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Business 8


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**SUNDAY**  
 May 10, 2009

# TIMES-NEWS

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"It's hard to talk about it now, even five years later. ...  
 I don't miss him on special days, like Mother's Day. I miss him every day."

— Marian B. Rowe, of her son Alan Blake Rowe, a Marine who died in Iraq in 2004 —



Photos by ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

Marian Blake Rowe pauses for a moment Wednesday afternoon at Mountain View Cemetery near Fairfield while she works around the gravesite of her son, Maj. Alan Blake Rowe, a Marine who died in Iraq in 2004. The family used rocks and stumps around the grave site from a ranch Rowe used to play at as a young man, which is about 20 miles south of the cemetery.

## COMMON VALOR

Mothers of those in the military carry on with strength in difficult times

By Laurie Welch • Times-News writer



U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Alan Blake Rowe

Pride has always been woven into the fabric of motherhood. But for the Magic Valley mother whose son or daughter is serving in uniform, the special honor is something more than what is worn on a sleeve.

It also comes in the form of pain and worry, carried inside an anxious heart.

The stories of four local military mothers are each unique in their experience and emotion. Yet they share many themes found in the lives of other valley moms. And they each exemplify the pain and self-sacrifice that is the hallmark of a soldier's mother.

Marian B. Rowe, Gooding

It probably didn't surprise anyone when little Alan Blake Rowe grew up to be a Marine, least of all his mother.

Marian B. Rowe's son always dreamed of serving his country. He was active in 4-H and FFA, winning many public speaking titles on the local, district and state level, while growing up in Hansen and later settling with his family in Gooding. After he graduated from high school he joined the U.S. Marine Corps, where he was deployed overseas four times, twice to Iraq.

His combat death, on Sept. 3, 2004, occurred less than two weeks after he arrived for his final mission to secure a bridge in northern Iraq in the Anbar province near the Syrian border. He was 35 and a weapons company commander for the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment. He died alongside two other Marines when a remote-controlled explosive device detonated as he returned to his vehicle after inspecting a bridge.

"It's hard to talk about it now, even five years later," said Marian Rowe. "We were two peas in a pod. He looked like my dad and there was an unspoken bond between us. It's been a long, hard five years. I miss him terribly."

See **MOTHERS**, Main 3

### MORE MOTHERS INSIDE and ONLINE

Meet three other mothers working through the pain and worry of their child's deployment, See **Main 3-4**

Watch video of Marian B. Rowe as she cares for son's gravesite, online at [Magicvalley.com](http://Magicvalley.com)

Also meet Jaclynn Vargas, nominated as an outstanding mother to her children and her brother, **Family Life 1**

## 2009 session dominated by economy, roads, missed opportunities

By Jared S. Hopkins  
 Times-News writer

BOISE — With the national recession as a backdrop, the 2009 Legislature was all about spending money.

Plummeting state revenues, the federal stimulus and transportation funding made the second-longest session feel like three different ones.

"We had several stops and several starts," said House Assistant Majority Leader Scott Bedke, R-Oakley. "Every time it looked like the system stopped, the system started up again."

After weeks of political wrangling, Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter and legislators were able to finish Friday and agree to a lukewarm \$55 million transportation funding compromise. But it came only after Otter was forced to abandon his coveted gas tax increase because of staunch opposition in

### INSIDE

Ten decisions that will impact the Magic Valley.

See **Main 2**

See **LEGISLATURE**, Main 2

### Magicvalley.com

WATCH: A video of the adjournment of the Legislature. And read Capitol Confidential, a political blog by Jared S. Hopkins



## Idaho Latino population shows its buying power

By Jessie L. Bonner  
 Associated Press writer

NAMPA — Two years ago, Nestor Carrillo could fit the demands for his Mexican candies and tortillas into one truck as he drove products to a handful of stores across Idaho. Carrillo now has four trucks, three employees and delivers to more than 110 stores in three states, including Washington and Oregon.

He often makes stops at El Centro, a business wedged in a mostly empty strip mall in Nampa, to show his gratitude to the tiny financial center where he first obtained auto insurance after moving to southwest Idaho seven years ago.

Inside, rows of gray dividers separate a tiny army of tax preparers, mortgage specialists, real estate and insurance agents.

See **POWER**, Main 2



AP photo

Nestor Carrillo of Caldwell delivers groceries to Veracruzana, a Latino grocery store in Nampa on Friday. In just two years Carrillo has expanded his business to four trucks and three employees and delivers to more than 110 stores in three states, including Washington and Oregon.



Crossword .....Classifieds 4  
 Dear Abby .....Classifieds 2  
 Horoscope .....Classifieds 2

Kids Only .....Family Life 6  
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 Local teams play in district tourneys > **Sports 1**



# Mothers

Continued from Main 1

Her son was a career Marine, as devoted to his country as he was to the family he left behind. His wife, Dawn Rowe, and their two children, Blake and Caitlin, continue to make their home near Twentynine Palms, Calif., where he was last stationed.

When Alan was busy, Rowe often told him he didn't need to write to her.

"We were on the same wavelength," she said. "We may have been separated geographically. He was out running around with the Marines but we still had a really close bond."

His dedication to the Marines and to his country is illustrated by the long list of commendations bestowed upon him during the years he served.

A small sampling of his honors include the Purple Heart, Navy and Marine Commendation, Navy and Marine Achievement with star, Combat Action with star, Navy Unit Commendation with star, Meritorious Unit Commendation along with a Good Conduct Medal.

"I, of course realized how wonderful he was," Rowe said. "But I didn't realize how many others thought so too, until after his death."

He was, she said, a perfectionist and a hard worker, outstanding not only academically and professionally but physically. Above all he remained humble.

"When he was gone I didn't want to go on — but you do," Rowe said. "He wouldn't have wanted me to give up."

Everyday is hard, she said. So it's best to fill them up with something that benefits another.

But no matter how busy the hands and mind are kept, the heart does not forget. He was part of her flesh — a part of her person.

"My life has never been the same," Rowe said. "I don't miss him on special days, like Mother's Day. I miss him every day."

## Imelda Early, Burley

Nobody needs to define what freedom means for Imelda Early — it has been her guiding star.

To really know what freedom is, she says, you have to live without it.

Twenty years ago as a single mother she held the hands of three small children as she fled a communist country ruled by Sandinistas.

Her daughter, Imelda King, now a career U.S. Army soldier, has been deployed twice to Iraq. Early and her husband, Wiley, help care for King's children, while she continues her mother's fight, although in a different country, for freedom.

"No matter what the obstacles were, my mother went around them or through them," said Imelda King, who was 11 when they left Nicaragua. "And she always ended up on the other side. She has been my greatest teacher and she is still teaching me to this day."

Early and her children, who were then ages 3, 11 and 12, lived in Managua, Nicaragua, where she worked as a military accountant.

The government, which had just overthrown a 50-year-old dictatorship, was still in turmoil and things were happening that made Early uncomfortable.

"My country was doing so many cruel things," Early said. "They killed a lot of people."

When she quit her job, the government froze her savings and checking accounts and took away her house and her car.

"So I decided to leave my country and sold everything I could overnight," Early said.

After crossing the border and coming to Idaho, they stayed with a family in Inkom. The family struggled to learn English at a time before second-lan-



LAURIE WELCH/Times-News

Reunited for Mother's Day, the Early and King families, Wiley Early, left, Imelda Early, Imelda King, Jaiden King, Rico Suggs and Lili Early reminisce Friday in Burley.

## WANT TO HELP?

Project Rudolph in Mini-Cassia is currently working with military mothers to gather shaving kit items that can be sent to their children's unit. Anyone wishing to donate items may contact Deidra Wageman at 208-678-9906.

guage programs were common.

"My mom is an incredible woman," King said. "She took any and every job and vowed to go back to school and get her degree."

After meeting her husband she worked as a seamstress at Ropers Clothing store in Burley until it closed its doors, then began classes at the College of Southern Idaho and later transferred to Idaho State University. Today she teaches Spanish at Burley High School.

"Everyone here (in the United States) has been so nice to me," Early said. "I wanted to do something for this country that gave me my freedom, so I teach."

Imelda and Wiley provide a safe refuge for King's two children, Rico, 8, and

Jaiden, 3, when King's 12-year Army career prevents her from being at home with them.

When separated from her children, King calls them as often as she can, frequently helping Rico do his homework or listening to him read over the phone.

"I try to parent as well as I can from far away," King said. "When I have to go I bring them back to my parents. Without them I wouldn't be able to do the job I'm doing."

King, like her mother, knows firsthand how much freedom costs.

"It's tremendously hard being away from them. With my daughter, I missed her first words. And you miss the simple hugs and kisses," King said.

King has distinguished herself by earning the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal along with many others.

She graduated from special training May 6, which came with a promotion to warrant officer. On May 7, she arrived in Burley after a five-month absence to spend Mother's Day with

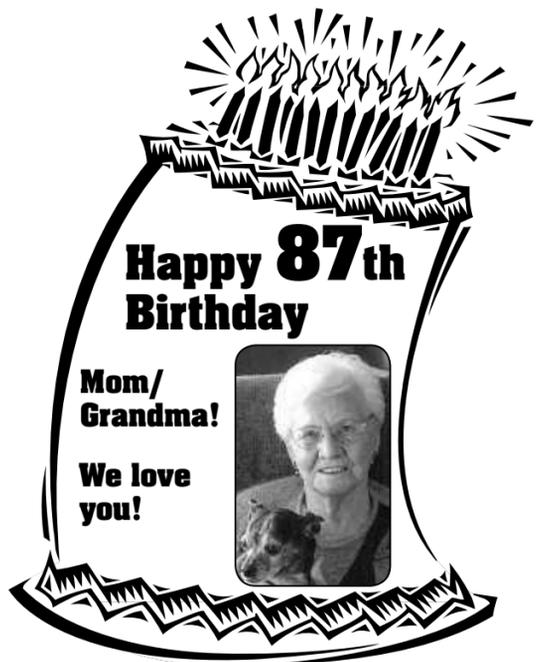
her family and take her children back to Fort Carson, where she is stationed. She hopes to spend the next two and a half years there, although she suspects another deployment to Afghanistan might be right around the corner. The thought makes this Mother's Day spent with her children and her own mother all the more special.

"It's hard," Early said. "I don't know that she'll come back alive. It's scary for a mom to hear about the attacks. You wait for that telephone call to come."

But, she says, freedom doesn't come with a bill for others to pay. It's always worth a fight.

"I support her because it's a noble cause," Early said.

See **SOLDIERS**, Main 4



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# Soldiers

Continued from Main 3

## Deidra Wageman, Burley

Worry is a part of motherhood that goes with the territory. But the worry a mother endures when her child becomes a soldier can be compounded by a lack of communication and knowing he is in need.

"I'm scared to death," said Deidra Wageman of Burley, whose son, U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Joshua K. Stuart, 22, was deployed to south Afghanistan on March 11 to help build a military base and airstrip.

Wageman knows firsthand what the price of war can be. She was the foster mother of U.S. Army Pfc. Cleston C. Raney, 20, who died in Iraq on March 31, 2004. He was the fourth Idaho soldier killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Wageman said the lack of communication with Joshua has been one of the toughest elements to deal with — the other is the knowledge that her child is going without things that he needs.

Joshua has only been able to call his mother twice, one call coming on Easter Sunday.

"I have to stay up until 2 or 3 in the morning to take the call," Wageman said. "But it's worth it."

The family has also tried to communicate with Joshua via e-mail but the computer viruses they received in reply messages left their computer disabled. Letters and packages sent through the U.S. Postal Service take about 10 to 14 days to get there. To date, Wageman has not received a single letter back from him.

Wageman said although the lack of communication is daunting, when she did speak to her son he relayed a message that has since tugged at her heart. Joshua's unit is not receiving basic hygiene items



Parents of U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Joshua K. Stuart, Deidra and Rick Wageman sit on the front steps of their Burley home Friday with their family pet, Krieger. Stuart was deployed to south Afghanistan on March 11.

such as body soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

"Our kids are over there getting killed and they're not getting the things they need while they are there," Wageman said.

## Periann Crystal, Paul

In the span of a month, one of Periann Crystal's children came home from Baghdad and another one's boots hit the ground.

Crystal, the mother of five, knows twice over what it's like to have a child deployed to Iraq.

On Wednesday, one

week after her daughter, U.S. Army Sgt. Joleen Crystal Parks, 27, who was stationed in Baghdad came home, Crystal received the news that her 25-year-old son, U.S. Army Spc. Tyree Crystal had arrived in Baghdad.

This is Tyree's third tour of duty. Stationed previously in Kuwait, he served in the infantry. Crystal does not know what he will be doing in Baghdad.

"Joleen was in Baghdad but she was not on the front line like Ty," Crystal said. Joleen served in the Army for four years and was a specialist in psycho-

logical operations, which meant she communicated with indigenous people.

"Joleen could call every few days and I would be able to hear the gunfire and the mortar shells going off. We would pause for a moment and then pick the conversation back up like it



Courtesy photo  
U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Joshua K. Stuart is currently serving a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

"The first time, I was pretty much a wreck. I couldn't even watch the news. But I know he's got common sense. You don't worry until you see the guys in the dress boots on your doorstep."

— Periann Crystal, who has had two children deployed to Iraq

never happened. It was surreal," Crystal said.

Crystal, who is an emergency medical technician, said her private nightmare is having her son injured and not being able to be there to help him.

She keeps a spare set of his dog tags with her all the time — an act that makes him seem a little closer to home. And although the tears come sometimes, a soldier's mother has to learn to dry them quickly

and go on, she says.

"The first time, I was pretty much a wreck. I couldn't even watch the news," Crystal said about having a child deployed to Iraq. "But I know he's got common sense. You don't worry until you see the guys in the dress boots on your doorstep."

Laurie Welch may be reached at lwelch@magic-valley.com or 208-677-8767.

LAURIE WELCH/Times-News



Courtesy photo  
Gathered around motorcycles for a photograph, the Crystals enjoy time together during a break in military service for two of the family's five children. Pictured in front, Tenea Crystal. From left, William Crystal, Shaylee Crystal-Alexander, father Scott Crystal, Joleen Crystal Parks, Tyree Crystal. In the back, mother Periann Crystal.



Courtesy photo  
Periann Crystal shares a moment with her children, U.S. Army Sgt. Joleen Crystal Parks and U.S. Army Spc. Tyree Crystal.

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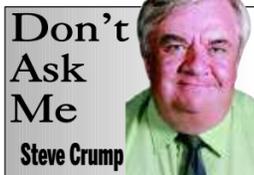
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**Don't Ask Me**  
Steve Crump

## Every girl's crazy 'bout a sharp-dressed man ... right?

Guys should not be allowed to dress themselves. Seriously. We can't.

The freshest evidence came last weekend, when I donned a polo shirt and marched off to mow the lawn and run some errands.

My wife came home toward evening, took one look at me, and asked: "Why are you wearing your shirt inside out?"

Now I had been around other guys all day — clerks at the big-box home improvement store, the fellow at the lawnmower repair shop, the kid behind the counter at the dry cleaners. None of them said a thing.

Shoot, they may have been wearing *their* shirts inside out. But then, I wouldn't have noticed, would I?

Later in the week, a friend was telling me about his Saturday.

He had set aside the day to hang out with his 7-year-old granddaughter. They went to IHop, the grocery store — all around town.

When he got home, my buddy noticed that the seat of his pants was ripped from belt-line to leg.

"I noticed things were a little drafty, but I didn't think much about it," he said.

Men are clueless in other areas, but why can't we get dressed in the morning without zipping the end of our neckties into our flies?

To learn why, I looked up the biography of the best-dressed guy I ever heard of, Beau Brummell. He was a 19th century English dandy generally credited with inventing the suit and popularizing long trousers.

He claimed to take five hours to get dressed, and recommended that boots be polished with champagne.

According to Wikipedia, Brummell's fastidious attention to cleaning his teeth, shaving and bathing daily became popular.

He never tipped his hat at ladies lest he mess up his hair, and he was conveyed from his quarters in a sedan chair to avoid stepping onto the dirty street.

Brummell was in hock all his life, though always paid his gambling debts. Yet he died penniless of syphilis at the age of 62.

So, fellas, where did Beau go off the beam?

Though he had lots of women, Brummell never married and rarely had a steady girlfriend. As his sartorial skills deteriorated, there was no one in his life to point out when he wore his pajama bottoms to tea.

There's a serious life lesson to be learned there, gentlemen.

Since the shirt-inside-out incident, my wife has adopted a policy of checking me before I head out the door. Since then, I've noticed other guys aren't dressed *nearly* as well as I am.

Matter of fact, I got a haircut yesterday and shaved with my eyes open. And as a concession to fashion, I'm thinking of actually tying the laces of my sneakers next time Victoria and I go out to dinner.

See, men *can* be taught.

Steve Crump can be reached at 735-3223. Hear him live on KLIX-1310 AM at 8:30 a.m. Fridays or on the Web at [www.magicvalley.com/opinion](http://www.magicvalley.com/opinion).

# Police still searching for robbery suspect

By Laurie Welch  
Times-News writer

RUPERT — Police are still looking for a suspect who allegedly robbed a Minidoka County service station Thursday at gunpoint.

The robbery took place at the Stinker Station, 316 S. Idaho Highway 24 near The Wayside café at 12:27 a.m., according to a report issued by the Minidoka County Sheriff's Office.

Minidoka County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Vic Watson said Friday that detectives had not yet established a person of interest in the case.

The suspect, who was described by the clerk on duty as a light-skinned Hispanic man, about 5 feet, 5 inches tall and weighing 275 pounds, entered the store and pointed a black semiautomatic pistol at her.

The suspect had his face covered and was wearing a black beanie hat and blue jeans.

According to the sheriff's report, the robber asked for the money in the cash register and after the clerk handed over an undisclosed amount of cash, the robber also requested two cartons of Marlboro and a carton of KOOL mild cigarettes.

After the suspect left the store he headed toward the Tops Motel.

Watson said a new video surveillance system was in the store at the time of the robbery but apparently the system had not been functioning since April 15.

"It was an operator glitch," Watson said. "These are pretty high-tech surveillance systems and there are some technical skills involved in monitoring them."

Watson said unfortunately it is not an uncommon occurrence to have a surveillance system in a store which is not maintained and operational.

"We run into that a lot," Watson said.

Watson said investigators are reviewing surveillance tapes from other nearby businesses to see if they contain images of the robber going to or from the station.

Anyone who has informa-

tion on the robbery may call the Minidoka County Sheriff's office at 434-2320.

Laurie Welch may be reached at [lwelch@magicvalley.com](mailto:lwelch@magicvalley.com).

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# Volunteers clean up the canyon

By Ben Botkin  
Times-News writer

The Snake River Canyon Park is a place for recreation — not work.

