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H&F 10

BASEBALL'S BACK

Phillies, Braves kick off MLB season, more teams to hold opening day today >>> See Main 7



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DEFIANT LAUNCH FIZZLES OUT >>> U.S. calls for swift action at UN over North Korean missile launch, MAIN 4

MONDAY
April 6, 2009

TIMES-NEWS

75 CENTS

MagicValley.com

Wonder what's in your well?

Officials: private well owners should test water

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

It's not always easy to comprehend how substances move through the rock and water beneath our feet.

Then John Bokor pulls out his model. Using dyed water and a layered depiction of the dirt beneath our feet, he can show visually just how easy it is for contaminants to seep into a well.

"You're in there, taking a shower and having a good old time," and at the same time bathing yourself in nitrates, he explained to one family on Saturday.

Bokor, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's regional drinking water protection coordinator, and a number of other water officials and companies set themselves up in the KMVT Community Room on Saturday for a water-quality fair, featuring free tests for nitrate levels in private wells. Such wells aren't regulated by the state and testing is the owner's responsibility, he said. But it's something that owners should do, given the risks involved.

Twin Falls County now hosts the No. 1 nitrate priority area in the state for its level of contamination. And in a report released March 27, the U.S. Geological Survey announced that more than 20 percent of private domestic wells sampled nationwide by the agency contain at least one contaminant at levels that prompt possible health concerns. The data came from around 2,100 private wells tested between 1991 and 2004, including some in the Magic Valley.

The specific contaminants varied by region

See **WELLS**, Main 2

MAGICVALLEY.COM



WATCH: John Bokor explain aquifer contamination using a model.

Finding a funding solution



Times-News file photo

Student Savannah Hyer, 10, shouts out an answer to a math problem in February 2008, as State Schools Superintendent Tom Luna looks on in Becky Baird's fifth-grade math class at Xavier Charter School in Twin Falls.

Charter schools get creative to come up with funds

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

Charter schools are known for giving students an education that differs from that offered by traditional public schools.

By necessity, charter schools — public schools that receive state funding and are free for students — also have different ways of paying for their facilities than do traditional public schools.

Charter schools cannot float bond or levy proposals to the public for a new building, as is commonly done by traditional school districts. Instead, money for facilities must come from the general operating budget.

"Trying to come up with the facilities has always been the biggest challenge for people trying to start up charter schools," said Fred Tilman, a former legislator from Ada County who helped get the state's charter school law passed in 1998.

Lacking authority to collect property taxes, charter schools use a variety of other tools to provide facilities, such as leasing space in commercial buildings, borrowing money to build and working with private investors to make a new school become a reality.

North Valley Academy in Gooding, for example, will need more space this fall when it expands into the high school grades. It now leases space from the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind, and plans to buy a building on Highway 26 if the city of Gooding approves a special use permit that would allow its use for classes for high school students and possibly seventh and eighth graders, said board chairwoman Deby Infanger. The earlier grades will stay at the current location.

For North Valley Academy, the financing is possible through a U.S.

See **FUNDING**, Main 2

A TWO-DAY SERIES

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

Today: 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.

CHANGES FOR CHARTERS:

Xavier Charter School: The Twin Falls school currently serves K through 9 students, but is adding 10th grade this fall and building a larger facility to open in 2010. The school focuses on a classical education that includes liberal arts like history, art, music and dance.

North Valley Academy: The high school at North Valley Academy in Gooding can have up to 96 students in ninth through 12th grades. This will boost the student limit from 216 students to 312. Besides academic courses, the high school will have Web design, painting and drawing and computer-assisted design courses. The school focuses on patriotism and history, with the goal of helping students become strong leaders.

Wings Charter Middle School: The new charter school will open in Twin Falls this fall for as many as 60 sixth-graders. Its charter will expand to seventh- and eighth-grade students in the two consecutive years. The school aims to help students accelerate in areas of strength and improve areas of challenge before high school.

"We'll never be able to have a big gorgeous building with a gorgeous gymnasium."

Deby Infanger, North Valley Academy board chairwoman

Drug smuggling goes underwater

U.S. law fights submarine-like boats hauling cocaine

By Frank Bajal
Associated Press writer

BOGOTA — It's a game played out regularly on the high seas off Colombia's Pacific coast: A U.S. Navy

helicopter spots a vessel the size of a humpback whale gliding just beneath the water's surface.

A Coast Guard ship dispatches an armed team to board the small, submarine-like craft in search of cocaine. Crew members wave and jump into the sea to be rescued, but not before they open flood valves and send the fiberglass hulk and

its cargo into the deep.

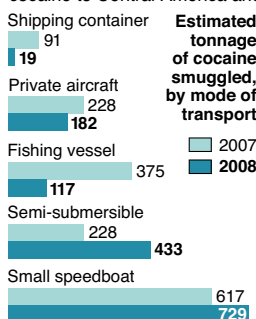
Colombia has yet to make a single arrest in such scuttlings because the evidence sinks with the semi-submersible.

A new U.S. law and proposed legislation in Colombia aim to thwart what has become South American traffickers'

See **SEMI-SUBS**, Main 2

Exploring new depths in the drug trade

In the past year, South American drug traffickers have increased their use of semi-submersible craft to smuggle large loads of cocaine to Central America and Mexico.



SOURCES: Joint Interagency Task Force-South; ESRI

AP

'Our plans haven't changed'

Pacific Ethanol claims temporary shutdown, despite reports of possible bankruptcy

By Damon Hunzeker
Times-News writer

BURLEY — While most people enjoy relatively low gas prices, the market continues to produce bad news for ethanol producers.

Pacific Ethanol, which hasn't operated for about four months at its Burley plant, recently filed several notable concerns with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The company told the SEC that it may not be able to maintain operations after April 30 and mentioned the possibility of bankruptcy.

It owes \$250 million in debts to its banks but has a forbearance deal that expires April 30.

The Associated Press recently reported that the company had to borrow \$2 million from its CEO and chairman.

Ken Wilson, the Burley plant manager, confirmed that the numbers in the article are accurate but said, "From the plant's perspective, our plans haven't changed."

See **ETHANOL**, Main 2

Sticky situation

Lawsuit filed over molasses spill

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

The neighbors of a Twin Falls business where a molasses storage tank leaked in January have sued the business for damage caused by the incident.

An estimated 10,000 to 15,000 gallons of molasses-based cattle feed leaked out of a tank at Performance Plus Idaho, 198 Gem St., on the night of Jan. 21 — covering not only that business, but also coating the tires of 14 vehicles at neighboring John's Auto Repair and even reaching one trailer at the East 5 Points Trailer Court.

At the time, Performance Plus General Manager Matt Beed pledged to help his neighbor clean up the mess and pay for the work. He couldn't be reached for comment on the lawsuit.

John and Frankie Kreps, who own both the auto-repair shop and the trailer park, apparently don't believe he followed through. A complaint for damages filed in 5th District court on

See **MOLASSES**, Main 2



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UP SIDE TO DOWN TIMES: HIGHWAY DEATHS DOWN
Economy has fewer people on the road > Main 10

Snowmobiler killed in avalanche near Ketchum

Times-News

A 37-year-old Wood River Valley man was killed when he was buried by an avalanche near Ketchum Sunday, the Blaine County Sheriff's Office and coroner said.

According to the sheriff's office, the man, whose name and hometown were being withheld pending notification of next of kin, was one of four snowmobilers riding in the area of the Norton Loop near Baker

Creek northwest of Ketchum when a snow slide buried him at about 1 p.m.

The body was apparently recovered at about 5 p.m.

Sunday's fatality is the second avalanche death in Blaine County in recent weeks.

On March 6, Stella Keane, 54, of Ketchum was killed while skiing the northwest shoulder of Gladiator Peak. A man skiing with her suffered a broken leg in the slide.

In its final condition

report before closing for the season on Friday, the Sawtooth National Forest Avalanche Center had warned of high avalanche danger in the mountains around Ketchum through the weekend due to spring weather conditions, several inches of new snow and strong winds that had created "sensitive wind slabs and storm-related instabilities."

"Warming temperatures and sunshine this weekend will lead to increasing ava-

lanche danger, especially on sunny aspects," the center's Chris Lundy had warned. "There is a healthy amount of recently-fallen snow that has yet to see the sun, and when this happens this weekend, we will almost assuredly get some natural avalanche activity."

Weather conditions were fair, with clear skies and temperatures of about 40 degrees, at the time of Sunday's avalanche death, according to the National Weather Service.

T.F. woman injured after ATV rolls in Shoshone Basin

Times-News

A Twin Falls woman was taken to the hospital Saturday after the ATV she and her husband were riding near Nat-Soo-Pah rolled down a hill.

Terry and Bobbi

McKnight were riding together on an ATV when Terry stopped the machine on a slope, causing the vehicle to roll headfirst one time, said Lori Nebeker, spokeswoman for the Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office.

The accident, which happened a little before 6:30 p.m., occurred in the Shoshone Basin not far from Nat-Soo-Pah Hot Springs, according to Nebeker.

Bobbi McKnight was taken by air ambulance to St. Luke's Magic Valley

Medical Center. The extent of her injuries was unknown, and the hospital was unable to provide additional information Sunday.

Terry McKnight suffered minor injuries and was released at the scene, Nebeker said.

Idaho charter school for autistic kids on hold

HAYDEN (AP) — The Idaho State Charter Commission wants more information before approving a charter school designed mainly for children with Asperger's syndrome, a form of autism.

The commission on Thursday asked members on the board of the EPIC Academy in Hayden to return in May with a better budget plan, among other information.

