



SUNDAY  
April 19, 2009

# TIMES-NEWS

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## School district looks hard at travel funds

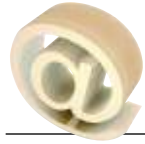
### Cassia County school officials take spouses on the road

By Ben Botkin  
Times-News writer

When Cassia County

School trustees travel, they take their spouses with them — all on the taxpayer's dime. A Times-News review of

the travel records and invoices of 16 area school districts shows that Cassia County School District's arrangement for spouse travel differs from all other school districts. Even so, as the state funding for education tightens, area districts,



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VIEW: School district travel records for Twin Falls and Cassia County school districts.

including Cassia County School District, are looking at cutting the cost of sending

trustees to conferences and conventions. The cost of sending a

school board member to a national convention can range as high as \$2,000 per person, and even though state-level meetings are less expensive the cumulative cost knocks a dent in state

See TRAVEL, Main 4

## Flying through a downturn



ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

Visitors at Friedman Memorial Airport in Hailey have a photo taken shortly after arriving at the airport earlier this month.

## Friedman Memorial Airport, Blaine County react to recession

By Ariel Hansen  
Times-News writer

HAILEY — Paul Hartl is trying to sell his airplane. It's a handmade experimental Zenith Zodiac, with a polished wood propeller that looks like it came straight off a yacht, but the plane hasn't attracted much interest yet.

Unfortunately, he's not alone. The entire aircraft industry is caught in the economic funk that's spreading across the nation,

### LEARN MORE

Visit Friedman Memorial Airport's Web site at flyfma.com. Each month, the airport authority releases numbers on flights, passengers and other data. Click "FMAA Meetings & Agendas" then "FMAA Meeting Packet" for the past year's worth of this information.

and traffic patterns at Friedman Memorial Airport show even Blaine County is feeling the hit.

"We, like probably any airport in the country right now, are experiencing a reduction in operations," said Friedman manager Rick Baird. "The economy's bad, and people are using their aircraft less."

That's true for commercial traffic as well as general aviation, which encompasses everything from small private prop planes to visiting corporate jets. Since



ARIEL HANSEN/Times-News

Paul Hartl of Hailey is trying to sell his homebuilt Zenith Zodiac aircraft, which he stores at Friedman Memorial Airport in Hailey. Like many local pilots, he has been flying less due to the economy, and the downturn is evident in all of Friedman's operations, from commercial flights to private jets.

tourism-reliant Blaine County is so remote, more than two hours distant from the nearest major airport, traffic at Friedman is a good indicator of the national economy's local impact.

"The reason is conven-

ience; accessibility, and if it becomes less convenient for them to get here, less people will come," said Jack Sibbach, spokesman for the Sun Valley Resort, and part

See AIRPORT, Main 3

## Grisly slayings brings Mexican drug war to U.S.

By Pauline Arrillaga  
Associated Press writer

COLUMBIANA, Ala. — Five men dead in an apartment.

In a county that might see five homicides in an entire year, the call over the sheriff's radio revealed little about what awaited law enforcement. A type of crime, and criminal, once foreign to this landscape of blooming dogwoods had arrived in Shelby County. Sheriff Chris Curry felt it even before he saw the grisly scene. He called the state. The FBI. The DEA.

"I don't know what I've got," he warned. "But I'm gonna need help."

The five dead men lay scattered about a living room. Some showed signs of torture: Burns seared into their earlobes revealed where modified jumper cables had been clamped as an improvised electrocution device. Adhesive from duct tape used to bind the victims still clung to wrists and faces.

As a final touch, throats were slashed, post-mortem.

It didn't take long for Curry and federal agents to piece together clues: A

murder scene, clean save for the crimson-turned-brown stains now spotting the carpet. Just a couple of mattresses tossed on the floor. It was a typical stash house.

But the cut throats? Some sort of ghastly warning.

Curry would soon find this was a retaliation hit over drug money with ties to Mexico's notorious Gulf cartel.

Curry also found out first-hand what narcotics agents have long understood. The drug war, with the savagery it brings, knows no bounds. It had landed in his back yard, in the foothills of the Appalachians, around the corner from The Home Depot.

One thousand, twenty-four miles from the Mexico border.

Forget for a moment the phrase itself — "War on Drugs" — much-derided since President Richard Nixon coined it. Wars eventually end, after all. And many Americans wonder today, nearly four decades later, will this one ever be won?

See DRUG, Main 6



Curry

## Justice Dept. memos describe CIA's harsh interrogation program

By Matt Apuzzo  
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The journey into the CIA's most extreme interrogation program began in darkness.

Blindfolded, hooded and wearing earmuffs, suspected terrorists were shackled and flown to secret interrogation centers. The buildings themselves were quiet, clinical and designed to fill prisoners with dread. Detainees were shaved, stripped and photographed nude.

The questioning began mildly, a shackled detainee facing a non-threatening CIA interrogator. But for detainees who refused to cooperate, the interrogation escalat-

### INSIDE

Analysis: Obama ushers in changes on interrogation tactics, pollution and Cuba.

See Opinion 4

ed in terrifying ways. Few people have ever witnessed the process, which was designed to extract secrets from "high value" suspects during the years after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorism attacks on the U.S. But Justice Department documents, which the Obama administration simultaneously released and repudiated Thursday, describe the process from darkness to

See CIA, Main 5



Crossword .....Classifieds 9  
Dear Abby .....Classifieds 4  
Horoscope .....Classifieds 4

Kids Only .....Family Life 6  
Jumble .....Classifieds 7  
Movies .....Opinion 2

Obituaries .....Business 6,7  
Sudoku .....Classifieds 7  
Your Business ....Business 2

**AGENCY TO CREATE NEW TAXING DISTRICT**  
Revenue would help business owners > Business 1

# MORNING BRIEFING

## Pat's Picks

Three things to do today

Pat Marcantonio



• If you have a piece of furniture or some other item you suspect is an antique, check it out at the certified appraisal fair benefitting the Magic Valley chapter of the Wishing Star Foundation. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the Twin Falls Flea Market at Twin Falls Senior Center, 530 Shoshone St. W. Free admission. Cost is \$5 per item for appraisal. Information: Allie Vargas, 733-2254.

• The Magic Valley Aeromodelers of Twin Falls and the Snake River Flyers of Hazelton display RC (radio controlled) airplanes and helicopters at the

Magic Valley Mall in the Center Court. Club members will be available to answer questions about the club and the airplanes.

• The College of Southern Idaho Car Show features a variety of cool cars. It goes from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at CSI's Expo Center and is brought to you by the college's auto and body services and judo clubs. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors and \$2 for kids.

*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@gmagicvalley.com.*

## Bad news can wait, and wait, and wait ...

An accountant friend of mine counsels her clients these days not to open their 401(k) statements.

Sound advice. If you don't have to be depressed, I say don't be.

That, however, flies in the face of my Nordic heritage. Swedes *always* want the bad news first.

Granted, there's a certain logic to that. In a 1981 experiment, social psychologists Linda Marshall and Robert Kidd found that when people were asked if they preferred to hear good news first and bad news second, or vice-versa, folks overwhelmingly want the bad tidings pronto.

Psychologists even have a fancy name for that phenomenon, "approach-avoidance." That's defined as a conflict that results when a goal has both desirable and undesirable aspects.

Personally, I don't buy it. The bad news is still going to be there, whether you hear it now, later or — best of all — never.

Is it, for example, a good thing to find out right now that you can't retire until you're 87? Nope. Is it good to discover that later, say, when you're 87? Certainly not.

But at least you'll have 30 good years of blissful ignorance.

Besides, bad things happen when people get bad news first. Remember the "Godfather?"

Don Corleone's adopted son, Tom Hayden, goes to Hollywood to try to talk a big-name producer into giving a prize movie role to family favorite Johnny

You Don't Say

Steve Crump



Fontaine, a ne'er-do-well who has seduced and abandoned a starlet who is a favorite of the producer's. The producer says no. Tom Hayden replies, "I must go. The Don insists on getting bad news immediately."

The next morning, the producer wakes up with the severed head of his prize racehorse in his bed.

Now wouldn't it have been better all around — certainly for the horse — if the producer had simply said, "I'll think about it"?

Same deal with my 401(k): I'll think about opening it.

In 1950, bandleader Guy Lombardo had a hit record called "Enjoy Yourself (It's Later Than You Think)." The lyrics articulate, in my opinion, a fine philosophy of life:

*"You never go to night-clubs and you just don't care to dance;*

*"You don't have time for silly things like moonlight and romance.*

*"You only think of dollar bills tied neatly in a stack;*

*"But when you kiss a dollar bill, it doesn't kiss you back."*

Catch you later.

*Steve Crump may be reached at 735-3223. Hear him live on KLIX-1310 AM at 8:30 a.m. Fridays or on the Web at Magicvalley.com/opinion.*

## PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY



Photo courtesy Twin Falls Public Library



ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

The Twin Falls Public Library, 201 4th Ave. E., began in 1909 when a small group of citizens decided the area needed a place for books. The temporary library moved from building to building (including the courthouse), and in 1912 the city of Twin Falls agreed to support the library. From 1913 to 1917, attempts were made to move the library to a more permanent home with help from a grant from the Carnegie Foundation. Unfortunately, a disagreement between the library board, civic leaders, and the Carnegie Foundation committee led to the withdrawing of the funds. The library then moved to the Elks Building for 10 years. In 1938, a Public Works Administration grant was received, and the library moved into its current building in November 1939. In 1975, a second addition was added, and in 1991 a third addition. In 1909, the library owned 150 books; by 2009, around 200,000 items.

## CSI takes over car-show duties, receives all benefits

By Damon Hunzeker  
Times-News writer

If you see a bunch of cars being driven around town this weekend that appear to be time-traveling, they're probably coming from the CSI Expo Center.

After 32 years of hosting the Magic Valley Early Iron Car Show, the College of Southern Idaho took it over this year.

When MVEI pulled out to manage Joe Mama's Car Show in Jerome, Jim Bolton, of Twin Falls, decided he wouldn't allow the CSI show to fade away and essentially functions as a consultant to CSI. While MVEI split the proceeds with the college, Bolton receives no monetary compensation.

"All of the money goes to CSI," he said. "I get the satisfaction of helping the college."

He hopes to raise \$10,000 this weekend, which will go to the Automotive Service Education Program, the Body Shop Education Program — and, for reasons unknown, the Judo Club.

"If you're doing this for money, you'd be broke — more broke than we already are," Bolton said.

Bolton is a retired cabinet maker and, like most people who restore vehicles, treats it as a hobby — a time-consuming hobby.

He rebuilt a 1926 Model T in 1963. Since then, he's



JUSTIN JACKSON/Times-News

Tom Thompson judges the interior of a 1961 Chevy Corvette owned by Casey Anderson Saturday afternoon during the College of Southern Idaho's Auto Show at the CSI Eldon Evans Expo Center in Twin Falls.

### IF YOU GO

The show is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, and \$2 for kids.

for \$1,200. It had been sitting in a field since 1984 and was occupied by many mice. He estimated that, after about three years of restoration, he's invested \$25,000 into the vehicle.

It can be profitable, though.

"I have a saying: 'Everything I have is for sale — you just have to want it more than me,'" he said.

The show looked the same as last year — vintage cars such as a '28 Ford Roadster combined with some incongruities, such as a 2002 Thunderbird and an assortment of vintage snowmobiles.

The 1950s-era theme remains, though. Cardboard replicas of Betty Boop, Elvis Presley and James Dean stand next to the cars.

Last year, the show featured a rockabilly band. This year, the music was relegated to "Little Deuce Coupe" playing over and over on a seemingly endless repeat next to a Ford Coupe.

"Because this is our first year, we're feeling our way through it," Bolton said.

*Damon Hunzeker may be reached at dhunzeker@gmagicvalley.com or 208-677-8764.*

## T.F. man arrested for rape outside local bar

Times-News

A 24-year-old Twin Falls man was arrested early Thursday morning for raping a woman Wednesday night outside Woody's Sports Bar and Grill in Twin Falls.

Justin Wicklund was taken to the Twin Falls County Jail where he is being held on a \$500,000 bond,



Wicklund

according to Twin Falls Police Sgt. Chuck Garner.

The incident, which happened in the bar's parking lot, was reported by the victim at 12:30 a.m. Thursday, Garner said. He did not say if the victim was physically hurt in the rape.

Wicklund's preliminary hearing is scheduled for 8:15 a.m. Friday.

## Twin Falls library celebrates century mark

By Damon Hunzeker  
Times-News writer

It's 100 years old now, but the Twin Falls Public Library doesn't look a day over 80.

While voluntary in 1909, the first formal purchase of books by the city occurred in 1912. Some of them are still available for the public to peruse.

For the 100th anniversary of the library, which has occupied the building on 4th Avenue since 1939, the city used the occasion to celebrate history. The theme, "Preserving the Past," was particularly evi-



CJ Rasmusson, dressed up as Merlin, checks in materials at the Twin Falls Public Library Saturday afternoon. The library has turned 100 years old.

JUSTIN JACKSON/Times-News

dent by a tour of the library's archives, located below the Idaho and Pacific Northwest History Room.

One book, titled "The Men Who Made Twin Falls Famous," can't be checked out — but, at 15 pages, it's a quick read.

Attendees were invited to dress as literary figures. Most of the staff, along with some adult patrons, dressed as "Harry Potter" characters. The kids tended toward the cinematic side and chose "Star Wars" characters. One girl enthusiastically ignored both literature and film. She dressed as the

Easter Bunny.

Library Director Susan Ash, dressed as Anne of Green Gables, said the library has been employing various methods of attracting teens recently, including a room with Nintendo Wii.

"In our day, we had board games," she said, "but I always like to connect whatever they do with books somehow ... We want to provide library service to the community for another 100 years."

Sherri George, an aspiring Twin Falls author, uses the library frequently. She recently, while researching a

novel, had 50 books checked out at once.

Dressed as Henry Fleming from "The Red Badge of Courage," George reflected on the benefits of libraries in the digital age.

"The Internet is extremely suspect," she said. "It's a good place to start research, but you need to see the information in a credible resource — which, for me, is a scholarly book published by an expert."

*Damon Hunzeker may be reached at dhunzeker@gmagicvalley.com or 208-677-8764.*

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PUBLISHER  
Brad Hurd 735-3345

NEWSROOM  
Editor James G. Wright 735-3255  
News tips before 5 p.m. 735-3246  
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Letters to the editor 735-3266  
Newsroom fax 734-5538  
Mini-Cassia office 678-2201  
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Wood River and Lincoln Co. Bureau 788-3475

ADVERTISING  
Advertising director John Pfeifer 735-3354

CLASSIFIEDS  
Customer service 733-0931, ext. 2  
Classifieds manager Christy Haszler 735-3267

ONLINE  
Online sales Jason Woodside 735-3207

CIRCULATION  
Twin Falls and other areas 733-0931, ext. 1  
Burley-Rupert-Paul-Oakley 1-800-658-3883  
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# Airport

Continued from Main 1

of the Fly Sun Valley Alliance, which deals with air traffic from a local business perspective. "We all know how important it is to the economy in the whole Wood River Valley, and we deal with it on a daily basis here. ... We've lost at least 20 groups in the last year that had direct flights into other resorts and they took it because of the time and the convenience."

## Cautious with cash

There's also that matter of perception — in a downturn, corporate jets and junks are often seen to be unnecessary indulgences, rather than business requirements.

"We had the 'AIG effect,' groups that cancelled because they didn't want it perceived that they were taking a vacation during their meetings," Sibbach said. He said he hasn't seen as dramatic a shift in the behavior of the wealthy private sector, but there was still an effect this winter. "The higher-end rooms were not renting as quickly as they were before; people that came seven or eight times a winter usually, were coming once or twice."

Some of that, said Sun Valley/Ketchum Chamber & Visitors Bureau executive director Carol Waller, is that everyone has become more cautious with their money, even the uber-rich.

"Everybody's being careful, and I've heard that anecdotally from retailers here, that clients at every income bracket are being more conservative with their discretionary dollars," Waller said. "That's definitely out there as part of what the consumer trends are. The new badge is 'What kind of deal did I get?' as opposed to 'How much did I pay for it?'"

Unfortunately for the general aviation community, there aren't many deals to begin with. Fuel companies don't have inventory reduction sales, and the fees to house and insure a plane at the airport are an unavoidable monthly expense.

"It costs me \$1,200 a year just for it to sit; those are definite deterrents to having an airplane," Hartl said. His light plane chews up five gallons of fuel an hour, with most small aircraft doubling that, so a couple-hour round trip can be \$100 or more. And then there's the skies. "The weather is a very limiting factor to having small airplanes, so you don't fly nearly as often as you might think. The upshot is, I don't fly very often."

## Marking the downturn

Hartl's experience is reflected in the numbers, said airport manager Baird. Overall, traffic has been down 25 to 30 percent in the past year. Commercial was the first to fall off, with Horizon's direct flight to Oakland, Calif., cancelled this winter and other flights reduced. One bright spot on the commercial front was that more seats on each flight were filled, Baird said.

Way down are car rentals and overnight parking, said Len Harlig, a member of the Friedman Memorial Airport Authority. "They're important, they provide quite a bit of money to the operations (of the airport)," Harlig said.

The small-plane general aviation community was next to be hit, including pilots such as Hartl who are having to figure flying costs into their newly sensitive household budgets.

"The one that seems to be impacted the least so far is the larger corporate fleet," Baird said, noting that he's looking to those big planes this summer to be a bellwether for the overall economic trend. If they continue to drop off, he sees tight times ahead. But if there's healthy summer traffic in corporate and fractional-ownership jets, he'll look for numbers across the board to go up, if slowly. "One of the slowest to recover will be the commercial world."

Michael Rasch, general manager of Atlantic Aviation, the private company that accommodates general aviation at Friedman,



ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

Sky West ground crew members unload an aircraft at Friedman Memorial Airport in Hailey.

said he hasn't seen a big rush of people trying to sell their aircraft, though he has certainly seen the slowdown in the number of flights. He's also aware of the public perception that jets are a luxury, but he argues that the industry creates jobs and jets are a business necessity.

"We need to be efficient in how we accomplish things, and the use of GA aircraft does make us more efficient as a country," Rasch said. "We don't expect the President of the United States to travel by railroad."

## What's the outlook?

While airport manager Baird said he's looking to traffic this summer — the busiest season in Sun Valley — to indicate which direction overall operations will go, he said the airport is prepared for a continued decline.

"Last year, most of our budget assumptions were that there would be a significant drop-off. If I compare revenue to budget, I'm right where I should be," Baird said. The airport has enough in reserves to run for a year without revenue, and Baird lauds his small, efficient staff for helping to keep the operation on track.

He is holding off on making capital expenditures, though. "If it stays a difficult environment for a long period of time, we'll have to make some adjustments."

Operations can't continue

at Friedman indefinitely — safety issues and inability to easily accommodate larger aircraft mean the airport will likely be relocated south. There aren't any funding mechanisms for a new airport that are dependent on traffic, said Tom Bowman, Blaine County Commissioner and member of the current airport board, so fewer flights due to the economic downturn won't affect the process.

Sibbach and others in the Fly Sun Valley Alliance are in weekly contact with small airlines, working out deals like this winter's "Kids Fly Free" package and trying to increase flights to areas such as Oakland and Seattle. They've even signed a revenue-guarantee contract for a flight to Los Angeles to keep it operating, and are looking at similar contracts in the future.

The chamber is continuing to package and advertise deals for travelers, knowing that in this economy there will be more from the state and region and fewer from other areas of the country and world.

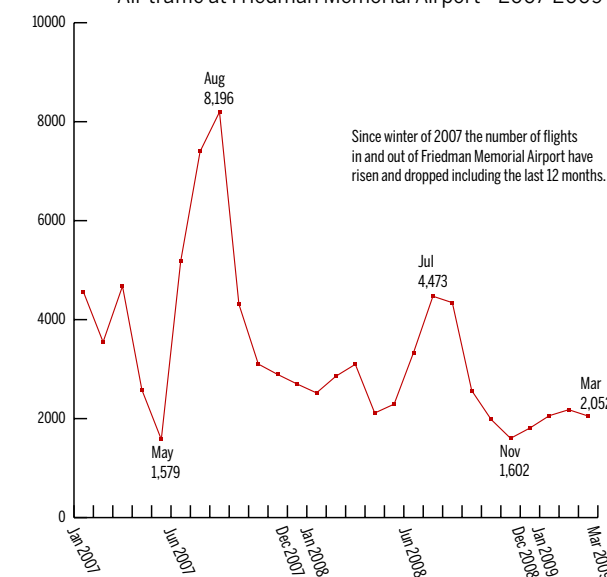
"That's what's motivating travel right now, is price. It's all about the deal right now, which then makes the consumer confident," Waller said. "Travel's being impacted across the country, but they're still traveling, they're just traveling differently. ... Somebody from Boise or Twin might spend four days in Sun Valley as opposed to a

week in California."

However, the lack of diversity in the Wood River Valley economy may make it slower for Friedman than a hub airport to pick back up.

