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MONDAY
December 20, 2010

TIMES-NEWS

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Santa Claus visits with Nataley Hurtado and other kindergarten students Friday at Harrison Elementary School in Twin Falls. Roger Moore said his wife, Terry, asked four years ago if he would dress as Santa and visit her class. He's done it every year since and has also rented out his Santa services.

Photos by ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

Driving sales with holiday spirit

Sign shakers don Christmas garb to draw eyes to offers

By Laura Lundquist
Times-News writer

JEROME — Not all Santas encourage children to be good; some stand outside strip malls, encouraging people to take out a loan.

Andy Weir has paced the sidewalk in front of Portal Trail Plaza on Highway 79 dressed as Santa since shortly after Halloween. Employed through Gem State Staffing, Weir was hired temporarily by Xpress Cash to be their holiday sign shaker.

"This is the first year we've done this," said Xpress customer service representative Carol Thomason. "We used a sign shaker one summer but never during the winter. But this December is way different."

Loan providers normally do a lot of business in the buildup to the holidays. Xpress Cash offers payday and title loans in Jerome and Twin Falls. Thomason said that in her experience, people usually borrowed \$300 to \$500 to pay for holiday purchases.

This December, people are paying off their loans rather than taking more money out, Thomason said.

"It's bittersweet because we want the loans paid off but we also need money going out," Thomason said. "So many people paid off during the first week of December that our loan balance dropped 20 percent."

Part of the problem, Thomason said, may be that fewer people qualify for loans because they've either lost jobs or their hours have been cut. Thomason's own Santa couldn't get a loan.

So Xpress Cash has tried to increase its visibility, with Thomason mailing flyers and making calls. Weir is part of the strategy.

For four hours during high-traffic times of the day, Weir carries a giant arrow claiming "First loan free." Shaking the sign and waving to cars, he bops to the music in his iPod, his earphones hidden by his white wig. Underneath the big red

See **SANTA**, Main 2

See **SALES**, Main 2

SANTA FOR HIRE

T.F. man spreads Christmas cheer in St. Nick's stead

By Amy Huddleston
Times-News writer

His white curls spilled over the back of the maroon velvet coat as he walked through the halls of Harrison Elementary School on Friday, jingling his way into each room with a merry "Ho, ho ho!"

Squeals and giggles erupted as Santa Claus walked into the kindergarten classroom and in his booming voice asked the kids if they had been naughty or nice.

"Have you kept your rooms clean?" he asked. "Have you done your homework? You have one week before Christmas, so be good!"

He exited with a hearty "Merry Christmas" and a good shake of his large belly.

For the man behind the beard, Friday was just another chance to give children a reason to smile as one of Santa's helpers.

He does it for the kids, but Roger Moore started his Rent-a-Santa career at his wife's request four years ago. Terri Moore, a sec-



Santa greets Amanda Neighbor's class on Friday at Harrison Elementary School in Twin Falls. Roger Moore has taken on the role of the World's Jolliest for four years.

ond-grade teacher at Twin Falls' Harrison Elementary, asked him to play Santa for her classroom, so he started looking for costumes. The suit's \$550 price tag inspired him to put his Santa services up for hire for private and business Christmas parties.

When it comes to schools or

day cares, he volunteers his time for free.

"It's all for the kids — to put a smile on their face," Moore said.

It took him two years to pay off the Santa suit. During that time, he built a list of repeat clients who still call each year. He brings candy canes — "the good ones

MORE ONLINE

VIEW more photos of Santa in Twin Falls. MAGICVALLEY.COM

from Costco" — and parents will leave presents on their doorstep so he can put them in his giant sack and enter their house fully loaded.

When he's not a stand-in St. Nick, Moore has worked at Independent Meat Co. for 36 years. The Santa gig is just for fun — all for the kids, he repeated over and over. He said it gets easier every year to be a Christmas celebrity, although he has to keep up on the popular toy trends so he knows what kids are talking about. Moore fields a lot of requests over the holiday season, booking five or six parties a night on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, but his legs don't get tired too often thanks to his regular running regime as a member of

See **SANTA**, Main 2

T.F. City Council to pick new chief, council member tonight

Times-News

The Twin Falls City Council will fill out two important positions tonight: police chief and council person.

Twin Falls Police Chief Jim Munn Jr. will retire March 1 after 30 years with TFPD. State Sen. Lee Heider will be stepping down from the council at the end of the year.

Their potential replacements have not been named.

The council is set to vote on replacements at its regular meeting, today at 5 p.m. at the City Council Chambers, 305 Third Ave. E., Twin Falls.

The council's search narrowed down those looking to replace Heider from 23 to two in a tiered process of open and closed meetings.

The final six were young, old, male and female, and none had more government experience than serving on Planning and Zoning boards.

Heider, Mayor Don Hall, long-time Councilman and former Mayor Lance Clow sat on the selection committee. Hall has final say on whom goes to the full council for a vote.

The new council person is set for swearing in at the first meeting of the new year.

Jerome CAFO revision process to conclude with signing tonight

By Laura Lundquist
Times-News writer

JEROME — Tonight, Jerome County Commissioners will sign into law the revised permitting section of the confined animal feeding operation ordinance.

The revision process, prompted by a growing discontent among residents who found themselves neighbors of proliferating dairy CAFOs, has taken almost two years. But the last six months saw few additions to the chapter, and on Dec. 13, commissioners approved the final revision.

"This was their chance to get it right before chicken CAFOs have a chance to move in. But they didn't take it."

— **Shavone Hasse of Idaho Concerned Area Residents for the Environment**

The document, titled "Chapter 13, Livestock Confinement Operations," has modified certain setback distances. The previous edition required that CAFOs be set back 300 feet from property lines. Now that's been reduced to 50 feet but a CAFO cannot be within 300 feet of any dwellings not associated with the operation. The 50-foot setback that now applies to roads was increased from 20 feet.

The liquid or solid waste areas of a CAFO must be 300 feet away from property lines and 1,000 feet from other dwellings.

The maximum density for a single CAFO remains unchanged at 10 animal units an acre, animal units being a catch-all measurement that depends on the type of animal. One animal unit is 1,000

See **CAFO**, Main 2



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DEADLY EXPLOSION

At least 27 dead in Mexican pipeline blast > H&F 4

Idaho sheriff deals with son's meth addiction

By Katy Moeller
Idaho Statesman

BOISE — Rick Layher has been working drug cases for decades and knows well how methamphetamine can tear a family apart.

"The parents that I've talked to, they're just pulling their hair out about it and asking 'What do we do?' No other drug has affected families like this," said Layher, who was confronted with the problem in his own home this year.

Layher's son, John R. Layher, 27, was arrested Nov. 17 for felony possession of a controlled substance and misdemeanor possession of paraphernalia.

The sheriff turned his son in to Idaho State Police after he found a couple of meth pipes in the basement of his house, where John had been living. Investigators searched the house and seized the evidence.

"I truly feel that turning him in, I did the right thing for him," Layher said. "One way or another, he's going to get some help ... To me, this was his last chance."

His son spent almost five days in jail.

"I was happy the longer my son sat in jail. His brain was starting to get clear," Layher said.

John Layher declined to be interviewed for this story. He was due in court Friday, but the preliminary hearing was rescheduled for January. The Elmore County Prosecutor's Office turned the case over to the Ada County Prosecutor to avoid a conflict of interest.

Sheriff Layher, who attended his eldest daughter's graduation from Boise State University Friday morning, said his family has been through a lot in the past month, but he's feeling optimistic about his son's future.

"I see light now ... I've seen a big difference in his attitude," said Layher, who wants to see his son get treatment for drug addiction.

He believes his son began using drugs in his early 20s, but had been clean until about a year ago.

"You see them going good for a couple months, six months, even eight months, then all of the sudden, it's like the rug's taken out from under you," Layher said. "He had gotten a pretty good job and had been clean for a long time, then he started using again."

Layher said meth addicts become completely absorbed in themselves, withdrawing from family and staying out all night.

"You can't really get into a rational conversation with them. No matter what it is, they're right," Layher said. "When they're on that stuff, they don't care about their kids, their parents, their grandparents. They don't care about them things until their brain starts clearing up."

Layher said meth is no bigger problem in Mountain Home than it is anywhere else in the state, but it is a major problem.

"I wouldn't wish this on anybody," said Layher, thankful for the support he's received from the community. "A lot of people have sent cards and said they're praying for us. That does help. I'm thankful to God for that."

Tamarack Resort resurrected for ski season

By Jessie L. Bonner
Associated Press writer

DONNELLY — When a French developer tried to build a destination ski resort in the central Idaho mountains and it failed, 36-year-old Wolfe Ashcraft was among the casualties.

He no longer had a job as a ski instructor at Tamarack Resort. He also had to shutter his skiing and snowboarding shop in the nearby town of Donnelly after business dried up in the wake of the resort's closure.

But he didn't hold a grudge.

When homeowners still living at the defunct ski resort banded together and persuaded a bankruptcy judge to let skiers and snowboarders get back on the slopes this season, Ashcraft was among the first to apply for a job.

Many of the workers at Tamarack on Friday to prepare for the resort's first lift-service skiing since March 2009 also had decided to return after losing their jobs when the resort closed last year.

"They want to be here for the re-emergence of Tamarack," Ashcraft said.

In Valley County, where unemployment has skyrocketed to 20 percent since development at Tamarack ended, more than 300 people applied for about 70 openings.

Ashcraft, who will manage rentals during the ski season, has a master's in business administration and marketing. One of the workers hired to load the ski lifts is a civil engineer.

Glen Welsh, an alarm installer who has been unemployed since he moved to Idaho in July, dusted snow off a revolving line of lift seats and helped groom the ski hills in preparation for Monday's opening.

"I'm just excited to have a



KATHERINE JONES/Idaho Statesman

Ryan Bailey worked for Tamarack Resort in Idaho before. "I remember the layoffs," he says, trying to remember how many years he worked at the resort. He's the rental shop and tune manager and on Friday, was getting ready to open. On Dec. 6, a judge said Tamarack homeowners could use the lifts and other equipment. The resort will open today, with lift-service skiing for the first time since March 2009.

job here," Welsh said over the roar of nearby snow machines peppering the hills with fresh powder.

In the nearby restaurant, chef Larry Morton scrutinized final copies of the menu. At the adjacent bar, called Seven Devils Pub, a health inspector went through his checklist. Nathan Jacobson, a 31-year-old hired to help groom snow on the ski trails, gave a window frame a fresh coat of paint.

"Today, I'm a drywall painter," Jacobson said.

The first destination ski resort in the country was created in Idaho in the 1930s by a railroad magnate at Sun Valley. Tamarack billed itself as the first new destination ski resort in a quarter century when it opened in December 2004, but the project failed amid debt, foreclosure lawsuits and multimillion-dollar losses.

The lifts were shut off early last year after lenders had enough and stopped making loans.

Property owners who erected vacation homes amid the real estate bubble faced

the grim reality of a winter without ski lift service after a last-ditch push to save the 2009-10 season died.

The bustling resort turned into a ghost town seemingly overnight. In a job at Tamarack owner Jean-Pierre Boespflug, a local man sold bumper stickers that read: "Honk if JP owes you money." But everyone in the region is struggling because of the economic downturn, said Susan Dorris, who has lived in Donnelly for 15 years and owns the Flight of Fancy coffee shop.

"You just can't lay it at the feet of Tamarack," said Dorris, who hopes the reopening of the resort, even if only for a season, will help spur local business.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Terry Myers decided Dec. 6 that the Tamarack Municipal Association could use the lifts and other equipment it would need to run a 15-week ski season. The equipment is collateral in the \$300 million bankruptcy case that has put the resort's future in jeopardy.

"It's not an easy thing, opening a ski resort in the

throws of bankruptcy," said Tim Flaherty, who is director of the association and has led efforts to resuscitate the shuttered resort.

The homeowners group agreed to delve into its savings for \$250,000 in seed money to get the project started, Flaherty said. It will operate the ski season on a tight, \$1.5 million budget, and the resort won't have all the bells and whistles that Tamarack boasted when it first opened.

There's no money to offer day care, and the boutique market will remain closed as well. The plan calls for skiing until April 3, with the resort open Thursdays through Sundays, though there will be extensions for Christmas, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day and spring break.

