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TUESDAY
May 5, 2009

TIMES-NEWS

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Madrid gets 5-10 years in Miller case

Charges came for burglarizing friend and murdered victim

By Andrea Jackson
Times-News writer

A murdered teen's father blamed his son's tearful friend, Rachel Madrid, on Monday for a killing that she was never officially accused of.

Authorities don't think Madrid killed Dale Miller in 2007 and stuffed his body into a barrel.

Prosecutors earlier this year put her boyfriend at the time, John McElhiney and his friend Cameron Watts, in prison for up to life for the murder.

But Miller's father, Monte, thinks Madrid did more than just burglarize his son's home — the allegation that sent Madrid on Monday to prison for five to 10 years.

"(Madrid) enticed my son into the circle of evil which eventually got him killed," said Miller's dad. "She is just

See **MADRID**, Main 2



MEAGAN THOMPSON/Times-News

Rachel Madrid listens as Dale Miller's father addresses her during Monday's sentencing hearing in Twin Falls 5th District Court for the burglary of Miller's possessions after he was murdered in September 2007. Madrid received five to 10 years in prison for the crime.



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WATCH: Videos of Rachel Madrid being sentenced Monday for burglary in Twin Falls 5th District Court.

House pours cold water on Otter's rosy predictions

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

BOISE — GOP House leaders fired back Monday at Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, downplaying his assurance that the economy's troubles are leveling off and Idahoans could sustain a gas tax increase, even if it came in two years.

Returning Monday to the Capitol Annex because their attempt to adjourn the session last week failed, House Republicans are maintaining their staunch opposition to raising the gas tax. And by the end of the day there was no progress in reaching an agreement with the Senate or Otter to end the longest-session ever, though some of Otter's once-strongest backers are no longer on board.

"April's numbers are not good news," said House GOP Caucus Chairman Ken Roberts, R-Donnelly. "We

didn't dodge anything. In fact we're still in the middle of the railroad tracks."

On Friday, Otter and his aides said April tax revenue didn't decline as much as expected and such figures make a gas tax increase palatable. Otter has revised his request several times to a two-year 6-cent increase beginning in 2011.

But House leaders disagree, arguing Otter and Senators supporting him are comparing April revenue to a worst-case scenario. They point to how April tax revenue was 8 percent, or \$31.5 million, lower than forecast, and how the current year's general fund forecast has dropped from \$3 billion in January 2008 to \$2.48 billion last month.

"We're not sure this recession has even bottomed out yet," said House Speaker

See **PREDICTIONS**, Main 2



Magicvalley.com

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

Cemetery controversy



Photos by ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

The Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office is investigating whether work to clean up the Artesian City Cemetery near Murtaugh, including removing trees from the site, illegally disturbed graves or damaged headstones.



Mychel Matthews stands in the Artesian City Cemetery near Murtaugh on Monday. A week ago workers uprooted trees and bulldozed weeds in the cemetery owned by the city of Murtaugh.

County investigates whether cemetery work desecrated graves

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

MURTAUGH — The Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office is investigating whether a farmer who cleared trees and other materials from an aging cemetery illegally desecrated the site.

Workers uprooted trees and bulldozed weeds about a week ago at the Artesian City Cemetery, roughly two miles south of Murtaugh Lake and owned by the city of Murtaugh. But local residents allege that in the process, the workers damaged grave-stones and possibly graves.

Those allegations just aren't true, said Murtaugh Mayor Dee Hunsaker, who asked farmer Darrell Funk

to clean up the site. The trees were removed, Hunsaker said, but no headstones disappeared due to Funk's work and no graves were disturbed.

Nevertheless, Sheriff Tom Carter has sent deputies and detectives to look into the matter. Sheriff's spokeswoman Lori Nebeker confirmed the investigation on Monday, the same day that detectives rooted through debris piles on the north side of the lake.

State code prohibits desecration of any grave, cemetery, headstone, grave marker or similar burial area, considering it a misdemeanor.

Twin Falls County commissioners said a number

See **CEMETERY**, Main 2

T.F. approves Western Days application

Mother's Day Latin Fiesta also given green light

Times-News

Organizers for the upcoming Western Days event in Twin Falls have 60 days to cut a check to the city for this year's security costs, following concerns recently that the longstand-

ing annual parade might stall for lack of funding.

The city council on Monday night decided to give the green light to an application for the three-day event slated for May 29-31. The 28th annual Western Days is expected to draw 30,000 to 40,000 people, according to the city.

Every year about 50 people volunteer to help with the parade event, but

city police still think it will cost \$5,460 this year for officer overtime, which has been included in the police budget.

Representatives from the Western Days Committee were advised in the fall of 2007 and again in January of 2008 they will be responsible for overtime costs associated with security,

See **APPLICATION**, Main 2



Times-News file photo

The Burley Pacific Ethanol plant is shown during its May 16, 2008, opening.

Pacific Ethanol files for permit to ship whole, ground corn

By Damon Hunzeker
Times-News writer

BURLEY — Applying for a new permit doesn't mean the plant is re-opening.

The Burley Pacific Ethanol plant, which hasn't operated for about five months, has applied for a new permit from the Department of Environmental Quality "to increase grain receiving, grinding and load-out and to add the capability to ship whole or ground corn from the facility."

While on the surface, an application to "increase" business would portend

good news for the semi-dormant plant, manager Ken Wilson said the truth is less interesting.

"It's not related to the operation of the plant at all," he said. "In general terms, it's allowing us to send out trucks with whole corn and to utilize the grain-holding side of our business."

When asked if the whole-corn operation is expected to change the status of the shutdown — 24 of 36 employees terminated at the beginning of the year — Wilson said, "There will be no impact on anything else. You can't read much in

See **ETHANOL**, Main 2



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You Don't Say

Steve Crump



Guitar hero: T.F.'s Doug Martsch rocks

SAY WHAT?

If it's quirky, sad or poignant and it happens in south-central Idaho, I want to hear about.

down and learned to play," Martsch told the Idaho Press-Tribune of Nampa ... "This was like my big chance to sit down and actually learn chords and to have the little bit of discipline it takes to learn to play?"

Nelson, who had learned to play the bass, and drummer Andy Capps still lived in Twin Falls, but they formed a long-distance band with Martsch, rehearsing on weekends ...

Built to Spill came along in 1993, after Martsch had already earned a reputation around the Pacific Northwest as a stellar guitarist ... The band's first album was recorded in Boise, and a contract with Warner Bros. followed in 1996 ...

"Around here, when you got a record, it was kind of a precious thing," said Martsch, who now lives in Boise's North End ... "If a show came to town, it was also a big event ... I think growing up in a city where there's a lot going on, you might not take the time to really immerse yourself totally into something enough to get a good grip of what's going on?!"

Built to Spill has never won broad mainstream success, but it's influenced hundreds of indie bands such as Death Cab for Cutie, Modest Mouse and Ben Folds Five ...

And folks still pack BTS concerts, just to hear Martsch play that guitar ...

Steve Crump is the Times-News Opinion editor.

Lots of testing, no swine flu in Blaine County

By Ariel Hansen Times-News writer

"The only test that has anything that's probable is in north Idaho."

South Central Public Health District epidemiology manager Cheryl Becker

HAILEY — Blaine County health officials have tested 11 individuals at the local hospital for H1N1 influenza, but have not seen any confirmed cases.

Idaho's first case of H1N1 influenza, also known as swine flu, was confirmed in a Kootenai County woman who apparently contracted the illness during a visit to Texas. However, rumors about the flu have been running through many Idaho communities, including one that a young girl in Blaine County has tested positive.

"That is indeed false," said Tonia Bruess, market-

ing and public relations coordinator for St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center. She said that last week, the hospital tested 11 inpatients at Wood River for H1N1, and each tested negative. Also last week, St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center in Twin Falls tested 79 individuals, both inpatient and outpatient, and all were negative for H1N1, she said.

The state lab for South Central Public Health District did approximately 100 tests last week, said

Cheryl Becker, epidemiology manager.

"The only test that has anything that's probable is in north Idaho," Becker said. "We've had lots go in, and it can change by the minute."

The Blaine County School District has ramped up elementary education about hygiene practices and is having custodians pay extra attention to commonly used items like door-knobs, computer keyboards and bathroom fixtures.

Kate Heinecke, adminis-

trative assistant for the district, said absences have not been up noticeably either because of illness or fears of illness. The school district does not have a specific plan in place in the event a case is diagnosed in a student. "We would follow whatever our South Central (Public) Health District tells us to, which could be closing the school," Heinecke said. The school district's Web site, blaineschools.org, has a link to information about swine flu and the school's practices on its home page.

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

Loughmiller, Stevens plead not guilty

By Ariel Hansen Times-News writer

HAILEY — A Twin Falls man facing a vehicular manslaughter charge and a woman accused of embezzling more than \$1,000 from the city of Bellevue entered not-guilty pleas in unrelated cases in Judge Robert Elgee's 5th District Court on Monday.

Cody Stevens, 29, is accused of vehicular manslaughter in the March 10 death of Bert Redfern near the Hailey airport. The death resulted from a crash that was allegedly the third of four Stevens was involved

in between 6 a.m. and 1 p.m. that day. While in police custody, he allegedly exhibited behavior consistent with prescription-drug intoxication that was severe enough to result in police calling emergency medical response. Stevens will face a jury trial of approximately seven days, which has yet to be scheduled.

Lacey Loughmiller, of Richfield, is accused of grand theft for allegedly embezzling more than \$1,000 from the city of Bellevue when she was sewer and water clerk in 2007. At the preliminary hearing, the prosecutor

showed numerous receipts for cash allegedly signed by Loughmiller and corresponding credit adjustments to those accounts that were not accompanied by explanations. Loughmiller was one of only three employees who could make those adjustments.

Also entered into evidence was a spreadsheet produced by a certified public accountant after the city clerk noticed "something odd" about the department's accounting. The spreadsheet allegedly shows that compared to less than \$1,000 in adjustments made in 2006, more

than \$10,000 in adjustments were made in 2007, many of which were without receipts and without explanation.

The defense argued that the prosecution hadn't shown the money was actually missing, or that Loughmiller was involved if it was. A jury will review the evidence in what is expected to be a five-day trial, which has not yet been scheduled.

In both cases, motions to disqualify Elgee without cause as the judge on the case were granted, and the cases will be presided over by Judge Barry Wood.

T.F. Co. awards contract for courthouse remodel

By Nate Poppino Times-News writer

Twin Falls County commissioners have largely cleared the way for a planned remodel of the county courthouse, awarding a contract for the work on Monday to Don Anderson Construction of Twin Falls.

The contractor will receive \$443,783 to cover two phases of the project, work on the third and then fourth floors of the building. Most of the area, including space formerly occupied by the county assessor, will be turned into offices, interview rooms and other areas for Prosecutor Grant Loebs.

The space being handed over includes the commissioners' current chambers, a decision that led Commission Chairman George Urie to vote against awarding the contract. Urie said he agreed with remod-

eling the empty space for Loebs, but that he doesn't see a need to move the commissioners down to new, temporary third-floor offices before a final move to the current St. Luke's Clinic Magic Valley just down Shoshone Street.

Commissioners Tom Mikesell, who proposed doing the full fourth floor, and Terry Kramer both voted to approve the contract after architect Russ Lively assured Kramer that the contractor could be dropped if the work on the historic building isn't up to par. Lively, hired by the commissioners, will act as contract administrator for the project and said he received the county's building permit from the city of Twin Falls just that morning.

Lively now has to write the contract, after which he said the contractor will have 10 days to secure bonding for

the project and then has 90 days for each floor.

The areas the commissioners will temporarily inhabit will one day become victims' and witnesses' rooms, Loebs said, providing prosecutors and law enforcement with a comfortable place to interview people who've suffered, for example, domestic violence. Among other changes, the remodel will remove false ceilings and install modern, full-sized windows on both floors, he said.

Mikesell said the entire project ended up costing a little more than expected, but that items like the windows weren't initially included and that the work will be worth it.

"This building has been neglected for many, many years," he said.

Also Monday, commis-

sioners heard a quarterly budget update from the county treasurer and said afterwards that they don't expect to face the severe financial problems some of their neighbors are dealing with. Jerome County is working to avoid a 10-percent budget hole at the end of its fiscal year, and Gooding County plans to try out four-day work weeks for three months.

Kramer and Urie said the only collections in trouble are building and zoning income, and that the Planning and Zoning Department has taken steps to lower its costs. Extra income from the federal government to compensate for untaxable federal lands has helped a great deal, Kramer said, and the drop in fuel prices has rescued the sheriff's budget.

AROUND THE VALLEY

Computer snafu tangles Quest card funds

Idaho food-stamp recipients gained access to their funds after computer trouble kept their cards from getting filled this weekend.

Tom Shanahan, spokesman for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, said about 40,000 Quest cards were supposed to be loaded over the weekend, starting early Saturday. But for some reason, the computers at Health and Welfare and the vendor the state works with didn't communicate, blocking the transfers.

The department learned about the problem Monday morning when it was inundated by phone calls, and restored connectivity by about 10 a.m., Shanahan said. Officials are still determining what caused the problem. "We apologize for any inconvenience," he said.

New board opening for T.F. Library

The Twin Falls Public Library Board of Trustees is seeking nominees to fill the seat vacated by the resigna-

tion of board member Mark Wasden. The City Council will appoint a new trustee to complete this term of office through Dec. 31, 2011.

The purpose of the five-member board is to establish and review policies and rules of use for the governance of the library. Interested candidates must reside within the Twin Falls city limits. Formal letters of application can be delivered to the library at 201 Fourth Ave. E. through May 12.

Information: Library Director Susan Ash, 733-2964, ext. 118.

ITD will bid T.F. Alt. Route project soon

BOISE — The Idaho Transportation Department announced Monday it will soon advertise for bid highway stimulus projects, including the \$41 million Twin Falls Alternate Route, the five-mile bypass from Grandview Drive to the U.S. Highway 93/30 interchange that includes a bridge over Rock Creek Canyon.

The eight statewide highway projects funded by stimulus dollars will go to bid in May and June. —staff reports

5TH DISTRICT COURT NEWS

TWIN FALLS COUNTY Monday arraignments

Alice Hudelson, 52, Twin Falls; petit theft; May 26 pretrial; \$500 bond; public defender appointed; not guilty plea Aaron T. Wilcken, 19, Hansen; domestic battery; May 26 pre-trial; \$500 bond; public defender appointed

Carlos Rene Cantu, 17, Twin Falls; DUI, driving without privileges; \$300 bond; May 26 pre-trial; public defender appointed

Felipe Ortiz-Huerta, 29, Twin Falls; domestic battery, violation no contact order; May 26 pretrial; \$1,000 bond; not guilty plea

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Search continues for missing Boise man

BOISE (AP) — The family of a Boise man missing since early April says they are perplexed at his disappearance.

Peter O'Brien, 44, left his wallet, keys and cell phone at his apartment before disappearing. He was reported missing April 4 by his ex-wife, Suzanne Oppenheimer.

"It's a mystery," his brother, Michael O'Brien, told The Idaho Statesman. "There are all sorts of theories, some of which would give hopes to the family, and some are worst-case scenarios, but the

pieces don't fit."

Lynn Hightower, spokeswoman for the Boise Police Department, said the case is inconclusive so far.

"The detectives do have some direction they are going with," she said. "It wasn't leading toward foul play or suicide. He is an adult, and if he is not doing something otherwise criminal, he has a right to be where he wants to be and do what he wants to do."

Peter O'Brien was recently divorced and moved to Boise

"He is an adult, and if he is not doing something otherwise criminal, he has a right to be where he wants to be and do what he wants to do."

— Lynn Hightower, spokeswoman for the Boise Police Department

about seven weeks ago to be near his young sons.

"He absolutely adored them," Michael O'Brien said. "His sole reason for moving to Boise was so he could spend more time with his boys."

He said nothing seemed amiss in a conversation he had with Peter a week before Peter disappeared. Peter had just accepted a work assignment

from longtime friend Martin Lopez, a sound designer in Los Angeles.

Lopez said Peter O'Brien might have had some kind of money trouble.

"If he disappeared of his own will, which is what I tend to believe, I think stresses became unbearable — financial stresses and emotional stresses with Suzanne and

just being a dad and managing two rambunctious boys," Lopez said.

Lopez said he was told Peter O'Brien took some money from bank accounts before disappearing, and that his passports are gone.

Peter O'Brien is originally from New Zealand and as a child lived in New York. He and Oppenheimer were mar-

ried about 10 years ago in Queensland, Australia.

