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WEDNESDAY
August 12, 2009

TIMES-NEWS

75 CENTS

MagicValley.com

Paul man, sons, ID'd as plane crash victims

By Laurie Welch
Times-News writer

A Paul man and his two adult sons were on a fishing trip when their small plane crashed in mountains near the Idaho-Oregon state line last week, killing all three, officials said Tuesday.

Malheur County (Ore.) Undersheriff Brian Wolfe said Ronald Eugene Mingo, 62, of Paul, and his two sons, Jed R. Mingo, 32, of Bountiful, Utah, and Jordan D. Mingo, 26, of Lehi, Utah, all died Friday when their plane, a single-engine Navion, crashed about 16 miles southwest of Homedale.

Jed Mingo, the owner of the plane and its pilot, often used a dirt airstrip near a homestead he owned near Kasota, family members said.

"Jed was a really good pilot," said Weston Webb of Twin Falls, who is Ronald Mingo's uncle. "The unanswered questions are the hardest part."

Wolfe said the three men were traveling to Ilwaco on the Washington coast, where they planned to go fishing. The trio had stopped at the Jerome County Airport to refuel between 11 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Friday and planned to stop in John Day, Ore., before reaching their final destination.

"They did not arrive at either of those two locations," Wolfe said.

Wolfe said radar last tracked the single-engine plane in the Succor Creek State Natural Area in the Owyhee Mountains.

"We didn't start worrying a

See CRASH, Main 2



Ron Mingo

Districts file for court stay on well closures

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

Two Magic Valley groundwater districts have asked a judge to review a decision by the Idaho Department of Water Resources to shut down a number of groundwater rights across the region in a well curtailment aimed at providing water to Clear Springs Foods of Buhl.

IDWR Interim Director Gary Spackman ordered more than 300 water rights affecting businesses, cities and nearly 9,000 acres of irrigated land shut down on July 31 after he concluded

the North Snake and Magic Valley groundwater districts did not follow through on a portion of an agreement to keep about 9,300 acres converted to use surface water instead of groundwater.

The districts managed to recover some of the con- versions and Spackman on Friday shrank the closures to just 150 rights and 4,150 acres. But further negotia- tions between the districts and Clear Springs failed Monday, and the districts on Tuesday afternoon filed a petition in 5th District

See WELLS, Main 2

Sawtooth project caps T.F. construction surge

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

Preliminary construction work has started on the multipurpose room at Sawtooth Elementary School in Twin Falls.

The project is the last major piece of a round of improvements and construction work that the Twin Falls School District has initiated following approval of a \$49.7 million bond levy in 2006 and a \$3.3 million plant facility levy in 2008.

This week, the initial tasks include getting water and sewer lines in place before work starts on the project's foundation.

"They have to have those things in the ground before they can start the foundation," said Kirk Brower, district director of operations. "They're basically getting ready for construction."

The foundation work is expected to begin in a week or two.

When finished, the new

See SCHOOLS, Main 2



MEAGAN THOMPSON/Times-News

Construction was underway Monday on the new Sawtooth Elementary School multipurpose room in Twin Falls. The project is the final phase in the district's revamp of a number of its facilities.

SEEKING A WAY OUT



JOHN MCELHINEY

CONVICTED: Of first-degree murder of Dale Miller, pleaded guilty, later tried to recant plea
SENTENCED: To at least 22 years in prison
APPEAL: Currently appealing conviction to Idaho Supreme Court



JOHN HORONZY

CONVICTED: Of second-degree murder of Rosemarie Lavonne Murphy, pleaded guilty
SENTENCED: To at least 15 years in prison
APPEAL: Currently appealing conviction, in part because investigator is now charged with felony drug crimes



CAMERON WATTS

CONVICTED: Of first-degree murder of Dale Miller, pleaded guilty
SENTENCED: To at least 20 years in prison
APPEAL: Lost an appeal to overturn conviction because he was 'actually innocent'

T.F. AUTHORITIES FACING MURDER APPEALS, OBJECTIONS

By Andrea Jackson
Times-News writer

Two recent Twin Falls murder convicts are challenging their prison sentences, as a third admitted killer continues to fight his court fees despite losing a bid to get out of a life sentence earlier this year.

Though each man pleaded guilty, county and state prosecutors are still faced with their appeals and objections.

"They're all without merit," said Twin Falls

County Prosecutor Grant Loeb's of the challenges. "The process allows these people to abuse the system by filing frivolous appeals and claims."

John McElhiney and John Horonzy, two of the men Loeb's recently helped convict of murder, have current bids pending to get out of prison.

Meanwhile, a third murder convict, Cameron Watts, recently lost his appeal of a life sentence, but is continuing to fight fees he must pay for a slaying that

also sent McElhiney to prison.

When McElhiney, 32, was sentenced to 22 years to life for killing 18-year-old Dale Miller, he told the victim's family he was sorry.

"I don't believe my life should belong to me anymore because of what happened," McElhiney told the court.

That was more than a year after Miller's body was found inside a barrel on Sept. 12, 2007, in a Twin Falls apartment's garage. Law enforcement authorities say

Miller owed a \$250 drug debt to Watts, and McElhiney was the muscle who roughed Miller up before binding the teen with cord and placing him in a car trunk, where Miller suffocated.

Now McElhiney claims he should get out of prison and his guilty plea should be overturned, appealing his case all the way to the Idaho Supreme Court.

"It doesn't end with a guilty verdict," said Loeb's,

See APPEALS, Main 2

Deaths lead police officers to rethink chases

By Tracie Cone
Associated Press writer

DINUBA, Calif. — Carlos and Jennifer Salazar had piled their five children into their pickup truck and were headed to a Pee Wee football kickoff carnival when a speeding car came out of nowhere.

The occupants had run a stop sign on a rural road and were fleeing a police officer at nearly 80 mph when they barreled into the family's truck. Eight people died: five kids all younger than 8, and the

three teenagers trying to outrun police in a tragedy that has stunned people in this rural corner of California's citrus belt.

Criminal justice experts said it was one of the deadliest police chases they can remember, and it has renewed the debate about the dangers of high-speed police chases. In this instance, the officer did not know the fleeing vehicle had been stolen at gunpoint 12 hours earlier.

The crash comes as many departments around the country

have limited chases in recent years because of the danger to officers and the public, said Eugene O'Donnell, a professor of police studies at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City. Their alternatives include relying on law enforcement bulletins and helicopters to track the car and avoid dangerous chases.

The issue has also reached the U.S. Supreme Court, with justices ruling in 2007 that suspects who

See CHASE, Main 2



Graciela Guerra is consoled by her daughter Diana Guerra Silva Monday at the site of a fatal crash that killed eight people on Saturday in Dinuba, Calif. AP photo



Comics.....Business 3
Commodities.....Business 2
Crossword.....Classifieds 5

Dear Abby.....Classifieds 4
Jumble.....Classifieds 8
Movies.....Main 7

Obituaries.....Food 6
Opinion.....Main 6
Sudoku.....Classifieds 3

CURRY COMES TO SOUTHERN IDAHO
The flavor for spice lovers > Food 1



AROUND THE VALLEY

T.F. County reopens budget to cover indigent costs

Twin Falls County commissioners on Monday reopened the county's 2009 fiscal year budget to cover unexpected costs for indigent health care claims.

Commissioners voted to spend an additional \$700,000 on claims, which were budgeted for just \$1.1 million, said Twin Falls County Commission Chairman George Urie.

"We've spent all the money," Urie said.

The funding approved Monday is strictly for indigent claims, Urie said. The \$2.76 million that the county spent through the end of July includes all costs associated with indigent health care, such as payroll.

Due to rising costs and changes in state law, the county has tentatively increased the indigent budget for next year by 25 percent to \$3.74 million.

Indigent health care is emergency health care provided to people without insurance.

Idaho PUC seeks public comment on wind-farm contracts

Idaho Power Co. has proposed agreements to buy power from three wind-farm projects in the Hagerman area, and its customers now have a chance to weigh in on the deal.

The 20-year sales agreements are with Boise-based Exergy Development Group, which intends to start operating the 22.5-megawatt Camp Reed, 21-megawatt Payne's Ferry and 21-megawatt Yahoo Creek projects by Sept. 30, 2010.

The plants would deliver up to 10 average megawatts to Idaho Power on a monthly basis,

and would qualify under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, which requires electric utilities to offer to buy power produced by qualifying small-power producers.

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission will take comments on the agreements through Sept. 22 and plans to handle all three cases through written comments unless a hearing becomes necessary.

Comments can be submitted through <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/>; mailed to P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0074; or faxed to 208-334-3762. The agreements can also be viewed at the Web site under case numbers IPC-E-09-18, -19 and -20.

Exergy's last Idaho project, Fossil Gulch, was the state's first "utility-scale" wind farm when it was built near Hagerman in 2004.

The company announced in June that it planned to start construction this summer on 152 wind turbines divided across 14 wind farms in five southern Idaho counties. The company also plans turbines near Burley and Shoshone, among other areas.

Registration begins at North Valley Academy

Registration takes place at North Valley Academy in Gooding from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. today and Thursday.

NVA is still accepting applications for enrollment.

Applications for K-12 are available in English and Spanish at the school, located at 202 14th Ave. E., Gooding.

They are also available online at www.northvalleyacademy.com. Information: 934-5738.

- Staff reports

ISDA accepts pathogen petition

Rulemaking slated to regulate wastewater spray

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture will soon proceed with negotiated rulemaking that could regulate the practice of running livestock wastewater through irrigation sprinklers.

The Idaho Rural Council submitted a petition earlier this year calling for action on "pathogen drift," the idea that particles of livestock waste run through sprinklers can float off of the property they came from. On Tuesday, ISDA Chief of Staff Pamm Juker confirmed that her agency plans to set dates for rulemaking "in the near future."

Negotiated rulemaking brings together various stakeholders affected by a proposed rule to develop it; a hearing officer steps in if negotiations prove fruitless. Though not a guarantee that a rule will actually be developed, the decision to enter the process is a notable victory for the council, which asked the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality for a similar rule last year and was denied when DEQ board members decided ISDA had primary oversight of confined-animal feeding operations.

Rich Carlson, an attorney representing the council, said he got official word in late June that the petition was accepted.

"We're on our way," he said.

The council's proposals have already led to one change - ISDA adjusted its list of penalties last fall to include a minimum \$1,000 fine every time waste run through a sprinkler leaves a dairy. This spring's rule-making petition proposed changing ISDA rules for dairies to require the same risk assessments and proto-

cols DEQ uses when permitting land application of waste from industrial and municipal sources. Unlike the previous petition, it did not target feedlots, which use much less water than dairies and don't usually put liquid waste through sprinklers.

The Idaho Dairymen's Association plans to participate in the rulemaking and could be one of the strongest critics of the proposed rules. IDA Executive Director Bob Naerebout, who submitted a letter to DEQ last year arguing against the need for new regulations, said again Tuesday that he isn't aware of any science that speaks to drift from livestock wastewater in the high desert climate.

"Our whole premise is, we don't mind negotiated rules when there's science behind it," he said.

Carlson, on the other hand, pointed to several

government studies he feels properly highlight the problem and show a need for regulatory action.

"In spite of what we see as a pretty clear-cut thing to look at closely, they've been insisting all along that there's no reason to look," he said.

Carlson and Naerebout agreed on one point: they'd like to get some local, objective input on the subject from a researcher at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's

Agricultural Research Service station near Kimberly. Microbiologist Robert Dungan is studying issues related to bioaerosols and planned to start examining wastewater pivots this summer.

"He would be a very knowledgeable person," Naerebout said.

Nate Poppino may be reached at 208-735-3237 or npoppino@magicvalley.com.

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5TH DISTRICT COURT NEWS

TWIN FALLS COUNTY TUESDAY ARRAIGNMENT
Jose Nicolas Huerta, 27, Twin Falls; two counts lewd conduct with a minor under 16; public defender appointed; \$15,000 bond; Aug. 21 preliminary hearing

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Confessions of a gratuity dodger

Are you a good tipper? I used to think I was — until I got married.

Turns out I'm a cheap-skate. Who knew?

My wife, that's who. After I pick up the check in a restaurant, Victoria will say, "Hand it over." She'll count the tip, huff "I can't take you anywhere," and dig into her purse for more.

