention on the elephant rather

I realize that collective expressions of public anger can serve a useful purpose. At times like these, it feels good and is a way for a political system to let off some steam before a more dangerous explosion occurs.

than the pimples on its behind.

I realize that collective expressions of public anger can serve a useful purpose. At times like these, it feels good and is a way for a political system to let off some steam before a more dangerous explosion occurs. More importantly, it builds political momentum for sweeping reform of the regulatory apparatus while scaring the bejezus out of people on Wall Street, who will now think long and hard the next time they get

the urge to take excessive risks with other people's money.

But there's a danger in letting this outrage get to the point that it undermines the effort to contain the financial crisis. And with Congress now rushing to pass legislation taxing away the bonuses of every banker at every bank or financial institution that takes government money, that point seems to have been reached.

A few things to keep in mind. First, as I've said in the

past, this isn't about fairness. There's nothing remotely fair about using taxpayer money to rescue a free-market financial system from the mistakes of the financiers. But the reality is that we can punish the bankers or we can save the banking system, but we can't do both at the same time.

Nor is it fair, as The Great Santelli has declared on CNBC, that homeowners who have paid their bills and have been careful not to take on too much credit are now

being asked to provide relief to homeowners who have not. Unfortunately, the price of righteous indignation is a wave of foreclosures, a further decline in home values and billions of dollars of additional loan losses at banks that are already on government life support. Given the financial and economic hits they have already taken, that's a price that most "innocent" homeowners and taxpayers would probably prefer not to pay.

During a financial crisis, fairness is a luxury we cannot afford. During the 1930s, bankers and financiers lost everything, but the

See **PEARLSTEIN, Business 3**

Laid-off 20-somethings find new disappointment

By Megan K. Scott
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Molly Stach thought she was doing everything right until she got laid off from her public relations job in December. Since then, the 26-year-old has been struggling with self-doubt.

"Why don't they want to hire me?" she asked of the companies not responding to the resumes she sends out each week. "I went through four years of college, graduated. You get praised while you are working and then all the sudden you are not employable."

For 20-somethings who are losing their first or second jobs because of the recession, the economic downturn has been an especially bitter pill. Many of them have been raised to believe they can do anything and be anything, and are finding their high expectations dashed.

"Many were raised to believe that the world was their oyster," said Alexandra Robbins, author of "Conquering Your Quarterlife Crisis." "And in this kind of economy, that's just not the case."

The national unemployment rate for people ages 20 to 24 was 12.9 percent in February, up from 9 percent a year ago and higher than the overall unemployment rate of 8.1 percent, accord-



AP photo

Brianna D'Amico, 23, researches jobs at her apartment in Washington. After graduating from Marymount University last year, D'Amico landed a great job; a job that she said she loved. But three months ago, the 23-year-old was let go because of restructuring.

ing to Bureau of Labor Statistics. For those ages 25 to 29, the rate — not seasonally adjusted — was 10.6 percent.

Getting laid-off is a humbling experience for Gen Yers, many of whom have never experienced real financial hardship or big disappointment, said Nancy Molitor, a clinical psychologist in Wilmette, Ill. She said many of her young adult patients feel depressed, devastated and uneasy about their future.

"A lot of these kids grew up thinking they were going to be able to have it all," she said. "They feel frozen just when they should feel excited and hopeful about the future."

While 20-somethings don't generally have the

responsibilities of older workers, getting laid off is in other ways a harder blow because they are still trying to figure out what to do with their lives and are "ardent about doing something meaningful for a living," Robbins said.

Craig Hengel, 27, of St. Cloud, Minn., was surprised to be let go from his job at a printing company.

"Losing my job is something I never thought about because I am educated, very hard working ... and have never had to deal with something like this," he said. "I don't really know what to do next and I'm not finding much answers."

In previous recessions, companies tended to let go of more senior workers because of their high

salaries, said Andrew Sum, director of the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University. But he said younger workers are faring worse this time around as employers hold on to the workers who have knowledge, experience and better work habits.

A growing number of workers over age 60 have also been returning to the work force and capturing jobs that would have gone to young adults, he added.

Brianna D'Amico, 23, was the first to go at the high-end retail group where she landed a job in Washington, D.C. She had been there six months when the company restructured; everyone else had five or more years of experience.

"It really hurts to lose a job that you really like, that you were good at, that you were praised for being good at," said D'Amico, who is collecting unemployment. "For a while I felt so embarrassed I was laid off."

In some ways, growing up in a time of plenty has made it harder for 20-somethings to adjust because they have to learn new skills, such as budgeting, living frugally and staying out of debt, said Dr. Judith Orloff, author of "Emotional Freedom: Liberate Yourself From Negative Emotions and Transform Your Life."

Loans

Continued from Business 1

student who wants to borrow \$17,000 over two years.

For the first semester of freshman year, the student would pay \$40 a month. That figure would rise each semester, reaching \$160 by the second semester of sophomore year. The \$160 monthly payments would continue until graduation.

Once out of school, the student would owe only the principal of \$17,000.

This would be paid off over the next six years at \$328 a month. Under the previous setup, the student would have repaid the money over 15 years at \$250 a month.

The new requirement will lower the total cost of the loan to \$28,000, compared to the previous \$45,000.

For Sallie Mae, the impetus for the change is easy to see. Interest payments from students while they're in school improves cash flow for the company, noted Mark Kantrowitz, publisher of FinAid.org, which tracks the college financial aid industry. The loans are also less risky since families that can't pay while in school are weeded out.

Sallie Mae expects its default rate will drop substantially as a result of the change, Hewes said. In the last fiscal quarter, 4.5 percent of the company's pri-

"Students tend to over borrow, not realizing how much interest they're paying. With this, students will know exactly what it's costing them."

— Mark Kantrowitz,
publisher of FinAid.org

vate student loans defaulted.

It's not clear yet how the change will impact the volume of student loans that are made. But Sallie Mae projects it will issue between \$5.5 billion to \$6 billion in private student loans this year, down from the \$6.3 billion in loans it made last year.

One reason loan volume won't be hugely impacted is that banks and lenders have already tightened lending standards in the past year, Kantrowitz said.

In addition to lowering the total price of a loan, another potential upside of the change is that families will become more aware of just how costly private student loans can be.

"Students tend to over borrow, not realizing how much interest they're paying. With this, students will know exactly what it's costing them," he said.

BANKRUPTCIES

SOUTH-CENTRAL IDAHO Chapter 7, nonbusiness, under \$50,000

Philip R. Baker and Ashley N. Carraway, 400 N. Picabo Road, Bellevue, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 09-40086.

Patrick Neil Shindle, 580 Filer Ave. W., individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 09-4093.

Nicholas Joel Spanbauer and Carol Jean Spanbauer, formerly known as Carol Jean Anderson, 600 S. Fillmore, No. 32, Jerome, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 09-40127.

Robert Dee Shaw, 565 Wirsching Ave., Twin Falls, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities under \$50,000. Case no. 09-40144.

Chapter 7, nonbusiness, \$50,000 to \$100,000

Tracy Beutler, 242 Ostrander, Twin Falls, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities \$50,000 to \$100,000. Case no. 09-40105.

David R. Fuller, 333 Rock Creek Road, No. 10, Hansen, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities \$50,000 to \$100,000. Case no. 09-40123.

Stephanie Fresquez, also known as Stephanie Piper, 166 Jefferson St., Twin Falls, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities \$50,000 to \$100,000. Case no. 09-40163.

Chapter 7, nonbusiness, \$100,000 to \$500,000

Jack Harold Mayberry and DiAnna Jean Mayberry, 1206 E. 4356 N., Buhl, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case

no. 09-40081. Shannon Clinton, 1325 Heyburn Ave. E., Twin Falls, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-49 creditors, assets \$100,000 to \$500,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 09-40083.

Jay Mahlon Ostler and Jodi Lee Ann Ostler, 802 14th Ave. E., Jerome, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-49 creditors, assets \$100,000 to \$500,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 09-40084.

Alan Craig Harper, also known as Alan C. Harper Sr., and Maria Rocio Harper, 962 Caswell Ave. W., Twin Falls, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-49 creditors, assets under \$50,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 09-40087.

Lyle Wesley Canoy and Sandra Ann Canoy, 76 Highway 74, Twin Falls, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 50-99 creditors, assets \$100,000 to \$500,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 09-40096.

Paul Horton Fearheller, also known as PH Fearheller, and Gail Ruth Fearheller, 1520 E. 3900 N., Buhl, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-49 creditors, assets \$100,000 to \$500,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 09-40102.

Clayton Brooks Landon and Lisa Lee Landon, 841 Winter Fox Lane, Hailey, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-49 creditors, assets \$100,000 to \$500,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 09-40112.

Michael K. Murphy and Donna Murphy, formerly known as Donna Sengvanhpheng, 321 13th Ave. N., Buhl, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-49 creditors, assets \$50,000 to \$100,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 09-40113.

Michael Paul Noe and Patricia Earlene Noe, 325 E. 700 N., Jerome, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-49 creditors, assets \$100,000 to \$500,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 09-40116.

Carolyn Teeter, P.O. Box 2213, Twin Falls, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-49 creditors, assets \$50,000 to \$100,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 09-40119.

Aaron Gallegos and Shanny Gallegos, also known as Shanny Homan, 618 Wirsching Ave., Twin Falls, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-49 creditors, assets \$100,000 to \$500,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 09-40122.

Gary Hughes and Rayleen Hughes,

3381 N. 4525 E., Murtaugh, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-49 creditors, assets \$50,000 to \$100,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 09-40124.

Dana Paul Clickenger, 1529 E. 4230 N., Twin Falls, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-49 creditors, assets \$100,000 to \$500,000, liabilities

\$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 09-40126.

Ronald J. Stone, also known as Ron Stone, and Cheryl K. Stone, 315 Third St., Hazelton, individual, nonbusiness, Chapter 7, 1-49 creditors, assets \$50,000 to \$100,000, liabilities \$100,000 to \$500,000. Case no. 09-40128.

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AROUND THE WEST

CALIFORNIA

Traffic stop leaves 4 police wounded, suspect dead

OAKLAND — Four officers were in critical condition and a suspect dead on Saturday after gunfire at a traffic stop led to a massive manhunt that ended in a shootout, police said.

Two officers were shot in the first incident just after 1 p.m. after they stopped the suspect's vehicle in east Oakland, said Oakland police spokesman Jeff Thomason.

The suspect fled the scene on foot into a nearby neighborhood, police said, leading to an intense manhunt by dozens of Oakland police, California Highway Patrol

officers and Alameda County sheriff deputies. Streets were roped off and an entire area of east Oakland closed to traffic.

At about 3:30 p.m. officers, acting on an anonymous tip, found the suspect, who had barricaded himself in a building.

"We had SWAT officers go into that building and that's where the second shooting took place," said Thomason.

The suspect was killed during the exchange, and two more officers wounded.

All four officers are in critical condition at Highland Hospital, Thomason said. Dozens of people, including other officers gathered outside the hospital awaiting word of their colleagues' condition.

IDAHO

Company hopes to expand North Idaho gold mine

SANDPOINT — A company that operates a gold and silver mine and mill in northern Idaho wants to expand and increase production, officials say.

JoAnn Corley, mining engineer for the Shoshone Silver Co., said the company plans to expand production at its Lakeview project at the southern end of Lake Pend Oreille from 50 tons of ore per day to 300 tons.

"We would like to get the mill operating at full capacity," Corley told the Bonner County Daily Bee.

But the company faces scrutiny after three 40-gal-

lon barrels containing sodium cyanide were found with open lids and dead birds nearby during a federal inspection last year.

A citation issued to the company by the U.S. Department of Labor Mine Safety and Health Administration said workers were not aware of the barrels' contents, which can produce a lethal gas when combined with water.

The citation said the barrels were either missing labels or illegibly marked.

Corley said the inspection by federal officials took place during renovation work and before the contents of the barrels could be put in new barrels. She added that barrels containing sodium cyanide were remnants left over from previous

operations at the mine.

Central Idaho Shakespeare Festival canceled

SUN VALLEY — Officials say the Sun Valley Shakespeare Festival in central Idaho will not be held this summer due to the faltering economy.

NexStage Theatre Managing Director Kathy Wygle says the Sun Valley Renaissance Festival that ran in conjunction with the Shakespeare Festival has also been canceled for this year.

This would have been the 10th anniversary of the Shakespeare Festival.

Wygle says the festival will return next year.

WYOMING

Distemper has run its course in Yellowstone wolves

POWELL — An outbreak of distemper seems to have run its course in Yellowstone National Park wolves, a biologist said.

Yellowstone Wolf Project leader Doug Smith said the number of wolves in the park declined from 171 in 2007 to 124 in 2008 — a 27 percent drop. But he expects the wolf population to recover, as it did after distemper outbreaks in 1999 and 2005.

"Both times they bounced back," he said.

Distemper is a viral disease which affects respiratory, gastrointestinal and central nervous systems.

No sale on dino skeleton at N.Y. auction

By Jennifer Peltz
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — A rare full skeleton of a 150 million-year-old dinosaur languished on an auction block Saturday, failing to sell despite interest from two museums, the auctioneers said.

Neither museum could meet the less than \$300,000 minimum price for the 9-foot-long fossil of a dryosaurus, said Josh Chait, operations director of I.M. Chait Gallery/Auctioneers.

The stumbling block "was a lack of funding, more than the price," he said.

He said the gallery was still trying to broker a deal and had agreed to waive its commission if the fossil sold to a museum. He declined to identify the institutions that were interested.

The dryosaurus was a long-necked, plant-eating reptile that lived in the Jurassic Period.



I.M. Chait Gallery/AP photo

A complete 150-million-year-old dinosaur skeleton, top right, is shown with other fossils prior to an auction of prehistoric relics Saturday in New York.

The skeleton, unearthed at a private quarry in southern Wyoming in 1993, was being sold by Western Paleontological Laboratories Inc. The Lehi, Utah-based company searches for fossils and keeps some for display and scientific research.

The company didn't immediately respond to telephone and e-mail mes-

sages Saturday.

Several other remnants of bygone beasts did sell at the natural history-focused auction, though for less than expected.

A roughly 20,000-year-old fossil of a young woolly mammoth, 7 feet tall and 15 feet long, sold for \$55,000, Josh Chait said. The skeleton of a 16-foot-long giant marine lizard called a

mosasaur sold for \$67,000. It dates from late in the Cretaceous Period, which extended from 144 to 65 million years ago.

The mammoth and mosasaur both had been estimated to fetch as much as \$100,000. A 7-foot-long mammoth tusk went for \$27,500, below estimates that started at \$35,000. All were bought by unidentified private collectors.

"I can only guess the economy's having an effect," Chait said, adding that the items might have fetched up to 10 times as much last year.

Many people are surprised to find that the remains of dinosaurs and other ancient creatures aren't always housed in museums and can be bought, he said.

"In a perfect world, every one would be donated to a museum, but it's sort of a double-edged sword," he said. "If there was no commercial fossil market, some of the stuff ... may never have been discovered."

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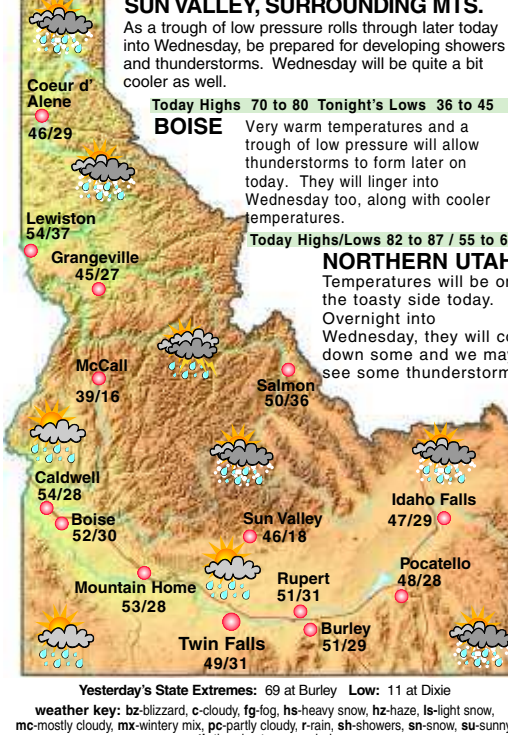
TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Occasional light showers may surface. Highs upper 40s to near 50.
Tonight: Breezy and cold enough to support a change to snow. Lows low 30s.
Tomorrow: Becoming less likely to shower. Highs middle 40s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Shower activity picking up later in the day. Highs low 50s.
Tonight: Cold winds coupled with periods of light snow. Lows upper 20s.
Tomorrow: Becoming less likely to shower. Highs middle to upper 40s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST



SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. As a trough of low pressure rolls through later today into Wednesday, be prepared for developing showers and thunderstorms.
Today Highs 70 to 80 Tonight's Lows 36 to 45
BOISE Very warm temperatures and a trough of low pressure will allow thunderstorms to form later on today.
NORTHERN UTAH Temperatures will be on the toasty side today. Overnight into Wednesday, they will cool down some and we may see some thunderstorms.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 5 columns: Today, Tonight, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges (High/Low).

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 3 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity. Includes historical data and current values.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists various cities and their forecasted weather.

Yesterday's Weather

Table with 4 columns: City, Hi, Lo, Prep. Lists weather for various cities from the previous day.

Barometric Pressure

Table with 2 columns: Today, Yesterday. Shows barometric pressure readings.

