



SUNDAY
December 12, 2010

TIMES-NEWS

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SACRIFICE? NOT SO MUCH

Americans in poll want deficit cut with entitlements left mostly intact

By Heidi Przybyla and Mike Dorning
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — Americans want Congress to bring down a federal budget deficit that many believe is “dangerously out of control,” only under two conditions: minimize the pain and make the rich pay.

The public wants Congress to keep its hands off entitlements such as Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, a Bloomberg National Poll shows. They oppose cuts in most other major domestic programs and defense. They want to maintain subsidies for farmers and tax breaks like the mortgage-interest deduction. And they're against an increase in the gasoline tax.

That aversion to sacrifice is at odds with a spate of recent studies, including one by President Barack Obama's debt panel, that say reductions in Medicare, Social Security, military and other spending are necessary to curb a deficit that totaled \$1.29 trillion in the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, or 9 percent of the gross domestic product.

“The idea that we can solve our structural-deficit problems merely by asking more of the well-off is totally unrealistic,” said David Walker, who was U.S. comptroller general from 1998 to 2008 and now leads a group advocating against deficits. “The math simply doesn't work.”

According to the Dec. 4-7 poll, taken days after Obama's commission sounded an alarm over the nation's “unsustainable fiscal path,” the public still believes it's more important to “minimize sacrifice” than to take “bold and fast” action to pare the \$13.7 trillion national debt.

If anything, the poll shows that

See **DEFICIT**, Main 2



Delmar Hallett reads about the World War II air war in Europe on Monday afternoon at Countryside Care & Rehabilitation in Rupert. Hallett said he loves to read and prefers it to playing bingo or other activities offered at the residence.

Separate, *but not alone*

Caregivers help blunt pain of seniors' isolation at holidays

By Laurie Welch, Times-News writer

Photos by Ashley Smith, Times-News photographer

BURLEY — Holidays can represent a time of warmth that comes from reconnecting with family and friends.

But for Idaho seniors isolated from their loved ones by death or distance, the season can become one of loneliness and depression.

Eighty-year-old George Heald, who lives at Countryside Care & Rehabilitation in Rupert, said although he doesn't have family in the area who can visit him during the holidays, he takes the season in stride.

“It's what you make of it,” Heald said. “You can make it a tough place or you can make it a good place. I've noticed that some people here get a little down in the dumps during Christmas, but life's too short to get that way. I don't let anything get the best of me.”

Heald said he enjoys the friendships he has cultivated at the care center, adding that sometimes it's nicer to spend time with friends — who are chosen — rather than family. He especially enjoys the visiting therapy dogs that are brought to his room.

But not everyone takes to the season of holiday change as well as Heald. College of



Michael Thompson, activities assistant at Countryside Care & Rehabilitation in Rupert, helps Ramona Garner build a snowman out of real snow on Monday.

Southern Idaho Office on Aging spokeswoman Shawna Wasko said that when people get older they don't always tolerate the holiday festivities as well.

“Sometimes they're just tired and it's just too much excitement,” Wasko said.

Regardless of their methods or location, the caretakers of Idaho's elderly and

infirm are put in a unique situation during the holidays. Tasked daily with ensuring residents' well-being, they must also care for emotions strained by the holiday's stresses and memories of family either lost or too far away to connect with.

See **ISOLATION**, Main 7

Jacob Deckard, 13, learns about Idaho's history through a series of kiosks Saturday at the Jerome Public Library.



DREW NASH/
Times-News

Exhibit calls for a journey to Jerome

By Laura Lundquist
Times-News writer

JEROME — For a short time, walking through the Jerome Public Library will be a little like walking into a Ken Burns documentary.

The library hosted an opening gala Saturday afternoon in honor of the Journey Stories exhibit on tour from the Smithsonian Institution. From now until Jan. 22, visitors can wander among six kiosks that pres-

ent the evolution of America's locomotion.

The gala included an hour-long lecture on American migrations by Boise State University history professor John Bieter. Bieter said the focus of this traveling history exhibit was journeys because no other group of people is more defined by movement than Americans.

He asked the audience of around 50 how many were born and bred in Jerome. A

few raised their hands. More questions revealed that many came from other western states, particularly California, and a few even came from the east.

“No humans have moved as much as we have,” Bieter said. “Why do we move five to six times more often than people in any other country?”

With that, Bieter launched into what he

See **EXHIBIT**, Main 3



BridgeClassifieds 7
CrosswordClassifieds 5
Dear AbbyClassifieds 5
Kids OnlyFamily Life 6
JumbleClassifieds 2
MoviesNation 7

ObituariesBusiness 5-6
SudokuClassifieds 6
Your BusinessBusiness 2

TRACKING STUDENTS

Idaho school districts to keep better tabs, Main 8

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DREW NASH/Times-News

Isaiah Smith, 16, plays folk music with his family Saturday at the Jerome Public Library. The Smith family played as part of the opening of the new traveling Smithsonian exhibit at the library.

Exhibit

Continued from Main 1

called "the 35,000-foot-level view" of the hopes and machinations that moved a people across a nation and the stories of triumph that brought more immigrants to its shores only to find some stories of tragedy.

"To get people to move, you have to make people think someplace is better," Bieter said. "Tell them the roads are paved with gold. Only when they get there do they learn the roads aren't paved at all."

Some adventurous souls eventually made it to Idaho, and 12 locals have contributed to the exhibit stories of their families' journeys to the Gem State. Linda Helms' family moved to the Jerome area in 1909 after leaving Germany more than a century before and later migrating through Pennsylvania and Colorado.

Helms said some of her

MORE ONLINE



VIEW more photos of the Smithsonian exhibit.
MAGICVALLEY.COM

ancestors were amateur historians and kept good records that she now cherishes. She is continuing the tradition as she fills in the family history from the Civil War on.

"I have dates of events but would like more stories," Helms said. "Why did they move? I know some things but some I don't."

After the lecture, some visitors viewed the exhibit. Each 6-foot-tall tri-sided display highlights American migration through the centuries and explains how and why we moved across the continent.

Walking counterclockwise through the displays moves visitors forward

rather than backward in time, through themes that include "Pushing the boundaries," detailing settlement of the nation's interior, and "Railroads span the nation," which shows how trains aided migration.

To bring the past to life, the displays use photos, paintings, replicas of relics, life-size cutouts of frontiersmen and aviators, and quotes from such people as Laura Ingalls Wilder and Harriett Tubman. Plus, each kiosk has at least one press-to-play button that launches recordings of actors portraying historical figures during dramatic events.

As they head out to their cars after viewing the exhibit, most visitors might agree with John Steinbeck: "Nearly every American hungers to move."

For more information, call the Jerome Public Library at 324-5427.

Convicted felon arrested on attempted strangulation charge

By Bradley Guire
Times-News writer

A convicted truck thief is back in jail.

Jonathan Dillard Guidi, 26, was arrested and charged with attempted strangulation and malicious injury to property, stemming from a domestic altercation on Thursday.

Guidi is accused of trying to suffocate an adult female twice in the same day at her Buhl home, once by allegedly placing his hands around her throat and a second time by allegedly covering her face with a towel. He was unsuccessful, as the female fought back, and he supposedly punched through walls, broke doors and damaged other parts of the residence upon leaving.

Police located him, and when interviewed Guidi claimed that he "got into a fight with a wall."

He was booked into Twin Falls County Jail on \$30,000 bond for attempted strangulation and another \$1,000 for injury to property.

The Twin Falls man was placed on a three-year supervised probationary period in early August after successfully completing a 180-day retained jurisdiction program, according to court records. Guidi was convicted of possession of a stolen vehicle last December, and he was sentenced to five years prison in February.

Guidi stole a pickup truck that was left running outside of a Buhl convenience store on Dec. 2, 2009, while he was drunk. He was found less than 15 minutes later and charged with possession of a stolen vehicle and driving under the influence.

According to the police report, Guidi made an obscene hand gesture at the truck's owner as he

sped away from the convenience store.

Guidi faces a Dec. 17 preliminary hearing for the attempted strangulation charge and a Jan. 19 pretrial for the injury to property charge.

Accused robber pleads not guilty

One of three co-defendants charged with robbery for allegedly stealing from acquaintances at a Twin Falls hotel pleaded not guilty Monday in Twin Falls County 5th District Court.

Anthony Talamantes, 21, is scheduled for trial on Feb. 15 in front of Judge Randy Stoker. Co-defendants Michelle Daniels, 26, and Jessica Parsons, 33, also await trial.

Trial set for woman on assault charge

A trial date was set for Dawne L. Dalzell, who pleaded not guilty to one count of assault Monday in Twin Falls County 5th District Court.

Dalzell, 45, is accused of attacking two Twin Falls police officers on June 2. A police report noted that Dalzell is suspected of witness tampering and destruction of evidence in relation to an investigation

of money laundering and exploitation of prostitution.

Judge Randy Stoker is expected to preside over the Feb. 15 trial.

Alleged drug trafficker enters plea

Jeremy T. Hill, a 33-year-old Twin Falls man facing multiple drug charges, pleaded not guilty to one count of possession of a controlled substance Monday in Twin Falls County 5th District Court.

No trial date was set as the case is transferred to Judge G. Richard Bevan, who is presiding over Hill's other cases. A status hearing is set for Jan. 3.

Hill is accused of possessing methamphetamine, having been discovered in a Filer woman's house in November while multiple county agencies had warrants out for his arrest.

Hill faces a pretrial conference on Tuesday for charges of battery and unlawful entry. Also, his trial date for allegedly trafficking nearly 80 grams of methamphetamine is still set for March 29.

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AROUND THE VALLEY

Timmerman Rest Area reopens Monday

The Timmerman Rest Area at the junction of U.S. Highway 20 and Idaho Highway 75 is expected to reopen Monday, according to an Idaho Transportation Department release.

The rest area underwent an eight-month reconstruction project, which included restroom expansion, Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility improvements, parking area expansion and other improvements. The rest area has been closed for reconstruction since May.

The \$2 million project, contracted by Barry Hayes Construction of Idaho Falls, was designed to accommodate growth and additional traffic for at least 20 years, according to ITD.

Another interchange closure planned

The Interstate 84 Exit 216 on-ramp near Declo will be closed Tuesday for ongoing bridge maintenance, according to an ITD release.

Crews are close to completing maintenance on the westbound lanes of the nearby I-84 bridge over the Snake River, but need to

close both lanes to remove temporary traffic control. The on-ramp will close for removal of temporary guardrail across the bridge and cleaning, and the closures may be necessary through the end of the week.

Motorists hoping to access I-84 near Declo will be detoured through Rupert via Idaho Highways 25 and 24 to the Heyburn Interchange at Exit 211.

— Staff reports

Twin Falls Senior Center Thrift Store reopening

Times-News

The Twin Falls Senior Citizens Center will reopen its thrift store at 530 Shoshone St. W. at 10 a.m. Monday.

The thrift store is located inside the center and regularly open from 9 a.m. to

3 p.m. weekdays. Donations of various items are accepted.

The center also has new meeting rooms available to rent. Catering services are also available in-house. Rental funds support the center's efforts to improve quality of life for area seniors.

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- Elmore County Farm Bureau
- Twin Falls Farm Bureau
- United Dairyman of Idaho
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- Idaho Counties Risk Management Program
- Potato Commission
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Police: Remains found believed to be of missing girl

By Brian Skoloff
Associated Press writer

CITRONELLE, Ala. — Police said a search of woods next to a rural Alabama road on Saturday uncovered human remains that likely belong to a young girl whose father is charged with killing her and her brother.

Search teams found the skeletal remains about 40 feet from a county road in Citronelle, about 30 miles north of Mobile, Mobile Police Maj. Kara Rose said. They had only been searching the site for a half-hour.

Rose said investigators believe the remains belong to Natalie DeBlase, who would have turned 5 in late November. Skeletal remains found Wednesday in the woods of rural Mississippi are believed to belong to her 3-year-old brother, Chase.

John DeBlase, 27, is charged with two counts of felony murder and two counts of corpse abuse. DeBlase's parents have said the last time they saw the children was in February, when they found DeBlase living at a mobile home park in Citronelle with his common-law wife, Heather Leavell-Keaton.

Police have said Leavell-Keaton also is responsible for the killings. She has

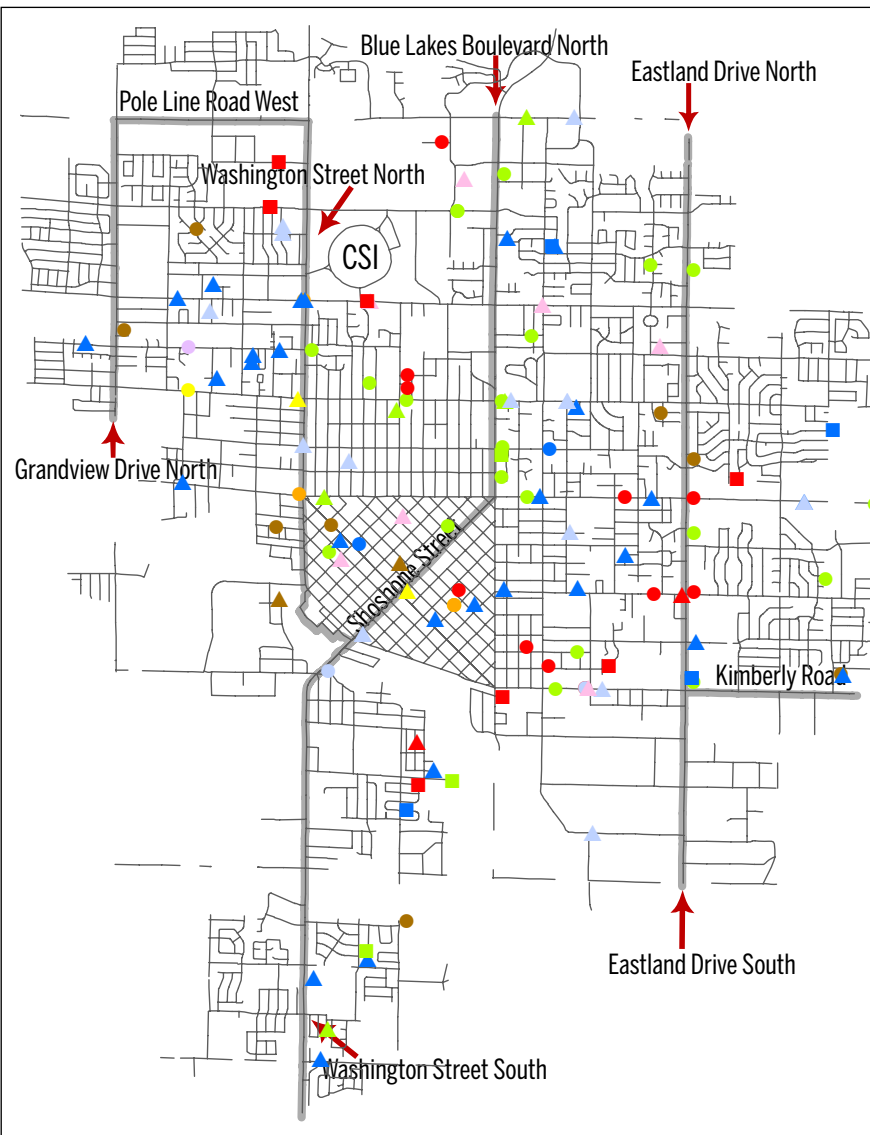
been charged with child abuse but not murder. She was being extradited to Alabama and was expected to arrive there Sunday.

DeBlase's court-appointed attorney, Jim Sears, has said DeBlase maintains that he is innocent and that Leavell-Keaton killed the children. She has blamed DeBlase for the children's deaths.

Attorneys for DeBlase have said he will plead not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect. Sears said Friday that comments made by friends that called into question DeBlase's mental health are "certainly not without reason."

Mobile County Assistant District Attorney Jo Beth Murphree said Friday that authorities would soon be upgrading Leavell-Keaton's charges from child abuse to more serious aggravated child abuse counts. She also was to be charged with two counts of corpse abuse.

DeBlase had told police he dumped his daughter Natalie in the woods north of Mobile in March. He said he discarded the boy's body, dressed only in a diaper and stuffed into a plastic garbage bag, in Mississippi in June on or around Father's Day. Police say the children were killed separately, then immediately disposed of.



- Accident, non-injury — 22
- Accident, injury — 2
- Battery — 11
- Burglary other than a vehicle — 8
- Dead person — 1
- Drug use or selling — 4
- Fight — 2
- Gun or weapon incident — 1
- Hit and run — 5
- Noise disturbance/disturbance — 28
- Prowler/peeping Tom — 2
- Stolen vehicle — 2
- Structure fire — 2
- Theft — 15
- Threat — 7
- Trespassing — 3
- Vandalism — 5
- Vehicle burglary — 9
- Sexual assault — 5

Twin Falls incidents 12/03-12/10

Source: city of Twin Falls

Idaho Army reserve unit gets holiday leave

BOISE (AP) — More than 100 members of a Boise-based Army reserve unit currently training in Wisconsin before heading to Iraq in January have been told they can return to Idaho for the holidays after all.

Capt. Ryan Strong says the 391st Engineer Company found out late

Friday that a scheduling conflict had been resolved involving block leave during the holidays.

Strong declined to go into specifics, but says a previous plan to have soldiers home during the holidays had been suspended several weeks ago. Strong says soldiers were ecstatic when told about the change.

Some families of soldiers had called Democratic Rep. Walt Minnick of Idaho, and Strong says he was contacted several times by Minnick's staff.

The 391st is a combat engineer unit based at Gowen Field. In Iraq it will be responsible for clearing roads of improvised explosive devices.

5TH DISTRICT COURT NEWS

TWIN FALLS COUNTY FELONY ACQUITTAL

George Alvarez-Hernandez, 33, Castleford; aggravated assault, intimidating a witness, jury found not guilty.

FELONY DISMISSALS

William K. Iverson, 38, Twin Falls; forgery, dismissed per plea negotiations.
Julio Aguilar-Romero, 41, Murtaugh; possession of controlled substance, dismissed without prejudice.
Samuel L. Allred, 28, Twin Falls; possession of methamphetamine, dismissed without prejudice.
Dale J. Langford, 63, Jerome; grant theft, dismissed per plea negotiations.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE SENTENCING

Steven E. Lopez, 20, Heyburn; driving under the influence, withheld judgment, \$182.50 costs, two days jail, one credited, eight hours work detail, driving privileges suspended 180 days, 12 months probation.

CHILD SUPPORT CASES

The State of Idaho, Department

MORE ONLINE

MV VISIT Magicvalley.com for a full listing of 5th District Court records, including misdemeanor cases. MAGICVALLEY.COM

of Health and Welfare, Child Support Services has filed claims against the following: Michael A. Fruechte. Seeking establishment for medical support: 69 percent of medical expenses not covered by insurance, provide medical insurance; lien will be placed upon defendant's real and personal property if he is delinquent in his obligation for at least 90 days, or \$2,000, whichever is less.

Joshua W. Colean. Seeking establishment for child support: \$335 monthly support plus 66 percent of medical expenses not covered by insurance, provide medical insurance, 66 percent of any work-related day care expenses.

Joshua W. Colean. Seeking establishment for state reimbursement: \$189.33 for foster care expenses and child support.

Rebecca F. Rodriguez. Seeking establishment for child support in third party: \$164 monthly support plus 44 percent of medical expenses not covered by insurance, provide medical insurance, \$1,148 public assistance and child care reimbursement.

Jeffrey A. Vaughan. Seeking establishment of paternity, Medicaid reimbursement, and child support: \$253 monthly support plus 55 percent of medical expenses not covered by insurance, provide medical insurance; \$3,485.63 birth costs.

Chad R. Fisher. Seeking establishment for child support: \$658 monthly support plus 60 percent of medical expenses not covered by insurance, provide medical insurance, 60 percent of any work-related day care expenses.

Allen Pinkerton. Seeking establishment for child support: \$358 monthly support plus 65 percent of medical expenses not covered by insurance, provide

medical insurance, 65 percent of any work-related day care expenses.

Kyle E. Bullock. Seeking establishment for medical support: 43 percent of medical expenses not covered by insurance, provide medical insurance.

DIVORCES FILED

Stormy D. Vela vs. Josue D. Vela.
Carmen L. Dellos vs. David J. Dellos II.
Alicia J. Ali vs. Dennis M. Ali.
Anthony M. Lanni vs. Sara J. Baxter-Lanni.
Kimberly A. Glodowski vs. Daniel J. Glodowski.
Adora Magaoay vs. Joseph Magaoay.
Autumn M. Jones vs. Guy L. Jones.
Roberto Leon-Canchola vs. Rebecca Leon.

CITY OF TWIN FALLS DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE SENTENCINGS

Troy J. Hardman, 23, Twin Falls; driving under the influence, \$500 fine, \$400 suspended, \$182.50 costs, 60 days jail suspended, driving privileges suspended 90 days, 12 months probation.

Arnoldo Guerrero, 23, Burley; driving under the influence, \$500 fine, \$400 suspended, \$182.50 costs, 90 days jail suspended, 12 months probation.

Brian J. Bordewyk, 26, Jerome; driving under the influence (excessive), \$300 fine, \$182.50 costs, 180 days jail, 170 suspended, one credited, driving privileges suspended 365 days, 12 months probation.

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\$2.29
lb.

Boneless Whole/Half
PITT HAMS
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lb.

Pork
SIRLOIN ROAST
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lb.

Boneless Whole/Half
TAVERN HAM
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8 oz.
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2 lb.
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ea.

Asst. 16 oz. Nabisco
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Asst. 10.5-11.5 oz.
Lay's
POTATO CHIPS
2 for \$4

Asst. 7.75-12 oz.
Doritos, Fritos or
CHEETOS
2 for \$5

20 oz. Wonder Whole Grain
White, Buttermilk or
CLASSIC BREAD
2 for \$4

Asst. 12-18.25 oz.
General Mills
CEREALS
3 for \$8

Asst. 46 oz. Nalley's
PICKLES
\$2.59
ea.

Asst. 10-12 oz. Nestle
BAKING CHIPS
4 for \$9

Asst. 12 oz. Carnation
EVAPORATED MILK
4 for \$5

Asst. 6 oz. Stove Top
STUFFING MIXES
4 for \$5

Asst. 14-14.5 oz.
SWANSON BROTH
59¢
ea.

16 oz. Western Family
Whole or Jellied
CRANBERRY SAUCE
97¢
ea.

15 oz. Western Family
MANDARIN ORANGES
62¢
ea.

Asst. 14.5-15.25 oz.
Libby's
VEGETABLES
67¢
ea.

29 oz. Western Family
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Asst. 18-18.25 oz.
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99¢
ea.

Asst. 12-16 oz.
Betty Crocker
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Asst. 20 oz.
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Isolation

Continued from Main 1

Dealing with distance

At the Mini-Cassia Care Center in Burley, 2 1/2 pounds of black and white Shih Tzu fluff bobs up and down along a wooden gate in Administrator Joshua Thompson's office.

Several residents pause at the doorway to greet Thompson and the puppy named Maximus.

At just a few weeks old, the pup is already in training to become a therapy dog, just one of the programs in place to cheer center residents.

Thompson oversees the 68-bed nursing home that provides care for residents with behavioral issues. Not all of the residents are seniors, but all live away from their families.

"We take people from all over — not just Idaho — which means that they are often isolated from their families," Thompson said.

Most of those families are good about trying to visit as often as possible. But distance and weather can be prohibiting factors, especially during the holidays.

"It's a tough time of the year and the residents deal with loneliness," Thompson said. "Many of our residents are detached from a significant other. If they are married, one may be here and one still at home."

Thompson said the best way to ease residents' pain is to keep them really busy.

"We want to keep them occupied and having fun because depression worsens negative behavior," Thompson said.

Wasko said caregivers at nursing homes and assisted-living facilities walk a fine line during the holidays. While many provide a slate of activities meant to keep residents active, Wasko said that a better option may be to chart out how much each individual should attend. She added that people who are recently widowed often don't feel like celebrating Christmas at all.

"Sometimes changing what they have for the holiday meal and decorating the tree differently can help," Wasko said. "They need to start new traditions."

Wasko said she encourages seniors or others who have lost a partner to adopt a child from an angel tree for Christmas.

"For those feeling lost and alone it can show them they are not the only ones having trouble," Wasko said. "Giving to those less fortunate is one of the best things we can do."

During the holidays, Mini-Cassia Care Center staff members pull out all the stops. They donate money to rent Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus suits for the center's Christmas party and every employee draws

two residents' names for a gift exchange.

Thompson said his employees require little coaching on how to keep their own spirits high during the holidays, adding that their positive outlook provides extra meaning and joy for those who live there.

"This place is different from any other building that I've ever worked in," Thompson said. "The staff really cares for the residents like they are family."

Loralei Anderson, a 78-year-old resident at the Countryside facility in Rupert, is the mother of seven children — many who live close enough to visit regularly and attend the center's holiday dinners.

Although Anderson doesn't always participate in the nursing home's scheduled activities, she likes to watch the children who are brought in to perform.

"The children are important. I always go to see the babies when they bring them in to dance," she said. "They are so cute and adorable. The kids are Christmas."

Anderson said the camaraderie she feels with her roommate and the nurses also helps during times her family members can't visit.

Angel Bethke, Countryside's activities director, said center staff works hard to make the holidays special and hosts large family dinners for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Employees also take residents to Christmas tree festivals and provide transportation for residents who can go to a local family member's home for the holidays.

Helping the homebound

Minidoka County Senior Center Director Penny Schell said the holidays can be equally challenging for elderly residents who remain in their homes.

"It seems to be especially hard for them. Sometimes

they have so little and are all alone," Schell said. "It can be a very lonely time for them."

Stress levels can also rise during the holidays, when property taxes come due and utility bills can soar. Schell said seniors often see many of their resources dwindle during the winter.

"A lot of times seniors don't even have meal staples," Schell said.

Several years ago, the senior center in Rupert opted to start a stocking stuffer program, which each year hands out about 150 Christmas stockings stuffed with hygiene products, fruit, nuts and goodies to seniors in an effort to bolster spirits and provide some essentials to their recipients.

Schell said one of the best ways someone can help seniors is by volunteering.

"We need a list of volunteers that seniors can call on for a ride," she said. Transportation is often needed to doctor's appointments or for shopping. "Sometimes a volunteer can just drop in and say hello and offer a little moral support," Schell said.

Meals on Wheels drivers, who deliver food to the homebound, are sometimes an elderly person's sole contact for the day, Schell said.

It can be challenging for the delivery drivers and volunteers to stay upbeat when dealing with residents in decline. But it's imperative, Schell said, to provide a positive face to break up the isolation.

"You have to be upbeat and if today is not a good day, then you think tomorrow will be better," she said.

A 'selfish' act

Delmar Hallett, 89, was brought from a Boise assisted-living home to live at Countryside, closer to his son and daughter-in-law, Nick and Marcia Hallett.

"I'm going to spend Christmas with them," Delmar said.

There are a lot of activities designed to keep him busy at the center, although the man who flew B-17 bombers with the Army Air Corps during World War II said he tends to



ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News
Delmar Hallett, who said he flew B-17 bombers during World War II, enjoys reading about history and spends hours reading daily.

be a bit of a loner.

Marcia said that when she and Nick visit, they often take a cell phone and address book with them to help Delmar call relatives. Delmar also came to their home for Thanksgiving and requested salmon for dinner.

"That's the first time we'd ever had salmon for Thanksgiving, but I made stuffing to go with it," Marcia said.

Having him nearby brings peace of mind to their family, Marcia said, and she finds herself popping in to visit Delmar frequently, sometimes on the pretext of delivering his requested bag of Nips or lemon drops.

"I can't say enough for Countryside," she said. "He's done really wonderful in there."

A family's positive perception of a care facility is often based on its employees. For people like Thompson, the work can become an extension of good deeds learned from past generations.

Thompson said his mother was a registered nurse at a nursing home, and he spent a great deal of time there as a youth. It was the place where he learned to play chess and cribbage, and where he formed relationships that

would shape him as an adult.

Thompson said both perceptions and real operations of nursing homes have changed dramatically during the past 30 years. In the late 1970s and early '80s, nursing homes were regulated minimally at best, he said, and often people were perceived as being "sent to a nursing home to die."

But today, Thompson said, that's all changed due to increased regulations and residents living longer, healthier lives. Those who take the time to stop by and spend some time, he said, often find it more rewarding than they ever imagined.

