

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Partly cloudy with a chance of showers. High 47, low 28.
Page A2

MAGIC VALLEY



Watching the weight: The Great American Weigh-In encourages a healthy lifestyle.
Page B1

MONEY



Annual awards: Twin Falls business leaders honor anti-drug abuse activist, longtime community volunteer.
Page E1

FOOD & HOME



Plant it: It's warm enough to be prime time for putting trees in your yard.
Page C1

SPORTS

Hankerin' for hardware: The area's 1A boys basketball teams open play in the state tournament today.
Page D1

OPINION

Tomato wait: County commissioners wisely wait to fund anaerobic digesters, today's editorial says.
Page A6

COMING UP

Duck sauce
Local eateries are glad to prepare your hard-earned game meat.
Thursday
The Times-News

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Johnson's brother takes the stand

Defense begins its case: 'No blood, no guilt'

By Patti Murphy
Times-News Correspondent

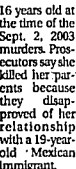
BOISE — The prosecution in the Sarah Johnson double-murder trial rested its case Tuesday following emotional testimony by Matthew Johnson, the older brother and only sibling of the defendant.

Matt, as he's called by his family, testified that his sister had a rocky relationship with their mother, Diane, but was closer to Alan, who was Sarah's biological father and the adoptive fa-

ther of Matt. "I still considered her my sister even though Alan wasn't my dad," Matt testified. Sarah, now 18, is accused of shooting her mother in the head while she slept and then turning the rifle on her father, killing him as he came out of the shower. She was



Sarah Johnson



Matt Johnson

Matt, 24, said that his parents "did anything for her, always trying to make her happy," but

16 years old at the time of the Sept. 2, 2003 murders. Prosecutors say she killed her parents because they disapproved of her relationship with a 19-year-old Mexican immigrant. Matt said of his mother, Matt further testified that they discussed the idea of trying to press

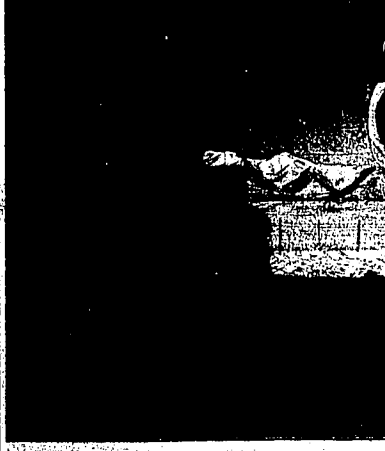
statutory rape charges against Santos, but Matt thought that should be the last resort. After returning to Moscow just one day, he received a phone call telling him that his parents had been shot. "They think I did it," Matt said Sarah told him when he arrived back in Bellevue. Matt told her he thought Santos could have shot them, to which Sarah answered angrily, "No, he loved Alan like a father. There's no way he could have done it." Matt testified Sarah told him that on the morning of the shootings she had heard a gun

Please see JOHNSON, Page A2



Placibo Livestock Co. ranch hand Lanny Berg loads 80-pound bales of hay onto a horse-drawn sleigh at the ranch near Placibo, while

Hay by sleigh



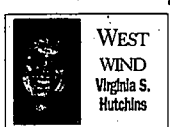
Placibo Livestock Co. ranch hand Lanny Berg leads a team of Belgians to haul hay.



Placibo Livestock Co. ranch hand Lanny Berg leads a team of Belgians to haul hay.

There's a touch of heritage in cows' meal delivery

Placibo — It's a clear, cold morning when I pull into the lane of frozen mud at Placibo Livestock Co.'s headquarters, just off U.S. Highway 20. Ranch hand Lanny Berg, with three cattle dogs at his heels, is leading three Belgian horses into the barn for a little babying. Two of the horses have a job ahead of them: hauling a hay-laden sleigh to feed a hundred helpers, pregnant with their first babies.



WEST WIND Virginia S. Hutchins



Three Australian shepherd mares wait for the next step in their daily routine as Lanny Berg harnesses the horses in Placibo Livestock Co.'s barn.

Of course, Lanny could do the daily task with a tractor. But the team-and-sleigh method has something of the ranch heritage he loves, and cranking of the flat tires and nocking equipment he deplores. "My horses start every morning, no matter how cold it is," he says. "A good team is worth their weight in gold." A decade ago, Placibo Livestock fed 600 head of cattle by

team and sleigh for wagon, when snow was scarce). But eventually the ranch began hauling hay in bigger bales that required a tractor for loading. With the trouble of stalling equipment behind them, ranch hands took to hauling most of the hay by tractor, as well. "But six days a week, Lanny still hitches two of the three Belgians to a load of hay for the hundred helpers. "Just to kind of keep the heritage going," he says. "I'd never stop. If I had my choice."

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Each horse takes off one day in three. This morning, Jack and Jill will work and 12-year-old Big Buddy (at 2,300 pounds he deserves the name) will rest. Still, Buddy gets the same grain-and-brushing treatment as the others, while the dogs

More waste may make its way toward INL

The Times-News and The Associated Press
IDAHO FALLS — Based on two reports issued Tuesday, the Idaho National Laboratory could see more waste headed its way for treatment while the Department of Energy might be less involved in waste cleanup decisions.

DOE pauses cleanup at INL for testing.
See page B1
trust in waste cleanup, said Kathleen Trever, the state's oversight administrator at INL. Reports by two panels of the National Academies urged the Energy Department to revamp its massive \$140 billion cleanup plans for defense nuclear waste with the goal of transporting less of it to a central facility.