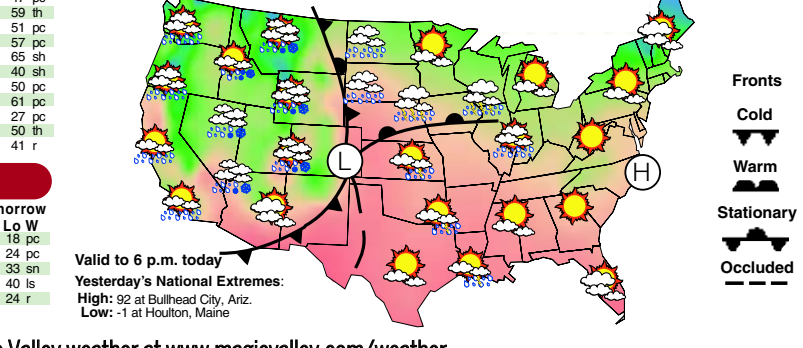
U. V. INDEX



WORLD FORECAST

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists weather forecasts for various international cities.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



GREGG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY

'My father used to say to me, 'Whenever you get into a jam, whenever you get into a crisis or an emergency...become the calmest person in the room and you'll be able to figure your way out of it.''

Rudolph Giuliani, Former Mayor of N.Y.C.

CANADIAN FORECAST

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

Woman spends days surfing for good news to fill Web site

By Dan Zak The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — As bad news hails from the heavens, as headlines thunder about DEBT and RAGE and DISASTER, as television narrates the crumbling of society with stunning graphics and Wagnerian music, as all manner of calamity gets the front-page top-of-the-hour treatment, know this: Good news has a safe house. It's a mile down an unpaved road, on a misty lake off the Occoquan River just south of Manassas, Va., in a log cabin built as a one-room fishing lodge in the 1930s.

For bird song and the typing and clicking of the woman, Geri Weis-Corbley, a mother of three teenagers. She operates the Good News Network (www.goodnewsnetwork.org), a portal for the globe's uplifting headlines, from an office painted pale yellow. Weis-Corbley spends her days browsing for reports of positivity and posting them on the site. Her headlines from this week: Optimism Boosts Florida Housing Market

Good Samaritans Lift Car From Pinned Puppy Officer Buys Shoplifted Sandwiches for Homeless Man In September, when the bank bailouts began, the Good News Network saw a 45 percent spike in traffic. About 200 people have subscribed to the site in 2009, boosting the number of paying customers past 1,000 since Weis-Corbley started \$24 yearly subscriptions last May. Other Web sites compile good news from around the world (Gimundo, Good News Daily, some religious sites), but few are as current, well kept and newsy as hers. She's out to prove that good news sells, to eventually broaden her mission into its own TV network.

'I want to give a second life to good news stories,' says Weis-Corbley, 49, who was a CNN camera operator and editor in the 1980s and believes in a balanced media diet. 'Good news is ever-green. It never gets stale.'

Large advertisement for Cooper Tires featuring the headline 'TAKE THE MONEY & RIDE SPRING EVENT' and 'SAVE UP TO \$50 BY MAIL WHEN YOU BUY A NEW SET OF 4 QUALIFYING TIRES*'. Includes details about discounts and a Commercial Tire Card offer.

Bottom section of the advertisement with four coupons for services: 'FREE Alignment Check with any Tire Purchase', 'Fluid Maintenance Service Buy One, Get 2nd 1/2 Price', 'Complete Brake Service Starting at \$99.95', and 'Tires & Custom Wheel Packages For Cars...For Light Trucks...For SUVs'.

Protesters march on Pentagon, call for an end to Iraq war

See Opinion 4



Letters to the Editor, Opinion 2 / Nation, Opinion 4-6 / World, Opinion 4-6

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2009

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

Opinion

EDITORIAL

Otter should take what he can get for road funding

Now what? The Idaho House of Representatives handed Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter the worst political defeat of his two years in office on Thursday, rejecting his proposal to phase in a 7-cent-a-gallon gasoline tax over three years to help repair Idaho's crumbling highways.

The House will vote soon — probably this week — on Otter's deeply flawed, trucker-friendly companion proposal to raise vehicle registration fees, but that bill's prospects were summed up pretty succinctly by the chairwoman of the House Transportation Committee JoAn Wood:

"I've been telling him all along he didn't have the votes," she told The Associated Press.

The Idaho Transportation Department did the governor no favor when it underestimated the yield from a registration fee hike by a whopping \$10 million. And some lawmakers are balking at a provision that would boost annual licensing costs by as much as 75 percent for owners of vehicles made before 2001 — driven, of course, by Idahoans who can least afford to pay more.

So we're down to cases here: Where is the bill lawmakers would actually pass? We can only see one: Wood's plan to raise the gas tax by 2 cents a gallon for one year.

The 14-term Rigby Republican, who voted against Otter's 7-cent increase, isn't enthusiastic about her own legislation. A staunch tax hawk, she would prefer no increase.

But other legislators think it's the way to go. Even the \$17.6 million that Wood's bill would raise — remember, the governor turned down a deal with lawmakers last year for a \$68 million increase — would be a downpayment on the backlog in Idaho highway maintenance that's growing at \$240 million each year.

"It's a pretty fractured base of support," Sen. Chuck Winder, an Eagle Republican and former member of the Idaho Transportation Board, told the *Idaho Statesman*. "I think the only choice he's got is to come back with one year and get the best number he can."

The worst thing the governor could do at this point is take other bills hostage to get his way on road funding, as did former Gov. Dirk Kempthorne in 2003.

And he should back off his stated threat to divert federal stimulus money — proposed for projects around the state, including the Highway 30/93 Bypass near Twin Falls — to Connecting Idaho projects in the Treasure Valley if lawmakers don't authorize another \$125 million in debt.

If Otter learned anything last week, it's that this Legislature is in no mood to spend a nickel more than it absolutely has to. The governor should remember that politics is the art of the possible.

Our view:

Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter isn't going to get the Legislature to go along with a big increase in taxation for highway funding. At this point, he should accept half a loaf — or less.

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

Make trucks pay more

Numbers don't add up in Otter's registration-fee bill

By Keith Allred

Last Thursday, the House voted down Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's proposal to increase fuel taxes. Whether or not you agree with the final outcome, the floor debate and the vote reflected that, after two years of intensive public deliberation about transportation funding, this proposal was ripe for consideration.

The Common Interest has developed a thorough policy brief on the transportation funding question and 170 of our members — Republicans, Democrats and independents from across Idaho — have reviewed the brief so far. On Thursday, we found the floor debate to be reasoned and substantive on both sides. We felt it engaged all the substantive issues relevant to fuel tax increases. And, we were confident that the final 43-27 House vote to defeat the measure accurately represented constituents' views. The per-

centages of our members supporting and opposing the bill were almost identical to the floor vote.

Now, the governor's second major proposal for providing increased transportation funding — a substantial increase in vehicle registration fees — is coming before the House. However, in spite of two years of discussions, we're not convinced that deliberations on this issue have matured to the point that the Legislature is poised for wise resolution.

On Tuesday, The Common Interest found a \$10 million error in the bill and brought it to the governor's attention. As a result, a new vehicle registration bill was introduced

See **TRUCKS**, Opinion 2

HOW TO CONTACT LEGISLATORS

MAILING ADDRESS:

(Name)
Idaho State Legislature
Capitol Annex
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho
83720-0038 (House)
83720-0081 (Senate)

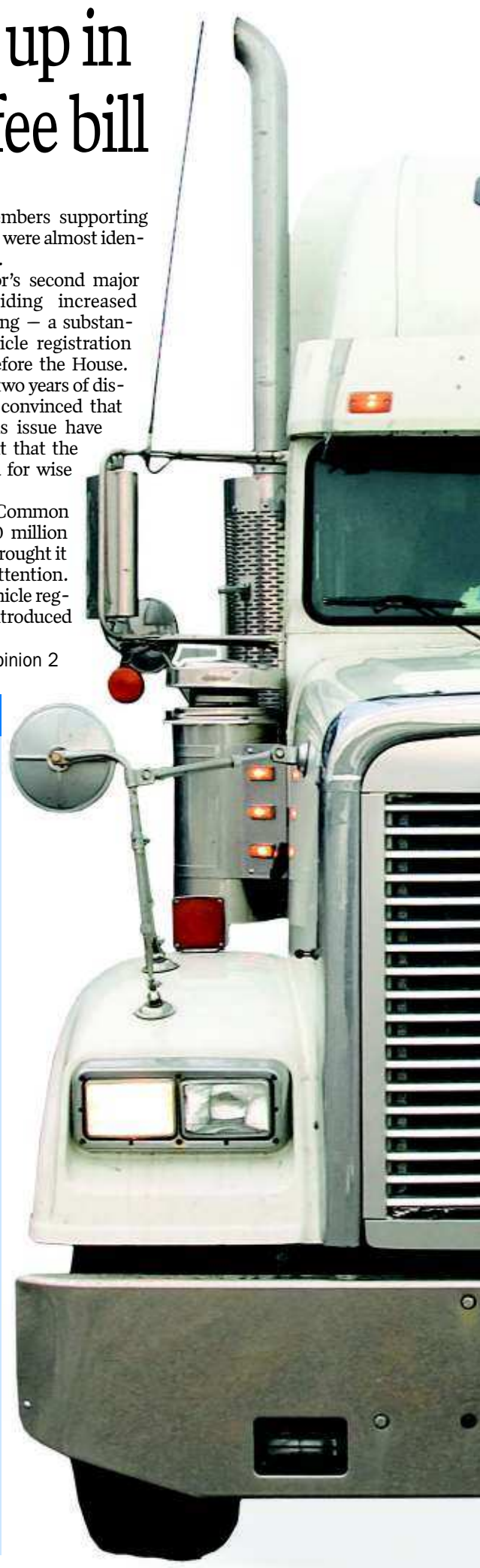
E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

idleginfo@iso.idaho.gov
Individual legislators' e-mails:
• Rep. Scott Bedke (Oakley, represents Cassia, Oneida and Power counties), sbedke@house.idaho.gov
• Rep. Maxine Bell (Jerome, represents Jerome and Minidoka counties), mbell@house.idaho.gov
• Rep. Sharon Block (Twin Falls, represents Twin Falls County), sblock@house.idaho.gov
• Sen. Bert Brackett (Three Creek, represents Twin Falls and Owyhee counties), bbrackett@senate.idaho.gov
• Sen. Chuck Coiner (Twin Falls, represents Twin Falls County), ccoiner@senate.idaho.gov
• Sen. Dean Cameron (Rupert, represents Minidoka and Jerome counties), dcameron@senate.idaho.gov
• Sen. Denton Darrington (Declo, represents Cassia, Power and Oneida counties), ddarrington@senate.idaho.gov
• Rep. Stephen Hartgen (Twin Falls,

represents Twin Falls and Owyhee counties), shartgen@house.idaho.gov
• Rep. Wendy Jaquet (Ketchum, represents Blaine, Gooding, Lincoln and Camas counties), wjaquet@house.idaho.gov
• Rep. Jim Patrick (Twin Falls, represents Twin Falls and Owyhee counties), jpatrick@house.idaho.gov
• Rep. Donna Pence (Gooding, represents Blaine, Lincoln, Gooding and Camas counties), dpence@house.idaho.gov
• Rep. Leon Smith (Twin Falls, represents Twin Falls County), lsmith@house.idaho.gov
• Rep. Bert Stevenson (Rupert, represents Minidoka and Jerome counties), jstevenson@house.idaho.gov
• Sen. Jon Thorsen (Sun Valley, represents Blaine, Lincoln, Gooding and Camas counties), jthorsen.senate.idaho.gov
• Rep. Rich Wills (Glenns Ferry, represents Elmore and Boise counties), rwills@house.idaho.gov
• Rep. Fred Wood (Burley, represents Cassia, Oneida and Power counties), fwood@house.idaho.gov

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Fax: (208) 334-5397
Hearing Impaired: (800) 626-0471



Word-choice doesn't reflect paper opinion

When election time rolls around, our endorsements favor Republicans.

This drives Democrats nuts.

When the issue is grazing on public lands, we consistently opine for multiple-use.

This drives environmentalists nuts.

And when it comes to guns, hunting and ripping around the sagebrush on an ATV, we're as Idaho as they come.

This drives merlot-sipping, tofu-noshing Hollywood types even more nuts.

So when an Oakley rancher called to say we had revealed our liberal, anti-cow bias in the March 12 Outdoors section, it drove me nuts.

Liberal? Us?

I can only surmise that the rancher from Oakley has spent too many winter days in the bunkhouse listening to those radio bigmouths who automatically dismiss anything and everything as a "liberal media" conspiracy.

Sure, our Editorial Board is probably more liberal than some folks around here, but then again we're more conservative than others (see grazing, guns, Democrats, ATVs, tofu and



132 FAIRFIELD ST. WEST
James G. Wright

hunting, listed above).

Anti-Cow?

The offending item was a single word in an article about fishing at Goose Creek Reservoir.

"The scenery ... was refreshingly different than the dry, cow-infested fields we had witnessed all morning," Outdoors Editor Andrew Weeks had written.

Infested.

OK. Not the best choice of words. Infest means "to spread or swarm in or over in a troublesome manner."

But Weeks is actually fond of free-range cattle — considers them to be mighty tasty, in fact. He didn't mean to harangue a Herford or upset an Angus. He just cast his line for a colorful word and ended up with one more troublesome.

Maybe Weeks should have said "resplendent," which means "shining brilliantly: characterized by a glowing splendor (as in) meadows

resplendent with wildflowers."

But no, it was *infested* — a word giving aid and comfort to anti-bovine elements worldwide.

While he had me on the phone, our rancher friend also pointed out that we hate Republicans, since we fail to adequately praise the GOP-dominated Idaho Legislature for its frugality. In years past we've editorialized that they should spend more money on roads, he noted, while said lawmakers more prudently built reserves that now cushion the state in hard times.

Now, I know for a fact (because an angry liberal once went down the list for me) that I can count the number of Democrats endorsed by the *Times-News* in the past 25 years without having to pull off my socks.

That means we backed those frugal Republicans even if we sometimes disagree on finer points of politics and policy.

When it comes to cows, the venerable Steve Crump points out that, "As long as I've been on the Editorial Board (19 years in May), the T-N has adamantly supported the right of cattlemen and

sheepmen to graze on public lands."

None of that matters now. A guy went fishing and wrote a story that mentioned "cow-infested fields," reversing decades of editorial cow-hugging and undoing a lifetime of conspicuous Republicanism.

The rancher said he was going to bring our transgressions up for discussion at the next Cassia County Republican Central Committee meeting. He said it twice in a short conversation. He didn't say what might happen after that, but it sounded real ominous.

I tell you, folks, it's enough to make your average newspaper editor seek solace in a nice bottle of merlot and a fruity tofu parfait.

But if you're going to wrangle words in Idaho, you better know who you are and know where you stand.

And there's one thing I do know for certain: I'd kill a man what tries to feed me a fruity tofu parfait; and no Idaho jury would convict.

Times-News Editor James G. Wright needs a long vacation. After that he can be reached at 735-3255.

TIMES-NEWS

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Busing kids back and forth makes no sense

How can our high school students possibly learn anything in a 20-minute time frame?
Very few relevant tasks can be completed in that time. The recent article regarding the transportation of high school students to and from both high schools not only is a waste of money but our students time. And added expense to the taxpayers. How can the system justify a 40-minute learning block for every class? When busing is included in that learning block? Ten minutes to and from each school, then a meet and greet with the teacher — 20 minutes, for what? Why can't the student receive an e-mail for assignments from the other school to the school he attends? Answers please!

MICKY TANNER
Twin Falls

Ask legislators to vote no on liquor bill

Please consider contacting Rep. Jim Patrick and Rep. Steve Hartgen and ask them to vote no on Gov. Otter's liquor bill. If it passes, it will only increase the liquor traffic and cause crime to increase and more families to have problems. The following statistics should be interpreted as indicators of the economic loss which follows the use of alcohol. For every \$1 collected in revenue from the alcohol industry, \$8 is spent on alcohol-related problems. The 1998 estimate of the overall economic cost of alcohol abuse was \$185 billion. More than 70 percent of this was attributed to lost productivity, \$134.2 billion (which included illness, \$87.6 billion; premature birth, \$36.5 billion; and crime, \$10.1 billion). Other costs included health care expenditures, \$26.3 billion (\$7.5 billion for treatment for abuse and \$18.9 billion for treatment of

adverse medical consequences). Remaining expenses were property and administrative costs of vehicle crashes, \$15.7 billion and criminal justice system, \$6.3 billion. This economic cost is equal to about \$683 yearly for every man, woman and child in the United States. In closing, please contact Mr. Patrick and Mr. Hartgen asking them to vote no on Gov. Otter's liquor bill.