But on a sunny Saturday morning, about 50 people showed up for cleanup duty at the park, located along the north rim of the Snake River Canyon. With trash bags, pickup trucks and bulldozers, volunteers hauled trash to two large trash bins.

The trash removal was a Great American Clean Up event, part of a nationwide effort to keep communities clean. It was a joint effort with involvement from various organizations that included the Snake River Canyon Krawlers, the Bureau of Land Management, and Back Country Horsemen of Idaho.

"The problem is, it's a dumping ground," said Julie Thomas, coordinator for the Mid-Snake Resource Conservation and Development.

Though the two trash bins were large enough for a

bulldozer to drop a load of trash, Thomas said that one day won't be enough.

"There's no way we can get all the garbage in one day," she said.

The garbage came in all forms.

There were soda bottles and food wrappers. And larger items like carpeting, old tires and appliances also were found.

"We're picking up people's trash," said Karen Ambrose of Buhl, a member of Back Country Horsemen of Idaho.

She filled a garbage bag with an assortment of rubbish that included a dusty pair of pants.

Dixie Best of Buhl, a member of Magic Valley ATV Riders, was disappointed that the park is a breeding ground for trash.

"It's a crime that people are so ignorant that way," she said.

David Freiberg, an outdoor recreation planner for the BLM, said that keeping outdoor areas clean discourages people from dumping garbage there.



JUSTIN JACKSON/Times-News

Shirley Williams, a member of Back Country Horsemen of Idaho, carries a bag of garbage Saturday morning just north of the Perrine Bridge. The Bureau of Land Management and the Mid-Snake Resource Conservation and Development joined Williams' group along with the Snake River Canyon Krawlers, Magic Valley ATV Riders and other organizations to host a Great American Clean Up event on the north rim of the Snake River Canyon.

People are more likely to leave rubbish in a spot that already has garbage and less inclined to drop garbage where there isn't any, he said.

"Trash begets trash,"

Freiberg said.

As for Thomas, there's one thing she wants the public to remember.

"Take your garbage to the transfer station," she said. "This isn't a dump!"

## Blue Lakes construction lane closures to extend to North College

Times-News

ahead of schedule."

Beginning as soon as Monday traffic on Blue Lakes Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes between Pole Line Road and North College Road, the Idaho Transportation Department announced.

Crews will proceed southbound deconstructing the roadway and trenching for a storm water system. Traffic control is expected to be set up on Sunday night in preparation for Monday's work. The southbound lanes will be closed and all traffic will be reduced to two lanes.

"The contractor has said they will systematically work down the west side of Blue Lakes but at some point the entire west side will be under construction," ITD Resident Engineer Kimbol Allen said. "The work is moving quickly. The contractor is already weeks

As part of the next stage, the intersection of Cheney Drive proceeding west will be completely closed for concrete work. To allow access to the Winco/Target shopping center, one of three east-facing approaches will be opened for right-hand turns only. Access to other businesses on the west side of Blue Lakes will be maintained for right-hand turns only.

No left turns onto or off Blue Lakes are allowed through the construction zone. Drivers should consider alternate routes to access businesses in the construction zone.

For weekly construction updates and other project information, log on to [itd.idaho.gov](http://itd.idaho.gov) then click on projects, south-central Idaho and then U.S. Highway 93 Blue Lakes Falls Ave. to Pole Line Road.

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# College of Southern Idaho students get updated e-mail system

By Ben Botkin  
Times-News writer

The growing world of Google has reached the College of Southern Idaho. CSI students will have a new e-mail network through Google Apps for

Education, which provides e-mail to colleges and universities nationwide. For students, it will provide additional storage space — about 200 times what the current system offers. For the college, the e-mail network will save

about \$40,000 a year. That's because Google provides the server storage and maintenance at no cost to the college, said Jay Sneddon, data center director for CSI. "We're going from something that we host

and maintain here to something we tie into here," he said. Sneddon noted that student computing needs have grown and more storage space will help with tasks such as student portfolios.

The e-mail service is free for students. The college will invest the money saved from the new e-mail service for other student technology needs, Sneddon said. The e-mail service, called Eaglemail for CSI

students, will be available by the time the summer semester begins in June. CSI joins nearly 20,000 other higher education institutions in the nation that use the service, including all the four-year universities in Idaho.

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# AVERTING

**Bank failure, loss of credit threatens  
business community in Wood River Valley**

# DISASTER

STORY BY JOSHUA PALMER/PHOTO BY ARIEL HANSEN  
TIMES-NEWS

**A** state tourism convention in the resort community of Sun Valley was overshadowed by a potentially catastrophic failure of its posh business district. That's because the forced closure of a community bank, which provided more than 40 percent of all loans to businesses in Ketchum, Hailey and Sun Valley, no longer existed.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Office of Thrift Supervision shut down First Bank of Idaho about two weeks before the convention, citing a lack of capital to back failed loans that were invested in high-end real estate and resort communities.

"We had never seen anything like it," said Ketchum Mayor Randy Hall. "The FDIC came in with about 40 agents who strolled into the bank and just shut it down."

He added that agents assured customers that their bank deposits were safe, but there was little solace given to business owners who were unsure if their lines of credit were still being honored.

U.S. Bancorp publicly announced that it acquired about \$225 million worth of deposits previously held by First Bank of Idaho, as well as the bank's seven company branches.

But U.S. Bancorp never mentioned if it would assume control over loans that First Bank of Idaho was issuing to local businesses.

That's because U.S. Bancorp didn't want them. To take over the loans

would mean that U.S. Bancorp would have to generate more capital to back them.

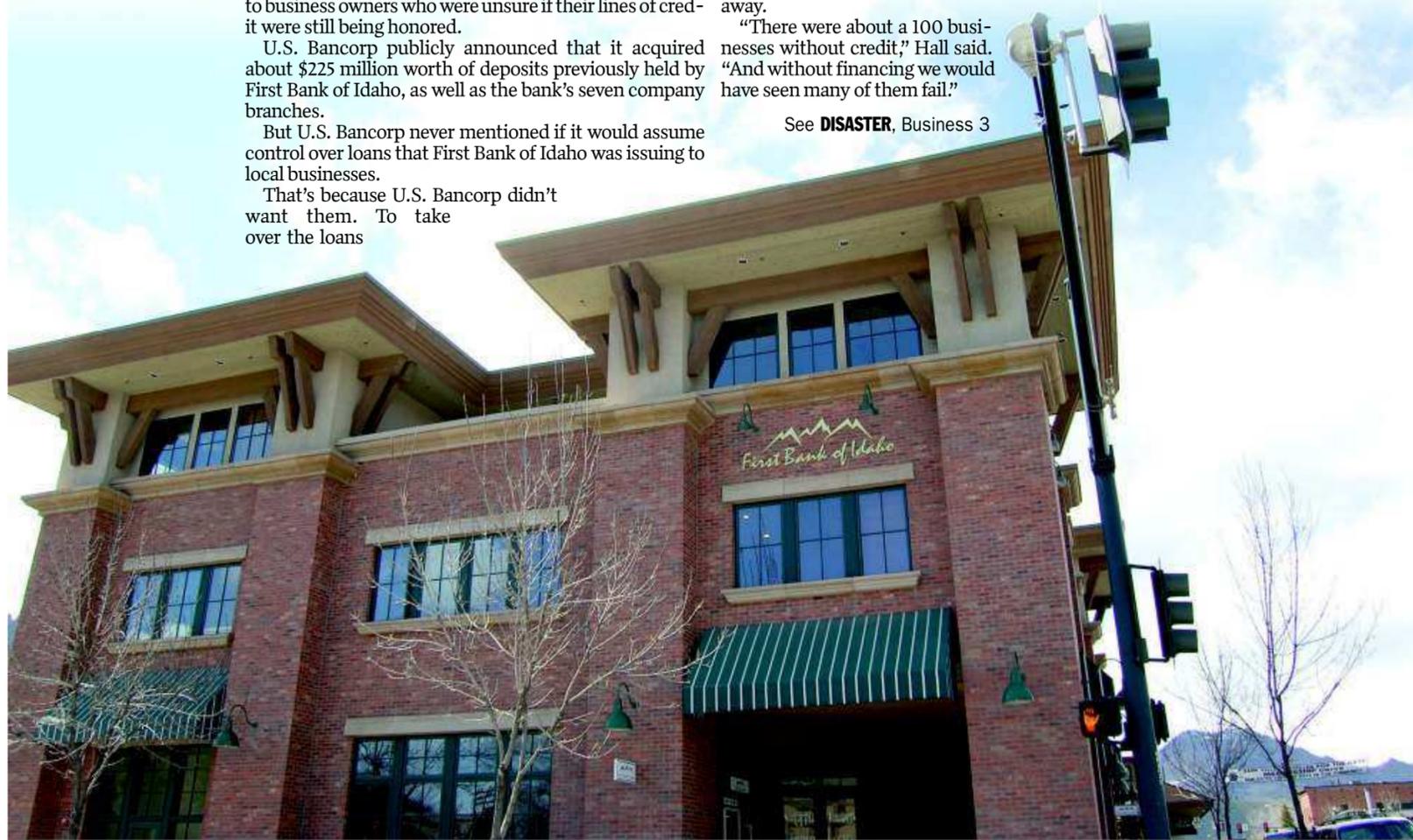
In any other town, or at any other time, the situation would not have been as dire.

But this is the Wood River Valley — where businesses must make enough money during the peak tourism months to withstand the doldrums of the offseasons.

And, to the horror of business owners who had no credit to stock their shelves or hire employees, the summer tourism season was less than a month away.

"There were about a 100 businesses without credit," Hall said. "And without financing we would have seen many of them fail."

See **DISASTER**, Business 3



## In Portugal, as in the U.S., a 'third way' to recover is reemerging

**L**ISBON, Portugal — You can easily imagine the popular story line that plays out daily in the politics of much of Western Europe. It's the one about bankers and money managers in New York and London who got rich by playing fast and loose with other people's money, under the eyes of regulators so blinded by their faith in markets that they couldn't spot a con game going on right under their noses.

And what makes it all the more galling to Western Europeans is how easily this plague of greed and deregulation so easily crossed the Atlantic, sending their own economies into a recession that is expected to be deeper and longer than it will be where it



STEVEN PEARLSTEIN

all began.

Sitting in his office last week, Jose Socrates, the prime minister of Portugal, joked as he recalled the day last September when he first learned about "this thing they call a subprime loan." As head of this country's nominally socialist party, Socrates spent the previous four years reducing the size of Portugal's government, taming its runaway budget deficit, challenging labor unions and deregulating its markets. And what is his

reward? An economic crisis that has once again put the country in a fiscal bind and boosted the polling numbers of Portugal's communist party.

There are similar tales to be told across the continent. In France, top executives have been taken hostage by workers demanding that layoff notices be rescinded. In Sweden and Switzerland, companies have revoked pay packages for top executives in response to public outcry. And just last week, the European Union unveiled new regulations that have the hedge funds howling. Everywhere, there are calls for higher taxes on the rich, with the British government proposing to raise the top marginal rate to 50 percent from 40 percent.

"In terms of further market liberalization, I would say the window of opportunity is now closed," Christine Lagarde, France's reform-minded finance minister, told reporters recently in Washington.

Given the circumstances — unemployment as high as 17 percent in Spain, exports off 20 percent in Germany, house prices off 40 percent in Ireland — none of this is surprising. But the real story in Europe may be how firmly market liberalization seems to have taken hold. Not only have there been few, if any, calls for re-nationalizations, but some countries are still moving toward privatization and deregulation. Instances of protectionism are

See **PORTUGAL**, Business 3

### INSIDE BUSINESS

**Workers help trim costs by working from home**

Increasing number of U.S. employees telecommuting, Business 3



**Gasoline prices continue slow climb around the U.S.**

Costs could be kicked into higher gear by resurgent oil market, Business 4



**Your purchasing power at the flick of a wrist**

Theme park technology takes on a high security profile, Business 5

# YOUR BUSINESS

## MILESTONES

### EXTRA MILE AWARD



Courtesy photo

Jim Mason nominated Ken Rogers for the extra mile award given by the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors. Rogers was nominated for his honesty, integrity and for going out of his way to treat his customer's fairly. Pictured from left, Jim Mason, Idaho Power; Ken Rogers, owner of Snake River Auto Body; Cheri Rogers; Leona Black, mother-in-law; Tegan and Evan Sheffield, daughter and grandson.

### HARRIS LASER CARE



Courtesy photo

The Mini-Cassia Chamber ambassadors recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony at Harris Laser Care. The business, owned by Eric and Amber Harris (shown cutting the ribbon), offers Botox, dermal fillers, skin medics, and other laser services. The business is at 1501 Hiland Ave., Suite H in Burley. Information: 878-5568.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

### WELLS FARGO



Courtesy photo

Wells Fargo Foundation recently donated \$5,000 to South Central Community Action Partnership for its Transitional Housing Program. The donation will help with operating expenses related to the transitional housing units. This program provides transitional housing for homeless families with children for up to two years. The agency owns six site houses and a duplex and leases four, three-bedroom apartments, totaling twelve units for homeless families. The program is currently assisting ten families with applications in progress for a house in Filer and Rupert. SCCAP works to help low-income families stabilize their housing situation increase their income and provide opportunities to enhance job skills. Pictured from left, Ken Robinette, SCCAP, executive director; Leanne Trappen, SCCAP, community services director; and Jerry Olson, Wells Fargo, vice president, manager.

### 9 MONTHS LATER



Courtesy photo

9 Months Later, 1759 Fillmore St. in Twin Falls, cut the red ribbon recently along with the Twin Falls Area Chamber's Ambassadors to celebrate the opening of their new store and being a new member of the Chamber. They carry a wide selection of high quality items for newborns and toddlers including cribs, strollers, car seats, toys, clothing and play pens. They also offer a complete line of feeding, nursing, health and safety products. Information: 733-9700. Pictured from left, front row, Jessica Gomez, Camden Gray, Erin Gray, Conni Walker, Mandy Riddle; second row, Biff Walker, Reagan Gray, Michael Walker and Dallas Gray.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP



Courtesy photo

Magic Valley Student Leadership Program graduating class 2008-09 from Twin Falls and Kimberly high schools recently visited the new St. Luke's Magic Valley Hospital that is under construction. Pictured are the student class accompanied by adult volunteers, from left, Sharee Hamilton, Twin Falls High School; Brent Evans, St. Luke's Magic Valley; Patti Adam, KMVT; Bobbi Pyle, Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce; Deby Klug, Kimberly High School; Zach Kelsey, D.L. Evans Bank; Monty Arrossa, College of Southern Idaho. Not pictured, Bill Hartley, Twin Falls High School and Donna Stalley, Kimberly High School.

### D.L. EVANS BANK



Courtesy photo

In support of National Teach Children to Save Day, D.L. Evans Bank employees Dana Stewart and Amanda Lee from the Twin Falls branch locations taught local 5th graders at Oregon Trail Elementary School the importance of saving on April 21. D.L. Evans Bank supports students by offering scholarships and the chance to win laptop computers.

### RIVER RIDGE



Courtesy photo

River Ridge Care and Rehabilitation Center, located at 640 Filer Ave. in Twin Falls, held a ribbon cutting along with the Twin Falls Area Chamber's Ambassadors. River Ridge Care and Rehabilitation center was formerly SunBridge Care and Rehabilitation. They offer the same care and services as before. They would like to thank everyone who attended their open house. Pictured are Derrick Glum, administrator; and Marie Shinn.

### MAGIC VALLEY BANK



Courtesy photo

Magic Valley Bank recently donated \$50 to the Region IV Idaho State Police Association. The funds were raised during Magic Valley Bank's Employee Appreciation Day and donated as part of the Powered by Community Program. Pictured from left, Monica Youree, president, Magic Valley Bank; Cpl. Sean Walker; Jessica Walker, vice president, Magic Valley Bank; and Master Cpl. John Gibbs.

### Silver Spur joins cattle group

Silver Spur Cattle Inc. of Filer is a new member of the American Angus Association, reports Bryce Schumann, chief executive officer of the national breed registry organization in Saint Joseph, Mo.

The American Angus Association, with nearly 33,000 active adult and junior members, is the largest beef cattle registry association in the world. The association records ancestral information and keeps production records on individual animals for its members. These permanent records help members select and mate the best animals in their herds to produce high quality, efficient breeding cattle which are then recorded with the American Angus Association.

## CAREER MOVES

### Corey Johnson and Velma Rowland

Starley Leavitt announced the addition of two new employees.

**Corey Johnson** has been hired as a sales producer specializing in commercial business. Johnson grew up in Bemidji, Minn., and graduated from Bemidji State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 2000.

After graduation, he spent the next six years teaching fourth grade in Gilbert, Ariz.

While teaching, he pursued further education and received a Master's Degree from Arizona State University in 2006. Recently, Johnson has spent the past two years as a project manager for a commercial construction company in the Phoenix



Johnson



Rowland

metro area. Johnson and his wife reside in Twin Falls.

**Velma Rowland** has been hired as commercial account manager in the small business unit. Rowland has 25 years of insurance experience.

She graduated from Filer High School before moving to Sparks, Nev. She began working in the insurance industry in 1984 working in surety bonds managing the Spencer Douglas office for 17 years in the Reno, Nev., area and has been in the independent commer-

cial lines insurance for the past five years in Reno.

She obtained her Certified Insurance Service Representative designation in 2003. Rowland has three children and five grandchildren.

### Audriona Yocham

**Audriona Yocham**, of Kimberly, is a new junior member of the American Angus Association, reports Bryce Schumann, chief executive officer of the national organization with headquarters in Saint Joseph, Mo.

Junior members of the Association are eligible to register cattle in the American Angus Association, participate in programs conducted by the National Junior Angus Association and take part in Association sponsored

shows and other national and regional events.

The American Angus Association is the largest beef registry association in the world, with nearly 33,000 active adult and junior members.

### We want your news

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

Robert Norman, CPA

Join us as we celebrate

### Robert's Retirement

May 14, 2009  
4:00 - 6:30pm  
Cooper Norman  
722 N. College Rd.  
Twin Falls, Idaho



Find more news at [www.magicvalley.com](http://www.magicvalley.com)



# Gasoline prices continue slow climb

By Ronald D. White  
Los Angeles Times

Pump prices around much of the U.S. continued an ever-so-slow crawl higher over the past week, the Energy Department said Monday. But analysts said gasoline costs might be kicked into a higher gear by a resurgent oil market.

The average cost of a gallon of self-serve regular gasoline increased 2.9 cents nationally to \$2.078, led by the Midwest states, which saw a 6.1-cent jump. California prices rose 1.5 cents to \$2.355, according to the government's weekly survey of filling stations. Since April 13, California prices have climbed 1.9

cents a week on average while the national average is up 2.6 cents a week during the same period.

But prices still are much cheaper than they were last year. At this time in 2008, a gallon of gasoline cost an average \$3.903 in California and \$3.613 nationally.