More than 500 season passes had been sold.

The goal: To bolster the value of their property and lure a potential buyer.

"So we can move on with the rest of our lives," Flaherty said.

AROUND THE STATE

Key ranch properties sell in central Idaho

BELLEVUE — The buyers of two large ranches in central Idaho say they want to protect wildlife habitat and agricultural land.

Part-time Wood River Valley residents Harry and Shirley Hagey in a news release say they are considering a number of conservation options for the Spring Creek Ranch and the Crystal Creek Ranch.

The Idaho Mountain Express reports that the deal was finalized on Wednesday for the two parcels totaling 4,600 acres.

The land is located west of State Highway 75, and on each side of U.S. Highway 20.

Previous owners had hoped to start a new town on part of the land, but then the economy collapsed.

Asking price was \$14.5 million for Crystal Creek and \$13 million for Spring Creek. It's unclear how much the Hageys paid.

Judge fines 3 for illegal stream work

BOISE — A federal judge has ordered three Kooskia residents to pay fines for an illegal stream project on their property three years ago.

The case involves 69-year-old Paul McConnell, 61-year-old Donna McConnell and 49-year-old James Renshaw.

All three are accused of violating federal clean water laws and the endangered species act for the project that occurred along Clear Creek and 1½ miles upstream from the Kooskia National Fish Hatchery.

Federal prosecutors say the McConnell's asked Renshaw to do work in the creek designed to prevent spring flooding. Renshaw followed by dredging rock and soil from the creek.

Authorities say the work was done without a permit and damaged habitat that supports threatened steelhead trout.

— The Associated Press

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Heavy LA rainstorm prompts worries of mudslides

By John Rogers
Associated Press writer

LOS ANGELES — A wet pre-winter storm dumped as much as 7 inches of rain on parts of Southern California over the weekend, with several more inches expected to fall in the days leading up to Christmas.

Rainfall that began Saturday morning continued relentlessly throughout the day Sunday. It wasn't expected to let up until sometime Monday, then resume again on Tuesday and Wednesday, said Stuart Seto of the National Weather Service. After a brief break at the end of the week, more rain was likely to arrive on Christmas Day, Seto said.

A flash-flood warning was in effect for parts of Southern California, particularly mountain areas burned in recent years by wildfires.

The rain was believed responsible for scores of accidents, including one in the city of Industry, east of Los Angeles, that critically

injured a 6-year-old girl. Some residents of La Canada Flintridge were keeping a wary eye on the rain. More than 40 homes in the hillside city just north of Los Angeles were damaged or destroyed by a mudslide in February.

"We are holding up," said Lien Yang, who measures rainfall totals in his backyard and reported about 3 inches had fallen by noon Sunday. "It's coming down steady but not pouring. Therefore it doesn't cause a mud flow or flooding or anything like that. Hopefully it's winding down and we'll have no threat this time."

In Northern California, the San Francisco Bay area caught only a portion of a powerful storm system, the National Weather Service said, although the weather was blamed for a series of scattered power outages in area.

Moderate to heavy rainfall fell on San Francisco early Sunday, but by late morning most of the precipitation had moved east.



AP photo
Chris Burden's sculpture "Urban Light," a collection of street lights from many eras, is reflected in the rain on Saturday at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Southern California is getting a steady drenching as the first wave of a potentially damaging storm washes across the region. Forecasters say the storms could be the largest system the region has seen in the last decade.

A spokesman for Pacific Gas and Electric said about 3,300 homes and businesses in the San Jose and Gilroy area were without power early Sunday afternoon.

Despite light weekend traffic, the rain triggered scores of fender-bender

accidents throughout the Los Angeles area, according to the California Highway Patrol, including more than 40 Sunday morning. In Industry, rain was suspected as the cause of an accident in which a car carrying four

members of a family hit a

tree. A 6-year-old girl was hospitalized in critical condition and her father, mother and 15-month-old sister suffered lesser injuries, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

The real impact of the storm could come later in the week, Seto said, when hillsides are saturated with rain and the possibility of mudslides and flash floods seriously increases.

Rainfall throughout the region ranged from 2 to 4 inches in the Los Angeles area, including downtown, Hollywood and the San Fernando Valley, to as much as 7 inches in some mountain areas. As many as 3 more inches could fall before the storm departs on Monday, Seto said. The one that follows it on Tuesday could be even stronger, he said.

Soaked hillsides gave way to some minor mudslides in canyon areas and flooding in a few low-lying streets, but nothing serious, Seto said.

The system hit the state

after a large storm front moving out of the Gulf of Alaska met with warm, moist air coming across the Pacific Ocean. The result was heavy rain and hardly any snow, even at higher elevations.

No one had been asked to evacuate any areas, but Yang said he and his neighbors had been warned to be prepared just in case. A neighbor spent part of the afternoon putting sandbags in front of his house.

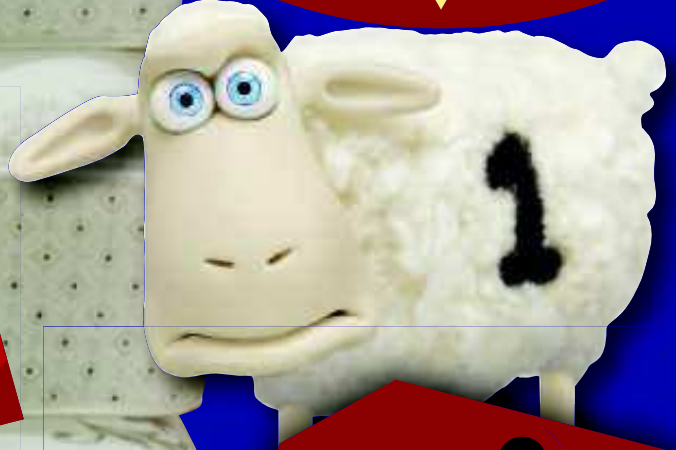
Yang's home escaped damage in February but his next-door neighbor had to dig 24 feet of mud out of his backyard and a house just around the block was destroyed. Most of the homes have been rebuilt or repaired since then.

Meanwhile, county flood control workers have kept the neighborhood's streets lined with barricades designed to direct mud flows away from homes. Residents recently added a holiday touch, festooning the barricades with Christmas lights.

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People walk next to the snow covered Eiffel tower in Paris, Sunday.

AP photo

Europe's snow cancels flights, Lady Gaga show

By David Stringer
Associated Press writer

LONDON — Stranded travelers slept on makeshift beds at European airports Sunday as wintry weather caused travel havoc, dashing the hopes of those attempting to head away for the holidays by road, rail and air.

It is almost inevitable that some cancellations and delays will continue through this week, potentially causing further disruption for many Christmas travelers, British travel industry group ABTA said.

Heathrow Airport, Europe's busiest hub for air passengers, stopped accepting arrivals Sunday at the start of the Christmas travel rush.

"The domino effect of disruption to services could continue for some days to come," Heathrow spokesman Andrew Teacher said.

Icy conditions curtailed Europe's high speed train services, left cars skidding through slushy streets and saw major events postponed — including music shows and sporting events.

In Paris, a Lady Gaga con-

cert was canceled because trucks delivering sets for the pop diva's extravagant event couldn't get to the city's Bercy stadium. The show was expected to be rescheduled for Tuesday.

British pop star Lily Allen was among those caught in the travel chaos in London, where several thousand people spent the night on the floors of terminal buildings at the city's major airports. "Bad start to a much needed holiday," Allen said in a post on her Twitter account after her flight was canceled.

About 40 percent of flights were canceled at Frankfurt airport and at Paris' Charles de Gaulle.

Passengers slept in makeshift dormitories at the Paris airport and at Amsterdam's Schiphol, while staff at Heathrow and Gatwick airports in London handed out foam mats and foil blankets to the stranded. Some fashioned improvised beds from clothes, chairs and stacked suitcases.

"Dad are we in Argentina yet?" one elementary school child sobbed, as his father bought sandwiches,

playing cards and comic books from a store inside a Heathrow terminal building.

Janos Kalman, a 50-year-old psychiatrist from Szeged in Hungary, said he had braved a night on a terminal floor at Heathrow after his flight to Budapest was canceled. "I've seen people crying and panicking, and the staff trying to cope with it all," he said.

London subway trains were packed with dejected holiday travelers in search of hotel rooms, while many tourists complained there was little clear information amid the chaotic scenes at the city's airports.

"There seems to be a lot of confusion and I have only seen one Heathrow worker. All the airline desks are shut because it is a Sunday — it's absolutely ridiculous," said Elizabeth Herridge, who arrived at the airport to learn her flight to Amsterdam had been canceled.

Airports and tour operators acknowledged there would likely be some disruption to flights through next week, with many air-

craft currently stuck in the wrong location.

"Inevitably there is always some knock-on effect when there's a situation like this. People will need to consult with their airlines next week to check on their flights," said Sean Tipton, spokesman for Britain's ABTA.

However, he said the disruption caused by Europe's blast of icy weather was minor compared to the chaos triggered by the giant ash cloud spewed from Iceland's Eyjafjallajokull volcano earlier this year. "To those people caught up in the disruption that's not going to be much consolation," Tipton said.

Britain's national weather forecaster, the Met Office, said the nation has experienced the heaviest snow falls in December in decades and is on course for record low temperatures.

"You have to look back to December 1981 to find similar snow depths," forecaster Helen Chivers said. "If the second half of the month is as cold as the first, this will be the coldest December on record since 1910."

Candida 'Candy' Cagney Forstmann



KETCHUM — It is with great sadness and terrible sorrow that we share that Candy Forstmann passed away Thursday, Dec. 16, 2010. She was an amazing woman who lived her life to the fullest and died with grace and dignity. She leaves us a legacy of inspiration and courage. Instead of flowers, please make a contribution to the Hospice of the Wood River Valley, which without, this journey would have

been far more difficult; or to the Audobon Society, as Candy loved nature and wanted to see it protected. If you are compelled to send flowers: please use Sue Bridgman 208-725-0606.

All are welcome: the service will be held at St. Thomas Church, 201 Sun Valley Road, Ketchum, today, Monday, Dec. 20, 2010, at 10:30 a.m. with a reception to follow at The Christiania Restaurant.

SERVICES

Helen H. Lucke of Gooding, memorial service at 11 a.m. today at Demaray Funeral Service Gooding Chapel.

Lova Ruth Marriott Taylor of Rupert, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Rupert LDS Stake Center, 324 E. 18th St.; visitation from 10 to 10:45 a.m. today at the church (Rasmussen Funeral Home in Burley).

Emma Ellen Buttane of Heyburn, urn service at 11 a.m. today at the View Cemetery, 600 S. 700 E. of Burley (Hansen-Payne Mortuary in Burley).

Geraldine Jensen of Kimberly, funeral at 1 p.m. today at the Kimberly LDS Stake Center, 3837 N. 3500 E.; visitation from noon to 12:45 p.m. today at the church (Rosenau Funeral Home in Twin Falls).

Jon Michael Slagowski of Twin Falls, memorial service at 2 p.m. today at White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Robert Earle Gillett (Earle) of Twin Falls, celebration of life at 2 p.m. today at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Addison Ave. E. in Twin Falls; visitation from noon to 2 p.m. today at the mortuary; graveside service at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Stanley Cemetery.

Lydia LaRae Simmons of Glens Ferry, funeral at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the Glens Ferry LDS Church; burial at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Mountain View Cemetery in Fairfield (Rost Funeral Home, McMurtrey Chapel

Gar L. Hodges of Jerome, funeral at 11 a.m. Tuesday at the Jerome LDS 3rd Ward Chapel, 825 E. Ave. B; visitation at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the church (Farnsworth Mortuary in Jerome).

Ryan Lynn Maughan of Twin Falls, memorial service at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Addison Ave. E. in Twin Falls.

Ida Zimmerman Neiwert of Burley, funeral at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Ebenezer Congregational Church, 129 N. Second W. in Paul; visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley, and 10 to 10:45 a.m. Wednesday at the church.

Vera Christine Schmidt Clark of Jerome, graveside service at 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Jerome Cemetery; no visitation (Hove-Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome).

Darlene Nelson of Burley, funeral at 2 p.m. Wednesday, at the Burley United Methodist Church, 450 E. 27th St.; visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley, and 1 to 1:45 p.m. Wednesday at the church.

