



SUNDAY
April 5, 2009

TIMES-NEWS

\$1.50

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"I think the charter school movement will continue to grow. Clearly there is some demand for parents out there who want to have some options."

Ken Burgess, a lobbyist for the Coalition of Idaho Charter School Families

Redrawing districts

Redistricting bill introduced; District 23 might see changes

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

BOISE — When Rep. Jim Patrick, R-Twin Falls, travels to Marsing to visit constituents, he crosses three counties and can spend hours in his car. There's no road that easily connects District 23, western Twin Falls County and Owyhee County, which has more real estate than at least seven U.S. states.

"The problem is communication," he said. "We're the same people. We have the same occupations. But we don't have the same day-to-day interactions."

See DISTRICTS, Main 2

Magicvalley.com

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



Photos by MEAGAN THOMPSON/Times-News

Wyatt Bryan, 8, Alondra Hernandez, 7, center, and Cyla Irish, 8, recite the Pledge of Allegiance Monday morning during a weekly assembly at North Valley Academy in Gooding. 'We're very proud of our patriots,' said Judy Studebaker, principal of the charter school.

Charting a new course

Charter schools continue to grow in a fiscally tight period, even in the Magic Valley

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

The journey of charter schools in Idaho has not been an easy one.

Before the Legislature passed Idaho's charter school law in 1998, it took years of failed attempts before charter schools were allowed in the state. Charter schools are state-funded public schools that have the flexibility to offer a specialized curriculum or try approaches to education that may not be commonplace in traditional public schools.

Eleven years later, charter schools have a small but steadily growing foothold in the state's education landscape. There are now 31 charters statewide teaching 12,000 students, about 4.3 percent of Idaho's public school students.

Yet the issues surrounding charter schools, their rapid growth, and their role in teaching Idaho's children continue to attract the lion's share of debate within the education community. The debate is likely to continue with more questions about



Brad Whitesell, 11, helps set up the 'bubble house' — a North Valley sixth-grade class project that helps children learn about measurement and geometry.

school choice, a cap that limits charter school growth, and money.

The past

Without Fred Tilman's persistence, the history of charter

schools in Idaho may have stopped before it ever started.

The former Ada County Republican lawmaker's efforts began in 1993 — before most of today's charter school students were born.

A two-day series

Today: The history of charter schools in Idaho, and their growth in the Magic Valley.

Monday: How charter school facilities and their funding differ from those of traditional schools, and how Magic Valley charters will expand next fall.

Magicvalley.com

WATCH: A video about charter schools.

At that time, states were picking up on the idea of "magnet schools" or "schools of choice," a concept with roots in Minnesota. The goal was that with more flexibility, parental involvement and the freedom to experiment on a smaller scale, charter schools could offer alternatives for parents and their kids. For traditional public schools, the potential benefit was to learn from successful

See CHARTERS, Main 4

Violence persists at Idaho's private prison

By Rebecca Boone
Associated Press writer

BOISE — Despite months of concern from lawmakers and state correction officials, Idaho's most violent prison hasn't gotten much safer for inmates.

A review of hundreds of documents obtained by The Associated Press through a public records request shows that despite an investigation by the Idaho Department of Correction and internal security reviews by Correction Corporation of America completed last fall, the Idaho Correctional Center has only marginally improved

See VIOLENCE, Main 7

Life at Jeffs' Texas polygamist ranch was austere, controlled

By Michelle Roberts
Associated Press writer

ELDORADO, Texas — It was a year ago that the outside world got its first glimpse beyond the battered green gate of the YFZ Ranch. And the

view was mesmerizing: Women in pioneer-style dresses, their hair swept up in braids. Men who married multiple times — sometimes, it was said, to underage girls. Children snatched by authorities from their mothers, for

fear that they might be abused. Officials had come looking for an abused teenage girl named "Sarah." Since then, it's become clear Sarah didn't exist, that calls made to a

See RANCH, Main 2



Wendell Jessop, 10, left, stands on the porch of his home with sisters, Pearl, 12, and Yvone, 16, March 27 at the Yearning for Zion Ranch in Eldorado, Texas.

AP photo



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WHICH OF THE FINAL FOUR MADE IT TO THE FINALS?
Find out who's in Monday's NCAA game > Sports 1

MORNING BRIEFING

Pat's Picks

Three things to do today

Pat Marcantonio



• The Petrified Watermelon Pickers club hosts a rock and gem show in the gymnasium at the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind in Gooding. It goes on from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.. There will be how-to demonstrations, a silent auction, grab bags, door prizes, fossil and gemstone displays and more. Admission is free.

• For a nice drive, head to Three Island Crossing State Park, a quiet haven along the Snake River. There's plenty of places to picnic, hike and camp, as well as reflect on the history of the park where pioneers crossed

the river. The park is located by Glens Ferry and open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Cost is \$4 per vehicle.

• While you're over in that area, stop in at the Carmela Vineyards, located off Interstate 84 in Glens Ferry, exit 120-121. There's golf, a good place to eat, pretty scenery and oh yes, lots of wine to sample. Just don't drive if you sample too much.

Have your own pick you want to share? Something that is unique to the area and that may take people by surprise? E-mail me at patm@magicvalley.com.

PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY

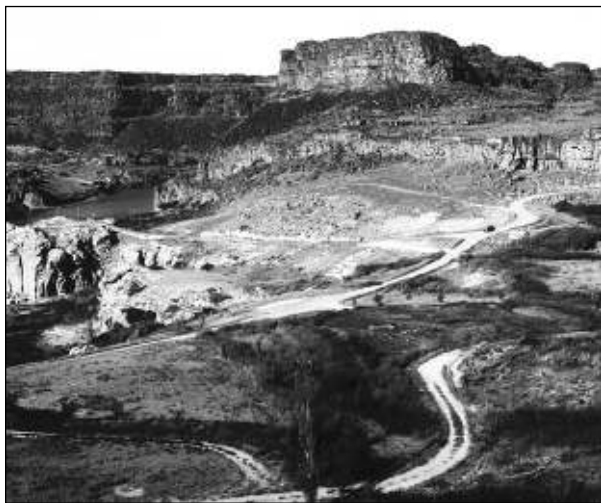


Photo courtesy Twin Falls Public Library



ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

The first written account of Shoshone Falls was recorded in 1847 by a Canadian priest named Augustin Blanchet. However, many travelers knew about the falls since about 1834. Blanchet named the wonder 'Canadian Falls,' but that name didn't last long. Two years later, in 1849, a mounted rifle regiment came into the area. The leader, being informed by his Canadian guide of a beautiful waterfall, sent three men to investigate. One of the men, Major Osborne Cross, recorded in his journal that they decided to change the name to the 'Great Shoshonie (Shoshone) falls,' as it seemed more appropriate.

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Twin Falls Senior Citizens Center dance, with music by the Melody Masters, 2 to 5 p.m., at the center, 530 Shoshone St. W., \$4 per person, 734-5084.

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

CHURCH EVENT

Life Church of the Magic Valley in Jerome healing service, open to the general public and anyone who needs to be healed, 5 p.m. pre-service prayer with service at 6 p.m. (public may attend both services), Life Church, 425 E. Nez Perce (100 South), Jerome, lifechurchmv.com or (208) 324-5876.

EXHIBITS

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

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

Desert Sage Quilters of Magic Valley biennial Quilt Show and Merchant Mall, includes numerous free quilt demonstrations and free fashion show at 2 p.m., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Twin Falls County Fairgrounds, Filer, admission: \$5 for adults and \$3 for youth, 731-6847 or 734-6841.

TODAY'S DEADLINES

Meeting memo for April 6 Magic Valley Region of the Idaho Chapter of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers meeting, with Brian Olmstead of Twin Falls Canal Company speaking about water issues, 7 a.m., Depot Grill, 545 Shoshone St. S., Twin Falls, 733-0874 or henri@lemoyne.com.

Reservations deadline for April 7 Magic Valley New Neighbors Club luncheon, "Unfashionable Fashions," 11:30 a.m., Snake River Grill, Main Street, Hagerman, \$12, 734-8418.

Reservation deadline for April 7 Agape Interfaith Ministry luncheon, T. J. Clews of Jerome with musical program "Because He Lives," 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Basque Center on University Avenue, Gooding, \$8, no cost for noon program only, public welcome, 934-5700.

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

COMING UP IN THE TIMES-NEWS

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April 3 8 6 6
April 2 5 7 6

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WHAT'S NEW AT MAGICVALLEY.COM



A look at charter schools

Charter schools in the Magic Valley are growing, and offering another way to educate kids. Watch a video online.

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MAIL INFORMATION
The Times-News (UPS 631-080) is published daily at 132 Fairfield St. W., Twin Falls, by Lee Publications Inc., a subsidiary of Lee Enterprises. Periodicals paid at Twin Falls by the Times-News. Official city and county newspaper pursuant to Section 6C-108 of the Idaho Code. Thursday is hereby designated as the day of the week on which legal notices will be published. Postmaster, please send change of address form to: P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, Idaho 83303.

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TIMES-NEWS

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Districts

Continued from Main 1

The difficulties facing Patrick — and district mates Sen. Bert Brackett, R-Rogerson, and Rep. Stephen Hartgen, R-Twin Falls — aren't uncommon in Idaho, where many lawmakers outside Boise represent rural communities separated by hundreds of acres. But such concerns might be settled under a bill introduced last week by Senate Pro Tem Bob Geddes, R-Soda Springs, that would amend how Idaho's 35 legislative districts are drawn.

Under the bill, districts would be linked by roads if they cover more than one county so they adhere to the "communities of interest" provision required by state law. Redistricting is done every 10 years and is scheduled for 2011, just after the next U.S. Census and in time for election season. The bill also bans members of the six-person, bipartisan 2001 reapportionment commission from serving again.

Geddes' District 31, for example, consists of five counties and he said he sometimes has to drive through Wyoming to reach Teton County. The differences, he said, are seen by the various court districts, differing industries and how even high schools don't even compete in the same conferences.

"There's really not a connection," said Geddes, who lost a 2002 state Supreme Court challenge to the current plan. "My total interest is to preserve communities of interest and make sure cities and counties and communities feel enfranchised."

The last commission built districts based on 37,000 residents, but the next one is expected to possibly reach around 45,000, thanks to the unprecedented growth in Idaho. But whereas about half of the Legislature is currently from the Treasure Valley, that figure is expected to grow to two-

thirds. Some say south-central Idaho's 15-member delegation will drop to 12.

The districts where Geddes and Patrick reside aren't the only ones lacking connecting thoroughfares. Legislators in District 27 all reside in Cassia County — but they also represent Oneida and Power Counties. If House Assistant Majority Leader Scott Bedke, R-Oakley, wants to visit Malad, he needs to travel south into Utah before returning to Idaho.

"You have to leave the district to get there," he said. "To the extent that Malad thinks they're disenfranchised, I guess (the bill) would help. They probably would be happy over with Caribou or Franklin than with Cassia or Twin Falls."

Reapportionment is always a political thorn, and Idaho's growth is likely to continue the confrontations. Geddes concedes he wants to protect the rural

interests but only so that they are represented accurately in the Legislature.

Geddes wants the commission to apportion equally from borders and work toward Boise, rather than only begin in the north.

Some Democrats, meanwhile, have concerns with the bill.

Rep. Wendy Jaquet, D-Ketchum, said the lack of connectivity in districts might simply work itself out when districts are redrawn and population growth is accounted for.

She also said Geddes is tying the hands of the commission by allowing it to forgo the road provision only if five members agree. Currently, decisions require four supportive votes.

"He's trying to create some barriers with the commission," she said.

Jared S. Hopkins may be reached at jhopkins@magicvalley.com.

Ranch

Continued from Main 1

His domestic abuse hot line were probably faked.

And since then, all but one of the 439 children who were taken away in one of the largest custody cases in U.S. history have returned to their families. About two-thirds are back at the ranch, says Willie Jessop, spokesman for the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

But life at the YFZ Ranch has not returned to normal. The sect's prophet, Warren Jeffs, is not there — convicted in Utah as an accomplice to rape, he sits in a 7-by-12-foot cell in Arizona awaiting trial on a similar charge and has been indicted in Texas for sexual assault of a child and bigamy.

And Jeff's followers have yet to recover hundreds of boxes worth of Jeffs' journals and teachings, letters from FLDS members, family photos and detailed church census records that were seized by authorities in the raid that began last April 3.

Documents used in court proceedings and thousands of pages of additional records, obtained by The Associated Press, offer a window into an industrious, prayerful community in which marriage was considered a mandatory ticket to heaven, and where legal marrying ages were secondary to divine matches ordained by Jeffs.

But more than anything else, these papers testify to a simple truth:

At the YFZ Ranch, Warren Jeffs controlled everything.

•••
In the beginning, there was a vision — and there was the land.

It was Jeffs' vision. His chosen people, he said, must go to Eldorado, a tiny town of 1,850, to buy the 1,700-acre Isaac's Ranch. This was not verdant land. Like much of the soil of West Texas, it was suitable only for raising goats and drilling for oil — so rocky and inhospitable that some followers thought the land was a curse.

But the people worked it hard.

The men quarried deep enough to find white stone for the four-story temple, following Jeffs' exact specifications and time table, sometimes allowed just two hours of sleep a night. They made mortar from a forb-

mula Jeffs said was divinely inspired, painted and furnished to his exact specifications, and women sewed drapes that hung one inch — "no more, no less" — off the floor.

In just five years, a new community arose on what was now known as the Yearning for Zion Ranch — an oasis with a gleaming white temple, a place where folks kept to themselves. Jeffs, the 53-year-old son of the sect's previous prophet, gave regular dictation and teachings used to govern every aspect of life on the ranch, even when he was on the run from authorities and after he was jailed in 2007.

"God in the heavens confers upon one man on the earth the keys of priesthood to act in his stead and to follow revelation so that when that one man performs any work, gives ordinances by the power of God, it is God doing it," he wrote.

He is certain that he is that man, and his followers agree.

The construction of the temple and two dozen other buildings was funded with millions of dollars given by roughly 7,500 FLDS members who lived and ran businesses elsewhere.

He admonished YFZ residents to live frugally since "everyone in this mission and on the lands of refuge is living off the labors of others."

Milk from dairy cows was used to make cheese. There is a chicken coop, and the people of the ranch keep honey bees. Processed sugar and cereal were forbidden, because "particularly in the ladies, it can destroy your ability to have children," Jeffs said.

The children went to school on the ranch and were taught to do chores, and while they were required to be quiet at meal times, Jeffs recorded some fatherly moments. He once taught the littlest children to make scrambled eggs.

"There is so much work to do around here — no idle time. There is no football. There is no basketball. There is no soccer. There is no gentile games here. There is hard work and constant rejoicing prayers," Jeffs told young men when they arrived.

FLDS members were taught, perhaps above all, that sexual purity was imperative. Attraction — and certainly masturbation or contact with the opposite sex — were mortal sins. Jeffs warned the boys that sexual immorality was "the most terrible sin next to murder."

Marriage was seen as the cure, though it didn't end all restrictions. Sex was meant only for procreation and should take place between a husband and one wife at a time.

"A woman should ask for children, and that be the

motive for those sexual relations," he said, adding there was to be no sex for pregnant women or women beyond childbearing years.

Marriage was an absolute requirement for women who wanted to be close to God and to enter into heaven, according to Jeffs. He himself had 58 wives, according to 2004 church records.

"Girls who don't get married in celestial marriage won't live with Heavenly Father again," Jeffs told women. "Celestial marriage is your way back into your Heavenly Father's presence."

But child welfare authorities and prosecutors say the FLDS theology of purity and plural marriage, combined with Jeffs' one-man rule, had a darker undercurrent. They say it made the marriage and sexual assault of underage girls regular practice in the sect that uses the Book of Mormon but follows plural marriage and other practices long ago renounced by mainstream Mormons.

Since the raid last year, the FLDS has said it will not sanction underage marriages. But for years, Jeffs only acknowledged whether a girl had reached puberty, not her legal age.

"I say, in the name of the Lord, there is no underage marriage in a priesthood marriage, in celestial marriage. God has the right to rule. The Lord had me take these two underage girls on purpose, to show that I and we, this people, are with him, with God, not fearing man," he wrote in 2003.

One of those girls, Jeffs wrote, was lucky to have a husband at her age. The girl, allegedly married to Jeffs at age 12, is the lone ranch child who remains in foster care.

Simpson releases list of requested earmarks

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

During last year's presidential election, candidate after candidate railed against earmarks — the money set aside by members of Congress for projects in their home districts.

But as that body now begins the budget-setting process, members of the U.S. House have again proposed their lists of potential projects to be funded through taxpayer dollars.

For the first time, all requested earmarks had to be posted on the Web sites of the representatives requesting them — including U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho.

Though there's no guarantee that they'll be funded, Simpson's 10 appropriations lists cover everything from pricey road projects to sugar-beet research, along with plenty of items for the University of Idaho and Mountain Home Air Force Base.

About \$1 million could pay for the Army Corps of Engineers and the city of Gooding to replace rock walls and boxed culverts restricting 1.5 miles of the Little Wood River and protecting the city from floods.

The wall was built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps, said

SIMPSON'S REQUEST

Rep. Simpson's earmark requests include these items for south-central Idaho. Visit <http://www.house.gov/simpson/> to view the complete lists.

- \$2 million, City of Rocks Back Country Byway relocation
- \$2 million, CSI North College Road alternative route
- \$2 million, widen S.H. 75 from Timmerman to Ketchum
- \$1 million, Little Wood River ecosystem restoration
- \$730,000, sugar beet research through USDA ARS lab in Kimberly
- \$200,000, CSI Pro-Tech training program
- \$125,000, anti-meth equipment for Twin Falls police
- \$100,000, Big Wood River flood plain management and restoration
- \$100,000, Twin Falls Public Library newspaper database

Gooding Mayor Duke Morton, and has been falling apart for years. Only the Corps of Engineers is legally allowed to do the work, and both agencies have been trying to fix the problem for two decades now.

"We really need to get on with it because most of us consider it a health and safety issue at this point," Morton said, noting that the fallen rocks raise the level of the river and make floods more likely. "This is the one earmark I have to say I wish would go through."

Farther north, Blaine County stands to benefit from two projects — long-planned Highway 75 work and \$100,000 to complete a comprehensive study of the Big Wood River. The latter would highlight possible restoration projects, evalu-

ate wildlife needs and determine how to minimize the risk of floods in the process. The Big Wood flooded in 2006, costing the Corps of Engineers \$125,000 and 260 man-hours to prepare for and respond to the flood.

The Twin Falls Public Library has asked for \$100,000 to transfer its extensive local-newspaper archives from aging microfilm to computer, creating a searchable database of Magic Valley history since 1904. And Twin Falls police want \$125,000 for equipment to fight methamphetamine use downtown. Police Capt. Matt Hicks said the city made a similar request last year that wasn't funded, and noted that drug issues have always ranked high on surveys

of community needs.

"A lot of property crime and violent crime has connections to the drug usage here in town," he said.

Not on the lists is a request by the city of Twin Falls for \$560,000 in federal aid for infrastructure work on part of Main Avenue, a project Mayor Lance Clow characterized a year ago as the city's "highest priority" and "critical" to downtown revitalization. Economic Development Director Melinda Anderson said Friday that the city will work with Sens. Mike Crapo and Jim Risch to get the item in this year.

Simpson's new counterpart, Rep. Walt Minnick, has chosen not to seek any earmarks this year. The Democrat who represents the other half of Idaho decided this year was a poor time to encourage the practice, given the other financial pressures on the country, said spokesman John Foster. Minnick will work to fund Idaho projects through competitive grants.

Simpson also seems mindful of the recent backlash against the practice. He said Thursday that he's inviting Idahoans to weigh in on the projects he's selected, noting that he can either secure some of the available federal dollars for Idaho or allow the funding

to go to another state.

Simpson said he doesn't plan to drop any of the items unless people seem really upset by them, but said he wouldn't be surprised to see some general grumbling over the use of earmarks — noting a USA Today report

that criticized previous funding for renovating an old theater in Rexburg as pork.

"I think it's good to let citizens know what we're requesting and why we're requesting it," Simpson said.

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Law & Disorder... ... in Cassia County

April 1 Cassia County police reports

Domestic battery:

A 21-year-old Burley woman declined to press charges after her boyfriend, who works at the Burley Care Center, refused to let her watch a movie in her apartment, turned the power off with the breaker switch, broke her phone, pushed her onto the bed, got on top of her, put his hand over her mouth and nose until she had trouble breathing, injured her jaw, and tried to smother her with a pillow. The woman was able to escape from the pillow, slapped him in the face, and told him to leave. He left.

Disturbing the peace:

Police requested a juvenile petition charging a 13-year-old male with disturbing the peace at Declo Junior High School. According to the report, the boy "was being disruptive by distracting other students; calling attention to himself; laughing; and when she (the teacher) reprimanded him, he scoff (sic) about it and argued with her." The boy has had 27 disciplinary write-ups this year.

Burglary:


Three females — two 14, one 13 — will be charged with burglary for entering a coach's office at Declo Junior High School and

taking a \$5 bag of candy.

According to the report, "Some of the candy was disbursed to other students in the third-hour P.E. class." One of them admitted to taking and eating a few pieces of candy but told police that the other girls went into the office and took it all. "Most of it was recovered," the report reads.

— Damon Hunzeker


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Charters

Continued from Main 1

methods proven in charter schools.

Tilman describes adding charter schools to the public school system as putting market pressure on the education system, encouraging changes and improvements among all schools. He faced resistance, though.

"It was very difficult in the sense that it was very new to people," said Tilman, now an Ada County commissioner, about the five-year effort.

Much time was spent educating fellow legislators, modifying the bill and talking with the education lobby representing traditional schools. One compromise was to limit the growth of new charter schools to six per year.

"It was not as easy as one would think in a state that is open to choice and education as much as what we seem to be here in Idaho," Tilman said.

After the law passed, Tilman wasn't sure what to expect. The law allowed charter schools to start, but didn't mandate any.

"It was a tool, but somebody had to step up and take the bull by the horns," Tilman said. "My biggest fear was there would not be somebody willing to step up."

The present

Today, the demand for charter schools is unquestioned.

Six new schools will start in the state this fall, meeting the legal cap. One of them is Wings Charter Middle School, which will serve up to 60 sixth-graders in Twin Falls. Ten other potential schools are in the process of starting up, according to the Idaho State Department of Education.

Meanwhile, existing charter schools are expanding. Xavier Charter School in Twin Falls is building a new facility and will add 10th grade classes this fall.

North Valley Academy, a charter school in Gooding, is adding high school grades this fall.

Charter schools often have waiting lists and select students with a lottery system because the applicants outnumber the available slots.

Charter school advocates want the cap lifted so more charter schools can open. At the same time, there's talk of placing a temporary moratorium on charter school growth. Neither measure is expected to make it through the Legislature this session.

"I think the charter school movement will continue to grow," said Ken Burgess, a lobbyist for the Coalition of Idaho Charter School Families. "Clearly there is some demand for parents out there who want to have some options."

Before the cap can be removed, a detailed budget analysis of state funding for charter schools and traditional public schools is needed to give legislators accurate information, Burgess said.

State Sen. Dick Sagness, D-Pocatello, wanted the Legislature to approve a temporary three-year moratorium on charter school growth. Sagness' bill, though, is not expected to get a hearing.

Sagness said that with the state's tight budget, new charters would cut funding when districts are already strapped for cash.

"With the kind of fiscal times that we're having, in my judgment, it makes no sense," Sagness said. "We're taking money away from schools but at the same time, we're going to be starting up new ones."

When a school district's enrollment declines, a safety net keeps a school district from losing most of the state funding during the first year. As a result, more state funding is spent the year that students move from traditional public schools to public charter schools, which Sagness contends should be avoided.

"That is money that duplicates cost and that comes out of the state education budget," Sagness said.

Tilman said the funding system for charter schools in which the money follows the child fosters a healthy sense of competition in the public school system.

"You let people choose where they want to get their service and they will tell you what they think is good quality and what is not, and they can do that by taking their dollars and shopping somewhere else," Tilman said.

Role of charters

Gooding School District Superintendent Heather Williams has seen charter schools from two different vantage points.

As an educational consultant, she worked with planners of Wings Charter Middle School to help it get started in Twin Falls. As a superintendent, she has seen students leave her district's schools and migrate to North Valley Academy in Gooding, causing about a 10 percent drop in enrollment for the district.

"For me personally, I think there's a place for charter schools," Williams said.

In Williams' perspective, charter schools work best when they help school districts with targeted reforms in areas needing improvement rather than duplicating services that a school district already provides.

Williams said Wings Charter Middle School is an example of such a charter school.

Melody Lenkner, the founding administrator of Wings, agrees.

"I think the charter school movement is meant to do this and I think that Wings is an example of what they had in mind," Lenkner said.

Wings will serve sixth-graders and eventually expand in 2010 and 2011 to seventh- and eighth-graders. The purpose of Wings will be to help students excel in their strengths and get remediation in areas where they struggle so they're prepared for high school by the time they leave.

Williams said another example of charter schools complementing school districts is ARTEC (Advanced Regional Technical Educational Consortium). That charter school is a professional technical school that operates programs in seven Magic Valley high schools, including Gooding School District, Twin Falls School District and Cassia County School District.

Typically, area high school students can take a half-day of ARTEC programs. ARTEC, which opened in 2006, currently has 398 students, one student shy of its 399 cap.

Officials at North Valley Academy say they provide an alternative choice to traditional education with a rigorous curriculum and program that stresses patriotism and history while preparing future leaders.

Respect is required and the small school size encourages high academic performance, said Gayle DeSmet, head administrator of North Valley Academy. DeSmet says the charter school movement provides a way for parents who are unhappy with the status quo to seek an education elsewhere.

"Now that people are empowered, I see nothing but growth for charter schools," DeSmet said.

Academics

Test scores show a marked difference when comparing charter schools to their traditional public school counterparts.

Idaho State Department of Education statistics for the 2006-07 school year show charter school students were more proficient on the Idaho Standards Achievement Tests, which test reading, math and language arts.

In those areas, charter school students were between 2.76 percent to 10 percent more proficient compared with traditional public school students,



MEAGAN THOMPSON/Times-News

Paula Merrill and her son, 11-year-old Levi Merrill, walk toward North Valley Academy Monday morning for a visit. Levi is considering attending the Gooding charter school next year.

according to 2006-07 ISAT data.

Enrollment data, though, also shows that charter schools statewide have fewer minorities and economically disadvantaged students on average, factors that can affect how well a school performs on its ISAT tests.

"When a regular public

school is asked to meet an AYP (adequate yearly progress) score they have to take into account all those children they work with," said Sherri Wood, president of the Idaho Education Association.

Wood said the association believes there's a place for charter schools, adding that it believes a cap is needed to

avoid reaching a saturation point that affects students in local school districts.

For North Valley Academy, its Idaho Reading Indicator tests for this fall and winter are done like other public schools.

The IRI measures students' reading levels from kindergarten through third grade. Kindergartners and third-graders showed an increase in students reading at the benchmark grade level between the fall and winter.

Among second-graders, though, there was a drop of at-grade level scores from 82.35 percent to 70.59 percent, from the fall to the winter.

DeSmet said that the drop

in test scores can be misleading because some students enrolled later in the school year and only took the IRI test in the winter.

"There's more to education than a test score," said Judy Studebaker, principal of the charter school.

Board chairwoman Deby Infanger said the goal of its curriculum is to not only read well, but also provide a core knowledge base with a context that teaches students about their world. That's part of the academy's goal to help create "patriotic and educated leaders," Infanger said.

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

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After a week, liquor bill gets direction from Legislature

BOISE — Reporters at the Statehouse have given in to their annual forage to mark the end of the session — wearing ugly ties. The idea is that lawmakers will be so disgusted and horrified they'll want to go home.

Too soon, lawmakers warn. "You better wait a few weeks," Sen. John McGee, R-Caldwell, joked Thursday afternoon as a reporter was showing off a repulsive four-inch wide tie from the 1970s.

While the state budget was set more than a week ago — and sessions usually finish two weeks afterward — there's plenty of unresolved issues. The joint budgeting committee will consider Wednesday remaining budget matters.

That includes the \$45 million in discretionary stimulus money from Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, and state employee personnel cost cuts. Last week, Otter issued a proposed compromise a day after blasting state budget writers for issuing a pay cut to state employees.

With hints of a May adjournment persisting, taxpayers will continue to dole out about \$30,000 a day to fund legislative operations.

In a related note, legislative matters will get off to a slow start this week. The Senate isn't meeting Monday due to a funeral of a member's wife. The House is not scheduled to hold many committee meetings.

After a week of sitting on the desk of House Speaker Lawrence Denney — "held hostage" is the insider's term — a proposal to revamp Idaho's liquor laws has been assigned to the House Judiciary committee.

The bill is from Otter, who wants to modernize the Prohibition-era laws by eliminating the decades-old quota system to spur economic development.

A flurry of opposition e-mails have been circulating to lawmakers. Some license holders say it will hurt businesses. Idaho's PTA alleges the bill will lead to more alcohol abuse.

Ken Burgess, a lobbyist for the Idaho Licensed Beverage Association, a group whose majority supports the bill, said it is designed to reduce underage drinking and requires servers to receive training — both positives.

"I'm absolutely confused as to why they're against this bill," he said of the PTA.

The bill is expected to receive a hearing this week.

Paul Kjellander, the state's energy czar, met with the House energy committee last week to break down Idaho's plans to use its \$28 million in stimulus money for the next two years, including the JFAC-approved \$15 million for the next fiscal year. Overall, Idaho's portion of the stimulus totals more than \$1.2 billion.

"The problem isn't spending that money within that time frame," he said. "The problem is spending within that time frame wisely."

In the first round of spending, Kjellander wants to use \$16 million to \$19 million for audits in schools, such as to "tune up" HVAC systems, which would cost around \$5 million.

"We think that could be one way to get the best bang for the buck," said Kjellander. He said the money should go toward energy efficiency, including schools and government buildings.

With so much attention this year on the budget and declining revenues, lawmakers haven't introduced much legislation — possibly the least in the history of Idaho.

Just 450 pieces of legislation have been introduced — meaning a committee



LEGISLATIVE NOTEBOOK
Jared S. Hopkins

agrees for the bill to be printed, although holding a hearing is up to the chairman. That's on track to be the fewest number of bills since 1987, when records

were first kept. The current lowest, 581, came in 2007. The most, in 1994, was 860 bills.

Meanwhile, just 758 bills have been prepared, which means a committee might not have agreed for the bills' printing. In 2007, the session ended with 846 bills prepared. That's quite a difference than from, say, 1988, when 1,200 pieces of legislation were prepared.

• The House voted 32-32

on Friday to reject a bill from Rep. Phil Hart, R-Athol, to ask the state controller's office to research how Idaho could list online all the state's spending in a searchable database.

The bill was aimed at increased transparency, and he said other states found millions in savings. Opposition, however, came because the bill didn't list the potential financial impact.

"If you vote for this, you

better figure out where the money is going to come from," said Rep. Fred Wood, R-Burley, who sits on the state's budget panel.

Hart said would be small because the controller's office was only being asked to research, not to actually make the list.

Quote of the week: "I would encourage people to try to pay attention to what you're doing on the votes," House Majority Leader

Mike Moyle, R-Star, to legislators on the floor.

Earlier, Rep. JoAn Wood, R-Rigby, requested to change her 'no' vote to 'yes' on the Idaho Department of Water Resources budget because she was on the telephone and made a mistake. House Caucus Chairman Ken Roberts, R-Donnelly, objected to Wood's request. After Moyle's comment, Wood was allowed to reverse her vote.



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Don't Ask Me

Steve Crump



The guy pushing the shopping cart is our problem

If you live in Twin Falls, one out of every 100 of your neighbors will sleep on the street tonight.

That's more than 500 people — a lot for a city of 41,000, even in recession.

Times-News reporter Melissa Davlin profiled one of them last Sunday. Forty-eight-year-old James Lee, homeless for eight years, suffers from Parkinson's disease and neuropathy — a neurological condition that causes numbness in the fingers and toes. Compounding Lee's woes, he got frostbite last winter in the derelict school bus in which he sleeps, making it even harder for him to get around.

So he walks with a cane or holds himself up by pushing a shopping cart.

Lee is on the street for many reasons, but one of them is that Twin Falls has no shelter for single men. Families can find a haven at Valley House and the homeless can get meals at the Salvation Army, Safe Harbor, St. Edward's Catholic Parish and Mustard Seed Food Pantry, and emergency medical care at Mustard Seed's free clinic.