"There's hardly anything that's more discretionary

Air traffic at Friedman Memorial Airport—2007-2009



than coming to a resort," Harlig said. "People have gotten a little shock treatment over this past year, and they're going to think twice about large expenditures."

Expenditures like a Zenith Zodiac, perhaps, or a spa vacation in Sun Valley. And

that could be bad news for Friedman Memorial Airport, Blaine County and southern Idaho.

Ariel Hansen may be reached at [ahansen@magicvalley.com](mailto:ahansen@magicvalley.com) or 208-788-3475.

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# Lawmakers reach a different First Hundred Days

**B**OISE — The First Hundreds Days is a benchmark typically reserved for a new U.S. president.

But on Tuesday, legislators might want to set up a temporary Oval Office. The Legislature has endured at least 100 days just once before.

Lawmakers on Friday marked the second-longest session, a milestone — it's tough to find a lawmaker who'd call the feat an honor. At some \$30,000 a day to run the Legislature, taxpayers by Tuesday will have doled out around \$3 million.

The longest session, in 2003, lasted 118 days, and some lawmakers aren't ruling out a record year, given



**LEGISLATIVE NOTEBOOK**  
**Jared S. Hopkins**

the difficulty in reaching resolutions on budget cuts, stimulus money and transportation funding.

Meanwhile, they'd have two reasons to celebrate — the 119th day comes on May 10, Mother's Day.

Don't count on it, lawmakers said (besides it being a Sunday).

"I'm more ready to go home now than I've ever been before," Sen. Dean Cameron, R-Rupert, said Friday afternoon. "For the

last 10 days I've been exhausted. I'm ready to go home and spend time with my family."

• Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's staff won't say whether Otter plans to veto bills to get the Legislature to approve new revenue for roads.

But there's always politics.

When the House recently rejected a gas tax increase, Rep. Bob Nonini, R-Coeur d'Alene, opposed the bill and dismissed a recent Otter executive order for more accountability in the state highway department as a "sales technique" and "not worth the piece of paper it was printed on."

But Nonini, the House

Education Chairman, has sponsored three of the most controversial bills to cut public schools funding.

Is he worried he went too far?

"I'm a passionate person but I think the governor's a good guy," he said. "I think he's too smart of a man and too good of a governor to veto the bills because of that. He'd do it if he had legitimate reasons."

• Does anyone know when the House will enter its amending order to consider a bill to tighten regulations at small day cares?

If GOP House leaders — some of whom oppose the measure — do, they're not sharing.

The bill, which cleared committee more than two

weeks ago, requires license requirements to facilities with at least seven children. Current law sits at more than 12 children.

• For more than a week, rarely do more than two House committees meet — and those that do don't last long. Sometimes the bill is so routine or trivial that only reporters and staff are in the audience.

What's a legislator to do, particularly in the afternoon when the only action is meetings among leadership?

How about golf?

Rep. Leon Smith, R-Twin Falls, and Rep. Dennis Lake, R-Rexburg, hit the links Thursday afternoon.

"Without any committee meetings and with us run-

ning bills on the floor for just an hour, it leaves the entire day wasted," Smith said Friday. "And you've got to find something to do."

• Quote of the week: "They could slip a little something in there, a little nippy in there instead of a happy toy for a Happy Meal," Rep. Russ Matthews, R-Idaho Falls, arguing against a measure from Otter to modernize the state's liquor laws on the grounds that family restaurants like McDonald's would serve alcohol. The House voted 42-28 to kill it.

Jared S. Hopkins may be reached at 208-420-8371 or [jhopkins@magicvalley.com](mailto:jhopkins@magicvalley.com).

## Travel

Continued from Main 1 education spending.

For 500 school district officials to attend an annual conference in Coeur d'Alene, the combined cost to Idaho schools could approach \$500,000 for registration fees, lodging, meals and travel.

There's no state law governing school district travel policies, and conference spending varies greatly from district to district. Some Magic Valley school districts save money by sending fewer people to conferences at the Coeur d'Alene Golf and Spa Resort, a popular up-scale venue for school trustee meetings, or skip national conferences in distant locations such as Orlando, Fla.

In 2008, the Cassia County School District paid for the airfare and meals of four trustees' spouses during a seven-day national conference for school board members in Florida.

Cassia County school officials have cancelled conference travel in this tight budget year, but may continue the practice in the future.

"I would suspect that it would, but it hasn't been discussed and we're just kind of taking it in stride as we look at other budgetary constraints," said Gaylen Smyer, superintendent of Cassia County School District.

Four Cassia County School District board trustees and their spouses flew in 2008 to the National School Boards Association conference in Orlando, Fla., with the district paying the airfare for their spouses, according to records of airline ticket invoices billed to the district and interviews with school district officials.

The airline tickets cost \$511.60 apiece, which amounted to \$2,046.40 for four spouses of trustees to fly to Florida, records show.

Debbie Critchfield, chairwoman of the school board, said that the board's practice of paying for the airfare of spouses of trustees predates her 2001 arrival onto the school board.

"That was kind of the practice as it was explained to me, of course, as a new

board member years ago," Critchfield said, describing the district's payment of spouse airfare as "a courtesy."

"That was the practice, for good or for bad," she said.

Smyer said that trustees are not paid for their work, adding that he suspects that some trustees would be less likely to attend the national conference without their spouses.

"It takes people away from their homes for four or five days," he said.

Steve Lynch, a trustee of the Cassia County School Board, also said the district's payment of the airfare for spouses has been around for awhile.

"That has basically been an option if a spouse was available for the travel, historically," said Lynch, a trustee for eight years. "That was an option long before I was on the school board."

The school district also provided per diem payments to trustees for meals with their spouses, records show. For each trustee and spouse, the district gave \$32 per breakfast, \$40 per lunch, and \$48 per dinner for a total of 18 meals — \$720 per couple — during the seven-day conference in Florida.

That's twice the meal rate paid to Cassia County district officials when they were at the 2007 state conference, records show.

For 2009, though, things are different. With state budget cuts to education, the Cassia County School Board cancelled its travel plans to attend this year's national conference.

"We had lined up earlier, I believe, all five members," Lynch said of the school board's previous plans for this year's national conference before the budget outlook worsened. "We totally cut it out. We just decided to take the lead."

Cassia County School Board trustee Mike Matthews said the decision was easy.

"It took about five seconds," Matthews said. "We said, 'It's probably not a good time to be taking taxpayers' money and going.'"

With other districts, spouses come along, but trustees must pay their way.

For example, Jerome School District trustees paid for their spouses to travel with them to the 2007 conference in Coeur d'Alene.

"We paid for those out of our pocket," said Kelly Bangerter, a former trustee of Jerome School District.

That's also the case for Valley School District in Jerome County. Board chairman James Ritchie went to the 2008 conference with his wife, paying her way.

"This is the way it's worked since I've been on the board," he said. "The dis-

trict makes the reservation and we reimburse for the spouse."

In February, the board passed a resolution to not fund board travel. This year, Ritchie said he paid his own way to go to this year's national conference in San Diego.

The board hasn't made any final plans for the state conference.

"If we do go, I think it will be the same basis as the national conference," Ritchie said. "If you go, you'll pay your own travel."

Twin Falls School District sent one board member in 2008 to the national conference, and the final cost was \$2,397.70, including the registration, hotel, airfare and \$97.24 for meals for four days, records show.

Twin Falls School District sent the superintendent and three trustees to the state conference in 2007, which cost \$4,025.04, including registration, lodging, meals and airfare to Coeur d'Alene, records show.

Twin Falls Superintendent Wiley Dobbs said the district

is looking at ways to provide training to trustees that will save money. Possibilities include bringing guests to the district for training sessions, which would cost less than having several people travel, he said, adding that it's also a way to save on other employee training.

As for the state conference this year, that will be scrutinized, he said.

"Even that conference is one we'll look at closer," Dobbs said.

Jerome School District, like Filer School District, didn't send anyone to the national conference.

"If we had been going, I'm sure that is one of the things that would have been dropped," Filer School District Superintendent John Graham said.

While it's under scrutiny, officials also praise the conferences as being a valuable source of training for trustees. The 2008 state conference, for example, had more than 30 workshops on topics ranging from school finances to teacher evaluations.

Misty Jones, marketing and events manager for the Idaho School Boards Association, said it's too soon to say if attendance will be lower, adding that the conference registration hasn't started yet. The state conference is Coeur d'Alene this November.

"I'm actually negotiating with the hotel to lower all of their prices on food and everything," Jones said. "I'm trying to find businesses to sponsor things so it lowers the prices for schools."

She said the resort in Coeur d'Alene is the only facility she's aware of in the area with enough room.

"We can have anywhere from 400 to 500 attendees per day," she said. "We have to be able to find somewhere that can have them all in one room together."

Ben Botkin may be reached at [bbotkin@magicvalley.com](mailto:bbotkin@magicvalley.com) or 208-735-3238.

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# Hailey suggests summit on emergency services consolidation

By Ariel Hansen  
Times-News writer

HAILEY — With the economy stretching budgets thin this year, elected officials across the Wood River Valley are looking for ways to get the most bang for their buck. In Hailey, a topic that's long been considered is on the table again — consolidating emergency services across the southern valley.

"We've been batting this consolidation idea around

for umpteen years, and it just seems like the timing's not right for one governmental entity or another," said Hailey Mayor Rick Davis. "I thought, let's just try to get everybody together of the south valley services and see if the political will is there to further talks or hire an independent consultant to do the study as far as what it would cost if we were to consolidate."

The Hailey City Council signed a letter Monday night

to that effect, and it was sent out on Tuesday to Bellevue, Wood River Fire & Rescue, Blaine County Ambulance District, Carey Rural Fire District and Friedman Memorial Airport's Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting.

Hailey hopes to gather representatives from these jurisdictions together in May for a summit to consider paying for an independent study or consultant.

Tom Blanchard, Bellevue administrator, said suggest-

ed price tags for consolidation have been too high during past discussions, and he doubts Bellevue could afford to contribute much to a study.

"Our position has always been that Hailey and the Wood River Fire Protection District have a number of issues they need to work out. Until they do that, it's going to be difficult to sandwich Bellevue in," Blanchard said.

However, the savings for Bellevue residents if the

city's fire rating is raised could offset the costs of consolidation, so the city continues to be interested in the idea.

Blaine County Commissioner Larry Schoen said he feels consolidation efficiencies could positively affect everyone in the south valley, even if some end up paying more than they currently do.

"At the end of the day, if consolidation occurs, tough decisions will have been

made," Schoen said. "I appreciate the fact that Hailey is initiating this, and if this is the way everyone agrees to go, I'll be there to support it."

Bart Lassman, Wood River Fire & Rescue chief, is also eager to get discussions going, and Carey Mayor Rick Baird said he's willing to participate in the summit, though he's cautious about the shift in local responsiveness that could result from consolidation.

## CIA

Continued from Main 1

waterboarding in skin-crawling detail.

Prisoners were naked, shackled and hooded to start their interrogation sessions. When the CIA interrogator removed the hood, the questioning began. Whenever the prisoner resisted, the documents outlined a series of techniques the CIA could use to bring him back in line:

- Nudity, sleep deprivation and dietary restrictions kept prisoners compliant and reminded them they had no control over their basic needs. Clothes and food could be used as rewards for cooperation.

- Slapping prisoners on the face or abdomen was allowed. So was grabbing them forcefully by the collar or slamming them into a false wall, a technique called "walling" that had a goal of fear more than pain.

- Water hoses were used to douse the prisoners for minutes at a time. The hoses were turned on and off as the interrogation continued.

- Prisoners were put into one of three in "stress positions," such as sitting on the floor with legs out straight and arms raised in the air to cause discomfort.

At night, the detainees were shackled, standing naked or wearing a diaper. The length of sleep deprivation varied by prisoner but was authorized for up to 180 hours, or 7 1/2 days. Interrogation sessions ranged from 30 minutes to several hours and could be repeated as necessary and as approved by psychological and medical teams.

Some of these techniques, such as stripping a detainee naked, depriving him of sleep and putting a hood over his head, are prohibited under the U.S. Army Field Manual. But in 2002, the Justice Department authorized CIA interrogators to step up the pressure even further on suspected terrorist Abu Zubaydah.

Justice Department lawyers said the CIA could place Zubaydah in a cramped confinement box. Because Zubaydah appeared afraid of insects, they also authorized interrogators to place him in a box and fill it box with caterpillars (that tactic ultimately was not used).

Finally, the Justice Department authorized interrogators to take a step into what the United States now considers torture, waterboarding.

The Bush administration approved the use of waterboarding, a technique in which Zubaydah was strapped to a board, his feet raised above his head. His face was covered with a wet cloth as interrogators poured water over it.

The body responds as if it is drowning, over and over as the process is repeated.

"We find that the use of the waterboard constitutes a threat of imminent death," Justice Department attorneys wrote. "From the vantage point of any reasonable person undergoing this procedure in such circumstances, he would feel as if he is drowning at the very moment of the procedure due to the uncontrollable physiological sensation he is experiencing."

But attorneys decided that waterboarding caused "no pain or actual harm whatsoever" and so did not meet the "severe pain and suffering" standard to be considered torture.

President Obama has ended the CIA's interrogation program. CIA interrogators are now required to follow Army guidelines.

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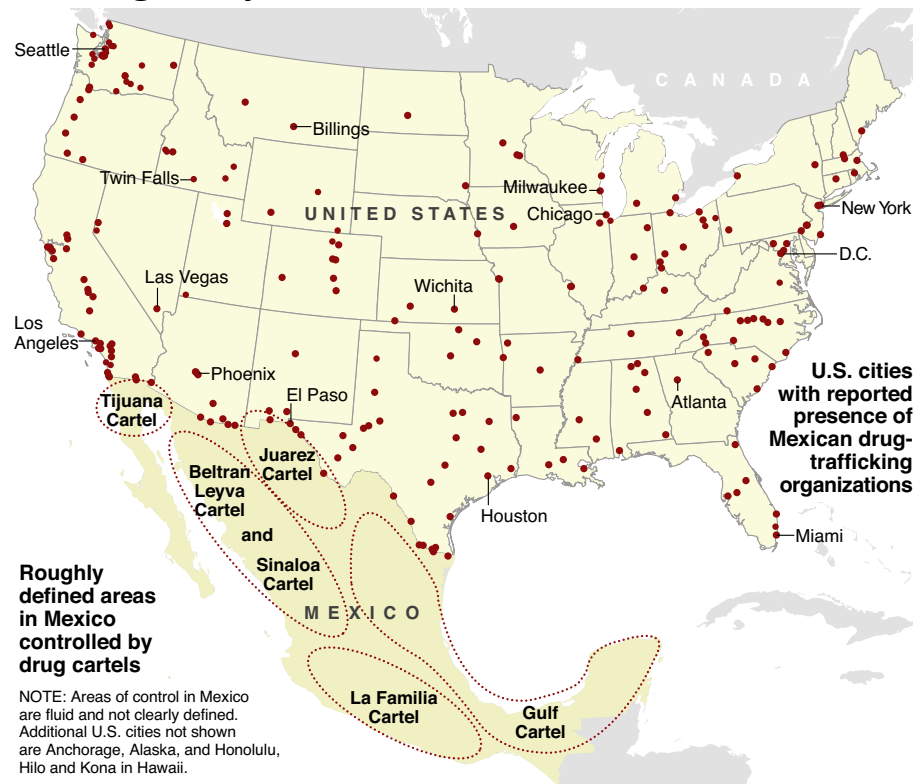
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## Mexican drug cartels' reach extending far beyond border

Mexican drug-trafficking organizations have distribution hubs in more than 200 U.S. cities, according to the Justice Department's National Drug Enforcement Center.



SOURCES: U.S. Department of Justice; Congressional Research Service; Stratfor

AP

## Drug

Continued from Main 1

In Mexico, the fight has become a real war. Some 45,000 Mexican army troops now patrol territories long ruled by narcotraffickers. Places like Tijuana in Baja California. Reynosa, across the Rio Grande from Texas. But also resort cities like Acapulco, an hour south of the place where, months ago, the decapitated bodies of 12 soldiers were discovered with a sign that read: "For every one of mine that you kill, I will kill 10."

More than 10,560 people have been killed since 2006, when Mexican President Felipe Calderon took office and launched his campaign against the organized crime gangs that move cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana and heroin to a vast U.S. market.

The cartels are fighting each other for power, and the Calderon administration for their very survival.

"He has deployed troops. He has deployed national police. He's trying to vet and create units ... that can effectively adjudicate and turn back the years of corruption," says John Walters, former director of the U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy.

But the cartels have also brought the fight to us. In 230 U.S. cities, the organizations maintain distribution hubs or supply drugs to local distributors, the federal government reports. Places like Miami and other longtime transportation points along the Southwest border. But also Twin Falls, Idaho. Billings, Mont. Wichita, Kan. St. Louis. Milwaukee.

Even Shelby County, where the quintuple homicide occurred just outside the Birmingham city limits and a half-hour's drive north of Columbiana, the county seat.

"We became a hub without knowing it," Sheriff Curry says.

In Phoenix, police report close to 1,000 kidnappings over the past three years tied to border smugglers moving people or drugs or both. In Atlanta, a major distribution hub for the Gulf cartel, trafficker-on-trafficker violence has become more common as the cartels impose tighter payment schedules and grow less tolerant of extending credit, says Rodney Benson, chief of the Drug Enforcement Administration there.

Greg Borland heads the DEA office in Birmingham. Since the murders last August, he's seen the fear in his neighbors' eyes, faced the questions of: How did this happen? Why here? Why now?

"They're absolutely shocked. To me it's like: Why? It's everywhere," he says. "Maybe it was only by the grace of God that it hadn't happened already?"

Those in the know understand that drug-related violence is hardly unusual. What's new is where that violence is erupting, where distribution cells and hubs and sub-hubs are surfaced.

How an apartment in Alabama became the site of a drug hit in many ways tells the story of the narco-trade in America in 2009, and of the challenges we face in

combatting a blight that has spread to big cities and small.

...

Before Aug. 20, 2008, when the five men were found, the assumption had been that the big drug hauls were passing through.

Alabama had long had its share of street dealers. Homegrown pot passed hands, then powder cocaine and crack. Soon meth labs cropped up here and there.

"Just a local issue," says Curry. "But over time it's escalated into a sophisticated transportation structure."

First came the rise of the Mexican cartel, brought about in the late '80s and early '90s after authorities cracked down on Colombian traffickers. The Colombians aligned with the Mexicans for transportation, then began paying their Mexican subcontractors in cocaine.

As more Colombian traffickers were brought down, the Mexicans took over both transportation and distribution. A decade ago, 60 percent of the cocaine entering the United States came through Mexico. Today that figure is 90 percent.

Texas and other border states become primary distribution hubs, and distributors were comfortable there, says Greg Bowden, who heads the FBI's violent crime task force in Birmingham. "Now," he says, "they're comfortable here, in Memphis, in Atlanta. They moved their home bases to these little pockets."

One reason for that shift is the ability these days to "blend in in plain sight," as the Atlanta DEA chief puts it.

The flood of Hispanic immigrants into communities for work helped provide cover for traffickers looking to expand into new markets. Shelby has long been Alabama's fastest-growing county, and the number of Hispanics grew 126 percent from 2000 to 2007.

But there is another reason this area, and others, have become what some agents call "sub-hubs."

With some 4.9 million trucks crossing into the

United States from Mexico every year, tractor-trailers have become a transportation mode of choice among traffickers. Drugs head north, but weapons and cash also head back south.

Shelby County is a trucking mecca, with highways 65, 20, 59 and 459 running east, north, south and west. Once reluctant to haul drug shipments too far beyond a border

state, drivers are willing to take more chances now, because there are so many trucks on the road, Bowden says.

Amid all of this, an operation moved into Shelby County, leading to the call on Aug. 20.

A welfare check brought deputies to the Cahaba Lakes Apartments off Highway 280, 11 miles from Birmingham. Interviews with family members and associates helped investigators piece together a portrait of what happened.

Agents described it as friendly competition turned deadly among a group of distributors from Atlanta and Birmingham that often sold and shared drug loads when one or the other group was running low. At some point, about a half-million in drug money went missing. One group suspected the other of taking it, and went after the five men at Cahaba Lakes.

The money was never found.

Whether an order came directly from Mexico, investigators don't know. The DEA's Borland notes that making a direct connection between the street level folks charged in the killing and a specific cartel "boss" isn't easy in a business with so many players at various levels.

"We don't have canceled checks of their dues payments to the cartels. But we know that they were moving large

quantities of drugs, which are probably brought in here under the supervision of the Gulf Cartel, because the Gulf Cartel is the dominant one here," he says.

At the behest of the Department of Homeland Security, he joined in a conference call with police chiefs and sheriffs in border states to discuss what he now calls "a common problem."

And he answers, as candidly as possible, his citizens' questions when they ask him about this "new" threat.

"South of our border: gun-fights, violence — it is a normal, accepted, expected behavior," he says. "That has now moved into our borders."

...

President Obama has promised to dispatch hun-

dreds of additional agents to the border, along with more gear and drug-sniffing dogs. And a \$1.3 billion Bush-era initiative will provide drug-fighting aircraft and equipment to Mexico over the next three years.

