

SUNDAY
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TIMES-NEWS

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Medical premiums could still be a 'heavy lift'

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Many middle-class Americans would still struggle to pay for health insurance despite efforts by President Obama and Democrats to make coverage more affordable.

The legislation advancing in Congress would require all Americans to get insurance — through an employer, a government program or by buying it themselves. But new tax credits to help with premiums won't go far enough for everyone. Some middle-class families purchasing their own coverage through new insurance exchanges could find it out of reach.

Lawmakers recognize the problem.

"For some people it's going to be a heavy lift," said Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del. "We're doing our best to make sure it's not an impossible lift."

Added Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine: "We have no certainty as to whether or not these plans are going to be affordable." Both are on the Senate Finance Committee, which finished writing a health care bill on Friday.

A new online tool from the Kaiser Family Foundation illustrates the predicament.

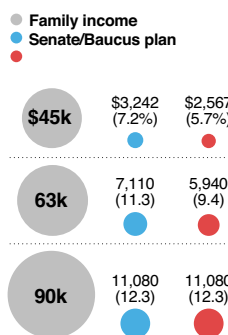
The Health Reform Subsidy Calculator provides ballpark estimates of what households of varying incomes and ages would pay under the different Democratic health care bills. The legislation is still a work in progress and the calculator only a rough guide. Nonetheless, the results are revealing.

A family of four headed by a 45-year-old making \$63,000 a year is in the

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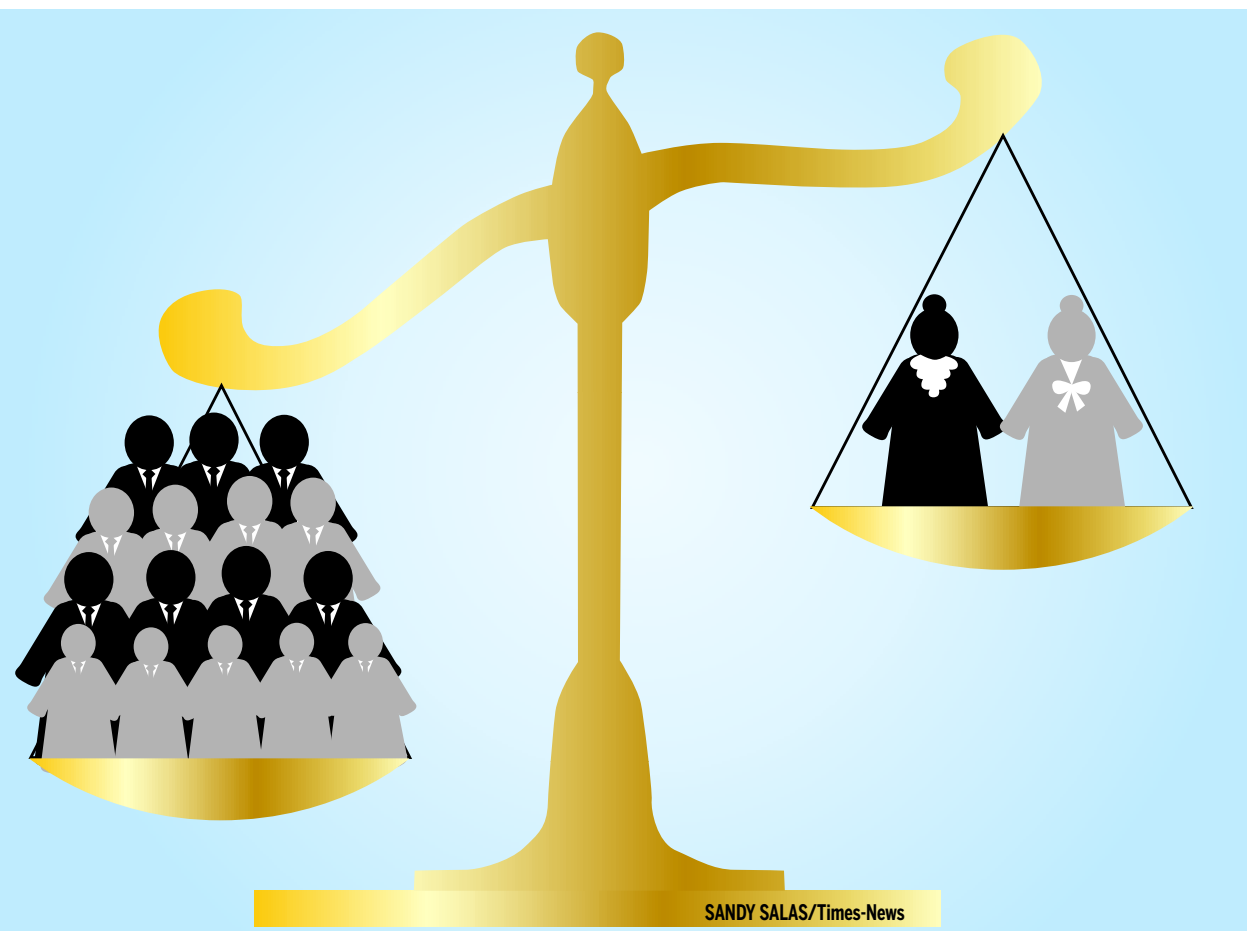
Health overhaul premiums

Under the health care plans pending in Congress, the cost for a middle-class family buying their own health insurance will vary according to their income.



NOTE: Family of four buying coverage on their own, head-of-household is 45 years old, living in a medium cost area of the country.

SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation AP Health Reform subsidy calculator



SANDY SALAS/Times-News

BALANCE ON THE BENCH

By Andrea Jackson
Times-News writer

SOUTH-CENTRAL IDAHO HAS SEEN ONLY 1 FEMALE JUDGE, AND HAS NO CANDIDATES VYING FOR THE JOB

There has been only one. Zoe Ann Warberg Schaub was a judge in Twin Falls County for eight years beginning in 1962. She was only 26 when she beat out the incumbent for a probate court position, later leaving the job to be a full-time mother.

Nearly 39 years later, Schaub remains the only woman ever to have served as a judge in south-central Idaho's 5th Judicial District, which covers Twin Falls, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Minidoka, Blaine, Camas and Lincoln counties.

"I'm really quite surprised, considering how many more women are practicing law," Schaub said of the absence of women on the bench.

Women make up half of Idaho's population but account for only 25 percent of practicing attorneys and just 17 of the state's 138 judges, according to statistics provided by the Idaho Judicial Branch and the state Bar Association.

Idaho lags behind the nation in the number of women both sitting on the bench and practicing law. Nationally, women make-up 34 percent of lawyers

and 26 percent of judges, said Peg M. Dougherty, president of Boise-based Idaho Women Lawyers, Inc.

"Idaho is the only state in the nation where no women or minorities sit on its highest court and only one of two states with no women," said Dougherty, adding the other state is Indiana. "This is a significant concern to IWL and should be for all citizens of Idaho."

The outlook for women

on the bench hasn't improved significantly in recent years, though the percentage of female Idaho Bar Association members has increased four percent since 2002. Out of 35 judges appointed in Idaho since 2006, not one was a woman. That streak ended, though, last month with the appointment of Susan Wiebe to a district court judgeship in the Treasure Valley, said Andrea

Patterson, human resource manager for the Judicial Branch.

Women are going to law school in strong numbers in Idaho, according to the state's law school, where 41 percent of the 2008 entering class were women.

Some women in Idaho's judicial system say gender bias isn't the issue, and Judicial Branch statistics for

See **JUDGES**, Main 7



MEAGAN THOMPSON/Times-News

Zoe Ann Warberg Schaub, a former judge with the 5th District Court during the 1960s, poses Friday in a newly remodeled Twin Falls County Courthouse courtroom. She is the only female judge in the history of the 5th District Court.

New term and new justice for nation's high court

By Mark Sherman
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Justice David Souter never danced the salsa in public. Justice John Paul Stevens doesn't sing in karaoke bars. And Chief Justice John Roberts hasn't thrown out the first pitch at Yankee Stadium.

But that was yesterday's Supreme Court. The newest justice, Sonia Sotomayor, has done all three of those things — in the less than two months since she replaced Souter on the court.

While the Supreme Court is all about the law, personalities matter. As the court begins its new term Monday, the justices will be dealing not only with the cases in front of them but with a wild card: how Sotomayor and her effervescence may change things.

"It's like when you were little and a new kid joined the class," said Stephen Wermiel, a constitutional law professor at American University. "There was always a little air of excitement or anticipation because you didn't know how it would change the dynamic."

The earliest indications are that she is unlikely to affect the outcome or alter the terms of debate in two of the high-profile cases that probably will dominate the term: a challenge to limits on corporate spending in political campaigns and a lawsuit seeking to strike down local handgun bans in the Chicago area.

In both cases, conservative majorities that prevailed in earlier cases appear solid. Sotomayor probably will side with the court's liberals in dissent from decisions in favor of gun rights and loosening campaign finance restrictions, as the now-retired Souter did.

But other disputes loom and, to cite just one area, Sotomayor will be watched closely to see whether her past as a prosecutor makes her more sympathetic to law enforcement in criminal cases. Unlike her colleagues, Sotomayor also has experience as a trial judge.

The criminal docket includes challenges to handing out life sentences with no chance of parole to people younger than age 18. These cases follow the court's recent

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Oktoberfest draws crowds, even if they didn't buy a lot

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

As people milled about vendor booths that sold everything from soy candles to handmade purses, Richard Schendel leaned against a brick wall in Historic Downtown Twin Falls and waited for visitors to stop at his small table filled with jewelry he had made.

Schendel, of Twin Falls, said it was the first time he'd displayed a booth at Oktoberfest. While many people attended the annual event, not many seemed to be interested in what he had to sell.

"Business has been ... terrible," Schendel said. "It's payday weekend and usually people are a little freer and open to making purchases, but I don't see people actually buying."

Some vendors and downtown businesses did better.

"There's been a lot of foot traffic and sales have been good," said Fox Floral employee Loraine Devey. "This year has been a lot better than last year. But it was a lot colder last year."

Some people, such as Twin Falls resident Judy Mansfield and her three children, instead of shopping or buying vendor items came out to enjoy the



Photos by BLAIR KOCH/For the Times-News

Historic Downtown Twin Falls was decorated autumn-style for the annual Oktoberfest event Friday and Saturday. The event included vendors and free entertainment on Main Avenue.

autumn air, free entertainment and children's activities.

"We're just walking around and enjoying being together," Mansfield said.

Her 10-year-old son Matthew Mansfield spent time hammering and gluing a small wooden sail boat at the Home Depot booth.

"I love it, it's great," he said. "Making this was really fun."

Blair Koch may be reached at 208-316-2607 or blairkoch@gmail.com.



Mathew Mansfield, 10, of Twin Falls concentrates on building a wooden sail boat during Saturday's Oktoberfest events in downtown Twin Falls. The kids' construction activity was provided free by Home Depot.

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HOT TUB CO. CONTINUES TO HELP SUPPORT CAUSE

TOUGH ENOUGH TO WEAR PINK? St. Luke's Magic Valley Health Foundation Receives Donation.

Jim Paxton, owner & general manager of Snake River Pool & Spa presents a check for \$1200.00 to the Tough To Wear Pink Breast Cancer Charity. Accepting the check is Bonnie Seamon, working on behalf of the "Tough Enough To Wear Pink" 900 Women Campaign Organization. Snake River Pool & Spa donated their space at the Twin Falls County Fair for a rest & relaxation area for additional seating & in their showroom they held their "Fair Sale". "They help us during their 'Fair Sale', where as a percentage of all HOT SPRINGS SPAs sold were donated to the cause. Snake River Pool & Spa were able to increase their contribution by 20% over the previous year even in a down economy" said Bonnie Seamon. "A special thank you to all our customers/friends who help make this possible including, all of you for helping support us for over 30 years! It's all about community & giving back" said Jim Paxton.

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Utah education board cracks down on bullies

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Utah State Board of Education is cracking down on bullies.

The panel approved a rule Friday that defines bullying and hazing so students know exactly what is unacceptable.

Board members said the action comes in response to an increase in bullying and haz-

ing incidents across the state the past year.

Among other things, the rule forbids any coerced act of a sexual nature, such as the removal of clothes or the exposure or touching of private areas of a body.

It targets acts of a physical nature such as whipping, beating, branding, calisthen-

ics, bruising and electric shocking, as well as consumption of food, liquor or drugs.

It also addresses "cyberbullying" through the use of the Internet or cell phones, and social aggression such as rumor spreading and name calling.

The policy also calls for new reporting and inter-

vention procedures.

Fred Duersch, president of the Logan School Board, said he was picked on as a child for being overweight and would never want any student to feel scared at school.

"I've experienced it firsthand," he said. "I want the learning environment to be free of harassment!"

Local chiropractor stops back pain and gives back.

Growing in the Twin Falls area, I (Dr. Sam Barker) was heavily involved in Boy Scouts of America. One of the things that affected me the most was helping on an Eagle Scout project to raise money and food for the Salvation Army. It was then that I got a glimpse at just how many people the Salvation Army helps here in the Twin Falls community. Most people only think of the Salvation Army when they see the red kettles and bell ringer at Christmas time, but they need support all year long.

In order to try and raise support and create awareness before people get too close to Christmas time, I would like to announce my October fund-raising special. In exchange for a thirty five dollar donation to the Salvation Army, all new patients receive their initial exam, x-ray, and chiropractic adjustment for no charge. This is a great opportunity for people to help others and help themselves by receiving some of the best, newest technologies to treat back/neck pain, headaches, and herniated discs. See our coupon below and end your back pain while giving back.

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Are you an involved, concerned citizen of your community, or pretty much a heedless slob?

What you do with an empty shopping cart after you load the groceries into your car reveals everything.

DON'T ASK ME

Steve Crump



The Kanye Wests of the world ditch the trolley in the middle of a parking space; shoot, they might even back over it.

But the Mother Teresas return it to a designated shopping carriage parking area and make sure its wheels line up with the striping on the pavement. And you?

Through careful observation in car parks across southern Idaho — and, no, I don't have a life — I've developed a shopping cart character rating system.

Before I tell you about it, I should explain that what you do with a shopping buggy is largely determined by social guilt. The bulk of Idahoans are a little too nice to just abandon the cart just anywhere, but a little too lazy to put it back where it belongs.

So where do you fit in?
 • **Two's Company.** If somebody else left a shopping cart standing in the middle of nowhere, that must mean it's where your carriage belongs.

• **Tree's Company.** Any and all landscaping that you find in a parking lot is a good place to put your empty cart.

• **End of the Line.** Follow the marked parking spaces until they run out, and then leave your cart there. And if that spot happens to be in the middle of a traffic lane, well

• **Next to the OK Corral.** Those metal enclosures marked "please return carts here" are called "corrals" in the trade; you don't actually return the shopping buggy to the corral, but you drop it off nearby hoping it will find its own way.

• **Sandwich Guy.** You're the dude who leaves the cart at the front of the space where you parked, wedged up against the grille of the vehicle next to you.

• **Right by the Front Door.** Nice of you, but keep in mind that the sidewalks in front of many supermarkets and big-box retailers aren't perfectly level — that's intentional, so that water runs away from the building. So do shopping carts. Don't look now, but the cart on which you turned your back 10 seconds ago may be gaining on you.

That's a more credible threat than you might think. Modern shopping carts weigh less than 40 pounds and, especially if the basket is made of plastic, can be pushed along by wind, gravity or both at remarkable speeds. Before the strip mall between the Snake River and the Magic Valley Mall was built, retailers occasionally sent employees in search of carts that had gone missing.

After a windy day, the southern wall of the canyon would sometimes be strewn with the wreckage of orange shopping trolleys. Which leads us to our last category of shopping cart scofflaws:
 • **Let Nature Take Its Course.**

Steve Crump may be reached at 735-3223. Hear him on KLLX-1310 at 8:30 a.m. on Fridays.

ALL ABOUT YOUR HEALTH

Magic Valley Health Fair a hit

By Blair Koch
 Times-News correspondent

Dennis Pugh didn't eat breakfast Saturday morning, not even a little snack or cup of coffee. He was fasting for a battery of tests he signed up to take at the Magic Valley Health Fair, held at the Magic Valley Mall in Twin Falls.

Not eating was worth the minor inconvenience, Pugh, of Buhl, said. He left the fair with a bounty of information and instructions to follow up with a cardiologist: one of the tests he took indicated plaque build up in his artery walls.

"My wife had a skin rash we were concerned about and she had that looked at," he said. "That proved to be OK, but my pulmonary test showed two arteries getting plaque. Now I have to go to the doctor, but I'm glad I know."

In addition to taking advantage of the screenings, Pugh said he enjoyed the community ambiance of the fair, which was co-sponsored by the *Times-News*, St. Benedict's Family Medical Center, St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center, Gooding County Memorial Hospital and the College of Southern Idaho Office on Aging.

"We came to put to good use the many benefits and information, preventative medicine offered at the fair," Pugh said. "I had by-pass surgery 15 years ago, and it's important to stay up on my health."

The fair offered an array of free screenings — for skin cancer, carotid artery disease and pulmonary function, and even offered vaccinations for flu, tetanus and pneumonia at a nominal price.

Hundreds of visitors browsed more than 50 booths and received information from a variety of health services, such as home health care, weight loss, hearing loss, health insurance and nutrition. The Prevent Cancer Super Colon, an inflatable walk-through colon that educates visitors about colorectal cancer was a popular draw. Fairgoers also enjoyed the many seminars led by local nurses and doctors, covering topics from diabetes to menopause.

"It's been pretty steady," said Norm Skinner, former president of the Twin Falls Lions Club, who gave free vision screenings at the fair.

The club provides vision screenings at elementary schools throughout the valley. Skinner said it helps kids who may not regularly visit an eye doctor.

"These checks help catch



DREW GODLESKI/For the Times-News

Jennifer Phelps, left, a nurse with Idaho Home Health and Hospice, takes Donna Peterson's blood pressure during the Magic Valley Health Fair Saturday at the Magic Valley Mall in Twin Falls.

kids who may have problems with their eyesight," he said. "If they need to follow up with a doctor, we let them know."

Jerome resident Phyllis

Rickert looked forward to the health fair after attending similar events in the past.

"I just came for the overall information," she said. "I

think it's a good idea to have health fairs like this!"

Blair Koch may be reached at 208-316-2607 or blairkoch@gmail.com.



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Missing soldier still in Wood River Valley hearts

Yellow ribbons abound for Bergdahl

By Ariel Hansen
Times-News writer

HAILEY — It has been nearly three months since a video of Army Pfc. Bowe Bergdahl held by the Taliban in Afghanistan hit the Internet on July 18, and since the news of his June 30 capture hit the country and his hometown of Hailey.

In the days immediately following, national and international media descended on the small town, and yellow "Bring Bowe Home" signs sprouted in windows and on bumpers.

News of Bergdahl has been sparse since, but Hailey hasn't forgotten about the soldier. At Zaney's River Street Coffee, where Bergdahl worked before joining the military, at least 20 customers a day inquire whether there is any new information.

"It's hard every day to tell people 'No, we haven't heard anything,'" said Emily Andrews, manager at Zaney's River Street Coffee in Hailey, where Bergdahl worked before joining the military, at least 20 customers a day inquire whether there is any new information.

Employees hand out ribbons, yellow beaded bracelets, and stickers with Bergdahl's face on them, and plans are afoot to replace the faded ribbons that are tied around nearly every tree and pole in town.