Community can help the addicts among us

As a recovering addict for 22 years and alcoholic in recovery for eight years, I have seen and been involved with many heartaches in my life. I was raised in a Christian home, and I praise my parents for the upbringing I was fortunate to have. It was all about the choices I made in life. I was fortunate to seek and grab hold of recovery. I see and hear so much pain in people's lives due to addiction. The path of a non-recovering addict or alcoholic is jail, institutions and/or death. This is a fatal disease. How many more of our children, grandchildren and parents are going to suffer the ultimate end? My heart and prayers go out to the Holler family and to the police that were involved. They will all need our prayers during this difficult time. It should not have had to end this way. While we can, we need to grab hold of family and friends, talk and try to understand the choices we make in life. I believe religion is for people who don't want to go to hell, but spirituality is for us who have already been there. We as a community need to bond together, especially in these trying times, and utilize all choices available to us for family and friends. My prayer on a daily basis is for the addict who is still

Tell us what you think

ONLINE: Register at Magicvalley.com, and respond to any of the local opinions or stories in today's edition.
ON PAPER: The Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Please limit letters to 300 words. Include your signature, mailing address and phone number. Writers who sign letters with false names will be permanently barred from publication. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls office: mailed to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to (208) 734-5538; or e-mailed to letters@magicvalley.com.

suffering. Together, we can make a difference.
God bless.
JOHN KREPS
Twin Falls

Rebate scam is a decadent trend

There will never be a perfect order of imperfect people and, as long as there are trusting souls with money, there will be those anxious to take it from them. Our government, while alerting us to a few rip-off artists, turns a blank eye to one of the worst. The biggest con to infect this country is the rebate scam. Why would a company offer to give you back such enormous enticements? If it was completely honest about its generous offer, why doesn't it just have the checks already made out and waiting at the checkout stand — unless it never intended to give the money back in the first place. It is banking on you losing the paperwork, forgetting to submit it or completely ignoring your reply when you do. My wife and I purchased a washer and dryer locally and, after several months of waiting, will have to resort to a lawsuit to get it back. Another business has a book full of excuses why it cannot refund our rebate money. Car companies entice buyers with huge sums of money which, when added to their loan, traps them in a debt-to-value situation which can financially ruin them if the vehicle is ever repossessed. If everyone persisted in forcing these companies to cough up the promised

rebate, the program would end abruptly. While completely legal, they are bilking the American public out of hundreds of millions of dollars and the government has never said a word of warning. I have developed a practice of refusing to purchase anything baited with a rebate, knowing I will most likely never see my money again.

One of the responsibilities of our government is to protect the people. I would like to see Idaho become the first state to outlaw this decadent trend.
THOMAS HUTCHISON
Kimberly

Federal Reserve needs more oversight

Readers: I urge you to contact your U.S. congressman, Mike Simpson at (208) 225-5531, and encourage him to co-sponsor and support HR 1207, the Federal Reserve Transparency Act of 2009. This bill, introduced by Ron Paul, which takes only a few minutes to read, will bring increased transparency and congressional oversight to the Federal Reserve. At a time when there has been extensive debate and political grandstanding about the bailout, stimulus and budget bills passed by Congress, there has been little discussion about the trillions and trillions of dollars being lent out by the Federal Reserve. This money is essentially backed by the American taxpayer, and yet the current rules on auditing the Federal Reserve are insufficient in telling us where that money is going.

Whether you agree with trying to "save" the economy with taxpayer money or not, you must agree that there should be transparency and accountability with regards to where that money is being spent. A lack of support for this bill would represent a desire to continue Washington's culture of secrecy and continue the status quo of behind-closed-doors deal-making.

If Mike Simpson (2nd District) or Walt Minnick (1st District) chooses not to support this bill, I would enjoy reading their explanations as to why they support government secrecy and out-of-control, unrestrained lending by the private Federal Reserve bankers.
JEREMY SASSER-COLLINS
Twin Falls

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Trucks

Continued from Opinion 1
Thursday morning and will receive a hearing this coming week. We're hopeful that the hearing for the new bill — which corrects the \$10 million error — will bring increased recognition to the far more serious problem that remains. The governor's proposal unfairly shifts the burden of funding our transportation system away from those who put the most wear and tear on that system. Under House Bill 254, car and pickup owners would pay 67 percent higher registration fees after the full three-year phase in. Light truck owners would pay 45 percent more. Heavy truck owners would pay only 5 percent more. While they may disagree with other aspects of the proposal, most legislators seem to agree with the governor that the significantly smaller increases in heavy truck registration fees in this bill are justified. Having reviewed the evidence, the members of The Common Interest disagree. The governor's proposal would make existing inequities between heavy trucks and all other categories of vehicles much worse. The preliminary results of the Idaho Transportation Department's cost allocation study indicate that cars are already paying 21 percent more, and heavy trucks are already paying 19 percent less, than they should relative to the wear and tear they put on our highways. Other studies similarly find that car owners are subsidizing heavy truck owners.

Rather than increase the existing inequities, more than 75 percent of our members support requiring equal or greater heavy truck registration fees if car and pickup registration fees are increased this year. In fact, of the dozens of different transportation funding proposals considered by our members, only one has

Under House Bill 254, car and pickup owners would pay 67 percent higher registration fees after the full three-year phase in. Light truck owners would pay 45 percent more. Heavy truck owners would pay only 5 percent more.

attracted more support. More than 80 percent of our members support requiring that Idaho conduct cost allocation studies periodically and then adjust transportation fees and taxes accordingly so that we have a rational, fair basis for our transportation funding system. The governor argues that the differential treatment in his proposal is necessary because of inequities within the heavy truck registration system itself. He argues that if heavy truck owners' fees were raised as much as car and pickup owners' fees before the heavy truck owners' concerns are considered, many trucking firms would move their base of operations outside of Idaho, meaning that the state

would raise less, not more revenue. The facts don't support his argument. Idaho belongs to the interstate compact for commercial truck registration fees. As the Idaho Trucking Association's own description of this compact explains, "Because the fees are apportioned according to fleet travel, a fleet's registration fees will be essentially the same wherever it is based." Nor does his plan to address the inequities within the heavy truck registration system by convening a task force this summer offer a plausible solution. The governor argues that, once the task force addresses truckers' concerns, then — if it suggests that heavy

truck owners should pay more — the governor will propose those increases next session. Most of the members of the task force, however, would be heavy truck owners. The members of The Common Interest hope that other common citizens will join our efforts to make sure that our voice is heard by contacting their legislators on this issue. You can review our brief at: www.TheCommonInterest.org

Keith Allred of Eagle, a Twin Falls native and a 1983 graduate of Twin Falls High School, is the president of The Common Interest, a non-partisan, Boise-based public-policy advocacy group. Allred was previously a public policy professor at Harvard University.

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Watchmen (R) Daily 7:45 9:00
Taken (PG) Daily 7:00 9:20
The Wrestler (R) Daily 7:30 9:45
Hotel for Dogs (PG) Daily 7:00 9:20
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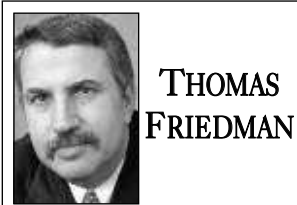
Hate AIG? Then you won't like the bank bailout

When you hear a sitting U.S. senator call for brokers to commit suicide, you know that the anger level in America is reaching a "Bonfire of the Vanities," get-out-the-pitchforks danger level. It is dangerous for so many reasons, but most of all because this real anger about AIG could overwhelm the still really difficult but critically important things we must do in the next few weeks to defuse this financial crisis.

Let me be specific: If you didn't like reading about AIG employees getting millions in bonuses after their company — 80 percent of which is owned by U.S. taxpayers — racked up the biggest quarterly loss in the history of the Milky Way Galaxy, you're really not going to like the bank bailout plan to be rolled out soon by the Obama team. That plan will begin by using up the \$250 billion or so left in TARP funds to start removing the toxic assets from the banks. But ultimately, to get the scale of bank repair we need, it will likely require some \$750 billion more.

The plan makes sense, and, if done right, it might even make profits for U.S. taxpayers. But in this climate of anger, it will take every bit of political capital in Barack Obama's piggy bank — as well as Michelle's, Sasha's and Malia's — to sell it to Congress and the public.

The job can't be his alone. Everyone who has a stake in stabilizing and reforming the system is going to have to suck it up. And that starts with the employees at AIG who got the \$165 million in bonuses. They need to voluntarily return them. Everyone today is taking a haircut of some kind or another, and AIG brokers surely can be no exception. We do not want the U.S. government abrogating contracts — the rule of law is why everyone around the world wants to invest in our economy. But taxpayers should not sit quietly as bonuses are paid to people who were running an insurance scheme that would have made Bernie Madoff smile. The best way out is for the AIG bankers to take



THOMAS FRIEDMAN

one for the country and give up their bonuses.

Let's not forget, AIG was basically running an unregulated hedge fund inside a AAA-rated insurance company. And — like Madoff, who was selling phantom stocks — AIG was selling, in effect, phantom insurance against the default of bundled subprime mortgages and other debt — insurance that AIG had nowhere near enough capital to back up when bonds went bust. It was a hedge fund with no hedges. That's why taxpayers have had to pay the insurance for AIG — so its bank and government customers won't tank and cause even more harm.

Unfortunately, all the money we have already spent on AIG and the banks was just to prevent total system failure.

It was just to keep the body alive. That's why healing the system will likely require the rest of the TARP funds, plus the \$750 billion the administration warned Congress in the new budget that it could need.

Best I can piece together, the administration's recovery plan — due out shortly — will look something like this: The U.S. government will create a facility to buy the toxic mortgages off the balance sheets of the major banks.

They will be bought by a public-private fund or funds in which taxpayers will, in effect, be partners with hedge funds and private equity groups. The hedge funds will be there to provide expertise in pricing and trading the assets. The taxpayers will be there to guarantee — gulp — that the hedge funds won't lose money if they take the early risks and to also lend them money to make some of the purchases. Taxpayers will benefit from any profits these partnerships make.

Once the banks sell their toxic assets, many will need capital, because, while they

may be carrying these assets on their books at 85 cents on the dollar, they initially may have to sell them for less. So, the government will probably have to inject capital into more banks to maintain their solvency, but once the banks begin to clear their balance sheets of those toxic assets, they will likely attract the private capital they need and relieve the government of having to put in more.

Will it work? We can only hope. But I know this for sure: Unless the banks are healed, the economy can't lift off, and that bank healing is not going to happen

without another big, broad taxpayer safety net. The only person with the clout to sell something this big is President Obama. The bankers and Congress will have to help; every citizen will have to swallow hard. But ultimately, Obama will have to persuade people that this is the least unfair and most effective solution. It will be his first big leadership test. It is coming soon, and it is coming to a theater — and a bank — near you.

Thomas Friedman is a columnist for The New York Times. Write to him at tfriedman@nytimes.com.

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NATION & WORLD

AROUND THE WORLD

WASHINGTON WaMu sues FDIC over bank seizure

SEATTLE — Washington Mutual's holding company is suing federal regulators for billions of dollars, saying the firesale of the bank's assets to JPMorgan Chase violated its rights.

The lawsuit was filed Friday in federal court against the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which seized the Seattle-based savings and loan in September.

Lawyers for Washington Mutual Inc., the holding company, argue that the bank was worth more than the \$1.9 billion JPMorgan paid for it in a deal arranged by the FDIC.

S. KOREA U.S. awaits news on detained reporters

SEOUL — The United States has contacted representatives of North Korea about two detained American journalists and is waiting for a reply, a U.S. official said Saturday.

North Korea confirmed earlier Saturday that it detained the two Americans for "illegally intruding" in its territory after crossing the border from China.

Authorities are investigating the two women, who were seized Tuesday, the official Korean Central News Agency said in a brief report that gave no other details.

FLORIDA Spacewalkers install pin upside down

CAPE CANAVERAL — Spacewalking astronauts accidentally inserted a pin upside down and jammed an equipment storage platform at the international space station on Saturday, prompting NASA to assemble a special team to try to resolve the problem.

Steven Swanson and Joseph Acaba finished most of their other chores — loosening bolts on batteries, hooking up an antenna and photographing a pair of radiators. But the pin trouble ate up so much time that they had to skip some work.

NASA immediately put together a team of experts to determine whether there's any way the crew can pry or hammer the pin loose during a spacewalk Monday — the third and last of the mission.

The lead spacewalk officer in Mission Control, Glenda Laws-Brown, said Acaba apparently installed the clamp-like pin upside down — "180 degrees out from where it should have been."

PENNSYLVANIA Dangerous acid spill prompts evacuation

WIND GAP — A tractor-trailer carrying a dangerous acid overturned on a highway Saturday, prompting authorities to order thousands of residents to leave the area for almost nine hours.

The tanker, carrying 33,000 pounds of corrosive hydrofluoric acid, a component for household detergents, flipped on a sloping curve in the road at about 3 a.m. on the edge of Wind Gap, about 60 miles north of Philadelphia, and began leaking slowly.

Hydrofluoric acid in low doses can irritate the eyes, nose and respiratory tract, and in higher doses it can cause severe burns, chronic lung disease or even death, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says.

At 7 a.m., officials ordered an evacuation of 944 households. They said about 5,000 people were in the affected area.

— The Associated Press

Obama stays course despite bonus uproar

By Lolita C. Baldor
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Knocked off balance by the bonuses brouhaha, President Barack Obama is relying on direct appeals to the public to refocus attention on his ambitious agenda and drive the debate.

The president has shouldered responsibility for the mess and, in his radio and Web address Saturday, sought to put the financial finger-pointing behind in favor of his policy pillars — deficit cutting, overhauling health care and energy, improving education.

He will use a flurry of events to make his case, including a network televi-

sion interview airing Sunday and a prime-time news conference Tuesday. The administration also is expected, as early as Monday, to roll out its plan to rid banks of their toxic assets and speed the flow of loans.

Being heard above the din may prove difficult. Lawmakers are wrangling over taxing people who got big bonuses and worrying the president's budget could generate \$9.3 trillion in red ink over the next decade.

"I realize there are those who say these plans are too ambitious to enact," Obama said in his weekend address. "To that I say that the challenges we face are too large to ignore. I didn't come here

to pass on our problems to the next generation — I came here to solve them."

Over the past week, Obama sought to spread his message unfiltered to people, tapping his massive e-mail list to promote his agenda one on one and speaking to enthusiastic supporters at town hall meetings in California. But dominating all else was the disclosure that American International Group Inc. had paid out \$165 million in bonuses to employees, including to traders in the financial unit that nearly collapsed the insurer.

The New York Times reported in Sunday editions that the regulatory proposal

would include recommendations for increased oversight of executive pay at all banks, Wall Street firms and possibly other companies. The administration was still debating details of the plan including how broadly it should be applied and how far it should go beyond simple reporting requirements, the Times said, quoting unnamed officials.

Treasury spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter would not discuss what changes to executive compensation the administration might propose. She said the whole issue was being examined in the context of an effort to keep executive bonuses from fostering excessive risk taking.



AP photo

President Obama and first lady Michelle Obama walk across the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, before boarding Marine One for a flight to Camp David, Md., Saturday.



AP photo

A young boy takes a break from shopping with his mother and climbs on a giant L.L. Bean boot outside the L.L. Bean store at Ross Park Mall in Ross Township, Pa., Wednesday. The boot seems to shout: No buy is too big, no shopping dream too outsized.

Slapped by recession, can Consumer Nation rethink?

By Ted Anthony
Associated Press writer

ROSS TOWNSHIP, Pa. — The first thing you see is the enormous boot.

Atop a ridge north of Pittsburgh, towering over customers at the entrance to Ross Park Mall, the giant L.L. Bean boot seems to shout: No buy is too big, no shopping dream too outsized. Come on in. Retail nirvana awaits. "Please do not climb on the boot," says

a sign, as if we all might.

Inside, along buffed corridors freshly retooled to ramp up the aura of luxury, storefront signs spin a tale of a culture in conflict. "More choices coming soon," says a store under construction. "Unmounted Diamond Event," trumpets Littman Jewelers.

Yet selected items at Ann Taylor and Morini are 60 percent off. Le Gourmet Chef exhorts everyone to "Buy More \$ave More" — a

truth and a paradox that distills America into a bumper-sticker slogan.

And just past the front door is the place that touts "Great Deals Inside." That would be Citizens Bank.

These are the contradictions that confront 21st-century America. We love to shop, but we need to save. We want it all, and we want it now. No matter whether it's a new pair of \$100 jeans on your Visa, 90 days same as cash on that

new car, a subprime mortgage.

Psychologically, they're of a piece: Buy now, pay later. Shop 'til you drop.

Now we're paying. Now we're dropping. Credit — personal and institutional — is overextended into the absurd. Money that didn't exist in the first place is now frighteningly, heartbreakingly real.

See **CONSUMERS**, Opinion 5

On war's anniversary, protests call for it to end

By Nafeesa Syeed
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Before war protesters ended their demonstration Saturday afternoon, several placed cardboard coffins in front of the offices of northern Virginia defense contractors such as KBR Inc. and Lockheed Martin Corp. as riot police stood by.

"Lockheed Martin you can't hide, we charge you with genocide!" they chanted as part of a demonstration that began in Washington to mark the sixth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq.

Arlington County, Va., police estimated there were 2,500 to 3,000 protesters and said no arrests were made.

Organizers from the ANSWER Coalition said more than 1,000 groups sponsored the protest to call for an end to the Iraq war, and estimated that about 10,000 people participated. Carrying signs saying "We need jobs and schools, not war" and "Indict Bush," demonstrators beat drums and played trumpets as they



Anti-war protesters carry mock coffins draped with American flags across the Memorial Bridge to Arlington, Va., during a march to the Pentagon, marking the sixth anniversary of the war in Iraq, Saturday.

AP photo

marched from near the Lincoln Memorial past the Pentagon into Virginia.

Meanwhile, at a similar protest in San Francisco, tension grew after four or five dozen activists surrounded a group of riot-equipped police, throwing sticks and water bottles. Police responded by regrouping in riot formation and physically detaining several protesters who pushed and shoved with officers.

