

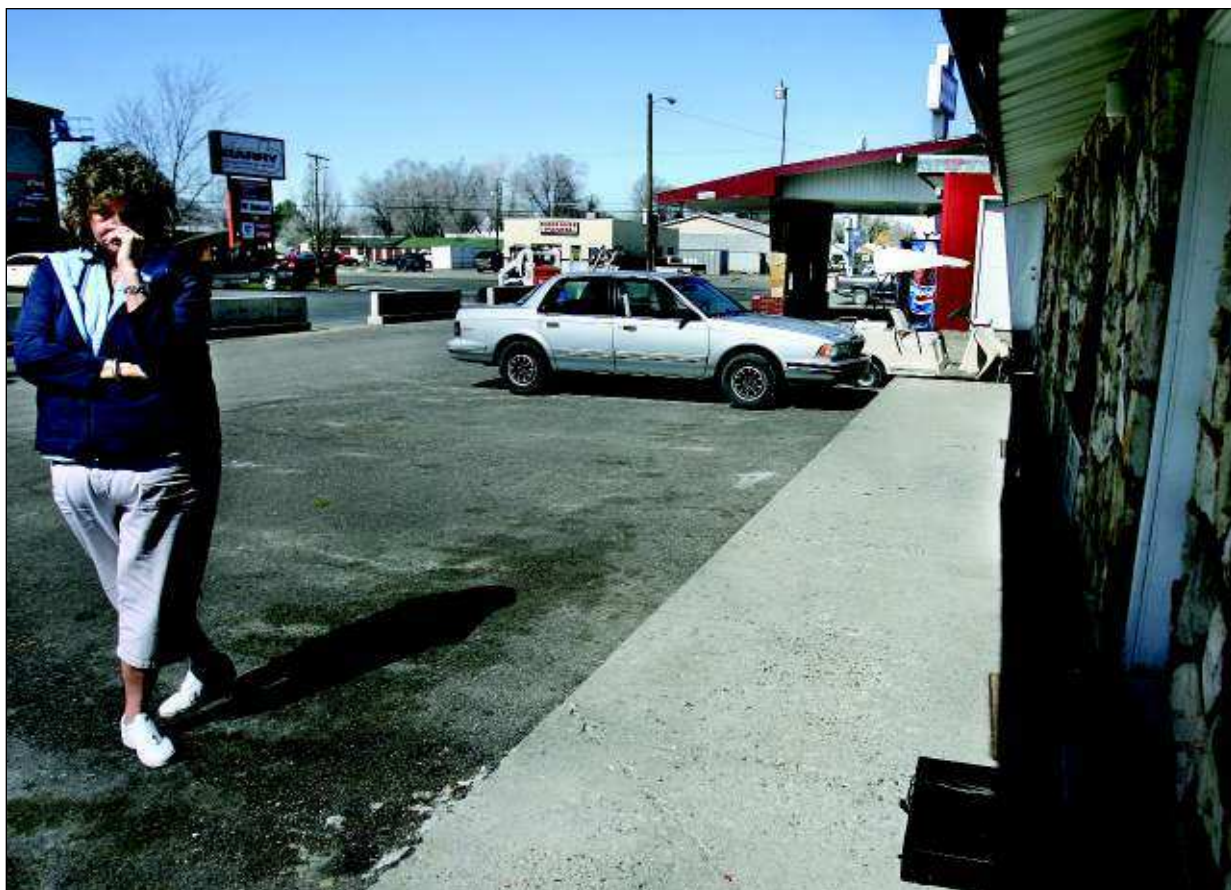
TUESDAY
March 24, 2009

TIMES-NEWS

75 CENTS

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Saying goodbye



MEAGAN THOMPSON/Times-News

Robin Parker looks at the spot where she says she saw Randy J. 'R.J.' Holler, 20, laying after he was shot by Twin Falls Police last Tuesday at the Dunes Motel. Parker is a Dunes resident and says she had a clear view of Holler, who was face down in handcuffs outside the motel after the shooting. 'If he was dead, why did they handcuff him; and if he wasn't dead why didn't they save his life,' she said Thursday at a candlelight vigil for Holler.

Funeral today for Randy Holler, killed a week ago in police-involved motel shooting

By Andrea Jackson
Times-News writer

A family will say goodbye today to Randy J. "R.J." Holler a week after the 20-year-old father, wanted for a probation violation, died outside the Dunes Motel in a police-involved shooting.

Authorities say the criminal investigation by state police into his death has only just begun, but some of his family

members and witnesses to the death scene have already made up their minds.

"I feel that the cops murdered my nephew," said Holler's aunt, Gina Johnson. "There are really good officers, but the officers involved in this, this is wrong."

Holler died March 17 outside the Dunes Motel on Addison Avenue, after police say they went there to look for a suspect wanted in a van theft. Twin

Falls police say Holler had a handgun and seven city officers have been placed on paid administrative leave as state police investigate.

Four of the officers were involved in the shooting and three others were present but not involved, police have said.

Twin Falls County Prosecutor Grant Loeb countered Johnson's assertion

See SHOOTING, Main 2

CSI waits for state budget decisions

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

The College of Southern Idaho's budget planning for next year has numbers that change constantly.

State lawmakers are still grappling with the budget and college administrators don't know yet what cuts, exactly, will happen at CSI.

"This is changing by the hour," CSI President Jerry Beck told the college board at a meeting on Monday.

CSI's state appropriation for the upcoming fiscal year is expected to be set on Thursday by legislators.

Even so, there are still unknowns. For example, it's unclear what a proposal to cut 5 percent of state workers' salaries will ultimately mean for CSI's employees, though Beck stressed that an impact on the school's budget is expected.

"We recognize that this is probably not a short-term situation we are in," Beck said of the state's budget crisis.

For the current fiscal year, total holdbacks are expected to reach 6 percent. For the upcoming fiscal year, cuts could total 10



MEAGAN THOMPSON/Times-News

Cassie Jacobsen, 22, sits with her boyfriend, Damien Mitchell, 23, as Mitchell waits to meet with a professor Monday afternoon in the hallway of the Shields Building on the College of Southern Idaho campus in Twin Falls. College President Jerry Beck discussed what state budget cuts CSI is anticipating after the Legislature's work wraps up. Part of what's up in the air is how a potential 5 percent reduction in salaries for state employees will impact the college.

to 11 percent after factoring in the state's 5 percent salary reduction and additional state reductions, Beck said.

The total amount for CSI reaches about \$1.3 million, he said. But the numbers don't end there.

Federal stimulus money of about \$700,000 will

help offset some of those cuts, bringing the state reduction to the college's budget down to about \$600,000, Beck said, stressing that no final numbers are known yet.

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

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WATCH: An interview with CSI President Jerry Beck.

Filer student dies of possible meningitis

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

Parents of Filer Elementary School children were told Monday that a student had died Sunday of possible meningococcal meningitis.

The school district and South Central Idaho Public Health District gave letters to parents following the death as a precaution so parents would know what symptoms to look for in their children, officials said.

The student's name, age and grade were not released by school officials or the health district, and the cause of death has not been officially determined as a meningitis case.

"There hasn't been a definitive confirmation, but we are giving information to parents," Superintendent John Graham said.

Meningitis is an inflammation of the lining around the brain, and symptoms of an infection include fever, headache, nausea, and vomiting. The bacteria for meningitis are spread in ways like kissing, sharing drinks and eating utensils, and sharing toothbrushes.

Children in the student's classroom are at low risk because no class was in ses-

sion last week because of spring break, said Cheryl Becker, epidemiologist manager for the health district. Symptoms usually occur within two to 10 days of exposure, she said.

The health district and school officials met with parents of other students in the student's class.

In addition, any individuals within close contact of the student have been contacted and given medication, Becker said.

In addition, letters were sent home with children in all grades at Filer Elementary School.

Meningococcal meningitis refers to a specific bacteria that causes meningitis, Becker said.

Meningococcal meningitis was one of the possible diagnoses put forth in the student's case, she said, adding that any additional information specific to that child would be considered private.

"We're treating it as a possibility," she said.

Becker said there are no other reports of possible meningitis cases in the health district.

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

Administration moves against bad bank assets

By Tom Raum
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration aimed squarely at the crisis clogging the nation's credit system Monday with a plan to take over up to \$1 trillion in sour mortgage securities with the help of private investors. For once, Wall Street cheered.

The announcement, closely stage-managed throughout the day, filled in crucial blanks in the administration's financial rescue package and formed what President

Obama called "one more critical element in our recovery."

The coordinated effort by the Treasury Department, the Federal Reserve and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. relies on a mix of government and private money — mostly from institutional investors such as hedge funds — to help banks rid their balance sheets of real-estate related securities that are now extremely difficult to value.

See BANK, Main 2



AP photo

President Obama smiles in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington. Joining him, from left are, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) Chair Sheila Bair.

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You Don't Say

Steve Crump



The horse that broke Idaho's heart

We're a month away from the 135th running of the Kentucky Derby, which seems a good time to reflect on what awful consequences a single bad decision can have on the lives of people — and horses ...

In the spring of 1932, Hailey-born jockey Laverne Fator was at the absolute top of his game, having won 44 major races since 1919 and earning jockey-of-the-year honors in 1925 and 1926 ... The most successful race-horse owner at the time, Edward R. Bradley, offered Fator his choice of two horses from Bradley's Idle Hour Stables to ride in the Kentucky Derby ...

Fator, then 30, picked a 3-year-old colt named Brother Joe ... Joe was a stud, and the closest thing to money in the racing world of the Great Depression ...

That left Joe's stablemate, Burgoo King, to 19-year-old Louisville jockey Eugene James ... Burgoo's best result had been a third-place finish in the 1931 Pimlico Futurity ...

On Derby day, Burgoo King got away cleanly, but shortly into the race Brother Joe pulled up lame ... Burgoo King raced two-wide with another horse behind the frontrunner, he made a strong move on the backstretch to take the lead and in the homestretch pulled away to win by three lengths ...

IF YOU SAY SO

If it's odd, funny, sad, poignant or weird and it happens in south-central Idaho, I want to hear about it. Call me at 735-3223, or write to me at scrump@magicvalley.com

This was the era of Seabiscuit, when a race-horse could capture the nation's imagination ... Burgoo King's loss was devastating for Fator, who won just two more major races ... It was also big news back in horse-mad Idaho ...

Fator jumped to his death from a hospital room window in 1937 while awaiting surgery; he was 35 years old ... *Time* magazine called him "the iciest jockey who ever rode a horse" ...

Until Caldwell's Gary Stevens, a three-time Derby winner, came along in the 1980s, Fator was the most successful jockey Idaho ever knew ...

Eighteen years after his death, Fator was still well-regarded enough to become a charter member of the National Racing Hall of Fame with 46 major-race victories (1,075 overall) ... Stevens, jockey of the year in 1998 and the winner of 56 major races (4,888 overall), was inducted in 1997 ...

Steve Crump is the Times-News opinion editor.

Council fixes LDS field mistake, awards wastewater contract

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

Goodbye, LDS Softball Complex.

The Twin Falls City Council on Monday held a special afternoon meeting at Oregon Trail Elementary School to rename the facility, just hours before fixing the city's acquisition of the land to make it legal.

Oregon Trail classes competed to pick the new name — Oregon Trail Youth Complex — with the winner getting a pool and pizza party.

In September 2008, the city transferred 1.37 acres near Canyon Ridge High School and nearly \$259,000 in cash to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in return for the fields, located south of Highland Park.

About one month ago, city officials realized they'd forgotten one step — to hold a public hearing on the

exchange. They corrected that at the tail end of Monday's busy council meeting, holding a hearing that no members of the public attended before unanimously ratifying the trade.

The council did enter into the record an e-mail that Community Development Director Mitch Humble received from a resident whose records request led officials to catch the mistake. Council member Lee Heider asked a question from the e-mail, wondering if the council could be sued for not properly managing city resources if the appraisals of the two properties were incorrect. But City Attorney Fritz Wonderlich told them that the question wasn't even an issue: statute just requires the council to act in the city's best interest.

Mayor Lance Clow told the council that he should have recognized the trade

needed a public hearing. And Humble told the council that he did see a silver lining in the issue.

"Staff is working on two other land-swap negotiations right now that we will now do properly," Humble said.

Earlier in the evening, the council approved an offer from the Twin Falls Youth Baseball Trust to upgrade lighting at two of the complex's fields. The trust will contribute nearly \$23,000 for the work, according to an estimate, while the city will pitch in \$5,721 either in cash or in waived tournament fees. Twin Falls County Youth Baseball will donate more than \$8,000 in in-kind labor.

The work is intended to avoid what trust Chairman Revis Turner noted in a letter was "an alarming number of injuries" due to play during darkness to Cal Ripken

baseball players in 2008, including one who was hospitalized with a severe head injury.

Also Monday, the council awarded a contract for work at the city's wastewater plant to ABCO Construction of Perry, Utah. The company bid about \$871,400 to demolish an aging bio-tower, replace undersized piping and build a new chemical feed building — coming in more than \$500,000 under the city's budget.

John Keady, the project manager for plant operator CH2M Hill OMI, said the chemical, ferric chloride, will help address phosphorus issues and could help the city stay below new limits for suspended solids, expected to be lowered by the federal government as part of a permit renewal. The system could help "stave off" the plant's next upgrade for as long as five years, he said.

FOR THE RECORD

Cassia County police reports for March 20

Battery:

A 29-year-old Burley woman called 911 and reported that her boyfriend, 26, punched her in the mouth and broke her front tooth after he "threw her keys and told her to fetch."

Malicious injury to property, vandalism:

A 19-year-old Burley male reported that his cousin/roommate, also 19, "was very intoxicated and he had broke out the front window with his head." Despite bleeding from the head, the window-smashing man refused medical treatment.

Fraud:

A man identifying him-

self as Victor Gouch from the United Kingdom has been asking Jennifer Lee, 23, a jail deputy at the Mini-Cassia Criminal Justice Center, for a puppy. According to the report, "Victor said he lives in the United Kingdom and wants the puppy shipped there. Jennifer does not ship out of the country due to the high costs, inspection fees, customs, etc. Victor told Jennifer he would pay extra for her trouble." Lee is selling puppies but suspected that two money orders for \$950 were fraudulent. The U.S. Postal Service is investigating the matter.

— Damon Hunzeker

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Twin Falls High School student dies over spring break

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

Twin Falls High School students are mourning the death of a classmate who died during spring break.

Justin Ray Mallory, 16, of Twin Falls, died on Friday in Winnemucca, Nev. The cause of his death is not known at this time. By sheer coincidence, he's also the third Twin Falls student involved in the school's wrestling program to die in the past three years.

"We are heartbroken," said Saaid Dabestani, the wrestling coach. "They are doing as best as can be expected. They are coping."

Mallory began wrestling in seventh grade for Dabestani at O'Leary Junior High School and continued the sport in eighth and ninth grade.

Dabestani said Mallory was only 63 pounds when he started wrestling in seventh grade.

"Number one, he was a talented wrestler and I would describe him as a jolly kid," the coach said. "He was happy, a happy kid."

For the team and coach, the impact is particularly difficult after losing two other teammates. Trevor Hine, 15, died in August 2008 in a one-vehicle rollover accident in Jerome. Justin Hernandez, 15, died in a drowning accident in July 2006.

"This is my third wrestler that I've lost in the last three years," Dabestani said. "He was just way too young, just

like all others we lost. It was a shock and everybody, his friends and wrestlers, are upset."

Twin Falls High School Principal Ben Allen said district counselors have been available for students and staff.

With students text-messaging since the passing of

Mallory, word spread before students returned from spring break on Monday, Allen said. For students, it also helps for them to cope with the tragedy with friends and family, too, he said.

"Our counselors are trained, but it's not the same," Allen said.



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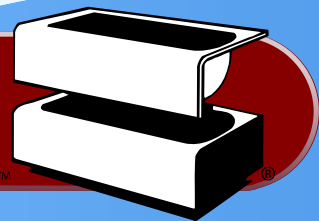
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Otter's liquor bill heads to Senate floor

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

BOISE — The Senate State Affairs Committee on Wednesday voted 6-3 in favor of Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's proposal designed to modernize the state's liquor laws by eliminating the decades-old quota system.

The bill, which will move to a full Senate vote, would transfer responsibility of granting liquor licenses at restaurants from the state to cities and counties while

capping the approximate 1,000 licenses at bars. Currently, licenses are awarded by the state on a per-capita basis: one license for every 1,500 people in a city's population.