Spokesmen for the family, including Blaine County Sheriff Walt Femling and Hailey Police Chief Jeff Gunter, have remained mostly mum on behalf of the Bergdahls. The family has requested continued respect for their privacy, and have not communicated directly with the media.

Both Andrews and Lt. Col. Tim Marsano of the Idaho National Guard, one of the military's liaisons to the fam-



Yellow ribbons are looped over a dog statue at Zaney's River Street Coffee in Hailey, where Army Pfc. Bowe Bergdahl worked before joining the military.

To support the Bowe Bergdahl family

Visit the Web and social networking sites that have been set up in Pfc. Bowe Bergdahl's honor, or write or send flowers or mementoes care of Zaney's, 208 N. River St., Hailey, ID 83333. All personal messages will be forwarded to the family to be received in private. The family also appreciates all prayers and wishes for their son's health and safe return.

ily, say the Bergdahls are grateful for the messages of support they've received and the wishes and prayers from across the country and the world. Andrews said e-mails have come in from as far away as Jamaica and London.

"That's providing comfort for the family," Marsano said. "Their main focus is on seeing their son home safely. ... They're doing as well as can be expected."

Marsano said he has heard personally from Bergdahl's commander in Afghanistan that the military is continuing efforts to find and rescue the soldier, saying they are doing "everything in their power to get him home safely."

There has been no proof of life, such as another video of Bergdahl, in the months since the 23-year-old became the first GI captured in that country. "Nobody can say exactly what that means," Marsano said.

Marsano, a resident of the

Wood River Valley for 22 years, said the local response to Bergdahl's capture is unprecedented. "I've never seen this community come together around anything like this," he said.

Andrews, an acquaintance of Bergdahl's who said this is the first military conflict she has had a personal experience of, agreed.

"When one person falls in this community, we're all here to help, and we're so blessed," she said. "It's been a sad thing to watch, but a beautiful thing to see everybody come together and hold hands and stand with Bowe."

Zaney's is continuing to collect messages for the Bergdahl family, and yellow ribbons and signs outside the coffee shop ensure that as long as the soldier is missing, Hailey will continue to remember and pray for him.

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



Emily Andrews, manager at Zaney's River Street Coffee in Hailey, holds the stickers and yellow beaded bracelets the coffee shop gives out to those who want to honor and remember Army Pfc. Bowe Bergdahl, captured by the Taliban three months ago.

Photos by ARIEL HANSEN/Times-News

BASE jumper breaks ankle

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

A BASE jumper from Wells, Nev., was injured Saturday evening after a hard landing prompted by an equipment issue.

One line on Peter Gracia's parachute twisted after he jumped off of the Perrine Bridge at around 7:10 p.m., said Jerome County Sheriff's Deputy Matthew West. The snag forced him to land in the rocks on the north side of the Snake River, though he

avoided landing in the river itself.

Gracia, 47, broke at least his left ankle and possibly his shin, West said, but was alert, stable and talking at St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center. Though an Air St. Luke's helicopter did respond to the incident, Gracia was taken by boat to Centennial Park and then taken by ground ambulance to the hospital. He was met at the park by a concerned group of fellow jumpers. He was conscious and talking in the

ambulance, his friends said.

Jerome County Deputy Anthony Gratzler said another jumper with a phone jumped after Gracia and was able to call emergency personnel. Dispatch received the call at 7:28 p.m., and Twin Falls County also responded to the incident in a support role.

BASE jumpers jump from fixed objects using parachutes. The acronym stands for the four types of objects: building, antenna, span and earth.

Idaho newsman Chuck Oxley dies in crash

BOISE (AP) — State police say Chuck Oxley, a longtime Idaho newsman and former media director for the state's Democratic Party, has been killed in a car crash near Blackfoot.

Police say in a release that the pickup truck the 46-year-old Oxley was driving on Saturday left the roadway and rolled over, killing him and leaving a juvenile female passenger with minor injuries.

He apparently first swerved off the road and then overcorrected, causing the accident,

which occurred about 4 p.m. on U.S. 26, about 21 miles west of Blackfoot.

Police say the passenger, who wasn't further identified, was treated Bingham Memorial Hospital and released.

Oxley was managing editor of the Blackfoot Morning News and a former reporter for The Associated Press and editor at the Idaho Statesman.

The Idaho Democratic Party expressed their condolences in a release and said Oxley played a key role in

directing media for the record-setting 2008 Idaho Democratic presidential caucuses, including the Ada County caucuses that drew more than 8,000 voters to Qwest Arena.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Chuck's family, friends and colleagues," said Julie Fanselow, the party's current communications director.

"He had been learning to fly and enjoying his new job, and his death is certainly a shock to all of us who knew him."

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Judges

Continued from Main 1

the past 20 years tends to support that view: About 10 percent of all women applying for appointment to the bench have been selected for the job compared to 12.2 percent of all male applicants.

The problem, many agree, is that Idaho has too small of a pool of women who are qualified, and those who are simply don't apply for the work.

•••

In Idaho, district court judges must be lawyers who are at least 30 years old and have practiced law for at least 10 years. Magistrates meet the same age restrictions but qualify after only five years in practice.

That limits the pool of applicants of either gender, said Linda Wright, the 5th District Court administrator.

"Once these people reach the right age and number of years as an attorney they might be making more (money) than the judge position pays and choose not to apply," Wright said.

About 660 Idaho female lawyers have been working long enough to qualify for any judicial appointment, and 452 could be appointed to the district court bench, according to the Judicial Branch.

Many of Idaho's former judges and current lawyers think women should have a greater presence on the bench.

"Females and minorities reflect the populations they serve," said Senior Judge Linda Copple Trout, who is also a former chief justice of the Idaho Supreme Court. "It's important for people coming into the court system to see it reflects their community."

Trout was the first female judge appointed to the state's high court when Gov. Cecil Andrus selected her in 1992.

"Females and minorities reflect the populations they serve. It's important for people coming into the court system to see it reflects their community."

— Senior Judge Linda Copple Trout, former chief justice of the Idaho Supreme Court —

Today she says it's good that Idaho has more female judges, though the growth has been slow.

"For a long time, there were not as many female lawyers," she said. "There was not as much of a pool to draw from."

That's how it was in 1976 when Susan Roy, a senior partner of the firm Roy, Nielson, Barini-Garcia and Platts in Twin Falls, came to Idaho from San Francisco.

"The first day I got here, I realized I was the only woman practicing," Roy said. "I was kind of the experiment that they had brought in from out of state and it was that way for about the first two or three years."

Schaub had already come and gone by that time.

"I don't know that she left that much of an impact," said Roy. "They were still talking about her ... It was, 'that one woman.'"

Roy applied for district judge once, in 1980. She made it on the shortlist reviewed by the governor, but didn't get the job. She said that "wasn't a surprise" because she had only practiced law for four years at that time.

Three women applied for a recent court of appeals opening and one made that shortlist, but the job went to 5th District Judge John Melanson.

"In the past when there were back-to-back openings on the Supreme Court, several women applied and again, women's names were forwarded by the Judicial Council to the Governor but none of the women were selected," said Dougherty, of Idaho Women Lawyers, Inc. "We would like to see more women apply for openings on the bench in all districts of the state but the lack of

success for those who have tried has a somewhat souring effect on those who might be interested."

Brigitte Bilyeu is a special master in Idaho's Water Court, the Snake River Basin Adjudication, and she says the appointment of judges is working well.

"In my opinion, the application process for judicial appointments is fair to women," she said. "I hope Idaho will continue to focus on qualifications, not gender ... Idaho has a long history of outstanding women lawyers and judges."

But Roy says she would like to see women and minorities on the bench, ideally with a 50 percent presence to "normalize everything."

"You need a cross-section that represents the people you're serving, and I also think that then the judges get better," she said.

Most of Idaho's judges for the district courts, the court of appeals and the Supreme Court are appointed. Magistrates are appointed and then face retention elections every four years.

When judges leave their jobs before terms end, though, the Idaho Judicial Council gathers applications and gives the governor a list of two to four candidates to choose from.

The Judicial Council selects the best candidates, male or female, said the council's executive director, Robert G. Hamlin.

"The council doesn't make decisions based strictly on gender," Hamlin said. "Their job is to find the most qualified applicants."

Trout, who served on the council, agrees with Hamlin. She said Thursday that she knows of no instances where the council

ever expressed bias.

"That makes me think gender didn't play a role," Trout said.

Wright also said gender bias does not influence local commissions that select magistrates.

"I think they're gender-blind and pick the best," Wright said.

Magistrate commissions for the state's judicial districts are chaired by administrative judges and are comprised of county commissioners, mayors, citizens, lawyers, and non-voting magistrate judges.

Only eight out of 126 applicants for magistrate in the 5th Judicial District in the past 14 years have been female, Wright said. None got the job.

•••

Schaub said she ran for probate judge — a position that no longer exists — and beat the incumbent by 326 votes after other lawyers encouraged her to run. Schaub had only been practicing law for about a year, and while on the bench saw some challenges from other attorneys, she said.

"Because of my youth and sex they thought, 'Hey, we'll try this,'" said Schaub. "I think they were just testing me ... For the most part they were extremely professional."

Schaub, too, said there should be more women on the bench because they "are probably more sensitive to certain issues."

Idaho will soon have two new judges. Both will be men.

Seventeen lawyers applied for the two 5th District positions, which pay more than \$112,000 each. No women applied.

Interviews of candidates and selection of nominees will happen next month for Judge Barry Wood's slot and in November or December for the replacement of Melanson.

Roy said she doesn't know why qualified female attorneys in the area aren't applying to be judges as often as men, but guesses "maybe women here worked so hard to get where they are, they're not about to give up what they have."

Using herself as an example, Roy said, "I'm never going to be a judge ... I went forward and now I'm not going to walk away. I'm at the top of my career."

Trout said she doesn't know why no women applied for the two district judge vacancies in south central Idaho.

Possible reasons for fewer female judges may involve issues of family, pay, experience and career risks.

For Schaub, being a judge meant less money than private practice, and it also would have kept her from her family. That's why she walked away from the job, she said.

"It was hard when I had to decide to raise a child," Schaub said, adding she didn't go back to law.

Trout said that some female lawyers might be "hesitant to uproot their spouse and children" to take a judicial appointment, which may be in a neighboring county. Some male judges, though, haven't had a problem with that, she added.

But the bottom line, she said, is that it's a matter of choice.

"There are some very qualified female attorneys there," Trout said. "If they're not going to apply, certainly they're not going to be selected."

Andrea Jackson may be reached at ajackson@mag-icvalley.com or 208-735-3380.

SW Idaho to crack down on texting drivers

CALDWELL (AP) — A southwest Idaho prosecutor is asking law enforcement agencies in Canyon County to start enforcing Idaho's law against inattentive driving when officers spot a motorist sending text messages.

John Bujak sent a letter Wednesday asking law enforcement agencies for their "cooperation in cracking down on people who send text messages while driving."

He said police officers are seeing motorists driving dangerously while using their cell phones to send text messages, and that some drivers who were pulled over said they had been texting.

"They are seeing people who are weaving around ... looking down and texting sometimes," Bujak told the Idaho Press-Tribune.

Bujak said he would like to see violators receive fines, community service, or mandatory driver education classes. He said greater penalties could be imposed if texting drivers are involved in crashes.

"I do believe it is a situation we should address," said Caldwell Police Chief Chris Allgood. "I would support stepped-up enforcement."

He said Caldwell police have not written many tickets for inattentive driving due to texting.

Idaho lawmakers said a bill will be introduced in the 2010 legislative session making texting while driving illegal.

"In the meantime we can take some action," Bujak said.

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National unemployment by the numbers

By Christopher Leonard
Associated Press writer

If the recession really is ending, someone forgot to tell the nation's employers.

A net total of 263,000 jobs vanished from the economy

last month — much worse than economists' expectation of 180,000 job losses.

The Labor Department figures set the stage for a scenario that labor analysts expect: that joblessness will continue to rise for several

months or more after the economy starts to rebound.

The unemployment rate stands at 9.8 percent, a 26-year high. The rate would have been higher if 571,000 people hadn't dropped out of the labor force, which

many did in frustration over failing to find jobs.

That leaves 15.1 million Americans out of work, a huge pool of people. Many discouraged workers are likely to re-enter the labor market and compete for jobs

that will eventually be created.

That's why the overall unemployment rate — measuring people searching for work who can't find it — can continue to rise even after employers start creat-

ing thousands of jobs each month.

Even though economists think the economy has begun to grow, it could be well into 2010 before job creation ramps up. Here are some details.

SLACK IN THE WORK FORCE

33: The average number of hours in a workweek. This figure fell back to the record low it hit earlier this year. It indicates many companies aren't operating near full capacity — and they may boost the hours of their part-time workers before hiring more full-time staff.

103,000: The increase in people who hold a part-time job because they can't find full-time work. That number has climbed steadily this year, reaching 9.1 million in September.

\$616.11: The average weekly earnings of private-sector workers. This figure has fallen 1.3 percent since January, in part because employers are cutting hours.

\$18.67: The average hourly wage. Up a penny from August.

DISMAL PROSPECTS

26.2 weeks: The average duration that unemployed workers are out of a job, a record high since the Labor Department started tracking the figure in 1948. The figure is up from 19.8 weeks in January.

5.4 million: The number of people unemployed longer than 27 weeks, also at a post-World War II peak, though today's larger labor market is a contributing factor.

17 percent: The unemployment rate when it includes frustrated workers who have dropped out of the labor market, people forced into part-time work and those who want a job but haven't looked recently.

263,000: The total number of jobs lost in September.

HARDER ON MEN

10.3 percent: The unemployment rate for men over age 20, up from 10.1 percent last month. Men were hit particularly hard by job cuts at factories and construction sites.

7.8 percent: The unemployment rate for women, 2 percentage points less than the overall average.

25.9 percent: The record-high unemployment rate among teenagers.

9 percent: The unemployment rate for white adults.

15.4 percent: The unemployment rate for black adults

12.7 percent: The unemployment rate for Hispanic adults

See **NUMBERS**, Business 3



Karen Wilmes of Hopkinton, R.I., sorts through her coupons during a shopping trip with her two-year-old daughter Allison in Westerly, R.I. By purchasing items on sale, using her loyal customer card and coupons, Wilmes saves more than \$50 sometimes when buying groceries.

AP photo
Times-News illustration

America on sale

It's a great time to be a U.S. consumer as retailers slash prices to attract business

By Rachel Beck
Associated Press writer

There has never been a better time to be a consumer. America is on sale.

The Great Recession has caused massive job losses and hardship for millions, but it has also fostered a shoppers' paradise. Anyone who still has the means to spend can find unheard of deals.

Prices on everything from clothes to coffee to cat food are dropping, some faster than they have in half a century. Items rarely discounted — like Tiffany engagements rings — are now. The two biggest purchases most people make — homes and new cars — are selling at steep price reductions.

"This is the new normal," says Donald Keppta, president of Dominick's, a supermarket chain in the Midwest, which just cut prices by as much as 30 percent on thousands of items. "We aren't going back."

Consumers like Karen Wilmes, a mother of two in Hopkinton, R.I., relish the steals. During a recent trip to Shaw's Supermarkets, she bought a basketful of goods, including Eggo waffles, Kleenex tissues and Betty Crocker cake mix. The retail price: \$63.89. Wilmes paid \$7.31 by buying items on sale and using coupons.

"The deals out there are unbelievable," says Wilmes, 36, who writes the Frugal Rhode Island Mama blog, which tracks local and national bargains. "We can put the money I save toward something else."

And she's doing just that, but only when she can find another deal. Wilmes and her husband recently bought a Samsung television from Best Buy's Web site for \$1,299, about \$300 less than she found at other stores. She also got free delivery and another \$13 back from ebates.com, which receives commissions from online retailers for directing customers their way.

What's happening now has been building for years. Wal-Mart Stores Inc. introduced "every-day low prices" many years ago.

See **SALE**, Business 2

Rethinking capitalism: How very enterprising

This week I attended the Washington premiere of Michael Moore's "Capitalism: A Love Story." It was my first trip ever down the red carpet, and I was a bit disappointed that "Entertainment Tonight" wasn't there to comment on my wardrobe (black jacket over open-collared tattersall shirt) or get my reaction to the film.

Steven Pearlstein

But, hey, it's not every day you get to watch a documentary about the housing crisis and Wall Street greed while sitting across the aisle from Frank Raines, the ousted chairman of Fannie Mae. Frank didn't stick around for the big after-party. Neither did I.

Moore's "love story" is really an oversimplified political melodrama based on half-truths, innuendo, fuzzy thinking and imagined conspiracies, held together by some genuinely funny gags, such as Moore wrapping a crime-scene tape around the New York Stock Exchange or backing up an armored car to the front door of Goldman Sachs with the intention of retrieving the bailout money it got from the government.

The fundamental fallacy of the film is its assertion that Moore's home town of Flint, Mich., is somehow a metaphor for the rest of the American economy, a middle-class idyll transformed into an industrial wasteland by corporate executives so intent on breaking unions that they deliberately destroyed their own companies. In the World According to Moore, Silicon Valley and Seattle and the middle-class oasis of Orange County, Calif., simply don't exist. He even manages to spin a populist fantasy that last year's financial meltdown was, in fact, a faux-crisis manufactured by Wall Street to railroad Congress into passing a \$700 billion bailout and to engineer a financial "coup d'etat."

The curious thing about this movie, however, is that while many of its small points are exaggerated or misinformed, Moore's largest point is essentially

See **PEARLSTEIN**, Business 2

Generous pay for new Freddie Mac CFO

By Rachel Beck
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — The pay package given to Freddie Mac's new chief financial officer should have sent a message from Washington to corporate America about how executive compensation standards must change. Instead, it did just the opposite.

The government-controlled

mortgage finance company is giving CFO Ross Kari compensation worth as much as \$5.5 million. That includes an almost \$2 million cash signing bonus and a generous salary that could top \$2.3 million.

The Federal Housing Finance Agency, which oversees Freddie Mac, approved the pay package. A spokeswoman pointed to a statement that justified the agency's approval of the pay, which was done

in part because the amount was comparable to what others in the financial services industry make.

That way of thinking is exactly what helped feed the surge in executive pay over the last decade. Everyone wants to make at least as much, or more, than their peers.

Freddie Mac is not just another company. It's alive today, and nearly 80 percent owned by the government, only because almost \$51 bil-

lion in taxpayer funds were pumped into it over the last year. More bailout money also may be needed in the quarters ahead as losses from its troubled mortgages mount.

Outside pay experts are outraged. "We are in a period when this shouldn't be acceptable," said Paul Hodgson, a senior research associate at The Corporate Library, an

See **FREDDIE**, Business 3

YOUR BUSINESS

MILESTONES

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE



Courtesy photo

Chris Mahler, owner, American Family Insurance, at 622 Blue Lakes Blvd N. Twin Falls cuts the ribbon along with the Twin Falls Area Chamber's Ambassadors. Pictured, left to right: Leticia Coronado, licensed agency specialist, and Mahler.

PARROT HEAD CLUB



Courtesy photo

The Southern Idaho Parrot Head Club cut the red ribbon along with the Twin Falls Area Chamber's Ambassadors at O'Dunkens, 102 Main Ave. N. Twin Falls celebrating their club's Chamber membership. They helped O'Dunkens with the St. Patricks Day Parade and food drive, raising \$1,500 for the food bank. They also volunteered on Sept. 19 for the Rim To Rim Race which benefits Habitat for Humanity. As they begin planning for 2010 they will be looking for other opportunities to contribute to the community. For information: Darlene McDonald 208-720-8001. Pictured, front row: Robin Brown; Bonnie McCall, treasurer; Sandy Rayborn; Peggy DeHaas, secretary; and Darlene McDonald, president. Back row: Randy Rayborn; Terry DeHaas and Ryan Kober, vice president.