This would allow cleanup activities to be completed sooner and cost less, the panels said. The cleanup schedule, involving dozens of sites, envisions most waste treatment and disposal to be finished in 20 years. "I think the idea is sooner, safer and more efficient cleanup," Trever said. The academies also called for greater involvement outside of the DOE in determining what wastes should be left in place and what should be transported to a geological repository. The

report said the department's credibility on decisions involving waste disposal is hampered because the DOE both proposes and approves waste disposition plans. This approach was applauded by some environmentalists Tuesday, who have argued that DOE has too much power in making waste disposal decisions. The report "clearly sent a message that Congress must rein in DOE and address the mess that it has made of nuclear waste." Please see INL, Page A2

Court bans the death penalty for juveniles

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — A closely divided Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that it's unconstitutional to execute juvenile killers, ending a practice in 19 states, including Idaho, that has been roundly condemned by many of America's closest allies. The 5-4 decision throws out the death sentences of 72 murderers who were under 18 when they committed their crimes and has the states seeking to execute minors for future crimes. The executions, the court said, violate the Eighth Amendment ban on cruel and unusual punishment. The age of 18 is the point where society draws the line for many purposes between childhood and adulthood. It is, we conclude, the age at which a line for death eligibility ought to rest," Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote. The ruling continues the court's practice of narrowing the scope of the death penalty, which justices relinquished in 1976. Executions for those 15 and younger when they committed their crimes were outlawed in 1988. Three years ago justices banned death sentences for the mentally retarded. Tuesday's ruling prevents states from making 16- and 17-year-olds eligible for execution. Juvenile offenders have been put to death in recent years in few other countries, including Iran, Pakistan, China and Saudi Arabia. Kennedy cited international opposition to the practice. "It is proper that we acknowledge the overwhelming weight of international opinion against the juvenile death penalty, resting in large part on the understanding that the instability and emotion that imbue the young people may often be a factor in the crime," he wrote. Kennedy noted most states don't allow the execution of juvenile killers and those that do use the penalty infrequently. The trend, he said, is to abolish the practice because "our society views juveniles... as categorically less culpable than the average criminal." In a dissent, Justice Antonin Scalia disputed that there is a trend and chastised his colleagues for taking power from the states.

The court says in so many words that what our people's laws say about the issue does not, in the last analysis, matter. "In the end our own judgment will be enough to bear on the question of the acceptability of the death penalty," he wrote. "The court thus proclaims itself sole arbiter of our nation's moral standards." Scalia wrote: "The four most liberal Supreme Court justices — John Paul Stevens, David H. Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer — had gone on record in 2002 opposing the death penalty for juveniles, calling it 'shameful.' Those four, joined by Kennedy, formed the decision. Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and Justice Clarence Thomas joined Scalia in seeking to uphold the executions. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor filed a separate dissent, arguing that a blanket rule against juvenile executions was misguided. Case-by-case determinations of a young offender's maturity is the better approach, she wrote.

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Partly cloudy with a chance of showers. Highs from 44 to 50. Tonight: High-pitched shower activity anticipated. Lows from 25 to 31. Tomorrow: Departing shower chances. Highs from 45 to 51.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Increasingly cloudy with a chance of afternoon rain. Highs from 42 to 48. Tonight: Partly cloudy with a slight chance of rain and snow. Lows from 23 to 29. Tomorrow: Departing shower chances. Highs from 46 to 52.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 7 columns: Today, Tonight, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges (High/Low).

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 4 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric. Includes sunrise and sunset times.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. Mild shower activity will increase today, but nothing significant is expected. Shower chances will decrease Thursday with mostly dry weather finishing off the week.

BOISE A slight chance of rain will drift past the region today with cloudy periods and mild temperatures expected. Mostly dry, continued mild weather will finish off the week.

NORTHERN UTAH We'll see a small opportunity for showers developing today and tomorrow. Mild and dry weather will finish off the week.

WALLA WALLA, WA A slight chance of rain will drift past the region today with cloudy periods and mild temperatures expected. Mostly dry, continued mild weather will finish off the week.

SPokane, WA A slight chance of rain will drift past the region today with cloudy periods and mild temperatures expected. Mostly dry, continued mild weather will finish off the week.

Portland, OR A slight chance of rain will drift past the region today with cloudy periods and mild temperatures expected. Mostly dry, continued mild weather will finish off the week.

Seattle, WA A slight chance of rain will drift past the region today with cloudy periods and mild temperatures expected. Mostly dry, continued mild weather will finish off the week.

San Francisco, CA A slight chance of rain will drift past the region today with cloudy periods and mild temperatures expected. Mostly dry, continued mild weather will finish off the week.

Los Angeles, CA A slight chance of rain will drift past the region today with cloudy periods and mild temperatures expected. Mostly dry, continued mild weather will finish off the week.

Phoenix, AZ A slight chance of rain will drift past the region today with cloudy periods and mild temperatures expected. Mostly dry, continued mild weather will finish off the week.

Denver, CO A slight chance of rain will drift past the region today with cloudy periods and mild temperatures expected. Mostly dry, continued mild weather will finish off the week.

Chicago, IL A slight chance of rain will drift past the region today with cloudy periods and mild temperatures expected. Mostly dry, continued mild weather will finish off the week.

New York, NY A slight chance of rain will drift past the region today with cloudy periods and mild temperatures expected. Mostly dry, continued mild weather will finish off the week.

Washington, DC A slight chance of rain will drift past the region today with cloudy periods and mild temperatures expected. Mostly dry, continued mild weather will finish off the week.

London, UK A slight chance of rain will drift past the region today with cloudy periods and mild temperatures expected. Mostly dry, continued mild weather will finish off the week.

Paris, France A slight chance of rain will drift past the region today with cloudy periods and mild temperatures expected. Mostly dry, continued mild weather will finish off the week.

Tokyo, Japan A slight chance of rain will drift past the region today with cloudy periods and mild temperatures expected. Mostly dry, continued mild weather will finish off the week.

Sydney, Australia A slight chance of rain will drift past the region today with cloudy periods and mild temperatures expected. Mostly dry, continued mild weather will finish off the week.

Melbourne, Australia A slight chance of rain will drift past the region today with cloudy periods and mild temperatures expected. Mostly dry, continued mild weather will finish off the week.

Auckland, New Zealand A slight chance of rain will drift past the region today with cloudy periods and mild temperatures expected. Mostly dry, continued mild weather will finish off the week.

Wellington, New Zealand A slight chance of rain will drift past the region today with cloudy periods and mild temperatures expected. Mostly dry, continued mild weather will finish off the week.

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Timaru, New Zealand A slight chance of rain will drift past the region today with cloudy periods and mild temperatures expected. Mostly dry, continued mild weather will finish off the week.

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Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric. Includes sunrise and sunset times.