Peter lived in Los Angeles and worked in the film and video industry. His divorce was finalized in March.

"Something pushed it over the top," said Lopez. "It's not clear to me what it is."

Carol Cumming of Melbourne Australia is another friend. She said she can't imagine Peter walking away from his family.

"It's just a genuine mystery because none of the pieces fit," she said.

5 Utah lakes on watch list for invasive mussels

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Five Utah lakes and reservoirs are on a watch list for invasive quagga and zebra mussels.

Test results for mussels have been inconclusive at Lake Powell, Huntington North Reservoir, Joes Valley Reservoir, Midview Reservoir and Pelican Lake.

The state's Electric Lake and Red Fleet Reservoir already have been found to harbor mussels, which reproduce and spread rapidly, threatening food sources for fish and clogging machinery and water pipes.

Recently at Flaming Gorge Reservoir a mechanic found a live zebra mussel on a boat, said Aquatic Invasive Species coordinator Larry Dalton. The boat was decontaminated with a power washer using 180-degree water and the boat owner agreed not to enter the water for five days.

"These threats are a huge scare to us," Dalton said. "It appears the outreach and interdictions we are doing is working. This boat owner did everything right."

There's no reason a boater should accidentally introduce the mussels into Utah, said Mike Murphy, a service manager at Petersen Marine in Sandy. He acknowledges, though, that some boaters may not take the threat seriously.

"I'm not sure what else the state can do to stop them from spreading," Murphy said. "There are pamphlets everywhere there are boats and there are forms you have to fill out before you launch a boat."

Once the mussels get established they're nearly impossible to eradicate. They can require costly work to constantly clear them from pipes in dams, power plants and irrigation canals.

As the weather warms, Dalton said boaters should remember that state law requires them to fill out a decontamination form before launching at a Utah reservoir.

"The strongest message we have is to get folks to clean their boat off every time they use it," Dalton said. "Wipe it down and get mud and plants off the boat. Drain all the water and let the boat dry. That is what really kills the mussels."

It can take a week in the summer, and more than twice as long in the spring and fall, for mussels to die on a dried boat, according to biologists. Those who use their boats more frequently should decontaminate it with 140-degree water.

Wolf blamed for livestock attack in Ore. radio-collared

By Jeff Barnard
Associated Press writer

GRANTS PASS, Ore. — A young wolf blamed for the first documented attack on livestock since the predators started moving back into Eastern Oregon has been trapped and released with a radio collar, so that wildlife officials can keep track of it.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife trapped the wolf Sunday in the Keating Valley area of Baker County, a few miles from a ranch where a motion-detector camera captured a photo of two wolves with dead lambs at their feet last month. When biologists drove up to the trapped wolf, a second smaller wolf ran off.

Department spokeswoman Michelle Dennehy said Monday in these early stages of wolves moving back into Oregon, the department will not be killing those that attack livestock, though that option remains if attacks persist.

Besides allowing biologists to warn ranchers when the wolf gets near livestock, the radio collar will trigger special alarms that can be set up around herds to scare off the wolf, she said. Though two other wolves with radio collars have crossed into Oregon from Idaho, this is the first time a wolf has been trapped in Oregon and fitted with the tracking device.

Bill Moore, president of the Oregon Cattlemen's



AP photo

In this photo provided by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Russ Morgan, ODFW wolf coordinator, is seen with a wolf as it recovers from anesthesia used during a radio-collaring effort Sunday. A joint effort by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife specialists resulted in the capture, radio-collaring, and release of a male wolf. The event marks the first radio-collaring of a wolf in Oregon.

Association, said he hoped Oregon would amend its wolf management plan to be like Idaho's, which allows ranchers to shoot wolves they see harassing their livestock once endangered species protections are lifted.

Dennehy says biologists trapped the wolf in a special leg-hold trap with padded jaws designed to let it be released unharmed. After sedating the wolf with a syringe on the end of a long pole, biologists took blood and other samples, put on

ear tags and the radio collar, then released the wolf, which ran away in the direction of the other one.

The wolf was a healthy male, weighed 87 pounds, and was estimated to be about two years old, which correlates with the smaller than normal tracks found around a dead calf and two dozen lambs killed a few miles away in April, the department said.

Biologists will do a DNA analysis on the blood sample to see where the wolf came from, Dennehy said.

Wolves started moving into Oregon in 1999 from Idaho, where they were reintroduced as part of a federal program. Declaring the reintroduction of wolves a success, the federal government on Monday lifted the endangered species listing for wolves in parts of the Northern Rockies, the Great Lakes region, and the far eastern third of Oregon.

The action has little practical effect on Oregon, where state endangered species protection remains in force.

Probationers try a new recipe for success

By Molly Hennessy-Fiske
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — In the gleaming industrial kitchen at Camp Gonzalez in Calabasas, northwest of L.A., youths on probation learn culinary arts supervised by guards. They chop and slice with knives attached to wires and locked to the counter.

Before taking the class, most of these teenage cooks — who spend their days behind a concrete wall topped with barbed wire — could not tell a ladle from a serving spoon. Few of them had ever tasted eggplant, asparagus or artichoke hearts.

Now, they are accustomed to their teacher comparing whisks and spatulas to tools.

"I tell them it's like construction: If your foreman tells you to bring a hammer, you're not going to bring him a screwdriver," said Alexis Higgins, a chef from Los Angeles Mission College who has taught about 50 probationers at the camp each of the last five years.

The key to getting teenage boys from some of the toughest areas of Los Angeles



SPENCER WEINER/Los Angeles Times

As students prepare food, a former participant, right, who now studies at Le Cordon Bleu in Pasadena, Calif., gets a hug from Alexis Higgins, who teaches the class.

County excited about haute cuisine, she said, is to divide them into small, task-oriented groups and break down recipes into steps.

Their skills were put to the test last week when about a dozen of Higgins' best-behaved students prepared a meal of bacon-wrapped dates, chili-glazed beef sate and goat cheese-stuffed mushrooms, chocolate mousse and more for some Los Angeles County supervisors and other county officials. The ingredients were donated for the annual children's commission event.

Superior Court Judge Michael Nash, presiding judge of Los Angeles County Juvenile Court, permitted the youths, whose names and criminal histories are confidential because of their ages, to speak about their cooking classes on the condition that their last names not be used.

Michael, a tall, serious 15-year-old from Palmdale in the southern Mojave Desert north of Los Angeles, sliced dates in half in the camp's kitchen and stuffed them with blue cheese. He wondered if they could be eaten

raw but did not try. As he worked, he told stories about the strange ingredients he had discovered during class, including little precooked fishes that could be eaten whole — anchovies.

When Michael started culinary class months ago, he thought cooking would be easy and he made a lot of big mistakes. He once burned the lunchtime rice that usually feeds 60. Probationers teased him, saying that cooking was for girls.

"Sometimes you get frustrated, but you have to not give up," Michael said, adding that he hopes to find work as a cook after he is released.

Nearby, 17-year-old Day-on was chopping radishes, nervous about how the meal would be received by county officials.

"I'm not sure what their impression will be," the South Los Angeles youth said. "I hope they enjoy it because we worked hard."



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Idaho Senate amends state's election reform plan

BOISE (AP) — The Idaho Senate amended an election reform bill, to allow taxing districts to quickly repeat an election after voters defeat a previous bond issue or property tax levy proposal.

Senators Monday approved reducing the time a taxing district must wait before holding a subsequent election to just two months, down from six months now.

The bill has passed the House and now awaits a vote of the full Senate.

Senators opted not to move an August election date for schools to September, which the Idaho School Boards Association has been pushing on grounds the later date was better for bond measures.

Karen Echeverria, the group's director, said Monday she'll work next year on pushing the August date back a month.

If the bill becomes law, the Legislature would provide \$4.1 million annually to cover counties' costs for running elections after 2011, as well as about \$1.5 million to buy new election equipment.

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Energy to get things done

GHS teacher Miller shares passion for health, education

By Mary Hanson
Times-News correspondent

GOODING — Gooding High School Health teacher Dene Miller has energy. Lots of it.

So much so that she said she graduated high school as a 15-year-old in San Diego and attended a junior college until she was old enough to be accepted in to Los Angeles County Hospital's nursing program. She was still a student in Los Angeles when the Vietnam War ended and said she was working in pediatrics when babies from Saigon arrived from the much-publicized orphanage flights.

MAGIC VALLEY PEOPLE

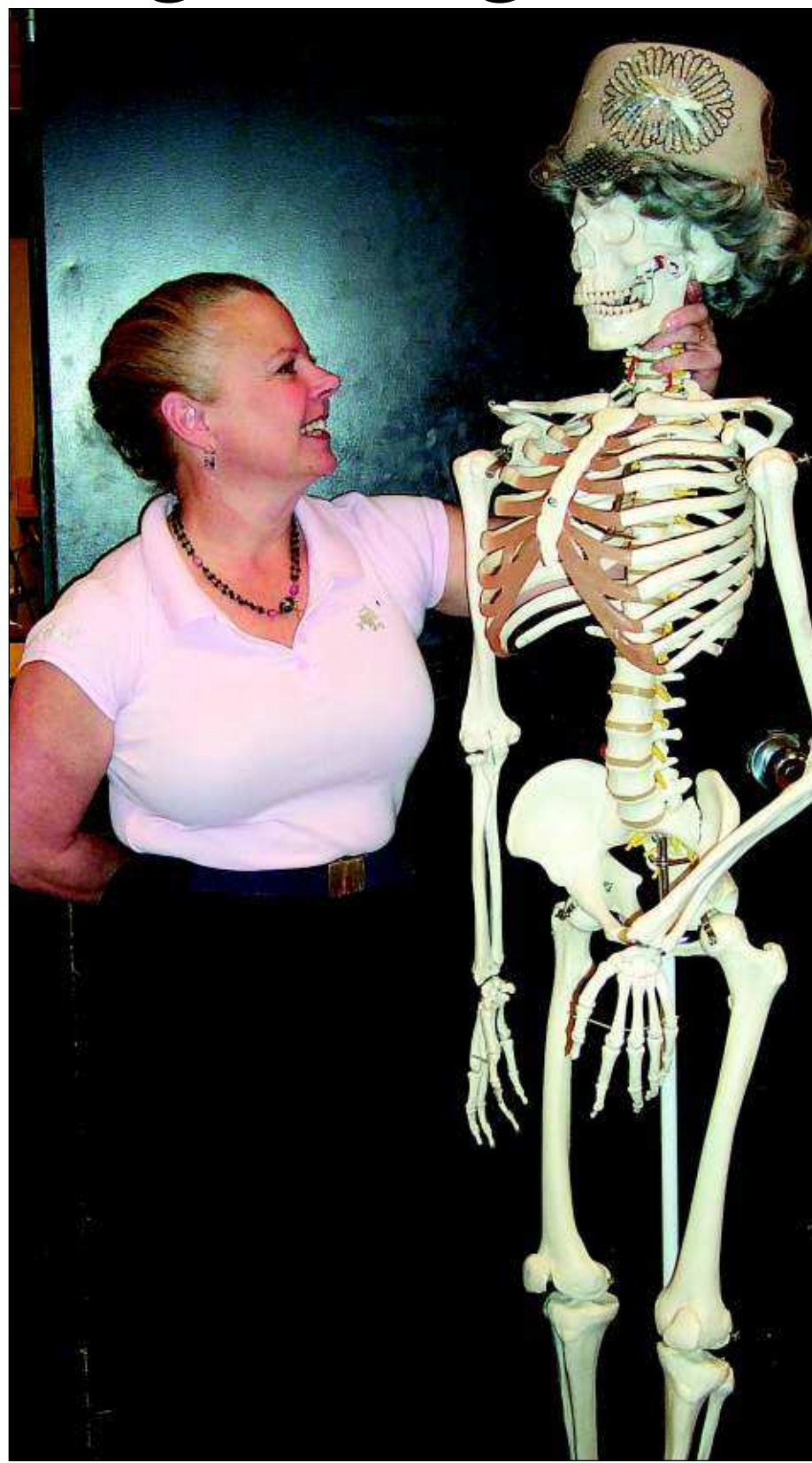
Her life took a dramatic shift to Idaho after she married her husband, Fred Miller, moved with him to Boise and joined the Idaho National Guard to help pay for her education.

At the time, Miller says, she was the first nurse in the Idaho National Guard, something that's changed since she performed various medical duties during her 20-year guard career.

"I miss those guys so much," Miller said. "During that time I was on a shooting team and still love to hunt and shoot targets."

It was a busy time for Miller, who also pursued a master's degree and saw the birth of two children, Jennifer and Fred Jr.

But as her children grew and she had more free time, Miller found within herself a need to continue to help young people grow. So she changed her career by acquiring her



Gooding High School teacher Dene Miller poses with Sam, the school's health classroom skeleton.

teaching certificate.

Today, she teaches health at Gooding High School, works at Associates in Family Practice in Gooding and helps teach classes for Gooding County Emergency Services. She also continues to further her education by traveling to

Boise for classes. Among Miller's contributions at Gooding High is a program that allows students, through her health classes, to study for certification as certified nursing assistants.

She has a master's in professional technical education and is pursuing a doc-

torate, researching causes of high turnover among emergency medical technicians.

It's a busy life, befitting someone with Miller's near-inexhaustible energy.

Mary Hanson may be reached at mhansonmbd@aol.com.

Much ado about swine flu

By Mary Hanson
Times-News correspondent

GOODING — With Idaho's first confirmed case of H1N1 flu, or swine flu, popping up in northern Idaho, south-central Idaho's health officials are doing all they can to keep it from surfacing here.

South Central Health District Epidemiologist Cheryl Becker said the local health community had no reason to test for swine flu until two weeks ago, but has since been testing patients with flu-like symptoms.

"Most doctors will be on the lookout for swine flu and more testing will be done now," Becker said on April 27.

Becker said people should remember to wash hands often with soap and water, cough into their sleeves and stay home if sick. She also encouraged anyone who has travelled to areas where the flu has been more prevalent, such as Texas or Mexico, to see a doctor if they contract flu-like symptoms.

Becker said that flu viruses can be spread by droplets dispersed by a sneeze or cough.

"If you know this you can stay away from situations where people are close and are sneezing and coughing," she said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed swine flu infection in a Kootenai County woman on Thursday, according to a Sunday Idaho Department of Health and Welfare release. The woman, in her 60s, became "moderately ill" after recently travelling to Texas, but was not hospitalized and is currently recovering.

Despite the confirmation, health officials say people don't need to change their daily routines.

The Idaho bureau of Labs has tested samples from 82 people for swine flu infection. As of Sunday, 227 people across 31 U.S. states have confirmed cases of swine flu, according to the Health and Welfare release.

Judy Stockham, registered nurse with Gooding County Memorial Hospital, also emphasized the importance of hand washing in the prevention of passing on infection.

Arkoosh, Erkins to attend Boys State

Cole C. Erkins of Bliss and Timothy M. Arkoosh of Gooding have been selected by the local American Legion Post No. 30 of Gooding to attend Boys State.



Arkoosh

Erkins

The program provides an opportunity for boys who have completed their junior year of high school to learn more about government procedures in the city, county and state levels.

Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, chorus and recreational programs. Expenses associated with attending this program are paid through donations from area businesses.

COMMUNITY NEWS

CSI Cinco de Mayo celebration today

Students in the College of Southern Idaho's Alpha and Omega Club invite the public to commemorate Cinco de Mayo at noon today in the Bob McManaman Rose Garden located just north of the CSI tower.

Club Advisor Raquel Arenz said CSI History professor Russ Tremayne will give a short presentation on the history and significance of Cinco de Mayo in Latin culture, followed by live music and folkloric dancing. The club will sell freshly made Navajo tacos and drink lunches for \$3 each.

CSI plant sale begins today

Students in the College of Southern Idaho's Horticulture Club will hold

their annual plant sale today, Friday and Saturday.

The club will sell house plants, strawberry baskets, hanging flower baskets, four-inch geraniums, mint pots, three-sister pots, herb and vegetable pots, tomatoes, peppers, squash, four-pack herbs and four-inch annual flower pots. All proceeds will be used to support Horticulture Club activities.

In addition to the plants, the club will also sell its Eagle Guano lawn and garden fertilizer that is formulated for local soil and climate. It is applied only twice a year compared with the recommendations of most commercially available fertilizers.

Customers are encouraged to register for the Preferred Customer sale today by submitting a \$10 deposit that allows early shopping. The \$10 will be

applied to whatever the customer buys but is non-refundable.