But the answer to this problem is as complex as the problem itself. In Mexico, corruption has infected almost every level of government. Here, we still fight to curb the appetite that fuels all of this.

Many months after the Shelby County case, the Alabama sheriff still grapples with the ugly reality of what happened there. Arrests were swift, and six suspects now are held without bond in the county jail charged with capital murder.

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# Swan Falls legislation headed to Otter

Times-News

BOISE — The House on Thursday approved unanimously legislation to codify into law the recent settlement regarding the Swan Falls agreement between the state and Idaho Power Co.

Central to the settlement, which basically reaffirms

most items in the 1984 Swan Falls Agreement, is how Idaho Power Co. has given up its objections to the way the state of Idaho manages Snake River water rights held in trust for its Swan Falls Dam.

The rights have been the focus of an ongoing court case. But a settlement negotiated over the past

couple of months will wrap up most remaining issues and pave the way for talks to resolve those that remain.

The bills require the Idaho Water Resource Board to approve any managed recharge project beyond 10,000 annual acre-feet of water, the same procedures for surface storage reservoirs; authorize

the state's water chief to issue permits and licenses for groundwater recharge; clarifies that the Swan Falls agreement doesn't preclude use of water for researching; and consolidates existing state policy with respect to aquifer recharge.

The bills now head for Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter to sign.

## Strawberry Fields Forever

Even McCartney might blush at our brimming old fashioned 12-pound flats of fresh Strawberries for only \$9.99.

It's no accident that the Beatles chose to sing about Strawberry Fields rather than banana fields, or (heaven forbid) potato fields. Fresh strawberries are, after all, remarkably sweet, tasty, and satisfying. Of course, the sad irony is that real strawberry fields are not forever — you really only get three or four weeks every Spring to stuff your face with as many berries as your digestive system can handle. Fortunately, at Swensen's Market we're ready to help you make the most of the short strawberry season — by offering you truly amazing prices on these beautiful berries (only 83 cents per pound when you buy a flat).

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Boneless Chicken Breast  
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**HOT POCKETS**  
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Boneless Beef Sirloin Tip  
**ROAST** \$2<sup>39</sup> lb.

Boneless Beef Sirloin Tip  
**STEAK** \$2<sup>69</sup> lb.

Boneless Pork Sirloin  
**CHOPS OR ROAST** \$1<sup>99</sup> lb.

Pork Picnic  
**ROAST** \$1<sup>29</sup> lb.

Small Texas  
**GRAPEFRUIT** 3 ea. \$1 for

Red or Green Seedless  
**GRAPES** \$1<sup>29</sup> lb.

Large  
**AVOCADOS** 99¢ ea.

Green  
**CABBAGE** 39¢ lb.

Bar S Meat/Chicken  
**BOLOGNA** \$1<sup>29</sup> lb.

10 lb Ground Beef  
**PATTIES** \$17<sup>90</sup> ea.

Falls Brand Petite Pork Loin  
**ROAST** \$1<sup>99</sup> lb.

16 oz Falls Brand Quarter lb  
**FRANKS** \$1<sup>99</sup> ea.

Large  
**TOMATOES** \$1<sup>19</sup> lb.

Small Navel  
**ORANGES** 8 ea. \$1 for

Fresh  
**BROCCOLI** \$1<sup>29</sup> ea.

Iceberg  
**LETTUCE** 99¢ ea.

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Assorted 12 pk.  
**SHASTA** 5 for \$10



Kraft Assorted 18 oz  
**BBQ SAUCE** 99¢

Asst. 8.5 to 12 oz  
**LAYS** 2 for \$6

Sara Lee or Wonder 20 oz  
**BREAD** 2 for \$4

Western Family Select 13 to 25.5 oz  
**CEREAL** 5 for \$11

Nutri Grain 6.7 to 10.4 oz  
**CEREAL BARS** \$1<sup>99</sup>

Western Family Assorted 12 to 15 oz  
**PRETZELS** 3 for \$4

Hunts Asst. 4 pk.  
**PUDDING** \$1<sup>09</sup>

Western Family Assorted 19.8 to 21.5 oz  
**BROWNIE MIX** 2 for \$3

Duncan Hines Asst. 14.18 to 19.95 oz  
**CAKE MIX** 4 for \$5

American Beauty Assorted 24 oz  
**PASTA** \$1<sup>59</sup>

Classico Asst. 15 to 24 oz  
**PASTA SAUCE** 2 for \$5

Western Family 24 oz  
**SQUEEZE MUSTARD** 99¢

Western Family Asst. 32 to 36 oz  
**KETCHUP** 4 for \$5

Assorted 10 oz  
**A-1 SAUCE** \$3<sup>39</sup>

Chef Boyardee Asst. 7.5 to 15 oz  
**PASTAS** 4 for \$5

Rosarita Assorted 16 oz  
**REFRIED BEANS** 11 for \$10

Western Family Assorted 10.5 oz  
**GRAVY** 79¢

Western Family 30 oz  
**PORK & BEANS** 4 for \$5

Aquarius 24 pk. 5 L  
**SPRING WATER** 3 for \$10

Assorted 64 oz  
**GATORADE** \$1<sup>88</sup>

Palmolive Assorted 20 to 25 oz  
**DISH SOAP** \$2<sup>88</sup>

Friskies Assorted 5.5 oz  
**CAT FOOD** 45¢

Purina 34 lb  
**DOG CHOW** \$19<sup>99</sup>

Jack Frost 16 oz 100 ct.  
**PLASTIC CUPS** \$5<sup>49</sup>

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**BATH TISSUE** \$7<sup>27</sup>

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**YOGURT** 2 for \$1

Meadow Gold 56 oz Assorted  
**ICE CREAM** \$2<sup>88</sup>



Jumbo  
**CHICKEN TENDERS** \$4<sup>49</sup> lb.

Swensens Famous 4 Piece Dark  
**CHICKEN** \$2<sup>49</sup> ea.

Western Family 12 oz Frozen Concentrate  
**ORANGE JUICE** 3 for \$4

Assorted 64 oz  
**SUNNY DELIGHT** 3 for \$5

Stouffers 96 oz Parry Size  
**LASAGNA** \$11<sup>49</sup>

Ore-Ida Assorted 22 to 32 oz  
**POTATOES** \$2<sup>88</sup>

Western Family 24 oz  
**SOUR CREAM** \$1<sup>59</sup>

Garlic Bread 10 ct.  
**STICKS** \$2<sup>49</sup>

Tortellini  
**SALAD** \$4<sup>49</sup> lb.

Delicious  
**BISMARCKS** 2 for \$1

#### BEVERAGES



Assorted 20 oz  
**VITAMIN WATER** 10 for \$10

Assorted 2 L  
**PEPSI** 4 for \$5

Assorted 12 pk.  
**COKE** 2 for \$9

Assorted 12 pk.  
**PEPSI** 3 for \$12



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**Survey: Retirement confidence at record low**  
Business 4

Your Business, Business 2 / West, Business 5 / Obituaries, Business 6 / Nation, Business 7

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2009

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

# Agency to create new taxing district

**City officials: Revenue would be used to help business owners**

By Joshua Palmer  
Times-News writer

The City of Twin Falls Urban Renewal Agency hopes to expand its revenue allocation area in the downtown area to generate

more money for development projects. The agency is in the beginning stages of a feasibility study to determine the impact on business and property owners.

City officials say the revenue would be used to help revitalize downtown by providing financial assistance to property owners who build or upgrade buildings or infrastructure.

"We are hearing from business owners who are looking to build or upgrade their storefronts," said Melinda Anderson, economic development director for the City of Twin Falls. "Hearing something like that

"We are hearing from business owners who are looking to build or upgrade their storefronts."

— Melinda Anderson, economic development director for the City of Twin Falls

during this economy is a breath of fresh air, so we want to see if there is anything we can do to help them."

She said the business owners who have expressed interest in investing in downtown buildings are located next to the existing revenue allocation area.

Anderson did not identify the businesses

or their owners, saying that the expressed interest "was just feedback we have received."

She said that by expanding the revenue allocation area, the agency could generate more money to provide financial assistance

See **TAXING**, Business 2



# LEARNING THE ROPES



BLAIR KOCH/For the Times-News

Jeff Marker, 46, of Twin Falls, poses for a photo at the Lynwood Market, at 1201 Filer Ave. E., which he purchased a little over a year ago.

## Lynwood Market owner relies on diverse retail background as he navigates business through down market

By Blair Koch  
Times-News correspondent

No regrets. Jeff Marker bought the Lynwood Market in Twin Falls last March, right before the economy tanked. But the Twin Falls resident said even if he'd been armed with the knowledge of today's business climate he would have purchased the neighborhood market anyway.

"I don't know if I would have been able to get the

financing I got ... that might have turned out different, with the tightening available credit from banks," Marker said. "But I always wanted to get out and do my own thing."

Grocery sales have slipped and customers are switching from New York strip steak to cube steak or hamburgers but Marker said business over the past year has remained steady and he isn't looking back.

After graduating from Washington State University in 1984, Marker, 46, took a

job with the F.W. Woolworth retail chain and has been employed by several chains throughout Idaho, Wyoming and California.

Before taking the reins at the Lynwood Market, Marker spent 10 years selling cell phones, most recently as an authorized dealer for Alltel. He moved to Twin Falls in 1995 as the opening manager for Hastings Entertainment, transferring from Idaho Falls.

"I've worked in a variety of retail stores forever," he said.

Marker's retail background made the Lynwood a viable opportunity but he said he couldn't have done it without the support of Cash Sigler, a broker for Cooper Norman Business.

Sigler said Marker contacted the firm, a sister company of Cooper Norman certified public accounting in Twin Falls, for help in finding a business to buy.

"Our role is to act as an intermediary between seller and buyer," Sigler said.

See **DIVERSITY**, Business 2

## Job market cruel for older workers

Many have to work after retirement funds dwindle

By Tiffany Hsu  
Los Angeles Times

Their savings in shambles from the economic downturn, jobless seniors are dusting off their briefcases and trying to head back to work. Many, like Jim Mitchell, a 63-year-old former sales executive, are finding a merciless job market where decades of experience aren't necessarily an asset.

The Long Beach, Calif., resident rises before dawn each day and dresses in business attire to keep himself motivated. He pops in brilliant blue contacts to brighten his eyes and combs back his graying hair to look more youthful.

Not that it matters. He's not getting much face time.

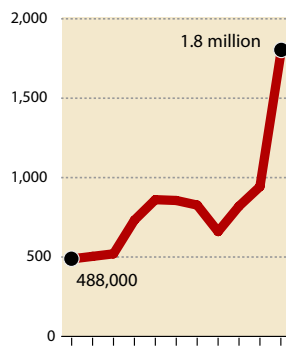
Many recruiters these days want only e-mail applications and refuse to take phone calls. Mitchell is at sea when it comes to using online sites such as LinkedIn and Facebook for networking. He leaves his college graduation date off his resume. But in two years of full-time job hunting, he hasn't received a single call-back.

"I don't want to think it's about age, but sometimes you suspect it is," he said. "But 60 is supposed to be the new 40. I just want a fair hearing."

See **WORK**, Business 3

### More are looking

Number of unemployed people 55 years and over for March of each year (Scale in thousands)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Los Angeles Times

# Rushing regulation at this point seems a little pointless

WASHINGTON — During President Obama's speech this week on the economy at Georgetown University, it was hard to miss that the biggest applause lines were those that criticized Wall Street for reckless risk-taking and squandering so much wealth and talent. To make sure it never happens



PEARLSTEIN  
Steven Pearlstein

again, the president challenged Congress to come up with an entire new regulatory regime by the end of the year.

Good luck with that. To begin with, what's the rush? Most of the damage has already been done, and at this point the industry is still in the midst of a massive restructuring. Until that process has finished and it is clear what entities, what products and what markets emerge from this restructuring, trying to figure out how to regulate

them would seem a bit premature.

I also can't think of another sector that has proven itself so adept over the years at blocking even minor reforms, let alone something as ambitious as what the president has in mind. With so many conflicting interests among well-heeled firms and so many agencies fighting to

protect their bureaucratic turf, the most likely outcome is political stalemate. Watching the Senate Banking Committee deal with financial regulation is a bit like watching a cow chew its cud.

That said, it is probably useful to begin thinking about what the new architecture for financial regulation should look like.

Step one is to consolidate day-to-day "safety and soundness" regulation of all financial firms — banks, investment banks, bank holding companies, insurance companies, hedge funds, housing finance agencies — in a single entity. In the past, each type of institution was regulated by

See **PEARLSTEIN**, Business 3

# YOUR BUSINESS

## MILESTONES

### 4 CRAFTERS SAKE



Courtesy photo

Hagerman Valley Chamber of Commerce officers and members welcomed Phyllis Rowland and her business, 4 Crafters Sake, at a recent ribbon cutting ceremony held recently. Rowland's unique shop carries craft and knitting supplies, homemade gifts and a wide variety of antiques. Pictured, front, Kris Pothier; center, Dale Scott, Jasmine Call, Judy Osborne, Phyllis Rowland, Sandy Gleason, Sherri Martinat, Jason Brandt; back, Mark Bolduc, Jake Rice.

### FIRST CLASS AUTOPRIDE



Courtesy photo

First Class AutoPride, located at 808 Cheney Drive in Twin Falls, held a ribbon cutting recently along with the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce's Ambassadors. They are a new Magic Valley business and a new member of the Chamber. First Class AutoPride is a complete car care center for all your automotive needs. The business includes a full service car wash, auto detail shop, auto repair shop, quick lube, stereo shop, 4x4 accessories along with window tinting and windshield repair. Information: 735-9274. Pictured from left, front row, Sawsan Wardah, Susan Wardah, Mell O'Dell, Summer Lish (cutting the ribbon); back row, Brian Barron, Bill Dobson, Jerry Ralls.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

### D. L. EVANS BANK



Courtesy photo

D.L. Evans Bank, Ketchum Branch, was pleased to participate in the Ketchum Community Dinners at the Presbyterian Church for the Big Wood in Ketchum. This organization provides free meals each week to anyone in need. Pictured from left, Daniela Arkosi, Katie Goodwin, Jim Kino, Kristi Van Engelen and Shawna Kennison.

## We want YOUR BUSINESS 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](mailto:jpalmer@magicvalley.com).

The deadline to submit an announcement for the following Sunday is Wednesday at noon.

## CAREER MOVES

### Mary Austin Crofts

KETCHUM — The Board of Directors of the Trailing of the Sheep Festival has announced that **Mary Austin Crofts** has been hired as the new executive director.

Every fall for nearly 100 years, sheep herders in the region have been driving their sheep through Ketchum and Hailey, moving them from summer pastures in the mountains to warmer lowland areas for winter grazing and lambing. The three-day Trailing of



Crofts

the Sheep Festival celebrates this tradition.

"I am very excited to be working on the Festival," Crofts said. "It is a unique event, full of history and culture. My biggest challenge will be raising the funds needed to organize and implement the Festival this year," she said.

Information: [www.trailingofthesheep.org](http://www.trailingofthesheep.org).

### Nicole Veenendaal

**Nicole Veenendaal** of EXIT Realty Concepts recently obtained her Idaho Associate Broker License. Obtaining a broker license in the State of Idaho requires advanced studies in Real Estate Law, Finance, Real Estate Brokerage and Real



Veenendaal

estate Appraisal, plus minimum hours worked in real estate and a minimum sales amount over a specific time period.

EXIT Realty Concepts is a locally owned real estate company affiliated with EXIT Realty International. It is located at 1539 Fillmore St., Twin Falls.

### Misty Kalbfleisch

Kimberly Elementary School music teacher, **Misty Kalbfleisch**, has been selected to attend the 2009 Yale

Symposium on Music in Schools. She has also been selected to receive the Yale Distinguished Music Educator Award. Kalbfleisch is one of 50 distinguished honorees selected from 448 nominations from 46 states.

The Symposium will take place on the Yale University campus this summer. During the two day event, distinguished music educators will explore the role of music in the general classroom, as well as, focus on El Sistema, Venezuela's unique music education system.



Kalbfleisch

## Jerome Chamber of Commerce honorees

The Jerome Chamber of Commerce announced results from its 2009 Annual Banquet Awards.

The following people and business earned awards: Business of the Year, Farmers National Bank; President's Appreciation Award, Bryan Craig, Prescott & Craig Insurance; Ambassador of

the Year, Cindy Morgado, D.L. Evans Bank.

Outgoing board members were thanked for their commitment to the Chamber: Mike Schutz, Hilex Poly; Dave Parrish, Idaho Fish & Game; Marlin Eldred, City of Jerome Chamber of Commerce. Incoming board members are, Kedrick Wills,

Idaho State Police; Rhonda Bartholomew, Premier Insurance; Loralee McKee, Farmers National Bank. 2009 Board Members, Bryan Craig, President, Prescott & Craig Insurance; Gary Warr, President Elect, Jerome Recreation District; Jennifer Traugher, Past President, D.L. Evans Bank; Breck

Glassinger, Caribou Construction; Al Stevenson, St. Benedicts Hospital; Dan Norris, Appliances Etc.; Debbie Bos, VanBeek Dairy; Cindy Morgado, D.L. Evans Bank; Kedrick Wills, Idaho State Police; Rhonda Bartholomew, Premier Insurance; Loralee McKee, Farmers National Bank.

## Diversity

Continued from Business 1

Once the Lynwood Market was officially on the market, Sigler made the connection. He also helped Marker obtain financing and apply for the permits and licenses necessary to sell beer, wine and tobacco products.

Sigler made sure vendor arrangements were made to ensure produce and other grocery items would continue being brought to the store.

"I kept a lot of plates in the air until it came together," Sigler said. "The transaction must be a win-win for both the seller and the buyer."

Since taking ownership of the business at 1201 Filer Ave. E., Marker has added product lines to help bring in revenue. In addition to Western Union and check

"I kept a lot of plates in the air until it came together."

— Cash Sigler, a broker for Cooper Norman Business

cashing services, the market is also a payment center for utility and store credit bills. Marker remains an authorized Alltel dealer and sells phones, service and accessories.

Marker also began grocery delivery for home-bound customers.

"I want to keep expanding the products and services we offer to our customers," Marker said.

The national economic downturn may end up helping Marker and other small, independent store-owners. According to industry trends, Marker said, people are turning to

their local stores more and more.

"We know our customers," said Produce Manager Orlando Rodriguez, who has worked at the market for six years. "We have quite a few base customers that like the smaller store feel."

Rodriguez said he enjoys working for the market as well. Although his title is produce manager, he does it all, from stocking store shelves to ringing up customer's purchases.

"I don't know if I would like just working in pro-

duce," he said. "Doing it all ... is a challenge and I like that."

Marker knows he has challenges ahead too, but he is optimistic the Lynwood Market will have a bright future.

"Expanding would be awesome but I haven't even really thought that far ahead. Right now, I'm so focused on getting a handle on things and getting to a point where I'm not working seven days a week," Marker said.

If success is had when customers are cautious and the economy sour, Marker should succeed when the market turns around.

Blair Koch may be reached at [blairkoch@gmail.com](mailto:blairkoch@gmail.com) or 208-316-2607.

## Taxing

Continued from Business 1

for those business owners. Idaho statute grants urban renewal agencies the authority to create revenue allocation areas to finance agency projects. Money is generated by freezing tax rates that cities would receive and directing tax revenue to urban renewal agencies.

Anderson said the agency has not yet determined the exact boundaries of an expanded taxing district, and city officials said they did not know what the impact would be on city coffers.

"I haven't seen the maps or heard the discussions, so I really can't comment on it right now," said Mayor Lance Clow.

For more than a year, the Twin Falls Urban Renewal Agency spent millions of dollars pursuing projects to revitalize downtown — including a new downtown city hall and retail space.

However, the projects were scaled back because of the economic downturn.

Joshua Palmer may be reached at 208-735-3231 or at [jpalmer@magicvalley.com](mailto:jpalmer@magicvalley.com)

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# Federal Reserve survey finds faint signs of hope

By Martin Crutsinger  
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve said there are some faint signs the steep plunge in economic activity that began last fall is starting to level off.

The Fed's latest survey of business conditions nation-

wide found five of its 12 regional banks reporting a moderation in the pace of the economic decline.

Several regions "saw signs that activity in some sectors was stabilizing at a low level ... (but) overall economic activity contracted further or remained weak," the Fed said.

The survey, known as the Beige Book, struck a slightly more positive tone than last month's report, which described an economy plunging rapidly after the financial shocks that occurred last fall.

The new survey was based on information each of the regional banks collected in

March and early April. It will be used when Fed policymakers next meet to consider their stance on interest rates and other monetary issues on April 28-29.

The Fed is widely expected to keep a key interest rate at a record low of near zero while continuing to supply massive amounts of money to

the banking system in the hopes of combatting the worst financial crisis to hit the country in seven decades.

Both President Obama and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke gave speeches Tuesday that mentioned some recent signs of progress while cau-

tioning the recession was far from over.

Information in the new Fed survey underscored that view. The report listed a host of problems in the manufacturing, home building, and travel and tourism sectors, but noted some faint signals that the steep fall in activity was starting to moderate.