Meanwhile, some analysts say crude oil might be poised for a run back toward \$60 a barrel if current trends continue.

Buoyed by a stronger stock market showing, unexpectedly strong manufacturing numbers from China and better-than-anticipated pending home sales figures, crude oil futures for June delivery were up \$1.27 to \$54.47 a

barrel Monday on the New York Mercantile Exchange, the market's best close since November, analysts said.

Phil Flynn, vice president and senior market analyst for the Alaron Trading Corp. in Chicago, said an oil price surge was coming even though crude supplies were plentiful.

"The supply has already been priced into this market. What it may be reacting to now is a sense that the worst may be over economically and the potential for a rebound," Flynn said. "If the stock market stays strong and oil closes above \$55 a barrel, the next potential target for oil would be \$58 a barrel to \$60 a barrel."

## With long-haul drivers stalled, trucking waits for turnaround

By Scott Calvert  
The Baltimore Sun

Don't be fooled by Odell Haggerty's serene gaze and placid hazel eyes. The past month has been awful for the long-distance truck driver from Texas.

Haggerty, 43, earns 36 cents a mile, but when he isn't driving his company's big rig — when he's laid over awaiting a new load — he doesn't get a dime. And lately, with the recession hammering freight-haulers, he's seen far too much of random truck stops and not enough of the open road.

"I didn't get the pleasure of being in the broke house — I was under it," he said with a grim laugh over a recent breakfast at a truck stop in Jessup, Md. "Freight was real slow. I was sitting a lot."

Haggerty, a giant of a man, is still sitting a lot, like truckers from coast to coast. In March, the American trucking sector hauled 12 percent less tonnage than in March 2008. It was the second-worst year-to-year decrease since the recession began in late 2007. And there is no sign of a turnaround.

"I still don't think we're at bottom," said Bob Costello, chief economist at the American Trucking Associations in Arlington, Va.

The only bright spot that Louis Campion of the Maryland Motor Truck Association can find is that there have been fewer bankruptcies this year among U.S. trucking companies with five or more trucks: 500-some in the first three months of 2009, compared



ALGERINA PERNA/The Baltimore Sun

Odell Haggerty, 43, a long-haul driver from Texas, said he and other truckers have to have patience while awaiting work. "If you don't have patience, it will drive you up the wall."

with 935 in the first quarter last year.

For many long-haul drivers, the recession has meant unemployment. So far, 129,000 trucking jobs have been lost nationally, or around 10 percent of average employment in the industry, Costello said.

By that measure Haggerty is fortunate. He still drives for Gulf Coast Transport of Sunnyvale, Texas. But it's hard for him not to ponder how much better it was a couple years ago. Back then, he earned \$75,000 a year and had scant downtime since his company often gave him his next stop before he even reached a destination.

"Now," he said, "once you unload you might sit a day, a day and a half, possibly two days. It's really gotten sad. You learn to have patience. If you don't have patience, it will drive you up the wall."

To pass time Haggerty watches television in the sleeper compartment of his Peterbilt rig or talks to his wife, Michelle, and their kids in Dallas. He does not

socialize much with other truckers. "I don't care to hear the whinin' and cryin'. My day is already jacked up. Why do I want to hear their crying?"

By now his breakfast had arrived, and he tucked into his New York strip steak with a side of hash browns slathered in sausage gravy. His waitress, Valerie Jackson, said she has never seen such long layovers in her 10 years at the Country Pride restaurant.

"They'll be here for like five days, a week," she said. "I see them every day. I say, 'You here again?'" Their reply: "Waiting on a load."

This day had been good for Haggerty. Having just pulled into town the night before, he dropped off Styrofoam cups and plates at a Giant Food distribution hub in Jessup at 1 p.m. Three hours later he was due to pick up spices at McCormick & Co., about 35 miles away, before heading south to Texas.

"Every once in a while you get lucky," he said.



Thank you to the following individuals & businesses who so generously contributed to the success of St. Edwards School's 25th Annual Benefit Dinner & Auction. We have made an earnest attempt to include everyone; please know that if we inadvertently omitted anyone, please accept our apologies and thanks.



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| A Happy Camper                                 | Hall, Rod                             | Rambur, Brad & Rene              |
| A New You                                      | Hamblin, Mike                         | Rasgorshek, Mark & Karen         |
| ABC Seamless Siding                            | Happy Camper                          | Real Deals                       |
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| Adventure                                      | Harris, Sam & Michelle                | Reed, Carrie                     |
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# Purchasing power at the flick of a wrist

Theme park technology takes on high security profile

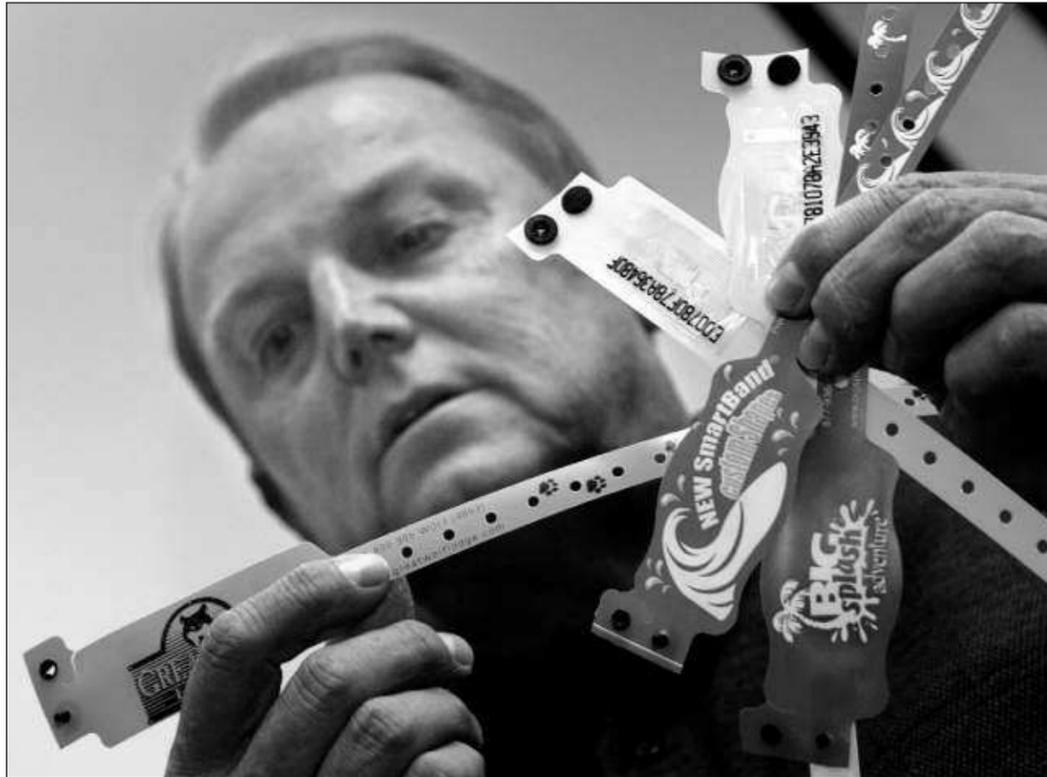
By Hugo Martin  
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — In a nondescript manufacturing plant on a quiet San Fernando cul-de-sac, a khaki-green machine the size of two pool tables end to end sucks in bright pink ribbon and spits out one of the hottest fashions in theme parks.

Here, in the northern stretches of suburban Los Angeles, the private company that began producing plastic hospital wristbands out of a Burbank garage more than 50 years ago has become the nation's top producer of a new microchip-enhanced wristband for amusement parks, concerts, resorts and gyms.

The wristbands use the same technology as electronic toll booths, security key cards and the newest U.S. passports. But at Precision Dynamics Corp., this sophisticated electronic know-how has found its niche at theme parks, where the high-tech wristbands act as high-security admission passes, cashless debit cards, hotel room keys and a form of identification to reunite lost children with parents.

In the past year alone, Precision Dynamics' wristbands came online at Great Wolf Resorts' newest water park in Concord, N.C., at the Schlitterbahn Water Park in Galveston, Texas, and at Water World, one of the nation's largest water parks, near Denver. In total, more than 50 theme parks strap the wristbands on incoming guests.



LAWRENCE K. HO/Los Angeles Times

Precision Dynamics Vice President Robin Barber displays some new products. He believes the future of the wristbands is in health care, where the microchips can hold patient data to reduce errors.

Company leaders envision a future when they can expand the technology for use for border security and hospital identification, among other uses.

"All sorts of things can be done with this technology," said Walter Mosher Jr., a company founder and member of the board of directors.

Precision Dynamics began in 1956 when a friend who worked in hospital supplies suggested that Mosher, a University of California, Los Angeles engineering student, design a better wristband to identify patients at hospitals. At the time, hospitals made wristbands from plastic tubes, using separate tools to cut and fasten the bands on patients.

For infants, hospital workers strung together lettered beads that spelled

the babies' names.

At the machine shop at Burbank High School, Mosher and two partners devised a one-piece, plastic wristband that required no tools to fasten. The business that started with only \$2,000 in start-up money has expanded to 680 employees, a handful of trademark patents and offices in Brussels, Belgium, Japan, Italy, Mexico and Brazil.

In 2006, Mosher sued Precision Dynamics in a dispute over the election of board members. But the dispute was settled out of court last year with a deal that keeps Mosher as a shareholder and member of the board of directors.

The idea of using radio frequency identification, known as RFID, technology in wristbands came to Mosher about 10 years ago

when he learned that microchips were being implanted in dogs and cats to identify them in shelters and veterinary clinics. A short time later, company Vice President Robin Barber moved ahead with the idea after meeting with managers from Great Wolf Resorts, who wanted to let guests buy food and drinks at the water parks without carrying a wallet or cash.

The result was a patented wristband affixed with a tiny antennae and a microchip, only slightly bigger than a postage stamp. Each microchip is programmed with a unique 16-character code. A separate device known as a "reader" emits a low-power radio wave that powers up the chip to collect the information and upload it into a computer. The reader must come

within a few inches of the wristband to activate the chip. Thus the wristband acts as a key to access a computerized debit account or unlock an electronic hotel room or a clothes locker.

The microchip wristbands represent about \$3 million in annual sales for Precision Dynamics, representing only a fraction of the company's more than \$100 million in annual sales, according to company officials.

The bulk of the company's business comes from the sale of wristbands that employ simpler bar-code technology to identify hospital patients, among other uses, and plain plastic wristbands with colors that tell security officers at theme parks and concerts who has paid for admission.

## Businesses prepped for a slightly slower Mother's Day

By Tiffany Hsu  
Los Angeles Times

The estimated 83 million U.S. mothers will be getting smaller and cheaper gifts today but — we hope — no less love.

Americans were expected to spend an average of \$123.89 a person on Mother's Day, down from \$138.63 last year, according to a National Retail Federation survey.

More than 80 percent of Americans celebrate Mother's Day, and most bought presents for their mothers, stepmothers or wives. But they were expected to save money by cutting out goodies for their daughters, friends and godmothers.

But total spending for the holiday, estimated at \$14.1 billion, should exceed the money dropped on Easter. In a thrifty mindset, 30 percent of shoppers will visit discount stores.

Flowers dominate the purchases, with nearly 67 percent of consumers putting down \$1.9 billion on the blooms. Another \$2.7 billion to dinners or brunches, an option for nearly 55 percent of Mother's Day celebrants.

Retailers also expected \$2.3 billion to be spent on jewelry, \$1.5 billion on gift cards, \$1.2 billion for clothing and accessories and \$1.1 billion on personal services such as spa treatments. Consumers also were expected to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on electronics, housewares and books.

For FedEx Corp., Mother's Day ranks with the December holiday season and Valentine's Day as one of the year's busiest delivery times. Express deliveries boom about 10 percent between April 27 and May 9.

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# Texas boy, 7, dies after shot while off-roading with family

HOUSTON (AP) — A 7-year-old boy who was allegedly shot in the head by a couple who thought he and three other people were trespassing on their property died Saturday, authorities said.

Donald Coffey Jr. died Saturday morning at a Houston hospital, less than two days after the boy was struck in the head by shotgun pellets, Liberty County Sheriff's Cpl. Hugh Bishop said.

Sheila Muhs and her husband, Gayle Muhs, both 45, were charged with second-degree felony counts of aggravated assault in the shootings Thursday. They were being held at Liberty County Jail with bail set at \$25,000 each and had not yet retained an attorney, Bishop said.

Bishop said the district attorney could upgrade the charges to murder on Monday, but investigators were "still trying to get the circumstances behind the incident."

The boy, his 5-year-old sister, their father and a family friend were off-roading near a residential area about 40 miles northeast of Houston when they were shot after stopping so the children could go to the bathroom.

Authorities said the couple fired after they mistak-



AP photo

A sign warning trespassers is seen at the home of Sheila and Gayle Muhs on Friday in Liberty County, Texas. The couple remained jailed Friday on aggravated assault charges that allege they shot four people who they mistakenly thought were trespassing on their property.

enly thought the group was trespassing on their property.

Bishop said the area includes a dirt road, trees and overgrown brush and that it wasn't uncommon

for people to go off-roading there. The Houston Chronicle reported that a sign in front of the suspects' home reads: "Trespassers will be shot. Survivors will be reshot!! Smile I will!"



Gayle Muhs Sheila Muhs

Liberty County Chief Deputy Ken DeFoor said Sheila Muhs fired a 12-gauge shotgun once, then handed it to her husband, who also fired once.

DeFoor said Sheila Muhs then called 911 and told the dispatcher: "They're out here tearing up the levee, so I shot them."

DeFoor said the levee belonged to the subdivision and was not private property.

Bishop said there was no indication the unarmed victims did anything threatening toward the Muhs.

Donald Coffey Sr. suffered a pellet wound in his right shoulder and his daughter, Destiny, suffered a wound to the elbow. The family friend, 30-year-old Patrick Cammack, was in serious condition Saturday with a head wound, Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center spokeswoman Alex Rodriguez said.

# Man jailed 83 days for skipping jury duty

McKINNEY, Texas (AP) — A man arrested for allegedly failing to appear for jury duty was released Saturday after spending 83 days in jail, a length of detention that a judge called "unacceptable."

Douglas Maupin was released a day after *The Dallas Morning News* brought his plight to the attention of a Collin County judge.

Maupin, a masonry contractor, was arrested Feb. 15 after police pulled him over for speeding. Police then detained him on a 2003 warrant for failure to appear for jury duty.

He wrote a letter to the newspaper about his lengthy jail stay, then said in a jailhouse interview that he, his friends and family could not afford his \$1,500 bail.

He said his attempt to get a public defender was rebuffed by a jail clerk.

District Judge Chris Oldner said he was unaware of Maupin's detention until Friday, even though the case was assigned to his court. The judge who signed the original 2003 warrant had retired, and officials said the case was assigned to the court of his replacement but the offense didn't fall under that court's responsibility.

"He should not have spent that much time. This is unacceptable," Oldner told the *Morning News*. "I don't know why the process failed to notify us."

Oldner also said that Maupin should have been allowed to apply for a public defender.

Maupin, 34, said he just wanted his day in court.

"I do know I have the right to due process and a speedy trial," he said. "I've had neither. It's not right."

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# Idaho photographer's work still impresses

By Tim Woodward  
 The Idaho Statesman

BOISE — One reason famed photographer Ansel Adams didn't work in Idaho was that Idaho didn't need him. It had its own Ansel Adams.

Adams, whose work is on exhibit at the Boise Art Museum through May 24, was known for his striking black and white images of the American West.

That he bypassed Idaho's striking mountain and desert vistas can be seen as a paradox — but it didn't matter.

Ross Hall had Idaho covered.

Though most southern Idahoans today have never heard of Hall — he lived in Sandpoint and died in 1990 — he was one of the foremost photographers of his time.

His work appeared in National Geographic, Life and other prominent publications. Eastman Kodak honored him as one of the nation's top 10 scenic photographers. He amassed a catalog of 600,000 images, his photos graced more than 35 million postcards, and his celebrity portraits ranged from Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman to Bing Crosby and Sir Edmund Hillary.

Hall occasionally was compared with Adams. One reviewer, his Boise granddaughter Jonna Weber said, referred to him as "Ansel Adams on steroids."

Unlike Adams, known mainly for landscape pho-

tography, Hall shot thousands of landscapes, streetscapes and photos of ordinary people. Some of his people pictures are reminiscent of Norman Rockwell paintings.

Born in Texas, he suffered from rheumatic fever as a college student and was advised by his doctor to choose a sedentary profession. His choice was to take over a photography studio in Sandpoint and devote himself to photographing Idaho and the West, on perches from precarious treetop scaffolds to mountaintops in sub-zero cold.

"He was anything but sedentary," said his son Dann, curator of the Hallans Gallery in Sandpoint.

Some of Hall's images were destroyed in a flood, and thousands were discarded without his knowledge, leaving a current total of 60,000. Their range and quality remain impressive:

- **Winter scenes.** One of the best known is of snow-encrusted trees high above a moonlit Lake Pend Oreille. He stayed there all night in bone-chilling cold to get the time exposure just right.

- **Wildlife.** Deer "boxing" on their hind legs, for example. Again, an all-nighter in the dead of winter.

- **People.** Loggers, cowboys, anglers, water skiers,

kids, neighbors. His signature greeting, memorialized on a wall in Hallans Gallery: "Howdy, neighbor!"

Dann Hall would like his father's work to be better known in southern Idaho.

"I'd love to do a show in Boise," he said. "If somebody called, I'd definitely be interested."

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

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Sunny skies for Mother's Day. Highs, 70s.

Tonight: Clear and quiet. Lows, 40s.

Tomorrow: Abundant sunshine. Highs, mid to upper 50s.

ALMANAC - BURLEY

Table with 2 columns: Temperature and Precipitation. Includes data for Yesterday's High/Low, Normal High/Low, Record High/Low, and Month to Date statistics.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

Map of Idaho showing weather forecasts for various regions including Boise, Northern Utah, and other major cities. Includes a weather key for symbols like sun, clouds, rain, and snow.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Five-day forecast for Twin Falls with icons for weather conditions (Sunny, Clear, Warmer, Breezy, Scattered clouds, More clouds) and high/low temperatures for each day.

Yesterday's Weather

Table of weather data for various locations including Boise, Challis, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, Jerome, Lewiston, Lowell, Malad City, Malta, Pocatello, Rexburg, Salmon, Stanley, and Sun Valley.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Almanac for Twin Falls including Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, Sunrise and Sunset, and Pollen Count. Includes a U.V. Index scale and a note about pollen count.

Moon Phases

Moon phase diagram showing Full, Last, New, and First moon phases with dates for May 9, 17, 24, and 31.

Moonrise and Moonset

Table of moonrise and moonset times for Today, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Regional forecast table listing weather conditions and high/low temperatures for various cities across Idaho and surrounding areas.