Rodney E. "Rod" Hall of Twin Falls, celebration of life from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Addison Ave. E. in Twin Falls, with masonic rites at 6 p.m.

DEATH NOTICES

Kenneth G. Wallman

BLISS — Kenneth G. Wallman, 57, of Bliss, died Sunday, Dec. 19, 2010, at his home. Funeral arrangements are pending and will be announced by Demaray Funeral Service — Gooding Chapel.

Condolences, memories and photos may be shared with the family by visiting the obituary link at www.demarayfuneralservice.com.

Maria M. Ugalde

BURLEY — Maria M. Ugalde, 87, of Burley, died Saturday, Dec. 18, 2010, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center. Services are pending and will be announced by Morrison Funeral Home & Crematory.

Carol Adrian Tadlock Biggers

Carol Adrian Tadlock Biggers, 73, of Twin Falls and formerly of Murtaugh, passed away Friday evening, Dec. 17, 2010, at her daughters home in Ivins, Utah.

A celebration of Carol's

life will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 27, 2010, at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Addison Ave. E., Twin Falls. Burial will follow at Twin Falls Cemetery. Services are under the direction of Reynolds Funeral Chapel, Twin Falls.

Shannon Lee Guest

KIMBERLY — Shannon Lee Guest, 64, of Kimberly, died Sunday, Dec. 19, 2010, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center.

Arrangements are pending under Serentiy Funeral Chapel.

Rhoda Resnick

KIMBERLY — Rhoda Resnick, 88, of Kimberly, passed away early Friday, Dec. 17, 2010, at her home in Kimberly. No services are scheduled at this time. Arrangements are under the direction of Reynolds Funeral Chapel, Twin Falls.

Mary Sanders

RUPERT — Mary C. Sanders, 89, of Rupert, died Saturday, Dec. 18, 2010, at her home in Rupert. Services are pending and will be announced by Morrison Funeral Home & Crematory.

Don Van Vliet, aka Captain Beefheart, dead at 69

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Musician and artist Don Van Vliet, who performed a complex brand of experimental rock under the name Captain Beefheart, died Friday. He was 69.

The Michael Werner Gallery in New York confirmed Van Vliet's death in California due to complica-

tions stemming from multiple sclerosis. The gallery exhibits his paintings.

Van Vliet was probably best known for the album "Trout Mask Replica," which was released in 1969 by Captain Beefheart and His Magic Band.

The album's angular, dissonant take on blues rock and Van Vliet's growling, surreal

lyrics put him outside the mainstream, but staked his place in rock history.

Rolling Stone magazine recently ranked "Trout Mask Replica" number 58 on its list of the 500 greatest albums of all time. The album was produced by fellow experimental rock pioneer Frank Zappa, a high school friend from the

desert town of Lancaster, Calif.

"Record producers have always been certain that Don Vliet was just a hype away from the big money," according to a 1970 profile in Rolling Stone. "But Beefheart stubbornly continues what he's doing and waits patiently for everyone else to come around."

Chavez defends plan for Internet regulations

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez defended plans for a law that would impose broadcast-type regulations on the Internet, saying Sunday that his government should protect citizens against online crimes.

Chavez's congressional allies are considering extending the "Social Responsibility Law" for broadcast media to the Internet, banning messages that "disrespect public authorities," "incite or promote hatred" or crimes, or are aimed at creating "anxiety" in the population.

Government opponents and press freedom groups have been critical of the plan, saying it is one of several measures being considered that could restrict freedoms in Venezuela.

"We aren't eliminating the Internet here ... nor censoring the Internet," Chavez said during his weekly television and radio program, "Hello, President." "What we're doing

is protecting ourselves against crimes, cyber-crimes, through a law."

As examples, Chavez mentioned messages promoting drug use, prostitution and other crimes, and said his government has an obligation to take a stand. Questions remain about how the measures would be enforced.

Chavez also rebuffed criticism over the National Assembly's vote on Friday granting him special powers to enact laws by decree in a range of areas for the next year and a half.

Critics called it a power grab, noting that Chavez will be able to largely bypass the incoming National Assembly that takes office next month with a larger opposition contingent.

"They're calling me a dictator?" Chavez said, dismissing the criticism. "They're the dictators, those who are crazy for installing the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie once again in Venezuela — but we'll never again allow them."

Italy's Padoa Schioppa, architect of euro, dies

By Nicole Winfeld
Associated Press writer

ROME — Italian economist Tommaso Padoa Schioppa, one of the intellectual architects of the euro and a member of the European Central Bank's first executive board, has died. He was 70.

Padoa Schioppa, economy minister under Premier Romano Prodi, died Saturday night after suffering a heart attack during a dinner in Rome with friends, according to one of those present, his one-time deputy Vincenzo Visco.

The unexpected death stunned Italy's political and business elite, who remembered him as a passionate promoter of the European project and its single currency.

"He was among those who knew how to translate the European ideal into concrete and learned analyses and projects, giving in particular a lasting contribution to the birth of the euro and the

eurozone," Italian President Giorgio Napolitano said.

During his seven year term at the ECB, Padoa Schioppa was one of the six members charged with guiding the euro through its first vital years after being introduced in 11 member nations on Jan. 1, 1999.

"He contributed decisively in the early years of the euro to the reputation of the ECB as a major actor in international and European cooperation," ECB President Jean-Claude Trichet said in a statement. The eurozone, he said, "is losing a man of reflection, of action and of vision, fully dedicated to European unity."

Prior his appointment to the ECB, Padoa Schioppa held many prestigious posts in the Italian business and banking world. He first gained international recognition as the director-general for economic and financial affairs at the European Commission 1979-1983.

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SPORTS

NBA roundup
Pierce's triple-double leads
Celtics over Pacers
Main 9

UConn women win 88th straight, matching UCLA men



AP photo

Connecticut celebrates in the final seconds of its 81-50 win over Ohio State in an NCAA college basketball game in the Maggie Dixon Classic at Madison Square Garden in New York, Sunday.

By Doug Feinberg
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Geno Auriemma and Connecticut matched UCLA's record streak in one of basketball's most famous arenas.

Already with no equal in women's hoops, UConn won its 88th straight game Sunday to tie the mark set by coach John Wooden and his UCLA men's teams from 1971-74. Tiffany Hayes scored 26 points and Maya Moore added 22 to help the top-ranked Huskies rout No. 11 Ohio State 81-50 in the Maggie Dixon Classic at Madison Square Garden.

"The number's the number. I don't know if that changes me a whole lot right now," Auriemma said. "I'm

going to go to a good restaurant tonight. I'm going to have a good bottle of wine. I would have done that either way."

UConn already owned the longest winning streak in NCAA women's basketball history. Next up, the Huskies (10-0) can surpass the UCLA men Tuesday night at home against No. 15 Florida State.

Connecticut matched the Bruins' mark before a crowd of 15,232 — the second-biggest for a women's game at Madison Square Garden. With 40 seconds left, the crowd rose and chanted "88! 88!"

Unlike most of their previous wins during the streak, UConn players stuck around and celebrated at halfcourt.

When the team went back to the locker room, Auriemma stopped to hug his mom and wife in the stands.

"To get to where they've gotten as a program is pretty remarkable," Auriemma said. "If we were fortunate enough to win Tuesday night, that just means that we would have done something in women's basketball that is pretty special."

The Garden was a good place for UConn and its Hall of Fame coach to reach the milestone.

Despite being raised in Philadelphia, Auriemma grew up a Knicks fan. The prized possession in his office at UConn isn't any of the trophies or awards he's won, it's an autographed basketball of the New York

starting five from the 1970 NBA championship team.

Coincidentally, the 88th straight win came against Auriemma's good friend, Jim Foster, who gave him his coaching start. Auriemma was an assistant for the girls team under Foster back when both were at Bishop McDevitt High School in Philadelphia.

When Foster got the St. Joseph's women's basketball job in 1978-79 he brought along Auriemma as an assistant coach. Neither could have possibly imagined that 35 years later the two would be facing each other at MSG with so much at stake.

The Huskies' last loss came against Stanford in the NCAA tournament national semifinals in 2008.

BACK ON TRACK

Manning and Colts keep playoff run alive ground Jaguars' title hopes with 34-24 win

By Michael Marot
Associated Press writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Peyton Manning and the Colts have started their playoff run a few weeks early. They really had no choice.

Manning had two more touchdown passes Sunday, avoided throwing any interceptions for the second straight game, and led the Colts to a season-saving 34-24 victory over Jacksonville that puts them back on track to make the postseason.

"Since that Cowboys game, we knew we really had four must-win games and we've won two of them," Manning said. "It's a good win, but it's just one game and we've got to be able to do that again next week."

Make that next week at Oakland and the following week when Tennessee visits Lucas Oil Stadium. Win both and the Colts (8-6) take their seventh AFC South title in eight years and deal yet another frustrating blow to the ever-chasing Jaguars.

For the Colts (8-6), Sunday was essentially win or forget about the playoffs. The victory moved them into a tie for the AFC South lead with the Jags (8-6) and squared the head-to-head tiebreaker, giving Indy the inside track to the division crown.

For Jacksonville, it was more frustration against the team it has been chasing for nearly a decade. A victory would have clinched the Jags' first AFC South crown, and now they'll need help to win it.

Manning wasn't going to let the defending AFC



AP photo

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning (18) in action during an NFL football game between the Indianapolis Colts and the Jacksonville Jaguars in Indianapolis, Sunday.

champs go down without a fight, and the four-time league MVP delivered one of his most efficient performances of the season. He was 29 of 39 for 229 yards, 71 yards short of breaking Dan Marino's record for most 300-yard games in a career

(63).

The record, of course, didn't matter to Manning. What did was getting more help from a suddenly resurgent ground game.

Indy finished with 155 yards rushing, its third-highest total of the season.

Donald Brown scored on a 43-yard run and ran 14 times for a career-high 129 yards, the first 100-yard game of his two-year career.

"When you're getting to the second level, and that's

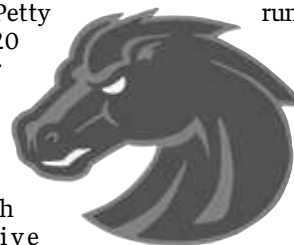
See COLTS Main 8

Boise State routs Texas-Pan American 91-62

BOISE — Paul Noonan scored 13 points and had three 3-point baskets to help Boise State snap a four-game losing streak with a 91-62 victory over Texas-Pan American on Sunday night.

Robert Arnold added 12 points and eight rebounds for Boise State (7-4).

Perry Petty scored 20 points for Texas-Pan American (3-10), which lost its fourth consecutive



contests. Noonan's 3-point basket with 9:34 remaining gave Boise State its biggest lead at 73-38.

Aaron Urbanus added 13 points for Pan American, 0-6 on the road this season.

Sean Imadiyi and La'Shard Anderson had 10 points apiece for Boise State, which had a 45-22 rebounding edge.

Boise State led 41-18 at halftime after holding Texas-Pan American to 30.4 percent shooting from the field before the break.

NO. 24 ND 88, STONY BROOK 62

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Carleton Scott was perfect. Ben Hansbrough just helped out.

Scott made all eight of his shots, including four 3-pointers, and scored 20 points to lead No. 24 Notre Dame to an 88-62 win over Stony Brook on Sunday.

Hansbrough had 14 points with eight assists and Tim Abromaitis scored 22 points for Notre Dame (10-1).

"Ben has been unbelievable at finding shooters,"

Notre Dame coach Mike Brey said. "I don't know if we have had a better guy at doing that."

Marcus Rouse led Stony Brook (4-6) with 15 points while Anthony Jackson added 12 and Dave Coley had 11.

Notre Dame began the second half with a 17-7

run. That followed a 12-2 run before the break

which began after the Seawolves made it 29-26 with 5:36 to go.

Jack Cooley's three-point play with just under five minutes gone in the second half made it 58-35.

"Scott is a hard guard, especially for us," Stony Brook coach Steve Pikiell said. "We are used to (tall) guys being around the basket. He got it going early and when he is on he is as good as there is."

Pikiell said the Fighting Irish remind him of Connecticut, only bigger.