## Pearlstein

Continued from Business 1

a different agency. But over time, firms became adept at getting around regulation by finding the cracks between the agencies and playing one regulator off another.

But which of the existing bank regulators should get the assignment as prudential regulator? My vote is to build it around the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. As an independent agency, the FDIC is a bit more insulated from the political influence wielded by banks and Wall Street firms. The FDIC's insurance culture has fostered a more cautious and conservative regulatory stance and led to a more arms-length relationship with the banks that favors public disclosure of shortcomings rather than covering them up. As the agency responsible for taking over banks once they fail, the FDIC also has a special insight into costs of regulatory failure.

In addition to the prudential regulator, there will be a need for a separate agency to protect investors and supervise the markets in which stocks, bonds and futures are traded. There is absolutely no credible rationale for

dividing the investor-protection responsibility, as we do now, between the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. Nor, as we've learned from the AIG debacle, is there any reason to continue to exempt credit-default swaps and other derivative instruments from all regulation. Only the stubborn determination of members of the House and Senate agriculture committees to protect political contributions from the futures and derivatives industry stands in the way of consolidating all of these functions at the more aggressive SEC.

The recent troubles also suggest the need for yet a third regulator, whose sole mission is to prevent breakdowns of the entire financial system. This uber-regulator would have broad powers to gather whatever information it needs — from other regulators or directly from any financial institution. It would need the power to order those other regulators to take steps to reduce those risks. And if all else fails, it would need the ability to provide liquidity to financial

markets and take over major financial institutions that are about to fail. This sounds like a natural role for the Federal Reserve.

As part of the Fed's role as systemic regulator, Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner has proposed that the central bank also serve as the day-to-day regulator of any financial institution over a certain size. That's a terrible idea.

For starters, the Fed has proven itself a soft touch when it comes to day-to-day bank supervision. For nearly two decades under Chairman Alan Greenspan, the Fed saw its role as encouraging financial innovation through deregulation, preferring to leave it to markets to discipline the banks. That philosophy is now hard-wired into the Fed's culture.

Even worse is Geithner's notion of designating certain banks as too big to fail and then subjecting them to more stringent capital requirements and a special tax that would be used to pay for the occasional government bailout. In practice, that approach is likely to create a competitive imbalance

between the biggest banks and everyone else, while inviting the giants to find clever ways to take on extra risk, knowing that the government will always be there to bail them out. Creating two classes of institutions with different rules and different regulators

would also invite the kind of regulatory arbitrage and games-playing at which Wall Street excels.

Getting all this right would be useful in preventing future financial crises, but don't confuse it with a panacea. Much of the current crisis could have been

prevented if the existing patchwork of agencies, using their existing powers, had simply done their jobs.

Congress can create a better regulatory structure and can expand regulatory powers, but in the end, the one thing it can't legislate is the good judgment of the regulators.

## Work

Continued from Business 1

The recession has not been kind to older workers. With their 401(k)s battered, home values deflated and health-care costs rising, many have resigned themselves to staying on the job indefinitely. The trend was well under way before the downturn, as many continued working to pad their savings or to stay active.

Now it's about necessity. Over the past two years, the number of Americans age 55 or older who are still working has climbed by nearly 1.5 million, to just over 26 million in March, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Those are the lucky ones. The number of people 55 or older who want a job but can't find one has more than doubled over the same period, to nearly 1.8 million. Many are struggling in a largely digital job-search process that's vastly different from what they have known.

Millions entered the work force straight from high school or college, earning steady promotions and salary increases. Some, like Mitchell, hadn't updated their resumes in years. There was no need.

But with unemployment the highest it has been in more than a quarter of a century — 8.5 percent nationally in March and 10.5 percent in California in February — older job seekers are competing with younger, less expensive rivals.

"You better know that the kids are chasing your job, that they want your \$95,000 salary," said Tom Fallon, 62, of Seal Beach, Calif., who has been searching for a sales position in material handling for three months.

America's youngest workers aren't faring well either. In March, the unemploy-

ment rate for U.S. workers ages 16 to 24 hit 16.3 percent. But these youths aren't saddled with mortgages and dependents to the same degree as their elders, nor do they have the same medical and retirement concerns.

And although joblessness among older workers is lower than that of the overall labor force, it is growing much faster. In March, 6.2 percent of workers 55 or older were unemployed, up from 3.4 percent in March 2008.

For mature workers who spent years building up stellar credentials and largely defined themselves by their careers, the ego-crushing inactivity of unemployment can be unbearable, said Steven J. Greenberg, founder of Jobs 4.0, a listings site for job seekers over age 40.

"For many, it's a brutal experience — like going through a divorce," he said.

In 2006, when his brother became ill, Mitchell took a leave from his job as a national sales manager at a brokerage representing pharmaceutical and health-care product suppliers to run the family grocery business in Connecticut. When he returned to Southern California the next year, he

said, he found himself squeezed out of the full-time job that had paid more than \$100,000 annually.

He's been looking ever since.

The daily hunt begins around 7 a.m. in his home office, where Mitchell scans online job leads. He admits he isn't a wiz with computers. Secretaries at his previous posts handled that. Many positions now require Excel and PowerPoint fluency, skills he's trying to master with help from friends.

"Maybe in a year I'll be too tired to do this," he said. "But right now I feel like I'm 39!"

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### NOTICE!

Copies of the City of Shoshone "Annual Water Quality Report for 2008" are available at City Hall, 207 S Rail St. West, Shoshone, Idaho for those interested in obtaining a copy.

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# Retirement confidence at record low, survey finds

By Nancy Trejos  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The percentage of Americans who believe they have enough money to live comfortably in retirement has plummeted to a record low due to the recession, according to a survey released Tuesday.

Just 13 percent of respondents said they were very confident they could live well in retirement, the lowest since the Employee Benefit Research Institute, a private nonprofit group that focuses on retirement and economic security issues, started tracking worker sentiment in 1993. It was the second consecutive year that worker confidence has dropped, but it is striking because it represents a 14-point decline since 2007.

Also noteworthy was the fact that current retirees said

they had lost their ability to remain financially secure in retirement. Among this group, just 20 percent said they were very confident that they can live comfortably, down from 29 percent last year and 41 percent in 2007.

"By and large, they're not worried about investment risk as much as workers, but what they really got surprised on was the higher than anticipated health-care costs," said Jack VanDerhei, research director at EBRI.

Indeed, one-quarter of retirees said they were very confident about paying health expenses, down from 41 percent in 2007. Workers also had concerns about health care, with only 13 percent very confident they could cover future medical expenses, down from 20 percent in 2007.

Workers and retirees cited economic uncertainty,

inflation and the high cost of living as reasons for their declining confidence. Many workers said they expect to delay retirement or find other work after they retire from their current jobs. Many had already lost jobs, had their wages cut, lost a big chunk of their retirement savings or had to increase their debt.

Also troubling was that many workers were less confident that they could cover their basic expenses in retirement. Twenty-five percent this year said they could pay for the basics, down from 40 percent in 2007.

To keep up with this new reality, those who said they have lost confidence in their retirement savings said they have changed their financial behavior. Most — 81 percent — said they have reduced their expenses. Forty-three percent said they have

changed their investing behavior. Another 38 percent said they have worked more hours or taken a second job.

In a positive sign, many have started or continue to save: 75 percent said they, their spouse or both have saved money for retirement, one of the highest levels since the institute began the survey. And another 72 percent said they have not changed their contribution to employer-sponsored retirement savings plans.

The Retirement Confidence Survey was conducted in January among 1,257 people age 25 and over using a random national telephone sample of both conventional and cellular phones. EBRI sponsored the survey with Mathew Greenwald & Associates, a Washington D.C. research firm.

## Court papers: Merkin got Madoff warning years ago

NEW YORK (AP) — A former employee of hedge fund manager J. Ezra Merkin claims Merkin was warned about Wall Street swindler Bernard Madoff years before losing tens of millions of dollars of investors' money in Madoff's Ponzi scheme, according to court papers unsealed Friday.

New York University filed the documents as part of its lawsuit against Merkin and his Gabriel Capital fund, which gave Madoff \$24 million of the school's endowment before the massive scheme collapsed and the money was lost.

The court papers were filed in response to a lawsuit by the Fox Business Network cable news channel asking the documents be unsealed. The documents unsealed by state Supreme Court Justice Richard Lowe include e-mails by Victor Teicher, a former financial analyst and convicted felon sometimes employed by Merkin in the 1990s.

# Locking in prices and saving a lot

By David Koenig  
Associated Press writer

DALLAS — At TXU Energy, the biggest electric company in Texas, the fastest-growing billing plan is one that lets customers lock in the price of power for one or two years.

"It's easier to plan that way, and I think you're saving money," says Brian Bell, an advertising salesman who signed a 2-year, fixed-price contract for electricity at the 1,500-square-foot Dallas town house he bought last year.

Other homeowners across the country are locking in prices now on electricity for summer cooling and heating oil for next winter. Heating oil prices are nearly 60 percent lower than they were at this time last year, according to Energy Department figures.

Natural gas prices have fallen as well, which not only affects the price homeowners pay for gas but the price of electricity produced by power plants that run on gas.

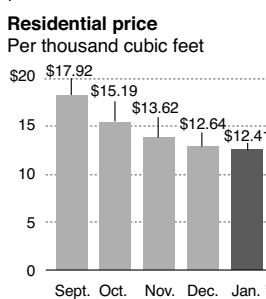
Homeowners are doing what many large companies do to guard against sharp increases in prices for commodities ranging from crude oil to chicken feed.

They hedge. Locking in an electric rate or hedging against oil price spikes bring a degree of financial certainty, hopefully reducing the chance of a budget-busting surprise. But as with many strategies in these days of financial turmoil, the results don't always work out as expected.

Airlines try to hedge fuel costs by making offsetting financial transactions, such as buying futures contracts on related commodities like

## Natural gas down

Many customers are locking in natural gas rates as residential prices decline.



SOURCE: Energy Information Admin. AP

crude and heating oil.

One of the most acclaimed of all hedgers is Southwest Airlines Co. For several years, Southwest had a huge advantage over competitors because it aggressively struck financial deals to guard against rising oil prices. Southwest estimates that hedging saved it \$4.5 billion since 1999.

But as Southwest learned, hedging can lead to huge losses if markets move in the other direction.

Last week, Southwest reported a first-quarter loss due to \$71 million in charges to cover the falling value of its fuel hedges after oil prices collapsed late last year. That was on top of \$360 million in charges to write down the value of its fuel hedges in the last two quarters of 2008.

Despite those setbacks, the airline says it is hedging fuel again after seeing oil prices rise nearly one-third since February.

Few ordinary homeowners can hedge gas or electricity costs like Southwest hedged fuel, but they too can seek protection from rising costs by locking in some prices. And just like the airlines, they could end up paying too much.

At Dead River Co., a heating oil supplier in New England, some customers signed up last summer to buy fuel at the going rate of more than \$4 a gallon. The price fell by half by the middle of winter, but they were stuck — the company wouldn't cut the agreed-upon price because, it said, it had struck similar fixed-price deals with wholesalers to guarantee enough fuel.

"We've heard from some of our customers," said Claudette Townsend, a regional manager in Maine for Dead River. "I wish we had an out, but our suppliers are holding us to our agreements, and we have to do the same."

Christopher Abts, a financial planner in Reno, Nev., said a good alternative for seniors and people of modest income is paying utility bills in 12 equal monthly installments during the year instead of facing high air-conditioning bills in summer or budget-busting heating bills in winter. Many utilities offer such plans.

"If you're on a fixed income, that can be a great option because you don't want any surprises," he said.

Whether it meets an economist's definition of hedging, any attempt to lock in prices can be affected by factors ranging from commodity prices or stock markets to simple, raw emotion.

Jennifer Lerner, an experimental social psychologist and director of the Decision Science Laboratory at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, said the desire to lock in prices is often driven by the kind of fear that increases during a recession. "When people are afraid,

they want to do things that will provide more certainty," Lerner said. "Fear motivates locking in."

The fear of uncertainty is so strong that even people burned by price declines after they locked in — as happened with heating oil customers last summer — often feel better despite having spent more money than if they'd done nothing.

Dan Ariely, a professor of behavioral economics at Duke University, and author of the book "Predictably Irrational: The Hidden Forces That Shape Our Decisions," said many people resist hedging because it seems like betting on a bad thing, such as a sharp increase in heating oil prices.

Ariely said hedging can feel like betting against your favorite football team because you fear they will lose.

And it turns out, he said, that football fans "don't enjoy the game as much if they bet against their team."

Associated Press writers Mark Jewell in Boston and Marc Levy in Harrisburg, Pa., contributed to this report.

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## 2 more banks fail

NEW YORK (AP) — Regulators on Friday shut down two more banks, boosting the number of failures this year to as many as in all of last year.

The tally of 25 bank failures this year all but guarantees the number that fall into the arms of regulators will surpass what was seen in 2008. Two of the nation's largest savings and loans failed in 2008: Washington Mutual Inc. and IndyMac Bank. Last year's total was more than in the previous five years combined and up from only three failures in 2007.

The latest banks seized were American Sterling Bank in Missouri and Great Basin Bank of Nevada. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. will continue to insure deposits.

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# Grim death toll for tundra swans in N. Idaho

BROSE LAKE, Idaho (AP) — A grim death toll of migrating tundra swans is again being observed at northern Idaho marshes contaminated with toxic mining waste.

Thousands of swans headed for breeding grounds in Alaska stop each spring at the marshes along the Coeur d'Alene River.

But the roots and tubers

they feed on are laced with lead that's part of about 100 million tons of mining waste from the Silver Valley that has washed into the river system over the past century.

Lead shuts down the Swans' digestive systems and the birds slowly starve to death — at least 150 annually.

"For me, it's like bearing

witness," Kate Healy, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, told The Spokesman-Review. "They die slow, agonizing deaths."

Strobel Marsh is among the most deadly for swans, with a lead concentration level 10 times higher than the safe limit for waterfowl.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is work-

ing to clean up the Coeur d'Alene Basin to make it safer for humans and wildlife, and expects to spend \$360 million over the next 25 years on the effort.

The Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that 92 percent of swan deaths along the river are due to lead. About 2,000 to 6,000 tundra swans feed along the river annually.

Besides swans, researchers said they have documented lead exposure and health problems in at least 26 other wildlife species in the basin. Those include beavers, screech owls, field mice, wood ducks, robins and song sparrows.

Roy Brazzle, a biology technician with the Fish and Wildlife, said it's hard to track the deaths of other

species because they don't leave behind "a big, white carcass."

Work is being done to create safe feeding areas for swans. In one spot, former hayfields have been flooded to create a new marsh, which has been attracting swans and other waterfowl.

"This is safe feeding," said Healy. "I love to see the swans here."

## Desert clash looms over solar potential, water

By Rita Beamish  
Associated Press writer

OAKLAND, Calif. — A westward dash to power electricity-hungry cities by cashing in on the desert's most abundant resource — sunshine — is clashing with efforts to protect the tiny pupfish and desert tortoise and stinginess over the region's rarest resource: water.

Water is the cooling agent for what traditionally has been the most cost-efficient type of large-scale solar plants. To some solar companies answering Washington's push for renewable energy on vast government lands, it's also an environmental thorn. The unusual collision pits natural resources protections against President Barack Obama's plans to produce more environmentally friendly energy.

The solar hopefuls are encountering overtaxed aquifers and a legendary legacy of Western water wars and legal and regulatory scuffles. Some are moving to more costly air-cooled technology — which uses 90 percent less water — for solar plants that will employ miles of sun-reflecting mirrors across the Western deserts. Others see market advantages in solar dish or photovoltaic technologies that don't require steam engines and cooling water and that are becoming more economically competitive.

The National Park Service is worried about environmental consequences of solar proposals on government lands that are administered by the Bureau of Land Management. It says it supports the solar push but is warning against water drawdowns, especially in southern Nevada. In the Amargosa Valley, the endangered, electric-blue pupfish lives in a hot water, aquifer-fed limestone cavern called Devil's Hole.

"It is not in the public interest for BLM to approve plans of development for water-cooled solar energy projects in the arid basins of southern Nevada, some of which are already over-appropriated," Jon Jarvis, director of the Park Service's Pacific West Region, wrote to the BLM director in Nevada.

Jarvis' e-mail from February, obtained by The Associated Press, noted that the rare pupfish's dwindling numbers prompted Nevada to ban new groundwater allocations within 25 miles of the pool.

Jarvis urged the BLM to promote technologies that use less water and hold off on permits until it finishes its assessment of the solar program next year. The BLM tried suspending new applications last year but relented under pressure from industry and advocates of renewable energy.

"Water is a big concern and the desert tortoise is a major concern, and the amount of site preparation is a concern," said Linda Resseguie, a BLM project manager. The government is reviewing each project wants to make careful decisions over what it considers "a potentially irreversible commitment of lands," she said.

Water is among the complications in deserts where more than 150 solar applications have been submitted for hot spots in Nevada, California, and Arizona, plus a few in New Mexico.

Companies are wrestling with routes for long-distance transmission lines and habitat for the threatened



BrightSource/AP photo

This undated photo shows BrightSource Energy's Luz Power Tower in Israel's Negev Desert. BrightSource has proposed building three solar-energy generation complexes in the eastern Mojave Desert several miles from an old mining and railroad townsite called Ivanpah, Calif.

desert tortoise. They also are worried about a proposal being developed by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., for a Mojave national monument, which could put up to 600,000 acres off-limits alongside already protected park and military lands. It could affect at least 14 solar and five wind energy proposals.

The Spanish-owned energy company, Iberdrola, has submitted 12 applications in four states. Its solar managing director, Kim Fiske, said her company is planning to use photovoltaic technology in Amargosa Valley but elsewhere will evaluate each site's feasibility for water. Photovoltaic

systems use conducting material to convert sunlight directly to electricity and need only nominal amounts of water to wash their solar panels, compared with the traditional steam-turbine solar that uses much larger volumes of water for cooling towers.

"Water usage is becoming the larger issue. Some companies still want wet cooling and say it's less efficient to do dry cooling, and they need 10 percent more land to get the same output," said Peter Weiner, an attorney representing solar companies. Some are exploring hybrid systems that use water during the hottest part of the day.

The government won't say how much water would be needed by applicants because those proposals are still in flux. But National Park Service hydrologists last fall tallied more than 50,000 acre feet per year — nearly 16.3 billion gallons — proposed by applications in Amargosa Valley alone, or enough to supply more than 50,000 typical American homes. Nevada previously said the basin could support only half that. Since then, some companies have dropped out or switched to photovoltaics, making that estimate of 16.3 billion gallons outdated.

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## Ghnine 'Nine' Reed

DECLLO — Anna Ghnine "Nine" Reed, age 89, of Declo, died Wednesday, April 15, 2009, at the Parke View Care and Rehabilitation Center in Burley.



Market. Ghnine was a member of the Ladies Pinochle Club of Declo and enjoyed gardening and crocheting. She was also a member of the Baptist Church.

Ghnine was born April 16, 1919, in Dibble, Okla., one of seven children born to Hurby L. and Lena Belle (Watson) Clark. The family moved to Buhl in the 1920s. Ghnine attended Buhl Elementary and completed her education at Buhl High School, where she enjoyed girl's basketball. She married Golden Eugene "Gene" Reed on May 9, 1936, in Elko, Nev., in a double wedding ceremony with her brother, G.D. Clark and his wife, Emma. The couple lived in Buhl, Castleford, Roseworth, Boise and Raft River prior to settling in Declo. They had four children, Douglas Eugene, Raymond Clark "Pete," Richard Henry and Patricia Ann. Ghnine's husband and three sons preceded her in death.

During the war, Ghnine and Gene worked in the California shipyards as welders. She also assisted Gene on the family farm. She ran the Raft River Service Station for 11 years and later, when the family moved to Declo, she worked at Min's Cafe and as a clerk at Ross'

She is survived by her daughter, Patricia Ann (David) Schiewe of Hereford, Ore.; two daughters-in-law, Patricia Y. Reed and Carol Reed; one sister, Luciel Hudson of Buhl; 10 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and 13 great-great-grandchildren. In addition to her husband and three sons, she was preceded in death by her parents, four brothers and one sister.

The family expresses their sincere appreciation to the many friends and neighbors that kept watchful eye over Ghnine throughout the past years. It was ever so much appreciated.

The funeral will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, April 24, at the Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley, where friends and family may call one hour prior to the service. A graveside service will follow at 4 p.m. at the West End Cemetery in Buhl.

The family suggests that memorials be directed to the Disabled American Veterans in care of Rasmussen Funeral Home.

# Gun-smuggling crackdown along border collides with Western ethos

By Karl Vick  
The Washington Post

PHOENIX — It seemed a fortuitous alignment of justice and politics, George Iknadosian's trial beginning just as President Obama called for new attention to the flow of weapons from the United States to the drug cartels inside Mexico. The Phoenix gun dealer stood charged with selling hundreds of AK-47 assault rifles and pistols, and the case appeared airtight: The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives had secret recordings, confessed confederates and a list of weapons traced from Mexican shootouts to X-Caliber Guns, Iknadosian's shop here on Cave Creek Road.