"(The commission) commended us on what we are trying to do," Danelle Baumgarten-Pickett, a parent leading the effort, told The Spokesman-Review of Spokane, Wash. "They want us to firm that up a little bit.

We were just excited to finally get the hearing."

The proposed school would be the first of its kind in the Coeur d'Alene area. Backers hope to open it for the 2010-11 school year in a house the group has acquired.

Tracy Hofius, executive director of Panhandle Autism Society, said children with Asperger's are considered highly functioning but are still within the autism spectrum and typically have difficulty with social interaction.

"Kids on the spectrum also require different types of adaptations than other children," Hofius said. "They need to have class-

rooms that help with their sensory needs, like low lights and not a lot of stimulation.

"I try to explain it to people using the lights in an office and the buzzing sound of the fluorescent bulbs. Most of us can ignore it. To kids on the spectrum, it sounds like someone is banging right in their ear."

The autism society provided space and access to online courses for parents of autistic children, but Hofius said that effort, which included children with Asperger's, was canceled for lack of money. That led to the effort to open a special charter school limited to 60 students.

"We don't want to bite off

more than we can chew," said Baumgarten-Pickett, whose 14-year-old son has Asperger's. "We want to start small so we can succeed."

If approved, the school wouldn't be limited to children with Asperger's.

"As a charter school we'd be a public school we'd be accepting all students," said Baumgarten-Pickett. "We'd be more of an individual learning environment."

Pocatello could lose national finals rodeo if attendance doesn't improve

POCATELLO (AP) — The Dodge National Circuit Finals Rodeo could ride out of town for good unless the event starts roping in more fans, organizers say.

"We don't want to put a negative spin on anything, but we could definitely lose this rodeo," Brian Howell, chairman of the event, told the Idaho State Journal. "If we can't make money at it, this event could leave town. That could take \$5 million out of the local economy and one of the best rodeos in the country out of our own backyard."

Featuring the year-end and finals champions from 12 Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association circuits around the United States, the rodeo runs Wednesday through Saturday at Holt Arena at Idaho State University.

The total purse is nearly \$500,000 and has attracted the best competitors the rodeo has ever had, Howell said.

In the past few years the rodeo has lost money, and bigger cities such as Dallas and Las Vegas are eyeing the event, officials said.

"We're barely hanging

"We're barely hanging on. The last few years, we've lost more money than we're really comfortable losing. We'd hate to lose (the rodeo), but money is going to talk. If we can't pay our bills, we have to get out of the game.

— Former rodeo chairman Dee Greene

on," said former rodeo chairman Dee Greene. "The last few years, we've lost more money than we're really comfortable losing. We'd hate to lose (the rodeo), but money is going to talk. If we can't pay our bills, we have to get out of the game. It's as simple as that."

Howell said the rodeo needs to attract about 30,000 spectators over five performances this week, about 3,000 more than attended last year.

"With the economy it's going to be dang tough," he said.

Dodge rodeo is a nonprofit organization that Greene said gives back to the community. One night of the event is called "Tough Enough to Wear Pink" and raises money to fight breast cancer.

Greene said the rodeo has weathered tough financial

times before, but this year seems more challenging.

"Hopefully we can hold our nose above water, but I'm not so sure," he said. "The PRCA would have no qualms at all with moving it to a larger spot."

Law & Disorder...

...in Cassia County

Police reports for April 2:

Assault:

According to police reports, a 21-year-old male walked into the Burley 21st Street Mr. Gas Thursday afternoon, grabbed a bottle of water, left the store without paying, and went directly to his car. An employee of Mr. Gas followed him and told him that he needed to pay for the water. The man returned to the store and grabbed another water bottle for the cashier to scan. While waiting behind other customers, he became angry. He told the cashier that his wife was sick and that he was in a hurry. He was told to wait. He then, the report asserts, started to insult the cashier and all of the customers in line. The cashier told him he didn't need to call people names. So he threw the bottle at her and left — then immediately returned and threw a \$5 bill at the cashier. Police took statements from Mr. Gas employ-

ees and returned to the sheriff's office, whereupon the suspect called them, said he was sorry, frustrated, and explained that he was taking his sick wife to the emergency room. The Mr. Gas employee pressed charges. Police met the man at Cassia Regional Medical Center, citing him with assault and disturbing the peace.


Driving violations:

A Cassia County School District bus driver reported that, while her bus was stopped with its flashing red lights and stop sign activated, a Lincoln Towncar drove past the bus. According to the report, "The loan (sic) occupant was an older gray-haired woman." The woman was later found and cited for the infraction through her license plate and vehicle description. The report notes, however, that there was no license plate or vehicle-identification number available for the bus.

— Damon Hunzeker

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UNITED NATIONS Rocket launched by N. Korea fizzles

The U.S. and its allies sought punishment Sunday for North Korea's defiant launch of a rocket that apparently fizzled into the Pacific, holding an emergency U.N. meeting in response to the "provocative act" that some believe was a long-range missile test.

President Barack Obama, faced with his first global security crisis, called for an international response and condemned North Korea for threatening the peace and stability of nations "near and far." Minutes after liftoff, Japan requested the emergency Security Council session in New York.

U.S. and South Korean officials claim the entire rocket, including whatever payload it carried, ended up in the ocean but many world leaders fear the launch indicates the capacity to fire a long-range missile. Pyongyang claims it launched an experimental communications satellite into orbit Sunday and that it's transmitting data and patriotic songs.

"North Korea broke the rules, once again, by testing a rocket that could be used for long-range missiles," Obama said in Prague. "It creates instability in their region, around the world. This provocation underscores the need for action, not just this afternoon in the U.N. Security Council, but in our determination to prevent the spread of these weapons."

Council members above all sought a unified response and did not expect to reach agreement on a new resolution, possibly with tighter or added sanctions, until later in the week, diplomats privy to the closed talks said.

CZECH REPUBLIC Obama plans summit on reducing nuclear arms

PRAGUE — Declaring the future of mankind at stake, President Obama on Sunday said all nations must strive to rid the world of nuclear arms and that the U.S. had a "moral responsibility" to lead because no other country has used one.

A North Korean rocket launch upstaged Obama's idealistic call to action, delivered in the capital of the Czech Republic, a former satellite of the Soviet Union. But Obama dismissed those



Obama

who say the spread of nuclear weapons, "the most dangerous legacy of the Cold War," cannot be checked.

"This goal will not be reached quickly — perhaps not in my lifetime," he told a cheering crowd of more than 20,000 in the historic square outside the Prague Castle gates. We "must ignore the voices who tell us that the world cannot change. We have to insist, 'Yes, we can.'"

Few experts think it's possible to completely eradicate nuclear weapons, and many say it wouldn't be a good idea even if it could be done. Even backward nations such as North Korea have shown they can develop bombs, given enough time.

But a program to drastically cut the world atomic arsenal carries support from scientists and lions of the foreign policy world. Obama embraced that step as his

first goal and chose as the venue for his address a nation that peacefully threw off communism and helped topple the Soviet Union, despite its nuclear power.

NEW YORK Prosecutor: faster police response to shooting would not have saved lives

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. — A faster response by emergency officials to the attack at an immigrant services center in Binghamton would have saved no lives, a county prosecutor said Sunday.

The shooting at the American Civic Association stopped shortly after the first 911 calls came in at 10:30 a.m., but police didn't enter the building until nearly 45 minutes later.

Survivors reported huddling for hours in a basement, not knowing whether they were still in danger after the gunman, 41-year-old Jiverly Wong, killed 13 people Friday.

Medical examiners who conducted autopsies on the victims reported that their injuries were so severe, they would not have survived, said Broome County District Attorney Gerald F. Mollen.

"Nobody could have been saved if the police walked in the door that first minute," he said.

WASHINGTON Police: father killed 5 children, self because wife said she was leaving him

GRAHAM — Investigators believe a man fatally shot his five children in their home and killed himself after he



AP photo

A memorial of flowers cards, and an Easter basket is shown Sunday, in front of a home where five children were discovered killed on Saturday, at a trailer park near near Graham, Wash. Pierce County Sheriff's officials said they believe the children's father killed the children before committing suicide.

found out his wife was leaving him for another man, a sheriff's spokesman said Sunday.

The bodies of James Harrison's children were found Saturday in the family's mobile home in Graham, about 15 southeast of Tacoma. Harrison had been found earlier in the day, dead of a self-inflicted gunshot, behind the wheel of his car in Auburn, about 18 miles north of Graham.

Authorities haven't released the family's name, but relatives have identified them as the Harrisons.

The man and his 16-year-old daughter had found his wife with another man at a store in Auburn on Friday night, Pierce County Sheriff spokesman Ed Troyer told The News Tribune of Tacoma.

Ryan Peden, the daughter's classmate, had said she told him Friday night that her parents had gotten into a fight and her mother had left. The father followed the mother and tried to get her to return, said Peden.

PAKISTAN Suicide attack kills 22 in Shiite mosque

ISLAMABAD — A suicide bombing at a crowded Shiite mosque south of Pakistan's capital killed 22 people Sunday, the latest evidence of how security in the U.S.-

allied nation is crumbling well beyond the Afghan border region where al-Qaida and Taliban fighters thrive.

The violence came as a senior Pakistani Taliban commander said his group was behind a deadly suicide bombing Saturday night in Islamabad and promised two more attacks per week

in the country if the U.S. does not stop missile strikes on Pakistani territory.

Sunday's suicide bomber set off his explosives at the entrance to a mosque in Chakwal city in Punjab province, some 50 miles (80 kilometers) south of Islamabad, said Nadeem Hasan Asif, a top security official in the province. The

blast killed 22 and wounded dozens, he said.

A little-known group believed linked to the Pakistani Taliban claimed it had staged the attack. Pakistan also has a history of sectarian violence, often involving Sunni extremists targeting minority Shiite Muslims.