The regular sale hours will be 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the CSI Greenhouse, behind the CSI maintenance building on the east side of the campus.

Information: Camille Bradley, 201-0776 or cambradley0202@students.csi.edu.

ISDB flight rally rescheduled

The Young Eagles flight rally originally scheduled for April 29 will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday at the Gooding Municipal Airport.

Members of the Experimental Aircraft Association will provide plane rides for Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind students and ISDB inter-

preters will be on planes with students.

"The EAA has provided plane rides for 1.2 million kids through the Young Eagles program over the years," Dale Cresap, project coordinator, said.

Information: Shelley Comstock, 934-4457.

Gooding irrigation meeting scheduled

City of Gooding officials will hold a meeting concerning status and options for the city irrigation system from 7 to 9 p.m. May 13 in the Walker Center auditorium.

The city will address questions about the system and contracted engineers Kelly and Associates will present information on a study submitted to the city council last month. A volunteer committee will also be

assembled to make final recommendations to the city.

Early childhood testing in Hagerman

An Early Childhood Testing event will be held Thursday at the American Legion Hall in Hagerman. The free screening is available to children age 3-5.

Speech and language and developmental screenings will be conducted. Children may qualify for special help to prepare them for kindergarten or preschool.

For information or an appointment: Wanda, Hagerman School District, 837-4572.

Memorial Day service planned

Local American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts of Gooding will hold a

Memorial Day service from 11:30 a.m. to noon May 25 at the Gooding Elmwood Cemetery.

Guest speaker will be Morris Bentley, American Legion national executive committeeman for Idaho. Musical selections will be under the direction of Russ Gerhardt, Gooding High School band/choir director.

Those attending are asked to bring their own seating. Information: Donald K. Larson, 934-4887.

Gooding holds town hall meeting

A town hall meeting for Gooding will be held at the Gooding County Fairgrounds Extension Building from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Citizens of Gooding and See **COMMUNITY**, Main 6

Empty Nose Syndrome caused by nasal surgery

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have had several nasal surgeries, including a rib-cartilage graft to my nose, septoplasty and turbinectomy for a deviated septum. I also had to have a silastic nasal button put in place because of a nasal perforation. As a result of this, when I blow my nose (which always feels clogged and dry), nothing



ASK DR. GOTT
Dr. Peter Gott

comes out.

I am a medical transcriptionist and came across the

term Empty Nose Syndrome, and I was wondering what you could tell me about it. My doctor says I can't expect anything more than I have now because of the several surgeries and scar tissue, but I am hoping that you may be able to help me get relief or point me in the right direction.

DEAR READER: Empty

Nose Syndrome is a term used to describe an iatrogenic (caused by a physician, surgeon or treatment) condition in which the inferior or middle turbinates (structures that control the flow of air) of the nose were over-resected during surgery. This leads to an excessively wide nasal cavity. Symptoms include

chronic dryness of the nose, pharynx and associated mucous membranes, breathing difficulties and more. Most sufferers complain of being "stuffy" or "congested" despite a lack of mucus or complain that their sinuses feel "too open" and they can't get enough air into their lungs.

Because this situation is

caused by a doctor, it should be addressed. There are certain conditions, such as cancerous tumors of the nasal cavity, that may necessitate removing as much of the turbinate as possible to treat all signs of the cancer.

I urge you to return to

See **DR. GOTT**, Main 6

Ann McCleary DeWitt

BOISE — Ann McCleary DeWitt went to heaven on Sunday, May 3, 2009, surrounded by her loving family at her home following a courageous battle with breast cancer. During her two-and-a-half years of cancer treatments, Ann served as an inspiration to her fellow patients and always presented herself with grace, beauty and a positive spirit.

Ann was born March 9, 1967, in Missoula, Mont., to Charles and Patricia Bennett, joining her sister, Mary Pat. Ann attended Pierce Elementary and Timberline High School in Pierce. Ann was student body president and graduated as class valedictorian in 1985. Besides excelling in academics, she was an excellent athlete. Ann attended the University of Idaho, where she graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of science in accounting in 1990. She was a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority, where she made many lifelong friends. Philanthropy was always important to Ann, even as a young adult. During her college career, she chaired the annual U of I Red Cross blood drive. Throughout her life, she continued to generously give to the community around her.

Upon graduating, she went to work for Deloitte Touche as a CPA in the Boise office. Soon thereafter, she and Jane Cliff built the Ethan Allen Home Interiors in Boise, where Ann served as president and co-owner until her death. Ann was also an active member of the Boise community. She was a member of the Junior League for 10 years, where she served as treasurer. She also served as a member of the Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce. Ann served on the Children's Home Society Board as treasurer from 2000 to 2006.

In 1993, Ann married Paul David DeWitt at the Cathedral of the Rockies. They were blessed with two children, Paul Michael (12) and Elizabeth "Lizzy" (10). Her children were her pride and joy. Ann enjoyed attending her children's various activities, including ski races, soccer games, baseball games, football games and dance and piano recitals. She was a dedicated parent volunteer at Riverside Elementary as well as a volunteer soccer coach for her daughter in her younger



years. Even while very ill, Ann enjoyed attending all her kid's activities, including her visits to Simplot fields.

A lifelong athlete, Ann played competitive tennis and qualified with her team to play in nationals in California in 2003. An avid runner, Ann ran Robie Creek twice and achieved her goal of running a marathon before she turned 40. In October 2006, just six days following her diagnosis of breast cancer, Ann completed the Nike Women's Marathon in San Francisco, Calif., in under four hours surrounded by cheering friends. She also enjoyed golf, was an excellent skier and an accomplished pianist.

Ann lived her life to the fullest as if she knew it would be short. Ann's passion for life was unmistakable as evidenced by her unending energy, enthusiasm and joy in all she did and all she shared with family and friends. Her beautiful spirit will be remembered and terribly missed by all those who lives were touched by her.

Ann is survived by her husband, Paul; her two children, Paul Michael and Lizzy; her parents, Charlie and Pat; her sister, Mary Pat Thompson (Roger); niece, Ali; and nephew, Derek Thompson; with father-in-law, Paul and Marilyn DeWitt; sister-in-law, Karen DuBois (Mark); nephews, Zachary and Matthew; brother-in-law, Wayne DeWitt (Brenda); niece, Brittney; and nephew, Joshua; and numerous aunts and uncles.

A celebration of Ann's life will be held at 4 p.m. Friday, May 8, at the Cathedral of the Rockies on 11th and Hays in Boise. A reception will follow. A graveside burial will be at Dry Creek Cemetery, 9600 Hill Road in Boise on Saturday, May 9, with the time to be announced at the memorial.

Ann's greatest love was children and, in lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Children's Home Society of Idaho, 740 Warm Springs Ave., Boise, ID 83712, or a donation may be made to the Ann McCleary DeWitt Memorial Scholarship Fund to benefit the University of Idaho Department of Accounting, attention Gift Administration, P.O. Box 443147, Moscow, ID, 83844-3147.

Louise Wright Adamson

Louise Wright Adamson, our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, age 85, of Twin Falls, passed away peacefully at her home in the early afternoon hours Sunday, May 3, 2009. She was the wife of Warren M. Adamson, who preceded her in death on Dec. 18, 1986.

Louise was born July 29, 1923, in Blackfoot. She was the seventh of eight children born to James Henry and Edith Almira (Apgood) Wright. She graduated from Buhl High School in 1940 as salutatorian of her graduating class. Louise was a child of the Great Depression and, as such, attempted to live her life free from debt and always striving to have a little "nest egg" that she and her family could fall back on. Her children are grateful that, due to her infirmities, she was never fully aware of the current economic crisis that has its depression-type grip on the country that she loved so very much.

Louise was known as an extremely hard worker and made every effort to assure that her four children had an excellent understanding of the American work ethic. Her four sons, James, Jerel, Dannis and Jon, were all col-



lege graduates of which she was very proud. Louise had a beautiful voice and she loved to sing. She would make delightful comments regarding the years that she spent with the "Singing Mothers" choral group of the Twin Falls LDS 4th Ward. She loved quality piano performances.

During the first 20 years of her 44 years of marriage, Louise was a stay-at-home mother for her four sons. However, in 1963, she started a daycare nursery program in her home so that other mothers would have a reliable place for their children to be cared for. Two years later, Louise became the office manager for Dr. Willard Clark's family physician practice, where she stayed for approximately 20 years. Due to her strong personality and work habits, it is unclear whether Dr. Clark worked for her or that she worked for him. She loved working with Dr. Clark

P.C. Moreno, 85, of Twin Falls, passed away Saturday, May 2, 2009, at Bridgeview Estates.

P.C. was born Aug. 21, 1923, in Austin, Texas, the son of Daniel and Rita (Corona) Moreno. He attended schools in Texas and graduated from Laneer High School in San Antonio, Texas. After graduation, he joined the U.S. Navy, serving in the Pacific during World War II aboard the USS Crane. On Jan. 12, 1946, in San Antonio, Texas, he married Celia Gonzales. They moved to the Magic Valley area in 1965, where P.C. worked for J.H. Henry's in Kimberly for many years, then went on to work for the Twin Falls School District until his retirement in 2001. P.C. enjoyed fishing and camping and was an avid golfer. He also played basketball while in the U.S. Air Force. P.C. loved spending time with his family and friends and will be greatly missed.

P.C. is survived by one



son, Johnny C. (Alma) Moreno of Twin Falls; one daughter, Annie (Dan) Baum of Twin Falls; one brother, Daniel Moreno of Twin Falls; one sister, Mary Flores of San Antonio, Texas; four grandchildren, Lori Neaderhiser, Johnny Moreno Jr., Ron Martinez and Sylvia Mason; 11 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. P.C. is preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Celia; two brothers; one sister; and one great-granddaughter.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 6, at White Mortuary "Chapel by the Park." Please join the family in celebrating P.C.'s life by signing the online guestbook at www.MeM.com.

Patricia A. Pietz

CRESCENT CITY, Calif. — Patricia A. Pietz, 67, of Crescent City, Calif., and formerly of Twin Falls, passed away Sunday, April 26, 2009, at her home.

She was born April 15, 1942, in Detroit, Mich., to Anthony and Alma Barbera. Her hobbies were painting, dancing and spending time with friends and family. She was a wonderful friend and awesome mother. She led a full and happy life.

She is survived by her



daughters, Lori (Paul) Wilson of Twin Falls, and Maryanne (Mike) McIntyre of Connecticut; sons, Phillip Warren of Twin Falls and Jason (Bev) Warren of Boise; 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Stephen Warren; and a great-granddaughter, Alisabeth Rockwell.

At her request, no service will be held.

Lura Irene Lewis Wiltsie

Lura Irene Lewis Wiltsie, 91, of Twin Falls, passed away Friday, May 1, 2009, at her daughter's home with her daughter and son-in-law by her side.

Lura was born April 22, 1918, in Ellsworth, N.Y., to Edwin Burdette and Lillian Jessie (Palmer) Lewis. She met and married Kenneth Alvin Wiltsie on April 25, 1935.

She is survived by her children, John A. Wiltsie, Dorisann Wiltsie, Miriam (Jim) McColloch, Maryalice O'Neil, Karen (John) Kent, Beverly (Joseph) Harper, Elaine (Don) McArthur, Virginia Johnson and Nancy Wiltsie; and daughter in-



law, Penny Wiltsie. She is also survived by 35 grandchildren, 55 great-grandchildren, 15 great-great-grandchildren; and one brother, Roger (Millie) Lewis. Lura is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Kenneth Alvin Wiltsie; sons, Wayne A. Wiltsie, Roland A. Wiltsie and David K. Wiltsie; one daughter, Lillian Arlene Wallace; one granddaughter; one great-granddaughter; two sons-in-law, two brothers; and one sister.

Arrangements are under the direction of White Mortuary "Chapel by the Park" in Twin Falls.

Adamson; and her loving husband, Warren, preceded her in death.

Louise's overriding desire was that she spend the last years of her life at home. She detested the idea of being placed in any type of institution near the end of life. Her desire was met but not without the loving assistance of many wonderful people that helped her to remain in her home. The family would like to thank the dedicated service of the Aspen Grove Home Health and Hospice for the service and care they rendered to Louise during the last years of her life. Also helping Louise to remain at home were the tireless efforts of her personal care-givers that provided invaluable loving care to Louise. The list is long but the following cannot be ignored. Lorina, Susan, Gloria, Martha, Tatiana, Claire, Sara and Julie spent countless hours assisting Louise. Thank you to all of you for the love and tender care.

The family will receive friends and relatives and pay their last respects to Louise between the hours of 6:30 and 8 p.m. Thursday, May 7, at White Mortuary, 136 Fourth Ave E. in Twin Falls.

Garth Richard Meiser

POCATELLO — Garth Richard Meiser, 67, of Pocatello; our beloved husband, father and grandfather; left us Wednesday, April 29, 2009, for a better place.

He was born Sept. 23, 1941, in Jerome, to Kenneth D. Sr. and Dorothy May Meiser. He attended school at Washington Elementary and high school in Twin Falls. He spent many summers as a child and a young man working with his grandfather on his farm. Garth joined the Air Force in 1958 and was stationed in San Antonio, Texas, Germany and Mississippi, where he was in the military police, a drill sergeant and photographer. After serving 12 years of active duty, he moved to Omaha, Neb., where he worked as a road patrol deputy in the sheriff's department for Douglas County. During this time, he was also police escort and a detective in criminalistics.

One evening in April 1977 during a motorist assist, he met the soon-to-be-love of his life, Kay Bradbury, and they were joined in marriage in July 1977. While in Omaha, he also enlisted in the Air Force Reserve and worked in the medical field. In 1984 on a visit to see his grandfather, William Meiser, in Halfway, Ore., he decided to leave Omaha and move closer to Idaho, at which time they settled in Salt Lake City. In Salt Lake City, Garth started work with the sheriff's department as a jail officer for Salt Lake County. After leaving that position, he was a detective for the South Salt Lake Police Department. He also was a member of the Utah National Guard.

On Valentine's Day of 1990, they were introduced to their soon-to-be-adopted daughter, Heather Marie. Kay was transferred to Pocatello with her job at Union Pacific Railroad and brought Heather Marie with her. Garth followed in 1992. At first, it was hard to find a job in law enforcement, so Garth worked as a car salesman for Glen's



Chevrolet until 1993 when the Pocatello Women's Correctional Center opened. Garth was one of the first employees hired for the new facility.

While at the PWCC, he started out as a correctional officer and then became a lieutenant, retiring from that position in 2003. He also retired from the military in 2003.

Garth had some firsts in his life. He had the distinction of being the only baby born in the Jerome fire house. While he was stationed in Biloxi, Miss., he was the first photographer to take pictures of the destruction from hurricane Camille. Not only did he have a love for the military, airplanes, weapons, traveling, hunting and fishing, he loved camping with Kay and his beloved grandsons. Garth was past president of SASS (Single Action shooters Society), which he thoroughly enjoyed and was able to attend several shootouts before his illness.

Garth is survived by his wife Kay; daughter, Heather (Blake) Hansen of Idaho Falls; grandsons, Trevor and Garrett Meiser; step granddaughter, Ashley Hansen; father, Kenneth Meiser Sr. of Jerome; sisters-in-law, Faith (Bill) Stierwalt and Ila (Vincent) Ehlers of Beatrice, Neb.; brothers, Kenneth Jr. (Shirley) Meiser of Pleasantville, Utah, and Mike (Cindy) Meiser of Kerns, Utah. He was preceded in death by his beloved grandfather, William W. Meiser; and mother, Dorothy Meiser.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, May 8, at the Cornelison Funeral Chapel, 431 N. 15th Ave. in Pocatello. The family will receive friends on hour prior to the service Friday at the funeral home. Cremation has been completed. Memorials may be given in Garth's memory to the Idaho State Veterans Home, 1957 Alvin Ricken Drive, Pocatello, ID 83201. Online guestbook and condolences available at www.cornelisonfh.com.

Heusevio 'Chester' Espinosa

BURLEY — Heusevio "Chester" Espinosa, an 81-year-old Burley resident, passed away Saturday, May 2, 2009, at Mini-Cassia Care Center.

Heusevio was born March 5, 1928, in Rosebud, Texas, the son of Asenchio and Margarita Rangel Espinosa. He married Isabel Barlea on June 9, 1951, in Hale Center, Texas. They lived in Texas until moving to Burley in 1965. Heusevio worked for the railroad, the Burley Processing Plant and drove truck. He was a member of the Catholic Church. Chester enjoyed singing, dancing, playing cards and listening to music. He was loved and will be missed by all that knew him.