ANCHOR BISTRO AND BAR



Courtesy photo

Anchor Bistro and Bar, 334 Blue Lakes Blvd N., Twin Falls, opened its doors and celebrated with a ribbon cutting. The Twin Falls Area Chamber's Ambassadors joined in the celebration. Come in and experience the ambiance of Twin Falls's newest restaurant. Their non-smoking environment is perfect to catch games on their eight TVs, sample from their 10 tap beers and great wine list and dine on the patio with two fire pits with tiki torches. For information: 733-6566. Pictured left to right are owners Shawna Obenchain, Tim Obenchain, Mark Makin, Eric Bingham, Bob Maloney and Janell Maloney.

CAREER MOVES

American Family Insurance

Lori Irish, an American Family Insurance agent in Twin Falls, has been recognized for customer satisfaction excellence under the J.D. Power and Associates Distinguished Insurance Agency Program. Irish joins other American Family agents who have demonstrated the highest level of commitment to outstanding customer service. Irish has been an agent for American Family since August 2003.

Worst, Fitzgerald & Stover

Worst, Fitzgerald & Stover, PLLC is pleased to welcome Kara M. Gleckler to the firm as an associate attorney. Kara received her bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University where she obtained the distinction of valedictorian. She graduated first in her class from the University Of Idaho College Of Law in 2007. Before joining our firm, Kara served as a law clerk for the Honorable John Bradbury of the Second Judicial District Court. Her practice will focus on general civil litigation, estate planning, contract law, business law, real estate and employment law.



Gleckler

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Pearlstein

Continued from Business 1

correct: that the economic system no longer works for the majority of Americans.

For me, the most powerful moments in the movie weren't the interviews with displaced homeowners, laid-off workers or grieving widows, but those with a trio of Catholic clergymen who minced no words in declaring the moral bankruptcy of modern American capitalism. It was clear they had come to their conclusions not from any radical ideology or deep understanding of economics but from the inequity and insensitivity they observed in their parishes. As it happens, their outrage is shared by their boss, Pope Benedict XVI.

"Profit is useful if it serves as a means toward an end," declared the pope in an encyclical issued by the Vatican this summer. "Once profit becomes the exclusive goal, if it is produced by improper means and without the common good as its ultimate end, it risks destroying wealth and creating poverty." Benedict decried the "speculative use of financial resources that yields to the temptation of seeking only short-term profit, without regard to the long-term sustainability of the enterprise and its benefit to the real economy."

What's going on here is not simply the moralizing of clerics and filmmakers. Nor, I think, is it merely a reflection of the difficult economy. After nearly two decades of booms and busts that have yielded little in the way of economic gain for the typical household, Americans have developed a profound distrust of the markets, financiers, big business and the capitalist ethos.

I got a taste of that last week when I attended a day-long ceremony celebrating the opening of the Center for Social Value Creation at the University of Maryland's business school. The school's dean, Anand Anandalingam, explained that the impetus for the center came not from the administration or even the faculty but from business students who were looking for more meaning and social purpose in their careers than simply making a lot of money for themselves and for shareholders.

The first speaker was Seth Goldman, the founder of Bethesda, Md.-based Honest Tea, who was treated as something of a rock star by the students who packed the auditorium. Goldman doesn't apologize for getting rich by selling healthy, organic beverages, or taking on as his partner

After nearly two decades of booms and busts that have yielded little in the way of economic gain for the typical household, Americans have developed a profound distrust of the markets, financiers, big business and the capitalist ethos.

and largest investor Coca-Cola, a company best known for peddling sugared and caffeinated beverages. As Goldman explained to the audience — and later in a video interview for The Washington Post's On Leadership Web site — his aim is to change the culture and values of the beverage industry before they change him.

Alan Webber, the founder of Fast Company magazine, got a round of applause from the Maryland students when he declared that in a knowledge economy, the way companies compete is to attract the best talent — talent that these days is motivated less by money than the desire to work in a place where they can learn, grow and have an impact on the world.

Also on hand was Rosabeth Moss Kanter, a Harvard Business School professor who has been celebrating the achievements of Corporate America for decades. Kanter is still celebrating, but these days she's cheering for companies that have gone beyond maximizing shareholder value, and even beyond corporate social responsibility, to embrace a more ambitious mission of the world's problems. In a new book, "SuperCorp," she argues that companies that imbue their culture with a social ethic wind up making more money for their shareholders, not only because their employees are more motivated but also because their focus on a transcendent external goal makes them less resistant to internal change.

None of this is meant to suggest that a new form of capitalism is about to take hold. But it is a reminder that the big reason capitalism has proven the least-bad economic system is that it is best at correcting its own excesses. After all, only in a capitalist country can you turn a profit making movies about the evils of capitalism.

We want YOUR BUSINESS news

We welcome announcements about new businesses as well as employee changes or advancements. To submit contributions to YourBusiness, send announcements and photographs to Times-News business Editor Joshua Palmer at jpalmer@magicvalley.com.

The deadline to submit an announcement for the following Sunday is Wednesday at noon. Announcements must be 150 words or less. The Times-News reserves the right to edit content.

Sale

Continued from Business 1

Amazon.com redefined the idea of bargain prices during the late 1990s when it helped introduce online shopping. After the 2001 recession, automakers introduced zero-percent financing to boost sales. McDonald's "Dollar Meals" made fast food even cheaper.

But until the Great Recession came along, consumers hadn't seen anything yet.

Last fall's financial meltdown triggered a plunge in stock prices and home values and wiped out 11 percent — \$6.6 trillion — of household wealth in six months. It also put an end to easy credit, which had fueled the consumption that powered the economy for most of the decade.

Those who still have jobs don't want to spend as they once did. There is a new societal pressure to be careful and smart when buying almost anything. From Chicago's Miracle Mile to malls around Orange County, Calif., it was once a status symbol to trot around with armloads of shopping bags with designer names on them. Now, it's considered ostentatious.

Traditionally, manufacturers and retailers lowered prices to clear inventory. Today, they're cutting prices because consumers are demanding it. If it lasts, the ramifications will be wide-ranging.

"There's almost a new morality to spending," Liz Claiborne Inc. CEO Bill McComb told an investor conference last month.

The bargains being offered at the Garden State Plaza in Paramus, N.J., make it seem the day after Christmas. But it's only a weekday in September. The deals start at 25 percent off and keep getting better. Neiman Marcus, Forever 21, Ann Taylor, Macy's, Gap — across the

retailing spectrum there are promotions.

Retail sales remain sluggish, and more than half of the people surveyed recently by America's Research Group and UBS said they are shopping less. But when they do shop, most go to stores with lower prices or wait for sales before returning to their favorite retailer, according to the survey.

Dave Ratner sees this price chase first hand. His four-store chain in western Massachusetts, Dave's Soda & Pet City, has never been so focused on promotions and low prices. During the past year, customers stopped buying \$50 bags of premium dog food and "special" \$10 pet treats. Pet-related Halloween merchandise usually sells well, but he isn't stocking any this year because he doesn't think people will buy it. Instead, he's offering big discounts on cheaper brands of pet food.

"It's killing my profit margins, but if you don't offer specials and lots of promotions, you aren't operating in the current world," he says.

Great buys are not exclusive to retailing. The government's Cash for Clunkers program is over, but more than half of car buyers still get a cash rebate, according to J.D. Power & Associates.

Hotel rooms cost travelers nearly 20 percent less, on average, than last year, the biggest decline since Smith Travel Research began collecting data in 1987.

Home prices have dropped 30 percent, on average, from the peak in 2006. In some markets, they're down more than 50 percent. Homes in parts of Detroit are cheaper than a new car.

Overall, prices are tumbling at the fastest rate in decades. The government's Consumer Price Index, which measures the average price of goods and services purchased by households,

has fallen 1.5 percent over the past 12 months, the biggest drop since 1950.

The largest decline has been in energy prices, but other areas have fallen, too. Among them: food, appliances, furniture, jewelry, sporting goods, audio and visual equipment and apartment rents.

People like Bruce Halkin, 64, an advertising executive in Aventura, Fla., are benefiting. He will soon close on a three-bedroom home in nearby Boca Raton on a golf course. He's paying \$335,000, 8 percent below the \$365,000 asking price. The sellers bought the home for \$410,000 in 2006 and spent \$75,000 on renovations.

Halkin's deal-chasing doesn't stop there. On a recent trip to Macy's, he picked up two pairs of Ralph Lauren Polo shorts, a Polo shirt and a hat for \$50. At full price, the bill would have topped \$200.

"I've learned to buy when I see deals not necessarily when I need anything," he says. "Thankfully, the bargains keep coming."

Those with goods and services to sell hope that the discounting bolsters sales, which would help get the economy chugging along again. Consumer spending accounts for 70 percent of the economy.

But ever-lower prices have risks, too. The more shoppers expect prices to fall, the less they shop until prices drop. It becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy that forces companies to keep cutting. That reduces profits, making it less likely companies will hire workers or raise wages. Economists say the worst scenario would be a deflationary spiral, which Japan has been stuck in for the last two decades.

"The Japanese government has been trying to stimulate the economy there

since the 1990s," says Gary Shilling, who runs an economic consulting firm in Springfield, N.J., and has written two books on deflation.

The U.S. economy is not near such an extreme. But what's emerging is the realization that pricing is being redefined.

Dominick's supermarkets announced in late August that prices on a range of items in its 81 stores would fall by as much as a third. Included in the cuts were both private-label goods and national brands, such as Coffee Mate creamers, Bumble Bee tuna and Tombstone frozen pizza.

Profit margins at grocery stores typically are just 2 percent. Dominick's hopes the low prices will attract customers, who will also buy enough full-priced items to make up the difference.

Other companies are assessing pricing as never before. Procter & Gamble long dismissed the idea of cutting prices for its stable of well-known brands, including Tide detergent and Gillette razors.

In September, the world's largest consumer products maker relented. It announced price cuts across 10 percent of its global line and plans to increase its promotions emphasizing value.

Others are learning that aggressive price cutting can move merchandise. Sony cut prices on its PlayStation 3 video game console by \$100 to about \$300 in August, and sales shot up 300 percent during the following three weeks.

Dick's Sporting Goods sold boxes of a dozen Nike One golf balls for \$42.99 at the start of the year. The balls are used by Tiger Woods and other professional golfers, but sales were lackluster. Now, Dick's offers two boxes for \$59.

Demand has soared.

Regulators close banks in Colo., Mich., Minn.

By Tim Paradis and Marcy Gordon
Associated Press writers

NEW YORK — Regulators have shut Warren Bank in Warren, Mich., and two small banks in Colorado and Minnesota, boosting the number of failed U.S. banks this year to 98 as loan defaults rise in the worst financial climate in decades.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. took over Warren Bank, with about

\$538 million in assets and \$501 million in deposits as of July 31. The Huntington National Bank, based in Columbus, Ohio, agreed to assume the deposits and about \$83 million of the assets of the failed bank. The FDIC will retain the remaining assets for later disposition.

Warren Bank's six branches will reopen Saturday as offices of Huntington National Bank.

The failure of Warren Bank is expected to cost the deposit insurance fund an estimated \$275 million.

Regulators also shut the much smaller Jennings State Bank, in Spring Grove, Minn. Central Bank of Stillwater, Minn., agreed to assume the bank's \$52.4 million in deposits and essentially all the bank's assets, which totaled \$56.3 million on July 31.

In addition, the FDIC and

Central Bank agreed to share losses on about \$37.7 million of Jennings State Bank's assets.

The FDIC estimates the closing of Jennings State Bank will cost the deposit insurance fund about \$11.7 million.

Regulators shut a third bank, the Southern Colorado National Bank in Pueblo, Colo. Legacy Bank of Wiley, Colo., agreed to assume the deposits and

essentially all the assets of Southern Colorado National Bank. As of Sept. 4, deposits stood at \$31.9 million and assets totaled \$39.5 million.

The two branches of Southern Colorado National Bank will reopen Saturday as Legacy Bank offices.

The FDIC and Legacy Bank agreed to share losses on about \$25.5 million of Southern Colorado National Bank's assets.

The FDIC said the closing

will cost the deposit insurance fund about \$6.6 million.

Ninety-eight banks have failed so far this year as losses have mounted on commercial real estate and other soured loans in the wake of the financial crisis and the recession that has gripped the economy. The failures have cost the fund that insures bank deposits about \$25 billion, the FDIC said Tuesday.

Will Stupid Human Tricks turn off Letterman's fans?

By Howard Kurtz
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A man who makes his living mocking such ripe targets as philandering politicians has suddenly become a national punch line.

A veteran entertainer who comes into people's homes when most of them are in bed has now confessed to "creepy" behavior.

David Letterman got out ahead of an embarrassing sex scandal by breaking the news himself, telling viewers Thursday that he did in fact have sexual relations with those women, who, by the way, happened to work for him. And while the CBS host is clearly the victim of a bizarre extortion plot, he has also instantly become a 62-year-old married man with an image problem.

"Every time he cracks one of those jokes," says former CBS and NBC producer Steve Friedman, "you'll look at him in a different way, won't you?"

Letterman, who has been doing late-night comedy since 1982, has never marketed himself as a choirboy, but admitting he had sex with subordinates leaves a whole lot of unanswered questions. He was awkward on Thursday's show, veering between angst and subdued humor, as he described the "scary" ordeal of trying to protect himself, his family, the other women — and his job.

Ken Sunshine, a veteran public-relations specialist, minimizes the professional fallout for Letterman: "He didn't murder anybody. He was extorted. It's consenting adults. Nobody's accusing him of rape. This is shoplifting, maybe. ...

Unless someone accuses him of using his position to forcibly come on to some of the women, to me, it's none of my damn business."

Michael Sitrick, a Los Angeles publicist, says the public "is more forgiving of someone in the entertainment business" than elected officials. "He had sex with women in the office, and there will be some people upset about this — but I'm not sure his audience really is. If a woman had said, 'Look, I worked for him, I kept resisting but I was afraid I'd lose my job,' it would be different."

In an era when political sex scandals have become a front-page staple — John Edwards, Mark Sanford, John Ensign, to name a few — Letterman's dalliances might be brushed off as commonplace. And by framing the story with himself as the victim (CBS News producer Robert "Joe" Halderman was charged in a \$2 million extortion plot Friday), he avoided the drip-drip-drip of incremental disclosures.

But the puzzle still has missing pieces. Did 34-year-old Stephanie Birkitt, a Letterman assistant who later moved in with Halderman, get a prominent on-air role because of a relationship with the comedian? Who are the other women? Did any of them feel pressured by Letterman?

"He's being treated differently because he's a favorite of the press," says Tobe Berkovitz, an associate professor of communication at Boston University.



Halderman

End of Great Recession marks beginning of states' budget woes

By David A. Lieb
Associated Press writer

The recession is probably over, which means states' financial troubles have only begun.

History suggests it could take six or more years for sales and income taxes — which make up roughly two-thirds of states' revenue — to return to pre-recession levels. That augurs deeper cuts to state jobs and services in order to maintain funding for core programs such as public schools and Medicaid.

What's different from the three previous recessions, which took states three to five years to recover from, is that employment and consumer spending aren't expected to bounce back as quickly.

To balance their budgets in the meantime, states are likely to further raise taxes on the money people earn and spend; increase college tuition; reduce funding for the arts and other cultural programs; and push costs into the future by delaying pay raises for employees and repairs of government buildings. Some states, including Massachusetts, Missouri and Arizona, already are making or considering fresh cuts just months after lawmakers agreed on new budgets.

Rising unemployment and a decline in consumer spending have put a big dent in states' tax revenues. Census figures show states' income taxes plunged almost 28 percent in the second quarter of 2009, falling even further in places such as Arizona and California that were among the hardest hit by the housing market collapse. States' quarterly sales taxes fell almost 10 percent compared to the previous year.

Unlike the federal government, states generally must balance their budgets. That's why one-third of states have raised taxes this year. They've hit the wealthy with income tax surcharges, hiked sales taxes that disproportionately affect the poor and targeted smokers, drinkers and motorists with higher taxes and fees.

Hundreds of thousands of state employees have been furloughed. And government "rainy day" funds have been diminished to half their highs of just three years ago.

Billions of dollars in federal stimulus money has enabled state lawmakers to maintain funding for programs like Medicaid and public schools. But that emergency aid will run out long before the labor market improves and states' budgets have healed. At that point, further cuts to less vital services are a near certainty.

"Even though this national recovery will happen, state revenues are still going to be facing some pretty horrific

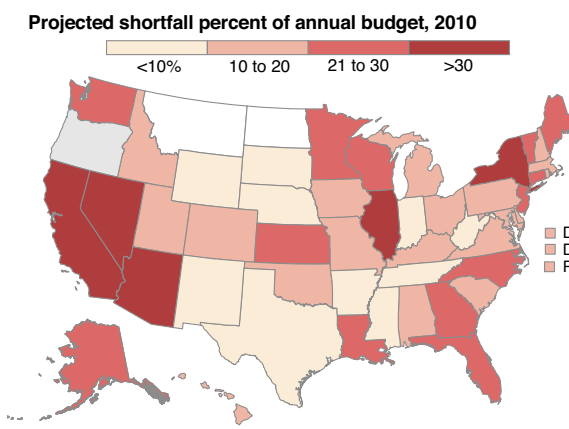


AP photo

Students hold signs during a rally Sept. 24 in the Westwood section of Los Angeles. History suggests it could take half a decade or longer for sales and income taxes, which make up roughly two-thirds of states' revenue, to return to pre-recession levels.

States struggle with budget gaps

Nearly all states have a projected budget shortfall in the current fiscal year July 2009 through June 2010.



NOTE: White states have no projected budget gap; Oregon has a two-year budget SOURCE: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities AP

times," says Sujit CanagaRetna, a senior fiscal analyst for the Council of State Governments.

After the recession that began in July 1981 it took three years before states' revenues fully rebounded, adjusting for inflation, population growth and tax increases, says Donald Boyd, a senior fellow at the Rockefeller Institute of Government at the State University of New York in Albany. He says it took states between four and five years to recover from the recessions that began in July 1990 and March 2001.

Based on that analysis, "I wouldn't be surprised for it to take (states) six or seven years to get back to where they were" before this recession began in December 2007, he says. "What certainly is going to have to happen is several rounds of significant tax increases and, or, spending cuts."

State lawmakers responded to the early 1980s recession with three consecutive years of higher taxes that, when compounded, came to a nearly 11 percent hike over the pre-recession tax levels, Boyd said. The early 1990s recession resulted in a similar

financial hole. They face a combined budget gap for 2010-2011 of more than \$350 billion and, in some states, next year's shortfall is expected to exceed one-quarter of their general fund budgets, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Another reason why most states can expect a slow rebound is that personal income taxes account for more than one-third of revenues, on average, in the 41 states that levy them, according to the National Association of State Budget Officers.

Following the recession of the early 2000s, the national unemployment rate peaked at 6.3 percent. It now stands at 9.8 percent, but is above 10 percent in a dozen states. The last time the nationwide unemployment rate surpassed 10 percent was after the recession that began in 1981.