— The Associated Press


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SPORTS

CAVS END LOSING STREAK

Main 6

CSI rodeo team ends another successful season

By Diane Philbin
Times-News writer

The College of Southern Idaho rodeo team made the hometown proud in the final night of the 33rd Annual CSI Rodeo on Saturday night capturing a women's event, a men's event, and a team event.

Tag Elliott stayed aboard for the full 8 seconds in the short-go and secured 72 points and finished third in the average. Elliott returned to the CSI rodeo team this spring after the Utah cowboy

was sidelined by a bull riding accident in July of 2007.

"I finally stayed on," said Tag Elliott. "It was good to stay on one here."

Tag's brother, Zack won the average with 144 points adding a 72-point ride Saturday night to a 72 on Friday.

"I feel like I'm riding pretty good," said Zack Elliott who was the only rider to cover two bulls.

What's it like having a brother back competing with and against you?

"Tag's been riding good

and been beating me," said Zack Elliott. "He's about the toughest kid I know."

Jacki Smith won the goat tying competition with a 7.8-second run in the championship round which was only a tenth of a second better than the 7.9 by Carli Jo Batey of SUU. Kelsea Krenka followed in third and Paige Yore was

fourth. CSI finished second (Yore), third (Smith) and fourth (Krenka) in the average.

"Our women's team did pretty good," said Smith. "They stepped it up and are getting to know what it's all about. The girls just need a little more experience to build some

confidence, relax and just go in and compete."

In the team roping, Kortni Scott and Gary Kuhn qualified for the championship round with the ninth best time of 13.4 in the long go. The pair won the short go with a 8.0 run to earn fourth in the average. Trevor Ervin and Broc Burns had the fastest time in the long-go of 7.3 and were fourth at 12.9 in the short go and finished second in the average.

Scott was a steady performer for the Golden Eagles and claimed the

women's all-around title. She also had a fourth place in breakaway on Saturday and finished fourth in the average.

"I've won some other all-around titles but never at a hometown CSI rodeo," said Scott. "It was a fun weekend to come out and compete at home."

CSI coach Brian Tubbs was pleased with the team's weekend performance.

"Everything went smooth," said Tubbs. "The

Please see **CSI**, Main 6



District VI high school rodeo results from Buhl

Times-News

There were several multiple winners at the District VI rodeo competition.

In barrel racing, Tanisha Adams of Declo, won Friday night with a time of 17.711 seconds and turned in a faster run at 17.055 to win Saturday afternoon. Megan Crist of Kimberly picked up wins on Friday night in poles and goats.

On the boy's side, Cody Wadsworth of Kimberly won the steer wrestling Friday and the calf roping Saturday afternoon. Dustin Adams of Raft River and Chase Brice from Declo had a clean sweep in team roping. Adams also captured the calf roping Friday night.

Jace Hutchison of Raft River won the bull riding Friday night scoring a 76 and in bareback, Travis Clellan of Filer rode for a top score of 61 points.

First time winners included Amanda Coats from Kimberly (breakaway), Meghan Tolle from Burley (breakaway), Kelli Kindig from Minico (goats), Kelli Anderson from Burley (poles), Wyatt Holtman from Raft River (steer wrestling) and Tyler Hanssen from Minico (bareback).

The District VI rolls in Filer this weekend.

Friday Results
(Unofficial times/scores provided by district secretary)
Bareback riding: 1. Travis Clellan, Filer, 61 points; 2. Tyler Hanssen, Minico, 60.
Goat tying: 1. Megan Crist, Kimberly, 7.65 seconds; 2. Amanda Coats, Kimberly, 8.47; 3. Katie Vierstra, Filer, 8.82; 4. Kelli Kindig, Minico, 9.90; 5. Allie Cornie, Kimberly, 10.69; 6. Randi Robinson, Filer, 10.93; 7. Whitney Holtman, Raft River, 10.94; 8. Sara Goodwin, Filer, 11.08; 9. McKenzie Zollinger, Oakley, 11.57; 10. Dakotah Hoogland, Filer, 12.21.
Calf roping: 1. Dustin Adams, Raft River, 11.78 seconds; 2. Brock Caspersen, Kimberly, 12.49; 3. Chase Brice, Declo, 15.16; 4. Raul Hurtado, Oakley, 16.04; 5. Brogan Parkin, Minico, 16.30; 6. Tyler Hanssen, Minico, 17.71; 7. Cody Wadsworth, Kimberly, 19.06; 8. Jade Wadsworth, Kimberly, 19.08; 9. Brandon Matthews, Oakley, 24.40; 10. Cody Rowe, Kimberly, 26.92.
Breakaway roping: 1. Amanda Coats, Kimberly, 2.77 seconds; 2. Katie Vierstra, Filer, 3.91; 3. Kindee Wilson, Filer, 3.95; 4. McKenzie Zollinger, Oakley, 4.26; 5. Alyssa Koch, Filer, 4.46; 6. Meghan Tolle, Burley, 4.86; 7. Samantha Ward, Raft River, 5.70; 8. Tianna Stimpson, Minico, 5.96; 9. Jace Bedke, Oakley, 6.03; 10. Megan Crist, Kimberly, 11.51.
Saddle bronc: No qualified rides.
Steer wrestling: 1. Cody Wadsworth, Kimberly, 6.96 seconds; 2. Raul Hurtado, Oakley, 8.54; 3. Chisum Hughes, Filer, 9.76; 4. Wyatt Holtman, Raft River, 10.80; 5. Kord Whiting, Declo, 11.03; 6. Tyler Wadsworth, Kimberly, 23.35.
Barrel racing: 1. Tanisha Adams, Declo, 17.711 seconds; 2. McKenzie Zollinger, Oakley, 17.793; 3. Kindee Wilson, Filer, 17.987; 4. Katie Vierstra, Filer, 18.345; 5. Amanda Coats, Kimberly, 18.355; 6. Tianna Stimpson, Minico, 18.586; 7. Katie Foreman, Minico, 19.000; 8. Shelby Schlund, Minico, 19.187; 9. Whitney Rasmussen, Burley, 19.310; 10. Allie Cornie, Kimberly, 19.391.

See **BUHL**, Main 6

UNC, MS FIGHT FOR TITLE

Experienced UNC faces new challenge in NCAA title game

By Eddie Pells
Associated Press writer

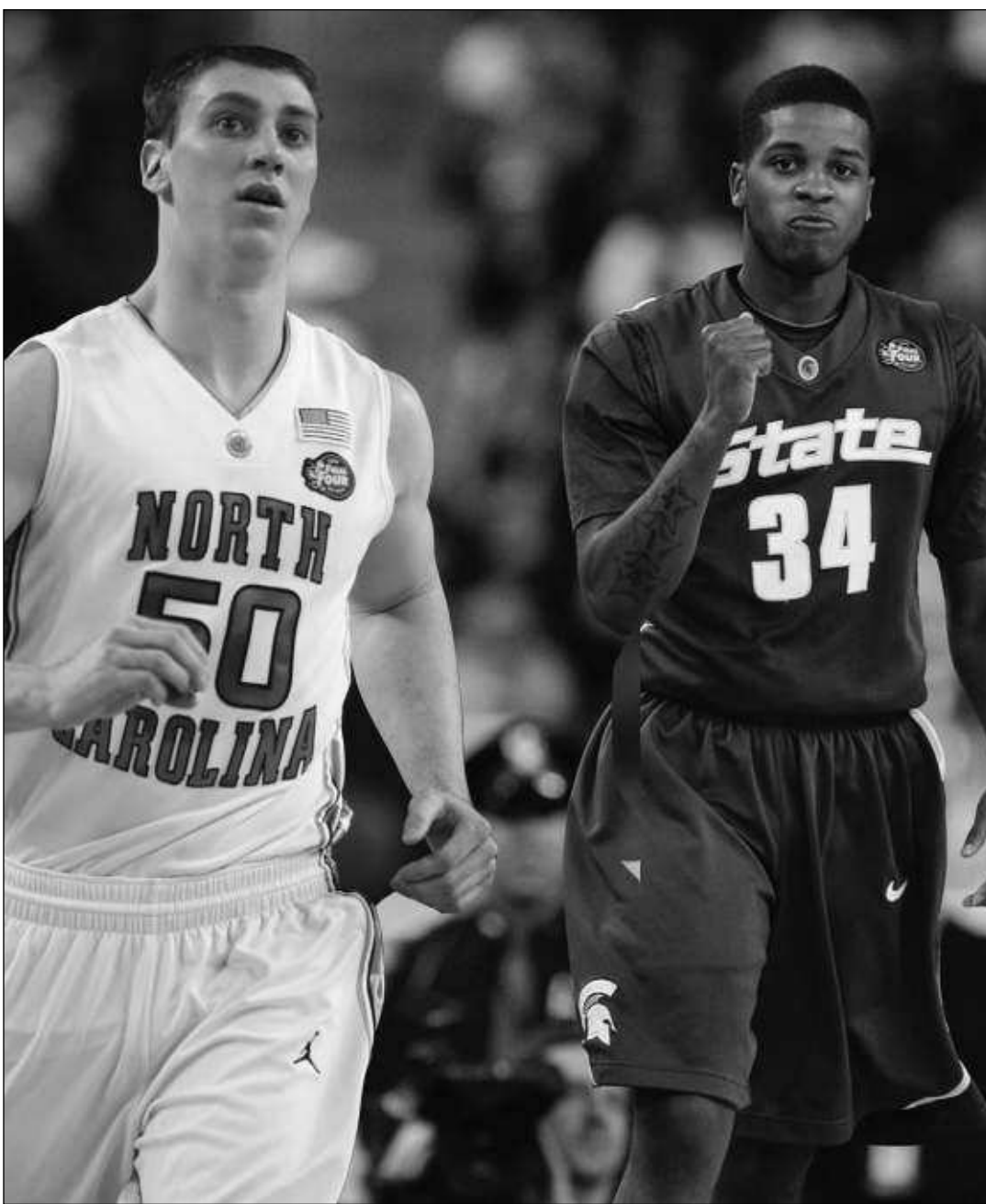
DETROIT — The bracket says North Carolina vs. Michigan State.