"When people begin volunteering at a nursing home they often find that it becomes a selfish act, and they take away with them many times more than they give," Thompson said.

Laurie Welch may be reached at lwelch@magic-valley.com or at 677-5025.

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New data system to track Idaho students

IDAHO FALLS (AP) — School districts across Idaho have started sending information about students to the State Department of Education as part of a program intended to help the budgeting process and better inform educators and administrators.

The information, which is going to the Idaho System for Educational Excellence, includes such data as birth dates, test scores, and whether a student is enrolled in a free or reduced lunch program.

"Idaho lags behind other states," Melissa McGrath, an education department spokeswoman, told the *Post*

Register. "We are the last state to institute a longitudinal data system."

She said the department next year plans to give access to the information to six school districts, and expand access statewide in following years.

The districts began sending the information in October.

"I would say the transition has been fast and furious," said Marjean McConnell, Bonneville Joint School District 93's assistant superintendent. "We have been reporting a lot of data in a lot of different ways to the state."

The information transfer

has run into problems because sometimes software at school districts doesn't match software at the state. Superintendents in Shelley and Rigby said four staff members in their districts spent two weeks preparing information for the first attempt at sending information.

"Failure is not an option," said District 91 Superintendent George Boland.

Some of the information will be used to determine how much money districts get from the state.

"The anxiety on our part is that our funding is dependent on the data that we send," McConnell said. "In

these tight finance times, we want every penny that is due to us."

The system eventually will give teachers a quick way to check on a student's progress by looking at test scores, and districts will be able to quickly get information on students who move in from elsewhere in the state.

According to the Idaho System for Educational Excellence website, the program is being paid for partly by a three-year federal grant.

McGrath said Tom Luna, state superintendent of public instruction, included \$969,200 for the system's ongoing costs in his initial budget request to legislators.

Wildlife using highway underpass

BOISE (AP) — Just over a month after a wildlife underpass opened on Idaho 21 east of Boise, the animals seem to be getting the hang of it.

Boise River Wildlife Management Area manager Ed Bottum said the animals almost immediately began using the tunnel, and a motion-sensor camera has caught images of deer, elk and even a fox using the underpass.

"It is something these animals have never encountered before," Bottum told the *Idaho Statesman*. "For decades they've been coming down the face of this mountain."

The underpass is 30 feet wide and 15 feet tall and is located just north of Mores Creek bridge in a major migration path where three drainages converge just below the road.

Bottum said the animals use the pathway more late at night and early in the

morning and tend to shy away during heavy traffic times, when it would be noisier in the tunnel.

"It is loud under there," Bottum said, noting that with time animals will become more comfortable with the noise and prefer the tunnel to the road.

The Idaho Department of Transportation used \$800,000 in stimulus money to build the underpass. Wildlife underpasses typically have fences to funnel wildlife toward the underpass, but the Idaho 21 underpass has fencing on only one side due to a lack of money.

The Boise River Wildlife Linkage Partnership is working to raise \$450,000 to complete 1.65 miles of fencing on the east side of the road.

Fish and Game hopes the tunnel will save some of the up to 100 mule deer and 10 elk that are struck annually by vehicles on Idaho 21.

Utah man ordered to pay restitution after investment scheme

IDAHO FALLS (AP) — A Utah man accused of bilking Bonneville County residents in an investment scheme has been ordered to pay more than \$2.1 million in restitution.

District Judge Jon

Shindurling recently ordered Sonny L. Jensen to pay the restitution after Jensen failed to appear in court or enter a plea after he was served with notice of the complaint.

The Idaho Department of

Finance filed a civil suit against Jensen and three others for a pyramid scheme state regulators said dated back to at least 2006 in which investors were told their investments were secured by real estate.

The *Post Register* reported Shindurling also levied \$40,000 in civil penalties against Jensen, ordered him to pay \$5,000 in legal fees and barred him from selling securities in Idaho.

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BUSINESS EDITOR BLAIR KOCH: 735-3295 BKOCH@MAGICVALLEY.COM

Store withdraws application awaiting Ketchum study

By Ariel Hansen
Times-News writer

HAILEY — It will be a while longer before Ketchum residents can buy discount groceries in their town, following the Monday withdrawal of an application from Valmark, Inc. to build near the YMCA in the area between Warm Springs and downtown Ketchum.

The withdrawal came as the Ketchum City Council was considering denying Valmark's application for a

text amendment to the city's comprehensive plan to allow a grocery store as a conditional use in light industrial zones. The council now plans to do a study of those zones in the coming months.

"Depending on the outcome of that study they may change their zoning anyway," said Jim Laski, attorney for Vern Howard of Valmark, a grocery seller based in Friday Harbor, Wash. "During the meeting it became clear that it was going to get easier to go forward (with the study) if

"Depending on the outcome of that study they may change their zoning anyway."

Jim Laski, attorney for Vern Howard of Valmark

there wasn't an application on the table."

Among those who opposed the text amendment going forward now was Councilman Baird Gourlay, who questioned whether the site was appropriate for a grocery store, mentioning issues of traffic, pedestrian access to the store, and its

distance from the downtown core.

He said that real estate agents, business owners and attorneys have indicated to him that if retail is allowed in light industrial zones, developers may be reluctant to make their investments in the more-expensive downtown core.

"It erodes property values in the core, it erodes pedestrian friendliness," Gourlay said, comparing that possibility to harm done to the Twin Falls downtown when development increased on Blue Lakes and near the canyon rim.

Many Ketchum residents are in favor of a less expensive grocery in town, said Mayor Randy Hall, even as grocery competition will soon increase with the lease signed by Roxy's Market, a higher-end grocery, near the

NexStage Theater downtown. Roxy's is expected to open early next year.

Due to that competition — which Hall said Valmark hadn't expected when it purchased the light industrial property — and the still-weak condition of the economy, Valmark was not intending to turn a shovel this summer, Hall said, so the delay would likely not have an impact on the grocery's potential opening date if it is

See **APPLICATION**, Business 3



Wendy Somerset, CEO of Furniture and Appliance Outlet, poses for a photo Tuesday in Twin Falls.

DREW NASH/Times-News

Losing ground

Zillow: Home values to shed \$1.7 trillion this year

By Amy Hoak
MarketWatch

CHICAGO — Homes in the U.S. will have lost \$1.7 trillion in value in 2010 by the time the year is through, according to estimates released Thursday by Zillow.com, an online real-estate marketplace.

That's 63 percent more than the \$1 trillion in value that homes lost last year, the report said.

About \$9 trillion in value has been lost since the market peaked in June 2006, according to the report. By comparison, the cost of the war in Iraq from 2001 to the end of September 2010 was \$750.8 billion, Zillow said, citing a report from the Congressional Research Service.

Zillow's real-estate-market reports use data aggregated from public sources by a number of data providers; the data account for 72 million homes and date back to 1996.

"Despite a strong start to 2010, by the end of the year, homes lost more of their value in 2010 than they did in 2009," said Stan Humphries, Zillow's chief economist.

"Government interventions like the home-buyer tax credit helped buoy the market during the second half of 2009 and the first half of 2010, but we saw a renewed downturn in the last half of this year," he said. "It's a testament to the nearly irresistible force of the overall market correction that government incentives can only temporarily hold back the tide, and that the market will ultimately find its natural equilibrium of supply and demand."

Kids go on buying sprees in iPhone games

By Peter Svensson
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — "The Smurfs' Village," a game for the iPhone and other Apple gadgets, was released a month ago and quickly became the highest-grossing application in the iTunes store. Yet it's free to download.

So where does the money come from? Kelly Rummelhart of Gridley, Calif., has part of the answer. Her 4-year-old son was using her iPad to play the game and racked up \$66.88 in charges on her credit card without knowing what he was doing.

Rummelhart had no idea that it was possible to buy things — buy them with real money — inside the game. In this case, her son bought one bushel and 11 buckets of "Smurfberries," tokens that speed up gameplay.

"Really, my biggest concern was them scratching the screen. Never in my wildest dreams did I think they would be charging things on it," the 36-year-old mother said.

She counts herself lucky that her son didn't start tapping on another purchase button, like the "wheelbarrow" of Smurfberries for \$59.99.

Rummelhart joins a number of parents who have been horrified by purchases of Smurfberries and other virtual items in top App Store games. The 17 highest-rated comments on "The Smurfs' Village" in the App Store all complain about the high cost of the Smurfberries, and two commenters call it a "scam."

Apple introduced "in-app purchases" last

All eyes on health care reform

By Blair Koch
Times-News writer

Feeling confused about health care reform?

You are not alone.

While 2014 will usher in major changes to the health care industry, some changes have already occurred.

Locally, feelings about reform are varied — though everyone understands the need to stay up-to-date on changes.

Scott Leavitt, president of the Idaho Association of Health Underwriters, said many Americans are aware of the Oct. 1 changes the government has already ushered in. Those include families having the ability to keep children up to 26 years old on an insurance policy, as well as enhanced coverage for preventative services.

"There are caveats within the reform bill happening now," Leavitt said. "Understandably, it's a little hard to keep up with."

Another changes small businesses should look into is a tax credit available to some small businesses offering coverage to employees, if the average wage of those employees is less than

\$50,000, he said.

"You may be eligible for the credit to help with the cost of coverage, even if you don't owe income taxes," Leavitt said. "The credit starts at 35 percent of the cost of health care premiums in the first year but it varies depending on the business' circumstances."

Leavitt suggested small-business owners take the time to talk with their health insurance agent or broker and check with the Internal Revenue Service for information.

More changes come into effect in the coming year, Leavitt said.

For one, the penalty levied on people who withdraw funds from their Health Savings Accounts for non-medical purposes rises. Monies used will be considered taxable income, plus subject to a 20 percent fine.

When it comes to health care reform for Americans, most admit changes are needed to the system.

But Leavitt said the mandate for all Americans to carry health insurance will only work if those who opt out are penalized further.

He said healthy people will pay the \$95 penalty for not purchasing insurance but could take advantage of reforms that would make it hard for health insurers to stay in business.

"The second those people are sick they'll buy insurance and since there will no longer be allowances for insurers to not pay (or allow a waiting period of non-payment) on pre-existing conditions insurers will eat the cost of treating those people," he said. "The industry is worried that those people will then drop coverage."

If that happens enough, insurance companies will quickly go broke.

"It's the first step to ending the industry," Leavitt said.

With that sentiment, it's no surprise the National Association of Health Underwriters, of which Leavitt is a past president, wants Congress to push through legislation repealing the entire reform bill.

"The overall goal is complete repeal, but (President Barack) Obama has veto power so we think that some of the reform will be rolled back. It's

definitely something we'll be keeping an eye on," Leavitt said.

Nancy Snodgrass, the statewide coordinator of Idaho's Main Street Alliance chapter, said reform shouldn't be repealed, but rather expanded.

The Alliance is made of more than 400 small Idaho business owners working toward a comprehensive solution to the nation's "health care woes," Snodgrass said.

"We applaud the changes, like lifting lifetime annual benefit limits ... that is huge for a lot of people," Snodgrass said. "But the bill doesn't go far enough. We need viable change, making health care equitable, affordable and accessible to private citizens and small businesses."

Wendy Somerset, owner and CEO of Twin Falls' Furniture and Appliance Outlet and a member of the Main Street Alliance, said medical care costs are a constant worry.

She provides insurance for her 10 employees but said rising costs are a concern.

As a small business, she said

See **REFORM**, Business 3

Maybe next Obama deal with GOP will come easier

Well, it's not exactly how I would have done it.

President Obama deserves credit for cutting a tax-cum-stimulus deal with Republican leaders that involved distasteful concessions on both sides. That's the difference between "finding common ground," which is easy, and real "compromise," which is harder and had fallen out of fashion. Now that the ice has been broken, maybe the next compromise will come a little easier.

It's also a good sign that the president has finally realized that the only way he is going to succeed is to force congressional Democrats to follow his lead rather than the other way around. If he'd done that earlier

Steven Pearlstein



in his presidency, he wouldn't have found himself with his back against the wall after last month's drubbing at the polls. It's not just okay if some liberal Democrats in Congress feel they have to vote against a deal that requires many Republican votes for passage — it's actually a good thing. It means the president finally understands the difference between leading the country and leading his party.

What I do have a serious problem with, however, is the

substance of the deal and the political trap he fell into before negotiating it.

First, the politics. A lot of politics is theater, and the expiration of the Bush tax cuts offered the president and his party a perfect venue for exposing Republican hypocrisy when it comes to creating jobs and reducing the deficit and the GOP's utter determination to deliver tax cuts to millionaires.

In Act One of such a drama, the Democratic House passes a bill extending tax cuts for the working and middle classes. The money that would have otherwise gone to upper-income tax breaks would be used instead to extend jobless benefits for six million workers who have been unemployed for

more than a year while providing tax breaks for businesses that hire new workers or invest in new equipment.

In Act Two, the Democratic Senate tries to take up the House bill, only to be thwarted by Republican objections under Senate rules. In response, Senate Democrats force Republicans to mount a real-life filibuster, running round-the-clock sessions that require Senators to remain at the Capitol through the holidays, sleeping on cots arrayed outside the Senate chamber. As the debate drags on and the deadline approaches on the expiration of the tax cuts, the president sets himself up in a room

See **DEAL**, Business 3

See **BUYING**, Business 3

YOUR BUSINESS

CAREER MOVES

2010 Nursing Excellence Awards

St. Luke's Magic Valley of Twin Falls announced that the Idaho Chapter March of Dimes and Idaho Nursing have honored three nurses from their community among the recipients of the 2010 Nursing Excellence Awards. Designed to recognize the remarkable works of nurses whose leadership and contributions have made a significant impact in their community, the recipients received their awards at a presentation Nov. 13.

Recipients are:
Melissa Fenderson, RN, BSN, CHPN, manager, Home Health and Hospice, special recognition – Community Service, 10 years practice – Fenderson inspires others with her conscientious work ethic, her intelligence, her relentless drive toward continuous learning, and her passion for excellence in the delivery of patient care.
Jessica Hockenberry, RN, Labor and Delivery, special recognition – Rising Star, two years practice – In her two years at St. Luke's, Hockenberry's presence has been widely felt. She has a spirit of excellence that drives her to pursue opportunities for growth. She frequently undertakes projects to improve patient and staff education.
Joseph Rasch, RN, Diagnostic Imaging, special recognition – Rising Star, five years practice – Rasch is a 'can do' professional who stands out because of his motivation, compassion and engaging demeanor. He is consistently cited for demonstrating the highest level of skill in his approach to nursing care, and he is an invaluable and generous member of the care team.



Courtesy photo

Pictured accepting the Luke Award are LaRaye O'Brien, Rosa Blume, Denay Moles and Alan Cameron.

Woman, credit union group receive awards

St. Luke's Health Foundation's Children's Advisory Board has named longtime St. Luke's volunteer Susie Molenaar-Butterfield and the Idaho Credit Union League as this year's 2010 Luke Award recipients. The award recognizes an individual and an organization for efforts that demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to fundraising for St. Luke's Children's Hospital.

The credit unions recognized as sharing in this award are: Idadiv CU, Pioneer FCU, Icon CU, Cornerstone CU, Capital Educators FCU, Mountain Gem CU, Idaho United CU, Idaho Advantage CU, Simcoe CU, Northwest Christian CU, Desert Sage FCU, MAP CU and Magic Valley FCU.

Representing participating credit unions were: Idaho Credit Union League CEO Alan Cameron, ICUL Chair Denay Moles (Idadiv CU), CUFK Chair Rosa Blume (Idadiv CU), and ICUL Communications Specialist LaRaye O'Brien.

CONTRIBUTION



Courtesy photo

Children from the Boys and Girls Club of Magic Valley.

Boys and Girls Club of Magic Valley students deck the halls at Zions Bank

Students from Boys and Girls Club of Magic Valley shared in a 40-year community tradition, creating handmade ornaments for Zions Bank's Christmas tree and receiving a cash donation to their schools in return. Throughout the state, elementary schools participated in the annual "Lights On" tradition by making festive decorations to bring cheer to every Zions Bank office. Boys and Girls Club of Magic Valley students decorated a tree with handmade ornaments and sung carols inside Zions Bank's Canyon Park office on Dec. 6.

Zions Bank operates 26 full-service branches in Idaho and 105 branches throughout Utah. Additional information is available at www.zionsbank.com.

MILESTONES

COMPUTERS AND MORE



Courtesy photo

The Mini-Cassia Chamber Ambassadors hosted a ribbon cutting at Computers and More located at 2275 Overland Ave., Burley, to commemorate its grand opening.

Computers and More offer new and refurbished computers and printers as well as repairs. It also carries a large selection of ink cartridges, toners and more. Business hours are from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Their business number is 647-0109.

Pictured cutting the ribbon is Randy and Danielle Jones, owners and managers, and their son Peyton. They are joined by family, Doug and Edie Adams, Charlie Shaffer, Karla Taylor and Bonnie Sumbardo; and friends Jan and Del Brown and Ronda Bench.

HILAND AESTHETICS



Courtesy photo

The Mini-Cassia Chamber Ambassadors hosted a ribbon cutting at Hiland Aesthetics located at 1945 Hiland Ave., Burley, to commemorate its grand opening.

Hiland Aesthetics offers laser treatment for varicose veins, as well as laser hair removal and cosmetic treatment for wrinkles and sun damage of the skin, such as Botox fillers, peels, microdermabrasion and laser light treatments.

Business hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday. Other hours are available by appointment only. Their business number is 878-7721.

Pictured cutting the ribbon is Dr. Amy Kauffman, along with Kevin and Mallory Kauffman and staff: Wendy, Teresa, Sue and Cheryl.

STONE TO RESTORE HANSEN MURAL



Courtesy photo

Artist Gary Stone of Kimberly has been asked to restore the community mural that once stood as an 'icon' on the west wall of the old Daw's Market, which is now known as the Hansen Quick Stop Market, at the corner of U.S. Highway 30 and Rock Creek Road in Hansen, and was considered by community members as a historic landmark.

Stone has achieved notoriety for his History of Transportation and Veteran's Murals at the Twin Falls Airport, and is also a renowned historian for his work on various Oregon Trail projects, and is taking on the project to raise funds for the project, and then will create a mural replicating or reviving the former mural.

HAPPY KAMPER COOKERY



Courtesy photo

The Mini-Cassia Chamber Ambassadors hosted a ribbon cutting at Happy Kamper Cookery located at 102 S. Oneida, Rupert, to commemorate their grand opening.

Happy Kamper Cookery offers home cooking seven days a week from dine-in to drive-thru.

Business hours are from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days per week. Their business number is 436-6200.

Pictured cutting the ribbon is Paula Goodsell, owner; and Kayla Goodsell, manager; along with friends, family and staff.

LE DUKE RELOCATES



Courtesy photo

Le Duke has moved to a new location at 1111 Blue Lakes Blvd. N. Suite E in Twin Falls. Recently Le Duke staff cut the red ribbon to celebrate along with the Twin Falls Area Chamber Ambassadors. The business is an active member of the chamber.

Le Duke's staff of salon professionals will give personalized attention to hairstyling, nails, massage, skin care, pedicures and facials.

Call them at 733-9600 and make an appointment for the holidays. Pictured from left are Trisha King, Heidi Conley, Julie Kodesh (owner), Laura Dean and Marcela Munguia.

CJ INVESTMENTS



Courtesy photo

CJ Investments at 1059 Blue Lakes Blvd. in Twin Falls recently cut the red ribbon assisted by the Twin Falls Area Chamber Ambassadors. CJ Investments is a member of the chamber.

CJ Investments is a full service property management company. It handles the management and leasing of residential and multi-units, as well as commercial property. Call them 734-4001 and let their professional team assist you.

Pictured from left are Ben Western, leasing agent; Chuck Rutler, owner; and Joann Rutler, owner.

Progressive Voice and Conservative Corner blogs. magicvalley.com

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 Blair Koch at bkoch@magicvalley.com. Photos will only be accepted as .jpeg e-mail attachments. 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.

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Over-the-top gifts for your pet

By Sue Manning
Associated Press writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.—Sanderella has 150 collars and leashes, 200 couture dresses, 300 bows, a designer bed in every room and standing appointments with a groomer and an acupuncturist.

The 17-year-old Bichon poodle mix rides in a carriage, eats macaroni and cheese from a bowl that has her name etched in gold and has a pink mink made by Saks Fifth Avenue.

So what do you get for Christmas for the dog who has everything?

"Definitely bling. We love bling," said Margaret Souders, 68, who owns Sanderella and Samantha, a 19-month-old Bichon Frise. "I'm addicted to my dogs. I love them to pieces. My whole life revolves around them."

Sounders is a regular cus-



AP photo

Sandy Seigler, owner of the Beverly Hills Mutt Club, tries a three row crystal necklace on her 5-year-old Chihuahua-Chin mix, Tatiana, and a Candy Apple Couture dog gown at the shop in Beverly Hills, Calif.

tomers at the Beverly Hills Mutt Club, one of many high-end pet boutiques where the sky is the limit, from Rodeo Drive stalwarts like Neiman Marcus, Prada, Louis Vuitton, Coach and Saks to online marketplaces where pet gifts can run in the thousands of dollars.

The Mutt Club is small but

bursting with things made of Swarovski crystal, pearls, cashmere, wool and Italian leather. Jewels and canine couture are best sellers, said Celina Bojorquez, who owns the shop with her mom, Sandy Siegler. Other customers include Sandra Bullock, Jamie Lee Curtis, Susan Sarandon, Billy Joel

and Vince Neil, Siegler said. Sanderella's first Chanel leash and collar cost \$650. Her bow collection alone probably cost \$9,000, Souders said.

The Eyenimal pet video camera with built-in microphone sells for \$135, fits on your pet's collar and can shoot up to 2 1/2 hours of continuous video. The treadmill comes in three sizes, and three prices — \$599 to \$1,499.

Dogs aren't the only pampered pets. The "My First Hamster Home Kit" from Petco can be upgraded with a couch, television set, lamp and other furnishings, said Petco spokeswoman Sandy Robbins.

For the cat who has everything, including an owner with time and patience, Robbins suggested a \$69.99 Litter Kwitter, which will help you teach your cat to use a toilet instead of a litter box.

Buying

Continued from Business 1

year, letting developers use the iTunes billing system to sell items and add-ons in their games and applications.

Usually, the purchases require the owner of the device to enter his or her iTunes password. But there is no password challenge if the owner has entered the password in the last 15 minutes for any reason. That means that if a user enters the password for a purchase or a free app upgrade, then hands the phone or iPad over to a kid, the child will not be stopped by a password prompt.

Capcom and other game publishers have no control over the 15-minute password-free period, which is set by Apple.

Apple defends its system.

Spokeswoman Trudy Muller says the password system is adequate and points out that parents can restrict in-app purchases. The parents contacted for the story received refunds from Apple after complaining, and praised the company's responsiveness.

The game publishers and Apple point out that device owners can turn off the option to conduct in-app purchases by going to the Settings app, then hitting the General button, then the Restrictions option. The parents contacted for the story had done so after being alerted to the purchases through their iTunes billing statements.

Apple takes requests for refunds through the computer version of the iTunes program. In the "Store"

Application

Continued from Business 1

eventually approved.

"We need to talk to some qualified opinions and find out 1) whether a grocery store is appropriate in this area of town, and 2) will it be a death knell to the businesses around Atkinsons' Market," said Hall, who favored

tabling Valmark's application rather than denying it, before it was withdrawn. "Before we say no to this guy, are we cutting off our nose to spite our face? We owe this a thorough evaluation before we send him packing."

The council is expected to take up the issue of a light

industrial study at an upcoming meeting, with the goal of having that study completed in six to nine months, perhaps as part of an ongoing economic development study.

Hall has said he may favor inclusion of grocers in light industrial zone, as the city

treats them differently from typical retail now for tax purposes, and he sees many of their activities as closer to light industrial than retail.

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

Reform

Continued from Business 1

one feature of the reform widely known as the "1099 rule" will bury businesses in unnecessary paperwork.

The rule mandates that, beginning in 2012, all com-

panies will have to issue 1099 tax forms to any individual or corporation from which they buy more than \$600 in goods or services in a tax year.

Under current law, 1099

forms are only required for contracted services.

The thinking is that part of the reform package can be paid for with income now, allegedly, unclaimed.

"We do business with

hundreds of vendors," Somerset said. "Now, I only have to submit 1099s on two or three services a year, if I need computer repair or something. The new rule will be a huge and costly burden.

Deal

Continued from Business 1

at the Capitol, ready to sign a tax cut for the middle class and veto any tax cuts for millionaires. As the clock strikes midnight on Dec. 31, the curtain falls as the president is photographed either signing the legislation surrounded by tired but smiling colleagues, or sitting glumly at an empty table with no bill to sign.

Nobody really knows how the American people would have responded to such a drama or how exactly it would have ended. What I can assure you is that nobody would have any doubt about whom to blame for any failure to extend middle-class tax cuts. And if the tax cuts did expire, there would still have been an opportunity to strike a retroactive deal with the new Congress just like the one agreed to this week, with little lasting damage to the economy or incomes of American households.

This is not simply a matter of symbolism, as the president suggested this week. It's a matter of signalling to the country and the GOP leadership that the president will not bow to political hostage taking. Now that he has blinked, you can be sure that Sen. Jim DeMint and the Tea Party zealots are already plotting how to block legislation to raise the debt limit or appropriate funds to keep the government running in order to force repeal of health reform. Given the inevitability of such a show-down, the president would have been better to orchestrate it early, on his own terms and over an issue on which the public is clearly on his side.

Of course, a variation of this drama could have played out last summer if congressional Democrats had been willing and unified enough to make it a cornerstone of the fall campaign. Their complaints now about presidential cowardice sound a bit hypocritical.

As for the substance of this deal, economists generally agree that extending unemployment insurance and providing tax breaks for business investment are fair and cost-effective ways to add juice to a lackluster economy. But I'm less con-

vinced about the wisdom of additional payroll tax cuts to stimulate spending by American households that, after decades of over-consumption, are finally beginning to save again. Democrats rightfully complained that the tax cuts were the least effective parts of the original stimulus package and there is no reason to expect they will work any better this time. The fact that the stock market could not sustain a rally on Tuesday suggests there are others who share this skepticism.

The bigger problem with the tax deal is that it represents a big step backward on the road to getting deficits under control. Given the choice between the Republicans' high-end tax cuts and Democratic stimu-

lus, the "compromise" is to do both now.

It would be one thing if the president and Republican leaders who agreed to this short-term spending spree had embraced the long-term plan proposed last week by a majority of the members of the deficit-reduction commission. Unfortunately, neither did. In that regard, the most encouraging aspect of the tax deal is that none of the tax cuts would last more than two years.

Should the economy revive and unemployment fall, however, don't look for Republican leaders to agree that it's time to raise taxes as part of a debt-reduction strategy. For them, the weak economy is mere pretext for tax cutting, not an underlying rationale. Given the

choice between raising taxes or lowering the deficit, there's no doubt where their priority lies.

For his part, the president hinted in his news conference Tuesday that he's eager to grab the mantle on deficit-cutting by following on the deficit commission's call for tax reform that reduces rates, eliminates most tax breaks while raising additional revenue. That, too, should offer the opportunity for winning political theater. Let's hope that on that occasion he decides to show up for the performance.

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Tale of two Christmases



AP photo

Shoppers flock to Macy's department store in New York in the early hours of Nov. 26 to shop ahead of Christmas. Though economists declared the recession officially over last summer, the pace of recovery has been uneven across income levels.

Obama to discuss job creation Wednesday

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House says President Barack Obama will discuss ideas for creating jobs and making the U.S. more competitive when he hosts about 20 CEOs on Wednesday. The White House isn't saying yet who's on the invitation list for the event at Blair House. White House spokeswoman Jennifer Psaki says the session will give the president a chance to continue building his relationship with the business community. Obama has said that's an area he needs to work on. Likely areas of discussion will include promoting exports and making sure the next generation is skilled enough to compete in a global marketplace. Other topics include tax reform, government regulation and the country's medium and long-term federal deficits.



PROPERTY TAX REMINDER

December 20th is the last day for payment of the 1st installment of 2010 Real Property, Mobile Home & Personal Property Taxes. Payments by mail **must be postmarked** on or before December 20, 2010.

This reminder courtesy of:
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This holiday, affluent go shopping while the poorer fret about bills

By Ylan Q. Mui
The Washington Post

A new division is emerging in America between those who have moved on from the recession and those still caught in its grip.