Baby snatch victim loses kids to state custody

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A mother whose newborn was kidnapped by a knife-wielding woman posing as an immigration agent was briefly reunited with her baby Saturday, then saw him and her three other children taken from her and put into state custody.

Rob Johnson, a spokesman for the Tennessee Department of Children's Services, said the children were taken from their mother, Maria Gurrolla, "purely for safety reasons," though he would not detail why the state deemed they were in danger.

"Our focus is on the children, and under the current situation right

now, we think the safest thing to do is take the children into state custody," he said.

Gurrolla, 30, was stabbed in her home Tuesday, just four days after giving birth to Yair Anthony Carillo, who was snatched by the attacker.

Nashville police said the baby was found in good health Friday night at a home in Ardmore, Ala., about 80 miles south of Nashville near the Tennessee line.

Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Director Mark Gwyn said officials arrested Tammy Renee Silas, 39, at the home in Ardmore. Federal authorities formally charged her Saturday with kidnapping.

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Mormon church to build five new temples worldwide

By Jennifer Dobner
Associated Press writer

SALT LAKE CITY — Mormon church president Thomas S. Monson on Saturday announced plans to build five new temples in the United States and abroad.

Temples will be built in Brigham City, Utah; Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Concepcion, Chile; Fortaleza, Brazil; and Sapporo, Japan, Monson said.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints already has 130 temples operating worldwide, most in the U.S. Another 16 are either planned or already under construction.

Monson has announced plans for at least 10 new temples since he became the church's 16th president in February 2008. His announcement came during the opening session of the church's two-day semiannual general conference in Salt Lake City.

The locations selected for new temples reflect the growth of the church, which according to statistics released in April has grown to 13.8 million members.

"We desire that as many members as possible have an opportunity to attend the temple without having to travel inordinate distances," Monson said. "Worldwide, 83 percent of our members live within 200 miles of a temple."

Temples are considered sacred to Latter-day Saints



Ashley Cole, left, Hattie Hope, center, and Hannah Hope take notes as they listen a speech by President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, second counselor in the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, to the 179th Semiannual General Conference, Saturday in Salt Lake City.

and are used for religious rituals including proxy baptisms, marriage ceremonies known as sealings and other ceremonies designed to strengthen church teachings.

Architecturally, temples are towering white buildings with tall steeples. Many are topped with a trumpet-blowing golden angel draped in flowing robes. The figure represents the angel Moroni, who Mormons believe led church founder Joseph Smith to a set of buried golden plates that, when translated, became known as the Book of Mormon, the faith's central text.

The Brigham City temple

will be the 14th in Utah, the church's international home base. The Fort Lauderdale temple will be Florida's second and the first since the Orlando temple opened in 1994. That temple is expected to serve U.S. Mormons as well as those from the Bahamas, according to a church news release.

The temple in Concepcion will be the second in Chile and the 15th in Latin America. In Brazil, where the church has more than 1 million members, the Fortaleza temple will be the country's seventh.

Japan's Sapporo temple will be the third in that country and the sixth in Asia.

The two-day general conference draws an international audience. More than 100,000 will pack a 20,000-seat conference center on the church's downtown Salt Lake City campus in five two-hour sessions. Millions more watch the proceedings — translated this year into 92 languages — via broadcasts over the Internet, and by satellite and closed circuit television.

Mormons gather to hear words of inspiration and practical guidance from church leaders in April and October. On Saturday, speakers encouraged faithful Latter-day Saints to pray and



The Mormon Tabernacle Choir sings Saturday at the 179th Semiannual General Conference in Salt Lake City.

read scriptures daily, to be open to learning from others, to live temperately and avoid pornography.

Dieter F. Uchtdorf, the second counselor to Monson in the church's First Presidency, said that as the church continues to grow, Latter-day Saints can help redefine negative stereotypes about the church by exemplifying

Christian values.

"Because love is the great commandment, it ought to be the center of all and everything we do in our own family, in our church callings and in our livelihood," Uchtdorf said. "Love is the power that initiates friendship, tolerance, civility and respect. ... Love should be our walk and our talk."

More states pushing for e-waste recycling

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Frustrated by inaction in Congress, a growing number of states are trying to reduce the rising tide of junked TVs, computers and other electronics that have become one of the nation's fastest-growing waste streams.

Nineteen states have passed laws requiring the recycling of old electronics, which contain both precious metals and toxic pollutants and are piling up in garages and closets — or worse, getting dumped overseas. Thirteen other states are considering laws.

But as these state measures take effect, the electronics industry is pushing back against what it calls a hard-to-follow "patchwork."

Two trade groups, the Consumer Electronics Association and the Information Technology Industry Council, are suing New York City over its recycling law, which will make electronics manufacturers provide free collection of electronics weighing more than 15 pounds. That includes "orphan" waste made by now-defunct manufacturers.

The groups contend the law, which requires detailed paper trails documenting their recycling, will cost their member companies more than \$200 million annually.

Parker Brugge, the Consumer Electronics Association's vice president of environmental affairs and

industry sustainability, said the states' laws burden manufacturers with drafting state-specific recycling plans. His group would prefer a national e-waste law that sets a uniform policy and spreads the responsibility of recycling among companies, consumers and local governments.

Barbara Kyle, national coordinator of the Electronics Takeback Coalition, a group that promotes e-waste recycling, thinks manufacturers really want a national policy with less teeth than the state laws.

"They talk about how much they want a federal bill, but what they want is a weak federal bill. They don't want to have to do what the state laws are making them do," she said.

Several e-waste bills have been introduced in Congress over the years but none has passed.

In April, the House authorized the Environmental Protection Agency to award grants promoting e-waste recycling. The Senate has not yet voted on it.

Meanwhile, the amount of e-waste grows. In 2007, Americans disposed of 2.25 million tons of TVs, computers, cell phones, fax machines, printers and scanners. That's more than twice the amount generated in 1999, according to the EPA.

Less than a fifth of e-waste overall is recycled, which allows for the copper, silver, gold and other pre-

cious metals inside to be salvaged and resold. Landfills get many of the rest of the discarded devices, which also have toxic hazards lurking inside — from lead in TVs and computer monitors with cathode-ray tubes to cadmium in rechargeable batteries.

The EPA says stringent landfill regulations keep those toxic materials from posing significant threats to the nation's groundwater. But millions of tons of e-

waste are shipped each year to developing nations, where scrap yards crush or burn components, exposing workers to dangerous fumes.

Most of the state e-waste laws make electronics manufacturers responsible for collecting and recycling their discarded products at little or no cost to consumers — who increasingly are being banned from setting electronics out for regular trash pickups.

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VILLAGES CRUSHED

Landslides follow quake in Indonesia

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Opinion

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2009

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

EDITORIAL

The clock's ticking for Idaho higher education

It's kind of hard to tell amid all the falling plaster and cracking foundations of Idaho higher education, but there is a plan in the works to make it survive — and thrive.

Some of the best minds in Idaho — including Twin Falls' Ken Edmunds, a member of the State Board of Education — have a vision for a higher-ed system that is nimble, accessible, affordable and more effective than the one we have today.

Question is, how much of that system will be left by the time the reformers get a chance to reform it?

Sept. 25 was a brutal day for higher ed statewide. Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter announced 6 percent mid-year budget cuts for universities, colleges and community colleges and gave the institutions just three weeks to get them done.

That's \$5 million out the door at the University of Idaho, \$4.7 million at Boise State University and \$4 million at Idaho State University. Six percent of the College of Southern Idaho's state appropriation works out to a cut of \$705,700, but careful management and use of reserves will temper the pain.

State spending on higher ed next year will be less than this year, which will trigger tuition and fee increases that will price out many students. Annual room, board, tuition and supplies at the University of Idaho now top \$13,000; it's \$11,000 at BSU and Idaho State. Sixty-two percent of ISU undergraduates now receive financial aid, 62 percent at BSU and 58 percent in Moscow.

Cost matters in Idaho because half of the freshmen in the state's colleges and universities don't stick around to become sophomores. Just 22.5 percent of Idahoans 25 and older hold bachelor's degrees; among residents between 18 and 24, only 31 percent are in college.

Certainly, money isn't the only reason. This is an agricultural state with a long tradition of sending high school graduates directly into the workforce. But the bottom line is that our higher ed system isn't serving enough Idahoans well enough to make the state competitive in a global economy.

So college has to count, Edmunds and others believe, in real-world earnings potential. They envision using dual-credit programs — high school students earning college credit — and the newly minted Idaho Education Network to get students invested in Idaho higher education before they leave Idaho high schools. They also champion the community colleges' role as gateways to cost-effective education.

(CSI — which actually enrolls more lower-division academic students than either ISU or the U of I — remains a bargain at about \$2,300 in tuition and fees per year.)

The four-year schools, the reformers believe, must prove they're relevant in specific ways because that's the only way to justify all that expensive bricks-and-mortar and all those highly paid academics in Boise, Pocatello, Moscow and Lewiston.

Programs should be located where the needs are greatest. Half of Idaho attorneys, for example, work in Ada and Canyon counties, but the state's law school is 220 miles away, in Moscow.

And colleges must decide *what* they want to be. Is it realistic, for example, for ISU to continue to function as an advanced research institution *and* what amounts to a community college?

Reform has been tried before in Idaho higher education, and has run into the brick wall of regional politics — as the U of I's attempt to shutter ag research facilities in Parma, Sandpoint and Tetonika this year illustrated so vividly. Worse, the rivalries tend to be zero-sum — any significant higher ed investment in, say, Boise is resented by citizens of eastern and northern Idaho and the legislators who represent them.

That's a recipe for decline. In the long run, Idaho probably can't afford the higher ed system as it exists today.

So higher ed reform in Idaho isn't just a political and economic imperative, but an existential one. How long will Idahoans be willing to export their best-and-brightest high school graduates? How can the state attract the good jobs of the future with the educational system of the past?

And at what point is pretty good just not good enough?

Our view: Our state has a hybrid higher education system essentially shaped for the Idaho of the 1960s. It's not the '60s anymore.



Lowering THE BAR

Why it's time to junk Idaho's two-thirds supermajority rule

BY KEITH ALLRED

After years of argument and inaction, the moment for lowering the threshold for passing a school bond levy from two-thirds of a school district's voters to 60 percent may have arrived.

Tom Luna, superintendent of public instruction, has indicated that he will bring such a proposal forward in the coming legislative session. We at TheCommonInterest.org — a citizens' organization of more than 1,450 Republicans, Democrats, and independents from across Idaho — support his effort.

Proposals to lower the threshold for passing a school bond levy have been considered in the past. The Legislature last seriously considered it in the 2006 session. At that time, our organization investigated the issue. We recognized that arguments both for and against lowering the threshold appealed to our members' commitment to preserving our unique form of government by the people.

A major argument that many Republicans made against changing the threshold from two-thirds to 60 percent was that under the law at that time school districts could hold bond elections on a variety of special dates outside the main election dates. Republicans correctly observed that voter turnout on special date elections was terribly low, often below 10 percent. If a school bond passed with 70 percent approval in a school bond election with 10 percent voter turnout, then only 7 percent of voters were dictating a

property tax increase for the 93 percent who did not vote for the increase. Republicans quite sensibly argued that lowering the threshold even further was inappropriate in a system of government by and for the people.

At the same time, many Democrats, as well as school board members, administrators, and teachers argued that the existing system of funding Idaho's school facilities was simply inadequate. Idaho, they correctly observed, is one of very few states in the country which combines a two-thirds

threshold for school bond elections with little direct state funding for school facilities. As a result, they argued, Idaho schools were too frequently inadequate and even unsafe.

This, they noted, was at odds with our state Constitution. In recognizing that "a republican form of government" depends "mainly on the intelligence of the people," the Idaho Constitution says it is "the duty of the Legislature ... establish and maintain a general, uniform and thorough system of public, free common schools."

In 2005, the Idaho Supreme Court agreed with this argument, finding that Idaho's system for funding school facilities was "not adequate to meet the constitutional mandate" because a "safe environment conducive to learning for Idaho's poorest school districts" was not being provided. As a result of that ruling, modest increases in direct state funding for school facilities were established in 2006.

Also in 2006, moderate Republican Rep. Steve Smylie, who heard the arguments from both sides, proposed lowering the threshold to 60 percent while also requiring that bond elections be held only on the four election dates when voter turnout is reasonably high. Our members largely agreed that Rep. Smylie's proposal was a smart compromise. Just over 70 percent of the members of The Common Interest who were randomly assigned to review our K-12 education funding brief supported the proposal.

Smylie's proposal failed to gain traction for want of support on either side of the issue. Many school officials indicated they would rather have a two-thirds threshold with the existing election dates than a 60 percent threshold on the more restrictive election dates. Many conservatives indicated that they would not support a

See **MAJORITY**, Opinion 2

Changes coming for T-N reporting staff

Things are always changing in the news business — it goes with the turf — and our staff lineup is no exception.

Last month's departure of government and politics reporter Jared Hopkins has prompted a re-alignment that includes:

Damon Hunzeker moves from our Burley office to Twin Falls, where he will cover education and health care while continuing his uncommonly popular "Law & Disorder in Cassia County" feature.

Ben Botkin, who has covered education for the past year or so, will shift to Twin Falls city government and state government and politics, which includes the College of Southern Idaho and higher education in general.

Nate Poppino remains the paper's lead environment reporter but will also cover Twin Falls



County government.

Laurie Welch, who has been focused on Minidoka County, won't move but will add Cassia County to her "to-do" list, taking on local coverage previously handled by Hunzeker. How and when Hunzeker is replaced depends largely on how fast the economy recovers.

Some folks around Oakley are upset at the paper because of stories about the arrest and court appearances involving Nick Greenwell, the prominent former high school football coach accused of taking time out from a fire call to whack another volunteer firefighter with a large wrench.

Those folks are unhappy because we quoted quite accurately from the police report and court files, which gave the motive for the alleged felony assault with a deadly weapon: Greenwell told deputies the victim had had an affair with his wife.

By reporting the motive for the alleged assault, those folks said, we damaged the Greenwell family.

As much as we all might sympathize with the Greenwells, we cannot change the facts of a crime. The motive for a serious assault is both a matter of public record and germane to any news account.

One caller angrily said we should have just reported that the men "had a prior dispute" and left it at that.

Sorry. Vagueness and sugar-coating don't work. Nothing would have been gained by letting the town gossips fill in the blanks.

And by that standard the next time one drug dealer shoots another we would be reduced to listing the motive "a business dispute" to spare the feelings of their families.

I know this won't make Mr. Greenwell's supporters happy. Nothing will.

But consider this, folks: Mr. Greenwell is scheduled to plead guilty to the charges in a couple of weeks. He's apparently taking full responsibility for his actions, and he hasn't complained about the coverage of his case. Those who think we wronged him or his family should place the blame for his current legal troubles and any embarrassment to his kin on those whose actions put them in all the headlines.

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

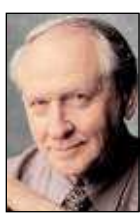
TIMES-NEWS

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The members of the editorial board and writers of editorials are Brad Hurd, James G. Wright, Steve Crump, Bill Bitzenburg and Mary Lou Panatopoulos.

How to read a newspaper column

(Editor's note: William Safire, whose column appeared in *The New York Times* for 33 years, died last week after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 79. What follows is one of the columns he wrote on his retirement in 2005.)



William Safire

At last I am at liberty to vouchsafe to you the dozen rules in reading a political column.

1. Beware the pundit's device of using a quotation from a liberal opposition figure to make a conservative case, and vice versa. Righties love to quote John F. Kennedy on life's unfairness; lefties love to quote Ronald Reagan. Don't fall for gilding by association.

2. Never look for the story in the first paragraph. Reporters are required to put what's happened up top, but the practiced pundit places a nugget of news, even a startling insight, halfway down the column, directed at the *politiscienti*. When pressed for time, the savvy reader starts there.

3. Do not be taken in by "insiderisms." Fledgling columnists, eager to impress readers with their grasp of journalistic jargon, are drawn to such arcane spellings as "lede." Where they lede, do not follow.

4. When infuriated by an outrageous column, do not be suckered into responding

with an abusive e-mail. Pundits so targeted thumb through these red-faced electronic missives with delight, saying "Hah! Got to 'em."

5. Don't fall for the "snapper" device. To give an aimless harangue the illusion of shapeliness, some of us begin with a historical allusion or revealing anecdote, then wander around for 600 words before concluding by harking back to an event or quotation in the opening graph. This stylistic circularity gives the reader a snappy sense of completion when the pundit has not figured out his argument's conclusion.

6. Be wary of admissions of minor error. One vituperator wrote recently that the Constitution's requirement for a president to be "natural born" would have barred Alexander Hamilton. Nitpickers pointed out that the Founders exempted themselves. And there were 16, not 20, second inaugural speeches. In piously making these corrections before departing, the pundit gets credit for accuracy while

getting away with misjudgments too whopping to admit.

(Note: you are now halfway down the column. Start here.)

7. Watch for repayment of favors. Stewart Alsop jocularly advised a novice columnist: "Never compromise your journalistic integrity — except for a revealing anecdote."

Example: a Nixon speechwriter told columnists that the president, at Camp David, boasted "I just shot 120," to which Henry Kissinger said brightly, "Your golf game is improving, Mr. President," causing Nixon to growl, "I was bowling, Henry." After columnists gobbled that up, the manipulative writer collected in the coin of friendlier treatment.

8. Cast aside any column about two subjects. It means the pundit chickened out on the hard decision about what to write about that day. When the two-

topic writer strains to tie together chalk and cheese, turn instead to a pudding with a theme. (Three subjects, however, can give an essay the stability of an oaken barstool. Two's a crowd, but three's a gestalt.)

9. Cherchez la source. Ingest no column (or opinionated reporting labeled "analysis") without asking: *Cui bono?* And whenever you see the word "respected" in front of a name, narrow your eyes. You have never read "According to the disrespected (whomever)?"

10. Resist swaydo-intellectual writing. Only the hifalutin trap themselves into "whomever" and only the tort bar uses the Latin for "who benefits?" Columnists who show off should surely shove off. (And avoid all asinine alliteration.)

11. Do not be suckered by the unexpected. Pundits sometimes slip a knuckleball into their series of curveballs: for variety's

sake, they turn on comrades in ideological arms, inducing apostasy-admirers to gush "Ooh, that's so unpredictable." Such pushmi-pullyu advocacy is permissible for Clintonian liberals or libertarian conservatives but is too often the mark of the too-cute contrarian.

12. Scorn personal exchanges between columnists. Observers presuming to be participants in debate remove the reader from the reality of controversy; theirs is merely a photo of a painting of a statue, or a towel-

throwing contest between fight managers. Insist on columns taking on only the truly powerful, and then only kicking 'em when they're up.

In bidding Catullus' *ave atque vale* to readers of this progenitor of all op-ed pages (see rule 10), is it fair for one who has enjoyed its freedom for three decades to spill its secrets? Of course it's unfair to reveal the Code. But punditry is as vibrant as political life itself, and as JFK said, "life is unfair." (Rules 1 and 5.)

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Knievel jump a scam from the beginning

I have always been puzzled as to why some people keep referring to Bobby Knievel's big scam as a "failed attempt to jump the Snake River Canyon." It was not. It was a carefully planned scheme to fleece a lot of people, leave a trail of unpaid debts and make a pile of money.