At times, though, the Tar Heels may feel like they're going up against something more than just another basketball team.

From the coach on down, the Spartans (31-6) know a win in the NCAA title game on a court 90 miles from their campus won't fix the state's economic freefall, won't put anybody back to work. But there will be 72,000 people in Ford Field, site of the Final Four, come Monday night. Most will be rooting for Michigan State.

And winning, as they say, can be contagious.

"When you go through hard times, you pray for something to get you out," Spartans guard Travis Walton said. "I'm sure they didn't pray for Michigan State to get to the Final Four or the national championship game, but they probably have



AP photo

North Carolina's Tyler Hansbrough and Michigan State's Korie Lucious look on during a men's NCAA Final Four semifinal college basketball game.

been praying to have things to take their mind off of it."

Michigan ranks 51st out of 50 states (and District of Columbia) in the latest unemployment figures. Detroit is the hub of an auto industry on life support, a civic symbol of an economic system that has come off the tracks.

That's the backdrop for a game

in which Michigan State finds itself a 7½-point underdog against a Carolina team that has "national champs" practically inked across its uniforms.

Remember, this is the team that some thought could go undefeated this season when Tyler Hansbrough, Ty Lawson, Wayne Ellington and Danny

Green all decided to return after a bad loss to Kansas at last year's Final Four.

Undefeated was never on coach Roy Williams' list of goals. Winning a championship, though? Always.

"If you thought it was easy, you

Please see **DETROIT**, Main 6

WOMEN'S NCAA FINAL FOUR

McCoughtry leads Louisville into title game

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Angel McCoughtry and Louisville played the second half as if they belonged in their first Final Four.

McCoughtry scored 14 of her 18 points in the second half and added 11 rebounds, helping Louisville crawl out of an early hole to beat Oklahoma 61-59 in the national semifinals Sunday night and end Courtney Paris' stellar career.

"We have not one high school All-American on this team, but these guys have worked so hard," McCoughtry said. "I'm so proud of them."

Oklahoma's Nyeshia Stevenson had a good look on a 3-point attempt in the final seconds that rattled out.

Paris promised to pay back the cost of her four-

year scholarship if the Sooners failed to win the title. She had 14 points and 16 rebounds, and left the court in tears after exchanging hugs with McCoughtry and huddling with her team for a final time.

Keshia Hines added 10 rebounds and nine points for the Cardinals (34-4), who'll face either unbeaten and top-ranked Connecticut or Stanford in Tuesday's final.

Ashley Paris, Courtney's twin sister, had 16 points and seven rebounds for Oklahoma.

Louisville looked nervous while enduring an awful first half. The Cardinals fell behind 16-2 after 7½ minutes and finished the half down by 12 after season-worst 22-percent field-goal



AP photo

Louisville's Monique Reid drives past Oklahoma's Courtney Paris in the second half of a national semifinal college basketball game at the NCAA Women's Final Four Sunday, in St. Louis.

See **NCAA**, Main 6

Jeff Gordon snaps winless streak with victory at Texas

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press writer

FORT WORTH, Texas — Jeff Gordon ended the longest winless drought of his career, beating Hendrick Motorsports teammate Jimmie Johnson to finally win at Texas.

Gordon won for the first time in 48 races Sunday at the 1½-mile, high-banked Texas Motor Speedway, one of only two active tracks where the four-time NASCAR Sprint Cup champion had never won a race.

It was the 17th Cup race at Texas, the track where Gordon has the only two last-place finishes in his 552 career starts. One of the 43rd-place finishes came last spring before he was the runner-up to Carl Edwards in the fall race after winning the pole.

"How ironic is this that when we go into this streak and we end it here in Texas, a place that's just eluded us for so long," Gordon said. "Incredible

team effort. This whole year has been a m a z i n g. What a great car. I've never had a car like this at Texas. We finally had one and put it in position."

Gordon, already the season points leader with four top-five finishes the first six races, did a few burnouts on the frontstretch before grabbing the checkered flag and taking his No. 24 Chevrolet for a long-awaited victory lap — his first since October 2007 at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Charlotte.

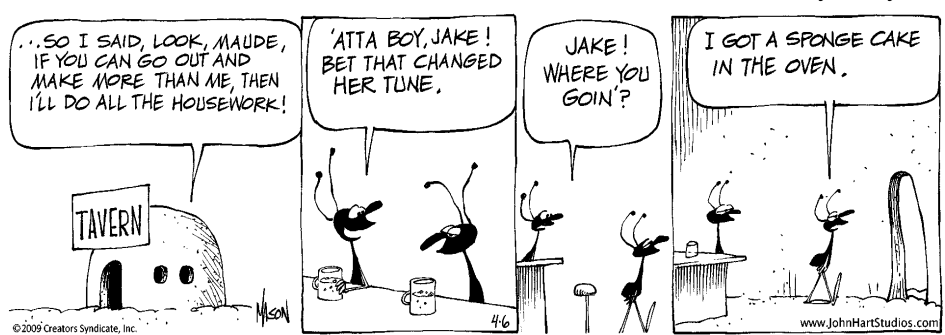
During interviews in Victory Lane, Gordon had to sneak a peek at the logos on his car to remind himself of everybody he needed to thank. It had been a long time, especially by his standards.



Gordon

See **NASCAR**, Main 6

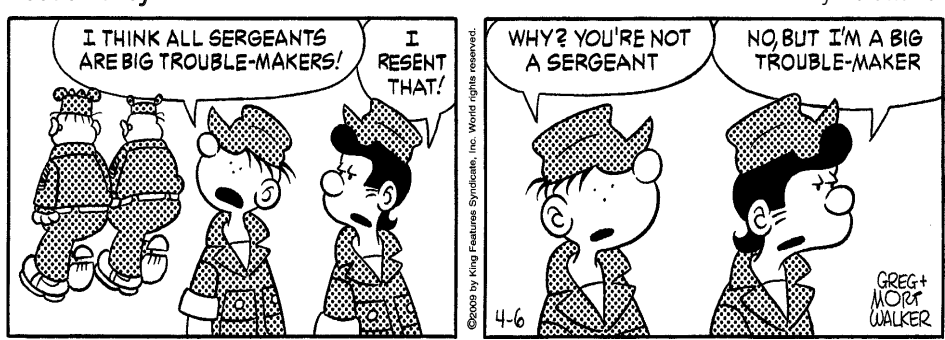
B.C. By Johnny Hart



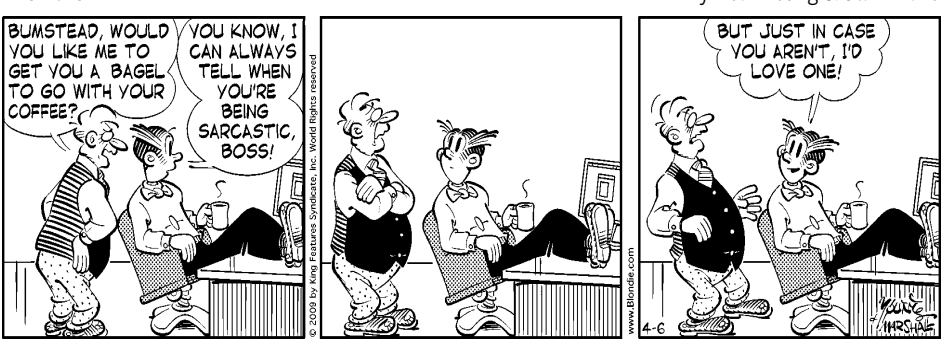
Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey By Mort Walker



Blondie By Dean Young & Stan Drake



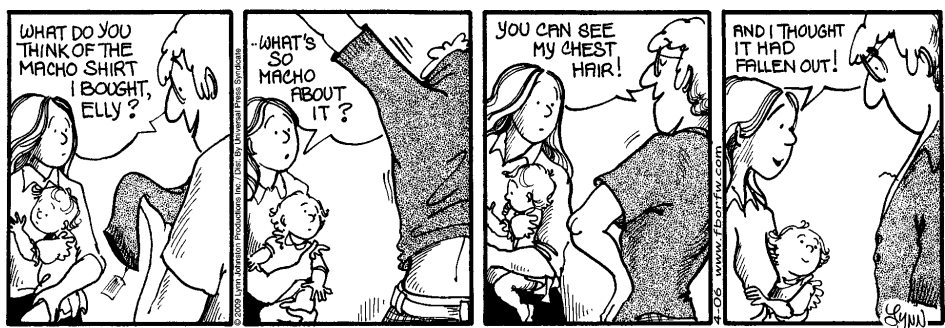
Dilbert By Scott Adams



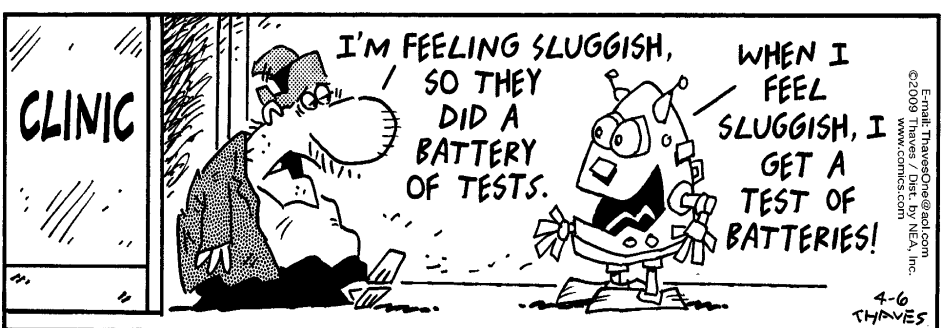
The Elderberries By Phil Frank and Joe Troise