Survivors include his six sons, Romey (Goody) Espinosa of Boise, Eusevio Espinosa of California, Tony (Mary Lee) Espinosa, Jesse Espinosa and Arthur (Ana) Espinosa, all of Rupert; and Alexandro (Betriz) Espinosa and Jesse Espinosa, both of



Burley; two daughters, Janie E. (Iganico) Rebollozo of Burley and Mary Ann (Rene) Garcia of Rupert; 17 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Isabel; his parents; and a son, George Espinosa.

A vigil service will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 5, at the Hansen-Payne Mortuary, 321 E. Main St. in Burley. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, at the Little Flower Catholic Church in Burley, with Father Reginald Nwauzor as Celebrant. Burial will be in the Gem Memorial Gardens in Burley. Friends may call from 6 p.m. until the time of the vigil Tuesday at Hansen-Payne Mortuary and at the church one hour prior to the funeral Mass on Wednesday. Additional obituary information can be found at Hansen Payne Mortuary's Web site located at www.hansenpayne.com.



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NATION & WORLD

Mexico lowers swine flu alert level

South American countries bracing for more cases

By David Koop
Associated Press writer

MEXICO CITY — Mexican officials lowered their swine flu alert level in the capital on Monday and said they will allow universities, cafes, museums and libraries to reopen this week, even as the number of confirmed cases topped 1,200 worldwide.

Mexican officials declared the epidemic to be waning at its epicenter, announcing that Wednesday will conclude a five-day closure of nonessential businesses they credit for reducing the spread of the new virus.

President Felipe Calderon said that higher edu-

cation classes would resume Thursday and all other schools and government-run day care centers would reopen by May 11.

Global health officials urged countries to remain vigilant because the outbreak's spread around the world remains in its early stages, but there were no imminent plans to raise the pandemic alert level.

Raising the alert level to 6, the highest, would mean that a global outbreak of swine flu is under way. The World Health Organization uses the term pandemic to refer to geographic spread rather than severity. Pandemics aren't necessarily deadly. The past two pandemics — in 1957 and 1968 — were relatively mild.

"We do not know how long we will have until we move to Phase 6," said Margaret Chan, head of the WHO. "We are not there

yet. The criteria will be met when we see in another region outside North America, showing very clear evidence of community-level transmission."

WHO declares a level 5 alert when it believes a global outbreak is "imminent." Though Mexican authorities believe the outbreak may have peaked there, WHO maintains it is still too early to tell if the outbreak is slowing down.

While Mexico began its first steps toward normalcy, the virus spread to Colombia in the first confirmed case in South America, where the coming winter means flu season is about to begin. More cases were confirmed in North America and Europe — including Portugal's first.

A total of 1,276 swine flu cases have been confirmed worldwide, according to health and government officials.

Worldwide swine flu developments

The Associated Press

Key developments on swine flu outbreaks, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, and government officials:

• **DEATHS:** 26 confirmed in Mexico and one confirmed in U.S., a toddler from Mexico who died in Texas.

• **CONFIRMED SICKENED WORLDWIDE, 1,276:** 727 in Mexico; 300 in U.S.; 140 in Canada; 44 in Spain; 27 in Britain; eight in Germany; six in New Zealand; four in Israel, Italy and France; two in El Salvador; one each in Austria, Costa Rica, Colombia, Denmark, Hong Kong, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal, South Korea and Switzerland.

• **U.S. CONFIRMED CASES FROM CDC OR STATES:** New York, 90; Texas, 43; California, 29; Delaware, 20; Arizona, 18;

South Carolina, 15; Illinois, nine; Colorado, Louisiana, Massachusetts and New Jersey, seven; Florida, five; Alabama and Maryland, four; Indiana, Ohio, Oregon, Virginia and Wisconsin, three; Connecticut, Kansas and Michigan, two; and one each in Nebraska, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Idaho and Utah.

• **New York City high school** that had 45 students with confirmed swine flu cases reopens.

• **Mexico to allow most businesses** to reopen Wednesday, universities to reopen Thursday. Mexico City cafes, museums and libraries to reopen this week; schools nationwide to reopen next week after inspections are completed.

Obama announces plan to close tax loopholes

By Philip Elliott
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — President Obama proposed Monday to raise taxes on the overseas profits of U.S. companies and to go after evaders who abuse offshore tax shelters.

In announcing a series of steps aimed at overhauling the U.S. tax code, Obama complained that existing law makes it possible to "pay lower taxes if you create a job in Bangalore, India, than if you create one in Buffalo, New York."

The proposal will be a hard sell in Congress. Sen. Max Baucus of Montana, chairman of the tax-writing Senate Finance Committee, offered a tepid response.

"Further study is needed to assess the impact of this plan on U.S. businesses," said Baucus, a Democrat. "I want to make certain that our tax policies are fair and support the global competitiveness of U.S. businesses."

The president said he wants to prevent U.S. companies from deferring tax payments by keeping profits in foreign countries rather than recording them at home and called for more transparency in bank accounts that Americans hold in notorious tax havens like the Cayman Islands.

"If financial institutions won't cooperate with us, we will assume that they are sheltering money in tax havens and act accordingly," Obama said.

Many provisions of the complicated and much-maligned tax code in fact are worded in ways that allow people to legally cut corners. And the code is filled, likewise, with language that in many circumstances authorizes legal tax end-arounds, if not pure avoidance.



AP photo
President Obama, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and IRS Commissioner Douglas Shulman arrive to make statements on tax reform, Monday in the Grand Foyer of the White House in Washington.

PEACH OF A PROBLEM

Georgia leads the nation in bank failures

By Russ Bynum
Associated Press writer

GIBSON, Ga. — The banner above FirstCity Bank still reads "Celebrating 100 Years of Service," but the 690 residents of this rural community aren't in the mood — not since government regulators locked the door, emptied the vault and closed the only bank within nearly 20 miles.

Georgia leads the nation in bank failures, with nine banks shut down in the past year. Still, few in tiny Glascock County suspected the financial meltdown driven by toxic real-estate loans would scuttle the place they deposited paychecks earned from sawmills and row-crop farming, their local lender for buying tractors and pickup trucks.

"We need a bank, definitely," says 70-year-old Charles Usry, who fits cars with new brakes and tires at his small auto parts store across Main Street from the now-empty FirstCity. "If you don't have a bank, eventually people are going to go somewhere else. The towns are going to die."

Eleven Georgia banks, most surrounding Atlanta, have been shuttered by regulators, followed by nine in California and four in Florida. Experts predict more could be closed in Georgia in the future. But what propelled Georgia to



AP photo
Store owner Don Kitchens rings up items at his store April 2, in Gibson, Ga. Kitchens said after the town's only bank was closed he had to stop accepting food stamps for a short time.

"We need a bank, definitely. If you don't have a bank, eventually people are going to go somewhere else. The towns are going to die."

— Charles Usry, 70, of Gibson, Ga., who fits cars with new brakes and tires at his small auto parts store across Main Street from the now-empty FirstCity

No. 1 in bank failures is complicated.

Experts say it's a combination of an antiquated state law that favored a plethora of smaller community banks over multi-branch giants; a population explosion in metro Atlanta that fueled massive suburban real estate development and a crush of new banks formed to cash in on the Atlanta boom shortly before the market tanked.

First, Georgia is home to a huge number of state and federally chartered banks. At the end of 2008, Georgia had 334 banks. That's more than California, which has

nearly four times Georgia's population, or Florida, which has twice as many people. Only five states — Texas, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa and Kansas — have more banks than Georgia, according to the FDIC.

What these states had in common, until the mid-1990s, was some of the nation's most restrictive laws on branch banking. Georgia, for example, prohibited banks from opening branches across county lines until 1996.

The law shielded local banks from worrying about competition from out-of-town rivals. It also guaran-

teed that Georgia, with a whopping 159 counties, would have a correspondingly large number of banks.

"It was really a belief that local banking was the best banking and you did not want to have the big city banks dictating the amount of credit available to small town and rural America," said Steve Verdier, director of congressional relations for the Independent Community Bankers of America.

Even after interstate giants such as Bank of America, SunTrust and Wachovia could expand freely across Georgia,

growth in Atlanta's suburbs spurred the opening of new banks looking to profit from loans to real-estate developers.

Metro Atlanta had three of the nation's 10 fastest growing counties of the 1990s. Because of that growth, about half the state's banks ended up clustered around Atlanta, said Joe Brannen, president and CEO of the Georgia Bankers Association.

"Georgia is a tad unique in that we don't have five or 10 big metropolitan areas. We've got one real big one," Brannen said. "We haven't enjoyed the statewide growth in population that Florida or California have."

Georgia's diversity of small banks was an asset when the economy was strong, with consumers benefiting from competitive rates and broader sources of credit, said James Verbrugge, a professor emeritus of finance at the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business. It became a liability when the bottom fell out of the housing market and smaller banks had less capital to weather the crisis.

"If the development comes to a screeching halt and even half of your loan portfolio is concentrated in that one basket, then you're in trouble," Verbrugge said.

With the financial meltdown centered on Atlanta, nobody in Gibson expected to feel the fallout in tiny Glascock County, which has the third-smallest population of any in Georgia. But bad loans took a toll there, too, after the bank was sold to new owners who moved its headquarters to the Atlanta area.

44 killed in attack on wedding in Turkey

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Masked assailants with grenades and automatic weapons attacked a wedding ceremony in southeast Turkey on Monday, killing 44 people and wounding 20 others. Two girls survived after the bodies of slain friends fell on top of them during the onslaught.

NTV television quoted Deputy Gov. Ferhat Ozen of Mardin province as saying the nighttime attack occurred in Bilge village near the city of Mardin. Some media outlets reported that a "blood feud" among families had led to the killings in a

region where tribal ties and rivalries sometimes eclipse the power of the state.

Citing Ozen, NTV said the motive could be an old feud between rival groups of pro-government village guards who fight alongside Turkish troops against Kurdish rebels in the region.

Mehmet Besir Ayanoglu, the mayor of Mardin, told Turkey's Channel 24 that he spoke to two survivors, both girls, who said at least two masked men stormed a house where the wedding took place. Other reports put the number of assailants at four.

Tomatoes to deliver antiviral drugs?

81 unusual projects get \$100,000 in Gates grants

SEATTLE (AP) — Can tomatoes be taught to make antiviral drugs for people who eat them? Would zapping your skin with a laser make your vaccination work better? Could malaria-carrying mosquitoes be given a teensy head cold that would prevent them from sniffing out a human snack bar?

These are among 81 projects awarded \$100,000 grants Monday by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in a bid to support innovative, unconventional global health research.

The five-year health

research grants are designed to encourage scientists to pursue bold ideas that could lead to breakthroughs, focusing on ways to prevent and treat infectious diseases, such as HIV, malaria, tuberculosis, pneumonia and diarrheal diseases.

The foundation said grant recipient Eric Lam at Rutgers University in New Jersey is exploring tomatoes as an antiviral drug delivery system.

Researchers at the University of Exeter in Devon, England, will seek to build an inexpensive instrument to diagnose malaria by

using magnets to detect the waste products of the malaria parasite in human blood.

Mei Wu at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School will be getting a grant to see if shooting a laser at a person's skin before administering a vaccine can enhance immune response.

And Thomas Baker at Pennsylvania State University wants to see if malaria-carrying mosquitoes can be infected with a fungus that would act like a cold, suppressing the sense of smell that they use to find

people as sources of blood.

The foundation also announced plans Monday to spend \$73 million over the next five years to help small farmers in impoverished countries. That program was outlined by foundation CEO Jeff Raikes at a water conference held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Raikes, a former Microsoft Corp. executive, said spending on agriculture in sub-Saharan African countries, where the foundation focuses much of its poverty-fighting efforts, accounts for less than 5 percent of their total government budgets. And from 1985 to 2005, spending as a percentage of government budgets decreased in donor countries, he said, including the U.S.

Eric Lam at Rutgers University in New Jersey is exploring tomatoes as an antiviral drug delivery system.



Aldred A. Reynolds

CASTLEFORD — Aldred A. Reynolds, 98, of Castleford, passed away Friday, May 1, 2009, at River Ridge Care Center with her family by her side.



Aldred was born Dec. 18, 1910, to Sam and Aura Bolinger of Huntsville, Ark. Aldred married Fred Reynolds. They had five children, Lee, OD, Arlie, Dean and Velma. She attended the Castleford Baptist Church. She worked at Snake River Trout for many years and

helped her husband with the family farm. Aldred loved gardening, playing games, hunting, fishing and hunting for arrowheads. Most of all, she loved her family; we heard her say many times how important family is.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, one son, 13 brothers and sisters, and two great-grandsons. She is survived by one sister, Beatrice Hargis of Marble, Ark.; three sons, OD (Judy)

Reynolds of Huntsville, Ark., Arlie (Sandy) Reynolds of Boise and Dean (Jeannie) Reynolds of Castleford; her daughter, Velma (Butch) Quigley of Buhl; 14 grandchildren; and many great- and great-great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 6, at the Castleford Baptist Church; a graveside service and dinner will follow. Donations may be made to the Castleford Baptist Church, P.O. Box 660, Castleford, ID 83321.

Divvy up sea space

Coastal states zoning oceans for separate uses

By Juliet Eilperin
The Washington Post

The ocean is getting crowded: Fishermen are competing with offshore wind projects, oil rigs along with sand miners, recreational boaters, liquefied gas tankers and fish farmers. So a growing number of groups — including policymakers, academics, activists and industry officials — now say it's time to divvy up space in the sea.

"We've got competition for space in the ocean, just like we have competition for space on land," said Andrew Rosenberg, a natural resources and environment professor at the University of New Hampshire who has advised Massachusetts on the issue. "How are you going to manage it? Is it the people with the most power win? Is it whoever got there first? Is it a free-for-all?"

To resolve these conflicts, a handful of states — including Massachusetts, California and Rhode Island — have begun essentially zoning the ocean, drawing up rules and procedures to determine which activities can take place and where. The federal government is considering adopting a similar approach, though any coherent effort would involve sorting out the role of 20 agencies that administer roughly 140 ocean-related laws.

"It's really an idea whose time has come, and it's one of my top priorities," said Jane Lubchenco, who chairs the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrat-

ion. "By focusing on different sectors, nobody is paying attention to the whole — in particular, the health of the system."

But conducting what experts call "marine spatial planning" presents scientific and political challenges, since so little of the ocean has been mapped in detail, and so many interest groups want to use it. The federal government has mapped only 20 percent of the "exclusive economic zone" that stretches from the U.S. coast out 200 nautical miles, and that's just its geophysical bottom, not the habitats and species that exist at varying levels.

Charlie Wahle, a senior scientist in NOAA's National Marine Protected Area Center, said the agency is convening experts in California to chart how groups including kayakers, the Coast Guard and fishermen use waters off the state's coast. "People have been surprisingly willing to engage and share their information and knowledge of the way it really is, as opposed to how it may look on maps," he said. "We're on the right path, but it's not a simple thing."

Marine ecologist Larry Crowder, one of several scientists at Duke University who have compiled data for such plans, said the approach makes sense because ocean resources are not "equally distributed, whether it's oil and gas, or fish, or corals." But he added that the sea has so many so many overlapping activities, and "when you begin putting these maps together, as we've done, it quickly becomes a train wreck."

The states pioneering this approach have charted different paths. California is

establishing marine protected areas along its 1,100-mile coastline under its 1999 Marine Life Protection Act, dividing it into five regions and brokering agreements with interest groups. Massachusetts, which enacted its Ocean Act only last year, is to finalize a comprehensive ocean management plan by Jan. 1 that exempts fisheries but covers all other major activities.

Ian Bowles, Massachusetts secretary of energy and environmental affairs, said the state is working to determine "what are the areas of particular ecological value that we should be protecting from other uses" and what parts of the ocean can accommodate such diverse concerns as liquefied natural gas offloading terminals, wind projects and sand mining for restoring eroding beaches.

While a few states are leading the way in the United States, the Europeans and Australians have done this for years. Charles Ehler, a Paris-based consultant who is drafting a manual on the subject for the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, said the demand for offshore wind farms and other activities has spurred countries such as Belgium, Germany, Norway and the Netherlands to establish specific marine boundaries.

DEATH NOTICES

Starla B. Stroud

FAIRFIELD — Starla Blake Stroud, 51, of Fairfield, died Sunday, May 3, 2009, at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise.