From my home, which was only a few hundred yards from the jump ramp, I was privileged to watch each of the two test firings of the rocket sled prior to the big event. Both of them performed exactly as engineered and planned and precisely the same way as it did on the infamous day of the jump.

A philosopher once said, "You can fool all the people some of the time and some of the people all the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time."

He didn't fool me, nor did he fool most of the angry and disappointed crowd who thronged the rim.

Then it occurred to me the shame and embarrassment acknowledging and exposing the truth would bring upon our fair city.

And there was always the opportunity to lure some traveler from the freeway to purchase a tank of overpriced gas and some junk food.

So, yeah, let's sacrifice honesty and integrity for the

lovely lucre that might trickle into our community. Go ahead, Twin Falls. Build your monument to this jerk.

Maybe it is best we cover up the shameful truth and continue to glorify and immortalize this despicable, devious, conniving and evil Knievel.

THOMAS HUTCHISON
Kimberly

Weldon Beck a great man

I was sorry to read that Weldon Beck had passed away. Uncle Weldy, as I called him, was one of the most dedicated public servants that I have ever known.

I remember one of my first meetings with him I watched him grill someone who had come to the commission for aid and he appeared to be a taskmaster with little empathy. He denied the county aid to that person but he invited them home where he gave them beans and gasoline out of his own pocket to help them.

He was always a confidant of mine that I called for advice many times while I served in the legislature.

In my book Uncle Weldy was one of the finest men I have ever known and I feel extremely blessed that he was a part of my life. What a good man he was. A role model for us all.

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50 years later, 'Twilight Zone' bridges time

By William Kates
Associated Press writer

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — On a Friday night in October 1959, Americans began slipping into a dimension of imagination as vast as space and as timeless as infinity. They've really never returned.

"The Twilight Zone," first submitted for the public's approval by a reluctant CBS, has resonated with viewers from generation to generation with memorable stories carrying universal messages about society's ills and the human condition.

Like the time-space warps that anchored so many of the show's plots, Rod Serling's veiled commentary remains as soul-baring today as it did a half-century ago, and the show's popularity endures in multiple facets of American pop culture.

"I'm interested in the escapist ideas, the psychological nature of the stories," said Lauren Chizinski of Houston, a first-year graduate student in sculpting at Syracuse University who is among two dozen students taking a class on show and its 50th anniversary.

"The Twilight Zone" has been exulted in mediums such as pinball and video games and The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror ride at Disney theme parks.

The original show — which ran just five seasons, 1959-1964 — led to a feature film by Steven Spielberg and John Landis in 1983, and is reportedly soon to appear again on the silver screen from Leonardo DiCaprio's production company.

It's also resulted in short-lived television series in the 1980s and in 2002, and has been the subject of scores of books, Web sites, blogs, comic books and magazines and a radio series. It's even inspired music from the Grateful Dead, Rush, Golden Earring and Michael Jackson.

"Even people who have never seen 'The Twilight Zone' know about it," said

"There is a fifth dimension beyond that which is known to man. It is a dimension as vast as space and as timeless as infinity. It is the middle ground between light and shadow, between science and superstition, and it lies between the pit of man's fears and the summit of his knowledge. This is the dimension of imagination. It is an area which we call 'The Twilight Zone.'"

— Rod Serling

Doug Brode, who is teaching the Serling class at Syracuse and teamed with Serling's widow to write "Rod Serling and The Twilight Zone: The 50th Anniversary Tribute."

With quality writing, acting and production, "The Twilight Zone" pioneered a genre, said Robert Thompson, director of the Center for the Study of Popular Television at Syracuse University.

"The whole idea of 'The Twilight Zone' jumped off the television screen and became a catchphrase, a buzzword for something much beyond the TV show

itself," Thompson added. "When you say Twilight Zone, it's its own genre. The X-Files was working in 'The Twilight Zone' genre."

Its signature theme song even became part of popular language, allowing people to describe unusual or inexplicable moments with a simple "doo-doo doo-doo," Thompson said.

CBS has no plans to observe the show's 50th anniversary, said spokesman Chris Ender. The show has enjoyed nearly uninterrupted popularity through television, syndication and DVD releases and is under license to air in 30 countries, he said.

The Syfy Channel regularly broadcasts The Twilight Zone and plans a 15-show marathon Oct. 2.

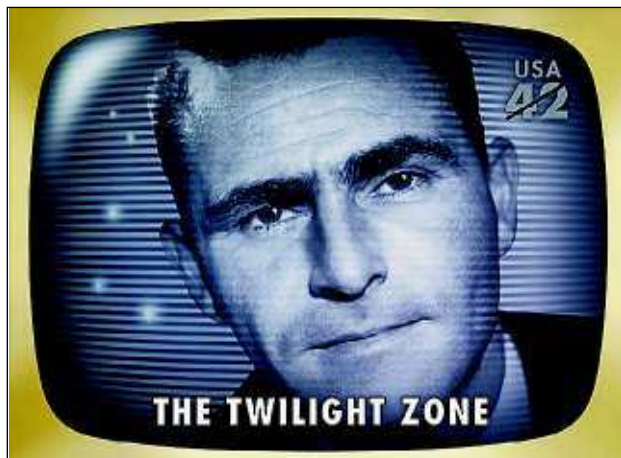
Anniversary observances are planned in Binghamton, N.Y., where Serling grew up and went to high school; at Ithaca College in New York, where Serling taught from 1967 until his death in 1975, and which keeps Serling's archives; and at Antioch College in Ohio, where Serling was a student — met his wife, Carol — and later taught.

"I don't think he would have thought in a million years that Twilight Zone would be having an important 50th birthday or that it would still be on," said Carol Serling, who will attend the celebrations in Ithaca and Binghamton.

"Through parable and suggestion, he could make points that he couldn't make on straight television

because there were too many sacred cows and sponsors and people who said you couldn't do that," she said, referring to the networks' reluctance to deal with contemporary issues in its prime-time programming.

There were 156 episodes filmed for the original series; Serling wrote 92 of them and other contributors included Richard Matheson and Ray Bradbury, two of the deans of science fiction writing.



USPS/AP photo

This undated image shows a 2009 postage stamp honoring 'The Twilight Zone.'

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Congress ready to penalize Iran if diplomacy fails

By Jim Abrams
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Congress is poised to act swiftly on new penalties against Iran if international talks on Tehran's nuclear program show signs of faltering. And this time lawmakers are talking about trying to block gas and refined petroleum exports to Iran, possibly causing serious disruptions in the lives of ordinary Iranians.

"If we want to get their attention, we have to do something real: sanction Iran's gasoline imports," said Rep. Ted Poe, R-Texas, in a speech on the House floor. "That's where Ahmadinejad is vulnerable," he said, referring to Iran's president.

Sen. Christopher Dodd, chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, is one of several lawmakers working on plans to expand current penalties.

"Congress must equip President Obama with a full range of tools to deal with the threats posed by Iran," said Dodd, D-Conn., who said his bill would include extending current restrictions on Iran's financial institutions, imposing new trade bans and exacting penalties for entities exporting certain refined petroleum products to Iran. His committee plans a hearing on the subject Tuesday.

Obama said talks Thursday in Switzerland between Iran and six world powers, where Iran indicated it would open its newly disclosed nuclear plant to U.N. inspectors, were "a constructive beginning." But he said Iran must match its words with actions.

The president said his administration, in conjunction with Congress, is crafting plans that could target Iran's energy, financial and telecommunications sectors. The hope is to gain a united international front that includes China and Russia, countries reluctant in the past to restrict trade with Iran.

Several Democratic leaders, including Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry, D-Mass., say Iran should be given a short time to show it is acting in good faith.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., said the talks should have the chance to succeed. But, he added, "We don't have to wait, certainly for Russia or China or for anybody else, to take the action we deem to be appropriate."

Hoyer made the comments while speaking to the No. 2 Republican, Virginia



AP photo
Manouchehr Mottaki, minister for foreign affairs of Iran, speaks to reporters during a news conference Thursday at United Nations headquarters.

Rep. Eric Cantor, on the House floor Thursday.

Cantor prodded Democrats to restrict gas and refined petroleum exports to Iran. He said Republicans did not support the concept of waiting "until there is some collective agreement on the world stage in order for Congress to act."

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., the top Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, was more direct. "The U.S. must put away the begging bowl, act like a world leader and lead the effort to impose immediate, crippling sanctions on the Iranian regime," she said.

Iran's president says Obama wrong to accuse Iran of hiding nuclear site

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's president hit back Saturday at President Obama's accusation that his country had sought to hide its construction of a new nuclear site, arguing that Tehran reported the facility to the U.N. even earlier than required.

The Iranian president defended his government's actions as the head of the U.N.'s nuclear monitoring agency, Mohamed ElBaradei, arrived Saturday to arrange an inspection of the uranium enrichment facility near the holy city of Qom.

The revelation that Iran has been building a new nuclear plant has heightened the concern of the U.S.

and many of its allies, which suspect Tehran is using a civilian nuclear program as a cover for developing a weapons-making capability. Iran denies such an aim, saying it only wants to generate energy.

Obama and the leaders of France and Britain accused Iran of keeping the construction hidden from the world for years. The U.S. president said last month that Iran's actions "raised grave doubts" about its promise to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes only.

ElBaradei, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, has also said Tehran was "on the wrong side of the law" over the

new plant and should have revealed its plans as soon as it decided to build the facility.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad challenged that view in a speech Saturday, saying that Iran voluntarily revealed the facility to the IAEA in a letter on Sept. 21. He said that was one year earlier than necessary under the agency's rules.

"The U.S. president made a big and historic mistake," Iranian state TV quoted Ahmadinejad as saying. "Later it became clear that (his) information was wrong and that we had no secrecy."

White House spokesman Tom Vietor said the admin-

istration had no comment on Ahmadinejad's remarks.

Iran agreed to allow U.N. inspectors into the facility at a landmark meeting with six world powers near Geneva on Thursday that put nuclear talks back on track and included the highest-level bilateral contact with the U.S. in three decades.

Iranian officials argue that under IAEA safeguard rules, a member nation is required to inform the U.N. agency about the existence of a nuclear facility six months before introducing nuclear material into the machines. Iran says the new facility won't be operational for 18 months, and so it has not violated any IAEA requirements.

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Afghan war options: Beating al-Qaida key yardstick

By Robert Burns
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — President Obama is considering a range of ideas for changing course in Afghanistan, from pulling back to staying put to sending thousands more troops to fight the insurgency.

A look at the options and their implications for achieving Obama's stated goal of defeating al-Qaida.

GETTING OUT

A full, immediate withdrawal of American forces does not appear to be in the cards, not the least because U.S. allies in NATO share the view that abandoning Afghanistan now would hand a victory to Islamic extremist forces such as the Taliban that are aligned in some respects with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida. Some argue that because the al-Qaida figures who were run out of Afghanistan when U.S. troops invaded after the Sept. 11 attacks are now encamped across the border in Pakistan, there is no point to a U.S.

military presence in Afghanistan. A related school of thought holds that the very presence of foreign troops in Afghanistan adds to the country's instability and fuels its insurgency. Obama has taken a different view. Less than two months ago he said, "If left unchecked, the Taliban insurgency will mean an even larger safe haven from which al-Qaida would plot to kill more Americans. So this is not only a war worth fighting. This is fundamental to the defense of our people."

SCALING BACK

A less drastic alternative to a full-scale retreat is a partial pullback. A reduced U.S. force would stay mainly to train and advise the Afghan national army and police. U.S. special operations forces would continue their hunt for most-wanted extremist leaders in Afghanistan. Pilotless drones such as the armed Predator would take out al-Qaida figures on the Pakistan side of the border. This would essentially end the counterinsurgency mis-



AP photo
U.S. Marines with 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion 5th Marines take cover during a firefight with Taliban militants Friday in Nawa district, Helmand province, southern Afghanistan.

sion of U.S. and NATO forces. The reasoning is that the fight is not worth the cost in blood and treasure, and al-Qaida is a more urgent priority. This counterterror option would amount to a reversal of the strategy Obama endorsed in March. In the view of military analysts Frederick and Kimberly Kagan, who favor an expanded counterinsurgency campaign, a shift to only training and counterterror operations would be a big mistake. They argue that it would empower the

Taliban and al-Qaida, endanger remaining U.S. troops and diplomats and allow Islamic extremists to portray the U.S. pullback as a defeat for the forces of mod-

STAYING PUT

One of those advocating no short-term change in the size of the U.S. force in Afghanistan is Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. He argues for putting greater

emphasis on training the Afghan security forces and accelerating their growth. In this approach, the counterinsurgency campaign against the Taliban would continue on course. Additional U.S. troops would be required for the training mission, but not for combat. The flow of equipment for the police and army would be expanded. More effort would be focused on persuading lower-level Taliban fighters to lay down their arms. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top commander in Afghanistan, is calling for accelerated training of Afghan forces. But in his view, more combat troops also are required to retake the initiative from the Taliban, which now control or contest large parts of the country. Earlier efforts to speed up Afghan training stalled in part because of a lack of NATO trainers.

RAMPING UP

This is the McChrystal plan, which he calls "a fundamentally new way of doing business." In military

parlance, it would be a classic counterinsurgency campaign that could last for years. It would mean sending more U.S. troops — perhaps as many as 40,000. The general says it would mean redefining the fight in ways that enable Afghans to regain control of their own country. McChrystal spelled out his reasoning in a report weeks ago to Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who asked for a comprehensive assessment of the war effort when he removed McChrystal's predecessor, Gen. David McKiernan, in May in search of "fresh thinking, fresh eyes." McChrystal says there is no guarantee his approach will work. Critics worry that this escalation would only lead to others, creating a quagmire. But McChrystal argues that if the Afghan government falls to the Taliban — or is unable to counter international terrorist networks — then Afghanistan could again become a base for al-Qaida to launch an attack on the U.S. That's just what Obama says must be avoided.

Afghan policeman kills 2 U.S. troops

Los Angeles Times

KABUL — An Afghan policeman on a joint patrol with American troops in a province near Kabul, the capital, turned his gun on U.S. soldiers, killing two of them, Afghan officials said Saturday.

American military officials confirmed the deaths but said, without elaborating, that they had occurred in a firefight. Afghan officials said two other U.S. troops were injured in the shooting, according to The Associated Press.

Instances of members of Afghan security forces opening fire on their U.S. allies are rare, but when they occur, they fuel fears

that insurgents have managed to infiltrate the ranks of the Afghan police and army.

Afghan and U.S. troops work in concert across large swaths of the country, with the aim of handing responsibility for safeguarding the public to Afghan police officers and soldiers, in lieu of the tens of thousands of foreign troops now in the country. Incidents like this one, though, tend to generate poisonous mistrust on both sides, undermining the larger goal of a security transition that is crucial to the exit strategies of Western governments. A number of NATO allies are already questioning their troop commitments here.

An additional U.S. soldier died Friday of wounds suffered earlier in a separate incident in Wardak province, the U.S. military said Saturday.

The steady pace of violence comes as the Obama administration is wrestling with the question of whether to commit more troops to the Afghan conflict, as the top U.S. commander here, Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, has urged. Fighting dropped off somewhat during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, which ended late last month, but summer was the most lethal interlude for Western forces since the start of the Afghan conflict, now entering its ninth year.

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AP photo

An aerial view shows an earthquake-triggered landslide Saturday in Padang Pariaman, West Sumatra. Wednesday's 7.6 magnitude temblor devastated a stretch of more than 60 miles along the western coast of Sumatra island.

Indonesia: Quake death toll expected to rise as reports come in from villages

By Irwan Firdaus and Eric Talmadge
Associated Press writers

PADANG, Indonesia — The death toll from Indonesia's massive earthquake will likely double as officials on Saturday reached rural communities wiped out by landslides that buried more than 600 people under mountains of mud, most of them guests at a wedding celebration.

Virtually nothing remained of four villages that had dotted the hillside of the Padang Pariman district in Indonesia's West Sumatra just three days ago, said officials and an Associated Press photographer who flew over the devastated area.

Hundreds of doctors, nurses, search and rescue experts and cleanup crews arrived at the regional airport from around the globe with tons of food, tents, medicine, clean water, generators and a field hospital.

But with no electricity, fuel shortages and telecommunication outages the massive operation was chaotic.

Roughly 400 people were at a communal wedding in Pulau Aiya village when Wednesday's 7.6 magnitude quake unleashed a torrent of mud, rock and felled palm trees, said Rustam Pakaya, the head of Indonesia's Health Ministry crisis center.

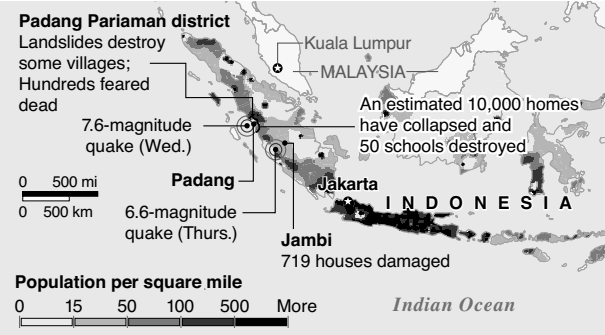
"They were sucked 30 meters (100 feet) deep into the earth," he said. "Even the mosque's minaret, taller than 20 meters (65 feet), disappeared."

Twenty-six bodies were pulled from the rubble-strewn brown earth in nearby Lubuk Lawe and Jumena, but 618 bodies remained far beyond the reach of residents who worked without outside help because roads had been severed, he said.

The number of fatalities in the disaster will jump to more

Quake-related landslides add to loss

At least four remote Indonesian villages were buried in landslides after Wednesday's earthquake, which already has killed over 700.



SOURCES: USGS; ESRI; United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

than 1,300 if all those people are confirmed dead. The government's death toll on Saturday held steady at 715, most reported in the region's badly hit capital of 900,000, Padang, where aid efforts are concentrated.

As many as 3,000 people had been declared missing before news about the obliterated villages emerged, while 2,400 were hospitalized and tens of thousands of people are believed to have been displaced.

More than 1.1 million residents live in the 10 quake-hit districts, the United Nations estimated in a situation assessment, while the government said more than 30,000 homes, schools, mosques, hospitals and government offices had been flattened or severely damaged — 17 percent of all local infrastructure.

An AP photographer who flew over Padang Pariaman district in a helicopter saw several landslides in the area.

At Limo Koto Timur village, a giant section of a hillside was swept away and the remains of destroyed houses protruded from the mud. The ruins of other tin-roofed homes hung precariously over the edge of a huge crevice that was torn through rice fields and forest. Roads were gone and palm trees had been uprooted and swept

downhill, leaving patches of brown earth where villages once stood.

El-Mostafa Benlamlih, the U.N.'s humanitarian coordinator for Indonesia, told the AP that 200 houses were swept away in Pulau Aiya. Aid efforts are "still concentrated in Padang area," with outlying areas still short of aid, Benlamlih said, adding that aid agencies would focus on restoring water, electricity, sanitation and preventing disease.

Deliveries came on C-130 cargo planes from the United States, Russia and Australia. Japanese, Swiss, South Korean and Malaysian search and rescue teams scoured the debris. Tens of millions of dollars in donations came

from more than a dozen countries to supplement \$400 million the Indonesian government said it would spend over the next two months.

On Friday, survivors buried under a collapsed hotel in Padang sent a cell-phone text message to a relative saying he and some others were alive. But, disappointed rescue workers were unable to locate anyone at the Ambacang hotel where as many as 200 people were staying.