Protest leaders shouted from the stage, urging police to leave. Barriers

were quickly erected between police and protesters as an organizer urged calm and the activists started to disperse.

In Washington, protesters demanded that President Barack Obama immediately withdraw all U.S. troops from Iraq, saying thousands of Iraqis have died and thousands of American troops have been wounded or killed.

"We think it's especially important for this new administration to feel the pressure from people that we don't want more war,"

said Obama supporter Pat Halle, 59, of Baltimore.

Anti-war activists said even though former President George W. Bush is out of power, they are disappointed with what they see as stalled action from Obama.

"Obama seems to be led somewhat by the bureaucrats. I want him to follow up on his promise to end the war," said 66-year-old Perry Parks of Rockingham, N.C., who said he served in the Army for nearly 30 years, including in Vietnam.

Protesters visit AIG officials' homes

By John Christoffersen
Associated Press writer

FAIRFIELD, Conn. — A busload of activists representing working- and middle-class families paid visits Saturday to the lavish homes of American International Group executives to protest the tens of millions of dollars in bonuses awarded by the struggling insurance company after it received a massive federal bailout.

About 40 protesters sought to urge AIG executives who received a portion of the \$165 million in bonuses to do more to help families.

"We think \$165 million could be used in a more appropriate way to keep people in their homes, create more jobs and health care," said Emeline Bravo-Blackport, a gardener.

She marveled at AIG executive James Haas' colonial house, which has stunning views of a golf course and the Long Island Sound. The Fairfield house is "another part of the world" from her life in nearby Bridgeport, which flirted with bankruptcy in the 1990s and still struggles with foreclosures and unemployment.

"Lord, I wonder what it's like to live in a house that size," she said.

One protester, Claire Jeffery, of Bloomfield, said she's on the verge of foreclosure. She works as a housekeeper; her husband, a truck driver, can't find work. "I love my home," she said. "I really want people to help us."

News of the bonuses last week ignited a firestorm of controversy and even death threats against AIG employees. The company, which is based in New York, has received \$182.5 billion in federal aid and now is about 80 percent government-owned, while the national housing and job markets have collapsed as the country spirals into a crippling recession.

American International Group Inc. has said it was contractually obligated to give the retention bonuses, payments designed to keep valued employees from quitting, to people in its financial products unit, based in Wilton, Conn. Congress began action on a bill that would tax 90 percent of the bonuses, and the company's chief executive urged anyone who got more than \$100,000 to return at least half.

AIG has argued that retention bonuses are crucial to pulling the company out of its crisis. Without the bonuses, the company says, top employees who best understand AIG's business would leave.

Consumers

Continued from Opinion 4

And the temples of our consumer choice are starting to crumble.

Chrysler and General Motors are wondering if their century-old tanks are empty. Starbucks, home of the \$4 venti latte, is laying off thousands and has — et tu, Brute? — launched a cheap brand of instant coffee. Circuit City expired two weeks ago, leaving 567 stores dark and Best Buy as the main place to shop for the 60-inch flat-screen HDTV you can't afford.

This is economic crisis. And in Washington and on Wall Street, they're scrambling to fix it with economic cures — useful ones or misguided ones, depending upon your perspective. But however effective they are, they remain attempts to impose a financial solution upon a dilemma that, in many ways, is cultural and behavioral.

Because in America, we consume. It is what we do, what we have been told to do, what our government usually tells us to do, what we love to do and what we must do. It has built us into a behemoth and undercut us at inopportune moments. Viewed from a distance, it's easy to see us as a nation of economic 5-year-olds, spending our allowance before we get it and demanding more, more, more, then being shocked when the money runs out.

Well, our revels now are ended. And at the edges of any economic recovery that might lie ahead lurks a question that few seem inclined to contemplate: At the dawn of the administration that swore it would bring change to us, can we bring change to ourselves?

A telling moment

The Jan. 29 White House daily briefing offered a telling moment when the question of what to do with federal stimulus money came up. "The point of an economic stimulus plan," presidential press secretary Robert Gibbs said, "is to get money into people's hands and into people's pockets so that they use their hand to reach in their pocket and spend that money."

But wait, someone said. Hold on. What about savings? Wasn't it the nationwide lack of savings and overextension of credit — institutional and personal — that got us into this mess? Gibbs was quick and emphatic: "I'm not discouraging savings," he said.

And therein lies the tension. It's like the old Warner Bros. cartoons in which Daffy Duck or some other character has miniature versions of himself on his shoulder — one a gentle angel, the other a pitchfork-wielding devil — giving him polar opposite accounts of what to do next. Shop? Save? Shop more?

The conundrum of America has long been thus — thrift and parsimony vs. capitalism and acquisition. Both are virtues. One is seen as small-town and heartland, and thus appealing.

The other, on an institutional level, elevated America into an economic giant and, on a personal level, made us a nation of debtors with really cool toys and houses we can't pay for.

They can seem irreconcilable. Even as Calvin Coolidge was cautioning that "thrift and self-control are not sought because they create wealth, but because they create character," John Maynard Keynes was insisting that "the engine which drives enterprise is not thrift, but profit."

When bad things happen, the instinct is to batten the hatches and not spend. That's why George W. Bush had to tell us to get out and shop after 9/11. As absurd as it sounded, the message was solid: Don't quit the economy or it will quit you.

Faith in the future

But the genius of America has always been its penchant for believing in better days ahead, not worse ones, so it's difficult to justify saving for a rainy day when the national narrative expects sunny skies. That's why about the only thing that made sense in Jim Cramer's comments to Jon Stewart earlier this month was when he said that of course he thought the market would keep going up; hadn't it been doing so for years? Is it any wonder we're confused?

Slowly, though, signs are emerging that suggest the recent months of economic free fall and attendant angst have gotten our attention. Luxury shopping — goods bought at places like Coach and Neiman Marcus — was down 19.2 percent in February from a year ago, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers. And an AP/GfK poll last month showed that 65 percent of Americans questioned worried about whether they'd be able to pay their bills.

"Mentally, it's already changing. We always wondered, what were they like, those people of the Great Depression — how did they learn how to save? And now we're becoming like them," says Amity Shlaes, author of

"The Forgotten Man: A New History of the Great Depression."

Amid the encouragement to buy, encouragements to save — truly save rather than just buy one and get one free — are emerging.

Feedthepig.org, a savings advice site, enlists a straight-talking pig in a pink suit named Benjamin — alarming but effective — to encourage young adults from 25 to 34 to stick coins into the slot in his head. Its Web traffic soared by almost 40,000 in January as the recession deepened. Its all-ages counterpart, 360financialliteracy.org, which doesn't use talking ham, breaks down financial common sense into life stages with a depth and breadth that would make Ben Franklin's penny-saved heart soar.

What's particularly interesting about these initiatives is who's behind them: the professional organization for American accountants, AICPA, whose leaders were alarmed when they learned three years ago that the national savings rate was a negative figure for the first time since the Depression.

"As a nation, economically, I think we got very soft. It just got too easy," says Carl George, CEO of the Illinois accounting firm Clifton Gunderson and chairman of the National CPA Financial Literacy Commission.

"The message has been let's revitalize or make the economy more vital, and the way to do that is to insert your own personal capital into the economy," George says. "And I think, 'OK, that's a good message IF you can afford it! But you know what? If you can't afford to go out and buy that widescreen ... you haven't done anybody any good.'"

Americans are not known for being introspective, but rage at the Bernard Madoffs of the world may be encouraging even that. People look at the CEOs and the big-bank bailouts and the private jets, and suddenly Gordon Gekko saying "Greed is good" doesn't sound all that cinematic anymore.

Lydia Perez-Carpenter, an actress and waitress in New York, sees some of that. At 25, she has seen many friends in recent months "finding the cheap way of doing what

we want to do" or, even, contemplating savings and frugality. She has put a rubber band around her credit card to remind herself that it's money she doesn't have.

"Most of my generation has this concept that, 'Oh, I'll just put it on my credit card!' Then we're sitting here paying hundreds of dollars a month on credit-card debt, and it'll never go away," she says. "We definitely need an attitude adjustment. The American way of thinking in my mind is wanting whatever we want now with very little long term-thinking. Hopefully that's changing."

Time for realism?

Wishful thinking, but perhaps realism's moment is at hand. Can it be we didn't realize that our instant-gratification culture ran so deep that it permeated not only our wallets and our attitudes but our financial institutions as well? Can it further be that the vaunted indicator of "consumer confidence" is a double-edged sword, and that buying — pardon, "infusing money into the economy" — isn't the best starting point from which to view our lot?

Tod Porter, who heads the economics department at Youngstown State University in Ohio, one of the country's most struggling areas, sees us struggling through the cloudy waters of what economists call "the paradox of thrift." In this model, savings operates like a daily multivitamin. In sensible doses it is a virtue that fosters stability and keeps the system strong. But in excess, it can poison the system by reducing the demand for goods and services — and making bad recessions worse.

For the moment, though, we are reaping the aftereffects of not taking our vitamins. The system is broken, and many of the vandals are, in fact, us.

"It was like Wile E. Coyote running off the cliff, and for a while he doesn't realize there's nothing underneath him. And that can only last so long," Porter says. His voice trails off, and he poses a question.

"At what point does everybody realize the game is up?"

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¹ On October 3, 2008, FDIC insurance temporarily increased from \$100,000 to \$250,000 per depositor through December 31, 2009.

² Enrollment in online banking is required to receive online alerts.

³ To earn KeyBank Rewards points you must request a KeyBank Rewards Debit Card and enroll in the KeyBank Rewards Program (there is an annual fee for this program).

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Crossing the icy unknown, in search of climate clues

Editor's Note — Visiting a Norwegian outpost in Antarctica, an AP reporter met with a team of scientists just ending a 1,400-mile journey from the South Pole. Here is their story.

By Charles J. Hanley
Associated Press writer

TROLL RESEARCH STATION, Antarctica — On the 27th day of their trek, a dozen “black specks” of humanity crawling across Antarctica’s vast white silence, Lou Albershardt heard a sound she’d never heard in two decades on the ice.

The cable powering her drill, a \$100,000 piece of equipment cutting through ice 302 feet below, snapped without warning and vanished down the dark, frigid borehole.

“I felt my whole body drop,” she said. “I couldn’t believe it.”

Her U.S.-Norwegian scientific team was 500 miles from the South Pole, their starting point, and 900 miles short of Troll Research Station, their destination. They sat atop the 2-mile-high East Antarctica plateau, amid “diamond dust” clouds of ice crystals, with temperatures dropping below zero Fahrenheit, the wind biting, and their most vital research tool, their deep-coring drill, lost — locked in an instant icy grip far beneath their feet.

The expedition faced a wrenching failure. Albershardt knew no one ever retrieved a drill from so deep a hole. “No way!”

It was Jan. 18 and the Norwegian-American Scientific Traverse of East Antarctica was already one of the longest research treks ever undertaken in one of the least-explored parts of the southernmost continent.

An ambitious effort to probe the planet’s oldest, thickest ice sheet for clues to past climate, it was the first major scientific expedition across the Queen Maud Land region in a half-century. Its goal was to help science better understand how Antarctica and future climate might interact in an age of global warming, how much ice might melt into the sea, how high the oceans might rise.

The first leg was a two-month journey to the South Pole in the Southern Hemisphere summer of 2007-2008 from this Norwegian outpost in East Antarctica, 150 miles inland from the southern ocean.

This summer, the 12-member crew, half veterans of the first leg, left the U.S. South Pole station on Dec. 23 for the return trip, following a more westerly route back north, creeping along, in their cherry-red snow tractors, at the speed of a lawn mower.

The new, Swedish-built tracked vehicles may have been slow, but the transport was “fabulous,” said expedition leader Tom Neumann.

A century after explorers first reached the South Pole on skis and dogsleds, these 21st-century scientists were crossing the forbidding icescape while working at laptops, linking to the Internet via satellite, eating three daily meals in one big, boxy, heated module, and sleeping in stacked bunks in another, all pulled along atop oversized skis.

“The whole concept was that we spend as little time as necessary on surviving and as much time as possible to do science,” said Neumann, 35, a NASA geophysicist.

He had the team to do it — five Ph.D.s in glaciology and related fields, including Ted Scambos, 53, a leading U.S. ice expert and member of nine previous Antarctic expeditions.

Their dedication, spending four months away from home, was self-evident. Dartmouth College’s Zoe Courville, 31, Eskimo-like in her knowledge of ice, had been married for less than a month when she packed up and headed south last October.

“I tend to get excited about snow, and people don’t understand,” she laughed. Luckily her bridegroom did.

Just as crucial to the team’s progress were its Norwegian nonscientists, from Ole Tveiten, the tall physician watching over them all, to Svein Henriksen, a compact, intense former Volvo truck repairman who followed a simple credo as expedition mechanic: “I never give up!”

On Jan. 18 it was Henriksen who saved the day — and the drill.

“Before I knew it, Svein was already working on a ‘hook?’ Albershardt recalled for a reporter after the team reached this station Feb. 21.

In his workshop, a small red module on skis, Henriksen, 40, fashioned a contraption from plate steel and bolts that team leader Neumann likened to “an upside-down tulip.” Spitting on it for luck, the mechanic lowered it into Albershardt’s 4-inch-wide borehole, down 203 feet to where it found the tangled cable.

Swinging and yanking this hook, the team snared the cable, began hoisting it up, but then lost it down the hole again. Over 36 hours, they repeatedly hooked, then lost the cable, until they raised it to 11-foot depth. It would go no higher.

They then dug deep into the snow, grabbed the cable and reattached it to Albershardt’s winch. But the real prize remained stuck far below. To melt the borehole walls imprisoning the drill, they needed ethanol, and they had none.

Late that Thursday, 4½ days after the drill stuck, a Twin Otter airplane from the South Pole station landed on the ice to deliver 11 gallons of ethanol.

Henriksen now improvised a plastic bottle whose spout would open when it was lowered to the right depth and its cord was jerked, spilling the solvent around the drill. By Friday morning, they were lifting the drill, undamaged, from the hole.

The scientific caravan set off again, with “Lasse” in the lead and “Sembla” taking up the rear. Scambos had dubbed the four snow tractors with the names of early explorers’ favorite sled dogs.

Driving Lasse, Stein Tronstad of the Norwegian Polar Institute monitored a radar mounted like a prow on his ice “ship,” searching ahead in the blinding white landscape for crevasses, the deep fissures that wrecked earlier expeditions.

Far to the rear, towed along 300 feet behind Sembla in a black-painted, sun-heated wooden cabin on skis, British scientist Kirsty Langley, also of the Norwegian institute, tuned in the low-frequency deep radar trailing behind on a boom, measuring ice-sheet depth and the topography of East Antarctica’s mountainous surface, a mile or more down through the ice.

Buried in wool blankets, her cabin creaking along the ice, she also tuned her head-

phones in to her favorite rock music.

“You can sit back by yourself,” she said. “Time for reflection” — on how ice crystals, for example, are minute, insignificant, but together form giant ice sheets, and “yet we’re nothing. We’re just little black specks on the ice sheet.”

Langley, like others, would ski off alone during breaks, to listen to the boundless silence. Or the team would gather together in the warmth of the living module to watch movies — all three “Godfathers,” all three “Lord of the Rings.”

Toilet, shower, big-screen entertainment, heated and comfortable vehicle cabins — compared with past expeditions on snowmobiles, pitching tents, digging pits for latrines, the Norwegian-American Traverse was a “luxury trip,” said Finnish glaciologist Anna Simisalo of the University of Oslo.

At their science stops, “it would take just 15 minutes to run wires from the generator, drop the stairs, and you’d have warm space you could count on,” said Neumann. Resupplied by air drops of fuel drums, the caravan could cover 70 miles on a good day.

One bad day reminded them, however, that Antarctica remained a perilous place.

On Feb. 11, at the last of seven science stops, 8,900 feet high on the plateau, the wind reached over 30 mph and the wind chill factor dropped to minus 85 Fahrenheit — instant frostbite to exposed skin. But they had to work outside: The tractors were immobilized, wind-whipped snow freezing the engine compartments.

Henriksen took charge, turning the blast of a stand-alone industrial heater on each engine, taking eight hours to get all four “dogs” revved up. Meanwhile, “five or six of us got frostbite,” Scambos said.

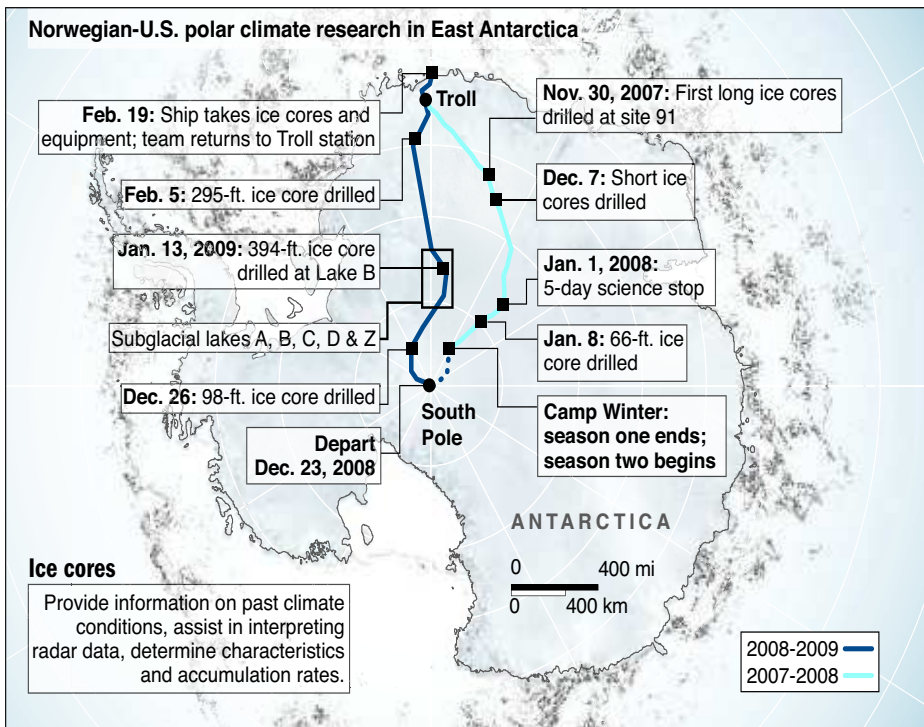
Back in action, they drove through the night, to keep the engines warm and get on schedule.