Single men bed down in the Rock Creek and Snake River canyons, in doorways and under bridges. That's not right. Here are three concrete steps the Twin Falls community could take to reduce homelessness:

- Make cutting Twin Falls' homeless population by one-third part of Mayor Lance Clow's Initiative 2010, an effort to revitalize downtown by the end of next year. That's appropriate since the homeless are concentrated in the city's Townsite area.

- Recruit a volunteer to coordinate efforts to aid the homeless in Twin Falls. This person would seek out the homeless and hook them up with available services. The only cost to the taxpayers would be the coordinator's work expenses. At the very least, that might get families off the streets and provide help for the disabled.

- Convene a summit of Twin Falls clergy — Mormon, Catholic, evangelical, mainline Protestant, Pentecostal and Unitarian — and ask them to make it their business to organize a shelter for homeless men in Twin Falls that would operate during winter. It would be staffed by volunteers and, ideally, supervised by a retired cop or addictions counselor able and willing to enforce strict rules about substance abuse and job-seeking. Food, clothing and operating expenses would come from the private sector and from the churches.

None of that will happen unless someone takes the initiative on this issue.

If the Twin Falls community isn't embarrassed by the number of folks sleeping rough, it ought to be. We're better than that.

Violence

Continued from Main 1

its rate of inmate-on-inmate assaults.

Between September 2007 and August 2008, the prison averaged just over 9 inmate-on-inmate assaults per month. Between September 2008 and March 2009, the prison averaged just under 9 inmate-on-inmate assaults per month.

The reported violence, gang-related extortion and other problems at the prison have prompted several federal lawsuits. Meanwhile, construction crews are putting the final touches on a new unit as Idaho prepares to send 628 more inmates to the private prison.

State officials noted an increasing level of violence at the Idaho Correctional Center starting in January 2008, the documents revealed. In August, former Virtual Prison Program Warden Randy Blades sent a letter to ICC Warden Phillip Valdez outlining what he felt were problems at the prison.

"My concern relates to inmate safety at ICC resulting from the increased violence in recent months," Blades wrote.

Prison officials weren't fully investigating cases of inmate-on-inmate violence and weren't reporting major inmate crimes to the Ada County Sheriff's office for investigation and prosecution, as they should have been, Blades said. ICC officials also failed to make sure inmates were held accountable for their crimes, at a level appropriate to the offense.

Steven Conry, CCA's vice president of facility operations, maintains ICC is a safe and well-run prison.

"We're not seeing a lot of violent crime at the facility

and it's a very safe facility," Conry told The Associated Press on Thursday. "We have done a lot at ICC to prevent the number of assaults from increasing and make sure that number is low. We have a zero tolerance for assaults and crime of any type."

The company has added more guards to the cell blocks with the most incidents, Conry said, and added security cameras to the system. By the end of June, more cameras will be installed, Conry said, noting that CCA has "spent some very significant capital money to make that happen."

The individual reports made after each assault and lawsuits filed by several inmates suggest that gang activity and a culture of extortion is to blame.

"I'm not acknowledging that that was happening at ICC at all," Conry said.

According to the IDOC investigation reports and the court filings, however, the gangs at ICC appeared to hold a high level of control over activity on their cell blocks, ordering weaker inmates, often sex offenders, to pay rent in the form of money, items from the commissary or sexual acts. Those who didn't comply faced brutal beatings, according to the documents. In most instances, Idaho Department of Corrections Investigation and Intelligence Coordinator Tim Higgins found, the gang members weren't carrying out the beatings and threats themselves, but rather ordering other inmates to do the

extortion and turn over the proceeds. Those inmates who didn't agree with the plan faced beatings themselves.

"It is fair to estimate that

for every one incident we know of, there may be two that we do not. This is especially true where the victim was not seriously injured and was able to conceal any injury," wrote Higgins in a memo to Blades in August. "Additionally, what was reported as mutual combat may actually have been attempted extortion in one form or another."

If inmates told staff who assaulted them, they were subject to punishment from the other inmates, Higgins wrote. Some inmates were beaten several times until they agreed to the extortion scheme, according to the documents.

"A number of operational changes will be necessary to get staff to pay more attention to what is going on in

the unit and to make it more difficult for inmates to commit acts of violence without being immediate (sic) detected," Higgins concluded.

ICC employees have since participated in a joint training session with the Ada County Sheriff's office and Idaho Department of Correction staffers to make sure that everyone knew what kinds of crimes needed to be reported to the sheriff's office, Conry said.

"We don't believe that there's a disconnect between any of the three agencies on this issue at this point," he said.

Still, he said, the department may be miscategorizing some incidents as assaults when really they were little more than a scuf-

file, Conry said.

But Conry said he couldn't release ICC's own tally of actual assaults — as opposed to other physical altercations — because of pending litigation.

The state notified CCA in December that it had again won the contract to run ICC. Conry said that shows that CCA has done a good job for the state so far.

Idaho Department of Correction Director Brent Reinke said the department remains concerned about the problems at ICC.

"There's no question about that. We're concerned about any of our facilities and that being a contract facility, it's something that we're monitoring on a daily, weekly and monthly basis," Reinke said.

Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce Presents

Women's Seminar & Expo 2009

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Best Western Burley Inn Convention Center

10:15am-11:00am	Don Aslett Presents "Dejunking Your Life"
11:10am-11:30am	Fashion Show Featuring Business Attire
11:40am-12:30pm	Carla Bowcut Presents a Food Demonstration
12:45pm-1:30pm	Don Aslett Presents "Dejunking Your Life"
1:35pm-1:55pm	Fashion Show Featuring Casual Attire
2:00pm-2:30pm	Don Aslett Presents "Dejunking Your Life"

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AROUND THE VALLEY

Gooding High School principal candidates' forum held Tuesday

There will be a public forum on Tuesday for people to meet two top candidates for principal of Gooding High School.

The forum will take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday at Gooding Middle School, 1047 Seventh Ave. W. The candidates will answer questions followed by refreshments.

Lane closure on Perrine Bridge begins Tuesday

Southbound traffic on the Perrine Bridge north of Twin Falls will be reduced to one lane beginning Tuesday, the Idaho Department of Transportation announced.

Utility conduit installation on the underside of the bridge will close the right lane as crews use a bucket truck to connect brackets and hang utility and fiber-optic conduit. Lane restrictions, a 40 mph speed limit and a 14-foot vehicle width limit will be in effect from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. during weekdays as construction is completed.

The sidewalk on the west side of the bridge will also be closed during working hours. Cannon Builders Inc. of Blackfoot is the contractor for the \$208,000 project, which will replace broken, missing and sheared bolts identified during the last bridge inspection. It will also replace components of the bridge expansion joints on the underside of the road deck later this spring.

Risch announces new office location

Idaho Senator Jim Risch has moved into his new Washington D.C. office, room 483 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

"I am excited to be in my first official senate office," Risch said in a Friday release. "The added space will allow me and my staff to better serve Idahoans who both stop by my office and call or write from the state."

Risch's contact information will remain the same and can be found at his Web site, <http://risch.senate.gov>.

— Staff reports

CSI veterinary tech students hold annual dog-wash fundraiser

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

It's just common sense: Give a large dog a bath, and he'll want to share the water with everyone in the room.

That's something the students in the College of Southern Idaho's veterinary technician program have come to accept. Their lives were filled with fur and suds for about five hours Saturday as they washed people's prized puppies as a fundraiser.

"We definitely get baths as well," said student Mackenzie Mays.

A steady stream of dog owners filtered through A Pet's Place, 260 Second Ave. S. in Twin Falls, for the annual event. A simple wash wasn't much: \$10 for small and average dogs, \$15 for large ones. An extra \$5 bought their hounds a nail trim and ear cleaning.

The money the fundraiser produces is nice. But the real value of the event is the chance the students have to interact with the public — practicing "soft skills" such as how to handle clients, said Dr. Jody Rockett, a CSI veterinary teacher. Plus, she said, the dog wash is a chance to give back to area residents.

"This community supports this college, so it's nice for the college to do something for the community," Rockett said.



JUSTIN JACKSON/Times-News

Danielle Ridgway, left, and Katie Robbins of the College of Southern Idaho's veterinary technician program wash 'Kaia' during the annual fundraising dog wash Saturday at A Pet's Place in Twin Falls.

The day's work certainly gave students a chance to practice their weightlifting. Pairs of students lifted dogs into and out of tubs and held them still for their cleanings.

"It's your turn!" Mays exclaimed to one large dog as it was lifted into a tub.

Beth Erne, president of the

student vet-tech club, said the event usually brings in \$500 to \$800 and is one of the biggest fundraisers of the year. Over time, the students have attracted a fair share of repeat customers, she said, who seem pleased with their work and like to contribute to the college.

The hands-on experience is

indispensable for students in their first year of the two-year program, she said while trimming one excited dog's nails.

"It's a little scary sometimes to learn what to do," she said.

Nate Poppino may be reached at 208-735-3237 or npoppino@magicvalley.com.

5TH DISTRICT COURT NEWS

CASSIA COUNTY FELONY SENTENCINGS

Rodney D. Fairchild, sexual battery of minor child 16-17, guilty, \$297.50 costs, 3 years prison determinate, 5 indeterminate, 1 day credited, retained jurisdiction, penitentiary suspended; rape, guilty, \$297.50 costs, 3 years prison determinate, 5 indeterminate, 1 day credited, retained jurisdiction, penitentiary suspended.

Justin Lee Birdsong, 31, lewd conduct with child under 16, guilty, \$800.50 costs, 5 years prison determinate, 10 indeterminate, 408 days credited.

MISDEMEANOR SENTENCINGS

Joel Zarate, 25, fail to purchase/invalid driver's

license, guilty, \$68.50 fine, \$75.50 costs; fail to appear for misdemeanor citation, dismissed on motion of prosecutor.

Ronald D. Worthington, 62, willfully disturbing neighborhood, guilty, \$100 fine, \$75.50 costs, 12 months probation, 30 days suspended.

Dustin D. Tipton, 27, injury to child (felony), dismissed on motion of prosecutor; reckless driving, guilty, \$200 fine, \$75.50 costs, 12 months probation, 180 days jail, 19 suspended, 161 credited; resisting or obstructing officers, guilty, \$200 fine, \$75.50 costs, 12 months probation, 180 days jail, 19 suspended, 161 credited; enhancement for persistent violator, dismissed on motion of prosecutor.

Fernando Alvarez Sosa, 21, use or possess drug paraphernalia with intent to use, guilty, \$190

fine, \$120.50 costs, 24 months probation, 90 days jail, 88 suspended, 2 credited.

Quaid Brody Lindsay, 19, driving without privileges, guilty, \$200 fine, \$90.50 costs, driver's license suspended 180 days, 12 months probation, 60 days jail, 58 suspended, 2 credited.

Micaela Reyes, 15, possess/consume/purchase alcoholic beverage by a minor, guilty, \$215 fine, \$110.50 costs, 12 months probation.

Shayla K. Jones, 16, fail to notify upon striking unattended vehicle, guilty, \$100 fine, \$110.50 costs, 12 months probation, 30 days jail suspended.

Logan L. Hansen, 19, reckless driving amended to inattentive/careless driving, guilty, \$100 fine, \$75.50 costs, 6 months probation, 30 days jail, 28 suspended, 2 credited; driving

without privileges amended to driver's license/commercial driver's license violation, guilty, \$100 fine, \$75.50 costs, 6 months probation, 30 days jail, 28 suspended, 2 credited, jail sentences and fines concurrent.

Shanna Lee Rector, 38, trespass, guilty, \$200 fine, \$200 suspended, 12 months probation, 90 days jail, 85 suspended, 5 credited.

LaFord Earl Weeks Jr., 34, domestic violence traumatic injury (felony) amended to battery (misdemeanor), guilty, \$200 fine, \$125.50 costs, 12 months probation, 90 days jail, 88 suspended, 2 credited.

Daniel Naranjo, 29, violation of no-contact order, guilty, \$100 fine, \$112.50 costs, 12 months probation, 90 days jail, 88 suspended, 2 credited.



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Your Business, Business 2 / Obituaries, Business 6 / Weather, Business 8

See
Business 8

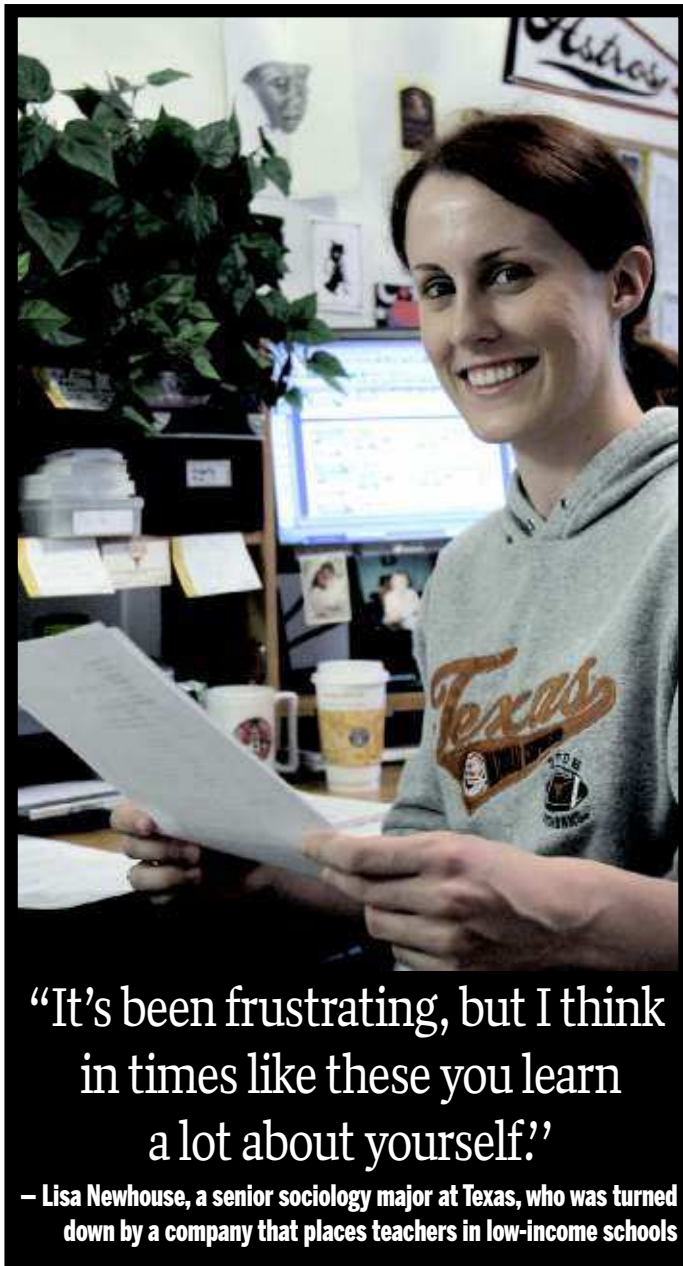
SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2009

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



"I'm happy to have a job, counting my blessings."

David Maley, who will start a management training program at an industrial supply company. Maley interned with the now defunct Lehman Brothers last summer



"It's been frustrating, but I think in times like these you learn a lot about yourself."

Lisa Newhouse, a senior sociology major at Texas, who was turned down by a company that places teachers in low-income schools

The open mic pitch night

Entrepreneurs meet at bars to sell their ideas

By Raja Abdulrahim
Los Angeles Times

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — It's a Monday night at a loud bar, and in one corner stands a microphone.

"All right, let's get the energy up in here, you guys, come on," Brian Bentow said as he strolled up in front of the crowd.

The 25-year-old at the microphone in South bar in this seaside Southern California city wasn't there to tell jokes. He wanted feedback.

"Raise your hand if you've had any pain from ever using a computer or you know somebody that has," he said as he began a pitch for his documentary, "Your Computer Is Killing You?" "I see almost everybody's hand raised in here; that's the problem I'm trying to solve."

Bentow was attending — for the fifth time — a gathering of Bloblive, an entrepreneurial networking event that organizers bill as a marriage between the open mic night of the bar and club scene and the quick elevator pitch of the business world. It also has a support group feel to it: "Hello, my name is Sam, and I have a business idea."

At each Bloblive, current and would-be entrepreneurs are encouraged to present their business ideas to like-minded strangers to elicit suggestions and questions that might help them focus their concepts or find partners.

Bentow was looking for people for his documentary: sufferers and experts on sore wrists, gaming addiction, bad posture and other effects of a techie lifestyle.

Bloblive — "blob" being the unrefined business idea — began in the fall and has taken off with multiple events each month in the Los Angeles area and Philadelphia. Organizers, all of whom work for or consult with credit card issuer Advanta Corp., are looking to expand.

Bloblive organizers say it's an opportune time for business networking as those laid off or dreading pink slips are forced to rethink careers or find new sources of income.

"It's tremendously good timing," said Erick Brownstein, a Los Angeles consultant for Bloblive. "People need to be thinking how they can do something new?"

Starting a business during a downturn when money is tight might seem counter-intuitive, said Thomas O'Malia, director of the University of Southern California's Lloyd Greif Center for Entrepreneurial Studies. But successful businesses are founded on "sweat equity" and building a good model, rather than an immediate influx of money, he said.

"In a bad economy, people are forced to do things that they have not done, and a great deal of lifestyle companies emerge in a recession," O'Malia said. "Entrepreneurs

See **BLOB**, Business 5



LAWRENCE K. HO/Los Angeles Times

Robert Richman makes his pitch at South in Santa Monica, Calif. Bloblive organizers recently retooled and now charge \$10 for each event attended after the first one, which remains free, or \$20 a month for membership.

Into the unknown

College grads face worst job market in years

By Justin Pope
Associated Press writer

David Maley left his internship at Lehman Brothers last summer figuring he would be back on Wall Street in a glamorous investment banking job once he graduated from Colgate University in May.

Now Lehman is history, and Maley is moving instead to a Cleveland suburb to start a management training program at an industrial supply company.

Considering the job market, he's just fine with that.

"I'm happy to have a job, counting my blessings," said Maley, a mathematical economics major from Woodbridge, Conn. He thinks he will learn a lot. New York would have been fun — but expensive. And in hindsight, he did not find banking work all that interesting.

For many college students in

the class of 2009, the post-graduation job hunt has turned into a quest for a rewarding Plan B — or in many cases Plan C or D.

After a string of golden recruiting years, employers plan to hire 22 percent fewer graduates this spring, according to a survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

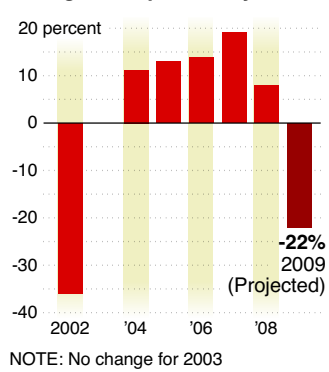
But even that figure underestimates the drop, says Sheila Curran, an independent adviser and former head of career services at Duke. She believes the figures are even worse for the "just-in-time" positions offered in April and May that account for 80 percent of jobs for new grads.

Still, many career counselors see a silver lining. Students, they say, got in the habit of noticing only recruiters who visited campus. That was especially true of high-paying investment banks and consult-

Hiring fewer grads

Employers expect to hire 22 percent fewer college graduates this spring, according to a survey.

Change from previous year



NOTE: No change for 2003
SOURCE: National Association of Colleges and Employers AP

ing firms that made the job search easy and practically loaded top students onto trucks bound for New York and other big cities.

Now students are being forced to cast a wider net. Considering they will change jobs three times on average within five years of graduation, they may someday be grateful they developed good job-search skills now.

"In a sense it's like, 'Welcome to the real world, and it's not a bad thing,'" said Elizabeth Alexander, who works in career services at the University of Texas. "If you come out of college thinking, 'I'm entitled to a great job,' the first time you get laid off, it's going to come as a great shock. Life is full of peaks and troughs."

Jared Davis, an Emory University senior from Hammond, La., had a bad feeling last month when his cell phone rang with the number of the recruiter from Macquarie Group, the Australian investment bank where he had been

See **GRADS**, Business 5

ADVICE FOR COLLEGE SENIORS ON SURVIVING THE JOB MARKET

By The Associated Press

Advice for college seniors on making the best of a bad job market, based on interviews with experts:

- Consider offering to work as an intern rather than a full-time hire. Some companies are reluctant to make long-term commitments; this would get your foot in the door until the economy improves.

- Network, network, network. In a down economy, it's more important than ever. Tap into alumni. Try to set up meetings to learn more about a company even if it is not hiring.

- If you have to settle for a Plan B, make it a productive one. Look for something that will give you skills that make you a stronger applicant for your first choice a year from now, or that will keep you in

networks that will help you get where you want to be.

- Going to graduate school just to ride out the recession may be a bad idea. It's expensive, and you may not know yet what you want out of it.

- Show enthusiasm. A couple years ago, employers might have settled for applicants who came across as bored or entitled. Not this year.

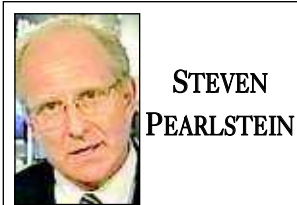
Substance triumphs at the G20 summit in London

International economic summits deserve to be regarded with skepticism: The most important decision to come out of them is usually the call for yet another meeting.

But this week's G20 meeting in London was an exception. While President Obama may have overstated things a bit when he declared it a "turning point" for the now-shrinking global economy, the meeting did manage to

boost the confidence of financial markets, inject another trillion dollars into the financial system and provide needed political cover for world leaders to take unpopular actions back home.

Ever since this round of G20 consultations was launched last year by an insistent President Nicolas Sarkozy, there's been a distinctly French accent to the process. Implicit in the agenda has been a critique



STEVEN PEARLSTEIN

of the Anglo-American economic model that, in the European imagination, was the root cause of the current economic crisis. Sarkozy's aim was nothing less than a rewrite of the rules for global capitalism to conform to

the more civilized norms of the continental European model.

At the same time, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown was keen on creating a new global financial architecture to replace the creaky Bretton Woods financial institutions that failed to prevent a series of international financial crises and now seem oddly out of sync with the global economy.

To the American ear, much of this sounded over-

done and overly ambitious.

While the financial crisis revealed an urgent need to better coordinate regulation of global institutions and capital flows, nobody seriously thought that any country — not the United States, and certainly not France — would cede its sovereign powers to an international bureaucracy.

After all, the most recent attempt at international regulatory coordination — the Basel II standards on

bank capital — wound up leaving European banks woefully undercapitalized when the current crisis hit, requiring bank bailouts that in many cases were much larger, in relation to the size of the countries' economies, than in the United States. U.S. banks, by comparison, had relatively more capital, thanks to those worrywarts at the FDIC, who had fought the looser Basel II standards

See **PEARLSTEIN**, Business 5

YOUR BUSINESS

MILESTONES

ABSOLUTE HEALTH CARE



Courtesy photo

The Mini-Cassia Chamber Ambassadors hosted a ribbon cutting to commemorate the grand opening of Absolute Health Care. It is the sister company of Mobile Drug Screen and managed by Jody Prewitt. Pictured cutting the ribbon are Debby McKnight and Jody Prewitt. Business hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday with 24-hour, on-call service, seven days per week. Information: 431-5290.

BUTTE IRRIGATION



Courtesy photo

Tracy Bedke, left, of Butte Irrigation parts sales, accepts an award for top parts sales from Charlie Meis, Lindsay vice president of engineering. Butte Irrigation, of Paul, has been named as Lindsay Corporation's Top Parts Sales Dealership, at a dealer convention in Puerto Rico. Butte Irrigation, owned by Brice Beck and Dale Adams, has been a Lindsay dealer since 1986. The company supplies Zimmatic center pivots and award-winning GrowSmart water management technology as well as leading the nation in Lindsay parts sales. 'We are gratified to have earned this honor, but we're more gratified that we can help our area farmers save time and money with Lindsay parts and service,' said Beck. 'Butte Irrigation is a great company and we're proud to have them representing Lindsay,' said Barry Ruffalo, Lindsay North America Irrigation president.



Courtesy photo

Honored at a Lindsay's dealer convention were, from left, Randy Wood, Lindsay Sales; Bret Andersen, Lindsay regional manager; Barry Ruffalo, Lindsay President North America Irrigation; Brice Beck and Dale Adams, co-owners of Butte Irrigation; Tad Barrie, Lee Leslie and Tracy Bedke, all of Butte Irrigation; Bob Snoozy, Lindsay senior vice president of sales and marketing. Butte Irrigation Inc., of Paul, has been named as one of Lindsay's Top 5 dealerships, with high marks for sales and service of the company's irrigation equipment. They were honored at Lindsay's dealer convention last month in Puerto Rico. 'We are pleased to receive this honor and happy to provide Lindsay's dependable product line-up to our customers,' said Dale Adams, co-owner of Butte Irrigation Inc.

CAREER MOVES

Ed Smith

Internet/Tech Force Technician, **Ed Smith**, has been named Project Mutual Telephone Employee of the Year for 2009. He has worked for PMT since 1996, starting as Internet technical support in their Rupert and Burley offices. He has taken on the role of CSR, handling tasks such as setting up customer accounts and resolving billing questions. He is also the technical trainer for the free internet classes.



Smith

Smith has recently taken on the role of lead technician for the Tech Force computer repair service which includes going on site to assist customers with computer problems as well as monitoring the Tech Force billing and inventory.

He graduated from Kimberly High School and attended the University of Idaho and lives in Burley with his wife, Dena. He enjoys playing his guitar, shooting, and has been president of the Rupert Cowboy Action Shooting Club representing the Single Action Shooting Society since 2004. He competes in the Cowboy Fast Draw.

Cooper Norman employees



Jones



Seals



Gentry



Wells

Cooper Norman in Twin Falls announced four new additions to its accounting firm.

Peter L. Jones, CPA, joined Cooper Norman in 2008 as an accountant. He previously worked for a Boise firm and developed skills in tax, audit and attest engagements. Jones and his wife, Ellen, are proud Vandal alumnus and are excited to be living in the Magic Valley.

Another new associate to the firm is **Brandon Seals**. Seals graduated from Idaho State University with a degree in accounting and finance. He previously owned a lawn care business and is excited to work with Cooper Norman's entrepreneurial clients.

Randy Gentry is another new addition to Cooper

Norman. He is currently working towards his bachelor's degree at Boise State University in accounting. Gentry previously ran a prominent Magic Valley flooring store with his family before shifting gears to the accounting profession. He and his wife were born and raised in the Magic Valley.

Ryan Wells is their fourth new accountant. He graduated from Idaho State University with a degree in accounting and previously worked in the banking industry.

Norm Szerlip

Norm Szerlip has been named the new general manager for AmeriPride Uniform and Linen Services located at 403 Main Ave. W. in Twin Falls. Previously, he was general manager at the Amarillo, Texas, plant for AmeriPride and has been with the company for the past seven years. He enjoys golfing, base jumping, motorcycles, skiing, snowmobiles, and biking.



Szerlip

Szerlip replaces Shawn Mynear, who managed the Twin Falls facility for the past six years. Mynear was promoted to general manager in Fresno, Calif. AmeriPride Twin Falls services 2,500 customers throughout southern Idaho and northern Nevada with service centers in Boise, Pocatello, Sun Valley, and Elko, Nev. The Twin Falls plant has 100 employees.

Andrea Scott

TruckMaster Logistics, Inc. of Jerome has hired **Andrea Scott** as manager of communications. She earned her master's degree from Boise State University in English and previously worked for the Idaho Transportation Department, Blue Cross of Idaho and Boise State University.

Scott will help TruckMaster Logistics as they move into the international arena selling high-quality software solutions for the trucking, brokerage, and logistics industries.

Primary Therapy Source therapists

Primary Therapy Source therapists complete professional development.

Ivan M Hardcastle, OTR/L has been named occupational therapy director at Primary Therapy Source. He joined the clinic in 2007 following graduation from Idaho State



Hardcastle



Yingst



Prine



Wight



Dux-Price

University. His added duties include managing occupational therapy services and directing the occupational therapy staff. Hardcastle recently received certification in Sensory Integration Therapy after completing all four courses of the University of Southern California/Western Psychological Services Comprehensive Program in Sensory Integration.

Physical therapists **Jan Yingst**, MPT, PCS, **Teresa Prine**, MSPT, PCS and **Jamie Wight**, PTA attended the educational conference, If You Can't Breathe You Can't Function: Integrating Cardiopulmonary and Postural Control Strategies in the Pediatric and Adult Population, held in March in Boise. The course focused on the role of respiratory function for posture and postural control. They learned ventilatory strategies and therapeutic techniques involving the neuromuscular, musculoskeletal and sensory systems.

Prime and **Jackie Dux-Price**, DPT traveled to Las Vegas, Nev., in February for the American Physical Therapy Association Combined Sections Meeting. Dux-Price completed the course, Injury Prevention for the Overhead Athlete. Prine attended the seminar, Physical Therapy Management of the Patient with Breast Cancer. They also participated in workshops for autism, sports injuries and obesity management.

Prime and **Jackie Dux-Price**, DPT traveled to Las Vegas, Nev., in February for the American Physical Therapy Association Combined Sections Meeting. Dux-Price completed the course, Injury Prevention for the Overhead Athlete. Prine attended the seminar, Physical Therapy Management of the Patient with Breast Cancer. They also participated in workshops for autism, sports injuries and obesity management.

Primary Therapy Source

Primary Therapy Source, provider of physical, occupational and speech therapy, in Twin Falls announced three new staff members.

Jamie Benjamin, physical therapist assistant, completed the Associate of Science program at Idaho State University in 2005. Her clinical background includes outpatient, inpatient and long term care, geriatrics and home health. She has attended professional development workshops in manual therapy for the PTA, Therapeutic Approaches to



Benjamin

Dementia, Spasticity Management: Focus on Rehab and the Acute Rehab Specialty Course. Benjamin is a member of Idaho Physical Therapy Association and American Physical Therapy Association. She resides in Kimberly with her husband, Jason, and their three children.

Joining the office management team are **Goldie Morrow** and **Rondi Johnson**. The two share front-desk duties and coordinate the clinic's weekly developmental play group for preschoolers.

Morrow is also responsible for managing patient records and scheduling occupational therapy appointments. She has worked in the medical field for eight years, including experience as a pharmacy technician. Morrow moved to Twin Falls from Tampa, Fla., in 2005. She and husband, Jason, have two daughters.

Johnson brings a 20-year background in medical offices to Primary Therapy Source. Her primary duties include dictation, speech therapy appointment scheduling and managing school contracts. She and husband Paul are longtime Twin Falls residents. The couple has one adult daughter. Johnsons' hobby is training and showing horses.

Natalie Searle

DaVita Inc., one of the nation's leading providers of kidney care services, has announced that **Natalie Searle**, CHHT, has been recognized as the Shining Star Caregiver for Burley Dialysis, a DaVita center in Burley. The honor was presented to Searle during a celebration at the clinic.

DaVita's Shining Star Caregiver program seeks to engage patients in their care by giving them the opportunity to recognize outstanding caregivers at their clinics, as well as a forum for them to share how their caregivers have positively impacted their lives.

The honor is given to a caregiver in each clinic annually. DaVita-affiliated physicians are also recognized through a component of the same program titled, "Thanks, Doc!," which allows patients to write to their doctors to express their gratitude.

The Shining Star Caregiver program was founded in 2003, and promotes DaVita's Core Value of Service Excellence. Winners receive personalized scrubs.

We want your news

We welcome announcements about new businesses as well as employee changes or advancements. To submit contributions to YourBusiness, send announcements and photographs to Times-News business Editor Joshua Palmer at jpalmer@magicvalley.com. The deadline to submit an announcement for the following Sunday is Wednesday at noon. Announcements must be 150 words or less. The Times-News reserves the right to edit content.

Notice to Stockholders

Weeds along canals, laterals and coulees will be burned prior to the start of water delivery.

(Please remove gated pipe, siphon tubes, or other property on canal rights-of-way.)

Water Delivery

Flushing the canal system will begin the week of April 15, and deliveries will begin the week of April 20, 2009.

(Please have all ditches ready before calling for your irrigation water.)

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YOUR BUSINESS

FILER MUTUAL

MILESTONES

BLUE MOUNTAIN

Blue Mountain Counseling and Consulting has opened a second location in Twin Falls at 451 Eastland Ave, Suite 1B, Twin Falls, Idaho 83301. The business is owned and operated by Sherry P. Jacobia, a licensed clinical social worker. She has training in critical incident debriefing, intervention, mediation, relationship counseling, domestic violence issues, grief and loss issues, anxiety, depression, eating disorders, trauma, individual, couple and family counseling. Information: 690-9012 or 878-9012.