Regional Forecast. Table with 4 columns: Today, Tomorrow, Friday, Saturday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges.

National Forecast. Table with 4 columns: Today, Tomorrow, Friday, Saturday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges.

World Forecast. Table with 4 columns: Today, Tomorrow, Friday, Saturday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges.

Today's National Map. Map of the United States with weather icons and temperature ranges.

Canadian Forecast. Table with 4 columns: Today, Tomorrow, Friday, Saturday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges.

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INL

Continued from A1 waste cleanup policy," said Geoff Fetous, a lawyer for the Natural Resources Defense Council.

The studies both support the plan to focus on treating or removing waste that poses the most risk. Trever said.

States with some of the biggest cleanup challenges — including Washington, Idaho and North Carolina — have argued that high-level defense nuclear waste should be taken away for deep geological burial.

But a National Research Council panel asked to review the government program, concluded that the "recovery of every last gram" of such waste "will be technically impractical and unnecessary."

In some cases removing waste could lead to increased human exposures to radiation, the panel said. It also said the expense associated with retrieval, immobilization and disposition of some of the waste in a central repository "may be out of proportion with the risk reduction achieved, if any."

An attempt to recover all of the waste, such as the high-level "bee" waste attached to the inside of buried tanks at the Hanford site in Washington state — could lead to further leaks and contamination, an INL worker told in place, the report said.

"That recommendation is somewhat consistent with the process we've used," Trever said. The second National Research Council panel independently issued a report recommending that DOE use waste treatment facilities that will handle cleanup efforts at the most contaminated sites to treat waste from other defense sites.

That would require those facilities to stay open longer than planned. Such use of treatment facilities at the Hanford site in Washington state, the Savannah River complex in South Carolina, the Oak Ridge facility in Tennessee and the Y-12 Department of Environmental Quality would still require shipments to Idaho, though the state would retain input on treating waste from other facilities, Trever said.

"Idaho has allowed the treatments to go as long as there's a process to get it out," she said. How far the DOE should go to clean up the environmental damage left over from decades of bomb-making and the pace of the cleanup have sparked intense debate between the federal government and states. State officials argue that the federal government is required to remove as much of the highly radioactive waste left over from bomb-making as is technically possible. Such waste, they say, should go to an underground disposal site known as WIPP in New Mexico or the Yucca Mountain high-level waste dump proposed in the Nevada desert.

"Given the controversy surrounding this issue and the reality that not all of the waste will or can be recovered and disposed of off-site, the country needs a structured, well-thought-out way to determine which wastes can stay," said David Daniel, chairman of the panel of scientists that wrote the report on what wastes should be exempted from deep geological burial.

The report said that techniques exist that allow the separation of the most highly radioactive material, which would go to a central repository, from less dangerous waste that can be processed to reduce the potential hazard and be allowed to remain where it is.

The panel, however, acknowledged that the implementation of a more "risk-based" approach to addressing the waste problem must be handled with care and within current rules and the law, or risk resistance from states.

The government must determine how best to dispose of the waste "in a manner the public can trust," Daniel said.

Johnson

Continued from A1 shot and then ran to her parents' bedroom door where she called out for them.

Then she said she heard a second shot and ran out of the house.

Matt said he asked her specifically if she had seen any blood, and she said her parents' bedroom door had been closed. Investigators have said the bedroom door was open. Further, blood and brain matter was found on the wall in Sarah's bedroom, 20 feet across the hallway from Alan and Diane's room.

"I had 11 hours to think about this before showing up on the scene and my mind was running on a loop," Matt said. "I wanted to know everything about what had happened."

In talking about the inheritance he received from his parents' estate, Matt said, "I wanted to know everything about what had happened."

Matt's attorney came on the scene, but that Sarah Johnson's defense attorneys made opening statements. Attorney Bob Pangburn asserted to the jury: "No blood, no guilt. That's what the evidence will show you, if it hasn't already."

The defense wanted to make its opening statements until after the prosecution team finished its case against Johnson, during which they called 78 witnesses in a three-week period.

"The state simply has not, did not and cannot prove their case without a reasonable doubt," Pangburn said in his opening remarks.

The first witness the defense called was a psychologist who testified about grief and associated behaviors when someone has experienced a severe event such as the deaths of their parents.

"In unpredictable circumstances, the brain does unusual things so it doesn't get overwhelmed," said Dr. Craig Beavaz, who was called to challenge the notion that Sarah had

not shown appropriate behavior after her parents were killed. He testified that people who have suffered severe trauma often try to keep a sense of normalcy and act like nothing has changed. This could explain Sarah's insistence on going to a volleyball game the day of her parents' memorial service or her obsession with having her nails done, Beaver said.

"It's a way of putting order into chaos," he said. "Some of her best support was with her peers (at school). I don't see that as unusual."

The defense also questioned Stuart Robinson, an investigator with the Idaho State Police, who testified that he arrived on the crime scene first but did not see a bullet hole in the comforter under which Diane Johnson was found. The prosecution has argued that the comforter had been over Diane's head when she was shot, which could have blocked the blood spray and explain how Sarah had no blood on her head. The defense on the other hand is attempting to establish that the comforter was not covering Diane's head, because Sarah had no blood on her. She could not be the shooter.

The controversy throughout the trial has been that investigators did not keep the comforter for evidence and therefore could not test it for DNA. In fact, it is one of the most important crime-scene items.

"Our job is to not prove anything," Pangburn said. "It's to show where the state failed to make its case beyond a reasonable doubt."

Sleigh

Continued from A1 while at the door of the barn. Lonnny's wife, Kristi, and their sons Wacey, 12, and Bailey, 10, emerge from the house with Duke — a Boston terrier sporting a red doggie jacket — while the horses are harnessed. It's a school holiday for the boys, so Kristi won't be bucking bales today.

For 13 years, the Bargs have worked for Bud and Nick Pardy's Picabo Livestock Co., tending animals with the K-K (Kay "K Bar K") brand. This is the only life the Bargs have known.

The sleigh parked on the other side of Highway 20, so we walk up the ranch lane, Lonnny following Jack and Jill. On the lines between the horses hang a leather head, decorated with metal studs. (The heart is part of the regular gear. But I suspect that Lonnny's colorful neckerchief is making an appearance for the camera's sake.)