“We drove 24 hours,” Courville said, adding of her close-knit team, “There was a feeling we could do anything.”

What they did do in two months over the ice, combined with the findings of 2008’s first leg, was to create the basis for many months’ more work at their home laboratories and computer screens, collating and analyzing data, collaborating and consulting, writing and rewriting.

Exploring Antarctica to shed light on climate change

A U.S.-Norwegian scientific team made a roundtrip trek from Norway’s Troll Research Station to the South Pole in an effort to analyze Antarctic ice and the effects of global warming.



SOURCE: Norwegian-U.S. Scientific Traverse of East Antarctica

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Pope condemns sorcery, urges Angolans to convert

By Victor L. Simpson
Associated Press writer

LUANDA, Angola — Tens of thousands of Angola's Catholics lined the streets of the capital Saturday for a blessing from Pope Benedict XVI, who urged the country's faithful to reach out and convert people who believe in witchcraft.

"In today's Angola," he said at Mass in Luanda, "Catholics should offer the message of Christ to the many who live in the fear of spirits, of evil powers by whom they feel threatened."

He also gave a message of hope to young people, including some wounded and maimed during Angola's long civil war, when he addressed a crowd of some 30,000 people later at a sports stadium, where a drum concert was held.

"I think of the many tears you shed for the loss of relatives," he told the crowd at a soccer stadium where he watched the drum concert by young men with painted faces, and dancers in colorful costumes. The civil war started with Angola's 1975 independence from Portugal and ended in 2002.

The 81-year-old pontiff, wearing white robes, looked tired and moved slowly in the tropical heat during the youth appearance in late afternoon.

Hours before he arrived at the Coqueiros stadium, a stampede broke out as the gates were opened to people waiting outside, and two people were killed in the crush, said Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi.

"The pope is very upset," Lombardi said late Saturday. Portuguese news agency LUSA cites an unidentified source at a local hospital as saying a man and a woman were killed, eight others were hospitalized with minor



A girl reacts as Pope Benedict XVI arrives at a gathering of youths in Luanda, Angola, Saturday.

AP photo

injuries, and 10 were given medical assistance at the site.

An AP reporter saw another stampede break out when the pope arrived, and at least 20 people were taken away in ambulances.

In the morning, Benedict attracted thousands onto the streets every time his motorcade passed and delighted the crowds by speaking in Portuguese.

Drawing on the more than 500 years of Roman Catholicism in Angola, he called Christianity a bridge

between the local peoples and the Portuguese settlers. The country's history as a Portuguese colony gave the country Christian roots. Eighty percent of the 16 million people are Christian, about 65 percent Catholic.

The pope began his day addressing Catholic clergymen and nuns, telling them to be missionaries to those Angolans "living in fear of spirits, of malign and threatening powers. In their bewilderment they end up even condemning street

children and the elderly as alleged sorcerers?"

In Africa, some church-going Catholics also follow traditional animist religions and consult medicine men and diviners who are denounced by the church. People accused of sorcery or of being possessed by evil powers sometimes are

killed by fearful mobs.

Local media have reported that police last year rescued 40 children who had been held by two religious sects after being accused by their own families of witchcraft.

Benedict counseled Catholics to "live peacefully" with animists and other nonbelievers and urged Angolans to be the "new missionaries" to bring people who believe in sorcery to Christ.

Benedict spoke at a Mass at the capital's blue-domed St. Paul's Church, where light streamed through stained glass windows onto veiled nuns and priests and bishops resplendent in white and lilac robes.

The pope lovingly caressed the faces of children and made the sign of the cross on their foreheads.

Security was unusually tight, with military sharpshooters atop buildings in the capital.

The National Police said they have deployed 10,000 officers. Security agents blocked cell phones in the church, apparently by

sending a signal.

"This is a very emotional day for me, my first time to get a Papal blessing," said Sister Iliria Olivera, from Oaxaca in Mexico, among hundreds of foreign missionaries in the church. Olivera for nine years has been working with her Sisters of the Divine Pastor, teaching children and running a maternal health clinic outside Luanda.

On Friday, Benedict lamented what he called strains on the traditional African family, condemning sexual violence against women and chiding countries that have approved abortion.

The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, who is traveling with the pope, told journalists at a briefing Saturday that Benedict in that speech was referring to abortion when used as a means of "population control."

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Iran's rebuff of Obama is sign of theocracy's mind-set

By Brian Murphy
Associated Press writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The Iranian leader's rebuff on Saturday to President Barack Obama's offer for dialogue was swift and sweeping: Words from Washington ring hollow without deep policy changes.

But Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's response was more than just a dismissive slap at the outreach. It was a broad lesson in the mind-set of Iran's all-powerful theocracy and how it will dictate the pace and tone of any new steps by Obama to chip away at their nearly 30-year diplomatic freeze.

"It's the first stage of the bargaining in classic Iranian style: Be tough and play up your toughness," said Abdulkhaleq Abdulla, a professor of regional politics at United Arab Emirates University. "The Iranian



AP photo
Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei waves to his supporters during his visit to Mashhad, 540 miles east of Tehran, Iran, on Saturday.

leaders are not about concessions at this stage. It's still all about ideology from the Iranian side."

For Khamenei and his inner circle, that means appearing to stay true to the 1979 Islamic Revolution and the political narrative of

rejecting the United States. Any quick gestures by the ruling clerics to mend ties with Washington could be perceived by hard-liners as a betrayal of the revolution.

Iran's non-elected leaders also are carefully weighing how any openings — even small ones — could affect the June 12 presidential race between their apparent choice, hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and reformists led by a former prime minister, Mir Hossein Mousavi.

"This is why this will be a very slow, very complicated process between Iran and the United States," said Abdulla. "Even the theocracy can be pragmatic. When they feel it's in the national interest to reach out to America, they will find a way."

There are no signs of a spring thaw.

Khamenei set the bar impossibly high — demanding an overhaul of U.S. for-

ign policy, including giving up "unconditional support" for Israel and halting claims that Iran is seeking nuclear arms. Iran insists its nuclear program is only for peaceful energy purposes.

"Have you released Iranian assets? Have you lifted oppressive sanctions? Have you given up mudslinging and making accusations against the great Iranian nation and its officials?" Khamenei said in a speech in the northeastern city of Mashhad. The crowd chanted "Death to America."

Despite Obama's offer, the State Department still lists Iran as a sponsor of terrorism for its backing of militant groups such as Lebanon's Hezbollah. In Iraq, U.S. officials accuse Iran of aiding Shiite militias whose targets have included American soldiers.

"He (Obama) insulted the Islamic Republic of Iran from the first day. If you are

right that change has come, where is that change? What is the sign of that change? Make it clear for us what has changed."

Still, Khamenei left the door open to better ties with America, saying "should you change, our behavior will change, too."

Khamenei's response carried a particular bite following Obama's important shift in U.S. tactics in his video released Friday, offering to speak directly to Iran's theocrats rather than encouraging only pro-democracy reformists inside the country.

Tourists visit Iraq for first time in 6 years

By Kim Gamel
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD — The Western tourists had their own reasons for joining the sightseeing tour: One wanted a glimpse of ancient ruins, another liked to visit countries in the news.

But traveling Iraq for two weeks in the first organized tour since 2003 wasn't quite all they had hoped, what with the hours wasted at checkpoints, and visits cut short or scrapped altogether because of security concerns.

The eight adventurers included four men and four women from Britain, the United States and Canada. They said they made it from the northern city of Irbil to the southeastern tip of Basra — about 560 miles with side trips in between — without directly encountering the violence that has been a hallmark of Iraq's daily life for so many years.

"It's really affirmation in many ways that security has improved — the fact that we were able to travel to so many places," said David Chung, a 36-year-old employee of an investment management firm in New York.

The journey, scheduled to end Sunday after a tour of the ancient ruins of Babylon, gave the travelers a taste of the hardships facing Iraqis as they emerge from war, ranging from electricity shortages to traffic jams to the overwhelming presence of U.S. and Iraqi security forces.

The travelers got quizzical glances but said they never felt in danger, although explosions sounded near their hotel in Baghdad late Friday on the sixth anniversary of the U.S. invasion.

"We just would not have been allowed to come here if it was too dangerous," Bridgett Jones, a 77-year-old historical researcher from London, said as she



AP photo
U.S. Army soldiers stroll past two bronze busts of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein in the Green Zone in Baghdad, Friday, the sixth anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

drank a glass of red wine in the hotel lobby. "I never felt any hostility."

She said she bought the wine at a local liquor store.

Navigating the checkpoints proved the greatest hassle. Roberta Wong, a 58-year-old former librarian from Vancouver, said she counted 40 blockades from the southern city of Basra to Baghdad, a 340 mile trip, and 24 on the 217 miles from the northern Kurdish city of Irbil to the capital.

She had plenty of time to keep track during the hours

they were held up by guards unsure what to make of the bus full of Westerners.

"You appreciated that they had to have the security. If they didn't have the security we couldn't have been here," said Jo Gilbert, 79, of Menlo Park, Calif. "But there's no way between the checkpoints and the speed bumps that you're going to get anywhere fast."

Gilbert said she wouldn't recommend the trip to average tourists used to comfort.

The tourists also were disappointed that they didn't

get to see Iraq's restored National Museum, infamously looted as U.S. forces seized control of Baghdad in 2003 and recently reopened to great fanfare. Iraqi authorities reneged on promises to let the group visit this time around.

"There were various sites that we couldn't get to because we were told they were too dangerous or because they were occupied by the Iraqi military," said Geoff Hann, the British managing director of Hinterland Travel.

The Westerners even went to the site of the destroyed golden domed shrine in Samarra, one of the holiest sites of Shiite Islam, where a 2006 bombing triggered months of sectarian violence. But the visit was short due to security concerns.

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DOUBLE SPLITS

Burley, Minico baseball take on Idaho Falls, Skyline at home. >> See Sports 2



Local roundup, Sports 2 / Scoreboard, Sports 3 / NBA, Sports 4 / Golf, Sports 5 / Your Sports, Sports 7

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2009

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

Frosh's layup springs Gonzaga into Sweet 16

By Anne M. Peterson
Associated Press writer

PORTLAND, Ore. — Gonzaga's rowdy celebration spilled into the locker room, where the team watched a replay of freshman Demetri Goodson's game-winner and got to cheer again and again.

Goodson streaked down court and made a short, running bank shot with 0.9 seconds left, lifting the fourth-seeded Bulldogs over Western Kentucky 83-81 Saturday night in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Gonzaga (28-5) advanced to the

SCORES

East Region

No. 2 Duke 74, No. 7 Texas 69
No. 3 Villanova 89, No. 6 UCLA 69

South Region

No. 1 North Carolina 84, No. 8 LSU 70
No. 2 Oklahoma 73, No. 10 Michigan 63
No. 4 Gonzaga 83, No. 12 Western Kentucky 81

West Region

No. 1 Connecticut 92, No. 9 Texas A&M 66
No. 2 Memphis 89, No. 10 Maryland 70
No. 5 Purdue 76, No. 4 Washington 74

South Region semifinals to play top-seeded North Carolina on Friday in Memphis, Tenn.

INSIDE

A full recap of all of Saturday's games from both the men's and women's tournaments.

See Sports 4

"It's unbelievable for a freshman point guard, a big-time, big-time play," guard Micah Downs said. "He came down, read it perfectly, and then that's his shot. He practices it all the time."

Steffphon Pettigrew hit a tip-in for the 12th-seeded Hilltoppers (25-9)

See **GONZAGA**, Sports 4



AP photo

Gonzaga freshman Demetri Goodson, center, is mobbed by teammates after hitting the game-winning shot against Western Kentucky in the second round of the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament on Saturday in Portland, Ore. Gonzaga won the game 83-81.

CSI baseball ups win streak to 6

By David Bashore
Times-News writer

College of Southern Idaho third baseman Garrett Wolff had encountered a bit of a wall at the plate, seeing his high-.300s batting average slip into the mid-.200s over the course of a week and a half.

After three games of trying to bash through the wall, he apparently decided to go over it.

Wolff, who hit balls hard all day Friday with no success, took an offering from Colorado Northwestern pitcher Todd Kruse and smashed it over the left-field wall at Skip Walker Field for a two-run homer that helped CSI win Game 2 of Saturday's doubleheader 7-3 and take a four-game sweep of the visiting Spartans.

CSI won the first game 6-2, but the second victory gave the Golden Eagles six in a row and put them squarely at .500 on the season (15-15) and in the Scenic West Athletic Conference (8-8). It was also one of the team's most complete games of the year, according to head coach Boomer Walker.

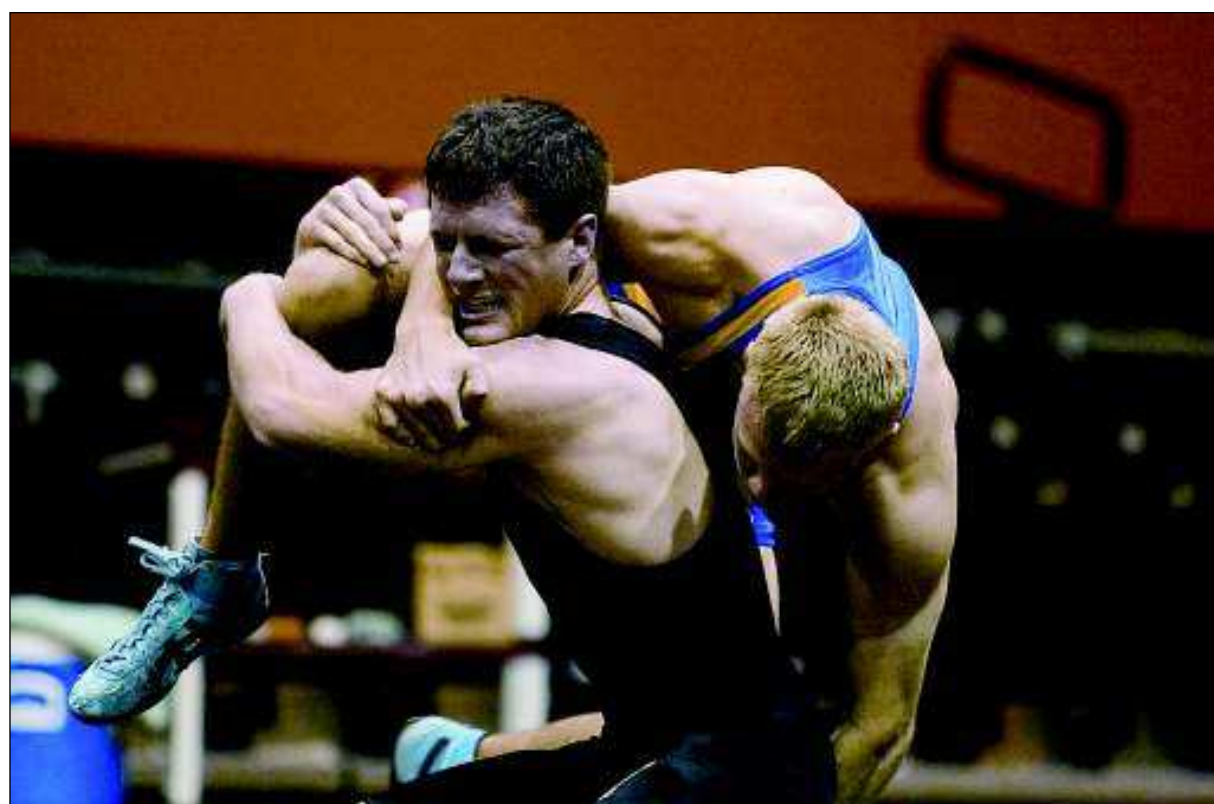
"I think defensively we were outstanding, our pitching was sound, and at the plate we didn't give too many at bats away," Walker said. "Give (the Spartans) some credit, they never quit, and they're really scrappy. But I thought this was one of

See **BASEBALL**, Sports 6



JUSTIN JACKSON/Times-News
College of Southern Idaho pitcher Tyler Barrett throws the ball Saturday during Game 1 against Colorado Northwestern Community College at Skip Walker Field in Twin Falls.

REBUILDING THE BENGALS



Courtesy photo

Minico graduate Jeff Anderson (black singlet) brought wrestling back to Idaho State University in the form of a club team that competes in the National Collegiate Wrestling Association.

Minico grad starts wrestling club at ISU

By Ryan Howe
Times-News writer

Jeff Anderson was like most high school athletes who dream of competing at the next level.

After going undefeated during his senior year of wrestling at Minico and winning an individual state title in 2002, Anderson realized that dream by going on to wrestle for a year at Jamestown College in North Dakota.