NATIONAL FORECAST

National forecast table listing weather conditions and high/low temperatures for major cities across the United States.

WORLD FORECAST

World forecast table listing weather conditions and high/low temperatures for various international cities.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP

National weather map showing fronts, cold, warm, and stationary systems across the United States. Includes a legend for weather symbols.

CANADIAN FORECAST

Canadian forecast table listing weather conditions and high/low temperatures for major Canadian cities.

Advertisement for Gregg Middlekauff's quote of the day, featuring a photo of Gregg Middlekauff and a quote about humor and life.

More Magic Valley weather at www.magicvalley.com/weather. Get up-to-date highway information at the Idaho Transportation Department's Web site at 511.idaho.gov or call 888-432-7623.

Official: No merger near for national forests

LEWISTON (AP) — The U.S. Forest Service is working on ways to make oversight and management of the Clearwater and Nez Perce national forests more efficient, but regional forester Tom Tidwell says the two forests won't be merged into one unit.

In 2011 the forests will combine budget processes and staffs, but Tidwell says they'll remain separate for now, the Lewiston Tribune reported.

The two forests have been under combined leadership since the summer of 2008. Tom Reilly serves as supervisor of both, but is set to retire in July.

Tidwell, who is stationed in Missoula, said he hasn't decided if Reilly will be replaced with one supervisor who oversees both forests or two supervisors, one for each forest.

"There is more to learn and more for us to explore on how the two units can work together," he said. "We are not in a position to make the decision. We will need to make the decision on Tom Reilly's retirement, how we will be filling that job, whether we want to continue exploring the concept of shared leadership or not."

The agency is experimenting with ways the two forests can work together to become more efficient and that means they will increasingly have one person oversee programs in both units. Doing so could mean fewer people near the top of the agency's pay scale and perhaps more money for ground personnel.

"Our focus is to identify what works and what doesn't work and see if we can effectively gain some efficiencies, but at the same time make sure we provide the necessary leadership and oversight that is needed," said Tidwell.

During a recent interview, Reilly said the two forests are clearly moving toward consolidation.

"Following the experimental thread, I think it's leading ultimately to some sort of consolidation and I just don't think the regional forester is ready to come out and say it yet," Reilly said.

"Our focus is to ... see if we can effectively gain some efficiencies, but at the same time make sure we provide the necessary leadership and oversight that is needed." — Forester Tom Tidwell on the future of the Clearwater and Nez Perce national forests

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# 'WAR OF SURVIVAL'

Desperation in Pakistani hospitals, refugee camps as army attacks Taliban, see Opinion 7



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

Opinion

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2009

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

## EDITORIAL

### The 60th Idaho Legislature: a report card

#### Roads: C -

The key compromise that allowed the Legislature to adjourn was shifting \$21 million from gas tax and registration fee revenue for the Idaho State Police and the Department of Parks and Recreation to the state General Fund to help boost highway repair funding.

Lawmakers also created an eight-member task force, due to meet over the summer, to find an alternative funding source so those agencies aren't added to the mix of public schools and prisons already competing for scarce cash.

These changes emerged as part of a \$54 million "going-home" bill last week. The House of Representatives earlier balked at Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's plan to raise \$174 million from a gas tax and other hikes.

The highway funding isn't enough to make much of a dent in Idaho's road repair deficit and we're concerned about the state police and parks competing with schools for General Fund money.

But more fundamentally, there was no reason - none - why this compromise had to take 117 days (at \$30,000 a day) to get done.

#### Education: C

Idaho public schools will receive 3.2 percent less for the fiscal year that starts July 1 than they got last year. Considering the state's deep recession, that would be understandable - if Idaho weren't sitting on \$400 million in rainy day funds and an other \$80 million in federal stimulus money.

It seems dubious that Idaho needs to hoard that much money to tide the schools over for the next two years. With the economy on the rebound, we see no reason to lay off teachers and deprive students of textbooks to the extent the Legislature and the governor have mandated.

Further, we're concerned about the acceleration of the trend toward higher fees - tuition is a more accurate word - at state universities. Many Idaho students have already been priced out of higher education here, and others have simply gone elsewhere.

#### Children: B +

Overcoming a traditional roadblock in the House Health and Welfare Committee, the Legislature toughened regulation of facilities that care for seven or more children and required background checks for caregivers with more than four kids.

#### Public employees: C -

State agencies must come up with a 5 percent decrease in payroll, although the governor has the option of reducing that amount by using reserves. That means some public employees will be laid off, others may see pay cuts, and many will have to endure furloughs. A 5 percent reduction is probably more than is justified - the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee thought so - and will make much harder for state agencies to retain experienced workers.

#### Ethics: F

There was no reason to reject Sen. Kate Kelly and Sen. Bart Davis' initiative to expand Idaho Sunshine Law to include financial disclosure by state officials and candidates for state office, but Speaker of the House Lawrence Denny did so anyway.

#### Open government: A

Idaho finally has a clear, coherent open meetings law, thanks to cooperation among the Legislature, public officials across the state, media outlets, the Idaho Press Club and Attorney General Lawrence Wasden.

#### Taxation: B

Once again, the House of Representatives declined to raise the beer tax for the first time since 1961 and a first-ever bump in the wine tax. The money would have gone for substance abuse counseling and drug and alcohol courts to reduce Idaho's prison population.

And once again, efforts to establish local-option tax authority - or even authority for counties to hold elections to ask permission to raise vehicle registration fees - foundered.

Yet the House was resolute - under great pressure - in not raising taxes during a recession.

#### Water: A -

The Legislature approved - but did not fund - the Comprehensive Aquifer Management Plan and signed off on a deal between the state and Idaho Power reaffirming the critical 1984 Swan Falls Agreement, the cornerstone of water management in southern Idaho.

#### Elections: A

Landmark consolidation legislation was approved, to move all of Idaho's elections to four specific dates, and most to the fall general and spring primary election dates. That includes hundreds of elections for various taxing districts that now might be held on any day of the year.

# How they voted

A look at how south-central Idaho legislators weighed on the key issues during the first session of the 60th Idaho Legislature, which ended Friday.

## Rep. Scott Bedke, R-Oakley

Assistant majority leader  
Fifth term

- Gradual gas tax increase (HB246) - Yes
- 2-cent gas tax increase (HB135) - Yes
- Pharmacists can refuse prescriptions (HB216) - Yes
- Revise liquor licensing (SB1148) - No
- \$82 million GARVEE bonding authority (SB1186) - No
- Pre-approved utility ratemaking (SB1123) - Yes
- Idaho State Police funding shift (HB376) - Yes
- Tougher day care regulation (SB1112a) - Yes
- 3% state payroll reduction; CAMP funding (SB1222) - No
- 5% state payroll reduction (SB1227) - Yes
- Teacher pay cutbacks (HB324) - Yes



## Sen. Bert Brackett, R-Three Creek

First term

- Pre-approved utility ratemaking (SB1123) - Yes
- Tougher day care regulation (SB1112a) - Yes
- \$82 million GARVEE bonding authority (SB1186) - Yes
- Revised liquor licensing (SB1148) - Yes
- Idaho State Police funding shift (HB376) - Yes
- Low-income utility payment assistance (SB1119) - No
- Teacher pay cutbacks (HB324) - Yes
- 3% state payroll reduction; CAMP funding (SB1222) - Yes
- 5% state payroll reduction (SB1227) - Yes
- Sunshine Law candidate disclosure (SB1156) - Yes



## Rep. Maxine Bell, R-Jerome

Chairwoman, House Appropriations Committee  
11th term

- Gradual gas tax increase (HB246) - No
- 2-cent gas tax increase (HB135) - No
- Pharmacist can refuse prescriptions (HB216) - Yes
- Revise liquor licensing (SB1148) - Yes
- \$82 million GARVEE bonding authority (SB1186) - Yes
- Pre-approved utility ratemaking (SB1123) - Yes
- Idaho State Police funding shift (HB376) - Yes
- Tougher day care regulation (SB1112a) - Yes
- 3% state payroll reduction; CAMP funding (SB1222) - No
- 5% state payroll reduction (SB1227) - Yes
- Teacher pay cutbacks (HB324) - Yes



## Sen. Dean Cameron, R-Rupert

Chairman, Senate Finance Committee  
10th term

- Pre-approved ratemaking (SB1123) - Yes
- Tougher day care regulation (SB1112a) - Yes
- \$82 million GARVEE bonding authority (SB1186) - Yes
- Revise liquor licensing (SB1148) - Yes
- Idaho State Police funding shift (HB376) - Yes
- Low-income utility payment assistance (SB1119) - Yes
- Teacher pay cutbacks (HB324) - Yes
- 3% state payroll reduction; CAMP funding (SB1222) - Yes
- 5% state payroll reduction (SB1227) - Yes
- Sunshine Law candidate disclosure (SB1156) - Yes



## Rep. Sharon Block, R-Twin Falls

Chairwoman, House Health and Welfare Committee  
Fifth term

- Gradual gas tax increase (HB246) - Yes
- 2-cent gas tax increase (HB135) - Yes
- Pharmacist can refuse prescriptions (HB216) - Yes
- Revise liquor licensing (SB1148) - No
- \$82 million GARVEE bonding authority (SB1186) - Yes
- Pre-approved utility ratemaking (SB1123) - Yes
- Idaho State Police funding shift (HB376) - Yes
- Tougher day care regulation (SB1112a) - Yes
- 3% state payroll reduction; CAMP funding (SB1222) - No
- 5% state payroll reduction (SB1227) - Yes
- Teacher pay cutbacks (HB324) - Yes



## Sen. Chuck Coiner, R-Twin Falls

Third term

- Pre-approved ratemaking (SB1123) - Absent
- Tougher day care regulation (SB1112a) - Yes
- \$82 million GARVEE bonding authority (SB1186) - Yes
- Revise liquor licensing (SB1148) - Yes
- Idaho State Police funding shift (HB376) - Yes
- Low-income utility payment assistance (SB1119) - Yes
- Teacher pay cutbacks (HB324) - Yes
- 3% state payroll reduction; CAMP funding (SB1222) - Yes
- 5% state payroll reduction (SB1227) - Yes
- Sunshine Law candidate disclosure (SB1156) - Yes



FIND OUT HOW MORE OF YOUR LEGISLATORS VOTED ON OPINION 2

## Obituaries come from families, not reporters

I didn't know Harold "Moe" Sagers, but it sounds like he was a substantial fellow.

An Oakley native, he was a rancher, college athlete, rodeo cowboy, horse trainer and World War II Marine aviator. Unfortunately, this column is about what Mr. Sagers was not: a winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Last Sunday we ran an obituary for Mr. Sagers, who died April 30 at age 81. There's no doubt he was a brave man who accomplished much in life, but his obit went a little astray. It recounted how Mr. Sagers and other Marine Corps fighter pilots spotted the battleship "Yamato" and trailed it until they ran out of fuel. Before ditching in the sea they radioed their location, guiding in other pilots who sank the pride of the Imperial Japanese Navy, ending the war. For that, Mr. Sagers was awarded the nation's highest honor for heroism.

Trouble is, Mr. Sagers does not appear on any lists of Medal of Honor winners,



152 FAIRFIELD ST. W James G. Wright

the battleship was the Yamato and its sinking near Okinawa on April 7, 1945, didn't end the war with Japan - two atomic bombs did it nearly four months later.

First thing Sunday morning a reader sent me an e-mail pointing out those errors and spanking the paper for doing such poor research. While he was right about the inaccuracies, he was aiming at the wrong target.

According to Joe Sagers, the family member who wrote the obit didn't intend to inflate his father's war record - she just misunderstood a few things. The mortified family welcomes this and other efforts to set the record straight, he said.

Each year we run thousands of obits without a notable error or provable

misstatement of fact. The one exception, as far as anyone can remember, involved a prank where someone placed an obit for a relative who wasn't actually dead yet.

An obituary isn't the same as a classified ad, of course, but they are paid content and we apply a similar standard: Those who pay for the space can say what they want, within the bounds of good taste. We check the spelling, see that it conforms to our style and print it without fact-checking or vouching for the details.

Why not? Put yourself in my Hush Puppies for a minute.

Would you like to be the one to call the grieving widow and inform her that we have to cut the line about the dearly departed being "a devoted husband" because we checked around and discovered that he had some "close friends" she didn't know about?

I didn't think so. Then there's the volume of the information. Independently verifying

where someone was in 1931, certifying that no one is left off the survivor list, getting confirmation of service and college records and all of the other details of a life would take weeks and often the trail would simply lead back to the relatives who submitted the obit in the first place. After all, who would know more about the deceased, or have access to his or her records?

While we're not changing our policy, I am asking our obit clerks to raise a red flag if they see something that's obviously wrong or sounds too fantastic to be true. In some cases, we might contact the family and gently suggest they might double-check in the interests of avoiding an error.

If the family affirms the information is correct, that'll be the end of it. It's their space. We'll run it their way.

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

TIMES-NEWS

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

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

**Sen. Denton Darrington, R-Declo**

*Chairman, Senate Judiciary and Rules Committee*  
14th term

- Pre-approved ratemaking (SB1123) – Yes
- Tougher day care regulation (SB1112a) – Yes
- \$82 million GARVEE bonding authority (SB1186) – Yes
- Revise liquor licensing (SB1148) – Yes
- Idaho State Police funding shift (HB376) – Absent
- Low-income utility payment assistance (SB1119) – Yes
- Teacher pay cutbacks (HB324) – Yes
- 3% state payroll reduction; CAMP funding (SB1222) – Yes
- 5% state payroll reduction; CAMP funding (SB1222) – Yes
- Sunshine Law candidate disclosure (SB1156) – Yes



- Yes
- Idaho State Police funding shift (HB376) – Yes
- Tougher day care regulation (SB1112a) – Absent
- 3% state payroll reduction; CAMP funding (SB1222) – No
- 5% state payroll reduction (SB1227) – Absent
- Teacher pay cutbacks (HB324) – Yes

**Rep. Donna Pence, D-Gooding**

*Third term*

- Gradual gas tax increase (HB246) – No
- 2-cent gas tax increase (HB135) – No
- Pharmacists can refuse prescriptions (H216) – No
- Revise liquor licensing (SB1148) – Yes
- \$82 million GARVEE bonding authority (SB1186) – Yes
- Pre-approved utility ratemaking (SB1123) – Yes
- Idaho State Police funding shift (HB376) – No
- Tougher day care regulation (SB1112a) – Yes
- 3% state payroll reduction; CAMP funding (SB1222) – Yes
- 5% state payroll reduction (SB1227) – No
- Teacher pay cutbacks (HB324) – No



**Rep. Stephen Hartgen, R-Twin Falls**

*First term*

- Gradual gas tax increase (HB246) – Yes
- 2-cent gas tax increase (HB135) – Yes
- Pharmacists can refuse prescriptions (H216) – Yes
- Revise liquor licensing (SB1148) – No
- \$82 million GARVEE bonding authority (SB1186) – No
- Pre-approved utility ratemaking (SB1123) – Yes
- Idaho State Police funding shift (HB376) – Yes
- Tougher day care regulation (SB1112a) – Yes
- 3% state payroll reduction; CAMP funding (SB1222) – No
- 5% state payroll reduction (SB1227) – Yes
- Teacher pay cutbacks (HB324) – Yes



**Rep. Leon Smith, R-Twin Falls**

*Sixth term*

- Gradual gas tax increase (HB246) – Yes
- 2-cent gas tax increase (HB135) – Yes
- Pharmacists can refuse prescriptions (H216) – No
- Revise liquor licensing (SB1148) – Yes
- \$82 million GARVEE bonding authority (SB1186) – No
- Pre-approved utility ratemaking (SB1123) – Yes
- Idaho State Police funding shift (HB376) – No
- Tougher day care regulation (SB1112a) – Yes
- 3% state payroll reduction; CAMP funding (SB1222) – No
- 5% state payroll reduction (SB1227) – Yes
- Teacher pay cutbacks (HB324) – Yes



**Rep. Wendy Jaquet, D-Ketchum**

*Eighth term*

- Gradual gas tax increase (HB246) – Yes
- 2-cent gas tax increase (HB135) – Yes
- Pharmacists can refuse prescriptions (H216) – No
- Revise liquor licensing (SB1148) – Yes
- \$82 million GARVEE bonding authority (SB1186) – Yes
- Pre-approved utility ratemaking (SB1123) – Yes
- Idaho State Police funding shift (HB376) – No
- Tougher day care regulation (SB1112a) – Yes
- 3% state payroll reduction; CAMP funding (SB1222) – Yes
- 5% state payroll reduction (SB1227) – No
- Teacher pay cutbacks (HB324) – No



**Rep. Bert Stevenson, R-Rupert**

*Chairman, House Resources and Conservation Committee*  
Seventh term

- Gradual gas tax increase (HB246) – Yes
- 2-cent gas tax increase (HB135) – Yes
- Pharmacists can refuse prescriptions (H216) – Yes
- Revise liquor licensing (SB1148) – No
- \$82 million GARVEE bonding authority (SB1186) – Yes
- Pre-approved utility ratemaking (SB1123) – Yes
- Idaho State Police funding shift (HB376) – Yes
- Tougher day care regulation (SB1112a) – Yes
- 3% state payroll reduction; CAMP funding (SB1222) – No
- 5% state payroll reduction (SB1227) – Yes
- Teacher pay cutbacks (HB324) – Yes



**Rep. Jim Patrick, R-Twin Falls**

*Second term*

- Gradual gas tax increase (HB246) – Yes
- 2-cent gas tax increase (HB135) – Yes
- Pharmacists can refuse prescriptions (H216) – Yes
- Revise liquor licensing (SB1148) – No
- \$82 million GARVEE bonding authority (SB1186) – Yes
- Pre-approved utility ratemaking (SB1123) – Yes



**Sen. Jon Thorson, D-Sun Valley**

*(Substitute for Sen. Clint Stennett, D-Ketchum)*

- Pre-approved ratemaking (SB1123) – Yes
- Tougher day care regulation (SB1112a) – Yes
- \$82 million GARVEE bonding authority (SB1186) – Yes
- Revise liquor licensing (SB1148) – Yes
- Idaho State Police funding shift (HB376) – Absent
- Low-income utility payment assistance (SB1119) – Yes
- Teacher pay cutbacks (HB324) – Absent
- 3% state payroll reduction; CAMP funding (SB1222) – Yes
- 5% state payroll reduction (SB1227) – No
- Sunshine Law candidate disclosure (SB1156) – Yes



**Rep. Rich Wills, R-Glenns Ferry**

*Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee*  
Fourth term

- Gradual gas tax increase (HB246) – Yes
- 2-cent gas tax increase (HB135) – Yes
- Pharmacists can refuse prescriptions (H216) – Yes
- Revise liquor licensing (SB1148) – Yes



- \$82 million GARVEE bonding authority (SB1186) – Yes
- Pre-approved utility ratemaking (SB1123) – Yes
- Idaho State Police funding shift (HB376) – Yes
- Tougher day care regulation (SB1112a) – Yes
- 3% state payroll reduction; CAMP funding (SB1222) – No
- 5% state payroll reduction (SB1227) – Yes
- Teacher pay cutbacks (HB324) – Yes

**Fred Wood, R-Burley**

*Second term*

- Gradual gas tax increase (HB246) – Yes
- 2-cent gas tax increase (HB135) – Yes
- Pharmacists can refuse prescriptions (H216) – No
- Revise liquor licensing (SB1148) – No
- \$82 million GARVEE bonding authority (SB1186) – No
- Pre-approved utility ratemaking (SB1123) – Yes
- Idaho State Police funding shift (HB376) – Yes
- Tougher day care regulation (SB1112a) – Yes
- 3% state payroll reduction; CAMP funding (SB1222) – No
- 5% state payroll reduction (SB1227) – Yes
- Teacher pay cutbacks (HB324) – Yes



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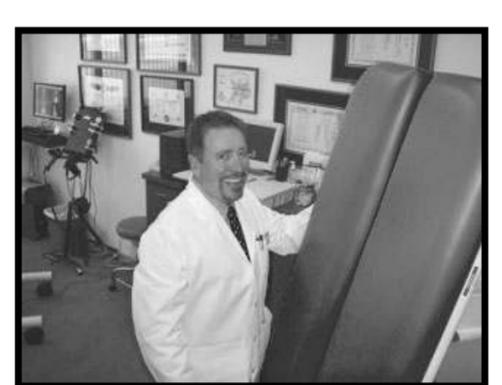
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# The great tax dodge myth

**W**ASHINGTON — Like it or not, ours is a world of multinational companies. Almost all of America's brand name firms (Coca-Cola, IBM, Microsoft, Caterpillar) are multinationals, and the process works both ways. In 2006, the U.S. operations of foreign firms employed 5.3 million workers. Fiat's looming takeover of Chrysler reminds us again that much business is transnational.