If the boys were in school and the Bargs had no visitors, Kristi would pick up the newspaper from a roadside box before crossing the highway. She usually reins the horses to her husband on the ride out to the cattle. But today, Duke enjoys her attention.

As Lonnny hitches up the flatbed, the "Boston" terrier gives up acting like one of the big dogs and submits to being wrapped in a tattered baby blanket. It's the blanket from Kristi's own childhood, and she brought home both of her boys in it.

Wacey and Kristi, cradling Duke, position themselves at the back of the sleigh, turning their backs to the wind. Bailey joins his dad at the front, as Lonnny starts the team with an admonition of "easy easy." Photographers Ashley Smith and I opt for the frosty wooden planks at the sleigh's middle, and we both slip and exclaim when the sleigh starts with a jerk.

"Lonnny teases his visitors: 'That was easy!' Behind a team, he tells us, a ranch hand can spot wildlife

of bomb-making and the pace of the cleanup have sparked intense debate between the federal government and states. State officials argue that the federal government is required to remove as much of the highly radioactive waste left over from bomb-making as is technically possible. Such waste, they say, should go to an underground disposal site known as WIPP in New Mexico or the Yucca Mountain high-level waste dump proposed in the Nevada desert.

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Correction

Hospital board will meet today at 8 p.m.

A special meeting of the Magic Valley Regional Medical Center board will be at 8 p.m. today in room 276-277 of the Taylor Building. The day of the meeting was incorrect in Tuesday's edition of The Times-News.

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Today's National Map

Map of the United States with weather icons and temperature ranges.

Map of the United States with weather icons and temperature ranges.

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Lonny Barg and his wife, Kristi, have worked at the Picabo Livestock Co. ranch for 13 years.

and subtle weather developments and a tractor's rumble might ease. As if to illustrate his point, the three cattle dogs take off running after a coyote at a far fence line, and soon abandon the chase.

</

FBI: Suspect confessed to plot against president

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — A Virginia man accused of plotting with al-Qaida to assassinate President Bush has admitted his guilt on numerous occasions, an FBI agent testified Tuesday.

Nation In brief

Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, 23, admitted "multiple times" that he joined al-Qaida while studying overseas in Saudi Arabia and discussed plans with the terrorist network to assassinate President Bush, FBI agent Barry Cole said. The agent also said the suspect talked about plans for a Sept. 11-type attack in which "hijackers would board planes in Great Britain and Australia... so they did not have to have U.S. visas."

U.S. turns to small businesses for armor

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — For a half-century, the clangorous machines at American Metal Fabricators have churned out stainless-steel salad bars and rotisserie-chicken display cases for grocery stores and university cafeterias.

Last year, however, the family-owned factory near the Chesapeake Bay took on a new mission: vehicle armor for the U.S. military.

To meet the intense demand for equipment in Iraq, the Pentagon increasingly has turned to what it calls "nontraditional" vendors, with little or no defense experience. The military said it does not keep figures, but Paul Kern, who retired last month as commanding general of Army Materiel Command, estimated it has used thousands of such firms in the past two years.

"I guess everybody who does war work has got more than they can handle," said James Phillip Poole, president of American Metal Fabricators in Prince Frederick, Md., about 40 miles southeast of here. The stakes were particularly high for his 100 employees when they added armor to their regular line of food service equipment in February 2004. Not only did they face increased workload, they did so



John Creder works with a tungsten inert gas welder to join pieces of windshield retaining armor for war vehicles in Iraq at the American Metal Fabricators factory in Prince Frederick, Md.

knowing that every piece of metal they shied and welded could make a difference in the lives of deployed soldiers scrambling

to get to the front lines. The armor is just one of the many products that American Metal Fabricators produces. The company has a long history of manufacturing food service equipment for grocery stores and university cafeterias.

It's been easy to get employees to meet the production targets, Poole said. The Patuxent River Naval Air Station is a major economic engine for the region. "You just feel like you're helping soldiers," Hardesty said. "You see the pictures of Humvees on TV and we're like, 'We built that!'"

Military jargon and such acronyms as MTRV (Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement) and IVS (Intelligence Vehicle System) fill conversations on the factory floor. Hardesty sometimes wonders how the small company even got involved in the military production in the first place, he said, though he'd be honored to continue. "I'll keep on building them as long as we have to work," he said.

After last month's historic Iraq elections, some workers thought the U.S. presence there was coming to a close, ending his role as an improbable part of the war effort. "This month, Poole" announced that the military had placed an order for 450 more armored windshield frames.

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Authorities investigate deaths of judge's family

CHICAGO — Authorities said Tuesday they are investigating whether the shooting deaths of a federal judge's husband and his frail, 69-year-old mother were the work of white supremacists out for revenge.

The killings came a month before white supremacist Matt Hale was scheduled to be sentenced for trying to have the judge, Joan Humphrey Lefkow, killed over her handling of a trademark dispute involving his hate group.

Pole said they were looking at the possibility the crime was committed by hate groups but cautioned that it was "but one facet of our investigation."

Heavy snowfall batters Northeast, snarls traffic

NEWARK, N.J. — The second snowstorm to hit the East Coast in less than a week hit Tuesday morning commuter traffic, shut down hundreds of schools from North Carolina to Maine and canceled airline flights. By Tuesday, Boston had received an 11-inch coating of snow this season, compared with an average annual snowfall of about 42 inches. The record is 107.6 inches, set in 1995-1996.

Suspect faces ten counts of first-degree murder

SWITCHITA, Kan. — Dennis Decker, the chargegoing family man and Okla. State leader in a series of leadings double life as the BTK serial killer, was charged Tuesday with 10 counts of first-degree murder. Decker is the first person to be charged since his Friday arrest by videoconference from his cell at the Sedgewick County detention center. The BTK killer has a suspect of eight deaths beginning in 1974, but authorities linked two additional victims to the serial killer.

— compiled from wire reports



Members of the White Oak Singers, a Native American group with offices in the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nations of North Dakota, participate in a press conference introducing the new buffalo nickel in Washington on Tuesday.