However, the process has drawn a waiting list and created a black market where licenses go for many thousands more.

South-central Idaho committee members Sen. Jon Thorson, D-Sun Valley, and Sen. Denton Darrington, R-Declo, supported the measure.

Darrington said the bill

justifiably takes the state out of issuing licenses, efficiently revises law enforcement and will drive license value up in the long-term by capping existing numbers at bars.

"That outweighs whatever little negative there is," Darrington said. "I think it's time to do it."

Under the proposed rules, the sale of the bar-only licenses would be overseen by a new independent board. Meanwhile, the restaurant licenses would be non-transferable, administered by cities and counties.

Restaurants currently with a license could decide



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

whether to keep it or put it out on the market and receive a municipal license. They'd also receive a 10 percent discount on liquor purchases.

The measure, estimated to cost the state \$270,000, is supported by a majority of the approximately 250 members of the Idaho Licensed Beverage Association. Opponents argued the bill strikes a financial blow to

small businesses in Idaho that won't be made up for decades. About a half-dozen license holders testified against the bill.

"I'm opposed to this bill," said Susan Jenkins, owner of Emmett's Gem Lounge. "I think it's a wrecking ball."

Brian Donesley, a former state liquor chief who's brokered numerous license transfers, said the bill violates the Idaho Constitution

mandate that the Legislature manage temperance and places that responsibility onto local governments.

"I suggest this bill is not ripe for consideration," said "We have a constitutional problem with this bill."

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

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

Bandages for education

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

Idaho teachers this week are wearing bandages to express their concerns over proposed state cuts to education.

"No Cuts to Education," a campaign of the Idaho Education Association, is encouraging teachers to wear bandages in schools across the state.

Its one way educators are saying that they don't believe a bandage can cover the cuts to education that the state has proposed. The IEA, for example, has concerns about Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's recommendations to leave up to \$40 million of economic stimulus funding untouched.

"Between the economic stimulus package from the federal government and the rainy day funds that Idaho has already set aside, there is more than enough money to cover the projected shortfalls in public school budgets for this year and the next two," Sherri Wood, president of the Idaho Education Association, said in a statement about the campaign.

This week, teachers in area school districts are distributing bandages to wear and setting up posters about the state cuts. Linda Jones, Region IV director of the Idaho Education Association, said that many districts throughout the region are participating in the campaign. Region IV



ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

Jerome Middle School teacher Jolene Dockstader, left, talks with colleague Ginger Rierden Monday at the school about 'No Cuts to Education.' Idaho teachers this week are wearing bandages to express their concerns over proposed state cuts to education. 'No Cuts to Education,' a campaign of the Idaho Education Association, is encouraging teachers to wear bandages in schools across the state.

includes Twin Falls, Jerome, Gooding, Minidoka and Cassia counties.

"For most, in their minds are their students and the education they'll receive," Jones said. "They just can't afford to do without."

David Gibson, president of the Twin Falls Education Association, spent part of Monday delivering bandages to schools in his district.

"It's hard to get a feel on the first day, but I know I've had a lot of responses from teachers," Gibson said.

Gibson said teachers are concerned about how the cuts will impact students. With the budget numbers

not set in stone, he said it's hard to tell what the final outcome will be for the state's education budget.

"We don't know really what to expect," he said of the budget outlook for the next year. "We're just going to keep a positive outlook and hope we can work it out the best we can."

Jolene Dockstader, president of the Jerome Education Association, said teachers are concerned that funding cuts could lead to larger classes in the early grades, which would impact the instruction for students in crucial years.

"When you're trying to teach kids how to read,

that's a huge difference between 18 and even 23 students," said Dockstader, a teacher at Jerome Middle School.

Susan Hamby, president of the Filer Education Association, said there are teachers in her district who will wear bandages this week. Though the country is an economic crisis, she said it's important to remember that children are the future.

Hailey woman wins \$200K lottery prize

Times-News

HAILEY — In less lean times, the winner of \$200,000 in lottery money might be headed to Disneyland. Angela Burt of Hailey is planning to buy a new car and invest in her daughters' college funds.

Burt is a store clerk at

Guffy's in Bellevue, where she bought the ticket last Thursday after correctly guessing that the last one in the bin might be lucky. The ticket was part of the lottery's 20th anniversary celebration, and Burt didn't realize she'd scratched the top prize until she rubbed off the last field.

Guffy's has been lucky for

others — in 2005, Fred Anderson won \$100,000 on Powerball, and in 2006, Sherie Taylor won \$10,000 on Hot Tamales. The store will receive a \$20,000 bonus for selling the winning ticket, and the win has already increased the store's sales, said owners Martin and Sandy Chandler.



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In BUHL:
Tuesday, March 17th
7:00 pm at
The Eighth Street Center
200 8th Ave. N.

In JEROME:
Tuesday, March 24th
7:30 pm at
The Jerome Public Library
100 1st Ave. E.

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PLANNING A BETTER GOODING

Gooding, Idaho Rural Partnership to examine quality of living

By Mary Hanson
Times-News correspondent

GOODING — Being small does have its share of advantages.

Capitalizing on Gooding's small town size — the U.S. Census Bureau estimated its population at 3,208 in 2007 — Mayor Duke Morton has launched a project for planning and administering the future needs and wishes of the town. Gooding will take place in the Idaho Rural Partnership's Community Review program. IRP is a collaborative group of local, state and federal offices that



MARY HANSON/For the Times-News

Gooding City Clerk Carmen Korsen and Gooding Mayor Duke Morton recently discuss the Web site for filing out the City of Gooding's community review.

ON THE WEB

Find out more about the Idaho Rural Partnership Community Review program and take the Gooding Community Review at <http://irp.idaho.gov>

aims to improve the quality of living in rural Idaho.

Individual citizen surveys will play a major roll in the review process.

Many citizens will find their blank surveys with their water bill this month. They can also be obtained at City Hall or taken at the IRP Web site. Participation is voluntary and anonymous

but invaluable to the city in planning for the coming years, Morton said.

"The return of the surveys to the city is extremely important to the process of review," he said.

According to City Clerk Carmen Korsen, "The only cost to the city is sharing in the cost of the questionnaire mailing and the provision of meals over the three-day review period.

Morton said that "local concerns" are already volunteering to pay for the meals, which he hopes will be completely covered before the review. The review entails a three- to

four-day visit of 12 to 15 community development specialists, who will talk to leaders and citizens about various aspects of living in Gooding.

The citizen survey is occurring now until the first of May. The review will begin May 1.

The result of both survey and Community Review will be made public during Gooding City Council meetings in approximately three months.

Mary Hanson may be reached at mhanson-mbd@aol.com.

Hagerman Public Library seeking a new building

By Kimberly Williams-Brackett
Times-News correspondent

HAGERMAN — The Hagerman Public Library has outgrown its current facility on South State Street, its board of directors says.

With a 750 square-foot building and an occupancy cap of 7.5, the Hagerman Public Library board of directors is in the initial stages of looking at property to build a new library. The property being assessed was not disclosed.

Board member Ione Iund said, "Our building fund is growing by leaps and bounds."

The building fund was established nearly a decade ago when the library suffered fire and smoke damage.

A larger space is needed to accommodate the growing demand for books and an increase in books donated to the library. Director Barbara Stobart said, "We have a city-owned storage shed where we keep boxes of books."

Board member and Treasurer Nancy Bright said once they purchase property, they will apply for grants to fund the remaining project.

There are five appointed board members, a city council liaison, and the director on the library's board, which currently



KIMBERLY WILLIAMS-BRACKETT/For the Times-News

The board of the Hagerman Public Library, now at this 750 square-foot building at 290 S. State St., is seeking a new building, citing a need to answer a growing demand for books and library services, along with a growing collection of materials.

meets at the Hagerman City Hall due to lack of space at the library.

Currently there are two public access computers available for free Internet access with a 20-minute limit. "We need more computers," said Stobart. "They're extremely busy and the printer is getting used."

In other business, Bright said they received a \$500 donation from the Hagerman Masonic Lodge and a \$300 donation from Farmers National Bank in Buhl.

There will be a book sale during the annual Hagerman Fossil Days, held May 22-23.

"Medical books that are over 5 years old are a liability,"

said Stobart. In addition, books that are 15 to 20 years old, have not been checked out and books in storage will be on sale.

Stobart said she's been networking with libraries in the Magic Valley, and Hagerman Public Library is receiving some donated books that are duplicates in other libraries.

Children registering for kindergarten at Hagerman Elementary School will receive a free book, "Look and Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!" by Nancy Carlson as part of the library's "Get a Jump Start on Reading at Your Library" program. The library will also host an informational display at kindergarten registration promoting its summer

reading program.

Parents will get a folder of early literacy information and activities along with library card applications. The program is sponsored by the library and Read to Me, a service of the Idaho Commission for Libraries, in part through a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Also, the library's hours of operation are changing on April 1. It will be open 2 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2 to 5 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

Kimberly Williams-Brackett may be reached at gusandkim@rtci.net.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Gooding reserves to host July 4 raffle

The Gooding City Police Reserves announced their first Independence Day Raffle to be held July 4 during the city barbecue at the fairgrounds.

Tickets are on sale now from any Gooding City Police Department employee. Tickets are \$2 each or six for \$10. The prize is half a pig, cut and wrapped. Two winners will be selected to receive the prize. The locally raised pig is being donated by Pete Etchart and is being cut and wrapped by Stockham's Custom Meats.

All proceeds will benefit the Gooding City Police Reserves for training and equipment. Information: 934-8436, ext. 24.

Wendell police hold Blue Jean Ball

The Wendell Police Department will present The Blue Jean Ball from 8 p.m. to midnight April 11 at the Magic Valley Portuguese Hall.

The event will include an evening of dancing with Johnny U, live auction and no-host bar. Tickets are \$10 each. All proceeds go to Wendell's Centennial fireworks display.

Information: 536-2935 ext. 3.

Free dental sealants offered at Wendell schools

Beginning April 2, Wendell Elementary School second- and third-graders and Wendell Middle School seventh- and eighth-graders can receive free dental sealants to help prevent cavities. Dental sealants fill the deep grooves of a child's back teeth, where 90 percent of children's cavities occur. The sealants are painless to apply and can last several years or more.

Delta Dental of Idaho pro-

vides sealants on-site at schools serving low-income families as part of its community outreach program. To receive this free cavity-prevention treatment, children must have a parent or guardian sign a health history and permission form. Additional permission forms are available at the school. Information: 208-489-3550.

Bridge results for Gooding club

Gooding Duplicate Bridge released its results for March 13.

Section A, first, Kathy Rooney and Mary Steele; second, Jodi Faulkner and Mary Kienlen; and third, Max Thompson and Beverly Reed. Section B, first, Marg Pierson and Susan Faulkner.

Duplicate bridge is played at 1 p.m. Fridays at the Gooding Senior Center, 308 Senior Ave. For partnership information or directions: Kathy Rooney at 934-9732.

North Side Center holding classes

The College of Southern Idaho North Side Center announced two upcoming classes.

Using Photoshop Elements will meet from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays March 31 to April 28 at Wendell High School. The fee is \$117 plus the book for this one-credit course; those age 60 and over pay \$22 plus the book. If you are not interested in earning credit, you may audit the course at the same cost. Instructor: Jerry Allen.

American Sign Language for beginners will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays March 31 to May 5 at the North Side Center. The fee for this six-session course is \$50. Participants will get an introduction to basic ASL conversational skills from instructor Cami Wilding.

Information or to register: 934-8678.

CELEBRATING SEUSS



Courtesy photo

Carolyn Dewitt, children's librarian at Gooding Public Library, is pictured awaiting the arrival of preschool children for a Dr. Seuss Day celebration on March 3. Dr. Seuss books were read and after reading 'Hop on Pop' the children lined up and hopped on bubble wrap. They also made a craft of a cat wearing a Dr. Seuss hat which was colored in red stripes. While watching the movie, 'Green Eggs and Ham' the children enjoyed special treats made by Cindy Bigler. The snacks resembled a Dr. Seuss hat and green eggs and ham. Story time for 3- to 5-year-olds is held from 10 to 11 a.m. each Tuesday at the library.

Ask questions to get answers about glaucoma

DEAR DR. GOTT: Last year, during my yearly eye examination, my doctor asked me if I had poked my eye with a stick (which I hadn't), because I had a line in my eye, which was a first sign of glaucoma. He also noted that I had some pigment on both of my lenses.

Could you tell me if there is any treatment for this



ASK DR. GOTT
Dr. Peter Gott

condition? My doctor didn't tell me if anything could be done. Should I get a sec-

ond opinion?

DEAR READER: Let me start by saying that if you don't ask questions, your doctor can't answer them. If there was something you didn't understand or simply wanted to know more about, you should have said so. Doctors aren't mind readers. Unless the patient says otherwise, the physician assumes the informa-

tion has been understood. I have said time and again that people who take active roles in their health will usually get the best care. Now, to your problem. Pigment is the substance that gives our eyes color. Sometimes, this pigment can flake off and land on other places, such as the lens.

It often goes unnoticed, as

it doesn't cause symptoms.

I believe your doctor was referring to a rare form of glaucoma called pigmentary glaucoma. This condition results when pigment flakes off the iris and blocks the meshwork that allows for proper drainage within the eye. This increases the intraocular pressure, leading to damage to the optic nerve, bet-

ter known as glaucoma.

If your eye pressures had been increased, you likely would have been told so and given steps or medications to take to reduce the pressure and prevent further damage. In your case, if the pigment is only on the lens, it is probably not blocking the meshwork.

See **DR. GOTT**, Main 6

WOOD RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Wood River Middle School announced its second trimester honor roll.

Sixth grade

Giselle Andrade, Angelica Arroyo, Alagna Ashurst, Hagan Barsch, Abigail Barton, Alexandra Begley, Melissa Bennett, Cameron Benson, Miriam Bingham, Taylor Bosch, Brittney Bradley, Lucy Brannon, Victoria Brown, Liza Buell, Tara Burchmore, Samuel Burns, Cody Carter, Sarah Carty, Alfonso Castanos, Riley Clark, Bailey Clevin, Avery Closser, Rory Cole, Hollmann Davis, Silas Fortuin, Kaedi Fry, Hunter Frye, Hayes Gilman, Samantha Goitiandia, Grace Gorham, Cutter Grathwohl, Hector Gutierrez, Xavier Haemmerle, Connor Hayes, Cormac Heneghan, Samantha Hepworth, Alysha Herich, Ashley Hicks, Casandra Hurtado, Allison Jones, Nora Jones, Gage Jorgensen, Tanner Josey, Sage Kelly, Timber Kelly, Brian Kotara, Austin Krenz, Leticia Lagunas, Mary Latta, Taylor Lenane, Jordi Lerma Quinterom, William Long, Alexa Lopez, Jennifer Lundt, Kole

Mauldin, Payton McCune, Matthew McGraw, Cassidy Miley, Layton Moore, Tatum Morell, Valeria Morse, Sandra Murillo, Megan Murphy, Andrew Neel, Madeline Nelson, Michael Niedrich, Amber Park, Ciceley Peavey, Katja Peller, Nicole Penrose, Haylee Pettit, Anastasia Poklemba, Desmond Porth, Logan Portillo, Alec Poster, Naomi Ratcliffe, Joel Rinckwald, Jack Rizzo, Lucas Robertson, Claire Sauerbrey, Austin Savaria, Kenya Schott, Jonathon Scott, Renee Shapiro, Morgan Shipp, Caitlin Sholtis, Mia Smith, Eva Sorensen, Henry Steinman, Isabella Stimac, Denon Strobe, Lauren Sunday, Samantha Sutton, Zachary Swanson, Hayden Thayer, Brigitte Thomas, Olivia Thornton, Jackson Toothman, Kyler Torres, Jazmine Valverde, Tyson VanDyck, Callie Weber.