"UConn has Kemba Walker who is a terrific player who kind of runs the whole thing but Notre Dame has five players with Eric Atkins coming off the bench and they are not going to shoot themselves in the foot," Pikiell said. "Notre Dame is well-coached, they are veterans, and they have an inside guy who can really post in and then pass back to 6-8 or 6-9 guys on the perimeter. I think they will be a tough game for anybody when they have that kind of size and that kind of passing ability."

—The Associated Press

Raiders spoil Tebow's 1st start with 39-23 win

By Josh Dubow
Associated Press writer

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Oakland Raiders spoiled Tim Tebow's NFL starting debut with a couple of big plays of their own.

Jason Campbell threw a 73-yard touchdown pass to Marcel Reece and Jacoby Ford scored on a 71-yard run to overcome Tebow's two long touchdowns and beat the Denver Broncos 39-23 Sunday.

Michael Bush added two short touchdown runs to keep the Raiders (7-7) in the hunt for a playoff berth for at least one more week.

Oakland trails Kansas City by two games in the AFC West and will need to win the final two games and get

help in order to win the division.

The Broncos (3-11) have long been eliminated from the playoff chase, having lost nine of 10 games to tie the franchise record for losses in a season. That, along with Kyle Orton's bruised ribs, made the decision to give Tebow his first career start an easy one.

For a player who became famous in college for his exploits at the Swamp, Tebow must have felt at home on a wet day at the Oakland Coliseum.

He managed to come up with some of the big plays that helped him win a Heisman Trophy and two national titles at Florida, becoming the third player ever to throw a TD pass at

least 30 yards and run for a score of at least 40 yards in the same game.

But he also did not look smooth throwing the ball, a big reason why many questioned former Denver coach Josh McDaniels for trading up to take Tebow in the first round of the draft. He finished 8 for 16 for 138 yards and ran for 78 more.

The key play for the Raiders was Campbell's short pass to Reece that turned into a game-breaker. Reece caught the ball near the line of scrimmage with open space in front of him. He juiced David Bruton near midfield and raced the rest of the way to make it 30-20.

The Broncos responded with Steven Hauschka's third field goal, but Quentin

Groves tackled Correll Buckhalter in the end zone for a safety that put the Raiders back in control in their third straight win over Denver.

The Raiders took a 23-20 lead into the fourth quarter after Sebastian Janikowski's 47-yard field goal. The teams traded field goals earlier in the third with the Broncos settling for theirs after Lance Ball dropped a pass in the end zone.

Tebow turned two Raiders turnovers into touchdowns in the first half, scoring on a 40-yard quarterback draw on third-and-24 when he ran through the middle of Oakland's defense and then broke tackles from safeties Michael Huff and Tyvon Branch.



AP photo

Oakland Raiders running back Marcel Reece (45) runs with wide receiver Louis Murphy (18) on a 73-yard touchdown reception against the Denver Broncos in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game in Oakland.

OPINION

QUOTABLE

“There's a ratline running right down there. They go back and forth in small groups.”
 — Col. David Furness, a Marine commander, on routes from Pakistan into Afghanistan that militants use to ferry supplies to insurgents fighting U.S. and NATO forces.

EDITORIAL

A tale of 2 Idaho Republicans

Fifty years next November, a tall, 31-year-old life insurance salesman was elected mayor of a small Idaho town that doesn't exist anymore.

But George Hansen went a long way from the City Hall in Alameda, a suburb of Pocatello that merged with its larger neighbor in 1962. By 1964, he was in Congress. By 1985, he was in federal prison.

When U.S. District Judge Edward Lodge sentenced Hansen to four years in prison for 45 counts of bank fraud in 1993, the judge said he was stunned that so many of Hansen's victims still supported him — even though they were owed hundreds of thousands of dollars.

“I've never seen that kind of blind allegiance,” Lodge declared

Until now. State Rep. Phil Hart, R-Athol — a politician with a lot of tax problems and even more followers — is inspiring George Hansen-caliber loyalty.

Like Hansen, Hart is a virulent critic of the Internal Revenue Service. Unlike Hansen, he doesn't believe the Constitution requires him to pay federal or state income taxes.

Hart owes more than \$500,000 in back state and federal taxes, penalties and interest. He also has an outstanding judgment for thousands of dollars stemming from a 1996 timber theft on state endowment lands that he unsuccessfully defended in court.

The four-term lawmaker is the subject of a current investigation by a special ethics committee of the Idaho House of Representatives. Earlier this year, at the recommendation of another ethics committee, Speaker Lawrence Denney, R-Midvale, kicked Hart off the influential House Revenue and Taxation Committee.

That didn't faze his backers.

“We know that Rep. Hart received 75.2 percent of his district's vote and this was after the people already knew about his problems with the IRS and (state) tax commission,” wrote Pamela Kaynor, Benewah County GOP chairwoman, in a letter on to the ethics panel.

According to the *Spokesman-Review* of Spokane, Wash., W.L. Leiby of Coeur d'Alene wrote: “What is the problem here? Is it that Rep. Hart supported and was supported by the Tea Party? Is it that he supported staunch new conservatives against tired old dead-wood? Why is it Rep. Hart is being persecuted by the establishment?”

Many of Hart's partisans are newcomers to politics and to the GOP, as were many of Hansen's fervent fans. Most believed the federal government was too big and spent too much, but Hansen was never a tax protester.

Hart is, and proudly so. Even if it means flirting with the criminal justice system.

It took a long time for the GOP establishment to part company with Hansen, and the few Republicans who challenged him — like current Idaho Supreme Court Justice Jim Jones — were soundly rebuffed. In 1984 Hansen was reprimanded by the House for failing to include transactions on federal disclosure forms, but lost to Democratic challenger Richard Stallings by fewer than 200 votes in the 2nd Congressional District.

Eventually, though, Hansen's critical mass of support ebbed.

Will the same thing happen with Hart? Much depends on his tax cases, of course. And while he's well liked by a majority of the members of the House GOP Caucus, it's hard to imagine him becoming a member of leadership or chairman of a major committee anytime soon.

Hansen's legal problems were his undoing, and it looks as if Hart's courtroom challenges are just beginning.

But Hansen was still popular enough to be reelected six times, despite his ethical issues and his financial misdeeds.

Many Idahoans — then as now — just need to believe in a political outsider who speaks truth to power.

Whatever the messy consequences.

TIMES-NEWS

John Pfeifer ... publisher Steve Crump ... Opinion editor

The members of the editorial board and writers of editorials are John Pfeifer, Steve Crump, Bill Bitzenburg and Mary Lou Panatopoulos.

Sexuality doesn't matter in battle

I am an active-duty U.S. Marine Corps infantry officer. I have deployed twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan and have commanded infantry Marines in combat.

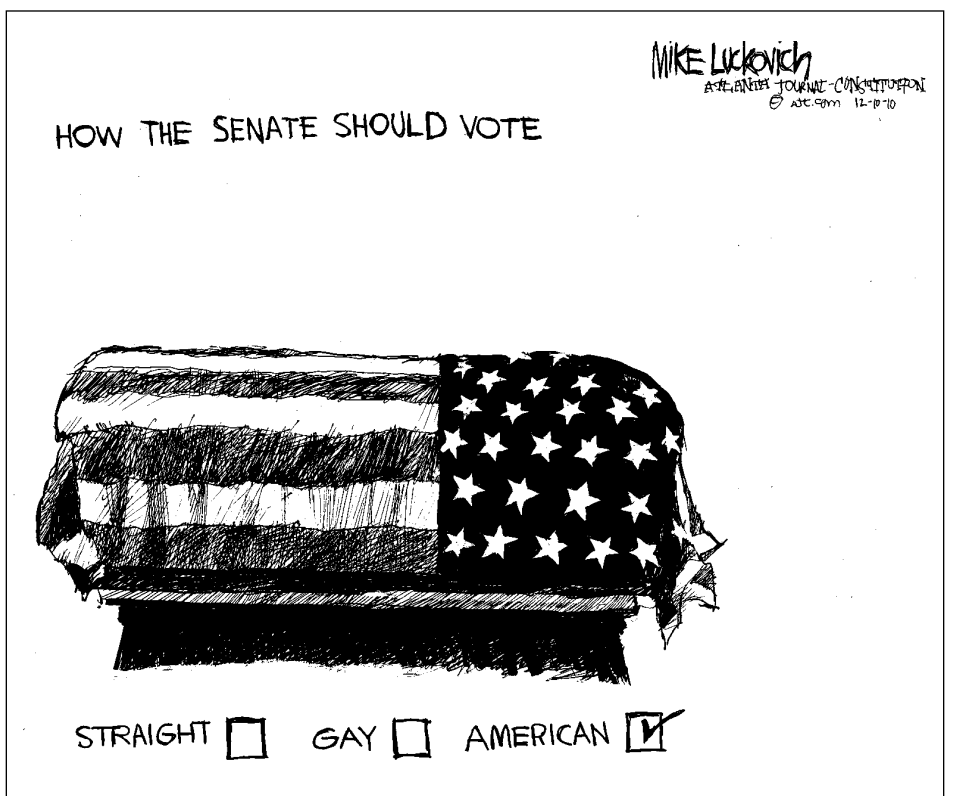
Last Tuesday, Gen. James Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, said he believes repealing “don't ask, don't tell” and allowing gay and lesbian Marines to serve openly could “cost Marines' lives” because of the “mistakes and inattention or distractions” that might ensue. I am not homosexual. And in this instance, I must respectfully disagree with my commandant.

Nathan Cox

The commandant cites the importance of cohesion within small combat units and warns against its disruption by allowing homosexuals to stop concealing their identities. In my experience, the things that separate Marines in civilian life fade into obscurity on the battlefield. There, only one thing matters: Can you do your job? People care much more about whom you voted for or what city you're from while on the huge airbase with five Burger Kings, or back in the States, than they do when they're walking down a dusty road full of improvised explosive devices in Haditha or Sangin.

In the end, Marines in combat will treat sexual orientation the same way they treat race, religion and one's stance on the likelihood of the Patriots winning another Super Bowl. I do not believe the intense desire we all feel as Marines to accomplish the mission and protect each other will be affected in the slightest by knowing the sexual orientation of the man or woman next to us.

In the recent Defense Department survey, 58 percent of combat arms Marines said they felt



allowing homosexuals to serve openly would negatively affect their unit, but 84 percent of combat arms Marines who had served with a homosexual said that there would be no effect or that the effect would be positive. It seems obvious that if allowing homosexuals to serve openly degraded performance, rather than improved it, a majority of Marines who had served with homosexuals would oppose repeal. Yet this is not the case, and homosexuals serve openly in the militaries of Britain, Canada, Australia, Israel and others with no ill effect. This suggests that much of the opposition toward repeal within the Marine Corps is based on the politics of individual Marines and not any measurable military effect.

The Senate voted to repeal “don't ask, don't tell” on Saturday, and President Barack Obama is expected to sign the bill ending the gay ban into law this week. Repeal will undoubtedly produce some disruption, but if other nations' experiences are any guide, it will be so minimal as to be

essentially nonexistent. Consider what is likely to happen if and when “don't ask” is repealed: Lance Cpl. Smith will be having a typical Marine conversation with Lance Cpl. Jones, and the topic will turn to women. Smith will remark on how much he enjoys their company. Jones will reply: “Actually, man, I like dudes.” Smith: “Really?” Jones: “Yeah, man, really.” Smith: “Wow. I didn't know that.”

Both will then go back to cleaning their rifles.

Is it really likely that lance corporals who know each other better than brothers, and may have saved each other's lives in split-second reactions during deployments, are suddenly going to refuse to serve in the same unit or quit the Corps because they have to share a shower?

Repeal will of course have many effects. Gay and lesbian Marines who are now barred from discussing their identities honestly with their superiors, peers and subordinates would be able to do their jobs free from the nagging knowledge that they are being less than

honest with their brothers and sisters in arms. It is difficult to see how this could do anything but improve their job performance. Gay and lesbian Marines have long fought and died for a country that refuses to acknowledge their existence. Some are certainly among the Marines who have passed through Bethesda Naval Hospital and rest in Arlington.

I believe the reluctance many Marines feel about repeal is based on the false stereotype, borne out of ignorance, that homosexuals don't do things like pull other Marines from burning vehicles. The truth is, they do it all the time. We simply don't know it because they can't tell us.