The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, May 7, at the Gooding LDS Church; visitation one hour before the service Thursday at the church (Farmer Funeral Chapel in Buhl).

Bertilia Redfern

HAILEY — Bertilia 'Ber' Redfern of Hailey, died Tuesday, March 10, 2009,

near Hailey.

A celebration of life will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 9, at the Community Campus in Hailey; friends are invited to join in a time of sharing, a video tribute and refreshments (Wood River Chapel of Hailey, www.woodriver-chapel.com).

Betty Freeman

Betty Freeman, 86, of Twin Falls, died Monday, May 4, 2009, at her home.

Arrangements will be announced by Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home in Twin Falls.

Amy F. Deily

DIETRICH — Amy Fern Deily, 87, of Dietrich, died Sunday, May 3, 2009, at her residence in Dietrich.

No local service is planned (Demaray Funeral Service, Shoshone Chapel).

Lois J. Irving

BURLEY — Lois Jean Irving, 79, of Burley, died Sunday, May 3, 2009, at a hospital in Burley.

Arrangements will be announced by Rost Funeral Home, McMurtrey Chapel in Mountain Home.

Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls.

Lillian Anita (Howland) Lakey of Twin Falls, graveside service at 2 p.m. today at Sunset Memorial Park in Twin Falls (Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls).

Randy H. Sellers of Twin Falls, celebration of life at 3 p.m. today at Trinity Lutheran Church south of Eden (Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls).

Alice S. Mecham Ashcraft of Paul, funeral at 11 a.m.

Wednesday at the Emerson LDS 2nd Ward Church, 127 S. 950 W. in Paul; visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. today at the Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel, 710 Sixth St.; and one hour before the funeral Wednesday at the church.

James R. Hogue of Jerome, open house memorial from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Cavin home, 521 S. Fillmore in Jerome (Hove-Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome).

SERVICES

Marguerite Lillian Lanting of Hollister, funeral at 10:30 a.m. today at the Twin Falls First Presbyterian Church (White Mortuary in Twin Falls).

Harold Monroe 'Moe' Sagers of Burley, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Emerson LDS Church, 127 S. 950 W. of Paul; visitation from 10 to 10:40 a.m. today at the church (Rasmussen Funeral Home in Burley.)

Tobie L. Canoy, infant son of Cody and Sierra Canoy of Twin Falls, memorial service at 2 p.m. today at Parke's

Supreme Court rules for immigrants in identity theft case

By Mark Sherman
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — A unanimous Supreme Court said Monday that undocumented workers who use phony IDs can't be considered identity thieves without proof they knew they were stealing real people's Social Security and other numbers.

The court's decision limits federal authorities' use of a 2004 law, intended to get tough on identity thieves, against immigrants who are picked up in workplace raids and found to be using false Social Security and alien registration numbers.

Advocates for immigrants had complained that federal authorities used the threat of prosecution on the identity theft charge, which carries a two-year mandatory prison term, to win guilty pleas on lesser charges and acceptance of prompt deportation.

"These prosecutions have been taken off the table," said Nina Perales, southwest regional counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund.

The court, in an opinion by Justice Stephen Breyer, rejected the government's argument that prosecutors need only show that the identification numbers belong to someone else, regardless of whether the defendant knew it.

Breyer said intent is often easy to prove in what he called classic identity theft. "Where a defendant has used another person's information to get access to that person's bank account, the government can prove knowledge with little difficulty," Breyer said.

But immigrants without proper documentation need identity documents and often buy them from forgers,

never knowing if they belong to anyone.

Such was the case with the undocumented worker on the winning side Monday. Ignacio Carlos Flores-Figueroa, a Mexican immigrant employed at a steel plant in East Moline, Ill., traveled to Chicago and bought numbers from someone who trades in counterfeit IDs.

Unlike earlier fictitious numbers Flores-Figueroa used, these numbers belonged to real people.

Flores-Figueroa had worked at the plant under a false name for six years. His decision to use his real name and exchange one set of phony numbers for another aroused his employer's suspicions.

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Enrollment for the 2009-2010 school year is in full swing. Learn more at the IDVA Science Fair in Jerome. Check out science projects from IDVA students, a talent show, and "Reptile Guy" Wesley Carlson. Space is limited. Get full details and register now at K12.com/id.

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Observe and Report (R) Daily 7:00 9:15
Fighting (TV-14) Daily 7:00 9:15
Duplicity (TV-14) Daily 7:15 9:45
Love You Man (R) Daily 7:30 9:45
Battle for Terra (PG) Daily 7:15 9:30
State of Play (TV-14) Daily 7:00 9:30

Jerome Cinema 4
165 West Main, Jerome
All Adults \$5.00 Before 5:15 p.m.

Ghost of Girlfriends Past (TV-14) Daily 7:20 9:40
Wolverine (R) DTS Digital Surround Daily 7:00 9:30
Fast And Furious 4 (R) Ends Wed - Daily 7:20 9:40
17 Again (TV-14) Daily 7:00 9:20
Star Trek (TV-14) Thurs 7:20 9:50

Orpheum Theatre
184 Main Avenue, Twin Falls
All Adults \$5.00 Before 5:15 p.m.

Ghost of Girlfriends Past (TV-14) Daily 7:00 9:10 Sat - Sun 4:50 7:00 9:10

Twin Cinema 12
100 Eastland Drive, Twin Falls
All Adults \$5.00 Before 5:15 p.m.

Wolverine (R) Daily Digital Both Theaters
Twin Cinema #6 Daily 7:20 9:50
Twin Cinema #8 Daily 6:50 9:30
Monsters vs Aliens (PG) Daily 7:00 9:20
The Soloist (TV-14) Daily 7:00 9:30
Obsessed (TV-14) Daily 7:30 9:50
Hannah Montana the Movie (G) Daily 7:00 9:20
The Knowing (TV-14) Daily 7:20 9:40
Haunting in Connecticut (TV-14) Daily 7:20 9:40 Ends Wed
17 Again (TV-14) Daily 7:20 9:40
Disney's Nature Earth (TV) Daily 7:00 9:20
Fast & Furious 4 (R) Daily 7:30 9:50
Sunshine Cleaning (R) Daily 7:20 9:40 Ends Wed

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See Star Trek First Thursday at the Jerome Cinema at 7:20 - 9:50 and Twin Cinema 6:50 7:15 9:30 9:50 In Digital Surround at all Indoor Locations

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OPINION

QUOTABLE

"I am confident that no funds from my campaign were used improperly."
 — Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards acknowledging that investigators are assessing how he spent campaign funds

EDITORIAL

No more free-for-all in South Hills campgrounds

Samantha Anderson has a point. The Twin Falls woman, who serves as vice chairman of a Bureau of Land Management advisory committee, says it's not fair to collect a fee from summer visitors to three popular South Hills campgrounds and not do the same in winter.

Last month the BLM decided to charge \$5 per night at the Schipper and Steer Basin campgrounds and \$8 a night at Diamondfield Jack.

Previously, there was no camping fee. Winter use remains free.

Although the number of cold-weather visitors doesn't compare to summertime use, it's still significant at Diamondfield Jack because of snowmobilers.

"It's not right to impose fees on people using it during fair weather to pay for upkeep all year," Anderson said.

Granted, the BLM finds itself in a box. The Department of Interior is squeezed for funding and confronted with increasing traffic in the South Hills. But if revenue for maintenance is the issue, why not collect fees during the winter, too?

Charging for access to the campground during the summer might actually wind up increasing the BLM's costs by encouraging visitors to pitch a tent in undeveloped areas. That, in turn, could increase the risk of forest and range fires.

The cost of camping in BLM facilities in the South Hills is still a bargain. But winter or summer, it should be the same bargain for all.

Our view: Winter or summer, Bureau of Land Management facilities in the South Hills take money to maintain. All visitors should chip in.
What do you think? We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.



We'll take that health care now

As swine flu spreads around the country, it's only appropriate that the next political donnybrook may concern health care.

Vice President Joe Biden said a few days ago that for the second 100 days of the administration, "the top of the agenda, the very top, is health care." Lacing its armor across the field, a group called Conservatives for Patients' Rights is airing commercials denouncing (and distorting) President Barack Obama's health care proposals.

Not to be impolite, but Republicans like Karl Rove and Sen. Susan Collins (along with some Democrats) lost credibility on this front when they scolded Obama a few months ago for proposing stimulus spending on something as frivolous as ... preparations for a flu pandemic.

The flu crisis should be a wake-up call, a reminder that one of our vulnerabilities to the possible pandemic is our deeply flawed medical system.

"From SARS to avian flu to the current escalating outbreaks of swine influenza, it has become increasingly clear that we are risking a major catastrophe unless we act to restore the safety net," noted Deborah Burger, the co-president of the California Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee.



NICHOLAS KRISTOF

Think of the 47 million Americans who lack insurance. They are less likely to receive flu vaccines (which might or might not help), less likely to receive prompt care when they get sick, and less able financially to stay home from work — and thus they are more likely both to die and to spread the virus inadvertently.

"These are, in effect, 47 million 'Typhoid Marys' of the next pandemic — at risk themselves and to their families and neighbors," said Irwin Redlener, director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.

"This is a most dangerous brew: a dysfunctional health care system, vast numbers of Americans without access to health care, a severe recession, overextended and highly stressed hospitals, and the prospect of a nasty new killer virus," Redlener said.

The American health care system is exceptionally good at cutting-edge technologies. The top five American hospitals together conduct more clinical trials than any entire European country.

Yet overall, our health care system has failed us. Troll through World Health Organization data and cringe: Americans live shorter lives than Greeks, our kids are twice as likely to die by age 5 as Portuguese children, and American women are 11 times as likely to die in childbirth as women in Ireland. Overall, we rank well below most European countries in our health statistics (for which you can also blame the Danish in your hand as you read this).

The larger problem is that we over-invest in clinical care like CAT scans and underinvest in public health. There should be a Nobel Prize for Public Health, so that we might get more great minds wrestling with nonmedical pieces of the health puzzle, like industrial hog farms that can serve as breeding grounds for viruses and bacteria, from swine flu to MRSA.

President George W. Bush did an excellent job making preparations specifically for a flu epidemic, partly because of the avian flu scare and partly because he read a book about the 1918 influenza epidemic. But he and other presidents starved the broader public health system, so that today it is in desperate shape.

Hospitals lack spare beds, ventilators and staff to cope with an epidemic. One

study found that a flu epidemic would mean that 10 million Americans would need to be hospitalized — compared with a total of nearly 1 million beds in America, about two-thirds of them occupied. Last year, Rep. Henry Waxman ordered a review of "surge capacity" in hospitals available for a terror attack, and found that more than half the emergency rooms studied were already operating above capacity.

We don't know whether this swine flu will be as lethal even as a typical flu season. So far it has been mild in this country, but we know that the first wave of flu in 1918 caused few deaths but was followed three months later by a different form that killed tens of millions of people around the globe.

We do know we need to take precautions. These include not only washing our hands with soap and water, but also instituting far-reaching health care reform in the coming months.

"If a severe pandemic materializes," Redlener said, "all of society could pay a heavy price for decades of failing to create a rational system of health care that works for all of us."

Nicholas Kristof is a columnist for *The New York Times*. Write to him at nkristof@nytimes.com.

TIMES-NEWS

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

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

Join the discussion

Voice your opinion with local bloggers: Progressive Voice, Conservative Corner and In the Middle. On the opinion page at magicvalley.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Higher use fee means local charities will get less money

The Snake River Corvette Club is a non-profit organization that, for many years, has provided donations for many local children's charities, including Coats for Kids, Angel Tree, Wishing Star foundations, Safe Kids Coalition and Camp Rainbow Gold.

Each year the Snake River Corvette Club sponsors a Corvette Show. This show gives us the opportunity to fund five to seven

charities each year.

In the past, the fee for the Twin Falls City Park has been very reasonable. However, this year the fee has increased considerably. The increased fee provided the Snake River Corvette Club with less money to donate to children's charities. The club hopes the city council and parks department will reconsider the increase in the fees for park use.

COLLEEN UTLEY
 Twin Falls
 (Editor's note: Colleen Utley is the vice president of the Snake River Corvette Club.)

Tell us what you think

ON PAPER: The *Times-News* welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Please limit letters to 300 words. Include your signature, mailing address and phone number.

Writer still sour about Bush administration

The Bush cartel is a sour taste in every American's mouth. Any person that — whether through ignorance or treason — excuses all the lies, the fraud and all the laws that were broken during this insane excuse for an administration, (Bush/ Cheney) needs to be taken out of public responsibility post haste

and should be put into mental wards or on gallows row.

Of course, unlike the Bush cartel did, there should be a trial first.

MICHAEL JONES
 Sun Valley

School construction projects are more frills than function

What arrogance! It seems

as though this is the attitude from the White House on down and the Jerome School Board isn't any different.

It's amazing that in this economic downturn it has the audacity to ask for another \$15-plus million for school construction projects that are basically inconsequential. It wants it — just has to have it — a second cafeteria and gym? My, my — aren't we spoiled?

Just passed a new school bond, maintenance bond on top of how many other bonds? This insatiable appetite, indifferent to struggling families having a rough time just paying bills,

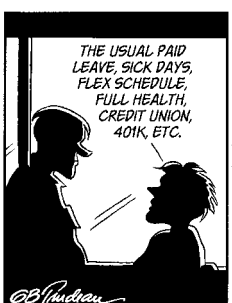
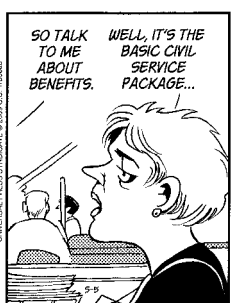
is elitism at its best. Don't cry the blues when these same children that supposedly will benefit from this bond can't afford to buy a home because the tax liability will be so high, they won't be able to qualify for a loan. Then where will all the folks who don't have any problem with spending other people's money be?

But how narrowminded of me — I know keeping up with the Joneses (Twin Falls comes to mind) is important. After all, no price is too great to pay for ego and appearance.

LEE MAY
 Jerome

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF POLITICS

Doodlesbury



Mallard Fillmore



By Bruce Tinsley

Checks and balances can cut both ways

WASHINGTON — How quaint. The Republicans are concerned about checks and balances.

The specter of Specter helping the president have his way with Congress has actually made conservatives remember why they respected the Constitution in the first place. Sen. Mitch McConnell, the leader of the shrinking Republican minority, fretted that there was a "threat to the country" and wondered if people would want the majority to rule "without a check or a balance."

Sen. John Thune worried that Democrats would run "roughshod" and argued that Americans wanted checks and balances. Sen. Judd Gregg mourned that "there's no checks and balances on this massive expansion on the size of government."

Bill Kristol, the editor of *The Weekly Standard*, tried to put the best face on it, noting, "This will make it easier for GOP candidates in 2010 to ask to be elected to help restore some checks and balances in Washington."

This is quite touching, given that the start of the 21st century will be remembered as the harrowing era when an arrogant Republican administration did its best to undermine checks and balances.

After so many years of watching a White House upend laws, I now listen raptly when President Barack Obama plays the



MAUREEN DOWD

constitutional law professor. He was asked at his news conference on Wednesday night about the Republican fear that he will "ride roughshod over any opposition" and establish one-party rule.

"I've got Democrats who don't agree with me on everything," he said. "And that's how it should be. Congress is a coequal branch of government." You almost thought the professor in chief was going to ask the assembled students to please turn to page 317 in their Con Law book.

He went on to reassure Republicans that his vision of the presidency is very different from the imperial view held by the Boy Emperor and his regents.

"I do think that, to my Republican friends, I want them to realize that me reaching out to them has been genuine," the president said, adding, "The majority will probably be determinative when it comes to resolving just hard-core differences that we can't resolve, but there is a whole host of other areas where we can work together" and "make progress."

The officials who actually represented a threat to the country while they were running the country

are continuing to defend themselves. But they just end up further implicating themselves.

Condi Rice, who plans to go back to being a professor of political science at Stanford, got grilled by a student at a reception at a dorm there on Monday.

I've often wondered why students haven't been more vocal in questioning the architects of the Iraq war and "legal" torture who landed plum spots at prestigious universities. Probably because it would have taken the draft, like the guillotine, to concentrate the mind. But finally, the young man at Stanford spoke up. Saying he had read that Rice authorized waterboarding, he asked her, "Is waterboarding torture?"

She replied: "The president instructed us that nothing we would do would be outside of our obligations, legal obligations, under the Convention Against Torture. So that's — and by the way, I didn't authorize anything. I conveyed the authorization of the administration to the agency."