This holiday season, those two worlds have been thrown into stark relief: At Tiffany's, executives report that sales of their most expensive merchandise have grown by double digits.

At Walmart, executives point to shoppers flooding the stores at midnight every two weeks to buy baby formula the minute their unemployment checks hit their accounts.

Neiman Marcus brought back \$1.5 million fantasy gifts in its annual Christmas Wish Book. Family Dollar is making more room on its shelves for staples like groceries, the one category its customers reliably shop.

"When you start to line up all the pieces, you see a story that starts to emerge," said James Russo, vice president of global consumer insights for The Nielsen Co. "You kind of see this polarized Christmas."

Though economists declared the recession officially over last summer, the pace of recovery has been uneven across income levels.

The rebound in the stock market and record low mortgage interest rates have mostly benefited affluent households, buoying their confidence in the economy along with their ability — and their desire — to spend. Meanwhile, progress largely has bypassed poorer families

"When you start to line up all the pieces, you see a story that starts to emerge. You kind of see this polarized Christmas."

— James Russo, vice president of global consumer insights for The Nielsen Co.

who remain hamstrung by anemic wage growth and a higher unemployment rate.

This tale of two Christmases is being played out from the shopping mall to the kitchen table. At Towson Town Center outside Baltimore, sales are exceeding expectations in the mall's new wing of luxury retailers such as Burberry, Louis Vuitton and Tiffany's, executives said. But Miriam Pap of Baltimore City has never stepped inside those stores, even though she often works a few feet away, selling Auntie Anne's pretzels at a small cart at the entrance to the hallway.

"We don't have the money," Pap said on a recent afternoon, as she served up samples of cinnamon raisin to shoppers juggling Nordstrom bags and baby strollers.

While it has always been the case that lower-income families find themselves financially strapped more often than wealthy ones, the Great Recession was also a great equalizer. Wall Street bankers and construction workers alike got laid off.

The fallout in subprime mortgages quickly spread throughout the real estate market. And consumers at all income levels slashed spending, whether that meant abstaining from designer shoes or trading down from beef to chicken. The damage to shoppers'

wallets was much broader than in previous generations, when the wealthy remained insulated from the nation's economic cycles. In recent decades, as the gulf between the incomes of the wealthy and the rest of Americans has widened, affluent families experience greater income loss during downturns but see an even bigger spike on the way back up, a Northwestern University study found.

The divide is evident in retailers' sales. Sales at luxury stores open at least a year — a key measure of retail health — plunged by a monthly average of 9 percent last year, only to skyrocket 7 percent so far this year, according to industry analysis. Discount stores eked out a 0.5 percent gain a year ago and are up just 2.6 percent this year.

"During the recession, it was very unfashionable to be fashionable and that is slowly changing," said Stephanie Brager, vice president for asset management at General Growth, which owns the Towson mall.

That is not to say that luxury consumers have abandoned the lessons of the recession. Coach, for example, reported that sales in North America grew by double digits during its most recent quarter — but only after it lowered prices of its signature handbags and leather goods by 10 percent.

Still, the company said customers' plans to buy in the future were at the highest level in two years.

Economists say the biggest obstacle to a robust recovery is the high unemployment rate, which has hit workers with little education and low household income the hardest. The jobless rate for workers without a high school diploma is 15.7 percent — well above the national average and triple the rate for college graduates, according to government data.

Meanwhile, the unemployment rate among households that had been making less than \$50,000 is 15 percent, well above the national average of 9.8 percent, according to consulting firm Bain & Co.

These are the forces working against 27-year-old Chanise Lee of the District of Columbia, who holds a high school diploma and has been looking for work for three months after losing her job at a nursing home when the owner went bankrupt.

"It doesn't feel like I'm out of the recession," she said. "I couldn't say what we need to do with the economy, but I know I need employment."

Her game plan for Christmas Day is to distract her three young children with coloring sheets and a hearty breakfast when they wake up so they don't notice how few gifts are under the tree.

"By the time all of that's done, then the toys are not as exciting," Lee said. "I kinda take their focus away from the presents and back to where it needs to be."

Auditor who missed Bell scandals to undergo review

BELL, Calif. (AP) — An auditing firm has hired an independent accounting company to review its failure to flag repeated fraud and mismanagement in this scandal-plagued suburb of Los Angeles.

The firm of Mayer Hoffman McCann hired the accounting company Carr Riggs & Ingram to review its work for California government agencies and issue a report in the next 60 days, the Los Angeles Times reported Saturday.

Firm spokesman Joe Crivelli said such reviews take place every three years, but Mayer Hoffman McCann moved up the forthcoming one in the wake of the scandals in Bell.

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<p>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 8:00AM Real Estate Auction, Hazelton, ID 2982 E. 990 S. on site, Open to public 4BR, 2BA 2,280sf +/- Open this weekend, details online or call 800-801-8003 www.williamsauction.com</p>	<p>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 5:00PM Jerome, ID Household, Tools, Antiques, Outrageous Oddities 324-5521 www.klaasauction.com</p>
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Dr. M. Cole Johnson is pleased to announce his association with Merrick Reynolds, P.A.
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Merrick will begin accepting patients starting November 22, 2010. To schedule an appointment with him call (208) 733-1112.

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Lawrence John 'Jack' Clysdale

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Our loving husband, father, grandfather and friend, Lawrence John "Jack" Clysdale, died Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2010. He was 83. He was surrounded by his wife and his two daughters as he passed shortly after spending a weekend with his sons, daughters-in-law and seven grandchildren.



sons, Jeffrey (Kay) Clysdale of Twin Falls, Idaho, and Patrick (Sonia) Clysdale, also of Twin Falls; two daughters, Bridget (Ted) Zinger of Cypress, Calif., and Kelly (Steve) Kumashiro of Seal Beach, Calif.; his six grandsons, Evan, Alexander, Mason, Maxwell, Jacob and Jeremy, and one granddaughter, Naomi; and brothers, Gene and Pat of Kalamazoo, Mich., and Bill of Lynwood, Wash. He also had a special place in his heart for his sister-in-law, Barbara Kevan, and her family as they treated him as one of the family from the day he and Mary were married.

Jack was born Oct. 17, 1927, in Detroit, Mich., and was the oldest of four boys. He moved to Long Beach, Calif., in the 1950s to be near the ocean. It was his love of the ocean that drew him to Belmont Shore and to the love of his life, Mary Warner, of Lava Hot Springs, Idaho. He worked for Douglas Aircraft before going to Aerospace Corporation, where he retired after 30 years of service. In addition to family, church and friends, Jack enjoyed fly fishing in Idaho, golf, tennis, race car driving and the Lakers.

As well as Mary, Jack is survived by his children, two

and Mary were married. Jack will always be remembered for his quick smile and outgoing personality.

A celebration of his life will be held at 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 17, at the Los Altos United Church of Christ, located at 5550 Atherton St. in Long Beach, Calif. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Los Altos United Church choir.

Margery Lynn Overlin

Margery Lynn Overlin, 86 years old, of Twin Falls, died Thursday morning, Dec. 9, 2010, at St. Luke's Valley Medical Center.



Church, serving as a Sunday school teacher. She enjoyed activities with her family, cooking, and collecting pig figurines.

Margery was born June 22, 1924, in Cato, Mo., to Delmer Ernest Spain and Othena A. Perlman Spain. She spent her early years in Missouri and, at age 6, moved with her family to Kimberly, Idaho, finishing her education there. While a young girl, Margery survived scarlet fever.

On Oct. 18, 1945, she married Donald Overlin in Filer, Idaho. They raised three children, Carl, Donna and Paul. Margery stayed at home taking care of her family. In 1963, they moved to Twin Falls. Once her sons were raised, Margery worked for a number of years at the Twin Falls Clinic and Hospital as a housekeeper. After her retirement, Margery and Donald spent their years enjoying each other and taking care of their grandchildren.

Margery was an active member of Eastside Baptist

Carl Overlin of Twin Falls and Paul (Sue) Overlin of Maryland; brothers, William "Wimpy" (Edna) Spain and Delmar "Jr." Spain, both of Twin Falls, and Charles (Barbara) Spain of Salt Lake City, Utah; her grandchildren, Dave (Erin) Overlin, Wes Overlin and Heather (Jed) Stephens, all of Twin Falls, and Amy (Derric) Davie of Fairfield, Idaho; and 14 great-grandchildren. Margery was preceded in death by her parents; her husband of 61 years, Donald; and her daughter, Donna.

A visitation for family and friends will be held from 5 until 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 13, at Reynolds Funeral Chapel. Private family burial will take place at Sunset Memorial Park. To share a memory of Margery or offer condolences to Margery's family, please visit www.reynoldschapel.com.

DEATH NOTICES

Laura Joy Carney

Laura Joy Carney, 85, of Twin Falls, died Thursday, Dec. 9, 2010, at her home.

A graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 15, at Filer Cemetery; visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 14, at White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

William J. Morgan

BURLEY — William Joseph "Bill" Morgan, 98, of Burley, died Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2010, at Cassia Regional Medical Center in Burley.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29, at the Burley First Presbyterian Church, 2100 Burton Ave. (Rasmussen Funeral Home of Burley).

Donnea A. Penny

Donnea Ann Penny, 56, of Twin Falls, died Thursday, Dec. 9, 2010, at her home.

Arrangements will be announced by White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Betty Carpenter

Betty Carpenter, 85, of

Twin Falls, died Friday, Dec. 10, 2010, at Twin Falls Care and Rehabilitation Center.

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

Reinaldo Armas

BURLEY — Reinaldo Armas, 52, of Burley, died Friday, Dec. 10, 2010.

Arrangements will be announced by Rasmussen Funeral Home of Burley.

Kim Maddox

SHOSHONE — Kim Maddox, 45, of Shoshone, died Saturday, Dec. 11, 2010, at his home.

Arrangements will be announced by Farnsworth Mortuary of Jerome.

Raymond Dillard

RIGGINS — Raymond Dillard, 75, of Riggins and formerly of Boise, died Friday, Dec. 10, 2010, at his residence.

Arrangements will be announced by Demaray Funeral Service Gooding Chapel (condolences: www.demarayfuneralservice.com).

SERVICES

Shane Kennison of Jerome, memorial service at 1 p.m. Monday at Farnsworth Mortuary Chapel, 1343 S. Lincoln in Jerome.

Payne Mortuary, 321 E. Main St.; visitation from 10 a.m. until time of the service Thursday at the mortuary.

Donald R. Carnahan of Glens Ferry, funeral at 1:30 p.m. Monday at the Grace Episcopal Church in Glens Ferry; graveside service follows at the Glens Rest Cemetery in Glens Ferry (Rost Funeral Home McMurtrey Chapel in Mountain Home).

Dorothy Leigh Hayward of Twin Falls, memorial service at noon Thursday at the Twin Falls First Baptist Church (White Mortuary in Twin Falls).

Donnetta Mae Reinke Smith of Twin Falls, graveside service at 2 p.m. Monday at the Twin Falls Cemetery; memorial service at 3 p.m. Monday at the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Kimberly.

George Charles Owen Rathke of Bliss, funeral at 1 p.m. Tuesday at Demaray Funeral Service Gooding Chapel; graveside service follows at the Hagerman Cemetery.

Eugene "David" Boyd Jr. of Burley, funeral at 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Hansen

I.F. man, juvenile face sex charges

IDAHO FALLS (AP) — A 20-year-old Idaho Falls man and a 16-year-old boy who police say had sexual relations with two 12-year-old girls face felony charges.

The *Post Register* in a story on Saturday reported that Ronald Barrigan has been charged with rape, and that the 16-year-old has been charged with lewd conduct with a minor.

Idaho Falls Police say the

encounters occurred on Dec. 2 and 3 after the males met the 12-year-olds at a store and took them to a party at a house.

Police say Barrigan and one of the girls had sex multiple times, and the boy and other girl also had sexual relations.

Police say they were alerted after one of the girls contacted a school nurse because she was concerned about becoming pregnant.



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Eastern Idaho deputy placed on paid leave

POCATELLO (AP) — Bannock County Sheriff Lorin Nielsen has asked the Pocatello Police Department to investigate allegations that a sheriff's deputy embezzled money from the Deputy Sheriff's Association's fund.

Nielsen declined to name the deputy, but tells the *Idaho State Journal* the deputy has been placed on paid leave.

Nielsen says he's also

received the approval of Bannock County commissioners to do an independent audit of the sheriff's office to make sure there are no improprieties.

The audit will begin Monday.

Nielsen says he's also asked the Tri-County Sheriff's Association to investigate.

Nielsen says he learned of the embezzlement allegations on Thursday.



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Poor, rich at Christmas, N&W 2 / Edwards eulogized, N&W 3

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2010

Madoff's eldest son hangs himself in NYC apartment

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Disgraced financier Bernard Madoff's eldest son hanged himself by a dog leash in his apartment Saturday, exactly two years after his father's arrest in a multibillion-dollar Ponzi scheme that swindled thousands of investors of their life savings.

Mark Madoff, 46, was found hanging from a ceiling pipe in the living room of his SoHo loft apartment as his 2-year-old son slept in a nearby bedroom, two law enforcement officials told The Associated Press.

Madoff, who reported his father to authorities, has



AP photo

A member of the New York Police Department Crime Scene Unit, foreground, arrives at the apartment where the body of Mark Madoff, the son Bernard Madoff was found Saturday.

never been criminally charged in the biggest investment fraud in U.S. history and has said he and his



Mark Madoff

brother Andrew never knew of their father's crimes. A law enforcement official told the AP that Mark was not facing imminent arrest and hadn't spoken to investigators pursuing possible charges in over a year.

But he and other Madoff relatives have remained under investigation and been named in multiple investor lawsuits accusing them of profiting from the scheme.

"This is a terrible and unnecessary tragedy,"

Madoff's lawyer, Martin Flumenbaum said in a written statement. "Mark was an innocent victim of his father's monstrous crime who succumbed to two years of unrelenting pressure from false accusations and innuendo."

A lawyer for Mark's mother, Ruth Madoff, said, "She's heartbroken."

Mark Madoff's body was discovered after his wife, Stephanie, became concerned when he sent an e-mail to her early Saturday morning that someone should check on their 2-year-old son, said the law enforcement officials, speaking on condition of

anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly about the death.

Madoff's wife, who is at Disney World in Florida with her 4-year-old daughter, sent her stepfather to the home. The toddler was found unharmed, along with a dog.

Bernard Madoff, 72, swindled a long list of investors out of billions of dollars. He admitted that he ran his scheme for at least two decades, cheating thousands of individuals, charities, celebrities and institutional investors. Losses are estimated at around \$20 billion, making it the biggest investment fraud in U.S. history.

That's classified?



National Security Archive Executive Director Thomas Blanton, standing right, Senior Fellow and CIA expert John Prados, center, Deputy Director Malcolm Byrne examine documents released by the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington.

AP file photo

Sometimes U.S. keeps the obvious secret

By Matt Apuzzo
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Wanna hear a secret? The U.S. and Canada are probably going to remain friends. And the conservative and liberal party leaders in England? They don't like each other.

But keep that under wraps. The U.S. doesn't want that sort of sensitive information getting out for a decade or so.

While the recent leak of government documents onto the website WikiLeaks has revealed government secrets on such topics as Iran, North Korea and Yemen, the disclosure also unmasked another closely guarded fact: Much of what the government says is classified isn't much of a secret at all.

Sometimes, classified documents contained little more than summaries of

"The problem is, we've got a system that keeps way too much that is secret, and as a result we can't protect the real secrets nearly as well."

— Thomas Blanton, director of the National Security Archives

press reports. Political banter was treated as confidential government intelligence. Information that's available to anyone with an Internet connection was ordered held under wraps for years.

Days after President Barack Obama's inauguration, the White House received a classified message from the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa. It was a primer for the president's upcoming trip to Canada and it included this sensitive bit of information, marked confidential:

"No matter which political party forms the Canadian government during your Administration, Canada will remain one of

our staunchest and most like-minded of allies, our largest trading and energy partner, and our most reliable neighbor and friend."

The document could not be made public until 2019, for national security reasons.

Such non-secrets have a cost. The more stuff the government classifies, the more money it takes to keep it all concealed. The government spent at least \$9 billion keeping classified information under wraps last year, and that doesn't include the CIA, Defense Intelligence Agency and others that keep their spending on classified information classified.

See **CLASSIFIED**, N&W 2

Cables show Ireland irked the Vatican on sovereignty

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Newly released U.S. diplomatic cables indicate that the Vatican felt "offended" that Ireland failed to respect Holy See "sovereignty" by asking high-ranking churchmen to answer questions from an Irish commission probing decades of sex abuse of minors by clergy.

That the Holy See used its diplomatic-immunity status as a tiny city-state to try to thwart the Irish fact-finding probe has long been known. But the WikiLeaks cables, published by Britain's *The Guardian* newspaper on Saturday, contain delicate, behind-the-scenes diplomatic assessments of the highly

See **IRELAND**, N&W 2

Adults blame parents for ed problems

By Donna Gordon Blankinship
Associated Press writer

INSIDE

Coaching teachers in the classroom.

See **N/W 5**

SEATTLE — Blaming teachers for low test scores, poor graduation rates and the other ills of American schools has been popular lately, but a new survey wags a finger closer to home.

An Associated Press-Stanford University Poll on education found that 68 percent of adults believe parents deserve heavy blame for what's wrong with the U.S. education system — more than teachers, school administrators, the government or teachers unions.

Only 35 percent of those surveyed agreed that teachers deserve a great deal or a lot of the blame. Moms were more likely than dads — 72 percent versus 61 percent — to say parents are at fault. Conservatives were more likely than moderates or liberals to blame parents.

Those who said parents are to blame were more likely to cite a lack of student discipline and low expectations for students as serious problems in schools. They were also more likely to see fighting and low test scores as big problems.

"Nobody is too busy to raise a child for a successful future," said Wilfred Luise Vincent, 65, of Coppell, Texas. Vincent worked early or late shifts for Delta Airlines during most of his career so his two daughters would have a parent at home after school.

Now he's retired and home after school to help

guide his granddaughter while his daughter works.

The problems children and their parents deal with inside and outside of school every day are growing, said Julie Woestehoff, executive director of Parents United for Responsible Education, a Chicago advocacy group.

Children are tired, they're hungry and they need someone to help with their homework. Some kids face violence at home or in their neighborhood. Some parents are trying so hard to keep a roof over their family that they can't help with school.

More than half of those polled said student discipline and fighting, violence and gangs were extremely or very serious problems in schools. Nearly as many expressed concern about getting and keeping good teachers.

Most said education in their local public schools is excellent or good, but 67 percent also believe the U.S. is falling behind the rest of the world when it comes to education.

But a majority of parents see improvement in the system since they were in school: 55 percent believe their children are getting a better education than they did, and three-quarters rate the quality of education at their child's school as excellent or good.

Calif. bomb house site declared safe after burn

The Associated Press

ESCONDIDO, Calif. — Two days after an explosives-laden house was destroyed in a carefully orchestrated burn that played out on television screens across the country, the site of the so-called "bomb factory" was declared safe Saturday by California authorities.

"Thursday's controlled fire destroyed all of the explosives and hazardous materials at the site," San Diego County said in a statement issued a day after a sheriff's bomb and arson unit sifted through the ashes and debris of the charred property and

found no danger.

Crews scraped several inches of dirt off the half-acre lot to ensure there was no dangerous residue left.

On Monday, state, county and private workers will begin hauling soil, ash and scrap from the house to a landfill in a cleanup is expected to take until the middle of the week, the statement said.

A gardener stepped on residue from an explosive substance last month and set off a blast that led to the discovery of the home that prosecutors say contained the largest amount of certain homemade explosives ever found in a single U.S. location.

Obama: Tax deal not perfect, but worth passage

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama calls his tax-cut agreement with Republicans far from perfect but a good deal overall for Americans, while acknowledging that many fellow Democrats aren't happy about what he negotiated with the GOP.

Pressing for passage by year's end, he told lawmakers in his radio and Internet address Saturday that "our recovery will be strengthened or weakened based on the choice that now rests with Congress."

The deal would extend for all earners cuts in income tax rates that are set to expire next month. It would renew jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed and trim Social Security taxes for one year.

Republicans support the plan because it would not impose higher taxes on the wealthiest, as Obama long had wanted to do. Democrats object to the pact on grounds that it is too generous to the rich.

Obama said the agreement will require that both parties accept some things they don't like. But he said the agreement will help the middle-class families that he and others have argued should be spared further economic hardship.

"The opportunity for families to send their kids to college hinges on this debate," Obama said. "The ability of parents to put food on the table while looking for a job depends on this debate."



Obama

He said he was confident that Congress, where voting is expected to begin on the measure next week, "will do the right thing."

Obama won some high-profile backing for the agreement from former President Bill Clinton. The former president told reporters after an Oval Office meeting with Obama on Friday afternoon that "I don't believe there is a better deal out there."

In their weekly address, Republican Rep.-elect Kristi Noem of South Dakota applauded the deal and said it's good for small businesses.

"With unemployment still rising, the No. 1 thing our family-owned small businesses need right now is certainty," she said.

Hospitals will report patient infections or face losing funds

By Tony Pugh
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Hoping to erase a troubling legacy of preventable infections and deaths, most U.S. hospitals on Jan. 1 will begin reporting the number of patients who contract bloodstream infections following their treatment in intensive-care units.

The information about infections involving catheters will be made public on a government website later in 2011, giving consumers a fast, easy way to see which hospitals best protect patients from one of the most lethal, yet avoidable medical conditions.

Catheters are tubes used to draw blood or provide

fluid or medication to patients. They're commonly inserted into a patient's large vein, usually in the chest, neck, arm or groin, and can remain in the body for several weeks. Infections result if bacteria or germs travel through the line and into the bloodstream.

Nearly 250,000 bloodstream infections occur each year in U.S. hospitals due to catheters, and they contribute to roughly 31,000 patient deaths annually. But research shows that nearly all the infections are preventable when safety measures are used consistently by hospital staff.

The new reporting requirement for the infections is technically volun-

tary. But if any of the nation's 4,300 acute-care hospitals don't comply, they would lose 2 percent of their Medicare funding beginning in fiscal year 2013.

That financial incentive plus public scrutiny of hospital infection rates will ensure strong compliance, experts say. More importantly, they say, the new measure will focus more attention on hospital hygiene, which should improve patient safety and shorten the average length of hospitalization.

It's the latest move by the federal government to force hospitals to step up the fight against health care-related infections and a host of virulent superbugs that are growing more resistant to

antibiotics. Beginning in 2012, hospitals will have to report the number and rate of surgical site infections, which occur more than 290,000 times a year and claim more than 8,200 lives.

The new mandates are good news for Ed Lawton of Fairfax, Va., who has to use a wheelchair after being stricken with three infections while he was hospitalized for back surgery in 1998.

"I used to lie in bed and think 'I can die just because someone forgot to wash their hands,'" Lawton recalled last week. "At least now, some information will be available to give the public a sense of whether they're going into a hospital that has a chronic problem."

Father camps in blizzard to help school

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Hospital executive Robert Stevens donned four layers of long underwear, heavy boots and a down coat before climbing on the roof of a Minnesota coffee shop to raise money for his daughter's school.

He vowed not to come down until he had raised \$100,000, but after reaching the half-way mark Saturday morning, he said he hoped the rest of the money would come fast. He didn't look

forward to spending another night out in the blizzard that was sweeping through the Midwest.

"I think I've crossed the line into insanity," he told The Associated Press.

The storm formed in the Rocky Mountains on Friday and then swept into northern Nebraska and Iowa overnight. By Saturday morning, heavy snow and strong winds had created blizzard conditions across much of the Midwest.

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Classified

Continued from N&W 1

Most Americans can do little but take it on faith that those secrets are actually worth keeping. And advocates for open government say that when too much is classified, it makes it harder for the government to cry foul when legitimate secrets are leaked.

"The problem is, we've got a system that keeps way too much that is secret, and as a result we can't protect the real secrets nearly as well," said Thomas Blanton, the director of the National Security Archives, a private research institute at George Washington University. "And the stuff we really need to know is buried under a mass of trivia."

State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley would not discuss specific cables such as the one discussing Canada's friendship. But generally, he said, "I haven't seen any strong evidence there's an abuse of

the classification system in the cables I've seen."

The U.S. can classify documents if they "could reasonably be expected to cause identifiable or describable damage to the national security."

In March 2009, U.S. officials in England attended the spring political conference of the Liberal Democrats. The event was widely covered in the British media, but the U.S. Embassy's summary, a combination of speech excerpts and hallway chatter, was labeled classified.

Among the revelations: Liberal Democratic leader Nick Clegg and Conservative David Cameron "don't get along." Besides being politically obvious, this tidbit was available at any newsstand in England.

The British press has reported that Clegg dubbed Cameron "the con man of British politics." Cameron dismissed Clegg as a "joke" and privately called him

"Calamity Clegg."

Information sometimes is classified to protect a source, even when that source has said all the same things publicly. In September 2009, British Treasury chief Alistair Darling warned the U.S. Embassy in London of political backlash if banks handed out huge bonuses. On the economy, Darling "remained cautious, but expected a return to growth by the end of the year," a diplomatic message said.

Weeks earlier, Darling told the Guardian newspaper the same thing. He was cautiously optimistic about the economy, he said, and expected growth "round the turn of the year." And as one of the government's leading critics of bank bonuses, Darling's opposition to them was hardly a state secret.

By comparison, this would be like the British Embassy in Washington sending a classified note to London this week saying

Republican Rep. John Boehner wanted tax cuts or Obama wanted to repeal the "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in the military.

Sometimes, U.S. diplomats conducted no interviews and the classified messages appeared to be simply rehashed media reports. In October 2009, the U.S. Embassy in Moscow sent Washington a message titled "Is Stalin's Ghost a Threat to Academic Freedom?" It described government efforts to recast Soviet dictator Josef Stalin's place in history.

The details in the cable had been widely covered in the media, including an Agence France-Presse story that ran just days earlier under the headline "Russian historians fear crackdown on sensitive research." Even the term "Stalin's ghost" was used in news stories leading up to the diplomatic cable, which was marked classified until 2019.

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Ireland

Continued from N&W 1

charged situation.

The Vatican press office declined to comment on the content of the cables Saturday, but decried the leaks as a matter of "extreme seriousness."

The U.S. ambassador to the Holy See also condemned the leaks and said the Vatican and America cooperate in promoting universal values.

One leaked document published Saturday, authored in February 2010 by Rome-based diplomat Julieta Valls Noyes, cited her conversations with Irish Ambassador Noel Fahey and his deputy, Helena Keleher, about the diplomatic bind Ireland found itself in.

Ireland wanted to be seen as fully supportive of the independent probe into child-abuse cover-ups in the Dublin Archdiocese, but its Rome officials also didn't want to intervene in the probe's efforts to get information from the Vatican, Noyes' report said.

Noyes reported that Irish diplomats in Rome decided not to press Vatican officials

to respond to questions from the panel, which was led by an Irish judge and operated independently of Ireland's government. It sent letters to the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Vatican's ambassador to Ireland seeking information on Vatican

officials' knowledge of cover-ups, but got no replies.

Noyes, citing a conversation with a Holy See official, wrote that the investigators' letters "offended many in the Vatican" because they were viewed as "an affront to Vatican sovereignty."

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Edwards eulogized as being source of strength

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Hundreds of family and friends gathered Saturday to honor the life of Elizabeth Edwards, who has been praised for her strength amid a series of life tragedies that included the death of a son, a betrayal by her husband and a battle with cancer that eventually led to her death.

The funeral was held at Edenton Street United Methodist, a Raleigh church that Edwards turned to after her 16-year-old son Wade died in a car crash in 1996. She was to be buried later in the day alongside her son during a private ceremony.

Speakers recalled Edwards as a woman filled with energy, intellect and humor. They joked they had trouble coming up with what to say without the woman who used to leave notes of advice for those close to her.

"There aren't words that are good enough," said daughter Cate Edwards, whose eulogy contained a passage from a letter her mother spent years preparing to leave to her children after she was gone.

"I've loved you in the best ways I've known how," the letter said. "All I ever really needed was you, your love, your presence, to make my life complete."

John Edwards, her estranged husband, did not speak. The couple had four children together, including 12-year-old Emma Claire and 10-year-old Jack.

Their oldest daughter, 28-year-old Cate, also talked of how her mother comforted



Edwards



AP photo

Former Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards and his children, Emma Claire, left, and Jack leave funeral services for Elizabeth Edwards in Raleigh, N.C., Saturday. Edwards died Tuesday of cancer.

those around her as she lay dying — at one point barely able to speak as she held her daughter and John's hands, looking back and forth to each, repeating, "I'm OK. I'm OK."

