



Partly cloudy.

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May 13, 2009

TIMES-NEWS

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Lane change

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

Hoping to relieve congestion, the city of Twin Falls began Tuesday permanently reworking the intersection of North College Road and Fillmore Street.

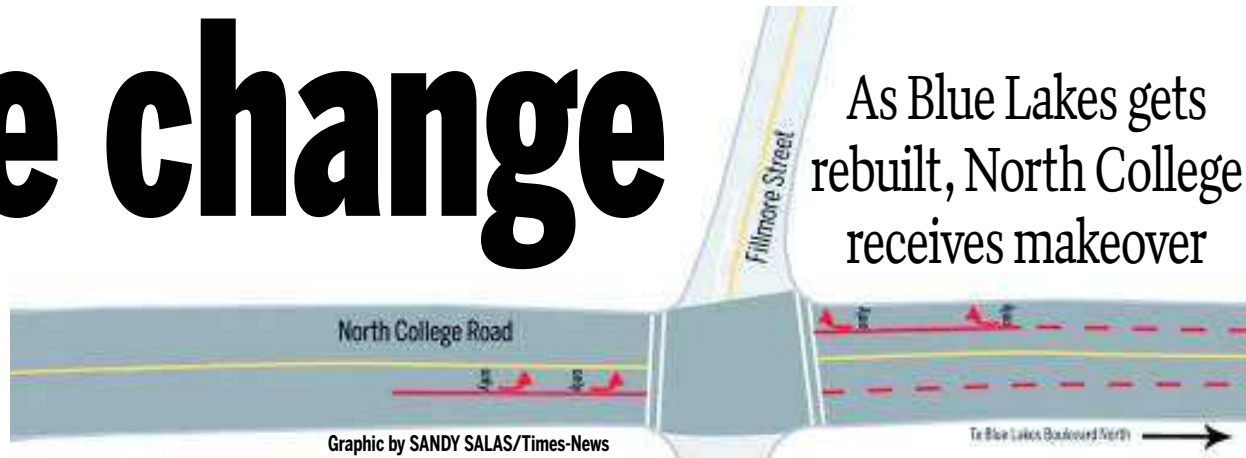
The roadwork includes expanding North College Road between Fillmore Street and Blue Lakes Boulevard North to four lanes, a move city officials hope will reduce congestion not only from current nearby roadwork on Blue Lakes but also once that project is complete.

There will also be improved turn bays at the intersection. The road will not expand, however.

The roadwork to remove and restripe traffic lines will take several days, said Dean Littler, the city's street supervisor.

The sudden announcement from the city came Tuesday afternoon. The state asked the city to consider some changes because local businesses expressed concerns over congestion on Fillmore Street as a result of the Blue Lakes Boulevard Construction, said Idaho Transportation Department Spokesman Nathan Jerke. ITD proposed improved turning lanes or stop signs.

The city said creating four lanes was actually part of its long-term plan, but it wasn't needed at the time when a city engineer suggested it a while back,



Graphic by SANDY SALAS/Times-News

- North College Road between Fillmore Street and Blue Lakes Boulevard North will expand to four lanes
- There will be improved turn bays at the intersection, without expanding the road



MEAGAN THOMPSON/Times-News

Construction workers strip the lines off the pavement Tuesday afternoon along North College Road in preparation for paint. Crews are working to provide four lanes of traffic flow as increased traffic is expected during construction on Blue Lakes Boulevard in Twin Falls.

said Mike Sullivan, the city's traffic technician.

"Of course, then the construction started and we started getting the complaints," Sullivan said. "We thought, 'Well, maybe this will be the time to incorporate that.'"

The idea of having four lanes is to improve traffic flow on Fillmore Street, clogged since construction work on Blue Lakes Boulevard North began May 7. The work on Blue Lakes is its first major overhaul in decades, with

completion scheduled for the end of October.

Jerke said last month no major official alternate route was designated and ITD chose to work with local businesses that might face congestion issues. He said Tuesday he

didn't know how the city chose to relieve the congestion or about the four-lane idea.

Jared S. Hopkins may be reached at jhopkins@magicvalley.com or 208-735-3204.

Kolestani can dress as woman, judge rules

By Andrea Jackson
Times-News writer

An Iranian refugee who was born male but chooses to be identified as a woman will be allowed to wear lady's apparel during next month's murder trial in Twin Falls 5th District Court.

Majid Kolestani, 42, who also uses the first name Nastaran, is jailed without bond in Twin Falls County and charged with first-degree murder for allegedly slaying

another Iranian refugee Ehsan Velayati Kababian, 29.

Kababian was shot and killed in his car near the apartment the two shared on Fifth Avenue East.

Prosecutors did not have a problem with Kolestani's May 1 request to wear "street clothing appropriate for a female, including female upper body undergarments" during court hearings.

Judge Randy Stoker ruled Kolestani's court clothes



Magicvalley.com

WATCH: A video of Majid Kolestani and the man Kolestani is accused of killing, Ehsan Velayati Kababian.

must "comply with the Courthouse dress code and must be such as to comply with any requirements of court security," according to court papers filed Tuesday.

Also this week, Kolestani's public defenders tried a second time to move the June 25 trial to another venue because of "continuing pretrial publicity."

But Stoker on Tuesday denied the change of venue motion.

"The fact that there has been ongoing publicity since the time of the court's original ruling on this issue does not separate it from many other first-degree murder cases in this community where the court has been able to empanel a fair and impartial jury," Stoker said in court papers.

Prosecutors in court filings have described media coverage as "accurate" and "non-inflammatory."

In asking again for a change of venue, Public Defender Marilyn Paul "strangely ... included blogs and articles from national gay, lesbian and transgender Web publications," Twin Falls County Prosecutor Grant Loeb wrote in court papers. "It is hard to see how these argue for a change of venue."

Andrea Jackson may be reached at ajackson@magicvalley.com.

Utah man accused of getting minors intoxicated

Two 14-year-old girls returned to Utah parents after Twin Falls traffic stop

By Andrea Jackson
Times-News writer

A Utah man with alleged connections to a Mexican drug cartel and a criminal gang is lodged in the Twin Falls County Jail after police found him in a car with two highly intoxicated 14-year-old girls and his 16-year-old nephew, according to court records.

Jose G. Ramirez-Camacho, 33, was arrested

Saturday night after he was stopped for allegedly speeding along 1400 East Road in Twin Falls County.

A list of charges against him were filed Monday in Twin Falls 5th District Court: DUI, driving without privileges, dispensing alcohol to a minor, open container, battery, providing false information, and



Camacho

possession of a stolen vehicle, according to court records.

Idaho State Police say in court records that they found Camacho in a stolen Toyota Yaris with two underage girls and his nephew. Authorities said they smelled alcohol in the car and saw open beer bottles, according to court records.

"The left-side backseat passenger seemed to be passed out and started to vomit on her and the floor when I opened the door," a state trooper wrote in court records.

State police assert in court records that Camacho told them he gave the minors alcohol. Police say in court records that one of the girls had "a split lip with blood on her teeth."

The 16-year-old male

passenger told police Camacho is his uncle from West Valley City, Utah, and had given authorities a false name. The teenage boy also told police Camacho had sex with both girls in West Valley City at a family member's house, and struck one of them "for no reason" and told her "she was a member of the Crown Latin Kings to get her to stop crying,"

See MINORS, Main 2

Social Security, Medicare fading in recession

By Stephen Ohlemacher
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Social Security and Medicare are fading even faster under the weight of the recession, heading for insolvency years sooner than previously expected, the government warned Tuesday.

Medicare already is paying out more money than it receives, something that happened for the first time last year. And Social Security will be by 2016, a year sooner than had been projected, the trustees' annual report said.

Unless changes in Social Security are enacted, the retirement fund will be depleted in 2037, four years sooner than projected last year. The Medicare trust fund is in even worse shape. It is projected to become insolvent in 2017, two years earlier than expected.

More immediately, the trustees do not expect Social Security recipients to get cost-of-living increases

See SOCIAL, Main 2

Cemetery cleanup critics go to council

Scouts no longer interested in rehab project

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

The Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office is continuing to look into alleged desecration of a cemetery south of Murtaugh, as critics of a late-April cleanup at the site prepare to take their complaints to the full Murtaugh City Council tonight.

The Artesian City Cemetery sits bounded by farmland roughly two miles south of Murtaugh Lake, and is owned by the town. Mayor Dee Hunsaker asked farmer Darrell Funk, who owns land next to the cemetery site, to help clean up the overgrown cemetery ahead of rehabilitation work Hunsaker expected a Boy Scout troop to volunteer for. Workers bulldozed weeds and removed trees, and locals familiar with the cemetery criticized the

See CEMETERY, Main 2

TAKE PART

The Murtaugh City Council will meet at 7 tonight at City Hall, 104 Fourth St.



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NTSB hearing on flight that killed 49 > Main 5

Melanson among choices for new Court of Appeals judge

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

A 5th District judge and three deputy attorneys general are among 12 candidates for the seat of Idaho Court of Appeals Judge Darrel R. Perry, who plans to retire on Sept. 30.

The Court of Appeals hears cases appealed from Idaho's seven judicial districts and assigned to it by the Idaho Supreme Court. It is made up of four judges; cases are heard by three-judge panels.

Locally, the candidates for Perry's seat include 5th District Judge John Melanson, who hears cases in Minidoka County and is the fourth and current judge to preside over the Snake River Basin Adjudication.

Melanson served as a magistrate judge for about six years and has been a district judge for eight, adding the SRBA cases to his load in 2003. He also unofficially serves as Judge Barry Wood's assistant administrative judge for the district.

On Tuesday, he noted

Court of Appeals positions don't open up often, and said he'd enjoy trying "something new and different" if possible.

"The fact of the matter is, I suppose, no time would be a good time for the presiding judge to leave the SRBA," he said. "If I'm going to do it, I've got to do it now."

Should he lose out to one of his 11 competitors, Melanson said, he'll be happy to stay where he is. He still enjoys his work for both the Minidoka and SRBA courts, and said he'd miss his

On the Web:

Visit <http://www.judicialcouncil.idaho.gov> for copies of the questionnaire and a list of the candidates.

current focus on water law — "a little bit arcane" — and the quality of legal representation he sees there. Plus, he added, it'd be nice to finish off the SRBA cases: of about 10,000 left, only 3,000 are contested.

"It's not an exaggeration to say that we're nearing completion," the judge said

of the adjudication, which when finished may have sorted through as many as 185,000 water rights.

Other candidates include Bill Von Tagen, chief of the Idaho Attorney General's intergovernmental and fiscal law division; Ken Jorgenson, an appellate attorney for the attorney general; Susan Buxton, a Boise attorney who has specialized in land-use and local-government issues including in the Magic Valley; and Michael A. Henderson, the Idaho Supreme Court's legal counsel.

Members of the public have until June 1 to complete and submit questionnaires about the candidates to the Idaho Judicial Council. The forms are available at court clerks' offices throughout the state.

Council members will review the feedback and then interview the candidates on July 9 at the Supreme Court Building in Boise. They will then forward two to four candidates to Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter to choose from to fill the vacancy.

Supporters chime in on Jerome airport rezoning

By John Plestina
Times-News correspondent

JEROME — Just over half of the more than 40 people testifying about proposed rezoning near the Jerome and Hazelton airports Monday told the Jerome County Planning and Zoning Commission they supported the changes.

A proposed 20-square mile overlay zone surrounding the Jerome County Airport is a response to a potential loss of federal funding. It has also raised the ire of several Jerome farmers in an area currently zoned for agricultural use, which limits construction to one structure per 40 acres. Rezoning around the more rural Hazelton Airport is also proposed.

Before the commission accepted testimony, Chris Pomeroy of T-O Engineers of Boise presented goals that included the protection of airspace surrounding both airports and ensuring that federal and state grant assurances are satisfied. He described the assurances as

"strings attached" by the Federal Aviation Administration and state agencies. Without the change, the county could face denial of future airport grant and the possibility of the FAA requiring the county to pay back past grants.

"The way the (zoning) ordinance is currently set, it does not meet grant assurances," Pomeroy said.

The airport east of Jerome receives federal funding. The Hazelton Airport is state funded.

Ketchum attorney Ed Lawson represents Jerome County Citizens for Responsible Airport Management, which is comprised of 18 families owning more than 5,200 acres within the affected area.

Several people who had signed up to testify deferred to Lawson, saying he represents them.

Lawson asked the commission to scrutinize ways to make assurances without impacting private property rights.

"We will want to shrink

this overlay zone to minimize the county's exposure," Lawson said. "You don't need an overlay zone of 20 square miles to satisfy the FAA."

Lawson called for compromise, as did several others testifying on both sides of the issue.

Some affected property owners testified that they do not want rezoning to preclude them from future subdividing of farmland for residential development.

Former Jerome resident Ronald Woolley, now of Provo, Utah, called on the county to show a cost benefit for the proposed zoning changes.

"The zoning they are asking for is forever. Is this in the best interest?" he asked.

Larry Holtzen of Jerome, a private pilot for 30 years, said safety is his major concern. He addressed the possibility of more housing in the flight path. "The worst thing in my mind would be to look down at a bunch of houses and wondering which one I'm going to take out," he said.

Ketchum PZ gives Whiskey Jacques' go-ahead to rebuild

By Karen Bossick
Times-News correspondent

KETCHUM — Whiskey Jacques' bar got the green light to apply for a building permit Monday night.

The Ketchum Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously approved the project to replace the building gutted a September 2008 fire on the condition that builders make a few changes.

Commissioners asked architect Buffalo Rixon of Ruscitto/Latham/Blanton to lower the south wall several feet and paint it differently to blend in better with The Sawtooth Club. And they asked that builders use Core-Ten steel because it was less apt to rust than ordinary steel.

"I love the design. I'm real pleased with the progress and sort-of forward feeling," said Commission Co-chair Deborah Burns.

The two-story building with basement will be 10,829 square feet, said Buffalo Rixon, an architect with Ruscitto/Latham/Blanton.

The main floor will actually be 100 square feet smaller than the previous building to make room for trash and utility enclosures and a revamped entry.

The 2,500 square-foot second floor will include a 600-square foot deck facing Main Street.

There is the potential for a second deck facing Bald Mountain.

The front will feature over-grouted stone that harkens back to Ketchum's mining heritage, two shades of rusted metal and an awning stretching across the building.

Rixon thanked the commission for fast-tracking the project to remedy what is now noticeable hole in Ketchum's Main Street.

The bar burned to the ground after a fire started at the adjacent building that used to house Dirty Little Roddy's and The Ore House. The Sawtooth Club

was heavily damaged but reopened in time for Christmas 2008.

Whiskey's owner Karen Martin said she hopes to begin construction in early June and have it opened in time for Christmas crowds.

"I think it's a beautiful building. I love the changes that have been made and I can't wait to be in there Christmas," P&Z Commission Co-Chair Rich Fabiano told her.

Karen Bossick may be reached at kbossick@cox-internet.com.

Buhl makes progress on wastewater treatment project

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

BUHL — Nearly three years after Buhl approved \$15 million in bonds for constructing a new sewer treatment plant the project is almost ready to go out to bid.

During Monday's City Council meeting Mark Holtzen, project engineer with J-U-B Engineers of Twin Falls, reported that the facility design has been submitted to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality for approval. It will take about a month for turnaround from DEQ, he said.

While this is the first time DEQ has seen the design in its entirety the state agency has been updated throughout the planning process. DEQ has signed off on the facility's design at 10, 50 and 90 percent completion.

"They've seen the project develop," Holtzen said.

While the plant is designed to accommodate 20 years of residential and small business growth, it assumes a 50 percent decrease in industrial load.

Holtzen said the facility's design was based off of direction given by the city, which expects some waste

pretreatment by industry users.

City Engineer Scott Bybee said the plant design needs to go forward to keep in line with DEQ stipulations and so changes to the design or plant construction can be made.

"We don't have the luxury of waiting," Bybee said. Monitoring stations at Clear Springs Foods, Rangens and Seneca are planned to help the city and industries collect accurate data on waste now being treated by Buhl. Once data are collected industrial users can run cost analysis to determine if they will pretreat waste or pay Buhl.

If the data collected indicate industrial users are not paying a fair share for sewer treatment their rates would go up and residential users' rates would go down.

Bybee said modifications could be made to the plant to accommodate more industrial waste for a negotiated fee.


"It all comes back to equitability," Bybee said. "We need to charge equal and fair rates to everyone ... and this data to be collected will help us reach that goal. We are getting closer to that goal each day."

The capital costs for testing equipment will be split between Buhl and the industrial users. Buhl's share, Bybee said, is around \$45,000.

Public Works Director Rex Hiatt told the council a manhole had been constructed at Seneca and it shouldn't take long to construct the manholes needed for sample collection at the other two sites.

"It took us two days to put it in," Hiatt said. "It's not like we need a month."