It is time for “don't ask, don't tell” to join our other mistakes in the dog-eared chapters of history textbooks. We all bleed red, we all love our country, we are all Marines. In the end, that's all that matters.

Nathan Cox is an infantry captain in the Marine Corps. He wrote this commentary for The Washington Post.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Grants to enviro groups should be stopped

The article in the Friday, Dec. 10, paper about the million dollar earmarks for an enviro group plumping for endangered species designation for sage grouse being canceled this coming year is good news to my ears. The government providing our tax money for these kinds of groups to cause businesses trouble should have been stopped long ago.

This country is going down the path of national insolvency and why these kinds of grants were ever instituted is beyond me. These people are making a living off these grants paid for by hard-working taxpayers. They have every right to come out for any cause they want, but they should use their own money.

In Saturday's paper (Dec. 11), Steve Crump put the approval of the new zoning change for a new power plant by Payette County in his Jeers column. Steve, what specific facts do you have that the people who are developing the plant are

financially incapable? If you do, let's see them printed in your paper. Using negative innuendo to push your opinions is just the kind of journalism everyone is tired of. By the way, most people are for cheap, clean and safe nuclear power.

DEL KOHTZ Eden
(Editor's note: The Securities and Exchange Commission has charged Idaho nuclear entrepreneur Don Gillispie and his company, which proposes to build the \$10 billion Payette County plant, with fraudulently raising money from investors worldwide. Federal financial regulators say Gillispie's Alternate Energy Holdings Inc. manipulated its stock price, in part through a barrage of misleading public statements about the company and hiding the profits reported by Gillispie and senior vice president Jennifer Ransom, who is Gillispie's girlfriend. “AEHI ... has no realistic possibility of building a multi-billion dollar nuclear reactor,” the SEC complaint said. “AEHI has never had any revenue or product.”)

Math as it relates to 12-step meetings

Say, Dave, how is your intermediate algebra class at CSI coming along, asks a friend as I attend a local 12-step meeting in Twin Falls. I tell him I have learned a lot, not only the math part but how analogous the class is to the things we learn in 12-step meetings.

How does all this relate to your algebra class? My friend asks. Well in math class, you need to show up every day and pay attention as math is different than other classes in that it builds upon itself. You miss a class and something you need in the next class prevents further understanding. In 12-step meetings, you need to constantly attend because at each and every meeting, something may be said that will relate to how you cope with life.

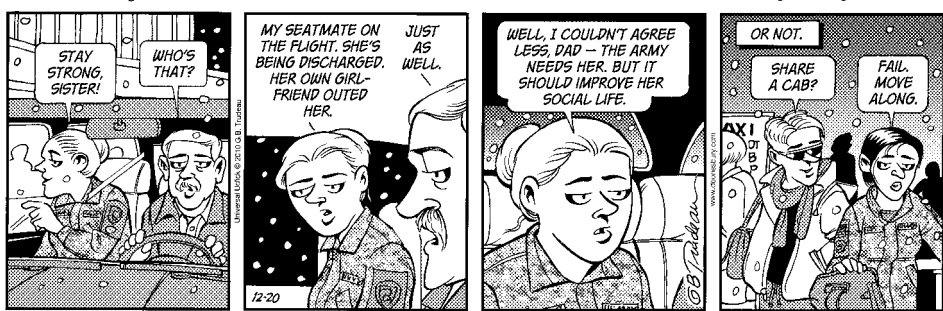
There are many nuances and techniques in math that need to be mastered; the same with 12-step programs. A foundation in math must be built; the same is true in 12-step programs. Math takes commitment; so do 12-step programs. People won-

der why an addicted person needs to keep coming back, year after year. It is because we have quick forgetters and we may drift back into old ways of thinking that do not work. In math it is easy to forget what you learn, so if you go onto higher classes you need not wait too long until what you have learned decays away. In math you need to put what you have learned into what they call long-term memory, same with the ideas in 12-step programs. Having what is called a sponsor is living having a math tutor to guide you on a daily basis. I am so weak in math I have a private one. Even though you might have the best math teacher, I have Nolan Rice, a superior math teacher at CSI, you may need to continually review what you learn. Most important, you need to be present in math class and in life.

DAVE DAVIS Jerome
(Editor's note: Dave Davis is the owner of New Hope Transitions — formerly Port of Hope — in Twin Falls. He is a relapse prevention counselor and an attendee of 12-step programs for the past 35 years.)

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF POLITICS

Doonesbury



By Garry Trudeau

Mallard Fillmore



By Bruce Tinsley

As U.S. debates, China acts – with a building boom

By Elaine Kurtenbach
Associated Press writer

HANGZHOU, China – Gravel-laden barges glide past the willow-fringed banks of the Grand Canal, a trade route built 2,500 years ago to bring grain from China's fertile south to its rulers in the north.

Now the 1,125-mile passage is part of an even grander scheme: a \$150 billion plan to bring water from the mighty Yangtze river to the parched north in what is the world's most expensive infrastructure project.

Increasingly, a group of rising economies – from Brazil to the United Arab Emirates – is building the showcase projects that once were mainly the pride of the U.S., Western Europe and Japan. America's Hoover Dam made headlines in the 1930s; today, it is China's \$25 billion Three Gorges Dam.

Just as railways and highways transformed America into an industrial superpower, the 21st-century building boom is laying the foundations for these rapidly growing economies to join the top leagues.

"Projects are getting bigger and bigger in the developing economies, not only to cater for demand, but also in anticipation of future growth," says Wilfred Lau, director at the engineering and design consultancy Ove Arup & Partners in Hong Kong.

Half of the 30 most expensive projects globally are in China, Brazil, the Middle East and other parts of the developing world, according to a list compiled by The Associated Press. A dozen are in the rich countries, and three others are energy



AP photo

Workers travel through a tunnel in December 2009 that runs under the Yellow River and forms part of China's South-North Water Diversion plan in Zhengzhou in central China's Henan province. The tunnel is part of a grand scheme: a US\$150 billion plan to bring water from the mighty Yangtze river to the parched north in what is the world's most expensive infrastructure project.

pipelines that will link Western Europe with Russia and Turkey. The data comes from governments and companies involved in the various projects, and from AP archives.

Not all these projects will necessarily be completed, but cancellations would seem at least as likely among the cash-strapped governments of the West and Japan as anywhere else.

Topping the list is China's South-North Water Diversion plan, which would use the Grand Canal and two other routes to channel water to Beijing and other fast-growing northern cities. Alone, its price tag dwarfs the \$65 billion for all five U.S. projects in the top 30.

Poor countries have always needed better roads, more electricity and other improvements, but few could

afford them and many, like Haiti, still can't. Still, much has changed dramatically in the past two decades as global growth has shifted to countries such as China and Brazil.

The money flowing into their government coffers has enabled them to launch the major infrastructure projects that bring prestige, improve living standards and set the stage for the next level of economic development.

But there are limits: Such huge flows of wealth can be squandered on corruption or showcase projects that turn into white elephants. Some cite the \$450 million stadium built for the 2008 Beijing Olympics as a case in point.

In China, India and elsewhere, subway, bridge and building collapses indicate that not all the construction is as solid as it should be. Ultimately, such investments

need to be environmentally, socially and economically sustainable to pay off. And already some projects have been idled by the global financial crisis.

Big-ticket items aren't confined to the developing world. Britain's plan to spend \$132 billion on offshore wind farms is the second priciest project on the list compiled by the AP, followed by Japan's \$62 billion Daini Tomei Highway.

The \$65 billion in U.S. projects includes a new \$20 billion air traffic control system, which ranks 13th on the list, followed by separate \$14 billion projects to upgrade flood barriers in New Orleans and build two nuclear power plants in the state of Georgia.

Overall, just 2 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product goes to infrastructure construction. Europe spends

5 percent of its GDP, and China, 9 percent, according to a U.S. government report.

Developing countries, led by China, are devoting \$384 billion to the biggest dams, highways, railways, bridges, canals and energy projects. Brazil is building a 320-mile \$18.4 billion high-speed train link from Rio de Janeiro to Sao Paulo and an \$11.3 billion hydroelectric complex on the Madeira River, a major tributary of the Amazon.

One country where public works construction has lagged is India, which has only one project on the list, a \$9.3 billion nuclear power plant deal it signed with France this month. Many economists see weak infrastructure has one of India's biggest handicaps – as well as a potential growth area for the world's construction industry.

Only one African project made the top 30, a 750-mile, six-lane highway linking Algeria with Tunisia and Morocco and costing \$11.2 billion. But even on the world's poorest continent, billions are going to new railways, roads, mines and public housing – often built with Chinese money as Beijing swaps financing and other aid for access to minerals, coal and oil.

The Boston Consulting Group says that more than half of the \$40 trillion or so needed for infrastructure in the coming two decades is likely to be spent in the developing world.

In China, a \$586 billion stimulus package launched when the global financial crisis slowed exports is already bearing fruit. The Communist Party's routine suppression of public dissent

means projects tend to get done – and quickly.

While U.S. states are talking about high-speed rail, China is set to double its network – already the world's longest – to 10,000 miles by 2020.

Inevitably, some see big drawbacks to the building boom. They worry that too much construction is unwieldy, resulting in schools or clinics that collapse, and that services such as old-age homes and firefighting equipment can't keep up with rapid urbanization.

Continued spending at the current pace is unsustainable, said Nicholas Lardy, a China expert at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, a Washington think tank.

"They're not building bridges to nowhere, but if they keep this up for a few more years they might be," he said.

Major projects also often extract an environmental toll.

The classic example is southern Egypt's Aswan Dam, completed in 1970, which generates much-needed electricity and controls flooding, but also prevents nutrient-rich sediment from replenishing the eroding Nile delta, the country's most productive farmland.

Some question whether China's water diversion project, due to be finished in 2050, is worth the risks.

The plans call for sending 12 trillion gallons of water a year from the Yangtze to the north. Wang Weiluo, a Chinese hydrologist living in Germany, says cities such as Shanghai, which lies downstream from where the water will be diverted, will see their own water resources reduced.

Nevada woman who helped change Idaho law dies

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A woman who successfully lobbied the Idaho Legislature as a teenager to stiffen the penalties for people who unlawfully kill fetuses has died in a house fire.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported that Lisa Janea Smith was found dead near the front door inside her Las Vegas Valley home Monday. She was 25.

Investigators believe she was fleeing flames and smoke in her bedroom but was overcome before she could escape.

When Smith was 16, a man broke into her Idaho home and beat her stomach, hips and back. She was eight months pregnant at the time and gave birth to a stillborn boy hours later.

Under Idaho law, the attacker couldn't have been charged with anything more than misdemeanor battery for harming the fetus. But after word of Smith's ordeal spread, lawmakers passed "Noah's Law" to protect fetuses under state murder, manslaughter and aggravated battery laws.

Smith and her family were proud of the accomplishment.

"It's something that very well needed to be done, because that was a living baby," said Lisa Smith's grandmother, Donna Hoagland. "I don't care if it hadn't been born yet. It was still a person. And we're all very proud that she had the guts, you might say, to pursue this."

The cause of the fire, which started in the master bedroom, is under investigation.

Hoagland said Friday that her granddaughter smoked and also suffered from seizures caused by a brain tumor. Surgery was scheduled for January.

Smith is survived by her 3-year-old daughter, her mother and other relatives in Idaho.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday in Melba.