"She was way more wor-

regrets wearing solids than patterns) to marriage (don't settle for the first boy you ever meet).

"She's been a lighthouse to all of us — a point of guidance when we all feel lost," she said.

The memorial brought several political figures, including Sen. John Kerry, who led the Democratic presidential ticket in 2004 that included John Edwards, and North Carolina Gov. Beverly Perdue.

Two of Elizabeth Edwards' longtime friends, Hargrave McElroy and Glenn Bergenfield, also gave eulogies.

McElroy spoke admiringly of the fiery woman who first became a close friend as the couple raised their young children, telling stories of Edwards' expertise at any pursuit that required intellect — from board games to sports

trivia. She said Edwards was always an optimist.

"She knew who she was. She never held back. She was without pretense," McElroy said.

Bergenfield described a woman he first met in law school who challenged her professors with a vibrant mind and who possessed "big world, head-turning, walk-into-the-pole gorgeous" looks. He related anecdotes about how strong she was, but also how she was down-to-earth she was, seeming to care for each stranger she met, disarming campaign operatives with plain language or crawling under a dormroom bed to find clothing Cate had discarded.

"Nothing that she said publicly, as a mother, as an author or as a friend — none of it fed or was in any way fueled by ego," he said.

With Dream Act shelved, immigrants look to 2012

By Laura Wides-Munoz
Associated Press writer

MIAMI — The illegal immigrants who more than a decade ago were just teens hoping to forge a legal path to citizenship are vowing to make the Dream Act a campaign issue come 2012, even though they'll likely be too old to benefit if the law ever passes.

The measure that passed in the House on Wednesday is unlikely to go anywhere in the Senate, and the House is unlikely to revisit the issue once the new Republican leadership takes over.

Groups like The National Council of La Raza and other Hispanic and immigrant advocacy groups know the prospects for comprehensive immigration reform are dim for the time being. So they've turned their attention to a measure that they believe will spark more sympathy from most Americans, bringing with them a coalition of labor groups, the Conference of Catholic Bishops and even Defense Secretary Robert Gates. And come 2012, advocates say, Spanish-language media will be filled with ads slamming lawmakers who voted against the Dream Act.

"Many of us come from families with mixed (immigration) status. We can't vote, but our families and friends can," said Julieta Garibay, 29, one of the original "Dreamers" who has pushed for the Dream Act since it was first introduced in Congress in 2001. "Our allies will remember who voted, and how they voted, and will hold them accountable in 2012."

The Dream Act would provide qualified people up to the age of 29 with a path to citizenship if they attend college or join the military, while mandating decades before they could petition for family. An estimated 2.1 million immigrants could be eligible, though it's likely a far smaller number would meet the bill's requirements.

"The Dream Act is extremely powerful for that reason because it impacts kids who came at a young age, who truly did whatever was asked of them, stayed out of trouble and just want to get educated or join the military," said America's Voice Deputy Director Lynn Tramonte.

Opponents have said it will hurt Americans at a time when the nation already faces 9.8 percent unemployment. Some also decried the age cap of 29.

"Those are pretty old kids," U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, said during the House debate. Smith called the legislation "a nightmare," predicting the U.S. government would be unable to conduct background checks on all those applying.

Garibay, who came to Austin, Texas from Mexico City with her mother when she was 12, now has a master's in nursing but is unable to work in her chosen field because of her status. Yet she said she won't fade into the shadows after the vote. That, she said, is the biggest change from a decade ago.

"The first articles in the Spanish media that came out about us, there was a picture in the newspaper. We had these fearful faces," she recalled. "Now, our young students are coming out, saying 'we're undocumented, and unafraid!'"

More and more immigrants are taking up the phrase of the gay rights movement and "coming out" about their status, driven by desperation and the Obama administration's shift toward deporting criminals.

In January, a group of Miami Dream Act students walked from South Florida to Washington, telling their stories to those they met along the way. Students at Ivy League universities such as Brown and Columbia have also spoken up about their illegal status.

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Violence rises ahead of U.S. review of Afghan war

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A NATO airstrike killed at least 25 suspected insurgents in eastern Afghanistan on Saturday, while violence elsewhere left 22 civilians dead in a wave of attacks days before the White House issues a review of U.S. war strategy, officials said.

A NATO force on patrol called for air support after coming under threat from insurgents in the Nari district of Kunar province, which

has been the scene of heavy fighting along the Pakistani border. NATO said more than 25 militants were killed in the airstrike.

The coalition said another NATO unit in the Dara Pech district of Kunar killed an unspecified number of insurgents after coming under fire from small arms and rocket-propelled grenades.

Also in the east, about 500 people gathered Saturday in Paktia province, shouting "Death to

Americans!" amid local reports that a NATO operation killed seven members of a private security company.

NATO said it was investigating the shootout, which occurred after coalition forces detained a suspected insurgent and tried to clear the area. Coalition forces then shot a man who approached them armed with an assault rifle.

"Multiple other armed individuals then engaged the force, which

resulted in a total of seven individuals killed," NATO said in a statement. "The security force takes civilian casualty allegations seriously and is currently accessing who the individuals were, why they were armed and why they were in that area at that time of the morning."

Heavy fighting continues in the east even though the main focus of the war is in the south where NATO forces have pushed deeper

into Taliban strongholds in Helmand and Kandahar provinces.

A car bomb exploded Saturday outside of police headquarters in Kandahar, wounding at least six people and blowing out the windows of buildings up to a mile (a kilometer and a half) away, officials said.

Two civilians and four police officers were wounded, said Zalmay Ayubi, a spokesman for the governor of Kandahar province.

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Teachers helped by coaches in the classroom

By Sarah Garland and Tara Malone
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — Bliss Maki, a new teacher at the Bradwell School of Excellence on Chicago's South Side, has yet to develop that all-important trait of her more seasoned colleagues: eyes in the back of her head.

Not much bigger than some of the fourth-graders she teaches, Maki is also still working on her "strong voice," a tool essential to keeping a class of wiggly 9-year-olds focused on the reading assignment at hand. But on a recent Tuesday afternoon, she had help — the voice of a veteran teacher giving pointers through a transmitter in her ear.

Melissa Monaco, a "coach" with many years of experience as a teacher, sat in the back of the room whispering advice into a walkie-talkie. It was Monaco who noted that two boys in the back row were beginning to talk. Instantly, Maki was beside them, suggesting that they get back to work or consider detention.

"There's not much that a 10-year-old can pull I haven't seen before, but she's new and there are 30 of them," said Monaco. "A fresh set of eyes helps."

The Academy for Urban School Leadership — which manages 19 schools in Chicago, including 12 that were designated for "turn-around" because of poor academic performance — employs the technology to help speed up the time it takes new teachers to learn the basics of classroom management.

Underlying the new gadgetry, however, is a deeper innovation that is spreading across the country. Schools are hiring instructional coaches and master teachers to work with new and struggling teachers. Principals are spending more time in classrooms. Teachers are collaborating to help low-perform-



ANTONIO PEREZ/Chicago Tribune

Speaking on her walkie-talkie, Melissa Monaco, left, an elementary turnaround coach, does real-time coaching with fourth-grade teacher David Bencivenga, far right, at Curtis Elementary School in Chicago, Ill., Nov. 23. The teacher in the front of the room wears a headset so he/she can hear the feedback and implement the suggestions.

ing students, writing lesson plans and sharing ideas that have worked. All of these efforts are pieces of a growing effort to open up classroom doors and transform teaching from a solo endeavor into teamwork.

It's a quiet reform in an era of more extreme moves such as firing principals, opening charter schools or splitting dropout factories into smaller schools. But in the quest to improve achievement, many educators say the job of teaching can't continue to be modeled on the idea of one adult standing alone in front of 30 students.

Instead, it has to be a group effort, where newcomers can benefit from the wisdom of experienced colleagues, and senior teachers can be exposed to innovation and new ideas from young recruits.

"We're not working as independent operators anymore," says Stephanie Hirsh, a former teacher who now leads Learning Forward, a nonprofit association that promotes professional development for teachers.

The idea has been gaining steam. Since 2004, Illinois has required that schools develop mentoring and training programs for teachers in the first two years on the job. The Illinois New

funding to train new teachers. In all, \$9.4 million was awarded to 1,208 schools that applied for the state grants.

In those schools, mentors must spend at least 60 hours of "face-to-face contact" with the new teacher every year, whether observing in class, planning lessons or prepping for parent conferences.

"We think it's essential," said Linda Tomlinson, an assistant superintendent with the Illinois State Board of Education who oversees teacher training. "In the past, there have been comments that it takes a new teacher three years to really get up to being equal to an experienced teacher. We can't wait three years."

Many schools across the state have responded to the increased attention on teacher training by hiring consultants or recruiting

veteran educators to coach new hires full time.

Carolyn Smolinski traded her classroom for her car last year.

The Schaumburg Elementary District 54 teacher is a full-time mentor to 16 educators in the northwest suburban district. All but one are new to teaching.

Smolinski sits down with each of her mentees for about two hours a week. She observes them in class and, if asked, models lessons. She said it helps that the quick, continuous evaluation comes from a fellow teacher.

"When their principal comes in it's great feedback, but at the end of the day, that's the person who decides if they stay or go," Smolinski said. "When I give them feedback, they don't take it as personally."

Last month, Smolinski led a reading group with five third-graders in Kelli

Hufstедler's class at Lakeview Elementary School. "Guided reading" is the lesson she's most asked to model.

Smolinski quizzed the students about some of the new words in a book — vocabulary like "drab" and "bluff" — and urged them to make inferences and predictions about what might come next.

Hufstедler, who graduated in May from Illinois State University, took notes. She said it helps to watch Smolinski because it affirms her confidence — "I always preview the vocabulary and do a picture walk, so right away, I jotted that down," she said — and gives her ideas for how to challenge the students or ask questions in different ways.

"It's one thing to prepare in school and another thing to actually do it," Hufstедler said.

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Jails, prisons increasingly taking care of mentally ill

By Merrill Balassone
McClatchy Newspapers

MODESTO, Calif. — An 18-year-old schizophrenic man pounds on the thick security glass of his single-man cell.

A woman lets out a long guttural scream to nobody in particular to turn off the lights.

A 24-year-old man drags his mattress under his bunk, fearful of the voices telling him to hurt himself.

This is not the inside of a psychiatric hospital. It's the B-Mental Health Unit, one of two wings reserved for mentally ill inmates at the Stanislaus County Public Safety Center in Modesto.

Sheriff's deputy David Frost, who oversees the unit, says most of the inmates aren't difficult, just needy.

"They do want help," Frost said.

Stanislaus County is not unique. Experts say U.S. prisons and jails have become the country's largest mental health institutions, its new asylums.

Nearly four times more Californians with serious mental illnesses are housed in jails and prisons than in hospitals, according to a study released this year by the nonprofit Treatment Advocacy Center and the National Sheriff's Association.

Nationally, 16 percent to 20 percent of prisoners are mentally ill, said Harry K. Wexler, a psychologist specializing in crime and sub-

"You're making jailers our mental health treatment personnel."

— Phil Trompetter, a Modesto police and forensic psychologist

stance abuse.

"I think it's a national tragedy," Wexler said. "Prisons are the institutions of last resort. The mentally ill are generally socially undesirable, less employable, more likely to be homeless and get on that slippery slope of repeated involvement in the criminal justice system."

Those who staff prisons and jails are understandably ill-equipped to be psychiatric caretakers, and there are consequences, researchers say.

Frost agrees his role is an unexpected one: "I'm not a mental health technician," he says, although he does hold a psychology degree. "I'm a sworn law enforcement officer." He walks the halls on a recent day, asking inmates if they're taking their medications, how they're feeling and answering questions about upcoming court dates.

To compound the problem, 75 percent to 80 percent of the mentally ill inmates also struggle with substance abuse, Frost said.

Mentally ill offenders have higher recidivism rates than other inmates (they're called "frequent fliers" in the criminal justice world) because

they receive little psychiatric care after their release, researchers say. They cost more to jail because of the cost of medications and psychiatric examinations, and they can cause security problems by their aggressive and destructive behavior in lockup.

Wexler said these inmates also are more likely to commit suicide. Because they're less capable of conforming to the rigid rules of a jailhouse, they can end up in isolation as punishment, Wexler said.

At 4:30 a.m. in the Modesto jail — and again 12 hours later — it's "pill pass time," when the medical staff hand out about a dozen types of medications. But they can't force inmates to take their prescriptions for bipolar disorder, major depression and substance abuse psychosis.

"You're making jailers our mental health treatment personnel," said Phil Trompetter, a Modesto police and forensic psychologist. "They're not trained to do that. ... This population is not getting what they need, and I think it's a lose-lose for everybody."

The movement to abandon state mental hospitals began in the mid-1950s, and California led the way.

It found support from both ends of the political spectrum: Fiscal conservatives wanted to save money, and civil rights advocates wanted to "liberate" patients.

Cocaine shipped to Missoula in dog toy

MISSOULA, Mont. (AP) — A Missoula man has pleaded guilty to possessing over \$2,000 worth of cocaine delivered to his house in a dog toy.

Prosecutors say in February, a police dog signaled on a package with Gary L. Campbell's address on it at a FedEx facility in

California. Officers found the drugs in a stuffed animal inside the package.

The cocaine was put back in the toy and the package was sent to Missoula and delivered to Campbell's address. After a man picked up the package, police knocked on the door with a search warrant. They found

the cocaine under a couch cushion.

Investigators say Campbell told them he distributes cocaine for about \$80 a gram.

The Missoulian reports Campbell pleaded guilty Thursday to possession of dangerous drugs with intent to distribute.

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Taking on a new face

'Hyper-realistic' masks sometimes have criminal appeal

By Sharon Bernstein
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — They're not just for Halloween anymore.

Expensive, realistic masks — the kind that are the hit of the costume party — are increasingly being used out of season, and not always for laughs.

A white bank robber in Ohio recently used a "hyper-realistic" mask manufactured by a small Van Nuys, Calif., company to disguise himself as a black man, prompting police there to mistakenly arrest an African-American man for the crimes.

In October, a 20-year-old Chinese man who wanted asylum in Canada used one of the same company's masks to transform himself into an elderly white man and slip past airport security in Hong Kong.

Authorities are even starting to think that the so-called Geezer Bandit, a Southern California bank robber believed for months to be an old man, might actually be a younger guy wearing one of the disguises made by SPFXMasks.

News coverage of the incidents has pumped up demand for the masks, which run from \$600 to \$1,200, according to company owner Rusty Slusser.

But he says he's not happy about it.

"We're proud of the fact that our masks look real, but I'm not proud of the way they were used," said Slusser, a 39-year-old former makeup artist. "We're very embarrassed this has happened. We were shocked that this happened."

Conrad Zdzierak, a 30-year-old Polish immigrant, used one of Slusser's masks to disguise himself as a black man during a series of Ohio robberies last spring. The costume was so good that six of seven bank tellers wrongly identified an African-American man as the culprit in a photo lineup, said Detective Keenan Riordan, who investigated the case for the Springdale, Ohio, Police Department.

"We showed the picture to his own mother, and she thought it was him," Riordan said.

The man remained in jail until Zdzierak's girlfriend tipped police off after finding money and a mask in his hotel room. Zdzierak pleaded guilty last week to six robbery counts.

Police found two of Slusser's masks in Zdzierak's safe — one of a young black man called "The Player," and another of an old white man called "The Elder." A search of his computer revealed videos of the robber modeling the old-man mask and trying to speak like an elderly person.

It also showed that he had sent e-mails to Slusser under a fake name, claiming to be a movie producer who wanted to know how the African-American mask would look on a white man and whether the matching hands would tear in a fight, Riordan said.

Riordan was also intrigued to find that Zdzierak had saved copies of news stories about Southern California's Geezer Bandit, so named because surveillance video from bank teller windows appears to depict an elderly man.

The images in those videos resemble Slusser's "Elder" mask.

Authorities are investigating the possibility that the Geezer Bandit was actu-



BOB CHAMBERLIN/Los Angeles Times

Rusty Slusser adds skin pores to a mask mold, at right, at his company, SPFXMasks in Van Nuys, Calif., Dec. 2. Slusser makes masks so lifelike that a man tried to escape from China wearing one and another almost got away with robbing a business while wearing one. The mask at left is a Halloween style mask he designed called 'Chopper Clown.'

ally wearing a disguise, said FBI Special Agent Darrell Foxworth, whose office is investigating the robberies in San Diego, Riverside and Kern counties.

Foxworth noted that an eyewitness at a Bakersfield robbery last month suspected the bandit might have been wearing a mask. Slusser also confirmed that investigators have contacted him about the case.

The use of lifelike masks to commit crimes is just the latest example of crooks adopting new technology, Foxworth said.

In one New York case last year, thieves stole a car with a GPS device and used the navigation system to find the victim's home, where they stole a second car.

"Whether we're talking about this kind of mask or using the computer, it's a reflection of how criminals are using technology to commit crimes," he said. "We have to stay one step ahead of them. That's certainly a challenge for us."

Slusser opened SPFX-Masks in 2003. His six-person crew uses silicone that looks and feels like flesh, down to the pores. Each strand of hair — and it's human hair — is sewn on individually. Artists methodically paint the masks to create realistic skin tones.

"I wanted to make something that looks so real that when you go out for Halloween no one can tell," Slusser said. "It's like 'Mission: Impossible' — you pull it over your head one time and that's it. It's like a 10-hour makeup job in 10 seconds."

He experimented until he found the right recipe for silicone that would seem like skin. A key discovery was that if the inside of the mask is smooth — even if the outside is bumpy with pores, a nose and other features — it will stretch over most faces and move with facial muscles. Customers include Halloween revelers, theme parks and a few TV shows and horror movies, Slusser said. The main character in the film "Hallows Point" wore an SPFX mask, he said, as do the dancing old man characters who perform at Six Flags amusement parks.

Slusser's customers also include a few Hollywood celebrities who use the masks to fool paparazzi, but he declined to reveal their names. The masks are time-consuming to make, and they're not cheap. Slusser's first effort to sell them through a Manhattan Halloween shop was a flop, simply because customers weren't expect-

ing to spend hundreds of dollars for a mask.

Slusser moved his sales operation online. The company projects \$500,000 in sales this year and expects to turn a profit for the first time.

Lawbreakers have always tried to hide their identities, wearing hats, pulling ban-

dannas or ski masks over their faces, or donning wigs. Slusser's masks pose additional challenges, but the larger issue remains human nature, said Riordan of the Springdale police force.

"It's not SPFX masks or Rusty Slusser that's making these people commit crimes," Riordan said.

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The news is nifty
Christie's turning 50!
Happy Birthday

Blacker-Evans

Kyle and Carina Blacker of Heyburn and Tatum and Michael Dudley of Rupert announce the upcoming marriage of their daughter, Micah Marie Blacker, to Johnathan Jay Evans, son of David and Ronda Evans, of Rogue River, Oregon.

Micah, a 2010 graduate of Minico High School, is attending Paul Mitchell Hair Academy in Rexburg. She works at Western Watts.

Johnathan, a 2003 graduate of Woodcreek High, is a senior at Brigham Young University - Idaho. He is studying art and is ambitiously preparing for employment in the 3D Animation Industry. He also served in the Brazil, Londrina Mission.

The wedding is planned for Saturday, December 18th in the Salt Lake City, UT Temple.

A reception will be held that evening from 7-9 at the Rupert West Stake Center; 26 South 100 West.

Micah Marie Blacker and Johnathan Jay Evans

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Tangled (PG) Daily 7:00 9:10 Sat to Sun 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:00 9:10
Faster (R) Daily 9:30 Sat to Sun 5:00 9:30
Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG) Daily 7:15 9:45 Sat to Sun 12:15 4:15 7:15 9:45
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (R) Daily 7:45 Sat to Sun 1:45 4:45 7:45

ODYSSEY 6 Inside Magic Valley Mall, Twin Falls
Matinee before 5:15 All Adults \$5.00

Morning Glory (PG) Daily 7:15 9:30 Sat to Sun 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30
Warrior's Way (PG) Daily 7:30 9:45 Sat to Sun 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45
Secretariat (PG) Daily 7:00 9:30 Sat to Sun 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Hereafter (R) Daily 7:00 9:30 Sat to Sun 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Faster (R) Daily 7:15 9:30 Sat to Sun 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:30
Due Date (R) Daily 7:30 9:45 Sat to Sun 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45

TWIN CINEMA 160 Eastland Drive, Twin Falls
Matinee before 5:15 All Adults \$5.00

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (R) (13)
Cinema #2 Daily 6:45 9:45 Sat to Sun 2:00 6:45 9:45
Cinema #5 Daily 9:00 Sat to Sun 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00
Cinema #6 Daily 7:45 Sat to Sun 1:45 4:45 7:45

Walt Disney Tangled in 2D (PG)
Daily 7:10 9:10 Sat to Sun 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:10 9:10

Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader (PG)
In 2D Daily 6:45 9:15 Sat to Sun 12:30 3:30 6:45 9:15
In 3D Daily 7:00 9:30 Sat to Sun 12:15 3:45 7:00 9:30

Megamind in 2D (PG) Daily 7:10 9:10
Sat to Sun 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:10 9:10

RED (R) (13) Daily 7:00 9:30 Sat to Sun 12:15 3:45 7:00 9:30
Unstoppable (R) (13) Daily 7:00 9:15
Sat to Sun 12:15 2:30 4:45 7:00 9:15
Burlesque (R) (13) Daily 7:00 9:30
Sat to Sun 12:15 3:45 7:00 9:30
Next 3 Days (R) (13) Daily 7:15 9:45
Sat to Sun 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:45
Love and Other Drugs (R) Daily 7:15 9:45
Sat to Sun 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:45

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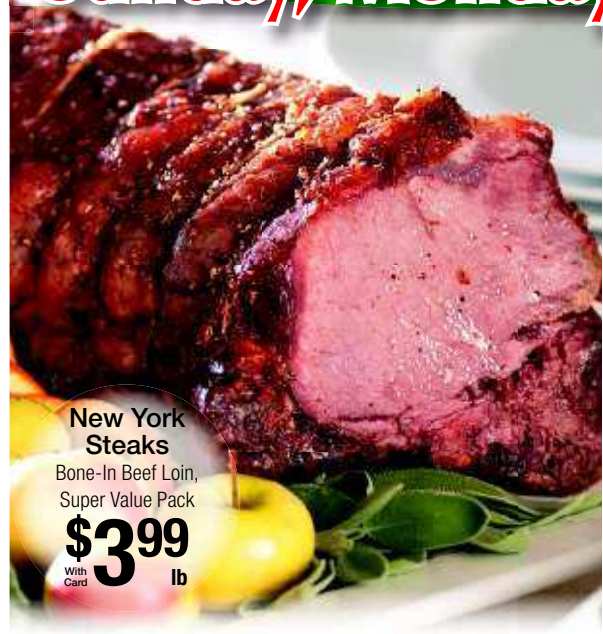
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NFL SUNDAY PREVIEW

Prove it time for Bears, Jaguars, Rams, Sports 5

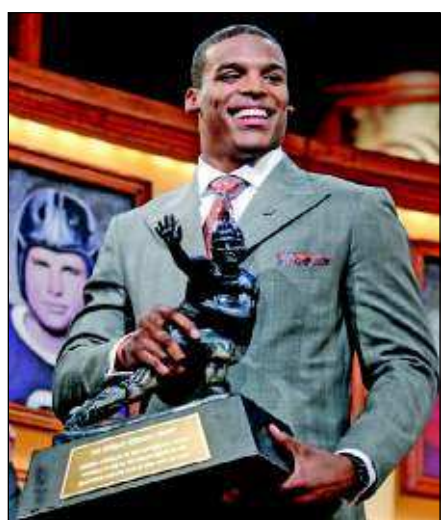
Navy beats Army for ninth straight time >>> Sports 5



Local roundup, Sports 2 / Scoreboard, Sports 3 / NBA, Sports 4 / Weather, Sports 6

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2010

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



Newton wins Heisman in landslide

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Cam Newton won the Heisman Trophy — as if there was any doubt.

Whether he gets to keep it is still to be determined.

Auburn's hulking quarterback brushed off an NCAA investigation of his recruitment as he did so many tacklers this season and captured college football's biggest individual award Saturday night in a landslide vote.

"Honestly, it's a dream come true for me, some-

thing every child has a dream that plays the sport of football, and I'm living testimony that anything is possible," Newton said.

Newton, the third player from Auburn to win the Heisman, received 729 first-place votes and out-pointed runner-up Andrew Luck of Stanford by 1,184 points.

Oregon running back LaMichael James was third, followed by Boise State quarterback Kellen Moore, the other finalist.

Even Newton didn't look all that surprised when his name was

HEISMAN VOTING

Voting for the 2010 Heisman Trophy, with first-, second- and third-place votes and total points (voting on 3-2-1 basis):

Player	1st	2nd	3rd	Total
Cam Newton, Auburn	729	24	28	2,263
Andrew Luck, Stanford	78	309	227	1,079
LaMichael James, Oregon	22	313	224	916
Kellen Moore, Boise St.	40	165	185	635
Justin Blackmon, Okla.St.	1	23	56	105
Denard Robinson, Michigan	6	16	34	84
Owen Marecic, Stanford	0	11	19	41
Colin Kaepernick, Nevada	0	7	17	31
Andy Dalton, TCU	4	3	12	30
Owen Marecic, Stanford	3	1	5	16

announced. A wide smile spread across his face and he dropped his head.

After exchanging hugs and handshakes with the other finalists, he and his

mother, Jackie, shared a long embrace.

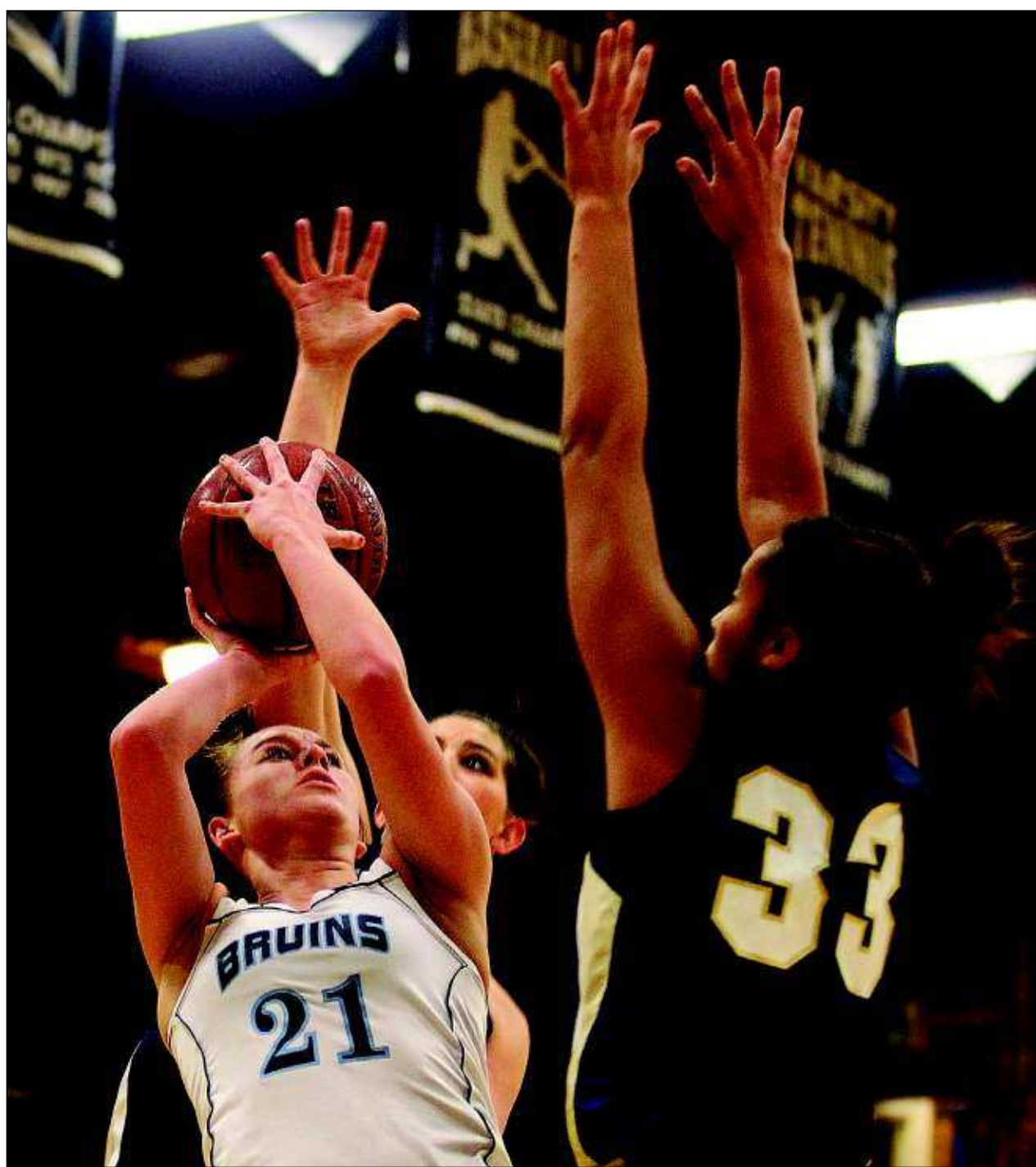
When he reached the podium, he had to steady himself.