For most people, the multinational company is a troubling concept.

Loyalty matters. We like to think that "our companies" serve the broad national interest rather than just scouring the world for the cheapest labor, the laxest regulations and the lowest taxes. And the tax issue is especially vexing: How should multinationals be taxed on the profits they make outside their home countries?

Listen to President Obama, and the status quo seems a cesspool.

Pervasive "loopholes" engineered by "well-connected lobbyists" allow U.S. multinationals to skirt American taxes and outsource jobs to low-tax countries.

So the president proposes plugging loopholes. Some jobs will return to the United States, and U.S. tax coffers will grow by \$210 billion over the next decade.

Sounds great — and that's how the story played. "Obama Targets Overseas Tax Dodge," headlined The Washington Post. But the reality is murkier; the president's accusatory rhetoric perpetuates many myths.

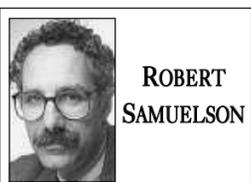
Myth: Aided by those overpaid lobbyists, American multinationals are taxed lightly — less so than their foreign counterparts.

Reality: Just the opposite. Most countries don't tax the foreign profits of their multinational firms at all.

Take a Swiss multinational with operations in South Korea. It pays a 27.5 percent Korean corporate tax on its profits and can bring home the rest tax-free.

By contrast, a U.S. firm in Korea pays the Korean tax and, if it returns the profits to the United States, faces the 35 percent U.S. corporate tax rate.

American companies can defer the U.S. tax by keeping the profits abroad (naturally, many do), and when repatriated, compa-



**ROBERT SAMUELSON**

nies get a credit for foreign taxes paid. In this case, they'd pay the difference between the Korean rate (27.5 percent) and the U.S. rate (35 percent).

Myth: When U.S. multinationals invest abroad, they destroy American jobs.

Reality: Not so. Sure, many U.S. firms have shut American factories and opened plants elsewhere. But most overseas investments by U.S. multinationals serve local markets. Only 10 percent of their foreign output is exported back to the United States, says Harvard economist Fritz Foley.

When Wal-Mart opens a store in China, it doesn't close one in California.

On balance, all the extra foreign sales create U.S. jobs for management, research and development (almost 90 percent of American multinationals' R&D occurs in the United States) and the export of components.

A study by Foley and economists Mihir Desai of Harvard and James Hines of the University of Michigan estimates that for every 10 percent increase in U.S. multinationals' overseas payrolls, their American payrolls increase almost 4 percent.

Myth: Plugging overseas corporate tax loopholes will dramatically improve the budget outlook as multinationals pay their "fair" share.

Reality: Dream on. The estimated \$210 billion revenue gain over 10 years — money already included in Obama's budget — represents only six-tenths of 1 percent of the decade's tax revenues of \$32 trillion, as projected by the Congressional Budget Office. Worse, the CBO reckons that Obama's endless deficits over the decade will total a gut-wrenching \$9.3 trillion.

Whether or not Obama's proposals would create any jobs in the United States is an open question. In highly technical ways, Obama would increase the taxes on the foreign profits of U.S. multinationals by limiting the use of today's deferral and foreign tax credit. Taxing overseas investment more heavily, the theory goes, would favor investment in the United States.

"The U.S. tax code is) full of corporate loopholes that makes it perfectly legal for companies to avoid paying their fair share."

— President Barack Obama, May 4

But many experts believe his proposals would actually destroy U.S. jobs. Being more heavily taxed, American multinational firms would have more trouble competing with European and Asian rivals.

Some U.S. foreign operations might be sold to tax-advantaged foreign firms. Either way, supporting operations in the United States would suffer. "You lose some of those good management and professional jobs in places like Chicago and New York," says Gary Hufbauer of the Peterson Institute.

Including state taxes, America's top corporate tax rate exceeds 39 per-

cent; among wealthy nations, only Japan's is higher (slightly). However, the effective U.S. tax rate is reduced by preferences — mostly domestic, not foreign — that also make the system complex and expensive.

As Hufbauer suggests, Obama would have been better advised to cut the top rate by ending many preferences. That would lower compliance costs and involve fewer distortions. But this sort of proposal would have been harder to sell. Obama sacrificed substance for grandstanding.

Newsweek columnist Robert Samuelson writes about economics.

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# NATION & WORLD

## Peel and weep: Stamps cost 2 cents more Monday

By **Randolph E. Schmid**  
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Peel it and weep: It'll cost an extra 2 cents to mail a letter starting Monday.

The price of a first-class stamp will climb to 44 cents, though people who planned ahead and stocked up on Forever stamps will still be paying the lower rate.

It's the third year in a row that rates have gone up in May under a new system that allows annual increases as long as they don't exceed the rate of inflation for the year before.

While the increase will bring in added income, the post office continues to struggle financially as more and more lucrative first-class mail is diverted to the Internet, and

the recession discourages businesses from sending their usual volume of advertising.

The Postal Service, which does not get a taxpayer subsidy for its operations, lost \$2.8 billion last year and is \$2.3 billion in the hole just halfway through this year.

Postmaster General John Potter has asked Congress for permission to reduce mail delivery to five days-a-week. The agency is offering early retirement to workers, consolidating excess capacity in mail processing and transportation networks, realigning carrier routes, halting construction of new facilities, freezing officer and executive salaries at 2008 pay levels, and reducing travel budgets.

Even so, the rate increase is unlikely to cover the losses and the

possibility remains that the post office could run out of money before the end of the budget year, Sept. 30.

The post office could have cited extraordinary circumstances and asked the independent Postal Regulatory Commission for larger increases, but officials worried that would only result in a greater decline in mail volume and more losses.

Potter has sought congressional changes in how the post office pre-pays for retiree health care, to cut its annual costs by \$2 billion.

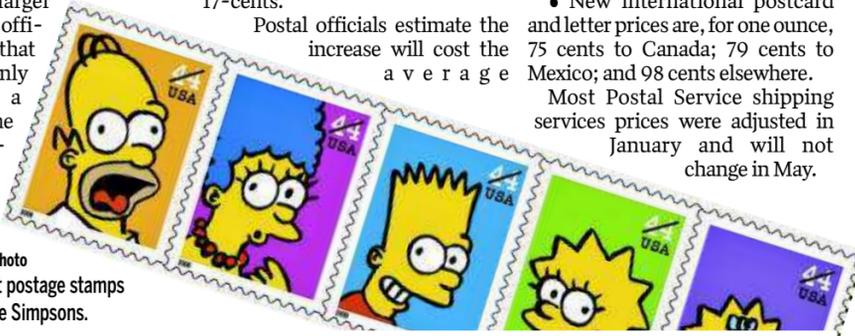
While the new 44-cent rate covers the first ounce of first-class mail, the price for each additional ounce will remain unchanged at 17-cents.

Postal officials estimate the increase will cost the average

household \$3 a year. Other changes taking effect Monday:

- The postcard stamp increases by a penny to 28 cents.
- The first ounce of a large envelope increases 5 cents to 88 cents.
- The first ounce of a parcel increases 5 cents to \$1.22.
- New international postcard and letter prices are, for one ounce, 75 cents to Canada; 79 cents to Mexico; and 98 cents elsewhere.

Most Postal Service shipping services prices were adjusted in January and will not change in May.



USPS/AP file photo  
New 44-cent postage stamps featuring The Simpsons.

## Cell phone ban may follow trolley crash

By **Jay Lindsay**  
Associated Press writer

BOSTON — The head of the Boston-area transit authority said Saturday he'll ban all train and bus operators from even carrying cell phones on board after a trolley driver told police he was texting his girlfriend before a collision Friday.

About 50 people were hurt in the underground crash in downtown Boston, though none of the injuries was life-threatening.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority already bans operators from using cell phones and recently ran an internal ad campaign featuring a poster of an open cell phone that warned employees not to drive "under the influence."

But general manager Daniel Grabauskas said Saturday the temptation obviously was too great for some.

"I want to remove any temptation by one or two people stupid enough to think a moment of convenience is worth the lives of the people they're transporting," he said. "I'm not going to wait for someone to die to institute a policy whose time I think has come."

Grabauskas said the new ban would apply to anyone working on a train or bus. He said he hopes to have the policy in place within a week.

The proposal won quick support from Steve MacDougall, president and business agent of the Boston Carmen's Union, Local 589, which represents most of the MBTA's roughly 6,000 employees. MacDougall said it was clear that Friday's accident could have been "far, far worse than it was."

He said he expects some resistance to the policy from union members who believe they're being punished for the irresponsibility of one employee.

# Calif. wildfire eases



A thick layer of ocean mist mixes with smoke from smoldering hot spots in the hills above Highway 154 in Santa Barbara, Calif., on Saturday.

## Most fire evacuations lifted in Santa Barbara

By **Raquel Maria Dillon**  
Associated Press writer

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — Thousands of residents were back home Saturday as a blanket of cool, moist air flowing in from the Pacific Ocean tamed a wind-driven wildfire that burned 80 homes along the outskirts of town during the week.

Cheers erupted at an evacuation center when Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown announced that mandatory evacuation orders for most areas were being downgraded to evacuation warnings, meaning residents could return but would have to remain alert.

Among the first to return were Jonathan Kenny, 44, and his wife, Susan Kim, 42, who found their home covered in ash but still standing near blackened hillsides that showed just how close the fire came.

"I feel like we dodged a bullet on this one," said Kenny, who watered plants and fed goldfish in a backyard pond.

"They're not floating belly up, so that's a good



Susan Kim sweeps a thick layer of ash from the patio of the home she shares with her husband, Jonathan Kenny, Saturday in Santa Barbara, Calif.

sign," Kim said.

But a short distance away up a narrow canyon road, gutted homes and burned out cars awaited the return of their owners. A scorched palm tree jutted toward a clear, blue sky and a lawn chair, scorched appliances and metal filing cabinets were among the few recognizable remnants.

More than 30,000 people

had been under mandatory evacuation orders since Tuesday afternoon, when the fire erupted just above Santa Barbara on the face of steep Santa Ynez Mountains. An additional 23,000 had been on evacuation standby.

By Saturday evening, well over half of the those residents were back in their homes, Santa Barbara

County sheriff's Commander Darin Fotheringham said.

Notorious local winds known as "sundowners" sweeping from inland and down the face of the mountains drove the fire into outlying neighborhoods Wednesday afternoon, causing most of the destruction, and again late Thursday and early Friday.

A predicted sundowner failed to materialize Friday night, and instead the normal flow of air from the Pacific Ocean pushed ashore a dense, moist marine layer that didn't let the sun peek through until nearly midday. Officials had said an onshore flow would raise humidity levels and blow the fire away from developed areas on the foothills.

The National Weather Service on Saturday dropped fire weather warnings and predicted that overnight clouds and fog would continue through Monday morning before a return of a weak-to-moderate sundowners in the Santa Ynez range Monday night and into midweek.

## Prof wanted in killings found dead in Georgia

By **Kate Brumback**  
Associated Press writer

ATHENS, Ga. — Cadaver dogs found the body of a wanted professor "beneath the earth" in the north Georgia woods Saturday, two weeks after police say he shot his wife and two other people to death outside a community theater, then vanished.

Searchers found two guns near the body of marketing professor George Zinkhan, 57, but police wouldn't say how he died.

They did say it appears he buried himself in brush and dirt.

"A person who is not accustomed to the woods would never have found the body," said Athens-Clarke County Police Chief Joseph Lumpkin.

Zinkhan disappeared after the April 25 shootings near the University of Georgia, where he'd had a spotless record since arriving to teach in the Terry College of Business in the 1990s.

Bulletins were issued nationwide and authorities kept watch on airports in case he tried to flee to Amsterdam, where he had taught part-time at a university since 2007. Federal authorities later revealed Zinkhan had a flight to Amsterdam booked before the shootings, but the professor never showed up at the airport on the May 2 departure date.

Instead, cadaver dogs found his body about 10 miles west of Athens in thick woods in Bogart, where he lived. Searchers — as many as 200 at one point — had been scouring the woods since his Jeep was found wrecked and abandoned in a ravine about a mile away a week ago. The guns found with him matched the description provided by people who witnessed the shootings.



Zinkhan

## UN: List of dangerous chemicals grows

The Associated Press

GENEVA — A U.N.-sponsored treaty to combat highly dangerous chemicals has been expanded to include nine more substances that are used in pesticides, electronics and other products, U.N. officials said Saturday.

The additions include one called PFOS worth billions of dollars in a wide range of uses from making semiconductor chips to fighting fires. Another is lindane, a pesticide widely used on head lice.

The chemicals accumulate in the environment up through the food chain and stay in people's bodies, said Donald Cooper, executive secretary to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, or POPs.

He said they travel long distances in the air.

The alarm over the original chemicals was sounded because they were being found in high concentrations in the fatty tissues and blood of the Inuit Indians in Canada even though they

were thousands of miles away from the production or use of any of the chemicals, Cooper said.

Participating countries have one year to say whether they will ban or restrict the chemicals or whether they will need more time or an exemption, Cooper said.

The additions to the list make it possible for developing countries to receive international help in containing and destroying stockpiles of the chemicals which might otherwise seep

into the soil and water supply, Cooper said.

The 2004 treaty aims to protect the environment and people's health from very dangerous chemicals that last a long time in the atmosphere, soil or water, and ultimately phase them out.

The treaty had included 12 chemicals, such as the widely banned pesticides DDT and chlordane. Countries that have ratified the treaty also enact national legislation to enforce the bans and restrictions it imposes.

### TOXIC NINE

The new chemicals targeted for elimination are:

- alpha hexachlorocyclohexane, still produced as an unintended byproduct of lindane
- beta hexachlorocyclohexane, still produced as an unintended byproduct of lindane
- hexabromodiphenyl ether and heptabromodiphenyl ether, used in flame retardants
- tetrabromodiphenyl ether and pentabromodiphenyl ether, used in flame retardants
- chlordecone, an agricultural pesticide
- hexabromobiphenyl, or HBB, a flame retardant
- lindane, used in creams for treatment head lice; also has been used in insecticides.
- pentachlorobenzene, used in PCB products, dyestuff carriers, as a fungicide, a flame retardant

For elimination or restriction:

- PFOS; perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride

# In swine flu, key moments and decisions ahead

By Lauran Neergaard  
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The most pivotal moments in the swine flu saga are yet to come.

Will it sweep through impoverished Southern Hemisphere countries in the next few months? Will it roar back in the rest of the world in the fall? And who will be vaccinated if it does?

In the weeks since swine flu grabbed international attention, and even years before that, some important actions have helped shape the course of this outbreak and the ways the world will handle future epidemics.

It's not clear if this new swine flu strain is a brush fire, sparking up around the globe only to fizzle, or if it will worsen when the regular influenza season hits.

No matter how this story ends, at the very least it has offered a real-world drill to find gaps in the playbook.

"We've been given an opportunity to take a look at this before it really got bad, and we need to," said Dr. Michael Osterholm of the University of Minnesota, a prominent pandemic flu specialist. "We better damn well do it now because one day we are going to really be in it for more than a week. If it's not this virus, there will still be another one."

For this virus, the coming months will bring a series of big decisions: Do manufacturers start brewing millions of swine flu vaccine doses? Will they be stockpiled unless the new flu returns or given along with or soon after regular flu shots? Will rich countries share enough with the developing world? Who gets in line first — the younger people that this strain so far seems to target or the elderly who usually are flu's most vulnerable?

"You may only have one chance to get out ahead of it," Dr. Richard Besser, acting chief of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, told The Associated Press. "It's important for people to understand that all of these decisions will need to be made with incomplete science."

## FIRST TURNING POINT

A different virus was the world's wake-up call. SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) started in China,

and once it broke out of the mainland in early 2003, it took just weeks to infect more than 8,000 people from 37 countries. The virus killed more than 770 people before it disappeared.

Governments started scrambling to put together plans to handle the next global disease threat. Soon after, bird flu hit Asia, reinforcing the need.

Had the new swine flu hit sooner, before all that pandemic planning, it almost certainly would have spread faster. Even if it proves no more dangerous than garden-variety flu, that's deadly enough; a pandemic is more about geography than super-lethality. By the World Health Organization's tally, between 250,000 and 500,000 people worldwide die each year because of regular winter flu.

## UNCOVERING THE THREAT

As early as February, people in the Mexican hamlet of La Gloria were suffering unusually strong flu symptoms. When officials arrived to investigate in mid-March, nearly half the 3,000 villagers came out seeking medical help. About 450 were diagnosed with acute respiratory infections and given antibiotics. Mexico was investigating, but not until April 12 would the outside world — the CDC and Pan American Health Organization — start getting official word of the unexplained illness that eventually would be blamed for dozens of deaths throughout Mexico.

By then CDC already was on the trail of swine flu in California. The virus had spread before anyone knew it existed.