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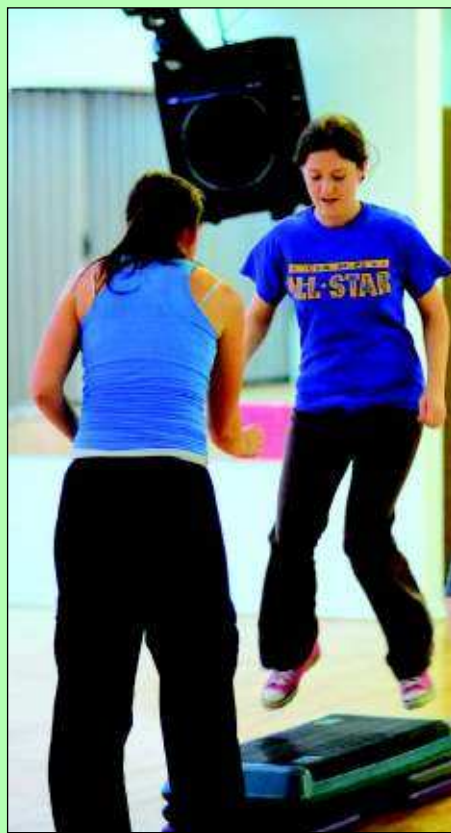
MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2010

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

FITNESS CLASS REVIEW

SWEAT ASSESSMENT

KILLER BEATS and PUSH-UPS at 'Hip Hop Boot Camp'



By Melissa Davlin ♦ Times-News writer

"Hip Hop Boot Camp," the schedule said. "Release your inner dance freak." It sounded like my kind of class. I dance. I like music. I don't do much hip hop, but I was sure I could handle whatever this class threw at me.

Of course, I failed to read the rest of the description on YMCA of Twin Falls' website, which goes on to talk about cardio, strength training and circuit.

Still, it's all centered on dance, right? This class was going to be a piece of cake. How wrong I was.

What went down

When I walked into the room, instructor Rachael Gerlach greeted me with a handshake. "Call me Chief," she said.

Some of the others in the room, like Sarah Spafford and Kirsten Barker, had taken the class before. I listened in while Spafford and Barker talked about how tough the previous week's session had been.

"I would like reach to pick something up, and I'd be like 'Ugh,'" Barker said, miming.

Oh great. This didn't sound like a dance class at all.

We started off with a step and stretch. (The steps and movements didn't line up exactly to the music, but I tried to ignore it.)

That's where the class left hip hop territory and became full-on boot camp. We did push-ups, crunches and bicycles for a while, then had Gerlach walk us through a circuit she had set up. In the circuit, we did more push-ups, crunches and bicycles, plus jumping jacks with a step, punches using 3-pound weights, and squats. If she didn't think we were trying hard enough, she got in our faces.

"No sissy la-las in my class!" she shouted. Halfway through my second set of pushups, I was about ready to stage a mutiny against the Chief. Clearly, Gerlach has watched too much of celebrity trainer Jillian Michaels, I thought as I struggled through my up-downs.

At least I wasn't the only one fighting through the workout. Getting through the bicycle crunches was no easy task for Chris Wilson. He's a fit guy, but this was different than his usual routine, he told me after class.

"It's a really good ab and leg blast," he said.

It was tough, but Gerlach made sure we got the most out of the routine, even if it didn't come easily. And she modified an exercise for Nina Day, who had a



YMCA fitness instructor Rachael Gerlach leads a class through hip hop moves during 'Hip Hop Boot Camp' class at Twin Falls' Canyon Rim YMCA on Dec. 13.



Chris Wilson of Twin Falls sweats it out during the class.

hip injury.

I saw nearly everyone take a knee during their planks or pause during jumping jacks. If Gerlach saw any hesitation or didn't think a student was dropping down low enough on push-ups, she was right there, berating them until they performed better. Hip hop music played in the background and Gerlach

encouraged us to dance between circuit stations.

After the circuit mercifully ended, we did my favorite exercise ever: throw-downs. I partnered up with Spafford, who said ab exercises don't come easily to her. We fought through it together — me shoving her legs down as she lay on her back and tried to keep them from touching the floor — and she rocked it.



Nina Day of Hansen laughs as instructor Rachael Gerlach convinces her to keep working hard.



Gerlach, center, makes sure participants get the most out of the routine, even if it doesn't come easily.



Gerlach, left, gives Times-News reporter Melissa Davlin a bad time for not working harder.

SWEAT ESSENTIALS

- **What:** "Hip Hop Boot Camp"
- **When:** 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays
- **Where:** Canyon Rim YMCA, 1881 Pole Line Road, Twin Falls
- **Class price:** \$6, or free for YMCA members
- **Information:** 734-7447 or ymcaft.com

Then we came back to dance. We got in a circle and individually contributed to a series of silly moves for a short dance combo. We finished up with more crunches and push-ups and stretches, and I was surprised I didn't die.

My verdict? It wasn't what I expected, and it kicked my butt, but I liked it. Gerlach's upbeat attitude made the brutality bearable.

What hurt the next day

My abs felt pleasantly sore for two days after, but my pectorals and biceps bypassed sore and went straight to pain. The circuit was heavy on upper body exercises, which Jessica Labat had a hard time with.

That might be because her upper body strength isn't the best, she admitted after class.

Labat — who came with mother Nina Day and sister Destiny Day — came to try something new. After class, the three women wondered if they were too out of shape for boot camp.

"I think it's a good class..." Labat said. "... once you get up to it," Destiny said.

But plenty of people who are new to exercise come to the class all the time, Gerlach said.

Who should stay away

If you're not serious about getting fit, don't bother. This class is tough, and Gerlach won't take any nonsense from students.

Gerlach said the class is injury-friendly — she has three bulging discs in her back, and can adapt exercises like she did for Nina. But know that this isn't a low-impact class, so think twice if you have arthritis or other ailments.

Melissa Davlin may be reached at 735-3234 or mdavlin@magicvalley.com.

Grants will provide free mammograms to Magic Valley women

By Laura Lundquist
Times-News writer

Two area hospitals have managed to wrap a pink breast cancer ribbon around some grant money.

Shellie Amundson, spokeswoman for North Canyon Medical Center, said the Boise affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Grant for the Cure awarded the Gooding hospital's radiology department almost

\$15,000 to provide free mammograms for women who are uninsured or underinsured. The money can also be used to buy educational materials.

The grant is good for a year. Amundson said the medical center has its own foundation that can provide additional funding should the grant run out before the year is up.

The radiology department has

applied for the grant for the past 12 years and has received anywhere from \$4,000 to \$14,000. So this year's amount was one of the largest the department has received, reflecting the fact that the Boise affiliate was able to give a record \$525,000 in grants.

The average cost of a digital screening mammogram at NCMC is \$290, Amundson said, so the grant can pay the radiology bills for

around 50 women.

In Twin Falls, the St. Luke's Magic Valley Health Foundation received \$25,000 from the Komen grant for 2011 to provide free mammograms, said St. Luke's spokeswoman Laura Stewart.

More than 1,000 women in south-central Idaho have received exams since the 900 Women Project, co-sponsored by area health providers, began screenings

in 2006. Two of the 250 who had screenings this year were diagnosed with cancer.

Because 1 out of 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer, the Susan G. Komen organization has been dedicated to empowering women with breast self awareness.

Call the NCMC diagnostic imaging department at 934-4433, ext. 1112, for more information or to see if you qualify.



Share your pillow troubles

Do you wake up with sore shoulders, or struggle to get comfortable nightly? Finding the right pillow can be a pain in the neck — literally.

If you get the wrong one, you wake up cranky, and they're expensive to replace. And don't forget trying to disguise ugly orthopedic pillows with cases that don't fit quite right.

For an upcoming story, *Times-News* reporter Melissa Davlin is looking for people who have struggled to find the perfect pillow. Interested in sharing your slumber stories? Contact Davlin at 735-3234 or mdavlin@magicvalley.com today.

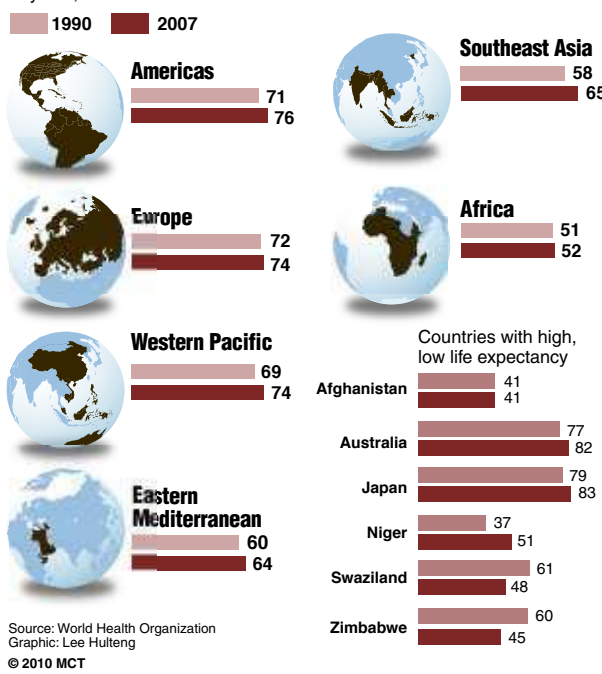
Health Matters

Most are living longer

According to World Health Organization figures, life expectancy for men and women in all world regions increased between 1990 and 2007, but life expectancy for some countries showed no change or declined.

Life expectancy at birth

In years, men and women combined



TREND 2011

Vitamins? Dance aerobics? Skin cancer? Find out what the new year might hold for your body.

Next Monday in Healthy & Fit

To do for You

'Baby and Me'

St. Benedicts Family Medical Center's "Baby and Me" classes, 11 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, at Jerome Public Library, 101 First Ave. E.

This week's topic: financing baby. The session is educational support for parents and babies. A baby scale is available each week. Free; 324-6133.

Health workshop

Marion's Massage and Nutrition for Body, Mind and Spirit is offering a health workshop, 6 p.m. Tuesday, at Twin Falls Senior Center, 530 Shoshone St. W. in Twin Falls.

Marion Wallace, registered nurse and certified massage therapist, will discuss "Your health or a doughnut?" Free; 420-0488.

Grief support

Visions of Hope Support Group, 5-6 p.m. Thursdays, at Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home community room, 2551 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls.

Grief and loss support for those who have experienced a loss of a loved one. Free; 735-0121.

Infant safety and CPR

Infant safety and car-



from Bonnie, Mary, Angie, Nicole, Nathan, and Stella at Fredericksons Candies Christmas Eve Open from 10-2pm OVER 74 YEARS IN DOWNTOWN TWIN FALLS! FINE CANDIES Fredericksons TWIN FALLS ALL Boxed Chocolates 1, 1 1/2, 2, 3 & 5 lb. boxes 309 Hansen St. E. • 733-7624 10am - 5pm MON - FRI CLOSED SAT/SUN We now accept Visa & Mastercard!

Challenge, 3-5 p.m., beginning Jan. 8, at the Lincoln County Community Center, 201 S. Beverly St. in Shoshone.

The 16-week fitness challenge will end with a fun run and walk April 30 in Shoshone. Participate in classes to help reach goals and maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Cost is \$30. Preregister through Friday: Rachelle Livingston, 320-3174, or Vickie Pine, 319-8131.

Managing medicines

Medication management session, 1 p.m. Dec. 29 at Twin Falls Senior Center, 530 Shoshone St. W. in Twin Falls.

Community members can bring in their various prescriptions to be reviewed by Kent Jensen of KJ's

Pharmacy. Jensen will advise on possible negative multi-medication effects.

Free. Information: senior center, 734-5084.

"To do for you" is a listing of health-related activities, events and education. Submit information by Thursday for publication in the following Monday's Healthy & Fit section: ramona@magicvalley.com.



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NATION & WORLD

Mexican city devastated by pipeline blast; 27 die



AP photo

A firefighter carries a puppy after an oil pipeline explosion in the town of San Martin Texmelucan, Mexico, Sunday. An oil pipeline operated by Mexico's state-owned oil company Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, exploded early Sunday when thieves were attempting to steal oil, killing at least 27 people, injuring at least 52 people and scorching more than 115 homes, authorities said.

By E. Eduardo Castillo
Associated Press writer

SAN MARTIN TEXMELUCAN, Mexico — A massive oil pipeline explosion lay waste to parts of a central Mexican city Sunday, incinerating people, cars, houses and trees as gushing crude turned streets into flaming rivers. At least 27 people were killed, 12 of them children, in a disaster authorities blamed on oil thieves.

The blast in San Martin Texmelucan, estimated to have affected a three-mile (five-kilometer) radius, scorched homes and cars and left metal and pavement

“They lost control because of the high pressure with which the fuel exits the pipeline.”

— Valentin Meneses, interior secretary for the state of Puebla, where San Martin is located

twisted from the intense heat and in some cases burned to ash.

Relatives sobbed as firefighters pulled charred bodies from the incinerated homes, some of the remains barely more than piles of ashes and bones.