But on March 18, before the prosecution had rested, a Maricopa County judge ordered the defendant freed. And what seemed a showcase for Washington's vigorous new campaign against gun trafficking instead became a reminder of the bedrock reality challenging the effort: This is gun country.

"If you get the money, we'll sell it to you," said Jacob Allerd, 19, behind a table laden with assault rifles at a gun show in Pinetop, Ariz., two weeks later. "It's not hard to find assault rifles, they're just expensive. The cartels are offering a pretty penny. Or drugs."

Drugs being what is smuggled north across the border. Guns are smuggled south.

"It's the whole cycle," Allerd said, "like the cycle of life."

"But not life," said his sister, Garet, 14. "Death."

Mexican and U.S. officials estimate that more than 100,000 firearms are smuggled south in a year, and 90 percent of those seized from narco-traffickers and submitted to the United States for tracing have come from this country. The death toll on the border is even more stark: 10,000 people killed in the last three years.

But the effort to stop arms trafficking focuses on the same landscape that defined the Wild West. And the abiding appreciation for firearms that informs the Second Amendment runs especially deep in Arizona and Texas, which span 80 percent of the 2,000-mile border.

Iknadosian told federal investigators he moved to Phoenix to escape the strict gun laws in California, where the sale of assault rifles is illegal. Investigators built a case that he knowingly sold more than 700 firearms, including 500 AK-47 semiautomatic rifles, to individuals he often knew were "straw buyers" for middlemen who delivered the guns to Mexico.

Rifles from X-Caliber were found at a gunfight that killed eight Mexican police officers, and a pistol from the store was recov-



The New York Times/AP photo

The Father and Son Swap Shop in Houston, Texas, is shown on April 1. According to federal agents, guns purchased here by John Phillip Hernandez were smuggled into the hands of drug cartel gunmen in Mexico. Hernandez was sentenced Friday in Houston to more than eight years in prison for buying military-style firearms that ended up in the hands of the cartels.

ered from a cartel boss. Nonetheless, Judge Robert Gottsfeld ruled that prosecutors failed to prove under state law that "any prohibited possessor ended up with the firearms." Prosecutors, who are appealing, expressed dismay.

"They're talking about doubling the amount of ATF attention, but there remains a bewildering set of sometimes competing rules and regulations that surround weapons," said Arizona Democratic Attorney General Terry Goddard, adding that his office took the case because the local U.S. attorney was swamped with immigration cases.

Law enforcement resources are stretched thin on the border. There are 200 ATF agents assigned to the area, which has 7,000 retailers licensed to sell firearms. The ATF's senior official in Arizona said U.S. authorities especially need to train and vet more counterparts in Mexican law enforcement to help build major investigations. Only a few hundred such contacts are trusted now.

Even if all those changes are made, however, U.S. laws will continue to reflect the sensibilities on exhibit at the Firing Pin Gun Show, where "Arming the West" was for sale in paperback. The Allerd family explained how as "private collectors"

they can sell guns without filling out federal forms or running criminal background checks required of licensed dealers.

"No paperwork, nothing," said Jacob Allerd, 19. "Just an Arizona license. And proof you're over 21."

## Aryan Nations recruiting again in northern Idaho

COEUR D'ALENE (AP) — The Aryan Nations has returned to northern Idaho with what it is calling a "world headquarters" and a recruitment campaign.

Coeur d'Alene resident Jerald O'Brien, who has a large swastika tattoo on his scalp, is one of the leaders of the white supremacist group and said he expects membership to grow because of the election of President Barack Obama.

He told The Spokesman-Review newspaper that the president is the "greatest recruiting tool ever."

Residents of a Coeur d'Alene subdivision found recruitment fliers on their lawns Friday and O'Brien said more fliers will be distributed. He said the group has "several handfuls" of members in the city.

The fliers show a young girl asking her father "Why did those dark men take mommy away?"

But many in the region reject the group.

"I saw Aryan Nations and put it in the trash," said Garvin Jones. "What's wrong with these people? Give me a break. I bet if you went back in their family history, not one is 100 percent white."

The newspaper reported that most people interviewed about the fliers declined to be identified for

fear of retribution.

The Aryan Nations had a compound in northern Idaho until 2000, when the group lost a \$6.3 million civil judgment in favor of two people who sued after being attacked by Aryan Nations' members.

The Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations has fought the Aryan Nations for decades and is offering its services to anyone threatened or harassed by the group.

"It's bound to be a small group of people trying once again to bring hate into the community," said Tony Stewart, a spokesman for the task force. "They don't have anywhere to operate from except a post office box."

O'Brien said he regularly flies two white supremacist flags outside his home on the east side of the city.

The newspaper reported that its files show O'Brien marching in a neo-Nazi parade in Coeur d'Alene in July 2004 and joining in a skinhead rally that drew eight people outside the Spokane County courthouse in Spokane, Wash., in June 2007.

O'Brien said he and Michael Lombard have taken over the group following longtime leader Richard Butler, who died in 2004.

A HUGE THANK U to all who participated in life and the last celebration of **Ray "Mr. Harris"**. Thank U to all who prayed, called, sent cards, brought food, sent flowers, came to the house for the praise and worship song fest, stopped by to say "hello" and even thought of "Mr. Harris" -Ray, thru this battle with melanoma cancer in the last few weeks. Your out-pouring of love, care and concern for our family Jean Harris, Gwenna (Wade) Prescott, and Wyatt Prescott, Jimmy (Deanna) Harris, and Mindy Sue and Bradley Harris and Cathy Harris is sincerely appreciated and again we Thank U and Love U --- **The Family of Ray Harris.** We run in so many circles, I know who you are and so do you and I so appreciate all U'ns did. Jean says, "Keep on truckin, with the Lord by your side it ain't so bad!"

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## celebrate Arbor Day™

### Arbor Day Parade

Presented by Twin Falls County Tree Board  
**Saturday, April 25, 2009**  
Parade starts at Noon on Main Street

### A day of Celebration and Education

**Twin Falls County Tree Board:**  
DMV Building 260 4th Ave. N. 1pm April 24

**City of Twin Falls:** Oregon Trail Youth Complex (old LDS baseball fields) 2pm April 25

**City of Hansen:** City Park 11am April 25

**City of Buhl:** Eastman Park 3pm Friday April 24

**City of Kimberly:** Ballard's Sub-division 1pm Thursday April 23

**City of Filer:** Cedar Draw Park 11am Saturday April 18

## Health Fair

Saturday, May 16, 2009 7-11 am  
Wendell Middle School ~ 750 East Main Street, Wendell

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<p><b>PSA</b></p> <p>\$15.00</p> <p>Screens for prostate cancer in men.</p>	<p><b>Chemistry Profile</b></p> <p>\$35.00**</p> <p>**If pre-registered by April 30th (\$40.00 after April 30th) Includes 32 tests that screen thyroid, diabetes, cardiac risk, nutrition, kidneys, liver, and complete cholesterol.</p> <p><b>Requires 12 hour fast prior to lab work.</b></p>	<p><b>HgbA1c</b></p> <p>\$20.00</p> <p>Monitors long term blood control in diabetics</p>
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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](http://www.goodinghospital.org).

Free continental breakfast provided by the GCMH Foundation.

For more information, please call 934-9884

## Giveaways, Health Education, Free Testing

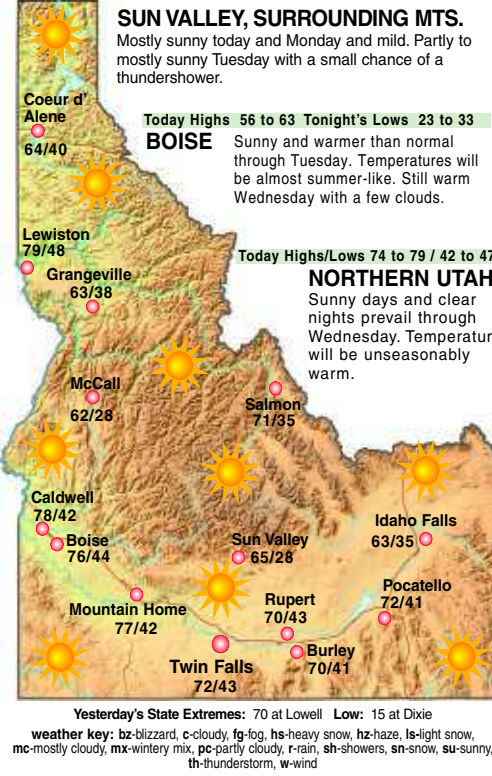
TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Mostly sunny and warm. Highs 70 to 75. Tonight: Clear. Lows 40 to 45. Tomorrow: Feeling almost like summer. Sunny with highs near 80.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Mostly sunny and warm. Highs around 70. Tonight: Clear. Lows near 40. Tomorrow: Sunny. Highs 70 to 75.

IDAHO'S FORECAST



TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Forecast table for Twin Falls showing conditions and temperatures for Today, Tonight, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Yesterday's Weather

Table showing weather data for various cities including Boise, Burley, Challis, etc.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Almanac section including Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, Sunrise and Sunset, and Pollen Count.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Regional forecast table for cities like Boise, Burley, and other Idaho locations.

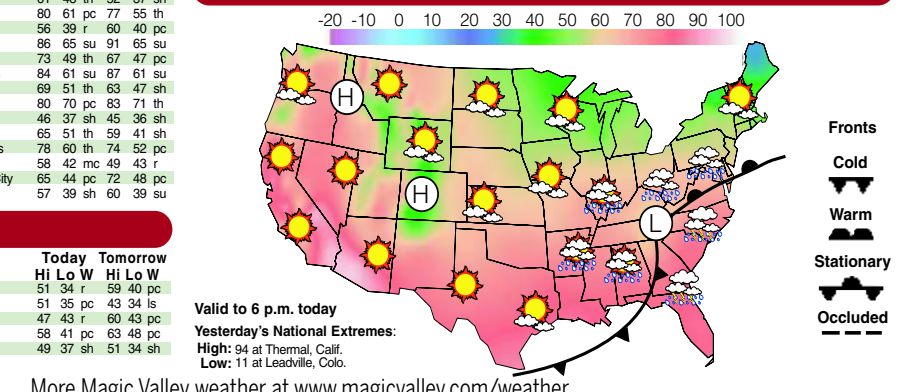
NATIONAL FORECAST

National forecast table for major cities across the United States.

WORLD FORECAST

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

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



Quote of the Day by Gregg Middlekauff: "The miracle is this - the more we share, the more we have."

CANADIAN FORECAST

Canadian forecast table for cities like Calgary, Toronto, and Vancouver.

Crews search for marooned North Dakota farmers

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) - Boat crews from federal agencies including the Coast Guard patrolled farming country in southeast North Dakota on Saturday, looking for people stranded by flooding from the Sheyenne River.

got cows calving and sheep giving birth and they don't want to leave," Wedan said. The animals had been herded to higher ground and were safe, he said.

Water from the bloated Sheyenne River had backed up in the sewer system throughout the town, said Mayor Mary Lee Nielson. She had urged residents to evacuate voluntarily on Friday.



A North Dakota Air National Guard helicopter carries six 1,000-pound sandbags to the edge of the Clausen Springs dam Wednesday.



Tulips are covered with ice and snow in Denver on Friday as a spring storm swept over the intermountain West.

Colorado National Guard aids snowbound travelers

DENVER (AP) - Colorado transportation officials on Saturday reopened a lengthy section of Interstate 70 that was closed overnight, stranding hundreds of travelers, by a storm that dumped more than 3 feet of snow in the region west of Denver.

state Saturday morning, and Entrekinn said the southern Denver metro area could see 2 to 5 more inches before the storm tapers off Saturday evening.

KeyBank advertisement for Key Tiers CD accounts with APY rates of 3.00%, 2.50%, and 2.00%.







# Where are they now?



## 10 years after Columbine massacre, survivors get on with lives

Opinion 4

Nation, Opinion 4-5 / World, Opinion 6-7

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2009

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

Opinion

### EDITORIAL

## If Legislature quits without CAMP funding, that's a mistake

Last Tuesday, the Idaho Senate passed a comprehensive "going home" bill including, among other things, \$2 million in federal stimulus money to fund the first phase of the Comprehensive Aquifer Management Program.

The following day, the House of Representatives — in its wisdom — killed the Senate bill, and in the subsequent horse-trading CAMP funding has apparently fallen by the wayside.

That's a mistake.

As much as one-fourth of Idaho's \$51 billion gross domestic product is directly or indirectly tied to the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer.

The CAMP plan — ordered by the Legislature two years ago in response to a declining aquifer and a rising number of water lawsuits — is estimated to cost \$70 million to \$100 million during its first 10 years to pay for recharge, ground-to-surface water conversions and other projects. The first phase is targeted at 200,000 to 300,000 acre-feet of water at a cost of around \$10 million.

Earlier this month, the Legislature's Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee agreed to inject \$2 million of federal stimulus into the first phase. It was a surprise, given the state's budget cuts and drop in tax revenue, but an important move.

That's because momentum is critical to the CAMP process. The plan was cobbled together by stakeholders — many of them with competing interests — and it's fragile.

"If ever there was a committee that was diverse and found a way to come together, this was it," Sen. Steve Bair, R-Blackfoot, said recently. "To me it was nothing short of miraculous that an agreement was able to be formed."

Some Magic Valley legislators said last week they couldn't generate enough interest from lawmakers from other areas of the state to pass the CAMP funding independently, but that's debatable. Lawmakers, after all, approved \$82 million in Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle bonds that will be spent exclusively in the Treasure Valley. And a bill to funnel more than \$300,000 to implement the Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Plan cleared both chambers with just 16 dissenting votes.

We're concerned about what a year's delay in CAMP funding will do to the collaborative process that made the deal possible. South-central and eastern Idaho have a lot at stake in its success — and a lot to lose if it fails.

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.

**Our view:** The Comprehensive Aquifer Management Program is still a process that could come apart.

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



## Idaho must get serious about curbing underage drinking

By Ken Robison

By age 12, most Idaho children have seen or heard hundreds of messages promoting the use of alcohol. By age 16, three of 10 will be drinking. And by 18, it will be four of 10.

Despite current efforts by Idaho schools, community organizations, law enforcement courts and state agencies, underage drinking is a huge problem, taking a heavy toll in deaths, injuries and damage to the hopes and dreams of children and families.

Recent research shows that underage drinking impairs brain development, reduces a child's potential for success, multiplies chances of alcohol dependence and often serves as a gateway to the use of other drugs. It is a major killer of Idaho youth. It contributes to difficulty in school and dropping out.

It is also the source of most adult alcohol dependence and alcoholism.

• Researchers determined that a child who starts drinking by age 13 has a 45 per cent chance of becoming alcohol dependent, six times as great as the chances for someone who starts at 21. At age 15 chances are five times as great, at 17 four times as great. Chances are still greater for those starting at 18, 19 or 20 rather than 21.

• Research shows that much brain development occurs between ages 12 and 21. Alcohol interferes with "brain wiring" affecting learning ability, memory, judgment and impulse control. Damage can be permanent

preventing a child from reaching his or her full potential. The part of the brain involving learning ability and memory can be 10 per cent smaller in young drinkers.

• Children can get into trouble quickly as the young brain rapidly goes from wanting to needing alcohol.

• Young drinkers are 12 times as likely to be hurt in accidents as non-drinkers. In a recent survey 30 per cent of Idaho high school students reported riding with a drinking driver in the previous month. In the past year 28 Idaho children and young adults died in crashes with drinking drivers. Underage drinking can lead to depression and to suicide. Idaho has one of the highest youth suicide rates.

• Studies show that children who start drinking by 15 have a 67 per cent probability of using other drugs. They are 20 times more likely to use marijuana and 50 times more likely to use cocaine. In a survey of users of methamphetamine, 95 per cent said they started drinking by 15.

• One survey suggests that 30 per cent of Idaho high school students, more than 15,000, engage in binge drinking, five or more

Young drinkers are 12 times as likely to be hurt in accidents as non-drinkers. In a recent survey 30 percent of Idaho high school students reported riding with a drinking driver in the previous month. In the past year 28 Idaho children and young adults died in crashes with drinking drivers. Underage drinking can lead to depression and to suicide. Idaho has one of the highest youth suicide rates.



### KIDS, ALCOHOL AND IDAHO

**66** Percentage of high school-aged students who had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more days during their life.

**26** Percentage who had their first drink of alcohol, other than a few sips, before age 13.

**40** Percentage who had at least one drink of alcohol on one or more occasion in the past 30 days.

**28** Percentage who had five or more drinks of alcohol in a row (i.e., binge drinking) in the past 30 days.

**4** Percentage who had at least one drink of alcohol on school property on one or more of the past 30 days.

**14.5** Percentage of alcohol sold in Idaho that is consumed by underage drinkers

**86 million** Total sales in dollars of alcohol consumed by minors in Idaho in 2005

**228 million** Total cost in dollars of underage drinking in Idaho

— Source: International Institute of Alcohol Awareness

See **DRINK**, Opinion 2

# We're doing something about the weather

"Everybody complains about the weather but nobody does anything about it."

— Mark Twain



132 FAIRFIELD ST. WEST  
James G. Wright

Sometimes we have foul weather, and sometimes we foul-up the weather.

Wednesday before last there was a real gully-washer over much of the Magic Valley, but our nearly half-page weather chart showed exactly zero precipitation in the 24 hours ending at 6 p.m. that day.

Several readers rightly called foul. We corrected the error in Saturday's edi-

tion, and the running totals in the chart were adjusted to add back in the rain that we missed.

Here's how the error happened, and what we plan to ensure it doesn't happen again:

The National Weather Service measured 0.17 inches of rainfall at Twin Falls before 6 p.m. This data was collected as a matter of routine by a commercial service that, in turn, sends it to DayWeather, Inc., of Cheyenne, Wyo.

DayWeather collects weather data from all around the world and builds custom weather charts for subscribers such as the Times-News. We typically get ours late in the evening, usually just in time for our copy desk to slap it on the weather page before deadline.

DayWeather is generally accurate and makes maybe two or three errors per year. Considering the number of data points in 365 charts per year, that's a low error rate.

Still, we would rather have a zero error rate, and we're working on ways to carve out more time on our end for proofing and last-minute fixes. If we're unable to make repairs in time, we'll run a correction on page Main 2, which has a

later deadline than the weather page.

So how accurate is the chart even when it's 100 percent correct?

Like a lot of things in life, that depends on where you sit.

That Wednesday gully-washer made for less than two-tenths of an inch at Joslin Field/Magic Valley Regional Airport but it dropped more than two inches at the Jerome airport, just 17 miles away — as correctly reported in the graphic.

So while people in some parts of Jerome County were getting ready to build an ark, it was just a healthy thunderstorm elsewhere.

Our meteorologists-for-hire say there isn't much difference in annual rainfall

totals and average temperatures across the Magic Valley. But as we saw on gully-washer Wednesday, our area has micro-weather conditions that can vary wildly over a relatively short distance on the same day.

Twin Falls gets a disproportionate share of attention in the weather graphic for obvious reasons — that's where most of our readers live. But I have asked DayWeather to make some changes that should give us a better picture of daily conditions around the region.

First of all, we'll expand the weather data for Burley, adding record temperatures and rainfalls to the daily forecast. We'll also add yesterday's high/low tempera-

tures and precipitation amounts for Sun Valley, Gooding and Hagerman. You should see those changes next week.

Adding more cities will help us catch intensely local weather conditions, but in making these changes I'm mindful that we're still playing with lightning when it comes to getting the right numbers in the right places each and every time.

It reminds me of something else said by Mark Twain: "A man who carries a cat by the tail learns something he can learn in no other way."

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

## OTHER VIEWS

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



## ... the pay-cut compromise

Idaho Statesman, Boise

It is often said that a real compromise is something that makes no one happy.

In the 14th week of a legislative session that started out testy and has only gotten worse, "happy" fled the scene long ago. The best-case scenario is something reasonable and workable.

The latest plan for state employee pay is about as reasonable as can be expected late in a session and deep in a recession.

The possible compromise between Gov. Butch Otter and legislative leaders will make nobody happy — especially state workers. State agencies will have to absorb a 5 percent cut in payroll money. For state workers — who make less money than their private sector counterparts — this could lead to layoffs, pay cuts or furloughs.

These aren't pleasant options. But unfortunately, they are consistent with the choices that are being made in private sector workplaces across the state.

The key — and the one thing that makes this bad situation workable — is that state personnel man-

agers would be allowed to manage. They could maneuver under the 5 percent cut as they see fit. They could find creative ways to juggle dollars and protect the most critical state jobs.

Otter has been holding out for this kind of agency flexibility, and rightly so. It is the best and most businesslike way for state government to manage during difficult times.

The proposed compromise also gives Otter and the agencies a financial cushion. They could use up to \$7.4 million in federal economic stimulus money to prop up agencies struggling to meet the 5 percent cuts.

This is clearly an attempt to split the difference between the Senate, which voted overwhelmingly to use stimulus dollars to offset pay cuts, and the House, which voted overwhelmingly to reject the idea.