Preparation had paid off. In its pandemic planning, the U.S. starting in 2005 put money into researching better influenza detection. Studies of new methods found two unrelated children in San Diego with a strain of Type A influenza that turned out to be a never-before-seen type of swine flu. Puzzled, CDC announced the cases and started hunting more. On April 23, the agency confirmed five more illnesses in California and Texas and put all states on alert.

"At what point does unusual become concerning and at what point does con-



Hotel guests celebrate after being released from quarantine at the Metropark Hotel where they were held for a week, Friday in Hong Kong. Hong Kong on Friday lifted its quarantine on the downtown hotel where a Mexican swine flu patient stayed, releasing some 280 guests and employees who were isolated in the building.

AP photo

cern lead to action?" Besser said. "We had to make that call."

That same day, CDC and a Canadian lab that Mexico had consulted delivered the bad news: The new flu was in Mexico, too.

Could Mexico have signaled a problem sooner? The Pan American Health Organization dismisses the question as one for historians.

"We would have done everything the same if we had it to do over again," said Hugo Lopez-Gatell Ramirez, deputy director of Mexico's Intelligence Unit for Health Emergencies.

## AGGRESSIVE ACTION

With the diagnosis, Mexico's government immediately ordered the closure of all schools, museums, libraries and theaters in Mexico City. The following days brought increasingly drastic actions. Schools nationwide and other businesses shut down, streets mostly emptied and soldiers handed out millions of face masks.

With a handful of known illnesses at first, the U.S. raced antiflu drugs from a government stockpile — enough for 11 million people — out to every state. After a large outbreak at a New York City school, apparently

spread by students who vacationed in Mexico, U.S. schools started closing. Ultimately about 468,000 students around the country were affected before the CDC decided that schools should reopen because the virus was mild.

Overall, "what happened was not overreaction. It was a prudent response," said Michael Leavitt, the Bush administration health secretary who led development of the U.S. pandemic flu plan and advised other governments on theirs. "If imminent information about terrorism is known to authorities, they need to react. A pandemic is sort of nature's terrorist."

Young children tend to be initial spreaders of regular winter flu, taking it home to family and friends, which is one reason that school closings are included in pandemic plans. But in this case, travelers were early spreaders.

"I'm not saying that was the right approach or the wrong approach, but what we've learned is we need to be proportionate in our response with what the risk is in our community," said flu specialist Osterholm.

## PANDEMIC OR NOT

The World Health Organization, following its

post-SARS guidelines, declared an international emergency the day after Mexico's outbreak made headlines, to spur countries to check where else the new flu had spread — eventually to two dozen countries and counting.

Days later, the WHO issued an unprecedented warning: The world was close to a full-fledged pandemic. Sustained spread in regions beyond North America, rather than smallish outbreaks, would tip the scale.

For years, the U.S. had run drills. What would it do if bird flu started rapidly spreading in Asia? Close the borders to buy a little time. Reality brought a surprise.

The new swine flu started in North America, too late to close any borders. While the U.S. joined other countries in discouraging travel to hardest-hit Mexico, and some nations discouraged

## INSIDE

Costa Rica sees first swine flu death.

See Opinion 6

travel to the U.S. and Canada, too, once flu starts spreading in numerous places, such actions have little effect.

## STILL TO COME

What happens to all those anti-flu medicines that were shipped to U.S. states but not used? They're waiting, under guard, in case they're needed come fall. Leavitt, the former health secretary, said that's the next weakness. Flying in drugs is easy; getting them to the sick is hard.

"The further into a pandemic you get, the more spontaneity that's required and the more lack of preparation reveals itself," he said.

Then there's the vaccine dilemma.

Makers could be told to start brewing doses in a few weeks. But that will take months and require testing, led by the U.S., of initial shots to see if they induce immunity, with one dose or two, and seem safe. The last mass vaccination against a different swine flu, in the U.S. in 1976, was marred by reports of a paralyzing side effect — and that time the flu didn't return.

World authorities will closely track the new swine flu in the Southern Hemisphere, for help deciding whether to order vaccinations for the rest of the world starting in the fall. The big worry is that the virus will mutate, becoming more severe.

"The thing that's keeping me up at night right now is that feeling of dodging the bullet, in the sense that people are taking a sigh of relief too soon," the CDC's Besser told the AP.

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## Funny man Fallon a college graduate after 15 years

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — He's a comic, actor, "Saturday Night Live" veteran and "Late Night" talk show host.

Add one more thing to Jimmy Fallon's resume: College graduate.

Fallon, 34, finally got his bachelor's degree Saturday, 14 years after he left an upstate New York college to pursue his comedy career.

The television and film star picked



Fallon

up his degree in communications and spoke to graduates at Saturday's College of Saint Rose commencement.

"There's always going to be someone out there like that movie critic, who doesn't believe in you or who thinks your head is too big or you're not smart enough or whatever," Fallon told the graduates. "But those are the people you need to ignore, and those are the times you need to just keep doing what you love doing."

Fallon was a Saint Rose student from 1992 through 1995, studying computer science before switching to communications. In the second half of his senior year, he left the Albany college to pursue a show business career. He was one semester short of graduating.

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# South Africa swears in Jacob Zuma as new president

By Donna Bryson  
Associated Press writer

PRETORIA, South Africa — Jacob Zuma took power Saturday in the culmination of an extraordinary political comeback, pledging to Nelson Mandela and the nation to renew the spirit of commitment and hope of South Africa's first black presidency.

Zuma was once imprisoned under apartheid and spent years in exile before surviving corruption and sex scandals and a party power struggle to reach the nation's highest office. He has been embraced by many South Africans with a fervor usually reserved for Mandela.

The elder statesman was cheered as he arrived for the inauguration in a golf cart to join the 5,000 VIP guests and tens of thousands of ordinary South Africans who had gathered for the ceremony.

In a speech after taking the oath, Zuma looked back to 1994, when Mandela became president after leading the campaign that defeated apartheid.

"We gather here deter-

mined to renew that most solemn undertaking, to build a society in which all people are freed from the shackles of discrimination, exploitation, want and disease," Zuma said.

He now leads Africa's economic powerhouse, but it is a country where at least a quarter of the work force is unemployed and 1,000 people die of AIDS every day.

Zuma promises to speed up delivery of houses, clinics, schools, running water and electricity. But he also has acknowledged the difficulties amid a global economic meltdown. According to government figures, 208,000 jobs were lost between the last quarter of 2008 and the first quarter of 2009.

"Jobs are being lost in every economy across the world. We will not be spared the negative impact, and are beginning to feel the pinch," Zuma said Saturday. "However, the foundations of our economy are strong and we will need to continue to build on them."

He said his government "shall not rest and we dare not falter" as long as South



AP photo

A man holds South African flags at the Union Building before South African President Jacob Zuma's swearing in ceremony in Pretoria, South Africa, Saturday.

Africans were dying of preventable disease, struggling to feed their families or get an education, enduring without clean water or decent shelter.

Moses Gama, a 30-year-old unemployed social worker who was in the crowd on the lawn, said the speech reassured him that Zuma had heard South Africans' concerns, but also made him aware of the challenges and the need for both patience and action.

"We gather here determined to ... build a society in which all people are freed from the shackles of discrimination, exploitation, want and disease."

— Jacob Zuma, on taking office as South Africa's president

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AP photo

Quarantine officials wearing protective masks and suits make their way to a boarding area to check the passengers of a plane that had just landed Saturday at Narita International Airport near Tokyo, Japan. Japan confirmed its first cases of swine flu Saturday in three people who recently returned from Canada, even as the disease's spread appeared to slow in the rest of the world.

## Costa Rica sees first swine flu death

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — Costa Rica reported the first swine flu death outside North America on Saturday, while Japanese authorities scrambled to limit contact with their country's first confirmed cases and Mexico delayed the reopening of primary schools in some states.

Australia and Norway, meanwhile, joined the list of countries with confirmed cases of swine flu.

The Health Ministry in Costa Rica confirmed the swine flu death of a 53-year-old man, bringing the global death toll to 52, including 48 in Mexico, two in the United States and one in Canada.

Like other deaths outside Mexico, the Costa Rican man suffered from complicating illnesses, including diabetes and chronic lung disease. The U.S. reported the deaths of a toddler with a heart defect and a woman with rheumatoid arthritis, and Canadian officials said the woman who died there also had other health problems but gave no details.

In Mexico, where 48 people with swine flu have died, most of the victims have been adults aged 20 to 49, and many had no reported complicating factors. People with chronic illnesses usually are at greatest risk for severe problems from flu, along with the elderly and young children.

The Costa Rican fatality was one of eight swine flu cases in the country confirmed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Health Minister Maria Luisa Avila told The Associated Press.

Avila said officials had been unable to determine how the Costa Rican patients became infected, but she said he had not recently traveled abroad. Many flu sufferers in other nations have been linked to recent trips to the United

States or Mexico.

In Japan, authorities quarantined a high school teacher and two teenage students who tested positive in an airport test for swine flu after they returned from a school trip to Canada. Officials said they were working with the World Health Organization to contact at least 13 people on the flight who had gone on to other destinations.

Japanese Health and Welfare Minister Yoichi Masuzoe acknowledged it would be difficult to trace everyone who came into contact with the three infected Japanese, who visited Ontario on a home-stay program with about 30 other students. The three were isolated and recovering at a hospital near Narita International Airport.

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# Desperation in Pakistani hospitals, refugee camps

MINGORA, Pakistan (AP) — Civilians covered in hospital beds and trapped residents struggled to feed their children Saturday, as Pakistani warplanes pounded a Taliban-held valley in what the prime minister called a “war of the country’s survival.”

Warplanes and troops killed dozens of entrenched militants Saturday in the assault on northwestern Swat Valley, the army said.

The offensive has prompted the flight of hundreds of thousands of terrified residents, adding a humanitarian emergency to the nuclear-armed nation’s security, economic and political problems. Desperate refugees looted U.N. supplies in one camp, taking blankets and cooking oil.

A suspected U.S. missile strike killed nine people, mostly foreigners, in South Waziristan, another militant stronghold near the Afghan border, Pakistani intelligence officials said. The identities of the victims remained unclear.

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani directed millions of dollars to help the residents of a region where faith in the government is shaky, saying the army “can only be successful if there is support of the masses.”

Gilani held an emergency

Cabinet meeting Saturday. Speaking to reporters afterward, he called the Swat offensive a “war of the country’s survival” but said the military could win.

Encouraged by Washington, Pakistan’s leaders launched the full-scale offensive on Thursday to halt the spread of Taliban control in districts within 60 miles of the capital, Islamabad.

Pakistan’s army is fighting to wrest Swat and neighboring districts from militants who dominate the adjoining tribal belt along the Afghan frontier, where U.S. officials say al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden is likely holed up.

Witness accounts indicate that scores of civilians have already been killed or injured in the escalating clashes in the Swat, Buner and Lower Dir districts.

Even the medics are gone: Only three doctors remained Saturday at the hospital in Swat’s main town, Mingora — all of them working flat out.

One of the patients, Omar Ali, said a mortar shell had crashed through the roof of his home near Mingora on Wednesday, killing his eight-year-old son. Ali, his wife and four more children were injured. Neighbors pulled them from the rubble and brought them to hospital.

“We are in pain. We are helpless and homeless,” the tearful 45-year-old government worker told an Associated Press reporter who visited the clinic. “Even here, we are scared because we keep hearing explosions, gunfire and the noise of planes.”

Nisar Khan, one of the three doctors left, said about 25 war-wounded were among the 100 patients.

It was unclear how many people remained in Mingora, but one resident too scared to try to flee said he was running short of food for his three children.

“We have no electricity, no running water, and we are almost out of food, milk and other things. We do not know what to do,” Ikramullah Khan said.

“My wife has been mixing a few drops of milk into water just to make it look like milk. The younger children are not fooled. They just cry,” he said.

Taliban militants seized much of the area under a peace deal, even after the government agreed to their main demand to impose Islamic law in the region.

U.S. officials likened the deal to a surrender. Pakistani leaders said the agreement’s expected collapse had opened the eyes of ordinary citizens to the extremist threat.



AP photo

A child sits with his mother in a car at a refugee camp near Mardan, in northwest Pakistan, Saturday. Hundreds of thousands of residents have fled fighting in the northwestern Swat Valley area after a new military offensive began against Taliban militants.

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# U.S., Afghan forces blame civilian deaths in two villages on Taliban militants

By Jason Straziuso and Rahim Faiez  
Associated Press writer

KABUL — The U.S. coalition blamed Taliban militants Saturday for causing what Afghan officials say are dozens of civilian deaths during a prolonged battle that included American airstrikes. The U.S. said an unspecified number of civilians died but did not take responsibility for any deaths.

Afghanistan’s Interior Ministry declined to endorse the U.S. report, saying its own investigation would be completed soon.

Afghan officials have estimated up to 147 people died in the battle in the western province of Farah on Monday, but a U.S. spokeswoman called that number exaggerated. The U.S. report did not offer an estimate of the number killed in the battle.

The preliminary report said Taliban fighters herded Afghan villagers into houses to use as human shields while they fired on coalition forces in two villages in Farah. The report said that U.S. forces had responded to a call for help from Afghan forces and that militants attacked the troops from several locations.

Troops called for airstrikes on the militant positions, and a U.S. spokeswoman said Saturday that fighter aircraft made 13 passes over the two villages, using a combination of flares, strafing runs and bombs.

“The investigation suggests that villagers had taken refuge in a number of houses in each village. Reports also indicate that Taliban fighters deliberately forced villagers into houses from which they then attacked ANSF (Afghan security forces) and Coalition forces,” a statement from the U.S. coalition said.

Neither the U.S. nor Afghan forces took responsibility for killing civilians in Saturday’s statement. A second U.S. statement said villagers seeking medical treatment told Afghan doctors that militants were fighting from rooftops while forcing the villagers to remain in their compound.

“The joint investigation team strongly condemns the brutality of the Taliban

extremists deliberately targeting Afghan civilians and using them as human shields,” the statement said.

Other groups expressed concern for the investigative process. Human Rights Watch on Saturday blasted the U.S. military and said the attack was likely to be

“the largest and most tragic loss of life to U.S. bombs so far in Afghanistan.”

“Yet another devastating error inevitably calls into question the continued viability of the use of U.S. and NATO airpower in Afghanistan,” said Rachel Reid, the group’s

Afghanistan researcher. “The procedures for protecting civilians and verifying intelligence before launching attacks are clearly not working and must be thoroughly reviewed again.”

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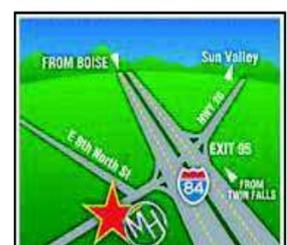
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# CSI rests arms, get hammered in title game

By Justin Lawson  
Times-News correspondent

CARSON CITY, Nev. — The silver lining for the College of Southern Idaho baseball team was that no matter what happened Saturday, it was moving onto the Western District tournament next week. It was just too bad the Golden Eagles' reward for earning that trip was an 18-3, nine-inning game.

With a depleted pitching staff and no mercy rule in the Region 18 championship game, the Golden Eagles

(33-24) put up their best fight early Saturday but couldn't pull off the task of beating the top-seeded Western Nevada Wildcats (42-12) once, let alone twice, to bring a title back with them to Twin Falls.

"We knew the deck was stacked up against us," CSI coach Boomer Walker said. "Regardless, you've got to play great against Western to beat them and they had a few more bullets in their gun than we did."

The gun was near empty

See CSI, Sports 2

## Region 18 Baseball Tournament

At Western Nevada College, Carson City, Nev.  
First and second place advance to Western District tournament, Thursday-Saturday at Carson City

Wednesday's games  
CSI 8, Colorado Northwestern 0  
Eastern Utah 4, Salt Lake 3  
Salt Lake 6, Colorado Northwestern 4 (Colorado Northwestern eliminated)

Thursday's games  
Western Nevada 12, Eastern Utah 3  
CSI 3, Southern Nevada 2  
Salt Lake 8, Eastern Utah 7, 10 innings (Eastern Utah eliminated)

Friday's games  
Western Nevada 6, CSI 1  
Salt Lake 6, Southern Nevada 4 (Southern Nevada eliminated)  
CSI 15, Salt Lake 6 (Salt Lake eliminated)

Saturday's games  
Western Nevada 18, CSI 3

All-Region 18 teams  
First team — C: Victor Spencer, CSI. 1B: Marvin Campbell, CSN. 2B: Scott Dysinger, CSN. 3B: Travis Feiner, WNC. SS: Travis Feiner, WNC. DH: Eric Morgan, CEU. OF: Brian Barnett, WNC; Lance Ray, WNC; Tyler Chism, CSI. P: Joe Robinson, CSN; Gabe Weidenaar, CSN; Jordan Lewis, WNC; Sam

Armstrong, CSI.  
Second team — C: Brett Nigbur, CEU. 1B: Dusty Fackrell, CEU. 2B: Mike Stiles, WNC. 3B: Justin Mishalow, CSN. SS: Chad Himmer, CEU. DH: Jerome Pena, WNC. OF: Trevor Kirk, CSN; Robbie Garvey, CSN; J.R. Roland, SLCC. P: Chasen Shreve, CSN; Derek Christensen, SLCC; Tyler Curtis, CSI; Egan Smith, CSN; Josh Moody, WNC.  
Player of the year — Tyler Chism, CSI.  
Pitcher of the year — Kramer Champlin, WNC.  
Relief pitcher of the year — Kramer Champlin, WNC.  
Coach of the year — D.J. Whittemore, WNC.

# Tigers sputter

## Jerome denied a trip to state

By Ryan Howe  
Times-News writer

POCATELLO — The last time Jerome and Hillcrest met in a sporting event in Pocatello, it was for the Class 4A state football championship.

On Saturday, the two schools met again, this time on the baseball diamond with a state baseball tournament berth on the line. And, just like last fall, the Tigers hung around for most of the game, but in the end the Knights prevailed.

The Tigers weren't over-matched at the plate or on the mound in Saturday's 10-4 state play-in loss at Halliwell Park in Pocatello. Just one thing made all the difference.

"Heart," said Jerome senior Logan Parker. "We just didn't come to play."

Early on, Jerome turned double plays to end the first, second and third. But tied 1-1 after four innings, the Tigers saw their state tournament hopes evaporate in the decisive fifth as the Knights sent 12 batters to the plate and put seven runs on the board.

Jerome starter Nolan McDonald was pulled after Hillcrest scored to go up 2-1, but reliever Cameron Stauffer couldn't stop the bleeding. The Knights scored six runs with two outs in the fifth, highlighted by Jordan Lewis' three-run double. Finally Kris Bos was brought onto the mound for the final out, but the damage had been done.