While Monday was a tentative deadline for getting the monitoring stations up and running, delays on receiving some of the needed equipment have pushed back the timeline. City officials hope to have the monitoring stations online in June.



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Don't Ask Me

Steve Crump



Spring? We don't need no stinking spring

The Almighty has been a little hard on us this spring.

Winter, which was supposed to end on March 21, hasn't yet. Twin Falls has had snow twice in the past month; Hailey, five times during that same period.

Yet a couple of weeks ago, in a moment of irrational exuberance, I planted some zinnias in the yard. They froze, of course.

I figure that's about as blunt as divine retribution gets around here.

Zinnias, you see, are pretty hard to kill. They're native to the scrub and dry grasslands that stretch from Colorado through South America, but primarily Mexico. Any plant that thrives there is tough.

And yet there they were, on a brisk morning last week, their golden blossoms withered and their green leaves turned the color of spent chewing tobacco.

I planted zinnias specifically because of my grandmother, who spent her golden years in the eastern Idaho town of Soda Springs. The "springs" in the name is a euphemism; Soda doesn't have any.

You could look it up: It freezes in July in Soda; also August and June. And yet, every summer — or what passes for it — Grandma grew zinnias all across her vast backyard garden. Fertilized them with coffee grounds, and they lasted until February.

Not me. I've planted zinnias four or five years running, and they've gone tendrils-up every year.

Which leads me to believe it has more to do with hubris than horticulture.

As a rule, the Lord is pretty skeptical about growing things out here Rockchuck Acres. This is jackalope country, known for tawny browns and desiccated golds. You want agriculture, go to California.

So anything — anything — that's planted here grows by sufferance, unless it's kochia which trumps anything with roots. Kochia, which is immortal, is the best evidence that God has a sense of humor.

But not zinnias. You can grow them in the Sonoran Desert and they thrive in Chihuahua, but not in Idaho.

Which leads me to believe that God is having second thoughts about the whole notion of agriculture in southern Idaho.

The place isn't designed for it, there's no water that's not imported, and sagebrush is the apex of the plant kingdom. No wonder sugar beets freeze before they sprout and grain gets pummeled to dust by hail.

The Almighty is generous about agriculture in Kansas; he's stingy about it here. The basic growing season is about 45 minutes, and he'd be obliged if you remembered that.

Think of Idaho as Siberia without the permafrost. Sure it gets hot once in a while, but the steady state is frost.

Years ago, when I was moving pipe on a potato farm outside of Pocatello, we reported to work at 5 o'clock one June morning and the pipes wouldn't budge; they were frozen to the ground. Yet the frozen pipes were surrounded by acres of mud; I lost both my boots and my pants that morning, sucked into the morass below.

When I arrived home later that morning, covered with mud and wearing only my shirt, jacket and boxer shorts, my mother asked what had happened.

"Oh, nothing much," I replied. "Except I decided I'm going to college."

BLM: Jarbidge fires taught agency valuable lessons

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

A recent series of large, intense fires in the desert west and south of Castleford prompted changes in the way the U.S. Bureau of Land Management prepares for and battles wildfires, officials told a crowd of biologists and others Tuesday morning.

Roughly 100 people filled a room at the Canyon Crest Events Center in Twin Falls for the first day of a three-day workshop about the lessons learned from three fires in particular. The Clover Fire in 2005 burned 193,000 acres, while 2006's Sailor Cap covered 62,000 acres and the Murphy Complex in 2007 roared across more than 650,000 acres.

All three fires burned in the area covered by the BLM's Jarbidge Field Office, land used in large part for grazing and home to both wildlife such as the sage grouse and two U.S.

Air Force bombing ranges.

Today, that land is starting to recover, despite the setbacks of numerous burns. But the pattern concerns BLM officials and adds to a nationwide shift from numerous, small fires to fewer but more massive blazes.

Chris Simonson, the fire management officer for the BLM's Twin Falls District, presented national statistics showing a sharp increase in the number of fires covering more than 50,000 acres. From 1999 to 2008, national fire agencies counted about 250 such blazes, he said. In the two decades prior, that number was closer to 50.

Theories about what's behind the spike vary from climate change and cumulative drought to budget problems and greater demands on federal

Various rehabilitation efforts include hundreds of miles of fence repair, allotments temporarily closed to livestock grazing and standardized, improved monitoring processes.

resources. An increasing number of fires are also being fought in wildland-urban interface — bordering on towns and cities — adding to the challenge and cost, Simonson said.

"Many millions of dollars are spent there," he told one audience member, adding that he did not have exact percentages.

Rick Vander Voet, field manager of the BLM's Jarbidge Field Office, and Danelle Nance, a natural resource specialist with the BLM's Shoshone Field Office, walked attendees through various rehabilitation efforts for the three major fires, including hundreds of miles of fence repair, allotments temporarily closed to livestock grazing and standardized, improved monitoring processes. Acting Twin Falls District Manager

Jenifer Arnold ran through a list of changes her district made: among them, partnering with Mountain Home Air Force Base to station fire crews at the bombing ranges, mapping gas lines belonging to Chevron and improving both its relationships with rural fire districts and some districts' training.

"We are really proud of the changes that we made internally in the agency," Arnold said.

Other presenters Tuesday included the heads of the Idaho departments of Agriculture and Fish and Game, and researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey and University of Idaho.

The workshop continues today with a daylong tour of areas recovering from the fire. It concludes Thursday.

Lincoln County approves 'circuit breaker roll'

By John Plestina
Times-News correspondent

SHOSHONE — Lincoln County commissioners on Monday lessened the pain of property taxes a bit for those who can't afford their assessments by approving county use of the state's "circuit breaker roll."

Upon a recommendation by Assessor Linda Jones, the county commissioners, acting as the Board of Equalization, authorized Jones to apply the "circuit breaker roll" for up to a total of \$112,000 which allows the state of Idaho to reimburse the county for property tax revenue for those who cannot afford to pay their taxes.

In other business, the commission approved a draft of a lease agreement that will give the recreation district the use of the county-owned Masonic Hall on West B Street in Shoshone in

exchange for repairs to the building in lieu of payments.

The commission also authorized the county to apply for a justice grant following a recommendation by Bev Ashton of Idaho Juvenile Corrections.

The county will know in June if the grant will be awarded.

It would provide positions and resources.

The commission also granted the sheriff's department up to \$2,000 for investigations.

In another matter, the commission made no final decision on a request by Ann Parker to install a six-foot fire pit at the fairgrounds.

While the materials and installation would come at no cost to the county, Commission Chairman Jerry Nance cited potential liability issues for the county and Commissioner Charles Ritter also said he had concerns.

Law & Disorder... in Cassia County

From May 6 police reports:

Assault:

A Burley male, 20, was banned from Mr. Gas after he followed a 42-year-old woman into the store and, according to the report, "flipped her off and was yelling he was going to kick her ass." He then allegedly proceeded to call her several unflattering epithets and threatened to kill her. He later explained to police that he was angry because the woman "almost rear ended him."

Possession:

A 45-year-old Burley man with a cobra tattoo on his arm was arrested for possession of marijuana and paraphernalia. According to the report, the man was sitting on the fence next to the Bureau of Land Management office in Burley, appearing to be intoxicated, when he was questioned. He was wanted for a probation violation and searched. Deputy Clay Anderson found a plastic bag in the man's front pocket that contained, the report reads, "a white powder looking substance and 3 burnt mari-

juana joints and a pen top with burn residue with an order (sic) of burnt marijuana emitting from it." In the man's other pocket, police found "2 gold colored pipe ends with burnt residue in them which emitted the order (sic) of burnt marijuana." The white powder was tested and "did not test positive for anything," the report reads.

Larceny:

An 81-year-old man dropped his wallet outside of an insurance office in Burley. According to the report, three employees witnessed two young males pick up the wallet and run away while the man walked into the office. He said the wallet contained \$450 cash, a Maverick card, his driver's license, his Social Security card, and his Medicare card. He told police that he had "taken his wallet out of his pants and put it in his lap and when he got out of his vehicle, he had forgotten it was there and it fell to the ground."

— Damon Hunzeker

Blaine County may alter process to tab defender

By Ariel Hansen
Times-News writer

HAILEY — Last fall was the first time in recent memory that the Blaine County commissioners had more applicants for the public defender contract than available positions. Considering that and other recent inquiries to the board from attorneys interested in contracting,

Commissioner Angenie McCleary proposed to the board on Tuesday that the selection process be more open.

"Certainly in the selection process, knowing someone's done a good job would be an advantage," she said.

"There would be a preference for those on the contract, but there would be a true opportunity for those who want to be."

Previously, the process had mainly been one of annual renegotiation with current public defenders, with no significant advertising to the larger legal community.

"Trying to avoid the last-minute brinkmanship is a good thing, not only for the process but for the public defenders," said County Prosecutor Tim Graves, who said changes to the process could pro-

duce better public defenders who not only defend the criminally accused but also advocate in child welfare and other issues. "There's not much in the way of formal mentoring going on."

Commissioners Larry Schoen and Tom Bowman said they would like to make changes to the process, but without dis-

enfranchising current public defenders.

Bowman said he would prefer if current defenders were given first crack at each annual negotiation, and then if a position was open or the current defenders were asking for a raise, the commission might advertise for other attorneys who wished to bid.

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Idaho Power to expand Wood River Valley coverage

By Ariel Hansen
Times-News writer

HAILEY — Within five years, the odds of major blackouts will be dramatically decreased in the Wood River Valley. Idaho Power is moving forward with plans to create redundant power transmission networks in Lincoln and Blaine counties in response to increasing demand for power.

"As loads continue to increase, and more and more customers are up here, the existing system will not be able to meet capacity," said Bryan Hobson, regional planning engineer for Idaho Power to the Hailey City Council at its Monday night meeting.

Current peak usage is 130 megawatts during the winter, while 115 megawatts of usage is the point at which the loss of one of the existing transmission lines from Lincoln County to Hailey would result in rolling blackouts in the valley. Currently, blackouts are also inevitable if the single line connecting Hailey to points north is affected.

Demand is rising dramatically: Last year, usage was over the 115 megawatts breakpoint only 5 percent of the time, but by 2013, usage is expected to be over the breakpoint 55 percent of the time.

As part of Idaho Power's five-year plan, a second line would be built along the Idaho Highway 75 corridor from Hailey to Ketchum and Sun Valley, and additional redundancies will be built south of Hailey over a longer time-frame.

The Hailey City Council recognized the importance of these infrastructure improvements. "It affects us all, we all have a stake in this," said Councilwoman Carol Brown.

In other business, the council said it would make appointments to the recently formed marijuana policy committee at its next regular meeting.

Ariel Hansen may be reached at ahansen@magicvalley.com.

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NATION & WORLD

Five Miami men convicted of Sears Tower attack plot

By Curt Anderson
Associated Press writer

MIAMI — It took three trials, three juries and nearly three years, but federal prosecutors finally succeeded Tuesday in convicting five Miami men of plotting to start an anti-government insurrection by destroying Chicago's Sears Tower and bombing FBI offices. One man was acquitted.

When the FBI swarmed the downtrodden Liberty City neighborhood to make the arrests in June 2006, the administration of President George W. Bush hailed the case as a prime example of the Justice Department's post-Sept. 11 policy of disrupting potential terror plots in the earliest possible stages.

Yet hours of FBI recordings of terrorist talk contrasted with little concrete evidence of an evolving plot, triggering two mistrials because juries could not agree on verdicts against ringleader Narseal Batiste or five followers. One of the original seven defendants was acquitted after the first trial.

"Any cases that involve someone's mental intent, their intention when they made certain statements, are always difficult," said Matthew Orwig, former U.S. attorney in Texas who has monitored the Miami

case. "It was a must-win for the government. They needed some vindication."

Finally, this third jury found the way on its sixth day of deliberations.

It wasn't the only victory Tuesday for terrorism prosecutors. In a separate case in New York, a jury convicted a Lebanese-born Swede of trying to set up a terror training camp in Oregon in 1999. The verdict against Oussama Kassir capped a three-week trial.

In the Miami case, Batiste, 35, was the only one convicted of all four terrorism-related conspiracy counts, including plotting to provide material support to terrorists and conspiring to wage war against the U.S. Batiste, who was on the vast majority of FBI recordings, faces up to 70 years in prison.

Batiste's right-hand man, 29-year-old Patrick Abraham, was convicted on three counts and faces 50 years behind bars. Convicted on two counts and facing 30 years are 24-year-old Burson Augustin, 25-year-old Rotschild Augustine and 33-year-old Stanley Grant Phanor. Naudimar Herrera, 25, was cleared of all four charges.

U.S. District Judge Joan Lenard set sentencing for July 27 for the five convicted men, most of whom are Haitian or have Haitian ancestry.

Trump: Miss California USA can retain crown

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Miss California USA can retain her crown despite controversies over semi-nude photographs taken of her as a teenager and her association with a conservative advocacy group for marriage, pageant owner Donald Trump said Tuesday.

Carrie Prejean's comments about her opposition to same-sex marriage ignited a media firestorm after a celebrity judge suggested her response may have cost her the Miss USA title; she finished as first-runner up. The photos surfaced later and led to the review of her state title.

"We've reviewed the pictures carefully," Trump said at a packed news conference at Trump Plaza in New York City. "We've made a determination that the pictures taken were acceptable. Some were

risque, but we are in the 21st century."

Trump also defended the answer Prejean gave at the April 19 Miss USA pageant. She was asked

her view of marriage by blogger Perez Hilton. Prejean said she believes marriage is between a man and a woman.

"It's the same answer the president of the United States gave,"

Trump said. "It's the same answer many people gave. She gave an honorable answer. She gave an answer from her heart, and I think for that she has to be commended."

Trump only briefly addressed questions surrounding Prejean's association with the National Organization for Marriage, a group that opposes same-sex marriage. He dismissed them as a "communication problem" between Prejean and California pageant officials.



Prejean



AP photos

In an area reserved for relatives of victims, two women wipe their eyes during a National Transportation Safety Board hearing on the Feb. 12 crash of a Colgan Airways Bombardier DH8C-400 near Clarence Center, N.Y., Tuesday at the NTSB in Washington.

Talk of ice on wings — then a scream and crash

Hearing examines safety issues in February air disaster

By Joan Lowy
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Showing no alarm, the captain and his first officer chatted about the ice on their plane's windshield and wings, making light of their shared concerns about flying in wintry weather as they sped toward Buffalo, N.Y., on the night of Feb. 12.

Minutes later, pilot Marvin Renslow said "Jesus Christ" and Rebecca Shaw screamed as Continental Connection Flight 3407 plunged to the ground, striking a house in a fiery crash. All 49 people aboard and one man on the ground were killed.

The haunting transcript of the plane's final moments — preserved by the cockpit voice recorder — was released Tuesday by the National Transportation Safety Board at the start of a three-day public hearing to examine safety issues raised by the crash.

Among those issues are whether Renslow and Shaw responded properly to warnings that the Dash 8-Q400 Bombardier, a twin-engine turboprop, was nearing a stall.

In response to questioning from board members, officials from Manassas, Va.-based Colgan Air, which operated the flight for Continental, acknowledged that the two apparently weren't paying close attention to the aircraft's instruments and failed to follow the airline's procedures for handling an impending stall in the final minutes of the flight.

"I believe Capt. Renslow did have intentions of land-



Lorenda Ward, National Transportation Safety Board senior investigator-in-charge, gives her opening statement in front of an animation of the Feb. 12 crash of Continental Connection Flight 3407 near Clarence Center, N.Y., Tuesday at the NTSB in Washington.

ing safely at Buffalo, as well as first officer Shaw, but obviously in those last few moments ... the flight instruments were not being monitored, and that's an indication of a lack of situational awareness," said John Barrett, Colgan's director of flight standards.

The NTSB's investigation has indicated that ice on the wing was a precursor to the stall warning but was not severe enough to cause a crash.

About the time the two first remarked to each other about the ice, the plane was descending from 11,000 feet and had received permission from air traffic controllers to go as low as 4,000 feet in preparation for landing. Federal regulations prohibit nonessential cockpit conversations below 10,000 feet.

"It's lots of ice," Shaw said. "Oh, yeah, that's the most

I've seen, most ice I've seen on the leading edges in a long time, in a while anyway, I should say," Renslow replied. Renslow then remarked that he'd flown about 625 hours in the region before he was hired for this job by Colgan.

Shaw replied: "I really wouldn't mind going through a winter in the Northeast before I have to upgrade to captain. ... I've never seen icing conditions. I've never deiced. I've never seen any. I've never experienced any of that. I don't want to have to experience that and make those kinds of calls. You know I'd've freaked out. I'd've like seen this much ice and thought, 'Oh, my gosh, we were going to crash.'"

"I would've been fine," Renslow replied. "I would have survived it. There wasn't, we never had to make decisions that I wouldn't

have been able to make but ... now I'm more comfortable."

The crew then lowered the landing gear and adjusted the airplane's flaps, but at 10:16:26 p.m. there was a sound similar to movement of the flap handle, according to the transcript, and Shaw says, "Uhhh."