"Oh my God," he whispered as he reached into his inside jacket packet to pull out his speech. "Oh My God."

On the field and off, Newton has been the story of the college football season. He's carried the top-ranked Tigers to the BCS national championship game against No. 2 Oregon, running and

See **HEISMAN**, Sports 5

NO. 1 GOES DOWN



Twin Falls senior Alyssa Soloaga tries to shoot the ball over Middleton defenders Madeline Laan, back, and D'Rae Tullock during the first half Saturday night at Baun Gym in Twin Falls.

Middleton delivers Twin Falls first loss

By David Bashore
Times-News writer

Saturday's game with reigning Class 4A champion Middleton was supposed to be a barometer for the top-ranked Twin Falls girls basketball team — a game to determine where the Bruins were and whether they were worthy of the moniker of best team in the classification.

MORE ONLINE

VIEW a gallery of Saturday night's action. MAGICVALLEY.COM

It showed the Bruins just how much further they have to go.

The third-ranked Vikings gradually turned up the heat and ripped off a big first-quarter run to seize momentum and never looked back

in taking a 57-49 win at Baun Gymnasium, handing the Bruins their first loss of the season.

"It was a wake-up call for sure," said Twin Falls senior Jazlyn Nielsen. "We need to work harder in practice and pressure ourselves more in order to be ready for teams like this. But this is only going to help us get better."

See **BRUINS**, Sports 2

CSI men crushed at Snow College

Times-News

Snow College couldn't miss from the free-throw line and the College of Southern Idaho had to play catch-up for much of the game Saturday in the Golden Eagles' 105-86 loss.

CSI trailed by as many as 22 and was forced to foul late in the game, but Snow shot lights-out from the charity stripe, making 27-

with 19 points, while Fabyon Harris added 15.

Sophomore center, Kenny Buckner scored 13 for the Golden Eagles (13-2, 1-1 Scenic West).

CSI shot well from the field — 51 percent — but Snow was better, shooting 66 percent.

The Golden Eagles return to action Thursday, hosting Idaho Select.

Snow 105, No. 12 CSI 86

Sophomore DeShawn Mitchell scored 29 points and Travis Wilkins added 25 for the Badgers (10-4, 2-0 Scenic West).

Pierre Jackson led the Golden Eagles



CSI (86)
Jerrold Brooks 5, Pierre Jackson 19, Issiah Grayson 2, Fabyon Harris 15, Torrance Lafayette 1, Darius Smith 16, Mitch Bruneel 11, Paul Bunch 2, Kenny Buckner 13, Chris Patton 2.
Totals 32-63 15-22 86
SNOW (105)
DeShawn Mitchell 29, Brandon Vega 13, Renato Portugal 12, Travis Wilkins 25, Mason Sawyer 10, Sam Hoopes 8, Mitch Frei 6. Totals 36-54 27-29 105.
3-point goals: CSI 7, Snow 6.

Burley boys come up short against Middleton Vikings

By Ryan Howe
Times-News writer

BURLEY — Fresh off its first win of the season, the Burley boys basketball team couldn't win the second game of a back-to-back Saturday afternoon, losing to Middleton 61-52.

Burley (1-4) outscored the Vikings in the final three quarters, but it wasn't enough to erase a slow start that saw the Bobcats fall behind 17-6 after the first period.

"You can't dig yourself a hole with the team we have. It's really hard for us to come back," said Burley coach Jack Bagley. "We did some good things for three quarters. We've just got to play all four

"We did some good things for three quarters. We've just got to play all four quarters and be more consistent."

— **Burley coach Jack Bagley**

quarters and be more consistent."

Senior wing Alex Greener had his best game of the season thus far, scoring 13 points and grabbing nine rebounds.

The game was tied 6-6 midway through the first quarter, and then Middleton went on an 11-0 run. Burley was left to play catch-up the

See **BURLEY**, Sports 2

Ex-CSI cowboy Wright wins NFR world title

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Former College of Southern Idaho rodeo cowboy Cody Wright won both the world and aggregate saddle bronc riding championships after the final round of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association's National Finals Rodeo, which concluded Saturday evening.

Wright wrapped up the championships following a second-place final-go finish with an 87 on Painted Valley.

Wright finished with \$247,579 in total world earnings and 847 points over 10 rides in the aggregate. Wade Sundell of Boxholm, Iowa,

who was the NFR aggregate leader by one point entering the final round, placed second in both the aggregate with 842.5 and in the world standings with \$224,673. Sundell didn't place in the final round with an 81 on Blue Too.

Wright and Sundell broke Rod Hay's 10-head average record of 826 points set in 2007, and both topped the NFR earnings record of \$120,775, set by Billy Etbauer in 2005. Wright made \$148,287 and Sundell earned \$124,287 at the NFR. Heith DeMoss of Heflin, La., won the round with an 87.5 on Lunatic Fringe.

Trevor Brazile added team and tie-down roping world

titles to his all-around crown Saturday night in the National Finals Rodeo to become the third Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association competitor win multiple triple crowns.

Brazile, the 14-time world champion from Decatur, Texas, earned \$211,509 at the 10-round NFR — a record for a single rodeo by more than \$65,000 — to pushed his season total to a record \$507,921.

Brazile became the first multiple triple crown champion since Jim Shoulders (1956-58) and just the third in PRCA history. When Brazile completed his other triple in 2007, he won gold

buckles in all-around, tie-down roping and steer roping. This year, he exchanged steer roping for team roping.

"You win the all-around and you think, 'That's awesome. That's what I've been working for,'" Brazile said. "Then I was telling myself, 'Don't mess this up. This could be huge!'"

"When I won the team roping, that was something they weren't expecting me to do at all. Then that even put more pressure in calf roping. I'd already done it where they didn't expect me to. I sure couldn't screw it up where they thought it was a layup. It was weird because the pressure kept mounting. It didn't release."



Burley's Aaron Tolman, left, tries to score inside as Middleton's Chance Bennett defends Saturday at Burley High School.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Partly cloudy skies. High 45.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low 34.

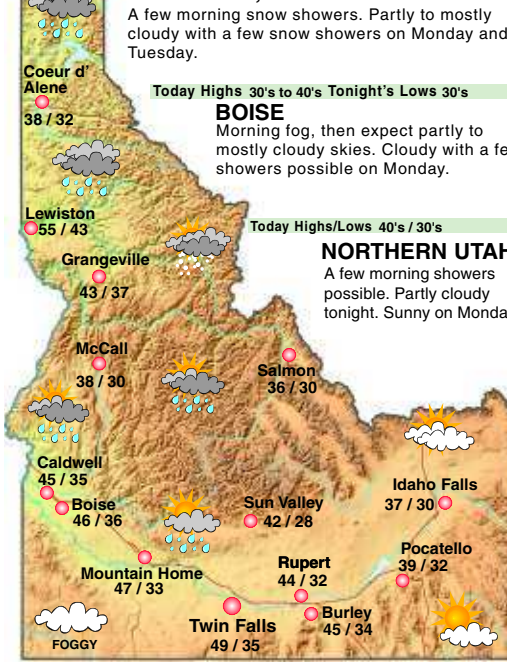
Tomorrow: Partly cloudy. High 44.

ALMANAC - BURLEY

Table with 2 columns: Temperature and Precipitation. Includes data for Yesterday's High/Low, Normal High/Low, Record High/Low, and various monthly/annual averages.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. A few morning snow showers. Partly to mostly cloudy with a few snow showers on Monday and Tuesday.



TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Five-day forecast table for Twin Falls with columns for Today, Tonight, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges.

Yesterday's Weather

Table listing weather for various Idaho cities (Boise, Challis, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, Jerome, Lewiston, Lowell, Malad City, Malta, Pocatello, Rexburg, Salmon, Stanley, Sun Valley) with High/Low and Precip (Prop) data.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 3 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity. Includes data for Yesterday's High/Low, Normal High/Low, Record High/Low, and various monthly/annual averages.

Barometric Pressure

5 pm Yesterday 30.26 in.

Sunrise and Sunset

Table showing sunrise and sunset times for Today, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

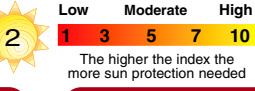
Moon Phases



Moons and Moonset

Table showing moonrise and moonset times for Today, Monday, and Tuesday.

Today's U.V. Index



Forecasts and maps prepared by: DayWeather, Inc. Cheyenne, Wyoming www.dayweather.com

REGIONAL FORECAST

Regional forecast table for cities including Boise, Bonners Ferry, Burley, Challis, Coeur d'Alene, Elko, Eugene, Gooding, Grace, Hagerman, Idaho Falls, Kalspell, Jerome, Lewiston, Malad City, Malta, Missoula, Pocatello, Portland, Rupert, Rexburg, Richland, Rogerson, Salmon, Salt Lake City, Spokane, Stanley, Sun Valley, and Yellowstone.

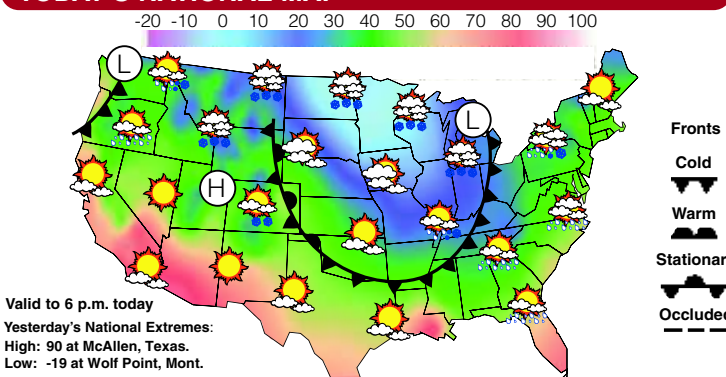
NATIONAL FORECAST

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

WORLD FORECAST

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

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP

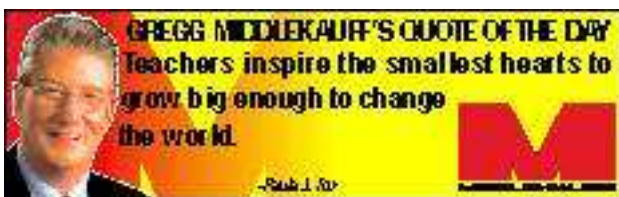


Valid to 6 p.m. today

Yesterday's National Extremes: High: 90 at McAllen, Texas. Low: -19 at Wolf Point, Mont.

CANADIAN FORECAST

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



Late Hall of Fame broadcaster Dave Niehaus honored

SEATTLE (AP) — It took Rick Rizzs only a few minutes before he was overcome with emotion talking about Dave Niehaus, his broadcast partner for 25 years.

"Tom Hanks was wrong," Rizzs said fighting off tears. "You saw the movie, right? 'There's no crying in baseball.' Yeah, there is."

A few thousand fans turned out at Safeco Field on a chilly Saturday afternoon to pay tribute to Niehaus, the Hall of Fame Seattle Mariners broadcaster who suddenly died of a heart attack on Nov. 10 at the age of 75.

Niehaus was the narrator for 34 seasons of Mariners baseball, from the first pitch in franchise history in 1977 through the end of the 2010 season. He was getting ready to barbecue some ribs at his suburban Bellevue home on the afternoon of Nov. 10 when he passed away.

"All of us grew up with Dave. He taught you the game of baseball. There was no better teacher," Rizzs said. "Dave put us right there in the front row at the Kingdome and the front row at Safeco Field and every ballpark he broadcast from on the road."

The Mariners waited nearly a month before putting together a formal celebration of Niehaus' life. Fans filled the lower bowl of Safeco Field behind home plate with Niehaus' family and members of the Mariners front office seated on the field between home plate and the pitchers mound, where Niehaus threw out the first pitch in the stadium's history in 1999.

The logo of the California Angels, the first major league team Niehaus worked for, was placed on the hand-operated scoreboard in the left-field corner, while a Mariners jersey with "Niehaus 77" hung from his spot in the Mariners broadcast booth.

message. "When he walked down the street people knew him. He's more recognizable than any player that's been here."

From Diego Segui's first pitch on April 6, 1977, through the end of the 2010 season, Niehaus called 5,284 of the Mariners' 5,385 games. He was the instructor for a region void of the major league game sans the Seattle Pilots' one-year experiment in 1969. Adults and kids regularly tuned in on summer evenings to hear Niehaus try and put his best spin on what were among the worst teams in baseball during much of the club's history.

But no matter how bad the Mariners were, Niehaus never let the on-field product affect his approach to the game. He always brought enthusiasm and drama to some horrible teams, horrible games and horrible seasons.

"You just could picture whatever was happening and eyesight wasn't necessary," said Marlaine Lieberg of the Washington Council of the Blind. "You've made blind and visually impaired people proud of you. You've made everyone proud of you and we love you."

Hockey attendance record falls at Michigan Stadium

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Michigan and Michigan State set a world record for attendance at a hockey game Saturday, playing in front of an unofficial total of 113,411 fans in the Wolverines' 5-0 victory at Michigan Stadium.

Michigan announced the attendance during the third period. The previous mark for a hockey game was 77,803 at this year's world championship in Germany. Mike Janela, an adjudicator for Guinness World Records, was on hand to verify the feat. He confirmed that the attendance was more than enough for a world record, although he said his organization would need a bit longer to come up with an official attendance figure, possibly using detailed photos of the crowd to make a final count.

Janela said Guinness receives over 1,000 record applications a week, although only about three percent are approved.

The game — dubbed "The Big Chill at the Big House" — took place nine years after the same two teams played another outdoor game at Michigan State's football stadium. Since then, the idea has been copied at the college

level and by the NHL. The huge crowd in the stadium's expansive bowl made this edition unique. The school's announced attendance would make this the largest crowd to see any event at Michigan Stadium, surpassing the 113,090 for a football game earlier this year.

The "Big Chill" nickname was a bit of a misnomer, with the temperature in the low 40s at the beginning of the game. With the lines on Michigan's football field still clearly visible, the Olympic-sized rink stretched from one 15-yard line to the other. Instead of adding even more seats for fans, organizers kept the area around the ice clear so fireworks could be set off after goals and again after the game.

There was enough room for the Michigan band to perform in the north end zone before the start. Then Jon Merrill opened the scoring with a shot from the point in the first period, and when the puck hit the net, the crowd let loose with a roar normally reserved for touchdowns in this venue.

Microphones were placed close enough to the ice to amplify the normal

hockey sounds of the puck hitting the boards and players skating swiftly back and forth, making it easier for those seated far away to feel like they were part of the action.

Although wind and rough ice can always cause problems at events like this, the game wasn't too sloppy. Merrill added a second goal before the end of the first period, and then Carl Hagelin added one in the

second and another in the third. David Wohlberg completed the scoring for Michigan.

Shawn Hunwick finished with 34 saves for the Wolverines.



Advertisement for 'SHOP LOCAL' featuring a photo of Danielle House and text: 'I PLEDGE TO SHOP LOCAL', 'Danille House: Owner, Once Upon A Child', 'Shop local to support our community!', 'TIMES-NEWS'.

Large advertisement for Commercial Tire with text: 'TIME FOR NEW YEAR'S SAVINGS!', '\$20.11', '\$20.11 Off Premium Brake Service', 'Fast Service Oil Change Only \$20.11', '\$100.00 OFF the purchase of any 4 passenger or light truck tires', 'Bridgestone', 'CommercialTire.com', and addresses for Twin Falls, Burley, and Rexburg.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these six Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form six ordinary words.

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REPOPH

ERVEWS

AMPIGE

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YALDDE

PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW

“ ”



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers are on page Classifieds 8

211 Medical

ASSISTED LIVING PT LPN

BridgeView Estates invites a LPN with senior living experience to join our team part-time. Ideal candidate brings knowledge of state AL regs, effective people skills and hospitality focus. BridgeView offers competitive salary, and team environment. Send resume and salary history to Stephanie at SMort@century-pa.com or fax to 208.736.3854. EOE. No telephone calls please

MEDICAL

Blaine Manor RN or LPN Charge Nurse. Part-time nursing position in 25 bed skilled facility. Must have strong work ethic, positive attitude and enjoy working with the elderly and disabled in an empowering culture. Blaine Manor is located in beautiful Hailey Idaho. Competitive salary and benefits. Please pick up applications at Blaine Manor 706 S Main, Hailey, ID or call Margaret, Director of Nursing 208-788-7180 x22 Vonnice Rasmussen, Nurse Manager 208-788-7180 x17

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211 Medical

MEDICAL

DeSano Place Assisted Living and Memory Care of Jerome is accepting applications for CNA; NA; Housekeeping; Cook; Activity Specialists. Obtain app online at www.desanoplace.com, and select "employment opportunities" and print blank application or pick one up at 545 Nevada St. Gooding, or 218 West B St., Shoshone, ID. Mail completed app to P.O. Box 147, Shoshone, ID 83352. Interviews will begin 1/03/2011. Drug Free Work Place.

WWW.MAGIC VALLEY.COM/ CLASSIFIEDS

215 Professional

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Requires 2 years successful OUTSIDE sales experience, a solid work history, the ability to conduct one-on-one interviews and excellent closing skills. This is a career sales position for those who enjoy people, are competitive and driven to succeed. You will be provided with excellent product training, company car, full paid expenses, extensive benefit package (including 401K and a pension plan), base pay and commission. First year potential 50K, increasing each year with promotions. Max career potential 100K. Fax resume to 509-931-1997 or e-mail: Carla.edwards@af-group.com

215 Professional

PROFESSIONAL
Twin Falls County - FT Building Inspector/Plans Examiner \$16-19/hr DOE with full benefits package. Must meet certification requirements, prior experience preferred. Job announcement & application form available online at www.twinfallscounty.org or HR office, 1st floor of the Courthouse. Application deadline 12-17-10. EEO/VETS/Drug Free Workplace.

217 Skilled

MECHANIC



AmeriPride is currently seeking an individual to join our team as a FT Maintenance Mechanic. The Maintenance Mechanic will be responsible for the repair and maintenance of the stationary production equipment within the plant, as well as preventative maintenance and repair of steam boiler and air conditioning units.

Qualifications:

- *High School Diploma or GED
- *Detail-oriented
- *1-3 years experience in industrial maintenance
- *Certification (or ability to obtain) in Steam Boiler and Air Conditioning maintenance
- *Advanced knowledge in Electrical, Maintenance and Plumbing
- *Microsoft Office (Word, Outlook and Excel) experience helpful
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The Maintenance Mechanic will enjoy competitive pay and a comprehensive benefits package

Bring resume in person to 403 Main Ave W, Twin Falls, ID Salary will be determined in interview process No Phone Call Please

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SERVICE TECHNICIAN

Lockwood is seeking a Service Technician in Paul, Idaho. Individual will be responsible for set-up, repair and maintenance of potato equipment and must possess strong customer service skills. Position will work closely with other departments. Welding experience, farm background and computer skills preferred. Lockwood offers a competitive wage and excellent benefit package. Send resume by December 17th: Lockwood Attn: Aaron Savage 404 1/2 N. 2nd E. Rexburg, ID 83440

Times-News Classifieds 208-733-0931 ext. 2

217 Skilled

MECHANIC

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SKILLED

Charles Chester Plumbing & Heating Inc. has openings for a HVAC Technician and a Plumbing Technician. Must be disciplined in safety and quality work. These positions have retirement and health insurance benefits along with a competitive wage. Please fax resume to 775-738-6954. Any needed information, please call: 775-738-6125

SKILLED

Heavy Equipment Technician needed in the Mini-Cassia area to repair and service light and heavy earthmoving and farm equipment. Must have experience in diesel engines, hydraulic systems, electrical schematics. Must have own tools. Salary DOE. Fax Resume to Central Equipment at 208-436-4303.

SKILLED

K & T Steel Corp. now taking applications for experienced welders and fabricators, Class 'A' CDL a plus. Starting pay \$12.00/hr plus good benefit package. Apply in person at 322 Diamond Ave. W., Twin Falls, ID.

OPERATIONS

Pilot Plant Operator
Twin Falls, Idaho

Glanbia Foods has an immediate opening for a Pilot Plant Operator.

Responsibilities include:

- Produce prototype samples for customer evaluation including application and nutritional documentation.
- Maintain operation of the applications lab including keeping lab area and equipment clean and operational according to cleaning and operational instructions.
- Maintain operation of applications pilot plant including machine operation, maintenance and sanitation.
- Maintain inventory of needed supplies and ingredients and procures same as required.
- Prepare periodic special reports concerning the results of laboratory tests
- Work courteously and tactfully with laboratory clients, the public and employees.
- Work independently with little or no supervision, complete work assignments on time and adjust priorities as required.
- Positively and effectively interact with diverse individuals to accomplish a common goal.

Qualifications:

- Requires High School diploma and 3 years equipment operation and maintenance desired.
- Experience using Microsoft Office software including Word and Excel.
- Must possess good report writing, analytical and communication skills.
- Experience operating various types of processing equipment is a must.
- Experience with the application of dairy ingredients in nutritional products.

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Twin Falls, Idaho **736-2299**



LOST & FOUND

- Chihuahua/Dachshund cross white/creme adult male found at 211 Alexander St.
- Lab/Retriever cross yellow tiny female puppy found at 1583 Aspen St.
- Golden Retriever blonde older adult female found at 3700 N 2200 E
- Lab black male puppy found at Filer Ave. & Heyburn
- Border Collie cross chocolate/tan older adult female found on Addison Ave. E.
- 2 Border Collie crosses black/white young adult males found at 1235 E 3800 N
- Lab cross black/white adult male found at Murtaugh Elementary
- Lab chocolate adult female found on Hwy 30, 1 mile E of Kimberly
- Min Pin black/tan/white adult neutered male found at 485 Sophomore Blvd.
- Pug fawn adult female found on Poleline

ADOPTIONS

- Chihuahua/Dachshund cross creme/white 1 year old neutered male
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- Australian Shepherd/Pointer cross red/white 3 month old spayed female
- Bassett/Lab cross tan 3 month old neutered male
- Lab/Pointer cross white/black 4 month old spayed female
- Chesapeake light brown 1 year old neutered male
- Australian Shepherd/Lab cross chocolate merle 5 month old spayed female
- Lab chocolate 8 year old spayed female
- Border Collie/Lab cross chocolate/white 11 month old neutered male
- Lab cross chocolate 10 month old spayed female
- Heeler/Lab cross chocolate/white 3 month old neutered male

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Mon-Fri. 10:00 am-5:30 pm Sat 10:00 am-2:00 pm
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We can only keep animals 48 hours, they are then sold or DESTROYED. **Please check daily**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

101 Lost and Found

FOUND (2) Large Male dogs, neutered, very very friendly, loving, thin, can't keep need to go back to owners or need new home. Call 208-735-5229.

FOUND Boxer in Declo, older 8 year old, brindle, neutered, housebroken and friendly. Also **Found** Dachshund in the Paul area, 6 wk old male. **208-678-6843**

LOST (2) Hound Dogs w/ Rock Creek Canyon, wearing collars w/tags. **Call Andrew 208-539-6921**

LOST Rings (2, adjoined). Very sentimental! Near or in WinCo or Dollar Store. Lost 12/6. Reward avail. **Please call 543-9070**

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208-733-0931 ext. 2

REAL ESTATE

502 Homes For Sale

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For Buyers & Sellers
Bill Baker 326-5115

Real Estate Auction
Nominal Opening Bid: \$10,000
2982 E 990 S, Hazelton, ID
4BR 2BA 2,280sf +/-
Sells: 8 AM Tue., Dec. 14 on site
Open to the Public
Open this weekend, please go to williamsauction.com or call **800-801-8003** for details.
Many properties now available for on-line bidding!
Williams & Williams
ID RE LIC#DB35650 JUDSON
GLEN VANNYOY BROKER, AUC
LIC#84 JUDSON GLEN VANNYOY AUCTIONEER

502 Homes For Sale

JEROME 1 bdrm., 1 bath, remodeled, approx 800 sq. ft. + 10x20 bsm't, large lot, \$49,900. **293-2083**

Real Estate Auction
Nominal Opening Bid: \$10,000
92 N. 150 E., Malad City, ID
2BR 2BA 1,428sf +/-
Sells: 5:45PM Monday, Dec. 13 on site
Open to the Public
Open this weekend, please go to williamsauction.com or call **800-801-8003** for details.
Many properties now available for online bidding!
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NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Actions planned and taken by your government are contained in public notices. They are part of your right to know and to be informed of what your government is doing. As self-government charges all citizens to be informed, this newspaper urges every citizen to read and study these notices. We advise those citizens who seek further information to exercise their right to access public records and public meetings.

IMPORTANT
Please address all legal advertising to:
LEGAL ADVERTISING
The Times-News
PO Box 548
Twin Falls, Idaho
83303-0548
email to legals@magicvalley.com

Deadline for legal ads: 3 days prior to publication, noon on Wednesday for Sunday, noon on Thursday for Monday, noon on Friday for Tuesday and Wednesday, noon on Monday for Thursday and noon on Tuesday for Friday and Saturday. Holiday deadlines may vary. If you have any questions call Ruby, legal clerk, at 208-735-3324.

106 Special Notices

BIRTHDAY PHOTOS
Have you forgotten to pickup your birthday photos? We have some photos we are sure you don't want us to toss. These can be picked up at The Times-News Classified Dept.

501 Open House

PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE
Selling Property?
Don't pay any fees until it's sold.
For free information about avoiding time share and real estate scams, write to:
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107 Pregnancy Alternatives

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Free Pregnancy Tests
Confidential
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502 Homes For Sale

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin or an intention to make any such preference limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodian; pregnant women and people securing custody or children under 18,

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108 Professional Services

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD Toll-free telephone number at 800-669-9777. The Toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 800-927-8275.

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With over 2400 sq. ft., 5 bedroom, 3 baths, a great family room with a wood fireplace and bar for entertaining, you will fall in love with this house. Located at 410 Crestview Drive in Twin Falls, in a great neighborhood west of CSI. It is centrally located to all shopping with in 10 mins. Fully fenced. This house will not last long! Offered at \$152,500. **MLS#98452334.**

Call Holli Rowe at River Bridge Realty 878-1751 or 312-5715



IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF GOODING

Case No. CV 2010-000597
NOTICE OF PREJUDGMENT WRIT OF ATTACHMENT

WILBUR-ELLIS COMPANY, a California Corporation,
Plaintiff,
vs.
TERRY G. HOLLIFIELD, an individual,
Defendant.

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Idaho Code Section 8-503(b), an attachment has been issued against the real property of the Defendant, Terry Hollifield, located in Twin Falls County, State of Idaho, in this action.