DON'T ASK ME
Steve Crump



Evidently, 15 percent — give or take — is never enough. Too bad, because it took me years to figure out how to calculate it.

When I was a kid, my mom always tipped 10 percent — simplicity itself. But that was before a tip became a gratuity. Now it's a whole separate economic system.

According to emilypost.com (who else are you going to ask about etiquette?), I gotta leave a server 15-20 percent pre-tax. So I'm supposed to subtract the sales tax from the tab and then reckon 15 percent of what's left?

Emily also says I'm obliged to tip the server who brings me a cup of coffee at a buffet restaurant. The bartender gets \$1 per drink; the taxi driver is entitled to 15 percent, plus \$1 or \$2 if he lifts my suitcase into the trunk, and my barber receives 15 percent.

And it gets worse. I'm supposed to give restroom attendants 50 cents to \$3 "depending on service," chambermaids get \$2 to \$5 "left daily," and anybody who calls me a cab receives \$2.

I don't think I can afford to go anywhere anymore.

The good news, I guess, is that tip jars — Emily calls them "guilt jars" — that you see on counters in food-service establishments can be ignored with impunity.

The bad news is that, this being the end of summer vacation, Emily says you're supposed to tip just about everybody with whom you've crossed paths in the past three months:

Your babysitter is entitled get one evening's extra pay, plus a small gift from your child.

The guy who mows your lawn gets \$20 to \$50.

Your caddy receives a supplemental fee for one round.

Your dog walker gets a spare week's pay (you can't, however, tip yourself if you walk your own dog).

The guy who cleans your swimming pool gets \$50.

Oh, and you're supposed to send the counselors at your kid's summer camp a present too.

The alternative to a vacation, I suppose, is staying home and tipping every third person you see.

Just wish I could get off that cheap.

Steve Crump may be reached at 735-3223.

Bellevue man convicted of voyeurism faces new charges

By Ariel Hansen
Times-News writer

HAILEY — A Bellevue man is set to go before the 5th District Court today, for alleged probation violations stemming from a 2007 charge of video voyeurism. He also faces new charges of attempted strangulation and false imprisonment.

Joshua Charon Jones, 21, was charged in 2007 with felony sex crimes for recording nude cell phone

images of a 13-year-old girl. Also charged in that case were two other area teens. As part of a deal, Jones pleaded guilty in November 2007 to video voyeurism and was not required to register as a sex offender. He was sentenced to five years in prison, but judgment was withheld for three years, and Jones was placed on probation.

Court records show he has repeatedly violated that probation by possessing

alcohol, testing positive for alcohol consumption, being out after curfew and failing to notify his probation officer of contact with police.

He now faces new charges that he attempted to strangle his ex-girlfriend on July 18, falsely imprisoned her and destroyed her cell phone when she called police.

Jones allegedly told the woman he would hit her so hard the Hailey Police

Department wouldn't recognize her, then told her to call him a racially specific expletive and see what happens. He allegedly grabbed her with both hands around her neck, reportedly saying, "I will do it again until you pass out or are dead."

The woman reportedly went to the bathroom saying she had to throw up, then called 911 on her cell phone and held it up so dispatch could hear what Jones was saying to her. When she

emerged, telling Jones that police had heard what he was saying, he allegedly threw her to the ground and snapped her cell phone.

Jones is being held on \$100,000 bond on the charges related to the July 18 incident, and \$100,000 on the probation violations. Jones's trial on the strangulation and imprisonment charges is set for Oct. 27, and he was scheduled to respond to the probation violation charges today.

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Sarah Johnson attorneys claim to have witness to evidence tampering

By Ariel Hansen
Times-News writer

HAILEY — Lawyers for convicted killer Sarah Johnson are now suggesting that local officials tampered with evidence to convict the teen in the 2003 murders of her parents.



Johnson

Johnson, who was convicted of killing her parents in their Bellevue home when she was 16, added the allegation in a petition filed asking the 5th District Court to amend Johnson's appeal for post-conviction relief.

In court papers they say a witness has come forward, through a letter he wrote to

5th District Judge Barry Wood, asserting that the day Johnson's parents were found dead Blaine County Sheriff Walt Femling was overheard telling Prosecuting Attorney Jim Thomas, "Well, I guess I've got to move evidence to make a case."

The witness, Steven Pankey of Shoshone, was then working as deputy coroner and apprentice mortician, according to an affidavit he signed July 27. In that affidavit, he described over-hearing the conversation and says he contacted Johnson's attorneys, saying he had important informa-

tion about the case, but was never contacted by anyone on her defense team.

Johnson's attorneys have asked to add this information to their plea that Johnson had ineffective previous counsel, as well as addressing Pankey's testimony as a possible reason for a jury to acquit Johnson.

The state says the petition for post-conviction relief fails to state a proper claim and is barred by the statute of limitations.

Even if Femling did make the statement, the state's response says, "that statement is perfectly innocent and no reasonable understanding of that statement leads to the conclusion that Sheriff Femling was propos-

ing tampering with evidence."

The state also argues that the allegedly overheard statement doesn't exonerate Johnson, because the evidence was moved across the state and across the country as part of the investigation, and there's nothing in it to indicate Femling was not referring to evidence-gathering.

A judge has not yet ruled on Johnson's attorneys' motion to amend her petition.

Femling could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

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

Bicyclist in fatal accident identified

Times-News

Laurence M. Kelly, 67, of Twin Falls, was identified Tuesday as the bicyclist killed when he collided with a semitrailer Sunday morning.

Police responded to the accident at 6:55 a.m. Sunday at the intersection of Main Avenue and Shoshone Street, according to a press release from the Twin Falls Police Department.

Staff Sgt. Dan Lewin told the *Times-News* Sunday, "it was pretty apparent" the man was dead when police and paramedics arrived.

Police said Tuesday that Kelly had recently

moved to Twin Falls from Iowa and that Kelly failed to yield to a Glanbia, Inc. truck driven by Barry Gines, 61, of Gooding.

"It is believed, at this time, that Kelly attempted to ride his bicycle across Shoshone Street, in a westbound direction, riding behind the truck but in front of the second trailer attached to the Glanbia truck," according to the press release.

After the completion of the investigation and the release of toxicology results, the investigation will be forwarded to the Twin Falls city attorney for evaluation, according to the report.

Nobody's problem: Gridley Islanders at odds with county, DEQ over algae

By Nichole Carnell
Times-News writer

Algae buildup has returned to Gridley Island for a second year, but steps to fix the problem have amounted to little more than finger pointing by some.

Last year residents of the peninsula near Hagerman had an opportunity to fix the problem after consulting with local, state and federal agencies who said the same thing: it is the property owners' responsibility.

Now some residents want the algae and plants removed, though it's a task nobody's lining up to undertake.

"Nobody accepts responsibility for it," Gridley Island resident Bobbie Duke told the *Times-News* last month.

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Regional Administrator Bill Allred said last year arrangements were made to take care of the situation.

"It was up to the property owners to do," he said Tuesday.

A local contractor was found by the DEQ to remove the buildup at the residents' expense last year, but no one was willing to foot the bill.

Some residents believe that a public agency should take care of the problem, although which one is contested.

Duke believes Gooding County is responsible, although Gooding County Commissioner Tom Faulkner said it is still the position of the commission that action is the responsibility of property owners.

"That's an asset they need to protect," Faulkner said referring to the river-front property. He added that the commission hasn't received any complaints this year, nor has he noticed a buildup.

"This year has been kind of a mild year," said Sonny Buhidar, DEQ regional water quality manager, "you don't have the buildup due to the temperature of the water."

However, Buhidar and Allred don't believe the problem is going to go away. Some residents agree.

"It won't go away until the fish farms and the farmers go away," said resident Charlie Crego.

He believes it is up to the property owners to try and keep the algae and plants away and added that a permanent solution would be

difficult to attain.

For now, the DEQ and Gooding County is leaving the situation in the hands of property owners.

"If it causes nuisance to the point it is problematic for boaters, some action may need to be taken," Allred said, "but when action is taken, jurisdiction could be a problem."

Nichole Carnell may be reached at ncarnell@magicvalley.com or 208-735-3376.

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OPINION

QUOTE

“We are having a vigorous debate in the United States, and I think that’s a healthy thing.”
— President Obama, praising the spirited debate over his health care plans

EDITORIAL

DMV needs to fix financial controls

Catherine Benoit was a public employee above suspicion. Yet the 28-year worker at the Canyon County Division of Motor Vehicles in Caldwell is charged with six counts of grand theft for allegedly stealing more than \$37,000 in 2008 and \$30,000 in 2001. She was also charged with thefts in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2009. After pleading innocent in May, she’ll go on trial next month.

Benoit was arrested because another DMV worker, Shawna Maggard, pleaded guilty to embezzling license fees from the same office. She confessed in March to her supervisor, according to the Idaho Statesman.

Maggard’s case led to a closer examination of record-keeping in the office where she worked, leading to Benoit’s arrest.

Too bad that wasn’t the end of it.

Earlier this month, Mava Terhaar was charged with six counts of misuse of public funds from the Elmore County DMV office in Mountain Home, totaling \$270,000. She’d worked for the DMV since 1987.

The people behind the counters of DMV’s field offices statewide are by and large impeccably honest, but those who run the agency seem to fundamentally misunderstand the nature of the business they’re in.

DMV handles millions of dollars in greenbacks. It’s a cash business, and the department badly needs to improve what accountants call “internal controls.”

Internal controls mean simply this: Nobody accepts cash without accounting for it.

The purpose of good internal controls is to keep honest people honest. Say you work for DMV and your spouse loses his or her job. You’ve got two kids in college. You’ve got a mortgage.

Of the dozens of Jacksons and Grants and Benjamins (\$20, \$50 and \$100 bills, respectively, named after the American historical figures whose images the notes bear) that cross your desk every day, it’s unlikely anyone would notice if a few went astray.

And if it eventually becomes more than a few, how do you back out?

Banks figured out years ago how to keep folks who handle cash trustworthy — by stringent internal controls backed by redundant internal controls. Within the industry, accountability is so strong that embezzlement among tellers is unusual.

And it’s not the bosses who keep them above board; it’s the tellers themselves. Integrity is institutionalized.

The same thing needs to happen at DMV.

The folks who issue your drivers license are honorable. DMV needs to keep them that way.

Our view:
The public agency that issues drivers licenses in Idaho must keep better track of its money.

Democracy wasn’t meant to party, party, party

In the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta “HMS Pinafore,” Sir Joseph, a former member of the British Parliament who has been appointed lord admiral of the queen’s navy, recalls how he achieved such great success: “I always voted at my party’s call,” he sings, “and I never thought of thinking for myself at all.”



Mickey Edwards

Sir Joseph would fit in well in the United States’ party-driven political system in which loyalty to one’s political club often seems to trump objective decisionmaking.

When a Senate committee voted in favor of Sonia Sotomayor’s confirmation for a seat on the Supreme Court, every Republican but one voted no, even though she was obviously qualified. And not one Democrat voted no, even though Sotomayor had repeatedly indicated in speeches that it was a judge’s background that mattered in decision-making rather than strict adherence to the rule of law. There were party lines to be followed.

Last month, when the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions became the first to vote out a health care reform bill, not a single Democrat thought questions about the proposal, which included a government-run plan, were sufficient to raise doubts about moving forward. Not one Republican thought the current state of American health care justified the proposed legislation.

If legislators decided how to vote by weighing the concerns of their constituents, looking to their own philosophies of government and evaluating proposals on their merits, one might assume that at least one or two Democrats would have balked, and perhaps a Republican or two would have voted to go forward. But we don’t live



Political theorist Bernard Crick wrote that ‘politics is how a free people govern themselves.’ Strong political parties, on the other hand, are how a free people lose that ability.

which depends on entrusting members of one’s community to act in one’s stead as an evaluator of legislative policy.

What author Peter Shane labeled “Madison’s Nightmare” has come true: We live in a world of constant partisan warfare, a never-ending battle between “my club” and “your club,” undermining the belief that a citizen’s vote truly counts for something.