Less than a second later, there were sounds similar to the stick shaker — a warning transmitted through the control stick that the aircraft is nearing a stall. They lasted for 6.7 seconds. Then a horn sounded signaling the autopilot disconnecting, and that horn continued until the end of the recording.

Three seconds later, a click was followed by the sound of increased engine power, according to the transcript.

At 10:16:34.8, Renslow said, "Jesus Christ."

Shaw said she has put the flaps up and asked if she should put the landing gear up. Renslow replied: "Gear up, oh, (expletive)!"

As noise in the cockpit increased, Renslow said: "We're down."

Then the sound of a thump.

Shaw: "We (sound of scream)."

With that entry, at 10:16:52, the transcript ends.

NTSB documents indicate that after the stick shaker went off, Renslow increased air speed and pulled back on the control column in an apparent attempt to bring the plane's nose up. Instead, the plane began to pitch and roll. Aviation experts said the proper response would be to push forward, pointing the nose down slightly or to keep level.

Senators weigh tax hikes to pay for health care

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Senators are considering limiting — but not eliminating — the tax-free status of employer-provided health benefits to help pay for President Barack Obama's plan to provide coverage to 50 million uninsured Americans.

Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., said Tuesday that there are no easy options. Senators began grappling with how to finance guaranteed coverage, a cornerstone of Obama's plan to overhaul the health care system. Independent experts put the costs at about \$1.5 trillion over 10 years.

Obama sees a world in which doctors and hospitals compete to offer quality service at lower costs, and the savings help cover the uninsured. Turning that vision into reality remains the biggest challenge for the president and his backers, because hard cash — not just ideas — is required to cover upfront costs of expanding coverage.

The president put health care industry leaders on notice Tuesday that he expects them to fulfill their dramatic offer of \$2 trillion in savings over 10 years. "I will hold you to your pledge to get this done," Obama said in a letter released by the White House that went to groups representing insurers, hospitals, doctors,

drug makers and others.

But those savings — even if the industry delivers every penny — won't all accrue to the government. So the financing package for Obama's plan is likely to include a mix of tax increases and spending cuts in federal health programs.

Among the possibilities: tax increases on alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and sugary soft drinks, and restrictions on other health care-related tax breaks, such as flexible spending accounts.

But some taxes don't seem to be on the table, such as a federal sales levy to pay for health care or a new payroll tax.

Congressional leaders say they want to pass legis-

lation in the Senate and House this summer.

On the controversial question of taxing health benefits, Baucus is staking out a position that could put him at odds with Obama.

The president adamantly opposed such taxes during the campaign, arguing they would undermine job-based coverage. Obama's aides now say he's open to suggestions from Congress, even if he criticized Republican presidential rival John McCain for proposing a sweeping version of the same basic idea.

Baucus said he wants to modify the tax break, not abolish it.

"We are not going to repeal it," he said.

Lawsuits settled in 2007 Crandall Canyon disaster

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The owner and operator of Utah's Crandall Canyon mine on Tuesday settled lawsuits filed by the families of the miners and rescuers who were killed or injured by two cave-ins in 2007.

The settlement — the largest in Utah mining history — was signed by lawyers for the defendants and the families of the 12 men who were killed or injured.

Six miners were trapped by a thunderous collapse at Crandall Canyon on Aug. 6, 2007. Another collapse 10 days later killed three rescuers, including a federal

mining inspector, and injured three others.

Terms of the settlement were not disclosed, but lawyers on both sides said it exceeded the more than \$20 million paid to families of 27 victims of a 1984 fire at the closed Wilberg mine in the same Utah coal district.

"They were very difficult negotiations. All parties were surprised we were able to reach a resolution," said Alan Mortensen, a lawyer for families of the trapped miners and some of the rescuers. "It eased some of the tension and anger that was expressed early on against the companies."

OPINION

QUOTE

“... we can and must do better. It’s time for new leadership and fresh eyes.”
 – Defense Secretary Robert Gates announcing a leadership overhaul for the U.S. military in Afghanistan

EDITORIAL

Local school boards would prefer to fix things themselves

The budget hawks in the Legislature anticipated that Idaho school districts would be declaring financial emergencies right, left and sideways this spring to ease the burden of recession and reduction of state funding to public schools.

Declaring a financial emergency allows districts to reduce the number of contract days or the level of salary in teacher contracts. State funding cutbacks for the upcoming school year meet one requirement for declaring a financial emergency:

Our view: Idaho school districts aren't rushing to declare financial emergencies so they can cut teachers' salaries.

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

But that hasn't happened on a large scale, for three reasons.

The first is that administrators and school boards understand the value of a collaborative relationship with teachers, most of whom regard the Legislature's response to a sharply contracting economy as tin-eared and heavy handed.

The second is that districts have learned to pinch pennies.

The third is the federal stimulus, which is infusing dollars into local districts that wouldn't otherwise be there.

So far, the Twin Falls, Gooding, Filer, Dietrich, Wendell and Blaine County school boards have declined to declare emergencies. That's not what Rep. Bob Nonini, R-Coeur d'Alene, the chairman of the Idaho House Education Committee, expected.

He spent much of the recently concluded legislative session devising ways for districts to take back what they'd previously given to teachers. But school boards and administrators took a look at that, and decided it wasn't worth the price.

If you're an administrator or a school board member in, say, Dietrich, you're hard-pressed to attract the instructors you need in the best of times so you're reluctant to renege on promises you've made to get the teaching staff you have.

And frankly, you're dissatisfied with cookie-cutter decisions made on your behalf by the Legislature or the Idaho Department of Education.

That wouldn't be possible, of course, if local school districts had to depend exclusively on local taxpayers and the state for funding. But the 224-student Dietrich School District, for example, expects to receive \$82,000 in federal stimulus money, which can be used for capital-intensive projects such as special education and Title I federal programs.

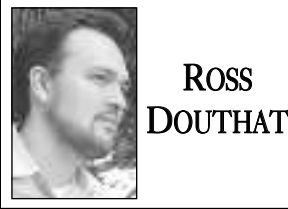
All of which suggests that neither Nonini nor Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna talked enough with administrators and school boards before they devised their responses to the recession.

Local districts, after all, have an almost proprietary interest in the success of their students, and school trustees are willing to move mountains to make that happen.

So although the Legislature withheld nearly \$400 million in reserve funds from the public schools, most of them will be all right anyway by relying on themselves — with a little help from Uncle Sam — and not from the state.

Cheney should have run for president

Watching Dick Cheney defend the Bush administration's interrogation policies, it's been hard to escape the impression that both the Republican Party and the country would be better off today if Cheney, rather than John McCain, had been a candidate for president in 2008.

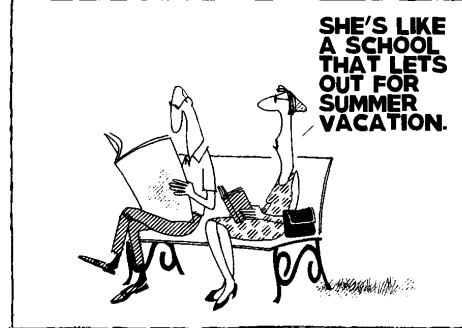
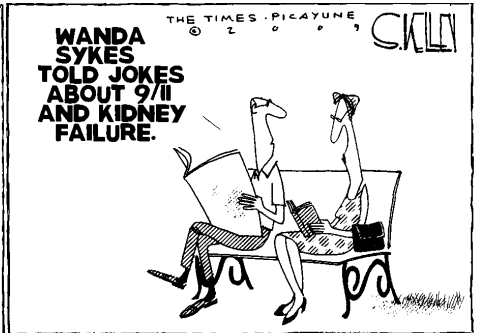
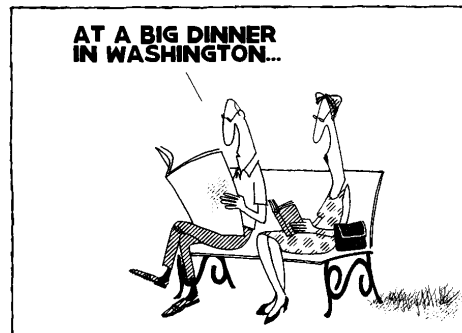


ROSS DOUTHAT

Certainly Cheney himself seems to feel that way. Last month's Sean Hannity interview, all anti-Obama jabs and roundhouses, was the latest installment in the vice president's unexpected — and, to Republican politicians, distinctly unwelcome — transformation from election-season wallflower into high-profile spokesman for the conservative opposition. George W. Bush seems happy to be back in civilian life, but Cheney has taken the fight to Obama like a man who wouldn't have minded campaigning for a third Bush-Cheney term.

Imagine for a moment that he'd had that chance. Imagine that he'd damned the poll numbers, broken his oft-repeated pledge that he had no presidential ambitions of his own, and shouldered his way into the race. Imagine that Republican primary voters, more favorably disposed than most Americans to Cheney and the administration he served, had rewarded him with the nomination.

At the very least, a Cheney-Obama contest would have clarified conservatism's present political predicament. In the wake of two straight drubbings at the polls, much of the American right has comforted itself with the idea that conservatives lost the country primarily because the Bush-era



Republican Party spent too much money on social programs. And John McCain's defeat has been taken as the vindication of this premise.

We tried running the maverick reformer, the argument goes, and look what it got us. What Americans want is real conservatism, not some crypto-liberal imitation. “Real conservatism,” in this narrative, means a particular strain of right-wingery: a conservatism of supply-side economics and stress positions, uninterested in social policy and dismissive of libertarian qualms about the national-security state. And Dick Cheney happens to be its diamond-hard distillation. The former vice-president kept his distance from the Bush administration's attempts at domestic reform, and he had little time for the idealistic, religiously infused side of his boss's policy agenda. He was for tax cuts at home and preemptive warfare overseas; anything else he seemed to disdain as sentimentalism.

This is precisely the sort of conservatism that's ascendant in today's much-reduced Republican Party, from the talk radio dials to the party's grassroots. And a Cheney-for-President campaign would have been

an instructive test of its political viability.

As a candidate, Cheney would have doubtless been as disciplined and ideologically consistent as McCain was feckless. In debates with Barack Obama, he would have been as cuttingly effective as he was in his encounters with Joe Lieberman and John Edwards in 2000 and 2004 respectively. And when he went down to a landslide loss, the conservative movement might have been jolted into the kind of rethinking that's necessary if it hopes to regain power.

If a Cheney defeat could have been good for the Republican Party; a Cheney campaign could have been good for the country. The former vice-president's post-election attacks on Obama are bad form, of course, under the peculiar rules of Washington politesse. But they're part of an argument about the means and ends of our interrogation policy that should have happened during the general election and didn't — because McCain wasn't a supporter of the Bush-era approach, and Obama didn't see a percentage in harping on the topic. He wasn't alone. A large swath of the political class wants to avoid

the torture debate. The Obama administration backed into it last week, and obviously wants to back right out again.

But the argument isn't going away. It will be with us as long as the threat of terrorism endures. And where the Bush administration's interrogation programs are concerned, we've heard too much to just “look forward,” as the president would have us do. We need to hear more: What was done and who approved it, and what intelligence we really gleaned from it. Not so that we can prosecute — unless the Democratic Party has taken leave of its senses — but so that we can learn, and pass judgment, and struggle toward consensus.

Here Dick Cheney, prodded by the ironies of history into demanding greater disclosure about programs he once sought to keep completely secret, has an important role to play. He wants to defend his record; let him defend it. And let the country judge. But better if this debate had happened during the campaign season.

Ross Douthat is a columnist for The New York Times. Write to him at rdouthat@nytimes.com.

GOP acted irresponsibly this legislative session

The 2009 Idaho Legislature has finally concluded after 117 days and a cost of more than \$3.5 million to taxpayers. After the second-longest session in Idaho Legislative history, many of us are asking “What do Idahoans have to show for it?”

While transportation funding was the Legislature's main hurdle, the economy was the real story of the session. Over the past year, Idaho has gone from leading the nation in job creation to leading in unemployment growth. Combined with stagnant housing and financial markets, high unemployment means that state tax revenues are down significantly. Just as Idaho families and businesses have had to cut back, so has Idaho government, but Democrats fought hard to protect necessary services like police and public education.

Republicans had a different view. Throughout much of this session, they seemed determined to use our real but temporary economic downturn to make permanent and detrimental changes to Idaho's public schools, colleges and universities and to negatively impact Idaho's ability to



READER COMMENT
 Rep. John Rusche and Sen. Kate Kelly

deliver services to its citizens. The 2009 Legislature will forever be remembered as the one that made the first-ever cuts to public schools — cuts that many of us felt were completely unnecessary, given the availability of federal recovery money and Idaho taxpayers' own rainy-day funds. Like most Idahoans, Democrats realize that strong schools and a robust job market are keys to our state's future prosperity, so we worked to lessen attacks on our schools and economic development efforts and use a reasonable share of our available resources.

Other important issues remained virtually unaddressed during the long 2009 legislative session: health care, clean energy, rural broadband, telecommunications and economic development. While we saw

the Legislature push a toothless measure to declare our state sovereignty, once again any meaningful ethics legislation died in the legislative process. While we saw the Legislature protect Idaho's waters from zebra mussels, the majority party rejected protection of those same waters from inadequate septic systems and toxic chemicals. And while we debated transportation for months, Republicans cynically prevented any serious consideration of authority to trust local communities to address their own transportation and infrastructure needs.

Democrats are proud to report some solid successes. We led the campaign to strengthen Idaho's child-care laws, and after five years, we succeeded. We pushed legislation to make schools more energy efficient and a successful measure to recognize that working Idaho women deserve equal pay. Democrats also worked to maintain life-saving health care for adults living with cystic fibrosis and forced reversal of the ill-timed layoffs of state auditors who were chasing tax cheats. But we did not drive the Legislature's agenda, and like most Idahoans, we

believe it went on far too long, with far too little accomplished for Idaho.

It became clear during this marathon session that Idaho's Republicans lack a coherent vision for Idaho's future and are ill-equipped to handle the demands of our global economy and our changing population. Despite holding most of the legislative seats and the Governor's office, Republicans appeared to spend much of the 2009 session locked in power struggles, unable to govern effectively and meet Idaho's citizens' most basic needs.

Idahoans deserve better. Democrats are unified behind a vision of a robust economy, pristine resources that value our farming and ranching traditions, excellent schools, efficient state services and a fair deal for all of our citizens. Democrats will continue to work for Idaho's future, putting the public good first as we were elected to do.

Rep. John Rusche (D-Lewiston) has represented Nez Perce County since 2005 and is House minority leader. Sen. Kate Kelly (D-Boise) has represented Ada County since 2005 and is Senate minority leader.

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.

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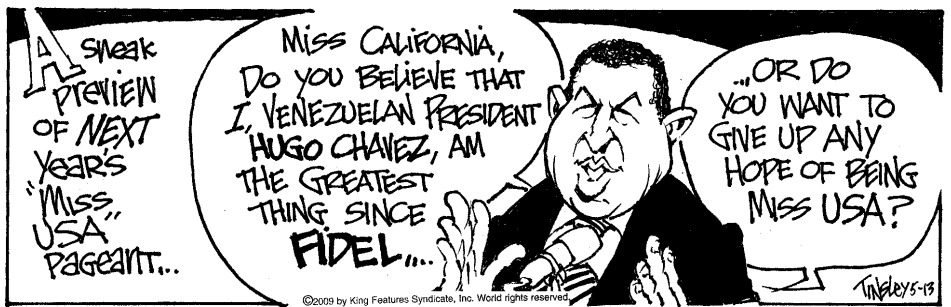
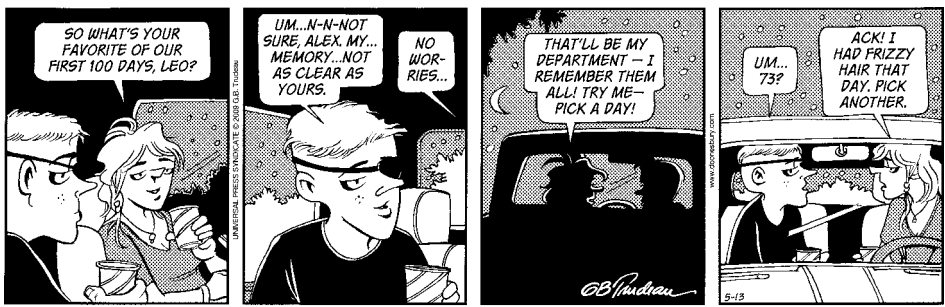
THE LIGHTER SIDE OF POLITICS

Doonesbury

By Garry Trudeau

Mallard Fillmore

By Bruce Tinsley



Guys like them had it made, or so we thought

In the late 1930s, a group of 268 promising young men, including John F. Kennedy and Ben Bradlee, entered Harvard College. By any normal measure, they had it made. They tended to be bright, polished, affluent and ambitious. They had the benefit of the world's most prestigious university. They had been selected even from among Harvard students as the most well adjusted.