After several hours of digging through blocks of concrete, steel and bricks, rescue workers gave up. Padang police chief Col. Boy Rafli Amar told reporters, "So far rescuers have found nothing."

Hidehiro Murase, head of a Japanese search dog team, said its search had been fruitless.

"We did an extensive search this morning, but there were no signs of life. Our dogs are trained to smell for living people, not the dead, and they didn't sense anything," he told the AP.

The U.N. said there are sufficient fuel stocks in the area for four days, but with the road to a major depot cut off by landslides gasoline prices had jumped six-fold.

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The Campbells



James and Lucile Campbell

Edith Lucile Hunsaker Campbell and James Everett Campbell are happy to announce their 50th wedding anniversary, October 10, 2009, at their home in Wendell, Idaho.

Jim and Lucile were united in marriage Saturday, October 10, 1959, at the LDS chapel in Wendell, Idaho. Bishop Lew Pratt officiated at the double ring ceremony.

Jim and Lucile both graduated from Wendell High School, class of 1957, Jim attending College of Idaho for two years, and Lucile at Utah State Agriculture College, and Brigham Young University.

Jim and Lucile owned and operated Campbell Land & Livestock, Inc. from 1959-1983. They ran sheep and cattle, and have continued farming throughout their lives... To their union were born three children, Cindy Lou Campbell, September 27, 1960; Richard James Campbell, born September 25, 1962, and Calvin Hunsaker Campbell born on November 22, 1965. The couple are blessed with nine grand-children, one great grandchild. The children and grandchildren are the joy and pride of Jim and Lucile's life. Each child holds a special place in their heart. Life's special occasions are shared with love and fun for everyone.

Jim and Lucile have lived, loved, and served their community for many years. Jim served on Wendell High School Board from 1974-1984, acting as President of the board for six years.

Jim and Lucile were members of the Idaho Woolgrowers Association

for twenty-four years. Jim was active in Lions Club, serving as President.

Lucile was honored for 20 years service as an American Cancer Society volunteer, serving as Vice President of the Gooding County Cancer Society. Red Cross volunteer for twenty years, donating over five gallons of her own blood to the Red Cross; Served as Vice-President of Wendell

High pep band, and also CSI pep band for basketball games; Lucile returned to BSU to complete her college degree, and graduated from Boise State University May 12, 1991 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts; At present, Lucile is busy keeping the arts alive in Wendell, serving as founder and executive director of Snake River Community Players, Inc. THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER will be performed November 19, 20, 21 at WHS; Lucile is an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

The children, Cindy, Richard, Calvin, grand-children; Amber, Madison, Lauren, Meagan, Lindsey, John, Nick, Mike, and Sean; great-grandchild, Andrew have planned a grand party to celebrate Jim and Lucile's 50th Wedding Anniversary! Come share the joy and happiness with the Campbell family, October 10, at the Campbell home. Address: 2019E 2950S, Wendell Idaho.

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Movies and Times for October 2 to 9, 2009

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Gamers (R) Daily 7:30 9:45
Fri - Sun 1:00 4:00 7:30 9:45

All About Steve (13) Daily 7:30 9:45
Fri - Sun 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45

"9" Nine (13) Daily 7:15 9:15
Fri - Sun 12:15 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:15

The Proposal (13) Daily 7:30 9:45
Fri - Sun 1:00 4:00 7:30 9:45

Love Happens (13) Daily 7:30 9:45
Fri - Sun 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45

FAME (PG) Dolby Digital Surround Daily 7:00 9:15
Fri - Sun 12:00 2:15 4:45 7:00 9:15

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs (PG)
Daily 7:15 9:15 Fri - Sun 12:15 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:15

Inglourious Basterds (R) Daily 7:45
Fri - Sun 12:00 3:30 7:45

Whip It (13) Daily 7:15 9:45
Fri - Sun 1:00 4:00 7:15 9:45

SPECIAL DISCOUNT MOVIES

Transformers 2 (13) ADULTS \$2.00 CHILDREN \$1.00
Daily 6:45 9:30 Fri - Sun 12:30 3:30 6:45 9:30

Ice Age 3 (PG) ADULTS \$2.00 CHILDREN \$1.00
Daily 7:00 9:15 Fri - Sun 12:00 2:15 4:45 7:00 9:15

Walt Disney "UP" (PG) ADULTS \$2.00 CHILDREN \$1.00
Daily 7:00 9:15 Fri - Sun 12:00 2:15 4:45 7:00 9:15

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

FAME (PG) DTS Digital Surround Daily 7:00 9:15
Sat - Sun 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:00 9:15

Julie & Julia (13) Daily 7:00 9:20
Sat - Sun 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:20

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs (PG)
Daily 7:15 9:30 Sat - Sun 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30

SPECIAL DISCOUNT MOVIE

Ice Age 3 (PG) ADULTS \$2.00 CHILDREN \$1.00
Daily 7:15 9:30 Sat - Sun & Thurs 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30

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Jennifer's Body (R) Daily 7:15 9:30
Sat - Sun 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30

ZOMBIELAND (R) Daily 7:00 9:15
Sat - Sun 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:00 9:15

Pandorum (R) Daily 7:30 9:45
Sat - Sun 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45

The Informant! (R) Daily 7:30 9:45
Sat - Sun 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45

Ugly Truth (R) Daily 7:10 9:20
Sat - Sun 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:10 9:20

District 9 (R) Daily 7:00 9:45
Sat - Sun 12:45 3:45 7:00 9:45

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9
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Rowdy World of Roller Derby! --- Be Your Own Hero
WHIP IT
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MAGIC VALLEY'S MOVIES

Irish give decisive 'yes' to EU reform on 2nd try

By Shawn Pogatchnik
Associated Press writer

DUBLIN — Ireland's recession-hit voters have overwhelmingly approved the European Union's ambitious and long-delayed reform plans, electoral chiefs announced Saturday in a referendum result greeted with wild cheers in Dublin — and nervous sighs of relief in Brussels.

Ireland had been the primary obstacle to ratifying the EU Lisbon Treaty, a mammoth agreement designed to modernize and strengthen the 27-nation bloc's institutions and decision-making powers in line with its near-doubling in size since 2004. The treaty will make it easier to take decisions by majority rather than unanimous votes, and give a bigger say to national parliaments and the European Parliament in shaping EU policies.

The Irish — the only EU citizens voting directly for a complex, impenetrably legal

document that has been eight years in the making — stunned Brussels last year with a surprise rejection fueled by fears that an emboldened EU would force neutral Ireland to raise its business taxes, join a European army and legalize abortion.

Ireland staged a second vote Friday after winning legal assurances from EU chiefs that Brussels would not interfere in any of those areas, nor take away Ireland's guaranteed ministerial seat on the European Commission.

"We as a nation have taken a decisive step for a stronger, fairer and better Ireland, and a stronger, fairer and better Europe," Prime Minister Brian Cowen told reporters outside his central Dublin office.

Cowen — whose government won despite suffering record-low popularity amid Ireland's worst economic crisis since the 1930s — thanked his European partners for



Press Association /AP photo

YES Supporters Pat Cox and Bernadette Laffan, right, celebrate at Dublin Castle after Ireland paved the way for EU reform Saturday with more than two-thirds of voters backing the Lisbon Treaty.

addressing why most Irish voted no last time.

He said EU chiefs "listened to the people of Ireland and acted in the spirit of partnership and mutual respect that defines the European Union. That helped us to secure the vital guarantees that made today's victory possible?"

In the Dublin Castle referendum center, electoral chiefs announced the treaty's

approval on a 67.1 percent "yes" vote on a relatively strong 58 percent turnout.

Pro-treaty campaigners from the government and chief opposition parties alike hooted and hollered, waving placards saying "We're Better Together" and simply "YES!"

Ireland in 2008 rejected the treaty with a 53.4 percent "no" vote on 51 percent turnout.

Carl Jung's Red Book to be displayed for first time

By Ula Ilnytzky
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — The Red Book, an intricate 16-year record of Carl Jung's journey into his unconscious that has never been seen publicly, is going on display in an exhibit at a New York museum that coincides with publication of the volume, rendered in the Swiss psychoanalyst's elaborate calligraphy and richly hued paintings.

The tome's existence had always been known, but scholars and the public have never seen it. After Jung's death in 1961, it was left in his Zurich home until it was moved to a bank safe deposit box sometime in the late 1980s.

Jung's descendants resisted historians' requests over the years to have the Red Book published. But after two partial typed draft manuscripts surfaced, they allowed a London historian of psychology, Sonu Shamdasani, who first approached them in 1997, to translate the work from the original.

The Red Book — equal parts extraordinary book of science and work of art — is an exquisite illuminated manuscript comparable to the artistry of the Book of Kells. It is written on heavy-gauge paper in Jung's elegant calligraphy and filled with his dreamlike and painstaking tempera paintings of mythological figures and symbolic graphic forms in deep red, teal, blue and green brushstrokes.

Jung was 39 when he began making entries in the book in 1914, a period he called his "confrontation with the unconscious." He filled 205 pages of the folio-size volume.

The publication of a facsimile of the German-language manuscript and English translation by W.W.



W.W. Norton & Company/AP photo

A page from Carl Jung's Red Book is shown in November 2007.

Norton & Company is priced at \$195 and weighs 8.8 pounds.

Shamdasani said the book represents a series of what Jung called active imagination, or visualization, evoking waking dreams in which he had inner dialogue with fantasy figures to try to understand his unconscious — and his attempts to interpret their significance. Prominently figuring in these fantasies is Philemon, a prophetic wise old man with a white beard and kingfisher wings.

The book is also filled with brightly colored mandalas, a Hindu and Buddhist symbol of wholeness that Jung considered an important representation of his psychological and spiritual development.

"The book represents what he would later call the process of individuation," a method of knowing oneself as fully as possible, Shamdasani said, referring to Jung's most important psychological theory.

The book is "absolutely central" to his later core tenets, added Shamdasani, general editor of the Philemon Foundation and professor in Jung history at the Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University College, London.

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The treaty still requires signatures from the Euro-skeptic heads of state of Poland and the Czech Republic, where national parliaments already have approved the treaty. But the EU expects soon to appoint a new 27-member commission — and new posts of president and foreign minister to project the EU's policies more forcefully on the world stage. New voting rules won't take effect until 2014 at the earliest.

The EU's senior diplomat in Washington, former Irish Prime Minister John Bruton, called the referendum victory "a huge relief."

"Now the way is clear to get on with the real work of restoring the lost dynamism of the shared economy of Europe and Ireland," Bruton said.

The fringe anti-EU groups that triumphed in 2008 attributed this week's stunning U-turn to the rapid unraveling of Ireland's long-booming economy.

Over the past year Ireland's debt has soared and unemployment doubled, and its overstretched banks could fail without a planned euro54 billion (\$80 billion) bailout being underwritten by the European Central Bank.

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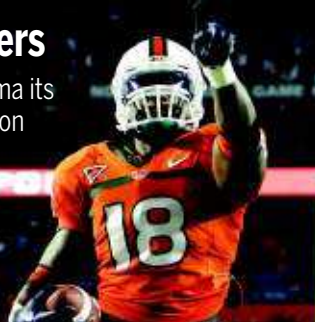
Fit to be tied

Twins, Tigers knotted atop AL Central entering final day of regular season

'Canes top Sooners

Miami hands No. 8 Oklahoma its second loss of the season

Sports 5



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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2009

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

Hulsey, No. 2 CSI pound Eastern Utah

Golden Eagles 2-1 in SWAC with win

By David Bashore
Times-News writer

Even when the No. 2-ranked College of Southern Idaho volleyball team's big rival is nowhere near Twin Falls, the Golden Eagles still seem to find a way to generate motivation from it.

After the College of Eastern Utah took a set from No. 1 North

Idaho on Thursday, CSI didn't want to let CEU get a set on Saturday. Three sets later, the hosts achieved their objective with a 25-16, 25-13, 25-16 victory over the Utah outfit.

"As soon as we saw they'd taken a set from North Idaho, that just gave us that extra fire and motivation," said sophomore Jessica Peacock, who co-led CSI (19-3, 2-1 SWAC) with eight kills. "It's sometimes hard to find that motivation for

games like this one, but we knew we wanted to win in three (sets)."

Peacock noted CEU's improvement in the hitting and blocking department, citing an increase in the duration of a number of rallies. Still, the Utah Golden Eagles (11-12, 1-3) were no match for those from Idaho.

Torrey Hulsey also had eight kills for CSI, including scoring kills to end all three sets. Hulsey and setter Barbara

Alcantara had a strong connection all match long, with the middle hitter pulverizing just about everything Alcantara set up for her.

See CSI, Sports 2

College of Southern Idaho outside hitter Elisa Brochado spikes the ball during Saturday's match with the College of Eastern Utah at CSI Gymnasium in Twin Falls.

DREW GODLESKI/For the Times-News



Homecoming hiccup

Boise State's Tyler Shoemaker (89) and UC Davis cornerback Kevyn Lewis (26) go for a tipped ball during the first half Saturday in Boise. The No. 5 Broncos won 34-16.



AP photo

No. 5 Boise State sleepwalks to home win over UC Davis

By Todd Dvorak
Associated Press writer

BOISE — It was far from dominant, but it was a win.

Kellen Moore threw for 285 yards and three touchdowns, including a pair to Austin Pettis, to lead No. 5 Boise State to a 34-16 victory over UC Davis on Saturday night.

The Broncos (5-0) got off to a slow start and struggled to run the ball against the FCS Aggies.

The Broncos rushed for just 101 yards, far below the 214 yards per game they were averaging. Boise State got just 13 points in four trips to the red zone in the first half before Moore finally helped the offense get on track in the

second half.

Moore was 22 of 31 with one interception. His longest TD pass was 42 yards to Titus Young. Pettis had 10 catches for 129 yards, while Young had six catches for 83 yards.

The Aggies (1-3) were led by quarterback Greg Denham, who was 24-of-36 for 206 yards and two touchdowns. Both of Denham's touchdowns came in the second half as the Aggies fought to keep pace. Midway through the third quarter, Denham fired a 21-yard TD to Sean Creadick to pull within 20-10. Then Denham connected with Creadick again on a 4-yard TD early in the fourth to cut

See BSU, Sports 2

Hit and miss: Broncos slog through ugly outing on Blue

BOISE — Sometimes the ugly duckling just grows up to be an ugly duck.

The No. 5 Boise State Broncos beat UC Davis 34-16 Saturday in the rain, sleet and snow falling on Bronco Stadium, but it just wasn't pretty. It wasn't the blowout the whole nation seemed to be expecting.

"We gotta play better as a defense, as a whole team," junior safety Jeron Johnson said. "We're better than what we showed tonight."

The Broncos ran free and clear through most of the 34-16 win, but got mired in quicksand in the red zone. The first drive (13 plays, 70 yards) died in a quagmire inside



Dustin Lapray

the 10-yard line. The next two drives ended in field goal makes by Kyle Brotzman. It took the Broncos six plays inside the 5-yard line to score in the third quarter. But they did score.

The one constant connection through the downpour was Kellen Moore to Austin Pettis (10 receptions, 129 yards, 2 TDs). The two

See UGLY, Sports 2

Chicago loss means hard times ahead for USOC

By Eddie Pells
Associated Press writer

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — After the shock in Copenhagen comes the backlash in Colorado.

Whether the U.S. Olympic Committee deserves all, some or only a little of the blame for Chicago's embarrassing first-round ouster from the voting for the 2016 Olympics, the federation's home office in Colorado Springs will not be a happy place the next few months.

There is a lot of soul searching to do.

About internal politics, which are in disrepair. And about the way the federation presents itself to the rest of the Olympic world, which, even under the best of circumstances, has anti-American sentiment hard-wired into the circuitry.

"It's very real," said Doug Logan, CEO of USA Track and Field, "and for us to take our rightful place, we have to have an understanding of what's really going on out there."

The International Olympic Committee sent a message to the USOC with Friday's humiliation, one that Swiss IOC member Denis Oswald called "a defeat for the USOC, not for Chicago."

The exact message? Depends on who you ask.

Those who deal with the USOC domestically will point to the recent upheaval at chairman and chief executive officer, where Larry Probst and Stephanie Streeter haven't had the time, or maybe the charisma, to enhance the USOC's image, or get their own people in line.

Those who deal with the USOC internationally give overseas liaisons like Bob Ctvrtlik and Robert Fasulo credit for trying. But a concerted four-year effort does

See USOC, Sports 8



AP photo

Eastern Washington University running back Taiwan Jones (22) runs past Idaho State's safety Chris Holmesly (21) during first quarter at Holt Arena in Pocatello on Saturday.

Bengals fall to 0-5 with blowout loss to No. 17 EWU

Minico grad Morgan finds tough sledding in ISU home defeat

The Associated Press

POCATELLO — Behind the rushing of Taiwan Jones and the passing of Matt Nichols, Eastern Washington remained undefeated in the Big Sky by defeating winless Idaho State 38-3 Saturday.

Jones averaged 12 yards on 14 carries for the Eagles (4-1, 3-0 Big Sky). The sophomore rushed for 168 yards and three touchdowns, including a 96-yarder.

Nichols completed 27 of 38 passes for 293 yards and two touchdowns. His favorite targets were Aaron Boyce, who had 10 catches for 149 yards and both TDs, and Tony Davis, who caught nine passes for 60 yards.

The Bengals (0-5, 0-2) were led by junior quarterback Kyle Blum, who completed 13 of



22 for 150 yards. Idaho State's leading receivers were Jaron Taylor, who had seven catches for 129 yards, and JD Ponciano, with five catches for 43 yards. Minico High grad Skylar Morgan rushed seven times for 5 yards and caught one pass for 6 yards.

Eastern Washington racked up 530 yards of total offense to 271 for Idaho State. The Bengals were held to minus-2 yards rushing on 30 attempts, and they allowed five sacks.

The Eagles opened a 14-0 first-quarter lead, with Jones scoring on runs of 15 and 11 yards to cap drives of 38 and 88 yards, respectively. Idaho State's lone score was a 43-yard field goal by Jarrett Huk with 10:28 left in the second quarter.

Eastern Washington's final TD of the first half came on a 25-yard pass from Nichols to Boyce with 56 seconds remaining.



LATE IN MOSCOW

Idaho led Colorado State 24-20 midway through the third quarter Saturday in Moscow. For a full game recap, see Monday's Times-News or visit Magicvalley.com.

Jones' 96-yard touchdown run occurred less than two minutes into the second half, putting Eastern Washington up 28-3. The Eagles scored again with 4:13 left in the third quarter, three plays after recovering a fumble on the 13-yard line, when Nichols threw an 11-yard pass to Boyce.

The Eagles' final score was a 49-yard field goal by Mike Jarrett.

Blum was replaced by junior Russel Hill with five minutes left in the third quarter. Hill completed 8 of 16 for 85 yards.

Each team had three turnovers.

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Celebrating peace, change and a new life

Story by Melissa Davlin
Photos by Meagan Thompson

Refugees bring
Hindu festival
to Twin Falls

Last Sunday, Rock Creek Park overflowed with the aroma of spicy curry, the colors of silk saris and the sounds of song, laughter and prayer.

For the 176 Bhutanese refugees of Nepali ancestry who have resettled in Twin Falls since September 2008, this was the first Dashain celebration in their new home. Even in the absence of a Hindu temple and of many friends and relatives who still live in refugee camps, the revelers pooled their resources to make the festival as authentic, enjoyable and open as possible.