Political theorist Bernard Crick wrote that “politics is how a free people govern themselves.” Strong political parties, on the other hand, are how a free people lose that ability. Parties choose which candidates can be on the November ballot, and do so in primaries and conventions that cater to the extremes. Parties reward fealty and discourage independence. In an earlier time, before the Internet, when it was hard to get information about candidates and they had to depend on party support for campaign funds and volunteers, political parties made sense; today, they are passe, black-and-white television, remnants of a time that has passed.

Mickey Edwards, a Republican, represented Oklahoma in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1977-93. He wrote this commentary for the Los Angeles Times.

in that kind of political world.

The Washington Post published a review of Senate voting records at the end of the 110th Congress, which ended in January. Over the previous two years, Congress had taken up important votes on wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, approved billions of dollars of spending and wrestled with many other controversial and difficult issues. On average, Democrats voted with their party 87.5 percent of the time, and Republicans voted the GOP line 80.7 percent of the time.

Granted, there are distinctions in political philosophy that draw people to one party or the other, but it is nonetheless clear that there is far less independent thinking going on than good governance would demand.

When I testified before the House Judiciary Committee against President George W. Bush’s unconstitutional use of presidential signing statements (the Constitution allows a president two choices: sign a bill and make it federal law or veto it; ignoring it is not an

option), not a single Republican on the committee saw anything wrong with what the president had done. They later found the same practice unlawful when a Democratic president did it. When the House voted to hold White House staffers in contempt for defying a congressional subpoena, Republicans stomped out in protest.

At the time, I saw those incidents as signs that my fellow conservatives had abandoned their principles. But it was more than that: It was one more example of members of Congress voting as a team.

James Madison and George Washington feared the advance of political parties. Of course factions would be formed; people of like interests would band together in coalitions. But those coalitions would shift as issues shifted. In a system designed to leave the people in charge of their own government, their representatives would assess issues and vote according to their best judgment of a proposal’s merits.

Loyalty to party undermines the very essence of representative government,

TIMES-NEWS

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

People who read health care bill know the facts

America, is this the change you hoped for? I didn’t expect a tax and spend president and a face-lifted skeleton speaker of the house to tell their work mates to ignore angry voters at their town hall meetings, ignore the TEA Party people because they’re manufactured by the Republicans, ignore the polls because the people don’t know what’s good for them.

The manufactured press rallies died out when ACORN bused dozens of people to chief executive’s houses to protest big pay-checks. I say manufactured because now that the White House-friendly Bank of

America is fined \$300 million for bonus misinformation and Goldman Sachs revs up the check writing machine for tens of billions in bonus pay, the buses are cold, the signs are blank and Obama’s salary czar is quiet as a mouse.

The TEA Party goes on without buses and gains strength because people know they are getting slammed with taxes no matter what the campaign promises said about the middle class being safe.

People that read the health care bill know the facts that are buried in it and they request their elected officials do the same before voting and these voters are chastised, isolated and ridiculed for their

vocal efforts because the phone calls and e-mails don’t work unless you are a major contributor.

As the White House “spend the green dream team” ignores the manufactured people, they ask their street supporters to get in the face of these protesters and confront them, kinda like getting your big brother to fight a battle you can’t win. If you can’t personally confront the manufactured people at a TEA party, you can snitch your neighbor out to Obama at the Orwellian Web site flag.gov.

Is this the change you wanted? See you in 2010 and 12, folks.

DAN LYON Buhl

Three Island crossing finale was chaotic

I would like to comment on Sunday’s Times-News article regarding the final Three Island crossing that took place on Saturday, Aug. 8, specifically addressing the comment “by the time the wagon and horses were safely on shore, traffic was still backed up trying to get into the park.”

Due to prior commitments, this was the first year in many years that my family and I have been able to attend this event, and we made a special effort since this was the last one. After spending 40 minutes traveling two miles through town from

the interstate and then walking another two miles to get to the crossing site, arriving at 11 a.m. (the scheduled start time), we were dismayed and upset to discover that the crossing had already been completed a half hour before. Sadly, our family and the approximately 1,500 other families and children who were hurrying to arrive completely missed out on this event.

Obviously, the crossing has been popular in the past and the promoters should have been prepared for the large turnout this year. While I understand that events of this nature take an incredible amount of organization, it did not appear that any

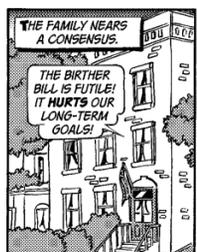
was done for this occasion. There was no one to direct traffic, no one available to give information, and ultimately no one considered the feelings of those who missed out on the crossing altogether although they arrived on time to witness the event.

The entire episode reflected poorly on Three Island State Park, the event organizers, and the city of Glenns Ferry. I hope that should this reenactment ever be done again in the future, some time and thought should be given to organizing the event so that everyone can enjoy it.

JENNIFER HALL Twin Falls

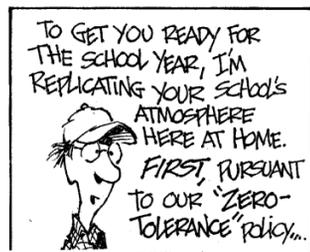
THE LIGHTER SIDE OF POLITICS

Doonesbury



By Garry Trudeau

Mallard Fillmore



By Bruce Tinsley

It's pro-trade or bust for U.S. economy

President Obama is neither a committed free-trader nor a hard-core protectionist. But his continuing failure to commit to a pro-trade agenda amounts to de facto protectionism and subverts his economic and foreign policy objectives.

Reacting recently to a provision in the climate change bill that would impose trade penalties against nations that do not limit carbon emissions enough, the president said, "At a time when the economy worldwide is still deep in recession and we've seen a significant drop in global trade, I think we have to be very careful about sending any protectionist signals."

In that mild rebuke of protectionism lingers the essence of the administration's nascent trade policy: conditional, ambiguous and not particularly reassuring.

Earlier this year, the president suggested that Congress avoid language in



Daniel Ikenson and Scott Lincicome

the stimulus bill that could provoke a trade war. Congress responded by pruning the bill's most overtly protectionist provisions. But "buy American" fever has nonetheless permeated the government procurement market. Uncertainty surrounding the arcane rules has caused contractors to render their own judgments about what qualifies. Not only have eligible foreign companies been excluded from the market, but U.S. companies that use imported raw materials also have been shut out.

Canadian municipalities have responded with "don't buy American" rules, while

the Chinese and others have introduced their own buy-local provisions, all to the chagrin of U.S. exporters and the general economy.

The Obama administration has done nothing but "seek comment." Our comment is this: The president's disregard for the matter is slowing economic recovery, tempting further escalation by our trade partners and cementing the United States' reputation as an international trade scofflaw.

Likewise, when Congress defunded a program that enabled Mexican trucks to operate on our roads — placing the U.S. in violation of the North American Free Trade Agreement, Obama offered assurances of a quick resolution. Five months later, there is no fix in sight. To hasten a resolution, the Mexican government imposed \$2.4 billion in retaliatory duties on about 90 U.S. exports, and a Mexican trucking association filed a \$6 billion lawsuit

against the U.S. government.

The reduction in cross-border trade and investment cannot be the economic elixir the president had in mind, nor is the dispute his preferred launching point for diplomatic relations with Mexico. Yet the administration is content, after five months, to just study the problem. How much study is needed to conclude that blatant violation of our NAFTA obligations, plus potentially \$8.4 billion in direct costs, plus higher transportation costs on the entire North American supply chain for the benefit of the Teamsters, is a bad idea?

Meanwhile, despite claims that the administration would work with Congress to pass long-pending trade agreements with Panama, Colombia and South Korea, those deals remain hostage to cynical politics.

The president speaks of a renewed internationalism

and multilateralism in foreign policy, yet his trade policy whiffs of nationalism and unilateralism. That won't help restore America's image abroad, where most countries regard U.S. trade policy as the face of U.S. foreign policy.

The politics of trade are changing, and Obama has an opportunity to shepherd his party back from the fringe.

Recent polls indicate that Americans are shedding their skepticism about trade's benefits. The founding of the Congressional Pro-Trade Caucus by Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Texas, this year suggests that protectionism is not the Democratic Party's creed but rather that of a loud minority led by Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, and Rep. Michael Michaud, D-Maine.

Middle-income Americans spend more of their paychecks on imports

than do wealthy Americans. Lower-income families spend a higher percentage of their budgets on necessities such as food, clothing and shelter, all of which face above-average import duties because of the efforts of unions and other protectionist lobbies. Tariffs are a highly regressive tax, which is supposed to be anathema to every card-carrying Democrat.

If Obama really wants to bring his party into the 21st century and is truly committed to economic recovery and diplomatic fence-mending, he must ditch the flaccid rhetoric and launch an unabashedly pro-trade agenda now.

Daniel Ikenson is associate director of the Center for Trade Policy Studies at the Cato Institute, and Scott Lincicome is an international trade attorney in Washington. They wrote this commentary for the Los Angeles Times.

What the next financial crisis will look like

The American economy remains in dire straits, with one worker in six unemployed or underemployed. Yet Goldman Sachs just reported record quarterly profits — and it's preparing to hand out huge bonuses, comparable to what it was paying before the crisis. What does this contrast tell us?

First, it tells us that Goldman is very good at what it does. Unfortunately, what it does is bad for America.

Second, it shows that Wall Street's bad habits — above all, the system of compensation that helped cause the financial crisis — have not gone away.

Third, it shows that by rescuing the financial system without reforming it, Washington has done nothing to protect us from a new crisis, and, in fact, has made another crisis more likely.

Let's start by talking about how Goldman makes money.

Over the past generation — ever since the banking deregulation of the Reagan years — the U.S. economy has been "financialized." The business of moving money around, of slicing, dicing and repackaging financial claims, has soared in importance compared with the actual production of useful stuff. The sector officially labeled "securities, commodity contracts and investments" has grown especially fast, from only 0.3 percent of GDP in the late 1970s to 1.7 percent of GDP in 2007.

Such growth would be fine if financialization really delivered on its promises — if financial firms made money by directing capital to its most productive uses, by developing innovative ways to



Paul Krugman

spread and reduce risk. But can anyone, at this point, make those claims with a straight face? Financial firms, we now know, directed vast quantities of capital into the construction of unsellable houses and empty shopping malls. They increased risk rather than reducing it, and concentrated risk rather than spreading it. In effect, the industry was selling dangerous patent medicine to gullible consumers.

Goldman's role in the financialization of America was similar to that of other players, except for one thing: Goldman didn't believe its own hype. Other banks invested heavily in the same toxic waste they were selling to the public at large. Goldman, famously, made a lot of money selling securities backed by subprime mortgages — then made a lot more money by selling mortgage-backed securities short, just before their value crashed. All of this was perfectly legal, but the net effect was that Goldman made profits by playing the rest of us for suckers.

And Wall Streeters have every incentive to keep playing that kind of game.

The huge bonuses Goldman will soon hand out show that financial-industry highfliers are still operating under a system of heads they win, tails other people lose. If you're a banker, and you generate big short-term profits, you get lavishly rewarded — and you don't have to give the money back if and when those profits turn

out to have been a mirage. You have every reason, then, to steer investors into taking risks they don't understand.

And the events of the past year have skewed those incentives even more, by putting taxpayers as well as investors on the hook if things go wrong.

I won't try to parse the competing claims about how much direct benefit Goldman received from recent financial bailouts, especially the government's assumption of AIG's liabilities. What's clear is that Wall Street in general, Goldman very much included, benefited hugely from the government's provision of a financial backstop — an assurance that it will rescue major financial players whenever things go wrong.

You can argue that such rescues are necessary if we're to avoid a replay of the Great Depression. In fact, I agree. But the result is that the financial system's liabilities are now backed by an implicit government guarantee.

Now, the last time there was a comparable expansion of the financial safety net, the creation of federal deposit insurance in the

1930s, it was accompanied by much tighter regulation, to ensure that banks didn't abuse their privileges. This time, new regulations are still in the drawing-board stage — and the finance lobby is already fighting against even the most basic protections for consumers.

If these lobbying efforts succeed, we'll have set the stage for an even bigger financial disaster a few years down the road. The next crisis could look something like the savings-and-loan mess of the 1980s, in which deregulated banks gambled with, or in some cases stole, taxpayers' money — except that it would involve the financial industry as a whole.