And yet the categories of journalism and the stereotypes of normal conversation are paltry when it comes to predicting a life course. Their lives played out in ways that would defy any imagination save Dostoyevsky's. A third of the men would suffer at least one bout of mental illness. Alcoholism would be a running plague. The most mundane personalities often produced the most solid success. One man couldn't admit to himself that he was gay until he was in his late 70s.

The men were the subject of one of the century's most



DAVID BROOKS

fascinating longitudinal studies. They were selected when they were sophomores, and they have been probed, poked and measured ever since. Researchers visited their homes and investigated everything from early bed-wetting episodes to their body dimensions.

The results from the study, known as the Grant Study, have surfaced periodically in the years since. But they've never been so brilliantly captured as they are in an essay called "What Makes Us Happy?" by Joshua Wolf Shenk in the forthcoming issue of *The Atlantic*.

The life stories are more vivid than any theory one could concoct to explain them. One man seemed particularly gifted. He grew

They were selected when they were sophomores, and they have been probed, poked and measured ever since. Researchers visited their homes and investigated everything ...

up in a large brownstone, the son of a rich doctor and an artistic mother. "Perhaps more than any other boy who has been in the Grant Study," a researcher wrote while he was in college, "the following participant exemplifies the qualities of a superior personality: stability, intelligence, good judgment, health, high purpose, and ideals."

By 31, he had developed hostile feelings toward his parents and the world. By his mid-30s, he had dropped off the study's radar. Interviews with his friends after his early death revealed a life spent wandering, dating a potentially psychotic girlfriend, smoking a lot of dope and telling hilarious stories.

Another man was the jester of the group, possessing in college a "bubbling,

with their siblings were much healthier in old age than those without them.

But it's the baffling variety of their lives that strikes one the most. It is as if we all contain a multitude of characters and patterns of behavior, and these characters and patterns are bidden by cues we don't even hear. They take center stage in consciousness and decision-making in ways we can't even fathom. The man who is careful and meticulous in one stage of life is unrecognizable in another context.

Shenk's treatment is superb because he weaves in the life of George Vaillant, the man who for 42 years has overseen this work. Vaillant's overall conclusion is familiar and profound. Relationships are the key to happiness. "Happiness is love. Full Stop," he says in a video.

In his professional life, he has lived out that creed. He has been an admired and beloved colleague and mentor. But the story is more problematic at home. When

he was 10, his father, an apparently happy and accomplished man, went out by the pool of the Main Line home and shot himself. His mother shrouded the episode. They never attended a memorial service nor saw the house again.

He has been through three marriages and returned to his second wife. His children tell Shenk of a "civil war" at home and describe long periods when they wouldn't speak to him. His oldest friend says he has a problem with intimacy.

Even when we know something, it is hard to make it so. Reading this essay, I had the same sense I had while reading Christopher Buckley's description of his parents in *The New York Times Magazine* not long ago. There is a complexity to human affairs before which science and analysis simply stands mute.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Paper did family gross injustice with headline

Our family recently had an experience that I would wish on no one — we suffered a gross injustice at the hands of our government, and the press that covered the story, if anything, made it worse.

The headline in the *Times-News* said: "Burley feedlot owner guilty of polluting aquifer." What my husband was found guilty of was injecting creek water into an irrigation (not drinking water) well without a permit. There was absolutely no mention of pollution or contamination — none — during the trial. Yet the headline was sensational. The *Times-News* did not cover the trial, by the way.

Back in 2005 a consent decree was entered into with the Idaho Department of Water Resources, the state agency that should handle these matters, and a fine was paid for injecting creek water without a permit. We assumed that was the end of the issue, until the federal government came along with what we can only assume was motive to use our circumstances to try to take control of groundwater in Idaho.

The *Times-News* has committed a grave injustice, too, by the use of sensational — and inaccurate — language in reporting a less than complete account of what happened. We all know the news business, and yes it is a business — has fallen on tough times. If our experience is an example of what passes for good reporting, then they deserve to be struggling.

We'll fight on now to clear the record, but do so saddled with the burden of cor-

recting an inaccurate account. We'll see if the truth ever catches up with the inaccuracy.

We are grateful for friends who have stood with us while we have endured abusive actions of the government and a press that is supposed to hold government accountable or, at least, get the facts straight.

**VICKY KING
Burley**
(Editor's note: Double C Farms owner Cory L. King, 52, was convicted on four felony counts of violating the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and one count of making false statements. A correction of a headline regarding this case appears today on page Main 2. The Kings and a business partner also face a civil lawsuit brought by the state departments of Agriculture and Environmental Quality.)

Diamondfield Jack campground different?

This is in regard to the "No more free-for-all in South Hills campgrounds" editorial on May 5.

We are proud members of the Magic Valley Snowmobilers Inc. which helped build the warming hut, and we used to maintain the toilets at the Diamondfield Jack's parking lot until the Forest Service took over the care of the toilet. Our club donates to the Twin Falls County Highway District every year to have the lots plowed so that the tubers, snowmobilers, LDS Church camp, cabin owners and visitors to the area can park in the lot in the winter.

This summer, our club has put in a warming hut and toilets at the Bostetter Campground to be used by all with the help of the Idaho

Parks and Recreation Department.

If we are not mistaken the Bureau of Land Management doesn't handle these campgrounds as these are handled by the Forest Service. The Diamondfield Jack's campground is supposed to have water and toilets for the summer, but there won't be any water in the winter and the toilets usually aren't taken care of. Of course some of the people using these don't care how they leave them.

A few years ago, the *Times-News* encouraged the hikers not to pay the summer fee in the Wood River parking lots at the trailheads as they are already paying taxes on these areas. Why is this different?

**JAN GROSSHANS
ELDON GROSSHANS
Filer**

Maybe reducing speed limit would spare roads

Recently, my family and I took a trip to Washington State. The speed limit on Interstate 80 was 75 mph. The road was deplorable and the ride was not pleasant. Then we crossed the border into Oregon; the speed limit was 65 and 55 mph through construction zones.

They were working on bridges, but the road was in great shape and the ride was more enjoyable because we had a chance to see any game and wildflowers. Then, we got into Washington State; the speed was 70 mph and

again the roads were in great shape.

The point I'm trying to get across is that maybe if we could reduce our speed limits by 5 or 10 mph, maybe our roads wouldn't take such a beating from all the trucks that keep our shelves stocked and the cars that go so fast they don't get a chance to see the beauty they are driving through.

I hope that Mr. Otter can make people understand that we need better roads in our beautiful state. That's my opinion and I'm sticking to it.

**JEAN DAVIS
Hagerman**

We need to stop making a virtue of greed

Because it alters the body's chemistry, stress is known to be a major contributor to disease in

human beings. Stress's adverse impact is not limited to the individual; stress also causes disease in the social body. Stress is the cause of fear, fear can turn to anger, anger can be manipulated into hatred, and hatred manifested in domestic and public violence.

In these changing and challenging times, we need to be especially cognizant of the negative impact of stress and work to neutralize it through a more positive attitude. We need to see these times as an opportunity for needed change, not as a crisis.

Stress is not the only cause of our current disease. Greed is an equal player in both individual and societal disharmony. There are no silver bullets; the changes we need to enact are not going to happen overnight,

but we can start now.

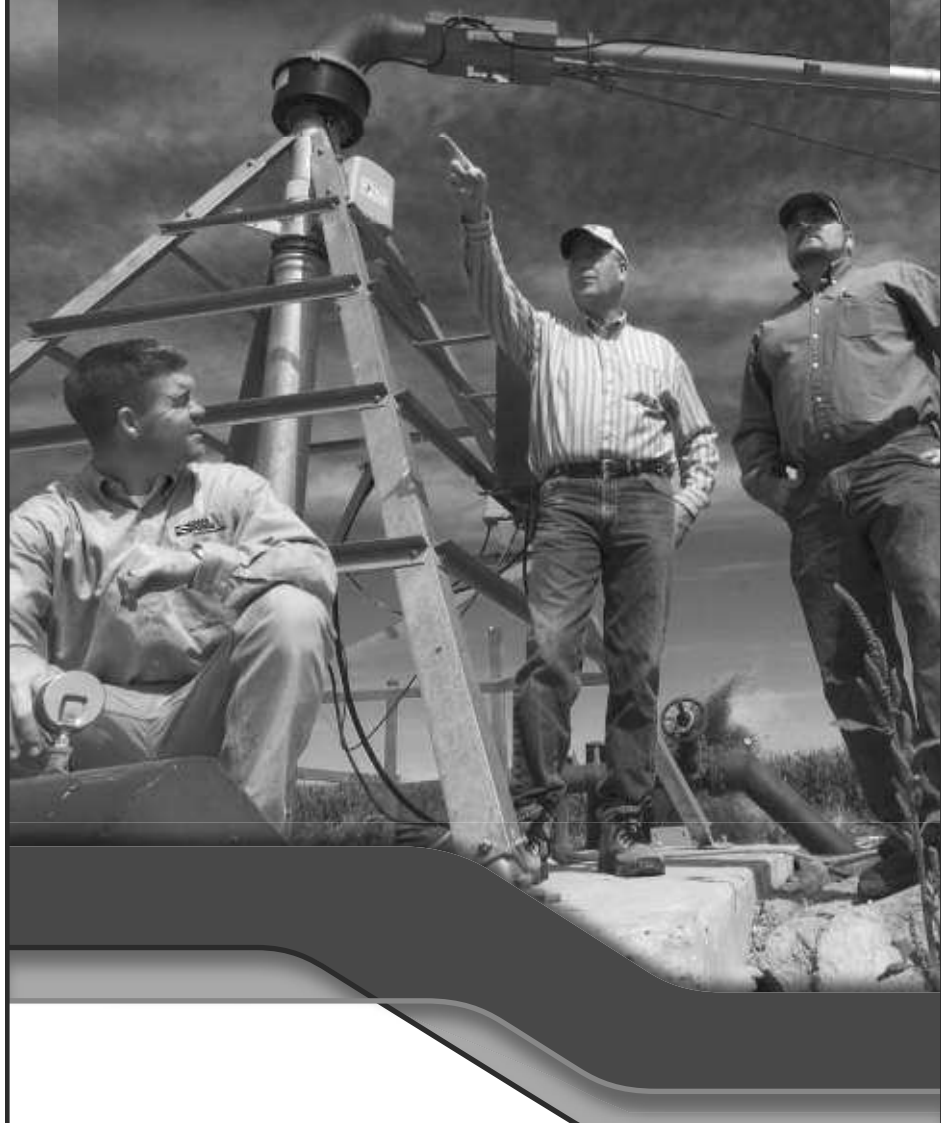
One of the places to start is to de-virtuize greed. It is time to change the corporate modus operandi that puts profits above social and environmental responsibility. It is time to strip the protections of citizenship from the corporation, a non-human entity whose sole purpose is to enrich its stockholders.

To regain health in the human body, it is necessary to move to what is known as homeostasis, or balance in the body. That is also true of the collective social body. Stress and greed are the forces that create imbalance. The antidote to both stress and greed is an alert and conscious mind, one that understands the problem and actively seeks solution.

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Fighting (13) 7:00 9:15
Duplicity (13) 7:15 9:45
Crank High Voltage (R) 7:15 9:30
Battle for Terra (G) 7:15
State of Play (13) 7:00 9:30
Haunting in Connecticut (R) 7:00 9:15

Jerome Cinema 4
955 West Main, Jerome
All Adults \$5.50 Before 5:15 p.m.

Ghost of Girlfriends Past (13) 7:20 9:40
Wolverine (13) 7:00 9:30
17 Again (13) 7:00 9:20
Star Trek (13) 7:20 9:50

Orpheum Theatre
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Ghost of Girlfriends Past (13) Daily 7:00 9:10 Sat - Sun 4:50 7:00 9:10

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Wolverine (13) 6:50 7:20 9:30 9:50
Monsters vs Aliens (PG) 7:00 9:20
The Soloist (13) 7:00 9:30
Obsessed (13) 7:30 9:50
Hannah Montana (G) 7:30 9:45
The Knowing (13) 7:20 9:40
17 Again (13) 7:20 9:40
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Star Trek (13) 6:45 7:15 9:30 9:50

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AGs warn ruling could cripple open meetings laws

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Attorneys general from more than a dozen states asked a federal appeals court in New Orleans this week to review a ruling that they warn could cripple their open meetings laws.

A ruling last month by a three-judge panel from the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals revived a lawsuit that city council members in Alpine, Texas, filed against the local district attorney and state attorney general after two members were

charged with violating the state's open meetings law. The council members allegedly violated the law by discussing a city project in an exchange of e-mails.

The 5th Circuit panel said U.S. District Judge Robert Junell incorrectly ruled that the First Amendment "affords absolutely no protection to speech by elected officials made pursuant to their official duties."

"The First Amendment's protection of elected officials' speech is full, robust,

and analogous to that afforded citizens in general," Judge James Dennis wrote.

The appeals court directed Junell to decide whether the Texas Open Meetings Act passes the "strict-scrutiny" test under the First Amendment and "make the state carry its burden of proving that the statute pursues a compelling interest which the law is narrowly tailored to further."

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott's office says the 5th Circuit's ruling could

serve as a precedent for striking down any open meetings law that doesn't pass that test.

"Until the panel's ruling," Abbott's office wrote, "no court had ever held that any of these statutes is a content-based restriction on speech subject to strict-scrutiny review under the First Amendment, nor have these statutes been struck down — in whole or in part — for violating the Amendment's free speech protections."

In a court filing Monday, attorneys general for Louisiana and more than a dozen other states joined Abbott in asking for a rehearing by all of the 5th Circuit's judges.

"Subjecting open meetings laws to 'the most stringent review' of strict scrutiny ... is wrong as a matter of precedent and logic," Louisiana Attorney General James "Buddy" Caldwell wrote. "But it would also practically cripple the operation of those laws."

The list of attorneys general who signed onto Caldwell's brief includes those for Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, Ohio, South Dakota and Virginia.

Arvel Ponton III, a lawyer for an Alpine city council member and a former member who are plaintiffs in the suit, called it "a classic case of individual rights versus government action."

Gov. Otter signs bill approving new plates

BOISE (AP) — Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter has signed a bill creating a specialty "Gold Star Family" license plate for families who have lost a member in military combat.

"If there was ever an appropriate specialty license plate, this is it," The Spokesman-Review quoted Otter as saying. "We all have a debt to the people who will drive through this state with this license plate on their vehicle."

Otter has spoken at nearly 20 funerals of Idaho Service members.

The Gold Star Family plate, approved by Otter on Monday, is the fourth new plate Idaho has approved this year. The others are one for Freemasons, one backing earth and science education for youngsters, and one recognizing commercial innovation.

Idaho has more than 70 specialty license plates that come with a \$35 initial fee and \$25 renewal fee on top of regular fees. Spouses or parents of a military member who was killed won't have to pay the extra fees for the Gold Star Family plate.

The specialty plates raise money for various causes. Those include the Idaho

"If there was ever an appropriate specialty license plate, this is it" — Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter

Department of Fish and Game that has plates with an elk or bluebird. There are also plates for the Boy Scouts and Special Olympics.

One plate is for recipients of the congressional Medal of Honor, one commemorating Idaho Basques, one for members of the Idaho House or Senate, and another for "Historic Lewiston."

Other plates tout timber and agriculture, or recreation activities such as skiing, snowmobiling, and whitewater rafting.

Plates are also available to denote a person's affiliation with universities or the National Rifle Association.

Some Idaho lawmakers oppose more plates, saying there are already too many. But other states have more, such as Florida with more than 100. Washington state offers some 45 specialty plates, including a Gold Star Parent plate, a light-house plate, and a "We love our pets" plate.

FWP Commission to consider wolf quotas

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — The state Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission is scheduled to meet Thursday to set a tentative quota for Montana's 2009 wolf hunting season.

The options range from 26 to 207, based on the size of wolf population that would be maintained in the state.

Montana has at least 500 wolves in 84 known packs. Federal rules require the state to maintain a minimum of 100 wolves and 10 breeding pairs.

The FWP had tentatively adopted a quota of 75 wolves for the 2008 hunting season, but those were never given final approval after environmental and conservation groups filed a lawsuit, arguing wolves were prematurely removed from federal protection.

A federal judge sided with the groups, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service withdrew its delisting plan.

The Obama Administration recently removed gray

wolves in Idaho and Montana from the list of animals protected under the Endangered Species Act, while leaving Wyoming wolves protected. The organizations that filed the previous lawsuit have notified the government they again plan to sue.

While the lawsuit could prevent a wolf hunting season again this year, the commission wants to be prepared. Keeping wolf populations in check by allowing them to be hunted has long

been part of Montana's and Idaho's management plans, which were approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The wolf hunting season would occur during the general big game season.

Ron Aasheim, FWP's community education coordinator, says the public will have until June 19 to comment on the commission's recommended quota. A final decision is expected to be made on July 9.