For Better or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



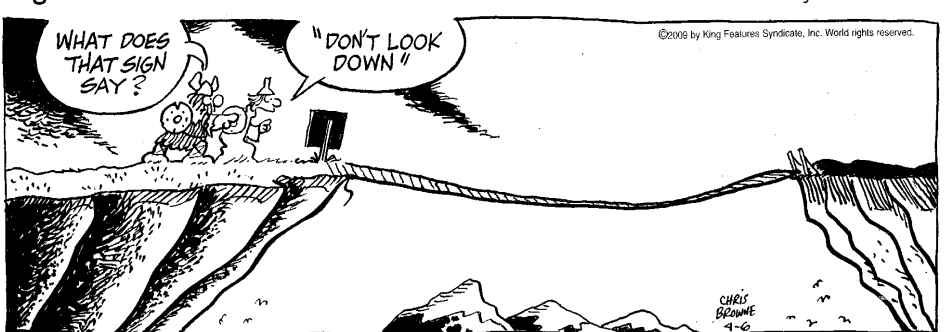
Frank and Ernest By Bob Thaves



Garfield By Jim Davis



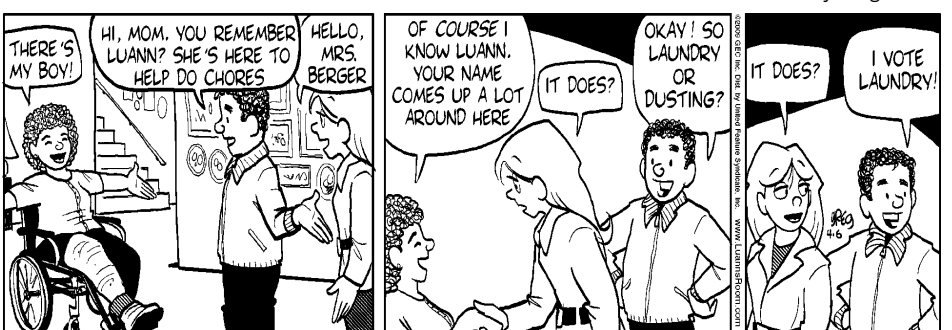
Hagar the Horrible By Chris Browne



Hi and Lois By Chance Browne



Luann By Greg Evans



Classic Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



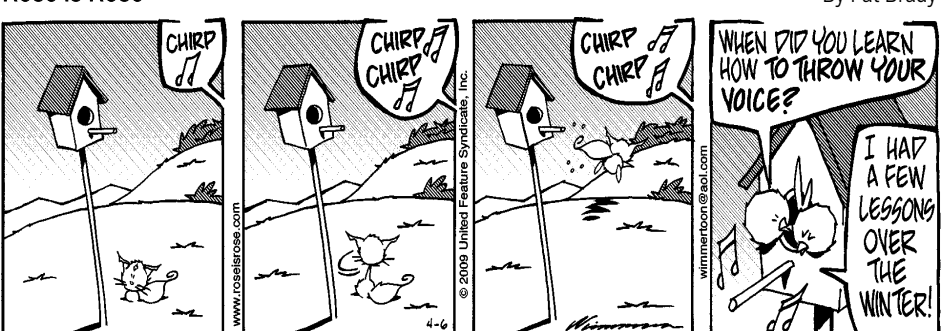
Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Pickles By Brian Crane



Rose is Rose By Pat Brady



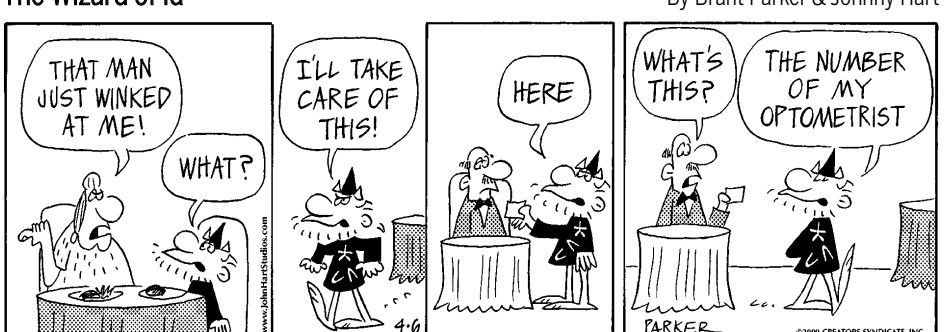
Non Sequitur By Wiley



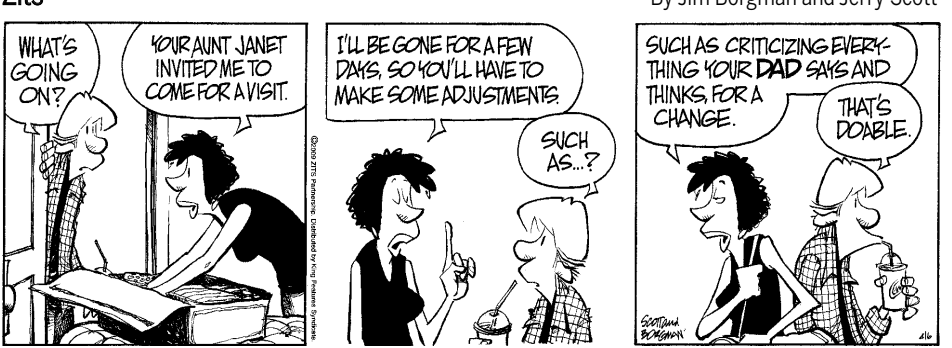
Dennis the Menace By Hank Ketcham



The Wizard of Id By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Zits By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



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OPINION

QUOTABLE

"She's a hero in her own right."
 — Binghamton, N.Y., Police Chief Joseph Zikuski on the receptionist who gave details to police by phone after being shot in the abdomen by a gunman who killed 13 people

EDITORIAL

We don't need a new building to honor vets

As part of his Mayor's Initiative 2010, Lance Clow has a vision for a memorial plaza and a veterans' service center in downtown Twin Falls.

That's an intriguing and ambitious idea — probably too ambitious.

No one — the mayor included — is quite sure where the money would come from to make such a project a reality. Perhaps from a congressional earmark, Clow suggests, or a fundraising campaign by the veterans' groups that would use the hall.

But earmarks are toxic assets in public opinion at the moment, and non-profit organizations are scuffling just to hold their own in a sour economy. Securing the several hundred thousand dollars a new building would require would be a tall order in the near future.

There's a cheaper alternative: Why not name a park or an existing public building — perhaps the old Twin Falls Clinic and Hospital, now owned by the county — after veterans? Or even a single veteran with local ties and an exemplary service record?

That would be appropriate since the old clinic is just across the street from City Park, where a veterans' monument is located.

A plaza is a more promising idea, and affordable (and yes, it could be dedicated to veterans and contain a veterans' monument). City Park is a popular gathering place, but Twin Falls lacks a city square — a large, paved open space in the middle of town for folks to gather for community events, concerts and political rallies. Clow is right that such a plaza could be a place where Native Americans, blacks and special interest groups could set up memorials or kiosks.

Finding a place for such a square wouldn't be difficult downtown. Maybe the property near the corner of Shoshone Street and Second Avenue South that the city recently acquired for development would be an appropriate site for a plaza. It's close enough to Main Avenue — where activity is concentrated in the Townsite — to attract pedestrian traffic.

Good for the mayor for thinking outside the box on the future of downtown. But let's concentrate on projects we can afford right now.

Our view:

A veterans' building and a memorial plaza are splendid ideas for downtown Twin Falls, but probably unaffordable at the moment.

Why GM can't fix itself

Some companies are in the steel business, some are in the cookie business, but General Motors is in the restructuring business. For 30 years, GM has been restructuring itself toward long-term viability.



DAVID BROOKS

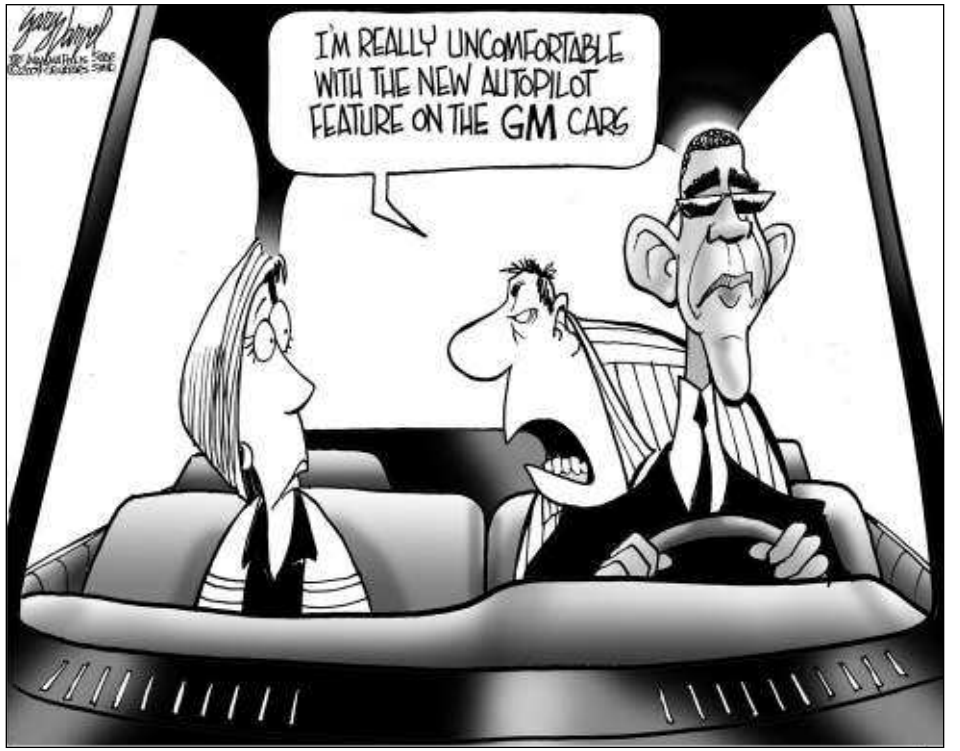
For all these years, GM's market share has endured a long, steady slide. But this has not stopped the waves of restructuring. The PowerPoints have flowed and always there has been the promise that with just one more cost-cutting push, sustainability nirvana will be at hand.