Now he's helping others realize there is life after high school wrestling.

With a bachelor's degree in biology under his belt, Anderson is currently at Idaho State University working on a master's in physical education and athletic administration. He's on his way to becoming a teacher and coach.

Last year he felt there was something missing in his life. He missed wrestling.

Idaho State had a wrestling program until dropping it in the 1980s. Anderson decided to revive the sport at ISU by starting a wrestling club.

"Mostly I wanted to give the opportunity to high school athletes who want to continue wrestling," Anderson said. "They want to wrestle, but they might not be good enough to go to a big program like Boise (State).



The winter college report looks at former Magic Valley high school athletes now competing in winter sports at the college level. An update on spring sports athletes will be published in early summer.

This is an outlet for them to keep doing what they love to do."

Factors such as lack of funding and Title IX have dissipated college wrestling programs the past few decades, leaving wrestlers with few opportunities to continue on after high school.

Getting ISU's club started wasn't easy, but Anderson worked tirelessly to raise funds, recruit a team, and draw up paperwork to present to the school board. Starting from scratch, he was able to obtain donations to pay for a mat, singlets and transportation to matches.

"I'm glad that wrestling is back at ISU," Anderson said. "I like to keep promoting the sport because it made me who I am."

INSIDE

See what local basketball products are doing in college.

See Sports 6

Anderson and the ISU squad just wrapped up their second year of competition. Some of the Bengals' biggest rivals include Utah State, Weber State and BYU-Idaho. The ISU club has grown to 36 members, with four of those winning championships at the West Region tournament in San Jose, Calif., where Anderson earned Most Valuable Wrestler.

Anderson and three other ISU wrestlers competed at the National Collegiate Wrestling Association tournament in Hampton, Va., last week. Anderson won three out of five matches and was one victory away from the medal rounds, which would have given him All-America status.

When he finishes school, Anderson will be moving on, but the club he spearheaded will continue on at ISU. He encourages anyone who dreams of wrestling at the next level to check it out.

"It's a relaxed atmosphere, but the

See **REPORT**, Sports 6



JUSTIN JACKSON/Times-News

College of Southern Idaho pitcher Kyla Bryant (25) hurls the ball Saturday during Game 1 against Colorado Northwestern Community College at Eagle Field in Twin Falls.

CSI softball completes shutout weekend

By Bradley Guire
Times-News writer

It was the closest the Spartans had come to putting runners in scoring position all weekend.

College of Southern Idaho pitcher Kyla Bryant opened the top of the third inning with a strikeout but allowed Colorado Northwestern Community College two hits and a walk to load the bases.

Bryant fanned catcher Jamie Francisco for out No. 2, but Spartans pitcher Ellissa White was not to take lightly as she had singled in the previous at bat. She quickly fell behind in the count with a ball and two strikes.

Bryant's eyes, highlighted by the eye black smeared across her cheekbones like war paint, stared down White as she wound up for the delivery.

"Ha! Aaagggghh!" she grunted as she released the ball, and White was caught looking for the final out, which stranded the three runners.

Despite the shaky inning, the CSI softball team earned two more run-rule shutouts Saturday against the visiting Spartans at Eagle Field in Twin Falls. The No. 10 Golden Eagles, now on a 12-game win streak, topped the Spartans 18-0 and 8-0 in Scenic West Athletic Conference play.

After that inning, the Spartans never put a runner past second base for the remainder of the series, which helped preserve the Golden Eagles' four-game shutout sweep of CNCC.

"I was thinking that I kind of needed to work a little harder I guess," Bryant said. "This weekend was all about working and playing hard. We've got Salt Lake next weekend, so errors like that — two base hits and a walk — will cost us next weekend. I was just digging in and figuring it out myself. We can't

See **SOFTBALL**, Sports 6

SLCC men win first national championship

Times-News

The Midland (Texas) College men got the hot start, but Salt Lake Community College knew how to finish.

Nate Bendall scored 21 and pulled down eight rebounds, Logan Magnusson added 14 points and the

Bruins staged a remarkable rally to defeat Midland 67-60 Saturday to win the NJCAA Division I men's basketball national championship in Hutchinson, Kan.

Salt Lake (31-6) trailed by as many as 16 points in the second half, but the Bruins exploded on a 27-4 run spearheaded by Bendall

and Ricky Shoff, the latter of whom hit the 3-pointer to put Salt Lake in the lead with 5:20 to go.

The Bruins lost in the championship game last season, and it looked like another heartbreak was on the cards before they outscored the Chaparrals 42-26 in the second half and 33-9 over the last 11:46 to

win the school's first men's basketball national championship.

"The last game of a four-game tournament is kind of a gut check," Salt Lake coach Norm Parrish told SLCC's Globe Radio. "I thought we just kept our composure late in the

See **CHAMPIONSHIP**, Sports 2

Two weeks after turning 50, Lehman takes lead

PALM HARBOR, Fla. — Tom Lehman's right elbow hurt so much that he couldn't take the club past his waist, a case of tendinitis so severe it kept him out for five months. When he returned to the PGA Tour, he missed the cut four times in a row.

"My game was in shambles," he said. "It was making 50 look all the more appealing, quite frankly."

He felt like his old self Saturday in the Transitions Championship.

Two weeks after celebrating his 50th birthday, and a month before he makes his Champions Tour debut, Lehman ran off four straight birdies on his way to a 3-under 68 and took a one-shot lead over Retief Goosen.

Lehman was at 8-under 205 and will try to become only the seventh player in this 50s to win on the PGA Tour.

But it doesn't figure to be easy.

Right behind him was Goosen, who had a 69. Leading the group at 5-under 208 was Masters champion Trevor Immelman. And the toughest part might be the Copperhead Course at Innisbrook, among the toughest tracks on tour. The greens were so firm that the ball produced puffs of dry soil when it landed.

Goosen said it reminded him of Shinnecock Hills in 2004 when he won his second U.S. Open.

"Shinnecock changed overnight. Similar things have happened here," he said. "They're dead in places, and very tricky."

Lehman has the experience, but it has been awhile.

He has not been atop the leaderboard going into the final round since the fog-delayed Buick Invitational four years ago. It has been nine years since his last PGA Tour victory at the Phoenix Open.

"I'm extremely motivated to play good golf," Lehman said. "I don't want to finish my career playing lousy."

The highlight of his birdie streak came at the par-3 13th, a 6-iron over the water to inside a foot, the easiest birdie he had all day. He also made a sweeping 30-footer on the 14th, and another good putt from 15 feet on



Tom Lehman follows the flight of his tee shot on the 18th hole during the third round of the Transitions Championship golf tournament Saturday at Innisbrook in Palm Harbor, Fla. Lehman holds a one shot lead over Retief Goosen.



Charles Howell III blasts from the bunker on the No. 1 hole during the third round of the Transitions Championship golf tournament Saturday at Innisbrook in Palm Harbor, Fla.

the 15th hole.

Equally important was a chip that was just off the 17th green, buried in the grass, with the brittle green running away from him. Lehman hit it a few feet and watched it trickle to tap-in range.

Told that NBC Sports analyst Johnny Miller suggested the chip was an accidental chunk, Lehman was stunned.

"That's one of the best shots I hit all week," he said. "Gosh, that makes me mad."

LPGA

OCHOA FALLS FROM LEAD AT MASTERCARD CLASSIC

HUIXQUILUCAN, Mexico — Taiwan's Yani Tseng shot a 3-under 69 on Saturday for a share of the second-round lead with South Korea's Na Yeon Choi in the Mastercard Classic, leaving top-ranked Mexican star Lorena Ochoa a stroke back.

Choi had a 73 to match the second-ranked Tseng at 7-under 137 on the BosqueReal Country Club course. Ochoa, the first-round leader after a

65, shot a 73 to drop into a tie for third with Pat Hurst (70) with one round left.

Ochoa lost momentum with a double bogey on the 435-yard, par-4 eighth hole, and also bogeyed the 11th, a challenging, 197-yard par 3. She recovered with birdies on 12 and 14, but couldn't catch the leaders.

The steep and scrubby BosqueReal course has always been tough for Ochoa. She has yet to win this tournament in four attempts. Last year, she opened with a 4-over 76 — her worst score in nearly a year — and ended up tying for eighth.

Choi said she didn't feel pressured challenging Ochoa on her home turf.

"I just want to play and enjoy and just keep doing it," Choi said.

Tseng had seven birdies, a bogey and a double bogey.

— The Associated Press

NASCAR Harvick drives his own car to Bristol victory

BRISTOL, Tenn. (AP) — Kevin Harvick proved just how strong his organization is Saturday by winning the Nationwide Series race at Bristol Motor Speedway in his own race car.

Harvick led 44 laps in his Kevin Harvick Inc.-owned Chevrolet, his first victory in a car fielded by the race team he built with his wife.

"It is very emotional, he's tried so hard, so long in his own stuff," Delana Harvick said in Victory Lane. "Today was his day."

Although Harvick has won three times in a KHI-owned Truck — in 2002, '03 and '08 — he'd yet to win a race in the more prestigious Nationwide Series. Tony Stewart won twice for him in that series, and Bobby Labonte once.

At Bristol, though, it was finally Harvick's turn and he had a clear shot at the win after Kyle Busch was taken out of contention by a penalty on the final pit stop.

"It feels pretty good to get our car into Victory Lane," Harvick said. "Finally we got this out of the way. Delana and I built this company from basically dirt. It started as a hobby. It's been a tremendous amount of pressure that I've put on myself ... but it was well

FOOD CITY 500

11:30 a.m., FOX

worth the reward today?"

Harvick said his alternator failed during the race, making his cockpit almost unbearably hot as he rolled to the checkered flag.

Carl Edwards finished second and Clint Bowyer was third, and both credited Harvick for winning in his own car.

"To win in something that you build, I can only imagine what that feels like. That's pretty special," Edwards said.

Bowyer congratulated his Sprint Cup Series teammate, but also took a playful jab at the accomplishment.

"It's been a long time coming," Bowyer said. "Obviously, Kevin is qualified to win races. I knew it was only a matter of time. But forget him, I'm bummed I didn't win."

So was Busch, who led a race-high 157 laps but was taken out of contention when his crew let a tire slip away during the final pit stop. NASCAR sent Busch to the tail end of the longest line as punishment, and he was 14th on the restart with 41 laps to go.



Kevin Harvick celebrates with his crew as he wins the NASCAR Nationwide Scotts Turf Builder 300 in Bristol, Tenn., Saturday.

Union files grievance over Dodgers contributions

NEW YORK (AP) — The baseball players' association filed a grievance against the major league clubs after the Los Angeles Dodgers said charitable donations will be required in future player contracts.

Manny Ramirez agreed to make a \$1 million donation to the Dodgers Dream Foundation when he accepted a \$45 million, two-year deal from Los Angeles on March 4.

"Every future Dodger will be asked to fill in a blank line," Los Angeles owner Frank McCourt said Thursday. "They're making a lot of money, these players. We won't tell them how much to contribute, that wouldn't be right."

Not so fast, said the Major League Baseball Players Association. The grievance was filed Friday and, unless settled, will be decided by arbitrator Shyam Das.

"Players are free to choose to make donations to club charities, but clubs can't require such donations by contract," union general counsel Michael Weiner said Saturday. "Provisions that require players to make contributions to clubs' charities are unenforceable under the basic agreement. It's not a subject that the Basic Agreement permits individual bargaining on."

"They're making a lot of money, these players. We won't tell them how much to contribute, that wouldn't be right."

— Los Angeles owner Frank McCourt

Article II of baseball's labor agreement states contracts can include special covenants "which actually or potentially provide additional benefits to the player."

Rob Manfred, baseball's executive vice president of labor relations, said the provisions are allowed. Many players and teams have included them in contracts.

"As long as they are individual club policies, a club is free to bargain hard over what it is looking for," Manfred said. "These clauses are freely negotiated by individual players and clubs. There's no element of coercion in those negotiations. We're at a loss to understand how the MLBPA could possibly take the position that making a charitable donation does not provide a benefit to the player."

The filing of the grievance was first reported by espn.com.

Barack Bracket lucky to last the weekend

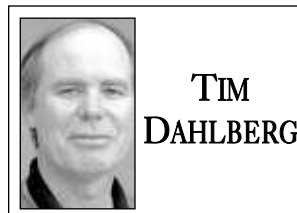
Being president can sometimes be a humbling thing.

On Friday alone, Barack Obama found out the federal budget deficit could average nearly \$1 trillion a year under his watch. Then he discovered even worse news — his NCAA tournament pool was all but worthless.

Actually, it was worthless before play even began. Though the White House crowded about the president's expertise in picking basketball winners, there wasn't a mention anywhere of the 20 bucks or so that most of the rest of us toss into our own pools to have something else to keep score by.

It probably wouldn't look good for the president to be gambling, largely because that's what got us into the current economic mess to begin with. Even the Las Vegas sports books wouldn't dare pull a giant con game like the one that made a lot of people rich on Wall Street and the rest of us a lot poorer.

Besides, the NCAA officially frowns on such things. Office pools, or so they would like you to believe, can lead to degenerate gambling, and we wouldn't want a president putting off meetings with world leaders so he can consult his bookie on the point spread between North Carolina, the team he picks to win the national



TIM DAHLBERG

title, and LSU.

Still, you have to wonder if some consideration wasn't given to getting Obama into the AIG office pool. Those guys have money, after all, and lots of it.

Obama's pool was just for fun, and what fun it has been. He spent 20 minutes in the White House map room filling it out with ESPN's Andy Katz, and the scribbled version was posted on the president's official Web site.

It comes at a time the country is mired in a mess of underwater mortgages, unsteady banks and unsold cars. And, with the unemployment rate edging toward double figures, a lot of people who were in office pools before now don't have offices to go to.

But it's nice to know the president shares the pain of millions of us who, just like him, have brackets that have already gone bankrupt just a few days into the tournament.

This was supposed to be an easy tournament to pick, with strong No. 1 seeds in all four regions and the brackets set up so that the first two rounds would yield few sur-

prises. And that was pretty much the way it went through what is always the most exciting two days in basketball, save a Cleveland State here and a Wisconsin and Western Kentucky there.

But Obama, like many of us, obviously gave his bracket too much thought. That is presidential prerogative, of course, but it hurt him when he crossed out Oklahoma State and replaced the Cowboys with Tennessee at the last moment, and did the same in picking Virginia Commonwealth instead of UCLA.

He began a rebound of sorts by picking Villanova to advance on Saturday, but was in a hole almost impossible to climb out of after winning just 19 of 32 first-round games. He compounded his mistakes by having two teams, Wake Forest and Florida State, advancing to the round of 16 only to see them both end up as one and outs.

That was obviously on the president's mind Saturday as he headed toward his helicopter for Camp David, where the odds were good he would be tuning in to watch a game or two. Reporters were on hand, as usual, ready with the kind of tough questions that the commander in chief must deal with.

"Is the ACC overrated,"

one yelled out.

"Apparently so," Obama said with a grin.

It's easy to blame the conference, but Obama should have no excuses. He plays basketball any chance he can get, his brother-in-law is Oregon State's coach, and he's been known to watch a game or two when time allows.

The beauty of the NCAA tournament, though, is it doesn't take a president to figure it out. Anybody can make a few educated guesses, get lucky on a few other games, and claim both dominance and financial gain over friends and foes alike.

Having a few dollars involved may not be strictly legal in most places, but it's a fairly harmless way to keep people interested. And this year lucky winners across the country can use their payoffs to replenish their looted 401(k) accounts or make a late mortgage payment.

The nation's first fan doesn't have to worry about that. He's got both nice retirement perks and rent-free living space at least for the next four years.

Good thing, because the Barack Bracket will be lucky to last the weekend.

Tim Dahlberg is a columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at tdahlberg@ap.org.

Hard times? Not for NFL free agents

By Barry Wilner
Associated Press writer

As former Jets executive Pat Kirwan was preparing to open his radio program, he couldn't stop shaking his head at the numbers spinning around him.

Not yardage and tackles and touchdown statistics. Dollar signs. Lots and lots of \$\$\$\$.

"The Albert Haynesworth deal to kick off the (free agency) season was really bad," Kirwan told his Sirius NFL Radio audience. "The money doesn't jive with the economy. It doesn't jive with the end of the CBA (collective bargaining agreement) coming."

The Washington Redskins defensive tackle recently signed a \$100 million, seven-year contract.

"How can any (player) who is not a quarterback who touches the ball every play, how can anyone live up to that kind of money?" Kirwan said. "How can you justify it? I can't."

Many NFL owners can, starting with Daniel Snyder of the Redskins, and followed by Woody Johnson of the Jets, and the Glazers in Tampa Bay. They have spent megabucks during a free agency frenzy that also has seen lucrative deals for such veterans as Kurt Warner, Ray Lewis, Brian Dawkins and Terrell Owens, who wound up with a raise after being cut by Dallas and signed by Buffalo — almost surely the only team bidding for him at the \$6.5 million price tag.

The first few weeks of free agency always are wild affairs, with elite players cashing in at unprecedented rates, and others often riding their financial coattails to profitable — sometimes even outrageous — contracts.

But this offseason, from Haynesworth's deal with Redskins owner Snyder to Owens' jackpot in Buffalo, has been almost surreal. At a time when the government is bailing out the nation's banks, unemployment is soaring and fans are wondering if they can afford NFL tickets, team owners act like they are handing out monopoly money.

Does that worry some NFL teams? It should, and it does.