DATED: This 6th day of December, 2010.
Denise Gill
Clerk of the Court
/s/Deputy Clerk


PUBLISH: Dec 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18, 2010

idahosanta.com



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School 733-8823

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Call Maria Smith for more information at 734-3033

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FINANCIAL

301 Business Opportunities

Business Opportunities and Commercial Properties

- **Diverse Custom Machine Shop**, E. Idaho, includes business and real estate
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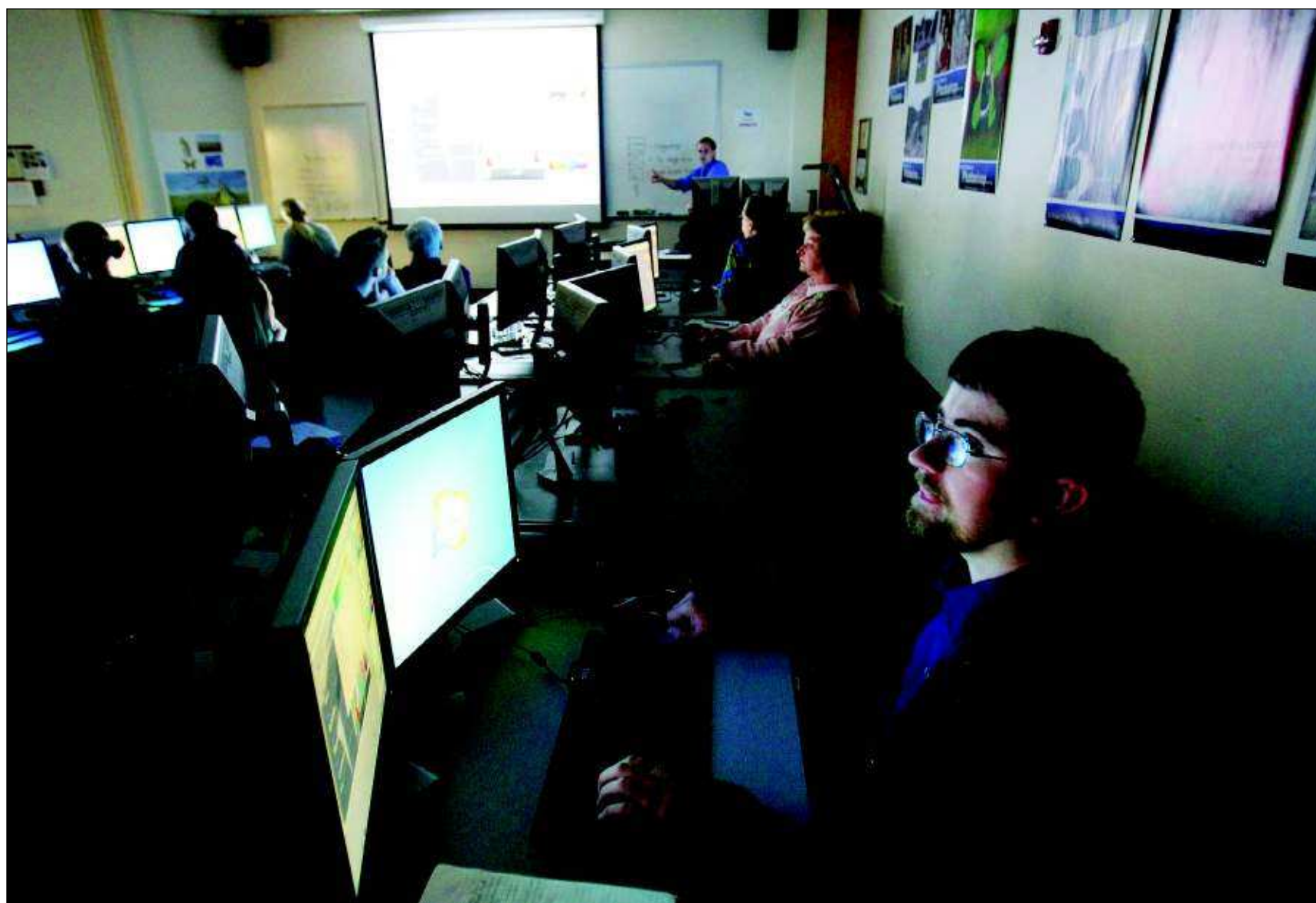
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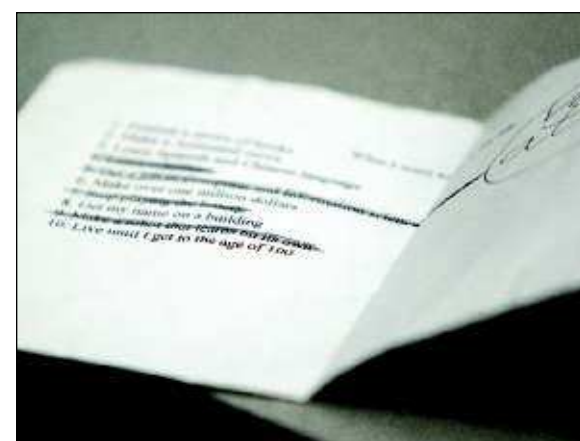
DREW NASH/Times-News

Andrew Silveria, 20, of Filer follows along in his 'Photoshop 1' course Dec. 2 at College of Southern Idaho. Silveria has been diagnosed with schizophrenia and autism. Andrew's mother is ready to apply for Medicaid services for developmentally disabled adults, but Andrew may find limited services available to him because of Idaho budget cuts.

Autism after 18

As Idaho cuts budgets, autistic adults must choose between therapies

By Melissa Davlin ♦ Times-News writer



DREW NASH/Times-News

Andrew Silveria's bucket list — things he wants to do in his lifetime — sits on his desk at College of Southern Idaho. Silveria wants to work at Pixar after he graduates from college.

BURLEY — Playing Clue is more than a way to kill time for Eric Forth.

As he rolled the dice and took stock of his cards, the Burley 18-year-old was also practicing motor skills, concentrating on a single task and socializing. If he lost, he made sure to keep his emotions in check — no throwing game pieces or stomping out of the room.



ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

Eric Forth, 18, plays Clue with his developmental technician, Gina Voss (not pictured), on Monday while his mother, Vanessa Forth, looks on at their Burley home. Forth has Asperger's syndrome, an autism spectrum disorder, and now has to choose between psychosocial rehabilitation and developmental therapy because of Medicaid cuts in Idaho.

His developmental technician, Gina Voss of Community Partnerships of Idaho, sat on the other side of the board.

"I make sure that he plays nice," Voss said with a smile. When they first started working together about three years ago, she had to give him more direction on keeping his emotions in check if something went wrong, but he has come a long way since then.

This is the last month Voss and Forth will work together. Forth, who has Asperger's syndrome, had to choose between developmental therapy and psychosocial rehabilitation as a result of cuts to Medicaid.

And Forth isn't alone. Across Idaho, about 2,000 adults with developmental disabilities take advantage of Medicaid services, said John Hathaway, regional director of Idaho Department of Health and

Welfare. And every one of them who qualifies for both services that Forth receives had to make the same choice by Nov. 30.

•••
Asperger's syndrome is an autism spectrum disorder. Those diagnosed with Asperger's struggle with social interactions and keeping their emotions under control. Eric isn't the

See **AUTISM**, FL 3

Critique from the providers

The 2010 Legislature directed Idaho Division of Medicaid to consult service providers and the public on how to cut costs and balance a budget in the face of Medicaid's projected \$247 million budget deficit — a \$71 million deficit from the state and \$176 million in matching federal funds.

On a survey, providers of all types of Medicaid services around the state were asked to suggest how Medicaid should reduce costs. Answers ranged from increased oversight on potentially wasteful programs to putting more responsibility on Medicaid recipients. Below are excerpts of the providers' anonymous written responses, which the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare consulted while temporarily trimming services for the current fiscal year.

These excerpts — like the responses as a whole — are heavy on criticism of psychosocial rehabilitation and developmental therapy for adults.

"Significantly reduce individual 1:1 time with clients. In my experience most of this time is spent doing useless things like window shopping and going for walks, instead require a group component and take several people for a walk. Provide more activities in a group setting as opposed to an individual setting."

"Transfer residents from group homes to Certified Family Homes. That would be a HUGE savings.

Place independent living residents in Certified Family homes. I have heard that both group homes and Independent living residents' budgets go over \$100,000 per year.

Cut service coordination or program coordination.

Cut back on the paper work required for service providers."

"I definitely think things should be fee for services. Some of the population out there thinks they are owed services just because they are disabled, etc. If there was a sliding fee scale based on income then maybe services would be perceived differently. This should be across the board for all Medicaid services such as meals, homemaking services, chore services, etc and possibly pharmacies, doctors, etc."

See **CRITIQUE**, FL 3

MORE ONLINE

A new resource for families dealing with autism launches today on Magicvalley.com. Log on today to find:

- A searchable database showing Idaho's rising number of autism spectrum disorder diagnoses
- A database of early autism signs, by age group
- A photo gallery and videos of Magic Valley families with autistic adults
- Video interviews with Idaho lawmakers and Health and Welfare leaders about the future of the state's assistance programs
- Local autism discussion board

Magicvalley.com

SENIOR CALENDAR

Twin Falls Senior Citizen Center

530 Shoshone St. W., Twin Falls. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$4.50, seniors 60 and older; \$5.50, non-seniors; \$2.50, children 12 and younger. Center hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; lounge and pool rooms; bargain center, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Daily lunches are available for take-out from 11 a.m. to noon; seniors 59 and under, \$5.50; seniors 60 and older, \$4.50. 734-5084.

MENUS:

Monday: Fried chicken
Tuesday: Hamburgers and hot dogs
Wednesday: Beef stroganoff
Thursday: Ham
Friday: Sloppy Joe

ACTIVITIES:

Monday: Quilting, 9 a.m. to noon
Fit and Fall Proof exercise, 10:30 a.m.
SHIBA Medicare assistance, 12:30-4:30 p.m.
Bridge, 1 p.m.
Tai chi, 1 p.m.
Bake sale
Tuesday: Ticket Tuesday at lunch
Bake sale
Basket weaving, 7 p.m.
Wednesday: Cinnamon rolls for sale, 8 a.m. to noon
Quilting, 9 a.m. to noon
Fit and Fall Proof, 10:30 a.m.
SHIBA Medicare assistance, 12:30-4:30 p.m.
Gem State Fiddlers
Board meeting, 1 p.m.
Bake sale
Bingo, 6 p.m.
Thursday: Pinochle, 1 p.m.
Bake sale
Bingo, 6 p.m.
Friday: Quilting, 9 a.m. to noon
Fit and Fall Proof, 10:30 a.m.
Bingo, noon
SHIBA Medicare assistance, 12:30-4:30 p.m.
Tai chi, 1 p.m.
Bake sale

West End Senior Citizens Inc.

1010 Main St., Buhl. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$4, seniors; \$5, non-seniors. Sunday buffet: \$5, seniors, 60 and older; \$6, non-seniors; \$4, children 12 and younger. Center hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday; 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday. Bus runs for lunch pickup, call 543-4577 by 10:30 a.m. today, Tuesday and Thursday. Energy assistance by appointment, 736-0676.

MENUS:

Monday: Crab and corn chowder
Tuesday: Ham and beans
Wednesday: Cook's choice
Thursday: Chicken fried steak, birthday lunch

ACTIVITIES:
Today: Christmas dinner, ham, 1 p.m.
Idaho Old Time Fiddlers
Monday: SilverSneakers exercise program, 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday: Quilting, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Foot clinic, 1:45-3:30 p.m.
Wednesday: SilverSneakers, 10:30 a.m.
Foot clinic, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Board meeting, 1 p.m.
Jackpot, Nev., trip, 3-10 p.m.
Bingo at 7 p.m.; minimum cost is \$9; public welcome
Thursday: Quilting, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Blood pressure checks, 11:45 a.m.
Bingo, 1-3 p.m.
Friday: SilverSneakers, 10:30 a.m.

Filer Senior Haven

222 Main St., Filer. Lunch at noon Tuesday through Thursday. Suggested donation: \$4. Center hours: 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

MENUS:

Tuesday: Fettuccine with chicken
Wednesday: Hot turkey sandwich
Thursday: Pork loin

ACTIVITIES:

Monday: Bingo, 7 p.m.; public welcome
Tuesday: Puzzles, 11 a.m.
Distribution setup, 12:15 p.m.
Idaho Food Bank, 2-4 p.m.
Wednesday: Puzzles, 11:30 a.m.
Thursday: Fiddlers, 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Bingo, 1 p.m.

Ageless Senior Citizens Inc.

310 Main St. N., Kimberly. Lunch and full-serve salad bar, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; take-out; home delivery. Suggested donation: \$4, seniors; \$5, under 60; \$2.50, children 12 and younger. Center hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nu-2-U Thrift Store open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

MENUS:

Monday: Chicken
Wednesday: Lasagna
Friday: Meatloaf

ACTIVITIES:

Monday: Exercise, 10:30 a.m.
AA meeting, 8 p.m.
Tuesday: Bingo, 7 p.m.; everyone over 18 welcome
Wednesday: Exercise, 10:30 a.m.
Thursday: NA meeting, 7 p.m.
Friday: Exercise, 10:30 a.m.
Bingo, 11:50 a.m.
Pinochle, 1 p.m.
Saturday: Pinochle, 7 p.m.

Gooding County Senior Citizen Center

308 Senior Ave., Gooding. Lunch at noon. Suggested

donation: \$3.50 for seniors. Center hours: 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

MENUS:

Monday: Hamburgers
Tuesday: Hot roast beef sandwich
Wednesday: Beans with ham
Thursday: Meatloaf

ACTIVITIES:

Monday: Pool, 9:30 a.m.
Pinochle, 12:30 p.m.
Wild card, 6 p.m.
Tuesday: Pool, 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Hand and foot, 6 p.m.
Wednesday: Pool, 9:30 a.m.
Shuffleboard, 6 p.m.
Thursday: Morning out, 9 a.m.
Pool, 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Pinochle, 7 p.m.
Friday: Duplicate bridge, 1 p.m.

Wendell Senior Meal Site

105 W. Ave. A. Lunch served at noon Mondays. Hours: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hagerman Valley Senior and Community Center

140 E. Lake, Hagerman. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$4, seniors 60 and older; \$5, non-seniors; \$2, 12 and younger. Center hours: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; thrift shop, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; free high-speed Internet. Computer class available; Barbara Adamson, 731-2249.

MENUS:

Monday: Roast beef
Wednesday: Salad bar and soup
Friday: Meaty corn bread casserole

ACTIVITIES:

Weekly piano music by Joyce Snapp
Friday: Foot clinic; bring a towel; \$5

Jerome Senior Center

520 N. Lincoln St., Jerome. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.50, seniors; \$5, non-seniors. Center hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Trans IV bus runs Monday through Friday, call 736-2133.

MENUS:

Monday: Barbecued meatball sandwich
Tuesday: Country steak
Wednesday: Ham and beans
Thursday: Hash brown casserole
Friday: Chicken salad casserole

ACTIVITIES:

Monday: SilverSneakers exercise, 10:30 a.m. and 5:20 p.m.
Bridge, 12:30 p.m.
Free massage
Tuesday: Energy assistance, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tai chi, 10:30 a.m.
Pinochle, 1 p.m.
Snack bar, 5 p.m.
Bingo, 7 p.m.; early bird, 6:45 p.m.
Wednesday: Coffee group 8-10 a.m.
SilverSneakers, 10:30 a.m. and 5:20 p.m.
Country Boys Band Bridge, 12:30 p.m.
Threads of Time, 1 p.m.
Pinochle, 7 p.m.
Thursday: YogaStretch, 10:30 a.m.
Pinochle, 1 p.m.
Women's pool, 7 p.m.
Friday: SilverSneakers, 10:30 a.m.
Last Resort Band Pinochle, 1 p.m.

Silver and Gold Senior Center

210 E. Wilson, Eden. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.50, seniors; \$5, non-seniors. Center hours: 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; 8 a.m. to noon Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

MENUS:

Tuesday: Taco soup
Thursday: Christmas dinner, turkey and ham

ACTIVITY:

Wednesday: Bingo, 7 p.m.

Richfield Senior Center

130 S. Main, Richfield. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.50, seniors; \$5.50, under 60.

MENUS:

Monday: Baked ham
Thursday: Hamburgers

Golden Years Senior Citizens Inc.

218 N. Rail St. W., Shoshone. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.50, seniors 60 and older; \$5.50, non-seniors. Center hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday; 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

MENUS:

Tuesday: Beef stew
Wednesday: Biscuits and sausage gravy
Friday: Baked ham

ACTIVITIES:

Monday: Exercise, 9 a.m.
Coffee, 9:30 a.m.
Quilting, 10 a.m.
Tuesday: Pinochle, 1 p.m.
Bingo
Wednesday: Black-out bingo, 12:30 p.m.
Friday: Pinochle, 1 p.m.
Bingo

Camas County Senior Center

127 Willow Ave. W., Fairfield. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$4, seniors 60 and older; \$4.50, non-seniors; \$2.50, children 10 and younger. Quilting, pool, table games, puzzles, TV, videos.

Center hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MENUS:

Tuesday: Beef patty with gravy
Wednesday: Potato soup
Friday: Lasagna

Blaine County Senior Center

721 Third Ave. S., Hailey. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$4, seniors; \$6, non-seniors. Center hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

MENUS:

Monday: Grilled cheese or ham and cheese sandwich
Tuesday: Fish
Wednesday: Grilled teriyaki chicken breast
Thursday: Baked turkey
Friday: Roast beef

ACTIVITIES:

Monday: Fit and Fall Proof exercise, 10 a.m.
Duplicate bridge, 7 p.m.
Tuesday: Blood pressure checks, 12:30 p.m.
Medication management, 12:30 p.m.
Bingo, 1 p.m.
Wii bowling, 2 p.m.
Wednesday: Board meeting, 8:30 a.m.
Fit and Fall Proof, 10 a.m.
Crocheters and Knitters Anonymous, 1-2 p.m.
Thursday: "Prince of Persia" movie, 1 p.m.; \$2
Friday: Fit and Fall Proof, 10 a.m.
Saturday: Trip to view Christmas lights, 7 p.m.; \$5

Carey Senior Center

Main Street. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$4, seniors; \$6, non-seniors.

MENUS:

Monday: Soup and salad bar, sandwich
Thursday: Baked turkey

Minidoka County Senior Citizens Center

702 11th St., Rupert. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$5, seniors; \$6, non-seniors; \$3, children 10 and younger; \$4.50, home delivery. Gift shop: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Center hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Medicare Part D assistance by appointments: Kitty Andrews at 677-4872, ext. 2.

MENUS:

Monday: Beef stew
Tuesday: Pork chops
Wednesday: Chef salad

Thursday: Baked chicken
Friday: Fish, pork chops or chicken

ACTIVITIES:

Monday: Pinochle, 1 p.m.
Tuesday: Pool, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Wednesday: Pinochle, 1 p.m.
Thursday: Pool, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Friday: Pinochle, 1 p.m.

Golden Heritage Senior Center

2421 Overland Ave., Burley. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$4.50, seniors and children 12 and younger; \$6, non-seniors. Center hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MENUS:

Monday: Cook's choice
Tuesday: Beefy tomato macaroni
Wednesday: Roast beef
Thursday: Nachos
Friday: Hot pork sandwich

ACTIVITIES:

Monday: Pool
Exercise, 11 a.m.
Pinochle, 1 p.m.
Tuesday: Wood carving, 8:30 a.m.
Community bingo for age 18 or older; doors open at 6 p.m.
Wednesday: Pool
Exercise, 11 a.m.
Pinochle, 1 p.m.
Thursday: Board meeting, 1 p.m.
Wood carving, 6 p.m.
Community pinochle, 6 p.m.
Friday: Pool
Exercise, 11 a.m.
Pinochle, 1 p.m.
Bingo, 1 p.m.

Three Island Senior Center

492 E. Cleveland Ave., Glenns Ferry. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$4, seniors 60 and older; \$6, non-seniors; \$2.50, children 12 and younger. For rides: 366-2051. Center hours: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MENUS:

Monday: Beef stew
Tuesday: Spaghetti with meatballs
Thursday: Oven fried chicken

ACTIVITIES:

Monday: Fit and Fall Proof exercise, 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday: Quilting, 1 p.m.
Wednesday: Birthday bingo, 2 p.m.
Thursday: Fit and Fall Proof, 10:30 a.m.
Friday: TOPS, 10 a.m.

Did you know? Holiday lights

By Megan Buerger
The Washington Post

Holiday lights through the years:
1882 Three years after Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, one of his associates, Edward Johnson, employs the first string of 80 red, white and blue bulbs on a Christmas tree.
1903 General Electric introduces the first light set for public sale for \$12, then the average weekly wage of a typical American worker.
1923 Coolidge walks from the White House to the Ellipse and "lights" the National Christmas Tree, decorated for the first time with 2,500 electric bulbs.
1962 General Electric designs the National Christmas Tree for the first time. The company still designs the tree today.

1973 Because of the national energy crisis, President Nixon decides not to light the National Christmas Tree.
2009 The National Christmas Tree employs 100 percent LED technology.
500,000 The number of U.S. homes that could be powered for a year with the energy consumed by one season of holiday lights.
\$13.8M Remember to stay safe. This is the average amount of yearly property damage from fires caused by holiday lights from 2003 to 2007.
Sources: National Park Foundation; Megan Robison, community relations manager for GE Appliances & Lighting; Department of Energy; December 2009 survey by HCD Research; National Fire Protection Agency.



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Autism

Continued from FL1

only one in his family on the autism spectrum; both his 21-year-old brother, Nick Forth, and his father, Mike Forth, have Asperger's.

But Eric's services are the only ones affected by the Medicaid cuts. Eric currently receives two types of service through Medicaid: psychosocial rehabilitation and developmental therapy. Developmental technicians like Voss help clients with life skills, like balancing checkbooks and house-cleaning, plus physical issues, like coordination and how to handle sensory overload. As part of DT, Eric volunteers at Parke View Care and Rehabilitation, which helps him socialize and gives him responsibilities outside of the home.

Psychosocial rehabilitation, or PSR, workers help clients with social skills and address emotional issues, like dealing with frustration and anger. As Eric explained, "fitting in more with society."

Eric meets with his developmental technician for 10 hours every week and his PSR worker five hours per week.

For DT, Health and Welfare spokeswoman Emily Simmitt said, Medicaid reimburses providers at about \$20 per hour, although rates depend on whether therapy is individual or in a group. Medicaid reimburses providers \$45.40 for an hour of PSR.



Eric Forth, center, talks with his father, Mike, and developmental technician, Gina Voss, on Monday at the Forths' Burley home.

Temporary rules, designed to help Medicaid reduce costs, force Eric to choose between the two services. The rules are set to expire in July, the end of the 2011 fiscal year, although the cuts might be extended this legislative session.

There is an appeal process for clients who feel they need both services, said Annette Wilkinson, behavioral health program manager for Medicaid's Magic Valley region; the Forth family said they hadn't been told about that option.

Eric chose to keep PSR, partly because his PSR worker is male.

"There are some things that, you know, that males

will talk with males (about)," he said.

The decision wasn't easy, though. Voss has worked with the Forth family for about six years, first with Nick and then with Eric.

Eric hopes he can work with Voss again but isn't optimistic. He thinks the cuts will probably be extended and believes lawmakers will make them permanent. Knowing that the state is saving money doesn't make it easier for Eric.

"Most of the people who decided to cut the services really don't know what's going on," he said. "Because you can't just work on the developmental skills or the psychological skills. (I) need

both to interact with people more effectively."

Mary Poppleton of Community Partnerships of Idaho argues that it doesn't make sense to make clients choose between DT and PSR. The two programs deal with different aspects of socialization and behavior, the Rupert developmental specialist said.

"They are complementary," she said.

Another challenge: Clients with autism and Asperger's syndrome have built trust with their therapists. "And change is difficult for them," Poppleton said. Upset routine can lead

See **AUTISM**, FL 4

Critique

Continued from FL1

"Eliminate the ability for certified family providers to work for the Developmental Disability Agency that their clients attend (this is a huge problem in our region) if a client doesn't live with a certified family home provider of the agency they attend they are encouraged to move in with a provider that works for their agency."

"Reduce all services 2 percent; all the services are needed."

"Food stamps. Folks on food stamps eat a lot of food that is overpriced, full of sugars and salt, and have completely lost the ability to shop on a budget, plan ahead, and cook healthy meals."

"Developmental Therapy, (Intensive Behavioral Intervention), and (Psychosocial Rehabilitation) services could take a hit on their Medicaid reimbursement for services. The average gross profit per hour to agencies that provide these services after payroll is \$10-20/hr, depending on the agency and the individual service. Many large agencies have reaped the windfall of Medicaid money through these programs."

"I support a copay system. It is time that Medicaid participants function like the rest of us. In mental health, we know that if it comes out of the patient's pocket, they will work twice as hard and recover much, much more quickly."

"The number of assessments being done on participants could be reduced to save costs. Currently, all participants receiving behavior modifying drugs are required to have a psychological assessment or update every year. These are very costly and rarely does the participant change dramatically within the year."

"Cut the fat. Too many people for each participant. Start with housing and home; whatever they can provide doesn't need to be re-provided. As a service provider to an (Aged and Disabled) Waiver person, I realize that there is far too much fat for developmental disabilities; if a child is retarded and autistic, they will never get well; stop the insane testing and wasting \$\$\$\$"

Source: Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.



Information technology professor Daryl Hunt answers a question for Andrew Silveria in his 'Photoshop 1' course Dec. 2 at College of Southern Idaho.

DREW NASH/Times-News

How to insist on grandkids' good behavior when they visit your home

Help! Whenever our two adult children, their spouses and our four school-age grandchildren (tweenagers, all) visit us, as they did this past Thanksgiving, chaos reigns. The children are nothing short of wild. They run, jump, and scatter toys and clothing all over the place, all with much yelling and screaming. They act like they're on vacation at a beach rental, and the parents do little to control the situation. We have tolerated this for some time now because we don't want to create discomfort for our guests. But we've pretty much had it. Do we talk to the parents or should we just discipline when we feel discipline is needed?

This can be the stickiest of wickets, one that I'm hearing about from an ever-increasing number of grandparents. Apparently, too many of today's parents fail to realize that proper parenting is an expression of love and respect for one's neighbors, including friends and relatives. Lacking such fundamental social awareness (they have some mass disorder, no doubt), they inflict their little (and sometimes, as in this case, not so little) terrors on everyone who is kind enough to let them in the door.

Willie and I laid down the law early on concerning grandchild behavior in our home. We told the kids that two rules prevailed: First, when in Rome do as the Romans do, and when the Romans come to you, do as the Romans do.

LIVING WITH CHILDREN
John Rosemond



Second, it is our job to spoil, your job to discipline; do not do our job and we won't have to do yours. That pretty much sums up the grandparent/parent relationship.

Thankfully, our kids were and are still on board with our expectations. We certainly aren't draconian, but things like running, jumping on furniture, loud noises and disobedience (in any form) are not allowed. Those clear understandings make for much better visits for adults and children alike.

Were I in your shoes, I would take this issue up with the parents. If you react to the grandchildren's behavior out of the proverbial blue, and especially given the unfortunate precedents that have been set, you are likely to run afoul of parental protectiveness. Furthermore, you are not and should not be responsible for the disci-

pline of your grandchildren. Their parents are responsible, and they should accept that obligation. Doing so is a matter of respect for you not to mention good guest etiquette (a word in danger of extinction).

Assuming you and Grandma are on the same page (Caution! Do not proceed unless that condition is satisfied!), talk to the parents. Tell them what bothers you and what your expectations are. No need to be critical, mind you.

No need to imply that you don't approve of their parenting. Explain that the older one gets, the less tolerant one becomes of child chaos. It's true, unless one is blessed with hearing loss.

The parents, in turn, should convey your expectations, in no uncertain terms, to the grandchildren before they get in the car to come to your house and again in the driveway before everyone gets out of the car. They should make a further commitment to you that enforcement will not be in your court.

And it really doesn't matter whether or not the parents agree with your expectations; they should back you unconditionally. That's one way parents teach children respect for adult authority.

Family psychologist John Rosemond answers parents' questions on his website at www.rosemond.com.

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Answer: Holiday celebrations are great, but they can leave your home in post-party, after-Santa, less-than-jolly conditions. So after you've finished off the last sip of egg nog, come into Don Aslett's Cleaning Center and pick up a great product for small mess rescue called PERKY. Perky is a safe, water-based spotter that cleans up food and drink spills, as well as many other stubborn messes like cosmetics, ink and copy toner. Perk up your after holiday blues with PERKY!

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Cleaning Center owner
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Autism

Continued from FL 3

to anxiety and meltdowns. "I really wish that Medicaid could meet my participants in person, and get to know my participants and not look at them as a dollar sign," she said.

Not everyone agrees that both services are necessary — including some service providers themselves.

The Idaho Legislature directed the Idaho Division of Medicaid to consult Medicaid service providers about where to find savings, Wilkinson said. In a survey, many respondents were critical of PSR and DT services, calling the program inefficient and suggesting more oversight.