Political expediency aside, this plan makes good governing sense. It provides flexibility to shield some agencies that perform particularly critical work during a downturn. Used properly, this extra money could prevent penny-wise and pound-foolish personnel decisions — such as the recent State Tax Commission layoffs that shaved \$1.1 million in payroll but cost the state \$7.5 million in tax collections.

During the toughest recession in a quarter century, state administrators face a daunting managerial challenge. They are tasked with protecting crucial public functions, retaining skilled and experienced employees, and keeping stressed staffers focused and productive. A protract-

ed and public legislative taffy-pull over worker pay can't help office morale. The best thing legislators can do is agree to this deal, go home, and leave the agency managers to do their jobs.



## ... make it 'Sun Valley Airport'

Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum

... Businesses have long known that the money spent to keep the once-famous Sun Valley name in front of the public was far too little. Despite the fact that Sun Valley is the nation's first destination ski resort, Colorado ski areas that poured millions into marketing eclipsed it.

Sun Valley-area business leaders have turned themselves inside out trying to get the word out to keep visitors coming and the economy humming. Sustain Blaine — the new group charged with analyzing the local economy — is calling for better "branding" of Sun Valley. Translation: more and better marketing.

The stage is set for new committees to rack their brains to come up with innovative ways to raise awareness on the cheap — because, of course, money is still an object.

So, how about this? A new airport is in the works. Wherever it's located, local leaders should name it "Sun Valley Airport." That would ensure that the name Sun Valley is used in every travel story and guide in all media — far more broadly than it is today.

It's plain, it's simple — and it's free.



## ... Minnick's no Republican

Lewiston Tribune

Democrat Walt Minnick has legitimate reasons for voting against his party's stimulus package and spending bill, but that doesn't mean Minnick embraces House Republicans' mock alternative.

It's worse, Minnick says of the call to freeze spending but still greatly increase the nation's debt through more tax cuts. And it cannot be considered a genuine attempt by minority Republicans to remain players in financial decision making on Capitol Hill.

... Minnick said he does

not oppose spending more government money to help lift the nation out of recession. And he believes a proposal he presented as an alternative to the stimulus bill that passed without his support, or any plan limiting stimulus spending to two years only, would have about the same effect in putting people to work and getting consumers to spend money again.

But the bill that did pass was larded with too many long-term things some committee chairmen have been waiting for years to see happen, Minnick said.

Minnick is a freshman member of Congress, but he does not approach national economic issues as a neophyte. His previous experience in the administration of President Nixon, and the friendships he made there, combines with

his background as an entrepreneur and CEO to ensure he will vote with his mind, and not the jerk of a knee.

He told the *Moscow-Pullman Daily News*, for example, that although he has opposed some of his party's high-profile spending plans, he expects to be voting with his party most of the time.

"I may not always vote the party line, but my thought process will be lined up a little more with my party," he said.

A couple of examples of that already occurring were Minnick's votes for expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, or SCHIP, and for the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act enabling women to sue over pay discrimination they may not have been aware of at the time.

## Chiropractic in 100 words or less

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## Drink

Continued from Opinion 1

drinks at one time, a practice that increases the risk of alcohol dependence.

• Only in the eastern part of the state are Idaho's youth drinking rates below the national average.

The good news is that parents can make a tremendous difference. Children who don't drink cite disapproval by parents as the primary reason. Teens say parents have more influence than peers. Parents who talk with their children about alcohol, take a firm stand and stay involved can help children avoid the pitfalls of drinking.

A recent Idaho survey showed that children are much less likely to drink when parents keep track of where they are and who they are with.

Another piece of good news. Research shows that a person who gets through age 21 without drinking, smoking or using drugs is almost certain to never do so, according to the National Center on Substance Abuse.

Some states, notably Utah, have recognized that the way to reduce underage drinking is to get recent research and other information to all or nearly all parents with a media ad campaign including radio, television and newspaper inserts. Before the campaign half of Utah parents didn't know that underage drinking increases risks of dependence and many didn't know that some children start while in elementary school. Forty-five per cent

doubted if they could make a difference in their child's decision to drink. After the campaign 85 per cent said they could.

Some other states have followed Utah's example including New Mexico and Washington. Idaho should do the same.

In addition to saving lives and helping children succeed, a continuing underage drinking media campaign could reduce adult alcoholism, reduce the use of illicit drugs and reduce the enormous state and local costs for alcohol-related law enforcement, jails, prisons, courts and health care. It could also reduce domestic violence, teen pregnancy and damage to children born to drinking mothers.

Idaho's existing efforts, notably the Safe and Drug Free Schools program, have reduced underage drinking from 1990s levels but it is still far too prevalent. The school program isn't enough to offset other factors including the alcohol advertising blitz, peer pressure, the easy availability of alcohol and the current level of knowledge of parents and other adults.

Ken Robison, a Democrat, represented Ada County in the Idaho House of Representatives from 1987-2004. He is a member of the advisory board for Safe and Drug Free Schools and of the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws partnership. Write to him at [Kenneth.Robison@worldnet.att.net](mailto:Kenneth.Robison@worldnet.att.net).

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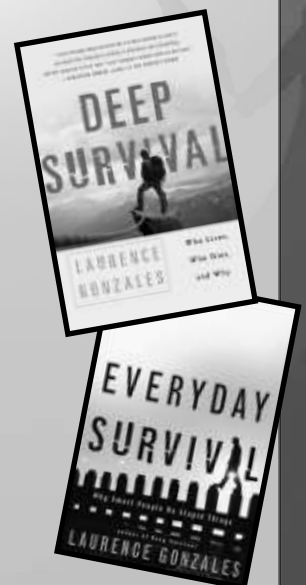
Admission is free of charge

Laurence Gonzales, author of the best-selling book *Deep Survival*, will make one Idaho stop to speak on his 35 years of studying accidents and their roots in human behavior. The CSI Honors Program invites you to "Who Lives, Who Dies, and Why?" Part of the College of Southern Idaho's Eagle View Lecture Series, the public is welcome at no charge. No tickets are required to this event. Don't miss the chance to see and hear the author of *Deep Survival* and his newest book *Everyday Survival* as he talks about how everyday decisions made by everyday people determine who survives and who doesn't.

For more information, visit [www.laurencegonzales.com](http://www.laurencegonzales.com)

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# NATION & WORLD

## Obama waiting to see Cuba's next move

By Ben Feller  
Associated Press writer

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad — President Obama says America's estranged relationship with Cuba will not change overnight. It just did — at least in tone.

Immersed for the first time in Latin American politics, Obama now is assessing whether a genuine change in relations with the isolated communist island is already under way.

While no one is talking of fundamental reform in Cuba soon — and overtures by no means lead to actions — it is clear that U.S. dealings with Havana have changed.

The White House on Saturday sought again to insert some wait-and-see caution as analysts debated whether a sudden conciliatory flurry was a breakthrough or bluster. As Obama talks of overcoming “decades of mistrust,” now he must calibrate how to handle something else: hope.

When the week started, Obama lifted some travel and telecommunications restrictions on Cuba; before it ended, he was hearing Cuban leader Raul Castro admit “we could be wrong” and having chummy moments with the man he once branded a demagogue, Venezuela's Hugo Chavez.

At the Summit of the Americas here in Trinidad and Tobago, Cuba is the only nation in the hemisphere banned from taking part because of its undemocratic rule. The White House had called Cuba “the odd man out” and wished openly it would not dominate the event.

Turns out, Cuba's shadow is everywhere. Obama got another earful about it on Saturday when South American leaders praised him for the steps he's taken but pushed him to do even more — lift the 47-year-old U.S. trade embargo against the nation.

“We will continue to evaluate and watch what happens,” said Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs. “We're anxious to see what the Cuban government is willing to step up to do.”

So, too, are many anxious to see what Obama will do.

“I think both governments are saying, ‘We're ready to walk through the door. I don't think they know where they want to go yet,’” said Julia Sweig, a scholar on the U.S.-Cuban relationship and director of Latin studies at the Council on Foreign Relations.

“I think this is much closer to a major breakthrough than it is to the same old, same old,” Sweig added.

The U.S. wants what it considers real change — human rights, free speech, free markets, democracy. Asked if the ball is still in Cuba's court, Gibbs said: “It always has been.”

## NATO frees 20 hostages held by pirates

By Todd Pitman and Katharine Houreld  
Associated Press writers

NAIROBI, Kenya — NATO forces rescued 20 fishermen from pirates who launched the latest attack in the Gulf of Aden on Saturday, but let the Somali hijackers go because they had no authority to arrest them.

The release underscored the difficulties of stopping the skyrocketing piracy scourge in the Horn of Africa, where sea bandits also seized a Belgian-flagged ship carrying 10

foreign crew near the Seychelles islands and started hauling it toward Somalia.

“There isn't a silver bullet” to solve the problem, said Roger Middleton, a piracy expert at London-based think-tank Chatham House. He said it's common for patrolling warships to disarm then free brigands because they have rarely have jurisdiction to try them.

Pirate attacks have increased in recent weeks, with fishermen-turned-gunmen from Somalia searching for targets further out to

sea as ships try to avoid the anarchic, clan-ruled nation.

Pirates have attacked more than 80 boats this year alone, nearly four times the number assaulted in 2003, according to the Kuala Lumpur-based International Maritime Bureau. They now hold at least 18 ships and over 310 crew hostage, according to an Associated Press count.

The first attack Saturday occurred in the pre-dawn darkness, when pirates hijacked the Belgian-flagged Pompei a few hundred miles

north of the Seychelles, said Portuguese Lt. Cmdr. Alexandre Santos Fernandes, who is traveling with a NATO fleet patrolling further north in the Gulf of Aden.

Belgium officials said the ship sounded three alarms indicating it was under attack as it headed toward the palm-fringed islands, a high-end tourist destination, with a cargo of concrete and stones. The dredging ship had 10 crew: two Belgians, one Dutch, three Filipinos

See **PIRACY**, Opinion 5

## Life after Columbine



Kristi Mohrbacher, 26, a survivor of the shootings at Columbine High School 10 years ago, takes time out from her work at her home in Denver, Colo., on Wednesday.

‘People have been able to have 10 years to reconcile what happened and see what fits in their life and who they are. It's kind of a part of who I am today. I think my priorities might be a little different if I hadn't had that experience.’

— Kristi Mohrbacher, a survivor of the Columbine High shootings

## 10 years later, survivors getting on with lives

By Sandy Shore  
Associated Press writer

LITTLETON, Colo. — The “boy in the window” — rescued bloodied and paralyzed during the horrifying Columbine High shooting rampage — is doing just fine.

Now 27, Patrick Ireland has regained his mobility with few effects from gunshot wounds to his head and leg a decade ago. He is married and works in the financial services industry.

His mantra: “I choose to be a victor rather than a victim.”

Like Ireland, many Columbine survivors have moved on to careers in education, medicine, ministry, retail. Yet emotional scars still can trigger anxiety, nightmares and deeply etched recollections of gunfire, blood and bodies.

Some have written books; a few travel the world to share their experiences to help victims of violence.

“People have been able to have 10 years to reconcile what happened and see what fits in their life and who they are,” said Kristi Mohrbacher of Littleton, who fled Columbine High as the gunfire erupted. “It's kind of a part of who I am



Patrick Ireland, a field director with a financial services company, is shown in his office in Denver, Colo., Wednesday. Ireland, the “boy in the window” during the Columbine High School shooting ten years ago is doing just fine. Many Columbine survivors, like Ireland, have moved on with their lives despite emotional scars.

today. I think my priorities might be a little bit different if I hadn't had that experience.”

Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17, stormed the suburban school just after 11 a.m. on April 20, 1999, killing 12 classmates and a teacher and wounding about two dozen. The massacre ended with the



Sean Graves and fiancée Kara Dehart are pictured with their dog at their home in Morrison, Colo., on Tuesday. Graves was shot and hit in the spine during the shooting at Columbine 10 years ago. He plans on returning to college to pursue a career in forensics science, a path that began to interest him after Columbine.

gunmen's suicides not quite an hour later.

Sean Graves saw the pair loading weapons in a parking lot and thought they were preparing a prank with paintball guns.

Graves, Lance Kirklin and Daniel Rohrbough walked toward them for a better look when they opened fire, killing Rachel

Scott and Rohrbough and critically wounding Anne Marie Hochhalter, Graves and Kirklin, among others.

In the second-floor library, Ireland was about to finish some homework when he heard pipe bombs exploding in the hallway. Debris fell from ceiling tiles and a teacher shouted for students to take cover.

Klebold and Harris strode in, shouted for students to stand up, laughing and ridiculing classmates as they sprayed bullets.

Ireland was under a table with Dan Steepleton and Makai Hall, who were shot in the knees. Ireland was shot twice in the head and once in a leg, losing consciousness.

The killers shot out a library window. A partially paralyzed Graves, lying on a sidewalk below, worried that perhaps they would return. He rubbed his hand in blood from his neck wound and smeared it on his face and the ground to make it appear he was dead.

Harris and Klebold killed 10 students in the library before they left to reload, which gave some survivors a chance to flee. Steepleton and Hall tried to pull

See **SURVIVORS**, Opinion 5



AP photo

A law enforcement official stands outside a home where a couple and their three children died in an apparent murder-suicide in Middletown, Md.

## Maryland couple, 3 children found dead in home

By Alex Dominguez  
Associated Press writer

MIDDLETOWN, Md. — An accountant for a railroad operator killed his wife and their three children before fatally shooting himself in a northwest Maryland home, leaving a gruesome scene that was discovered Saturday by the youngsters' grandfather, authorities said.

Authorities didn't specify a motive but said there was evidence the man faced psychiatric and financial problems.

When investigators arrived at the two-story home, the couple's two sons, ages 5 and 4, lay dead in their beds, while the bodies of a 2-year-old daughter and the mother, Francis Billotti Wood, were in the master bedroom, Frederick County sheriff's office spokeswoman Jennifer Bailey said. On the master bedroom floor by the foot of the bed was the father, 34-year-old Christopher Alan Wood, dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, Bailey said.

The 33-year-old mother and three children suffered “traumatic cuts” and each also had at least one gunshot wound from a .25-caliber handgun, Frederick County Sheriff

See **FAMILY**, Opinion 5

## Week of change for Obama on interrogation, pollution, Cuba

By David Espo  
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — In a whirlwind week of change, President Barack Obama jettisoned Bush administration policy on greenhouse gases, shone an unforgiving light on its support for torture as an interrogation tactic and eased its restrictions on Cuba.

But there are limits, even to this new president's power, and a campaign pledge to seek a ban on assault weapons is an early casualty as a result.

And while the promise of

### Analysis

change was arguably Obama's single most powerful asset in last year's campaign, the week demonstrated anew how carefully he calibrates its impact.

“We have been through a dark and painful chapter in our history,” the president said in a statement that accompanied the release of once-secret memos outlining torture techniques the Bush administration allowed.

“But at a time of great

### INSIDE

Obama's policy on harsh interrogation has two sides.

See **Opinion 6**

challenges and disturbing disunity, nothing will be gained by spending our time and energy laying blame for the past.”

That was designed as a reassurance to the CIA employees who carried out waterboarding, which simulates drowning, and the other harsh interrogation techniques that former President George W. Bush

once sanctioned and that Obama has now banned — much as his decision to leave combat troops in Iraq a few months longer than he once promised was a bow to the Pentagon.

“I will always do whatever is necessary to protect the national security of the United States,” he said in a statement on the torture memos that could easily have been written about the troop withdrawal.

Attorney General Eric Holder added one more assurance, announcing the administration would pay legal expenses for anyone in

the intelligence agency who needs a lawyer as a result of carrying out interrogations covered by the memos.

Holder also formally revoked every legal opinion or memo issued during Bush's presidency that justified interrogation programs, a largely symbolic step since Obama had already said his administration would not rely on them.

The release of the documents had been the subject of a long, fierce debate, with a deadline looming as the result of a lawsuit brought by

See **WEEK**, Opinion 5



AP photo

President Obama speaks about harsh interrogation tactics used by the CIA, Thursday in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington.

## Week

Continued from Opinion 4

the American Civil Liberties Union.

No lawsuit drove the timing of the new Cuba policy, which was released in the run-up to Obama's first presidential trip to Central America. And here again, Obama went further than some wanted and not as far as others had hoped.

Under the new policy, the administration lifted restrictions on Cuban-Americans who want to travel and send money to their island homeland and freed U.S. telecommunications companies to seek business there.

Some of the changes specifically undid what Bush had imposed: tightened travel restrictions on Americans wishing to visit relatives in Cuba; limiting payments to immediate family; and bans on seeds, clothing, personal hygiene items, veterinary medicines and — later — cell phones from humanitarian parcels.

But the broader embargo remains in place as it has since the Kennedy administration, its existence meant now as then to prod

the Cuban government into democratic reforms.

In response to the announcement, Cuban President Raul Castro said he is ready to put "everything" on the table in talks with Americans, including questions of human rights and political prisoners. If so, that would mark a change from decades of Cuban insistence that those issues were not subject for discussion.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton pronounced Castro's comments an overture, and said, "We are taking a very serious look at how we intend to respond."

Still, despite sentiment within the 15-member Caribbean Community to lift the U.S. embargo, Jamaica's prime minister, Bruce Golding, said the organization had agreed not to push Obama too hard on the issue.

By contrast, there was little that was nuanced about the Environmental Protection Agency's announcement Friday that carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases emitted by cars and many

industrial plants "endanger public health and welfare."

It was prompted by a Supreme Court ruling two years ago that said greenhouse gases are pollutants under the Clean Air Act and must be regulated if found to be a danger to human health or public welfare.

Confronted with the high court's decision, the Bush administration stalled, leaving for Obama an issue he was only too happy to seize. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson said while the agency is prepared to move forward with regulations under the Clean Air Act, the administration would rather defer to Congress.

"The (EPA) decision is a game changer," said Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., who is involved in drafting legislation to limit greenhouse emissions.

For all the changes Obama has piled up since taking office 87 days ago, his retreat on assault weapons is hardly unique. He has already yielded on other relatively minor issues, giving in to veterans groups during the budget debate, for example.

## Piracy

Continued from Opinion 4

and four Croatians, Fernandes said.

As pirates steered the ship slowly northwest toward Somalia, 430 miles away, a Spanish military ship, a French frigate and a French scout ship all steamed toward the area to try to intercept it.

In Brussels, government officials held an emergency meeting to discuss the situation and possible intervention.

"There is no contact with the pirates, not with the crew, not with any other parties," Jaak Raes, director general of the Belgian Crisis Center, told reporters. "We are sure that the ship now is

heading to the coast of Somalia."

In a second attack later Saturday, pirates on a small white skiff fired small arms and rockets at a Marshall Islands-flagged tanker. Fernandes said the ship, the Handytankers Magic, issued a distress call shortly after dawn but escaped the pirates using "speed and maneuvers."

The attack occurred in the Gulf of Aden, a vital short cut between Europe and Asia and one of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

A Dutch frigate from the NATO force responded immediately to the distress call and trailed the pirates to

a Yemeni-flagged fishing dhow the brigands had seized Thursday, Fernandes said.

The bandits were using the Yemeni vessel as a "mother ship," a larger vessel that allows the pirates' tiny motorboats to hitch rides hundreds of miles off Somali coast, greatly expanding their range.

The pirates climbed into the dhow and Dutch marine commandos followed soon after, freeing 20 fishermen whose nationalities were not known. Fernandes said there was no exchange of fire and Dutch forces seized seven automatic weapons and one rocket-propelled grenade launcher.

## Family

Continued from Opinion 4

Charles Jenkins said. Their precise cause of death wasn't immediately known, and Jenkins declined to say what was used to slash them.

The woman's father found them dead around 9 a.m. He had grown concerned after not hearing from them for several days, Bailey said.

Christopher Wood apologized to family members in one of five notes he wrote and left at the scene, and he indicated in a note that he had

psychiatric problems, Jenkins said. The sheriff wouldn't elaborate on what else was written in the notes.

The sheriff also said there was evidence that Wood, a sales accountant at CSX Corp., faced financial problems and may have been in debt.

CSX did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment Saturday.

The family had moved months ago to the home in the town of Middletown, a com-

munity of less than 3,000 people about 10 miles west of Frederick, friends said.

"We're all in shock and trying to come to terms," said Kevin Farmer, the pastor of Holy Family Catholic Community Church, where the mother taught catechism.

The director of Middletown United Methodist Church Preschool, Jane Durant, said she last saw Francis Wood on Thursday morning, when she picked up her 4-year-old son at the school.

## Survivors

Continued from Opinion 4

Ireland out but couldn't move him far and fled for safety.

The gunmen returned to the library and committed suicide.

Ireland awoke some time later, his vision blurred. With fire alarms sounding and strobe lights flashing, the partially paralyzed teen began to push himself toward the bullet-shattered window.

Over the next three hours, he pulled his body along, lost and regained consciousness, then moved again through tables and chairs and past classmates' bodies. He figures he traveled about 50 feet to the window.

"I thought how much easier it would be just to give up, stay there and let somebody come get you or whatever would happen to you," Ireland said.

"But every time those thoughts came in my mind, I thought about all the people that I would be giving up on. ... It was really the friends and family I would be letting down that kept me going."