"We're right in the middle of the budget process now and looking at all of our expenses," Packers president Mark Murphy said. "Are there places we can cut back? Do we need to do things the way we've done them in the past? Things of that nature. Because I think the combination of the economy and a potential work stoppage, it's just a smart business decision to look at everything we do."

A look at what has been done in free agency thus far, however, would indicate many other teams are not paying heed to the areas Murphy and the Packers recently have addressed. To wit:

- Haynesworth gets a record \$41 million guaranteed. True, he has been a stud on defense the last two seasons, but both were contract years. He also played on a more stable team in Tennessee, and Haynesworth has had several behavioral issues, too.

At 27 he was the prime free agent, which got Snyder's attention, and he certainly fills a need in Washington. Still, as Kirwan noted, so much money for a defensive tackle, particularly when it is the first major deal of free agency? The trend of big spending was set just hours into the free agency period, and Washington continued with big deals for guard Derrick Dockery (\$26.5 million over five years with \$8.2 million guaranteed) and cornerback DeAngelo Hall (six years, \$54 million, \$22.5 million guaranteed).

- Tampa Bay is totally redoing itself, from firing Jon Gruden and promoting



AP photo

Washington Redskins player Albert Haynesworth, right, holds up a jersey with head coach Jim Zorn during a press conference at Redskins Park in Ashburn, Va., Feb. 27. Haynesworth's seven-year deal with the Redskins is worth about \$100 million.

"How can any (player) who is not a quarterback who touches the ball every play, how can anyone live up to that kind of money? How can you justify it? I can't."

— Former Jets executive Pat Kirwan on the Washington Redskins' signing of defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth to a seven-year, \$100 million deal

Raheem Morris to coach, as re-signing Michael Clayton for five years and \$26 million, with more than \$10 million in guarantees. In the last four years, he's been plagued by injuries and inconsistency. His best season was last year, when he had 38 receptions for 484 yards and one

touchdown — hardly All-Pro numbers.

The Bucs also gave unproven quarterback Luke McCown a two-year, \$7.5 million deal that is huge money for a career backup with few on-field credentials. They also brought in kicker Mike Nugent, who missed all but the 2008 season opener as a Jet, and isn't nearly as proven as incumbent Matt Bryant.

• The Jets, like the Bucs undergoing a reconstruction project, added to the \$140 million they spent in free agency a year ago by grabbing a whole bunch of Baltimore players. Ravens linebacker Bart Scott (six years, \$48 million, \$22 million guaranteed), safety Jim Leonhard (three years, \$6-plus million) and end Marques Douglas all landed in New Jersey, along with

new coach Rex Ryan, the Ravens' former defensive coordinator.

Recession? What recession?

Throw in some of the money thrown around for throwers — Warner's two-year, \$23 million contract with the Cardinals, \$19 million guaranteed; Kerry Collins' two-year, \$15 million deal, with \$8.5 million guaranteed; McCown; Dan Orlovsky, who went from the winless Lions to a three-year, \$9.1 million contract with the Texans — and you wonder how insulated and removed from the recession NFL owners feel.

Not that some of these contracts aren't warranted. Warner, for example, deserved top dollar for his role in turning the laughingstock Cardinals into a Super Bowl squad. Scott knows Ryan's aggressive defensive system inside-out and will be a leader for the Jets. Owens, for the first year with his previous three teams, performed well and rarely acted up.

Yet this generosity leads to the serious concerns that an uncapped season — yes, that would be 2010 if a new collective bargaining agreement between owners and players is not reached this year — could ruin pro football.

Absurd? Well, so were nine-figure contracts for defensive linemen once upon a time.

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TEENS TALK ABOUT THE ECONOMY

Teenagers across Magic Valley aren't oblivious to their parents' shrinking 401(k) accounts and sluggish cash flows.

Just like their parents, teens are nervous and shaken up by the state of the economy. Some help pay household bills; others help their parents shoulder the emotional impact of cut hours and laidoff co-workers.

While some teens simply whined about having to drive a used car or not getting the latest style of clothes, most teens we interviewed did have an awareness about how the recession is hitting home and how it will likely have a rippling effect long into the future.

Even the White House has room for in-laws

Even though I didn't vote for him, I find President Obama to be a man of immense courage.

Here's a leader of our country who has broken society's traditional stereotypes. In his decision making, he's charted a new path for the history books.

Why speak of the president in such high regard? Because he's living with his mother-in-law.

In January, much of the country was doing cartwheels over the Obamas' two charming daughters, Sasha and Malia, not to mention the president's decision to buy them a dog. But the national media gave short shrift to the most intriguing detail about the new First Family.



SPLIT MILK
David Cooper

Weeks before moving to Washington, Michelle Obama convinced her mother, Marian Robinson, to join the move into the White House. Robinson, a 71-year-old widow, was like another parent for the Obama girls in recent years while the parents were on the campaign trail. After some persistence from her daughter, Robinson eventually gave in and decided to leave her longtime Chicago house, the one where she raised her kids, to join the Obamas.

No word came on how the president felt about it. But from the sounds of it, he's on very good terms with his mother-in-law, the new Grandma-in-Chief.

All kidding aside, the Obamas' story of bringing a multi-generational family to Washington is quite inspiring.

We haven't had a mother-in-law in the White House since the '50s when President Eisenhower's mother-in-law, Elivera Doud, joined the family in Washington.

They bring real credibility to the idea that grandparents still play an influential role in the lives of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. America doesn't always show the most respect to its older generations, but the Obamas are setting the right example.

Still, I couldn't help but laugh when reading about Mrs. Robinson's reluctant decision to move to Washington.

According to The Daily Telegraph of London, Robinson initially rejected the invite, telling her daughter "there wasn't enough space" and she "didn't want to intrude."

Now there's a standard excuse from the in-laws. Not enough space? In the White House?

Never mind that there are 132 rooms in the place. If President Clinton was able to give flocks of Hollywood glitterati the keys to the Lincoln Bedroom, I'm sure there's plenty of room for Mrs. Obama's mom.

Maybe it's just me, but if my mother-in-law started saying "there isn't enough room" and my house had 132 rooms, I would start to question whether I were in her good graces.

The fact is, navigating relationships with the in-laws can be one of the best training grounds for diplomacy, especially for a national leader. Where do you spend the holidays? Does she really want me to call her "Mom"? Do I have to eat that casserole they serve every Thanksgiving?

If Obama can answer those questions for me, he's got my vote.

David Cooper is a father of five. Reach him at dcooper@magicvalley.com.



ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

Michawn Adkins, 17, works afternoons at Arctic Circle in Buhl. Adkins is saving her money for college and pays her bills for clothes and her cat's veterinary care.

At the mall and on the job, teens wish for spending money and ponder responsibility

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

Marissa Shirley would rather be shopping.

Sure, the Twin Falls 13-year-old is sitting on a couch at the mall. But instead of bringing home the latest pair of brand-name jeans and the trendy shoe of the week, she's just hanging out with her friends. There are no bags indicating new purchases. She doesn't even have a latte or soda in hand.

Maybe just witnessing material consumption makes her feel better — like a contact high.

"I don't know why we come to the mall, we just do," Shirley says. "It's pretty hectic at my dad's house; we are just paying bills, what we really need, so I don't get to shop like I used to."

"I do understand that things are just tight right now. I've had to cut back on what I do. I can hang out but not spend."

— Marissa Shirley, 13, Twin Falls

She frowns slightly and her eyes lower to the floor. Speaking a bit more softly, she explains that as Realtors her father and step-mother have been hit especially hard in the economic downturn felt in the Magic Valley and across the nation.

"I do understand that things are just tight right now. I've had to cut back on what I do. I can hang out but not spend," she says.

Shirley's friend Cecilia Marzitelli, 13, seems to have little

empathy; the economic downturn is nowhere on the Twin Falls teenager's radar.

"I don't keep up on that ... I haven't noticed anything different, myself," she says.

Shirley stands up for her friend. "She just isn't affected, that's all," she says.

Mall shopper Tiffany Graham, 16, of Jerome says she hasn't been affected much either, except that her parents have pulled back the amount of money they give her.

Still, she's holding two bags from different stores, containing new clothes she just bought.

On the flip side, Graham hopes for a summer job but says her options are slim.

"I want a job, but it doesn't sound like there are many to choose from," she says.

Concerns over summer employment are shared among south-central Idaho teens.

Though they once took them for granted, teens are realizing that jobs aren't handed out on silver platters.

"I feel lucky to have a job," said Chelsea Alvey, 17, of Buhl, who works in fast food. "Some of my friends have been looking for a

See **TEENS**, Family Life 3

What teens have to say about recession...



Erika Perttula
16, Jerome

"I think this thing teaches you to save your money, not just blow it on stuff."



Kayla Brown
16, Jerome

"It's sad because a lot of families are dealing with layoffs. It's kind of scary."



Sarah Brackett
16, Twin Falls

"I'm concerned about college and the future and how I'm going to afford it."



Christina Garcia
16, Twin Falls

"We have to be patient and realize everything happens for a reason. Maybe we'll realize that money is not that important."



Miguel Centeno
17, Wendell

"I don't have a job and I'm not looking, but I am not able to get my hair cut or new shoes as much."



ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

Michawn Adkins makes a milk shake during an afternoon shift at Arctic Circle in Buhl. She knows how to make hard decisions — like selling her horse — when money is tight.

Teens

Continued from Family Life 1 long time but still can't find one."

Michawn Adkins of Buhl has juggled a part-time job at Arctic Circle in Buhl for a couple of years. The 17-year-old Buhl High School junior is active in drama, choir and school. She knows firsthand how to make hard decisions when money is tight.

"I'm selling my horse because things at home are tighter. I can't afford my horse anymore, and neither can my parents,"

Adkins said.

Looking toward college and moving out when she turns 18 in a few months, Adkins has learned how to budget her time and money.

She feels blessed to have learned how to handle her finances before setting out on her own.

"I think the situation could be a lot worse, and this time should be looked at as an opportunity to learn how to appreciate what you have, live within your means and enjoy

what life has to offer,"

Adkins said. "Compared to a lot of other people I have a lot. Sure, I pay my own cat's vet bills, gas, clothes, whatever; but having lived on the bare minimum I know I can survive."

Whatever the economic future holds, this is the world that today's teens will soon inherit. And Adkins said she hopes her generation steps up to be part of the solution.

Some teens may be reeling from consumption

deprivation, but all of the Magic Valley teens interviewed seemed to realize their time to be responsible is just a few years away.

"History does repeat itself. I may be disappointed I can't shop as much anymore, but I do feel like I need to save more, too," Shirley said. "I think everyone does or we'll be right back where we are today."

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

Camp offers unique outdoor education for 12- to 14-year-olds

Times-News

For 50 years, young Idahoans who want to immerse themselves in the science, issues and pleasures of Idaho's natural resources have been spending a summer week at the Natural Resources Camp.

Scheduled for June 27-29 at the Central Idaho 4-H Camp north of Ketchum, the camp delivers five days of intensive learning. Campers explore and study Idaho's forests, streams, rangelands, soils and wildlife and learn about their roles as citizens in protecting and managing the state's natural resources.

They count tree rings, collect native plants, examine aquatic creatures, test water quality, classify soils, identify tree pests and animal signs, and debate issues. Recreational opportunities include orienteering, archery, target shooting, fishing, crafts and fireside activities.

For 12- to 14-year-olds, the Natural Resources Camp is sponsored by University of Idaho Extension and the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts and includes instructors from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service, Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Department of Fish and Game and other agencies.

Steve Hines, U of I Extension educator in Twin Falls County, said the camp provides participants "a good base for understanding the complex natural resource issues facing all Idaho residents."

Bob Josaitis, NRCS rangeland management specialist in Gooding, said campers "get challenged to learn things they've never seen before and get instruction that they won't get in school or at other camps. They don't learn about natural resources when they're skating around on concrete or playing video games."

Cost is \$185 by May 22 and \$205 after that date. The camp is limited to the first 90 students who register. To learn more, click on <http://extension.uidaho.edu/nrc> or contact Hines at 734-9590, ext. 19, or shines@uidaho.edu or Josaitis at 934-8481, ext. 111, or bob.josaitis@id.usda.gov.

Applications are available on the Web site or 736-3605. For information on scholarships, call Kent Foster at (208) 338-5900 in Boise.

What teens have to say about recession ...



Marcy Juarez
14, Twin Falls

"Where my mom works, a lot of people are getting their jobs cut and working less hours. Its stressful ... I used to come to the mall and shop, but now I worry about whether the house payment is being made."



Lizzie Southwick
16, Albion

"Last year, when I got my driver's license, I had to get a used car instead of a new one. I'm a little disappointed but still grateful to have a car."



Ryan DaBell
16, Rupert

"Normally I wouldn't worry about being able to find a summer job, but these days I'm a little worried."



Alex McClain
16, Buhl

"It's definitely stressful. So far I haven't had to sacrifice much, but I know that things could change really fast."



Dustin Chandler
18, Castleford

"My family used to do things every weekend together. We still spend time together, but we aren't bowling or anything like that; last summer we didn't get to go camping once."

— Compiled by Blair Koch

Watch out toddlers: Jaws is on the loose

By Angie Wagner
For The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — My 5-year-old has a few scars on her body, but they're not from injuring herself. They're from my little Jaws — my 3-year-old.

My older daughter never bit, but my younger bites her sister when she is really mad and wants to get her way.

The first time it happened, I was so surprised I thought it must be a fluke.

Then it happened again. And again.

It's always when they are playing alone and things sounds like they are going well. But one takes a car or a dinosaur away, or uses the wrong train track or baby stroller, and the arguing starts.

And then: crunch. My older daughter screams in pain. The offender seems content with herself.

I have tried time outs. I have tried explaining that that is inappropriate and could get her kicked out of school when she goes in the fall. Thank goodness she has never turned her teeth on another child — yet. But I have to get a grip on this before Jaws gets any older.

Gretchen Kinnell has written a booklet for parents about why kids bite and is the author of "No Biting: Policy and Practice for Toddler Programs." She said biting is actually quite common and usually happens between 1 year and 3 years old.

"Biting almost always works when you have children who can't get power and control any other way."

— Gretchen Kinnell, author of "No Biting: Policy and Practice for Toddler Programs"

Biting occurs for many reasons: frustration, anger, anxiety or just exploring the oral motor stage of development.

"Biting almost always works when you have children who can't get power and control any other way," Kinnell said.

And, when kids know it works, the behavior is repeated.

Kinnell, education director at Child Care Solutions, a child care resource and referral agency in Syracuse, N.Y., calls biting the No. 1 problem in child care because there are so many toddlers together and it is such an upsetting behavior.

The best way to get through to a biting child, she said, is to get a stern look on your face, get down to her level, lower the tone of voice and slow the speed of speech and say: "No, you bit her. That is not right. I am not going to let you do that."

Parents have to express real disapproval.

Kinnell believes time-outs don't really work for this behavior because the message of time-outs is if you do the crime, you must do the time. The corollary is: if I'm willing to do the time, I get to do the crime. She also suggests taking

away a toy that was the cause of the biting and encourages parents to try and recognize frustration building in a child so they can step in and teach the child something to say instead of biting.

One suggestion is to teach a toddler to hold their hand up like a stop sign and tell the other child: "Stop. I don't like it."

And, she said, never bite a child back. Parents might think that will show a child how bad it hurts and make the child never want to bite again. But really the message is that biting is wrong, unless you're the bigger person.

"You have to model

behavior you'd like to see, not behavior you'd not like to see," Kinnell said.

Lisa Trump, a Madison, N.C., mother of 6-year-old twin boys, said both boys used to occasionally bite each other and her when they were younger. One even bit another child at preschool.

"We sat them down and talked to them very sternly," Trump said.


One of her sons tended to bite the other one more, probably because it was the only way he knew to fight back.

Thankfully, it was just a phase, and her boys grew out of it quickly.

I am hoping for the same for my 3-year-old. I have already envisioned her getting kicked out of preschool in the fall for chomping on some kid's leg.

If my new disapproval doesn't work, I'm getting her a mouth guard.

Happy 90th Birthday Granny! (Madge)



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the culinary trend toward breakfast all day, and wants to hear from you.

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CLEANING CORNER

Question: I have the ugliest old oil stains on my garage floor and driveway left from leaky cars and trucks! I can't find anything that really cleans it up. Any suggestions?
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Lori Chandler
Cleaning Center owner
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Don Aslett's CLEANING CENTER

A conversation with the love experts

By Leanne Italie
Associated Press writer

"A crush is like a love disease. It can drive you mad," warns 9-year-old love doctor Alec Greven in his best-selling book, "How to Talk to Girls."

Based on a school essay, recess observations and personal experience, Alec's book joins a crowded field of books from grown-up mating experts, raising the question: Are they smarter than a fourth-grader?

Andrew Trees — journalist, one-time serial monogamist and new father — turns a scientific lens on the whys, whens and hows of mating in "Decoding Love," delving into the influences of everything from biology and economics to game theory and psychology.

"We are sophisticated and advanced in so many ways, yet when it comes to love, it often seems as if we haven't left the sandbox," Trees writes.

Helen Fisher, an anthropologist and chief scientific adviser for the Web site Chemistry.com, relied in "Why Him? Why Her?" on the impact of brain chemistry and a survey she developed to come up with four broad personality styles that have unique pushes and pulls: Explorers, Builders, Directors and Negotiators.

"Explorers like being curious and spontaneous; Builders like being cautious, loyal and traditional; Directors like their decisiveness, logic and exactitude," she offers.