The bottom line is that Goldman's blowout quarter is good news for Goldman and the people who work there. It's good news for financial superstars in general, whose paychecks are rapidly climbing back to pre-crisis levels. But it's bad news for almost everyone else.

Paul Krugman is a columnist for The New York Times. Write to him at pkrugman@nytimes.com.

Goldman Sachs' role in the financialization of America was similar to that of other players, except for one thing: Goldman didn't believe its own hype.

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Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (PG)
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The Proposal (PG-13) 7:30 9:45
The Hangover (R) 12:00 2:15 4:45 7:00 9:15
G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra (PG-13)
 12:00 1:00 3:30 4:00 7:00 7:15 9:30 9:55
 Free G.I. Joe Collector Cards with Every Admission
Walt Disney's G-Force (PG) 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45
Aliens in the Attic (PG)
 12:00 12:45 2:15 3:00 4:45 5:15 7:30 9:45
Harry Potter & Half-Blood Prince (PG)
 Mon to Thurs 12:00 3:30 7:15 9:00
Julie & Julia (PG) 12:00 3:30 7:00 9:30
Summer Matinee #11 Plays Aug 10 to 13
Coraline (PG) or **Pink Panther 2** (PG)
 Mon to Thurs 10:30 1:00 3:30 All Seats \$2.00 without Summer Ticket

Jerome Cinema 4 255 West Main, Jerome
 All Adults \$6.00 Before 5:15 p.m.
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Group: Conservation could provide 85 percent of power

By Nicholas K. Geranios
Associated Press writer

SPOKANE, Wash. — About 85 percent of the Northwest's new power needs over the next 20 years can be achieved through conservation, according to a new plan being developed by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

Wind and natural gas sources should provide the rest of the new power, the council proposed.

The Portland-based council was created by Congress in 1980 and drafts a regional power plan every five years for Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. The next one is due by the end of this year.

The council sets policy for the federal Bonneville Power Administration, which sells electricity to 147 of the region's utilities.

"We have identified immense resources of conservation," said Tom Karier, a council member from Washington state.

Northwest states are among national leaders in

finding cost-effective conservation practices to stretch existing power supply, he said.

The council will debate the plan at its meeting in Spokane, which is due to end Wednesday. Any final decisions must be released to the public for 60 days of comment before a new plan is issued in December.

Among the predictions in the plan:

- Energy efficiency could reduce power use by 5,800 megawatts over the next 20 years, eliminating the need to build more coal plants and thus reducing greenhouse gases.

- A smart grid and other technologies will make the energy system more efficient and decentralized, improving its reliability and safety.

- Plug-in electric vehicles may become part of the energy system, and could be recharged at night and other off-peak times.

- The region will preserve and improve the capability of the hydroelectric system while providing improved

conditions for salmon and steelhead migration.

The council said conservation is already the third largest source of power at 12 percent, after hydro (55 percent) and coal (18 percent).

In the past 30 years, conservation has allowed the region to reduce power demand by 3,700 megawatts, enough to power three cities the size of Seattle, council spokesman John Harrison said. That eliminated the need to build up to six new power plants, he said.

The new plan envisions the Northwest actually using less power in 10 years than it does now, even as the population rises, he said.

Council member Dick Wallace of Washington said conservation measures cost less than half of what new power generation costs, and they don't add new carbon emissions.

However, the possible removal of four hydro dams on the Snake River to benefit salmon would likely require new natural gas plants to make up the lost power, Karier said.

Autopsy: Bighorn didn't have deadly bacteria

LEWISTON, Idaho (AP) — A bighorn ram shot by game officials in June was sick with lung disease but wasn't carrying bacteria known to have caused large-scale die-offs in wild herds, according to autopsy results.

Department of Fish and Game officials who shot the animal on June 11 had feared the ram might have transmitted the deadly lung disease that's caused Idaho bighorn numbers to dwindle to about 3,500 animals, about half of the 1990 level.

The Salmon River Canyon herd that included the 7-year-old ram is considered important because it wasn't wiped out in the 1940s.

Bighorn sheep were reintroduced starting in 1971.

"He had some lung problems, but they were not huge like we would see in typical all-age die-offs or nasty pneumonia," Mark Drew, a wildlife veterinarian for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, told the Lewiston Tribune in a story published Tuesday.

Since this ram was shot, no other animals in its herd have shown signs of illness, though they'll continue to be monitored.

Fish and Game sheep manager Dale Towell said outbreaks of fatal disease would ordinarily occur quickly.

"There is no sign that is happening," Towell said.

Die-offs like one in Hell's Canyon in 1995 and 1996 killed as many as 300 sheep.

This bighorn ram was shot after being seen in late May reportedly showing signs of pneumonia while mingling with domestic sheep that have been blamed for spreading disease to their wild cousins.

Just how bighorns get sick is in dispute in Idaho, as advocates for the iconic animals blame domestic sheep, and some ranchers aiming to protect their livelihoods argue too little is known about die-offs to pare down grazing.

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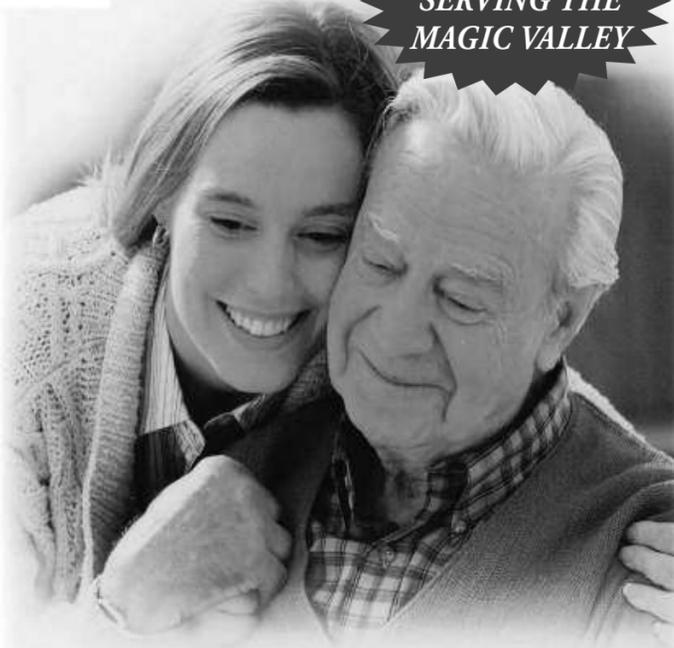
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Iconic football video releases new version this weekend; EA Sports teaming with ESPN for promotions. >> SEE BUSINESS 2

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

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Business

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2009

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



GIVING THE AUTO INDUSTRY A

VOLT



AP photo

GM SAYS NEW VOLT COULD GET 230 MPG IN CITY DRIVING

By Kimberly S. Johnson and Tom Krisher
Associated Press writers

WARRREN, Mich. — General Motors said Tuesday its Chevrolet Volt electric car could get 230 mpg in city driving, making it the first American vehicle to achieve triple-digit fuel economy if that figure is confirmed by federal regulators.

But when the four-door family sedan hits showrooms late next year, its efficiency will come with a steep sticker price: \$40,000.

Still, the Volt's fuel efficiency would be four times more than the popular Toyota Prius hybrid, the most efficient car now sold in the U.S.

Most automakers are working on similar designs, but GM would offer the first mainstream plug-in with the Volt, which seats four and was introduced at the 2007 Detroit auto show.

The Volt will join a growing fleet of cars and trucks powered by systems other than internal combustion engines.

Unlike the Prius and other traditional hybrids, the Volt is powered by an electric motor and a battery pack with a 40-mile range. After that, a small internal combustion engine kicks in to generate electricity for a total range of 300 miles. The battery pack can be recharged from a standard home outlet.

Hybrids use a small internal combustion engine combined with a high-powered battery to boost fuel efficiency. Toyota's Prius — which starts at about \$22,000 — gets 51 mpg in the city and 48 mpg on the highway.

The number of all-electric vehicles available to U.S. consumers remains limited. The Tesla Roadster, a high-end sports car with a range of 224 miles, is perhaps

INSIDE:
Find out how electric and hybrid power systems work.
See Business 2

the best known. But its \$100,000-plus price tag keeps it out of reach of all but the wealthiest drivers.

The company is working on an electric family sedan that will be priced considerably less.

Nissan Motor Co. unveiled its first electric car, the Leaf, earlier this month. Nissan said the vehicle will go on sale in Japan, the U.S. and Europe next year.

General Motors Co. is touting the 230 mpg figure following early tests that used draft guidelines from the Environmental Protection Agency for calculating the mileage of extended-range electric vehicles.

The EPA guidelines, developed with help from automakers, figure that cars such as the Volt will travel more on straight electricity in

See **VOLT**, Business 2

Hybrid efficiency

General Motors Corp. said Tuesday that its new plug-in hybrid car, the Volt, should get triple-digit miles per gallon.

City miles per gallon, HYBRID VEHICLES	2011 Chevrolet Volt
2010 Toyota Prius	51
2000 Honda Insight	49
2009 Toyota Prius	48
2001 Toyota Prius	42
2010 Ford Fusion	41
2010 Honda Insight	40
2010 Ford Escape	34
2009 Chevrolet Malibu	26

NOTE: The Volt uses a different powertrain than traditional hybrids. Its MPG has been calculated by GM using EPA guidelines.

SOURCE: EPA

Owner of Burley ethanol plant posts bigger loss

The Associated Press

BURLEY — Pacific Ethanol Inc., California-based company that shuttered its Burley facility earlier this year, said its second-quarter loss more than tripled on slowing sales and struggles to restructure its debt.

Pacific said in a Securities and Exchange Commission filing its loss in the three months ending June 30 widened to \$27.4 million, from \$8.3 million in 2008.

Sales at the Sacramento-based company plummeted

by nearly two-thirds to just \$70 million, from \$197 million.

Pacific has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection for five of its units, after blaming unfavorable market conditions for producing ethanol.

Its Burley facility remains closed.

The company says it can't guarantee successful talks to restructure its debt or raise capital to stay afloat, meaning it may have to seek further protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.

Productivity rises in 2Q while labor costs plunge

By Martin Crutsinger
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Productivity surged in the spring by the largest amount in almost six years while labor costs plunged at the fastest pace in nine years. The results point to a recession losing steam, but they do not bode well for the unemployed or those forced to work shorter weeks who were hoping for more hours.

The Labor Department said Tuesday that productivity, the amount of output per hour of work, rose at an annual rate of 6.4 percent in the April-June quarter, while unit labor costs

dropped 5.8 percent. Both results were greater than economists expected.

Productivity can help boost living standards because it means companies can pay their workers more, with those wage increases financed by rising output. However, in this recession, companies have been using their productivity gains from layoffs and other cost cuts not to hire again but to bolster their profits.

The result: Many companies have been reporting better-than-expected second-quarter earnings despite falling sales.

See **RISE**, Business 2

Economy may be improving, but jobs slow to come

By Stephen Manning
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Employers who have cut jobs over the past year are in no hurry to start hiring again just because the recession is tapering off.

From a North Carolina machine maker to an Oregon heating-and-cooling company, small business owners say they need to see several months of rising sales before they start adding staff.

Because labor is the biggest expense for most companies, that kind of

caution is typical at the end of recessions. After the last one, in 2001, unemployment kept rising and didn't peak until June 2003 — 19 months into the economic recovery.

This time around, some economists say unemployment may not return to healthy levels until 2013. Companies have been slashing workers' hours, squeezing more work out of the employees who are left and relying on cheaper temporary staffers to fill the gaps.

See **JOBS**, Business 2

Crapo: Amtrak route may still need local support

The Associated Press

BOISE — Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, says the state and local communities may still be asked to help cover some of the costs of restoring Amtrak's Pioneer Route across southern Idaho.

But those costs may not be as significant as some once thought, Crapo said.

Idaho's senior senator met with leaders in Boise on Monday about plans to resurrect the route, which stretched from Denver to Portland and included stops in Idaho cities like Pocatello, Shoshone, Boise and Nampa. The route was discontinued in 1997 due to

ongoing financial losses.

Amtrak is expected to issue a preliminary report on restoring the route any day. A final report is due to Congress in October.

Crapo, along with congressional leaders from Oregon and Utah, has worked for several years to get Amtrak to bring back the Pioneer Route. Initially, Amtrak suggested that restoring passenger service along the route would require significant subsidies from states and communities, enough to make the line self-sufficient.