Ireland pushed himself up to the window and got the attention of SWAT teams below. He doesn't recall flopping over the sill and dropping into the arms of rescuers, an image that captured TV viewers nationwide.

Now 25, Graves moved into a suburb near the mountains, where he recently purchased a home with his fiancée, Kara

DeHart, 22. He walks with a limp and still feels pain but keeps a positive attitude. He plans to return to college to pursue a career in forensics science, a path that began to interest him after Columbine.

On Monday's anniversary, he will go to Columbine, find the spot where he was shot, smoke a cigar and leave another on the ground for Rohrbough, something he does every year.

With two children at Columbine, Ted Hochhalter watched the drama unfold while waiting in a Seattle airport for a plane back to Denver. He arrived to find his daughter, Anne Marie, paralyzed and in critical condition, and that his son Nathan had been trapped, but unhurt, in the science wing for four hours.

He took a leave of absence from his job as a government emergency management coordinator. Six months later his wife, Carla, who had a history of mental illness, walked into a pawn shop, picked up a gun and committed suicide.

Hochhalter believes the aftermath of the shootings exacerbated his wife's illness. "It got to a point where she made a choice," he said.

He moved the family into the mountain community of Bailey and soon married Katherine Zocco, a massage therapist specializing in neu-

romuscular, spinal cord and brain injuries. She had worked with Anne Marie and other Columbine survivors.

Anne Marie, now 27, graduated from Columbine in 2000 and lives in suburban Denver, where she works as a retail store manager and a child advocate. Her father retired with a medical disability for post traumatic stress disorder.

Today, the elder Hochhalters are working with John-Michael and Ellen Keyes, whose daughter Emily was killed in a 2006 school shooting in Bailey, to get parents involved in school emergency management programs.

Patrick Ireland, the boy in the window, endured grueling therapy to regain the use of his legs. He had to relearn how to read, write and talk.

With a control-your-destiny mind-set, he graduated as valedictorian from Columbine and magna cum laude from Colorado State University. Today, he is a field director for Northwestern Mutual Finance Network in the Denver area and has been married to Kacie for nearly four years.

Ireland recognizes he'll long be remembered as the face of Columbine because of his dramatic rescue. He accepts it as a way to emphasize that Columbine should be another word for "hope and courage."

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# Obama's policy on harsh interrogation has two sides

By Tom Raum  
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — President Obama is trying to close a chapter in the nation's history that continues to haunt U.S. foreign policy.

Obama authorized the release of graphic "torture memos" that outlined the harsh interrogation tactics the CIA used during the administration of George W. Bush, but getting the abuses behind him is turning out to be more complicated than it may have seemed at first.

The disclosures have divided Obama's administration; some intelligence officials argued against the

## Analysis

release. Also, Obama's decision to shield from prosecution those who carried out the practices is being challenged by human-rights activists and some Democrats.

Making the memos public was a victory for Attorney General Eric Holder.

Last July, Holder told a legal forum that the next president must move quickly to "reclaim America's standing in the world." To robust applause, Holder suggested closing the prison camp at Guantanamo Bay and ending "all U.S. programs and practices that are

engaged in torture." But where to send the remaining Guantanamo prisoners? And Obama's decision not to prosecute CIA operatives who engaged in now-banned harsh interrogation practices such as waterboarding is causing something of a political storm.

Much as President Ford's blanket pardon of former President Richard Nixon for Watergate crimes, Obama's decision is being questioned by those who say officials who committed wrongdoing should be held accountable. For instance, Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, was quick to say that the memos

only bolstered his argument for a proposed independent commission of inquiry.

Anthony Romero, the executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, said Obama's amnesty proposal for those responsible "is simply untenable."

On Saturday, the U.N.'s top torture investigator said the decision violated international law. Manfred Nowak told The Associated Press that the U.S. had committed itself under the U.N. Convention against Torture to make torture a crime and to prosecute

those suspected of engaging in it. Washington is unlikely to face any legal penalties for its apparent breach, but Nowak said "naming and shaming has its impact and usually governments try not to be criticized."

In deciding to release the four memos with little blacked out or otherwise censored, Obama sided with Holder, deputy attorney general in the Clinton administration.

The release went against the advice of other Obama advisers, including CIA Director Leon Panetta. He argued that releasing vivid

descriptions of brutal tactics could set a dangerous precedent for future disclosures of intelligence sources and methods.

In fact, the release of the classified Bush-era memos was delayed for nearly a month in part because of strenuous objections from four previous CIA chiefs — Michael Hayden, Porter Goss, George Tenet and John Deutch.

Obama ultimately overruled those concerns.

Holder said the Justice Department would not prosecute CIA officers "who acted reasonably and relied in good faith on authoritative legal advice from the Justice Department that their conduct was lawful."



Holder

# Overnight star says she's handling fame

LONDON (AP) — Singing sensation Susan Boyle said Friday that she's untroubled by people drawing contrasts between her angelic voice and dowdy image after she was thrust into the international spotlight.

The unlikely star, who sprung to fame after her appearance on a British televised talent competition became an online hit, said she loves the attention and isn't bothered by those who poke fun at her unpolished appearance.

"It goes with the territory," Boyle told the Associated Press on Friday. "It doesn't bother me."

In a telephone interview from her home in the Scottish town of Blackburn, Boyle did express some impatience with questions over her love life: The 47-year-old Scot raised eyebrows when she told a British television audience on Saturday that she'd "never been kissed."

"It was said as a joke, not an advert. Can we move on?" Boyle said, laughing. And as for the flood of attention — with fans and even competition judge Piers Morgan offering to give her a peck — Boyle said she's flattered, but isn't letting herself be carried away.

"If people want to kiss me, it has to be controlled," she said, still chuckling.

The massive media attention being lavished on Boyle — U.S. morning shows interviewed her by satellite,



AP photo

Susan Boyle, who's performance on TV's 'Britain's Got Talent' wowed the judges, reacts to reporters at her home in Blackburn, Scotland, Thursday.

even her town's local government has offered its best wishes — virtually guarantees her a spot in the final rounds of "Britain's Got Talent," the U.K. version of "America's Got Talent."

It may all add up to only a momentary big deal, but the case of this previously unknown amateur singer is a compelling study in how viral video can lather its subject into frothy international stardom within hours.

On the April 11 season premiere of "Britain's Got Talent," a United Kingdom show in which "American Idol's" Simon Cowell is one of the judges, Boyle was, from the moment she stepped onstage, perhaps the most unlikely star since Marie Dressler, the frumpy 1930s movie heroine. She invoked as her idol the British musical theater star Elaine Paige. When she stat-

ed her age and the audience groaned, Boyle ground her ample hips and blurted: "And that's just one side of me!"

A close-up showed Piers Morgan, another judge familiar to U.S. viewers from "America's Got Talent," wincing.

The crowd seemed to be expecting another colorful character with no discernible talent, in the style of former "American Idol" contestant William Hung.

Amanda Holden, the program's third judge, e-mailed on Thursday: "When she came onto stage the audience immediately started booing and hissing her, based purely on her appearance. She looked a little odd (and) was a bit nervous and searching for her words."

"We were laughing at her," Morgan said in a phone interview Wednesday. "She

was someone who seemed to be completely deluded."

Until she started to sing. Boyle, who had some limited previous vocal training and then mostly in church choirs, shrewdly picked "I Dreamed a Dream," a heart-breaking ballad about unfulfilled dreams from the hit musical "Les Miserables." A few bars into the song, as her earthy, pleasing voice took command and soared over the auditorium, the crowd could be heard letting out a collective gasp, then starting to cheer raucously.

"It wasn't singer Susan Boyle who was ugly on 'Britain's Got Talent' so much as our reaction to her" was the title of a piece by Guardian commentator Tanya Gold.

Press and TV analyses since then have examined the unlikely success of her less-than-glamorous presentation, in particular audiences' reaction before and after her performance.

"Why are we so shocked when 'ugly' women can do things, rather than sitting at home weeping and wishing they were somebody else? Men are allowed to be ugly and talented," wrote Gold.

"In these types of shows, the most powerful tool you can have is what Simon calls the 'likability factor' ... (Boyle) is someone who is happy in her own skin," Morgan said. "This is someone who's worked (nearly) 48 years to get her shot and, by God, she's taking it."

# Spaniards to erect monument to film star Leslie Howard

By Harold Heckle  
Associated Press writer

MADRID — "Gone With the Wind" actor Leslie Howard will be honored as a war hero with a monument in Spain near where his plane was shot down by Nazi fighter pilots during World War II, a historical association said Saturday.



Howard

fascist dictator Gen. Francisco Franco, had formed an alliance with Adolf Hitler's Nazi government, which based German Luftwaffe warplanes on its soil.

The author said Howard's contribution to winning the war is in danger of being forgotten.

The propeller-shaped sculpture will be unveiled in July near Cedeira bearing the names of those who died aboard the commercial flight from Portugal to Britain in 1943, said the Royal Green Jackets association and author Jose Rey Ximena.

Association President Manuel Santiago Arenas Roca said the London-born Howard joined the Allies and campaigned hard against the Axis powers. Ximena said Germany's government at the time apparently was worried about the negative impact the high-profile actor-director's anti-Nazi publicity was having on its cause.

Many books have been written about KLM flight 777 which was downed by a squadron of Junkers 88 fighter planes, said Ximena, who believes the star of the 1939 Academy-Award-winning "Gone with the Wind" and the 1934 movie "The Scarlet Pimpernel" had been on "a secret mission" to stop Spain joining Germany and Italy in combat.

Spain, under the power of

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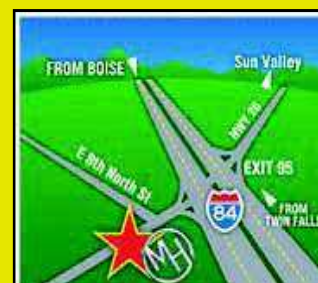
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Local roundup, Sports 2 / Scoreboard, Sports 3 / MLB, Sports 4 / Your Sports, Sports 7

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2009

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

# The project pitcher

## Minico grad Thain being groomed for sophomore season

By **Bradley Guire**  
Times-News writer

After a season spent mostly sitting in the dugout, pitching nothing but bullpen sessions and scrimmages, Allie Thain seized her chance on Tuesday.

It was the College of Southern Idaho freshman's first competitive appearance in 11 months, and her start against the Treasure Valley Community College Chukars was a success. But even the 12-1 victory that saw Thain allow five hits, walk two batters and strike out one was a far cry from her senior season at Minico High School, where she was the undisputed ace.

At the junior college level, the girl from the dairy farm 20 miles northeast of Rupert is a project player, the kind head coach Nick Baumert described as someone who has the talent and the drive but needs the refinement.

"She's that hard worker, comes from that agricultural background," he said. "One of those kids who comes in and gives you everything they have every day. I think she's done that. Some kids will find an excuse to come in and drop their head or hang their head a little bit, and Allie hasn't done that."

Thain is poised to earn a larger role in 2010, either as a starter or off-speed reliever. She said she looks to sophomore Kyla Bryant, who was in the same situation last season, as a source of inspiration. After all, there's a parallel between the two. Just like Bryant, Baumert said that Thain needs to work on velocity and consistency in location, and develop that confidence to compete. Bryant cracked the rotation after spending her freshman season on the bench, and Thain hopes to do the same.

"I can see myself in the rotation," Thain said. "In high school, I was the ace or whatever, and I remember



MEAGAN THOMPSON/Times-News

Minico High graduate and College of Southern Idaho pitcher Allie Thain is dealing with the transition from high school star to college freshman.

how fun that was."

While some players' egos can't cope with going back

to the bottom of the totem pole, Thain keeps going through the weeks of watch-

ing her teammates play.

See **PITCHER**, Sports 6



Allie Thain winds up during a recent practice at CSI's Eagle Field.

## Akey sees 'a lot of positives' in scrimmage

For the Times-News

MOSCOW — Some progress, some room for improvement. That's what Idaho head football coach Robb Akey saw Saturday as the Vandals held their third scrimmage of spring practice.

"I'm pushing individuals to show up and say, 'Count on me,'" Akey said after the 90-minute scrimmage. "I want to see guys show up and not make the mistakes they were making earlier. I know my two coordinators want to see things executed within their packages a little better."

That happened Saturday with the Vandal offense gaining 166 yards rushing and another 274 passing. Daniel Hardy had just one catch, but it covered 49 yards. Eric Greenwood hauled in four receptions worth 30 yards. Dewey Hale added two timely receptions, each covering 19 yards.

On the ground, Princeton McCarty and Deonte Jackson both carried the ball eight times with McCarty earning 49 yards and Jackson 47.

As for the quarterback battle between junior incumbent Nathan Enderle and junior college transfer Brian Reader, Enderle was more efficient on Saturday. He completed 7 of 11 passes for 149 yards. Reader finished 9-for-16 for 95 yards.



Akey

### INSIDE

TFHS grad Ward scores TD in Idaho State's spring scrimmage

Sports 6

See **UI**, Sports 6

## Utah Jazz don't plan to go quietly against Lakers

By **Mark Heisler**  
Los Angeles Times

Now, as to the Lakers' upcoming series against the Trail Blazers ...

Oh, right, that would be the second round, and neither team is out of the first round, yet.

And look who's coming to dinner, after all, ticked to the max at the notion that it's supposed to be the pumpkin pie with the whipped cream.

If Utah Jazz Coach Jerry Sloan called his team's chances against the Lakers in the first round, starting Sunday at Staples Center, "pretty bleak," he didn't actually concede.

It wasn't a mind game. Sloan doesn't dabble in psychology, may not know Sun Tzu from Bruce Lee,

See **JAZZ**, Sports 6

### NBA PLAYOFFS



#### Saturday's results

Chicago 105, Boston 103, OT  
Cleveland 102, Detroit 84  
Dallas 105, San Antonio 97  
Houston at Portland, late

#### Today's games

Utah at L.A. Lakers, 1 p.m., ABC  
Philadelphia at Orlando,  
3:30 p.m., TNT  
Miami at Atlanta, 6 p.m., TNT  
New Orleans at Denver,  
8:30 p.m., TNT

For more coverage, see **Sports 5**



RYAN HOWE/Times-News

Minico's Kris Copeland hits the ball during the first game of the Spartans' doubleheader with Century Saturday at Minico High.

## Minico wins one, lets another slip away

By **Ryan Howe**  
Times-News writer

RUPERT — After comfortably winning the first game of Saturday's nonconference doubleheader with Century 10-3, the Minico Spartans tried to make it through Game 2 on cruise control.

Bad idea.

Century took advantage of Minico's halfhearted effort to win the second game 15-9, putting an end to the Spartans' nine-game winning streak.

"There's no reason to lose this game," said Minico senior Landon Barnes. "It's just one of those games where nothing went our way. We couldn't field a ground ball, couldn't catch a fly ball, couldn't throw a strike, every hard hit goes

right to them."

Minico (12-10) started the day off right with a win in the opener. Kris Copeland hit a two-run double in the second and Dylan Winmill drove in the go-ahead run with a double in the third. Casey Christiansen was 2-for-4 with three RBIs.

Meanwhile, on the mound, Barak Frank threw four hitless innings and Christiansen closed out the sixth and seventh with three strikeouts and just one hit.

Momentum carried over to begin Game 2 as Minico led 7-0 after two. But then the Spartans fizzled.

"I thought we started off with a high intensity level,"

See **MINICO**, Sports 6



Twin Falls High School's Zed Sneed makes his way to third base during the first inning of play against Idaho Falls on Saturday.

JUSTIN JACKSON/  
Times-News

## Bruins dump I.F.

By **David Bashore**  
Times-News writer

Big-time pitchers tend to thrive in the big situation, with their team clinging to a lead and needing a big inning on the hill. Other times, they can be equally effective without the added pressure

and intensity. Jacob Coats and Cy Sneed both tossed three-hit shutouts as Twin Falls blistered visiting Idaho Falls in a doubleheader at Bill Ingram Field on Saturday afternoon to get one hand on the No. 1 seed for next month's

See **BRUINS**, Sports 6



















Aces on Bridge, 2 / Dear Abby, 4 / Sudoku, 4 / Service Directory, 6 / Jumble, 7 / Crossword, 9

Employment

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2009

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**0202 Clerical**

**CLERICAL**

The Castleford Joint School Dist. #417 announces an opening for the **School Clerk**. The position will be open until **May 4, 2009**. Applications are available by contacting **Superintendent Andy Wiseman** at 208-537-6511. Job Duties will be typical of a school clerk, some of which include: payroll payables, clerical duties for the school board, office tasks including filing/record keeping, monthly compiling and paying of vendors, and care of personnel records. Preference will be given to applicants with school experience, and demonstrated use of the Skyward School Accounting and Financial Management software. For more information, or information regarding the compensation, please contact Superintendent Andy Wiseman.

**CLERICAL**

The City of Buhl is accepting applications/resumes for the position of **City Clerk/Treasurer** until 5:00 pm **May 8, 2009**. Applications are available online at [www.buhl.gov/office.com](http://www.buhl.gov/office.com) or can be picked up and returned to **City Hall 203 N. Broadway, Buhl, Idaho 83316**. Knowledge of public administration, business management, records management, licensing requirement and computers. Principles and practices of supervision will be helpful. Applicant must communicate clearly and effectively, establish and maintain effective working relationships with co-workers, employees, supervisor, government officials and the general public. Must attend all council meetings and be bondable. The City of Buhl is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Salary DOE plus benefits

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Hagerman School District taking applications for full-time elementary **Secretary**. Applications may be obtained from [www.hagerman.k12.id.us](http://www.hagerman.k12.id.us) or calling (208) 837-4777. **Deadline 04/24/09.**

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 The City of Twin Falls is now hiring for the position of **COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST/ DISPATCH**. Apply immediately. The job description and employment application are available at [www.tfid.org](http://www.tfid.org). For additional information contact the **Human Resource Office at (208) 735-7268**. The position closes April 30th. The City of Twin Falls is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Drug Free Workplace.

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Sunday, April 19, 2009

# THE ACES ON BRIDGE® Bobby Wolff

**Dear Mr. Wolff:**  
I am a beginner who has heard the term "tenace" but do not understand it. Will you please explain it?  
Tenacity, Great Falls, Mont.

**ANSWER:** A tenace (from the Spanish word for "pincers") refers to a suit-holding that is missing one card from a sequence. The common feature of a tenace is that if your opponents lead that suit, the number of sure tricks you are able to take increases, whereas if you play it yourself, you may get fewer. A-Q or K-J are two prime examples, but a holding of A-K-J also meets the requirements.

**Dear Mr. Wolff:**  
I held ♠ 10-8, ♥ Q-10-8-4, ♦ K-9-5, ♣ A-K-10-7 and opened one club. My LHO overcalled one heart, and when my partner doubled, I naturally bid one no-trump. My LHO competed again with two diamonds, doubled by my partner, and a retreat on my right to two hearts. Should I now double, pass or bid two no-trump? (At the table we made two no-trump, but two hearts would have been down three.)  
Tough Choices, Albany, Ga.

**ANSWER:** I would have doubled because I think my hearts and diamonds are more useful in defense than partner might expect. That fourth trump was by no means a guarantee from partner's perspective.

**Dear Mr. Wolff:**  
Should I review all my good boards to determine if you benefited from a poor declarer, a poor defender, or your partner's good bidding and play.  
Auditor, West Palm Beach, Fla.

**ANSWER:** Somebody recently proposed to me a useful variation

of the "Car Key Rule." When you are heading home but do not have the car keys, then you have to be quiet about partner's less-than-perfect bridge. This also applies to all other bridge partners.

**Dear Mr. Wolff:**  
I was in fourth position with ♠ A-Q-4-3, ♥ 9-7-4-3-2, ♦ J, ♣ K-6-4 and heard a weak three-diamond call on my left, a double from partner, and a raise to four diamonds. What should I have done next? And what would be right if the raise had been to five diamonds?  
Firefighter, Doylestown, Pa.

**ANSWER:** Most experts play responsive doubles here. When partner doubles for takeout, then your double of the suit they have raised should be takeout also. So here I would double four diamonds, though I think if I had ace-queen-fifth of spades and four small hearts, I might guess to bid four spades. If they raise to five diamonds, double again. But here partner will only remove with real extra shape.

**Dear Mr. Wolff:**  
Does opening with a strong two-bid demand that your side get to game? If not, under what circumstances can a pair stay out of game?  
Meeting Demand, Galveston, Texas

**ANSWER:** A strong two-bid is forcing for one round but NOT to game. Equally, opener must bid again facing a negative response; but if opener limits his hand by repeating his suit, or responder gives a minimum preference back to opener's suit, those bids CAN be passed. A new suit by responder to the two-bid sets up an unequivocal game force.

For details of Bobby Wolff's autobiography, "The Lone Wolf," contact kay19072@aol.com. If you would like to contact Bobby Wolff, e-mail him at bobbywolff@mindspring.com.  
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**211 Medical**

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**DENTAL ASSISTANT**  
Needed for busy dental office. Experience preferred but not necessary. Please bring resume to 1010 E. Main St. in Burley

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Or call Marty @ 208-467-6365

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**Times-News**  
**magicvalley.com**

The Times News is seeking an Assistant District Manager to join our Circulation Team. This position supports our interactions with customers and contractors of the daily newspaper.