Dashain is a 10-day festival celebrated in Bhutan, Nepal and parts of India. It commemorates the victory of the god Ramayan, with the help of the goddess Durga, over the demon Ravana, participant Krishna Regmi explained during a prayer session in the park. Regmi, 31, works at Walmart, sharing a Twin Falls apartment with his wife, brother and sister.

The celebration isn't just for Hindus. "They are praying for the whole world," said Dil Darjee, gesturing to the white-clad Hindu priest and two elderly men. Although most of the 130 participants were Nepali, some brought their American friends to join. One man wandered to the park with his dog to observe the festival and was invited to sit and eat. He accepted.

Hindu festivals differ from

See **FESTIVAL**, Family Life 3



TOP: Samir Rai, 3, buries his face in mother Ful Rai's skirts as she participates in a Dashain celebration Sept. 27 at Rock Creek Park. For the Bhutanese refugees of Nepali ancestry who have resettled in Twin Falls since September 2008, this was the first Dashain in their new home.

ABOVE: Raghu Regmi, 66, left, passes a ceremonial plate to Minku Magar, 22, right, as others pray.

LEFT: Rup Subedi, 80, wears a traditional Nepali cap called a dhaka topi during the Hindu festival last weekend in Twin Falls' Rock Creek Park.

BELOW: Bejay Nepal plucks a balloon decoration from a streamer as Begyan Regmi, 5, right, looks on at the Sept. 27 Hindu festival. About 130 people gathered to celebrate in Rock Creek Park.



Where's the receipt for that new protractor?

It's only a month into the school year, and I want my money back.

Not from property taxes paid for new schools; not from booster club money for losing teams.

My demand is simple and honorable. After my children broke the bank on school supplies that are now lost or destroyed, I'm demanding a refund.

SPILT MILK

David Cooper



Once August rolls around, the hottest list of best-sellers isn't on the Billboard charts or the *New York Times* book sales — it's at the local Walmart and Target for school supplies.

The lists are specific — too specific, in fact. College-ruled paper for middle school grades, wide-ruled paper for grade schools, No. 2 pencils, fluorescent pens, erasable pens, white-out bottles, three-ring binders. The list has more material demands than a ransom note.

There's no doubt this kind of mass consumerism creates a boon in the "back to school" industry. Once we totaled up our bill for supplies, student fees and specific materials, it was reaching a tab in the hundreds of dollars.

That's a hefty sum for someone who never went to school with more than a binder with folders, and a bag of pens. Anything else you needed along the way you dug out of the lost and found.

The fact is kids need this many supplies about as much as they need a Cadbury egg omelet for breakfast. Some of the material is to be used immediately. A good half of it is supposed to last through the school year. And the other portion will sit around in my house with no use in mind. That is, until my children find all the extra pairs of scissors lying around and start cutting their own hair.

I know I'm just wasting my breath here. Once your kid goes to college, the problem is multiplied tenfold with the purchase of laptops, printers, scanners and — the worst of them all — overpriced college textbooks.

And while I don't expect the schools, and certainly not the teachers, to buy any of these items for my kids, perhaps some realistic expectations could be set for what to buy for the first week of school.

Let's start with the basic idea that I don't need to buy a whole year's worth of supplies in summer.

Why not buy as we go along? Because quite honestly, there's nothing more humiliating than running from store to store in August to find a jumbo box of No. 2 pencils.

As for the kids, I'm using the deposit principle. For every pencil, notepad, eraser and glue stick they return in good shape in May, I pay them in full. I'll save half the expense over the span of a year.

Especially with the scissors, which are still cheaper than salon haircuts.

David Cooper may be reached at dcooper@magicvalley.com.



Januka Regmi, left, and Tara Upreti wrap themselves in silk saris as they prepare for their first Dashain celebration in Twin Falls. The women are part of a Nepali refugee population from Bhutan that is resettling in Magic Valley.

MEAGAN THOMPSON/
Times-News

Festival

Continued from Family Life 1

American celebrations in that dancing and eating occur concurrently with religious ceremony. In one corner of the park's pavilion, the priest and elders chanted prayers from holy books brought from Nepal while burning incense and ringing bells. Twenty feet away, children danced to Nepali pop music as their parents ate breakfast.

The juxtaposition of tradition and modernity carried over to all parts of the festival. Orange soda washed down samosas, and naan shared plate space with store-bought cake and chips. Ceremonial offerings included oak leaves, saltine crackers and a dollar bill. Adult women wore silk saris while their daughters favored western fashion, and older men donned traditional caps, called dhaka topi, while younger men wore T-shirts and jeans.

No matter their fashion preference, age or nationality, everyone wore a tika — the ceremonial mixture of red powder, yogurt and rice. Halfway through the ceremony, the priest went from table to table, gave blessings and stuck a wet dollop of red rice on each reveler's head.

Not all of Twin Falls' Nepalis were at the festival. Many work at the same places, Regmi said, and couldn't all get the same day off.

Deepak Kharel's wife was one of the absent. She'd had a baby four days before,

Kharel said as he munched on curry chicken. Kharel, 22, took a break from newborn duties to join the festivities. The Twin Falls celebration was great, he said, but smaller than ones in Nepal.

"It's quite different," he said.

During one of the meals, Darjee greeted American visitors — most of them friends of the refugee families — and explained the importance of the celebration. Darjee fled Bhutan at 16 years old when Bhutanese militants stormed his school and started shooting. Unable to return home to his family, he went straight to the border, then into Nepal with the flow of other refugees. Bhutanese authorities won't allow him back in the country, he said. He hasn't seen his parents or siblings in 17 years, although he was recently able to call his brother, who still lives in Bhutan.

Now he lives in Twin Falls with his wife and three daughters and works at Walmart and AmeriPride Services. Last Sunday, they were able to forget about their hardships and years in the Nepal refugee camp and join their friends in celebrating their culture and new home.

That morning, with the fall breeze carrying the sounds of celebration across the park, they talked only of peace.

Melissa Davlin may be reached at 208-735-3234.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK DANCING IN A SARI

I started volunteering with a Bhutanese family last November. At first, I helped ferry them around town and answered any questions they had about the community. My husband, Nate, fixed their donated computers countless times.

But over the past year, our friendship has grown. As their English improved, they were able to tell me their stories. In Bhutan, the Upretis owned fruit orchards and several animals. In the early 1990s, the Bhutanese government revoked citizenship for people of Nepali descent, then systematically drove them from the country. The Upretis left their homes in the middle of the night, leaving everything behind, and spent the next 17 years in the cramped huts of Nepali refugee camps. Their journey ended last September in Twin Falls.

I am now close to their extended family — all 16 of them. I know that Padma wakes up at 4:30 every morning to study both English and Spanish, that Ashok is a fantastic soccer player, that Devi and Tanka are talented knitters, that Pampah, Bikash and Shrijana love swimming and Hannah Montana.

We've shared holidays — Thanksgiving at my home, a Christmas visit with cookies and now Dashain with their friends.



I arrived at Padma and Tara Upreti's home at 8:30 the morning of the festival. Neighbor Januka Regmi brought over her pink sari for me to wear. She had worn it for her wedding, she said. It took 30 minutes and a few tries to get me folded into the garment, but it worked.

At Rock Creek Park, any weird feelings about being the only American wearing a sari dissipated as the festival participants told me I looked beautiful. Just like a Nepali, one of them said. I recognized most of them from visiting with the Upretis and from a wedding I had attended this summer. Even if we had never met before, everyone said hello, and everyone made sure that Nate, photographer Meagan Thompson and I were enjoying ourselves. Strangers wanted to visit with us and answer any questions we had about the holiday. They offered us enough food for a week.

And then came the dancing. Pop music interrupted our first meal, and a few girls came up and grabbed my arms, asking me to dance with them. I joined the circle of moving and clapping, and in that moment, it didn't matter that we hailed from different continents. This was our home.

— Melissa Davlin



Magicvalley.com

WATCH a video story with sights and sounds from the Dashain celebration. VIEW a slide show with more photos.

How a son's first cavity threw his parents for a loop

By Lisa A. Flam
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — I looked inside and there it was: dark and deep, a gaping gray pit.

As the dentist spoke, I couldn't process the news. My 8-year-old son had his first cavity, and it's "quite large," he confirmed to this disbelieving mother.

Disbelieving because no hole had been filled in my mouth until the teenage years, when the braces came off to reveal a small bit of decay.

It simply never occurred to me that my son would have cavities, because I didn't. It was irrational, especially since my husband had more childhood cavities than I did. But on that May day in the dentist's office, with SpongeBob blaring on the TV, I felt crushed.

So after my son's tears dried and the cavity was filled, I wanted to understand my reaction, if not avoid a repeat. Turns out I'm not the only parent who gets rattled by a child having problems I somehow avoided.

"The key is not to make assumptions about the child, his abilities or inabilities," says New York psychologist Rochelle Balter. "You need to tell yourself that no matter how good a parenting job you do, there are certain things you cannot control."

Many parents, especially

high achievers, are hardwired to believe their offspring will be like them, assume their interests and perform up to their levels, says Balter.

"Many parents see their children as an extension of themselves," Balter said. "We all expect them to share the experiences we had."

And in my sweet boy, I love recognizing my eye color, skin tone and hair texture. I see the shape of my eyebrows and lips. I want him to like the things I enjoyed as a kid.

But Balter reminds us what we all know: children are unique beings.

Teeth aside, my son did get his dad's love of baseball and most other sports. And as the son of two editors, he doesn't let a typo in the morning sports pages go uncorrected. Still, he's not taken with my childhood hobbies of swimming and ice skating and does well in math, not a strength of mine or my husband's.

Skills and abilities come from a combination of genetics and the child's environment, says Dr. Ada Hamosh, a geneticist and pediatrician at Johns Hopkins University School

of Medicine.

So while it'd be great if our kids picked up all of our interests and (dental) strengths, it's not always going to happen.

"You can foster an appreciation but it doesn't mean a child will excel at it," Balter says.

In my case, I'm paying extra close attention to his

brushing and flossing. But what's a deflated mom or dad to do when their little boy or girl truly chooses a different path?

"The parent's dream gets put on hold," she says. "You have to say, 'I'm not giving up on the first try but I'm not going to force the child to do something the child doesn't like.'"

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Question: My old vacuum is making me grouchy! It's a cheapo we bought at a discount store, thinking we got a stealer deal. But when I use it, I feel like it is just spreading the dirt around instead of really sucking it up. I'm thinking I need a professional vacuum. Are they worth the money?

Answer: There are so many advantages of a professional vacuum, I don't have space to list them all. But let me explain just one. A lot of inexpensive vacuums now have a HEPA filtration, but that only refers to the filter itself. Turn your vacuum on in a dark room and shine a flashlight: Do you see dust? If so, your vacuum is not properly sealed. The very debris you are trying to remove is being re-circulated, contaminating your indoor air. Professional vacuums like LINDHAUS are sealed to trap organisms down to .3 microns in size. For this reason alone, it's worth the money!


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AP photo

Jeremy Lavine poses near one of the personal watercraft he's in repairing in Tampa, Fla.

More parents seeking child-support reduction

By Megan K. Scott
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — As the owner of a successful acupuncture clinic in a wealthy Washington suburb, David Vandenberg never had any problems making a \$433 monthly child support payment.

Until last year, when his business faltered and he went on unemployment. Unable to find another job, the 50-year-old Vandenberg moved to Arkansas to live with his parents. Now they're paying the child support for him.

"I felt I didn't have any recourse," said Vandenberg, who has a 12-year-old daughter and tried unsuccessfully for a court-approved reduction in his child support payments. After child support, "I get \$100 a month in unemployment!"

With the economic downturn hitting men harder than women — 9.8 versus 7.5 percent unemployment — and men comprising most noncustodial parents, many dads are finding themselves struggling to make child support payments that were based on incomes they no longer earn.

In a survey of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers earlier this year, 39 percent of the members reported an increase in modifications being made to child support payments, and 42 percent cited a rise in the number of changes made to alimony.

"You have all these guys losing their jobs, having to take lower-paying jobs or part-time work, and they are flooding the courts to get downward modifications," said Glenn Sacks, executive director of Fathers & Families, which advocates for reform of the family court system.

SOME TIPS FOR NONCUSTODIAL PARENTS AFTER JOB LOSS

A growing number of noncustodial parents are struggling to make child support payments because of a loss in income. Here are some tips from the experts:

- **File** for a child support modification right away, said Lee Rosen, a divorce attorney in Raleigh, N.C. Many times parents wait too long thinking they are going to find another job quickly. By the time they get to court, they are out of money. A judge may grant a modification but it probably won't be retroactive.
- **Notify** the custodial parent immediately, so he or she can make spending adjustments, said Rosen. Perhaps the children can be moved to a less expensive day care, for example.
- **Be persistent**, especially if you don't have a lawyer, said Rosen. In some states, filing for a modification is like going to the driver's license office; there are all sorts of requirements.
- **Try** to work out an agreement. It's far more preferable for ex-spouses to come up with their own arrangement, and then hire an attorney to submit the modification order to the court, said Ike Vanden Eykel, a divorce attorney in North Texas. Remember the children. Spend time with them.

"The courts have improved to a degree, but they move much too slowly."

The Maryland Child Support Enforcement Administration has seen an 18 percent increase over the last year in requests for child support modifications, said Paula Tolson, spokeswoman for the state Department of Human Resources.

In Prince George's County, requests have tripled over the past 1 1/2 years.

While historically requests have come from custodial parents who need an increase in support, many are now coming from noncustodial parents seeking a reduction, according to Joan Kennedy, director of the county's Office of Child Support Enforcement.

Many times the custodial parent feels the hit from a downward modification.

Sometimes she has experienced her own income loss.

Delaine Moore, a separated stay-at-home mom of three in Calgary,

Alberta, Canada, said there have been fewer trips to the movies and McDonald's and more activities at home since her ex's oil field drilling work came to a halt in March. Her child support and spousal payments dropped from \$6,500 a month to nothing. He has since picked up a part-time job earning minimum wage but is paying only \$450 a month.

Moore, who blogs about motherhood, divorce and infidelity, said her parents are paying her mortgage and she had money saved, but she is considering turning her home into a day care to earn money. If things haven't improved by Christmas, she may move in with her parents.

"I think my children are still feeling very loved and most importantly I'm here for them," she said. But it's been stressful. "I don't know what's going to happen."

Child support laws vary from state to state, but the amount is primarily based on the noncustodial parent's income. Other factors include how many

children there are, how much time the children spend with each parent and the custodial parent's income.

Family court judge Patricia Macias of El Paso, Texas, said she considers whether the parent is unemployed or underemployed by choice, is actively seeking another job and can retain a job commensurate with their education and skills. Perhaps the person has assets that can be liquidated, she said.

"I believe that family court judges as a general rule are very empathetic to the economic situation," said Macias, immediate past president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. "But our primary focus is what the kids need. So that it's not good enough to say, 'Judge, you understand. We're in hard economic times.' We all understand but what extra effort are you making now?"

Jeremy Lavine, 29, of Tampa, Fla., is keeping his two kids half the time so he is not paying the full support amount.

He said he inquired about a modification more than a year ago, but the Florida Department of Children and Families told him his industry was going to bounce back.

Lavine's child support payment is still \$1,100 a month based on a \$4,500-a-month income, though he now makes only \$1,500 a month repairing jet skis. He and his ex-wife are going to mediation to get the changes to custody and child support on the books.

But as everyone knows, divorce can be contentious.

Many people don't believe what their ex-spouses tell them when it comes to finances.

Quick Study



By Linda Searing
Special to The
Washington Post

The topic: PREGNANCY

Folic acid may help prevent early births

THE QUESTION

Some studies have shown that women who deliver early have less folic acid in their blood than those who carry their babies full term. Might taking folic acid supplements reduce the likelihood of premature delivery?

THIS STUDY

It analyzed data on 34,480 women who gave birth to one child, including 19,221 who had taken folic acid supplements before conceiving and 1,818 who had a premature delivery that was not caused by medical or obstetrical complications.

Women who'd taken folic acid for more than a year before conceiving were 70 percent less likely than those who'd never taken the supplements to have given birth after a 20- to 28-week gestation period, and 50 percent less likely to have given birth after 28 to 32 weeks of gestation. Supplement use of less than a year was somewhat less beneficial.

WHO MAY BE AFFECTED?

Pregnant women and their offspring. Babies born prematurely are more likely to be underweight, to have breathing problems and organs that have not fully developed, and to have birth defects. The more premature, the greater the risk.

CAVEATS

It's possible that women who took folic acid were healthier overall, which could have affected the results.

FIND THIS STUDY

It's in the May 12 online issue of *PLoS Medicine*.

LEARN MORE

Learn about premature birth at www.nichd.nih.gov/womenshealth and www.marchofdimas.com/prematurity.

Drug taken for morning sickness does not seem to harm fetus

THE QUESTION

Is a drug approved for heartburn and other gastrointestinal disorders safe for use by pregnant women with morning sickness?

THIS STUDY

It analyzed data on 81,703 infants, including 3,458 whose mothers had taken Reglan (metoclopramide) to relieve nausea and vomiting during the first trimester of their pregnancy. Overall, 4,016 infants were born with major birth defects — about 5 percent of the children who'd been exposed to the drug in utero and 5 percent whose mothers did not take the drug. There also was virtually no difference between the groups in the rate of premature births (6 percent), babies born underweight (8 percent) and infants who died shortly after birth (2 percent).

WHO MAY BE AFFECTED?

Pregnant women with morning sickness, which most women experience to some degree. It usually begins during the first month of pregnancy and ends by the 16th week, although it sometimes afflicts women throughout their pregnancy.

CAVEATS

Reglan does not have Food and Drug Administration approval for use against morning sickness; the study was conducted in Israel, where it is widely used for that purpose. The study did not evaluate the drug's effectiveness. The FDA requires that Reglan packaging carry a warning that long-term or high-dose use increases the risk for tardive dyskinesia, a movement disorder.

FIND THIS STUDY

It's in the June 11 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

LEARN MORE

Learn about pregnancy at www.womenshealth.gov/pregnancy and www.nichd.nih.gov/health.

The research described in Quick Study comes from credible, peer-reviewed journals. Nonetheless, conclusive evidence about a treatment's effectiveness is rarely found in a single study. Anyone considering changing or beginning treatment of any kind should consult with a physician.

Kissing childhood goodbye: Mom deals with kiss diss from schoolbound child

By Lisa A. Flam
Associated Press writer

We were only two weeks into the school year when my son hopped up the school bus steps one morning before I could kiss him goodbye.

I called his name, and my not-so-little-anymore fourth-grader turned to give me that knowing look, fully aware that we had skipped the morning ritual.

So after trudging back into a quiet house, I did what any mom in the modern age would do: I updated my online status to say the missed kiss had gotten me down. Within minutes, I was comforted to know I was not alone.

"That started last year for me. I'm sad about it too," Laura wrote about her 9-year-old son.

"Aw-w-w ... hated when

the boys did that," added Linda, the wise mom of two sons, 14 and 12, who then warned: "Soon it will just be a head nod in passing as a hello!"

With my son's ninth birthday quickly approaching, I figured that he was embarrassed and that the missed kiss was another sign of his growing independence.

My instincts were right. The shunning of parental PDAs usually happens sometime in grade school, when kids' social scenes are expanding. That's when they're more aware of people's perceptions of them and don't want to be seen as little kids, said Liz Pungello, a developmental psychologist at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"It's about them and their social scene and has hardly

anything to do with us," she said, making me feel marginally better.