This was precisely Condi's problem. She simply relayed. She never stood up against Cheney and Rummy for either what was morally right or what was smart in terms of our national security.

The student pressed again about whether waterboarding was torture. "By definition, if it was authorized by the presi-

dent, it did not violate our obligations under the Conventions Against Torture," Rice said, almost quoting Nixon's logic: "When the president does it, that means that it is not illegal."

She also stressed that, "Unless you were there in a position of responsibility after Sept. 11, you cannot possibly imagine the dilemmas that you faced in trying to protect Americans."

Reyna Garcia, a Stanford sophomore who videotaped the exchange, said of Condi's aria, "I wasn't completely satisfied with her answers, to be honest," adding that "President Obama went ahead and called it torture, and she did everything she could not to do that."

As Obama said in his news conference, it is in moments of crisis that a country must cleave to its principles. Asserting that "waterboarding violates our ideals," he said he had been struck by an article describing how Churchill would not torture prisoners even when "London was being bombed to smithereens."

"And the reason was that Churchill understood, you start taking shortcuts and over time, that corrodes what's best in a people," he said. "It corrodes the character of a country." Class dismissed.

Maureen Dowd is a columnist for *The New York Times*. Write to her at mdowd@nytimes.com.

Michelle Obama's sneakers cost as much as your rent

Michelle Obama was stylin' in her \$540 French sneakers during a volunteering photo-op at a Washington, D.C., food bank this week. Her suede and patent trainers from the house of Lanvin are apparently all the rage among the celebrity set. Who knew there were sneakers out there that cost as much as many Americans' monthly rent?

Don't misunderstand: I don't begrudge the first lady her fashion options. But I do begrudge the Obamas for their double standards when it comes to the flaunting of wealth — and the earning of it.

Obama's supporters at the liberal Huffington Post Web site devoted an entire slideshow to John McCain's \$520 Ferragamo loafers. CNN piled on with a feature on McCain's "well-heeled campaign." The "report" contrasted McCain's Italian footwear with Obama's "average guy" shoes.

Will they show the same indignation toward the first lady?

During the campaign season, President Obama sneered at McCain's houses. "John McCain has seven homes. There's just a fundamental gap of understanding between John McCain's world and what people are going through every single day here in America," Barack the Ordinary Guy scoffed. "You don't have to be a Nobel Prize-laureate economist, you just have to have a little bit of a sense of what ordinary people are going through to understand that we can't

afford eight more years or four more years or one more year of the failed economic policies that George Bush has put in place." Let's put aside the fact that many of the same Wall Street moneymen that engineered the corporate bailouts are now in charge of steering the same big government policies that Bush put in place.

And let's put aside the fact that Clinton crony turned congressman



MICHELLE MALKIN

turned investment guru turned Obama crony and White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel, no average Joe, made millions profiting off the corporate/government revolving door — including an easy \$320,000 from mortgage giant Freddie Mac simply for phoning it in over a 14-month period.

And let's put aside the fact that top White House economic adviser Lawrence Summers received about \$5.2 million over the past year in compensation from hedge fund D.E. Shaw, and also received hundreds of thousands of dollars in speaking fees from major financial institutions.

The Obamas have devoted much of their public lives to reviling others who elect to make money in the private marketplace. Mrs. Obama bragged during the campaign: "We left corporate America, which is a lot of what we're asking young people to do," she tells the women. "Don't go into corporate America. You know, become teachers. Work for the community. Be social workers. Be a nurse. Those are the careers that we need, and we're encouraging our young people to do that. But if you make that choice, as we did, to move out of the moneymaking industry into the helping industry, then your salaries respond."

"Don't go into corporate America"? Easy for you to say, sister. Mrs. O parlayed her brief stint as a corporate attorney into a cascading series of ever more lucrative positions and promotions in the "helping industry." She has made much of her "sacrifice." But her feet don't seem to be suffering one bit.

Columnist Michelle Malkin can be reached at writemalkin@gmail.com.

The bias against oil and gas

WASHINGTON — Considering the brutal recession, you'd expect the Obama administration to be obsessed with creating jobs. And so it is, say the president and his supporters. The trouble is that there's one glaring exception to their claims: the oil and natural gas industries. The administration is biased against them — a bias that makes no sense on either economic or energy grounds. Almost everyone loves to hate the world's Exxons, but promoting domestic drilling is simply common sense.

Contrary to popular wisdom, the United States still has huge oil and natural gas resources. The outer continental shelf, including parts that have been off-limits to drilling since the early 1980s, may contain much natural gas and 86 billion barrels of oil, about four times more than today's "proven" U.S. reserves. The U.S. Geological Survey recently estimated that the Bakken Formation in North Dakota and Montana may hold 3.65 billion barrels, more than 20 times a 1995 estimate. And there's upward of 2 trillion barrels of oil shale, concentrated in Colorado. If only 800 billion barrels were recoverable, that's triple Saudi Arabia's proven reserves.

None of these sources, of course, will quickly provide oil or natural gas. Projects can take 10 to 15 years. The OCS estimates are just that. Oil and gas must still be located. Extracting oil from shale requires heating the shale and poses major environmental problems. Its economic viability remains uncertain. But any added oil could ultimately diminish dependence on imports, now almost 60 percent of U.S. consumption, while exploration and development would immediately boost high-wage jobs.

Any one of these alone might seem a reasonable review of inherited poli-



ROBERT SAMUELSON

cies, and it's true that Salazar has maintained a regular schedule of oil and gas leases. Still, the anti-oil bias seems unmistakable.

Conceivably, Salazar may reinstate administratively many restrictions on OCS drilling that Congress lifted last year. Meanwhile, he's promoting wind and solar by announcing new procedures for locating them on public lands, including the OCS.

It may disappoint. In 2007, wind and solar generated less than 1 percent of U.S. electricity. Even a tenfold expansion will leave their contribution small. By contrast, oil and natural gas now provide two-thirds of Americans' energy. They will dominate consumption for decades. Any added oil produced here will mostly reduce imports; extra natural gas will mostly displace coal in electricity generation. Neither threatens any anti-global warming program that Congress might adopt.

Encouraging more U.S. production also aids economic recovery, because the promise of "green jobs" is wildly exaggerated. Consider. In 2008, the oil and gas industries employed 1.8 million people. Jobs in the solar and wind industries are reckoned (by their trade associations) to be 35,000 and 85,000, respectively. Now do the arithmetic: A 5 percent rise in oil jobs (90,000) approaches a doubling for wind and solar (120,000). Modest movements, up or down, in oil will swamp "green" jobs.

Improved production techniques have increased America's recoverable oil and natural gas. The

"We can remain the world's leading importer of oil, or we can become the world's leading exporter of clean energy."

— President Obama during a visit to Iowa

resistance to tapping these resources is mostly political. To many environmentalists, expanding fossil fuel production is a cardinal sin. The Obama administration often echoes this reflexive hostility. The resulting policies aim more to satisfy popular prejudice — through photo ops and sound bites — than national needs.

Newsweek columnist Robert Samuelson writes about economics.

Let's put aside the fact that many of the same Wall Street moneymen that engineered the corporate bailouts are now in charge of steering the same big government policies that Bush put in place.

And let's put aside the fact that Clinton crony turned congressman

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Iraq insists on U.S. troops leaving cities by June 30

By Robert H. Reid
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD — Iraq's government Monday ruled out allowing U.S. combat troops to remain in Iraqi cities after the June 30 deadline for their withdrawal, despite concern that Iraqi forces cannot cope with the security challenge following a resurgence of bombings in recent weeks.

Asking U.S. forces to stay in the cities, including volatile Mosul in the north, would be embarrassing for Iraq's prime minister, who has staked his political future on claims that the country has turned the corner in the war against Sunni and Shiite extremists.

The departure of heavily armed combat troops from bases inside the cities is important psychologically to many Iraqis, who are eager to regain control of their country after six years of war and U.S. military occupation.

U.S. officials played down the Iraqi decision, with Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman saying it's up to the Iraqi government to request an extension of the U.S. presence in the cities and "we intend to fully abide by" terms of the security agreement.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, told reporters Monday that violence had not risen to a level that would force a change in the

withdrawal schedule.

Last month, however, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. Raymond Odierno, said he was worried that Iraqi forces won't be ready to assume full responsibility for Mosul by the end of June.

Privately, some U.S. officers fear the Iraqis may lose control of Mosul within a few months after American forces pull out of Iraq's third largest city, where al-Qaida and other Sunni militants remain active.

The U.S.-Iraq security agreement that took effect this year calls for American combat troops to leave urban areas by the end of June, with all U.S. forces out of the country by the end of 2011.

But a series of high-profile bombings has raised questions whether Iraqi forces can assume more security responsibilities, especially in Mosul.

Nationwide, at least 451 people were killed in political violence last month, compared with 335 in March, 288 in February and 242 in January, according to an Associated Press tally.

Even in Baghdad, where violence is down sharply from levels of two years ago, attacks are continuing.

On Monday, two car bombs exploded almost simultaneously near the Oil Ministry and a police academy, killing at least three people and wounding eight.

S. Korean snipers chase pirates away from N. Korean vessel off Somalia

By Elizabeth A. Kennedy
Associated Press writer

NAIROBI, Kenya — South Korean snipers hovering in a helicopter Monday chased away pirates pursuing a North Korean freighter, a rare instance of recent cooperation between the two Koreas.

The South Korean ship has been operating off Somalia since last month on a mission to protect its cargo ships from Somali pirates, whose acts of high-seas crime have exploded in recent years as the bandits continue to get ransoms in the millions of dollars.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that the 4,500-ton-class warship sent a Lynx helicopter to assist the North Korean vessel shortly after receiving a



AP photo

distress call that it was being chased by the pirate ship.

The pirate vessel gave up chasing the North Korean

vessel and sped away after snipers aboard the helicopter prepared to fire warning shots, the statement said.

The incident took place

23 miles south of the Yemeni port of Aden, according to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Somalia and Yemen are separated by the Gulf of Aden.

Relations between the two Koreas have badly frayed since a conservative government in Seoul took power last year with a vow to get tough on the North over its nuclear program. Pyongyang has responded by cutting ties and halting or restricting key joint reconciliation projects.

Piracy has become perhaps the biggest money-maker in Somalia because the pirates almost always get paid. Their wealth is all the more shocking in light of Somalia's stunning poverty. There has been no effective central government in nearly 20 years, plunging the arid country into chaos.

Vatican plays down differences before Israel trip

By Steven Gutkin
Associated Press writer

JERUSALEM — The Vatican's representative to the Holy Land on Monday played down the controversies that could mar next week's visit by Pope Benedict XVI: the conduct of a wartime predecessor and the

church's perceived lenience toward a Holocaust-denying priest.

Benedict's remarks about Muslims have stirred anger in the Arab world, as well.

But Monsignor Antonio Franco, the Apostolic Nuncio to Israel, stressed that a papal visit to the Holy Land is not the time to "quarrel for

this or that."

The pope will visit Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories during his eight-day Holy Land tour that begins Friday. It's only the second official papal visit to the Jewish state and comes nine years after a groundbreaking trip by Pope John Paul II, who moved many by worshipping

at the Western Wall, the holiest site where Jews can pray.

Rabbi David Rosen, one of Israel's leading voices in interfaith relations, portrayed Benedict as a good friend of the Jews and described differences with him as "an issue of style rather than an issue of substance."

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Rent prices per acre

Twin Falls County \$175 • Cassia County \$215 • Jerome County \$225

Rollercoaster rents



Times-News file photo

With a view from about 500 feet in a helicopter, a farmer works a field west of Twin Falls on May 20, 2008. Cash rents for agricultural property saw little increase compared to the previous year, according to a recent report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Farmland cash rents level off after gut wrenching rise in years past

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

The average price that farmers paid to lease farmland in south-central Idaho in 2008 varied greatly by county, according to a National Agricultural Statistics Service report that was released Monday.

The average price per acre of irrigated farmland in Jerome County was \$225, while the price in Twin Falls County remained mostly unchanged from the previous year at \$175 per acre.

Cassia County was in the middle with an average price of \$215 per acre.

Why the difference between the counties?

Landowners in Cassia County say part of the reason is due to an increase in water assessments that owners tie to land leases — requiring farmers who lease the land to pay part of the assessment cost.

Landowners typically expect a minimum of a 5 percent return on leases, so any increased cost is usually passed onto the renter.

Cassia County cash rents increased about 4 percent compared to 2007, while Jerome County rents increased 5 percent.

The Cassia County Farm Service Agency Committee cited the seemingly insatiable demand for dairy feed in years past as a reason for rent increases in both counties.

In 2007, dairymen were willing to pay up to \$700 per acre for feed — usually in the form of corn.

As more dairymen turn to lower priced feed alternatives, some are using ground sugar beets as a feed supplement — prompting some farmers to replace corn and potato crops with sugar beets.

Although the crops are changing, the Cassia

County FSA Committee says every acre is being used.

Still, some counties saw little change in the average cash rent compared to the previous year.

Twin Falls County remained mostly unchanged, said Lance Phillips, executive director of the Twin Falls County FSA.

"Our prices are not showing that they have gone up or down dramatically," he said. "It's pretty consistent because we have a mix of cash rents, crop sharing and owned operations."

Lincoln and Gooding counties were not listed in the report.

Joshua Palmer may be reached at 208-735-3231 or at jpalmer@magicvalley.com

Feed costs rising faster than milk prices

Feed prices continue to take bite out of producers' pocketbooks

By Cindy Snyder
Times-News correspondent

Even though commodity prices are weakening — especially this week following swine flu scares — prices for some ingredients in livestock rations remain strong.

The effects of drought in South America and fears that U.S. growers may not increase soybean acres has increased soybean prices in early April — pulling soybean meal and other ingredient prices along with it.

Canola meal, linseed meal and cottonseed meal are among ingredients that have also seen price increases lately.

Other protein products, such as meat and bone meal, have remained strong compared to soybean meal, even as soybean prices have increased.

Dairy feed costs in the Pacific Northwest are running \$8 to \$10 per hundredweight, said Wilson Gray, University of Idaho

"Milk prices have been so low for so long, they've made all the changes they can."

— Rick Norell,
University of Idaho
extension dairy specialist

extension livestock economist.

While some optimists believe Class III milk prices could be above \$13 per hundredweight by mid-summer and \$15 to \$16 per hundredweight, Gray is among the pessimists that think Class III milk will only recover to \$11 hundredweight by mid-summer and \$12 to \$14 hundredweight by the fourth quarter.

"They're barely covering feed costs now," Gray said. "If ingredients are going up, they'll have to try to switch to something else."

See FEED, Agribusiness 4

Ranchers slog through snowy, chilly spring

New program might compensate livestock losses up to 5 percent

By Mead Gruver
Associated Press writer

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Snowy, soggy, chilly weather has taken a severe toll on sheep and cattle across the northern Great Plains this spring.

The nastiness began in mid-March, abruptly ending a spell of warm weather. A storm that began as heavy rain quickly turned into a blizzard that dumped more than two feet of snow in places.

The worst was yet to come. Two more blizzards roared through over the next two weeks — part of a

cold, wet pattern that added up to just about the worst weather possible for spring calving and lambing.

And the foul weather continues. Six to 8 inches of snow fell on much of the region last weekend. Cold rain was forecast for much of the rest of the week.

"Pretty tough weather for this time of year here," said Jw Nuckolls, a sheep rancher just outside Devils Tower National Monument.

Nuckolls lost 190 ewes out of 800 in the first blizzard a month ago. He almost lost his barn when the wooden roof beams began to split under the weight of 6 feet of snow. He shored them up from

See RANCHERS, Agribusiness 4

An eye catching spud

Research aims to give consumers richly colored potatoes

Times-News staff

PARMA — The color of a potato is paramount because skin quality drives buyers to put a particular potato in their shopping cart.

But store that potato for a month or two, and its skin color will be noticeably duller — prompting consumers to leave it in the store.

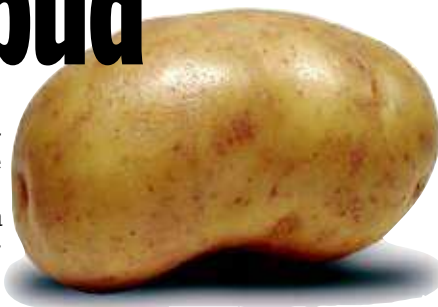
University of Idaho agricultural researchers say they will be investigating the in-season, harvest, storage and packing processes that affect skin color and quality in specialty potatoes.