"For whatever reason, they matched up well with (Stauffer), because he threw pretty well. He hit his spots



RYAN HOWE/Times-News

Jerome center fielder Logan Parker rounds third base during the Tigers' season-ending 10-4 loss to Hillcrest in the Class 4A state play-in game Saturday in Pocatello.

well and kept the ball down," Jerome coach Tom Bobrowski said.

Despite Jerome's struggles in the fifth, the real problem was the Tigers' futility at the plate. Hillcrest struck out 12 and only gave up a handful of hits until the seventh inning, when the Tigers finally relaxed, played like there was nothing to lose and scored three runs. But by then, it was too little, too late.

"We knew that this was our ticket to state and we

knew we had to perform well. We did little things wrong, we didn't have good approaches at the plate, and it really came back to haunt us in the end because Hillcrest jumped on us quick," said Parker, who batted 2-for-3 with a double and triple.

Bos, McDonald, Stauffer and Trey Berrett each had an RBI for Jerome, which finished its season 13-11. Hillcrest improved to 11-14.

"Our biggest issue all year long was mental toughness, at the plate especially," said

Bobrowski. "We have a bunch of high-character kids in our program... and sometimes that just won't translate into being competitive with a killer instinct. We came out of our approaches entirely at the plate and we gave away way too many at-bats today, that's what it came down to."

### Hillcrest 10, Jerome 4

Hillcrest 100 072 0 - 10 13 0  
Jerome 100 000 3 - 4 8 2  
Brooks Andrus and Tyler Harris; Nolan McDonald, Cameron Stauffer (5), Kris Bos (5) and Bryan Harper. W: Andrus. L: McDonald. Extra-base hits — 2B: Hillcrest, Cade Olsen, Jordan Lewis, Robbie Ingram; Jerome, Logan Parker. 3B: Hillcrest, Andrus, Jerome, Parker.



RYAN HOWE/Times-News

Wendell's Keith Mowery slides safely into third base during the Class 3A state play-in game Saturday in Pocatello. The Trojans ended their season with a 7-1 loss to Bear Lake.

# Wendell falls one game short of state

By Ryan Howe  
Times-News writer

POCATELLO — The one run Wendell scored in the fifth inning would have been enough, but the Trojans committed six errors and gave Bear Lake seven unearned runs in Saturday's Class 3A state play-in game at Halliwell Park in Pocatello.

The 7-1 loss ended Wendell's season, one in which last year's Class 2A state third-place team proved it has no problem competing at the 3A level.

"This had to be one of our worst games of the year defensively," said Wendell coach Jesse Koopman. "Defense has been our Achilles' heel most of the year, but it really hasn't been that bad. A combination of defense and well-placed balls, and we couldn't pull this one out."

Wendell's only run came in the fifth when Gary Koopman reached on a dou-

ble, then scored on an RBI fielder's choice by Ryan Foster.

Other than that, the Trojans were hitting Bear Lake pitcher Bailey Thomas, but the majority found the Bears' gloves.

"We weren't overmatched with the bats or the mound," said Jesse Koopman. "It was a combination of things that put us on the wrong end today. We're a much better team than what I saw today, but that's how baseball goes."

Nolan Stouder pitched a complete game for Wendell, striking out 10 with two walks while scattering seven hits.

After Thursday's 7-1 win over Sugar-Salem to reach Saturday's play-in game, the Trojans felt confident they could punch their ticket to state.

"Coming off Thursday we had a lot of momentum, but it just didn't carry into the

See WENDELL, Sports 2

# Nuggets go up 3-0

## Anthony's disputed 3-point shot wins it

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Antoine Wright had a simple objective. In a game with 61 fouls already called, he was trying to commit another.

Wright bumped Carmelo Anthony once, hard enough to knock him off stride. But not enough for a foul call.

So he jostled Anthony again. Still no call — and now Wright was out of position, leaving Anthony a clear look at the basket. His 3-pointer went right through with a second left, giving the Denver Nuggets a 106-105 victory over the Dallas

See NUGGETS, Sports 2



AP photo

Denver Nuggets guard Chauncey Billups (7) celebrates with teammate Carmelo Anthony after Anthony's 3-pointer with 1 second left gave Denver a 106-105 victory over the Dallas Mavericks in Game 3.

# CSI softball falls in title game, 3-1

By Bradley Guire  
Times-News writer

SALT LAKE CITY — It wasn't an impossible task, but it never became improbable in the minds of the Golden Eagles.

The College of Southern Idaho softball team needed to beat Salt Lake Community College twice Saturday to claim the Region 18 Tournament championship for the second straight year.

That didn't happen, and the season is over.

The championship contest wasn't the shellacking they received on Friday, but the Golden Eagles fell to the Bruins nevertheless, 3-1.

The Bruins kept pressure on CSI the entire time, knowing that the Eagles have been more

See SOFTBALL, Sports 2

## Region 18 Softball Tournament

At Bruin Field, Salt Lake Community College

Thursday's games  
North Idaho College 16, Western Nevada College 3  
College of Southern Nevada 5, Snow College 0

Salt Lake Community College 10, Southern Nevada 1  
CSI 7, North Idaho 6

Friday's games  
Snow 4, North Idaho 0 (North Idaho eliminated)  
Southern Nevada 8, Western Nevada 0 (Western Nevada eliminated)  
Salt Lake 11, CSI 3  
Southern Nevada 8, Snow 1 (Snow eliminated)

Saturday's games  
CSI 6, Southern Nevada 4 (Southern Nevada eliminated)  
Championship  
Salt Lake 3, CSI 1

All-Region 18 Team

Player of the Year: Megan Zimmerman, CSI

Pitcher of the Year: Sarah Clark, SLCC

First team: Mandy Tapia, CSN; Renae Kimbell, NIC; Lisa Riches, SLCC; McKensy Hillstead, CSI; Stacie Graham, SLCC; Amy Aicher, CSN; Lauren Maloney, NIC; Cassi Merrill, CSI; Janice Damo, CSN; Amy Broadbent, SLCC; Jessica Fagan, NIC; Hayley Atiyeh, SLCC.

Second team: Generra Nielson, CSI; Reilee O'Brien, SLCC; Ashley Chappel, CSI; Shaynie Phillips, SLCC; Amanda Krier, NIC; Ambar Huish, WNC; Sybree Minniear, Snow; Jordyn McDonald, SLCC; Jaygan Johnson, Snow; Berlynn Bagley, CSN; Kyli Flanary, Snow; Wailana Buchanan, NIC.











Courtesy photo

## Rodeo all-stars

Fourteen rodeo cowboys and cowgirls from District VI have been named to the National High School Rodeo Association's Wrangler All-Star Rodeo Team. Pictured, from left, front row: Alyssa Koch, Megan Crist and Amanda Coats; back row: Cody Rowe, Tyler Stradley, Shelby Schlund, Tyler Wadsworth, Tyler Hanssen, Tegan Nevarez, Wyatt Holtman, Kindee Wilson, Brock Casperson and Cody Wadsworth. Not pictured: Tianna Stimpson.



Courtesy photos

## Tumbling for trophies

The Tumbleweed Tumblers of Malta recently held their first exhibition. Each tumbler did the same routine while being judged by a panel of three judges. Each tumbler received a medal and four tumblers (Chesney Harper, Ellie Harris, Marcie Williams and Zan Zollinger) were awarded a trophy for being 2009s Excellent Tumblers. "We are still in the beginning stages," said Jewelee Steed, one of the tumbling coaches. "But a lot of progress has happened in just a year. We are really excited for the next year." Steed and Geanie Rodgers are the coaches for the Tumbleweed Tumblers.



## YOUTH SOCCER

Three Twin Falls Rapids teams claimed first-place honors at the Canyon Rim Class soccer tournament, including the U14 boys, U11 girls and U10 boys.



Courtesy photo

## U14 boys champions

Members of the Twin Falls Rapids U14 boys team, pictured, from left, front row: assistant coach, Gabriel, Eric, Isaac, Alain, Ricky, Corey, Tyler and Norverto; back row: coach Jose Morales, Dallas, Ricardo, Gerardo, Hunter, Jose, Peter, Ben and assistant coach Leo Sanchez.



## U11 girls champions

Members of the Twin Falls Rapids U11 girls team, pictured, from left, front row: Emily Bell, Tanner Thompson, Katie Behrens, Peyton Karl, Lyric Nance and Allyssa Keyes; second row: Grace Kelly, Sara Henrickson, Lindsey Williams, Madelyn Kelly and Madison Bell; back row: coach Tim Henrickson.

## MARTIAL ARTS

### Warr, Creston advance

Heston Warr and Louie Creston display their yellow belt certificates earned during Intermountain Martial Arts April belt advancement testing. Creston is a student at St. Edwards school. Warr travels with his family once a week 99 miles one way from Grouse Creek, Utah, for his martial art training. Both students have set their sights on low green Belt. For more information, please call 736-7100.

Courtesy photo



Courtesy photos

## Little Tigers shine at tourney

The Pii Sung Little Tigers participated in the Hwa Rang Regional Tournament held in Twin Falls at Immanuel Lutheran Church on April 18. The Little Tigers were among 120 competitors at the tournament. Pictured, from left, front row: Katelyn Leonard (second forms/basics, second board breaks), Payton Severe (third board breaks) and Paul Pugh (second board breaks); back row: Kaylee Leonard (second forms/basics, third board breaks), Kody Leonard (first forms/basics, first board breaks), Mason Firkins (third forms/basics, first board breaks), Rylee Severe (first forms/basics, third board breaks) and Tori Bailes (third forms/basics, first board breaks). Not pictured: Alex Lopez (first forms/basics, third board breaks).



## Tourney competitors

Pii Sung Martial Arts took part in the Hwa Rang Regional Tournament held in Twin Falls at Immanuel Lutheran Church on April 18. Pictured, from left, front row: Devin Lewis, Jaxson Fife, Kylie Montieth, Janie Toner, Jaizon Castillo and Izziah Morales; back row: Carrisa Toner, Fernando Larios, Hunter Fife, Christian Cohee, Casey Leonard, Korby Morales and Kady Morales.

# Your Scores

### BOWLING

#### MAGIC BOWL, TWIN FALLS SUN. ROLLERS

**MEN'S SERIES:** RD Adema 664, Zach Black 594, Vance Mason 592, Rick Frederiksen 582.  
**MEN'S GAMES:** RD Adema 239, Vance Mason 223, Ed Chappell 223, Zach Black 213.

**LADIES SERIES:** Margie Adema 566, Amanda Crider 562, Nichole Trump 558, Sylvia Inman 524.

**LADIES GAMES:** Sylvia Inman 226, Nancy Craig 224, Margie Adema 222, Amanda Crider 216.

#### COMMERCIAL

**SERIES:** Zach Black 672, Rick Frederiksen 652, Ian DeVries 637, Leon Klimes 626.  
**GAMES:** Zach Black 274, Rick Frederiksen 255, Trevor Wakley 254, Brand Brrheim 238.

#### FIFTY PLUS

**MEN'S SERIES:** Blaine Ross 708, Fred Ott 634, Roy Couch 601, Eddie Chappell 599.

**MEN'S GAMES:** Blaine Ross 278, Roy Couch 249, Fred Ott 234, Felix McLemore 224.

**LADIES SERIES:** Gloria Harder 563, Pat Glass 553, Charm Petersen 545, Virginia Mulkey 525.

**LADIES GAMES:** Gloria Harder 201, Sharon Knudson 201, Charm Petersen 199, Barbara Smith 196.

#### THURSDAY MIXED

**MEN'S SERIES:** Robert Watkins 638, Jared Ashmead 629, Steve Ramirez 613, Joe McClure 545.

**MEN'S GAMES:** Steve Ramirez 267, Jared Ashmead 234, Robert Watkins 214, Jim Howard 214.

**LADIES SERIES:** Elara Smith 535, Nancy Lewis 511, Kim Daigh 507, Edie Barkley 498.

**LADIES GAMES:** Elara Smith 224,

Nancy Lewis 203, Georgia Johnson 196, Kim Daigh 189.

#### SUNSET BOWL, BUHL PINBUSTERS

**SERIES:** Ed Hanna 655, Dustin McCallister 645, Cody Hicks 611, Denny O'Brien 596.

**GAMES:** Trevor Webb 244, Bob Wagner 236, Larry Miller 231, Dustin McCallister 231.

#### SPARE PAIRS

**MEN'S SERIES:** Ron Romero 630, Tom Wiggs 612, Don Huff 600, Charlie Hill 573.

**MEN'S GAMES:** Ron Romero 234, Tom Wiggs 234, Don Huff 215, Roger Shaddy 211.

**LADIES SERIES:** Dorothy Moon 499, Kay Miller 499, Suzane McCoy 483, Cheryl Russell 466.

**LADIES GAMES:** Michelle Olsen 194, Lois Tomlinson 193, Suzane McCoy 193, Kay Miller 181.

#### BOWLADROME, TWIN FALLS TUES. MAJORS

**BOYS' SERIES:** Anthony Vest 652, Joe Campbell 559, Tyler Black 550, Steven Maher 480.

**BOYS' GAMES:** Anthony Vest 246, Joe Campbell 196, Tyler Black 190, Steven Maher 182.

**GIRLS' SERIES:** Koti Jo Moses 516, Miranda Curtis 433, Erica Reeves 396, Megan McAllister 355.

**GIRLS' GAMES:** Erica Reeves 205, Koti Jo Moses 191, Miranda Curtis 163, Megan McAllister 160.

#### C.S.I. TUES.

**MEN'S SERIES:** Dale McCord 705, Brandon Berheim 552, Tyler Race 548, Joseph Stevens 450, Rance Orr 450, Wayne Lybrand 450.

**MEN'S GAMES:** Dale McCord 268, Tyler Race 222, Brandon Berheim 188, Joseph Stevens 187.

**LADIES SERIES:** Sherry Leavitt 467, Allison Ramsey 407, Marcia Butler 392, Brianna Loftus 358.

**LADIES GAMES:** Sherry Leavitt

177, Kortney Stevens 171, Marcia Butler 163, Allison Ramsey 145.

#### THURS. C.S.I.

**MEN'S SERIES:** Jake Carnahan 528, Wayne Lybrand 475, Buck Rogers 465, Eric Maughan 456.

**MEN'S GAMES:** Jake Carnahan 195, Tony Espinosa 191, Buck Rogers 180, Wayne Lybrand 176.

**LADIES SERIES:** Tiffany McKelvey 428, Lorna Nicholson 331, Cayla Hedrick 327, Lacey Colson 298.

**SNAKE RIVER BOWL, BURLEY PIN HEADS**

**MEN'S SERIES:** Anthony Meyer 489, Brody Albertson 482, Mhason Stimpson 446.

**MEN'S GAMES:** Brody Albertson 205, Anthony Meyer 193, Mhason Stimpson 168.

**LADIES SERIES:** Bridget Albertson 507, Amanda Rowley 478, Abrina Blount 432.

**LADIES GAMES:** Courtney Yoshida 204, Amanda Rowley 173, Abrina Blount 168.

#### TUESDAY TEENS

**BOYS' SERIES:** Brody Albertson 475, Andrew Morgan 486, Cameron Black 305.

**BOYS' GAMES:** Brody Albertson 244, Andrew Morgan 179, Cameron Black 121.

**GIRLS' SERIES:** Kiara Heib 461, Bridget Albertson 456, Dakotah Hieb 394.

**GIRLS' GAMES:** Bridget Albertson 173, Kiara Hieb 170, Dakotah Hieb 154.

#### ODD BALL

**SERIES:** Jachelle Lowe 599, Stephanie Long 509, Sharon Hayden 483.

**GAMES:** Jachelle Lowe 219, Stephanie Long 182, Donna Banner 181.



# Phelps returns, but with image still tarnished

By Paul Newberry  
Associated Press writer

BALTIMORE — Michael Phelps has served his penalty, learned who his real friends are and put up with plenty of ridicule over that infamous photo showing him inhaling from a marijuana pipe.

The swimmer who won eight gold medals at Beijing is ready to compete again, but there's still a lot of work to do after the longest layoff of his career.

The same could be said about his image outside the pool.

Will fans remember him as the iconic figure who left China with all that precious metal around his neck? Or will they perceive him as a petulant party boy who showed again that he's incapable of handling post-Olympic fame?

"There's a picture on the Internet that's burned into people's minds of him with a bong in his mouth," said Gene Grabowski, a senior vice president with Washington-based Levick Strategic Communications, who works with high-profile clients in need of an image makeover. "That photographic evidence will live forever on the Internet. As unfair as that may seem, human beings can't get over that image in their minds. He'll forever be associated with that."

Granted, Phelps' perception issues pale in comparison to someone such as Manny Ramirez, who just received a 50-game suspension from Major League Baseball after testing positive for a banned substance. And it's not as though Phelps is constantly running afoul of the law (see: troubled football player Adam "Pacman" Jones).

But Phelps is unlikely to ever be seen quite the way as was in the giddy days after Beijing, where he took down the most hallowed of Olympic records — Mark Spitz's seven golds at the 1972 Munich Games — and also became the winningest Olympian ever with 14 victories.

One little photo, apparently snapped with a cell phone camera after Phelps popped in on a college house party in South Carolina three months after his Olympic triumph, sent his carefully scripted life into chaos.

He went into virtual seclusion for nearly a month. He wasn't sure if he even wanted to keep swimming. Some days, he just stayed in bed instead of going to the pool to train.

"I just backed off and let him know I was there and I loved him," said Bob Bowman, Phelps' longtime coach. "I wasn't really sure he should feel good for the first part of all that, know what I mean? He had to work through it. We were there for him. We were not going to throw him out. We tried to help him any way we could. But he had to deal with it. This was his thing."

Shortly after the photo was published in a London tabloid — on Super Bowl Sunday, of all days — USA Swimming handed Phelps a three-month suspension. In all likelihood, the governing body factored in his past indiscretion, a drunken-driving arrest shortly after he won six golds and two bronzes at the 2004 Athens Olympics.



AP photo

Olympic swimming gold medalist Michael Phelps works out Tuesday in Baltimore. Phelps' three-month suspension from competition is now over and he marked the occasion like any other day: He woke up late and headed to the pool.

Phelps went into a shell, waiting nearly a month before deciding that he wanted to follow his plan all along, to compete through the 2012 London Games.

The first step in this last phase of his career begins next weekend, when he races in five events at a Grand Prix meet in Charlotte, N.C. — his first competition in almost nine months.

"I've never had a break like I did after Beijing," Phelps said. "I'm feeling good in the water. I'm swimming some decent times in practice. But I have no idea what to expect in a meet. I'm just going in with an open mind and see what happens."

He insists that his life away from the pool is much more settled.

"I think I'm more laid back than I ever have been," Phelps said during an interview with The Associated Press in his native Baltimore. "I just seem to go about things easier. Maybe it's because of everything I've been through. Maybe it's just me getting older and more mature."

Indeed, Phelps seems to have a much better perspective on his latest troubles. He was only 19 at the time of his DUI arrest, having just moved away from home for the first time in his life. He insisted that he would learn from his mistakes, but it seemed as though he was reading a script rather than speaking from the heart.