Tribal drums mark unveiling of new nickel

WASHINGTON (AP) — With 2,000-pound Cody the Bison standing on one side and a bison standing on a clump of grass on the other side, it marks the return of the bison to the nickel for the first time since 1938 when the Mint changed the design of the five-cent piece.

Accompanied by Indian dancing, drum-beating and chanting, U.S. Mint Director Horatio Holsman Fore displayed the new nickels publicly for the first time during a ceremony on the snowy grounds of Capitol Hill with Cody standing patiently next to her, occasionally snorting in the cold air. Some 87 million of the five-cent coins are being shipped this week from the Federal Reserve's 12 regional banks to local banks in the country. They should start showing up in store cash registers within the next two weeks.

The 2005 American Bison nickel will look significantly different from any nickels you have ever seen, Fore told the crowd.

The new nickel features a

jazzed-up profile of Thomas Jefferson on one side and a bison standing on a clump of grass on the other side. It marks the return of the bison to the nickel for the first time since 1938 when the Mint changed the design of the five-cent piece into one depicting an American Indian on one side and a Liberty Bell on the other.

The bison nickel is the first in a series of four new ones that are being introduced in 2004 and 2005 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition, both of which occurred during the administration of Jefferson, the nation's third president.

Emil Ter-Matossian, an associate curator of the National Museum of the American Indian, told the audience that the selection of the bison for the new nickel was particularly appropriate. "Not only did the buffalo sustain us spiritually, but physically as well," he said.

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Wrinkle Discovery Praised Worldwide

SPECIAL: Women across the world are flocking into stores to buy exciting EBS Facial Cream, developed by American pharmacist Robert Helfond (shown on right). Word has spread in Canada and Europe about the cream that is working wonders to improve the appearance of facial wrinkles, crows feet, creases, neck "feathers," lines, uneven blotches and dry, slack skin. Back in the U.S.A., EBS Facial Cream is rated the #1 selling cream for aging skin in all JCPenney stores nationwide!

EBS is actually five creams in one jar: a Wrinkle Cream; Throat Cream, Firming Cream, 24-Hour Moisturizer and Make-up Base, all in one. One 4 oz jar lasts for many months and is sold at JCPenney with a complete guarantee of satisfaction. To learn more, call toll free 1-800-929-8325 or visit online at www.ebs.com.

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MORNING BREAK

Mineral deficiency can cause paper eating

A reader wants to know what it's called when someone — namely her dog — likes to eat paper. The consumption of non-food stuff is called "pica" and often stems from a mineral deficiency or stress.

This day in history: On March 2, 1976, the body of film legend Charlie Chaplin was stolen for ransom from his grave in Switzerland. After a few weeks, the thieves were caught and Chaplin went back to his eternal rest.



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Jack Mingo
Erin Barrett

The little boy on the box of Cracker Jack is named "Jack," but he was fashioned after the founder's grandson Robert, who was 6 at the time of the portrait. Sadly, Robert died not long after from pneumonia. Robert's dog, like the dog on the box, was named Bingo.

In the original version of The Three Bears, Goldilocks was a crabby old homeless lady.

Although Mickey Mouse had appeared in short silent films prior, he didn't make much of a splash before "Steamboat Willie." The Disney Corp. therefore, marks the film's debut on Nov. 18, 1928, as Mickey's birthday.

Tennis bulls are fuzzy to slow the game down. The fuzz increases wind resistance and reduces bounce. A side benefit is that it also grips the racquet strings slightly, allowing more spin and ball control.

At 6 foot 9 inches and 515 pounds, Hawaii-born Chad "Akebono" Rowan was the biggest sumo wrestler of all time. Rowan, who retired in 2001, was also the sport's first non-Japanese grand champion.

Giant squid and sperm whales have been seen near the surface engaged in fierce battles. In all of A. Conan Doyle's stories, Sherlock Holmes never actually said his most famous line: "Elementary, my dear Watson."

Hospitals must follow the wishes of patients

DEAR ABBY: I am a nursing supervisor in a large hospital. There is a policy in hospitals that the public does not understand, and it has caused more than a few problems.

Because of privacy laws, all patients admitted to the hospital must be asked if they want to be a "privacy patient" or a "no publicity patient." If they answer yes to that question, it means that if anyone calls, or comes to the hospital, we cannot even acknowledge that the patient is here. We must say, "I don't have a patient listed by that name."

Not surprisingly, this often upsets friends and family members. So please, Abby, remind your readers about the privacy laws. We are not purposely lying to anyone; we are just following the patient's instructions and obeying the rules. Thank you.

FRUSTRATED NURSE
IN IRONTON, OHIO
DEAR FRUSTRATED: Thank you for injecting an important dose of reality. While some patients may welcome visitors, many more do not. One solution is to assign a particular "relative or friend to be the 'master of information.'" That way, there is less emotional wear and tear on all concerned.

DEAR ABBY: My fiancée has requested that I stop opening doors for her after I asked her to acknowledge my courtesy with a "thank you." This simple (in my opinion) request turned



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

into a huge argument after she told me I should not open doors for her anymore.

Abby, I was brought up to be a gentleman and to treat women like ladies. Am I wrong for wanting to be appreciated for doing this, or should I stop being so damn sensitive and forget about opening doors for her, which goes against who I am?

CLOSING THIS DOOR IN HONOLULU
DEAR CLOSING: You are not "wrong" to want your courtesy to be acknowledged. That is the way you were raised.

However, you have proposed to someone whose background is not as refined as yours. Before you tie the knot, please consider carefully that this woman will be raising your children. Is someone with her attitude the kind of person with whom you want to spend the rest of your life?

DEAR ABBY: When my husband's grandmother died two years ago, my mother-in-law, "Shirley," told us we could go through the items left in her mother's house, take what we wanted, and then discard the rest. I took mostly kitchen stuff

— mainly pots and pans. My birthday was last week and I had to work late, so Shirley came over and cooked dinner for me.

A couple of days later, I was going to cook some lasagna and take it to her home, but after searching high and low, I was unable to locate a particular dish I used. Finally, after going through every cupboard, I called Shirley to ask where she had taken it.

She then informed me that since it was her mother's dish, she had taken it.