"Someone who has been on Psycho-social Rehabilitation for 10 years with the same goals should be closed to Psycho-social Rehabilitation," one anonymous survey respondent wrote. "Goals should be realistic, time specific and re-evaluated and considered before continuing to authorize the service with unlimited hours where a Psycho-social Rehabilitation worker just hangs out with them as their friend?"

Other criticisms: Developmental technicians are undereducated, service agencies profit too much, and PSR and DT services overlap. Some providers questioned how much adult clients benefit from the services, calling the two glorified day care. "(Developmental therapy) is a waste of money because by that time they've either learned what they need to or not," one Medicaid provider wrote. "If not, they are not likely to."

That's not the case, insist Eric Forth and his family. Since getting both PSR and DT services about three years ago, Eric's behavior has improved, Mike Forth said. Eric gave an example of a recent encounter while volunteering with a woman who had brain damage. When Eric pointed out she was breaking the rules of the game they were playing, the woman began cursing at him. He spoke to her calmly and knew not to take the incident personally, Eric said.

If that had happened three years ago, "I probably would have hit her," he said.

Filer mom Tracy Silveria is starting the task of navigating Medicaid for her 20-year-old son, Andrew.

Andrew Silveria has autism and receives adult mental health services through Health and Welfare. She has looked into helping him apply for Medicaid's PSR and DT services, but hadn't investigated how budget cuts might affect potential services for Andrew.

"I'm kind of afraid to, because I know it's not good," she said. When told of the temporary cuts to PSR and DT, she expressed frustration.

"When they're cutting all the budgets ... it's like, what help can we turn to?" Tracy said. "I'm starting to think OK, I'm trying to do it on my own, I'm trying to take care of it all myself. But I don't think it's working too well."

Andrew struggles to stay motivated and engaged. If he



Playing Clue helps Eric Forth practice motor skills, concentration and socializing.

ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News



DREW NASH/Times-News

During an interview, Andrew Silveria shows a photo restoration project he did in his 'Photoshop 1' course.

doesn't want to do something — like homework or a job — he won't do it, and Tracy can't force him. Aside from classes at College of Southern Idaho, he doesn't get out of the house much.

Andrew also fights with depression and suicidal thoughts, which landed him in St. Luke's Canyon View Behavioral Health Services once, Tracy said.

"He actually had a plan that he was going to hold me hostage and make the police kill him," Tracy said. He wouldn't actually hurt her, she added, but needed help for his depression. In order to get him admitted to Canyon View, Tracy took Andrew to an emergency room, where she was reminded that many medical professionals don't know how to deal with people with autism.

"The doctor that came over to analyze him was a total ass," she said.

Meeting Andrew's needs has been an ongoing struggle, Tracy said. She constantly worries about his mental health and what he would do if she were no longer able to take care of him. Aside from mental health services, she gets a \$100 Idaho tax credit every year for maintaining a household for a family mem-

ber with developmental disabilities.

"I'm like, a hundred dollars?" she said. "You're kidding me? That's all I get? Do they realize what's involved?"

Like Poppleton, Tracy wants lawmakers and decision makers to know what it's like to take care of an adult with autism.

"Unless you have hands-on experience, you don't know what you're cutting," she said. "You just don't."

Wilkinson and Hathaway acknowledged that while Medicaid is saving money by cutting services, Health and Welfare might still see those costs elsewhere if adults with developmental disabilities who aren't getting services show up in emergency rooms or in psychiatric hospitals.

And the budget situation is going to get worse before it gets better. In November, Dick Armstrong, director of Health and Welfare, told legislative budget writers that his agency faces a projected budget shortfall of more than \$171 million for the 2012 fiscal year. Factors in the shortfall include a loss in matching federal dollars for Medicaid



DREW NASH/Times-News

Andrew Silveria, who is autistic, follows along in his 'Photoshop 1' course at College of Southern Idaho.

and a scaling back of federal funds and stimulus.

It's too soon to say which programs will be affected, Hathaway said, but he is confident Idaho is in a good position to recover.

The cuts are also only a small part of Health and Welfare's \$1.5 billion budget, Simmitt said. The majority of Medicaid's budget trimming was worked out in deals with hospitals and nursing homes.

The department's developmental services budget is about \$100 million, and Medicaid cut \$160,000 from developmental disabilities services for all categories of clients — a total that rises to \$800,000 when federal matching funds are added in.

"Those are just the cuts that are in effect for this fiscal year," Simmitt said. "It's less than a 1 percent reduction."

But PSR services for adults with autism — as for other Medicaid clients — are paid from Health and Welfare's mental health fund, which took a \$1.4 million hit from the state and four times that in federal funds.

The big picture doesn't mean much to Eric's mom, Vanessa Forth, who is bracing herself for behavioral changes after Eric's services are reduced.

"The people who are in their ivory towers, who are making the budget cuts ... need to walk two weeks in my shoes," she said. "Let them see what they're taking away from people who need both services."

Melissa Davlin may be reached at 735-3234 or mdavlin@magicvalley.com.



Times-News file photo

Rhonda Gibbons works with STRIVE student Cody Legg, 18, in February. STRIVE, a Filer School District program for developmentally disabled students 18 and older, has had to change the way it operates after budget cuts to education.

Autistic adults feel cuts in school budgets, too

By Melissa Davlin
Times-News writer

Medicaid isn't the only place adults with autism receive state-funded services. And it's not the only agency dealing with cuts.

Filer School District's STRIVE teaches life skills — like looking for a job and housecleaning — to students 18 to 21 years old with autism and other developmental disabilities in an attempt to give them a hand up. When they start the program, STRIVE educator Rhonda Gibbons said, many of the students believe they will live with their parents for the rest of their lives. STRIVE gives them the tools to live independently or in group homes.

Last year, STRIVE was able to rent an apartment in Twin Falls' Campus Park Apartments. Nobody lived there, but the class used the rooms to practice cleaning and cooking.

In February, Filer schools superintendent John Graham told the *Times-News* that while he admires the STRIVE program and appreciates all it has done for students, budget cuts were too deep to save everything.

STRIVE students lost their apartment, and staff took cuts to pay and benefits. But the program survives, thanks in part to Campus Park Apartments. Managers worked out a deal with STRIVE: The students can use the common area, including the open kitchen, if they clean the building twice a week.

It's a great arrangement, Gibbons said, and she is grateful to Campus Park for its generosity. But she misses the apartment.

"It's really difficult to be in such a common area," Gibbons said. If a resident wants to use the space, the class has to change plans. If an issue arises with one of the students, there is no privacy to deal with him or her. And if Gibbons or another teacher needs to take a phone call, they have to duck into the downstairs weight room and hope no one else is in there.

Beth Pendergrass, community relations specialist for the Twin Falls School District, said special education programs often struggle, whether or not there is a budget crisis. Schools are required to provide special education programs, she said, "yet you're not funded for the services you're required to provide."

This year, the Twin Falls district's special education weathered the budget crisis well — including a program at Canyon Ridge High School in which older students run a cafe to learn job skills — but "if funding continues to diminish, it could create some holes that will be really difficult to fill," Pendergrass said.

Back in Filer, Gibbons sees how empowered her students are as they graduate from STRIVE, and how little they rely on others compared with their previous dependence.

With or without the apartment, they'll keep working toward those goals.

Melissa Davlin may be reached at 735-3234 or mdavlin@magicvalley.com.

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RIVER BRIDGE REALTY

Looking for video game as a gift? Think sequel

By Mike Musgrove
Special to The Washington Post

For holiday shoppers who feel out of place in a video game store but need to shop for the gamer in their lives, there's a simple solution: Figure out which title got the most attention from that loved one in recent months, then buy this year's version.

Seriously. The video game industry is sequel-driven, and so it goes again this year. Say hello to "Rock Band 3" or "Fable III," for example. In "Super Mario Galaxy 2," Princess Peach has been kidnapped, again, and is in need of rescue by an Italian plumber. Mario has been at this for 25 years.

Few titles that seem destined for the bestseller lists this year are entirely new. (If it's innovation you're after, try the Microsoft Kinect or the PlayStation's new Move controllers.) But if the gamers in your life liked last year's versions, they're unlikely to complain about receiving the next installment.

Here's a sampling of the video game console titles likely to make the gamer's wish list this season:

'Call of Duty: Black Ops'

This shoot-'em-up offers a Cold War story with missions ranging from an attempt on Fidel Castro's life to one in Vietnam, where the protagonist is sent to look for evidence of a Soviet presence. Or something like that. Many of this game's biggest fans will ignore that solo-player story line in favor of going online and blowing up friends and strangers with its exhaustive arsenal of virtual shotguns and sniper rifles. (Rated M; Xbox 360, PS3, Wii.)

'Halo: Reach'

The latest installment of this famous sci-fi franchise pits a group of space marines against an alien force known as the Covenant. Chronologically speaking, the story told in this entry takes place before the events of the original hit Xbox game, released in 2001. To the casual fan, the opponents and the weapons featured here might seem familiar, but there's no doubt that this title's visual elements got an extra coat of polish this year. (Rated M; Xbox 360.)

'Fallout: New Vegas'

Last year, "Fallout" players explored a radioactive



AP photo/MTV Games

A scene from 'Rock Band 3.'

and bombed-out version of Washington; this year's release tells a tale set in the Las Vegas area. There are nearly endless ways to unravel the stories offered in this gloomy world, which is filled with violent gangs and irradiated ghouls. (Rated M; Xbox 360, PS3)

'Fable III'

In this generally light-hearted adventure story, it's the player's job to unite rival factions to take down a king who has turned tyrannical. Once that mission is accomplished, a powerful enemy draws near and it's the player's turn to decide how to run the realm of Albion. Do you keep your campaign promises, or do you break them to build the kingdom's army? (Rated M; Xbox 360)

'Assassin's Creed: Brotherhood'

The thrills offered in this historical adventure come, largely, from scaling walls and hiding out on the rooftops of 16th-century Rome between assassination missions. The main protagonist, a fellow named Ezio, is on a mission to take down a pesky group of Templars in the Eternal City. Fortunately, Ezio has Leonardo da Vinci on his side, and the inventor provides nifty gadgets and toys. (Rated M; Xbox 360, PS3)

'Need for Speed: Hot Pursuit'

Even the police officers drive Lamborghinis in virtual Seacrest County, where illegal street racing appears to be the main pastime. This is a game spent behind the wheel: Players get to take on roles as cops or, alternately, as the racers trying to evade the law. (Rated E10+; Xbox 360, PS3, Wii)

'Rock Band 3'

The most notable addition to this year's installment of the popular rhythm

game: a keyboard! Designed to be played on a lap or slung over a fake rocker's shoulder, the new controller features two octaves' worth of keys, good for playing along on songs like Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody." (Rated T; Xbox 360, PS3, Wii)

'Super Mario Galaxy 2'

Mario explores the cosmos again, jumping from one colorful planetoid to the next and landing on the noggin of a familiar group of foes. This title was released earlier this year, but if the kids were in summer camp, now might be the time to circle back and grab a copy. (Rated E; Wii)

'Kirby's Epic Yarn'

An evil wizard has transformed a classic Nintendo character into yarn, in a game title that looks like it was designed in an arts and crafts store. Things could be worse for Kirby, however; his new status in the material world grants him the abil-

ity to turn into racecars or a parachute, also made of yarn. This cute and family-friendly title has won thumbs-ups from critics young and not-so-young. (Rated E; Wii)

'Epic Mickey'

Mickey Mouse is pulled into a dark world known as the Wasteland in this adventure title, which showcases a slightly edgier version of the iconic character. Armed with a magical paintbrush that can bring color into this dark world, Mickey's job is to defeat a vintage Disney bad guy known as the Blot. This game has already won buzz as a hot title for the Wii this holiday season. (Rated E; Wii)

What's your weird tradition?

We're looking for families that have unusual traditions around the holidays — perhaps you eat sauerkraut on Christmas morning, go skinny dipping in the backyard pond as the New Year turns over, or mail the same unwrapped coconut from relative to relative each year in lieu of a Christmas card.

Contact *Times-News* reporter Ariel Hansen early this week with a brief description of your tradition and a number where you can be reached during the day, at 788-3475 or ahansen@magicvalley.com.

Celebrations

Celebrations offers an announcement package for every dream you want to share with friends and family, from a photo in Sunday's Family Life to an announcement on the internet. *Celebrations are meant to be shared.*

Call 208-735-3253

Anniversaries

The Johns



Ivan and Louise Johns

Ivan & Louise Johns will be honored at an open house for Louise's 85th birthday; Ivan's 90th birthday and their 69th wedding anniversary. Friends and relatives are invited from 4-7 p.m. on December 18, 2010 at the Community Room at Rosenau Funeral Home, 2826 Addison Ave. E, Twin Falls. (There will be a short program at 5:30.)

Ivan Johns and Louise Dudley were married December 6, 1941, Seymour, MO. They have lived in Seymour, MO, Murtaugh and Twin Falls, ID.



Ivan worked at Idaho Bean & Elevator, various farming jobs, retiring from John Breckenridge Ranch in the early 80's.

Louise worked at various seed companies.

The couple attend Higher Ground Church.

The event is hosted by their children, Keith (Sharon) Johns, Linda (Richard) Walker, and Stacey Johns, all of Twin Falls.

The couple have eight grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

No gifts please. Your presence is your gift.

Grindstaff-Haralson

Zachary Joseph Haralson and Jessica Marie Grindstaff are pleased to announce their engagement.

Zachary is the son of David and Lorraine Haralson. He was born in Las Vegas and raised in Twin Falls graduating in 2005 from TFHS. He served a two year LDS Mission in Fortaleza, Brazil and recently finished school and received his degree in Paramedicine.

Jessica Marie Grindstaff is the daughter of Marty and Robin Grindstaff. She was born and raised in Twin Falls, playing soccer and spending much of her time outdoors. After graduating in 2008 Jessica



Jessica Grindstaff and Zachary Haralson

enrolled at CSI studying Elementary education.

The Couple will be married and sealed in the Twin Falls, Idaho Temple on the 18th of December 2010. They will be holding a reception in July shortly after their return from China where they will be teaching English for the spring semester.

Weddings

FitzSimmons

Kenneth and Angela Turner of Burley are pleased to announce the marriage of their daughter Sara Marie to Kelly Bryce FitzSimmons son of Neil and Kaye FitzSimmons of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

The marriage took place December 11th in the Twin Falls Temple.

Sara is a 1997 graduate of Declo High school and obtained her MA in Art Therapy from Marylhurst University.

Kelly is a 1996 graduate of Lake City High School



Sara Marie Turner and Kelly Bryce FitzSimmons

and received his MA in Social Work from Eastern Washington University.

The couple will make their home in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Palmers



Bud and Marvel Palmer

Bud and Marvel Palmer will be honored at an open house to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Friends and family are invited to join them today, Sunday, December 12, 2010 from 1-5 in the bistro room at the Historic Ballroom at 205 Shoshone St North, Twin Falls. Bud



and Marvel were married on December 17th, 1960 in McCall Idaho. The celebration will be sponsored by Bud and Marvels children, Troy, Gary, Rob, and Renda and grandchildren, Kyra, Alan, Kohl, and Olive. The couple requests no gifts, and all friends and relatives are invited to attend.

STORK REPORT

St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center

Tommy Michael Stephenson, son of Joyce Evelyn Herrera of Twin Falls, was born Nov. 22, 2010.

Urijah Librado Hill, son of Brandi Nicole and Jubilee Librado Hill of Jerome, was born Nov. 28, 2010.

Conner Michael Nelson, son of Lesley Alexandra Wendling of Twin Falls, was born Nov. 28, 2010.

Kaydan Howard Ash, son of Brynn Marie Bean and Aaron Philip Ash of Twin Falls, was born Nov. 29, 2010.

Jarrett L Bilbao, son of Stefanie Ann and Steven Edward Bilbao of Shoshone, was born Nov. 29, 2010.

Jenna Kay Amend, daughter of Katie Jo and Jonathan Lee Amend of Jerome, was born Nov. 30, 2010.

Lucia Anja Moffitt, daughter of Brittany Lynn and Mitchell Jackson Moffitt of Twin Falls, was born Nov. 30, 2010.

Beckett Randall Reading, son of Desiree and Jason Allan Reading of Twin Falls, was born Nov. 30, 2010.

Zoey Alexia Roberts, daughter of Shreeve Joy Clymens and Buck M. Roberts of Twin Falls, was born Nov. 30, 2010.

Kiya Ann Bird, daughter of Andrea Marie and Casey Kent Bird of Wendell, was born Dec. 1, 2010.

Jorge Yamir Ibarra Gaytan, son of Lidia Ibarra Gaytan of Jerome, was born Dec. 1, 2010.

Luke Hiroto Tiu, son of Kaori and Christopher Tat Cheong Tiu of Twin Falls, was born Dec. 1, 2010.

Kayson Wayne Fiscus, son of Tosha Marie and Timothy Brett Fiscus of Twin Falls, was born Dec. 2, 2010.

Traysen Luke Flammer, son of Trisha Lea and Robert Hans Flammer of Hagerman, was born Dec. 2, 2010.

Brandon Keith Powell, son of Crystal Dawn and Brandt Dean Powell of Twin Falls, was born Dec. 2, 2010.

Lillie Ash Higley, daughter of Ashlee Dawn and Christopher David Higley of Kimberly, was born Dec. 3, 2010.

Gavin McKay Lott, son of Heather and Jordan McKay Lott of Kimberly, was born Dec. 3, 2010.

Slade Ronnie Andersen, son of Dacia JaNae and Cameron Harrison Andersen of Gooding, was born Dec. 4, 2010.

James Henry Carter, son of Andrea Marie and Branden Michael Carter of Buhl, was born Dec. 4, 2010.

Emely Naidelin Vera Beltran, daughter of Concepcion Beltran and Antonio Vera of Twin Falls, was born Dec. 4, 2010.

Ethan Carter Niendorf, son of Jennifer Grace and Benjamin Blue Niendorf of Twin Falls, was born Dec. 6, 2010.

Gerald Wesley Ray, son of Krystal Dawn and Jacob Wesley Ray of Hansen, was born Dec. 6, 2010.

Easton Ray Caldwell, son of Elizabeth T. and Christopher Wayne Caldwell of Twin Falls, was born Dec. 7, 2010.

Katrina Marie Martinez, daughter of Nicole Marie and Nicholas Ryan Martinez of Filer, was born Dec. 7, 2010.

Engagements

Bulcher-Ward

Bruce and Kathy Bulcher of Kimberly are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Rachel to Mark William Ward, son of John and Sue Ward of Florence, Mont.

Rachel and Mark are both graduates of the University of Montana Western in Dillon, Mont. Rachel is currently working as a psycho-social rehabilitator for S.M.B. (Skills - Management - Behavior) in Twin Falls. Mark is currently employed in Twin Falls as a graphic designer for the Times-News.



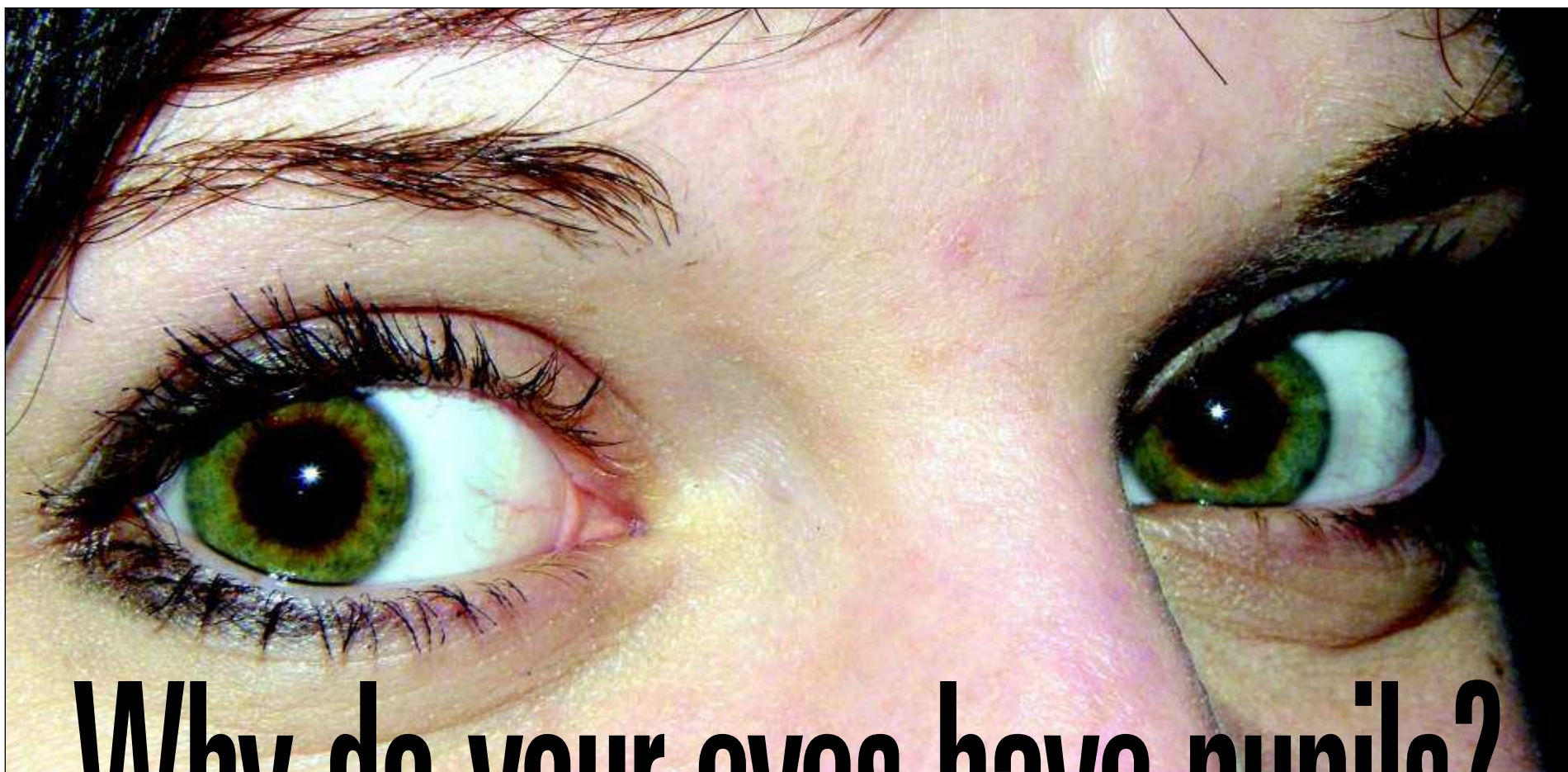
Rachel Bulcher and Mark Ward

The wedding will be held on January 8, 2011 at Crossroads United Methodist Church of Kimberly at 2 p.m.

Reception immediately to follow.

For information on how to place your announcement in the *Times-News*, please call Janette 208-735-3253 or email announcements@magicvalley.com
Deadline is 5 p.m. Tuesday to be published in the following Sunday's Family Life page.

Kids Only



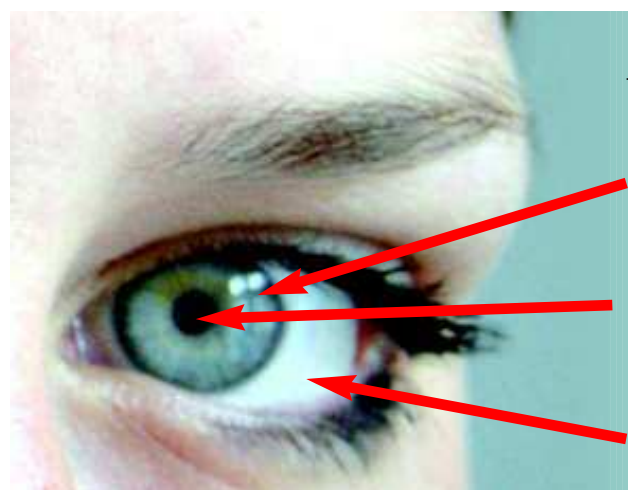
Why do your eyes have pupils?

By Howard Bennett
Special to The Washington Post

After you read this paragraph, find a mirror and look at your eyes. What you'll see staring back at you are two amazing, almond-shaped structures. The white of the eye is called the sclera. This is the tough outer tissue that gives the eye its strength. The colored part is the iris. For all its beauty, the iris is just a muscle that controls the amount of light that enters the eye. The black area in the center of the iris is the pupil. The pupil is not a structure at all but merely an opening in the center of the iris.

If you'd like to learn more about what the pupils do, pick a partner and do the activities that follow:

What happens to pupils in



a dark room?

When you first enter a dark room, you can barely see anything. After a few moments, your brain sends signals to your iris telling it to let in more light. That's why you can see better after you've been in a dark room

for five minutes or so. If you use a low-wattage flashlight to look at someone's eyes in a dark room, you will notice that the pupils are huge.

What happens to pupils when you get excited?

If you get excited, a number of changes take place in

THE EYES HAVE IT

The eye is an amazing structure, and each part works together to help you see. Here's a look (tee-hee) at what some of the key parts do:

Iris The colored part of your eye. (Are yours brown, blue, hazel?) It's the muscle that controls how much light gets into your eye.

Pupil It's a black hole. Really. The size of the hole is determined by the iris. In a dark room, when you need to let in a lot of light, the pupil gets big, or dilates. In bright light, like on a sunny day, the pupil gets tiny, or constricts.

Sclera This is the white part of a human eye that provides protection. (In horses and lizards, the sclera is black.)

need that much light to see. Ah, but this one has a twist. Because bright light can damage the eye, your pupils are also getting smaller to protect your retina. The retina is the part of the eye that processes visual information and sends it to the brain.

To demonstrate this mechanism, have your partner put one of his hands on the bridge of his nose to "separate" his eyes. Shine a light in your partner's right eye. Notice that the pupil gets smaller. Now, shine the light in his right eye again, only this time look at his left eye as you do it. What happens to the left pupil? It got smaller at the same time the right one did. That's because both eyes protect themselves, even if the light is only in one eye. Pretty cool, huh?

Why authors get gross

By Howard Bennett
Special to The Washington Post

If you've ever read a "Captain Underpants" book, you know that some books exist just to be gross — and that's fine. If you started reading chapter books because CU made you giggle, that's great. But what about authors whose primary mission is not to gross out their readers? Is there a place for icky stuff in regular novels?

The answer to this question is a resounding yes! Some of our best-loved writers have been known to dabble in grossology from time to time. They do it for a variety of reasons. Sometimes, they are just trying to be as creative as they can be, coming up with outrageous ideas. Other times, they may be trying to break up an intense or serious part of a book with bit of humor — gross humor, that is!

Roald Dahl is the author of lots of terrific books including "James and the Giant Peach," "Matilda" and "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."

My favorite Roald Dahl book is "The BFG." (The letters stand for the "big, friendly giant.") In the book, a girl named Sophie is kidnapped by the BFG. Once the BFG gets Sophie to his home in giant country, she learns about lots of unusual things, such as snozzcumbers, a disgusting vegetable that the BFG eats, and frobscottle, a "delumptious" drink that

the BFG loves. It turns out that frobscottle is no ordinary drink. It is fizzy like soda, but the bubbles travel down instead of up. As a result, the bubbles come out a person's other end, producing a whizzpopper, which is a fart that's so powerful it launches the person into the air.

J.K. Rowling populated Harry Potter's world with lots of gross things.

In "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," Harry, Ron and Hermione are trapped in a bathroom with a huge, evil troll who wants to pound them into mince-meat. When it looks like they'll never escape, Harry jumps on the troll from behind and jams his wand up the troll's nose. When Harry pulls the wand out, it's covered with disgusting snot that looks like lumpy gray glue.

In "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," Ron becomes furious when Draco Malfoy calls Hermione a mudblood. Unfortunately, when Ron tries to zap Malfoy, his wand misfires and a jet of green light hits him in the stomach. When Ron tries to speak, he repeatedly throws up slugs.

You may find this hard to believe, but "Shrek!" was a book before it was a movie. It was written by William Steig, who wrote a number of wonderful stories for kids. In the book, Shrek smells so bad that flowers and trees move out of his way as he walks by. When Shrek comes



DEB LINDSEY/For The Washington Post

Some of our best-loved kids' book writers have been known to dabble in grossology from time to time, out of creativity or to break up a serious part of a book with a bit of toilet humor.

upon a dragon as he is searching for his hideous princess, he lets out a whiff of blue flame and the dragon goes down like a ton of bricks. The original "Shrek!" was published in 1990, 11 years before the movie came out. Although the movie Shrek had a few redeeming qualities, the Shrek of the book was an ogre through and through.