There are many experts who think that the whole restructuring strategy is misbegotten. These experts think that costs are not the real problem. The real problem is the product. The cars are not good enough. The management is insular. The reputation is fatally damaged.

But if you are in the restructuring business, you can't let these stray thoughts get in the way of your restructuring. Restructuring is the way that dieting is for many of us: You think about it every day. You believe it's about to work. Nothing really changes.

When the economy cratered last fall, the professionals at GM went into Super-Duper Restructuring Overdrive. In October, they warned the Bush administration of a possible bankruptcy filing, and started restructuring. In December, they came back asking for a loan while they ... (wait for it) ... restructured.

The Bush advisers decided in December that bankruptcy without preparation would be a disaster. They decided what all administrations decide — that the best time for a bankruptcy proceeding is a few months from now, and it always will be. In the meantime,



restructuring would continue, federally subsidized.

Today, GM and Chrysler have once again come up with restructuring plans. By an amazing coincidence, these plans are again insufficient. In an extremely precedented move, the Obama administration has decided that the best time for possible bankruptcy is — a few months from now. The restructuring will continue.

But this, Obama declares, is GM's last chance. Honestly. Really.

No kidding. Could this really be true? Could the *Harvard Business Review's* longest-running soap opera possibly be coming to an end? Could Obama really scare the structural recidivists in Detroit into coming up with changes big enough to do the job?

Well, the president certainly acted tough last week. In a show of force, he released plans from his Office of People Who Are Much Smarter Than You Are. These plans insert the government into the car business in all sorts of ways. They pick winners (new CEO Fritz Henderson) and losers (Rick Wagoner). They basically send Chrysler off into the sunset. Joe Biden will be doing car commercials within weeks.

The Obama team also raised the bankruptcy specter more explicitly than ever before. Even more tellingly, the administration moved to "stand behind" the companies' service warranties. That lays the predicate for a bankruptcy procedure and should be a sharp shock to Detroit.

And yet by enmeshing the White House so deeply into GM, Obama has increased the odds that March's menacing threat will lead to June's wobbly wiggle-out. The Obama administration and the Democratic Party are now completely implicated in the coming GM wreck. Over the next few months, the White House will be subject to a gigantic lobbying barrage. The Midwestern delegations, swing states all, will pull out all the stops to prevent plant foreclosures. Unions will be furious if the Obama-run company rips up the union contract. Is the White House ready for the Obama to Middle America: Drop Dead? It would take a party with a political death wish to see this through.

Furthermore, there's no reason to think the umpteenth restructuring will produce compelling results. Cost control without a quality revolution will make little difference.

There's no reason to think Americans are going to flock to GM cars. Politically expedient environmental demands will make the odds of profitability more remote.

Corporate welfare rarely works when the government invests in rising firms. The odds are really grim when it tries to subsidize fading ones.

The most likely outcome, sad to say, is some semiserious restructuring plan, with or without court involvement, to be followed by long-term government intervention and backdoor subsidies forever. That will amount to the world's most expensive jobs program. It will preserve the overcapacity in the market, create zombie companies and thus hurt Ford. It will raise the protectionist threat as politicians seek to protect the car companies they now run.

It would have been better to keep a distance from GM and prepare the region for a structured bankruptcy process. Instead, Obama leapt in. His intentions were good, but getting out with honor will require a ruthless tenacity that is beyond any living politician.

David Brooks is a columnist for *The New York Times*. Write to him at dbrooks@nytimes.com.

TIMES-NEWS

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Spring predictions from the animal world

Plenty of Idaho criers have warned about wolves here being dangerous, but it's still more perilous to cross the human highway than it is to waltz out one of our yodeling canyons.

With this menace in mind, I consulted with my oracle: John Cougar Mellowcat, who kindly channeled for us, some other spring-fever animal predictions:

Besides the wolf this year, its predicted rattlers will be more docile. Good time to gather some snapping worms for dynamic fishing.

Badgers are lonelier and will need more human-applied scruffs behind their fuzzy ears.

Local cubby bears will rise up with great desire for thick elderberry mead, so please baste your grease

buckets and leave them warmly wafting under west Ketchum birdfeeders.

Albino deer appreciate late season snows and hope Baldy stays open through Memorial Day.

Increasing numbers of aged cougars will descend from the Elkhorn hills to infiltrate nearly-innocents at the dew-daw room.

Butterflies will continue to flaunt their illegal ignoring of voter district lines.

While Mormon crickets will continue their selfless mission of filling in Highway 20's potholes, positively chirping beetles will munch over Galena pass, making the area more avalanche-prone, which will lead to a receptive public outcry for a safety-beacon cell tower on the hill.

Wise hoot owls will continue being mostly serious and make gains toward unraveling unsolved mysteries.

Local dogs will continue worming their way into local hearts, while an Idaho State University scientist will uncover compelling canine evidence that they sometimes laugh at us silly cats.

JIM BANHOLZER
Hailey

Risks outweigh abatement benefits

Thankfully, the Gooding County commissioners are not establishing a pesticide abatement district. Overall risks outweigh benefits and some of the reasons are:

It is expensive and impacts on pests and humans are, at best, uncertain. Instead, everyone can take safer personal protective measures: <http://www.drapp.com/westnilevirus.htm>.

Many state governors have proclaimed May to be "Toxic Injury and

Education Month." However, why does this important national issue get so little attention? <http://www.mcsbeaconofhope.com/> Germs, plants, animals and people have been mutating in response to external influences that include pesticides.

Human immune and hormone systems damage are greatly responsible for the growing developments of modern-day physical and mental illnesses like cancer, learning disabilities, pill-popping, autism, etc. Idaho Code 39-2801, Authorization To Form Abatement Districts, includes: "(4) To sue and be sued. (6) To abate as nuisance breeding places of mosquitoes or other vermin by use of chemicals, have the right to enter upon any and all lands."

Mosquito-born West Nile illness waxes and

wanes in natural cycles. This resulted in a far-ranging abatement code that permits: To trespass. All lands. Eradicate any kind of vermin. Different types of vermin can require different chemicals. Lawsuits by people who are allergic to chemicals and unconstitutional trespassing can potentially add huge costs to mosquito abatement. Remember the Dollar Oust herbicide spray drift lawsuits by dozens of farmers?

I was at the first, and poorly attended, Twin Falls County commissioners mosquito abatement meeting.

An abatement official from another county said that the chemicals used were harmless to people. I told him that I happened to hear warnings on the radio for people to remain indoors during periods of mosquito spraying.

Therefore I asked him, if the pesticides are so harmless, why issue public warnings? He could not answer my question.

ARMIN SUTTERLIN
Hagerman

Pay attention to speed zones around schools

I have a complaint. I have seen quite a few people ignoring the 15 mph speed limit by the Heyburn School. I have seen more people pulled over on that stretch of road than any other place in Heyburn.

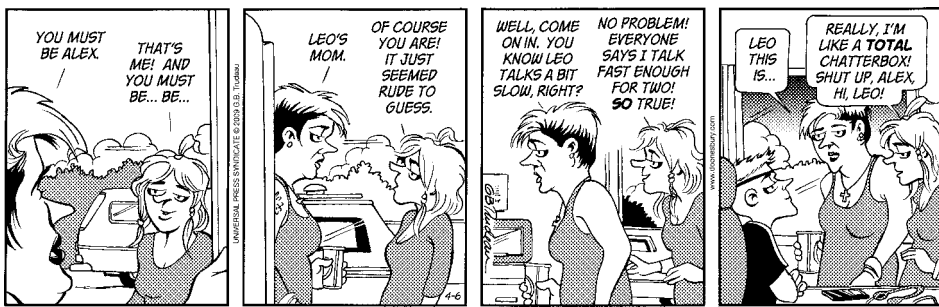
I know that the Heyburn Police are busy, but they need to invest in some speed traps or they could just have me run these people off the road.

Pay attention to the speed signs, especially around schools.

Thank you.
THAYNE GALLEGOS
Heyburn

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF POLITICS

Doonesbury



By Garry Trudeau

Mallard Fillmore



By Bruce Tinsley



Photos by ARIEL HANSEN/Times-News

Be careful when you buff down your calluses, as it's easy to take off too much skin. Just remove the dead cells with a pumice stone, leaving firm skin underneath.

Winter may have taken a toll, but there's time to get your feet looking their best

By Ariel Hansen
Times-News writer

KETCHUM — If you're dreaming of slipping your feet out of your favorite sandals and running your toes through fresh, warm grass, you might have to wait a few more weeks. But why should your feet wait to get the kind of pampering they'll need to be their best?