Seventh grade

Kenza Alaoui, Creighton Ariel, Annie Ashfield, Sarah Baeza, Cooper Bailey, Courtney Ballard, Shelby Barnes, Eron Bates, Emilia Bingham, Angelica Black, Sabrina Bourgette, Alexa Browne,

Wyatt Caccia, Kimberly Cancino, Augusta Catherin-Sauer, Kyle Clark, Shelby Cooper, Karyn Cornett, Lane Coulthard, Maria Coyne, Anson Credle, Chloe Davis, Sadie Dawson, Brandon Dolanar, Allison Fluetsch, Kelsey Furlong, Laurel Gaeddert, Keara Gammon, Caleb Garvin, Shayna Gelskey, Miguel Gerhardt, Chandler Gifford, Armando Gomez, Andrew Graves, Destiny Guisasola, Quinn Guthrie, Gisel Guzman, Jacob Halopoff, Ashley Hamilton, Lisa Hart, Keegan Heneghan, Kevin Hernandez, Addison Holmes, Megan Huskinson, Lauren Jacobs, Logan Johnston, Meghan Kehrer, Reyna Kelly, Bridget Kernan, Riley Kilmartin Schmidt, Elana King-Nakaoka, Isabel Kirk, Ethan Kjesbo, Paola Lagunas, Ilse Leal Martinez, Courtney Lecrone, Manasseh Lee, Chloe Lichtenberg, Max Mauldin, Kianna Mestas, Jorge Meza, Zachary Miczulski, Maira Montes, Haley Montgomery, Jesus Morales, Andrew Morse, Martin Mosqueda, Jaqueline Murillo, Anna Murphy, Nathan Nasvik,

Michel Nunez, Janel Passey, Lane Payette, Mary Petzke, Stephen Pfeiffer, Josie Potts, Ellie Punnett, Matthew Reidy, Ty Reinemann, Marshall Reyburn, Cody Richmond, Amarah Ruhter, Jennifer Ruiz, Sage Rust, Kati Sanders, Chantel Santacruz, Ashley Shardlow, Marcia Smith, Tyler Spence, Mariah Stout, Kein Sutton, Kelsey Syms, Alexandra Taylor, Nathan Thomas, Montana Tucker, Miguel Velasco, Kay Walton, Jarret Wetzel, Tanya Wilkerson, Wyatt Wilson, Kailey Wilt, James Wycle.

Eighth grade

Jacob Adicoff, Karla Aguayo, Jared Anderson, William Ashfield, Thomas Bailey, Andrew Barsch, Tayler Bates, Taylor Berntson, Lucas Bird, Timothy Boyle, Audrey Brassil, Julia Broderick, Christian Brown, Macee Bulotti, Cole Caminiti, Cole Caulkins, McKenna Chase, Brett Cherry, Courtney Compton, Rachel Conover, Forrest Davis, Megan Davis, Alexandra Feldman, Emmet Fortuin, Zackary Freeman, Lena Friesen, Amelia Fugate, Alison Gasenica, Miranda

Gasenica, Ian Gillberg, Shea Goitiandia, Wyatt Griffith, Connor Hall, Syringa Hansen, Mateja Heinrich, Madison Hendrix, Catherine Henry, Lara Hobbs, William Jablonski, Alberta Jefferson, Keah Jones, Tyler Kino, Nathan Lago, Kaitlyn Landis, Brooke Lawrence, Jesus Lerma, Lauren Lichtenberg, Jesus Lopez, My Dung Mai, Quinn Matthews, Reed Matthews, David Maxwell, Telar McClure, Tanisha Mitchell, Chandler Moore, Joshua Morell, Parker Morris, Alicia Nelson, Alyse Northrup, Kori Paradis, Stephen Poklemba, Nicole Pratt, Drew Punnett, Lillian Richards,

Jessica Richardson, Hannah Robideaux, Olivia Roche, Clara Rodriguez, Kalen Savaria, Emily Seiller, Alexis Shapiro, Kaitlyn Sorenson-Black, Paige Stevenson, Maranda Stopol, Sydney Tidwell, Chrystal Tullis, Guillermo Velasco, Katie Walton, Colby Werley, Maggie Williams, Lauren Willows-Munro, Ketchum Wilt.

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Dr. Gott

Continued from Main 5

Return to your doctor and ask for clarification of the situation. If he or she refuses to elaborate, get a referral for a second opinion.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Is there a way to cure "white coat" hypertension?

DEAR READER: "White coat" hypertension is a condition in which blood pressure rises to above normal just before and during a doctor's appointment but

returns to normal or below normal upon leaving the office.

This occurs because of the anxiety and stress related to seeing a doctor. It is not related to true hypertension, which is consistently high BP readings. There are steps that can reduce these feelings, as well as ways to achieve more accurate readings.

Establishing readings while at the doctor's as well as at home in a more relaxed atmosphere will provides a basis for proper diagnosis

between true and "white coat" hypertension. If home readings are at or below normal, then certain measures can be taken.

For example, relaxation techniques, such as deep breathing, can be done in the waiting room before an appointment. Having your BP checked at the end of the visit rather than the beginning will also allow for time to relax and adjust to the situation. If these steps fail, it may be necessary to purchase a blood pressure cuff for home use so levels can be

sent to your physician on a regular basis.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Hypertension." Other readers who would like a copy should send a self-addressed, stamped No. 10 envelope and a check or money order for \$2 to Newsletter, PO Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

Peter Gott is a retired physician.

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Leadership is needed most when times are Tough



The Powered by Community program is dedicated to making our communities better. This includes project organization, volunteer work programs, education services and direct monetary donations.

Heading up the Powered by Community initiative at the bank is Rick Youngblood, Community Partnership President. He is joined by Mark Wild, PSB Community Development Officer; Doris Brown, ICB-WA Community Development Officer; Jennifer Deroin, ICB Community Development Officer; Kimberly Diercks, PSB Community Development Officer; and Larry Hall, MVB Community Development Officer. These six individuals will work with community leaders and volunteer leaders in their geographic areas to make the priorities of the community a reality.



OPINION

QUOTABLE

"If you have money, you can get your rights restored, and if you don't have money, you won't."
 — State Rep. Jeannie Darnelle, who sponsored legislature to allow felons to re-register to vote once they're not in state custody

EDITORIAL

There's little protection from dog bites in Idaho

Some folks in the Magic Valley won't walk down a country lane in the evening. They're afraid of being attacked by a dog. Remarkable for a dog-friendly region with such a low rate of violent crime, fear of canine attack is pervasive outside city limits in south-central Idaho.

It's not hard to see why. A *Times-News* report last week told of then-7-year-old Darion Page, who was attacked by a neighbor's Great Dane in Paul 10 months ago. She has undergone two surgeries to repair torn muscles and damaged salivary gland. Because a piece of skin was missing, doctors had to stretch the remaining tissue across the hole.

Dorion's parents worry about nerve damage and the child has to complete healing before any remaining reconstruction can be attempted.

The dog's owner has been charged with a misdemeanor by the state, which has asked Magistrate Court to declare the dog a public nuisance. A criminal citation has been filed by Minidoka County, based on a citation for owning a vicious dog in Paul.

And a lawsuit is pending.

As it stands, civil law — and the implied threat of stratospheric homeowner's insurance premiums — is really the only effective sanction against dog bites in most of Idaho.

According to the Insurance Information Institute, dog bites cost insurers more than \$356 million in 2007, with the average cost of a bite claim at \$24,511.

State and local laws in Idaho, such as they are, are inconsistent — relatively stringent in larger cities; mostly ineffective outside city limits even though Idaho has rejected the "one-bite" rule. That essentially shields owners from liability, civilly and criminally until the owner has certain knowledge that the dog is dangerous or vicious.

Even so, counting on vicious-dog laws to protect you in rural areas is risky.

Although there are skilled animal-control units in some Idaho counties with officers trained to handle vicious dogs, your only real protection is the dog's owner.

Responsible owners train their dogs — especially the Big Three breeds of biters: pit bulls, Rottweilers and Presa Canarios. They fence, leash or crate their animals to protect their neighbors, and never leave passersby in a position of being confronted by an unrestrained dog or one able to snap a chain and wreck havoc.

Darion Page will reap the consequences of being in the wrong place at the wrong time the rest of her life. The law didn't protect her, and whatever compensation she gains through the legal system won't erase the pain and the terror.

A 7-year-old kid shouldn't have to go through that. Train your dog, and keep him in check.

Our view: If you don't believe you have a civic responsibility to train and control your dog, you're risking somebody else's life.

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

Barbie, it's not our little secret anymore

Barbie. Happy 50th. You haven't had it easy, serving as both the template for idealized female beauty and a lightning rod for controversy. So, congrats on weathering the storm. And since we're talking: I need to tell you something.

In the debate over whether you and your pronounced bosom, platinum blond locks and teetering stature have objectified women, well, I objectified you. Wherever and whenever I could. Let me explain.



SARAH HASKINS

I had anti-Barbie parents. You know the type: Parents who want you to have your birthday party at a museum. Parents who think that the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer is a "fun" show. Parents who secretly wish that all you played with was a collection of hand-carved wooden spoons from a non-Western culture. Barbie was anathema, a Stepford wife in waiting. They looked at her, even in her '80s corporate wear, and saw the same plastic pin-up who debuted at the New York Toy Fair on March 9, 1959.

Sure, Barbie had a lot of professional careers, but how could she really be an independent woman when she couldn't even stand on her own? To my baby boomer mom, and the many moms like her, the marketing drive to present Barbie as a woman with "choices" was a crock. These were women in a generation that actually made difficult choices about work and family, and knew that real change took a lot more than slipping into a power suit.

I did have one Barbie, probably a gift from a well-meaning babysitter or a birthday present we could-



n't return. My sister had a Malibu Skipper, acquired in the same way. I threw a tantrum at Sears once and got hushed up with a generic Ken doll. He wore a red sweat suit and liked to play tennis. To balance the equation, my sister had a Ken doll named Derek. He sang lead in a band called the Rockers and wore a shimmering New Wave pink and purple jacket and a tie. Four Barbies.

How did I — the daughter of a feminist and working woman, myself a future feminist and a generally liberal, Prius-driving recycling lady — play with my Barbie?

I took off all her clothes and sent her looking for love. My Barbie got around.

One day it was He-Man behind the sofa. Then, before the dust bunnies had even gathered on their tryst, she was up and off to see Skeletor. She got it on with Ken from Sears and spurned him for Derek. Barbie made out with stuffed animals, hooked up with Hulk Hogan and stole away for a moment with Boba Fett.

And it wasn't just me. To walk into the bedroom of any of my Barbie-owning friends when I was little

was to face a sordid truth. "You want to play Barbie?" she would ask innocently and gesture. Off in the corner — a bucket of large-breasted, pantsless women. "That's where the Barbies live." Across the room, a tragic tableau: Barbie in the backseat of a convertible. Barbie entangled in a desk drawer dalliance.

Barbie in the bathtub with a duck and a tugboat.

My mom wanted my sister and me to grow up believing that we could do whatever we wanted, that our value lay in our character and not our appearance. But, you, Barbie. We treated you exactly as we didn't want to be treated, defiling the Golden Rule with your every after-school roll in the sofa cushions. Did our mother's disapproval trickle down, or did we cotton to the stereotype and just assume that the pretty girl with the ample curves was dumb?

I'm sure Mom was happy when, soon after we chopped off Barbie's locks to reveal a biker-gang look, my sister and I phased Barbie out. But I don't think she ever had anything to worry about. We always knew Barbie represented an absurd fantasy. Because she

was so clearly not real, we were as likely to aspire to Barbie's proportions as we were to take to the ring with Hulk Hogan.

And now, at 50, Barbie looks less like a threat than a grande dame, perched on her pedestal in toy history. After all, in her own strange way, she was a pioneer — a trailblazing figure in branding, a woman whose every tiny wobbly step paved the way for the questionable role models that perplex and concern parents today, be they Bratz or Disney Princesses. And parents, fear not — Barbie's legacy continues even there: For every mermaid throwing her life away for a prince, there's probably a really randy mermaid making out with Spiderman somewhere in your house.

So happy birthday, Barbie. And I'm sorry. I hope you don't feel that I didn't respect your desire to be a fighter pilot, a teacher or a doctor.

Unless you had a good time with all that action. Then never mind.

Sarah Haskins hosts the "Target Women" segment on Current TV's infoMania. She wrote this commentary for The Washington Post.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Newspaper has sensationalized Latham story

I am very puzzled why the *Times-News* has taken it upon itself to sensationalize the problems Latham motors is having and condemning it without all the facts.

Janet and Bob Latham are two of the most giving and caring people and have done so much for Twin Falls, putting in the scoreboard at the College of Southern Idaho for \$65,000, donating \$32,000 for the swimming pool cover, more than \$20,000 for the Boys and Girls Club, among others — not to mention all the financial help he has given to the baseball, basketball, golf, rodeo and many other youth-oriented groups.

Those of us that have known them most of our

lives know that Bob will satisfy whatever obligation he has.

It is time to support our town and its citizens. Leave it to the *Enquirer* to print gossip and half-truths. The *Times-News* is better than that.

JEAN HOVEY WATKINS
 Kailua-Kona, Hawaii

Kick your landscape chemical dependency

With spring upon us, it's time for the lawn service providers to solicit, hardware stores to advertise and homeowners to give the annual "it's-gotta-be-done" nod. The idea that one must spray chemicals to rid themselves of "pests" and "weeds" is a longstanding American tradition giving the mark of civic duty and achievement. It is a custom carried on without question. But what do we

really know about the cost of this chemical warfare in the crusade for greener grass? What hidden price is paid?

None would argue that herbicides/pesticides are "safe" in the same way that water or clean air is safe. However, the underlying assumption is that if it's on the market, or provided as a service, some competent government agency must be safeguarding us from the really bad chemicals.

This is not the case. The U.S. Government Accountability Office has stated that the federal chemical regulatory process is largely ineffectual. Books such as Theo Colborn's "Our Stolen Future" bring awareness to this as well as the large and growing body of scientific evidence showing the adverse effects even minute amounts of chemicals can have on fetal devel-

opment and children. From compromised intelligence and behavioral problems to reduced immunity, the implications are staggeringly far-reaching.

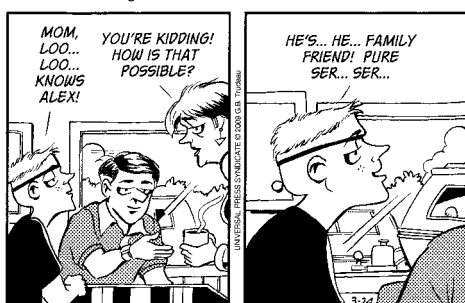
Rather than arming ourselves with chemicals, perhaps it's time we stop taking our presumed safety for granted and equip ourselves with ecological awareness instead. There are ample chemical-free landscaping/yard care alternatives that do not pollute or tax landfills yet save water, time and money. Information abounds. Look to Permaculture principles for the most holistic approach.

Buck the nonsensical trend of the chemically dependent landscape and give our children a solid foundation to build a healthy mind and body on. Their future depends on it.

RUSTY BOWMAN
 Twin Falls

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF POLITICS

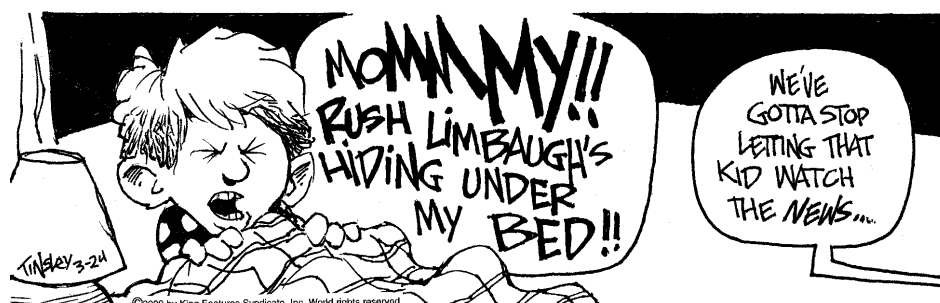
Doonesbury



Mallard Fillmore



By Bruce Tinsley



How to save American capitalism

"Can capitalism survive? No. I do not think it can."

— Joseph Schumpeter, 1942

The story of American capitalism is, among other things, a love-hate relationship. We go through cycles of self-congratulation, revulsion and revision. Just when the latest onset of revulsion and revision began is unclear. Was it when Lehman Brothers collapsed? Or when General Motors pleaded for federal subsidies? Or now, when AIG's bonuses stir outrage? No matter. Capitalism is under siege, its future unclear.

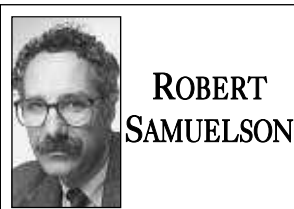
Schumpeter, one of the 20th century's eminent economists, believed that capitalism sowed the seeds of its own destruction. Its chief virtue was the capacity to increase wealth and living standards. But short-term politics would fixate on its flaws — instability,

unemployment, inequality. Capitalist prosperity also created an oppositional class of "intellectuals" who would nurture popular discontents and disparage values necessary for economic success.