But the dynamics changed



Crapo

last fall, in part when Congress approved spending \$13 billion over the next five years for Amtrak. The legislation also required Amtrak to conduct a thorough study of the Pioneer

Route and consider the route it as part of Amtrak's overall transportation operation.

"That means it'll probably reduce, if not eliminate the question of whether states and localities would need to step up and provide the kind of subsidy to make the route viable," Crapo told The Associated Press Tuesday.

Amtrak got another key financial boost earlier this year when lawmakers

authorized another \$1.3 billion in federal stimulus cash. Some of that money has helped the rail service refurbish its fleet of passenger cars.

Crapo says communities along the route may still have smaller financial stake, including track maintenance, managing depots or other support.

Across southern Idaho, support has been growing for bringing back the passenger rail service.

Earlier this month, officials in the resort town of Sun Valley approved a resolution backing efforts to return service to the region, including a stop in Shoshone.

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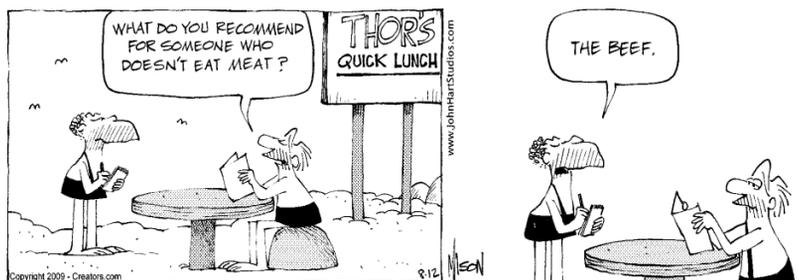
COMMODITIES

For more see Business 2

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Aug. Gold	946.2	▲ 1.2	Sept. Silver	14.30	▼ .03

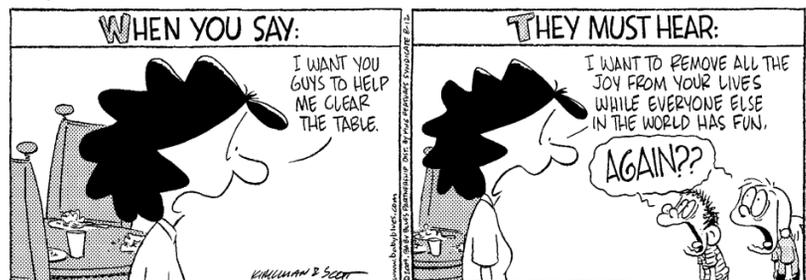
B.C.

By Johnny Hart



Baby Blues

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



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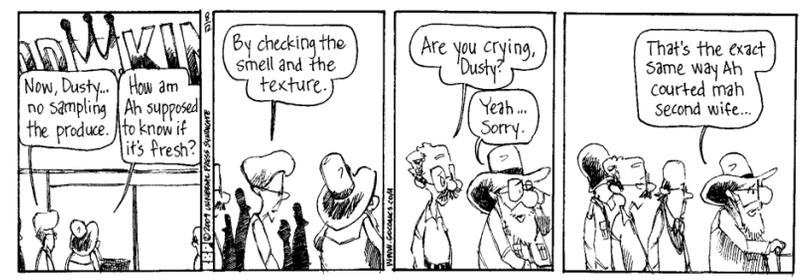
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By Scott Adams



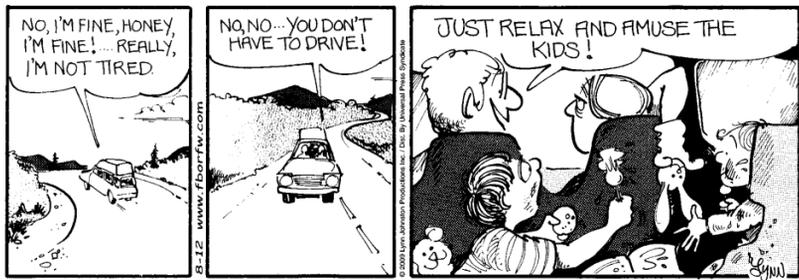
The Elderberries

By Phil Frank and Joe Troise



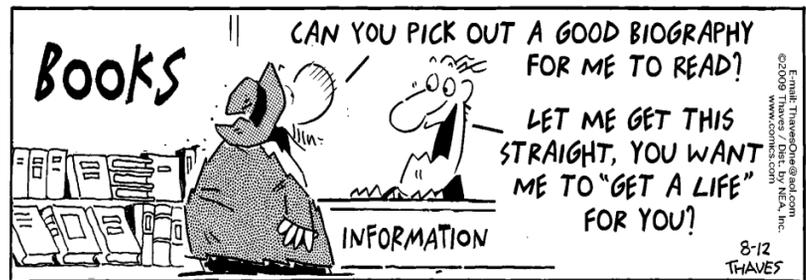
For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Frank and Ernest

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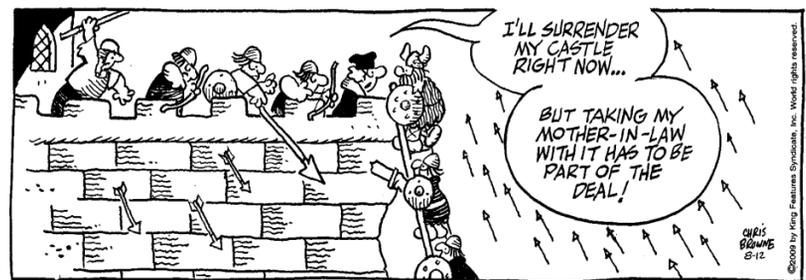
Garfield

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Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Hi and Lois

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Luann

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Classic Peanuts

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By Stephan Pastis



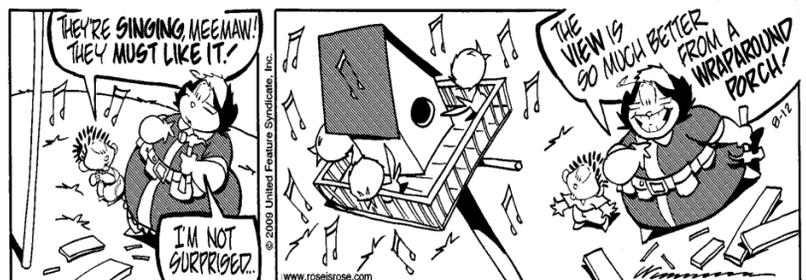
Pickles

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The Wizard of Id

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In a spice-loving world, everybody eats **CURRY**

By Hosanna Kabakoro • Times-News correspondent

Dinner preparation in the Shah household is a family affair.

Twenty-three-year-old Mon Shah talks in Nepali as she whacks chicken into bite-sized pieces with a large cleaver. Prava Shah, her mother-in-law, quietly listens while frying a sizzling paste of chili powder, garlic and turmeric. Binita Shah, 12, chops what looks like a mountain of red onions, as 8-year-old Bipen hovers underfoot hoping for a taste. The smoke from the frying chili paste can be smelled from the parking lot of their Twin Falls apartment.

"In Nepal, we used a mortar and pestle made of stone to make our chili paste, but here in America, I like to use a blender. It's so much faster," Mon says in English, laughing.

Prava adds the diced chicken and onions to the smoking pot of chili and mixes it with a large spoon. Then she adds tomatoes and a cup of water.

"We eat kari (curry) almost every day," Binita says.

"Sometimes we use green beans or potatoes, and other days we have lamb or chicken."

"Kari is easy to make, and although our children have grown to love pizza and hamburgers, we still like our traditional Nepali curry best," Mon adds.

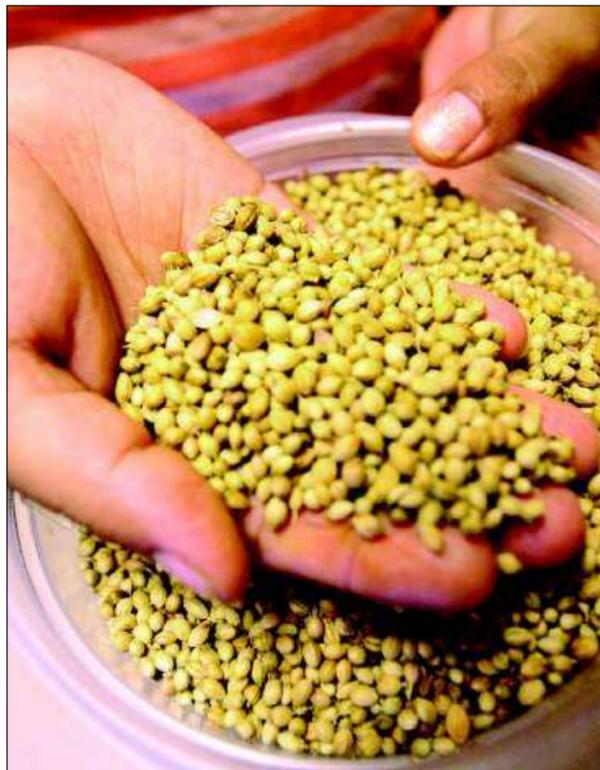
The Shahs won't be the only Idahoans eating curry tonight.

At Prasai's Thai Cuisine in Twin Falls, fragrant bowls of red, yellow and green curry are whisked from the steaming kitchen to eager patrons. Most Thai curries rely on coconut milk, shrimp paste, kaffir lime leaves, galangal and lemongrass for flavor.

"Some people say Thai curry is not as hot as Indian curry," said Prasai's owner Rick Johnson. "We serve seven kinds of curry, and customers can get it mild or blisteringly hot, depending on their preference."

Another version of curry is found in many Korean homes. Made with large chunks of potatoes, onion, carrots and beef, Korean curry — perhaps the mildest of all curries with a distinct cinnamon flavor — is served over rice with kimchi, a fermented cabbage and chili condiment.

See **CURRY**, Food 2



Photos by MEAGAN THOMPSON/Times-News
The raw ingredients will be turned into a delicious mixture of spices that top Mon Shah's chicken in a rich orange curry sauce.



Bipen Shah, 8, relishes a plate of Mon Shah's chicken curry. The curry sauce that Mon makes can be used with a variety of meats, and she prefers lamb and chicken.



A key ingredient to Mon Shah's curry dish is this spicy turmeric powder. She buys her spices at specialty stores in Twin Falls and Boise.



Mon Shah prepares chicken with a makeshift block of wood and a cleaver. She says she prefers this method because it is how she has always prepared the meat for her curry sauce.

Mon Shah and her mother-in-law, Prava Shah, make a curry dish Aug. 3 at their home in Twin Falls.



CURRY QUESTIONS

What is curry?

Curry, or kari, is not so much a dish as a cooking method. Kari traditionally refers to a meat or vegetable cooked in spicy gravy. Curry can be made wet or dry and can be centered around almost any main ingredient including vegetables — potatoes, carrots, beans, squash — or meats like lamb, chicken, fish, shrimp, beef, duck or goat.

Where did curry originate?

There are many theories about the origin of kari, with the most common being that kari originated in the southern part of India in Tamil Nadu. Today, you can find variations of curry in Korea, Indonesia, Thailand, Portugal, Nepal and even Twin Falls.

Is all curry hot and spicy?

No. You may make your curry to suit the taste of your family. In Thailand, the heat of a curry dish is determined by the color of the paste used to make it. Green curry, made with fresh basil and green chilis, is typically the hottest, and yellow curry, made with turmeric, coriander and lemongrass, is usually quite mild. Some curries, such as potato curry, use little or no chili and are thus usually served to younger family members.

Sources: *The Complete Asian Cookbook*, Charmaine Solomon, Summit Books, 1976; and *Keo's Thai Cuisine*, Keo Sananikone, Bangkok Thai Cuisine Inc., 1985.

Curry

Continued from Food 1

Sonia Danel, a Twin Falls resident who grew up in South Korea, said that although curry is not traditional Korean food, it is popular as a fast food and is usually served by busy moms as a quick meal.

"We buy our curry powder and add it to fried carrots, potatoes, onions and beef, so it is quite easy to make," she said.

Other versions of curry can be found in Malaysia, where anise and ginger are added, and in Indonesia, where spicy seafood curry is often served over noodles rather than rice. Many epicureans claim Hungarian goulash and Portuguese cozido are actually variations of curry.