Responsibilities include distributing newspapers to contractors and customers, redelivering shortages or missed papers, and providing exceptional customer service to assure timely and efficient delivery. This 20-25 hour per week position will include work in our production area, in the circulation office and in the field. This position requires regular lifting of newspaper bundles and must frequently lift and/or move up to 30 pounds.

Expectations include helping maintain delivery goals and deadlines; being available to work a flexible schedule that may include early mornings and weekends, and the ability to thrive in a fast-paced environment.

The successful candidate will demonstrate personable communication skills, have good organizational abilities, and be experienced working with computer programs such as Word and Excel. A valid Driver's License, vehicle with current insurance, and good driving record are required.

A typical work day will start at 4:30 am and starting pay is \$8.50 an hour.

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Trailer/Tire Technician. Wage based on experience. Uniforms, boot allowance, holiday pay, vacation pay, health, dental, vision insurance available. Apply in person at Sunrise Express 2516 Doc Taylor Dr. Twin Falls, Idaho or fax resume to 208-736-5320

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Absolutely Flowers is seeking an Exp. Floral Designer. Contact Michelle Heidemann at 734-2800

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PhoneBase Research currently has immediate openings in our interviewing department. This position involves conducting public opinion polls over the telephone.  
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Delivery Driver. Clean driving record. Exc. benefit package Drug Free Workplace Apply between 9-3 at 167 Eastland, Twin Falls

**210 Management**

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**SALES**

**ELKO DAILY FREE PRESS**  
[www.elkodaily.com](http://www.elkodaily.com)

**Advertising Sales Director**

The Elko Daily Free Press is seeking a focused, creative Advertising Sales Director with an affinity for numbers and a passion for investing in account executives that employ a relentless curiosity in discovering and meeting real customer needs. Ad Director candidates should have a track record of successful sales supervisory experience in a fast-paced business.

We need someone who will spend a significant portion of each week outside the office, calling on both current customers and non-advertisers with our account executives. The Advertising Sales Director will work to systematically increase the number of active advertisers in the Elko Daily Free Press and the frequency with which they advertise with us.

If you prefer to invest your time coaching account executives in the regular practice of "needs-analysis" rather than in the creation of short-term, product-focused revenue "fixes", we want to talk to you.

The Advertising Sales Director will oversee seven retail/classified account executives, as well as several graphic artists and an experienced support staff. They will be a vital contributor to creating the online future of the newspaper and will be a collegial member of the management team charged with setting the course for future success.

The Elko Daily Free Press provides a meaningful work environment for our employees, rewards innovation and risk-taking, and offers opportunities for career development. In addition to the Elko Daily Free Press, the Advertising Sales Director will oversee sales into The Finder, Northern Nevada Real Estate, Mining Quarterly, a variety of other niche publications and our online newspaper [www.elkodaily.com](http://www.elkodaily.com).

Elko is a vibrant northern Nevada gold-mining town located along Interstate 80, with an established gaming/hospitality industry, a strong community college and a thriving retail and manufacturing base. Elko has over 300 days of sunshine annually and is in close proximity to unlimited four-season recreational opportunities.

The Advertising Sales Director position offers a competitive salary, excellent benefits package, and career progression possibilities within Lee Enterprises. If interested in this excellent opportunity, please apply online at <http://www.elkodaily.com/workhere/>

For questions or more information, please email [mary.karren@lee.net](mailto:mary.karren@lee.net)

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<sup>1</sup>Restrictions apply. At participating dealers only. Take retail delivery by 4/30/09. Excludes Saab and medium-duty trucks. <sup>2</sup>Whichever comes first. See dealer for limited warranty details. Excludes Saab. <sup>3</sup>Visit [onstar.com](http://onstar.com) for system limitations and details. OnStar acts as a link to existing emergency service providers. <sup>4</sup>From ServicePlan, Inc. You must trade-in or pay off your loan on the vehicle and purchase or lease new GM vehicle. Up to \$5,000 on trade-ins (and up to \$2,500 for private sales) after making all scheduled monthly payments through the first half of your original loan term. Take retail delivery by 4/30/09. At participating dealers only. Offer excludes Saab and medium duty trucks. <sup>5</sup>From cynoSure Financial, Inc. Must be gainfully employed for at least 30 hours per week for 90 days after your vehicle purchase or lease. Excludes active GM employees. Take retail delivery by 4/30/09. Offer excludes Saab and medium duty trucks. <sup>6</sup>Monthly payment is \$16.67 for every \$1,000 financed. Example down payment: 9.5% for Sierra, 16.0% for LaCrosse. Some customers will not qualify. Take delivery by 4/30/09. Not available with some other offers. See dealer for details. <sup>7</sup>The Buick LaCrosse received the highest numerical score among midsize cars in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2009 Vehicle Dependability StudySM. Study based on 46,313 consumer responses measuring problems consumers experienced in the past 12 months with three-year old vehicles (2006 model-year cars and trucks). Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed October - December 2008. Your experiences may vary. Visit [jdpower.com](http://jdpower.com) <sup>8</sup>Take delivery by 4/30/09. See dealer for details. <sup>9</sup>Savings compare 0% APR to a Bankrate, Inc. national average bank loan rate. <sup>10</sup>Monthly payment is \$13.89 for every \$1,000 financed. Example down payment: 8.0% for G6. Some customers will not qualify. Take delivery by 4/30/09. Not available with some other offers. See dealer for details.





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**Answer :**  
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 208-243-0758.



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 208-731-0392.



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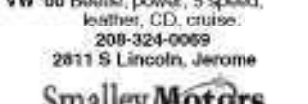
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**Smalley Motors**

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**TOYOTA '07 Camry LE**, 8tank,  
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 sure that the title is in the name  
 of the seller. Under Idaho motor  
 vehicle code a vehicle cannot  
 be sold unless the title is in the  
 name of the seller (exception:  
 Idaho licensed dealer). The  
 seller shall provide the new  
 purchaser a signed bill of sale  
 showing the following: Full  
 description of the vehicle,  
 vehicle identification number,  
 amount paid and name(s) and  
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# Paying for princesses



Photos by JUSTIN JACKSON/Times-News

Julianna Hunt and Katie Long, dressed as Cinderella and Snow White, pose for a portrait with 5-year-old Elsie Coombs during her princess birthday party April 10 in Twin Falls.

## Magic Valley's kid-party scene stays strong

By Melissa Davlin  
Times-News writer

Katie Long and Julianna Hunt have the princess look down. They've got the dresses, they know how to style their hair, they can change their voices from normal to lilting in a snap.

The two formed Fairytale Parties, a company that rents out Disney princesses to birthday parties. But is this the right time to start a business based on splurging and celebrating?

See **PRINCESSES**, Family Life 2



Katie Long as Snow White and Julianna Hunt as Cinderella sing 'Happy Birthday' to 5-year-old Elsie Coombs before she blows out her candles.



Katie Long, as Snow White, writes down which presents came from whom at the birthday party of Elsie Coombs.

# Goodbye, Keebler



ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

Krista Vanden Bosch holds her dog, Keebler, for whom she is trying to find a new home because of her economic troubles. The region's shelter managers say Keebler isn't the only pet in that situation these days.

## Like many others, Twin Falls couple hit by layoff can't keep the dog

By Melissa Davlin  
Times-News writer

The last thing Krista and Peter Vanden Bosch wanted was to give up their dogs.

But after mounting medical bills, a new baby, Krista's struggle with a chronic illness and Peter's layoff, they had no choice. Their beloved companions had to go.

Their story is tragically familiar to Debbie Blackwood, director of Twin Falls' animal shelter. Although the shelter doesn't keep track of the reasons owners abandon their pets, many tell her that layoffs and other economic troubles are forcing them to give up their dogs and cats.

As Krista played with 2-year-old Keebler in her mother-in-law's Twin Falls home on Monday, she explained her history with the dogs. Peter received Keebler as an engagement present in 2007, and Elphie followed a few weeks after. Both were puppies, and bonded with each other and their new human friends instantly.

The couple moved to Twin Falls. Krista had trouble keeping regular hours at work because of fibromyalgia, but Peter had steady work as an electrician. Seven months ago, Krista gave birth to their first child, Adeline, limiting her hours at work even more.

### OPEN ARMS?

Interested in adopting Keebler? E-mail Krista Vanden Bosch at kristamvb@gmail.com. And don't forget other animals in need of homes. Visit your local animal shelter if you're interested in adopting or donating.

After Peter lost his job in early April, they made their tough decision: Move out of their home and into an apartment, Krista said.

As she talked, Keebler ran around the living room, sniffing guests and begging for affection. In less than a week, he'd be absent from the scene.

He has already lost his sister, Elphie.

The Vanden Bosches posted ads online and quickly found a home for Elphie with "a really nice family," Krista said. They had no such luck for little Keebler. Some expressed interest in the energetic border collie-Australian shepherd mix, but no one followed through. Others offered to buy her dog food to help her keep Keebler for a little longer.

The bigger problem, Krista said, is that they can no longer afford to live in their home, and the rental they're moving into won't

See **KEEBLER**, Family Life 2

### BUSINESS CONTACT

Interested in inviting Cinderella or Snow White to your party? Visit [fairytaleparties.info](http://fairytaleparties.info).

## One week remains to nominate a special 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 this week.

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](mailto:virginia.hutchins@lee.net) with "Mother" in the subject line.

**The deadline is approaching:** We must receive your nomination by Sunday, April 26.

In our Mother's Day story, we may quote from any nomination we receive.

### CAN'T AFFORD TO FEED YOUR PET?

The Twin Falls animal shelter can provide temporary relief for pet owners who have fallen on hard times, said kennel worker Amanda Vanleeuwen. Twin Falls charity Mustard Seed and South Central Community Action Partnership often have pet food available, and they always accept pet food donations.

**Twin Falls animal shelter:** 736-2299

**Mustard Seed:** 733-9515

**South Central Community Action Partnership:** Twin Falls, 733-9351; Jerome, 324-8856; Burley, 678-3514





# Making 'green' choices isn't as simple as it seems

## Paper v. plastic

Both can be made from recycled materials and are recyclable. Paper is made by cutting down trees — which help absorb greenhouse gases — but then again, they're renewable. Plastic bags are often made of polyethylene, produced from natural gas, which is abundant but not renewable.

But it takes more water and energy to make paper bags than it does to produce plastic bags. Neither breaks down particularly fast in a landfill, though paper is compostible; plastics don't biodegrade easily.

An alternative is taking your own reusable cloth or plastic bag to the store. But consumers shouldn't stress too much, as long as they're recycling or reusing store bags, whether by filling paper with newspapers for recycling or carrying their lunch in plastic, said Chris Newman, an environmental scientist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



Left: Plastic shopping bags litter the beach on Dublin Bay. Above: Robert Lane loads his car with bags of groceries outside a Safeway store in San Francisco.

**By Tammy Webber**  
Associated Press writer

CHICAGO — The messages come from everywhere: Save the planet. Reduce your carbon footprint. Be eco-wise.

But how do consumers decide which product or action is healthier or more environmentally friendly? Sometimes the choices are clear; other times they're more murky. Here are some examples.



Above: A crop dusting plane dusts cotton crops in California. Right: Organic produce on sale at the Union Square Greenmarket in New York City.



## Pesticides v. doing nothing

Bugs in the house aren't just creepy and crawly. In the case of cockroaches, they can cause asthma in children. But spraying pesticides is not necessarily great for little lungs, either, and it's often just a matter of time before the critters return.

A better alternative is using baits — the roaches eat the poison, then take it back to their families, helping to end the roach life cycle, according to Tom Neltner, of the National Center for Healthy Housing and founder of Indianapolis-based Improving Kids' Environment. But parents have to be careful that children and pets don't come in contact with the baits, he said.

## Organic v. conventionally grown food

It's true that organic food, grown or raised without pesticides and herbicides, could be better for your health and the ecosystem. But if it is shipped from thousands of miles away, there is an environmental tradeoff because of the pollution caused by trucks traveling cross-country.

Some experts say you might want to consider passing on organic produce, for example, if it has a thick skin, like bananas, or outer leaves, like corn. Or you could make a point of buying locally grown food.



Babies wear a variety of disposable diapers and cotton wraps.

## Cloth v. disposable diapers

Disposable diapers are convenient, but can be costly over time and raise health concerns over absorbent chemicals used to keep infants dry, such as sodium polyacrylate (SAP).

But cloth diaper services can be harmful to the environment because of chemicals used in laundering and carbon emissions released in pick-up and delivery. However, if laundering at home cloth diapers can be a cost-effective option.

Also efficient are all-in-one or "hybrid" diapers that usually consist of a washable cotton pant and a disposable diaper refill that can be flushed or used as wet compost. Organic disposable diapers offer an eco-friendly alternative to plastic, non-biodegradable ones left in landfills indefinitely.

Many parents use a combination of cloth and disposable diapers, depending on the circumstance and time of day.

Associated Press writer Tania Fuentez contributed to this report.

## Compact fluorescent light bulbs v. incandescent

CFLs last longer and use less energy, but also are more expensive and contain toxic mercury. That means consumers must be careful how they clean up the bulbs if they break and dispose of them properly.

But mercury also is a byproduct of burning coal. And the extra electricity needed to power incandescent bulbs often comes from coal-fired power plants. The toxin, which can cause neurological damage in children, can get into the food chain after settling into lakes and streams.

Eventually both CFLs and incandescent bulbs probably will be replaced by solid-state, or LED, lighting. But until then, environmental groups generally advocate consumers use CFLs, though people with children will want to take extra caution.

## Drive-thru v. getting out of the car

Idling a car engine for more than 10 seconds emits more pollution than turning it off and back on again. So if you're able, environmentalists recommend that you park your car and walk into the fast-food restaurant or the bank. Many cities recommend that drivers avoid idling as much as possible, especially on days when alerts are issued because of ground-level ozone and soot.

Or better yet, walk to the restaurant. If you can safely walk or bicycle, there is no environmental or health downside. And riding the bus or train helps take cars and trucks off the road, cutting down on tailpipe emissions, which account for a large percentage of air pollution in most urban areas.

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# Kids Only

## From 1 to 44 (and back), she knows her presidents

By Valerie Strauss  
The Washington Post

We told you recently about a teenager who wrote a song to help her remember the U.S. presidents. That's when we heard about 10-year-old Molly O'Hare.

Molly is a fourth-grader at St. James Catholic School in Falls Church, Va. One day last year, Molly decided she wanted to learn all the presidents. In order. Backward and forward.

And their vice presidents. And even their pets!

### MEMORY HELPER

The brilliant musician Ray Charles wrote a song called "Fifty Nifty United States" that can help you memorize the states in alphabetical order.

"I don't really know why I learned them. I just wanted to," she said. "I pulled out books and started memorizing them, just like you memorize anything else."

Ask Molly to name all the presidents, starting with George Washington, and she can get to No. 44, Barack Obama, almost without taking a breath.

"Want me to do it backwards?" she asked, and then went through the list from



WHITNEY SHEFTE/Washington Post

With 44 presidents to learn about, Molly O'Hare, a fourth-grader in Falls Church, Va., has turned up plenty of information. She can name all the presidents, in order, forward and backward. But she's interested in other things, too.

Obama back in time to Washington.

Here is part of a conversation, with KidsPost asking the questions and Molly answering them.

**Q:** Who was Number 37?  
**A:** Richard Nixon.  
**Q:** Number 18?  
**A:** Ulysses S. Grant.

**Q:** Who was his vice president?

**A:** He actually had two. Schuyler Colfax and Henry Wilson, but they both died while in office.

**Q:** What's the coolest thing you know about any president?

**A:** That Andrew Johnson —

he was the 17th president — acquired Alaska for \$7.2 million, he had pet mice and he was the first president to be impeached but not convicted.

(Impeachment is the bringing of charges of wrongdoing in the House of Representatives. The Senate

then tries the president; if found guilty, the president is removed from office. Johnson was not convicted at his trial in 1868. Nor was President Bill Clinton, who in 1998 became the second president to be impeached. In 1974, Richard Nixon became the only president to resign the

### PRESIDENTIAL PRODIGY

See Molly O'Hare, a fourth-grader at St. James Catholic School in Falls Church, Va., recite the presidents in order, forward, backward and in random order, at [www.washingtonpost.com/kidspost](http://www.washingtonpost.com/kidspost).

presidency because he didn't want to be impeached.)

Then KidsPost asked Molly to tell us something about Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president. (Teddy bears were named after him!)

And her answer was a big surprise:

"I am related to his vice president, Charles Fairbanks!" she said.

But, she said, that wasn't the coolest thing about Teddy Roosevelt.

"He had 42 pets, including a one-legged rooster!"

When Molly isn't talking about the presidents, she likes to read — the book she is reading now is "Puppy Care for Dummies" — and take care of her Louisiana Catahoula Leopard dog.

Molly said she likes school and is a good student. And this probably won't surprise you at all: "The teacher looks to me a lot in social studies," said the girl who knows all the presidents.

## What do colorblind people actually see?

By Valerie Strauss  
The Washington Post

For most of you, the world is a feast of color. When you open your eyes, you see a range of hues — hundreds of them.

But some people don't see colors that way. Something gets in the way of their ability to see some colors, and the world looks, well, less colorful.

Take Nathan Cornblatt. He's 12 and a seventh-grader at Georgetown Day School in Washington. Nathan has a hard time telling blue from purple, purple from pink, and dark green from dark red.

Though his friends say Nathan is "colorblind," the term for his condition is "color vision deficiency," meaning he lacks the ability to see some colors as they appear to most people.

Why does this happen? You see color because of specialized cells, or cones, in the part of your eye called the retina. These cells contain chemicals that respond to light that is

### COLOR BLINDNESS FACT

Dogs don't see colors very well, particularly reds and greens. For more information, visit [www.allaboutvision.com](http://www.allaboutvision.com), [www.preventblindness.org](http://www.preventblindness.org) and [www.ghr.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.ghr.nlm.nih.gov).

red, blue and green.

When cones are working properly, the colors blend together into a complete band of color. When the cones don't have the necessary light-sensitive chemicals, a person has difficulty seeing certain colors.

So if Nathan were to look at a yellow-and-green-striped shirt, both colors would appear pretty much the same to him. In fact, in fourth grade, he got in trouble at school once for drawing someone with green hair when it was supposed to be brown. The teacher thought he was being a troublemaker.

"I got sent to the principal," he said. "It was *not* good."

Not everybody with the condition has trouble with the same colors. In very rare cases, almost all that can be seen are neutral colors or

shades of gray.

Most people who have color vision deficiency are born with it, and most are boys. (About 8 percent of men are colorblind to some extent, but only one-half of 1 percent of women are.)

Nathan and others with difficulty seeing colors have ways around the problem.

Some people label their clothes and other possessions. And they learn other tricks to help them figure out a color. For example, if they are at a traffic light and the top light is on, they know that means stop, even if they can't see that it is red.

Meanwhile, Nathan said, he has avoided getting in trouble at school again because of mistaking one color for another. And, he said, when he has to draw, he always checks to see what color is written on the crayon wrapper!

## How people cleaned their teeth before toothbrushes

By Valerie Strauss  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — We bet that a lot of you think brushing your teeth is annoying. You might even try to skip it every now and then, when you think your parents won't catch you!

Well, imagine what your life would be like if you didn't have a modern toothbrush to clean your pearly whites.

You'd do what people did before the toothbrush was invented: Find another way.

Thousands of years ago, people wanted to keep their teeth and gums clean, their breath fresh and their teeth white, just like people do today. They found different tools with which to do it.

Before toothbrushes, people used rough cloth and water to clean their teeth. They would also rub things like salt and chalk across their teeth to try to get rid of the grime.

The ancient Egyptians made a kind of brush by splitting the end of a twig. And the ancient Chinese chewed on twigs with a special flavor to freshen their breath.

### TOOTH TIP

Dentists recommend that you get a new toothbrush every three to four months.

from pigs' necks. The bristles were attached to a handle made of bone or bamboo.

The first toothbrush that resembles the one you use today was made in England in the 1770s. A man named William Addis came up with the idea while he was in prison, put there for having started a riot. He didn't think the rag he was given was cleaning his teeth well enough, so he saved a small bone from a meal. He put tiny holes in it and used glue to attach pig bristles he had gotten from a prison guard.

The first patent for a toothbrush was awarded to an American named H.N. Wadsworth in 1857, but it wasn't until the invention

of nylon in the 1930s that toothbrushes came to look like the ones you use.

And it wasn't until after World War II that Americans started brushing their teeth regularly. U.S. soldiers brought the daily habit back home with them from abroad, and that helped make the practice popular.

Now go ahead and admit it: It would be pretty gross if you didn't have a toothbrush to clean your teeth, wouldn't it?

## About you and video games

The Washington Post

Preteen boys are far more likely than girls to say they have ever been addicted to video games, according to a Harris Interactive survey of 462 8- to 12-year-olds.

**BOYS**  
Not sure: 12 percent  
Yes: 33 percent



**NO:** 55 percent  
**GIRLS**  
Not sure: 9 percent  
Yes: 13 percent  
No: 78 percent