CONTRIBUTIONS

PROJECT MUTUAL



Project Mutual Telephone (PMT) awarded \$250 to Rick Otto, left, of Twin Falls for his winning photo submissions for the PMT 2009-10 phonebook cover contest. Otto's winning shot of the Twin Sisters Statue will be on the cover of the Twin Falls book. The Mini-Cassia phone book will feature Independence Lake, shot by PMT employee Craig Gates, right. This was the first photo contest that PMT has held for its phone book covers. The contest ran from Jan. 15 to Feb. 28. 'We have so much talent in our communities that we wanted to feature that on our phonebook covers,' says PMT President Charlie Creason. 'It was such a great success, that this will become an annual event. We received over 1,100 photos entries from around the Magic Valley. We thank everybody that participated and made this such a great success.' The phone books featuring the winning photos will be available early this fall.

Courtesy photos



Photograph taken by Mickey Glauner of Memories Photography.

Filer Mutual Telephone Company donated \$1,000 to Kiwanis for Mat Jones' senior project. The donation will go towards purchasing new playground equipment for the Kiwanis Park. Pictured, from left, is Bud Compher, mentor to Jones; Steve Cowger, general manager, Filer Mutual Telephone Company; Jones, senior at Filer High School; and John Pitz, president of Filer Kiwanis.

MORRISON FUNERAL HOME



Courtesy photo

The Mini-Cassia Chamber Ambassadors hosted a ribbon cutting at Morrison Funeral Home and Crematory at 188 South Hwy. 24, Rupert, to commemorate their grand opening. The funeral home is owned by Kerry Morrison. Pictured cutting the ribbon, from left, is Richard Silcock, Kerry Morrison, and Robert Silcock. Business hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and by appointment on the weekends. Information: 436-1800.

FARM BUREAU



Courtesy photo

Cassia County's Women's Farm Bureau has a new award this year, AG Baby of the Year. To receive this award, the winner had to be the first mother at Cassia Regional Medical Center to have a baby on March 20, the first day of spring. The lucky winner was Monica Lara and baby Mia. They received a basket filled full of baby items and supplies.

CHARDONNAY ASSISTED LIVING



Courtesy photo

Chardonay Assisted Living located at 1045 Carriage Way in Twin Falls, next to Thomsen Park, cut the red ribbon recently along with the Twin Falls Area Chamber's Ambassadors as they celebrated in their new facility. Chardonay Assisted Living is a member of the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. They are a 15-bed assisted living facility. Their staff is available 24 hours a day to care for the residents. Chardonay Assisted Living is owned and operated by a local pharmacist. Information: 736-4808. Pictured from left, Diane Maxwell; Randi Maybon; Mark Knight, owner; Vicki Furlong; Roxanna Knight, owner; Lisa Miller; and Diana Remes.

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FURNITURE: Antique Arts & Crafts glass door bookcase Beautiful 4 door mirror back china hutch, Ducan Phyfe buffet, Maple bedroom set, Large pine dresser, Cedar chest, Lighted china hutch, Round oak table & chairs, Ladies birds eye maple writing desk, 20's Ornate oak rocker, Duncan Phyfe lyre back chairs and table, Matching recliners, Queen Ann Parlor chairs, 40's vanity, Western couch & chair, Round oak table with barley twist legs, Waterfall bedroom set, Bow front oak wishbone dresser, Ornate carved 4 panel room divider, Oak princess dresser, Oak treadle sewing machine, Oak trimmed couch, oak child's rocker, Oak mission coffee & end table, Ornate carved trunk, Leather recliner, Marble top parlor table, Jewely cabinet, Elephant glass top coffee table, Child rocker, Bird cage, Wood trimmed couch, Frigidaire Gallery washer & dryer, household items and more. **COLLECTIBLES:** Turner Print, 5 Hummel figurines, Lladro clown, Stag lamp, Oak mantel clock, Sterling Jewelry, Straight razors, Silver dollars, Mercury dimes, Breyer horses, New Collectible books, WWII Books, Old radio, Brass bugle, Mini sad irons, Banks, Fly rods, Cut crystal, Steins, Blue Fenton vases, Military patches, Anniversary clock, Cup & saucer, Cape Cod Vase, Bridal Rose Bohemian china set, Antique safe, Dragonware, Swarovski candle holder, Ruby vase, Lenox dishes, Belleek creamer & sugar, Opalescent hobnail vase, Black power pistol, 22 pistol, Hunting prints, Oil painting, UPRR Signs, Red Coleman lantern, Milk-glass vases, Gray graniteware coffee pot, Chalkware, Old milk bottles, S&P's GE Fan Pottery, Bridge-over lamp and more. **LUMBER:** Bunks of 4x4 Cedar post from CSI, Bunks of 2X8's 2X6's, 4X4 treated post, Beams 6X6X20, 6X8X10, 6X6X12, 4X4X16, Hollow core doors, and more. **VEHICLES:** 1996 GMC 1500 99K runs great, 1986 Toyota Dolphin motor home with 200 miles on new engine, 1972 185 Suzuki motor bike, 6hp Craftsman front drive lawn mower, 18 REMNANTS OF NEW CARPET.

IDAHO AUCTION BARN 208-734-4567

Group will present class on Tuesday

A life/disability law class titled "Doing the Right Thing When Nobody is Looking" will be presented by the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors of Southern Idaho from noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday at Loong Hing Restaurant, 1719 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls. Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m. Lunch is included.

Instructor is Joseph L. Morton III, Attorney with Intermountain Legal Group. Cost is \$35 for three continuing education law credits or \$15 for NAIFA members. Information: Steve Moore at 733-7258, ext. 5600.

Clawson, Lloyd on Project Mutual board

Project Mutual Telephone announced the election of Ron Clawson and Dan Lloyd to their board of directors at the annual meeting held March 24 at the Wilson Theater in Rupert. At the meeting, members also heard reports from company officers about the year's operations and financial results.

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Auction CALENDAR Through April 11th

<p>SUNDAY, APR. 5, 11:00AM Dyke Nelson, Twin Falls Tractors • Haying Eq • Trailers Combine • Farm Machinery Times-News Ad: 4-3 MASTERS AUCTION www.mastersauction.com</p>	<p>TUESDAY, APR. 7, 5:00PM Household • Tools • Antiques Outrageous Oddities • Jerome KLAAS AUCTION BARN 208-324-5521 www.klaasauction.com</p>
<p>SATURDAY, APR. 11, 11:00AM Norby & Turner Estate Farm Auction, Rupert Farm • Trucks Construction • Pickups • Mule Times-News Ad: 4-8 US AUCTION www.us-auctioneers.com</p>	<p>FRIDAY, APR. 10, 11:00AM Frank Rodgers, Buhl Tractors • Feed Truck • Farm Eq Pickups • Sale Ring • Bleachers Times-News Ad: 4-8 MASTERS AUCTION www.mastersauction.com</p>
<p>MONDAY, APR. 6, 5:30PM Antiques & Collectibles, TF Furniture • Appliances • Tools Guns • Consignments Welcome 734-1635 • 731-4567 IDAHO AUCTION BARN www.auctionsidoaho.com</p>	<p>SATURDAY, APR. 11, 11:00AM Jakicic Auction, Rupert RV • Vehicles • Farm Equip Livestock Trailer • Guns • Shop Times-News Ad: 4-8 US AUCTION www.us-auctioneers.com</p>
<p>Through TUES., APR. 7, 1:00PM Car Audio Liquidation, Online Ford Crown Victorias • Amps Speakers • Subwoofers • Radios Times-News Ad: 4-5 MUSICK AUCTION www.musickauction.com</p>	<p>SATURDAY, APR. 11, 11:00AM Don C. Wright Estate, Buhl Tractors • Feeder, Manure Trucks Farm Eq • Irrigation • Misc Times-News Ad: 4-9 MASTERS AUCTION www.mastersauction.com</p>

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Sellers are making \$12,000+ a month with eBay and Craigs List

Despite the fact that economic indicators point towards the United States heading towards a recession, with stock market crashes, home foreclosures, unemployment, gas prices peaking at all time highs and government bailouts. One of the major bright spots in this dismal economy is eBay. The opportunity to work with eBay and other online auction web sites can have positive benefits for anyone. Why settle for minimum wage when it's possible to make over \$100,000 a year from the comfort of your home? Online Auctions are ever growing in popularity, and over 220 million people signed up for eBay, with approximately 1.5 million individuals making a full-time living through online auctioning, people are leaving their everyday jobs.

Michael J. Syme, online

auction expert and author of the book "Simple Steps to Making Money with Online Auctions," is one of many people who have left the mundane aspect of a 9-to-5 desk job and has begun to make his own income at home with the help of his children. Now Syme is making around \$12,000 a month by selling a variety of items that can be found in any home and any yard sale.

"People shouldn't wait until they find themselves laid off or out of a job before they find out they are not financially secure," Syme said. "They should start ensuring their own and their family's financial future immediately."

Jessica H. a single mother of two says "I purchased my first new car this year from the extra money I made selling on the internet".

Not only does eBay allow

people to make money and get rid of some things that may no longer be of use, there are more benefits than cash. If a seller can make \$1,000 a month or more with eBay, they can qualify for most of the same benefits that would be made available in a regular 9-to-5 job, such as health, vision, and pharmacy and dental. Over 200,000 members of eBay qualify for these benefits and more.

Using eBay at home cut back on paying for gas and having to deal with the hassle of rush hour traffic, in addition, consumer demands through the Internet are continually growing, allowing for a higher income rate per seller. Consolidated revenues for eBay in the year 2008 are expected to reach anywhere from \$7.05 billion to \$7.3, a 31% improvement from the year 2007.

It's not surprising, with

recent economic woes people are looking to make their dollar go further, eBay and other online auction sites are the place to buy items for a discount.

According to a speech given by former Senior Vice President of Products Development, Lynn Reddy, On eBay, there is an average of one car sold every two minutes, a car part or accessory sold every three seconds, diamond jewelry every 83 seconds, and a pair of timberland shoes every 10 minutes. These items and more, from concert tickets to clothing needs, are bought and sold daily by average people looking to gain or save on income to better their current cash flow.

"Anybody can do it if they know the right technique," Syme said. "With the right techniques it's easy to make extra income."



Author and eBay expert makes \$12,000 a month from home

Syme said he does not recommend attempting to become a full-time online auctioneer with eBay without learning the basics first.

"It's like driving a car," Syme said. "It's easy to do but if no one shows you how to drive, you could end up in an accident that costs you time and money to fix."

This should not be taken as discouragement to start working with online auctions. It's rather easy to get started

in the process and become acquainted with the techniques. With a little homework, access to an internet-ready computer, and some basic computer knowledge, anyone can be on their way to making money with the fastest growing community in the U.S.

"Why worry where your next paycheck will come from," Syme said, "when selling on eBay it's like getting paid every day."

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"I have recently sold a few items on eBay. Before listing fees and shipping cost I have made \$7202.50 I would consider this to be a good profit."

— Jeremy W., Lakeville, OH

"Just wanted to let you know, I just officially doubled my income with my website... I did everything he told me and it has doubled my sales in two weeks. Knowledge is power, thanks again for your continued support."

— Weston T., Boise, ID



"To date, I've made six out of six sales on eBay. I have four auctions pending, one of which will fetch my highest earning since I began. I'm very excited...My eBay rating still stands at 100%!"

— Edward H., Norwalk, CT

"Just [want to] let you know about our success on eBay. We sold several items that were just lying around the house and we ended up making almost \$200.00... Within a week we sold everything we listed and got lots of positive feedback."

— Isaac and Nicole M., Brownsville, PA



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Grads

Continued from Business 1

offered a job last summer. He was right to worry — the offer was pulled. Now he's back to square one, looking for work at think tanks and nonprofits.

"I really wanted that job," Davis admitted. But, "I just don't think it's worthwhile to focus to the past. ... I can't blame someone for making a sound business decision. I'm just going to move on."

Counselors emphasize that job boards are not totally empty. Fields such as health care are still hiring. Even finance still has some life because smaller regional firms are stepping up recruiting at some top schools, trying to attract talent while their big rivals cut back.

Teresa Olsen, associate director of career services at Colgate, says students there are giving a closer look to options they might have ignored in the past — like a strong training program at M&T Bank in Buffalo.

Also hiring: Uncle Sam. This week, the federal government had more than 46,000 job openings posted on its centralized job board at www.usajobs.gov — including positions for firefighters, budget analysts and historians.

Lisa Newhouse, a senior sociology major at Texas, is considering going to work for the government on the 2010 census. She's also looking for area jobs in marketing, and mulling graduate school in public health and nonprofit work.

Newhouse was turned down by Teach for America, which places new grads in low-income schools, but she was in good company. The program saw a 42 percent increase in applications over 2008. Around 35,000 students — including one in nine Ivy League seniors — are competing for about 4,000 slots.

"It's been frustrating, but I think in times like these you learn a lot about yourself," she said.

Pearlstein

Continued from Business 1

despite their strong support from the banks and their always-accommodating regulators at the Federal Reserve.

The push for broader, tighter cross-border financial regulation, in fact, came largely in response to the light-touch approach of the Bush administration. But whatever trans-Atlantic tension once existed over that issue pretty much melted away last week when Tim Geithner outlined the new administration's regulatory reform proposal, which could just as easily have been written at the French Finance Ministry as at the U.S. Treasury.

In the end, this week's communique, with its promise of a global regulatory crackdown, was an easy win for all concerned. Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel could declare victory over unfettered Anglo-American capitalism, while Obama now has added political ammunition for taking on the banks, hedge funds, rating agencies and private-equity firms that will try to

water down his proposals. While that may constitute a turning point for Anglo-American capitalism, it is hardly the death knell.

Gordon Brown, meanwhile, emerged from the talks to declare an end to "the old Washington consensus," the now-derogatory description for the policy prescription of open borders, floating exchange rates and fiscal prudence long favored by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

What emerged from the G-20, however, amounts more to reform than to revolution. Member countries committed themselves to adding \$850 billion to the resources available to the IMF and regional development banks to mount rescues of countries in financial distress, with instructions that the money be used not only for traditional purposes such as debt rollover, bank recapitalization and balance-of-payments support, but also for more "flexible" goals such as stimulus spending, infrastructure investment, trade finance and social support.

And just as the old G-7 has given way to the enlarged G-20, the governance structure of the fund and the bank will be revised to give the bigger developing countries the authority they now deserve.

It may suit the politics of Europe to portray all this as a blow to Washington's power and prestige, but the reality may be quite different. In fact, the shift is perfectly in keeping with the new emphasis on the developing world that Obama brings to international economic policy. And if any countries are likely to lose out in the restructuring, they are those of "old Europe" that, by dint of history, now wield power far in excess of their importance in the global economy.

Indeed, while European leaders were crowing that they had successfully beat back calls to step up efforts to stimulate their economies, that's not exactly true. The week's big boost in funding for the IMF could well translate into hundreds of billions of dollars in fresh financing for Eastern European coun-

tries that, for political reasons, leaders of Western Europe have been unwilling to offer directly. This week's communique also contains a carefully worded commitment for all countries (read: France and Germany) to increase stimulus spending if the IMF finds that current policies prove insufficient to get their economies growing again.

All in all, a pretty successful opening-night performance for President Obama on the international economic stage.

He achieved most of what he wanted while allowing others to claim victory and allowing the United States to shed its Bush-era reputation for inflexibility and heavy-handedness. And by the standards of past summits, this one was full of accomplishment.

By the way, in case you're wondering — yes, they agreed to meet again in September, this time in New York.

Washington Post columnist Steven Pearlstein writes on business and economy issues

Blob

Continued from Business 1

start up companies for next to nothing all the time?"

For example, the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation this year expects to train double the number of last year's would-be entrepreneurs in its FastTrac business programs nationwide. Even the 20,000 to 25,000 trainees expected this year might be a low estimate, said Bo Fishback, entrepreneurship vice president for the Kansas City, Mo., foundation.

"If there's bad times, it means you're going to take a different approach," O'Malia said.

Part of that different approach could include seeking business advice in a bar.

"Normally anyone would ask friends and family and the idea was, can you extend that network and get feedback from people you

wouldn't normally expect?" Brownstein said.

Bloblive is an offshoot of ideablob.com, a forum to post business ideas and receive feedback. The most popular idea each month gets a \$10,000 prize.

Bloblive and Ideablob are sponsored by Advanta of Spring House, Pa., one of the largest issuers of credit cards to small businesses. Bloblive organizers recently retooled and now charge \$10 for each event attended after the first one, which is free, or \$20 a month for membership.

O'Malia questioned the purpose of advertising an idea just to get feedback.

"It doesn't matter what I think, and it doesn't matter what you think," he said. "It matters what someone who's going to write a check thinks, or else you're just having fun and it's good cocktail conversation."

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- niñas y mujeres de 9 a 18 años de edad pueden calificar para recibir las vacunas de VPH gratis? Hable con su proveedor de salud para aprender los detalles.



¿Quiere saber más? Llame al Servicio de Información Sobre el Cáncer, 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237) para aprender sobre los recursos cerca de usted.



South Central Public Health Salutes Health Heroes

South Central Public Health District prevents disease, promotes healthy lifestyles, and protects the health and quality of the environment. From immunizations to restaurant inspections to tracking infectious diseases, we help keep your family and community healthy. During Public Health Week, we salute local residents who work to enhance the health of our community.

Public Health Week April 6-12th

This Public Health Week, dedicate yourself to a regular exercise program, eating more sensibly, stopping the use of tobacco, updating your immunizations, and always buckling your seatbelt.

The Twin Falls Lions Club takes betterment of community to a whole new level by providing a mobile screening unit (MSU) for health screenings throughout the Magic Valley. The MSU and Lions Club volunteers provide diabetic "Head to Toe" screenings and generously donate the use of the MSU to the Twin Falls School District for sight, hearing, and scoliosis screenings. The Lions Club MSU has been used for 150 free diabetes screenings and approximately 3,000 school screenings. They not only provide the unit, but also the fuel to get it to where it is needed the most. The Twin Falls Lions Club is passionate about bettering the health of the community they love.



Joe Shaw, Norm Skinner, Linda Krushe, Joanne Small, Gloria Harmam (President) and Tom Behm.



John and Sandra Sexton

John and Sandra Sexton never cease in their mission of offering free health care opportunities to the less fortunate, unemployed, or non-insured. Their selfless running of the Mustard Tree Clinic in Twin Falls offers free medical care to people who otherwise would do without. John and Sandra volunteer side by side with local physicians to better the health of this community and the citizens who call this valley home. Their donation of time, knowledge, and passion make them true Health Heroes.

2009 Health Heroes

Nominations were received from the community and SCPHD staff for individuals and businesses that worked to protect, promote, and enhance the health of southern Idaho citizens during the calendar year 2008.



Doris Pearson and Judy Woody

Last year, the Twin Falls County Farm Bureau sponsored a Farm Safety Day Camp for Twin Falls County residents. This highly successful event covered farm equipment safety, emergency response, animal safety, electrical safety, gun and fire safety, water safety, and large truck safety. This popular event furthered the health of area children between the ages of 6 and 14 by teaching them very important safety lessons. Twin Falls County Farm Bureau elevated "prevention" by encouraging safety practices that positively influence the health of our youth. Their dedication and passion is to be admired by all.

This dedicated group of high school students known as the Valley Chapter of FCCLA (Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America) have worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life and health in their communities. Leiloni Keele waged a war against smoking and cancer by doing a presentation to her peers and also by organizing a "Relay for Life" event. Rozlynn Barnes and Connie Chaires worked with local elementary students on the importance of proper nutrition and using the USDA Food Pyramid. Ashley Kraus, Kim Miller, and Jamie Wood presented a puppet show to third graders on anti-bullying and the importance of kindness towards others. This wonderful group of leadership-driven students is changing the world for the better and setting an excellent example for everyone.



Leiloni Keele, Kim Miller, Jamie Wood, Ashley Kraus, Connie Chaires, and Rozlynn Barnes

Mormon church president names new apostle

By Jennifer Dobner
Associated Press writer

SALT LAKE CITY — Mormon church president Thomas S. Monson has named Neil L. Andersen to the church's Quorum of Twelve Apostles.

Andersen, 57, replaces Joseph B. Wirthlin, who died in December at age 91. The quorum is the second-highest governing body of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Its members serve for life and are in line to ascend to become president of the church.

The appointment is Monson's second since he was named the 16th president of church last year. Monson made the announcement during the opening session of the two-day annual spring conference.

Andersen has most recently served the church as the senior member of the Presidency of the Seventy, which oversees administrative affairs for the

church worldwide.

Anderson also supervised church activity in southern Brazil and in western Europe. He has also been the executive director of the church's audiovisual department. A native of Logan, Utah, Andersen was raised on a dairy farm in Pocatello, Idaho. He is a graduate of the church-owned Brigham Young University and holds a master's degree in business from Harvard University. In his professional life outside the church, Andersen worked in advertising, real estate development and the health care industry.

At a news conference, Andersen said he was "humbled by the day and very overwhelmed at what is ahead of me." Andersen said he was asked by Monson to join the quorum on Wednesday, and hasn't slept much since.

"Those of us who are members of the church, throughout our lives we receive callings that are



AP photo
Elder Neil Linden Andersen, left, is greeted by D. Todd Christopherson, center, and Quentin L. Cook, right, as he takes his seat after being named the newest Apostle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Saturday during the 179th annual General Conference in Salt Lake City.

unexpected, we're shocked and we don't quite know how to react to them," Andersen said. "Those have happened to me multiple times ... but I must say, in

this case, it is far more daunting."

As a church administrator Andersen has a unique understanding of how the church is developing around

the world and the challenges that brings. New statistics released Saturday show worldwide church membership has grown to 13.5 million.

**Membership hits
13.5 million**

A statistical report of the growth and status of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as of Dec. 31, 2008, released Saturday at the General Conference:

Church units

Number of stakes: 2,818
Missions: 348
Districts: 622
Wards and branches (congregations): 28,109

Church membership

Total membership: 13,508,509
Increase in children of record during 2008: 123,502
Converts baptized during 2008: 265,593

Missionaries

Number of full-time missionaries: 52,494

Temples

Temples in operation in 2008: 128



AP file photo

A bighorn sheep is seen on the outskirts of Lewiston in November 2008. Nearly all the wild herds in the Hells Canyon region suffer from a pneumonia-like disease that hits lambs particularly hard. Wildlife officials say the wild sheep contract the disease from domestic sheep.

Senate bill targets Idaho's bighorns

BOISE (AP) — Lawmakers on the Senate Natural Resources Committee have voted to advance a bill that would require the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to kill or remove bighorn sheep that enter domestic sheep allotments located on federal, state or private land.

The committee voted 7-2 Friday on the bill that Republican Sen. Jeff Siddoway of Terreton said will protect private property rights and Idaho livestock producers.

Siddoway, a shepherd and elk rancher, wants the state to kill or remove bighorns in grazing areas or certify that the risk of disease transmission from domestic sheep to wild sheep is acceptable.

That would also apply to bighorns relocated into areas with existing sheep or livestock operations, The Spokesman-Review reported.

A series of decisions the last several years have gone against domestic sheep producers in Idaho, including a decision by the U.S. Forest Service last year to restrict sheep grazing in some areas of the Payette National Forest. Three environmental groups had sued, arguing that diseases transmitted by domestic sheep could kill bighorns.

In 2007, a federal judge rejected a motion by a sheep rancher to return domestic sheep to an allotment, citing concerns they might transmit deadly pneumonia to bighorns.

The population of bighorns in Idaho has dropped from about 6,500 in 1990 to about 3,500, state officials say.

Idaho officials last year created a plan they said was intended to set up buffers between domestic sheep and bighorn sheep that would allow bighorn populations to remain viable while keeping domestic sheep operations in busi-

AROUND THE WEST

ALASKA Mount Redoubt rumbles back to life

ANCHORAGE — The Mount Redoubt volcano had another large eruption Saturday after being relatively quiet for nearly a week.

Radar indicated a plume of volcanic ash rose 50,000 feet into the sky, making it one of the largest eruptions since the volcano became active on March 22, said the National Weather Service.

The ash cloud was drifting toward the southeast and there were reports of the fine, gritty ash falling in towns on the Kenai Peninsula.

Plans to transfer millions of gallons of oil from an oil storage facility near Mount Redoubt were derailed when the volcano erupted and a tanker sent to get the oil had to turn back.

Director Lisa Horowitz says the city hasn't been able to find any sponsors to help pay the monthly \$2,500 bill.

The network started in September 2007 with a grant from Allen & Co. that paid for the system through 2008.

N. Idaho shops want ticket 'forgiveness'

COEUR D'ALENE — Shop owners in this northern Idaho city want officials to forgive parking tickets issued to customers who can prove they spent more money than the ticket's fine.

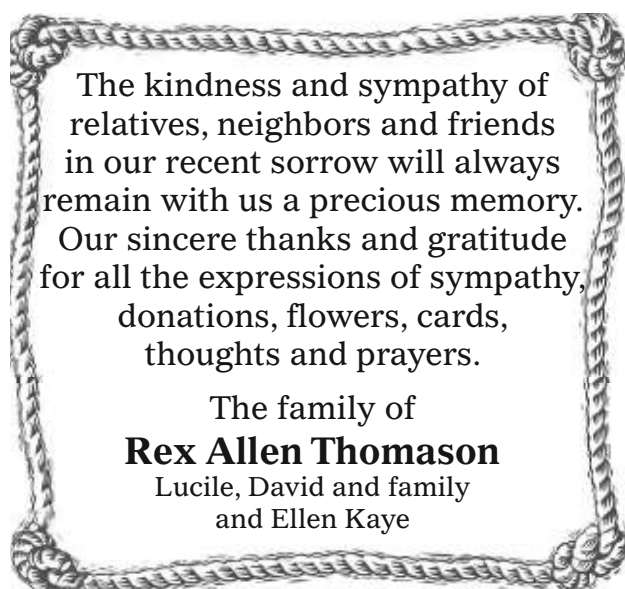
Adam Graves, owner of a downtown marketing firm, said the two-hour parking limit and possible ticket prevents shoppers from lingering. "It sets up a 'get-in-and-

get-out' mentality," Graves told the Coeur d'Alene Press.

He has pitched the idea to the city downtown association to make a policy to for-

give parking tickets. The city parking commission will consider the idea this week.

— The Associated Press



IDAHO Ketchum to end free wireless Internet

KETCHUM — Officials in this central Idaho resort town say a wireless Internet system will be shut down April 21 due to a lack of money.

Ketchum Community and Economic Development

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TWIN FALLS FORECAST

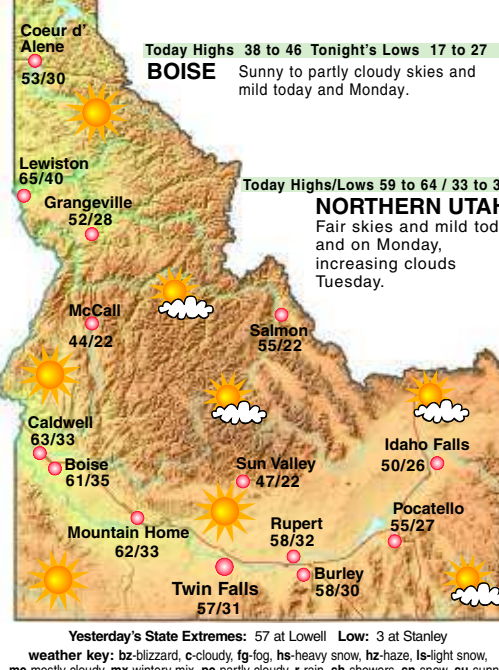
Today: Sunny to partly and fair. Highs in the 50s. Tonight: Fair skies. Lows in the 30s. Tomorrow: Turning a little warmer under partly cloudy skies. Highs in the 60s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Sunny to partly and fair. Highs in the 50s. Tonight: Fair skies. Lows in the 30s. Tomorrow: Warmer with highs in the lower 60s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. High pressure will bring fair and mild weather to the area today and into early Tuesday.



TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 7 columns: Today, Tonight, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. Includes weather icons and high/low temperatures. High 57, Low 31.

Yesterday's Weather

Table with 3 columns: City, Hi, Lo, Precip. Lists weather for Boise, Coeur d'Alene, and other cities.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 5 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, Sunrise and Sunset. Includes historical and current data.

Moon Phases and Moonrise and Moonset information for April 9 to May 1.

U. V. INDEX scale showing Low, Moderate, and High levels.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table of regional forecasts for cities like Boise, Coeur d'Alene, and Sun Valley.

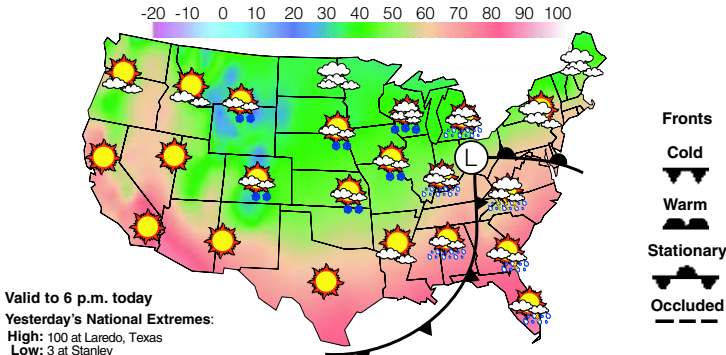
NATIONAL FORECAST

Table of national forecasts for major US cities.

WORLD FORECAST

Table of world forecasts for international cities.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



Gregg Middlekauff's Quote of the Day: 'Don't give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there is love and inspiration, I don't think you can go wrong.'

CANADIAN FORECAST

Table of Canadian forecasts for major cities.

Metallica, Run-DMC inducted into Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

By Tom Withers Associated Press writer

CLEVELAND — Metallica, whose monstrous sound continues to assault the senses and push heavy metal to its limits, headlined a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony Saturday night that felt more like a concert than an awards show.

For the first time, the no-holds-barred show, back in Cleveland following a 12-year holdover in New York's Waldorf-Astoria ballroom, was open to the public. And nearly 5,000 fans partied in the balconies inside Public Auditorium as 1,200 VIPs dined below at tables costing up to \$50,000 each.

music has inspired head-bangers for nearly three decades and the band, whose members have survived some of the dark themes found in their raging music, got top billing in an eclectic 2009 class that included rap pioneers Run-DMC, virtuoso guitarist Jeff Beck, soul singer Bobby Womack and rhythm and blues vocal group Little Anthony and the Imperials.

Rockabilly singer Wanda Jackson was inducted as an early influence. Drummer DJ Fontana and the late bassist Bill Black — both of Elvis Presley's backup band — and keyboardist Spooner Oldham made it in the sideman category.

broke down the barriers between rock and rap with a unique style. With sparse, stripped-down lyrics above pounding beats, the trio of Joseph "DJ Run" Simmons, Darryl "D.M.C." McDaniels and Jason "Jam Master Jay" Mizell changed rap in the 1980s by taking the realities of the streets to the suburbs.

"They broke away from the pack by being the pack," said rapper Eminem, looking like the band's lost member by sporting the group's

trademark black fedora and black leather jacket. "They were the baddest of the bad and the coolest of the cool. Run-DMC changed my life."

"They're three of them and if you grew up with hip hop like I did, they were the Beatles."

Their remake and collaboration with Aerosmith on the rock band's "Walk This Way" changed modern music.

Any chance of a Run reunion ended with Mizell's death in 2002, when he was

shot to death outside his studio. His murder remains unsolved.

Mizell's mother, Connie, accepted the award on his behalf. "My baby is still doing it for me," she said.

Cleveland's Womack, the son of a steelworker, is best known for his soulful voice, but he had far greater musical range as a talented songwriter and guitarist.

He also branched into gospel, returning to the roots that got him his start with a

family group, the Valentinos. He later played guitar for Sam Cooke.

Ron Wood of the Rolling Stones introduced Womack as "the voice that has always killed me. He brings me to tears."

Little Anthony and the Imperials, who began their career singing on street corners in Brooklyn, N.Y., opened the program with a gorgeous medley of hits "Tears on My Pillow," "Hurt So Bad," and "I'm Alright."

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Negotiating a minefield of bad news

Forty-seven people dead in past month in U.S. mass shootings, see Opinion 5



Gunman 'lying in wait' kills 3 Pittsburgh officers, see Opinion 6

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

Opinion

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2009

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

EDITORIAL

Seven good ideas that won't see the light of day in the Legislature

1. Local option tax
Boise Democratic state Rep. Brandon Durst's legislation would have permitted cities and other taxing districts to ask voters to OK any type of non-income or non-property tax for any purpose. To do so, they would have get 60 percent approval in even-numbered years and 66 2/3 percent any other time. The taxes would expire after five years.