Curry is an economical way to make tough cuts of meat tender and flavorful and, depending on the recipe used, can turn plain



Mon Shah's curry is ready. Shah, who is from Nepal but now lives in Twin Falls, gets the spices for her curry recipe at the Asian Food Market in Twin Falls or makes a trip to Boise.

MEAGAN THOMPSON/Times-News

fish or chicken into an exotic meal sure to impress friends and family.

Hosanna Kabakoro may be reached at HNLK news@q.com.

MRS. SHAH'S SPICY NEPALI CHICKEN KARI

4 tablespoons turmeric
2 teaspoons cumin
2 tablespoons ground red chili pepper (use more or less to taste)
8 cloves garlic
1/2 teaspoon chopped fresh ginger
3 tablespoons vegetable oil
2 tablespoons water
1 tablespoon vegetable oil, for frying

2 very large red onions, diced
4 roughly chopped tomatoes (or 8 if using small ones)
1 whole chicken, cut into bite-sized pieces
1/2 cup water

Place the first 7 ingredients in a blender and blend to a paste. Heat 1 tablespoon of vegetable oil in a large pot, and fry onions until light brown. Add chopped

tomatoes and stir-fry until soft. Add the paste and chicken and stir to coat all pieces. Slowly add the 1/2 cup water and simmer for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Serve with rice and raita. (For raita, dice cucumbers and mix with plain yogurt, a pinch of salt, a dash of red pepper and a pinch of toasted cumin seeds.)

Recipe courtesy of Mon Shah.

WHERE TO GET INGREDIENTS

Most ingredients for curry can be found in your local grocery store. However, some curries require more exotic ingredients like black cumin seed, lemongrass and Thai curry paste. There are a few places in southern Idaho to find exotic spices, and a trip to one of these shops is worth the time:

Asian Food Market, 404 Addison Ave. W., Twin Falls; 736-7111
India Food, 602 Orchard St., Boise; 387-0000
There are also online stores that specialize in spices and specialty ingredients, including www.zamourispices.com.

Chicken salad with a dose of ginger

The Washington Post

This chicken salad gets a double dose of ginger: in the form of fresh slices in the poaching liquid, and in powdered form in the dressing. Crunch and color come from the snow peas and scallion.

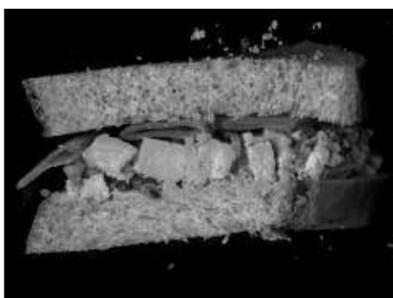
GINGERED CHICKEN SALAD SANDWICH

1 serving

2 cups water
3-inch piece peeled ginger root, cut crosswise into 1/4-inch-thick slices
1 small boneless, skinless chicken breast half (about 4 ounces)
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
2 teaspoons mayonnaise
1 scallion, white and light-green parts, cut into thin slices on the diagonal
Kosher or sea salt
Freshly ground black pepper
2 slices challah or brioche (may substitute any soft sandwich bread)
4 snow peas, stem ends and strings removed

Combine the water and ginger in a medium saucepan over medium-high heat; bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to medium-low and gently cook for 5 minutes.

Add the chicken (making sure it is completely submerged), then remove the saucepan from the heat. Cover and let the chicken sit for 15 to 20 minutes or until no trace of pink remains in the center. Transfer



PATTERSON CLARK/Washington Post

to a plate to cool; reserve a little of the cooking liquid and the cooked ginger slices.

While the chicken is cooling, combine the ground ginger with 1 teaspoon of the cooking liquid in a medium bowl; stir until the spice has dissolved.

Finely chop 8 slices of the cooked ginger and add them to the bowl, along with the mayonnaise, scallion and salt and pepper to taste; mix well to form a dressing.

Cut the cooled chicken into large chunks, then add to the bowl; toss to coat evenly. Taste and add more of the cooked ginger (chop first) as needed.

To assemble the sandwich, spoon the chicken salad evenly over 1 piece of bread. Arrange the snow peas on top, and cover with the remaining slice of bread.

Cut in half and serve.

Per serving: 429 calories, 34 g protein, 41 g carbohydrates, 14 g fat, 3 g saturated fat, 110 mg cholesterol, 788 mg sodium, 2 g dietary fiber, 2 g sugar.

Learning the Spanish wine regions

Times-News

Steve Thies and Sean Stephens of Ketchum's Tastevin Distributing will lead a session titled "Wine Regions of Spain - A Spanish Wine Adventure" from 7 to 9 p.m. Aug. 19 at Rudy's - A Cook's Paradise, 147 Main Ave. W. in Twin Falls.

Cost is \$30.

"Spain has a fascinating wine history and produces some of the highest quality and best values in the world," Rudy's said in a class announcement. "Spain captures third place, worldwide, for its wine producing capacity. The U.S. imports of Spanish wines have seen a 75 percent increase in the last five years, and will likely keep gaining steam over the next five years."

Thies and Stephens will highlight eight wines and explore the main varietals and growing regions. Sign up: 733-5477.

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Reader mail: Is it legal to make photocopies of coupons?

Once again, I'd love to answer some questions from readers like you who are learning to super-coupon:

Q: "My friend and I have been reading your column every week and we love your tips. My question is about Internet coupons. I know that you can usually print two copies of each one. We would all like to have more coupons. My friend said it is okay to make a copy of the coupons that print from the computer, but I don't think this is right. Is it?"

A: Many new coupon users wrongfully assume it is OK to make a photocopy of Internet-printed coupons. Since they printed it out from their computer, they conclude it must be fine to make more. But making photocopies of coupons is illegal. It's coupon fraud. I've often equated this to photocopying a dollar bill. We all know that's illegal!

Internet coupons have unique identifiers and barcodes. When a store submits coupons to be redeemed, a coupon clearinghouse scans the barcodes and the store receives reimbursement for each unique barcode. If you make a photocopy of a \$1 Internet coupon, each copy will be identical to the one before it. If you make 20 copies and use them all at the same store, your store will be reimbursed for only one of those coupons. You will essentially be stealing \$19 from your store.

Truthfully, we all pay the price when shoppers copy coupons and submit them for savings. In many areas, stores have become increasingly wary of Internet coupons. Some refuse to accept them at all, a big frustration for shoppers. Finding and printing out coupons using the Internet is a great way to supplement the coupons we receive in the newspaper each week, allowing us to obtain a larger number of coupons for the items we buy the most. Companies that offer printable coupons on the Internet usually set the coupons' print limit at two copies, so always go back and try to print the coupon again until you've received the message that the coupon is at its print limit. Remember, there are also times that a printable coupon will have higher print limits, too.

Recently, a major cereal manufacturer had a \$1 coupon on its Web site with a print limit of 14! That was a great opportunity to get a lot of coupons at one time. But it's never worth committing coupon fraud and risking prosecution over photocopying coupons.

COUPON QUEEN

Jill Cataldo



At that point, the manufacturer pays the store back for the coupons that have been redeemed.

Depending on when the store submits its coupons to the clearinghouse, some expired coupons may still be valid for reimbursement. But if you're using coupons that are several years old, the store is definitely "eating" the loss on those coupons.

So why do some stores do it? It gives shoppers an incentive to choose that store over its competition. Accepting expired coupons may give them an edge over a store in the same market that does not accept them.

Coupon clippers can buy the previous Sunday's Times-News (minimum 10 copies) for 50 cents each at the Times-News office for extra coupon savings.

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Software sommelier brings wine advice home

By Michelle Locke
Associated Press writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Building it took eight months and the combined brainpower of math, code and food-and-wine geeks.

The result is a new computer-generated wine pairing service that developers say uses cutting edge technology to answer an age-old question: What wine to serve with dinner?

"We think it's going to be tremendously helpful for people," says James Oliver Cury, executive editor of food recipe site Epicurious.com, which recently partnered with wine database Snooth to add the pairing suggestions to thousands of its recipes.

The recommendations are based on an algorithm that involved breaking down the recipes into hundreds of categories, including flavor profiles, ingredients and preparation techniques.

Among other things, the algorithm looks for words in proximity. Boiled beef with baked potatoes, for instance, is not the same as baked beef with boiled potatoes.

Pairings are listed at the bottom of recipes, along with the price of the wine — the majority are under \$20. Clicking on photos of the bottle or label brings up reviews and shopping information.

But can an algorithm replace the human touch in the very subjective decision of what wine to have with dinner?

Not really, says master sommelier Geoff Kruth, wine director of the Farmhouse Inn & Restaurant in Sonoma County's Russian River Valley. The trouble with software pairings, he says, is that they only factor in the food.

"Just as much of the wine and food pairing is about the person that's drinking it," he says.

Kruth says he looked at a few Epicurious recipes and found several recommendations for Oregon pinot noirs.



AP photo

Philip James, CEO of Snooth, the world's largest wine Web site, looks over a number of bottles at the Terroir wine shop in San Francisco. Point. And sip. That's the thinking behind Snooth's new software sommelier, computer-generated wine pairings available with the click of a mouse.

Not a bad choice, but one that made him wonder about the scope of the recommendations. "It seemed there were a lot of the same styles of wine that were repeated," he says.

Snooth CEO Philip James says there was an effort to come up with wines that are widely available, but notes there are multiple recommendations for each dish, with some wines being more esoteric choices for the adventurous.

Beyond that, he notes there was a concerted effort to base recommendations on the expertise of real-life experts.

"It was important for me to get across that we were not building a sentient, thinking machine. This is not the Terminator," he says. "This is basically cracking open the heads of the finest food and wine critics that we could find and basically scooping their brains out and putting them into a database."

On the plus side, Kruth likes the way the system gets people talking about wine options.

"Things like that are exciting because they can lead consumers to try things

that they otherwise wouldn't have tried. I like that people are thinking about food and wine pairings," he says.

New York-based Snooth (the name is derived from a town in James' native Cornwall in the south of England) is an interactive database of wines with more than 500,000 monthly users. Snooth doesn't sell wine directly but provides access to a network of more than 11,000 merchants.

Epicurious has more than 25,000 professionally tested recipes as well as 75,000 member-submitted dishes. Pairings will be available for the tested recipes, except for breakfasts and meals labeled as kid-friendly.

A recipe for grilled chicken breasts with honeydew salsa, for instance, yielded a dozen wine recommendations, including some roses and chardonnays, as well as grenache, a red wine.

The wine recommendations also have an advertising component in which companies can be showcased as the "featured partner." However, Cury says such matches will always be clearly marked as ads and will be appropriate for the recipe.

"Just as much of the wine and food pairing is about the person that's drinking it."

— Geoff Kruth, wine director of the Farmhouse Inn & Restaurant in Sonoma County's Russian River Valley

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Epicurean Evening chefs raise money for cancer care

Times-News

On Sept. 12, chefs from around the region will gather at Canyon Crest Dining & Event Center in Twin Falls to donate their favorite menu items to an Epicurean Evening fundraiser that benefits local cancer care at St. Luke's Mountain States Tumor Institute.

The chefs will provide an array of dishes and compete to win the Judges' Award and a People's Choice Award.

Hayden Beverage donated

a variety of wines to complement each dish. Magic Valley businesses also donated merchandise to the silent auction and a food-and-beverage-themed live auction. As the major sponsor of Epicurean, the Times-News will present the People's Choice Award to the winning chef.

Dr. Richard Miranda, a St. Luke's oncologist, will discuss new developments in cancer care for Magic Valley patients, and Larry Flynn will highlight the

Epicurean's live auction packages. Local pianist Andrew Bortz will entertain guests during the first part of the evening, and the High Street Combo will close out the night with lively dance hits.

Epicurean Evening tickets are \$100 each; for tax purposes, \$70 of each ticket may be considered a charitable gift. Ticket information: 737-2480 or http://stlukesonline.org/magic_valley/ways_to_give/epicurean.php.

Keep it local with new food guide

Times-News

Rural Roots, a regional, nonprofit food and farming organization based in northern Idaho, is distributing its free 2009-10 "Local Food Guide for Idaho and the Inland Northwest." The guide is a reference for consumers seeking to buy locally grown, organic or sustainably raised food products.