Almost everything about Schumpeter's diagnosis rings true with the glaring exception of his conclusion. American capitalism has flourished despite being subjected to repeated restrictions by disgruntled legislators. Consider the transformation. In 1889, there was no anti-trust law (1890), no corporate income tax (1909), no Securities and Exchange Commission (1934) and no Environmental Protection Agency (1970).

We have subordinated unrestrained profit-seeking to other values.

"We've gradually taken into account the external effects (of business) and brought them under control," says economist Robert Frank of Cornell University. External costs include



ROBERT SAMUELSON

worker injuries from industrial accidents; monopoly power; financial manipulation; pollution.

Great reform waves often proceed from scandals and hard times. The first discredits business; the second raises a clamor for action. Parallels with the past are eerie. "No one in 1928 thought that the head of the New York Stock Exchange would end up in Sing Sing (prison) in 1938," says historian Richard Tedlow of the Harvard Business School. That was Richard Whitney, convicted of defrauding his clients. Flash forward: Bernie Madoff, once head of NASDAQ and also a member of the financial establishment, goes to the slammer, a confessed swindler.

Some guesses about cap-

italism's evolution seem plausible. The financial industry will shrink in significance. Regulation will tighten; required capital will rise.

Profitability will fall. More of the best and brightest will go elsewhere.

But Schumpeter's question remains. Will capitalism lose its vitality?

Successful capitalism presupposes three conditions: first, the legitimacy of the profit motive — the ability to do well, even fabulously; second, widespread markets that mediate success and failure; and finally, a legal and political system that, aside from establishing property and contractual rights, also creates public acceptance. Note that the last condition modifies the first two, because government can weaken the profit motive and interfere with markets.

The central reason why Schumpeter's prophecy remains unfulfilled is that U.S. capitalism is enormously adaptable. It adjusts

to evolving public values while maintaining adequate private incentives. Meanwhile, the ambitious, striving character of American society supports an entrepreneurial culture and work ethic — capitalism's building blocks. As for new regulations, many don't depress profitability because costs are passed along to consumers in higher prices.

It's also wrong to pit government as always oppressing business. Government boosts business.

Some New Deal reforms helped "by making risk more manageable," says Stanford historian David Kennedy. Deposit insurance ended old-fashioned bank panics. Mortgage guarantees aided a post-World War II housing boom.

Earlier, the federal government distributed 131 million acres of land grants from 1850 to 1872 to encourage railroads. Land, as well as bank charters and government contracts, often went to the well-connected.

Still, the present populist backlash may not end well. The parade of big companies to Washington for rescues — has spawned understandable anger that could veer into destructive retribution.

Congressmen love extravagant and televised displays of self-righteous indignation.

If companies need to be rescued from "the market," then why shouldn't Washington permanently run the market? That's dangerous. It justifies punitive taxes, widespread corporate mandates, selective subsidies and meddling in companies' everyday operations.

Greater government is an inevitable reaction to today's economic breakdown. But there is a thin line between "saving capitalism" from itself and vindicating Schumpeter's long-ago prediction.

Newsweek columnist Robert Samuelson writes about economics.

When it comes to Alzheimer's, focus less on drugs

Peter Townshend of The Who concluded his baby-boomer anthem, "My Generation," with these words: "I hope I die before I get old."

And my boomer generation may well still wish for that.

I am 62 — old enough to cash in my 401(k), too young for Medicare — and standing with my peers on the edge of a dementia precipice.

Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia afflict up to 5 million people in the United States and about 26 million people worldwide. By 2050, there could be 13 million cases of Alzheimer's alone, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Some reports have the global prevalence of Alzheimer's growing to 100 million people by midcentury. The U.S. comptroller general estimates that annual long-term care costs for elderly people could quadruple by 2050 to \$379 billion.

How should President Obama and his health-care



IRA ROSOFSKY

policymakers, who are working to overhaul our system, prepare for my generation's future? They can begin by finding a way to end the over-dependence on drugs in treating dementia.

As a psychologist who works in nursing homes, I am intimately aware of the large number of residents who take one or both of two Food and Drug Administration-approved drugs for dementia — known generically as donepezil and memantine, which together account for more than 90 percent of the antidementia drug market. The most popular brand-name versions, Aricept and Namenda, make up 75 percent of the market.

I'm also aware of the huge and growing expenditures for these medications — close to \$3 billion annually

worldwide for Aricept and more than \$500 million for Namenda. Big Pharma spends as many billions of dollars on research and development.

Examine the documents supporting the FDA's approval of Aricept, and you will see upon what a slim reed this drug's empire was built. Those taking the drug scored, on average, three points better on a 70-item cognitive assessment scale. That's about a 4 percent difference, mostly reflecting a slower decline rather than positive improvement. And the differences disappear when the drug is discontinued — indicating that the drugs "do not represent a change in the underlying disease."

At best, these effects may be only marginally more effective against dementia than garlic was against the Black Death in the 14th century.

What we do know today, from studies and observation, is that donepezil, memantine and drugs like them fall short on cure and

comfort. Even on Aricept's Web site, the claims are sketchy on the drug's effectiveness when it comes to cognition: "People who took Aricept did better on thinking tests than those who took a sugar pill."

How much better? The company doesn't say.

Many studies of the effects of drugs for dementia also speak about statistical significance, but statistical significance can be highly overrated if the differences aren't meaningful. Take my extremely near-sighted wife, for example. Suppose a drug enabled her to read the giant E at the top of an eye chart without her glasses, but none of the smaller letters. Her eyesight would show statistically significant enhancement, but — despite her being a much better driver than me — I'd still refuse to ride in a car she was driving if she wasn't wearing her glasses.

There are similar effects at play with antidementia drugs.

In 2004, Richard Gray of the University of Birmingham in Britain com-

pared hundreds of patients with mild to moderate dementia who were taking Aricept or a placebo. The drug did improve mental functioning, but at disappointingly small levels. More important, there was no delay in the dementia's progression or the rate of patients' institutionalization. And there were no significant differences in mood, behavior or cost of care.

So why not admit the failure of medication and instead spend some of those billions of dollars on more staff to hold the hands of both patients and their families?

Beyond nurturance, much of the savings from giving up cost-ineffective medications could be diverted to research that might yield not only statistically significant but meaningful and

large improvements — even a cure.

There is some comfort in believing, as our medieval ancestors did, that a tangible nostrum will do some good, but it may be more comforting simply to comfort.

Instead of drugs, I'd bet many patients are wishing someone would just say the words of another ancient rock anthem: "I want to hold your hand."

Ira Rosofsky is a psychologist and the author of "Nasty, Brutish, and Long: Adventures in Old Age and the World of Eldercare." He wrote this commentary for the Los Angeles Times.

Check out what's new online at www.magic-valley.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Apologizing President's breaches in protocol

I will apologize to England for my president's lack of etiquette since he himself has not done so.

England feels that its prime minister was treated less like a dignitary and ally and more like a Republican that voted against Obama in the election. Much of the protocol for national dignitaries was forgotten due to the fact that Obama was tired from speech travels and economic spending. The gift exchange was absolutely appalling, and it

would have looked better for the United States if Obama would have not given a gift all together. The lack of respect for the British flag or the lack of presence, more to the point, was also quite noticeable.

Since the White House protocol assistant did not do homework, I would like to state that a mixed pack of DVDs is not an appropriate gift since England has different technology than ours and they do not play. Minimal research on Mr. Brown would show that he watches very little, if any, TV in his adult life.

Mrs. Obama, after receiving two handcrafted pieces from the top English clothing designers for her daughters from Mrs. Brown, ran down to the White House gift shop and grabbed a couple of plastic helicopter models to exchange for Mrs. Brown's sons. Earlier this year, Obama sent back a bust of Winston Churchill that was a gift to the United States and not Mr. Obama.

This is a museum piece and he had no right to send back our gift; only two were made, one for England and one for the United States.

Again, I apologize to England for the lack of respect. Understand that this is our president's first real job that he has held in his life; give him some time, he will catch on.

DAN LYON Buhl

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Icing, overload are questions in Montana crash investigation

By Joan Lowy and Matt Gouras
Associated Press writers

WASHINGTON — Speculation over the crash of a single-engine turboprop plane into a cemetery shifted to ice on the wings Monday after it became less likely that overloading was to blame, given that most of the 14 people on board were small children.

While descending Sunday in preparation for landing at the Bert Mooney Airport in Butte, Mont., the plane passed through a layer of air at about 1,500 feet that was conducive to icing because the temperatures were below freezing and the air "had 100 percent relative humidity or was saturated," according to AccuWeather.com, a forecasting

service in State College, Pa. Safety experts said similar icing condition existed when a Continental Airlines twin-engine turboprop crashed into a home near Buffalo Niagara International Airport last month, killing 50.

"It's Buffalo all over again, or it could be," said John Goglia, a former member of the National Transportation Safety Board. "Icing, given those conditions, is certainly going to be high on the list of things to look at for the investigators."

Mark Rosenker, acting chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, told reporters in Montana that investigators would look at icing on the wings as a factor.

"We will be looking at

everything as it relates to the weather," he said.

Hours after the crash, federal investigators had focused on overloading as a possible cause. The plane was designed to carry a total of 10 people, including two pilots. Of the children, a relative said there were two 4-year-olds and the other children were ages 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9.

"It will take us a while to understand," Rosenker said. "We have to get the weights of all the passengers, we have to get the weight of the fuel, all of the luggage."

The single-engine plane crashed 500 feet short of the Montana airport runway Sunday, nose-diving into a cemetery and killing seven adults and seven children aboard. Relatives said the victims were headed to an exclusive resort on a ski vacation.

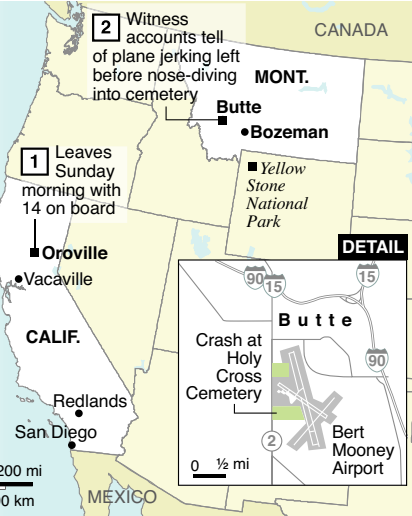
Safety experts said finding the cause of the crash is likely to be significantly complicated by the absence of either a cockpit voice recorder or a flight data recorder, which isn't required for smaller aircraft that don't fly commercial passenger like airlines and charter services.

Former NTSB chairman Jim Hall pointed to similarities between the Montana crash and a March 26, 2005 crash near Bellefonte, Pa., in which a pilot and five passengers were killed.

The plane in both cases was the Pilatus PC 12/45 and was on approach to an airport. In both cases there were reports of conditions conducive to icing at lower elevations and witness reports that the plane appeared to dive into the ground.

Searching for clues of crash

Overloading is one possible cause of Sunday's crash of a single-engine turboprop plane en route to Montana for a skiing trip.



SOURCE: ESRI

AP



AP photo

A member of the Feldkamp family hugs NTSB investigator Captain George Skuletich at the scene of an airline crash that killed 14 people outside the Butte Airport in Butte, Mont., Monday.

Supreme Court rejects Elko road access suit

By Sandra Chereb
Associated Press writer

RENO, Nev. — The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday refused to wade into a decade-old dispute between Elko County and the federal government over protection of a threatened fish and public access to a remote road on national forest land.

The high court's refusal to hear the rural county's appeal of a federal appeals court ruling was cheered by environmentalists, who said it reaffirms their right to intervene in the case on behalf of the bull trout.

It means the legal battle over South Canyon Road in northeast Nevada is headed back to U.S. District Court in Reno, where a judge earlier had ruled the conservationists have no legal standing to participate in the case that pits private property interests against environmental protection.

"This has been a long battle," said Michael Freeman, an attorney for Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund representing The Wilderness Society and Colorado-based Great Old Broads for Wilderness.

"We think this is a really

Idaho Senate takes aim at firing squad option

BOISE (AP) — The Idaho Senate voted to take the firing squad off the law books as an alternative method of execution.

The bill passed 33-2 Monday. It's already cleared the House and now goes to Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter for signature.

According to the Idaho State Historical Society, the state has never executed someone by firing squad.

But it remained a possibility, as a backup should a Department of Correction director decide lethal injection was impractical.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated capital punishment in 1976, two people in the United States have died by firing squad, both in Utah: Gary Gilmore, made famous in a book by Norman Mailer, in 1977 and John Albert Taylor in 1996.

But Utah did away with firing squads in 2004.

big step toward protecting the bull trout, South Canyon and the wilderness area from off-road vehicles and motorized traffic," he told The Associated Press on Monday.

Kristin McQueary, Elko County chief civil deputy

district attorney, said county officials will review options in light of the court's denial.

The disputed settlement between the county and the U.S. Forest Service was forged in 2001 over the road in Jarbidge, a tiny outpost on the Nevada-Idaho line.

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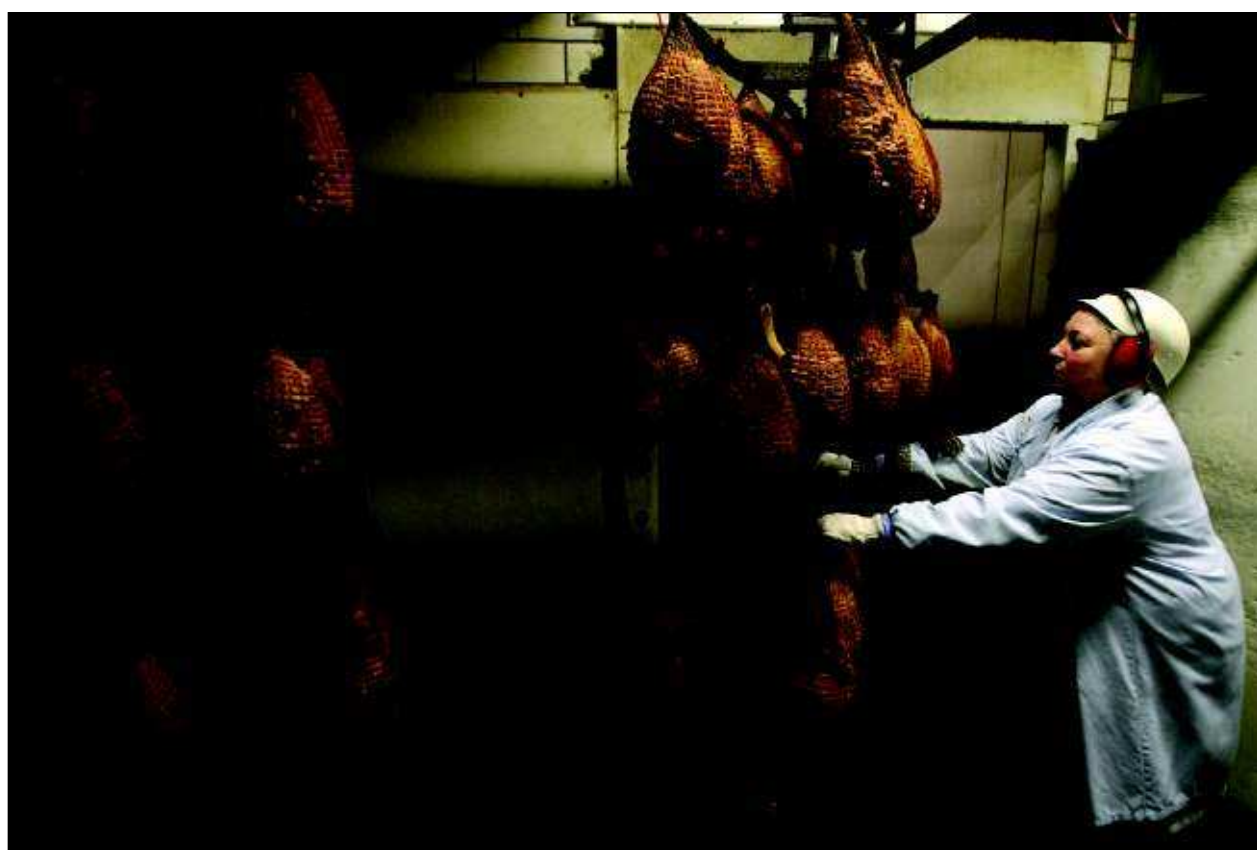
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ASHLEY SMITH/File photo

An employee at the Independent Meat Company in Twin Falls removes ham cuts from a smoker in this file photo. Growing economic uncertainty in other countries and an escalating trade dispute with Mexico has slowed some U.S. export growth.