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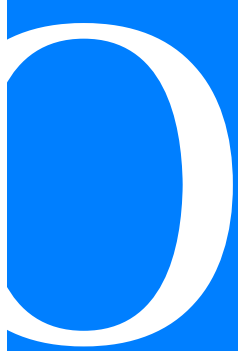
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Letters to the editor *Opinion 3*



Opinion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2010

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

EDITORIAL

How new Senate leader can make Idaho government better

The new boss of the Idaho state Senate says his primary goal is to create more trust between citizens and government.

Knowing Sen. Brent Hill, a six-term Republican from Rexburg, he's in earnest. Hill has earned a reputation as a straight shooter.

So we have a few suggestions how he might realize his goal:

- Revive the expansion of Idaho's Sunshine Law that was passed by the Senate last year but killed by House Speaker Lawrence Denney, R-Midvale. That legislation would have ended Idaho's distinction as one of just three states with no personal financial disclosure requirements for elected officials or candidates.

The measure would have required elected officials and candidates to disclose their sources — though not amounts — of income, and their major Idaho assets, including real estate. The bill, co-sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Bart Davis, R-Idaho Falls, and his Democratic counterpart at the time, Sen. Kate Kelly, D-Boise, passed the Senate unanimously on April 2, 2009. The next day, Denney ordered it held at his desk rather than assigning it to any House committee for a hearing.

Idaho's Sunshine Law, enacted by voter initiative in 1974, requires campaign finance reporting and lobbyist disclosure. But the state never added disclosure of personal finances for elected officials or candidates.

In 2007, the Center for Public Integrity gave Idaho an "F" for its financial disclosure requirements. In 2008, a national survey by the Chicago-based Better Government Association ranked Idaho 44th in the nation on an "integrity index," for governmental integrity, openness and accountability, in part because of Idaho's lack of financial disclosure requirements. That survey showed Idaho tied for worst in the nation for its conflict of interest laws, while Washington was ranked the best.

- Make the cause of restoring public faith in the embattled Idaho Tax Commission his own.

Two years ago Hill, a certified public accountant by profession, was instrumental in getting legislation passed requiring the commission to file annual reports with the House and Senate committees that disclose amounts of settlements exceeding \$50,000, and establishing clearer circumstances under which tax commissioners could approve compromise agreements.

But as subsequent developments have shown, that's not enough. Current and former employees of the agency say commissioners continue to cut sweetheart deals with deep-pocketed taxpayers. State Rep. Shirley Ringo, D-Moscow, unsuccessfully sued the commission over the settlements, but her case was dismissed because a district court ruled that as a legislator she couldn't sue. The case has been refiled with three education associations, a public school student, a parent of a student and a public school employee as plaintiffs.

Attorney General Lawrence Wasden, who is defending the tax commission in the lawsuits, has so far declined to launch an independent investigation of the commission's dealings.

Something has to be done to shed more light on the so-called compromise-and-close agreements between the commission and major taxpayers, which now are off-limits to public scrutiny. Hill is well positioned to take the initiative to do that.

- Open Senate Republican Caucus meetings to the public. That's where much of Idaho public policy is decided; the people should be able to witness that process.

We have high hopes for Hill's well-known personal decency to set the tone for the Legislature for the next two years. He should start now.

In Idaho, the doctor is OUT

Many Medicare, Medicaid physicians headed for the door

The Times-News

Earlier this year, the Idaho chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons released a survey of Idaho doctors asking whether they accept new patients, and whether a patient's insurance — Medicare, Medicaid or private coverage — affects that decision.

Idaho ranks last among the 50 states in the number of primary care physicians (76.1 per 100,000 population), and that number is declining by more than 1 percent a year. The biggest reason is demographic: Doctors who practice in rural states tend to be older, and more than two-fifths of Idaho's physicians are 55 or older. Only 33 percent are 44 or younger.

As a result of the doctor shortage, 37 of Idaho's 44 counties are defined as Medically Underserved Areas, according to AARP. The shortage of physicians will drive many folks in rural communities to travel to urban centers to receive primary or specialty care.

But there are other reasons for doctor shortage crisis as well: Medicare and Medicaid payments to primary care doctors often don't cover the costs of a patient visit, physicians are opting out in droves.

More than one-fifth of all Idaho doctors have closed

See **DOCTOR**, Opinion 2

"(Physicians) cannot be expected to provide their services below their costs. Policymakers need to seriously look at how their support of policies that cut or keep reimbursement low for primary care physicians is impacting access to care for Idahoans. Serious action must be taken to prevent the problem from becoming worse."



WHERE THE DOCTORS AREN'T

Number of primary care physicians per 100,000 population in Idaho:

County	Doctors	PCP rate
1. Camas	0	0
Tie. Clark	0	0
Tie. Lewis	0	0
4. Fremont	1	8
5. Jefferson	2	9
6. Owyhee	2	18
7. Custer	1	24
Tie. Oneida	1	24
9. Boise	2	26
10. Adams	1	29
Tie. Washington	3	29
12. Minidoka	7	37
13. Power	3	38
14. Payette	9	40

15. Lincoln	2	44
16. Bingham	20	45
17. Franklin	6	48
18. Gooding	8	56
19. Caribou	4	57
Tie. Madison	18	57
21. Canyon	101	58
22. Lemhi	5	63
23. Benewah	6	64
24. Bonner	32	78
25. Bonneville	77	81
26. Cassia	18	84
27. Twin Falls	63	88
28. Gem	16	97
29. Jerome	20	99
Tie. Shoshone	13	99
31. Elmore	30	107

32. Butte	3	108
33. Kootenai	145	110
34. Bear Lake	7	114
Tie. Latah	40	114
36. Nez Perce	45	117
37. Boundary	14	129
38. Bannock	110	140
Tie. Teton	11	140
40. Ada	507	141
41. Idaho	24	152
42. Blaine	35	163
43. Clearwater	20	240
44. Valley	25	283

Source: County Health Rankings, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute

Such good friends: CCA and Idaho Republicans

By Marty Trillhaase
Lewiston Tribune



Editor's note: Westword is a weekly sampling of opinion from newspapers and other media in the West.

Idaho leaders decided 14 years ago they could save money by hiring out management of the Idaho Correctional Center near Boise to Corrections Corporation of America.

For the politicians, this has been a good deal.

Privatize prisons and you inevitably weaken unions within the corrections industry. It's no coincidence that the bulk of CCA's contracts occur within right-to-work states. So instead of

correctional officers funneling their union dues to Democratic candidates, for-profit corrections corporations send their dollars to GOP leaders.

CCA provided Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter \$10,000 for his 2006 campaign; for his re-election effort, CCA gave Otter \$9,000. Former Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne got \$7,500 between 2002 and 2006, and the Idaho Republican Party collected \$5,000 in 2005-06.

Private prison management also works out neatly for some inmates.

With the contractor shaving every quarter spent on staffing, the con who survives within the ruling prison culture — if not thrives on it — has more

freedom from surveillance. Don't be surprised if inmates find the guards at private prisons, who are paid and trained less, more amenable to bribes.

For the individual who finds himself at the mercy of such violence, however, private prison management is a nightmare. Such was the case for Hanni Elabed, a 24-year-old ICC inmate who got in trouble with a member of a violent prison gang.

The Associated Press obtained video that shows

See **FRIENDS**, Opinion 2

TIMES-NEWS

John Pfeifer ... publisher Steve Crump ... Opinion editor

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

Doctors

Continued from Opinion 1

their practices to new Medicaid patients and 17 percent are turning away Medicare patients.

Primary care physicians are less likely to accept all new patients compared to certain specialists. When doctors are grouped by either primary care (which includes the specialties of family medicine, general practice, geriatric medicine, and internal medicine) or by medical specialty (nonpediatric cardiovascular disease, dermatology, gastroenterology, neurology, ophthalmology, psychiatry, rheumatology and urology), key differences emerge. Primary care physicians refuse to accept new patients at much higher margins than medical specialists do.

The number of Idaho Medicare beneficiaries is projected to double by 2030, according to AARP, and they're facing a health care crisis.

According to the AARP report, Idaho doctors are caught in a spiral of decreased reimbursements to restrain costs. The most commonly cited reason for not accepting new Medicare and Medicaid patients was reimbursement.

Some physicians complain that the reimbursement system doesn't fairly compensate primary care doctors for the time they spend during an office visit. Others say they can't afford to keep their doors open if they treat too many Medicare and Medicaid patients. Even though they are limiting their practices to new Medicare and Medicaid patients primarily for reimbursement reasons (and some claim that private insurance is also becoming problematic), policymakers are still proposing cuts or freezes to reimbursement in both Medicare and Medicaid. According to the AARP

Who's accepting new patients ...

The percentage of Idaho health care professionals who accept all new patients by type of insurance:

Primary care physicians	Insurance	Percentage
Primary care physicians	Medicare	61%
	Medicaid	51%
	Private insurance	76%
All physicians	Medicare	67%
	Medicaid	55%
	Private insurance	77%
Medical specialists	Medicare	78%
	Medicaid	62%
	Private insurance	80%
Rural physicians	Medicare	79%
	Medicaid	69%
	Private insurance	83%

... and who isn't

The percentage of Idaho health professionals not accepting new patients by type of insurance:

Primary care physicians	Insurance	Percentage
Primary care physicians	Medicare	21%
	Medicaid	10%
	Private insurance	6%
All physicians	Medicare	24%
	Medicaid	21%
	Private insurance	6%
Medical specialist	Medicare	6%
	Medicaid	4%
	Private insurance	2%
Rural physicians	Medicare	12%
	Medicaid	13%
	Private insurance	4%

Source: AARP Idaho

WHY DOCTORS ARE SAYING NO

Comments from Idaho doctors on why they reject new patients, by insurance source:

Reimbursement rate is too low	Insurance	Percentage
Reimbursement rate is too low	Medicare	55%
	Medicaid	50%
	Private insurance	15%
Too many patients already	Medicare	17%
	Medicaid	13%
	Private insurance	13%
Too much paperwork	Medicare	16%
	Medicaid	15%
	Private insurance	1%

Not contracted with all insurance plans

Insurance	Percentage
Medicare	13%
Medicaid	3%
Private insurance	26%

High clinical burden of patient

Insurance	Percentage
Medicare	7%
Medicaid	13%
Private insurance	0

Accepted by referral only

Insurance	Percentage
Medicare	6%
Medicaid	27%
Private insurance	3%

Source: AARP Idaho

report, as more Idahoans find that doctors aren't accepting new patients, the clinical burden for the remaining physicians will increase and the waiting times for appointments will grow. More patients will seek emergency room care, which is more expensive for both the patients and the

taxpayers. Medicare beneficiaries may find one way to get health care is to spend more out-of-pocket to gain access to doctors who have stopped taking Medicare patients but still see other patients. Medicare beneficiaries pay for the services in cash up front and then

submit the bills to Medicare, and the beneficiary is responsible for the difference between the approved Medicare rate and the physician charge.

Americans 65 and older are already spending 12 percent of their incomes on health care expenses and those 85 and older are paying average of 16 percent.

For the 12 percent of Idahoans who live below the poverty line, Medicaid is the only realistic long-term option. If these newly eligible Medicaid beneficiaries are unable to find a doctor it will increase over all health care costs as chronic illnesses result in more serious illnesses.

A report by the Commonwealth Fund found that Idaho ranked 49th in the nation for the percent of at-risk (those age 50 and older, chronically ill, or rated health as fair or poor). The state ranks 48th for the percentage of adults with a usual source of care.

Friends

Continued from Opinion 1

inmate James Haver of Coeur d'Alene stomping on Elated unimpeded by prison guards. Haver injured Elated so severely that he suffered permanent brain damage.

Nor was he the only one.

In Idaho, an AP records check found violence at the private prison three times more prevalent than at the eight facilities still under state management.

Representing some of ICC's inmates, the American Civil Liberties Union is suing CCA for \$155 million in damages, the company's entire net profit for last year. ACLU attorney Steven Pevar calls CCA's management of the Idaho prison a "gulag" and others have called it a "gladiator school."

Now the FBI has launched an investigation into whether ICC staff violated the inmates' civil rights.

Nationally, a 2001 Bureau of Justice Assistance report found private prisons had 50 percent more inmate-on-inmate assaults than public prisons. Nearly the same ratio held for inmate-on-staff assaults.

Three years later, a *Federal Probation Journal* study found private prisons had more than twice as many inmate-on-inmate assaults than in public prisons.

On paper, CCA manages to guard about 2,000 people for \$40.28 each per day. It costs Idaho \$52.22 per inmate per day to do the same thing.

So if Idaho were to assume control of ICC, it would cost another \$9 million.

Not so fast, says prison advocate Paul Wright of the *Prison Legal News*. It's more like "comparing rotten apples to rotten oranges."

Like all private prison contractors, CCA cherry-picks its population — the medium- and minimum-security prisoners who are

cheaper to supervise. The expensive cases — security threats, the violent offenders, escape risks, death row inmates, females and anyone with a physical or mental ailment — typically gets assigned to a state-run institution.

A 14-year-old Government Accountability Office study reviewed five private prisons and found cost savings elusive.

Private contractors make money by reducing staffing levels to the bare minimum, paying less and keeping training costs low. The result is staff turnover that is four times greater than at public prisons.

But the savings don't necessarily get to the taxpayer. Get in line behind shareholders and CEO compensation.

Whatever savings society enjoys by simply warehousing felons under brutal conditions, it pays later when they complete their sentences and emerge on the streets.

And if the private contract manager shows more concern for rehabilitation and reducing prison recidivism than shareholder value, he's removed, replaced by someone who respects the corporate bottom line.

All of which leads to one inescapable fact: Idaho has made a mistake. But the error was not selecting CCA. It was privatizing its prison management in the first place.

Some things you don't privatize.

Enforcing the laws. Administering justice. Counting the votes on Election Night.

Why would you make prisoners whose freedom has been stripped away — some of the most vulnerable, and yes, at times, despicable, members of society — a profit center?

Marty Trillhaase is the Opinion editor of the Lewiston Tribune.

There are **5 things** Idahoans with Medicare need to know right now ... and just **1 number** you need to call: **1-888-492-2583**

(or TTY **1-800-377-1363** for the hearing impaired), 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week.

Announcing new choices for Twin Falls area residents: St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center and St. Luke's Clinics are now part of our Medicare Advantage provider network!

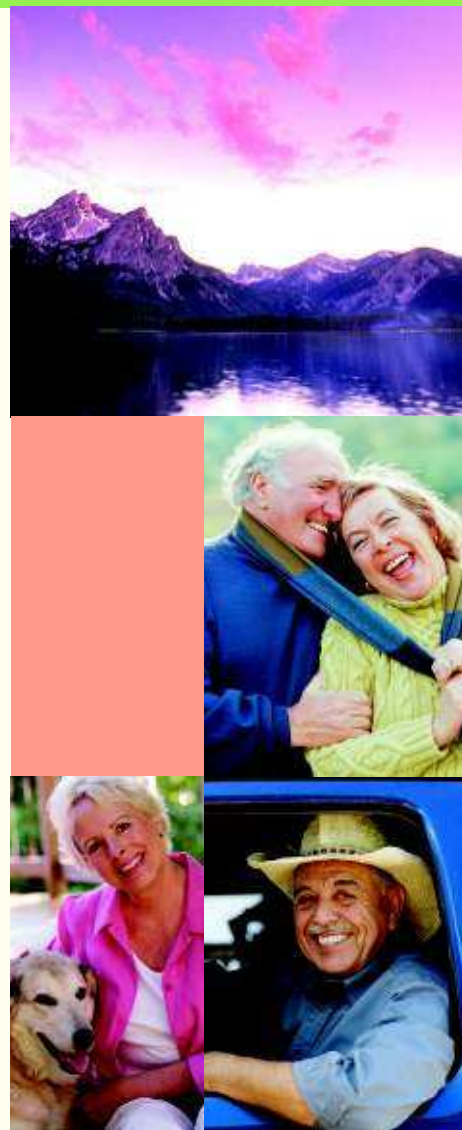
Medicare's Annual Election Period runs from November 15 – December 31, 2010 ONLY. Whether Medicare is your only insurance or you currently have a Medicare plan from a company other than **Blue Cross of Idaho**, you need to make important decisions about your healthcare and prescription drug coverage BEFORE the deadline.

Call **Blue Cross of Idaho** today. Learn why the best option for you in 2011 may NOT be the same coverage you have today.

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December 20
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To register for an upcoming seminar in your area (or to request a FREE Information Kit by mail), call toll free: **1-888-492-2583** (TTY **1-800-377-1363**), 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week. Or visit www.bc Idaho.com/medicare to find a meeting near you.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Many questions about child custody evaluators

I have questions regarding the use of court-appointed child custody evaluators.

Why? Since family courts give significant weight to the opinions of child custody evaluators, it is imperative that their evaluations be conducted with due regard for scientific methods and ethical guidelines. Frequently they have been given too much power in deciding the outcome of child custody issues in our family courts.

Do our judges know what is considered an ethical, professional and scientifically based evaluation? Do some of them accept anything that is said by their court-appointed evaluators without requiring some standard for reliable evidence? Are judges able to separate facts from the evaluators' subjective beliefs and unsupported speculations?

Are some attorneys abusing the use of court-appointed evaluators by feeding them information? Do these evaluators collaborate with only one side? Why do some judges allow this collaboration? Do other attorneys fail to vigorously object to these expert opinions because they are concerned about "upsetting the apple cart" in family court and what it will do to their future cases?

There are many unanswered questions relating to child-appointed evaluators. Who can answer these questions? Who is protecting innocent children from unethical and unprofessional evaluators? In the end, this is the most crucial question of all.

LAURA LEE DUSTIN
Burley

School district should change transport policy

I was appalled to find that the Twin Falls School District would not transport our grade school children to and from school if they lived within 1.5 miles of the school. They do not provide transportation to and from school for the noon kindergarten children. With the number of predators out there, can you imagine having your young children walk this far to and from school each day? We're not talking just a block or two, we're talking up to a mile and a half.

I know one young girl that they expect to walk from Madrona and Fourth to Bickel School. She has to cross Locust and Blue Lakes to get to and from school.

Part of our property taxes and state taxes as well as money from the government, the Lottery and money for school enrollment should pay for this service, if for no other reason than to keep our children safe. Surely, there is something that can be done to fix this problem.

VERNICIE TUCKER
Twin Falls

Building color isn't the point, merchandise is

I would like to respond to Mr. Nagel's letter to the editor.

Personally, I have no problem that your building is purple. What I have a problem with is what you sell there, especially the adult products. I think that's where the focus should be and not on the color of the building.

People are free to choose what they will or won't buy and to frequent your establishment. What they don't realize is that later on, they will be trapped in the throes of an addiction that will take years to overcome.

What happened to having good morals?

JULIE PRATT
Twin Falls

Medicare cuts will leave patients struggling

This week Congress gets back to work after the Thanksgiving break and I hope one thought is top of mind for them: Don't drive doctors out of Medicare!

Right now doctors in Idaho and across the nation face a 25 percent pay cut under Medicare. If Congress allows it, more doctors will leave the

program, which leaves older patients struggling to find the care they need under the program whose benefits they have earned for past employment.

Such a cut would be devastating in Idaho where we already have one of the lowest doctor-to-patient ratios in the nation. For the 10th year in a row, Congress has had to grapple with this issue due to a flawed reimbursement system. More doctors are leaving the system because of the uncertainty of getting paid for the care they need to deliver to patients.

Enough is enough. AARP is calling on Congress to delay the cuts for another year and commit to permanently addressing the issue so older Idahoans don't have to spend the holidays worrying about whether their doctor will be "in" come the first of the year. Congress needs to act on the issue in the next few days, and I do hope Idaho's congressional delegation will step up to the plate to make it happen.

JANICE STOVER
Twin Falls
(Editor's note: Janice Stover is a past state president of AARP Idaho.)

Comments about Boise State football

I am a lifelong Idahoan and resident of the Magic Valley and have been an avid athletic fan my entire adult life. I also am not, nor have I ever been, a fan of the Boise State football program. However, I have read and followed with great interest the fallout and backlash with respect to the BSU/Nevada college football game. In all fairness, I have several comments to make about the game recently played in Reno.

First, certainly there are issues and problems confronting the world that are far more important than the outcome of any athletic contest at any level.

Second, this game was an athletic contest. In athletic contests, there are almost always winners and losers. Unfortunately for members of Bronco Nation and for many Idahoans, BSU came out on the losing end of this contest. How about the coaches, players, fans and supporters of the University of Nevada? Do they not deserve respect for what they accomplished?

Third, kudos to what the Boise State football program has done to place Idaho in the national spotlight!

Fourth, there is no member of the coaching staff, the offensive unit, the defensive unit or the special teams unit that is deserving of special blame. Football is a team effort!

Finally, there are many teams with great records that deserve quality bowl invitations against quality opponents. Considering this team's performance on the field and the national attention that they have received this year, should they not also receive a quality bowl bid against a quality opponent? The Boise State University football program is certainly deserving of far more respect than what has been projected thus far in potential bowl matchups!

RICK BELLISTON
Burley

Road cleaning crew didn't do me any favors

I would like to give our city road crew a big thank you for the great big mess that they made in my driveway.

They plowed a three-foot pile of snow right smack in the middle of it. They were asking us citizens not to shovel snow out on the road, but it is OK for them to do it to us, and the only reason I am complaining about it is I am disabled.

I called Dean, the street manager. He told me it was not his problem and he didn't have time to do it, to call the Boy Scouts.

Well, I worked on it for three days and got it half cleared and, guess what? They came by and filled it up again. I would like to give Dean a big thanks and also our city manager for helping out and to also thank them for plowing Harrison Street by the school. They are so

thoughtful — not!
KEN CORDIER
Twin Falls

Complainers should hit business owner in the pocketbook

Regarding the Nov. 28 article about the purple building:

What is this country coming to? How can we call this the country of freedom when they are trying to dictate what color we can or can't paint our buildings? If people hate it, they can tell the owner and stop giving him their business. If he loses enough business he'll get the message and repaint. If not, then he knows that most of the people don't mind the color.

As has been said before: You can please some of the people some of the time, some of the people all of the time, but never all of the people all of the time (or something like that). You're always going to get someone to be a complainer. No matter what the subject is. Let the people speak without

making an illegal law — a law that takes away what freedom we do have!

JACQUE LEA
Twin Falls

Freedom is the issue, not color scheme

I agree that the city of Twin Falls should not be concerning itself with the color of Mr. Nagel's building. I personally would rather look at his purple building than the burnt orange/brown weirdness that is Fiesta Ole.

A person goes into business to make money. In order to make money, the public has to know the business is there. Mr. Nagel wants to be seen, and he has certainly accomplished that. So what's all the uproar about?

Is the community upset because his building is purple or because of what he sells? Karnation and Enchantress have been in business for a long time and no one has said a word. Why? Because they stay in the shadows instead of standing up and saying,

"Hey, look at me!"

Mr. Nagel had the audacity to speak up and say here I am. This "conservative" community has managed to keep at least two "adult" establishments in business. Is two OK but three too many? Are the patrons of these businesses so ashamed that they want to keep them "underground"?

We all know how it would look if a respected church or community leader was seen entering one of these establishments, don't we? Mr. Nagel removed the XXX from his sign. At least by keeping the word "adult," people can't say they wandered in there by mistake. If his merchandise offends you, don't go in there.

Obscenity laws exist for a reason, but Mr. Nagel does not have obscene merchandise on public display where children might be exposed to it. Stop the hypocrisy, stop trying to control everyone and everything and let adults make their own decisions.

I would strongly urge Mr. Nagel to hire his First Amendment attorney now! Don't wait for these hyp-

ocrites to harass you any longer. God bless America — land of the free! (Try to remember that.)

ROBIN JAMES
Twin Falls

Protestors missed this offensive opening

A few years ago, some people of Twin Falls protested the opening of the beautiful LDS Temple. For some reason they found it to be offensive to our community. They waved their signs and hollered their opinions to protect the community. Some even took time off from work to protest.

A few weeks ago, we had the opening of another building in Twin Falls. It's offensive to our community with its purple paint and neon green bars and let's not forget it's original sign that read "Adult XXX."

My question: Where were the protesters waving their signs and hollering their opinions to protect the community? Doesn't make a lot of sense to me.

TINA McMILLEN
Twin Falls

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Christmas in Church



Our Savior Lutheran Church
 corner of Carriage Lane North
 and Filer Avenue East
 208-733-3774

- Wednesday
 December 1st, 8th, 15th & 22nd
Advent Service - 7:00pm
- Friday
 December 24th
Family Service - 5:30pm
Candlelight Service - 10:00pm

CAPTURE the wonder

This Christmas season re-capture the wonder of Christmas. Join us in worship this advent season and hear wonder at the greater plan of God, hear of the wonder of the prophets, the shepherds, of Mary and then Christmas...does it ever make you wonder?.

Sunday Services - 9:00 & 10:30 am
Christmas Musical - December 12 - 9:00 & 10:30 am
Christmas Eve Candlelight - 5:00 & 6:30 pm

1631 Grandview Dr.
Twin Falls • 733-6128
www.tfrc.org

December 5, 2010
Second Sunday in Advent
 8 a.m. Prayer Service, 10 a.m. Worship Service
 Sermon "Spend Less" - and free your resources for things that really matter
 Hallelujah Handbells - "Shades of Forest Green"

December 12, 2010 - Third Sunday in Advent
 8 a.m. Prayer Service, 10 a.m. Worship Service
 Sermon "Give More" - of your presence: your time, your heart, your words, your hands
 Hallelujah Handbells - "Tomorrow Shall be My Dancing Day"

December 19, 2010 - Fourth Sunday in Advent
 8:00 a.m. Prayer Service, 10 a.m. Worship Service
 Sermon: "Love All" - the poor, the forgotten, in ways that make a difference
 Hallelujah Handbells - "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"

December 24 - Christmas Eve Services
 5 p.m. - Casual Family Service with Candlelight"
 11 p.m. - "Traditional Communion and Candlelight" Service
 Gospel According to Luke's Birth Narrative
 Chancel Choir and Hallelujah Handbells
www.twinfallspc.com

First Presbyterian Church
 209 Fifth Ave. N. Twin Falls
 733-7023 Rev. Phil Price

December 24th at 6:00pm Community Christmas Service at Murtaugh City Hall

December 24th at 8:00pm Christmas Eve Worship at Crossroads UMC, 131 Syringa, Kimberly

Everyone is Welcome!
 if you have any questions please call 423-4311

Crossroads United Methodist Church
 131 Syringa, Kimberly, Idaho
For more information about our Holiday activities, please visit our website: crossroadsme.org or email us at crossroadsme@questoffice.net



Children's Musical
Sunday, Dec 5
 9:30am and 11:00am
 "Camel-Lot" - Join with our kids as they present a musical journey to the manger and tell the story of God's gift-Jesus.

Carols by Candlelight
Sunday, Dec 19, 6:00pm
 Bring your favorite candle from home and its holder and add light and your voice to the traditional Carols of Christmas.

Christmas Eve Service
Thursday, Dec 24, 10:00pm
 Experience the joy and wonder of God With Us—Jesus. Join with family and friends as we reflect on the birth of Christ and share in communion.

Christmas Worship Services
Sunday, Dec 26, 9:30am & 11:00am The Journey 6:00pm
 Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Christ. Find its significance and meaning as you join your friends and family in worship.

Twin Falls Church of the Nazarene 1231 Washington St N (west of CSI)
www.tfnaz.com tfnaz@tfnaz.com 733-6610

Christmas at First United Methodist Church

360 Shoshone Street East, Twin Falls, ID 83301
 Pastor - Rev. Philip J. Airhart

Sunday, December 19, 2010
 Christian Education 9:00 a.m.
 Worship 10:00 a.m.
 Fellowship Following Worship

Friday, December 24, 2010
CHRISTMAS EVE
 9:00 p.m. Candlelight Service
 Special Music, Carols, and The Spoken Word

Find your *Way* this Christmas

Join us for our **Candlelight Service Christmas Eve • 9:00PM**

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 Saturday Night Service at 7:00 p.m.
 Sunday Morning Celebration Services at 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
 Wednesday Evening Service at 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE
Candlelight Service
 DECEMBER 24 AT 6:00 P.M.

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 Pastor Lynn & Dorette Schaal

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SUN, DEC 19	FRI, DEC 24	SUN, DEC 26
8:45am & 10:30am	7pm	8:45am & 10:30am
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