The guide includes con-

tact information and detailed farm descriptions for more than 85 member farms and ranches throughout Idaho, eastern Washington and eastern Oregon, divided into five regions. All of the farms listed use sustainable or organic practices and market their products directly to consumers, Rural Roots said. The guide also includes listings of 60 farmers markets through-

out the Inland Northwest, and ads from more than 30 businesses involved in supporting the local food movement.

The free "Local Food Guide for Idaho and the Inland Northwest" is available at farmers markets and businesses throughout the region.

For locations nearest you, or to order a copy, call Rural Roots at (208) 883-3462.

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Thank you to the Times-News and our loyal customers for a great year!

Lori & Don Chandler,
Cleaning Center Owners




CELEBRATING FARMERS MARKETS



Commemorating Idaho Farmers Market Week, Celia Gould, director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, rings the bell and announces the start of the Twin Falls Farmers Market on Saturday as marketing coordinator Diane Stevens looks on. Gould issued a Locavore's Challenge, urging Idahoans to eat locally grown foods; her recipes using Idaho products are available at www.idahopreferred.com. Despite Saturday's inclement weather, the multitude of local vendors and products still attracted shoppers to the weekly market. Stevens says the market — on Twin Falls' North College Road — is drawing 40 to 50 vendors each Saturday at this point in the season.



Photos by DOUG GASKILL/for the Times-News

YOUR LOCAL-FOODS GUIDE

Visit www.magicvalley.com/farmers_market/ for an interactive map of all south-central Idaho farmers markets, with details on their hours and seasons.

A tasteful way to eat lighter

By Stephanie Witt Sedgwick
Special to The Washington Post

Many summers ago, I was at a barbecue where one guest accused another of having stolen a recipe for green bean salad. I was quick to put an end to the conversation. Few recipes are 100 percent original, and the pairing of green beans and feta is hardly unusual. The match is a natural, so naturally there are many versions of this salad.

I've tried to perfect mine by using only the zest of the lemon, so the beans don't discolor; by adding chopped sweet onions to keep that ingredient from biting; and by choosing dill, which goes nicely with the feta.

I've also learned that less is more: It takes only a small hunk of feta, nicely crumbled, to flavor the beans. I like to use a mild feta so as not to overwhelm the rest of the salad components.

If your recipe's a lot like mine, I'm not going to fight about it. I'll just consider you a cook with good taste.

The salad may be assembled and refrigerated up to 3 days in advance.

GREEN BEAN SALAD WITH FETA AND LEMON

4 servings

1 tablespoon salt, for

the cooking water
1 pound green beans (ends trimmed), cut into 1/2- to 2-inch long pieces
2 ounces good-quality feta cheese, crumbled
Fronds from 2 stems dill, chopped (2 table-spoons)
1/2 medium sweet onion, cut into small dice, such as Vidalia (1/2 cup)
Grated zest of 1 lemon (2 teaspoons)
1 tablespoon olive oil
Freshly ground black pepper

Have ready a large bowl of ice water.

Bring a 4-quart pot of water to a boil over high heat. Add the salt and the beans; cook for about 6 minutes, until the beans are tender. Immediately transfer them to the ice-water bath. Let the beans cool for 5 minutes, then use clean dish towels to drain and dry the beans.

Transfer the beans to a large bowl; add the feta, dill, onion, lemon zest, oil and pepper to taste, and toss to combine. Serve immediately, or cover and refrigerate for up to 3 days.

Allow the salad to come to room temperature before serving.

Per serving: 108 calories, 4 g protein, 10 g carbohydrates, 7 g fat, 3 g saturated fat, 13 mg cholesterol, 166 mg sodium, 4 g dietary fiber, 3 g sugar.



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Pulled pork sandwich on the cheap

By Kate Shatzkin
The Baltimore Sun

Summer weather left me in the mood for barbecue. I saw this pulled pork recipe while I was paging through "Eat Cheap But Eat Well," by Charles Mattocks, and it sounded delicious.

A bonus for families is that this is a slow-cooker recipe. I prepped this on a Sunday morning — Sundays seem busier than weekdays lately — and after a hectic day of church, dance rehearsals, visits to the local pond, etc., the house was filled with a tempting fragrance.

It was a pipe dream to think my kids would like this, though.

They had never tried shredded pork. I served it on potato rolls (which turned out to be the perfect foil, since this falling-apart dish is a bit difficult to eat on its own). They each took one bite and howled in protest.

Funny, since this recipe is sweeter than it is spicy. Oh, well. More for me.

I should point out that this recipe is quite high, per serving, in sodium. It's all that chili sauce. So you probably will want to save it for a treat.

FINGER-LICKIN' PULLED PORK

1 pound boneless pork butt or shoulder, visible fat trimmed
1 large Vidalia onion, finely chopped
one 12-ounce bottle mild chili sauce or Louisiana-



KATE SHATZKIN/The Baltimore Sun

style chili sauce
1/3 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar
1/3 cup apple cider vinegar
1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
2 teaspoons minced garlic
1 tablespoon chili powder
1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

In the crock of a slow cooker, combine the pork, onion, chili sauce, brown sugar, vinegar, Worcestershire sauce, garlic, chili powder and pepper, mixing well. Cover and cook on low until the pork falls apart when stirring, 10 hours or more.

When the pork is extremely tender, remove it

from the crock to a plate, shred it with a knife or fork, return the meat to the crock, and mix it well into the sauce.

Serve on potato rolls if you like, with beans and vegetables of your choice (corn in the summertime).

Serves 4.
Per serving (without rolls): 395 calories, 26 grams protein, 8 grams fat, 3 grams saturated fat, 53 grams carbohydrate, 1 gram fiber, 73 milligrams cholesterol, 2,369 milligrams sodium.



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Three U.S. soldiers killed in Afghanistan

By Laura King
Los Angeles Times

KABUL, Afghanistan — Taliban militants killed three American troops in volatile southern Afghanistan, U.S. military authorities said Tuesday, part of a recent wave of violence that could complicate next week's Afghan elections.

The latest U.S. deaths brought to at least 18 the number of American soldiers who have died in August in Afghanistan, and pushed fatalities among foreign troops for the month to 27, according to the independent Web site icasualties.org.

The burgeoning violence also claimed the lives of at least nine Afghan civilians and two Afghan soldiers, according to Afghan officials. Afghan authorities also reported the deaths of 22 insurgents in two clashes late Monday.

Western military officials have moved away from estimating the numbers of militants killed, saying such a "body count" does not reflect the coalition's main priority of keeping Afghan civilians safe.

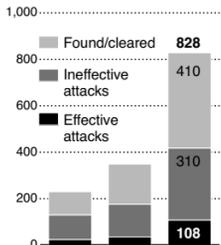
Afghans are to vote Aug. 20 in presidential and provincial assembly elections. But there are fears that the turnout may be low in areas most affected by violence, including the south and east. About a dozen voting districts are considered outside government control.

Few details were provided by military officials about the latest American deaths, other than all were due to "hostile fire incidents" and took place over a three-day period beginning Saturday. In general, military authorities seek to avoid giving out information — the effectiveness of an insurgent rocket attack on a particular outpost, for example — that they believe could help the

IED attacks rise in Afghanistan

Improvised explosive devices (IEDs) killed 49 and wounded 238 coalition troops last month, compared to 8 deaths and 67 injured in July 2008.

IED incidents in Afghanistan, for month of July



SOURCE: Joint IED Defeat Organization

insurgents plan future attacks.

Also on Tuesday, Western military officials disclosed the death a day earlier of a Polish soldier during a joint patrol with Afghan troops in eastern Afghanistan. Most of the coalition troops serving in Afghanistan's east are Americans, but there is a small Polish contingent. The area is most vulnerable to infiltration by fighters based in Pakistan's lawless tribal areas, which are just on the other side of the frontier.

An American soldier captured by the Taliban in the country's east on June 30 is still missing despite a huge manhunt, and the commander holding him is believed to lead attacks in Afghanistan but use a base inside Pakistan.

It has been a costly summer for foreign forces in Afghanistan. July was the worst month to date in the nearly 8-year-old conflict in terms of military deaths; at least 75 coalition soldiers were killed, including 44 Americans. Most of the violence has been concentrated in a swath of the country's south — provinces including Helmand, Kandahar, Zabul and Uruzgan.

Myanmar's Suu Kyi convicted, returned to isolation with resolve, charisma intact

By Denis D. Gray
Associated Press writer

BANGKOK — Myanmar's generals have again succeeded in isolating democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, but her fleeting emergence during a grueling trial showed that her steely resolve and charisma remain intact.

A Myanmar court on Tuesday convicted the 64-year-old Nobel Peace laureate of violating her house arrest by allowing an uninvited American to stay at her home. Her sentence of three years in prison with hard labor was quickly commuted to 18 months house arrest after an order from the head of the military-ruled country, Senior Gen. Than Shwe.

Suu Kyi has been in detention for 14 of the last 20 years, and the extension will remove her from the political scene next year when the junta holds its first election since 1990. Her party won in the polls then but was never allowed to take power.

Her conviction and continued detention were condemned by world leaders and sparked demonstrations in cities from London to Japan. The European Union began preparing new sanctions against the country's military regime and a group of 14 Nobel Laureates, including the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, called on the U.N. Security Council to take strong action against the country.

President Barack Obama termed Suu Kyi's conviction a violation of "the universal principle of human rights" and said she should be released immediately.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called for the release of more than 2,000 political prisoners, including John

House arrest extended

A Myanmar court convicted Aung San Suu Kyi on Tuesday of violating her house arrest by allowing an uninvited American to stay at her home. She has been in detention 14 of the last 20 years.

1980-90s	2000s
<p>1989: Suu Kyi is placed under house arrest</p> <p>May 1990: Suu Kyi's party wins general election; junta refuses to honor result</p> <p>1995: Suu Kyi is released from house arrest</p>	<p>September 2000: Suu Kyi is placed back under house arrest</p> <p>2002: Razali Ismail, special U.N. envoy for Myanmar, helps secure release of Suu Kyi</p> <p>2003: Suu Kyi again is placed under house arrest</p> <p>May 2006: Suu Kyi's house arrest is extended</p>

Yettaw, the American Suu Kyi was charged with harboring. He was convicted along with her and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment with hard labor.

One of Suu Kyi's lawyers, Nyan Win, said that she had instructed her defense team to proceed with an appeal and that they had applied for permission to meet with her Wednesday.

Supporters had suggested that the government would look for ways to keep Suu Kyi isolated until after the elections.

"The outcome of this trial has never been in doubt," said Jared Genser, president of Freedom Now and Suu Kyi's international counsel, noting that her continued detention was in "clear violation" of their own laws.

But even locked away in her crumbling lakeside mansion, Suu Kyi — daughter of the country's slain independence leader, Gen. Aung San — remains a potentially powerful force in the country that has remained under harsh military rule for nearly half a century.

Josef Silverstein, professor emeritus at Rutgers University and a Myanmar expert, said that while Suu Kyi may never lead the country, her influence will continue.

wished to avoid international criticism and ease internal pressure, said Win Tin, a senior member of her National League for Democracy party.

"This is a clever decision by the government," said Win Tin, an ex-prisoner released last year after serving almost 19 years. Suu Kyi could have received a maximum sentence of five years' imprisonment at hard labor.

Suu Kyi looked alert but tired during the 90-minute court session. She stood as the verdict was announced and then thanked foreign diplomats for attending her trial.

"I look forward to working with you in the future for the peace and prosperity of my country and the region," Suu Kyi said in a soft voice to diplomats seated nearby. She then was led out of the courtroom.

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Wreckage of plane found in Papua New Guinea

SYDNEY (AP) — Rescuers in a helicopter saw no immediate signs of life today at the wreckage of a chartered plane that crashed while carrying 13 people to a tourist region of Papua New Guinea, the airline said.

Papua New Guinea Civil Aviation Authority head Joseph Kintau told The Associated Press the plane was located in "extremely difficult" terrain in a heavily forested region of mountains a day after it disappeared, and that it was not clear whether there were survivors.

A radio signal had been received and search and rescue officials were attempting to access the site today, Kintau told The AP. He said he had no other details.