The measure was quickly sent to the House Ways and Means Committee, where the Republican leadership sends legislation they don't like to die.

2. Beer, wine tax increase

Even the powerful chairman of the House Revenue and Taxation Committee, Republican Dennis Lake of Blackfoot, couldn't get a \$1.11-a-gallon increase in the wine tax and a 37-cent-a-gallon boost in the beer tax through his own committee, largely because of a campaign against the bill orchestrated by superlobbyist Bill Roden. The beer tax hasn't been raised since 1961 and the wine tax hasn't increased since it was imposed in 1971.

The legislation would have generated \$15.2 million to fund substance abuse programs designed to keep offenders out of Idaho's overcrowded prisons.

3. Allowing school districts to start pre-kindergarten programs

By law, Idaho public schools are forbidden to educate kids 4 and younger. Boise Democratic Sen. Les Bock put forward a bill allowing — but not forcing — school districts to add pre-kindergarten programs. Districts couldn't make pre-K programs compulsory and no state money could be spent.

Senate Education Committee Chairman John Goedde, a Republican from Coeur d'Alene, bottled the legislation up in the second week of the session.

4. Banning texting while driving

Bock proffered making it illegal to send a text message from a cell phone or BlackBerry while driving. Scofflaws would be subject to a \$75 fine.

The idea never got out of the Transportation Committee.

5. Establishing energy enterprise zones

Idaho's energy czar, Paul Kjellander — a former Republican legislator from Canyon County — introduced Renewable Energy Enterprise Zones in which specific resources would be targeted for development. One of the zones would be in the Magic Valley, where the conversion of dairy waste into energy would be promoted. The bill would have identified incentives and tax benefits designed to encourage development, but rely on local government and private-sector investment. Kjellander thought the legislation would minimize the risk of renewable energy projects failing and would not leave the all state's taxpayers on the hook for projects in just one area.

The measure is still sitting in the House Revenue and Taxation Committee.

6. Outlawing political contributions to lawmakers while the Legislature is in session

In February, Republican Lt. Gov. Brad Little was the beneficiary of a fundraising lunch in Boise, breaking an unwritten rule among legislators. The four Boise Democrats in the Senate — Bock, Kate Kelly, Elliot Werk and Nicole LeFavour — pitched legislation legally closing campaign coffers during the legislative session, but the measure stalled in the State Affairs Committee.

7. Extending health insurance coverage to unmarried domestic partners

LeFavour, the only openly gay Idaho lawmaker, proposed requiring insurance companies that cover married couples to include partners who are not spouses. The Republican Senate leadership exiled the bill in the State Affairs Committee.

THE WRONG KIND OF TAX CUTS



Schools suffer from Idaho's business-friendly tax code

By Ken Robison

INSIDE

A breakdown of Idaho's tax burden over the past 30 years.

See Opinion 2

At a time when state support for schools, universities and community colleges is being reduced, along with funding for health care and other services, it would be foolish to cut corporate and individual income taxes as proposed by Reps. Mike Moyle and Raul Labrador.

Education funding would be diminished. Even before the economic slowdown Idaho schools and universities had been hurt by years of lean state budgets.

And the history of legislative tax cuts of recent decades shows that the result has often been a shifting of the tax burden and limited or no net savings for most Idahoans.

A major premise of tax cut supporters is that the state has been spending too much. Since public schools, with their 274,000 students, get the largest share of the state budget, let's look first at state support for schools.

Over the last 10 years state "general fund" support for public schools increased by \$372 million or 47 per cent.

That figure does not include \$250 million that was shifted from the property tax in 2006 when the sales tax was increased to 6 cents. The \$250 million was not an increase in funds for schools but replaced \$250 million in property taxes the schools were no longer allowed to collect.

It is easy to be misled by state budget documents that lump property tax replacement dollars with the actual increases in funds going to schools.

While state support for schools increased 47 per cent in a decade, the

total state general fund budget increased 74 per cent and total Idaho personal income 78 per cent. While education's share of the budget declined, inflation in health care costs and crime related to alcohol and drug dependence pushed up the shares going for health care and for prisons.

Without adequate state support, more school districts asked patrons to approve supplemental property tax levies. Such levies were in place last year in 63 districts enrolling a majority of Idaho students. The levies totaled \$108 million, up \$7 million from the previous year.

Proposed state budget cuts for the 2009-2010 school year will bring more overrides and more property taxes. The proposed income tax cuts would result in even more.

In 2001, looking at a revenue surplus, the Legislature cut taxes \$100 million,

See TAXES, Opinion 2

Why we call a male transsexual 'he'

Last July some of our readers were upset when we decided to let local same-sex couples who legally marry in states that allow such things to be listed under Weddings, rather than announcing their nuptials as a Celebration.

That small change prompted letters accusing us of causing the breakup of families, increased drug abuse, general lawlessness and deviance up to and including the fall of Western Civilization.

Now we're getting it from the other end of the spectrum because we've decided not to be politically correct when it comes to the name and gender of Majid Kolestani.

Kolestani, 43, is awaiting trial for first-degree murder in the August shooting Ehsan Velayati Kababian, 29. Kolestani was initially thought to be a woman, but he is a transsexual — born a man but living as a woman. He apparently was taking hormones to alter his appearance, but hasn't had gender reassignment surgery.

Our coverage of the case prompted an email from Gina Morvay of San Francisco: "I...am extremely disturbed by your use of male pronouns for Ms. Kolestani," Ms. Morvay wrote. "Moreover, you continue to use her male birth name of Majid rather than the name she's lived with for years, the female Nastaran. Moreover, you continually seem to be harping on her gender identi-



132 FAIRFIELD ST. WEST James G. Wright

ty, her 'low voice' rather than the facts immediately surrounding the events.

Regardless of how you feel about the defendant, if you look at the AP Stylebook for referring to gender-variant people, you will find they recommend using the pronoun for the gender in which the person presents themselves as well as the name they live with. While it's factually correct to refer to her as 'a transgender woman' or 'a transwoman' (not 'a transgender') using anything other than female pronouns is an insult and, perhaps, even further proof she can't receive a fair trial in your community."

We heard something similar from a representative of GLAAD — the national Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

The Associated Press Stylebook advises that when writing about the transgendered, "Use the pronoun preferred by the individuals who have acquired the physical characteristics of the opposite sex or present themselves in a way that does not correspond with their sex at birth. If that preference is not expressed, use the pronoun consistent with the way the individuals live publicly."

We tend to follow AP style, but we're not bound by it. In this case, we'll go our own way because the AP advice doesn't seem to be a good fit for people charged with murder.

While he has lived as a woman, Majid Kolestani never legally changed his name. No charges are pending against anyone named Nastaran Kolestani, and to say otherwise would be factually incorrect and legally suspect. Even the AP recognizes this and uses Majid in its stories, though it swerves back to its stylebook by otherwise using the female pronoun.

We've chosen to employ the male pronoun "he" because it makes sense. Majid isn't common around here, but it's an unmistakably male name in some parts of the world.

Linking it to a female pronoun would be like calling someone named Ralph "she" in second reference.

Ms. Morvay remained unimpressed with this explanation, suggesting instead that "The reason you're using Majid is to repeatedly beat home the point that she's 'really a man' both because of your discomfort with her situation and to sensationalize the story."

Sensationalizing the story? No doubt this is an exotic case, but 5th District Court Judge Randy Stoker doesn't see any sensationalism in our coverage or in that of local broadcast outlets. In ruling

against a change of venue, he agreed with the prosecution's assessment that "The articles are not inflammatory and are factual."

Kolestani's own attorney described the coverage as "intense," but didn't criticize it.

Discomfort? If the T-N is homophobic, we do a poor job of showing it. This newspaper has editorialized that the Southern Idaho Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Community Center ought to be allowed to fly its colors in the Western Days parade, and has consistently backed efforts to add discrimination protection for gays and lesbians to the Idaho Human Rights Act. And then there's that gay wedding thing I mentioned back at the start.

We take these stands even though the Magic Valley is a conservative community where public opinion runs overwhelmingly in the other direction. We do it because it is the right thing to do, regardless of the popularity of the issues.

We use Kolestani's legal name and gender for the same reason. We want to be sensitive to Kolestani, but to go along with AP style on this would mean ignoring the facts of a murder case in favor of political correctness.

We're way too independent for that.

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

TIMES-NEWS

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

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

Taxes

Continued from Opinion 1

including cuts in corporate and individual income tax rates. A few months later the attack on the World Trade Center resulted in an economic downturn that led to a state budget crunch. Budgets were cut and reserves were drained. Eventually the sales tax was raised temporarily to bridge the gap. It took several years to get back to a stable budget situation.

Proposed tax cuts would mean higher student fees at the universities. Fees more than doubled in the

past 10 years, increasing more than twice as fast as state support. Students are paying \$76 million a year more in fees than in 1999.

While Idaho's corporate tax rate is higher than the national average, Idaho has a generous investment tax credit. A 3 per cent credit on purchases of depreciable equipment can be used to offset as much as half of income tax owed. Unused credits can be carried forward for up to 14 years. Corporations also benefit from a sales tax exemption on the purchase of equip-

ment and supplies that saves Idaho businesses \$176 million a year.

In recent years millions of dollars in property taxes were shifted to residential property, benefiting corporate and other owners of commercial, industrial and utility property.

Over the last 10 years total residential property taxes increased 97 per cent while total taxes on commercial, industrial and utility property increased 31 per cent.

Non-residential property paid only 16 per cent of

the \$509 million increase in Idaho property taxes from 1998 to 2008. Residential property paid for 84 per cent.

Corporate and other businesses benefited from 2006 property tax relief that shifted \$250 million in school property taxes to sales tax.

Looking at the broader tax picture, it doesn't appear that a corporate tax cut can be justified. Surveys consistently show that most Idahoans support the education system. They are not likely to favor

either corporate or individual income tax cuts at the expense of public schools. And tax cuts would be particularly risky when there is so much national economic turmoil.

Ken Robison, a Boise Democrat, represented Ada County in the Idaho House of Representatives from 1987-2004. He was a member of the Appropriations Committee.

IDAHO'S TAX BURDEN

(Figures in parentheses are national averages)

Year	Rank among states	State & local per capita taxes paid	Per capita income	Percentage
1977	12th	\$734	\$6,818 (\$7,787)	10.8% (10.3%)
1978	9th	\$797	\$7,454 (\$8,590)	10.7% (10.2%)
1979	11th	\$842	\$8,181 (\$9,510)	10.3% (9.7%)
1980	12th	\$868	\$8,837 (\$10,431)	9.8% (9.5%)
1981	10th	\$955	\$9,763 (\$11,532)	9.8% (9.3%)
1982	9th	\$998	\$10,128 (\$12,485)	9.9% (9.3%)
1983	7th	\$1,077	\$10,521 (\$13,011)	10.2% (9.4%)
1984	7th	\$1,168	\$11,260 (\$14,161)	10.4% (9.7%)
1985	9th	\$1,237	\$12,095 (\$15,349)	10.2% (9.7%)
1986	12th	\$1,266	\$12,497 (\$16,233)	10.1% (9.7%)
1987	5th	\$1,405	\$13,077 (\$17,095)	10.7% (9.9%)
1988	5th	\$1,521	\$13,970 (\$18,243)	10.9% (9.8%)
1989	4th	\$1,677	\$15,387 (\$19,562)	10.9% (9.8%)
1990	3rd	\$1,813	\$16,495 (\$20,465)	11.0% (9.9%)
1991	5th	\$1,867	\$17,177 (\$21,101)	10.9% (9.9%)
1992	3rd	\$2,061	\$18,027 (\$21,789)	11.4% (10.1%)
1993	5th	\$2,132	\$19,104 (\$22,636)	11.2% (10.2%)
1994	6th	\$2,269	\$20,077 (\$23,408)	11.3% (10.2%)
1995	7th	\$2,294	\$21,003 (\$24,587)	10.9% (10.2%)
1996	8th	\$2,349	\$21,941 (\$25,730)	10.7% (10.0%)
1997	9th	\$2,380	\$22,678 (\$27,335)	10.5% (9.8%)
1998	10th	\$2,466	\$23,677 (\$29,103)	10.4% (9.7%)
1999	7th	\$2,602	\$24,947 (\$30,798)	10.4% (9.6%)
2000	6th	\$2,748	\$26,504 (\$32,707)	10.4% (9.5%)
2001	4th	\$2,871	\$27,226 (\$33,725)	10.5% (9.5%)
2002	13th	\$2,707	\$26,980 (\$33,172)	10.0% (9.5%)
2003	14th	\$2,774	\$27,554 (\$33,644)	10.1% (9.7%)
2004	10th	\$3,008	\$29,195 (\$35,576)	10.3% (9.8%)
2005	12th	\$3,240	\$31,476 (\$38,206)	10.3% (9.8%)
2006	18th	\$3,371	\$33,692 (\$40,643)	10.0% (9.9%)
2007	15th	\$3,634	\$35,725 (\$42,817)	10.2% (9.9%)
2008	13th	\$3,670	\$36,492 (\$44,254)	10.1% (9.7%)

— Source: Tax Foundation calculations based on data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Census Bureau, the Council on State Taxation, the Travel Industry Association, Department of Energy, and others.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Legalizing drugs would eliminate failed war

Finally, the following credible people have declared our war on drugs a failure: George Schultz, former U.S. secretary of state; Jimmy Carter, 39th U.S. president; Milton Friedman, Nobel Prize winner for economics; Walter Cronkite, award-winning journalist; Gary E Johnson, governor of New Mexico (1995-2003); William F. Buckley Jr., founder of National Review.

Tons of money and thousands of lives lost in a futile attempt to do the impossible. A business adage as old as prostitution states that "if there is a demand and a profit, there will be a supplier."

It is way past time to eliminate drug sales on street corners and school grounds to all ages and control it in state stores limited to adults and with laws prohibiting abuse. Drugs are here legal or illegal!

Legal control would eliminate drug wars and territorial disputes that not only kill combatants but many innocent people caught in the cross fire. It would also eliminate drug pushers tempting our young to try drugs. It would empty our prisons of non-violent people and leave room for our

Write to us

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dangerous criminals who are now being released because of over-crowding and save us millions of dollars.

The \$70 billion the government spends, along with the millions wasted by states and cities every year on ineffective enforcement, could be used for education and rehabilitation. Education has turned cigarette smoking from cool to stupid. Fogging the brain is dangerous; addiction knows no strangers. Think of what we could be accomplished with the wasted drug money. Legalization does not condone use, it controls it — something that is not happening now.

MATT SMITH
Twin Falls

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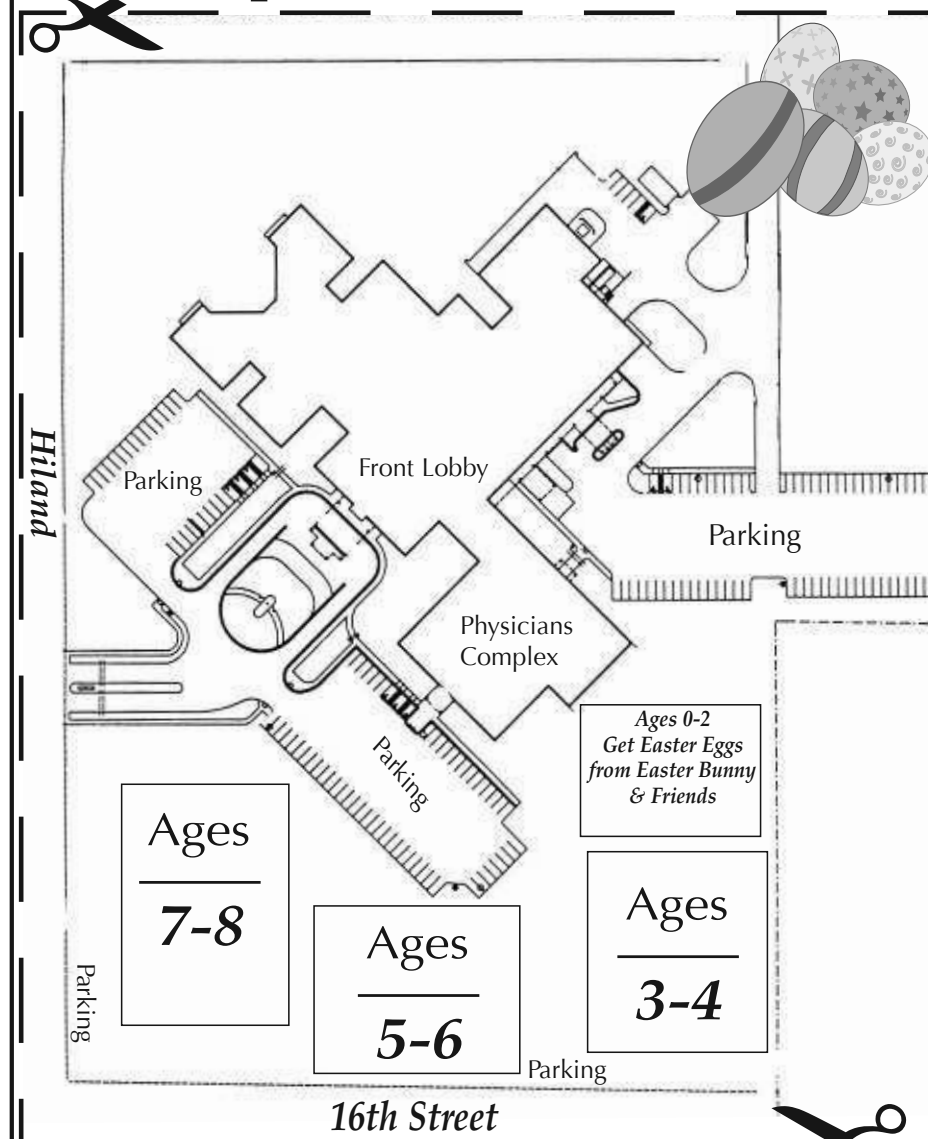
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Proposed article would limit Idaho voting rights

In a shameful act of disdain for the constitutional rights of citizens, The Idaho Legislature is trying to strip voters of authority currently guaranteed by the Idaho Constitution. At issue is Article VIII, Section 3 of the constitution which gives citizens authority to approve long term debt by any "subdivision of state government" – generally cities, counties and school districts.

In the waning days of the session, Rep. Fred Wood is introducing a proposed amendment that would exempt airports, parking garages, recreation facilities, all urban renewal projects, public hospitals and "any revenue generating facility" from complying with the constitutional provision that gives citizens the power



READER COMMENT
David Frazier

to approve or reject debt exceeding a single year's annual revenues.

Ever since (I) prevailed in the Idaho Supreme Court case against Boise City over a proposed \$29 million parking garage, cities, counties and public hospitals have worked to either amend the constitution or subvert the will of the voters by declaring projects to be within urban renewal districts – sometimes even creating the district to avoid voter scrutiny.

We have been adamant in our defense of the

Constitution, looking at all of the unintended consequences created. For instance just about anything could be declared a "revenue generating facility!" Golf courses, jails (rent cells to the state or feds), a high school sports stadium – anything claiming to generate revenue to pay off bond debt.

If a project is funded without using property taxes and it benefits the community, put it up for a vote and get the citizens behind it! Idahoans routinely approve bonds and levies for school districts and they

deserve to weigh in on major "Profund" public projects constructed on public land with public money for public use.

If the amendment is passed by two-thirds of both the House and Senate, it will be on the ballot in November 2010. At that time it will need a simple majority of votes from people wishing to give up their voting right and trust politicians to decide financial matters with no oversight.

The amendment is ill-conceived and ill-intended. There certainly has been no grassroots movement from

citizens wishing to limit their voice. It is a move by lobbyists and local politicians who fear those they claim to represent.

David Frazier is a Boise photographer and editor of the Boise Guardian. This commentary originally appeared in the Guardian.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thinking has to be changed in politics

If I were king, or if I would have become king, on Jan. 20, 2009, Tim Geithner would not be Treasury secretary, Ben Bernanke wouldn't be chairman of the Federal Reserve, and AIG would be in an involuntary Chapter 11, where the bankruptcy judge could make short work of the bonuses.

My first priority for a Cabinet appointment would have been for the attorney general, who would have been of the J. Edgar Hoover mold, someone obsessed with putting criminals in jail (in fact, Hoover, in the '30s, was partial to just killing them). My new attorney general would have been instructed to hire 1,000 assistant attorneys general on a probationary basis, which would require them to produce two indictments per week for one year.

If the prisons overflowed, I would call on Sheriff Joe in Phoenix.

There wouldn't have been another dime "pumped" into Wall Street to "support" the Dow, after Paulson got his hand out of the till, and the illegal aliens would go home when an employer got six months in jail and a \$10,000 fine for hiring one. No jobs, no illegals. And I wouldn't be hanging onto Warren Buffett's coat tail just because he made billions when he fell heir to GEICO (Government Employee Insurance Co.), a federal agency which came complete with huge cash reserves and customer base. I'm not comfortable with Buffett's controlling interest in Moody's Ratings and his position as the "big" trader on Wall Street.

Television sets, washing machines, t-shirts, cat food, toys and medicine would be made in America. And the bookkeeping for Social Security would be done here, not in India.

There's a lot of thinking that has got to change,

along with a lot of political support.

RICHARD F. BYRD Rogerson

Resident apologizes to other countries for Obama's actions

I was berated by another reader for apologizing to England for Obama's actions and saying, "Understand that this is our president's first real job that he has held in his life." I was reminded about his community organization career that paid \$250 a week and showed no highlights or end results to really speak of; it was a great learning experience and career builder but not a "real" job. Then I was told that he was a constitutional law professor, but actually his title was senior lecturer (part-time professor/teacher, if you will); again, a great experience but without tenure or full-time diligence, not a "real" job. But I bet his college nickname was "the mechanic" because I have never seen a person try to dismantle the Constitution with such speed and precision.

Will I be sending Obama an apology letter? I don't think so. I am currently getting ready to apologize to France for Obama's addressed a letter to Jacques Chirac that was full of bold hope and excitement about working together over the next four years to build a safer world; too bad the current president of France is Nicolas Sarkozy. Was this because Sarkozy referred to Obama's policies toward Iraq as immature? Will Sarkozy receive a Jerry Lewis fun pack of DVDs upon his visit to the White House?

Who knows at this point, but please have patience, Mr. Sarkozy; this is our president's first "real" job that he has held in his life, but he will catch on.

DAN LYON Twin Falls



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American public negotiates a minefield of bad news

By Ted Anthony
Associated Press writer

PITTSBURGH — Does the name Byran Uyesugi ring a bell? Odds are not. What about Robert A. Hawkins? Or Mark Barton? Terry Ratzmann? Robert Stewart?

Analysis

Each entered the national consciousness when he picked up a gun and ended multiple lives. Uyesugi, 1999, Hawaii office building, seven dead. Hawkins, 2007, Nebraska shopping mall, nine dead. Barton, Ratzmann and Stewart — 24 dead among them in 1999 (Atlanta brokerage offices), 2005 (Wisconsin church service) and last week (North Carolina rehab center).

And each has been largely forgotten as the parade of multiple killings in America melts into an indistinguishable blur. We bemoan, we mourn, we move on.

What's even more disturbing is that the list above was cherry-picked from a far lengthier tally of recent mass shootings in the United States. And now, this weekend, on a crisp, sunny Saturday morning in Pittsburgh, the lives of three police officers ended in gunfire after a domestic dispute turned lethal.

The mass shootings that left 14 people dead in Binghamton, N.Y., on Friday were horrifying, depressing, nationally wrenching. They were also, to some extent, unsurprising in a society where the term "mass shooting" has lost its status as unthinkable aberration and become mere fodder for a fresh news cycle.

"We have to guard against the senseless violence that this tragedy represents," President Barack Obama said in Europe on Saturday. Senseless violence: Two centuries from now, if we're not careful, it could be an epitaph for our era.

Even in a media-saturated nation that encourages short memories, these numbers are conversation-stopping: Forty-seven people dead in the past month in American mass shootings and their aftermaths. It's to the point where on Saturday, dizzily, the mayor of Binghamton found himself offering Pittsburgh its sympathies.

Put aside for a moment the debate over guns. This isn't about policy. It's about asking the urgent question: What is happening in the American psyche that prevents people from defusing their own anguish and rage before they end the lives of others? Why are we killing each other?

This is not an era of good feeling in the United States. We have under our belt eight years of pernicious terrorism angst, six years of Iraq war weariness and, now, months of wondering how bad the American economy's going to get and when — or, worse, whether — it's going to come back. People are tense. There's less inclination to help out your fellow human being.

Meanwhile, anchors and analysts and witnesses and bloggers cast about in an information-age fog trying to make sense of something that is, in the worst way, nonsensical. They rush to offer solutions, but the thing they typically dodge is that we seem to be powerless to stop it all — that our



Huong Le Holmes reads the Binghamton Press & Sun Bulletin newspaper Saturday in Endicott, N.Y. A glum editorial in the paper Saturday wondered if it was simply, sadly, and inevitably Binghamton's turn to give up a few of its people to the recent plague of American mass shootings.

AP photo

community, our neighbors, may be next. That's too terrifying to contemplate, not to mention too open-ended for American news consumers reared on tidy Hollywood endings.

The Binghamton newspaper, the Press & Sun Bulletin, seemed to acknowledge the resignation in a glum editorial Saturday that wondered if it was simply, sadly, and inevitably Binghamton's turn to give up a few of its people to the juggernaut.

"It is our turn to grieve and to rally in support of those whose lives have been shattered," the newspaper said. "And it's our turn to hug those in our own families and wonder how a quiet, rainy Friday in a peaceful place became the setting for such a nightmare."

The strangest of contradictions hangs over the Binghamton shootings. The shooter and many of the victims were immigrants — part of the pool of human beings who look to America as a place of opportunity and take often anonymous steps to realize their dreams here. On Friday, the idea that had beckoned them betrayed them.

The man believed to be the shooter, Jiverly Wong, had lost his job at an assembly plant, was barely getting by on unemployment and was frustrated that the American dream, so highly billed and coveted, wasn't coming through for him. Early reports suggest that the suspect in the Pittsburgh officers' killings, too, was angered at being laid off from a glass factory.

People are of course responsible for their actions, but it's hard to avoid wondering what's afoot in the darkest recesses of what we like to call American

exceptionalism. For so long, the national narrative has been so bullish about equality of opportunity, so persuasive in its romance of possibility for all. Is it so subversive to speculate, then, that when the engine of possibility runs into roadblocks, people can't cope?

Without excusing one whit of the violent tendencies that ended with so many bullets in so many bodies from Binghamton to North Carolina to Alabama to California in the past month, isn't it time, finally, to figure out where this national dream makes a wrong turn?

"Maybe research can prevent further tragedies of this type," a man named Charles Whitman wrote one day in 1966. Then he ascended a tower at the University of Texas, looked out over the campus, pulled out a shotgun, three rifles and three pistols and killed 16 people.

Forty-three years and countless reams of research and lost loved ones later, we have not figured it out. Today, the American Civic Association in Binghamton says so. The Pittsburgh Police Department says so.

The vulnerable people at the Pinelake Health and Rehab Center in

Carthage, N.C., say so.

Of Jiverly Wong, Binghamton police Chief Joseph Zikuski had this to say Saturday: "He must have been a coward." Perhaps. But that's the beginning of an answer, not the end of one. On Friday, the federal government announced that 663,000 Americans lost their jobs in March. What's truly unsettling in America's new era of

gloom and dead ends is wondering how many of those 663,000 might be deeply, irrevocably angry about it — and might have a gun.

Because the American tragedies that haven't happened yet are the most terrifying ones of all.

Ted Anthony covers American culture for The Associated Press.



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Gunman 'lying in wait' kills 3 Pittsburgh officers

Suspect feared Obama would take his guns away

By Ramit Plushnick-Masti and Dan Nephin
Associated Press writers

PITTSBURGH — A gunman wearing a bulletproof vest and "lying in wait" opened fire on officers responding to a domestic disturbance call Saturday, killing three of them and turning a quiet Pittsburgh street into a battlefield, police said.

Police Chief Nate Harper said the motive for the shooting isn't clear, but friends said the gunman recently had been upset about losing his job and feared the Obama administration was poised to ban guns.

Richard Poplawski, 23, met officers at the doorway and shot two of them in the head immediately, Harper said. An officer who tried to help the two also was killed.

Poplawski, armed with an assault rifle and two other guns, then held police at bay for four hours as the fallen officers were left bleeding nearby, their colleagues unable to reach them, according to police and witnesses. More than 100 rounds were fired by the SWAT teams and Poplawski, Harper said.

The three slain officers were Eric Kelly, 41, Stephen Mayhle, 29, and Paul Sciuillo III, 37. Kelly had been on the force for 14 years, Mayhle and Sciuillo for two years each. Another officer, Timothy McManaway, was shot in the hand and a fifth broke his leg on a fence.

Poplawski had gunshot wounds in his legs but was otherwise unharmed because he was wearing a bulletproof vest, Harper said. He was charged with three counts of homicide, aggravated assault and a weapons violation.

The shooting occurred just two weeks after four police officers were fatally

shot in Oakland, Calif., in the deadliest day for U.S. law enforcement since Sept. 11, 2001. The officers were the first Pittsburgh city officers to die in the line of duty in 18 years.

"This is a solemn day and it's a very sad day in the city of Pittsburgh," Harper said. "We've seen this kind of violence happen in California. We never would think this kind of violence would happen in the city of Pittsburgh."

At 7 a.m., Sciuillo and Mayhle responded to a 911 call from Poplawski's mother, who remained holed up in the basement during the entire dispute and escaped unharmed, Harper said.

When they arrived at the home, Sciuillo was immediately shot in the head. Mayhle, who was right behind him, was also shot in the head.

"It appears he was lying in wait for the officers," Harper said.

Kelly, who was on his way home after completing his overnight shift when he heard the call for help, rushed to the scene and was killed trying to help Sciuillo and Mayhle, Harper said. SWAT teams and other officers arrived and were immediately fired on as well.

Don Sand, who lives across the street from Poplawski, said he was woken up by the sound of gunfire. Hunkering down behind a wall in his home, he saw the first two officers go down and then saw Kelly get shot.

"They couldn't get the scene secure enough to get to them. They were just lying there bleeding," Sand said. "By the time they secured the scene enough to get to them it was way too late."

Deputy Chief Paul Donaldson, who lives nearby, was one of the first officers to arrive. He saw Mayhle by a bush to the right

"Eddie, I am going to die today. ... Tell your family I love them and I love you."

— Edward Perkovic, describing the call he got Saturday from his friend, Richard Poplawski

of the door; Kelly was in the street and McManaway, his hand injured, was kneeling beside him, yelling that Kelly needed help.

Donaldson suggested using a police van to get them. They draped a bulletproof vest on the window to protect the driver and several officers got into the van to get Kelly and McManaway.

During this time, Poplawski was somehow distracted, Donaldson said.

"We were fortunate that he didn't fire on us. I don't know why he was distracted, but he apparently didn't see us coming down to get them," he said. "It could have been worse."

Poplawski had feared "the Obama gun ban that's on the way" and "didn't like our rights being infringed upon," said Edward Perkovic, his best friend.

Perkovic, 22, said he got a call at work from him in which he said, "Eddie, I am going to die today. ... Tell your family I love them and I love you."

Perkovic said: "I heard gunshot and he hung up. ... He sounded like he was in pain, like he got shot?"

Poplawski had once tried to join the Marines, but was kicked out of boot camp after throwing a food tray at a drill sergeant, Perkovic said.

Another longtime friend, Aaron Vire, said Poplawski feared that President Barack Obama was going to take away his rights, though he said he "wasn't violently against Obama."

Vire, 23, said Poplawski once had an Internet talk show but that it wasn't successful. He said Poplawski owned an AK-47 rifle and

several powerful handguns, including a .357 Magnum.

Obama has said he respects Americans' constitutional right to bear arms, but that he favors "common sense" gun laws. Gun rights advocates interpret that as meaning he would approve some curbs on assault and concealed weapons.

Poplawski had been laid off from his job at a glass factory earlier this year, said another friend, Joe DiMarco. DiMarco said he didn't know the name of the company.

Officers shot in standoff

Pittsburgh Police officers who were shot and killed Saturday after responding to a domestic disturbance call:



• Paul Sciuillo III, 37, is survived by his parents. Sciuillo was the first officer who entered the home and was shot in the head.




• Stephen Mayhle, 29, is survived by a wife and two children. Police said Mayhle was the second officer to enter the home and was shot in the head.



• Eric Kelly, 41, a 14-year veteran, is survived by a wife and three daughters. Kelly had just finished working on the overnight shift and was on his way home when he responded to the shooting.