Judge sentences GOP official in trespassing case

BOISE (AP) — An Idaho GOP official has been sentenced to 30 days of probation for trespassing in Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's office.

Christopher Pentico, the Elmore County Republican vice chairman, was sentenced Monday in 4th District Court. Swain found Pentico, 42, guilty on April 21.

Pentico was arrested last month after ignoring a March 25, 2008, order from the Idaho State Police to stay away from the governor's office.

Otter said Pentico had never been threatening but his frequent visits and refusal to accept no for an answer hindered his staff's ability to

do their work.

"He seems to think that if he comes 12 times, the answer will be different than the 11th time," Jon Hanian, Otter's spokesman, told the Idaho Statesman.

Swain, noting the application of a trespassing law to public buildings raised "troubling questions," said he issued the lightest possible sentence and would strike Pentico's conviction after he completes probation.

For five years Pentico has been asking various state officials to look into allegations, including corruption and a lack of accountability, he has made that mostly concern Boise State

University and the State Board of Education.

Pentico earned a bachelor's degree in math and physics from Boise State in 2000. He said he was a graduate student in 2001 working toward a graduate degree in electrical engineering when a former university employee threatened to pull his arms from their sockets.

He said he complained to university officials, but eventually he had to give up his goal of getting a graduate degree due to what he described as ongoing conflicts.

"That's where the problems started," he said Tuesday. "We had this aggressive hostile environ-

ment that started for me and got worse."

Boise State spokesman Frank Zang declined to go into detail about Pentico's campaign with state officials and how it might involve Boise State.

"We reviewed and addressed any concerns he may have raised in years past," Zang told the newspaper. "There are no current issues of which we are aware."

Pentico said his unresolved complaints to Boise State officials led him to start contacting state officials as he uncovered what he said was corruption and other problems at the university and state Board of Education.

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WARNING SIGNS

Soldier charged in comrades' deaths showed stress, BUSINESS 4

Stocks and commodities, Business 2 / Comics, Business 3 / World, Business 4 / Weather, Business 4

Dow Jones Industrial ▲ 50.34 | Nasdaq composite ▼ 15.32 | S&P 500 ▼ .89 | Russell 2000 ▼ 6.76

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2009

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

Palm oil firms grabbing Asian land

Environmentally friendly biofuel may not be so friendly

By Michael Casey
Associated Press writer

SINGAPORE — Scores of communities in Malaysia and Indonesia are being uprooted by rapidly expanding palm oil plantations as companies try to meet the expected demand for biofuels, environmentalists alleged Tuesday.

Speaking at a two-day seminar on palm oil, the Borneo Resources Institute of Malaysia and the World Wildlife Fund in Indonesia said land disputes were emerging as one of the biggest problems associated with palm oil.

Environmentalists have already warned that palm oil production has caused the loss of vast tracts of tropical forest — the natural habitat of scores of animals and

See PALM OIL, Business 2



AP photo

A worker harvests an oil palm bunch at a plantation in Tawau, Malaysia. Scores of communities in Malaysia and Indonesia are being uprooted by rapidly expanding palm oil plantations as companies try to meet the expected demand for biofuels, environmentalists alleged Tuesday.

LOOKING BACK ON THE FREE FALL

AFTER HITTING BOTTOM, DID WE REALLY FALL THAT FAR?



ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

A worker lays a cover in a drainage ditch on the site of a new Walgreens that is under construction at Pole Line Road West and Washington Street North. Despite a steep national economic downturn, south-central Idaho has lost fewer jobs than most parts of the nation.

Despite decline, regional economists say recovery won't take much

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

In the beginning it appeared as if south-central Idaho would be insulated from a national recession that began almost two years ago.

Jobless rates in metropolitan areas, including Boise, began rising in early 2008 at a rate of nearly one percentage point every two months, while unemployment in Twin Falls and Burley micropolitan areas remained mostly unchanged.

Housing and mortgage lending markets remained strong in the region, and home prices continued their small but steady rise.

But red flags began to emerge in spring of 2008 — indicating that the region was not immune to the economic downturn.

By the end of 2008, the unemployment rate in the Twin Falls area had more than doubled from the previous year to 5.5 percent.

INSIDE

Burley unemployment numbers.

See Business 2

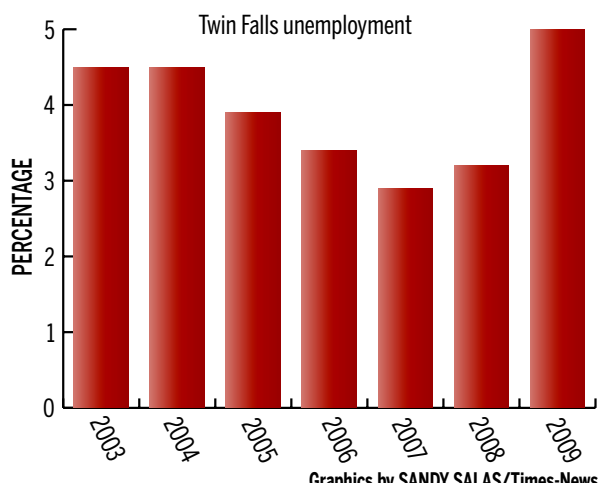
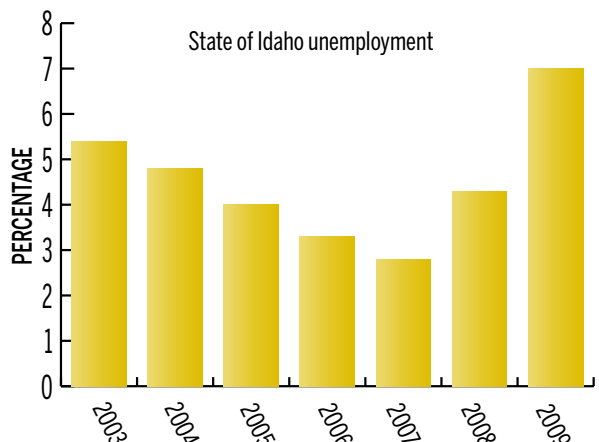
Regional population and wage growth both slowed by more than one percentage point and the housing market came to screeching halt.

Now, nearly a year after it all began, unemployment and housing data are showing some indication that south-central Idaho and many other parts of the nation are near the bottom.

State and regional economists are looking back on the free fall and wondering: Did the region really fall that far?

"We are not really down all that much," said Jan Roeser, regional economist with Idaho Department of Labor. "The bottom line is that the recession is not going to have changed us

See RECOVERY, Business 2



Graphics by SANDY SALAS/Times-News

Luring Latino tourists

Researcher says Wood River Valley not doing enough to attract growing population

By Karen Bossick
Times-News correspondent

Idaho needs to do more to attract Latino visitors, a travel surveyor said during a state tourism convention last week.

Eugene Dilbeck of Longwoods Research said a survey of a quarter-million travelers indicated that more than 90 percent of those who travel to Idaho are non-Latino.

The fastest growing U.S. population includes Latinos and 96 percent of them do not travel to Idaho.

"Folks, you've got some work to do here," Dilbeck told attendees at the Idaho Conference on Recreation and Tourism in Sun Valley. "You have an opportunity to grow your market here."

Granted, Latinos tend to want to participate in urban activities, he said. But they are also very family-oriented and that's something that Idaho's family-friendly tourist destinations could capitalize on.

Idaho also lags behind the nation in using the Internet to market itself. But it's ahead in other methods, such as travel agents.

Those traveling to Idaho tend to spend 4.5 nights, versus 3.6 nationally. That's probably because it's so hard to get here you may have to spend a night or two on the road, Dilbeck said.

And 82 percent come via their own car, versus 73 percent nationally. Fourteen percent come to Idaho via plane, versus 20 percent nationally, reflecting the difficulties Idaho has in getting and keeping airlines.

About 60 percent of Idaho travelers have no children. And 66 percent have at least some college.

Sixteen percent of Idaho travelers camp out, versus 5

See LATINOS, Business 2

AAA: More expected to travel for Memorial Day

Travelers expected to take advantage of lower gas prices

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — An estimated 32.4 million Americans are expected to travel this Memorial Day weekend, most of them taking advantage of a plunge in gas prices compared with last year, AAA said Tuesday.

The national travel organization estimates show a 1.5-percent increase in travel this weekend. Last year, Memorial Day travel dropped 9.6 percent compared with 2007 as pump prices soared to nearly \$4 a gallon.

On Tuesday, the average price of regular-grade gasoline in Idaho was \$2.19 per gallon, while the average price in south-central Idaho was \$2.17.

National retail gas prices averaged \$2.25 a gallon, about \$1.47 a gallon cheaper than a year ago, according to auto club AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service.

AAA said about 83 percent of Memorial Day travelers are expected to hit the highways in a motor vehicle. Another 7 percent will travel by plane. The remaining 10 percent will get around by train, bus or another mode of transportation.

AAA based its estimates on a forecast by Boston-based IHS Global Insight.

U.S. wheat crop under the weather

Domestic, foreign demand rise on agriculture report

By Cindy Snyder
Times-News correspondent

Be patient about pricing new crop grain.

That's the advice market analysts are giving farmers following the release of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's May world grain balance sheet.

"Would I hold for \$15 (a bushel) wheat?" Alan Conrad with the Zaner Group asked during a conference call sponsored by the Minneapolis Grain Exchange. "I'm not sure. But I think there is room for wheat to move better than a dollar higher."

He's basing that forecast in part on the fact that USDA forecasters shaved 19 percent off the total estimated U.S. wheat production for 2009. Most of that reduction is lost winter wheat production following drought and an April freeze. Hard red win-

ter wheat production is forecast at 871 million bushels, down from 1.035 million bushels produced last year.

Production in Oklahoma is expected to be cut in half and Texas will lose over a third of its production. However, forecasters are still predicting Kansas — the leading winter wheat producing state — will harvest a 340 million bushels crop, down just 4.5 percent from last year.

"That's a pretty good drop in production," said Paul Patterson, University of Idaho extension economist. "But it is still early in the production year except for the Southern Plains. The USDA estimates are going to change between now and harvest. It's a question of how much and which direction."

Despite an open winter in parts of Idaho's winter wheat growing regions, the crop appears to have come through the winter with minimal damage.

Gale Harding, University of Idaho extension educator in Madison County, reports some spots with snow mold but overall the

See WHEAT, Business 2

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

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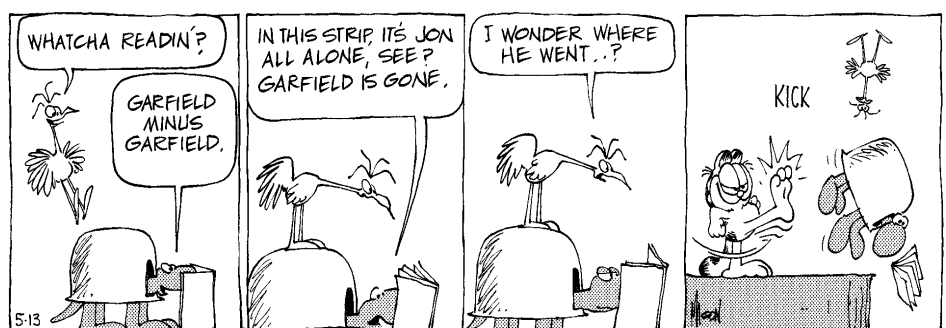
COMMODITIES

For more see Business 2

Live cattle	83.20	▼ .07	June Oil	58.85	▲ .35
June Gold	923.9	▲ 10.4	June Silver	14.2	▲ .30

B.C.

By Johnny Hart



Baby Blues

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



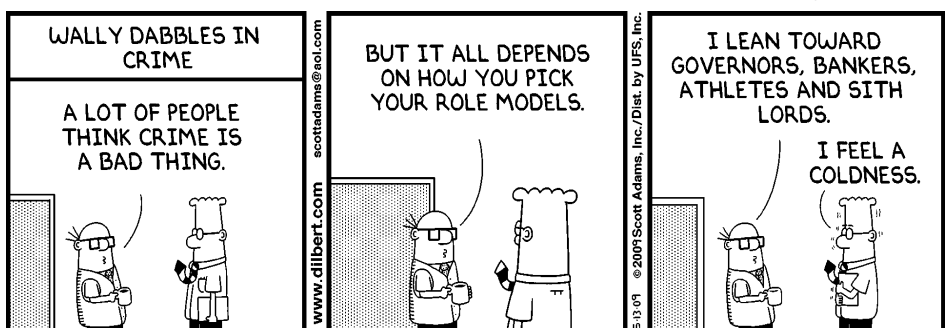
Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



Dilbert

By Scott Adams



The Elderberries

By Phil Frank and Joe Troise



For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



Garfield

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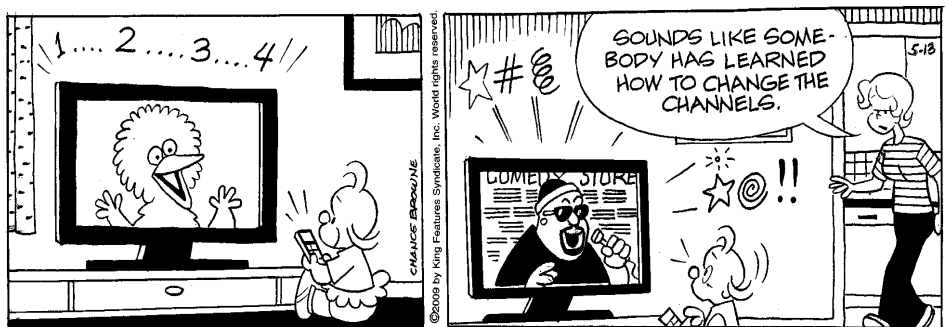
Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



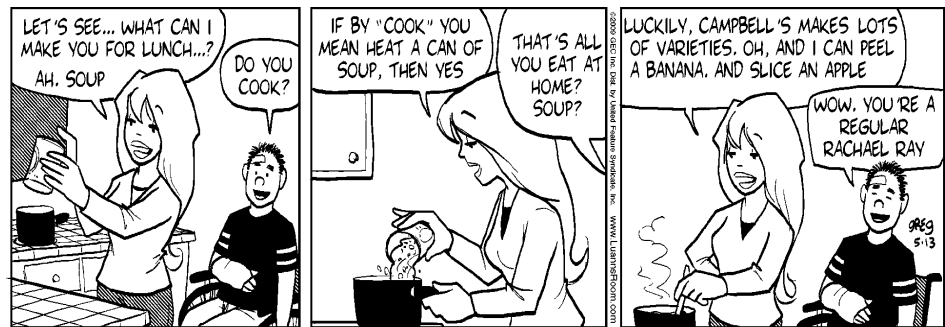
Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



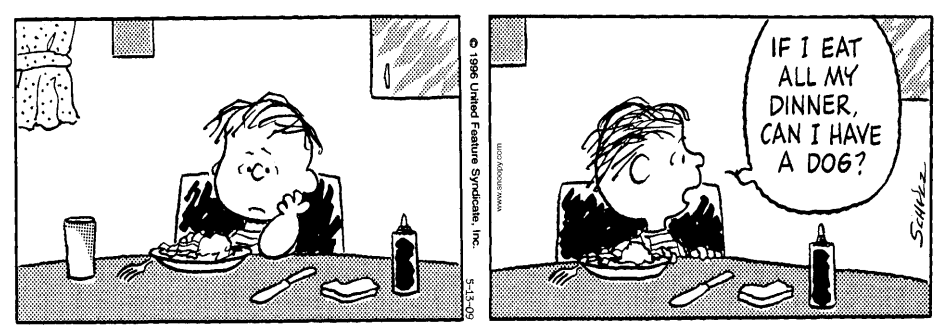
Luann

By Greg Evans



Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



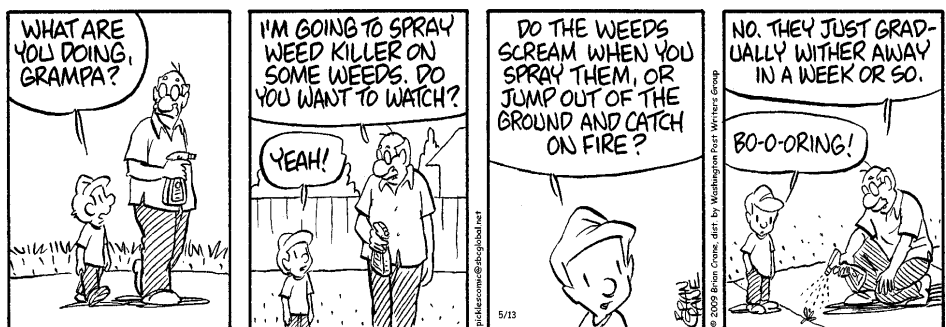
Pearls Before Swine

By Stephan Pastis



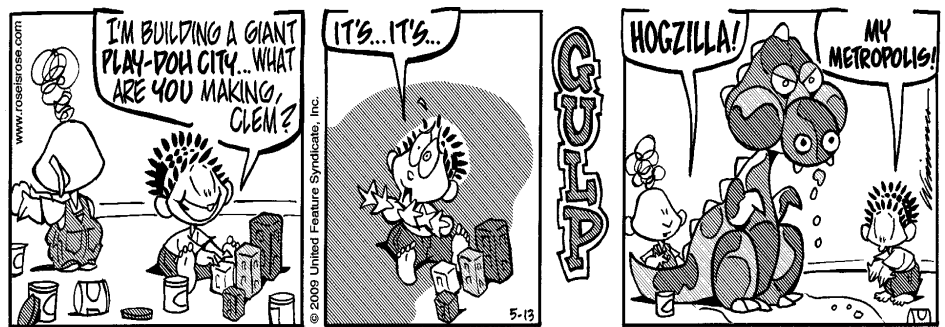
Pickles

By Brian Crane



Rose is Rose

By Pat Brady



Non Sequitur

By Wiley



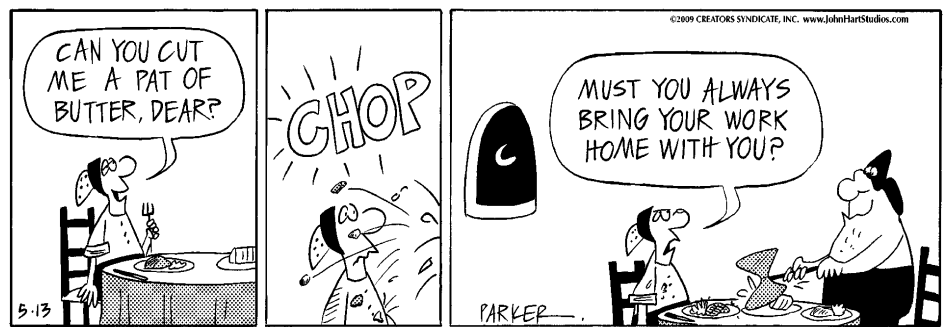
Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