Airlines PNG said in a statement later that the helicopter crew that spotted the downed plane saw "no immediate signs of activity" near the wreckage.

The plane, carrying 11 passengers and two crew, vanished Tuesday morning in bad weather on approach to an airport nestled in the rugged Kokoda region. Nine Australians, one Japanese and three Papua New

Guineans were on board.

Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith said the wreckage was located at an altitude of 5,500 feet and weather conditions were deteriorating again, making searchers' attempts to reach the aircraft by helicopter and on foot very difficult.

"Given the crash site has been located, we have very, very grave concerns about the safety and welfare of the nine Australians, the three Papua New Guineans and the one Japanese citizen on board the plane," Smith told parliament.

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Families say 3 American hikers entered Iran by mistake

By Patrick Walters
Associated Press writer

PHILADELPHIA — Three American hikers detained in Iran for nearly two weeks entered the country by mistake and their families are hoping for a quick resolution that will reunite them with their children, the families said in a statement Tuesday.

Joshua Fattal, freelance journalist Shane Bauer and Bauer's girlfriend, Sarah Shourd, were hiking near a waterfall on a mountain in Iraq's self-ruled Kurdish region on July 31 when they accidentally crossed the border into Iran, according to family members.

They contacted a colleague to say they had entered Iran by mistake and were surrounded by troops, according to a Kurdish official in Iraq. Iran's state television said the Americans were arrested after they did not heed warnings from Iranian border guards.

"Shane, Sarah and Josh are young travelers who share a great love of the world and a deep respect for different cultures, societies and religions," the families said in a statement to The Associated Press. "We believe that when the Iranian authorities speak to our children, they will realize that Shane, Sarah and Josh had no intention of entering Iran and will allow them to leave the country and reunite with their families. We continue to hope that this misunderstanding will be resolved as quickly as possible."

The families said they would not comment beyond the statement.

In Washington, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said the detained Americans "should be returned to their families as soon as possible" and that diplomats should be given access to them.

All three hikers are graduates of the University of California, Berkeley.

Bauer, 27, and Shourd, 31, previously lived in the San Francisco Bay area.

Bauer has been living in

Damascus, Syria, since the fall and is studying Arabic, the families said. A freelance journalist, he had been hired by the Pacific News Service to cover the elections in northern Iraq's self-ruled Kurdish region.

Shourd has written for a number of online publications, including Brave New Traveler. She also was living in Damascus, where she was teaching English and preparing for graduate school, the families said.

Fattal, whose parents live in the Philadelphia suburb of Elkins Park, spent three years recently with a group dedicated to sustainable farming near Cottage Grove, Ore. He lived with about nine others and

worked as the group's intern coordinator before leaving about eight months ago.

Fattal, 27, traveled overseas as a teaching assistant with the International Honors Program from

January to June. He had been a student in the program during college.

He had been visiting Bauer and Shourd in Damascus just before the hiking trip, the families said.

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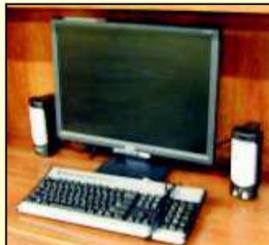
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\$65 million in jewelry stolen from London store

LONDON (AP) — Two well-dressed thieves walked into a London Bond Street jewelry store last week and, after brandishing handguns at shop workers, made off with \$65 million worth of gems in one of Britain's biggest jewelry heists, police said Tuesday.

Security camera footage released by police shows two men in crisp suits entering Graff Diamonds' flagship store Thursday afternoon. It was the third time a Graff store in London had been targeted in a high-profile raid in the past six years.

The men stole dozens of high-end rings, bracelets, necklaces and watches worth 40 million pounds, or \$65 million, and fired two gunshots into the ground as they escaped in a series of getaway cars, police said.

It was among the biggest heists in British history — far outstripping the 1963 Great Train Robbery in which 2 million pounds were lost.

Last week's theft, however, was topped by the 2006 robbery of 53 million pounds in cash from a security company depot in southern England, and was rivaled by the 1987 theft of an estimated 40 million pounds from the Knightsbridge Safe Deposit Center in London.

Police declined to rank Thursday's robbery, saying only that it was one of the country's biggest. Items stolen included a pair of white diamond double hoop earrings, a flowing flower necklace with yellow diamond petals, a platinum white Marquise diamond ring and a Chronograff watch, police said.

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Hagerman football coach Funkhouser resigns

Assistant Pinger to take over top spot

By Ryan Howe
Times-News writer

Hagerman High School head football coach Lonnie Funkhouser has resigned after a long, successful stint with the Pirates.

Funkhouser was charged on July 30 with one count of driving under the influence in Gooding County, according to online court records. He said the incident helped weigh on his

decision to resign.

"I need to step away for a while. It's time for me to do something different," Funkhouser said.

Online records show he entered a not guilty plea to the charge and posted \$500 bond on Aug. 6. He's scheduled to appear before 5th District Magistrate Casey Robinson in Gooding County court at 2:30 p.m., Sept. 28 for a pretrial conference, while an Oct. 8 jury trial is scheduled.

Funkhouser pleaded guilty on Jan. 26 to driving under the influence stemming from a separate inci-

dent on Aug. 25, 2008.

"I messed up and I'm taking ownership of that," Funkhouser said. Funkhouser's coaching career spanned 18 years, the final 11 at Hagerman.

After two seasons as an assistant coach on the Pirates staff, Funkhouser became the head coach in 2000. In his first season, Funkhouser guided the Pirates — a team that went 2-7 the previous year — to a 7-4 record and the Class A 4 11-man championship



Funkhouser

game, which Hagerman lost to Mackay.

During Funkhouser's nine-year tenure, Hagerman was a perennial conference contender, amassing a 49-37 record. The Pirates went 6-3 last

season.
"For me personally, it's sad to lose one of my best friends in coaching," said Randy Spaeth, head coach of Snake River Conference rival Raft River. "He's done a lot for the game and a lot for the conference, and he's really going to be missed?"

Funkhouser was also instrumental in helping to establish the 8-man version of the annual North-South All-Star Shrine Football Game.

"I will miss working with the kids — that's why everybody gets into coaching," said Funkhouser. "The friendships I've made with coaches around the valley was definitely a highlight for me and will be something I'm going to miss. I think it was time for a change at Hagerman, and the program is in good hands."

Ed Pinger, who has been

an assistant at Hagerman the past two years, will step in as head coach.

"Those kids have known Lonnie for most of their football careers, and it will take an adjustment for them, but I think with Ed being part of the staff, it's going to be a smooth transition," said Hagerman athletic director Kevin Cato. "Ed will pick up where Lonnie left off and keep it going."

Ryan Howe may be reached at howe@magicvalley.com or 208-677-8786.

ISU excited about facility upgrades

Improvements include new video board and locker room remodel

By Mark Liptak
Times-News correspondent

Facilities are a critical factor in recruiting and a key element in how people view a school's athletic programs. At Idaho State, two improvements this summer could help the Bengals in both areas.

Fans will see a new \$200,000 video board at Holt Arena thanks to the Idaho Potato Commission. ISU football players will also have new lockers and a renovation of their locker room

thanks to donations from Idaho State alumni including Minnesota Vikings defensive end Jared Allen and Cincinnati Bengals head coach Marvin Lewis.

"I've wanted to do these things since I got here," said ISU athletic director Jeff Tingey. "We had some meetings where we bounced ideas around and someone ... suggested the Idaho Potato Commission. We talked to them about it and they were thrilled and immediately said they wanted to do it."

The video board has the ability to show replays as well as game action and crowd shots. It will be used for all events held at Holt Arena, including track and field and men's basketball.

See ISU, Sports 2



Courtesy Idaho State

Idaho State's new video board is shown inside Holt Arena.

BSU trio battles to replace Powers

By Dustin Lapray
Times-News correspondent

BOISE — Ellis Powers started the 2008 season as a strong-side linebacker for Boise State. But as the Broncos played more and more teams featuring the spread offense, Powers' role changed. He started dropping off into coverage in nickel packages, but still stepped up to stop the run. The two responsibilities merged to create a new definition for the nickel back.

According to BSU defensive coordinator Justin Wilcox, the need was for speed.

"The old days of teams lining up in two backs every down and running play-action, you don't see that anymore, especially in our conference," Wilcox said. "We see primarily I-back stuff, so we built our defense around that. We did it because we needed more speed on the field."

Powers finished the sea-



Martin

son with 78 tackles, second on the team, but he graduated. Now, Winston Venable, Doug Martin and Jason Robinson

look to replace the man who helped write the definition. So far, the job is up for grabs.

"We want to let those guys play," Wilcox said. "If there's a clear-cut starter and he plays every snap, fine. If there are two guys who are very close then we'll play them both. That's fine, too."

Each brings something different to the position. Robinson is the best-trained safety, a 5-foot-11, 201-pound junior with the best coverage skills of the trio.

"I can play safety and be physical when need be," Robinson said. "Now it's a matter of using that physicality in the box, being able

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IN-STATE GEMS

Idaho roster features more home-grown talent

By Grant Joki
Times-News correspondent

MOSCOW — When Robb Akey was hired as Idaho's head football coach in December 2006, he almost immediately pledged to increase the number of Idaho players on the Vandal roster. In his first season, there were only a handful of in-state athletes on Idaho's roster. Today, the fall camp lineup boasts 18 players from the Gem State.

You could make that 19 if you count Boise High School's talented linebacker Jeffery Bediako, who played football as a foreign exchange student from the Netherlands.

"While we are recruiting all over the place, we are paying close attention to home first. The numbers are growing," said Akey, whose team opens the season Sept. 5 at New Mexico State. "We want Idaho talent to represent the University of Idaho. A good example of pride from Idaho high schools is our team captain, Devon Sturdivant. Those that are going to represent their home state are going to have a special kind of pride over a guy coming from another state."

Sturdivant, a senior running back out of Boise's Timberline High School, was selected as one of the team's captains. He is joined by junior defensive end

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GRANT JOKI/For the Times-News
Idaho offensive lineman Kai Jensen is one of 19 players in the Vandal roster that played high school football in the Gem State.

Woods looking at 2009 from a different perspective

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press writer

CHASKA, Minn. — Tiger Woods used to say it was only a great year if he won a major. He has one shot left at the PGA Championship, yet he already has rendered his verdict.

"It's been a great year either way," Woods said Tuesday.

He already has five victories on the PGA Tour, pushing his career total to 70 last week at Firestone. His timing could use some improvement, for Woods arrived at Hazeltine having already completed the "Pre-Slam" — winning all four of his tournaments before a major.

His reference point is the PGA Championship a year ago, when he was home in Florida just learning to walk again after surgery on his left knee to rebuild the ligaments. Woods knew that he would play again. He just



wasn't sure what to expect. Five victories?

A scoring average that is a full stroke better than anyone else?

"For me to come back and play, and play as well as I've done and actually win golf events ... to be honest with you, I don't think any of us would have thought I could have won this many events this year," he said.

It's not as though he is abandoning thoughts on winning at Hazeltine and joining Jack Nicklaus and Walter Hagen with five victories in the PGA Championship. For the first time, Woods is ending a three-week stretch of com-

WOODS SAYS HE WAS NOT FINED FOR COMMENT ON OFFICIAL

CHASKA, Minn. — Tiger Woods has said he was not fined by the PGA Tour for his critical remarks about a rules official putting the last group on the clock at Firestone.

A PGA Tour official told The Associated Press on Monday that the world's No. 1 player would be fined for his comment. He spoke on condition of anonymity because the tour does not publicize fines.

A section of the PGA Tour handbook says "it is an obligation of membership to refrain from comments to the news media that unreasonably attack or disparage tournaments, sponsors, fellow members, players or PGA Tour."

"I've heard from the tour and there's no fine," Woods said. "That was an erroneous report."

Woods was annoyed after his four-shot victory Sunday because he and Pdraig Harrington were put on the clock after walking off the tee at the par-5 16th. He said that caused Harrington to rush three difficult shots, leading to triple bogey that effectively ended the tournament. European Tour chief referee John Paramor told Woods and Harrington they were being timed. Woods said he told Harrington after it was over, "I'm sorry that John got in the way of a great battle."

petition at a major. What makes him a heavy favorite, besides his obvious skill, is winning the last two times

he has played. He played a final practice

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