Jose Luis Chavez, 58, who lives 10 blocks from the explosion, said he heard at least two loud booms and saw flames leap more than 30 feet (10 meters) in the air.

He said it was as if a bomb had exploded underground.

“The explosions we had were very scary,” Chavez said.

Aside from the deaths, at least 52 people were hurt and at least 200 were in shelters after fleeing San Martin, which is about 55 miles (90 kilometers) east of Mexico City. More than 115 homes were scorched, 30 of them destroyed.

The explosion, which

happened before dawn Sunday, was apparently caused by thieves trying to steal crude oil, said Valentin Meneses, interior secretary for the state of Puebla, where San Martin is located. Investigators found a hole in the pipeline and equipment for extracting crude, said Laura Gurza, chief of the federal Civil Protection emergency response agency. “They lost control because of the high pressure with which the fuel exits the pipeline,” he said, adding that the oil began to flow down the city's streets and into a nearby river.

See PIPELINE, H&F 5

Eager shoppers crowd the malls in Christmas countdown

By Mae Anderson
and Anne D'innocenzio
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Packed malls? Healthy gains in holiday spending? It's beginning to look at least a little like a pre-recession Christmas.

Americans spent more on clothing, luxury goods and even furniture, delivering healthy gains across the board, according to MasterCard Advisors' SpendingPulse, which tracks spending across all transactions including cash. The online category continued to be a bright spot. The big exception was consumer electronics, dragged down by deep discounting of TVs amid a glut. That area was virtual-

ly unchanged from a year ago.

“This is the first normal Christmas in three years,” said Michael McNamara, vice president of research and analysis for SpendingPulse. He said there is “genuine demand” for a variety of products, even higher-ticket items.

Sales of clothing rose 9.8 percent, with particular strength in men's clothing. Jewelry revenue rose 2.6 percent and furniture rose 3.4 percent, according to SpendingPulse, whose data covered the period from Oct. 31 through Saturday compared with the same period a year ago.

Malls reported higher traffic over the weekend,

See SHOPPERS, H&F 5



AP photo

South Korean marines patrol on Yeonpyeong island, South Korea, Sunday. New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, a frequent unofficial envoy to North Korea, has called for the North to show maximum restraint to planned South Korean military drills and hopes the U.N. Security Council will deliver the same message in its emergency meeting.

U.N. Security Council meets on Korea tensions

By Edith M. Lederer
Associated Press writer

UNITED NATIONS — World powers trying to defuse tensions between North and South Korea met in an emergency session of the U.N. Security Council on Sunday, but diplomats said China objects to the North being singled out for criticism over two deadly attacks this year that have helped send relations to their lowest point in decades.

China and Russia, the countries with the closest ties to North Korea, have expressed concern about the South Korean military's plans to conduct one-day, live-fire drills by Tuesday on the same front-line island

“I hope that the U.N. Security Council will pass a strong resolution calling for self-restraint from all sides in order to seek peaceful means to resolve this dispute. A U.N. resolution could provide cover for all sides that prevents aggressive military action.”

— New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, a frequent unofficial envoy to North Korea

the North shelled last month as the South conducted a similar exercise.

The United States supports South Korea, a staunch ally, and says any country has a right to train for self-defense.

The North warned of a “catastrophe” if South Korea goes ahead with the

drills. The reclusive communist government in Pyongyang said it would strike back harder than it did last month, when two South Korean marines and two civilians were killed on Yeonpyeong Island.

South Korea says the drills are routine, defensive in nature and should not be

considered threatening.

Russia called for the Security Council meeting, and Moscow proposed a draft statement that would have the U.N.'s most powerful body call on North Korea and South Korea “to exercise maximum restraint” and urge immediate diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions. It would also ask Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to appoint an envoy “to consult on urgent measures” to peacefully settle the crisis.

Most council members, including the United States which holds the rotating council presidency this month, viewed the Russian draft as unfairly equating the

See KOREAS, H&F 5



AP photo

Fifteen-year-old Laura Dekker walks toward the immigration office upon her arrival to Simpson Bay Lagoon, near Philipsburg, in the Caribbean island of St. Maarten, Netherlands Antilles, Sunday.

Teenage sailor on solo voyage reaches St. Maarten

By Judy Fitzpatrick
Associated Press writer

PHILIPSBURG, St. Maarten — A 15-year-old Dutch sailor on Sunday completed the longest leg so far of her attempted circumnavigation of the globe, saying it felt “really weird” to be back on dry land after nearly three weeks out in the ocean.

Fifteen-year-old Laura Dekker, aiming to become the youngest person to sail solo around the world, was in good spirits after completing the 2,200 nautical-mile (2,532 land-mile, 4,074-kilometer) trip from the Cape Verde Islands off West Africa.

Dekker anchored Guppy, her 38-foot (11.5-meter) ketch, just outside Simpson Bay Lagoon after what she called “a very nice trip” so far. She later steered it into the lagoon as a crowd gathered at the docks and

snapped pictures.

“It's really weird. It's not moving and not bouncy,” she told The Associated Press as she tried to find her land legs while strolling in flip-flops along a sidewalk to the Dutch territory's immigration office. “I don't think I can live in a house at the moment.”

The Dutch teenager started her trip from Gibraltar on Aug. 21 and spent two months in the Canary Islands waiting for the hurricane season to pass. She left the Cape Verde Islands on Dec. 2.

Dekker's venture stirred an intense debate about whether young people should be allowed to sail the world's oceans alone. A Dutch court originally blocked the voyage and only permitted her to set off after she took measures to manage the risks.

See SAILOR, H&F 5

Thousands try to storm government building in Belarus

By Yuras Karmanau
Associated Press writer

MINSK, Belarus — Thousands of opposition supporters in Belarus tried to storm the main government building to protest what they claim was large-scale vote-rigging in Sunday's presidential election, but they were driven back and beaten by riot police.

Dozens of protesters were injured in clashes with the police, left bruised and bloody after being beaten with clubs. An Associated Press reporter at the scene also was struck on the head, back and arm.

Up to 40,000 opposition activists rallied in central

Minsk to call for longtime authoritarian leader Alexander Lukashenko to step down. It was the largest opposition rally since mass street protests against Lukashenko in 1996, but it was over within hours. By late Sunday, police had cleared Independence Square of all demonstrators.

Protesters broke windows and glass doors of the government building, which also houses the Central Election Commission, but they were repelled by riot police waiting inside. Hundreds more riot police and Interior Ministry troops then arrived in trucks and sent most of the demonstrators fleeing. Some tried to



AP photo

Protesters rally as they denounce the Belarus presidential election saying it was falsified in the capital, Minsk, Sunday. Alexander Lukashenko, Belarus' authoritarian leader, a frequent antagonist of both Russia and the West, seeks a fourth term in Sunday elections, and his opponents claim he's prepared to commit fraud to get it.

hide in the courtyards of nearby apartment buildings, but were bludgeoned by troops waiting inside the courtyards.

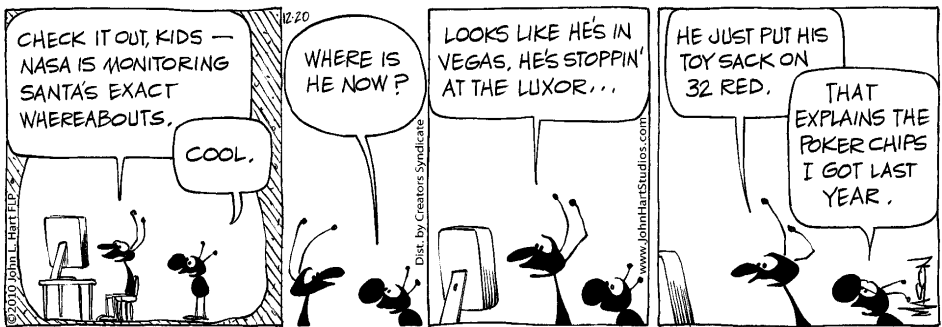
Few had expected tens of thousands to join the election-night protest, which Lukashenko had made clear would be dispersed by force.

The question remained of whether the opposition had the momentum to maintain pressure on Lukashenko or whether Sunday's violence would effectively put an end to the opposition's hopes.

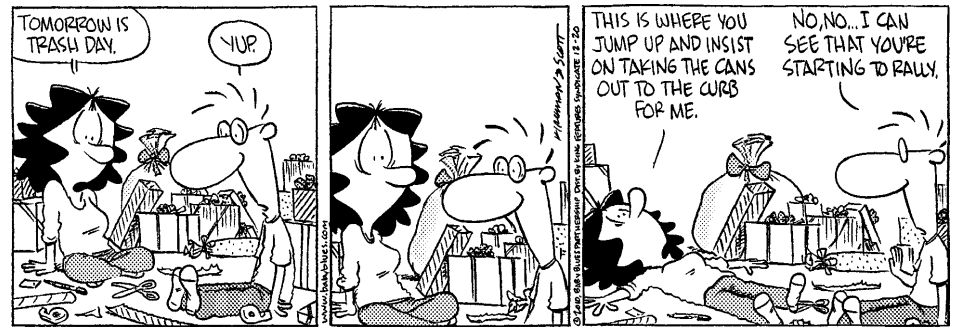
“We had a peaceful

See BELARUS, H&F 5

B.C. By Mastroianni and Hart



Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



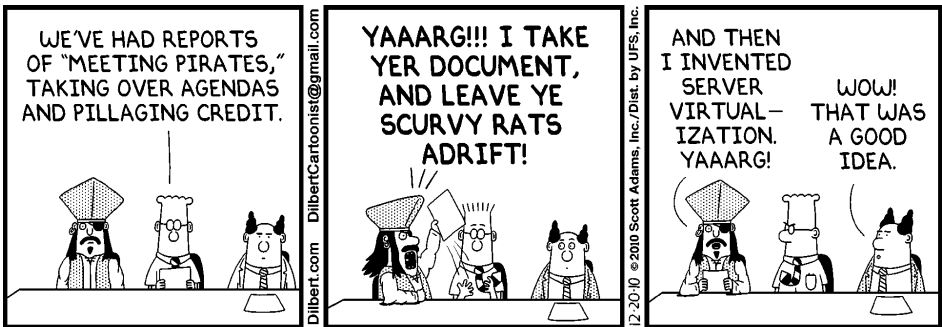
Beetle Bailey By Mort Walker



Blondie By Dean Young & Stan Drake



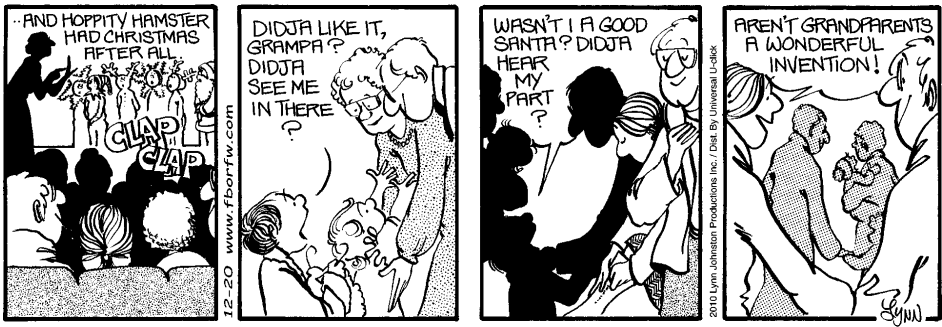
Dilbert By Scott Adams



The Elderberries By Phil Frank and Joe Troise



For Better or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



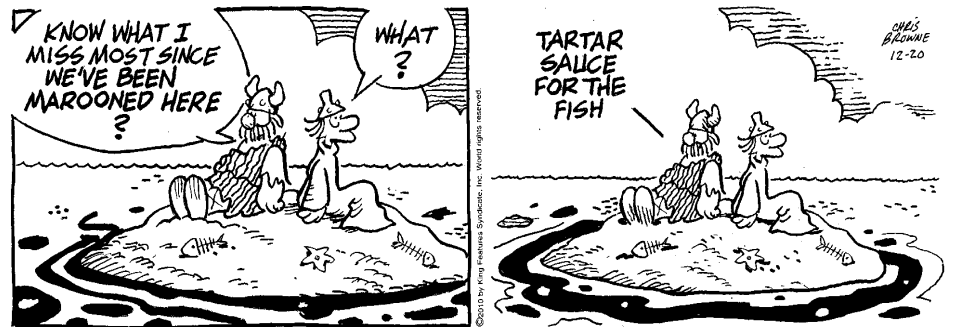
Frank and Ernest By Bob Thaves



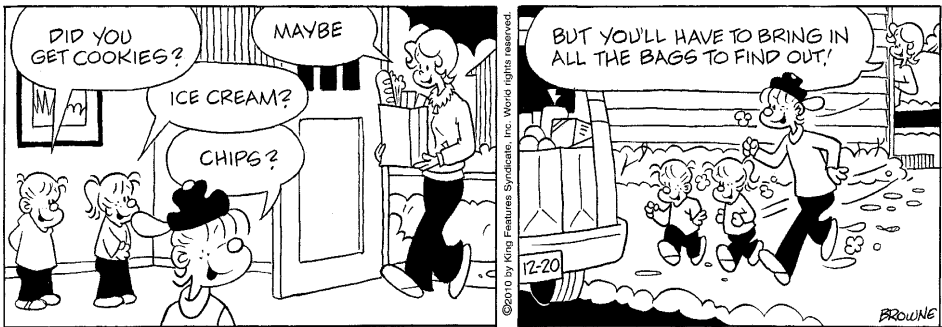
Garfield By Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible By Chris Browne