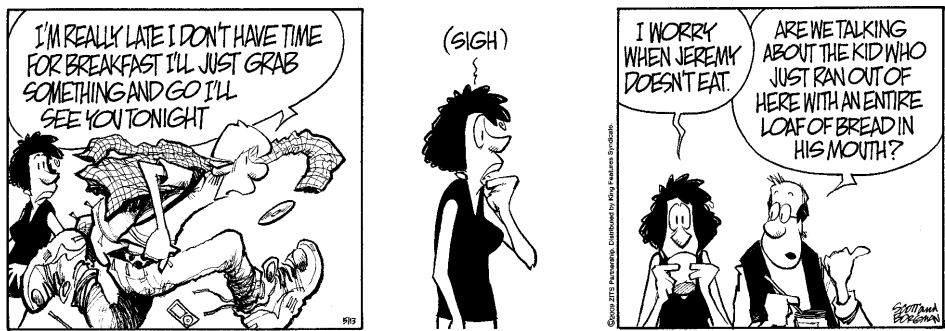
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BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Partly cloudy. Highs 55 to 60.

Tonight: Clouds on the increase. Lows 35 to 40.

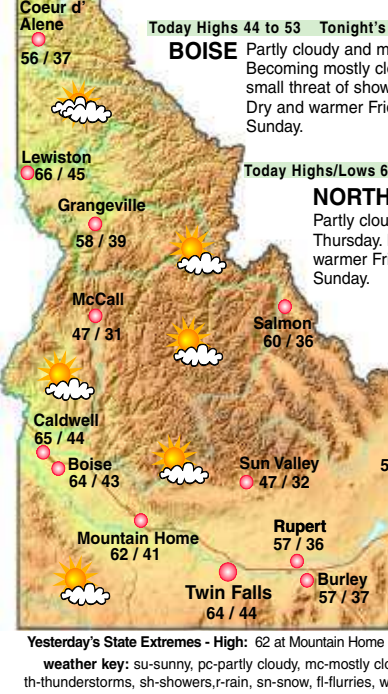
Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Warmer with highs near 67.

ALMANAC - BURLEY

Table with 2 columns: Temperature and Precipitation. Rows include Yesterday's High/Low, Normal High/Low, Record High/Low, and Avg. Water Year to Date.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. Partly cloudy today, increasing clouds tonight leading to a scattering of showers Thursday.



Yesterday's State Extremes - High: 62 at Mountain Home Low: 29 at Dixie weather key: su-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, mc-mostly cloudy, c-cloudy, th-thunderstorms, sh-showers, r-rain, sn-snow, fl-furries, w-wind, m-missing

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Five-day forecast table for Twin Falls with columns for Today, Tonight, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, including icons and temperature ranges.

Yesterday's Weather

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

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 2 columns: Temperature and Precipitation. Rows include Yesterday's High/Low, Normal High/Low, Record High/Low, and Avg. Water Year to Date.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table showing regional forecasts for various cities including Boise, Bonners Ferry, Challis, Coeur d'Alene, Elko, Eugene, Gooding, Grace, Hagerman, Halley, Idaho Falls, Jerome, Lewiston, Malad City, McCall, Missoula, Pocatello, Portland, Rexburg, Richland, Rogerson, Salmon, Salt Lake City, Spokane, and Yellowstone.

NATIONAL FORECAST

Table showing national forecasts for various cities including Atlanta, Baltimore, Billings, Birmingham, Boston, Charleston, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Des Moines, Detroit, El Paso, Fairbanks, Fargo, Honolulu, Houston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Little Rock, Los Angeles, Memphis, Miami, Milwaukee, Nashville, New Orleans, New York, Oklahoma City, and Omaha.

WORLD FORECAST

Table showing world forecasts for various cities including Acapulco, Athens, Auckland, Bangkok, Beijing, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Cairo, Dhahran, Geneva, Hang Kong, Jerusalem, Johannesburg, Kuwait City, London, Mexico City, Moscow, Nairobi, Oslo, Paris, Prague, Rio de Janeiro, Rome, Santiago, Seoul, Sydney, Taipei, Tokyo, Vienna, Warsaw, Winnipeg, and Zurich.

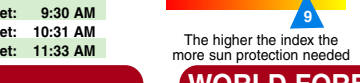
MOON PHASES



MOONRISE AND MOONSET

Table showing moonrise and moonset times for Today, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

U. V. INDEX



POLLEN COUNT

Table showing pollen counts for various allergens: Juniper, Ash, Boxelder, Mold: 2930 (High), Cladosporium, Smuts.

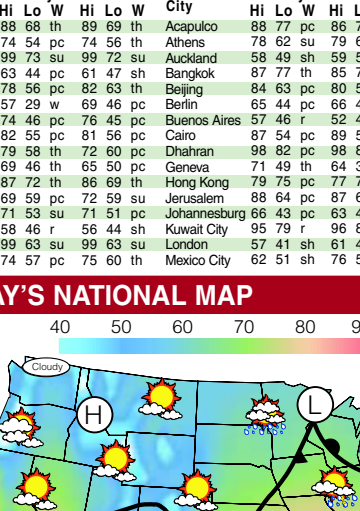
REGIONAL FORECAST

Regional forecast table for various Idaho cities including Boise, Bonners Ferry, Challis, Coeur d'Alene, Elko, Eugene, Gooding, Grace, Hagerman, Halley, Idaho Falls, Jerome, Lewiston, Malad City, McCall, Missoula, Pocatello, Portland, Rexburg, Richland, Rogerson, Salmon, Salt Lake City, Spokane, and Yellowstone.

NATIONAL FORECAST

National forecast table for various cities including Atlanta, Baltimore, Billings, Birmingham, Boston, Charleston, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Des Moines, Detroit, El Paso, Fairbanks, Fargo, Honolulu, Houston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Little Rock, Los Angeles, Memphis, Miami, Milwaukee, Nashville, New Orleans, New York, Oklahoma City, and Omaha.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



WORLD FORECAST

World forecast table for various cities including Acapulco, Athens, Auckland, Bangkok, Beijing, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Cairo, Dhahran, Geneva, Hang Kong, Jerusalem, Johannesburg, Kuwait City, London, Mexico City, Moscow, Nairobi, Oslo, Paris, Prague, Rio de Janeiro, Rome, Santiago, Seoul, Sydney, Taipei, Tokyo, Vienna, Warsaw, Winnipeg, and Zurich.

Gregg Middlekauff's Quote of the Day: 'I can feel guilty about the past, apprehensive about the future, but only in the present can I act. The ability to be in the present moment is a major component of mental wellness.' Abraham Maslow

CANADIAN FORECAST

Canadian forecast table for various cities including Calgary, Cranbrook, Edmonton, Kelowna, Lethbridge, Regina, Vancouver, and Winnipeg.

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.

Navy officer, soldier among people killed at Baghdad clinic

By Brian White Associated Press writer

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — A Navy officer who spent his career helping soldiers deal with stress, a psychiatrist and a soldier from Maryland were among five people shot to death at a military counseling clinic in Baghdad, officials and family said Tuesday.



Wilburn C. Russell, 73, wipes his eyes after talking to reporters in front of the house of his son, U.S. Army Sgt. John Russell, in Sherman, Texas, Tuesday. Russell's son is accused of killing five fellow soldiers in Iraq.

Russell was deeply angry at the military after three tours of duty in Iraq. "He said, 'Man, this guy's got issues,'" said Machlinski of Federalsburg. She said her son wasn't more specific about Russell's problems and that he told her he got along with him.

on-soldier violence, has cast a spotlight on combat stress and emotional problems resulting from frequent deployments to battle zones in Iraq and Afghanistan. Helping soldiers deal with those problems was Springle's life's work, said Bob Goodale, a friend and colleague, and director of behavioral mental health for

the Chapel Hill, N.C.-based Citizen-Soldier Support Program. The Pentagon also confirmed Springle had been killed. "He regarded it as very important work," Goodale said. "We all who work in this know that it is difficult. This is an example of how difficult."



Russell Springle Yates

clinic and the three others were enlisted soldiers, said Maj. Gen. David Perkins. Machlinski said her son was at

director of the Texas Panhandle Mental Health and Mental Retardation, said Houseal had worked at the center for 12 years. He says Houseal had volunteered to go back to assist in Iraq and was called up for duty. He did not know Houseal's rank or what branch of the service he was in. He said Houseal was married and had six children.

Machlinski said that while she was angry at Russell, she is angrier at the military for not doing more to intervene and that she could understand the stress Russell must have been under.

AROUND THE WORLD

MIDDLE EAST

Pope's link to Hitler Nazis sparks controversy

JERUSALEM — Pope Benedict's pilgrimage to the Holy Land Tuesday veered into controversy over his past when the Vatican, stung by Israeli criticism, denied and then acknowledged his membership in the Hitler Youth during World War II.

Yad Vashem memorial, where the 82-year-old pontiff declared that Hitler's extermination of Jews must "never be denied, belittled or forgotten" but did not use the word Nazi or German. The Vatican's bumbling response risked reopening a chapter of the pope's life, discomforting to Israelis, that many had considered closed.

Benedict ignored the issue as he pressed ahead Tuesday with what he called a "journey of faith." He was warmly welcomed as he traversed Jerusalem's ancient, stony paths from Muslim and Jewish holy sites to an outdoor Mass for several thousand Catholic worshippers, urging followers of all three faiths to dwell on their common origin and overcome centuries of conflict.

Saberi, who holds American and Iranian citizenship, had copied the report "out of curiosity" while she worked as a freelance translator for a powerful body connected to Iran's ruling clerics, said the lawyer, Saleh Nikbakht.

It turned into a key part of the prosecution's case against her during her secret, closed-door trial in mid-April before an Iranian security court, Nikbakht said. Prosecutors also cited a trip to Israel that Saberi made in 2006, he said. Iran bars its citizens from visiting Israel, its top regional nemesis.

Speaking to reporters in Tehran for the first time since her release Monday, a smiling Saberi said she did not have any specific plans but wanted to spend time with her family. Saberi, who at one point was on hunger strike in prison, looked thin but energetic, dressed in a bright blue headscarf, black pants and a black dress.

WASHINGTON

Tillman's parents want general's record reviewed

WASHINGTON — The parents of slain Army Ranger and NFL star Pat Tillman voiced concerns Tuesday that the general who played a role in mischaracterizing his death could be put in charge of military operations

IRAN

Joyful Saberi, free from Iran jail, thanks backers

TEHRAN — A joyful Roxana Saberi on Tuesday thanked those who helped win her release after four months in a Tehran prison. Her lawyer revealed that the American journalist was convicted of spying for the U.S. in part because she had a copy of a confidential Iranian report on the U.S. war in Iraq.

AFGHANISTAN

In a brief interview with The Associated Press, Pat Tillman Sr. accused Lt. Gen. Stanley McChrystal of covering up the circumstances of the 2004 slaying. "I do believe that guy participated in a falsified homicide investigation," Pat Tillman Sr. said.

Auction Calendar through May 16th. Includes listings for Saturday, May 16, 10:00AM (Jack & Peg Dodson Estate, TF Antiques, etc.) and Sunday, May 17, 11:00AM (Margaret & Dick Cook, Hagerman Doctor's Buggy, etc.).

Tickets on sale Monday for Sun Valley wine auction

See Food 3

Coupon Queen, Food 2 / Classifieds, Food 4-10 / Crossword, Food 6 / Sudoku, Food 9 / Dear Abby, Food 7

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2009

FEATURES EDITOR VIRGINIA HUTCHINS: (208) 735-3242 VIRGINIA.HUTCHINS@LEE.NET

Shrimp Savvy from the Seafood chef



Photos by MEAGAN THOMPSON/Times-News

Above: Marian Lane helps fill glasses with ingredients for New World Shrimp Cocktail — one of the dishes that celebrity chef John Ash taught a Twin Falls audience during his visit to Twin Falls last week. At top: Shrimp and Noodle Soup With Laksa. Over these thin rice vermicelli, julienned zucchini, cubes of roasted butternut squash and cooked shrimp, chef John Ash will ladle a fragrant, hot stock made with laksa, a nut-based coconut curry paste.

By Virginia Hutchins
Times-News writer

If you come across someone hissing at the clam juice in a Twin Falls supermarket aisle this week, there's a simple explanation: John Ash made them do it.

The Northern California chef, restaurateur, culinary author and sustainable-foods advocate taught three classes last week at a downtown Twin Falls kitchen store. Rudy's — A Cook's Paradise owner Tom Ashenbrener hosted the first of the three, a shrimp lesson, for three dozen people who played some role in developing or supporting his kitchen shop and its program of cooking classes.

"This is the premium teaching chef in the United States," Ashenbrener said, introducing Ash and pouring a sauvignon blanc from Ash's new Sauvignon Republic winery venture.

Maybe it was the wine that made Ash's students willing to raise their hands and repeat after him:

"From this day forward ... I will not use ... or associate with anyone who does use ... bottled or canned clam juice."

Disgusting stuff, Ash said, making a gagging gesture. With icky chemicals added.

Instead, Ash said, buy your shrimp in the shell and peel it yourself. Reserve and freeze the shells for the next recipe that calls for fish stock or shellfish stock. Rinse the shrimp shells and simmer them for five minutes in a good low-fat, low-salt chicken broth.

"None of us are going to make real fish stock at home," he said. But this substitute will save you from the horror of clam juice.

The first of the evening's four dishes was Ash's New World Shrimp Cocktail, a pretty collection of roasted or grilled vegetables topped with shrimp and sauce and garnished with scallions,

See **ASH**, Food 2

Next up in Rudy's Kitchen:

Cancer prevention through cooking. More on Food 2



California chef John Ash urges his cooking class audience to use poblano peppers instead of green bell peppers whenever a recipe calls for the latter. Poblanos are often mislabeled pasillas in grocery stores.



The first lesson in celebrity chef John Ash's May 6 presentation: How to choose your shrimp.

JOHN ASH ON SHRIMP

North Americans eat more shrimp per capita than people anywhere else in the world, says California chef John Ash, an advocate for sustainable growth of seafood. "We *cannot* get enough shrimp." Most warm-water species fall into two categories, and the better of the two is Gulf shrimp.

"They're the sweetest, firmest, have the most delicious flavor," Ash says. But in Idaho's freezers and seafood cases you'll find tiger shrimp — with a distinctive black or gray stripe on their shells — more plentiful and a good deal cheaper. "Here's the kicker: I don't want you to buy tiger shrimp," Ash says.

Some tiger shrimp farmers in Asia and India — though not all — turn a fast buck by farming in pollution-intensive ponds. So ask your grocers whether their tiger shrimp are grown in a wholesome and ethical way.

"If they can't vouch for them, don't buy them," Ash says.