I was upset and told her I wanted it back. Shirley told me no and hung up on me! My mother-in-law has not spoken to me since, and now she's fighting with my husband because he stood up to defend me.

I don't want a lasagna dish to divide my family, but I refuse to be treated this way. How would you have handled this situation?

OFFENDED
IN ODDESSA, TEXAS

DEAR OFFENDED: Your mother-in-law was wrong to take the dish without asking or letting you know.

However, it's possible the item has some sentimental meaning to her. Bearing that in mind, and in the interest of family harmony, I'd have written Shirley a note telling her that she's welcome to it — and then I'd have gone out and bought myself another lasagna pan.

Beer and cigarettes buried with him also were missing. Investigators were led to Stolzman, who had lived with Hendrickson and was with him when he was shot himself. Both were married to other people at the time.

Detectives searched Stolzman's home, found her hiding in the shower and located the remains in her garage, authorities said.

Stolzman also was ordered to pay restitution for metal plaques missing from Hendrickson's grave site, DeCocco said.

Aquarius should try to be sensible

IF MARCH 2 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Take advantage of helpful stars to secure prosperity and improve the conditions of your life in 2005. Whatever is offered or chanced upon in April, July or September is likely to be of long-term benefit, so grab opportunities that appear during those times and have faith that the universe will provide exactly what you need. You are likely to receive well-deserved and long-awaited rewards in the year ahead.

HOROSCOPE

Jeraldine Saunders

feel you must take your lead from others. Look before you leap where money is concerned and let past experience guide you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Remember the old adage that familiarity breeds contempt. Remaining aloof and businesslike in public is the best formula for success, as people will be attracted by demonstrations of traditional values.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Under these stars you may be searching for a good value for your dollar or expect precision from others. Make a good impression on important contacts by being ethical and upright.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your enthusiasms could be aimed in the wrong direction even though your heart is in the right place. Count every penny and be a stickler for precision if money is at stake.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your knack for diplomacy can be put to good use. A cool demeanor is highly attractive to others so you might have a chance to mix business with pleasure if you are shopping for romance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be sensible. It is better to act like a curly tailed squirrel and pack away nuts for a long winter than to eat everything in sight. Your idealism is admirable but acting on it now can cause turmoil.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Partners might be champing at the bit to get started, but a cool appraisal and a wait-and-see attitude will work best. Don't be misled by information or casual gossip, as the facts may not be what they seem.

Woman sentenced for digging up boyfriend's remains

SHEBOYGAN, Wis. (AP) — A woman accused of digging up and taking her boyfriend's cremated remains more than a decade ago — and drinking the beer that was buried with them — was sentenced to 60 days in jail.

Karen Stolzman, 44, had faced up to nine months in jail on a misdemeanor charge of concealing stolen property. She was sentenced Monday. Sheboygan County District Attorney Joe DeCocco said. DeCocco had recommended a six-month sentence.

"I kind of thought she should be punished more," he said. "Under these kinds of circumstances, this is just unexcusable."

Investigators accused Stolzman of digging up the ashes of her former boyfriend, Michael Hendrickson, at a Columbia County cemetery possibly out of spite for his family. Hendrickson was 27 when he died in 1992 from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. His relatives contacted authorities last fall after discovering his remains were stolen.

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Russian official boasts of new nukes

MOSCOW — Russia will develop missiles impervious to any defense, Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov said Tuesday in an apparent allusion to the nascent U.S. missile defense system.

A year ago, President Vladimir Putin said Russia could build unrivaled new strategic weapons, and in November he said it is developing a new nuclear missile system unlike any weapon other countries have or could come up with in the near future.

Ivanov suggested the weapons would be based on the mobile version of the Russian Topol-M intercontinental ballistic missiles and on a new sea-based system, the Bulava, according to Interfax news agency.

"There is not and will not be any defense against these missiles," he said, according to Interfax.

The Topol-M can hit targets more than 6,000 miles away, and has been in silos since 1998, with about 40 on duty now, according to military officials. Military officials have said they plan to begin deploying the mobile version this year.

Sri Lankan police recover skeletons from site

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — The skeletal remains of 23 people have been found near the site where the Dec. 26 tsunami swept away a computer train in one of the single worst losses of life from the disaster, police said Tuesday.

The train's 2,000 reported victims also included villagers who had jumped on board seeking safety from the waves or were crushed by the carriages. Only 824 bodies have been identified.

Uruguay inaugurates first leftist president

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay — As thousands of supporters waved flags, Tabare Vazquez took office as Uruguay's first leftist president Tuesday, aligning the small South American country with a regional political shift in that direction and promising "a better country for all."

A 65-year-old cancer specialist and former mayor of the capital, Vazquez became the sixth left-leaning Latin American leader to come to power emphasizing greater help for the poor and a cautious approach to U.S.-backed free-market economic policies. Vazquez replaces Jorge Batlle after winning an Oct. 31 presidential election that broke a 170-year lock on power by the country's two traditional parties.

— compiled from wire reports

Video shows reporter pleading for help in Iraq

BAHGHAD, Iraq (AP) — A French journalist abducted nearly two months ago pleaded for help in a video that surfaced Tuesday, saying she was in failing health. South of Baghdad, more than 2,000 people demonstrated at the site of a car bombing that killed 125 people, chanting "No to terrorism!"

An Internet statement purportedly by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, al-Qaida in Iraq group claimed responsibility for the bombing. The video of Florence Aubenas, 43, a veteran war correspondent for the leftist daily Liberation, was dropped at the offices of an international news agency in Baghdad, and it was not possible to verify when it was made.

Aubenas and her Iraqi translator, Hussein Hanoun al-Saadi, were last seen leaving her Baghdad hotel on Jan. 5.

Appearing pale and alone in front of a maroon-colored background, Aubenas, her hair uncombed, grasped her knees with her arms as she spoke. She said she was in bad health and pleaded with French lawmaker Didier Julia to help win her release.

"Please help me, my health is very bad," she said in English. "Please, it's urgent now, I ask especially Mr. Didier Julia, the French deputy, to help me. Please Mr. Julia help me, it's urgent, help me."

Julia, a maverick lawmaker from President Jacques Chirac's governing party, caused an uproar last year when he helped mediate the release of kidnapped French journalists Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot. The two were freed in December after four months in captivity.