Source: Pittsburgh Police Chief Nate Harper

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P255/70R16 \$160.80	P235/70R15 \$138.91	P225/70R16 \$141.07	LT37X12.50R17 \$338.19	LT245/70R17 \$212.48
P255/65R16 \$165.10	P215/60R16 \$141.07	P235/70R17 \$163.18	30X9.50R15 \$150.18	LT275/65R18 \$252.76
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Kidnapped American U.N. worker freed in Pakistan

By Asif Shahzad and Stephen Graham
Associated Press writers

ISLAMABAD — An American U.N. worker abducted more than two months ago turned up unharmed Saturday, lying alongside a road in western Pakistan with his hands and feet bound and pleading "Help me, help me," the man who found him said.

John Solecki was discovered Saturday evening abandoned in a village some 30 miles south of Quetta near the Afghan border after his captors called a local news agency to tell them where to look, officials said.

Mohammed Anwar, the

owner of a restaurant alongside the main Quetta-Karachi highway, told The Associated Press that he found a bound Solecki lying in the dirt near a wall. Anwar said he heard a voice in the gloom saying "Help me, help me" in English.

Solecki made no public comment. Police and U.N. officials declined to discuss what led to his release. U.N. officials who met with him reported that he was "tired but all right," U.N. spokeswoman Jennifer Pagonis said.



Solecki

Solecki, who headed the U.N. refugee agency's operations in Quetta, would be reunited with his family "as soon as possible," Pagonis said, declining to say when he would leave Pakistan or whether he planned to return.

Solecki's release was a rare piece of good news amid intensifying violence here that has raised international alarm over the nuclear-armed country's stability. On Saturday, a suicide bomber attacked a paramilitary base in the capital, killing eight. Solecki's abduction and

the killing of his driver on Feb. 2 in Quetta raised concern that he was another victim in a spate of attacks on foreigners blamed on Islamist militants operating from strongholds along the Afghan frontier.

A previously unknown group, the Baluchistan Liberation United Front, had claimed responsibility for the abduction, threatening to behead him and issuing a grainy video of a blindfolded Solecki pleading for help.

But the group's name and demands indicated they were ethnic Baluch separatists who have been waging a long low-level insurgency in the impoverished

but oil-rich southwest of Pakistan and have no record of taking or killing Western hostages.

The kidnappers had demanded the release of hundreds of people from alleged detention by Pakistani security agencies.

President Asif Ali Zardari last week announced that the government had "traced" 200 people previously listed as missing and provincial leaders insist they are no longer holding any political prisoners.

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AP photo

Riot police walk past an anti-NATO activist Saturday in Strasbourg, France, as world leaders met nearby to mark NATO's 60th anniversary. Police clashed with protesters near the summit site Saturday, firing tear gas and flash bombs at protesters who were throwing Molotov cocktails and rocks.

Europe praises Obama, but pledges few Afghan troops

By Slobodan Lelic
Associated Press writer

STRASBOURG, France — European leaders enthusiastically praised President Barack Obama's new Afghan strategy at a NATO summit Saturday but held their ground on a central disagreement and offered only military trainers and extra security forces for upcoming elections.

Violent anti-war protests that marred the alliance's 60th anniversary celebrations were a stark reminder that much of Europe has no appetite for the other, costlier half of Obama's Afghan equation: more combat troops.

"I am pleased that our NATO allies pledged their strong and unanimous support for our new strategy," Obama said. "We'll need more resources and a sustained effort to achieve our ultimate goals."

As protesters battled police outside, NATO risked angering Muslims around the world by giving the post of secretary-general to the prime minister of Denmark, who fueled anger three years ago by backing a Danish newspaper's right to publish cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad. The 28 leaders at the summit also approved measures to repair ties with Russia — virtually frozen since the Russo-Georgian war in August.

Afghanistan is seen as a crucial test of the power and relevance of the alliance,

which was founded at the height of the Cold War to counterbalance the Soviet Union and now is struggling against a rising insurgency far beyond its borders.

The escalating war has highlighted doubts in Europe about the ability of NATO's 58,000 troops to stem the Taliban insurgency. Worries about casualties and costs have contributed to opposition to a conflict many Europeans see as an unnecessary distraction during economic crisis.

Despite a security crackdown on both sides of the Franco-German border, thousands of anti-war protesters fought running street battles with police, setting ablaze a hotel and a customs post and forcing the leaders' spouses to cancel a visit to a nearby cancer hospital.

During the summit, jointly co-hosted by France and Germany as a symbol of European unity, Obama briefed NATO leaders about his new strategy aimed at stabilizing Afghanistan while rooting out Taliban and al-Qaida hard-liners in both Afghanistan and Pakistan.

After the meeting, Obama heralded what he called "concrete commitments" from NATO allies on Afghanistan, saying their agreement to send up to 5,000 more trainers and police was "a strong down payment" toward securing the country.

Obama's new strategy has him adding 21,000 U.S. troops to an American force

of 38,000.

The White House said NATO countries agreed to send 3,000 personnel on short-term deployments, to help stabilize Afghanistan before elections in August. An additional 1,400 to 2,000 will provide training for Afghanistan's national army.

NATO's outgoing Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said the alliance would set up a trust fund for the Afghan National Army, and provide monitoring and liaison teams that would work with Afghanistan's fledgling security forces.

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Sat - Sun 1:00 4:00 7:20 9:40

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Sat - Sun 12:00 2:20 4:40 7:00 9:20

Haunting in Connecticut (13) Daily 7:20 9:40
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Lab results available at Education Day April 18th.

Health Fair Educational Day
April 18 - 7 am - 1 pm
@ Jerome Recreation District

Schedule of Educational events

7:00 AM	Doors Open and the health fair starts. Vendors exhibits will be open at this time as well as registration to pick up lab results.
7:30 AM	Rhonda Robbins, M.D. - Hormone Replacement Therapy. A discussion on HRT Therapy.
8:30 AM	Elizabeth Sugden, M.D. - What do the numbers mean? A discussion on understanding your lab results.
9:30 AM	Alice Trabert, C.N.P. - 10 Things to ask your health care provider during a Physical. A discussion about questions to ask your provider and symptoms to be aware of.
10:30 AM	Joshua Kern, M.D. - What do the numbers mean? A discussion on understanding your lab results.
11:30 AM	Lorraine Tangen, M.D. - 10 Things you should have checked annually after age 40. This is tailored to both men and women.
12:30 PM	Ann Bybee, R.N. Certified Diabetes Educator - Are you at risk for Type II Diabetes? This is an education session to discuss the risk factors and effects of Type II Diabetes.

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See Sports 5

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2009

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

MLB teams fret in uncertain season

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Baseball's boom may be over, a golden age of crowded ballparks replaced by a season of uncertainty.

The average salary likely will drop slightly for only the third time in 20 years, the first since 2004, and many teams are fretting over ticket sales.

"People aren't going out and spending their money



INSIDE

Baseball builds on new foundations.

See Sports 4

right now," said Johnny Damon, an All-Star used to playing in front of full houses at Yankee Stadium. "They've got to think, well, 'Should we watch it on TV or should we go?' A lot of people are going, probably, to

watch more games on TV?" But which teams will they be watching?

Last year's World Series teams, Philadelphia and Tampa Bay, must prove they have staying power, and the Yankees have gambled —

again! — on pricey free agents. The Phillies no doubt will have many full houses, starting when they host Atlanta in the major league opener Sunday night and hoist a pennant celebrating their first World Series title since 1980, just their second overall.

No team has repeated since the Yankees from 1998-2000 or even reached the World Series in consecutive years since the Yankees

in 2001.

But hope is the buzz word for this time of year. That's why the Dodgers gave Manny Ramirez a \$45 million, two-year deal, convincing the perplexing power hitter to linger in Los Angeles and help the team try to win its first title since 1988.

The only player who makes more than Ramirez this season, Alex Rodriguez, will be missing opening day

— and when New York moves into baseball's Versailles, a \$1.5 billion new Yankee Stadium that hosts its first regular-season opener April 16.

It might be a relief for A-Rod to be out of the picture, if only for a moment.

Following a tumultuous offseason in which he admitting using steroids from 2001-03 while playing

See **MLB**, Sports 5

AND THEN THERE WERE TWO . . .



AP photo

Michigan State's Kalin Lucas reacts Saturday during the Spartans' 82-73 win over Connecticut during a men's NCAA Final Four game in Detroit.



AP photo

North Carolina's Ty Lawson reacts to a play against Villanova during a NCAA Final Four game in Detroit.

CSI, CSN split pair of thrillers

By David Bashore
Times-News writer

It wasn't the sweep that the College of Southern Idaho baseball team wanted and perhaps needed, but the Golden Eagles are getting closer.

Garrett Wolff worked a bases-loaded walk in the bottom of the seventh inning to give CSI a 4-3 win in the first game of a doubleheader with the College of Southern Nevada (27-13, 19-5 Scenic West Athletic Conference), but the Golden Eagles couldn't cement a sweep as they fell 7-5 in 10 innings to close the series.

CSI (20-18, 13-11 SWAC) got a sparkling performance from Tyler Barrett in Game 1 as he threw a complete-game six-hitter for the win. But the Golden Eagles had to use seven pitchers in Game 2, and they came up a couple of

plays short at the dish.

"You get a back-and-forth game like that and it's really fun. As a coach it makes me relax because I know I'm getting maximum effort out of the guys," said CSI head coach Boomer Walker. "But it's still tough to take, and a loss like that stings for a while. We could have lost all four this weekend, or we could have won all four!"

Lionel Morrill drove home the tying run with two outs in the bottom of the seventh of Game 2 but got greedy and tried to advance to second on the throw home and was gunned down, stranding the would-be winning run at third. Two innings later Morrill gave himself a chance for redemption by lining a pitch right back from where it came, but pitcher Joe Robinson's

See **CSI**, Sports 2



JUSTIN JACKSON/Times-News

College of Southern Idaho sophomore Trent Johnson tosses the ball to first base during the Golden Eagles' doubleheader against the College of Southern Nevada Saturday afternoon in at Skip Walker Field in Twin Falls.

CSI softball pummels Snow

By Bradley Guire
Times-News writer

With the elements taken out of the picture Saturday, the No. 11 College of Southern Idaho softball team continued getting back on track against Scenic West Athletic Conference opponents by completing a four-game sweep of Snow College.

The Golden Eagles defeated the Badgers 11-2 and 9-1 in a pair of five-inning, run-rule victories at Eagle Field in Twin Falls.

The Eagles (32-14-2, 25-9 SWAC) smashed nearly 20 hits throughout the doubleheader as they began to settle in and figure out what Snow (10-23, 9-19) was about.

"I think everyone was starting to find their groove," CSI first baseman

Brittany Gonzales said. "Everybody was able to time the ball well."

Gonzales hit just 2-for-5 on the day, but both were belted over the fence for five RBIs. Leadoff lefty Cassi Merrill batted 5-for-8, and Megan Zimmerman went 3-for-5 with a pair of RBIs. The Golden Eagles didn't get to see all of Snow's arms in February when half of a four-game series was called due to weather, but Gonzales said that she and the team were able to make the adjustments needed to succeed.

In the circle, McKensy Hillstead and Brie Dimond picked up a pair of wins, and along with Friday's games all active CSI pitchers have winning records. Hillstead held the Badgers to four hits, and Dimond

See **SOFTBALL**, Sports 2

Michigan State defeats UConn

The Associated Press

DETROIT — The Michigan State players walked to the edge of the floor and held up their index fingers, basking in the love of an entire state.

Laid low by the economic crisis, Michigan desperately needed something to rally around. The Spartans were more than happy to oblige.

"It means so much, so much. It's been all bad news the last couple of years," said Magic Johnson, who sat just a few rows behind the Michigan State bench.

CHAMPIONSHIP
GAME

Michigan State (31-6) vs.
North Carolina (33-4)
When: 7:21 p.m., Monday
TV: CBS



"This was the right time, the right coach, the right team, the right mind-set."

See **MICH ST.**, Sports 5

N.C. too much for Villanova

Associated Press writer

DETROIT — In a classic case of men vs. boys, North Carolina never gave Villanova much chance to breathe, let alone whip up a fresh dose of Final Four magic.

Ty Lawson scored 22 points, Wayne Ellington had 20 more, and the Tar Heels, with their four, five, maybe more NBA-caliber players, eased to an 83-69 win Saturday night over the plucky but overmatched Wildcats.

Tyler Hansbrough had 18

points and 11 rebounds to mark a quite successful return to the Final Four after a remarkable dud last year in a semifinal loss to Kansas.

Next up, North Carolina (33-4) goes for its second title in five years Monday against Michigan State, an 82-73 winner over Connecticut.

The Spartans, located 90 miles up the road in East Lansing, will certainly have the crowd on their side. The talent gap, though? Eek.

See **N.C.**, Section 5

CSI rodeo strong out of the gate



MEAGAN THOMPSON/Times-News

A College of Southern Idaho cowboy chases down a calf during the calf roping competition Friday night at the 33rd Annual CSI Intercollegiate Rodeo at CSI.

By Diane Philbin
Times-News writer

The College of Southern Idaho rodeo team gave the home crowd quite a show Friday night in the opening performance of the 33rd Annual CSI Rodeo at the Eldon Evans Expo Center in the Shawn Davis Arena.

Local rodeo fans may recognize names of several cowboys and cowgirls from their high school rodeo days in District V and VI.

Whether as a young cowpoke growing up in or around Idaho or coming from as far away as Hawaii to become a member of the CSI rodeo team, each is aware of the reputation of one of the most successful rodeo programs in the nation.

"We have a reputation to live up to, and we want people to come back," said Monty Johnson,

who turned in a solid 71-point ride on Painted Lady in saddle bronc riding. "You seem to have more energy at home, and you just feel better."

Trevor Ervin and partner Broc Burns didn't record a time earlier in the day in the regional rodeo but teamed for the Friday night's best at 7.3 seconds.

"Broc and I came together," said Ervin, who was also third in calf roping. "I told him (Broc) that since we didn't catch this morning let's just go out and have some fun."

Hometown cowgirl Paige Yore found herself at the top of the leaderboard with the fastest run in goat tying at 7.7 seconds, and teammate Sammy Naveran was a close second at 7.9.

"I like it here I'm glad I stayed and went to CSI," said Yore, who is

See **RODEO**, Sports 2

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

MLB Spring Training
All Times MDT
AMERICAN LEAGUE

Team	W	L	Pct
Los Angeles	24	8	.758
New York	22	10	.706
Texas	21	14	.600
Minnesota	19	13	.594
Boston	20	14	.588
Kansas City	18	14	.562
Oakland	17	18	.486
Tampa Bay	15	16	.484
Seattle	16	18	.471
Detroit	15	17	.469
Chicago	16	20	.444
Toronto	13	17	.433
Baltimore	13	21	.382
Cleveland	12	20	.375

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Team	W	L	Pct
Milwaukee	21	10	.677
Atlanta	21	12	.636
St. Louis	19	12	.613
New York	18	15	.543
Pittsburgh	20	19	.515
San Francisco	18	18	.500
Chicago	17	18	.500
Colorado	18	17	.500
Washington	15	17	.469
Los Angeles	15	20	.429
Philadelphia	13	19	.406
Cincinnati	13	20	.394
Florida	12	19	.387
Houston	12	20	.375
San Diego	10	20	.333
Arizona	11	23	.324

NOTE: Split-squad games count in the standings; games against non-major league teams do not.

Friday's Games

Minnesota 4, Pittsburgh 4, tie, 10 innings
Baltimore 6, Washington 3
N.Y. Mets 4, Boston 3
Toronto 10, Florida 4
N.Y. Yankees 7, Chicago Cubs 4
Philadelphia 3, Tampa Bay 2
Atlanta 3, Detroit 1
Texas 7, Kansas City 2
Houston 2, Cleveland 0
Chicago White Sox 6, Arizona 3
Colorado 6, Seattle 3
L.A. Angels 6, San Diego 5
Milwaukee 7, L.A. Dodgers 2
Oakland 2, San Francisco 10, 11 innings

Saturday's Games

Toronto 1, Florida 1, tie
N.Y. Yankees 10, Chicago Cubs 1
Philadelphia 3, Tampa Bay 7
Minnesota 7, Pittsburgh 6
Boston 9, N.Y. Mets 6
Detroit 8, Atlanta 4
Cleveland 4, Houston 3
Kansas City 5, Texas 2
Oakland 3, San Francisco 2
Colorado 6, Seattle 5
Chicago White Sox 2, Arizona 0
Washington 5, Baltimore 4
San Diego at L.A. Angels, late
Milwaukee at L.A. Dodgers, late

Sunday's Games

L.A. Dodgers at San Francisco, 2:05 p.m.

American League
All Times MDT

East	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	0	0	.000	-
Boston	0	0	.000	-
New York	0	0	.000	-
Tampa Bay	0	0	.000	-
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	0	0	.000	-
Cleveland	0	0	.000	-
Detroit	0	0	.000	-
Kansas City	0	0	.000	-
Minnesota	0	0	.000	-
West	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	0	0	.000	-
Oakland	0	0	.000	-
Seattle	0	0	.000	-
Texas	0	0	.000	-

Monday's Games

Cleveland (Lee 0-0) at Texas (Millwood 0-0), 12:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Shields 0-0) at Boston (Beckett 0-0), 12:05 p.m.
Kansas City (Meehe 0-0) at Chicago (White Sox) (Buehrle 0-0), 12:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 0-0) at Baltimore (Guthrie 0-0), 2:05 p.m.
Detroit (Verlander 0-0) at Toronto (Halladay 0-0), 5:15 p.m.
Seattle (Hernandez 0-0) at Minnesota (Liriano 0-0), 6:10 p.m.
Oakland (Braden 0-0) at L.A. Angels (Saunders 0-0), 7:05 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

Detroit at Toronto, 5:07 p.m.
Seattle at Minnesota, 6:10 p.m.
Oakland at L.A. Angels, 8:05 p.m.

National League
All Times MDT

East	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	0	0	.000	-
Florida	0	0	.000	-
New York	0	0	.000	-
Philadelphia	0	0	.000	-
Washington	0	0	.000	-
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	0	0	.000	-
Cincinnati	0	0	.000	-
Houston	0	0	.000	-
Milwaukee	0	0	.000	-
Pittsburgh	0	0	.000	-
St. Louis	0	0	.000	-
West	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	0	0	.000	-
Colorado	0	0	.000	-
Los Angeles	0	0	.000	-
San Diego	0	0	.000	-
San Francisco	0	0	.000	-

Sunday's Game

Atlanta (Lowe 0-0) at Philadelphia (Myers 0-0), 6:05 p.m.

Monday's Games

N.Y. Mets (Santana 0-0) at Cincinnati (Harang 0-0), 11:10 a.m.
Colorado (Cook 0-0) at Arizona (Webb 0-0), 1:40 p.m.
Washington (Lannan 0-0) at Florida (Nolasco 0-0), 2:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Maholm 0-0) at St. Louis (Wainwright 0-0), 2:15 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Zambano 0-0) at Houston (Oswalt 0-0), 5:05 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Kuroda 0-0) at San Diego (Peavy 0-0), 5:05 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

Milwaukee at San Francisco, 2:05 p.m.
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 5:05 p.m.
Washington at Florida, 5:10 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at Houston, 6:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh at St. Louis, 6:15 p.m.
Colorado at Arizona, 7:40 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego, 8:05 p.m.

BASKETBALL

NBA
All Times MDT

ATLANTIC

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	58	19	.753	-
x-Philadelphia	40	35	.533	17
New Jersey	31	45	.408	26½
Toronto	30	45	.400	27
New York	29	47	.382	28½

SOUTHEAST

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Orlando	57	19	.750	-
x-Atlanta	43	34	.558	14½
y-Miami	41	36	.532	16½
Charlotte	34	42	.447	23
Washington	18	60	.231	40

CENTRAL

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Cleveland	61	15	.803	-
Chicago	37	40	.481	24½
Detroit	36	40	.474	25
Indiana	32	44	.421	29
Milwaukee	32	46	.410	30

WESTERN

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
x-San Antonio	49	26	.653	-
Boston	48	28	.632	1½
New Orleans	47	28	.627	2
Dallas	45	31	.592	4½
Memphis	22	54	.289	27½

NORTHWEST

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Denver	51	26	.662	-
Portland	48	27	.640	2
Utah	46	30	.605	4½
Minnesota	22	54	.289	28½
Oklahoma City	21	54	.280	29

PACIFIC

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
x-L.A. Lakers	60	16	.789	-
Phoenix	42	34	.553	18
Golden State	27	49	.355	33
L.A. Clippers	18	58	.237	42
Sacramento	16	59	.213	43½

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San Antonio	49	26	.653	-
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2009 MLB SEASON PREVIEW

Power rankings Teams listed in order of 2008 finish

A M E R I C A N L E A G U E

	EAST					CENTRAL					WEST				
Scale of one to five, with five being the best ranking:															
Starting pitching	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●
Bullpen	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●
Offense	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●
Defense	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●
Total (out of 20)	16	18	15	12	8	11	12	12	10	10	13	8	10	8	
Made one of the biggest turnarounds in major league history. Young starters possess the talent to be potential aces.	If healthy, should make another run at the postseason with a very deep pitching staff in a strong division.	Missed post-season for first time since 1993; invested \$423.5 million on Mark Teixeira, CC Sabathia and A.J. Burnett.	Didn't make a move on the free-agent market. Lineup similar to last season, needs to show improvement.	With lack of starting pitching and strength of the East, they appear destined for another last-place finish.	Questionable health at back of rotation with Jose Contreras and Bartolo Colon. Defending Central title will be tough.	Young team surprised most by coming within one win of the playoffs. Rotation should only be better this season.	Went 44-28 after July 10 last season, but late surge wasn't enough to offset a stumbling start; winnable division.	Improved each of the past three years; rotation looks top-heavy but Joakim Soria is a top closer.	If they play up to potential should be a division contender - if not, a second straight losing record seems likely.	Trying to break out of the recent trend of shining during the regular season and fading in the playoffs.	Pitching questionable; had MLB-worst 5.37 ERA and most overworked bullpen (572 2/3 innings).	With consistency in the lineup and some pleasant surprises from rotation, they could contend in unimpressive West.	Unless they suddenly win a ton of 2-1 games this year, looks like another long, losing summer in Seattle.		

Cornerstone kids

These rooks could become franchise players.



David Price
LHP • Tampa Bay
No. 1 overall pick in 2007 draft breezed through Rays' minor league system last year.



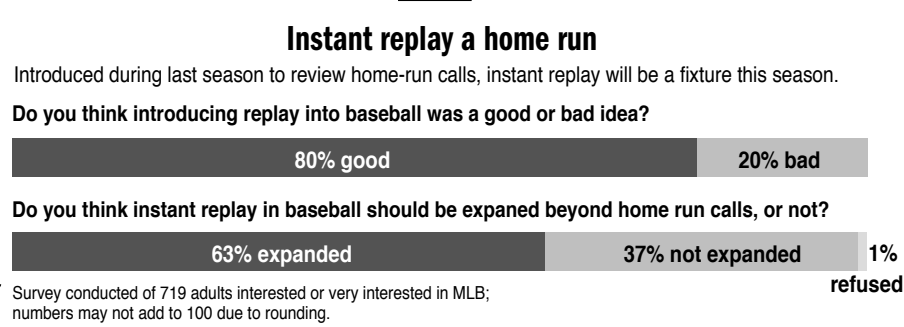
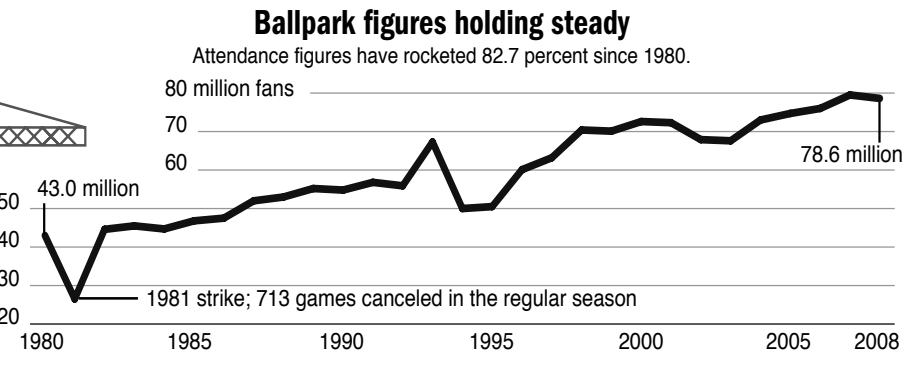
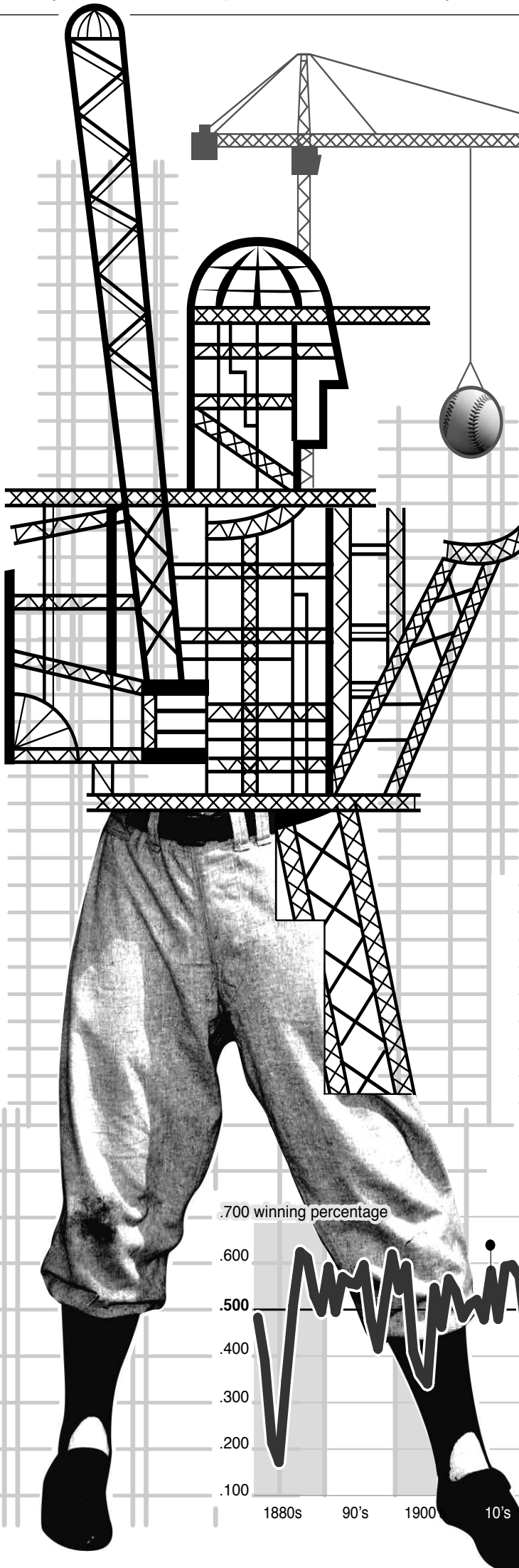
Elvis Andrus
SS • Texas
The 20-year-old prospect hit .295 with four HRs, 65 RBIs and 56 SBs in 118 games for Double-A Frisco last season.



Jordan Zimmermann
RHP • Washington
Minor league pitcher of the year in 2008; will bolster Washington's pitching-starved rotation.

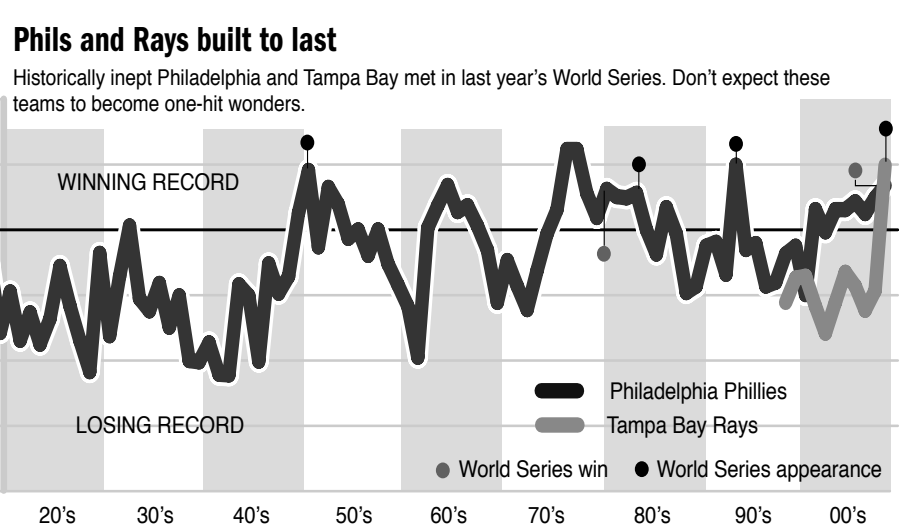


Matt Wieters
C • Baltimore
Switch hitter expected to start in minors, but could be Orioles' everyday catcher by the All-Star break.



Building on new foundations

Baseball's recent past has been marred by steroid confessions, ruined reputations and inflated payrolls. But adversity can help shape a new future. The Phillies and Rays have righted past failures and constructed teams with solid cores. Two new ballparks replace iconic structures in the Big Apple. The implementation of instant-replay shows technology can improve the fairness of the game. And each year potential stars debut - their futures looking infinitely bright.



New York Yankees - Yankee Stadium

Avg. ticket price: \$72.97 ↑ 73.6%
Capacity: 52,325* ↓ 8%
Cost: \$1.5 billion
Dimensions: LF 318, LC 399, (in feet) C 408, RC 385, RF 314
Note: Old stadium field dimensions preserved. *Not finalized.

New diamonds take center stage in New York

Avg. ticket price: \$36.99 ↑ 8.6%
Capacity: 42,000 ↓ 26.7%
Cost: \$800 million
Dimensions: LF 335, LC 379, (in feet) C 408, RC 383, RF 330

New York Mets - Citi Field

2009 dates to tag

Monday, April 13 San Diego at New York Mets: The Amazins host first home game at new stadium, which includes nods to the Polo Grounds and Ebbets Field.	Thursday, April 16 Cleveland at New York Yankees: The Bombers host first home game at new stadium, featuring a Hard Rock Cafe, martini bar, steak house and art gallery.	Tuesday, July 14 The 80th All-Star game: Cards will host Midsummer classic for the first time at the new Busch Stadium, which opened in 2006.	Friday, July 31 Trade deadline Last chance for teams to make deals without having to first pass players through waivers.	Friday, Aug. 21 Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets The NL East Rivals meet in their only four-game series of the season. The Phillies have won the division the last two years.	Friday, Sept. 25 Boston at N.Y. Yankees: The final regular-season series between AL East rivals. Both teams responded to Rays' emergence, tweaking their rosters.

N A T I O N A L L E A G U E

	EAST					CENTRAL					WEST				
Scale of one to five, with five being the best ranking:															
Starting pitching	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●	SP ●●●●●
Bullpen	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●	B ●●●●●
Offense	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●	O ●●●●●
Defense	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●	D ●●●●●
Total (out of 20)	16	15	11	12	7	16	10	13	13	11	8	13	10	11	10
With almost every starter returning, and Raul Ibanez replacing Pat Burrell, the Phillies have a chance to repeat.	Answered a glaring weakness by over-hauling their bullpen with addition of closers K-Rod and J.J. Putz.	Lowest payroll in majors; young pitching talent and Hanley Ramirez not enough to seriously contend.	Addressed aging rotation after first 90-loss season since 1990; will have trouble in NL East.	Made only one big move to improve roster: Adam Dunn adds power - and a ton of Ks.	If healthy, a deep rotation makes them division favorites; Milton Bradley must stay poised and healthy.	Reaching playoffs will be hard after losing top starters CC Sabathia and Ben Sheets.	Rotation a major concern after Roy Oswalt; middle of lineup dangerous, Miguel Tejada on the decline.	A contender with one big if - the often-injured former Cy Young winner Chris Carpenter must rebound.	Rotation could keep Reds competitive, but they've got a ways to go before they emerge from their rut.	Unless starting rotation and bullpen improve considerably, they're looking at a losing season.	If they stay healthy, the lineup appears solid - the loss of Derek Lowe leaves the rotation suspect.	Strong rotation led by Brandon Webb and Dan Haren should keep them in running for the division.	Busy offseason trading Matt Holliday and losing closer Brian Fuentes to free agency.	To contend in the NL West, they must find a way to score with a lineup led by Bengie Molina.	May be worse than last year's 99-loss team; recent sale of club may affect performance.