PORK PROCESSORS SEE SLOWDOWN

Export growth expected to resume after recovery

By Joshua Palmer
 Times-News writer

Patrick Florence has aggressively marketed pork products to southeast Asian and Mexico, but in recent weeks he has seen some overseas sales decline.

Like many pork processors, Florence, the CEO of Twin Falls-based Independent Meat Company, has benefited from a steady increase of pork exports in previous years that's given new life to an industry that produces more pork than Americans can eat.

However, growing economic uncertainty in other countries and an escalating trade dispute with Mexico have curbed U.S. export growth.

Nearly a quarter of the pork produced in the U.S. goes abroad, up from only 3 percent in 1990. Last year, farmers shipped a record 2 million metric tons of pork valued at nearly \$4.9 billion.

"We have seen strong



An employee at the Independent Meat Company in Twin Falls sorts packages of bacon in preparation for shipment. Company officials say between 20 and 35 percent of all sales are exported to foreign markets.

growth through 2008, but the turmoil that we face has affected some of our markets in Asia and Mexico," Florence said.

Although that latest export data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture does not reflect tariffs imposed by Mexico or growing economic challenges overseas, most pork processors say lower demand has slowed export growth.

The sharp increase in pork exports in 2008 represents an anomaly among livestock exports, and numbers are expected to drop 14 percent this year because of the global economic downturn and an increase in pork production by China and other importing countries. However, exports are still expected to be significantly higher than in 2007.

"I just returned from visiting with clients (overseas) and what they said was they are feeling economic pressures like we have felt here," Florence said. "They are essentially seeing the same thing we are."

He said between 20 and 35 percent of Independent Meat's total sales are exported to southeast Asia, Mexico and other foreign markets.

Joe Schuele, spokesman for the U.S. Meat Export Federation, said the "off-the-charts" pork exports in 2008 were propelled by unusually high demand from China — the result, he said, of a cyclical decline in China's swine herd, disease issues that hurt pork production and a major Sichuan earthquake.

China's increased production isn't expected to hurt U.S. exports significantly. Last year, China accounted for \$334 million of the \$4.9 billion in U.S. exports. That compared to \$1.54 billion from Japan.

As U.S. farmers have expanded into other countries, they have changed how they breed, feed, prepare and package hogs in an effort to keep a hold on the overseas market.

More than 20 percent of the pork now consumed in Japan is from the United States. The Japanese prefer leaner cuts for their processed pork and especially like pork loins and butts. For table cuts, they want high-quality pork that is deep red and firm, with more marbling.

Mexicans favor legs and picnic shoulders; the Chinese prefer variety meats.

Independent Meat started training employees in Twin Falls more than a year ago to process pork into cuts that meet the varying demand in foreign markets.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Sprouting opportunity

Idaho Bean Commission announces successful seed promotion in Mexico

By Blair Koch
 Times-News correspondent

The Idaho Bean Commission has been proactive in capitalizing on what commission Chairman Bill Bitzenburg calls "a small niche market" that could provide area growers an opportunity.

That opportunity is in the sale of Idaho's unique, disease-free certified bean seed to growers throughout Mexico.

"Anytime we can open sales to a new market is a good thing," Bitzenburg said.

Bitzenburg said Idaho's arid, desert climate contributes to the success of growing disease-free seed which outperform those grown in Mexico.

"The Commission has tried to see these things proactively," said the Twin Falls farmer.

For more than a decade the commission has focused on promoting Idaho grown seed to dry-bean growers in Mexico. Since 2000 the commission has attended the annual Expo Sinaloa, the largest agriculture show in Mexico that draws more than 50,000 visitors and features a presence from 27 countries.

This year the commission, which cannot take

orders, requested that dealers attend the expo.

"The commission can promote what we have but can't do the business," said Kelley Bean Company Idaho Manager Ron Metzger. Metzger, also a Bean Commission member, attended the Expo, representing Kelley Bean.

"It isn't a huge market but there is a large enough

amount of business to pay attention to," Metzger, who reported making several

tactics and possibly a few new sales for the 2009 harvest.

In preparation for the exhibit, a test plot on ground adjacent to the exhibition grounds in Mexico was planted with two Peruvian/yellow varieties grown in the U.S., as well as the common Mexican Higuera variety — the most popular yellow variety in Sinaloa.

Yellow beans are a consumer favorite and command a premium in Mexico markets.

"They like the lighter color and that is what we grow," said Bitzenburg.

Sinaloa growers have asked Idaho growers and dealers to produce certified

See **BEANS**, Agribusiness 2

Cattle-on-feed numbers continue to drop in Idaho

By Cindy Snyder
 Times-News correspondent

Idaho's beef cattle numbers continued to decline according to the latest count of feedlots with 1,000 head or more.

Cattle on feed for the slaughter market totaled 215,000 head on March 1, about 9 percent less than a year ago, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's monthly cattle on feed report.

Nationwide, cattle on feed are down 5 percent from a year ago to 11.2 million head. Feedlot occupancy is at 67 percent of capacity. Placements into feedlots during February totaled 1.68 million head, 3 percent less than last year. Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.68 million head, 5 percent below 2008.

"The number on feed is down, placements are down," said Wilson Gray, University of Idaho extension livestock economist. "Marketings are just enough to keep things moving."

It's a glum situation that doesn't have much chance

of improving until at least the third quarter of 2009 or unless the economy turns around.

"Basically economic recovery is the best thing for the cattle industry," he said.

Feeders continue to place heavier cattle into feedlots to reduce the amount of time they need to be fed. Nearly 60 percent of the animals placed in feedlots in February weighed more than 700 pounds.

When the cattle business is good, price spreads between fed cattle, heavier feeder cattle and lighter feeder cattle tend to be larger. Those margins tend to narrow up when the market is depressed.

Right now the spread between fed cattle and feeder cattle is \$2 to \$5 per hundredweight. In a more normal market, the spread between heavier feeder cattle is \$6 to 10 per hundredweight, with the lighter feeders another \$10 to \$15 higher than fed cattle.

Although the March cattle on feed report could be

See **CATTLE**, Agribusiness 3

Bayer CropScience to invest \$19 million in Parma site

Times-News staff

PARMA — Bayer CropScience's vegetable seed business Nunhems plans to invest \$19 million in the expansion of its U.S. facilities in Parma, say Bayer officials.

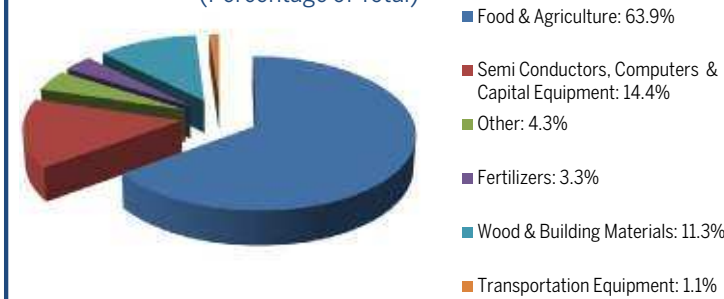
"This investment lays the foundation for the sustainable growth of our vegetable seed business in the U.S. and worldwide," said Joachim Schneider, head of the bioscience business unit at Bayer CropScience. "The objective of the expansion of our seed production in the U.S. is to efficiently meet the needs of our customers in the future."

The site in Parma was founded in the mid 70s and became part of Nunhems

See **PARMA**, Agribusiness 3

IDAHO - MEXICO TRADE

2008 Export Industries from Idaho to Mexico (Percentage of Total)



Federal trade and commerce officials are negotiating with Mexico over tariffs that some say will threaten agricultural exports in ag-belt states such as Idaho.

"A 20 percent tariff added to our agricultural products will have a huge impact on our agricultural exports," said Laura Johnson, ISDA section manager for the market development division recently told the Times-News. "It will make it so we can't compete in markets in Mexico."

She added that agriculture makes up a majority of all exports to Mexico — further straining state revenues.

Dates to remember

- March 31 - final loan and LDP availability date for small grains, honey, and oats.
- May 31 - Final loan and LDP availability

date for corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, safflower seed, small chickpeas, soybeans and sunflower seed.

- June 1 - End of 2009 DCP Sign-up Period.
- June 30 - Final day to report all crop acreage.

- August 1 - Deadline to request farm combinations and farm divisions to be effective for the current FY for farms subject to DCP.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with 3 columns: NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ. Each column lists 'MOST ACTIVE', 'GAINERS', and 'LOSERS' with columns for Name, Vol, Last Chg, and %Chg. Includes a 'DIARY' section at the bottom.

INDEXES

Table with 3 columns: Index Name, Value, and Change. Includes Dow Jones Industrials, Dow Jones Transportation, NYSE Composite, etc.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table with 3 columns: Company Name, Price, and Change. Lists local stocks like AlliantEgy, AmCasino, and various agribusiness companies.

HOW TO READ THE REPORT

Explanatory text for market reports. Defines terms like Name, Div, Last, Fund Name, Sell, Chg, Stock Footnotes, Dividend Footnotes, and Mutual Fund Footnotes.

COMMODITIES REPORT

Table with 5 columns: Mon, Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Lists various commodities including live cattle, hogs, wheat, corn, soybeans, and oil.

BEANS

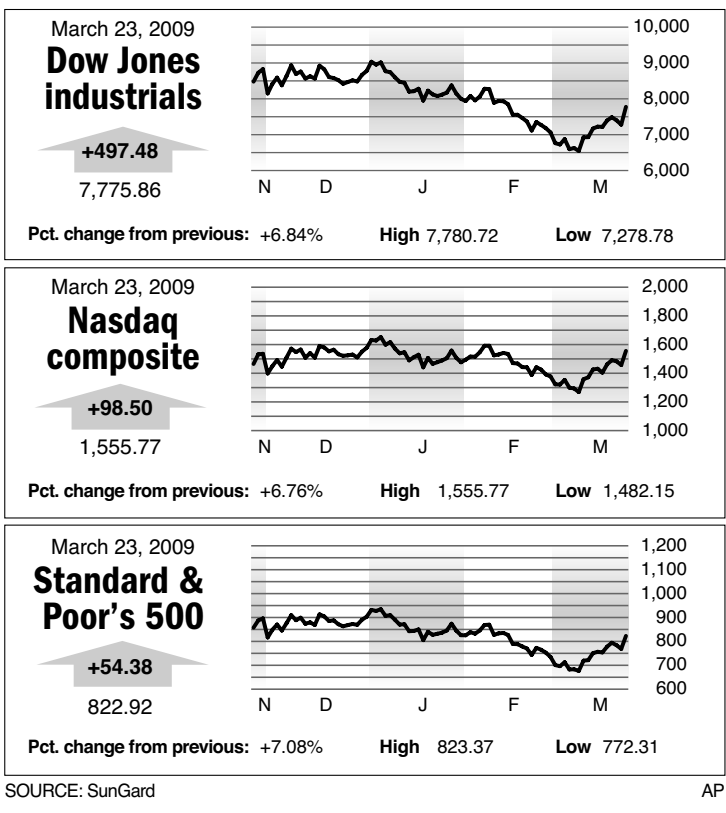
Text report on bean prices. Discusses market conditions for various bean types like pinto, navy, and black beans.

GRAINS

Text report on grain prices. Covers wheat, corn, and other grain commodities, including local market activity.

POCATELLO (AP) - Idaho Farm Bureau Intermountain Grain and Report on Monday. POCATELLO - White wheat 4.55 (steady) 11.5 percent winter 4.93 (down 4) 14 percent spring 6.77 (down 1) barley 5.58 (steady) BURLEY - White wheat 4.17 (steady) 11.5 percent winter 5.16 (up 1) 14 percent spring 6.56 (down 6) barley 6.00 (steady)

TODAY ON WALL STREET



(AP) - Wall Street got the news it wanted on the economy's biggest problems - banks and housing - and celebrated by hurtling the Dow Jones industrials up nearly 500 points. Investors added rocket fuel Monday to a two-week-old advance, cheering the government's plan to help banks remove bad assets from their books and also welcoming a report showing a surprising increase in home sales.

FUEL REPORT

Fuel prices in south-central Idaho remained mostly unchanged compared to the previous week. The average price for a gallon of regular-grade gasoline in the region was \$1.81 on Monday, while a gallon of diesel was \$2.05.

COMMODITY PRICES

Livestock Lambs and hogs

Table with 3 columns: Commodity, Low, High. Lists prices for Fat lambs, Breeding ewes, Fat hogs, and Feeder hogs.

MARKET TRENDS

Dairy trends

Milk production patterns across the country are generally holding at steady levels. Milk producers and handlers attribute the flat trend to current feeding programs to save money and heavier culling rates.

Barley trends

Local barley prices were mixed, ranging from 25 cents higher to 15 cents lower this week. USDA did not report any export sales last week.

Hay trends

Compared to last week, not enough of any one class of hay reported this week for accurate trends. Trade slow with light demand and light to moderate supplies.

Wheat trends

Local wheat prices were mostly higher this week: SWW ranged from no change to 20 cents higher; HRW ranged from 10 to 30 cents higher; and DNS from 8 to 18 cents higher.

Source: Idaho Grain Market Report

RESERVOIR LEVELS

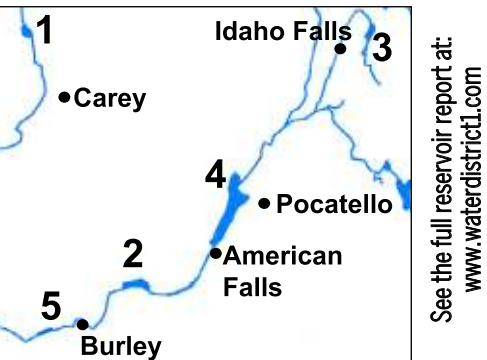


Table with 3 columns: Reservoir Name, Level, and Change. Lists Little Wood (N/A), Lake Walcott (41%), Ririe (52%), American Falls (86%), and Milner (90%).

COMMODITY PRICES

Table with 3 columns: Commodity, Close, Change. Lists Dairy (Block, Barrel, Butter, etc.), Feed (Corn, Barley, etc.), and Hay (Alfalfa, etc.) prices.

Beans

Continued from Agribusiness 1. Yellow seed superior to their own "heirloom" varieties that are prone to disease. Black bean varieties are also gaining interest and two new pinto varieties, grown and released from the University of Idaho's Kimberly Research and Extension Center are also showing promise.

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Small grain

Table with 3 columns: Commodity, Ask, Bid, Change. Lists prices for Soft white wheat (Rangen, Ogden, Pocatello, Burley, Twin Falls) and Hay (Mid/Ton).

NQ indicates no quote. Price quotes as of Monday afternoon. Prices subject to change at any time. To be included in this table, call Joshua Palmer at 208-735-3231.

AGRIBUSINESS BRIEFS

MAGIC VALLEY

Switchgrass studied as biofuel source

University of Idaho Extension Forage Specialist Glenn Shewmaker is evaluating switchgrass at the Kimberly Research and Extension Center as a potential biofuel crop for Idaho.

Part of a multi-state trial by the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation and energy crop company Ceres Inc., the three-year-old study includes nine varieties of upland and lowland grasses that are candidates for cellulosic ethanol.

Unlike producing corn for starch ethanol, growing switchgrass for its stems, stalks, and leaves doesn't divert an edible crop from

human food supplies. Also, the perennial warm-season grass sequesters generous amounts of carbon, prevents soil erosion, and supports wildlife populations.

Shewmaker and CALS agricultural engineer Howard Neibling also want to measure the amount and timing of the crop's irrigation needs.

"We need local answers as to whether it would be a profitable crop for our growers," Shewmaker says.

Group promotes data driven decisions

The National Dairy Herd Information Association attracted more than 100 people to its 44th annual meeting, held earlier this month in Boise.

The meeting focused on sustainability through data-driven decisions.

Session topics included milk recording, management and analysis, animal identification systems, genomics, dairy beef quality assurance, worldwide dairy update and new economic realities.

"National DHIA is not talking sustainability; we are continuing on long-standing actions toward sustainability," stated Jay Mattison, CEO and administrator. "As we move into the coming years, there will be as many challenges for the dairy industry as ever. One constant is the sustainability into the coming years will be driven by data for decision making."

For the fifth consecutive year, the number of U.S. dairy cows on DHI programs increased from 4.071 million cows in 2003 to 4.478 million cows in 2008.

- staff reports

Junior Angus breeders to exhibit in regional show

Times-News staff

Eight junior members of the American Angus Association's chapter in south-central Idaho will take part in the Junior Angus Show in Reno, Nev. on April 25 through the 27.