Meanwhile, ten more people died from injuries in Monday's car bombing in Hillah, south of Baghdad, raising the death toll to 125. The attacker detonated



Hussein Obad weeps on the coffin of his son Mahmood, who died in the Hillah suicide bombing while writing to be recruited for the police, at his funeral at the Holy Shrine of Imam Ali in the nearby city of Najaf, Iraq, Tuesday.

AP Photo

the bomb as a group of police and "national guard" recruits were lining up to take physicals at a medical clinic.

At least 141 others were injured in the blast — the boldest challenge yet to Iraq's efforts to build a security force that can take over from the Americans.

The Internet statement by al-Qaida in Iraq said that the attack targeted a registration center for Iraqi police and National Guardsmen. It made no mention of the medical clinic or a nearby market where a number of people were also killed.

It was not immediately possible to verify the authenticity of the statement, which was posted on the Web site that has previously carried al-Qaida ma-

terial. The statement was also posted under the name of Abu Mayssara al-Iraqi, the designated media coordinator of al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian-born leader of al-Qaida in Iraq.

More than 2,000 people held the impromptu demonstration in front of the clinic, chanting "No to terrorism" and "No to Baathism and Wahhabism!"

Wahhabism is a reference to adherents of the strict form of Sunni Islam preached by Osama bin Laden, while the Baath party was the political organization that ran Iraq under Saddam Hussein.

The demonstrators also demanded that Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi step down.

Rice urges free elections in Lebanon

LONDON (AP) — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Tuesday called for free and fair elections in Lebanon following the surprising resignation of the pro-Syrian government and stressed the need for polling independent of "contaminating influences."

Speaking to reporters after an international conference on Palestinian security, Rice said Syrians must withdraw some 15,000 troops and their security services from Lebanon.

"The pressure of the international community is quite palpable on Syria," she said. "They really should get about living up to their international obligations."

The nation's top diplomat said the dismantling of terrorist militias in southern Lebanon would be critical to any forward steps in the region.

"There can't continue to be strikes from Southern Lebanon," she said.

Earlier in the day, the United States and France issued a joint statement calling for an international investigation of the death in Lebanon of opposition politician Rafik Hariri and for a full

pullout of Syrian troops there. Rice said there is "a long list of concerns about a Syria that is standing in the way of Lebanese, Iraqis, Palestinians and others in their aspirations for a better world."

Rice, in an interview with ABC News, blamed the Islamic Jihad in Syria for Friday's suicide bombing outside a Tel Aviv nightclub that killed five Israelis.

There is evidence that Islam-

ic Jihad, headquartered in Syria, was in fact involved with the planning of these attacks in Tel Aviv. And so the Syrians have a lot to answer for," she said.

Canada boots Holocaust denier

TORONTO (AP) — A white supremacist was deported to his native Germany on Tuesday and immediately taken into custody by authorities in Frankfurt, where he faces charges of denying the Holocaust and inciting hatred via the Internet, Canadian immigration officials said.

Ernst Zundel, 65, author of "The Hitler We Loved and Why," arrived in Frankfurt on Tuesday evening and was turned over to

German authorities, said Helen Lealle, a spokeswoman for Canadian Border Services Agency.

Zundel's attorney, Peter Lindsay, told The Associated Press his client was taken Tuesday morning from his Toronto jail, where he was held in near-solitary confinement for two years while authorities determined whether he posed a security risk to Canadians.

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EDITORIAL

T.F. County wise to hold on digester investment

If we can put a man on the moon, we can probably grow tomatoes with anaerobic digesters.

Paying for it, however, is a rather mushy proposition. Once again the Magic Valley has been targeted as a prime location for hothouse tomato plants that use anaerobic digester technology.

Proponents of the plan made a presentation to Twin Falls County commissioners this month and requested help in securing part of a \$3 million bridge loan to get the project started.

Commissioners are intrigued at the idea, which could create good jobs and put the county's ample dairy waste to use. And yet, those same leaders are asking, why come to government first?

It's a good question, if anaerobic digesters truly represent a win-win situation for Idaho's dairy producers and other ag industries, perhaps the private sector should be responsible for raising the capital.

The anaerobic digester-tomato connection has been stewing for a few years. The technology uses dairy cow waste in two ways, first as a source of methane gas to heat greenhouses, and second as a fertilizer to grow tomatoes. In addition to creating jobs, the venture would take dairy waste off local farms which in turn may reduce dairy odor.

In 2002 Stanley Siegel, the entrepreneur who owns the technology rights, looked to Idaho as a potential spot to start the project. But when the proposal turned into a sideshow of that year's U.S. Senate election between Larry Craig and Alan

Blinken, it fizzled and Siegel went elsewhere.

Now Siegel is back, and along with former Idaho Association spokesman Lewis Eilers, he wants help in locking up funding for National Produce Production Inc. Eilers says the company can secure \$75 million of business loans if a preliminary bridge loan of \$2.5 million to \$3 million is in place.

But to get to that amount, the company needs the county to provide \$500,000 to \$600,000 of equity match. A part of that could come from economic development grants and the rest from upfront county donations.

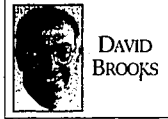
Commissioners Tom Mikesell and Bill Brockman don't want to slant the door on this idea, but they are rightfully cautious. Much like cities, counties have the ability to help industry through tax increment financing or other tax incentives. But with an outright business investment, which is what the Eilers and NPPI are proposing, elected leaders need more data to see how this industrial process can work in Idaho.

"Just because someone says it works, doesn't make it certain," Mikesell said. "The research is speculative. It doesn't show much... (But) if it worked, it would be a wonderful part of the infrastructure of southern Idaho."

Developing anaerobic digesters to grow produce and utilize dairy waste could be a promising project. But the commissioners are right to encourage private industry to do its work first. Only then can we be certain that the idea of methane gas greenhouses is more than hot air.

The global promise of democracy

This is the most powerful question in the world today: Why not here? People in Eastern Europe looked at people in Western Europe and asked, Why not here? People in Ukraine looked at people in Georgia and asked, Why not here? People around the Arab world look at voters in Iraq and ask, Why not here?