Howard helps Magic to win

ATLANTA — Dwight Howard scored 21 points and tied a season high with 23 rebounds, helping the Orlando Magic beat the Atlanta Hawks 88-82 on Saturday night to pull within a half-game of tying for second place in the Eastern Conference.

Howard's performance marked the ninth time this season, and 23rd of his five-year career, that he's had at least 20 points and 20 rebounds in a game.

Coming off a blowout home victory over East-leading Cleveland on Friday, the Magic have won of two straight, eight of nine and 11 of 13. They are four games behind the Cavaliers and trail the second-place Celtics by percentage points.

Joe Johnson scored 21 points for the Hawks, who have dropped three straight and six of eight.

HEAT 118, WIZARDS 104

WASHINGTON — Dwyane Wade scored 33 points, and the Miami Heat broke a franchise record with eight 3-pointers in the fourth quarter to put away the Washington Wizards.

Wade and James Jones each made three 3-pointers in the final period, finally blowing open the game after the last of several Wizards comebacks. Miami made a season-high 14 3-pointers in 32 attempts, including going 8-for-13 in the fourth.

76ERS 95, PISTONS 90

PHILADELPHIA — Andre Iguodala scored a season-high 31 points, Andre Miller had a triple-double with 21 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds, and the Philadelphia 76ers clinched a playoff spot.

Detroit led 88-87 with 2:17 left after Rodney Stuckey made two free throws. Miller made three free throws and Reggie Evans added two more with 39 seconds left for a 92-88



Orlando Magic's Dwight Howard (12) and Atlanta Hawks' Solomon Jones (44) fight for a rebound Saturday during the first half of a game in Atlanta.

AP photo

lead. Stuckey made two foul shots with 22.7 seconds left, cutting the lead to 92-90, but Miller answered with two foul shots.

RAPTORS 102, KNICKS 95

NEW YORK — Andrea Bargnani scored 23 points, Chris Bosh had 17 points and 13 rebounds, and the Toronto Raptors extended their winning streak to six.

Shawn Marion added 12 points and 13 boards for the Raptors, who stayed alive for an Eastern Conference playoff spot in a run that is almost certain to be too little, too late. Toronto would have been eliminated with a loss and a victory by Chicago.

Instead, the Raptors eliminated the Knicks, who haven't made the postseason since 2004.

BULLS 103, NETS 94

CHICAGO — Ben Gordon scored 12 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter, John Salmons added 17 and the Chicago Bulls beat the New Jersey Nets for their eighth win in 11 games.

Gordon missed his first 10 shots and was just 3-for-14 overall, but he hit a key 3-pointer and two free throws during a game-ending 10-0 run.

GRIZZLIES 107, BUCKS 102

MILWAUKEE — Rudy Gay scored 26 points, helping the suddenly surging Memphis Grizzlies hold off the Milwaukee Bucks 107-102 on Saturday night.

Gay looked unstoppable in spurts for the young Grizzlies, who equaled a season high with their fourth straight win and con-

tinued to build momentum under coach Lionel Hollins, a former Bucks assistant who took over as the Grizzlies' head coach in January.

Marc Gasol added 19 for Memphis.

NUGGETS 120, CLIPPERS 104

DENVER — The Denver Nuggets had plenty of firepower and defense even without Kenyon Martin to beat the short-handed Los Angeles Clippers 120-104 Saturday night for their 11th win in 12 games.

J.R. Smith led the Nuggets in scoring for the second straight game with a scintillating 34-point performance off the bench, and Carmelo Anthony added 18 points.

— The Associated Press

UConn 2 wins away from perfect season

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The Connecticut women's basketball express is just two victories from completing its perfect run.

To do it, the Huskies will have to defeat Stanford — the team that knocked them out of the Final Four last season. Oklahoma and Louisville will play in the other semifinal Sunday night with the title game Tuesday.

The Huskies have already handily beaten both those teams, routing Louisville in the Big East tournament championship game. That leads some to believe that the winner of Sunday's matchup with Stanford will end up as the national champion.

"I've heard people say that," Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma said. "But it's not the case. The championship game is Tuesday night. I don't want to make tomorrow the championship game."

"There's no comparison between the Louisville team we played in the Big East tournament and the one here today. And there's certainly no comparison between the Oklahoma team and the team that's here today."

UConn (37-0) has been dominant all season, winning by 31 points a game and not allowing a team to come within 10 points all season. The Huskies are seeking the school's third undefeated season and the fifth in women's basketball history.

Three times before they have entered the NCAAAs unbeaten. Connecticut went on to win the national championship in 1995 and 2002. In '97, the Huskies lost to Tennessee in the regional final.

"My hats off to Geno

WOMEN'S FINAL FOUR

At St. Louis Games on ESPN Times MDT

Louisville vs. Oklahoma, 5 p.m.
Stanford vs. Connecticut, 7 p.m.

and his staff and the great year Connecticut is having," said Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer, who has never coached an unbeaten college team but led the U.S. national team to a 60-0 record before winning Olympic gold in 1996. "In some ways, with us, we've learned a lot from losing."

OKLAHOMA, LOUISVILLE ARE IN IT TO WIN IT

ST. LOUIS — Louisville versus Oklahoma feels like the consolation game of the Women's Final Four.

Good reason. Both semifinalists have been drubbed by top-ranked Connecticut. Twice in the Cardinals' case.

Louisville coach Jeff Walz, whose team lost by 28 and 39 points, joked that it was all part of the plan to lull the unbeaten Huskies into a false sense of security. Of course, the Cardinals first have to win the opener on Sunday night and then Connecticut (37-0) would have to get past Stanford (33-4) in the second semifinal.

"I think we did a great job," Walz said. "Obviously, if we play them they're way overconfident."

Oklahoma's Sherri Coale, on the wrong end of a 28-point blowout at Storrs, Conn., in late November, bristled a bit at the notion that it's the Huskies' tournament to lose.

N.C.

Continued from Sports 1

They'll have to be at least 35 points better than they were in December when the teams met in this same building — a 98-63 UNC romp.

"Had no idea about that," coach Roy Williams said if he ever anticipated a rematch. "Knew that we'd played very, very well that night."

Meanwhile, Villanova (30-8) ends a successful season two wins short of its first title since 1985, when Rollie Massimino coaxed one of the greatest upsets in sports history out of his guys — 66-64 over Patrick Ewing, John Thompson and Georgetown.

Thompson was on press row doing radio and Massimino was chomping his gum nervously behind the Villanova bench, part of the record crowd of 72,456 at Ford Field — which was half gone and streaming toward the exits with 5 minutes left.

Mich. St.

Continued from Sports 1

Raymar Morgan broke out of his late-season slump with 18 points, Kalin Lucas added 21 and the smaller Spartans ran roughshod over Hasheem Thabeet and Connecticut in an 82-73 upset in the Final Four on Saturday night. The Spartans will now play the winner of Villanova-North Carolina for the NCAA title Monday night, giving the city and state at least two more days to forget all the bad news and revel in their Spartans' success.

It's Michigan State's first appearance in the title game since 2000, when the Spartans won their second title.

How's this for some karma? Johnson, Spartan-in-chief since leading Michigan State to its first title in 1979, will present the game ball before Monday's



North Carolina's Ty Lawson, center, shoots over Villanova's Shane Clark, left, and Dwayne Anderson, right, Saturday during a NCAA Final Four game in Detroit.

AP photo

But James Naismith himself probably couldn't have helped 'Nova out of this one.

North Carolina simply has too much talent.

Last year, in one of the more inexplicable performances in Final Four history, the Tar Heels trailed Kansas 40-12 midway through the first half.

This time, they led 40-23.

"I've been there. I was there a year ago," Williams said. "It feels like somebody jerks your heart out and shakes it."

Ellington made five of his first six shots, including a 3-pointer after a perfect crosscourt pass over the top from Danny Green. Nobody had an answer for Hansbrough, who once found himself bodied up with Dante Cunningham,

faked left, then spun to the baseline and saw no more resistance — a way-too-easy layup.

Lawson, he of the injured toe and the successful trip to the craps table in downtown Detroit a few nights previous — well, he stayed on a roll, going 5-for-11 with eight assists and seven rebounds. Had he shot better than 10-for-17 from the line, this game might have been more lopsided.

And so, what began as tournament with great potential for the Big East — three top seeds, two in the Final Four — will end with the conference on the sideline.

No disrespect to Villanova, which did, in fact, make this interesting for a brief time. The Wildcats cut the deficit to five early in the second half and it could have been three, but Cunningham's jumper went halfway in before cruelly rimming out.



Michigan State's Durrell Summers (15) slams home a shot against Connecticut's Stanley Robinson Saturday during the second half of a NCAA Final Four game in Detroit.

AP photo

title game along with Larry Bird.

"Detroit's been unbelievable to us," Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said. "We've had some great games here, and the best is yet to come."

Flashbulbs were popping as the final seconds ticked down. The crowd of 72,456 was the largest-ever for a

Final Four, and about two-thirds of it was wearing green.

"It was a memorable game that I won't forget," Izzo said. "Except we've got another one."

The loss is the latest blow for UConn, the best team in the country until Jerome Dyson went down with a

knee injury in mid-February. The Huskies have been dealing with distractions since last May, when coach Jim Calhoun was diagnosed with his third bout with cancer, and are now facing questions about alleged recruiting violations.

The loss snapped Calhoun and Connecticut's perfect run in the Final Four. They'd made it twice before — 1999 and 2004 — and went on to win the title each time.

The UConn players walked slowly off the court, looking shell-shocked that their season had ended.

"I've got a lot of kids in there crying right now," Calhoun said.

"But they had a great season. It hasn't been that easy to stay focused the past few weeks. But I give (Izzo) a great deal of credit."

MLB

Continued from Sports 1

for Texas, the three-time AL MVP needed surgery to repair a hip injury and will be sidelined until May. He'll collect \$174,863 a day from his \$32 million salary while he heals.

If those numbers seem boggling, try a few more from Yankees world.

Fans will pay up to \$2,625 for the top seats at the new stadium to watch a team that spent \$423.5 million to add pitchers CC Sabathia and A.J. Burnett, and first baseman Mark Teixeira.

Across New York City, the Mets capped prices at a relatively reasonable average of \$495 for the best seats at \$800 million Citi Field, which opens April 13.

Contrast that with the rest of the majors, where overall two-thirds of teams froze or lowered either some levels of tickets or their average price,

according to MLB spokesman Matt Bourne.

Thirteen teams cut payroll led by San Diego, which sliced more than \$30 million, and the Chicago White Sox, who chopped more than \$25 million. Even the Yankees lowered spending by about \$7 million — they gave up Jason Giambi, Bobby Abreu, Carl Pavano and Ivan Rodriguez, then watched Mike Mussina retire to save up for their new acquisitions. Still, their payroll is \$60 million higher than any other team's.

Several players will be looking to reach personal milestones. Randy Johnson, at age 45 starting his first season with the San Francisco Giants, needs five victories to become the 23rd 300-game winner and 211 strikeouts to become the second pitcher with 5,000.

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McPherson edges closer to winning LPGA event

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. — Kristy McPherson's first LPGA Tour victory might just come in a major.

McPherson shot a 2-under 70 on a hot, calm Saturday to take sole possession of the lead in the Kraft Nabisco Championship at 8-under 208. Fellow American and 2007 U.S. Open winner Cristie Kerr (70) was one shot back at Mission Hills.

The 27-year-old McPherson, with six career top-10 finishes but no victories, is playing in the Kraft Nabisco for the first time. On Friday, McPherson and Christina Kim teed off before strong wind raked the Coachella Valley and jumped into a tie for the lead in the LPGA Tour's first major of the season.

Kim faltered in the third round Saturday with a 75 and was five shots back.

Brittany Lincicome, whose 66 topped the first round, also shot a 70 to remain in contention, two strokes behind McPherson.

Defending champion Lorena Ochoa needed a birdie on 18 to shoot her best round of the tournament, a 72. She was tied for 15th at 2 over.

Michelle Wie had another bad day with her second straight 9-over 81. She was last among the 70 weekend qualifiers at 17 over.



Kristy McPherson hits from the No. 18 fairway Saturday during the third round of the LPGA Kraft Nabisco Championship golf tournament in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

AP photo

VAN PELT LEADS BY 1 AT HOUSTON OPEN

HUMBLE, Texas — Bo Van Pelt moved to 11-under par to take a one-shot lead through eight holes of his third round at the Shell Houston Open just before play was suspended because of darkness.

Fred Couples, Paul Casey,

Colt Knost and Tommy Armour III were all at 10 under when the horns sounded at 7:34 p.m. The players will resume the round early Sunday, then immediately tee off for the final 18.

Van Pelt, winless in eight-plus years on the PGA Tour, shot a 67 in the second round, then birdied three of

the first seven holes in his third round.

Knost, playing with Van Pelt, was leading at 11 under until a three-putt bogey at the par-5 eighth. Van Pelt hit a pitch to 3 feet and sank the birdie putt to switch places with Knost and take the outright lead.

— The Associated Press

Tiger heads into the second phase of his career

The Associated Press

Consider the 10 months between his last major and the next one as an intermission in the incomparable career of Tiger Woods, a break in a seamless act of historic and head-turning moments.

The 12-shot victory in the Masters. Winning the U.S. Open by 15 shots at Pebble Beach.

The "Tiger Slam," when he won all four majors in 294 days. Not missing a cut in seven years. Three PGA Tour winning streaks of at least five tournaments. The magic acts, from that putt on the island green at Sawgrass to the chip-in at the Masters that hung on the hole.

And then he was gone.

Woods limped away from his epic U.S. Open victory at Torrey Pines and wound up in Utah for reconstructive surgery on his left knee that kept him out of golf for eight months, his longest break from golf in his life.

He returns to the stage at Augusta National, golf's grandest theater, to start what seems like a second phase in his career.

"I can certainly see that, no doubt," Woods said. "I've been playing golf for a long time, and it was nice actually to take that break. I didn't want to take that break — trust me. I didn't want to have to go through all the things I went through. But when it's all said and done, I'm feeling so much better now than I did for years."

Better than ever? He certainly looks the same.

In his last major, Woods made a do-or-die putt from 12 feet on the final hole to force a playoff at the U.S. Open, which he won the next day. In his last tournament, he matched the largest comeback of his PGA Tour career — five shots — and won the Arnold Palmer Invitational with a 15-foot birdie putt on the final hole at Bay Hill in the dark.

But there are changes that those around him have noticed, which the layoff only accentuated.

"He's in a good place," said Mark Steinberg, a close friend and his agent at IMG. "He has balance in his personal life, his business life and balance in his golf life. He has learned not to get ahead of himself. He's been extremely patient. Twelve years ago, patience wouldn't be the word I used with Tiger. Now, patience is a virtue with him."

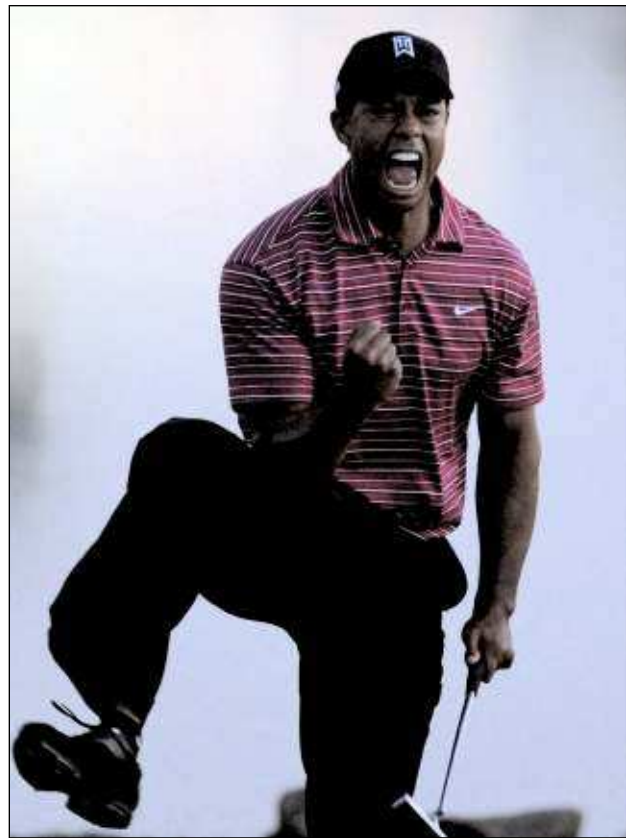
Woods is 33, a family man. He has lost a father and become a father. He and his wife, Elin, will celebrate their five-year wedding anniversary in October. Their second child, a boy, was born in February.

Mark O'Meara was on the helicopter to Isleworth after the Tavistock Cup last month and recalls a poignant image of the guy whom he befriended when Woods was 20.

"Elin was waiting on him — and this is a side of Tiger Woods that people don't get to see — he grabs his daughter and they hoof it down the road," O'Meara said. "Not in a cart. Just him and his family walking together to their house. He's a good father. Being an only child, I think he's going to do everything he can to be there as much as possible."

"With everything that transpired in the last year — winning on one leg, taking a major break, his son coming into his life — it's been a little bit of a whirlwind," O'Meara said. "It gave him time to reflect where he's at, what he's done, and what he's getting ready to do. I think he'll be back better than ever."

Woods won at Bay Hill in only his third tournament back. It assured his position



AP file photo

Tiger Woods celebrates after sinking the putt to win the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament at Bay Hill in Orlando, Fla., on March 29.

at No. 1 in the world and made him the favorite again at the Masters, although now with perhaps more challengers since the start of the decade.

Padraig Harrington won the British Open and PGA Championship while Woods was away, and neither came with an asterisk. The Irishman, who has shown a remarkable knack for bearing down on the back nine at majors, goes to the Masters with a chance to join Woods and Ben Hogan as the only players to win three straight majors in the 93 years that there have been at least three on the menu.

"It's nice that I am going for three in a row," Harrington said. "It means I did something right in the last two majors."

The last player who had that chance was Phil Mickelson.

Mickelson hasn't come close to winning another major since that meltdown at Winged Foot in 2006, but that might change. The two-

time Masters champion won twice in his last three starts going into the Shell Houston Open — starting, perhaps coincidentally, with word that Woods was ready to return to golf.

Roush team looks for momentum flip in Texas race

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Roush Fenway Racing could sure use another backflip in Texas.

The team is six races into a season that began with Matt Kenseth becoming the first NASCAR Sprint Cup driver in 12 years to win the first two races. But it already needs another boost, and there's no place to do that like Texas.

"We could run here every week, that'd be fine with me," Carl Edwards said. "Yeah, I couldn't be happier to be coming to Texas."

Edwards twice got to do his trademark celebratory backflip at Texas last year after becoming the first driver to sweep both races. That also made him the first three-time winner at the 1½-mile high-banked track.

Even without winning a pole in Texas, Roush Fenway has won seven of the 16 Cup races at the track where no other team has won more than twice. Roush has 34 top-10 finishes in 76 starts, and all five drivers finished in the top 11 last November.

David Reutimann earned the pole for Sunday's Samsung 500 in his No. 00 Toyota for Michael Waltrip Racing. Series points leader Jeff Gordon starts second at one of the two active tracks where the four-time Cup driver for Hendrick has never won a race.

Kenseth and teammate David Ragan make up the second row. Edwards and Greg Biffle also share a row, starting 13th and 14th, while Jamie McMurray, the other Roush driver, qualified 36th.

Since winning the first two races, Kenseth hasn't even led a lap. His bid for three victories in a row was done only seven laps into the race at Las Vegas.

"It has been really a miserable four weeks," Kenseth said. "The first two weeks couldn't have been any better, and the last four couldn't have been really much worse. So we definitely

KYLE BUSCH WINS THIRD STRAIGHT

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Kyle Busch made it a Texas trio in the NASCAR Nationwide Series.

Busch won his third consecutive Nationwide race in Texas with another dominating performance Saturday, leading a race-record 178 of 200 laps to win the O'Reilly 300.

Busch finished 1.447 seconds ahead of Tony Stewart, who made a late charge from seventh with four new tires after a caution on lap 188. Brad Keselowski, forced to start 42nd in a backup car, finished third.

The winning streak at Texas began with Busch sweeping both races last year when he led 300 of 400 laps. This time, he became the first polesitter to win any of the 17 Nationwide races at the 1½-mile, high-banked track. Busch led the first 56 laps in his Joe Gibbs-owned Toyota, building a 6-second lead over Jeff Burton before the first pit stop. Before a caution a dozen laps later, Busch had already regained a 7-second lead.

Keselowski, who wrecked the primary No. 88 Chevrolet owned by Dale Earnhardt Jr. in qualifying, worked his way through the field and by lap 170 was second. And he was closing the gap when rookie John Wes Townley's accident brought the final caution.

need a good finish here, hopefully get things rolling in the right direction."

That goes for the entire team, especially after consecutive races on tight half-mile tracks. Roush drivers had an average finish of 30th at Bristol and McMurray's 10th at Martinsville was the only better than 23rd.

Before the short tracks, Edwards was third at Atlanta — another Bruton Smith-owned track with a similar layout where he has also won three times. That is Edwards' best finish this season after winning a Cup-high nine times last year, and the best for a Roush driver since Daytona and California to open the season.

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Vick's bankruptcy plan doesn't add up for judge

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Michael Vick's plan to emerge from bankruptcy simply didn't add up.

The uncertainty surrounding the aging, suspended NFL star's return to pro football as well as vague book and film deals prompted a bankruptcy judge to reject Vick's Chapter 11 plan and order a new one.

This time, the judge wants a proposal based on the stark reality facing Vick: He has about \$210,000 but owes \$1 million in fees from the bankruptcy case and about \$3.7 million in legal bills — some \$13,700 a day since he filed for Chapter 11 protection in July.

Vick also faces at least \$200,000 in annual living expenses if he keeps two Virginia homes and three vehicles. His only guaranteed income is a \$10-an-hour construction job that will be part of his probation when he is moved from federal prison to home confinement in May.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Frank J. Santoro considered those obligations and other expenses and concluded Vick would need to earn \$7.5 to \$8 million a year to break even over the next three years.

"There is no evidence he will be able to make that kind of money," Santoro said Friday.

Vick was the NFL's highest paid player after signing a 10-year, \$140 million deal with the Atlanta Falcons. But Vick and the Falcons have parted ways, and it's unlikely he will be able to command anywhere near that kind of money if he is reinstated by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and signed by another team.

The average NFL salary last year was \$1.85 million, according to the NFL Players Association. Vick's agent, Joel Segal, testified that he would try to negotiate a contract with a modest base salary and hefty incentives for playing time and starts. The minimum salary for a player with Vick's seven years of experience is \$620,000.

Vick said he thought if he "did the right things," he could play 10-12 more years. But the quarterback is already 28 — the average age for an NFL quarterback — and has exceeded the league's 3.2-year career average. As a running quarterback, he also takes more physical punishment and is more susceptible to injury than most.

And there's no guarantee he will be reinstated. Vick testified that he could wind up in the fledgling United Football League. The four-team league begins its first season this fall.

Vick's lawyers said he has agreed to a television documentary deal that will pay him \$600,000 — half up front, the rest when the film is completed — but Santoro held up the one-page proposal from an organization called Red Bird and questioned whether it could be considered a bona fide deal.

An accountant hired by Vick to help untangle his financial mess and advise him in future deals testified he thought Vick could obtain "bridge financing" that would allow him to collect the second \$300,000 immediately and repay it when the film is complete, but again the judge seemed skeptical.

One of Vick's attorneys also alluded to people in "the literary arts" working on Vick's behalf, but he provided no details.

Santoro did not set a deadline for Vick to submit a new plan, but will be updated at a status hearing April 28. The judge suggested selling one or both of the two homes and the three cars Vick wants to keep.

Vick has a home in Hampton, which tax records show is worth about \$748,000, and is building a \$2 million home in Suffolk. He planned to sell the home he bought his mother and move her into the Hampton house, where he and his fiancée and their two children also would live until the Suffolk home is ready.



AP file photo

Former Atlanta Falcons football player Michael Vick leaves federal court after pleading guilty to a dogfighting charge in Richmond, Va., on Aug. 27, 2007.

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Bowlen explains Cutler trade

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — Denver Broncos owner Pat Bowlen has sent a letter to season ticket holders explaining why the organization had to trade Pro Bowl quarterback Jay Cutler to the Chicago Bears.

Bowlen preached a message of team unity in the e-mail, reiterating that he and

new coach Josh McDaniels had reached out many times to Cutler, who didn't respond to their overtures to repair the strained relationship.

Bowlen, who remained largely



Cutler

during the six-week rift that ended with Thursday's blockbuster trade, wrote: "It has never been about one player and it never will be."

He added that anybody who puts himself above the team gets a ticket out of town.

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Vision Comm. | (208) 359-2455

Rigby
The Talk Shop | (208) 390-7445

Salmon
Salmon Cellular & Satellite | (208) 756-2531

Soda Springs
Linx Wireless | (208) 547-4444

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Rocky Mountain Cellular | (208) 624-0235

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Come grow with us... Due to our high volume of clients, Idaho Home Health & Hospice is now accepting applications for a Full-time Office Support Clerk. Idaho Home Health & Hospice offers competitive wages, 100% paid premiums for medical/dental for all full-time staff, continuing education and GREAT incentive programs to all staff. Come be a part of a caring environment! Apply at 418 Oneida St. in Rupert or call 436-5855 for questions. EOE

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Land View Inc. has an opening for a Credit Specialist. Strong organizational skills and attention to detail with knowledge of credit practices and Microsoft computer practices helpful. One to three years previous experience in finance, accounting, credit, customer service and/or similar function ideal but will train the right person. Please send resumes to bob@lvf.com or mail to PO Box 475 Rupert, ID 83350 EEOC

203 Construction

CONSTRUCTION
Concrete Laborers and Finishes. Must be available to travel. Wages DOE 731-6172 or 731-6188

CONSTRUCTION
Qualified Journeyman Painter needed, wage DOE. Contact 536-1655 for application.

204 Customer Service

CUSTOMER SERVICE/SALES
FT or PT position. College degree preferred. Strong verbal, written, and computer skills required. Wage DOE. Send cover letter w/resume to PO Box 2347, TF 83303.

205 Dairy

DAIRY
Magic Valley operation seeking progressive **Manager** with proven experience, will work directly with owner, supervise/manage employees, work with Vet & Nutritionist, manage cows & farms. Excellent people skills & ability to work on a team required. Spanish a plus. Great Salary & housing. Send resume to: Dairy Division, P.O. Box 5333, Twin Falls, ID 83303-5333 208-412-9329

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207 Education

EDUCATION
One on One working with special needs children. Must have degree in Social Services or Education. Pay DOE. fax resume 208-733-3315

208 Farm

FARM
Approx. 57 temp. farm workers & irrigators needed in ID (45) & MT (12). Approx. 4/8 12/15 (start & end dates vary). \$7.25 to \$11.65/hr or piece rates, 48hrs/wk. Single worker housing provided if unable to return daily to residence. Tools/supplies provided. Guaranteed pay for 3/4 of contract. Travel cost reimbursed at 50% of contract & upon completion of contract for out-of-area workers. For more details/employer names/locations/ specific wage rates & dates and to apply, report or send resume to nearest State Workforce Agency or contact the Idaho Dept. of Labor (208)332-3570 & refer to JO#s 1338924, 1338926, 1338927, 1338928. Or the Montana Dept. of Labor & Industry (406)444-3480 & refer to JO#s 4010830, 1607822, 0725312, 4010872, 0724558, 4010893.

208 Farm

Classified Private Party Ads Requires pre-payment prior to publication. Major credit/debit cards, and cash accepted. 733-0931 ext. 2 Times-News

209 General

CUSTODIAN
Wendell School District is seeking to hire a **Night Custodian** (hours approx. 2-10 p.m.) and a day time **Maintenance person**. Start date for both positions is June 1st. Experience preferred. Please call the district office (536-2418) for more information

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209 General

DISPATCHER
Full-time Dispatcher needed. Must be able to work in a busy, high pressure environment. Management experience preferred. Please fax resume to 208-438-5223 or email to Justin@handytruckline.com

GENERAL
A Program Technician position is available at the Cassia County Farm Service Agency in Burley, Idaho. The salary ranges from \$27,504-\$49,553 annually. DDE. Responsible for carrying out office activities and providing technical assistance and program support for FSA programs. Computer experience preferred. The qualifications and how to apply can be found at the following website: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov> as job announcement number ID-060006 Application period closes April 9, 2009. If you have any questions please contact Brandi Wiggins at 208-378-5670 USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

209 General

GENERAL
DISCOVERY
Day & Swing Shift Positions
*No Sales Involved!
*Base Pay up to \$11.00/hr
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*Flexible Scheduling - You Pick the Days you Want to Work!
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Please apply at 840 Meadows Dr #1, Twin Falls or please call (208) 736-6601 Walking distance from CSI!

GENERAL
Part-time Cashier. Evenings, weekends, and holidays. Apply at in-store kiosk or www.smithsfoodanddrug.com Drug free workplace

209 General

GENERAL
Parts Person for Farm Equipment dealership. Good people skills are a must. Computer skills and prior parts or farm experience are preferred but not required. Contact Rudy at 208-312-5554



PhoneBase Research currently has immediate openings in our interviewing department. This position involves conducting public opinion polls over the telephone. PhoneBase Research offers:

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GENERAL

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- Lab Tech
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Jerome, ID 83338
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E-mail resumes to: JCCHR@Daviscofoods.com



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For more information Call 775-355-4907 EOE/Drug Free Workplace



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Transportation Available from Twin Falls, Filer, Rogerson, and Hollister Housing Available

For more information Call 775-355-6907 EOE/Drug Free Workplace

South Central community Action PARTNERSHIP
Helping People. Changing Lives.
South Central Community Action Partnership (SCCAP) is accepting applications for the following positions:

Home Energy Analyst
This position is responsible for analyzing residential homes for improvements in energy efficiency using diagnostic testing equipment. Positions will be open in Twin Falls(2) \$14.18/hr

Regional Production Supervisor
This position will be responsible for the management of an office, warehouse facility & supervision of weatherization crew in the field. Positions will be open in Jerome(1) and Burley(1). \$14.53/hr

Qualifications
5 years supervisory experience in residential construction
10 years carpentry experience in residential construction
Experience in energy conservation
Must have valid drivers license and insurable to drive agency vehicles.

SCCAP provides energy conservation measures to qualifying homes throughout the Magic Valley including the installation of fiberglass and cellulose insulation, windows, doors, and structural repairs. These are full-time, year round positions, 10-hours per day, 4 days per week with overtime opportunities. Benefits offered include: insurance options, vacation/sick leave and paid holidays. All tools and equipment provided as well as transportation to and from job sites.

SCCAP is an EOE, Drug Free Work Place

Please apply in person M-F, 8:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M.
550 Washington St. S.
Twin Falls, Idaho
No phone calls please
APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED UNTIL 4/15/09, 4:30 P.M.

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breaking news, local news, more news

St Luke's Magic Valley EMPLOYMENT

- **REGISTERED NURSES** - Full & part time positions available.
- **Medical**
- **Surgical**
- **Emergency Department**
- **Neonatal Intensive Care Unit**
- **Obstetrics**
- **Pediatrics/ Women & Children**
- **CODERS** - Full time, days. CPC, CCS, CCS-P or RHIT preferred. Previous experience preferred.
- **CNA** - Part-time & full-time positions. Certified Nursing Assistant required.
- **OFFICE COORDINATOR** - Full-time, days. High School diploma or equivalent preferred. Medical terminology preferred. Supervisory experience preferred. Six months in the medical field or equivalent business training required.
- **CLINICAL OFFICE POSITIONS** - Full-time, and part-time positions available. Medical Assistant or LPN required.
- **SECURITY OFFICER** - Full time, Nights. Must have a high school diploma or general education degree (GED) strongly preferred. Must have a valid State of Idaho issued driver's license with a clear driving record.

St Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center
P.O. Box 409, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0409 (208) 737-2671 or FAX (208) 737-2741
beckyhu@mvrmmc.org - Becky

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Medical Coder

Family Health Services, a Federally Qualified Health Center with clinics in Twin Falls, Buhl, Jerome, Burley, Rupert and Fairfield, has openings for the following positions:

Coder, Twin Falls - coordinates the coding to process fees for professional services provided to patients within a specified clinical area or group of clinical specialty areas. Utilizes advanced knowledge of specialty coding to analyze patient medical records, ensuring that documentation by providers conforms to legal and procedural requirements. Assigns specified codes to medical diagnoses and/or clinical procedures. Professional coding certification required.

Family Health Services offers full-time employees a comprehensive benefit plan including health insurance, life insurance, 401(k) with match, and PTO.