The Magic Valley youth will be among 68 other junior Angus breeders who have entered 176 head to compete for championship honors.

Kyle Colyer, of Bruneau, will judge divisions for bred-and-owned heifers, bred-and-owned bulls, owned heifers, steers and cow-calf pairs.

The Western Regional Junior Angus Show is sponsored by the American Angus Association and the Western States Angus Association. It is one of eight junior Angus shows the National Junior Angus Association recognizes this year for its nearly 7,000 active junior Angus mem-

bers in the United States.

Auguste Curtis

Auguste Curtis, Twin Falls, will exhibit Angus cattle at the 2009 Western Regional Junior Angus Show.

Heston Curtis

Heston Curtis, Twin Falls, will exhibit Angus cattle at the 2009 Western Regional Junior Angus Show.

Tessa Faulkner

Tessa Faulkner, Gooding, will exhibit Angus cattle at the 2009 Western Regional Junior Angus Show.

Alyssa Walton

Alyssa Walton, Paul, will exhibit Angus cattle at the 2009 Western Regional Junior Angus Show.

Bridon Curtis

Bridon Curtis, Twin Falls, Idaho, will exhibit Angus cattle at the 2009 Western Regional Junior Angus Show.

Michelle Faulkner

Michelle Faulkner, Gooding, will exhibit Angus cattle at the 2009 Western Regional Junior Angus Show.

David Wiseman

David Wiseman, Filer, will exhibit Angus cattle at the 2009 Western Regional Junior Angus Show.

Michael Wiseman

Michael Wiseman, Filer, will exhibit Angus cattle at the 2009 Western Regional Junior Angus Show.

Lawmaker wants horse slaughterhouses operating in U.S.

The Associated Press

BOISE — A southeastern Idaho lawmaker wants horse slaughterhouses operating again in the United States to deal with the glut of unwanted horses resulting from the faltering economy that has led to cases of neglect and abandonment.

Rep. Thomas Loertscher, R-Iona, has drafted a non-binding request to Congress backing a return of slaughterhouses so there is a market for horses people can no longer afford to feed.

"It's not a pleasant subject," he told the *Idaho Statesman*. "There are people that are really feeling the economic pinch right now. They're just having a hard time knowing what to do with these horses."

There is no federal law banning the slaughter of horses for food, but opposition to the killing of horses for that purpose shut down that industry in the U.S.

The last domestic slaughterhouse closed in 2007, and American horses are now being sent to slaughter in Canada and Mexico. But most people can't afford to ship their horses outside the U.S. due to low market values for horses and high transportation costs.

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Cattle

Continued from Agribusiness 1

considered positive for the industry, heavy dairy cow culling and lackluster beef demand are keeping a lid on cattle prices.

According to some dairy analysts, as many as 300,000 dairy cows may be slaughtered to bring supply and demand back into balance for dairy products. If those cows are slaughtered within a few months, the numbers could quickly overrun already weak demand. Cow and bull slaughter in the U.S. has

been averaging around 125,000 head per week in February and March with dairy cows accounting for around 45 percent of the total.

It's that weak demand that is causing the most concern. Packers have been forced to cut beef prices to keep inventory moving. According to the USDA, total red meat supplies in freezers were down slightly from the previous month but up 2 percent from last year.

Beef demand typically

begins to pick as the summer grilling season approaches, but that does not seem to be the case yet this year.

A mild winter across the Southern Plains has meant slaughter weights are up and more cattle are grading choice, which overwhelmed the demand for higher quality cuts of meat.

"If supplies stay tight, it may be mid-summer before we start to see some strength in the cattle market," Gray said.

Parma

Continued from Agribusiness 1

with the acquisition of Sunseeds in 1997.

The facility processes, packages and stores vegetable hybrid seed crops like carrots and onions. This includes varieties with high yields and disease resistance. It processes more than 80 percent of the global carrot and onion seeds produced by Nunhems.

The seeds are shipped to customers in the U.S. and markets in other nations.

"In addition to the recent purchase of 11 hectares adjacent to the Parma facility, we plan to build new seed processing and storage facilities," added Douwe Zijp, chief executive officer of Nunhems. "Furthermore, we will implement technical upgrades in equipment as well as other improvements."

The site expansion will also lead to the extension of administrative functions and other departments including logistics, customer service, marketing & sales and quality assurance.

The Parma site has 150 full time employees — officials did not say if the expansion would increase the number

of full-time jobs at the Parma facility.

Nationwide, Nunhems has approximately 260 employees. Other U.S. locations include seed production locations in all western states as well as research facilities in Brooks, Ore. and Bakersfield, Lodi, Davis and Salinas, Calif.

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MEET SKIP, the Inspiration behind the
Horse Monthly Publication

There are two kinds of horse-owners: those who are raised around horses and those who become horse owners later in life. I'm Debi Johnson and I'm the Times-News' advocate for the Horse Monthly Calendar. Being raised around horses, I have learned how horses are very loving, smart, therapeutic, and rewarding animals.

I began my horsemanship journey with 10 years of 4-H and later learned the passion for barrel racing and pole bending. In my teens, I competed in junior high and high school rodeos.

When I became a mother, I lost touch with my passion for riding but later realized it was time for me to get back in the saddle. Unfortunately, my high school rodeo horse had reached retirement age so I was challenged

with finding another equine companion.

After six months of searching for that perfect horse, I found Skip. He's a 7-year-old Paint Gelding that is well mannered and familiar with barrels. After acquiring a horse, saddle, western clothing, some tack, and a horse trailer, I was ready to get back in the saddle.

The next challenge was to find activities to do with Skip. I was too old for 4-H or junior and high school rodeos and had no idea what I could do to keep Skip active. I realized I wasn't the only horse owner in the Magic Valley who had no idea of all the many equine activities around the area. Skip inspired me to begin the Horse Monthly Calendar so every horse owner could get back in the saddle and stay updated on all the different horse activities.

The Horse Monthly publication is an essential resource for every current or potential horse owner. Skip asks that you purchase your equine products and services from the businesses that support our passion and love for horses.

Thanks to the Horse Monthly sponsors and calendar, I am currently a 4-H Assistant Leader, member of the Silver Spurs Equestrian Team, and enjoy Jackpot Barrel Racing in my spare time. Being back in the saddle feels great!

HORSE EVENTS WANTED

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or email

debi.johnson@lee.net

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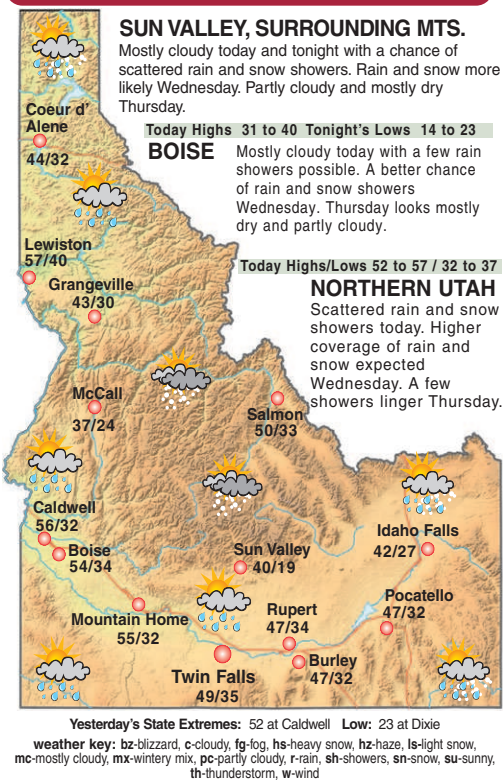
TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Mostly cloudy with a few scattered showers possible. Highs near 50.
Tonight: A chance of showers, maybe mixed with snow after midnight. Lows around 35.
Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy with more in the way of rain and snow showers. Highs 45 to 50.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Mostly cloudy with a few scattered showers possible. Highs 45 to 50.
Tonight: A chance of showers, changing over to snow after midnight. Lows 30 to 35.
Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy with more in the way of rain and snow showers. Highs near 45.

IDAHO'S FORECAST



TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
High 49	Low 35	48 / 29	47 / 30	55 / 33	60 / 35

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Temperature		Precipitation		Humidity		Barometric Pressure		Sunrise and Sunset	
Yesterday's High	46	Yesterday	0.00"	Yesterday's Maximum	67%	6 pm barometer	Today	Sunrise: 7:34 AM	Sunset: 7:55 PM
Yesterday's Low	30	Month to Date	0.65"	Yesterday's Minimum	37%	Yesterday 30.10 in.	Wednesday	Sunrise: 7:32 AM	Sunset: 7:56 PM
Normal High/Low	55 / 31	Normal Month to Date	0.87"	Today's Maximum	50%		Thursday	Sunrise: 7:30 AM	Sunset: 7:57 PM
Record High	75 in 1972	Year to Date	4.98"	Today's Minimum	34%		Friday	Sunrise: 7:28 AM	Sunset: 7:57 PM
Record Low	17 in 1966	Normal Year to Date	6.21"				Saturday	Sunrise: 7:27 AM	Sunset: 8:00 PM

Temperature & Precipitation valid through 5 pm yesterday

Moon Phases and Moonset

Today	Moonrise	6:27 AM	Moonset	6:12 PM
Wednesday	Moonrise:	6:49 AM	Moonset:	7:19 PM
Thursday	Moonrise:	7:11 AM	Moonset:	8:29 PM

REGIONAL FORECAST

City	Today	Tomorrow	Thursday
	Hi Lo W H	Hi Lo W H	Hi Lo W H
Boise	54 34 sh 49 29 mx	52 30 pc	
Bonniers Ferry	43 30 mx 41 22 mx	42 29 pc	
Burley	47 32 mx 45 28 mx	45 27 mx	
Challis	48 32 sh 36 24 ls	41 23 mx	
Coeur d'Alene	44 32 mx 42 24 mx	43 31 pc	
Elko, NV	43 25 ls 44 18 ls	38 17 ls	
Eugene, OR	54 40 sh 53 35 r	57 35 r	
Goosing	51 36 sh 50 30 mx	49 31 pc	
Grace	44 27 mx 44 24 mx	38 21 ls	
Hagerman	52 34 sh 51 28 mx	50 29 pc	
Halleys	42 27 mx 41 23 mx	40 22 ls	
Idaho Falls	42 27 mx 43 24 mx	38 23 ls	
Kalispeil, MT	46 30 mx 37 21 ls	38 21 pc	
Jackpot	46 29 pc 51 29 mx	42 26 pc	
Jerome	45 28 mx 44 24 mx	43 23 ls	
Lewiston	57 40 sh 52 32 sh	52 36 pc	
Malad City	48 28 mx 48 25 mx	42 22 ls	
Malta	44 29 mx 42 25 mx	42 24 mx	
McCall	37 24 ls 33 14 sn	34 16 mc	
Missoula, MT	50 32 sh 42 22 mx	44 22 ls	
Pocatello	47 32 mx 47 29 mx	41 28 ls	
Portland, OR	53 41 sh 53 38 r	56 38 r	
Rupert	47 34 mx 45 30 mx	45 29 mx	
Rexburg	40 25 mx 41 21 mx	35 21 ls	
Richard, WA	53 37 r 50 31 sh	55 35 sh	
Rogerson	49 36 sh 48 30 mx	47 31 pc	
Salmon	49 35 sh 38 25 mx	45 27 mx	
Salt Lake City, UT	49 35 mx 49 32 mx	45 27 pc	
Spokane, WA	46 33 mc 47 25 sh	47 28 pc	
Stanley	36 17 ls 35 12 sn	39 13 mc	
Sun Valley	40 19 ls 39 14 sn	43 15 mc	
Yellowstone, MT	31 12 ls 27 6 sn	26 2 ls	

NATIONAL FORECAST

City	Today	Tomorrow	Thursday
	Hi Lo W H	Hi Lo W H	Hi Lo W H
Atlanta	71 54 mc 64 54 th		
Atlanta City	44 34 su 44 34 su	Philadelphia	47 34 su 51 37 pc
Baltimore	47 28 su 53 39 pc	Phoenix	78 50 su 80 54 su
Billings	46 31 pc 43 19 mx	Portland, ME	40 22 pc 44 33 su
Birmingham	76 58 pc 69 57 th	Raleigh	57 35 pc 56 46 sh
Boston	42 27 pc 43 29 su	Rapid City	36 21 sn 38 20 mc
Charleston, SC	65 54 pc 63 57 sh	Reno	55 34 pc 57 33 sh
Charleston, WV	70 46 pc 62 45 sh	Sacramento	70 46 su 71 48 pc
Chicago	63 46 th 51 39 mc	St. Louis	71 43 th 59 45 pc
Cleveland	54 41 pc 53 41 th	St. Paul	55 33 th 41 29 mx
Denver	48 29 w 50 28 pc	San Antonio	82 59 th 75 65 th
Des Moines	56 33 th 54 35 pc	San Diego	71 54 su 74 53 su
Detroit	49 40 mc 54 37 sh	San Francisco	65 40 sh 63 51 su
El Paso	70 42 pc 75 45 pc	Seattle	50 40 r 51 36 r
Fairbanks	18 -8 pc 21 5 pc	Tucson	75 44 pc 78 48 sh
Fargo	39 25 r 33 22 ls	Washington, DC	50 33 su 53 40 pc
Honolulu	80 68 sh 81 67 sh		
Houston	81 59 th 74 62 th		
Indianapolis	69 51 pc 58 42 sh		
Jacksonville	74 54 pc 75 57 sh		
Kansas City	56 32 th 57 42 pc		
Las Vegas	70 50 pc 73 52 pc		
Little Rock	67 48 th 68 51 pc		
Los Angeles	71 52 su 71 53 su		
Memphis	74 52 th 66 53 sh		
Miami	77 67 pc 78 66 pc		
Milwaukee	50 41 th 46 36 sh		
Nashville	73 57 mc 66 50 th		
New Orleans	79 66 th 76 68 th		
New York	43 30 su 44 37 su		
Oklahoma City	65 37 th 60 45 th		
Omaha	49 31 pc 56 34 pc		

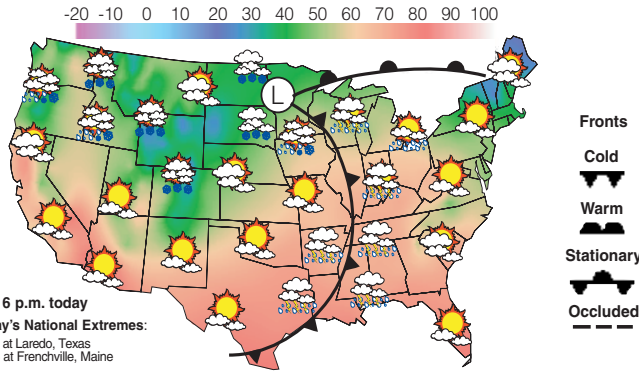
U. V. INDEX



WORLD FORECAST

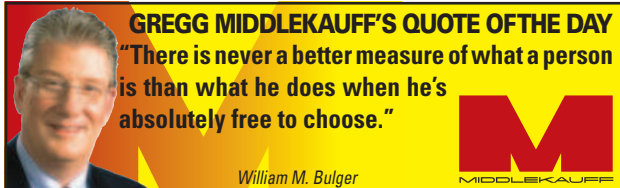
City	Today	Tomorrow	City	Today	Tomorrow
	Hi Lo W H	Hi Lo W H		Hi Lo W H	Hi Lo W H
Acapulco	84 73 pc	85 72 pc	Moscow	29 29 ls	32 30 ls
Athens	64 50 su	60 44 sh	Nairobi	81 51 pc	82 53 pc
Auckland	65 47 pc	67 50 pc	Oslo	30 18 pc	38 28 pc
Bangkok	92 78 sh	97 78 th	Paris	46 37 sh	48 42 sh
Beijing	57 35 pc	56 46 sh	Prague	41 25 ls	37 33 ls
Berlin	39 23 ls	37 27 pc	Rio de Janeiro	76 68 sh	71 63 sh
Buenos Aires	85 65 pc	84 66 pc	Rome	61 42 sh	55 48 pc
Caro	65 40 sh	71 48 pc	Santiago	82 50 pc	82 49 pc
Dhahran	89 72 pc	83 68 sh	Seoul	38 26 pc	42 30 sh
Geneva	38 27 ls	41 29 mx	Sydney	83 68 pc	86 65 pc
Hong Kong	73 68 sh	70 68 sh	Tel Aviv	60 59 sh	61 59 pc
Jerusalem	58 45 sh	64 46 pc	Tokyo	48 40 r	47 34 r
Johannesburg	75 56 pc	77 53 pc	Vladivostok	44 25 ls	40 34 pc
Kuwait City	88 65 pc	79 58 pc	Warsaw	38 27 sh	32 25 ls
London	49 43 pc	47 38 sh	Winnipeg	34 21 sn	23 19 ls
Mexico City	80 48 sh	75 47 sh	Zurich	33 24 ls	31 27 ls

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



CANADIAN FORECAST

City	Today	Tomorrow	City	Today	Tomorrow
	Hi Lo W H	Hi Lo W H		Hi Lo W H	Hi Lo W H
Calgary	42 21 pc	31 17 ls	Saskatoon	23 8 pc	19 12 pc
Edmonton	45 22 pc	28 21 ls	Vancouver	40 29 r	42 28 pc
Kelowna	34 22 ls	27 17 ls	Victoria	46 35 r	44 33 pc
Letbridge	45 22 pc	28 21 ls	Winnipeg	34 21 sn	23 19 ls
Regina	22 14 pc	23 8 pc			



EPA says global warming a public danger

Workers feel brunt of health insurance woes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is reviewing a proposed finding by the Environmental Protection Agency that global warming is a threat to public health and welfare.