"Eleanor Roosevelt said, 'I think somehow we learn who we really are and then live with that decision.' We more than live with it; we like it."

Other insights from the work of our trio:

Alec: "If you like a girl, comb your hair and don't wear sweats."

Trees: "Although sweat-

pants are comfortable, think about putting on something a little nicer. When women were shown pictures of men, the better dressed the subject was the higher they were inclined to rank him in all sorts of areas."

Fisher: "Looks count. The male brain is particularly well built for sizing up potential mates by looking at them."

Alec: "Many boys go for the pretty girls. It is easy to spot pretty girls because they have the big earrings, fancy dresses, and all the jewelry. Use caution! When you see a pretty girl, don't let her tractor beam pull you in."

Trees: "Don't obsess about how you look. Obsess about how you act. A recent study showed that while attractiveness, emotional expressiveness, and social skills all contributed to someone's likeability, attractiveness was the least important of the three."

Fisher: "Studies show that we tend to regard people we find attractive as confident, smart, stable, friendly, generous, self-effacing, sensitive, financially secure, healthy and popular — traits most people seek in a mate. And we are particularly drawn to those with symmetrical features. Chimpanzees share our taste."

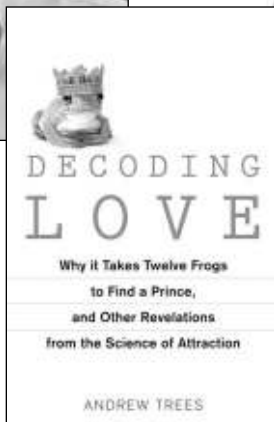
Alec: "If you want to start a conversation with a girl, first you have to stay something like 'hi.' If she says 'hi' back, you are off to a good start."

Trees: "In a number of studies, men consistently interpreted actions on the part of women (such as smiling) as an indication of sexual interest. You can find this quick trigger interpretation even in mundane encounters."

Fisher: "Courtship runs on give-and-take; messages must be returned. You must listen and respond. And if



AP Photo/Heeson Choi



AP Photo/Avery

you can possibly be funny, do."

Alec: "About 73 percent of regular girls ditch boys; 98 percent of pretty girls ditch boys."

Trees: "The divorce rate in this country is close to half, while the divorce rate for arranged marriages is almost zero."

Fisher: "Divorced and separated men tend to kill themselves two and a half times more often than their married counterparts, whereas divorced women are not more likely to commit suicide."

Alec: "You want the girl to notice you. But you don't want to draw too much attention to yourself or she will think you are a crazy madman who doesn't even know where his own brain is."

Trees: "One study found that the areas of the brain activated by cocaine were the same ones that became active when lovers were shown photographs of their partners. People in love also have high levels of PEA, a natural amphetamine found in chocolate."

Fisher: "Transitions produce stress and strong emotions. Anxiety; panic; terror; fury; jealousy; elation: all activate chemical systems in the brain that can escalate

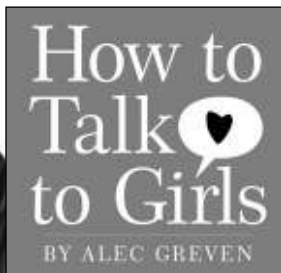
feelings of romantic passion. So as you struggle through one of life's upheavals, the circuits in your brain for general arousal, energy, focus and motivation can push you closer to the threshold for falling in love."



AP Photo/Chemistry.com, Casey Kelbaugh



AP Photo/Henry Holt and Co.



AP Photo/HarperCollins

LEFT: Alec Greven, author of 'How to Talk to Girls,' joins a crowded field of mating experts with new books.

FAR LEFT: Andrew Trees, author of 'Decoding Love,' turns a scientific lens on the whys, whens and hows of mating.

BELOW: Author Helen Fisher relied in 'Why Him? Why Her?' on the impact of brain chemistry and a survey she developed to come up with four personality styles.

AP Photo/Cheryl Ungar

Frugal fashion: Refreshing wardrobes with a clothing swap

By Susan Carpenter
Los Angeles Times

In better days, diamonds may have been a girl's best friend. But in such dark economic times, it's friends who are a girl's best friend — especially if you can raid their closets.

Clothing swaps are growing in popularity, and for good reason. The events, at which people donate clothes they no longer wear and walk away with items they never even knew they wanted, provide a shopping high without the buyer's remorse, a wardrobe refresher without the plastic.

In an era when people with money aren't spending it, and people who don't have much are hoarding it, clothing swaps are a cost-free cure for clothing lust, which, despite the ever-declining economy, is a difficult sin to swear off, even if most of us have more than enough to wear.

The typical woman uses 20 percent of her clothes 80 percent of the time, according to Suzanne Agasi, a clothing swapper who advocates giving up some of the stuff we rarely, if ever, wear. Agasi lives in San Francisco and is such a seasoned swapper that she has a Web site devoted to the idea (www.clothingswap.org). She's even trademarked the term "clothing swap," which seems appropriate since Agasi has run about 170 swaps in the last 14 years. The first 12 1/2 of those years "everyone thought I was nuts," she said. But with the economy disintegrating and "green" becoming the new black, swaps have gone mainstream.

I'd never been to a swap, but the concept seemed to be swirling all around — in the media and among friends, one of whom had chosen to spend her 40th birthday hosting one. So I

TIPS FOR HOSTING A CLOTHING SWAP

Thinking of hosting a clothing swap but don't know where to begin? Here are some do's and don'ts from Suzanne Agasi, ClothingSwap.org founder and director, who's hosted about 170 swaps.

Do:

- **Bring** only gently worn or new items.
- **Make** sure the clothes are clean.
- **Encourage** women to bring accessories, such as shoes, purses, belts, hats, scarves and costume jewelry.
- **Allow** time for guests to mingle before trying on clothes.
- **Provide** food and drinks, or encourage guests to

bring food to share.

- **Designate** one room for changing.
- **Put** shoes and clothes worn to the event in a hands-off area if they're removed for changing.
- **Donate** whatever clothes are left at the end of the swap.

Don't:

- **Discriminate.** Invite women of all shapes and sizes.
- **Hold** back the good stuff. If you aren't wearing it, it's worth nothing.
- **Make** fun of the clothes.
- **Take** things home without trying them on.

thought I'd throw one of my own.

There were just a few things that confused me.

If I contributed five items, did I get to take five items? What about discrepancies in body size and clothing caliber? If I'm a size 8, should I invite other 8s only? If I give up a pair of well-maintained Charles Davids and someone else brings a pair of beat-up Payless sneakers, does that matter? What do I do with the leftovers?

I reached out to Agasi for answers. Don't do a one-for-one-exchange, she said; let women bring, and take, as much as they like. Invite women of all different sizes. Encourage them to bring accessories as well as clothes. Let the room dictate what has value, and don't be afraid to part with the good stuff.

"The money's been spent," Agasi said. "If you're not wearing it, it's not worth anything."

So go ahead, let someone else have at it.

Agasi warned me that the most time-consuming aspect of hosting a clothing swap would be explaining it to people, which was mostly true. My biggest issue was allaying fears. Though my invitation drew immediate and enthusiastic RSVPs, it also drew comments and questions: "I have mon-

strously large feet!" "I don't have anything decent to give away!" "Are you sure there will be other women my size?" "Do you know anyone with a big butt?"

Yes, was my answer to the last question. As a matter of fact, I know several. And most of those women decided to haul those butts over, lured, as they were, by the prospect of free apparel.

Sixteen women RSVP'd for my swap. Only 12 showed up, but that was more than enough. At 3 p.m., when the party was scheduled to begin, my living room floor was strewn with a scant assortment of my own random closet rejects, all arranged next to handmade signs that stated the obvious. There were a couple pairs of heels, a smattering of sweaters, a necklace, scarves, a hat — about \$500 worth of castoffs I'd bought but rarely, if ever, worn. One hour later, those signs were

straining under the heaps of textile refuse my friends had hauled in via box, bag and satchel. And my friends were champing at the bit to dive in.

I walked everyone through some of Agasi's basic guidelines: If you intend to walk home in the shoes you wore to the swap, take them off and put them in the kitchen — a neutral, hands-off zone. Likewise for anything else you wore to the swap. If you want to keep it once you've taken it off to try on something else, put it in a bag with your name on it.

With that, I let my guests start pawing through the stacks. Being the hostess, I didn't really have time to notice the precise items my friends had unloaded.

But a few friends I'd never before recognized as fashionistas had, apparently, been eyeing what my fellow cats had dragged in and immediately pounced on the



more premium items. My swap lasted about three hours, just as Agasi predicted. It was 6 p.m. when everyone skipped out the door with their bags of new (to them) clothes, many wearing different outfits than they'd arrived in. I scored a jacket and a couple

of skirts. I adopted a couple more items when I picked up the many leftovers and packed them into bags for Goodwill. "Be good. Be green. Be glam." That's Agasi's motto, and for one glorious Saturday afternoon, I made it my own.

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Ever wondered if your yawns are contagious?

By Valerie Strauss
The Washington Post

Let's start at the beginning.
Who yawns?
 Everybody. Not just people, but cats, dogs and fish do, too!
What is a yawn?
 It is an involuntary action during which you open your mouth and breathe deeply for, on average, six seconds. "Involuntary" means you don't think about doing it; you just do it.
Why do we yawn?
 Scientists aren't really certain what triggers a yawn. They aren't even sure what part of the brain causes yawning.
 We know that people yawn when they are tired or bored, but they also yawn when they aren't. In fact, athletes sometimes yawn before competition, when they are the opposite of tired and bored. Babies in the womb yawn, too.
 One theory is that yawning is a way for the body to become more alert by taking in more oxygen. A yawn increases the heart rate, forces carbon dioxide out of the lungs and bloodstream, and brings oxygen to the brain.
 But one study showed that volunteers given a lot of oxygen did not yawn any less than before, and those exposed to a lot of carbon dioxide did not yawn more.
Do we yawn when we see someone else yawn?
 Scientists say yes, but — you guessed it — they aren't sure why.
 It might be the power of suggestion. In one study, subjects were more than twice as likely to yawn while watching a series of yawns as while watching a series of smiles.
 Yawns, like every human action, originate in the brain; and scientists are still unlocking the mysteries of how the brain works.
 There is still a lot that scientists have yet to figure out, even something as seemingly simple as why our eyes sometimes twitch. Or why we hiccup.
 So, did you read this entire article without yawning? (We bet not!)



Yawn fact
 When an animal yawns, it's sometimes a warning sign. For example, guinea pigs yawn when angry, showing off their sharp teeth.

In new movie, AnnaSophia Robb plays a character that is really out of this world

By Stephen Lowman
Special to The Washington Post

AnnaSophia Robb is like a lot of other 15-year-old freshmen in high school. When she's not doing homework, she likes to read, shop and go to the movies with friends. But unlike most other teen-agers, sometimes AnnaSophia is actually in the movies. She played Violet Beauregarde in 2005's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and Leslie Burke in 2007's "Bridge to Terabithia."

In her latest movie, "Race to Witch Mountain," she plays an alien named Sara who comes to Earth with her twin brother to save the planet from destruction. AnnaSophia talked about the movie, acting and, of course, aliens.

Q. What's "Race to Witch Mountain" about?

A. It's about the life of a taxi driver in Las Vegas played by Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. One day two unusual teenagers come into the back of the taxi. They turn out to be aliens, and they are on a journey to save Earth and their planet. There are explosions and alien assassins and U.S. government conspiracies.

Q. How did filming this movie compare with your others?

A. This is really the first action-adventure film I have ever done. When you are filming a scene day after day, it is hard to remind yourself (that) our characters are about to die and we have to save the world!

Q. What's it like working with Dwayne Johnson?

A. He is an amazing guy. We had such a fun time filming together. We were always cracking jokes, and he would always mess around with Andy Fickman, the director. We were just laughing constantly on the set, really.

Q. Did you always want to be an actress?

A. I did. I wanted to do it ever since I was a little girl. My mom found me an agent when I about 8, almost 9, because I was begging her to. It all sort of started when I went out to L.A.

Q. What are some of the cool things about being a famous actress?

A. Fame was never really a goal of mine. I never really even considered that when I was young. I just wanted to act. All of a sudden there were these perks that I never, ever expected. I love meeting new people and going to new places. I have met some really passionate people who are really excited about what they do.

Q. Do you have any advice for kids who want to go into acting?

A. Your passion should drive you, not your motivation to be successful. Find an agent and just start auditioning for things. If you don't get a part, don't freak out. I like to think of everyone as a different type of candy. If you are a lollipop and they are looking for a Hershey Kiss, well, you are never going to be a Hershey Kiss. Just keep trying and eventually somebody will want a lollipop.

Q. Since you play an alien, I have to ask: Do you think there is life on other planets?

A. Our universe is so huge. I'd have to think there is some life on some other planet. And even if it's not (true), it's just fun to believe!

Jokes for kids

Newsday

What do elves learn in school?
The elf-abet

What does a lumberjack say when he doesn't know the answer?
"I'm stumped."

What do you call an elephant in bed?
A heavy sleeper.

What were the chickens doing in the health club?
Eggs-ercising.

What do you call a bear with no sock on?
Barefoot.

How do you know if the head chef is a clown?
When the food tastes funny.

Did you hear about the fire at the circus?
It was in tents.

The National Zoo's whistling orangutan

By Valerie Strauss
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Having trouble learning to whistle? Perhaps you can get a few tips from Bonnie, the National Zoo's whistling orangutan. An orangutan that whistles? Yes, and there's more.

Bonnie often walks on two legs, like humans. And you can find the 32-year-old great ape copying her keepers by sweeping the floor of her zoo home with a handful of hay. Sometimes she grabs a rag to clean the windows.

"Orangutans in general are incredibly intelligent, but Bonnie is definitely even more so," said Erin Stromberg, a great-ape keeper who works with Bonnie and recently wrote a research paper about her ability to whistle. "She never misses a beat. She is highly intelligent and very inquisitive."

The 142-pound Bonnie is one of six adult orangutans at the National Zoo. Orangutans are primates, a group of animals that includes monkeys, gorillas and, yes, human beings!

Primates are mammals with large brains and opposable thumbs, which allow them to grasp something and hold on.

Bonnie and other great apes are part of a research project at the zoo's Think Tank. Scientists there are trying to learn more about the way the great apes think and act.

One part of the project is to learn whether orangutans can develop a strategy to remember long lists.

Stromberg helped with a project on Bonnie's unusual ability to whistle.

Years ago Bonnie started to whistle, probably after hearing a keeper do it. In the project Stromberg made different whistling noises to see if Bonnie could repeat them. She did.

Orangutans aren't known to whistle and had been thought to have a set number of sounds. Bonnie's whistling shows that some apes have the ability to learn a new sound from another species.

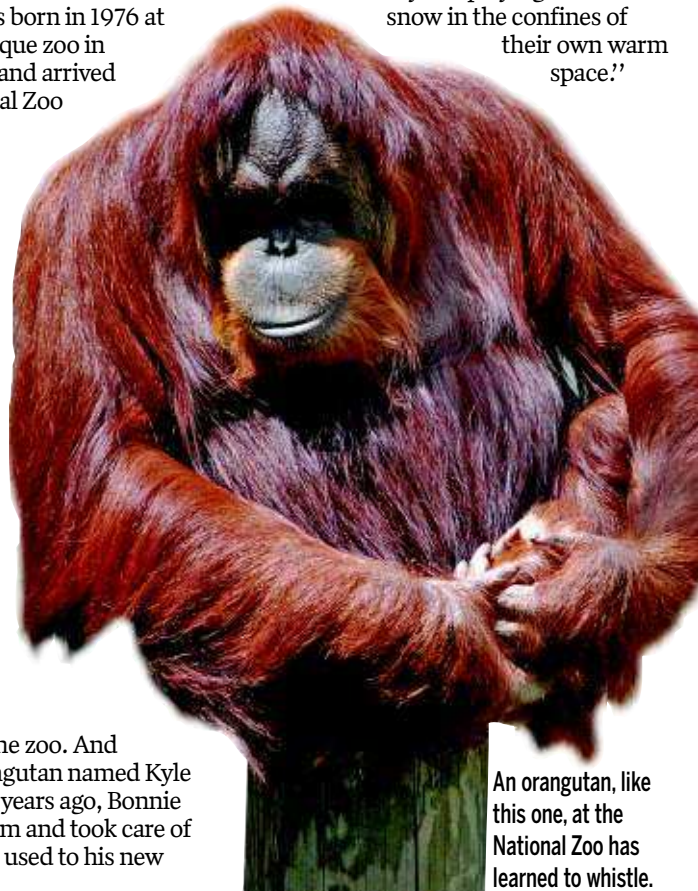
Bonnie was born in 1976 at the Albuquerque zoo in New Mexico and arrived at the National Zoo in December 1980. Bonnie has physical traits common to orangutans: a large belly and a forehead that slopes out.

Her dark-red coat is almost burgundy, which makes her easy to spot on a visit to the zoo.

She is the mother of Kiko, who also lives at the zoo. And when an orangutan named Kyle arrived a few years ago, Bonnie "adopted" him and took care of him as he got used to his new home.

For breakfast, she likes to eat a big salad of greens, carrots, broccoli and other vegetables. During the day she eats hay, sometimes with popcorn thrown in, as well as fruits and a biscuit.

Orangutans like to stay indoors when it gets too cold. So the keepers bring the snow to them after a storm. "They are smart," Stromberg said. "They like playing with the snow in the confines of their own warm space."



An orangutan, like this one, at the National Zoo has learned to whistle.