For confidential consideration, please send resume to:
FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES
HR Department • 794 Eastland Drive
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301
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New graduates welcome.

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Full-time position available, Tuesday through Saturday, for an experienced driver with a current CDL license that has a passenger endorsement. Certified nursing assistants meeting this requirement are preferred.



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www.LCCA.com

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• Sherry Dr. • Morningside Dr. • 9th Ave. East • Sunrise Blvd. TWIN FALLS 735-3346	• Park Ave. • 16th St. • 20th St. • Overland Ave. BURLEY 677-8733	• Super Tuesday Routes Available BURLEY/RUPERT 677-8733
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Call now for more information about routes available in your area.

Twin Falls... 735-3346
Burley, Rupert, Paul... 677-8733
Kimberly, Buhl, Filer, TWA... 735-3241
Gooding, Shoshone, Holey, Jerome... 735-3241

209 General

BARTENDER
Part-time Bartender needed. You can pick up an application at The Pressbox, 1749 Kimberly Rd.

GENERAL
Pesticides Spray Tech current OH, OI, LS licensing needed, wage DOE. 208-731-0836

GENERAL
The Wendell Recreation District is accepting applications for certified lifeguards and swimming instructors for the summer season. You can pick up an application from Schratz's Accounting at 287 W. Main St. or Wendell Elementary School at 150 3rd Ave. East. Completed applications must be received by May 1. The WRD is an EOE

WAREHOUSE
Delivery Driver, Clean driving record. Exc. benefit package Drug Free Workplace Apply between 9-3 at 167 Eastland, Twin Falls

WAREHOUSE
Kimberly Seeds Intl' Inc. is looking for a full time Warehouse person. Must be able to lift 55 lbs repeatedly, CDI, a plus. Apply in person at 521 Hwy 30 East, Kimberly, ID 83341

211 Medical

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

DENTAL
Dental Assistant with expanded duties for full time Twin Falls office. Experience preferred. Benefit pkg., M-F, Pay DOE. Send resumes to P.O. Box 3085 Twin Falls, ID. 83303

MEDICAL
Learn Phlebotomy 12 hour course being offered. 04/09, 10 & 11 in Twin Falls. For more information Call Wendy 208-785-4801

MEDICAL
St. Benedicts Family Medical Center
Full-time RN/ OR Circulator For additional information please visit our job listings at: www.sbfmc.org. 709 N. Lincoln Ave. Jerome, ID EOE

213 Professional

PROFESSIONAL
Art/Photography instructor full-time 9-month ongoing position. Apply online to www.csi.edu EOE

PROFESSIONAL
Business and economics degree instructor full-time 9-month ongoing position. Apply online to www.csi.edu EOE

PROFESSIONAL
Director of CSI Mini-Cassia Center in Burley full time position. Apply online to www.csi.edu/jobs EOE

216 Trades

GENERAL
Maintenance/Parts inventory clerk needed for long haul trucking company. Must be proficient with computers and have some experience in trucking maintenance, record keeping, parts inventory and data entry. Full time position, insurance, 401K, paid vacation. Pay based on Experience. Fax resume with references and wage requirements to: 208-878-5001 Attn: Safety Director Idaho Milk Transport, Inc. Burley, ID

MECHANIC
Excavation Co. in Bellevue is seeking a Full-time Certified Diesel Mechanic. Must be experienced to work on heavy equipment including hydraulics, experienced in welding and have own tools. We offer excellent pay with vacation and sick leave. Call 208-788-7639 for application or more information.

TRADES
Machinist with CNC, Mill and Lathe experience, and CAD/CAM experience helpful. Call 736-9960

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Woman about to remarry wants ex to walk her down the aisle

DEAR ABBY: I am a 30-year-old, divorced woman who is planning to remarry soon. My ex-husband and I are still friendly and get along well.

Would it be inappropriate to ask him to walk me down the aisle? My father is dead, and my mother feels the task should fall to a significant male. I would like to ask him, but I am not sure how he'll react or if my fiancé will approve of the idea. Any suggestions?



that the check is to be given to you.

DEAR ABBY: I have had several recent experiences of needing to grab only a few items and quickly check out of a store, only to find the express lane — which is supposed to be for shoppers with 10 items or less — occupied by someone with an entire cartload of items.

What is the proper etiquette in this situation? Should I say nothing and allow my time to be wasted by people who think they are entitled? Should I mention it to the store manager or say something to the cashier in the presence of the offender?

Should I bite my lip or bring it to someone's attention? As a former cashier, I feel it is the responsibility of the cashier working the express lane to regulate who comes into it, but the cashiers seem oblivious or apathetic.

— FRUSTRATED SHOPPER IN IDAHO
DEAR FRUSTRATED: I agree that it should be the responsibility of the cashier to enforce the rules — and where I live, many of them do it effectively. However, because those in the store you patronize are unwilling to risk confrontation, mention your frustration to the manager. It is possible that the cashiers need more training.

— SECOND TIME AROUND
DEAR SECOND TIME: Yes. Before going any further, discuss it with your fiancé. While it is admirable that you and your ex are still on friendly terms, your fiancé might find it troubling to have his bride "handed-off" to him by her first husband. Then, because you are independent, consider walking yourself down the aisle, or ask your mother if she would like the honor.

DEAR ABBY: I'm in my early 20s and have a friend, "Logan," who is in his early 30s. We go out to dinner every so often to catch up. When the server asks how the check should be split, Logan quickly says to put it all on one check — and before I know it, he has already paid for both of our meals.

I have told him before that I'd like to pay for some of our meals or, at least, be allowed to pay for my own — but his response is always that I'm young and in college and he is working.

I appreciate the gesture and his concern, but I feel a little insulted that someone would think I'm unable to take care of myself. It also makes me feel a little guilty when he always grabs the check. Is there something I can do to assuage my conscience without insulting my friend?

— YOUNG, BUT NOT PENNILESS, CIRCLEVILLE, OHIO
DEAR NOT PENNILESS: Before you go out with Logan again, explain that while you appreciate his generosity, you would prefer that he allow you to pick up the check for two reasons: one, because you are financially able to do so, and two, because the situation is making you uncomfortable.

Alternatively, when you and Logan are seated, rather than waiting for the server to ask how the check should be divided, instruct the server

IF APRIL 5 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You need to maintain a low profile and follow all the rules between now and the end of July. During this time, while the universe is testing your resolve and people are more critical than usual, you shouldn't make a job change or start anything of major significance. A way out of your dilemma may appear in June or you could be given a blessing in disguise. Support groups, professional organizations, or community gatherings could throw you a lifeline during the next seven months and offer you more than surface social contact. The first quarter of 2010 is your best time to shine, make major changes or commitments, or to pursue romantic interests.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): If you set a high bar for performance and expect others to reach it, you should be prepared to cross that hurdle yourself. A temporary lack of enthusiasm and frustration will fade as the week goes by.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Sometimes it feels as though you have been given a backstage pass and that you know just what is going on behind the scenes. You might be able to capitalize on your knowledge later in the week to come.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You tend to adopt an



attitude that insulates you from the hard, cruel facts. But because you are unaware of problems that are brewing you could make a mistake today. Wait for better timing to act this week.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your heart is in the right place this week. However, a well-meant offer of sympathy or friendship might backfire. Wait a day or two before you make large expenditures or hold a heart-to-heart discussion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Conflicting emotions could put a freeze on your plans, or your heart. In the week ahead you will realize that a situation is not similar to the Titanic and an iceberg. You will find a way out of an impasse.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): When surrounded by people carrying sticks, it is wise to avoid looking like a pinata. Later this week you will be able to take center stage without provoking others to take vicious jabs.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your eyes are bigger than your stomach. Someone, and it might be you, could display a streak of greediness or jealousy. Hold off on making crucial decisions or pur-

chases until later this week.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You might think you have been given a free ride, but it could cost a bundle. You might have missed the point. Wait until later in the week to make key decisions or set an important project into motion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Trying to determine what to do by checking for heads or tails is not the solution. Everything will become clear in the week ahead and you will be able to act from moral certainty rather than vague faith.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It is far better to do nothing than to do something the wrong way. You may feel temporarily frustrated by circumstances outside your control but you will be able to overcome this later in the week.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You must either hold on tight or seek higher ground. That is the only to be sure you aren't swept away by an emotional tsunami. Your current doubts and suspicions will be laid to rest later this week.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The record in your head is running at 33 rpm instead of 45. Because you have been involved in a slowdown you might be discouraged. Hang in there because the needle will become unstuck in the week ahead.

Today is Palm Sunday, April 5, the 95th day of 2009. There are 270 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On April 5, 1621, the Mayflower sailed from Plymouth Colony in present-day Massachusetts on a monthlong return trip to England.

On this date:
In 1614, Pocahontas, daughter of the leader of the Powhatan tribe, married English colonist John Rolfe in Virginia. (A convert to Christianity, she went by the name Lady Rebecca.)

In 1792, George Washington cast the first presidential veto, rejecting a congressional measure for apportioning representatives among the states.

In 1887, in Tusculumbia, Ala., teacher Anne Sullivan achieved a breakthrough as her blind and deaf pupil, Helen Keller, learned the meaning of the word "water" as spelled out in the Manual Alphabet.

In 1895, Oscar Wilde lost his criminal libel case against the Marquess of Queensberry, who'd accused the writer of homosexual practices.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1951, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were sentenced to death following their conviction in New York on charges of conspiring to commit espionage for the Soviet Union; co-defendant Morton Sobell was sentenced to 30 years in prison. (He was released in 1969.)

In 1964, Army Gen. Douglas MacArthur died in Washington at age 84.

In 1975, nationalist Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek died at age 87.

In 1976, reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes died in Houston at age 70.

In 1986, two American servicemen and a Turkish woman were killed in the bombing of a West Berlin discotheque, an incident which prompted a U.S. air raid on Libya more than a week later.

In 1988, a 15-day hijacking ordeal began as gunmen forced a Kuwait Airways jumbo jet to land in Iran.

Ten years ago: NATO missiles and aircraft blasted Serbian targets inside Yugoslavia for a 13th straight day. The United Nations suspended sanctions against Libya after Moammar Gadhafi surrendered two suspected Libyan intelligence agents for trial in the 1988 Pan Am bombing.

Five years ago: A U.S.-Canadian task force investigating the massive power blackout of Aug. 14, 2003, called for urgent approval of mandatory reliability rules to govern the electric transmission industry. Flash floods killed some three dozen people in northern Mexico. The Los Angeles Times won five Pulitzer Prizes; the Pulitzer for fiction went to Edward P. Jones for "The Known World." The Connecticut Huskies defeated Georgia Tech 82-73 to win the men's NCAA basketball championship.

One year ago: President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin opened farewell talks at Putin's heavily wooded retreat on the Black Sea. Actor Charlton Heston, big-screen hero and later leader of the National Rifle Association, died in Beverly Hills, Calif., at age 84.

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Introduce us to a special Magic Valley mother

Perhaps you know a particularly inspiring mother. Or one who overcame tremendous obstacles as she nurtured her children. Or one who spread her arms, opened her heart and mothered families other than her own.

If so, please tell us about her. On Mother's Day next month, we want to devote the Family Life section front to an extraordinary southern Idaho mother. But we

need you to introduce us to her.

By e-mail, you can nominate a mother who lives in Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka or Twin Falls county. Tell us why her story would be inspiring to our readers.

Also include: Your full name; how you're connected with the mother you're nominating; contact information for both you and her; and the towns where

each of you live. Please make sure all your information is correct, including name spellings.

E-mail your nomination: Send it to virginia.hutchins@lee.net with "Mother" in the subject line.

The deadline: We must receive your nomination by Sunday, April 26.

In our Mother's Day story, we may quote from any nomination we receive.



Celsey McClellan, 12, talks with her mother, Lisa McClellan, at their home near Jerome in 2008. The *Times-News* featured Lisa McClellan on Mother's Day last year.

Times-News file photo



Photos by ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

John Darnall whips up some spaghetti for his family Tuesday night at their home in Filer. The Darnalls have saved money by going out to eat only once or twice a month.

Back from the Brink

Filer family's lessons learned: Drink 1% milk and keep the kitchen clean

By Melissa Davlin
Times-News writer

FILER — What a difference two months make.

In December, Jamie and John Darnall of Filer responded to an invitation from the *Times-News* asking for readers to share their personal finance woes. The couple told of their troubles avoiding impulse buys and the struggle to put money in savings while caring for their three sons, Caleb, 8, Connor, 6, and Carson, 4. We teamed up with College of Southern Idaho associate economics professor Frank Ellis to help them reign in their spending and build up their savings.

It's been two months since their meeting with Ellis. What has changed?

The couple has eliminated impulse buys, heeding Ellis' advice to wait before buying. Instead of spending their tax return on goodies, they're putting it toward medical and credit card payments. The family has been hit with medical bills after Jamie got tests earlier this year, but has still managed to set aside money.

Their biggest achievement: Cutting down on eating out. Before getting Ellis' advice, the family of five ate out up to twice a week. Now, they aim for once a month, although with the recent doctor appointments, they eat out a little more often for convenience.

Jamie cooks most of the time. On Tuesday, though, she sat out to nurse an injured leg while John wielded cooking utensils in an attempt to make spaghetti and peas for dinner.

"Why is it burned?" asked Caleb as he poked the meat sauce with a fork.

"Ask your dad," Jamie said.

You might not want to take cooking lessons from them, but here are some tips to make the most of your monthly paycheck.

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



Connor Darnall, 6, reaches for milk for the family's dinner. The Darnalls have saved by drinking 1 percent milk instead of 2 percent.

Money-saving tips from the Darnalls

Keep track of what you spend. even if it's just for a few weeks. By recording their grocery expenses, Jamie and John Darnall discovered that they went through three gallons of milk within a couple of days. To save a few pennies, she switched from 2 percent to the cheaper 1 percent milk.

Unscrew a few light bulbs, unplug appliances and turn off the lights. Being conscious about energy usage helped drop the Darnalls' electricity bill from \$50 to \$35.

Clean your kitchen. By eliminating dirty dishes after dinner, the Darnalls said they're more likely to cook instead of getting frustrated and eating out. "No one wants to cook in a dirty kitchen," Jamie said.

Don't depend on coupons. Often, coupons are for the most expensive items in the store, Jamie noted. Instead, keep an eye on advertisements for sales, or stick with generics.

Cut back on cleaning expenses. "(With) three boys, we do a lot of laundry and go through a lot of hot water," Jamie said. Now, they wash their clothes with cold water when they can and use less laundry soap than the bottle calls for.



Making sure to unplug appliances at the Darnall house is a new energy-conservation ritual reflected in savings on the power bill.

Good time to toss your bad medicine

Spring cleaning is supposed to be the new beginning to the year — a time of rebirth and new life when we cleanse the body and soul of debilitating effects.

If you want to start your purge, I'd recommend skipping the garage, backyard and attic. Just go straight to your medicine cabinet.

The winter of 2009 was to cold and flu strains like the summer of 1981 was to bad haircuts. With the exception of maybe one family member, every one of us was hit by at least one cold and one flu.

Nowhere is the evidence of our plight more apparent than in our medicine cabinet. This week I took a count of the cold and flu medicines stuck on our shelves. The tally was 22, most of them over-the-counter drugs.



SPLIT MILK
David Cooper

Even in a home mostly of children, our bathroom looks more like a scene from Janis Joplin's dressing room.

What's even more alarming is the number of times we bought the same medicine when we already had it in stock. Really, how many bottles of NyQuil does a household need? Perhaps it's something related to the placebo effect, but it seems that buying more medicine has a healing impact on our psyche. Or maybe I just can't get enough of the minty taste of Pepto-Bismol.

Clearly there is a need to be rid of these toxic reminders of our pain and illness. But this being the 21st century, disposing of medicines requires either a degree in pharmacy or chemistry or a permit from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Thankfully for all us dimwits, the federal government is here to help. The Food and Drug Administration has consumer tips on how to properly throw out expired drugs or unused medications.

Your first instinct is to toss them. But something doesn't seem right about that. All these freaky TV commercials about meth-heads that our state government is paying for have me completely spooked. So even if it's something as simple as Flintstone vitamins, I'm not comfortable throwing it out.

How about flushing them down the toilet? If it works for pet baby alligators, it's gotta work for cold medicines and prescriptions, right?

Wrong again. Even the experts at the FDA say: "Do not flush prescription drugs down the toilet unless this information specifically instructs you to do so." Of those meds in our cabinet that were prescriptions, none of them said "Flush me!" on the label.

But if no label instructions are given for disposal, the FDA does indeed say it's OK to throw them in the trash. But first, you're supposed to take them out of the bottle, and mix them with "an undesirable substance" such as coffee grounds or kitty litter. That way the meds are "less appealing to children and pets."

Yes, because my kids find medicine so "appealing" in cold and flu season. Clearly a parent doesn't make up these rules for the FDA.

SENIOR CALENDAR

Twin Falls Senior Citizen Center

530 Shoshone St. W., Twin Falls. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$4.50, seniors; \$5.50, under 60; \$2.50, under 12. Center hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; lounge and pool rooms; bargain center, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Daily lunches are available for take-out from 11 a.m. to noon; seniors 59 and under, \$5.50; seniors 60 and older, \$4.50. 734-5084.

MENUS:

Monday: Stuffed peppers
Tuesday: Cook's choice
Wednesday: Roast turkey
Thursday: Fish and chips
Friday: Easter menu, glazed ham

ACTIVITIES:

Today: Melody Masters, dance, 2 to 5 p.m.
Monday: Quilting, 8 a.m. Monday bridge, 1 p.m. Tai chi, 1 p.m., \$1
Tuesday: Ticket Tuesday Oil painting Exercise class, 1 p.m. Let's Dance, 6 to 11 p.m.
Wednesday: Cinnamon rolls for sale, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.; \$1.50 each; coffee and roll, \$2
Quilting, 8 a.m. Tai chi, 1 p.m., \$1
Foot clinic, 1 p.m. Jackpot, Nev., trip, 3 to 9 p.m. Elks Card Club, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday: Pinochle, 1 p.m. Oil painting
Friday: Quilting, 8 a.m. Lunch bingo, 11:45 a.m. Texas Hold'em, 1 p.m. Tai chi, 1 p.m., \$1
New Neighbors Pinochle, 7 p.m.
Saturday: Bingo, 1 p.m.

Ageless Senior Citizens Inc.

310 Main St. N., Kimberly. Lunch and full-serve salad bar, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; take-out; home delivery. Suggested donation: \$4, seniors; \$5, under 60; \$2.50, under 12. Center hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MENUS:

Today: Barbecue beef on a bun
Monday: Cook's choice
Wednesday: Spaghetti
Friday: Meatloaf

ACTIVITIES:

Today: Sunday dinner and Senior Hop
Monday: Nu-2-U Thrift Store open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Exercise, 10:30 a.m. AA meeting, 8 p.m. Al-Anon meeting, 8 p.m.
Tuesday: Bingo, 7 p.m.; everyone over 18 welcome
Wednesday: Nu-2-U open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Exercise, 10:30 a.m.
Thursday: NA meeting, 7 p.m.
Friday: Nu-2-U open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Exercise, 10:30 a.m. Foot clinic
Bingo, 11:50 a.m. Pinochle, 1 p.m.

Gooding County Senior Citizen Center

308 Senior Ave., Gooding. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.50 for seniors. Center hours: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MENUS:

Monday: Barbecue shredded beef
Tuesday: Liver and onions
Wednesday: Tuna casserole
Thursday: Mandarin chicken
ACTIVITIES:
Monday: Taxes, 9 a.m. to noon
Pool, 9:30 a.m. Pinochle, 12:30 p.m. Wild one, 6 p.m.
Tuesday: Pool, 9:30 a.m. Blood pressure, 11:30 a.m. Pinochle in Shoshone, 1:30 p.m.
Hand and foot, 6 p.m.
Wednesday: Taxes, 9 a.m. to noon
Pool, 9:30 a.m. Board meeting, 1 p.m. Shuffleboard, 6 p.m.
Thursday: Quilt social, 9 a.m. Pool, 9:30 a.m. Pinochle, 7 p.m.
Friday: Bridge and duplicate bridge, 1 p.m.
Saturday: Pinochle, 7 p.m.

Wendell Senior Meal Site

105 W. Ave. A. Lunch served at noon Mondays. Hours, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hagerman Valley Senior and Community Center

140 E. Lake, Hagerman. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$4, seniors; \$5, under 60; \$2, under 12. Center hours: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; thrift shop, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; free high-speed Internet.

MENUS:

Monday: Baked chicken

Wednesday: Meatloaf
Friday: Pork roast

Jerome Senior Center

212 First Ave. E., Jerome. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.50, seniors; \$5, non-seniors. Center hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free transportation to and from center Wednesdays through Fridays, call center for information at 324-5642.

MENUS:

Monday: Creamed chicken over noodles
Tuesday: Salisbury loaf
Wednesday: Barbecue meat on a bun
Thursday: Roast turkey
Friday: Ham

ACTIVITIES:

Monday: SilverSneakers exercise, 10:30 a.m. Bridge, 12:30 p.m.
Tuesday: Pinochle, 1 p.m. Snack bar, 6 p.m. Bingo, 7 p.m.; early bird, 6:45 p.m.
Wednesday: SilverSneakers, 10:30 a.m. Bridge, 12:30 p.m. Dick and John Pinochle, 7 p.m. Square dancing
Thursday: Board meeting, 10 a.m. Foot clinic, 1 p.m.
Friday: SilverSneakers, 10:30 a.m. Taxes, 12 to 3 p.m. Fiddlers, 12:30 p.m. Pinochle, 1 p.m. Kids Club, 4 to 6 p.m.

Silver and Gold Senior Center

210 E. Wilson, Eden. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.50, seniors; \$5, non-seniors. Center hours: 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; 8 a.m. to noon Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

MENUS:

Tuesday: Chicken sandwich
Thursday: Rib-a-que
ACTIVITIES:
Wednesday: Bingo, 7 p.m.
Saturday: Pancake breakfast, 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Richfield Senior Center

130 S. Main, Richfield. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.50, seniors; \$5.50, under 60.

MENUS:

Monday: Spaghetti

Thursday: Chicken sandwich and soup

Filer Senior Haven

222 Main St., Filer. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$4. Center hours: 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES:

Monday: Bingo, 7 p.m.
Tuesday: Puzzles, 11:30 a.m. Bingo, 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Puzzles, 11:30 a.m.
Thursday: Puzzles, 11:30 a.m. Bingo, 1 p.m.

Golden Years Senior Citizens Inc.

218 N. Rail St. W., Shoshone. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.50, seniors; \$5.50, under 60. Center hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday; 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday.

MENUS:

Tuesday: Hamburger gravy over biscuits
Wednesday: Vegetable soup and cheese sandwich
Friday: Potato bar

ACTIVITIES:

Monday: Exercise, 9 a.m. Coffee, 9:30 a.m. Quilting, 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday: Pinochle with Gooding, 1 p.m. Bingo
Wednesday: Black Out Bingo, 12:30 p.m.
Friday: Pinochle, 1 p.m. Bingo

Camas County Senior Center

127 Willow Ave. W., Fairfield. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3, seniors; \$4, under 60; \$2, under 10. Quilting, pool, table games, puzzles, TV, videos. Center hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

ACTIVITIES:

Thursday: Art class, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Blaine County Senior Center

721 Third Ave. S., Hailey. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3, seniors; \$5, non-seniors. Center hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

MENUS:

Tuesday: Eggs, bacon, sausage
Wednesday: Chicken breast
Friday: Easter lunch, baked

ham or fish
ACTIVITIES:

Monday: Salad and soup bar, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fit and Fall-proof, 1 p.m. Duplicate bridge, 7 p.m.
Tuesday: Caregivers meeting, 10:30 a.m. Blood pressure, 11:30 a.m. Bingo, 1 p.m.
Wednesday: Fit and Fall-proof, 1 p.m. Win on Wednesday
Yoga, 5:30 p.m. Cari's Hair Care and Spa
Thursday: Easter Bonnet Parade
Friday: Table tennis, 9 a.m. Easter Bonnet Parade
Fit and Fall-proof, 1 p.m.

Minidoka County Senior Citizens Center

702 11th St., Rupert. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$5, seniors; \$6, non-seniors; \$3, under 12; \$4.50, home delivery. Gift shop: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Center hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MENUS:

Monday: Cheeseburger
Tuesday: Beef tips and noodles
Wednesday: Potato bar
Thursday: Roast beef
Friday: Chicken, fish, roast beef

ACTIVITIES:

Monday: Pinochle, 1 to 4 p.m. Pool, 1 p.m.
Tuesday: Pool, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Walking, 9 a.m.
Wednesday: Pool, 1 p.m. Pinochle, 1 to 4 p.m.
Thursday: Pool, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Walking, 9 a.m. SHIBA and Medicare assistance, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; call George Schwindeman at 436-9107 or Kitty Andrews at 677-4872 for appointments
Friday: Pool, 1 p.m. Pinochle, 1 to 4 p.m. Bingo, 7 p.m. Drawing for Easter basket

Golden Heritage Senior Center

2421 Overland Ave., Burley. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$4.50, seniors and children under 12; \$6, non-seniors. Center hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MENUS:

Monday: Chicken alfredo
Tuesday: Birthday choice
Wednesday: Anniversary dinner

Thursday: Reuben sandwich
Friday: Pollock

ACTIVITIES:

Monday: Pool
Pinochle, 1 p.m. Exercise
Tuesday: Pool
Wood carving, 8:30 a.m. Radio show, 9:06 a.m. Exercise
Community bingo, 7 p.m.
Wednesday: Pool
Pinochle, 1 p.m. Exercise
Thursday: Pool
Exercise
Movie, 9:30 a.m. Community pinochle, 6 p.m. Woodcarving, 6 p.m.
Friday: Pool
Exercise
Pinochle, 1 p.m. Bingo, 1 p.m.

Carey Senior Center

Main Street. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3, seniors; \$5, non-seniors.

MENU:

Thursday: Easter lunch, baked ham or fish

West End Senior Citizens Inc.

1010 Main St., Buhl. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$4, seniors; \$5, under 60. Sunday buffet: 1 p.m.; \$5, seniors; \$6, under 60; \$4, under 12. Center hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday; 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday.

MENUS:

Monday: Potato soup and sandwich
Tuesday: Mexican Food Day
Wednesday: Macaroni and cheese with hot dogs
Thursday: Hot pork sandwich

ACTIVITIES:

Today: Pork roast dinner, 1 p.m. Haak's Band
Monday: SilverSneakers exercise program, 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday: Quilting, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bus runs for lunch pickup, call 543-4577 by 10:30 a.m. Bingo, 7 p.m.
Wednesday: SilverSneakers, 10:30 a.m.
Thursday: Quilting, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bus runs for lunch pickup, call 543-4577 by 10:30 a.m. Bingo, 1 to 3 p.m. Bingo, 7 p.m.
Friday: SilverSneakers, 10:30 a.m.

First aid classes keep pets safe, owners calm

By Linda Lombardi
For The Associated Press

Taking a pet first aid class could save your pet's life. Instructor Lynne Bettinger knows this from personal experience.

Her emergency happened on a weekend when the vet was closed, as these things seem to do.

"One Sunday evening, my 15-year-old cocker was acting weird — pacing, restless, drooling, dry vomiting," says Bettinger, a Red Cross pet first aid instructor.

Those symptoms could have meant many things, but then she noticed that the dog's belly was distended. When she felt it, it was hard as a rock — a sign of bloat, a life-threatening gastric condition that is common in some larger breeds, but rare in cockers.

"If I had not taken pet first aid, I would not have recognized the symptoms," she says. "I might have said let's wait and see how he's doing. If I had waited any longer, he would have died."

Red Cross pet first aid classes, which last about four hours, are a combination of lecture, discussion, video presentation and live demonstration. They can be taught for dogs, cats or both, and topics include actions to take in an emergency — such as CPR and controlling bleeding — and how to recognize one, as in the case of the bloated cocker.



Students learn how to perform CPR and rescue breathing on stuffed animals modified to simulate lungs and airways. Breathe into a tube in the stuffed animal's mouth (covered with a sanitary mouthpiece), and its chest expands and contracts.

Real animals aren't quite so cooperative, and there are risks — like cracking a rib — that make sense if your pet isn't breathing, but not if it's done for practice.

The pet mannequins are also used to practice making emergency muzzles out of cloth strips. These can be necessary for human safety when an animal is in pain — "dealing with a sick or injured animal, even the nicest animal may bite you," she says — but students also learn when not to muzzle, when the emergency involves choking or difficulty breathing.

The Red Cross first

began offering pet first aid classes in 1997; prices are set by individual chapters. To find a Red Cross pet first aid class, contact your local chapter, at www.redcross.org.

The course was revised in 2007 to separate care for cats and dogs, which are different in some important respects.

"A cat is not a small dog," says Deborah C. Mandell of the University of Pennsylvania, veterinary adviser to the Red Cross. For instance, she says, while urinary block-

age is possible in dogs, in cats it's one of the most common life-threatening problems, and it's critical to recognize the signs.

The most important thing students take away from first aid classes, according to Bettinger, is confidence in their abilities.

"Based on feedback, the biggest benefit is that you feel better prepared," she says. "You may not remember every little detail you learned in class, but you feel calmer when faced with an emergency."



AP photos/American Red Cross

ABOVE: Lynne Bettinger demonstrates pet CPR on a plush dog at her home in Germantown, Md. LEFT: An American Red Cross Pet First Aid and Emergency Preparedness Kit — designed for dogs and cats and made to be as universal as possible regarding size, gender and breed.

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Obesity during pregnancy raises risk of birth defects

By Shari Roan
Los Angeles Times

Obesity has become a common complication of pregnancy. About one-third of U.S. women of reproductive age are obese, according to recent data. Obesity during pregnancy raises the risk of numerous problems for the mother, such as hypertension and diabetes, and for the baby, such as preterm birth. It also increases the chances that the baby will have a birth defect.

A report published in the Journal of the American Medical Association reviewed 39 studies exploring the association between obesity during pregnancy and birth defects. The researchers, from Newcastle University in the United Kingdom, found babies of obese women had twice the risk of having a neural tube defect. These babies also had an elevated risk of a heart defect, cleft palate or cleft lip, anorectal atresia (an abnormality of the anus or rectum), hydrocephaly (an enlargement of the ventricles of the brain due to fluid) and limb reduction defects.

A study published in 2007 in the Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine also found a link between obesity in pregnancy and birth defects. That study concluded that 4 percent of infants of obese women have birth defects compared with 3 percent of all infants. Babies born to obese mothers are one-third more likely to have a significant birth defect such as spina bifida, heart defects and omphalocele (a condition in which the intestines or other abdominal organs protrude from the belly button), according to that study.

Birth defects are responsible for about 20 percent of all infant deaths in the U.S. Researchers aren't sure what it is about obesity that may lead to birth defects. One possibility is that undiagnosed diabetes is contributing to the problem or that the mother may have some type of nutritional deficiency.

Seven steps to help your kids slim down

By Jeannine Stein
Los Angeles Times

Childhood obesity is a thorny issue without simple solutions, but that hasn't daunted health-care experts who work diligently to come up with viable proposals to help kids lose weight and get in shape.

The most recent strategy is the "Seven Steps to Success: A Handout for Parents of Overweight Children and Adolescents," designed by physicians and weight-loss experts to be worked in progressive stages: medical management, education, environmental changes, support groups, two forms of cognitive behavior therapy (clinic or short-term, and long-term) and bariatric surgery.

The steps, published in the February issue of the journal Obesity Management, are a reaction

to a detailed article published in the journal Pediatrics in 2007. That article also outlined a multi-pronged approach to obesity, including prevention, structured weight management that includes medical screenings, physical activity and diet; a multidisciplinary intervention with food monitoring and structured exercise; and very-low-calorie diets and bariatric surgery (this updated a less comprehensive plan published in that journal in 1998).

But not everyone in the field of childhood obesity was satisfied with the suggestions outlined in the Pediatrics paper — some objected to the education-oriented proposals. "An educational approach is very popular in the United States, but it's very ineffective," said Daniel Kirschenbaum, professor of

psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago and co-author of the Obesity Management article. Providing information about eating more fruits and vegetables may be well-meaning, he added, but it's not useful for prompting sustainable changes.

The seven steps ratchet up in intensity, requiring more effort and commitment to achieve results. "Try one intervention," he said, "and if in a month you're not making progress, try another one. Science has taught us that you can tell pretty quickly if something isn't working."