Such a declaration would be the first step to regulating carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act and could have broad economic and environmental ramifications. It also would likely spur action by Congress to address climate change more broadly.

The White House acknowledged Monday that the EPA had transmitted its proposed finding on global warming to the Office of Management and Budget, but provided no details. It also cautioned that the Obama administration, which sees responding to climate change as a top priority, nevertheless is ready to move cautiously when it comes to actually regulating greenhouse gases, preferring to have Congress act on the matter.

The Supreme Court two years ago directed the EPA to decide whether greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels, pose a threat public health and welfare because they are warming the earth. If such a finding is made, these emissions are required to be regulated under the Clean Air Act, the court said.

"I think this is just the step in that process," said White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs, noting the Supreme Court ruling. Another White House official, speaking anonymously in deference to Gibbs, predicted "a long process" before any rules would be expected to be issued on heat-trapping emissions.

But several congressional officials, also speaking on condition of anonymity because the draft declaration had not been made public — said the transmission makes clear the EPA is moving to declare carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases a danger to public health and welfare and views them as ripe for regulation under the Clean Air Act.

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldívar
 Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — American workers — whose taxes pay for massive government health programs — are getting squeezed like no other group by private health insurance premiums that are rising much faster than their wages.

While just about all retirees are covered, and nearly 90 percent of children have health insurance, workers now are at significantly higher risk of being uninsured than in the 1990s, the last time lawmakers attempted a health care overhaul, according to a study to be released Tuesday.

The study for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation found that nearly 1 in 5 workers is uninsured, a statistically significant increase from fewer than 1 in 7 during the mid-1990s.

The problem is cost. Total premiums for employer plans have risen six to eight times faster than wages, depending on whether

PERCENTAGE OF UNINSURED WORKERS IN WESTERN STATES

A glance of Western states' percentage of uninsured workers ages 19 to 64 in 2006-07 and in 1994-95:

State	2006-07	1994-95
Alaska	21.2	13.6
Ariz.	23.2	22.6
Calif.	22.4	22.2
Colo.	19.2	13.9
Hawaii	9.0	9.0
Idaho	18.9	16.5
Mont.	19.5	17.1
Nev.	19.8	17.7
N.M.	28.1	25.9
Ore.	21.0	13.8
Utah	16.0	13.0
Wash.	14.7	15.2
Wyo.	18.3	16.4
U.S.	18.4	16.1

Source: State Health Assistance Data Center at the University of Minnesota, U.S. Census Bureau.

individual or family coverage is picked, the study found.

"The thing I think is interesting is how many workers are newly uninsured," said Lynn Blewett, director of the State Health Access Data Assistance Center at the University of Minnesota, which conducted the research. "In the last couple of years we've seen a deterioration of private health insurance."

About 20.7 million workers were uninsured in the mid-1990s. A decade later, it was 26.9 million, an increase of about 6 million, the study found.

In the 1990s, there were eight states with 20 percent or more of the working age population uninsured. Now there are 14: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina and Texas.

Yet workers continue to pay the bill for covering others. Their payroll taxes help support Medicare, which covers the elderly. Income taxes and other

federal and state levies pay for covering the poor and the children of low-income working parents. But government provides little direct assistance to help cover workers themselves.

"There really aren't safety-net programs for adults," Blewett said.

The study comes as the Obama administration is also scrambling to maintain support for a health care overhaul this year in the face of record federal deficits. A program like President Obama's, which would commit the nation to coverage for all, is estimated to cost about \$1.5 trillion over 10 years. Yet the U.S. health care system, already the world's costliest, is also considered one of the most wasteful.

Study: Red-meat consumption increases chance of premature death

By Rob Stein
 The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Eating red meat increases the chances of dying prematurely, according to a large federal study that offers powerful new evidence that a diet that regularly includes steaks, burgers and pork chops is hazardous to your health.

The study of more than 500,000 middle-age and elderly Americans found that those who consumed the equivalent of about a small hamburger every day were more than 30 percent more likely to die during the 10 years they were followed, mostly from heart disease and cancer. Sausage, cold cuts and other processed

meats also increased the risk.

Previous research had found a link between red meat and an increased risk of heart disease and cancer, particularly colorectal cancer, but the new study is the first large examination of the relationship between eating meat and overall mortality.

"The bottom line is we found an association between red meat and processed meat and an increased risk of mortality," said Rashmi Sinha of the National Cancer Institute, who led the study published today in the Archives of Internal Medicine.

In contrast, routine consumption of fish, chicken, turkey and other

poultry decreased the risk of death by a small amount, the study found.

Although pork often is promoted as "white meat," it is believed to increase the risk for cancer because of its iron content, Sinha said. It is often grouped with red meat in nutritional studies.

"This would be the Rolls Royce of studies on this topic," said Barry Popkin, a professor of global nutrition at the University of North Carolina, who wrote an editorial accompanying the study. "This is a slam-dunk to say that, 'Yes, indeed, if people want to be healthy and live longer, consume less red and processed meat.'"

meats also increased the risk. Previous research had found a link between red meat and an increased risk of heart disease and cancer, particularly colorectal cancer, but the new study is the first large examination of the relationship between eating meat and overall mortality. "The bottom line is we found an association between red meat and processed meat and an increased risk of mortality," said Rashmi Sinha of the National Cancer Institute, who led the study published today in the Archives of Internal Medicine. In contrast, routine consumption of fish, chicken, turkey and other

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Flush your water-wasting habits

See H&G 2

Sensible Home, H&G 2 / Tip of the week, H&G 2 / Classified, H&G 3-10

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2009

FEATURES EDITOR VIRGINIA HUTCHINS: (208) 735-3242 VIRGINIA.HUTCHINS@LEE.NET

Furniture face-lift



MEAGAN THOMPSON/Times-News

Dennis Cogswell, son of Ron's Custom Upholstery owner Ron Cogswell, reupholsters an antique chair Thursday afternoon at the shop on Main Avenue in Twin Falls. The business has been in operation for nearly 50 years. 'I love it when I finish a piece,' says Ron Cogswell, adding that he gets satisfaction from his customers' reactions to a reupholstered antique piece or favorite chair.

Say goodbye to the frayed and faded

By Melissa Davlin
Times-News writer

Need a change, but don't have change to spend?

Americans are pinching their pennies in these tough economic times, but that doesn't mean your interior decor has to suffer. Here are some easy furniture makeovers for every budget and DIY skill level.

On the cheap

For an affordable furniture face-lift, try switching up the look of your living space with throw pillows.

Marilyn Felt, manager at Mill End Fabrics in Burley, said pillows are an easy beginner sewing project.

"There's heavier upholstery fabrics to match your upholster, or there's just some fun whimsical cotton-polyester prints just for something fun to make," Felt said.

Pillows can be simple



MELISSA DAVLIN/Times-News

Diane Shaw of Mill End Fabrics in Burley matches upholstery fabric with a pillow form. Shaw said sewing pillows is popular with customers who want to give a personal touch to their interiors.

projects with little more than two squares of fabric, or more complicated with quilting and edging techniques.

Another bonus: They're cheap. Heavy-duty upholstery fabric sells at Mill End Fabrics for as little as \$5.40 per yard, and an 18-inch pillow needs just over half a yard of fabric. Fun cotton fabrics are even cheaper.

So how do you decorate with throw pillows? For a modern look, go for an odd number, like

three or five, recommends RealSimple.com. If traditional is your thing, go for symmetry and stick with four pillows — two on each side of the couch.

Pull your colors from a piece of art in the room so everything ties together. Pick similarly-sized pillows — between 18 and 24 inches across — and make sure at least one unifying feature, like color, ties the pillows together.

See FURNITURE, H&G 2



Photos by TERRI MCAFFEE/For the Times-News

If you haven't planted this year's dahlias indoors yet, you're one step behind Arlene Burton of Burley. But it's not too late to jump-start plants so they'll be ready to go in the ground in late May.

Learn from the dahlia lady who dallies with tubers

By Terri McAfee
Times-News correspondent

BURLEY — It may seem a bit early to be thinking of a bed of dahlias in the garden, but Arlene Burton of Burley knows better.

Burton — known among her friends as the Dahlia Lady — started growing dahlias 10 years ago, and they have become one of her garden favorites.

Her secret to raising star dahlias is to start early. She begins planting the roots the first week in March along with other frost-tender bulbs like begonias.

Burton writes the name or color of the dahlia on tape and attaches it to each pot. The orphans, bulbs that become detached from the parent during harvesting, go into a pot with a question mark until bloom time. The dahlias start slowly and

are content on a bench in the garage. Dahlias need very little water until they begin showing their leaves.

"Once the weather gets good, I set them out on the planter every day," Burton said. Her planter has south exposure with lots of warmth and sun, both ingredients to warm a dahlia's heart. As setting-out time approaches, she can leave them outside if weather permits or return them to the garage for frost protection.

Plants jump-started in March are ready to go in the ground in late May and begin blooming almost immediately.

Soil temperature is the important component in dahlia's early-season growing. According to Nicholas Gitts, co-owner of Swan Island Dahlias in Canby, Ore.,

See DAHLIA, H&G 2

YOUR DAHLIA GUIDE

Where and when to plant: When the soil reaches 60 degrees with eight hours of full sun. Less sun means taller plants and fewer blooms.

Staking: Any plant that will reach 3 feet or taller should be staked at planting time.

Watering: Once established, dahlias require deep watering two to three times a week for at least 30 minutes.

Fertilizing: Dahlias require low-nitrogen fertilizer, like 5-10-10 or 10-20-20.

Weed control: Hand weeding is best.

Herbicides may damage the plants.

Cut flowers: Cut flowers in the cool of early morning and place the stems in two to three inches

of very hot water (about 160-180 degrees) and allow to cool for one hour before using the dahlias in an arrangement.

Digging: Do it two weeks after a killing frost. If the tuber is still green, it will not store.

Source: Swan Island Dahlia catalog 2009



Farmers market kicks off season with vendor meeting

Times-News

If your backyard gardening has outgrown your own kitchen's needs, consider selling your bounty to other lovers of local foods.

The Twin Falls Farmers Market will hold its spring vendors meeting at 6 p.m. Friday at Obenchain

Insurance in Twin Falls; use the back entrance. All vendors and those interested in becoming vendors are invited.

Market leaders will discuss new developments at the Twin Falls Farmers Market and announce 2009 opening and closing dates, as well as the dates of some promotions.

Once again, the market will offer a fee-free day to all new vendors on opening day, May 9 — so you can try it out without paying an annual membership fee or sales percentage that day. All vendors must have a tax ID number.

Information: Carl Hatfield, market president, 543-4582.

Times-News

The Sun Valley Center of the Arts teamed up with the Sawtooth Botanical Garden to offer a workshop on vegetable gardening from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. April 9.

Learn from Judd McMahan of

Wood River Organics how to grow a successful garden in a high-altitude climate. Participants will

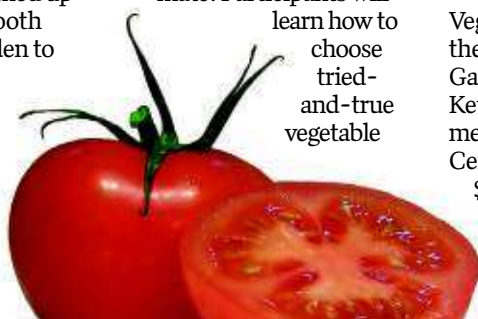
learn how to choose tried-and-true vegetable

varieties and how to extend the growing season.

"Grow Better Vegetables" will be held at the Sawtooth Botanical Garden, south of Ketchum. Cost is \$20 for members of the Sun Valley Center or the garden, and \$25 for non-members.

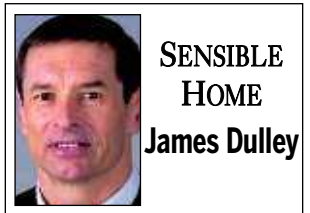
Register: Sawtooth Botanical Garden at 726-9358.

Better backyard veggies



Flush those old toilets out of your energy equation

DEAR JIM: We just remodeled our house to make room for a first-floor lavatory. Our water bills have been high lately, so I want to install a water-saving toilet. Which new models are the best? — Guy D.



SENSIBLE HOME
James Duley

DEAR GUY: Depending upon the size of your family, flushing toilets may be the greatest water-consuming activity in your home. Some old toilets used as much as seven gpf (gallons per flush), but most likely your old ones use between 3.5 and 5.0 gpf. While you are buying one for your new lavatory, you might consider replacing your other old toilets with new water-saving models.

Installing water-saving toilets can also help reduce your heating costs during winter. Each time you flush an old toilet, about five gallons of very cold water enter your house to refill the toilet tank. While this water is resting in the pipes, it draws heat from your house as the water warms to room temperature. This makes your furnace run a little longer.

By law, all new toilets can use a maximum of only 1.6 gpf and they work very well with this lower water usage. If you have boys in your family, con-



Photo by EARL KENDALL

This is a standard two-piece toilet which uses the FloWise 1.28 gpf flushing design. It has a special design to simplify the assembling of the tank to the bowl section.

sider installing a residential urinal. Some use less than 1 gpf.

Some designs are built into the wall and can be recessed when not being used.

When typical gravity-type toilets flush, most of the water flows down inside the back of the toilet. This creates a suction which draws the water and wastes out of the toilet bowl and down the drain. Just a little water comes out from under the rim to wash the bowl.

When water-saving gravity toilets were first introduced years ago, they sometimes required double flushing to empty the bowl. This defeated their purpose. The new designs of 1.6-gpf toilets flush as well as the old 5-gpf models.

Several companies now offer super-water-saving 1.1 gpf gravity models which flush effectively. If you still prefer more water flow for solid wastes, dual-flush models are available. Push the flush

handle one way for 1.1 gpf for liquid wastes and push it the other way for 1.6 gpf for solid wastes. Other than the two-way flush handle, they look like ordinary toilets.

For a more positive flush, get a pressure-assist toilet. When the water fills the tank, it compresses air in the tank. When the toilet is flushed, this air pressure forces the water out faster creating more suction from the bowl. Pressure-assist toilets flush very fast and are noisier than standard gravity toilets, so you may not want one near a bedroom.

If your house is built on a slab or you plan to install a toilet in a basement making it difficult to add a drain, install a macerating toilet. It uses a grinder/pump to vertically lift the wastewater to a drain.

DEAR JIM: We have a problem keeping everyone comfortable. The furnace thermostat is in the dining room, which we seldom use. Is there any thermostat available we can move to different rooms where we are? — Kim B.

DEAR KIM: Since thermostats are hardwired to the furnace, it is difficult to move them. Honeywell offers a new thermostat (Prestige HD Comfort System) to replace your existing one. It has a large high-def touch screen.

It also includes a hand-held wireless Personal Comfort Control. This is basically a thermostat which communicates and overrides the main one in the dining room. In effect, this is like being able to move the main thermostat from room to room.

Furniture

Continued from H&G 1

The moderate option

For a more dramatic face-lift that is still affordable, try slip covers.

Slip covers are fitted covers for chairs, sofas, ottomans and love seats, allowing for a cosmetic change that isn't permanent or expensive.

Online, most pre-made slip covers cost about \$100 for sofas and come in an array of fabrics and shades. Slip covers are also available at most major retail stores.