Sitting down with the AP for nearly an hour before a training session at Loyola College, Phelps talked openly about the problems he had dealing with fame and fortune.

"Olympic athletes have a lot of post-Olympic depression," he said. "You go from such a high, from being on top of your game at the highest level of competition you can be at, then all of a sudden the next day, you're back to doing nothing. It's hard. It's something I've had trouble with the last two Olympics. We just don't know what to do with ourselves."

In some ways, Phelps said, he was just living out the childhood he never had.

"It was probably the first time I've ever really been able to be a kid. Ever," Phelps said. "My friends were like, 'Do you want to go to Vegas? Oh sure, I've never been to

Vegas. 'Do you want to go to a playoff game in Miami for (his hometown Baltimore) Ravens?' I'm like, 'Sure, why not? I have nothing else to do.'"

And, of course, he was persuaded to go out on the town when he visited the University of South Carolina back in November. That's one he would like to have back, though it really helped him see more clearly.

"This just really makes you wonder who your real friends are," Phelps said. "When you're going through the good times, there are tons of people there. When you go through bad times, some people fade. Your friends are there with you every step of the way. I've really been able to see who was there and see who my real friends are."

Still, one can't help but wonder if he's just another pampered, sheltered athlete who was snatched away from childhood too soon and now has trouble dealing with the real world. Phelps has been swimming for 17 of his 23 years. He made his first Olympic team at age 15. He set his first world record not long after.

"I think I'm more laid back than I ever have been. I just seem to go about things easier. Maybe it's because of everything I've been through. Maybe it's just me getting older and more mature."

— Michael Phelps, on life since his three-month suspension from swimming

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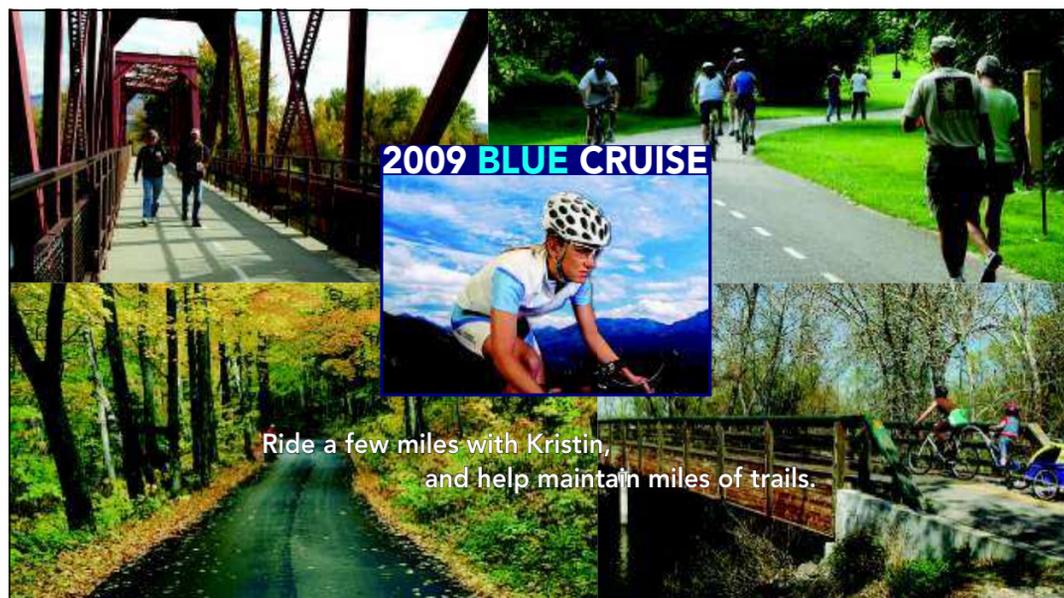


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<sup>1</sup> On October 3, 2008, FDIC insurance temporarily increased from \$100,000 to \$250,000 per depositor through December 31, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Enrollment in online banking is required to receive online alerts.

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- Ride lengths of 15, 30 and 50 miles
- Post-ride picnic and party
- Community Wellness Fair & Bike Rodeo 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Ride with Olympic gold medal cyclist Kristin Armstrong in the 2009 Blue Cruise and help raise funds for the Canyon Rim trail system. Kristin will ride the 50-mile route, deliver a motivational message, sign autographs and take part in the Blue Cruise Community Wellness Fair & Bike Rodeo. The first 100 participants in the children's bike rodeo will get FREE bike helmets signed by Kristin.

Register online at [www.bluecruiseidaho.com](http://www.bluecruiseidaho.com)

All proceeds will benefit the Canyon Rim trail system.



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# Mother to a brother

*Praise for other mothers*

**About Alisha Durtschi of Jerome:**

"She is one of the most special mothers I know."  
— grandmother  
Amy Berney

**About Elisha Briggs of Jerome:**

"Elisha has spent many hours taking (her autistic son) to school for special training and working with him at home. It seems like her patience never runs out with him and she researches constantly trying to find out the best help she can for him."  
— mother-in-law  
Ruth Bakewell

**About Lorrie Oliver of Twin Falls:**

"My mom has always invited anyone that didn't have anywhere to go on a holiday or special occasion over to our house for dinner to make them feel included. And when she knew someone going through cancer treatment, she would also make extra of our dinner that night and take it to that family so she knew they would be getting a meal that night too."  
— daughter Sara Oliver

**About Ann Lloyd of Rupert:**

"Although they already had four other children, and times were tough, Ann and Larry Lloyd lovingly took me into their home and I became their fifth child without hesitation. It meant one more mouth to feed, another child to clothe, put through private school, and deal with the varying stages of growing up. Ann called me her daughter from day one upon arriving."  
— niece and "daughter"  
Mary Castronova

**About Myrtle Fitzgerald of Gooding:**

"She has faced opposition from many people, including her husband, who wanted to give up the the struggle many times over the years. ... Myrtle has sacrificed her life voluntarily so that (her adopted) children could grow up nurtured with love."  
— husband  
Robert Fitzgerald

**About Alyce "Pat" Woods of Twin Falls:**

"We all believe that Mom has a 'red line' to God! When Mom prays, God answers! My mother is a very special angel ..."  
— daughter  
Peggy Pedrow

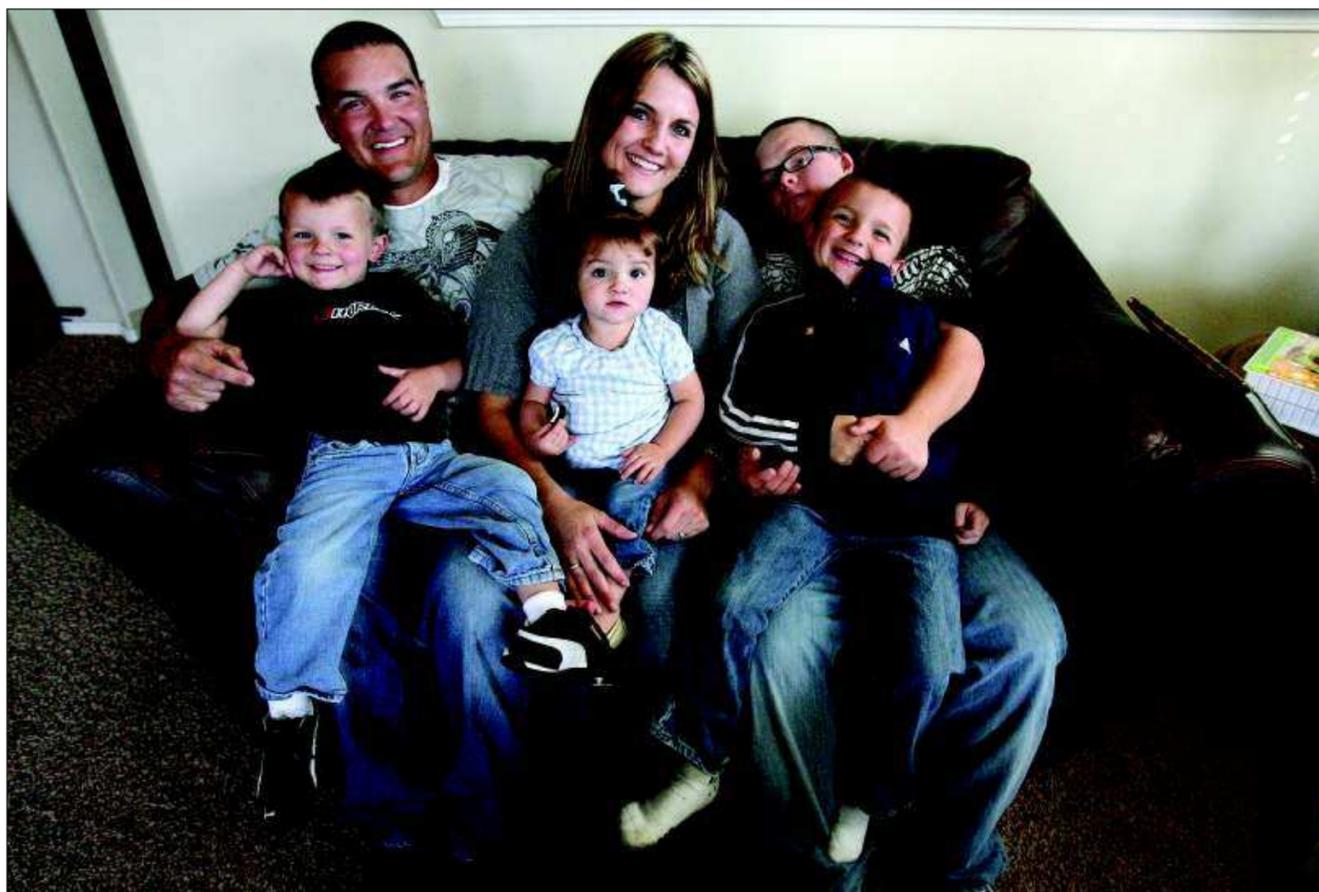
**About Cora Wilcox of Twin Falls:**

"In my growing-up years my mom somehow managed to make ends meet during some very difficult times. ... With all the responsibility she had, she still managed to always have three homecooked meals for all of us, and to this day, I don't know how she was able to do all the things she accomplished."  
— daughter  
Linda Behrens

**About Karen Dalton of Twin Falls:**

"She instilled in us a desire to independently work for what we want, be ethical in what we say and do, and to enjoy creativity, music and theater. ... I am amazed at her kindness, generosity and love even when I am not very lovable."  
— daughter Lisa Dalton

See **PRaise**, Family Life 3



Photos by MEAGAN THOMPSON/Times-News

Jaclynn Vargas poses with her family including her brother Justin Leshar, 19, who has been under her care since she was 19. From left: Sean Vargas, Preston Vargas, 3, Jaclynn Vargas, Roxy Vargas, almost 1, Justin Leshar and Kaden Vargas, 5, at their home in Jerome.

## Jerome woman cares for teen sibling

By **Melissa Davlin**  
Times-News writer

**J**EROME — Mothers aren't always the women who give birth to their children. Just ask 28-year-old Jaclynn Vargas, caregiver to her three biological children and her 19-year-old brother, Justin Leshar.

Most men in their late teens don't need a caregiver, but Justin has Down syndrome, requiring daily assistance and constant supervision. His big sister has stepped in to fill that roll, while taking care of her three other children — Kaden, 5, Preston, 3, and Roxy, 20 months.

Jaclynn and Justin come from a home of 13 siblings. When Jaclynn was a teenager, their older brother Jack was in a car accident and suffered a severe brain injury that mandated around-the-clock care. Their mother also became sick around the same time. While their mother took care of Jack and herself, Jaclynn and two of her sisters stepped up to help their youngest

three siblings, who included Justin and his twin sister.

"She was always the caregiver to him," said Jaclynn's husband, Sean.

Jaclynn's friend Trayci Ozuna agreed.

"She's treated Justin like nothing but her own since the day I met

See **MOTHER**, Family Life 3



Jaclynn Vargas gets a spontaneous hug from her 5-year-old son, Kaden, as she talks about her decision to take custody of her brother.

### About this story

This story about Jaclynn Vargas was prompted by a nomination written by her mother-in-law, Dixie Vargas. An excerpt from that letter:

"Most people would shun the duties that Jaclynn has taken on. ... Think about the care and services that Justin requires, and imagine being only 19 and having full custody of your mentally and physically handicapped brother, and then imagine it was your choice to make the sacrifice."

— Dixie Vargas



Justin Leshar's bed becomes a trampoline for 3-year-old Preston Vargas as Leshar points out things that are important to him. Leshar, 19, has been raised by his sister Jaclynn and her husband, Sean, for the past nine years.









# Kids Only

## Something to think about

By Valerie Strauss • The Washington Post

Does a tree make a sound when it falls in the forest if nobody is around to hear it?

You may think the answer is a no-brainer. But, actually, it has been debated among philosophers since ancient times.

What's a philosopher?

Imagine a job where all you do is think — and then think some more. Philosophers are people who try to answer questions about human life and thought.

Philosophy is not a subject like math or spelling. You can't look for the right answers in the back of the textbook. Different philosophers can look at one question and come up with different ways of dealing with it.

Kids make great philosophers because they are curious; they wonder and they ask a lot of questions.

David A. White, a philosophy teacher, wrote a book called "Philosophy for Kids," and here are some of the questions he poses. Look at how famous philosophers answer — and feel free to disagree!



Immanuel Kant



George Berkeley



Rene Descartes

Photos courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

### Q: SHOULD YOU EVER TELL A LIE?

You've probably been told many times to never tell a lie. But you also may believe it is OK to lie in certain circumstances. For example, you might think it was OK to tell your best friend that you like her new dress when you really don't. Or to lie to save someone's life.

Immanuel Kant, a German philosopher who lived from 1724 to 1804, would disagree. To Kant, it was never OK to lie.

He said it was always important to do the right thing for the right reason. Lying is wrong, and doing something bad to achieve something good is not rational. Kant said you would be hurting yourself if you lied, even if to help others.

Can you think of examples of when you think a lie would be OK?

### Q: DOES A TREE MAKE A SOUND IF IT FALLS WHEN NO ONE HEARS IT?

We bet you answered this with a yes or a no.

But Irish philosopher George Berkeley, who lived from 1685 to 1753, has another response: You can't know for sure!

Berkeley was a bishop in the Anglican Church. He believed that you can't be sure of anything unless it is perceived — that is, unless you are made aware of something through your senses (hearing, seeing, touching, tasting and smelling).

Can you think of something you know will continue to exist even if it is not perceived by anyone?

### Q: CAN YOU DOUBT THAT YOU EXIST?

This question may seem silly. But French philosopher Rene Descartes, who lived from 1596 to 1650, is known as the father of modern philosophy because of his thinking about this issue.

It all has to do with the notion of certitude. That means being absolutely certain something is true.

Descartes wanted absolute certainty to be the basis of philosophical truths. So he started out by doubting everything.

Most famously, he asked whether it was possible to doubt that he existed. He concluded that if he was doubting his existence, then he must exist, or he couldn't be doubting.

He summed that up in one of the most famous philosophical statements: "I think, therefore I am." In Latin it is "Cogito ergo sum."

Now go to school and say that to your teacher and watch the delighted reaction!

### Q: CAN A COMPUTER THINK?

Let's say a computer can write a poem. Or beat the world champion in chess. Or even make itself move.

Would you then say that the computer can think?

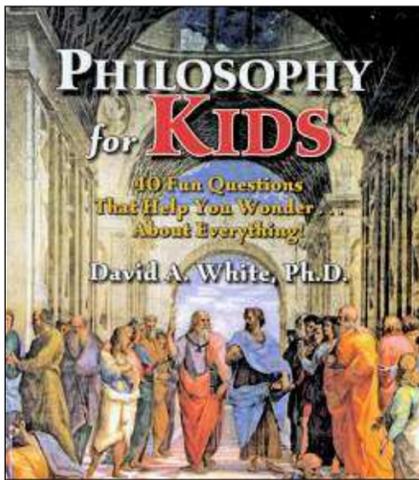
American philosopher Daniel Dennett, who was born in 1942, would say that the answers depend on your definition of "thinking." That may seem simple to you, but it is something that philosophers and scientists have debated for a long time.

In fact, Dennett would replace the concept of "thinking" with "consciousness." He would ask, "Is the way human beings are conscious any different from the way a computer doing creative things is conscious?"

Of course, the key to the answer is the definition of "consciousness." And that, too, is something still being debated.

Can you think of something a computer would have to do for you to say it was conscious?

Imagine a job where all you do is think, and then think some more. Philosophers are people who try to answer questions about human life and thought. David A. White, a philosophy teacher, wrote a book called 'Philosophy for Kids,' which contains some of the questions he poses.



Washington Post

## Interpreting how dogs say hello

By Howard Bennett  
Special to The Washington Post

Ever wondered how dogs say hello?

If you are a dog lover, you already know the answer to that question. Seconds after arriving home, you come face to face with a tail-wagging, wildly excited pooch that can't get enough of you. Depending on the breed, you will be blitzed by three to 150 pounds of motorized fur showering you with kisses. Actually, what you are really being showered with is canine saliva (dog owners call them kisses because it sounds better). But is that the only way dogs say hello?

Like us, dogs have five senses: smell, touch, sight, hearing and taste. Humans and other primates (chimps, gorillas, etc.) use sight as the primary sense for recognizing one another. Dogs, however, use smell. This is so important that a dog's sense of smell is thousands of

times better than ours. Therefore, not only can your lovable dog tell what a person smells like — as opposed to a cat — but she can also tell the difference between members of her human family based on their individual smells. (Lots of teenage girls can smell their younger brothers when they are nearby, but that's because those boys hate taking showers, not because girls possess the sniffing abilities of dogs!)

Dogs recognize one another by the smell of their pee and poop. That's why dogs greet each other not eye to eye, but nose to butt. By taking a quick whiff of his friend's behind, a dog instantly knows who he's with. That is also why dogs smell everything they can during a walk. By sniffing grass, bushes, trees and signposts, dogs know which other neighborhood dogs have been around lately.

Here is one more fact to consider when you are

lounging around petting man's best friend: Dogs are farsighted; that means they have terrible vision up close. So they are far more likely to recognize who is near by smell rather than by sight.

That creates some interesting behavior in the home. We have two dogs in the Bennett household: a 9-year-old named Jessie and a 5-year-old named Mojo. If one of our dogs leaves the room for just a few seconds, they both smell each other's bottoms when they see each other again.

If I translated that behavior into words, it would go something like this:

Jessie (smelling Mojo's butt): Hey, Mojo. Where have you been?

Mojo (smelling Jessie's butt): I was in the kitchen getting a drink, but now I'm back.

Jessie (heading for the couch): Want to take a nap?

Mojo (following Jessie): Sure.

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