The plan presumes that the entire family is involved with the process — previous studies have shown that better results come from a collaborative effort, not from telling one kid he has

to eat chicken breasts and broccoli while the rest of the family gobbles pizza. As children segue into adolescence, he added, they can do more on their own. For behavioral therapy, the plan suggests starting with groups such as Weight Watchers or Take Off Pounds Sensibly that offer support, education and accountability and allow parents and children to work together. "These are very low-cost alternatives where people can come in every week," he said, "but they have to be willing to work." If those don't provide suitable results, parents can opt for more intense group sessions run by trained weight-loss professionals.

Bariatric surgery, Kirschenbaum said, may be a viable option for certain kids and teens, although it's not a decision to enter light-

ly. Most clinics require patients to meet parameters such as being quite overweight and providing proof they've tried other weight-loss methods. Support — before and after surgery — and behavior modification are also essential components.

How should parents approach the list? Kirschenbaum says they shouldn't go it alone because navigating the steps may prove intimidating and frustrating. "They should take it to their primary-care physicians and get some help in making sense of it," he said. It works in reverse, too — health-care professionals can show it to their patients to begin a discussion about weight loss. "You should talk about it, see what you think. If you don't set a target for something, you're not going to reach it."

Home economics: Frugal families doing own chores

By Ashley M. Heher
Associated Press writer

Beth Rogers is taking the family's finances into her own hands — literally.

The 35-year-old from Fayetteville, Ark., ditched her weekly housekeeping service and now mops her own floors. She and her husband, Stanley, work in the yard after canceling their lawn care contract. She cooks at home instead of the family eating out, and she told her husband to iron his own shirts rather than send them to the cleaners. Total savings? About \$10,000 a year.

"It made me feel embarrassed, because I realized the things we were hiring out was just me being lazy, or things I could do for myself," said Rogers, a stay-at-home mom who made the changes after business began to slow at her husband's car wash company.

Across the country, people are taking on chores that only a year ago were hired out to someone else. They're dyeing their own hair, shoveling their own snow, washing their own cars and taking up paint brushes to brighten their living room walls.

The do-it-yourself trend has hurt some businesses and created opportunities for others. While every shirt ironed by 35-year-old Stanley Rogers is one fewer for the local cleaners, it also means the Rogers family will be buying more detergent and fabric softener.

Multiply the chores the Rogerses are doing by the millions of people like them who are changing their habits and the future looks bright for the do-it-yourself market.

Experts say that area will be among the first to recover once the nation's housing sector regains steam. The research firm Mintel



Beth Rogers wipes out the kitchen sink at her home in Fayetteville, Ark. To save money, Rogers and her husband, Stanley, have canceled their weekly housekeeping service and are doing their own cleaning.

International, which follows a narrow segment of the market from tool rentals to building and decorating supplies, predicts the sector will make steady gains over the next two years, ultimately growing to a \$15.1 billion market in 2013, or about 50 percent over a decade.

Home improvement stores Lowe's Cos. Inc. and The Home Depot Inc. reported stronger sales of snow blowers this winter as people stopped paying for snow removal service. And they expect gardening and house cleaning items to be among their best sellers this spring and summer — a time when overall store sales traditionally are so strong that it's likened to the industry's Christmastime.

"We sense that people kind of want to get their hands dirty," said Home Depot Chief Financial Officer Carol Tome. "There's something to be said about playing in the dirt right now when you're feel-

ing miserable about everything else."

Tome said she may even scrap her own family's lawn mowing service because it might not be worth the extra expense.

Lowe's says its customer surveys show more shoppers in the past six months who say they're willing to try doing home maintenance and repair projects themselves, rather than hiring someone.

Procter & Gamble Co., which makes Swiffer dusters and Mr. Clean cleansers, expects an increase in sales of its cleaning products. But the company doesn't see it as evidence that maids are being fired. Instead, it's a sign people are spending more time at home and noticing the grime, said Marie-Laure Salvado, a spokeswoman for the Cincinnati-based company.

Of course, do-it-yourself efforts can come with their own steep price tags when projects get botched.

Chicago handyman Rich

Escallier said that over three decades of helping homeowners he has been called to repair a wide range of work started by well-intentioned homeowners — from ceiling holes cut too large for speakers to crumbling cement that wasn't properly mixed. His business is down for

now, but he expects it to pick up as homeowners feel more comfortable paying for professional help or get in over their heads.

"The economy isn't going to stop a sink from leaking," he said. "You certainly don't want to, as a novice, go after redoing electric. You don't want to be playing with live wires."

Meanwhile, people like Beth and Stanley Rogers continue to do work themselves.

So far, the biggest consequence has been for their former maid, who calls monthly and is still looking for work, and the man who maintained their lawn.

"I know they're struggling and I feel really bad about that," Beth Rogers said. "I think that's the hardest thing, just knowing that I'm not helping the situation. I know I need to be supporting the economy and keep it going, but I just can't."

Her husband, who admits letting his clean-but-unironed shirts stack up in the closet, admits second thoughts, though. He's contemplating a change to wrinkle-resistant cotton.

Shawnae Critchfield

And look what has happened since April 5th, 50 years ago!



From, The Family

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Jive

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TFHS Roper Auditorium

Tickets available at Crowley's (Magic Valley Mall), Crowley's Soda Fountain, Everybody's Business, Jive Members, and at the Door

Featuring songs from Wicked and Mary Poppins

Jive! 10 Year Anniversary

CLEANING CORNER

Question:

I hear so much talk these days about becoming more aware of the environment and "going green." How can I change my cleaning procedures to help save the planet?
"Going Green as I Clean!"



Lori Chandler
Cleaning Center owner
734-2404

Answer:

What a great question! Thank you for caring about using products that are environmentally friendly. There are several products I can recommend, but for today let me start with "TUB 'N' TILE", Don Aslett's Environmentally Responsible Bathroom Cleaner. Fortunately it doesn't contain harsh chemicals that are harmful to waterways and make the air dangerous to breathe, but it is still bullish on the toughest dirt and grime typically found in bathrooms. There is so much more to tell you! Call me when you have time to chit chat and I'll fill you in on some more amazing "planet-saving" cleaning tid bits.

Frustrated with a stubborn cleaning problem? Write or e-mail your questions to: lchandler@cleaningcenters.com

483 Washington St. N. Twin Falls, ID (Corner of Washington St. N. and Filer Ave.) 015



See what's new online at magicvalley.com

Central workspace can help household run

By Melissa Rayworth
For The Associated Press

Running a family can seem a lot like managing a business. There are budgets to be balanced, events to be planned, supplies to be warehoused.

Human resource issues crop up daily: What's on everyone's calendar? How can schedules be coordinated so that everyone will be in the right place at the right time? Productivity is a priority. Homework is due, longer-range school projects need attention, and mom and dad will likely put in a few hours' work once the kids are in bed.

To keep things running smoothly, many families are creating a central workspace that goes beyond the kitchen table or a parent's home office. It doesn't have to take up much room, says interior designer Brian Patrick Flynn, but it does need to be planned carefully to maximize efficiency and style.

This one location — perhaps a corner of your kitchen or great room — serves many purposes:

INFORMATION HUB

Hang up a dry-erase board or chalkboard and a corkboard to keep schedules, invitations, flyers, shopping lists, messages between family members and pending mail in one place, says interior designer Janine Carendi. Using the walls not only saves space, but it helps you stay organized. "If you can see the items pinned on the wall, you'll remember them," she says. "Even if things are beautifully filed, you're going to forget them if you can't see them."

Carendi likes Pottery Barn's modular "Daily System" for organizing, but she says you can create your own personalized version. Take a large, old frame from a flea market or your attic, cut a corkboard to size, cover it with fabric and place it in the frame. Tack pieces of ribbon on the corkboard to create separate areas for each family member, or do individual frames for each person.

Personalize a dry-erase board the same way — put it in an old frame or place pieces of wood molding around it. Carendi also recommends painting a section of wall, or even an

entire wall, with chalkboard paint to create a huge space for messages and schedules.

HOMEWORK CENTRAL

Child psychologists and Internet safety experts say it's best for kids to use a computer in a common area of the home so that their parents have a good sense of what they're seeing and who they're talking with.

Flynn suggests using a laptop rather than a bulkier desktop computer. Think "temporary multipurposing," he says: The same desk that's used for homework on the computer can be used for art projects when the laptop is stowed away.

He recommends using a vintage metal tanker desk. These old industrial office desks are sturdy, stylish and can be painted any color. They offer a wide surface area, plus storage space for school and art supplies.

If the work area is in your great room or living room and includes a desktop computer, designer Mallory Mathison suggests concealing it inside an armoire. "No matter how good a computer looks," she says, "you don't really want it sitting out during a dinner party."

EQUIPMENT AREA

The family workspace is a great storage spot and charging station for laptops, cell phones, digital cameras and handheld video game consoles. Hang shelves near an electrical outlet (you may need to have an outlet installed for this purpose) and line it with small bins or boxes to hold small electronics. Carendi suggests buying little wooden boxes, then drilling holes in the back so wires can be fed through.

If you have room for a small bookshelf, you can also keep bills, appliance warranties, phone books and other household paperwork coordinated here in bins or small boxes.

The key is providing space for everything you'll want to store. "No matter how hard you try, if you don't have a place for everything, it's going to look cluttered," says Carendi.

Beyond organization, these designers say one goal should be creating an appealing space that the



Use a 30-inch-tall console table as a temporary place to check e-mail in the dining area of a room.

AP photos



whole family will want to use. Make sure you've got good lighting and comfortable seating.

Mathison suggests using a bold color scheme to cre-

ate a fun, cohesive look. It doesn't have to cost much: If you've cobbled together mismatched storage bins, boxes, shelves and frames from elsewhere in the



house, spray paint them in a few coordinating shades. It's vital, says Flynn, to make the space inviting, especially if it will be ground zero for stress-inducing tasks like homework, bill paying and complicated scheduling.

ABOVE: A C-shaped laptop side table is a piece of furniture that allows you to have your laptop at the proper height to work when sitting on the sofa.

LEFT: A tanker desk powder-coated in a bold orange creates a corner workstation in a family activity room.

house, spray paint them in a few coordinating shades. It's vital, says Flynn, to make the space inviting, especially if it will be ground zero for stress-inducing tasks like homework, bill paying and complicated scheduling.

Let CSI's 'Date Night' give you an evening off

Times-News

Parents may take advantage of a bargain on certified child care and assist students in the College of Southern Idaho's Early Childhood Education program at the same time.

The program's next "Date Night" fundraiser is planned from 6 to 10 p.m. April 24.

The fundraiser is conducted each year by CSI Early Childhood Lab instructors and students, all of whom are certified in first aid and CPR. Parents may make reservations for their children to have a fun evening at the lab, across from CSI at 246 Falls Ave. in Twin Falls. The center will care for children up to age 12.

Cost for each child for the four hours is \$10. Snacks and lots of activities will be provided.

Reservations: lab facilitator Jennifer Patterson, 732-6884 or jpatterson@csi.edu.

Money worries can multiply relationship problems

By Karen Kaplan
Los Angeles Times

They say money can't buy happiness. But financial strain can certainly help undo a relationship.

- **Seventy percent** of Americans said they had so much debt it contributed to distress in their home lives.

- **Money** is the No. 1 source of disagreement in the early years of marriage.

- **In a survey** of 1,001 people, more than half considered money a sensitive topic in their households; 40 percent admitted they had lied to their spouses about how much they had spent on something.

- **The odds** of violent behavior are nearly six times higher for people who lose jobs.

- **The financial** strain of job loss reduces overall satisfaction in a relationship.

- **Job loss** can cause depression or other symptoms of poor mental health and affect a spouse's mental health.

- **Women** are more likely to get distressed when husbands lose jobs than vice versa.

- **Workplace** stress can contribute to domestic violence.

- **After annual** household income tops \$50,000, there is no correlation between money and happiness.

Sources: 2004 book "The Two-Income Trap"; 2003 study in *Psychological Reports*; 2005 survey in *Moneymagazine*; 1993 study in *Hospital and Community Psychiatry*; 1996 study in *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*; 1988 study in *Archives of General Psychiatry*; 2004 study in *Journal of Family Psychology*; 1997 study in *Journal of Applied Psychology*; 2008 study in *Psychological Services*.

Dating by mobile phone is ready to explode

By Ellen McCarthy
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Christian Wiklund didn't set out to run a dating company.

He intended to create a service that would simply allow people to share cellphone pictures and videos marked with their exact location.

The technology worked, but then something surprising happened: Most customers ended up using it to flirt and share photos with other users reported to be nearby.

So last year Wiklund's company, Skout, changed its business model and joined a growing wave of firms trying to turn smart phones into dating devices.

For years, technology analysts have predicted the rise of mobile dating, which would allow customers to meet new people using cellphones just as they had through personal computers and online dating sites. But so far adoption has been slow.

The iPhone, Wiklund and his rivals predict, is about to change that.

"They've provided a very explosive technology with a strong distribution channel ... on the iPhone alone we see (2,000)-3,000 new users every day," Wiklund says.

The main dating advantage smart phones offer is the ability to see high-quality photos of potential dates.

"I see usage going through the

roof because it's no longer a compromised experience," says Mark Brooks, a consultant to the online dating industry.

Juniper Research agrees: A January report by the firm predicts the market for mobile dating and chatrooms will grow to nearly \$1.4 billion by 2013.

So how does it work? In the case of Skout, it's all about immediate gratification. If you feel like going on a date that night, you log into the system, which knows your exact location.

Photos of users who meet your basic requirements and are in the area pop up on the screen. Skout will present only users who are logged in or have used the system in the last few days; thus never offering old profiles of former

customers, a common complaint about traditional online dating services.

Once two users view photos of each other and agree to chat, Skout enables them to send a text that doesn't reveal a phone number.

Then they decide when and where to meet. Right now the service is free, but the company will soon charge a \$5 to \$10 monthly subscription.

It's meant to be a faster, less-formal process than online dating.

You might not know everything about a potential date, but you will know you're both free that evening and two blocks away from your favorite neighborhood watering hole.

Committee favors ban on drop-side cribs

By Rachel Saslow
The Washington Post

One of the most popular crib designs is one step closer to being banned in the U.S.

A committee of crib manufacturers, retailers and consumer advocates passed a proposal at a March 17 meeting of ASTM International (a standards organization) that would ban drop-side cribs. That design allows parents to lower one side for easy

access to their child, but the movable side can come apart, trapping the child between the mattress and the rail and leading to injuries such as trapped fingers or fatalities by strangulation or suffocation. Since September 2007, more than 3 million cribs have been recalled for problems with this feature, and at least four children have died. A larger committee at ASTM will vote on the proposal next.

"If you have no moving parts and less hardware,

then you don't have these gaps and you have a safer crib," says Richard Lichenstein, a pediatrician at the University of Maryland Medical Center. He has treated children whose fingers have gotten pinched between the rails.

Lichenstein recommends that parents inspect their cribs because many of the incidents were caused by worn-out hardware or improper installation (putting the sliding rail on backward is a common error). He

recommends cribs with four fixed sides containing a well-fitted mattress and no blankets or stuffed animals.

The drop-side design helps parents who are short or have bad backs. A new design would have a six-inch "gate" that would fold down on one side, allowing those parents access to their children without straining their backs.

"I'd hate for cribs to get a bad rap," Lichenstein says. "I still think that's where kids need to sleep."

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'Momshell' bombshells – not your mama's mama

By Martha Irvine
Associated Press writer

CHICAGO — There's no apron, no mom jeans or frump of any kind. These days, it's all about being a "momshell," the latest term used to describe a new generation of bombshell moms.

You can find these moms just about anywhere, in Hollywood, in the White House — probably in the house next door. And now a new reality TV show is on the hunt for the "Hottest Mom in America."

"There's never been a hotter time to be a mom," says Jessica Denay. A mother in Los Angeles, she wrote "The Hot Moms Handbook," one of a number of recent books aimed at women who proudly sport T-shirts, mugs and all kinds of paraphernalia that declare motherhood sexy.

Denay also founded the Hot Moms Club, which began as a small group of mom friends eight years ago and has since expanded to an Internet-based social network of more than 110,000.

It's tough to pin down the exact origins of momshell, which began turning up on blogs, Facebook and Twitter with more frequency last fall. The term and "yummy mummy," its equivalent in the UK and Australia, are meant as compliments, nods to moms who find time to take care of themselves while caring for their kids.

In this country, momshell has become the tasteful alternative to a more salacious nickname for hot moms, made famous in the movie "American Pie." We'll stick to the more G-rated versions in this story, but Tina Fey used the naughtier term in her imitation of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, who's sometimes included on the seemingly endless number of "top 10" hot mom lists online. Others include Jessica Alba, Demi



Moore, Nicole Richie and, more recently, first lady Michelle Obama.

All of it is supposed to be funny and playful, even empowering.

What makes a woman like Michelle Obama a momshell is not just that she's "a beautiful person, inside and out," but that she's also made the sacrifices of motherhood more visible, says Christine Louise Hohlbaum, a mom and author of "The Power of Slow: 101 Ways to Save Time in Our 24/7 World."

Still, some wonder if the focus on appearance has gone too far, pressuring women to not only have it all, but to try to be it all, too.

Hollywood moms seem to effortlessly drop their baby weight in a matter of weeks, while everyday moms struggle. And moms on the "Real Housewives" reality shows leave us wondering just how much of them is still real.

"Now moms are expected to be gorgeous on top of everything else? It's too

much," says Elayne Rapping, a professor of American Studies at the University at Buffalo, who specializes in media and pop culture.

A mom herself with grown children, Rapping says she recently discovered that some of her son's friends were her secret admirers when they were teenagers.

Hearing it now, she realizes she's supposed to be flattered in an age when Mrs. Robinson from the 1967 movie "The Graduate" has been replaced by "Stacy's Mom," the object of a teenage boy's lust in the 2003 song by Fountains of Wayne.

"But honestly," Rapping says, "there's something creepy about it."

Dr. Liesl Smith, an obstetrician-gynecologist in Dallas, also worries that the momshell trend could set up unrealistic expectations and encourage moms to compare themselves to one another instead of doing what's



LEFT: In this August file photo, Michelle Obama, wife of then-Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, appears on stage at the Democratic National Convention in Denver with daughters Sasha, 7, center, and Malia, 10. First lady Michelle Obama is part of a new generation of moms dubbed 'momshells.' FAR LEFT: In this February 2008 photo, actress Jessica Alba arrives for the Academy Awards in Los Angeles. AP photos

right for themselves.

"I have patients and friends say to me often, 'I don't know how you do all you do,'" says Smith, who works full-time at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital, is pregnant with her third child, exercises regularly and likes to cook dinner for her family most nights.

"But I have lots of help," she says, including a supportive husband, a nanny and neighbor who often lends a hand. "And in the end, I often feel like I have left something short."

Adding the need to be hot on top of it all, she says, could just tip over a mother's load.

But Denay, of the Hot Moms Club, insists that finding balance is an integral part of being a momshell.

"I'm not saying put yourself on top of the 'to do' list," says the working mom, who concedes that she feels more like a "luke-warm mom" some days. "I'm saying put yourself on the list."

For new moms, she says that might mean simply taking a shower — and working up to doing their hair and putting on a pair of stylish jeans instead of sweats, or taking a yoga class.

The idea is that a mom will gain energy and confidence that she can give back to her kids — "and that," Denay says, "is hot."

Abbie Tuller, editor in chief of Pregnancy magazine, thinks most moms

will take "momshell" and other labels as a nice bit of praise, and move on.

"It doesn't mean I want catcalls when I walk down the street," says Tuller, who's based in the San Francisco Bay area. "But

I'm not dead yet."

And while there is no common equivalent to "momshell" for dads, they shouldn't feel left out.

"Hot dads?" she says, chuckling. "We talk about them all the time here."

ANNIVERSARIES

The Orslands



Judy and Larry Orsland

Congratulations Larry and Judy Orsland on celebrating 50 years of marriage!

The Orslands were married April 3, 1959, and settled in southern California where they started their family. In 1974 they moved to Wendell, Idaho, and finished raising their children. They then moved to Jerome where they now reside.



Celebrating with them are their children, Chuck (Jeannie), Chris (Mark) and Larry (Lyn). Grandchildren are Erick, Craig, Jamie, Amie, Mandy, Nicole, Steven, Tami, Jenn, and CoCo. Great grandchildren: Alicia, Cali, Chase, Alexis, Hunter and Taylor.

The couple will celebrate the occasion with a family dinner.

The Whites



John and Ann White

The anticipated 50th wedding anniversary was reached for Mr. and Mrs. John White on April 3.

John Conrad White and Ann Haslam were married at her parents' home in Filer, Idaho, on April 3, 1959. They were sealed for eternity on April 30, 1966, in the Idaho Falls LDS Temple. The Whites have lived in Twin Falls their entire married life.

John was first employed at Self's Manufacturing. Later he worked in the auto body repair business, operating his own shop, John's Auto Body, for a number of years.

Ann received her associ-

ates degree in bookkeeping from CSI and did accounting for Dr. Randall Skeem for 23 years. Currently both are employed at First Federal Bank in Twin Falls.

To their joy, three children were born to them: Kelly (Debra) White of Kimberly, Stan (Shon) White of Filer, and Wendy (Ron) Kerr of Twin Falls. They have eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

An open house is planned for friends and family on May 16, 2009, at the LDS 24th Ward Building (229 Park Avenue, Twin Falls) from 6:00-8:00 pm, with a special program at 7:00 pm.

The Andersons



Roy and Sandie Anderson

Roy and Sandie Anderson of Buhl will be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary on April 9, 2009.

Roy Anderson and Sandie Kirby, both from Buhl, were married in Twin Falls. They were high school sweethearts and began dating while at the Twin Falls County Fair on summer vacation, and married soon after.

They have lived in both Castleford and Buhl all their married life. The couple renewed their vows on their 15th anniversary.

Roy worked for Pat Peterson Trucking, OK Paving, and Dennis Clark Trucking before becoming an owner-operator in 2006.

Sandie worked for Arctic Circle, Napa Auto Parts and Falconhurst Dairy before an illness forced her to quit. She now enjoys staying home helping Roy run the trucking business, traveling

with him, and spending time with their grandchildren.

They have spent their married years working, traveling, and raising their three children. You get to do some sightseeing while on the road in a big truck, and last year they visited Graceland in Memphis.

The couple enjoys spending time with family and friends at events, and getting to travel to new places while on the road. Their children are Sonya (Matt) Welch, Brad Anderson (and his girlfriend, Judy), and Sarah Anderson. They also have two grandchildren: Ryan and JayCee.

The immediate family will be celebrating the occasion at a family dinner, and plan for an extended family celebration in late summer.

Congratulations may be sent to them at 1048 East 4200 North, Buhl, Idaho 83316.

STORK REPORT

St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center

Joseph Andrew Papke, son of Jan Michelle Hazen and Brad Andrew Papke of Twin Falls, was born March 19, 2009.

Codie Lauren Rivas, daughter of Katie Lauren and Remington Austin Rivas of Twin Falls, was born March 19, 2009.

Kaelie Marie Ulibarri, daughter of Megan Lorraine Gines and Zachery Arthur Ulibarri of Twin Falls, was born March 23, 2009.

Aydree Marie Bateman, daughter of Jana Marie and Isaac Wayne Bateman of Twin Falls, was born March 24, 2009.

Rylan Bryson Clifton, son of Kerena Elaine and Cory Micheal Clifton of Jerome, was born March 24, 2009.

Colton Trout Hiatt, son of Jessica Chyenme and Travis LeRoy Hiatt of Jerome, was born March 24, 2009.

Matthew Albert Johnson, son of Anna Keturah and Duane Patrick Johnson of Twin Falls, was born March 24, 2009.

Giovanni Fidel Vergara, son of Misty Elaine and Omar Vergara of Hazelton, was born March 24, 2009.

Leonardo Jessie Baiz, son of Sandra and Jessie Cardiel Baiz of Twin Falls, was born March 25, 2009.

Stetson Connor Germann-Page, son of Jessica Marie Page and Kyle Eugene Germann of Twin Falls, was born March 25, 2009.

Natalie Journey Votroubek, daughter of Jennifer Nicole and Dusty Joe Votroubek of Twin Falls, was born March 25, 2009.

Charles Henry Drake, son of Danielle Therese and Caleb Todd Drake of Filer, was born March 26, 2009.

Kohyn James Rodgers, son of Jamie Rae Ryals of Twin Falls, was born March 26, 2009.

Sophia Janet Crumrine, daughter of Janet and Paul Scott Crumrine of Eden, was born March 27, 2009.

Carsyn Valerie Owens, daughter of Katie Ann and Anthony Jeremiah Owens of Buhl, was born March 27, 2009.

Hallee Jane Tucker, daughter of Meaghan Aileen and Joshua William Tucker of Kimberly, was born March 27, 2009.

Blake Jeffrey Gartner, son of Julie Anne and Jeffrey Blake Gartner of Twin Falls,

was born March 28, 2009.

Arabella Marie Kohtz, daughter of Elizabeth Marie and Steven Allen Kohtz of Twin Falls, was born March 28, 2009.

ENGAGEMENTS

Adolfson-Henson

John and Jean Adolfson of Spokane, Washington, announce the engagement of their daughter, Mary Adolfson, to Eli Henson, son of Mary Kay and Curtis Henson of Twin Falls.

Mary is a graduate of Whitworth College and earned a masters degree from Gonzaga University in 2009.

Eli graduated from Wendell High School in 2005 and will receive a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in May.

The wedding is planned for Sunday, May 3, 2009, at

28, 2009.

Logan William Rice, son of Sarah Marie Rice of Murtaugh, was born March 28, 2009.



Eli Henson and Mary Adolfson

the historic Glover Mansion in Spokane, Washington.

The couple will move to Quantico, Virginia, in June, where Eli will begin his career as a commissioned officer in the United States Marine Corps.

Harrison-Kent

Kaye and Mary Harrison announce the marriage of their daughter, Ruth L. Harrison, to Robert G. Kent, son of Annette and Steven Kent.

They will be married on April 8 in the Twin Falls Temple.

Harrison graduated from Weiser High School in 2006 and is currently working on her degree in special education and music. She is employed by the Cassia County School Dist., where she works as a para educator in the special ed preschool held at Dworshak Elementary School.

Kent graduated from Minico High School in 2004 and is currently working on his degree in mechanical engineering. He served in the Belgium Brussels/Netherlands mis-



Ruth Harrison and Robert Kent

sion returning in Jan. 2007. He is employed at IMCO (Interstate Manufacturing Co.) in Rupert.

Both will be attending school at College of Southern Idaho in Burley.

There will be two receptions in their honor. The first will be from 7-8:45 p.m., April 9, at the LDS Church in Acequia, 20403 5th St. The second will be from 7-8:45 p.m., April 10, at the LDS Church in Weiser, 300 East Main St.

WHEN THEY NEED IT MOST

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Ashley Vincent & Devon Gibby
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To submit engagement, wedding and anniversary announcements, contact Janet Cranney at 735-3253, or e-mail her at announcements@magicvalley.com.

Deadline is 5:00 pm Tuesday for the following Sunday.

Kids Only

One COOL play list



By Margaret Webb Pressler
The Washington Post

Every year, the biggest and best toy companies gather in New York at the annual Toy Fair to show off their new products. It's where stores get the first look at the cool toys and games they'll be selling later in the year.

Toy companies think that because of the hard economic times, families will be staying home a lot this year, so there were plenty of family games on display at Toy Fair '09, held in February. Even games can come with great technology, such as the ability to read your brain waves! At least two companies introduced games in which you move the game piece by just thinking about moving it.

Puzzles and word games are getting a lot of attention, too, so you'll soon see some cool new versions, including a 3-D puzzle. Great craft sets also are coming out, including one for personalizing your clothes like never before. Animal lovers, meanwhile, will find a new way to bond with the family pet thanks to the collar camera, something the whole family can enjoy.

Most of the items on this list will not be available until the fall, but we've noted some that are out now or coming soon. Of course, as you know, it's never too early to start making your list!

(Following the name of each toy is the manufacturer, the age range and the suggested price.)

1. Tyco R/C Stunt Psycho Vehicle, Mattel, 8 and up, \$50. There were lots of remote-control vehicles whirring and buzzing around Toy Fair. This clearly was one of the coolest, with springlike wheels that make the vehicle capable of amazing, bouncy, crash-proof tricks so the action never stops.

2. Pet's Eye View Camera, Uncle Milton, 8 and up, \$50 (available now). Ever wondered how Fluffy sees the world? Wonder no more. This ingenious little camera hangs from your dog's or cat's collar and takes a digital picture every few minutes (you set the time intervals). Download the pictures to get a true pet's-eye view.

3. EyeClops Mini Projector, Jakks Pacific, 8 and up, \$100. This little projector is pricey, but standard projectors cost at least

four times as much. And this one is so small you can hold it in the palm of your hand. Just plug in your portable DVD player and you can watch a big-screen picture on the wall, the ceiling or the inside of a tent.

4. UCreate Music, Radica, 6 and up, \$48. Let out your inner DJ with this simple machine that allows you to mix tracks, add riffs and beats and create your own unique sound from your music library.

5. Mindflex Game, Mattel, 8 and up, \$80. Strap on the headpiece and start thinking — hard. If you concentrate enough on making the ball float, eventually it will. But then you have to get it to go through a tiny obstacle course. Takes major focus, but so cool!

6. Style Six fashion activity line, Jakks Pacific, 8 and up, \$10-\$40. Your parents might hate it when you get paint and marker on your clothing, but these sets make marking your clothes A-OK. Different versions allow you to customize your clothes with screen printing, gems and more. Amazing effects for the price, and fun to do.

7. Sky Slasherz, Little Kids, 8 and up, \$6 (available

now). This tiny oval bowl-shaped piece of soft plastic has some serious aerodynamics. If you throw it right, it'll loop around and come back to you, boomerang style. The key is the flick of the wrist.

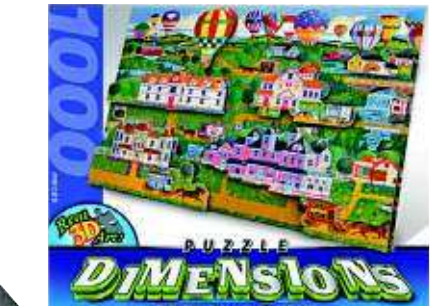
8. Connect 4x4, Hasbro, 8 and up, \$20. Connect 4 is an old favorite, but this is like a whole new game. With disks and rings, you can change the color of your opponent's pieces as you play. It takes real strategic thinking to win.

9. 3-D puzzles, Cra-Z-Art, 8 and up, \$10-\$15. You've seen puzzles that create 3-D shapes, such as the globe or buildings, but these traditional floor puzzles have extra pieces to

layer in certain places, creating depth. With vivid puzzle images, it's a dramatic result.

10. Likewise!, Buffalo Games, 12 and up, \$25 (available now). This game rewards group thinking. The cards give you a concept or object, and each player uses a marker and board to write down the first thing that comes to mind. Players with answers that match

other players' answers score points.



Toy Fair trivia

Some 1,200 exhibitors at the Toy Fair '09 in New York put on display a whopping 100,000 products — including more than 7,000 toys, games and other products that had never before been seen!



McCormick adds a splash of color to springtime fun

By Kate Shatzkin
The Baltimore Sun

To welcome spring, I thought we'd do a fun consult with the folks at McCormick & Co. on things you didn't know you could do with food coloring. Here are a few things kids ages 7-12 might enjoy creating. (McCormick, of course, recommends using McCormick Assorted Food Color):

• **Funny Putty:** Start with a cup of white glue in a plastic container. Add 1 cup liquid starch a little at a time, stirring constantly, along with any color of the food coloring, until the mixture is rubbery. Store in an airtight container.

• **Homemade play dough:** Combine 1 1/2 cups flour, 1 cup salt, 1 cup water and 1/4 cup cream of tartar with about 20 drops of food

coloring in a medium saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly for about five minutes. Cool on waxed paper, then knead slightly until the dough is smooth. Store in an airtight container.

• **Goofy Goo:** Mix 2 tablespoons white glue with 2 tablespoons water in a paper cup. In another cup, mix 1/4 cup water, 3/4 teaspoon borax laundry boost-

er and about 10 drops food coloring. Spoon about 2 tablespoons of the borax mixture into the glue mixture and stir well.

• **Watercolors:** Instant paint! Combine 1 tablespoon white vinegar with 2 teaspoons baking soda. Slowly add 1 tablespoon cornstarch and 1/4 cup glycerin. Pour mixture into six to eight paper cups and let dry

overnight. Once dry, add the food coloring, making sure to use a lot, as the color isn't as deep when it dries. To use, dip a paintbrush

into some water, then into the paint.



Photo courtesy of McCormick & Co