They will examine the potentially positive or negative effects of growth regulators, in-season and post-harvest fungicides, harvest

timing, disinfectants and storage conditions.

Roy Navarre, a research geneticist with the U.S. Department of Agricultural Research Service at Prosser, Wash., will add a nutritional twist — studying the impacts of these factors on the healthful phytonutrients in potato skins.

Project leader Mike Thornton, a University of Idaho potato physiologist at Parma, expects the results of



the multi-year effort to result in a set of recommendations for skin quality-enhancing practices.

"I think we can make some progress with some fairly simple treatments," he said.

See SPUD, Agribusiness 2



AP photo

Cattle are stranded on an island created by floodwaters of the James River near Dickey, N.D. In North Dakota, state and federal officials estimate that 91,000 cattle have died following record snowfall and flooding.

Magic Valley Safe Kids organize annual farm safety event

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

FILER — Magic Valley youth come face to face with agriculture all the time and should be aware of the risks associated with the industry, say members of the

Magic Valley Safe Kids Coalition.

That's why the coalition hopes parents will register their children for the annual Farm Safety Day.

The event aims to teach kids how to enjoy their surroundings while remaining safe.

Information will be presented at

both the Filer and Jerome fair grounds during this free event. Kids will receive a free t-shirt, lunch and snacks, while volunteers provide lessons on the importance of being safe on farm and work sites.

Children from the Magic Valley

can attend the Filer and Jerome events — children, ages six to 12, are welcome in Filer while the Jerome event is geared for eight to 12 year olds.

"We want to have 100 kids at

See SAFETY, Agribusiness 2

JOIN THE FUN

The Farm Safety Day Camp will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., May 16 at the Filer Fair Grounds and Jerome Fair Grounds.

There is no cost to participate.

Dates and deadlines

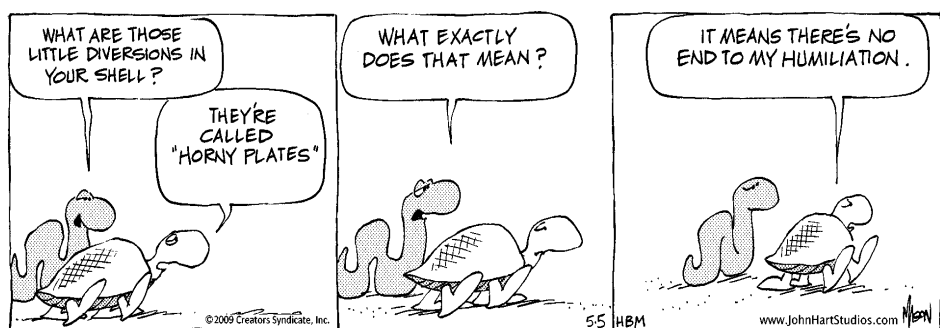
• May 31 - Deadline for loan & LDP availability date for corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, safflower seed, small chickpeas, soybeans and sunflower seed.

• June 1 - End of 2009 DCP Sign-up Period.
• June 30 - Deadline to report all crop acreage.
• August 1 - Deadline to request farm combinations and farm divisions to be effective for the current FY for farms

subject to DCP.
- September 9 - Deadline to submit MILK Income Loss Contract Extension applications.

B.C.

By Johnny Hart



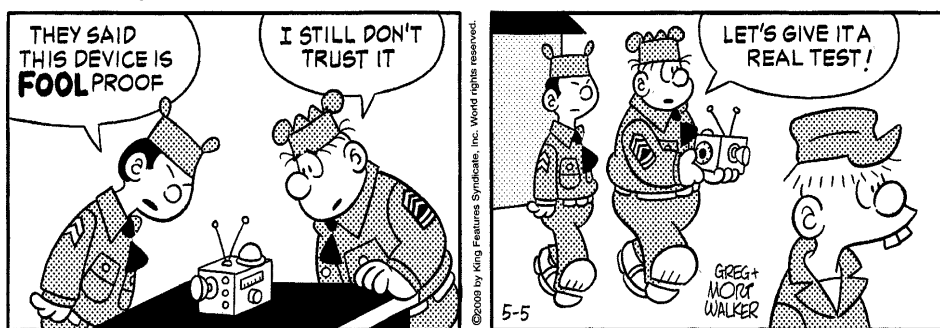
Baby Blues

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



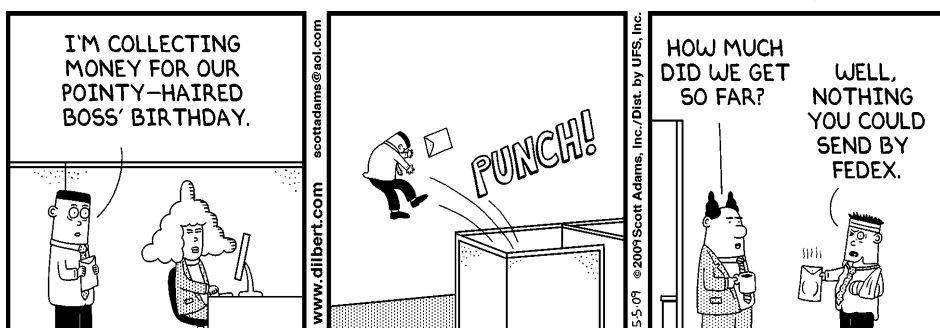
Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



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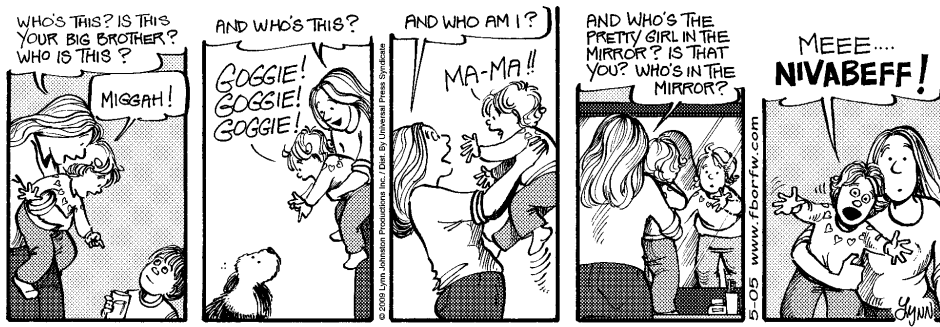
The Elderberries

By Phil Frank and Joe Troise



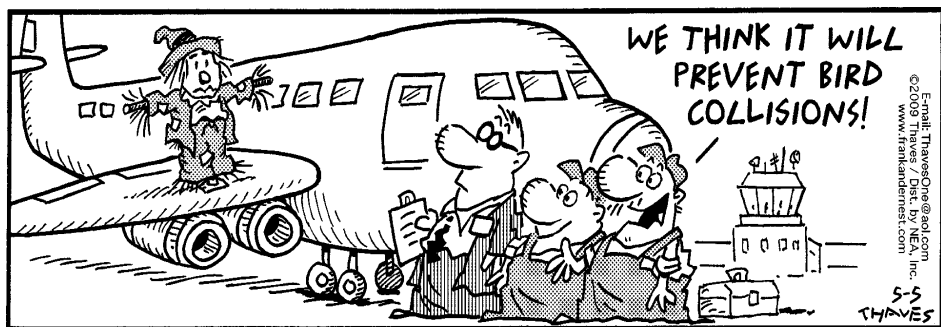
For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



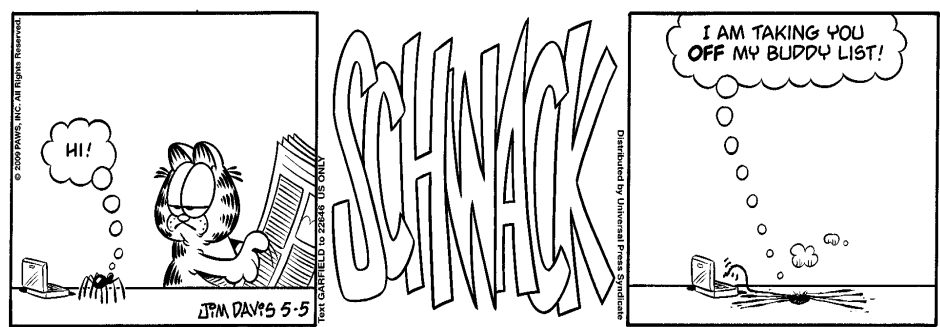
Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



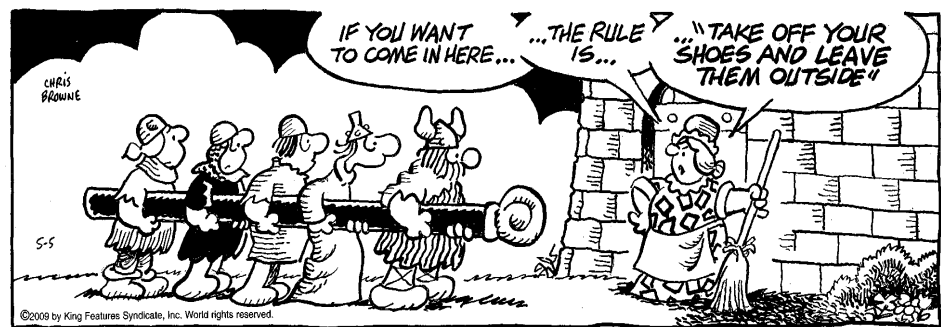
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



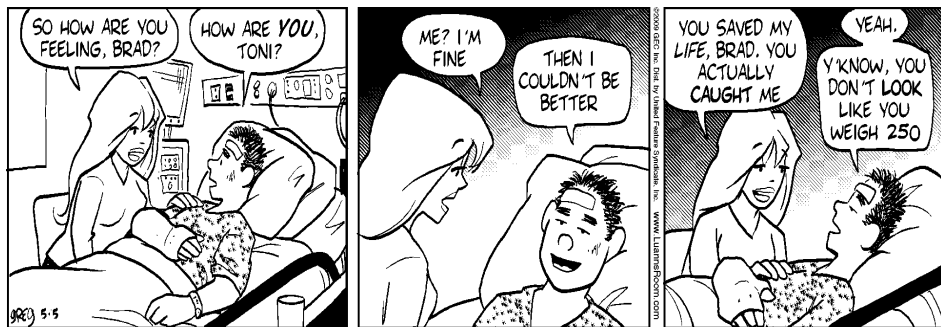
Hi and Lois

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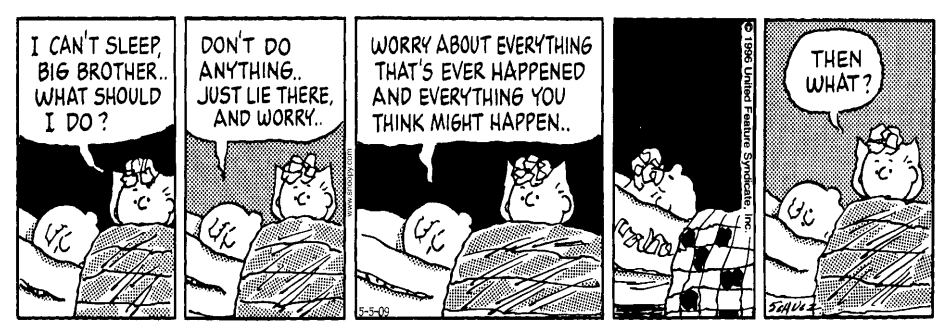
Luann

By Greg Evans



Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



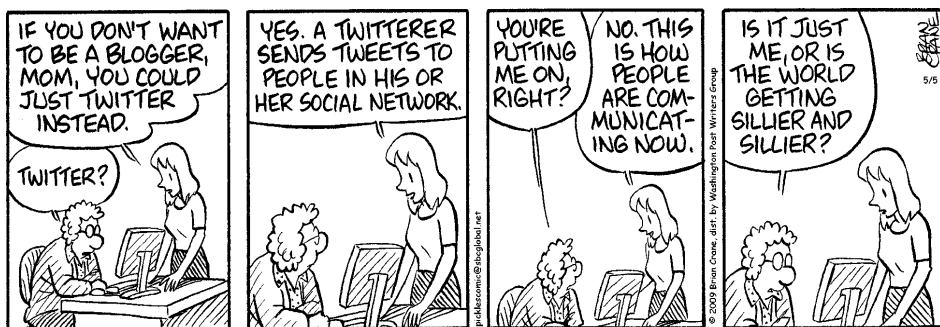
Pearls Before Swine

By Stephan Pastis



Pickles

By Brian Crane



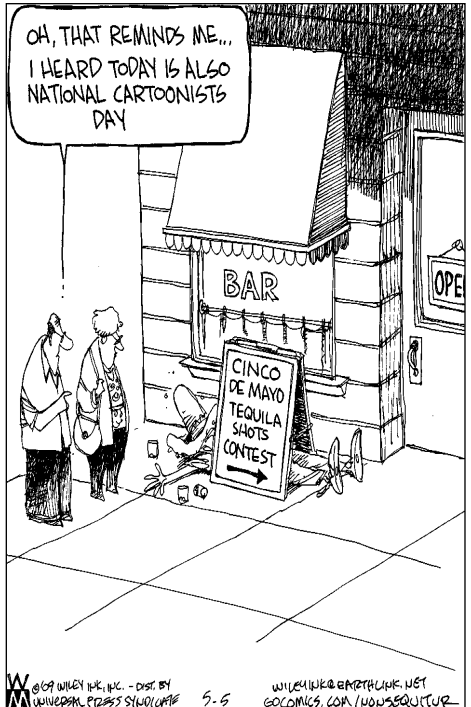
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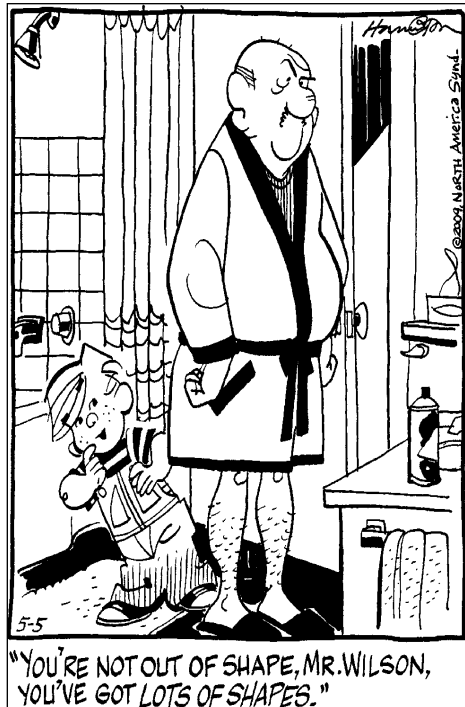
Non Sequitur

By Wiley



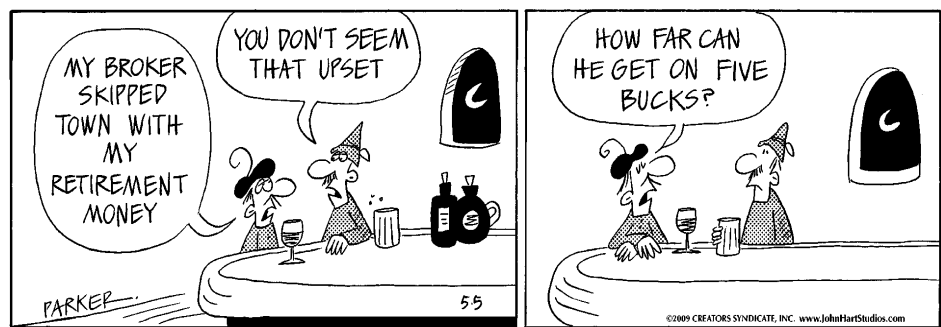
Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketchum



The Wizard of Id

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Bee bug

Hobbyist's offer of bees draws dozens craving honey and worried about pollination



Heidi Tubbs holds a small box containing a queen bee. The box protects the new queen during shipping and allows the workers to get used to her pheromones.

By Virginia Hutchins
Times-News writer



Photos by JUSTIN JACKSON/Times-News

Allison Meyerhoff has bees on the brain. For two years the 18-year-old has fed bees from a wild hive somewhere in the Snake River Canyon near her family's Eden home — a hive too inaccessible to relocate. The Meyerhoffs have tried to capture swarms, but too late in the year for their survival.

Yet Allison was determined to become a beekeeper.