Now's the time to get out of those thick socks and fluffy slippers and find out just what your feet have been doing all winter. It won't necessarily be pretty, and you might even find something that needs a doctor's attention. But your feet will thank you when summer's sun is finally shining.

"We're in a lot of artificial light throughout the winter, and as soon as you get it out into the bright summer sun, you notice how bad it's gotten," said Dr. Andrew McCall, podiatrist with South Idaho Foot & Ankle.

Several conditions that can develop unnoticed over winter need to be treated by a podiatrist, including nail fungus, warts, moles, lesions and dermatologic problems like athlete's foot or very bad foot odor.

While most calluses can be treated at home with a pumice stone or by a pedicurist, if they are especially



There are specific techniques used to trim down the sides of a nail to avoid ingrown toenails. If you're not comfortable doing this trimming yourself, see a pedicurist or podiatrist.



Pastel polish in pink or coral is just right for spring, between the deep tones of winter and the bright citrus of summer.

thick, discolored or painful see a podiatrist. McCall has seen traumatic results when

FIND OUT MORE

Numerous podiatrists and pedicurists can be found across south-central Idaho. Those featured in this story can be reached at:
Dr. Andrew McCall, podiatrist, South Idaho Foot & Ankle, offices in Twin Falls (733-3881) and Hailey (788-1880).
Laura Curd, owner of ReSource Salon, 713 Leadville Ave. S. in Ketchum, 726-5760.

people tried to deal with thick calluses themselves — with razor blades or utility knives.

"You wouldn't believe the horror stories we've seen and heard," he said.

Although McCall recom-



Calluses are usually found on the sides and back of the heel, the side of the ball of the foot, the side of the big toe, and underneath the pinky and ring toes. If they are discolored, see a podiatrist.

mends removing calluses using the pumice stone in the shower or bath, pedicurist Laura Curd suggests using it when skin is dry, because the skin will come off more easily, without getting gummy. Be careful, she said, not to take off too much. You shouldn't feel friction burns, and there should still be firm skin remaining when the dead cells are removed. The firmness protects the bone and skin underneath from damage.

When you're finished, don't forget to moisturize — Curd recommends doing so before bed.

She also pays attention to the nail beds, looking for damage caused by sports like skiing and tennis that can jam the nail into the toe. Keep your toenails short to keep these problems to a minimum.

Despite popular wisdom, both McCall and Curd say it's OK to cut toenails into a curve, rather than straight across, especially for the big toe. Just be careful not to leave any bits of nail on the sides that can grow into the foot and eventually cause pain. Curd also uses a buffer to sand down and polish the tops of the toenails, as long

HOW TO CHOOSE A PEDICURIST

Some pedicurists simply change out nail polish, while others perform massage and other spa treatments. Many are comfortable and trained in removing calluses, shaping nails and assessing when a podiatrist's attention may be needed.

Laura Curd, owner of ReSource Salon in Ketchum, said personality is important, too. When choosing a pedicurist, ask questions about the specialist's experience, personal preferences and price scale. That will help determine whether she provides the services you desire.

as they're not too thin, because it gives them a smooth feel and look.

Once your nails are trimmed and calluses gone, and any medical issues dealt with, don't forget to dress up your feet! Bright pastel polishes are a great transition from the darker colors of winter to the crisp citrus that will go with summer sandals. Pinks and corals complement just about every outfit, and a little hint of shimmer will make you want to wiggle your toes just to see them shine.

And those sandals? Flat bohemian styles with gladiator details or jeweled embellishments are at the top of trend reports for spring. Peep-toed shoes are still hot, especially in fuchsia or floral patterns, allowing that pedicure to peek through.

Ariel Hansen may be reached at 208-788-3475 or ahansen@magicvalley.com.

Dr. Gina Massoglia, right, has begun performing single incision laparoscopic surgery (SILS) at Anne Arundel Medical Center in Annapolis, Md. After years of experimentation, doctors in pockets of the country have been announcing the removal of gallbladders, kidneys and appendixes through the navel.



AMY DAVIS/Baltimore Sun

As minimal surgery expands, doctors debate the benefits

By Stephanie Desmon
The Baltimore Sun

BALTIMORE — After less than 30 minutes of surgery, Dr. Gina Massoglia removed Caren Eckwerth's gallbladder by squeezing it out through a tiny incision in her belly button. A colleague fol-

lowed with three small stitches in the navel, covering the wound with a bandage.

In a week, no one but her doctors will know the 57-year-old Annapolis woman even had surgery.

An operation that once required a six-inch cut under

the rib cage and went on, with the spread of laparoscopy, to be a less-invasive surgery involving three or four small slits is now becoming a practically scarless procedure in the hands of a small but growing

See **SURGERY**, H&F 2

To do for You

Caregiver support

Caregiver Support Group meeting, 1-2:30 p.m. today, in Katz Conference Room at South Central Public Health, 1020 Washington St. N. in Twin Falls.

Topics: caregiver issues and peer support.

Information: Shawna Wasko, CSI Office on Aging, 736-2122.

Bariatric support

Bariatric Support Group meeting for patients who have undergone bariatric surgery, 7 p.m. today, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center's Education Center, 588 Addison Ave. W. in Twin Falls.

Information: 381-4504.

About childbirth

Prepared childbirth classes, 6:30-9 p.m. Tuesdays, this week to May 5, in the lobby at St. Luke's downtown campus, 660 Shoshone St. E. in Twin Falls.

Topics: wellness of the mother; labor and delivery

process with relaxation and breathing techniques; care of the postpartum mother and newborn; breastfeeding and bottle feeding; and a video tour of the Women's and Infant Center. Bring a labor support person, if possible.

Cost is \$60. Preregistration required; 732-3148.

'Baby and Me'

St. Benedict's Family Medical Center's "Baby and Me" classes, 11 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, at Jerome Public Library, 100 First Ave. E.

This week's topic: Moms Club. The session is educational support for parents and babies. A baby scale is available each week. Free; 324-6133.

Alzheimer's support

Alzheimer's Support Group meeting, 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, at Rosetta Hiland, 1919 Hiland Ave. in Burley.

Open to Mini-Cassia residents who have family members with Alzheimer's.

Information: Maquel

Wrigley, 677-5451.

About Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's Support Group meetings, 6-7 p.m. Wednesday and 2-3 p.m. Saturday, at Rosetta Eastridge, 1177 Eastridge Court in Twin Falls.

Open to Twin Falls County residents who have family members with Alzheimer's.

Information: Lisa Junod, 734-9422.

About C-sections

Cesarean childbirth class, 6:30-9 p.m. Wednesday, in the lobby at St. Luke's downtown campus, 660 Shoshone St. E. in Twin Falls.

Topics: Cesarean deliveries, pain management, non-conforming labors and hospital procedures.

Free. Preregistration required; 732-3148.

Childbirth refresher

Childbirth refresher class of St. Benedict's prepared childbirth series, 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, at Jerome Ambulance Building, 240 E. Main St.

Topic: Review of labor and childbirth. Bring a labor support person, if possible. Mothers may enroll even if their babies will be born at a different hospital. The class is offered separately, or as part of the childbirth series.

Cost is \$5. Register: 324-6133.

About childbirth

The birthing class of St. Benedict's prepared childbirth series, 7-9 p.m. Thursday, at Jerome Ambulance Building, 240 E. Main St.

Topics: the birth process and breathing techniques. Bring a labor support person, if possible. Mothers may enroll even if their babies will be born at a different hospital. The class is offered separately, or as part of the childbirth series.

Fee is \$5. Register: 324-6133.

Learn CPR

"Heartsaver Cardio-pulmonary Resuscitation" class, 6-10 p.m. Tuesday, in the Sage Room at St. Luke's Education Center, 588 Addison Ave. W. in Twin Falls.

Topics: infant, child and adult CPR, and automated external defibrillators.

Cost is \$36. Preregistration required; 737-2007.

Childbirth refresher

Childbirth refresher course, 6:30-9 p.m. Thursday, in the lobby at St. Luke's downtown campus, 660 Shoshone St. E. in Twin Falls.

Topics: Review of childbirth preparation and breathing techniques, and a video tour of the Women's

and Infants Center. Cost is \$20. Pre-registration required; 732-3148.

Breastfeeding and employment

A two-part class to help successfully combine breastfeeding and employment. Does not replace a basic breastfeeding class.

The first class, before birth, helps with pump selection and milk storage. The second, after birth, helps choose appropriate bottle nipple and pump schedule.

Cost is \$25 for the two-part class. Preregister for date, time and location: Amy Peterson, 308-1350.

Healthy longevity

Dr. Marjorie A. Brockman of Gooding offers a community lecture, "Secrets of Longevity," 6:30 p.m. April 15 at the College of Southern Idaho's Northside Center, 202 14th Ave. in Gooding.

Topic: maintaining a thriving and healthy life

span. Brockman is a doctor of chiropractic, registered nurse, certified acupuncturist and doctor of naturopathic medicine.

Free and open to the public; 934-5000.

Learn CPR

American Red Cross' first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation class, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 18 at Twin Falls Parks and Recreation Department, 136 Maxwell Ave.

Topics: infant, child and adult CPR, first aid and automated external defibrillators, with Red Cross-certified instructor Glen Hance.

Cost is \$58.50 (includes all supplies). Preregistration required by April 15: 736-2265 or stop by Parks and Recreation office.

"To do for you" is a listing of health-related activities, events and education. Submit information by Thursday for publication in the following Monday's Healthy & Fit section. E-mail notices to ramona@magicvalley.com.