More of his advice:

- **Don't buy** your shrimp peeled and deveined. Sure it's a pain to remove the intestinal vein with kitchen shears. But there's more flavor in the shell than the shrimp, and you can capture it by grilling the shrimp in the shell, or by saving the raw shells for flavoring stock.
- **Don't be put off** by the label "frozen" or fooled by "fresh." Unless you live where you can buy shrimp right off the boat, all of the shrimp for sale has been frozen. "Once out of the water shrimp deteriorate very quickly, and it's for this reason that they are usually processed and flash frozen," Ash says.
- **Sniff for the clean**, fresh smell of seaweed when shopping for shrimp. Any hints of ammonia indicate it's old.
- **Perfectly cooked** shrimp is still very slightly translucent in the center. When preparing shrimp for cocktails, for instance, fish one out of the boiling pot and slice it open for a look. When the shrimp reach that point of perfection, immediately drain them and submerge them in a large bowl of very cold water to cool.



After a ladle of sauce and the addition of jicama swizzle sticks and popcorn garnishes, these New World Shrimp Cocktails will be ready for consumption during a cooking class taught by chef John Ash on May 6 at Rudy's — A Cook's Paradise in Twin Falls.

— Virginia Hutchins

E-coupons and confused clerks

It's time to answer some questions from readers like you who are learning to Super-Coupon:

Dear Jill,

I never knew that I could stack a store coupon and a manufacturer coupon that I clipped from the newspaper. After picking up this tip I learned from you, I am already saving a lot! Here's my question. One local grocery store I like publishes its store coupons in the weekly flyer. Another store puts them on its Web site, which somehow transfers them to your store card. How does this work? Is it worth trying?

Dear Shopper,

Many grocery stores offer store coupons that can be electronically loaded to your store's shopper loyalty card. Here's how it works.

If your store offers electronic coupons, visit the store's Web site and look for the coupon area. You'll be prompted to input the number of your shopper loyalty card. If it's your first time visiting the site, you may also be asked to register for a free account. Once you sign in, a list of current coupons will appear.

At some grocery chains, the coupons that appear on your screen are tailored to you, based on your pur-



COUPON QUEEN
Jill Cataldo

chase history collected through use of your loyalty card. If you've purchased diapers in the past you might receive discounts on other baby items. If you've purchased pet food you may see coupons for pet treats and supplies. You also may receive discounts for a brand that competes directly with a product that you purchase regularly. At other grocery chains, all Web site visitors are offered the same selection of electronic coupons.

Regardless of how a store determines the assortment of coupons available to you, loading them onto your shopper's card is quite simple. Typically, the store's Web site either loads all of the available coupons to your card automatically or it will prompt you to click the specific offers you'd like to add. Once they're added, you're ready to shop! You don't even need to print the page from the Web site; the discounts will register automatically when your

card is scanned at the register.

Ready for the best part of electronic coupons? Because they're tied to your shopper's card they function as store coupons, so you can "stack" manufacturer coupons on top of them for even bigger savings. If you have a \$1 electronic coupon for apple juice and add a manufacturer's 50-cent coupon you'll save a total of \$1.50.

Dear Jill,

Do you ever have problems with cashiers? I went to the store yesterday with some coupons I printed from the Internet and the cashier told me they didn't take Internet coupons. But I printed the coupons right from the store's own Web site. Is there anything I can do?

Dear Shopper,

I've heard this question from other shoppers. I, too, have gone to the store with a fistful of Internet coupons, ready to slash my grocery bill dramatically, only to hear "We don't take Internet coupons." This can be frustrating to a shopper who knows that the store has always taken them in the past and, as you said, the store offers the printable coupons on its own Web site.

So what's a shopper to do? The answer can be found in the store's own coupon policy. Many stores publish their coupon policies online so that shoppers can read them before coming to the store. If your store doesn't have its policy online, e-mail them and ask for a copy or ask for one at the customer service counter when you visit the store.

Coupon policies are a shopper's best friend. They outline almost everything you could ever want to know about coupons. Does the store double coupons? Does it accept Internet coupons? Are there limits on how many coupons a shopper can use? Armed with these answers, you'll be better prepared to shop at your favorite store. In many cases, you'll also learn what I suspect is true in your case — that the store does accept Internet coupons. It appears that your cashier was simply confused about the store's policy.

CTW Features. Jill Cataldo is a coupon-workshop instructor, writer and mother of three. E-mail your couponing coups and questions to jill@ctwfeatures.com.



MEAGAN THOMPSON/Times-News

Nichole and Todd Hughes raise their hands with the rest of their Twin Falls cooking classmates and swear not to use bottled or canned clam juice. Instead, chef John Ash instructed the class to save shrimp shells and simmer them in chicken broth to make a better substitute for fish stock.

Ash

Continued from Food 1

cilantro, a few kernels of popcorn and jicama swizzle sticks. He forgot the avocado-slice garnish.

Some of you may shun recipes with more than five ingredients and three steps, Ash told the class.

"My comment to you is get a life," he said. Leave out some ingredients. Add some. Experiment.

Forget the avocado, and the cocktail's still delicious.

"Roma tomato: another disgusting product," Ash said, holding up a pale, hard, flavorless specimen typical of winter supermarket offerings. He bounced the tomato off Rudy's back wall then retrieved it to exhibit: no splits in the skin!

But as awful as they are, those Roma tomatoes can be improved for the cocktail, Ash said. Halve them and scoop out the seeds, add salt and pepper and a drizzle of good olive oil, roast them a few minutes — just until they start to collapse — and slip off the skins after they cool.

But you won't find green bell peppers in the New World Shrimp Cocktail. There's nothing you can do to help them measure up to poblanos. Promise you won't use green bell pepper for anything, Ash urged his students. "I don't care if it's part of the holy trinity of Cajun cooking!"

ABOUT JOHN ASH

- **Selected** by Food & Wine magazine as one of America's "Hot New Chefs."
- **Founded** his restaurant, John Ash & Co., in Northern California's wine country in 1980.
- **On the faculty** of the Professional Wine Studies Program at CIA Greystone. Travels widely teaching both home and professional cooks.
- **Wrote** three books. The latest, "John Ash Cooking One-on-One: Private Lessons in Simple Contemporary Food from a Master Teacher," won a 2005 James Beard award.
- **Writes** for the Los Angeles Times/Tribune Syndicate and contributes to food magazines. Featured for two years on Food Network. Co-hosts a live food and wine radio talk show in California.
- **Served** on the board for Chef's Collaborative, a national organization of chefs who support ethical agriculture. Is an adviser for Seafood Watch, an educational initiative for sustainable seafood by the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

That could explain the muttering you hear in the produce department this week, too.

What to drink with summer salads

By Victoria Brett
For The Associated Press

A summer salad loaded with the season's freshest produce is a healthy and easy way to end the day.

And since salads are quick to prepare, you might as well use the extra time to create a delicious cocktail that brings out the best of both the vegetables and a warm summer evening.

Sandra Lee, cookbook author and host of the Food Network's "Sandra's Money Saving Meals," likes to pair her Hula Girl Cocktail with summer's bounty of corn, carrots, cucumbers, tomatoes and berries.

"Summer entertaining can be easy and relaxing," she says. "Nature is on your side. Lots of fruits and vegetables are at their peak, so we tend to eat lighter and healthier," she says.

Her favored cocktail is a healthy summer treat with pineapple juice, guava nectar juice, strawberries, sugar and a splash of rum.

"I dress my salads with grilled or curried meat or chicken, and the pineapple and guava juice from this cocktail enhance those flavors," she says.

If you want to skip the alcohol and save money and calories, Lee says the drink holds up great without the rum. "Top it with strawberries and a lime wedge, and this drink will remind you that fun, summer days in the sun await you," she says.

Lee suggests a balsamic vinaigrette dressing or a fruit-based dressing to complement the cocktail and keep the meal light.

"Be bold and mix sweet, tart, hot and cool to make your taste buds dance," she says.

HULA GIRL COCKTAIL

Start to finish: 5 minutes. Servings: 4.

- 1 cup pineapple juice
- 12-ounce can guava nectar juice
- 10-ounce package frozen strawberries
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 cup rum
- 1 1/2 cups ice
- 1 lime, cut into wedges



AP photo

Use the time saved avoiding the stove when making a simple summer salad for dinner to make a cool, fun cocktail to go with it. A Shrimp Salad with Fennel and Blood Orange paired with a Hula Girl Cocktail is perfect for any warm summer evening.

In a blender, combine the pineapple juice, guava nectar, strawberries, sugar, rum and ice. Blend until completely smooth. Pour into glasses and garnish with lime wedges.

(Recipe adapted from Sandra Lee, host of Food Network's "Sandra's Money Saving Meals")

Per serving: 260 calories; 1 calorie from fat; 0 g fat (0 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 34 g carbohydrate; 1 g protein; 3 g fiber; 7 mg sodium.

SHRIMP SALAD WITH FENNEL AND BLOOD ORANGE

For convenience, a 5-ounce package of mixed baby salad greens can be substituted for the butter lettuce and red-leaf lettuce. Start to finish: 30 minutes. Servings: 4.

- 6 blood oranges, peeled
- 1/2 head butter lettuce, torn into bite-size pieces
- 1/2 head oak-leaf or red-leaf lettuce, torn into bite-size pieces
- 1 small fennel bulb, trimmed and thinly sliced
- 1/2 small red onion, thinly sliced
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 20 jumbo shrimp, peeled

and deveined
8 tablespoons (1 stick) unsalted butter
2 teaspoons capers, drained

2 sprigs fresh tarragon, leaves only, finely chopped
Salt and ground black pepper, to taste

Working over a large bowl

, use a paring knife to cut and remove the orange segments from the membranes. Let any juices collect in the bowl. Once all of the segments have been removed, gently squeeze the membranes to get about 1/4 cup of juice in the bowl. Transfer the segments to a second large bowl. Set the juice aside.

To the orange segments, add both lettuce varieties, the fennel and onion. Toss gently. Divide the salad among 4 serving plates.

In a large saute pan over

medium-high, heat the oil. Add the shrimp and sear on one side, then turn them and add the butter. Cook for another 2 minutes, or until just cooked through. Using tongs, arrange the shrimp on the salads. Do not clean the pan.

Return the pan to the heat and brown the butter. Add the capers, tarragon and reserved orange juice. Stir into the browned butter in the pan, then season with salt and pepper to taste. Pour the sauce over the salads, then serve.

(Recipe adapted from Curtis Stone's "Relaxed Cooking with Curtis Stone," Clarkson Potter, 2009)

Per serving: 396 calories; 230 calories from fat; 26 g fat (15 g saturated; 1 g trans fats); 113 mg cholesterol; 31 g carbohydrate; 11 g protein; 7 g fiber; 430 mg sodium.

GROWIN' IN THE GREENHOUSE

See how geothermal energy powers veggie production in Hagerman. NEXT WEEK IN FOOD

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Cancer prevention through cooking

Times-News

Certain foods and nutrients have been shown to discourage cancer growth. The benefits of these nutrients are best achieved with diets rich in colorful fruits and vegetables, whole grains and healthy sources of proteins and fats.

In a cooking class next week, Dr. Richard Miranda, an oncologist at Mountain States Tumor Institute in Twin Falls, and chef Joe Szerwo, head chef at St. Luke's Magic Valley, will explore the use of colors and herbs in recipes that are both rich in nutrition and robust in flavor. "Fighting Cancer — A Taste of Color" is set for 7 to 9 p.m. May 21 at Rudy's

— A Cook's Paradise, 147 Main Ave. W. Cost is \$40.

"Cancer patients often lack necessary nutrients due to the side effects of their treatment," Szerwo said.

"Our class teaches how to prepare colorful and health meals not only for patients, but for cancer prevention and general well-being."

The evening's menu: Stuffed Pear Tomato with Avocado and Feta Cheese Bruschetta; Red Lentils with Banana Squash; Poached Salmon with Pomegranate and Fruit Salsa; Broccoli Sprouts with Lemon Zest; Roasted Root Vegetables; and Blueberry Crisp.

Sign up: 733-5477.

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Tickets go on sale Monday for Sun Valley wine auction

Times-News

Tickets for the 2009 Sun Valley Center for the Arts Wine Auction will go on sale at 9 a.m. Monday. Set for July 23-25, the auction is the center's only fundraising event.

"People mark the date on their calendars months in advance to be sure they will be in Sun Valley that weekend," auction director Christl Holz said in a press release. "There's something for everyone during Wine Auction weekend, from the tasting to the picnic to the auction where patrons have the chance to bid on great travel packages, dining experiences and wines from the likes of Sloan Estate, Blackbird Vineyards, Lail Vineyards and DeLille Cellars.

"Plus, this year we've added a Riedel Wine Symposium and created different kinds of ticket packages to keep it fresh." The wine-and-dine

weekend kicks off on July 23 with 12 Vintner Dinners held in luxurious private residences. Some of the country's top vintners are on hand to pour and talk about their wines while guests feast on multicourse meals prepared by local and national award-winning chefs.

The gala at Dollar Mountain Lodge on July 24 features live and silent bidding on custom travel packages and one-of-a-kind treasures, including coveted wines. New this year, the cuisine will be prepared by guest chefs Rick Moonen of rm seafood in Las Vegas and Cal Stamenov and Ben Spungin of Marinus at Bernardus Lodge in Carmel Valley, in partnership with Sun Valley Resort chefs.

Also on July 24 is the center's first Reidel Wine Symposium at Sun Valley Inn. The topic this year: "A Tale of Two Valleys: Napa and Columbia." Georg



Courtesy photo

The Sun Valley Center for the Arts Wine Auction consistently ranks as one of the top 10 charity wine auctions in the country, organizers say.

Riedel, owner of Reidel and a 10th-generation Austrian glassmaker, will talk about why the right stemware makes a difference. Master sommeliers Shayn Bjornholm and Chris Blanchard will compare

Napa Valley wines from Pride Mountain Vineyards, Chappellet and Shafer Vineyards with the Columbia Valley wines of Col Solare, DeLille Cellars and Woodward Canyon Winery.

Two outdoor events wrap up the weekend July 25. Held under the big tent at Dollar Mountain Lodge, the afternoon Wine Tasting Extravaganza features hundreds of wines from more than 125 vintners and a

souvenir Riedel glass. The final event is the Wine Picnic & Concert the evening of July 25 at Warm Springs Ranch Resort. Dine on upscale gourmet picnic fare by Duane Runswick of Feast Catering and savor an assortment of wines from California, Oregon, Washington and Idaho while moving to the beat of Americana-influenced band Ryebender.

Tickets for individual events:

- Wine Tasting Extravaganza, \$40
 - Wine Picnic and Concert, \$80
 - Wine Symposium, \$125 (includes set of Riedel stemware)
 - Wine Auction Gala, \$500
 - Dinner with the Vintners, \$600
- Ticket packages are available; call Kerry Smyth at 726-9491, ext. 22. Attendees to all Wine Auction events must be 21 and over.

Kentucky bourbon steps out of its overalls

By Jason Wilson
Special to The Washington Post

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — "You're going to hear all sorts of stories this week about yeast strains," Chris Morris, Woodford Reserve's master distiller, told me when I arrived here. He was not kidding.

"We saved our yeast strain from the big fire in 1996," said Josh Hafer at Heaven Hill Distilleries.

"We've been using our yeast strain since Prohibition," said Angela Traver at Buffalo Trace Distillery in Frankfort.

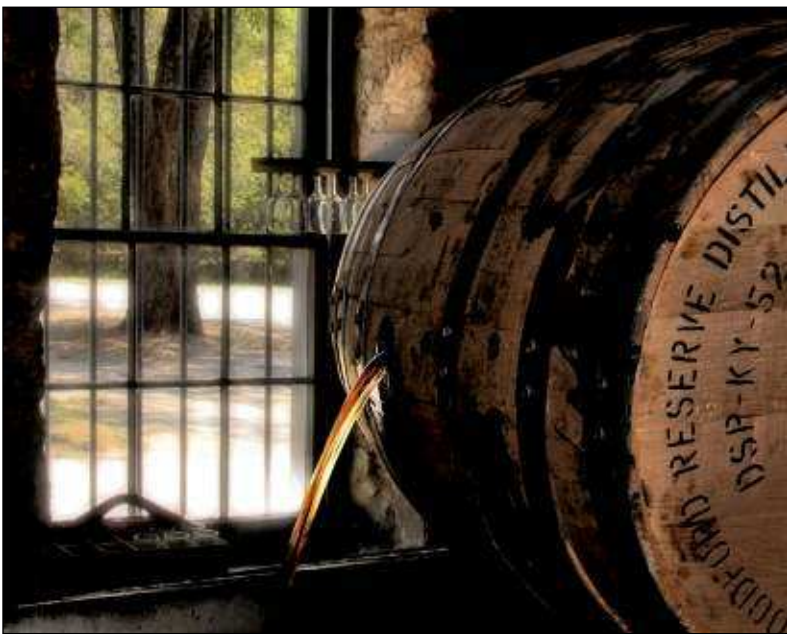
"Our five yeast strains are patented," said John Rhea at Four Roses in Lawrenceburg. "Two of our yeast strains have an apple flavor note."