So the Meyerhoffs were among the dozens of people who responded to the *Times-News* classified ad that Kirk Tubbs placed in January: **HONEY BEES. 3 lb. pkg. \$90. Order due Feb. 7th. Pickup in TF April 18th.**

The Meyerhoffs ordered four of the shoebox-sized packages, each with about 10,000 worker bees and a queen. And by the time that sunny Saturday arrived, Allison had prepared hives and picked out sunny spots well away from the chicken coops, cleared flight paths in front of the hive entrances, chewed through a pile of bee books and set her sights on an empty pasture as the spot for seeding bee-friendly clover and wildflowers.

Waiting at Tubbs' Twin Falls home that day for a hive lesson, the College of Southern Idaho student said she hopes for eventual immunity to bee stings so she won't have to wear a protective suit. That'll be a lot of stings later, she said, but she's patient.

Allison's parents have the bee bug, too — "My grandfather raised bees, and I've always wanted to," dad Steve Meyerhoff said — but

they credit their daughter's passion for igniting the project this time.

"Many years ago my husband tried, but we weren't very successful," mom Sandy Meyerhoff said on that April Saturday, as flying bees speckled the air around the trio. "So we're going to try again."

Tubbs seemed just the man to help them.

A Twin Falls County pest-abatement manager, Tubbs also owns a small raspberry and strawberry farm. The year a neighbor's hives were moved away, his plants suffered. White spots on raspberries indicate incomplete pollination, he explained; the fruit looks worse and isn't as sweet.

So Tubbs started out with two hives last year and wanted to expand this spring. With his classified ad, he hoped to find a few people to share the transportation costs to bring bees from California, where warmer weather allows bees to start building population sooner in the year.

"My bees right now are just starting to lay eggs and get going," Tubbs said in early April, "but in California they've been

Kirk Tubbs demonstrates how to put Minnesota Hygienic bees into a hive April 18 at his home in Twin Falls. One of the onlookers was Carole Bennett of Gooding, whose husband bought bees from Tubbs for their small fruit orchard. "I just came along for the ride because he promised me no bee would get out of that box while I was in that car," said Bennett, a few feet from Tubbs' demonstration. "I'm surprised I'm standing here with all these bees, but they aren't bothering anyone."



Kirk Tubbs unloads wood-and-mesh boxes containing bees from his truck April 18, while a few of his dozens of customers wait to claim their bees.



Worker bees and drones gather inside and outside a box containing a New World Carniolan queen. The Tubbses offered three bee breeds, variously preferred for their disease and mite resistance, honey production, appearance, gentleness or successful overwintering.

doing that for a month."

His advertisement uncovered dozens of gardeners, hobbyists, orchard owners and small farmers eager for bees. About 50

people called in response to his ad, he said, and at least 30 added their orders to his.

When April 18 arrived, he and his wife set off to meet their more-than-\$10,000

pickup's bed and monitored the bees' environment as they drove. They stopped to drill more ventilation holes in the plywood whenever temperatures inside threatened to rise above 70 degrees.

Just one sting and one cracked bee package later, the Tubbses delivered some orders in Burley and brought the rest of the shipment safely to their Twin Falls home. There, working from the tailgate with a buzzing crowd around her head, Heidi Tubbs distributed pollen patties that would nourish each customer's packages of bees as they settled into new hives.

For a handful of people at a time, her husband demonstrated how to transfer bees from their wood-and-mesh packages to hive boxes, calming the bees with a spray of sugar-water, stocking them with feeders and positioning a Crisco-covered trap at the bottom of the hive to guard against mites from the wild bee population.

"These should be really clean coming in, but they're out there," he said.

Each queen traveled in a tiny box, protected by mesh that allowed the worker bees newly paired with her to become accustomed to her pheromones. Kirk Tubbs showed how to remove the queen box's plug and — quickly — replace it with a marshmallow or sugar candy, which the bees would eat through

SHARING THE BUZZ

Kirk and Heidi Tubbs plan to hold a meeting for anyone interested in forming a beekeeping club, at 6:30 p.m. May 15 at their Twin Falls home (1150 South Park Ave. W.), with potluck finger foods. Call 735-1932 or 961-0969.

shipment in Lehi, Utah, in a pickup outfitted with a homemade plywood shell. Tubbs threw in two beekeeper suits — in case of a wreck they'd really be needed — and his father was on call to respond immediately if anything went wrong on the road. The couple positioned thermometer wires in the



Beltran belts it out

Mets equal last year's win total in Atlanta as Beltran goes deep twice.
SEE SPORTS 4

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TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2009

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ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

Kimberly second baseman Whitney Carlton attempts to complete a double play around the slide of Buhl's Kendyl Hamilton Monday during the sixth inning of their game in Kimberly.

Kimberly blanks Buhl in semis

Bulldogs reach SCIC title tilt

By Bradley Guire
Times-News writer

KIMBERLY — One more win is all they need. With a shutout of the Buhl Indians, the Kimberly Bulldogs are one victory from claiming their fourth consecutive Sawtooth Central Idaho Conference softball tournament championship and fourth straight trip to the Class 3A state tournament. Kimberly (22-3) defeated Buhl 6-0 Monday at home and will host

the title game on Thursday. Nellie Makings earned her 15th victory of the season, surrendering no runs on five hits, one walk and 11 strikeouts. The Bulldogs connected seven times, most of which came from Alex Pfefferle and Kaitlyn Goetz. "We came out and hit the ball like we knew we could," Goetz said. "Last time, we struggled with this pitcher (Casidee Kippes) a little bit." Pfefferle batted 3-for-3 with a double and one RBI, while

Goetz went 2-for-3 with two runs scored. Gentry Funk and Jandy Altemose each batted in one run on sacrifice grounders. Head coach Rich Bishop said he thought his team did well staying back on Kippes, who could force Bulldog batters into early swings or fly balls with offspeed pitching. The Indians suffered from a lack of timely hits, stranding four base runners. Katherine Hunter, Buhl's leading batter with a 2-for-3 performance, was stranded twice as were Ashley Lively and Bailee Montgomery. "The bottom of our lineup needs to start hitting the ball,"

Montgomery said. "We can all hit Nellie, we just have to bring it to the game." Buhl (18-5) is trying to hold on. The Indians require three more wins to upset Kimberly for the conference crown and the lone district seed to the state tournament, where they hope to win a third championship. Before these goals can be realized, they must get past Filer first in today's 5 p.m. elimination game in Buhl. "We can't overlook them," Montgomery said. "We have to keep playing our hardest."

See **SCIC**, Sports 2

T.F. softball faces uphill battle to retain region title

By David Bashore
Times-News writer

Last year the Twin Falls softball team cruised through the Region Four-Five-Six tournament to win it for the second straight season. The Bruins reached the championship round of the Class 5A state tournament before falling to Eagle. This season they face an uphill task just to make it back to the state tournament, let alone win the region for the third year in a row, after struggling to a sub-.500 finish in the league and settling for the No. 3 seed in the tournament.

But with the dawn of the region tournament comes new life and a fresh chance to make amends for a season laden with marginal issues that had a major impact on the way things unfolded. Twin Falls coach Ken Johnson, ever the optimist, feels that the season of struggles will help get the team pulling in the same direction, with some added pop as some of the top hitters begin making their way back to form.

"It's actually good because, of all the region games, we haven't had our whole team out there. Three of our top hitters were out for almost all of the region season, and we're starting to get them back," Johnson said. "We're starting to get all our bullets in the gun, and Skyline and those other guys haven't seen our full lineup yet."

Skyline goes into the tournament as a favorite, having two of the top pitchers in the conference in Krystal Palmer and Kristie Garn. But with no team having a truly dominant starter, Johnson

See **BATTLE**, Sports 4

'IT WAS PAYBACK'

Minico gets revenge by rocking Jerome to win GBW crown

By Ryan Howe
Times-News writer

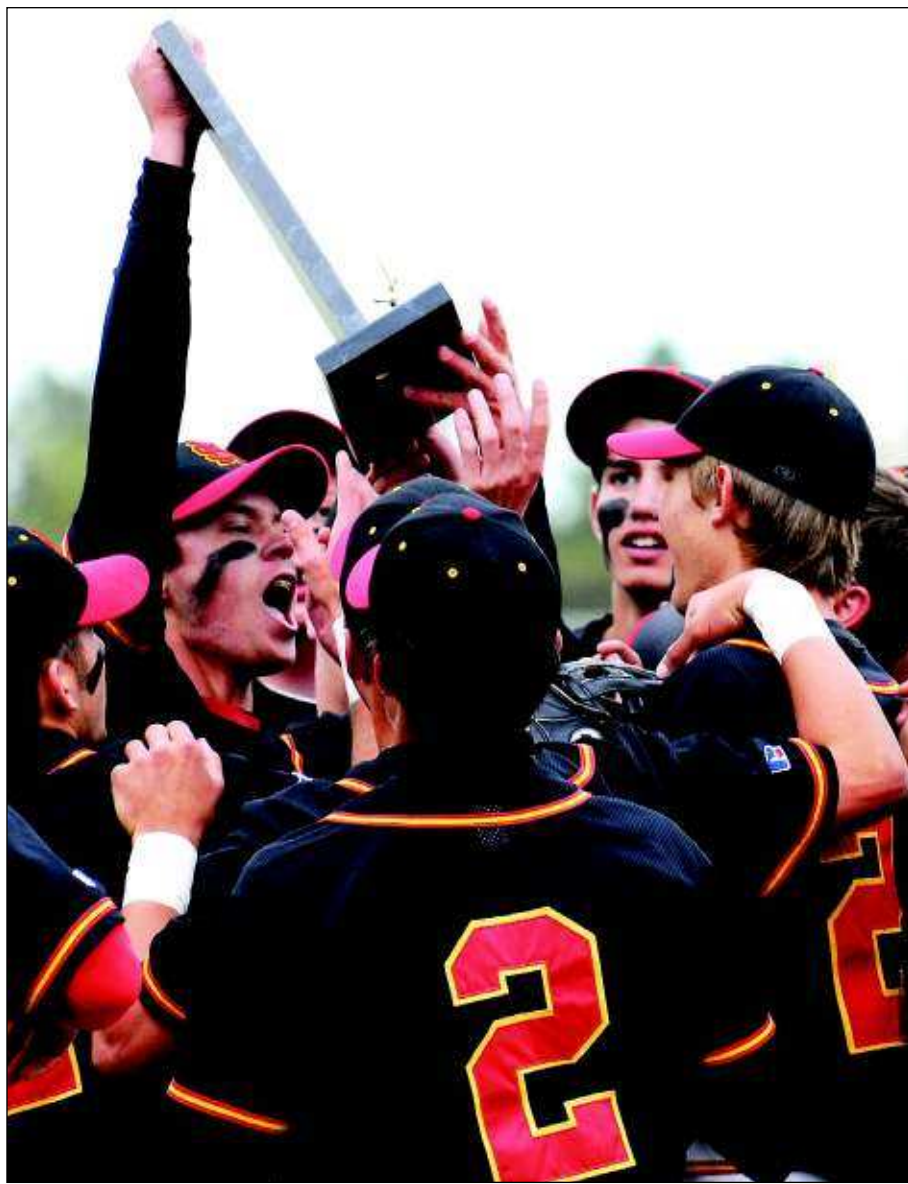
RUPERT — Two weeks ago when the Jerome Tigers stomped into Warburton Field, rallied from six runs down and spoiled Minico's senior night, the Spartans took it personal. On Monday night, with the Great Basin Conference West title on the line, the Spartans got the win that mattered more.

Minico won its fifth consecutive conference championship and an automatic Class 4A state tournament berth with a convincing 8-0 win. "It was payback," said Minico senior shortstop Landon Barnes. "It's big because on senior night they came in and showed us up. We all took it personal."

The pressure of a championship game didn't faze sophomore pitcher Casey Christiansen, who tossed a complete-game two-hit shutout. It was a hair better than his previous outing against the Tigers (a three-hit shutout on April 21).

"I felt more comfortable today than probably since the last time I pitched against them. I was hitting my spots and for the most part I was getting ahead," Christiansen said. "All season our goals have been to win district and win state, and half of our goal came down to today."

Christiansen took a no-hitter into the sixth. It was broken up by D.J. Worthington's double that Minico's Pete Coats couldn't quite hold onto as he crashed into the left field wall. Jerome's only other hit was a double in the seventh by Cameron Stauffer. Jerome pitcher Logan Parker started off well, but



RYAN HOWE/Times-News

The Minico Spartans hoist the Great Basin Conference West trophy after their 8-0 win over Jerome Monday.

Minico's bats got hot with five runs on five hits in the third.

"We didn't hit Parker that well, but we did scrap up and put some balls in play," said Minico coach Ben Frank. "Today's game was exactly what we've worked for the whole season: We threw strikes, we played solid defense and we scrapped at the plate."

For Minico, Chris Joyce batted 2-for-4 with two RBIs, Christiansen was 2-for-3 with an RBI, Coats was 2-for-3 with an RBI, Barnes went 2-for-4, and

Alex Moon drove in three runs.

"We didn't want them to come back again," said Barnes. "We just kept the intensity up the entire game, didn't coast whatsoever. We showed up and we wanted it."

Minico (18-11) will host Pocatello of District V in the crossover seeding game at 7 p.m. on Thursday.

Jerome (12-10) will host Burley in an elimination game at 5 p.m. today. The winner of that game will have to win play-in games against the runners up from

District V and District VI in order to earn a trip to state.

"They played the game of baseball better than we did today," said Jerome coach Tom Bobrowski. "We told (the Jerome players) to flush this, we can't do anything about this. We can't go in the front door, so we want to kick in the back door."

BURLEY 5, WOOD RIVER 4

Senior captain John Cummings' base hit in the bottom of the seventh scored Nelson Geary as the

See **GBW**, Sports 2

Bruin sluggers aiming for region repeat

By David Bashore
Times-News writer

The Twin Falls baseball team is 23-5. Only one of those losses is to a team from the state of Idaho. To term the other four losses respectable would be an understatement.

What's more, the Bruins are the two-time defending Region Four-Five-Six champions and are trying to exit the conference as champions for the third consecutive season.

But the reality is that none of that matters, and it's not lost on head coach Tim Stadelmeir or his players.

"It's all zero and zero now," Stadelmeir said, referencing the clean slate that comes with the region tournament.

INSIDE

Full schedules for Region Four-Five-Six tourneys.

See **Sports 4**

All it will take for the Bruins, the tournament's top seed, is two victories to get to the state tournament and make sure that the region title stays in Twin Falls for another year.

It's clear that that the team has fallen in love with a memorable quote from the comic strip "Pogo": "We have met the enemy, and he is us."

"We're not even worried about who we're going to play, we're so focused on playing our own game," Stadelmeir said. "We know that if we can just do the things we need to do that it's going to work out for us in the end."

See **REPEAT**, Sports 4

'King James' crowned MVP LeBron easily beats out Kobe; first Cavalier to win award

By Tom Withers
Associated Press writer

AKRON, Ohio — Unstoppable at both ends of the floor this season, LeBron James claimed the league MVP on Monday, receiving the award in the high school gym where he first emerged on the national scene.

"This is a place where all my dreams started and where I thought they could become real," James said in accepting the award at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School. "There's really not a better place."

The Cleveland Cavaliers star won what some expected to be a close vote in a slam dunk. He received 109 of a possible 121 first-place votes to easily outdistance Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers. James totaled 1,172 points in balloting by media members in the U.S. and Canada.

INSIDE

Magic steal Game 1 playoff win at Boston.

See **Sports 4**

Bryant, last year's winner, got two first-place votes and finished with 698 points. Miami guard Dwyane Wade was third

with 680 points and was named first on seven ballots. Orlando center Dwight Howard (328) was fourth followed by New Orleans guard Chris Paul (192).

James is the first Cavaliers player to win the award. He averaged 28.4 points, 7.6 rebounds and 7.2 assists this season, his sixth as a pro. He also finished second in voting for defensive player of the year, making him perhaps the league's most dominant two-way player since Michael Jordan. "You look at the guys who have won this award — Michael Jordan, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Dr. J,

Oscar Robertson," James said. "All these guys laid down the path for guys like myself and Kobe Bryant, Chris Paul, Dwight Howard and Dwyane Wade to name a few"

James credited his teammates, who along with coach Mike Brown were present to see him accept the award, for raising their games in the Cavaliers' best season ever.

"Individual accolades come when team success happens," James said. "You look at those 14 guys over there, I got the award because of them. They put in the work."

At 24 years, 106 days on the final day of the

See **MVP**, Sports 4

Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James was named the NBA's MVP on Monday receiving 109 of a possible 121 first-place votes to easily outdistance Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers.

AP photo