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Surgery

Continued from H&F 1 group of surgeons.

After years of experimentation, doctors have been announcing the removal of gallbladders, kidneys and appendixes through the navel. Some weight-loss surgeries also have been done through a single incision, as have some hysterectomies.

But as this next generation of minimally invasive surgeries becomes more common — and as a handful of surgeons experiment with the truly scarless removal of organs through natural orifices such as the mouth and vagina — some wonder if there is any benefit to the patient beyond the cosmetic and whether that is enough to justify its growing use.

"We need to determine which is in actuality an advance in health care versus a fad that is not," said Dr. Mohamad E. Allaf, the director of laparoscopic and robotic urologic surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital. "It's important that we don't use 'less invasive' as an advertising mechanism."

Late in 2008, Allaf became one of the first surgeons to remove a kidney — an organ roughly the size of a human fist — through the navel. Although he has performed about a dozen of the surgeries and is pleased with the results, he said it is too early to tell whether this incremental advance will improve patient outcomes.

There is no data yet on what is being called SILS, single-incision laparoscopic surgery. Massoglia, who practices at Anne Arundel Medical Center in Annapolis, was invited last year to see surgeons in Florida remove a gallbladder this way. She wasn't sure it was possible to improve upon gallbladder surgery, a 20- to 30-minute procedure she does hundreds of times a year using four small incisions to allow room for the camera as well as various instruments to help retract and take out the gumball-sized organ.

But after seeing the single-incision operation — and being taught how to do it — she decided she wanted to offer SILS to her patients and removed her first gallbladder this way in October.

"The goal is to offer something to the patients without compromising the case you normally do," she said. "Here, it's not taking longer. There's no change in risk. The benefit is, it's scarless." As a side benefit, she said, her patients aren't complaining of as much pain. And if she finds she is having trouble removing the gallbladder with a single incision or port, or she is worried about a patient's safety, she can always make extra incisions and do the surgery the more traditional way.

As she removed Eckwerth's gallbladder, she

was aided by the use of stitches threaded through the skin to hold the gallbladder in place as she dislodged it from its spot tucked in behind the liver.

The pricks made by those stitches, smaller than needle sticks, won't even be bandaged.

Stacey Slack, 39, had her painful gallbladder removed in November. When Massoglia — who had operated on Slack's hernia a few years earlier — suggested the single-incision surgery, Slack says she "was definitely willing to try it."

"She said it was new. I didn't expect new as in me being one of the first," said Slack, a neonatal intensive care nurse from Bowie. "You can't even tell I had it done. It'll be perfect for bikini season."

At the Cleveland Clinic, surgeons pioneered single-incision kidney removal. They also have used SILS to harvest kidneys from kidney donors for transplantation and hope this method will encourage more people to donate.

"The goal here is not only cosmetic," said Dr. Jihad Kaouk, a urologist there. "The goal here is the overall wellness of the patient."

He knows that the idea of taking a kidney — or any other organ — out through the navel might seem like an unnecessary advance. But he said there has been great demand from other surgeons to learn how to perform the procedure, including a class in May that drew 350 instead of the 100 expected.

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Checking in with CSI's weight-loss contenders.

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** Pre-registration is available April 1-30, Monday – Friday at Gooding County Memorial Hospital, 1120 Montana Street or online at www.goodinghospital.org.

Free continental breakfast provided by the GCMH Foundation.
For more information, please call 934-9884.

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TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Warmer and partly cloudy. Highs in the lower to mid 60s...

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Warmer and partly cloudy. Highs in the lower to mid 60s...

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. Fair skies, dry and warmer today and Tuesday...



TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 5 columns: Today, Tonight, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. Includes weather icons and high/low temperatures.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Almanac data including Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, and Moonrise and Moonset.

Yesterday's Weather

Table with 5 columns: City, Hi, Lo, Prep. Lists weather for cities like Boise, Burley, and Caldwell.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Regional forecast table for cities like Boise, Idaho Falls, and Pocatello.

NATIONAL FORECAST

National forecast table for cities like Atlanta, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

U.V. INDEX



WORLD FORECAST

World forecast table for cities like London, Tokyo, and Sydney.

meineke car care center advertisement with address and phone number.

CANADIAN FORECAST

Canadian forecast table for cities like Toronto and Montreal.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



1006 Trucks

FORD '03 F-350 Lariat Super Duty, 4x4, V-8 turbo diesel, 55K miles...

FORD '04 Ranger, extended cab, 4x4, 21K miles, \$12,500...

FORD '07 F-150 XLT, 4 door short box, DVD system, charcoal gray, 50K miles...

FORD '08 F-150, Crew Cab, 20K miles, PL, PW, AC, CD, like new...

FORD '97 F-350 Crew Cab, long bed, 4x4, Powerstroke, AT, good condition...

GMC '02 2500 Crew Cab SLT Duramax, 4x4, AT, 100K miles, new tires...

GMC '06 1/4 Crew Cab Duramax, Allison transmission, SLT, leather, PW, PW, CD...

GMC '08 Denali 1500, loaded, leather, 20" wheels, sunroof, leather, Bose speakers...

GMC '79 4x4, short box, 350 AT, good condition, \$1500...

1008 SUVs

CADILLAC '06 Escalade Navigator, sunroof, DVD, bucket bench, Must see!

CHEVY '01 Suburban LS K2500, power everything, sunroof, front & rear DVD...

CHEVY '02 Suburban-Loaded, leather, heated seats, 4wd, Tow, \$12,500...

CHEVY '06 Equinox PW, PL, cruise, nicely equipped, \$11,999...

DODGE '08 Durango 2 to choose from, Certified, CD, rear air 3" seat...

JEEP '08 Cherokee Classic 4x4, 4.0L 6 cyl, auto trans, silver exterior, grey interior...

JEEP '04 Liberty 4x4 Sport, PW, PL, CD, cruise, stock #4W31324CD...

JEEP '08 Grand Cherokee 4x4, 3 to choose from, Certified, well equipped...

JEEP '08 Whangler 4x4 Unlimited, lifted, wheels/tires, power group, hard top...

JEEP '02 CJ-7, good condition, \$6500 offer, call for details...

JEEP '98 Grand Cherokee, 85K miles, 4x4, V8, AT, PW, dual PS...

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SUZUKI '00 Vitara, runs good, 4WD, \$2400...

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1009 Vans and Buses

CHEVY '04 TrailBlazer 41K miles, 4x4, AT, 4.2 6 cylinder, PW, PL, \$7500...

FORD '01 Expedition Sport 4x4, 5.4 Triton, auto, rear air, cloth interior, fully loaded...

FORD '05 Explorer, AT, 4x4, V8, 4.0L, PW, 75K miles, runs good...

FORD '98 Windstar, like new, must see, Exc. cond. Priced to sell...

HONDA '03 Pilot, 70K miles, 3" seat, exc condition, only \$13,900...

JEEP '06 Cherokee Classic 4x4, 4.0L 6 cyl, auto trans, silver exterior, grey interior...

JEEP '04 Liberty 4x4 Sport, PW, PL, CD, cruise, stock #4W31324CD...

JEEP '08 Grand Cherokee 4x4, 3 to choose from, Certified, well equipped...

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1010 Autos

BUICK '02 Century 80,350 miles, one owner, all power equipped + \$800 new brakes...

CADILLAC '01 DeVille, 32 Valve, power everything, leather, 89K miles, \$10,950...

CHEVY '06 HHR LT2, chrome, sunroof, remote start, \$11,999...

CHEVY '07 Cobalt, Blowout Pricing, only 6 left, auto, air, \$7,999...

CHEVY '07 Impala, CD, cruise, alloy wheels, \$11,999...

CHEVY 76 Vega, Looks great, runs great, \$2900...

CHEVY '96 Corsica 4 cyl, AC, 97K ms, AT, \$2000...

CHEVY '99 Metro 2 dr, 3 cyl, 5 spd, 88K miles, 50mpg, \$2800...

CHEVY '98 Corvette, convertible 52K, leather, PW, PL, \$18,500...

CHEVY '05 Buick Wildcat, 40mpg, loaded, leather, DVD, leather, Certified, stock #8H263558DC...

FORD '07 Taurus SE 30+ mpg, PW, PL, power trunk, white, 42K mi, \$7800...

FORD '79 T-Bird, good shape, \$900, 537-9941 day / 543-8924 evos...

HONDA '02 Civic LX, AT, CD, PW, PL, PM, \$7500...

HONDA '07 Civic LX, AT, CD, PW, PL, PM, \$7500...

Mercedes '87 560 SL Convertible, 77K mi, mint cond., 2 tops, \$9500...

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1011 Import And Sports Cars

Mercedes '87 560 SL Convertible, 77K mi, mint cond., 2 tops, \$9500...

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PONTIAC '02 Grand Am G.T. AT, sunroof, PW, PL, PM, 74K miles, \$7250...

PONTIAC '04 Grand Am, 52K miles, 1 owner, AM/FM CD, 5 spd, 2.2L, keyless...

PONTIAC '06 G6 GTP, AT, coupe, CD, power everything, sunroof \$10,950...

PONTIAC '08 Grand Prix, loaded, 26-30 mpg, 20K miles like new, factory warranty...

SATURN '01 Wagon RIGHT HAND DRIVE, 4 cyl, AT, AC, full power, low miles...

TOYOTA '03 Matrix XRS, PW, PL, PM, 5 spd manual, 6 disc CD, sunroof...

TOYOTA '05 Corolla, 40 mpg, loaded Sport, 131,000 hwy miles, \$9500...

VW '07 Jetta, 38,000 miles, top shift auto, CD, PW, PL, 5 cyl 2.5, loaded...