I spent my seven days here visiting eight major bourbon distilleries: touring mill rooms, fermenting rooms and bottling rooms and tasting a lot of whiskey. Along the way I had eight separate discussions about the finer points of mash, rick houses and, yes, yeast strains, all in an effort to better understand why I love bourbon.

That's not to say anyone needs to understand esoterica to enjoy bourbon, easily the most accessible and affordable premium spirit in the liquor store. It always surprises me that mixologists or other spirits "educators" so often steer newcomers directly toward Scotch or Irish whiskey or, these days, to trendy ryes. Often the newbies' only experience has been with white spirits, such as flavored vodkas, or with bad cocktails. I've seen it happen many times: The newbie takes one sip of smoky Scotch or spicy rye and doesn't take a second.

Bourbon, on the other hand, is too often dismissed by misguided whiskey snobs as "sweet," which has become the euphemism in food and drink circles for "less sophisticated." This is a shame.

Certainly anything made with corn and aged in an oak barrel for a decade or more can be sweet. But no two Kentucky bourbons are the same, even with strict guidelines set down by Congress in 1964. By law,



The most important factor in making bourbon is what happens after the whiskey goes into the oak barrel. Shown here in Louisville, Ky.: Woodford Reserve bourbon is drained from a barrel before bottling. Woodford Reserve

you can produce bourbon anywhere in the U.S., as long as it is made with at least 51 percent corn; that is bourbon's key difference from single-malt Scotch or Irish whisky, which are made with malted barley. Bourbon also must be aged for at least two years in new, charred oak barrels and may not be distilled higher than 160 proof (much higher than Scotch) or put in the barrel at higher than 125. Finally, bourbon must be all natural, with no additives or coloring.

Remarkably, those guidelines leave a lot of room for individual style. That diversity is what makes the bourbon category exciting, and it's undoubtedly why sales of super-premium bourbon and Tennessee whiskey have doubled in the past five years, as reported by the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States. As Maker's Mark's master distiller, Kevin Smith, said: "We're not about bib overalls anymore. This is a city boy's drink."

Some of the variation has to do with terroir. Kentucky has limestone-filtered water that is free of iron, which spoils whiskey, but it's a little different at each distillery. "You could take everything we do here and move it to another part of the state, and it would taste a little different," said Jimmy Russell, master distiller at Wild Turkey in Lawrenceburg.

Beyond terroir, the differences boil down to several major factors, and only one of them is the proprietary yeast strain of each

distillery. "Most all of the distilleries kept their yeast strains going during Prohibition. I used to tease the old-timers that they must've been making bourbon out in the hills," Russell said.

Truth be told, all the yeast talk does begin to feel a little superstitious. But I'm no microbiologist, and each distillery's unique strains do make for different-tasting bourbons, so I can see why they're spoken of in such magical terms. Anyway, the yeast is added to a mash during fermentation, where it turns sugars into alcohol. The mash mix is the second big factor. Almost all bourbons are made with about 70 percent corn, but what really matters is the type and percentage of the secondary and tertiary grains used (usually rye or wheat, and malted barley). Wheated bourbons such as Maker's Mark, Pappy Van Winkle's or W.L. Weller age differently and have a completely different flavor profile from that of most bourbons, which use rye as the predominant second grain. Some, such as Four Roses or Wild Turkey, use a higher percentage of rye.

But the most important factor in bourbon-making is what happens after the freshly distilled whiskey goes into the oak barrel, or what Woodford Reserve's

Morris referred to as a "maturation vessel."

"So few folks understand that bourbon's clear when it goes into the barrel," says Buffalo Trace's Traver. The barrel is where nearly all the color, texture, aroma and flavor are created.

Heaven Hill, for instance, uses the same yeast strain and mash recipe for all 150 of its bourbon products. "The only difference in our brands is age and proof," Hafer said.

I visited Brown-Forman's cooperage on the outskirts of Louisville. Inside the cooperage, 2,000 barrels a day are built by hand from new oak, lightly toasted, then charred on the inside. I was allowed to see every step of the barrel process except the toasting. "That's proprietary," Morris said.

Charring is another huge topic of conversation at bourbon distilleries. Do the barrels take a 50-second char, like Jim Beam's? Or 55 seconds, like Buffalo Trace's? Or perhaps a 40-second char, like those at Maker's Mark? All of this affects flavor.

Finally, once the barrels are filled with whiskey, they're put in enormous, multi-story warehouses called rick houses. I visited a number of rick houses,

many of which were eight stories high and looked like overgrown barns or Soviet-bloc apartment buildings.

"What matures bourbon is the change of season," Morris said. To be clear, age is not everything. Often a bourbon that ages much more than a decade can begin to taste like a burned piece of wood. "I think bourbon really matures around six, eight, 12 years," Russell said. "After that, I don't like it. There's too much wood."

Rick house windows are opened in the summer and closed in the winter, and the temperature and humidity vary widely on different floors of the structure. It's the master distiller's job, through continuous tasting, to choose the right barrels from different floors to blend together into the final bottling. "This isn't something you can get in a book," Russell says. "You have to experience it."

Buhl market seeks produce vendors

Times-News

The Buhl Farmers and Flea Market is looking for produce vendors. Vendor spaces are \$5 each, and vendors can sign up anytime during the season. The market already has crafts and flea market goods, and entertainment is planned for later in the season.

The market runs 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays from now until Sept. 26 and is at Legacy Square, at the corner of Main Street and Broadway Avenue South. Information or to sign up: Christine Garrison, 490-0390.



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WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2009

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



RYAN HOWE/Times-News

The Twin Falls girls golf team celebrates its Class 5A state title Tuesday at Highland Golf Course in Pocatello. Pictured, from left, Katherine Reed, Jenna Sharp, Hannah McNeley, Allison Federico and Sara Federico.

ONE MORE STATE CROWN

T.F. girls capture third straight 5A golf title

By Ryan Howe
Times-News writer

POCATELLO — As she watched her 35-foot birdie putt on No. 1 trickle into the hole, Twin Falls senior Hannah McNeley knew it was going to

be a good day. Even despite the wind. The Bruin girls, led by seniors Sara Federico and McNeley, captured their third straight Class 5A state championship Tuesday at Highland Golf Course in Pocatello. Just as they've been the past 15 years — it's the school's eighth girls team title this decade and 11th since 1994 — the Twin Falls girls were simply dominant, winning by 49 strokes.

INSIDE: State golf roundup See Sports 2

Meanwhile, the Twin Falls boys started the day 11 back of first-place Highland. The Bruin boys made a run, but they could only get within five strokes of the Rams. However, senior Jordan Hamblin earned

See **GOLF**, Sports 2

SPRING STATE TOURNAMENT PREVIEWS

ONE LAST CHANCE

As the school year comes to an end, so does the state's high school sports seasons. For seniors it's a final chance at high school glory in the form of a state championship. For underclassmen it's a time to step up and build towards next year. But for all teams in all classes, the end goal remains the same: end the season a winner.

BASEBALL



Where: Boise Hawks Stadium
District IV participant: Twin Falls
What to watch for: The Bruins always seem to get a rough draw at the state tournament and this year is no exception, where they will start with 26-3 Timberline. Twin Falls (25-5) has lost only once to a team from Idaho this season, but the first-round matchup is a doozy as the Bruins try yet again to win the 5A title in their final opportunity (for now). Twin Falls is coming off its third consecutive Region Four-Five-Six tournament championship and has the pitching depth — Michael Williams, Jacob Coats, Zeb Sneed and Cy Sneed — to go far at state, if the Bruins can cure their first-round jinx.



Where: Bishop Kelly High School and Capital High School, Boise
District IV participant: Minico
What to watch for: After a sluggish start to the season, the Spartans are poised for a run to the state title game. The bracket sets up nicely for Minico, which starts off with 7-23 Nampa and won't face a team with a winning record until a potential Saturday game. The Spartans actually beat Nampa 9-6 on April 25 and are playing their best ball of late, pounding Jerome for the Great Basin West title and run-ruling Pocatello for the region crown. Casey Christiansen is the ace for Minico (19-11), but to claim their first state title since 2005, the Spartans will need some other players (Chris Joyce, Alex Moon, etc.) to step up to endure three games in three days.



Where: Treasure Valley Community College, Ontario, Ore.
District IV participant: Buhl
What to watch for: After falling in the consolation final last season, the Indians are a year more experienced and poised to take the next step. A lot rests on junior James Leckenby's bat and right arm. How his tender arm bounces back after his first significant work in the district championship game will go a long way to spelling out the Tribe's fortunes. Markus Lively and Dylan Brooks give Buhl some good pitching options, while Matt Hamilton joins Leckenby as the team's top weapons at the plate.



Where: Rodeo Park, Nampa
District IV participant: Glens Ferry
What to watch for: The Pilots are back in the state tournament after missing out last season. Freshman Adrian Martinez and senior Cody Crawshaw form a formidable pitching duo, with added depth from the arm of John Acord. Plus, the offense is capable of erupting at any moment. Erick Gutierrez joins Crawshaw as a three-year varsity starter, giving the Pilots solid leadership. Glens Ferry had to qualify through a play-in win as the Pilots were the only 2A team in District IV.



SOFTBALL



Where: Coeur d'Alene
District IV participant: Twin Falls
What to watch for: Although the Bruins were shut out in the Region Four-Five-Six championship game, they gain new life this week with a shot at state. While they no longer have Amber Petersen to rely upon, the Bruins have some depth at pitcher in Katelyn Field and Brianna Bishop. At the plate, Sunshine Martinez and Katelyn Van Loo have been reliable through the season. Twin Falls could go deep into the championship side of the bracket early as the first-round opponent is Centennial, a team that doesn't even have a .500 record. The second round, in which the Bruins might face Timberline or Coeur d'Alene, could prove more difficult however not impossible to crack.



Where: Post Falls
District IV participant: Wood River
What to watch for: The Wolverines make their third appearance in the 4A tournament since 2006, although their best finish came as a 3A program in 2003 (they placed fourth as they battled through the elimination bracket). No. 1 pitcher Sam Engel, catcher Alex Lindbloom, shortstop Josie Dawson and first baseman Angela Coleman helped carry the team through the district tournament. Head coach Dale Martin credited this squad as one of his best all-around teams in his 11 years at Wood River. The Wolverines start the tournament with Kuna, a team they split with during the regular season. Mountain Home looks like a favorite, but as Martin is fond of saying, it all comes down to pitching, defense and timely hitting.



Where: Kimberly
District IV participant: Kimberly
What to watch for: The Bulldogs dominated the Sawtooth Central Idaho Conference once again to earn the right to play for a state championship. They are in the midst of a 12-game winning streak, and this week they could claim their second title in three years. Ace pitcher Nellie Makings had recorded a 0.26 ERA with more than 125 strikeouts prior to the district tournament. Opponents were batting only .138 against her. Makings along with Averie Schroeder, Alex Pfefferle, Whitney Carlton and Jandy Altemose were batting over .400 through the regular season, and Makings also led in RBIs and runs scored for Kimberly.



Where: Lewiston
District IV participant: Declo
What to watch for: The Hornets have something to prove in their first trip to the 2A state tournament: that they can hang with the perennial contenders. Melba, New Plymouth and Malad seem to make the tournament regularly, and Declo is no stranger to them. The Hornets lost a close contest with Malad and New Plymouth at the Glens Ferry tournament about a month ago. Sarah Silcock has been a consistent presence at the plate. Brielee Breshears has put in solid performances in hitting and fielding, and Shelby Koyle has made the most of her transition from second base to pitcher. Head coach Kari Osterhouse said, "We want to go there and prove to everybody that we are a competitive, legitimate program, and that these girls have talent."



TRACK



Where: Bronco Stadium, Boise State University
What to watch for from District IV: Girls relays are where it's at for Twin Falls, as the Bruins are favored to win the 4x100, 4x200 and 4x400-meter events. Sophomore Madi Worst has a good shot at winning the 300 hurdles. High jump should come down to Cheltzie Williams of Twin Falls and Chari Hawkins of Madison, as each cleared 5 feet, 4 inches this season. Keep an eye on sophomores Danielle Bowcut (200 meters) and Brooke Wagner (400). On the boys side, the 3,200 should go to a freshman, with Twin Falls' Eric Harris and Coeur d'Alene's Cody Curtis the favorites. The Bruins' 4x200 relay team will be in the mix along with senior Kylon Myers in the 400 meters.



Where: Bronco Stadium, Boise State University
What to watch for from District IV: Wood River senior Delaney Fox (100 hurdles, 100 dash) should bring home multiple medals. Her teammate, Kaitana Martinez, is among the top high jumpers in the state. Jerome's Carrie Thibault should place high in the pole vault. Minico's 800 sprint medley team will push for the state crown. On the boys side, Cade Owen of Minico (110 hurdles), Dale McLaughlin of Wood River (pole vault), Zach Ingraham of Jerome (long jump, triple jump) and Brian Wickham of Jerome (discus) will all be in the mix for medals. Minico's boys 4x200 relay team should be competitive.



Where: Bronco Stadium, Boise State University
What to watch for from District IV: Buhl's Desiree Hepworth should easily run away with the girls 3,200-meter title, while the Indians' Clara Comer and Hannah Gallon should go one-two in 100 meters. Comer should also be tops in the 200 and 400, while Kimberly's Kaitlyn Gerard is favored in the 1,600. In relays, look for Kimberly's 4x100 and 4x200 to be in the mix, along with Buhl's 4x400. Buhl and Gooding have the top two sprint medley teams as well. In the girls field events, Kimberly's Kalie Wright should win the high jump, with Filer's Danielle Schaal and Buhl's Paige Ward right behind. Also, Kimberly's Kaitlin Keller (triple jump), Wendell's Amber Bowers (discus), Buhl's Whitney Amoth and Filer's Natalie Hughes (shot put) should all bring home medals. On the boys side, Bertrand Alcaraz Garcia of Buhl is favored to win the 100, 200 and 400. Keegan Brady of Kimberly is seeded tops in the long jump. Kimberly's Kolby Hardy (110 hurdles) and Ethan Richmond (300 hurdles) will be in the mix, as will Buhl's 4x400 boys relay team.



Where: Bronco Stadium, Boise State University
What to watch for from District IV: For the 2A girls, Camelle Sizemore of Valley could medal in the 100 meters, same for Declo's Britni Duncan in the 200. For the boys, Declo's Thomas Koyle should fare well in the 110-meter hurdles and the Hornets' Larsen Webb is expected to be at the top in the pole vault competition. Among the 1A girls, Raft River's Sally Hansen is favored to win the 100 and 200 meters, as well as the long jump. Fellow Trojan Whitney Holtman could win the 300 hurdles while Marli Manning should be in the mix in discus. Katelyn Peterson of Carnas County is a favorite in the high jump, while Dietrich's Ellie Dalton should make a move in the 1,600. Also, watch out for Carey's 4x400 girls relay. For the 1A boys, Jaren Stoddard of Dietrich should win the 100 and 200. Oakley's Weston Cooper will be among the best in 110 hurdles, while the Hornets' 4x100 and 4x200 relays will vie for the top spot. Raft River's sprint medley will be in the mix, and the Trojans' Cade Powers is favored to win the high jump.



Celtics rally for Game 5 win over Magic

By Jimmy Golen
Associated Press writer

BOSTON — Ray Allen's 3-pointer with 1:20 left gave Boston its first lead since the opening minutes and the Celtics beat the Orlando Magic 92-88 on Tuesday night to take a 3-2 lead in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Stephon Marbury scored all of his 12 points in the fourth quarter, keeping the Celtics in the game after a lackluster 36 minutes that left them trailing by 14 with 8:49 to play. Orlando led 85-75 with 5:39 left, then Boston scored the next 13 points to open an 88-85 lead before Rashard Lewis' free throws with 7.3 seconds left.

LATE IN L.A.

The Los Angeles Lakers were blowing out the Houston Rockets midway through Game 5 of their Western Conference semifinal series on Tuesday night. For a full recap of the game, visit Magicvalley.com/sports.

Paul Pierce had 19 points, nine rebounds and eight assists, Kendrick Perkins grabbed 11 rebounds, and Game 4 hero Glen "Big Baby" Davis scored 10 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter. Davis also grabbed the rebound and hit a pair of free throws after Dwight Howard intentionally missed a free throw with 5.9 seconds left.

"It's all about never giving in and having the heart of a champion," Pierce said.

Howard had 12 points and 17 rebounds for Orlando, which needs a victory in Game 6 on Thursday night to force the series back to Boston for a decisive seventh game.

Lewis scored 19 and Hedo Turkoglu had 18 with seven assists for the Magic, who almost blew a 28-point lead in Game 1, then lost Game 4

See **CELTICS**, Sports 4



AP photo

Boston Celtics players Paul Pierce, left, and Eddie House celebrate during the final seconds of Boston's 92-88 win over the Orlando Magic in Game 5 of their Eastern Conference semifinal series Tuesday in Boston.