My spirits rose further when George Scarlett, a developmental psychologist at Tufts University, said children whose parents have developed a nurturing relationship with them should be secure enough around this age to tackle the outside world. Leaving without the kiss is a sign that they are feeling confident and autonomous and are making their own healthy friendships.

"Not kissing, then, means a parent has done his or her job!" he said by e-mail.

Job satisfaction aside, it still hurts. But Scarlett says parents shouldn't feel bad because their children's love, though no longer visible in public, is likely to be just as strong — if not stronger — than when they

were toddling around clinging to their pant leg.

"I strongly suggest that parents laugh at their feelings of being jilted lovers and not act as if they are being rejected because they aren't," Scarlett says.

Parents should try to keep up the rituals of public affection, but in a more low-key way, to keep the practice alive, Scarlett says.

My friends had some solutions. "We do the 3 hand squeezes for I-L-Y," wrote Melissa, of her almost 10-year-old son. Heather reports that her 7 1/2-year-old-son deemed a kiss "OK as long as I do it before the bus comes."

Others are unwilling to give up the buss at the bus and resort to force. My cousin Lisa, a black belt in karate, grabs her fifth-grade son to kiss him on the head. "Sometimes, I block the

entrance to the bus," she wrote.

Of course, we can give our children a squeeze or a peck — that feeling of safety and security — at home. "They still need that affection and warmth from us. They just need it to not be in front of their friends," Pungello said.

With so many moms of boys weighing in, I wondered if I'd be back in this situation in four years, when my kissy-face daughter reaches the age her brother is today. To my relief, my friends told me, the girls keep on kissing a bit longer.

That's true, Scarlett said, because a mom's kiss can be threatening to her son's developing masculinity.

"Kissing by mothers is something that makes boys look childish, unmanly, babylike — not tough, as most boys wish to be per-

ceived," Scarlett said. "Girls, on the other hand, can work out independence and autonomy while still being kissed — because being kissed doesn't threaten their being feminine."

So the good news for moms of those burping and bathroom-humor-loving boys is that they will likely embrace a parent's public affection again when they're older teenagers or young adults, experts said.

"Sometimes you have to turn your back on the past to get through the door to the future — and that's what happens when a child gets on a bus in the morning without kissing mommy goodbye," Scarlett says.

I'm not looking to rush my son's childhood away. So these days, I'll happily settle for giving him a big good-night kiss, right in the privacy of his room.

Easing the path for online couples

By Lavanya Ramanathan
The Washington Post

Abby Tankenoff and Santiago Merea met the way so many couples these days do: They were matched.

EHarmony paired the two 20-something Washingtonians (she a fashionista working as a stylist, he an Argentine native working in public policy), and sure enough, they clicked. This summer, after months of dating, they took the next logical step.

They started their own site for online daters.

In August, Tankenoff and Merea launched *Onlinecouples.com* to help those who met on the Internet find other online couples for friendship and support.

"When you tell someone you met online, that becomes the primary thing of the relationship in other people's eyes," Merea says. "I'm not saying that's a bad thing, but people are like, 'Oh, so you met online? Is that awkward?'"

"The relationship turns into a kind of novelty," Tankenoff adds. "When (Merea) first told me about

this idea, I was like, 'There is a market for this. People are always trying to legitimize their online relationships.'"

The free site, which resembles the dating site *Plentyoffish.com*, is still spare, with about 30 registered couples. But the site's forum suggests it is on to something. Folks have been posting about myriad issues, such as whether to tell others how they met and if online daters, ahem, do it better.

"We really want it to be a community," Merea says. "We really want users to make it work."

Jose Palma, 29, of Minneapolis and his girlfriend joined after reading about Merea's project on Facebook (Palma and Merea went to the University of Minnesota). They wanted running buddies. "For us, our friends here, they're either single or they're couples and they're not interested in doing the things we want to do, like the marathon," Palma says.

So far, there's just one other Minnesota couple registered.

"If it picks up," Palma says, "it will be a good resource for us."

STORK REPORT

St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center

Kaleb Tristan Lopez, son of Linda Kay and Robert William Lopez of Rupert, was born Sept. 3, 2009.

Sebastian Eli Zuniga, son of Yasmin Zuniga of Jerome, was born Sept. 5, 2009.

Macey Kaye Finney, daughter of Sarah Louise Harbaugh and Rocky Lance Finney of Twin Falls, was born Sept. 17, 2009.

Maddox Dean Price, son of Sarah Kathleen and Scott Glen Price of Twin Falls, was born Sept. 17, 2009.

Gunnar Jay Wiltsie, son of Jennifer Maria Haines of Twin Falls, was born Sept. 17, 2009.

Brayden Richard Blankenship, son of Trista Shae Kraus and Blair Richard Blankenship of Twin Falls, was born Sept. 18, 2009.

Marley Jean Bland, daughter of Jacklyn Marie and Jeffrey Daniel Bland of Jerome, was born Sept. 21, 2009.

Ajdin Cucic, son of Sladana and Haris Cucic of Twin Falls, was born Sept. 22, 2009.

Ariah Lilly Anna Jo Homer, daughter of Amy Jo Hardy and James William Homer of Twin Falls, was born Sept. 22, 2009.

Sierra Lee Shaw, daughter of Connie Marie and Dale Jordan Shaw of Gooding, was born Sept. 22, 2009.

Jonathan Nephi Young, son of Kristi Marie Clements and Paul Nephi Young of Twin Falls, was born Sept. 22, 2009.

William Clay Hardcastle, son of Patricia Anneal and Ivan M. Hardcastle of Twin Falls, was born Sept. 23, 2009.

Jack Louis Holdeman, son of Kendra Lynne and Danen Markall Holdeman of Buhl, was born Sept. 23, 2009.

Drishya Kharel, daughter of Devika and Deepak Kharel of Twin Falls, was born Sept. 23, 2009.

Peter Lawrence Bartlett, son of Rachel Jael and Yancy Rawn Bartlett of Twin Falls, was born Sept. 24, 2009.

To submit engagement, wedding and anniversary announcements, contact Janet Cranney at 735-3253, or e-mail her at announcements@magicvalley.com.

Deadline is 5:00 pm Tuesday for the following Sunday.

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In praise of unstructured playtime for your tweens

By Anne Wallace Allen
For The Associated Press

When we chose our house after moving to Boise in 2005, we definitely didn't go on curb appeal. Built in 1893, the house was clad in fleshtone cedar shingles, and the bathroom was so small that even the dog could hardly turn around in it.

Yet the house had one feature we loved: It was set in a neighborhood full of scooters, bicycles, swingsets and other signs that children lived all around.

We were looking for a place where the kids could roam freely, as so many parenting books, blogs and experts assure us kids don't get to do nowadays. And in our block, we found it.

The kids, now 11 and 9, swing on a tree swing three doors down. They disappear for hours into another neighbor's house, emerging with strange crafts they've created from scraps of wood in the basement.

This week, my daughter and four neighborhood friends spent days in our living room sewing stuffed animals out of mismatched socks, filling them with rice and beans, and selling them to raise money for the Make-A-Wish foundation.

It seems that whenever I talk to experts on childhood — be they psychologists, school principals or other parents — they bemoan the way that childhood has been taken up by structured activities. They talk about our children's over-scheduled, high-pressure lives.

Yet I know — or see — many people making a conscious effort to resist that trend. And despite the pressure we feel to help our kids succeed at sports, at music and at school, many people manage to make room for play in their kids' lives.

"We have a swing next door, we have scooters, we have skateboards," said Shaun Hammersmark, a Boise landscape designer who works at home and has made a conscious effort to create an environment where her kids, ages 5 and 11, and others can play.

The experts tell us that letting kids play, instead of organizing things for them to do, helps them socially, physically and even academically. Play supposedly promotes creativity and enhances problem-solving skills.

The American Academy of Pediatrics says unstructured playtime helps children learn to share, to conquer their fears, to adjust to new situations, and to

stick up for themselves. In a 2007 report, the Academy said free playtime and recess are slipping away as schools focus on meeting new academic achievement demands brought about by laws like No Child Left Behind.

Hammersmark said the freestyle play in her yard helps kids from ages 1 year to 12 learn to get along with others.

"They learn to work with each other, and what better education can you give your kids?" she said. The academics who study children and childhood tell us kids need to figure out playtime on their own. They don't need to be directed.

"They say, 'I'm bored, I'm bored,' but guess what, five minutes later you peek in and they're playing away," said Brandy Vanderlee, a mother of three in Macedon, N.Y.

There are scolds in the blogosphere who tell us that parents who let their children take risks by being on their own are neglectful. Plenty on the other side say parents overschedule their kids and hinder their development.

I don't know which side is right. But the kids I know seem happier when we just leave them alone to play.

"In most cultures and through most of history, people did know that kids needed time to play, but they didn't feel that adults should play with kids," said Stephanie Coontz, who teaches history and family studies at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash.

Until recent decades, "there wasn't this idea that parents should be intervening constantly to make things a teachable moment and expand their minds," said Coontz. "Their minds expand a lot better when they pursue things they're interested in for themselves."

And when they're playing on their own, their parents get a lot more stuff done. Sure, the sewing cir-



Sophie Allen, 11, sews in her Boise home. Until recent decades, 'there wasn't this idea that parents should be intervening constantly to make things a teachable moment and expand their minds,' said Stephanie Coontz, who teaches history and family studies at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash. 'Their minds expand a lot better when they pursue things they're interested in for themselves.'

AP photo

A small price to pay for the full day of uninterrupted working time that I enjoyed in my office about 8 feet away. Then again, they weren't my socks.

ANNIVERSARIES

The Malbergs

Gene and Gail were married in Elko, Nevada on October 10, 1959 by Pastor Donald Broeske of St. Mark Lutheran Church.

They have three children, Michael, Larry and Janet, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Both Gene and Gail are retired — he from Smith Roofing and she from the University of Idaho Extension Service.

During their fifty years together, they have enjoyed traveling to many cities and interesting scenic places, cross country skiing, square dancing, camping, fishing and most of all backpacking into the high mountain

lakes (Copper Basin, Ship Island Lake and Big Horn Crags) of Idaho.

The children of Gene and Gail are extending to friends and family an invitation to attend a get together from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at Immanuel Lutheran Church Parish Hall, Filer Avenue East on October 10, 2009.

The Melonis

Alison and Andrew Meloni of Denver, Colorado celebrated their 1st wedding anniversary on October 4, 2009.

The couple was married October 4, 2008, at the Grant Humphries Mansion in Denver, Colorado.

Alison is the daughter of Darlene Wright and the late Robert C. Wright of Twin Falls, Idaho.

Andrew is the son of Andrew and Geraldine Meloni of Rochester, New York.

Alison is a graduate of Twin Falls High School and Idaho State University. She is employed at Vector Property in Denver, Colorado.

Andrew is a graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology. He is employed at



Gene and Gail Malberg

Alps Investments in Denver, Colorado.

David R. Ward officiated the ceremony. Lucy & Mikaili Wright, nieces of the bride, were flower girls. Anson Wright, nephew of the bride, was the ring-bearer.

Special guests included Ruby Wright, grandmother of the bride, of Menan, Idaho, and Carla Kennedy, special friend, of Kalama-zoo, Michigan.

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ENGAGEMENTS

Koyle-Denney

Carma Koyle and Bryan Koyle of Burley, announce the engagement of their daughter, Chelsie Ann Koyle, to Iann Spencer Denney, son of Angie Denney and Bill Denney, of Hazelton, Idaho. The couple will be married on June 12, 2010.

Chelsie Ann graduated from Hansen High School. She is an accounting clerk for Southern Idaho Solid Waste.

Iann graduated from Hansen High School. He is working for his dad at Lawnworks.

Steel-Chlarson

Lawrence and Nadine Steel of Gooding, announce the engagement of their daughter, Stacey Steel, to Collin Chlarson, son of Travis Chlarson and Peggy Grigg of Seattle, Washington.

Stacey graduated from Boise State University in 2005.

Collin served an LDS mission in San Jose, California from 1998-2000. He graduated from University of Washington in 2003.

The wedding is planned



Stacey Steel and Collin Chlarson

for October 17, in the Seattle LDS Temple. A reception will be held from 2-4 p.m., October 17, at the Space Needle in Seattle, Washington.

The Biggerstuffs



Bryce and Jessie Biggerstaff

Mr. and Mrs. Bryce Biggerstaff started their life together on October 8, 1959.

Bryce farmed in the Hansen and Murtaugh areas for over 20 years until 1982, then he started his own trucking business for 19 years. After retiring from the trucking business he drove Trans IV bus for 3 years, in 2005 he was forced to retire due to health reasons.

Jessie helped Bryce farm, then in 1971 she opened a Ceramic Shoppe as a hobby and then she also did flowers for whatever occasion. She is still involved in ceramics and flowers.

While the kids were growing Jessie was involved in PTA as Secretary and



President, was a 4-H leader, they were instrumental in getting the Murtaugh Lake Water Ski Assoc. started and Jessie was the first Secretary of that organization. She has served in all the offices of the Gem State Ceramic Association, also.

The couple has 2 daughters, Debbie (Stan) Serr, and Vicki (Darren) Hepworth, 4 grandchildren and 1 great-grandson.

The family would like to invite you to an open house at "The Catering Place", 827 Main Ave. W. in Twin Falls on Sunday, October 11, 2009 from 2-5pm.

No gifts please. Pictures or stories that could be used for a scrapbook would be appreciated.

IN TIMES OF TROUBLE

Friendships between domestic violence survivors provide comfort and support.

NEXT WEEK IN FAMILY LIFE



Kids Only

Is poison ivy really poisonous?

Going camping and hiking in the woods are two of the high points of being a kid. The trouble is, there's more to a forest outing than sleeping under the stars and throwing burrs at your friend. Some things in the woods are dangerous. And while few people will have the misfortune of running into a mother bear with her cubs (this is very dangerous), most of us will cross paths with poison ivy at one time or another.

Poison ivy isn't poisonous in the way that, say, a snake's venom can be. However, most people are allergic to a chemical named urushiol (pronounced oo-ROO-she-al) that is produced by the plant. It's probably called "poison" ivy because the plant can cause a nasty rash and people used to think it was poisonous.

If you come in contact with urushiol, it will bind to your skin within 30 minutes, meaning it can no longer be spread or washed off. But it can be spread during this 30-minute period, which is why you can get the chemical on your leg and end up with a rash on other parts of your body.

You probably won't realize you've got poison ivy until a few days after you touch the plant, when your skin may start to itch and possibly blister. It may surprise you (and maybe your mom) to learn that scratching won't cause the rash to spread. Still, it's not good for you to scratch your skin. You also can't "catch" poison ivy from a friend whose rash touches your skin. But it's a good idea to wash your hair and body thoroughly after an outing to the woods.

Mild cases of poison ivy can be treated with oatmeal baths and/or creams that can be bought without a prescription. If the rash is extremely itchy or has spread to large parts of your body, you may need stronger creams or even oral medications that your doctor can prescribe. Poison ivy can get infected, so if you have a red, swollen area that hurts a lot, your parents will probably want to take you to the doctor.

Howard Bennett is a pediatrician and author of health-related books for kids.



SANDRA LEAVITT LERNER/The Washington Post

Since an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, keep this picture of poison ivy handy the next time you take a walk in the woods.

Why your parents want you to eat spinach

By Howard Bennett
Special to The Washington Post

Imagine this scenario: You've just come back from a wonderful week at the beach. While you were away, you got to eat your favorite foods: pizza, french fries and vanilla-chocolate swirl. You've been back for two days when your mom makes chicken and mashed potatoes but spoils everything by depositing a huge mound of spinach on your plate. Although you have rejected spinach every time she has asked you to eat it, she reminds you that it's good for you because it contains lots of iron.

Well, I don't want any parents to be mad at me, but spinach is not good for you because it contains iron. It is true that spinach is loaded with iron. However, it also contains a chemical called oxalic acid. This acid chemically binds with the iron so most of it can't be absorbed from your intestinal tract. That means the iron in spinach will go in your mouth one day and exit through your bottom

a few days later. You won't be able to identify it as iron (or spinach, for that matter), but take my word for it that it's still there.

Now, before any kids reading this article tell their mom or dad that Dr. Bennett says they don't need to eat spinach, I have some bad news. Spinach is good for you; it just has nothing to do with iron. The reason spinach is good for you is that it's an excellent source of vitamins A and C, fiber and other nutrients that keep you healthy. So your parents are correct in encouraging you to eat spinach; they just do it for the wrong reason.

So where did this iron lore come from regarding spinach? It's only a guess, but I suspect it has something to do with a cartoon character named Popeye

the Sailor, who was created in 1929. Popeye was a strong guy with huge forearms and a corncob pipe. However, when Popeye ate a can of spinach (he did it by squeezing the can and catapulting the spinach into his mouth), he developed superhuman strength.

This was presumably because of all the iron that instantly entered his body. Popeye usually needed this extra strength to deal with Bluto, who, as a bad guy, caused lots

of trouble in the neighborhood.

Although the origin of Popeye's powers was clearly wrong, he was responsible for at least one amazing feat: getting kids in the past to eat the spinach that was heaped onto their dinner plates.



Young actors in 'Fame' enjoy the hard work of performing

By Margaret Webb Pressler
The Washington Post

The new movie "Fame" takes place in a high school and features lots of catchy music and dancing by students — a formula that has been pretty successful at the movies recently.

But unlike the "High School Musical" films, "Fame" takes a more realistic look at just how hard you have to work to become a stage or film star. It's an exciting and creative process, for sure, but the movie makes it clear that the path to fame can be full of disappointment, too.

Set at a fictitious performing arts high school in New York, the film follows a group of talented students through four years at the school, both in and out of class. (Ask your parents about "Fame"; it may be that they were big fans of the 1980 musical when they were your age.) Two of the actors, like the characters they play in the movie, love what they do, and that makes the hard work worth it.

"I don't see it as work; being on set is my fun time," said actress Kay Panabaker, 19, who plays the shy acting student Jenny. You may have seen Panabaker as Georgie in "Nancy Drew" a couple of years ago, and she has appeared in Disney Channel movies and shows including "Read It and Weep" and "Phil of the Future."

Panabaker has worked as an actress since she was 10. (Her older sister, Danielle, is also an actress.) But even though she loves acting, she's not too caught up in that world.

"I may not act for my entire life," she said. "If I weren't an actor, I'd want to either be a teacher or an animal trainer." Panabaker grew up with dogs, but right now the only pets she has time for are her three goldfish: Squishy, Squishy's Friend and Squashy.

Panabaker's co-star in the film, on the other hand, is pretty sure he'll be involved in music for a long time. Asher Book plays her boyfriend Marco in the movie, a role that showcases his beautiful voice.

The youngest of three kids, Book was always singing at home. At 6 he auditioned for Disney's production of "Beauty and the Beast" on Broadway and won the part of Chip the teacup. He traveled for different roles through his school years in suburban Washington and finally moved to Los Angeles before high school with his mother and sister.

Once he was settled in California, his childhood became a little more normal. "It was only when I was young that I was traveling with a tutor," he said. "I did all four years at a normal high school."

Now 21, Book continues to work hard on both acting and music, though he calls them "two different worlds." He's lead singer for the pop group V Factory but still takes voice lessons. "No matter how good you think you are, you always need to try to improve," he said.

There is one thing, though, that Book wishes would come a little easier. "I'm not too good at surfing," he said.

But he keeps trying.