Can't find what you like? If you're really adventurous and handy with a sewing machine, try making your own. Most sewing shops, including Mill End Fabrics, have charts with yardage requirements for different chair and sofa types to assist DIYers, Felt said. Feel free to ask for assistance.

sale last year.

Cogswell declined to give an estimate for average reupholstery costs, saying prices vary wildly depending on fabric, furniture types and labor costs. She did say, however, that quality reupholstery is often more expensive than buying cheap, poorly made furniture.

"If all you want is cheap furniture, buy the crap," Cogswell said. But if you want a fresh look for your fancy chair, reupholstering may be for you.

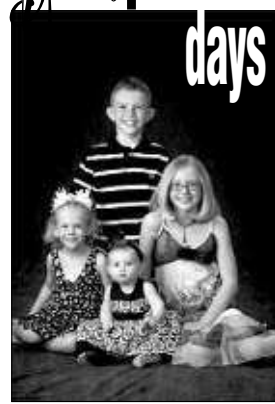
Melissa Davlin may be reached at 208-735-3234 or melissa.davlin@lee.net.

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Pomerelle



Tip of the week

The Washington Post

Revive tired and sunken garden beds by lightly scratching the surface with a three-pronged cultivator and applying a two-inch layer of aged compost or leaf mold. Worms and other organisms will incorporate the material into the soil. Stay off wet ground to avoid compaction.

Ash can be beneficial fertilizer

By Scott Aker
Special to
The Washington Post

Q. We have wood fires three to four times a week and accumulate a lot of ash. Can I use it in my compost pile or anywhere in the backyard?

A. You can use it in the garden as long as the wood was not treated with any chemical preservative. Wood ash is

strongly alkaline and may slow microbial action, so don't add it to your compost heap. Wood ash contains significant amounts of potassium, so it is a beneficial fertilizer. It also contains calcium carbonate, which is the predominant compound in lime, and will help to increase soil pH. Certain plants, such as peonies and lilacs, benefit from this increase in pH if your soil is acidic.

Conversely, wood ash should not be spread around azaleas or other plants that grow well only in acidic soil. And don't use wood ashes where you plan to grow potatoes, because it can raise the pH sufficiently to favor a disease called scab on the tubers.

Scott Aker is a horticulturist at the U.S. National Arboretum.

Dahlia

Continued from H&G 1

ground temperatures should be 60 degrees.

Some Magic Valley gardeners like to plant their tubers straight into the soil, cover with clear plastic and allow them to start in the soil.

That's how Renee Clark of Rupert starts her bulbs outside in early May. She covers them with old blankets or quilts every night to keep frost from damaging new growth. Once the dahlias peak out of the ground, she cuts a small X allowing the new growth to emerge above the plastic. The gardener must keep a close watch, because it is easy to fry young growth under plastic. Clark continues to cover until the threat of frost is over in late May.

Burton plants the bulbs at the same depth they were planted the previous year, which is visible on the old stem. At planting-out time, she sets tomato rings around each plant.

"Placing tomato cages around the tallest varieties helps to stabilize them when they are full of blossoms," she said. Metal rods or bamboo stakes are alternatives. They need to be placed at

planting time so that the bulb is not damaged by later insertion. Burton works Bayer systemic and feed into the hole at planting time; it offers a light feeding and protects from chewing insects.

In the fall she waits for the first frost. After digging the tubers she washes them, lets them dry for 24 hours and labels them. She lines a large box with newspaper, fills with three inches of peat moss and places each bulb so that it doesn't touch the next and is three inches from the sides. She covers the bulbs with another three-inch layer of peat and another layer of bulbs, covering them as before. She stores them in a cool garage that does not drop below 40 degrees

over winter.

"The two greatest problems for dahlia growers," Gitts said, "are over-fertilization and storage."

Dahlias need less nitrogen. A fertilizer with higher amounts of phosphate and potassium like 5-10-10 or 10-20-20 is all that a dahlia requires. He cautions against using compost with high nitrogen content, like a mushroom compost, for the same reason. Also be wary of any kind of compost that has been treated with herbicide to control weeds; herbicide residue can affect

dahlia growth.

"Storing and carrying bulbs through the winter is more difficult," he added. If placed in too warm a location, the bulbs will shrivel and die. If stored too moist, the bulbs will rot. If the bedding medium is dry, like sawdust from kiln-dried lumber, it can dehydrate the bulb.

Gitts suggests buying a new bag of peat moss during the gardening season and keeping it sealed until fall. Fresh peat moss is usually just damp enough for use but dries out quickly in an open bag.

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Cleaning Center owner
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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once.

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green 9 2 6 5 4 6 8 7 3 8 5 4 4 9 6 6 1 2 8 7 8 2 6 3 3 5 1

Answer to previous puzzle 8 9 5 3 7 4 1 6 2 4 1 7 6 5 2 8 3 9 2 6 3 9 8 1 5 4 7 6 2 4 1 9 5 7 8 3 3 5 1 7 4 8 2 9 6 9 7 8 2 3 6 4 1 5 7 8 2 4 6 3 9 5 1 1 4 6 5 2 9 3 7 8 5 3 9 8 1 7 6 2 4

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Armstrong breaks collarbone in crash

The Associated Press

BALTANAS, Spain — With the road narrowing and cyclists piling up in front of him, Lance Armstrong tumbled hard off his bike.

He was left with a broken collarbone that will need surgery and questions about whether he'll be able to contend for an eighth Tour de France title in July.

"I'm alive!" he wrote on his Twitter feed. "Broken clavicle (right). Hurts like hell for now. Surgery in a couple of days. Thanks for all the well wishes."

Armstrong will fly back to the United States after being knocked out of the first stage of the Vuelta of Castilla and Leon stage race in Spain.

"The crash has put my upcoming calendar in jeopardy, but the most important thing for me right now is to get back home and rest up and begin my rehab," he said in a statement.

Armstrong is scheduled to compete in the Giro d'Italia from May 9-May 31, then the Tour de France from July 4-26.

See **ARMSTRONG**, Sports 2



AP photo

Lance Armstrong is seen in an ambulance Monday as he arrives at Hospital Clinico in Valladolid, Spain.

Steelers to open season against Titans

The Associated Press

DANA POINT, Calif. — The Steelers get their opening-night showcase as Super Bowl champions. The oldest rivalry in football has a first-week renewal in prime time. An old AFL-style doubleheader closes out the weekend.

That's how the NFL will begin the 2009 season, starting with as juicy a matchup as possible: Pittsburgh hosting the Tennessee Titans, who merely had the league's best record in 2008 and who beat the Steelers 31-14 at Heinz Field in the 15th game of the season.

Opening kickoff is Thursday night, Sept. 10, on NBC, which also gets the



See **NFL**, Sports 2

Some No. 1 seeds play tight, feeling the pressure to succeed and not be the first to fall. Others embrace the task and march through opponents, bent on proving the selection committee right. While this year's NCAA tournament has produced tight games for top seeds, all have risen to the challenge.

AND NOT DONE

Big names rule this NCAA tourney

The Associated Press

Only one severe tumble so far, and that was Blake Griffin getting flipped onto his back. Other than that scary sight, make this NCAA tournament a monster's ball.

Defending champion Kansas. Big East bombers Louisville, Connecticut and Pittsburgh. The Tobacco Road twosome. Tyler Hansbrough and a bevy of All-American big men, Jim Boeheim and a bunch of coaches with rings.

No room for the little guy at this party. Siena, Butler, Cleveland State? Not a George Mason among 'em.

A year after every No. 1 seed reached the Final Four, so much for parity in men's college basketball: For the first time, the top three seeds in every region advanced.

Hardly an upset, hardly anyone upset at the selection committee.

"I'm not an expert, but I thought this year, for some reason, it seemed the easiest to pick 64 teams," Villanova coach Jay Wright said before Monday's practice. "I thought it was pretty clear this year more than most years. When you look at how it's ended up, I think they proven to themselves they did a very good job."

See **TOURNEY**, Sports 2

TESTED AND DETERMINED

Midwest No. 1 Louisville

Morehead St. and Siena both gave the Cardinals games but the overall No. 1 seed moved on to face a feisty Arizona in the Sweet 16.

East No. 1 Pittsburgh

E. Tennessee St. and Oklahoma St. took the Panthers to the brink before their bruising style won out. They face Xavier in the Sweet 16.

South No. 1 N. Carolina

Not tested by Radford in the opening round, the Tar Heels held off a tough LSU team to play upset-minded Gonzaga in the Sweet 16.

West No. 1 Connecticut

The Huskies have barely had to break a sweat against Chattanooga and Texas A&M. Things get tougher against Big 10 champ Purdue.



Terrence Jennings



DeJaun Blair



Tyler Hansbrough



Jeff Adrien

Red Sox's Schilling retires with 'zero regrets'

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Curt Schilling retired from baseball Monday, ending a career in which he won World Series titles with the Boston Red Sox and Arizona Diamondbacks and was one of the game's most dominant pitchers and grittiest competitors.

The 42-year-old right-hander said on his blog he's leaving after 23 years with "zero regrets." Schilling missed all of last season with a shoulder injury after signing a one-year, \$8 million contract.

"The things I was allowed to

"The things I was allowed to experience, the people I was able to call friends, teammates, mentors, coaches and opponents, the travel, all of it, are far more than anything I ever thought possible in my lifetime."

— Curt Schilling, who announced his retirement Monday

experience, the people I was able to call friends, teammates, mentors, coaches and opponents, the travel, all of it, are far more than anything I ever thought possible in my lifetime," he wrote.

Schilling had surgery last June and had said he might come back in the middle of this season though he was not under con-

tract. He made no reference to his injury on his blog.

He was co-MVP of the 2001 World Series with Randy Johnson while in Arizona. Schilling also won World Series titles with Boston in 2004 and 2007.

"Curt had a great career and made a profound impact on the

Red Sox, helping to restore the Red Sox' status as a championship organization," general manager Theo Epstein said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "He was consistently dominant, and never more so than when it mattered most. Not only for

See **SCHILLING**, Sports 2

AP file photo

Boston Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling returns to the field and gestures to fans after earning the 200th win of his career, a 6-4 victory over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays at Fenway Park in Boston on May 27, 2006.



B.C. By Johnny Hart

COME ON OUT, WORM! GIVE IT UP!

WRONG HOLE, PAL... THE WORM HOLES ARE THREE BLOCKS DOWN.

STUPID MAPQUEST.

POOP

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Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

HAMMIE, IF YOU'RE GOING TO WALK BACKWARDS EVERYWHERE, I WANT TO BE BY YOUR SIDE AT ALL TIMES.

TO KEEP ME SAFE?

HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

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Beetle Bailey By Mort Walker

I ATE 8 VITAMIN PILLS THIS MORNING

CAMP SWAMPY TRACK & FIELD MEET

I ATE A WHOLE CAN OF BEANS

GREG + MORT WALKER

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Blondie By Dean Young & Stan Drake

MR. B., WOULDN'T IT BE NEAT IF GUYS STILL HOPPED FREIGHT CARS AND ROAMED AROUND THE COUNTRY FREE AS A BREEZE?

HA! HA! THAT'S A PRETTY CRAZY IDEA, ELMO!

YOU SURE MUST LOVE GOING TO THAT OFFICE EVERY DAY, MR. B.

HONESTLY, DEAR, WHERE DO YOU EVER COME UP WITH THESE CRAZY IDEAS?!

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Dilbert By Scott Adams

DOGBERT THE CEO

UNTIL THE COMPANY RETURNS TO PROFITABILITY I WILL ONLY FLY COACH.

I'LL BOOK THREE COACH SEATS IN A ROW SO I CAN STRETCH OUT.

ONE OF YOU WILL BE A SHEPHERD FOR MY BEDDING.

I'LL BRING MY OWN AIR MARSHAL TO PUNCH ANYONE WHO TALKS WHILE I'M NAPPING.

AND A VIDEOGRAPHER SO I CAN SEE THE PLAYBACK WHEN I WAKE UP.

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The Elderberries By Phil Frank and Joe Troise

Ready for dinner, Boone?

Yup. Just one more minute.

Are you watching Dusty's Soap?!

Yeah, I Tivo'd it.

Afternoon TV is one of the lowest forms of entertainment.

Mmm... You're probably right.

Yet, you continue to watch.

It's like when Dusty gets his hand stuck in the mayo jar, your stomach turns, but you can't look away.

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For Better or For Worse By Lynn Johnston

HEY, JOHN - WHADDYA SAY WE ASK A COUPLE GIRLS TO GET UP AN' DANCE?

I MUST BE GETTING OLD, TED... I THINK I'LL JUST GO HOME.

ARE YOU CRAZY? THIS IS YOUR NIGHT TO SEE HOW THE SINGLE MAN LIVES!!

I KNOW HOW THE SINGLE MAN LIVES, TED... WHY DO YOU THINK I GOT MARRIED?

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Frank and Ernest By Bob Thaves

PET SHOP

I WANTED TO GET A HYPOALLERGENIC DOG, BUT I FOUND THE PRICE WAS ALSO NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT.

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Garfield By Jim Davis

THE MICE AROUND HERE ARE GETTING PRETTY BRAZEN

NONSENSE

YOU'RE JUST IMAGINING IT

ARE YOU HOGGING ALL THE HOT WATER AGAIN?

GARFIELD!

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Hagar the Horrible By Chris Browne

HOW!! WHAT ARE THE ODDS OF EVERYONE SNEEZING AT THE EXACT SAME TIME?!

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Hi and Lois By Chance Browne

THEY MIGHT CUT BACK MY HOURS AT WORK.

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, IT'LL GIVE YOU TIME TO DO ALL THE PROJECTS YOU'VE BEEN PUTTING OFF AT HOME.

IF THAT'S THE BRIGHT SIDE, THINGS ARE REALLY GETTING DARK

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Luann By Greg Evans

I LEFT A MESSAGE FOR YOU BOYS. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WELL, UM...

IT'S, UM...

I'M KIDDING

WHOOO!

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Classic Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz

YES, MA'AM... I'VE BEEN DOING MY REGULAR WORK

NO, MA'AM, I HAVEN'T BEEN WASTING MY TIME COLORING IN A COLORING BOOK..

THAT'S NOT MY COLORING BOOK... IT BELONGS TO MY DOG..

HE LOVES COLORING BOOKS..

I ALWAYS COLOR THE SKY BLUE..

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Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis

BOMBAST CABLE... CAN I HELP YOU?

YOU WEASELS RAISED MY CABLE BILL AGAIN. LOWER IT NOW OR FACE MY WRATH.

I'M SORRY, SIR, BUT I BELIEVE WE'RE THE ONLY CABLE COMPANY IN YOUR AREA, SO I'M AFRAID YOU DON'T HAVE A LOT OF OPTIONS.

OH, I'VE GOT OPTIONS.

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Pickles By Brian Crane

YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY HOLDING UP YOUR END OF THE CONVERSATION TONIGHT, EARL.

WHY BOTHER? AT MY AGE I'VE PROBABLY ALREADY SAID EVERYTHING IMPORTANT OR ORIGINAL I'M EVER GOING TO SAY.

I'LL JUST BE REPEATING MYSELF OVER AND OVER.

I KNOW, YOU SAID THAT LAST NIGHT.

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Rose is Rose By Pat Brady

LET'S TAKE A BREAK UNTIL THE WIND DIES DOWN!

MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY!

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Non Sequitur By Wiley

HEY, HERE'S A LITTLE TIP TO PASS ALONG... DON'T WALK ACROSS THE STREET WHILE TWITTERING.

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Dennis the Menace By Hank Ketcham

"MY MOTHER AND I WERE MARRIED IN THE SAME GOWN."

"HOW DID BOTH OF YOU FIT INTO IT?"

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The Wizard of Id By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart

I WANT MY NEW STATUE TO REMIND THE PEASANTS OF WHAT I'VE DONE FOR THEM.

WHAT SHOULD I PLACE IN MY HAND, A SPEAR OR A SWORD?

YOU ACTUALLY SAID "A SCREW"?

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Zits By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott

MOM! THERE AREN'T ANK CLEAN TOWELS IN MY ROOM!

I JUST HAD TO DRY OFF WITH A BAG OF COTTON BALLS AND SOME POCKET LINT!

I HANDED YOU A STACK OF CLEAN TOWELS TWO DAYS AGO, AND THEY'RE STILL SITTING THERE ON THE STAIRS WHERE YOU LEFT THEM!

OH SURE EVERYTHING'S MY FAULT.

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