Hi and Lois By Chance Browne



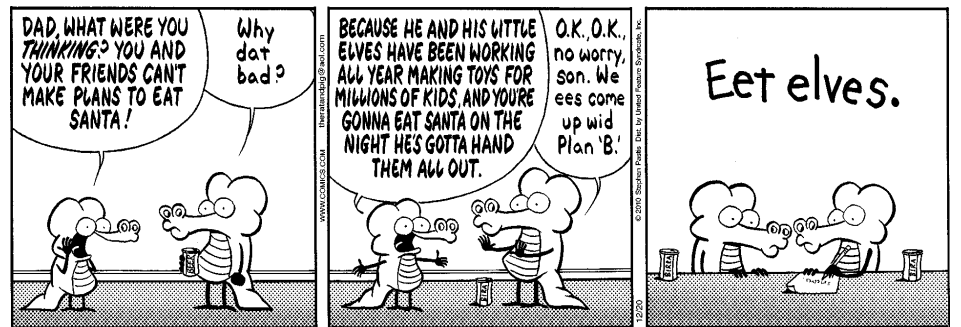
Luann By Greg Evans



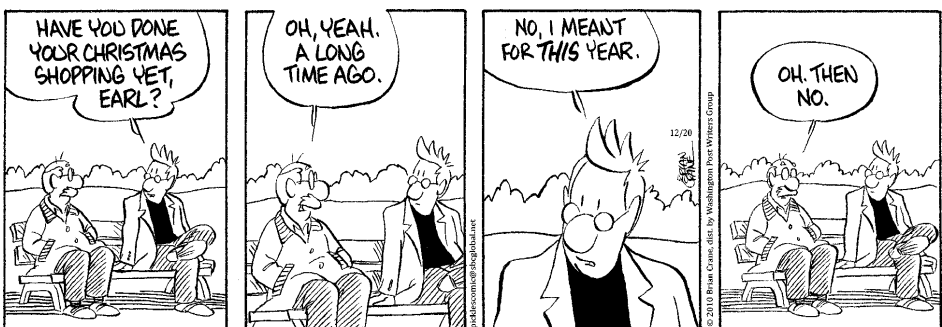
Classic Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



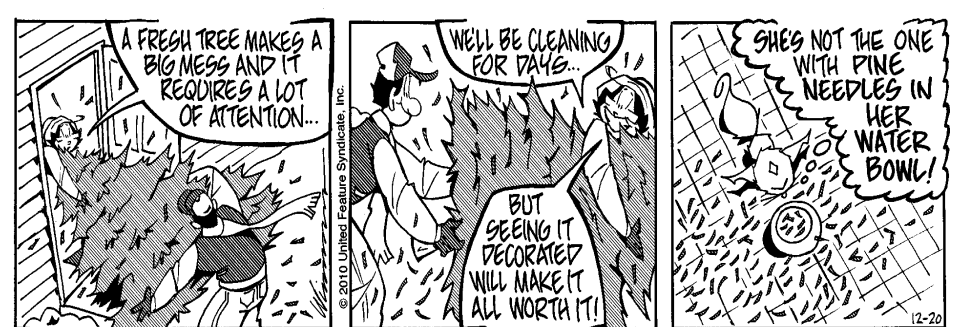
Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Pickles By Brian Crane



Rose is Rose By Pat Brady



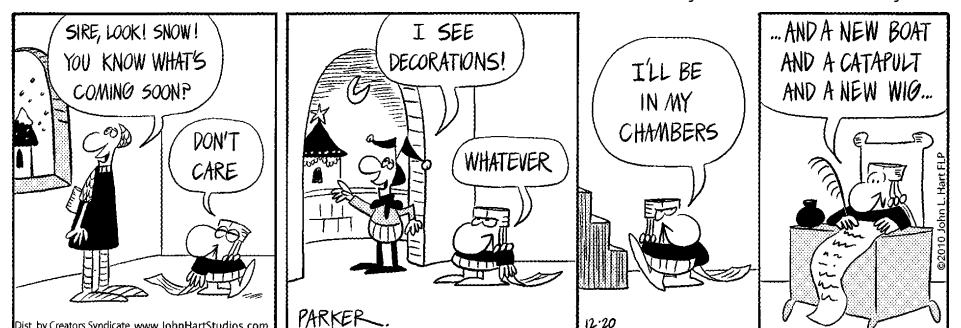
Non Sequiter By Wiley



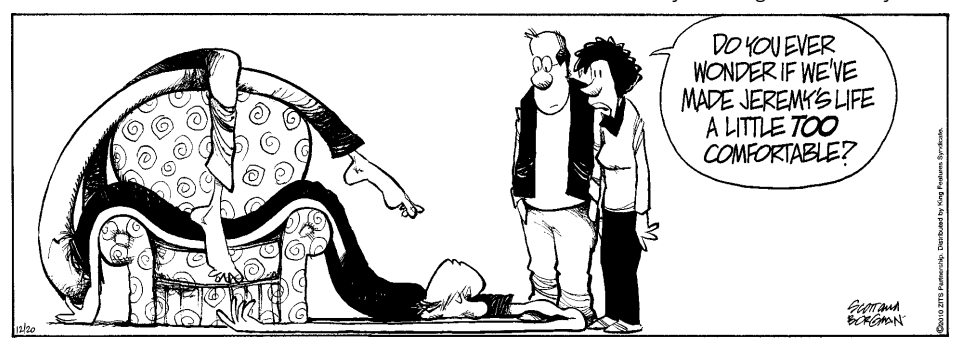
Dennis the Menace By Hank Ketcham



The Wizard of Id By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



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12-20
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"Guess what, Mommy? Daddy's in the bedroom copying down your sizes!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

101 Lost and Found

FOUND Two large dogs 12/16 on Overland. Both females, one is white & older, the other is brown/white. Call 312-5891.

LOST Benelli Shotgun & acc. at Niagara Springs Wildlife area, 11/27. **REWARD!!** 208-921-1768

LOST Border Collie, short haired female, 2 miles N & 2 miles E of the Flying J truck stop. 208-921-1431

LOST Chocolate Lab, male, North of Kimberly on 12/16, had collar. Call 208-423-6173 or 731-8061.



MISSING Shetland Pony on 12/17 around vicinity of South Blue Lakes & 3389 N. Twin Falls Call 208-734-5580 or 734-1224.

104 Personals

FUN, ROMANTIC gentleman seeks single or divorced lady, age 50-65, slim-med build, non-smoker & light drinker. Full of life & enjoys everything. Phone 208-539-4871 or write Gentleman, PO Box 5298, Twin Falls, ID 83303.

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.

MEDICAL

Family Health Services is accepting applications for a **Front Office Lead**. This position is responsible for supervising and scheduling front office staff and managing the daily administrative operations of our **Jerome Medical Clinic**. Candidates must demonstrate good communication skills and the ability to work as a member of a team, and must possess strong computer and organizational skills. Bi-lingual Spanish skills preferred, but not required.

Family Health Services offers competitive wages and a full range of benefits including health insurance, short and long-term disability, life insurance, PTO, holiday pay and 401(k) retirement.

Applicants may fill out an application online at www.fhsid.org, email a cover letter and resume to seguiilor@fhsid.com, or send a cover letter and resume to:

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KIMBERLY 735-3302	BUHL 735-3241	

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magicvalley.com
Twin Falls, TFMR. 735-3346
Burley, Rupert, Paul, Hailey, Kimberly, Shoshone
. 678-1536 or 735-3302
Gooding, Jerome, Filer, Buhl, Wendell. 735-3241

108 Professional Services

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Have Santa come to your house or office. \$35 in the city. 731-5193

0113 Child Care Services

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School 733-8823

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HIRE STUDENTS TO WORK FOR YOU!
Our Dependable, Honest, Diligent, Friendly Students are available to work for you after school & weekends.
Magic Valley High School
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PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE
Federal Employment information is free. Remember, no one can promise you a federal job. For free information about federal jobs. Call Career America Connection 478-757-3000

202 Clerical

CLERICAL
Magic Valley Tire of Paul is seeking a FT secretary/book-keeper. Exp. in payroll & QB required. Inquire in-store or mail resume to:
PO Box 600, Paul, ID 83347

204 Drivers

CUSTOMER SERVICE
Customer Service Assistant position open in commercial department. The work involves data process and answer telephone. Good communication skills both verbal and written, able to multi task, accurate, detailed and organized. Proficiency with computer, word and outlook are a must. HS diploma and some college preferred. This is a part time position in afternoons. EOE.
Email resume to:
andrea-mccandless@leavitt.com

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207 General

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The City of Twin Falls is accepting applications for the position of **COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST DISPATCH**. Apply immediately. The job description and employment application is available at: www.tffd.org. For additional information contact the Human Resource Office at (208) 735-7268. First review of applications - January 7, 2011.
The City of Twin Falls is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Drug Free Workplace.

HUMAN RESOURCES
Gem State Paper & Supply Company
Gem State Paper & Supply Company is seeking a full time **Accounts payable and Human Resource professional**. Two years experience in fundamental accounting principles required. Computer skills required. Experience in tax preparation, general ledger, excel, and payroll practices/preparation preferred. Employment benefits include Medical, 401K, Vacation, Sick/Personal time, and paid holidays.
Applications available at 1801 Highland Avenue East, Twin Falls, ID, Mon Fri, 8-5 or online at gemstatepaper.com

208 Hospitality

Classified Private Party Ads Requires pre-payment prior to publication. Major credit/debit cards, and cash accepted. 733-0931 ext. 2 Times-News

209 Human Resources

DRIVER
Seeking reliable & conscientious drivers to work in our hay hauling division. Must have 1-2 years experience hauling hay plus a clean driving record. Class A CDL required with doubles & triples endorsements. We offer a competitive wage plus benefits. Apply in person @ 826 S 1700 E., Eden, Id or online @ www.standleehay.com/Job.aspx



210 Management

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The International Building Operator's Association is currently accepting proposals for the position of **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**. This person will provide administrative support for the membership including planning and executing regional training. Organize and direct annual convention. Desire credentials or experience in marketing and administrative skills. Maintain organization website. Will report directly to and advise the Board of Directors. Interested applicants can send resume to:
Michael L. Miller
P.O. Box 946
Kimberly, ID 83341-0946
or e-mail tfixit@gmail.com

211 Medical

All advertising is subject to the newspaper's standard of acceptance. The Times-News reserves the right to edit, abbreviate decline or properly classify any ad. Receipt of copy via remote entry (fax, e-mail, etc.) does not constitute final acceptance by this newspaper. The advertiser, not the newspaper assumes full responsibility for the truthful content of their advertiser message.

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REAL ESTATE

501 Open House

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Don't pay any fees until it's sold. For free information about avoiding time share and real estate scams, write to: Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. 20580 or call the National Fraud Information Center, 1-800-876-7060.

502 Homes For Sale



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,

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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