DAVID BROOKS

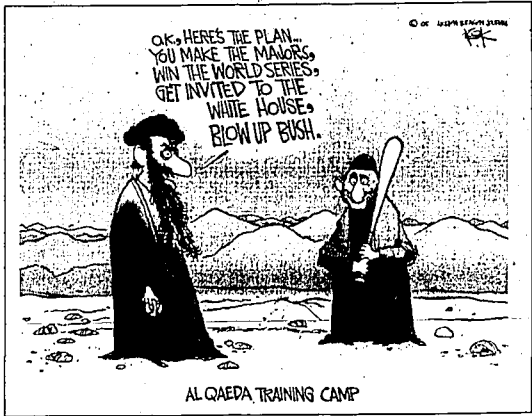
Thomas Kuhn famously argued that science advances not gradually but in jolts, through a series of revolutions and paradigm shifts. Somebody sees a problem differently, and suddenly everybody's vantage point changes.

"Why not here?" is a Kuhnian question, and as you open the newspaper these days, you see it flitting around the world like a thought contagion. Wherever it is asked, people seem to feel their minds have changed. New possibilities have opened up.

The question is being asked now in Lebanon. Walid Jumblatt made his much-circulated observation to David Ignatius of the Washington Post, "It's strange for me to say it, but this process of change has started because of the American invasion of Iraq. I was cynical about Iraq. But when I saw the Iraqi people voting three weeks ago, 8 million of them, it was the start of a new Arab world."

So now we have mass demonstrations on the streets of Beirut. A tent city is rising up near the crater where Rafik Hariri was killed, and the inhabitants are refusing to leave until Syria withdraws. The crisis grows in the evenings; bathroom facilities are provided by a nearby Dunkin' Donuts and a Virgin Megastore.

The head of the Syrian Press Syndicate told The New York Times on Thursday: "There's a new world out there and a new



AL QAEDA TRAINING CAMP

reality. You can no longer have business as usual."

Meanwhile in Palestine, after days of intense pressure, many of the old Arafat cronies are out of the interim Palestinian Cabinet. Fresh, more competent administrators have been put in. "What you witnessed is the real democracy of the Palestinian people," Saeb Erakat said to Alan Cowell of The Times. As Danny Rubinstein observed in the pages of Ha'aretz, the rules of the game have changed.

Then in Iraq, there is actual politics going on. The leaders of different factions are jostling. The tone of the coverage ebbs and flows as more or less secular leaders emerge and fall back, but the amazing thing is the politics itself. If we had any brains, we'd take up Reuel Marc Genscher's suggestion and build an Iraqi C-Span so the whole Arab world could follow this process like a long political soap opera.

It's amazing in retrospect to think of how much psychological resistance there is to asking this breakthrough question: Why not here? We are all stuck

in our traditions and have trouble imagining the world beyond. As Claus Christian Malmgren reminded us in Der Spiegel online this week, German politicians ridiculed Ronald Reagan's "tear down this wall" speech in 1987. They "could imagine that there might be an alternative to a divided Germany."

But if there is one soft-power gift America does possess, it is this tendency to imagine new worlds. As Malmgren goes on to note, "In a country of immigrants like the United States, one actually pushes for change. We Europeans always want to have the world from yesterday, whereas the Americans strive for the world of tomorrow."

Stephen Sestanovich of the Council on Foreign Relations wrote an important essay for this page a few weeks ago arguing that American diplomacy is often most effective when it pursues not an incrementalist "maximalist" agenda, but leaving over allies and shaking the crutch, bold, vantage-shifting proposal - like pushing for the reunification of Germany

when most everyone else was trying to preserve the so-called stability of the Warsaw Pact.

As Sestanovich notes, and as we've seen in spaces over the past two years in Iraq, this rashness - this tendency to leap before we look - has its downside. Things don't just come out wonderfully just because some fine person asks, Why not here?

But this is clearly the question the United States is destined to provoke. For the final thing that we've learned from the papers this week is how thoroughly the Bush agenda is dominating the globe. When Bush meets with Putin, democratization is the center of discussion. When politicians gather in Ramallah, democratization is a central theme. When there's an atrocity in Beirut, the possibility of freedom leaps to people's minds.

Not all weeks will be as happy as this one. Despite the suicide bombings in Israel and Iraq, the thought contagion is spreading. Why not here?

David Brooks is a columnist for The New York Times.

Our view: Anaerobic digester technology still lacks hard numbers to validate financial backing from Twin Falls County. What do you think?

We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

rest from upfront county donations.

Commissioners Tom Mikesell and Bill Brockman don't want to slant the door on this idea, but they are rightfully cautious. Much like cities, counties have the ability to help industry through tax increment financing or other tax incentives. But with an outright business investment, which is what the Eilers and NPPI are proposing, elected leaders need more data to see how this industrial process can work in Idaho.

"Just because someone says it works, doesn't make it certain," Mikesell said. "The research is speculative. It doesn't show much... (But) if it worked, it would be a wonderful part of the infrastructure of southern Idaho."

Developing anaerobic digesters to grow produce and utilize dairy waste could be a promising project. But the commissioners are right to encourage private industry to do its work first. Only then can we be certain that the idea of methane gas greenhouses is more than hot air.

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Idahoans still don't recognize cost of wolves

This is in regard to my letter in The Times-News on Feb. 13 about the Alaska wolf control. What the paper failed to print was that aerial control (of wolves) was being used to boost the moose population in five areas of the state. It also reported that the wolf population there has never been threatened or endangered and that the Department of Fish and Game estimated there were 8,000 to 11,000 wolves in Alaska and about 1,500 are killed every year, mostly by trappers. So far, only 93 wolves have been killed this winter.

We all know how big the state of Alaska is and how abundant it is in wild game and still they are having trouble controlling these wolves. Is Idaho prepared financially to control wolves by paying for planes, helicopters, etc., to control wolves? Thus my letter about raising all your hunting fees.

What does it take to get the attention of the people in Idaho? It doesn't make any difference whether you hunt or not. I happen to be a hunter and sportsman and have seen what the wolves have done in Unit 43 and surrounding units. It's extremely difficult to hunt a wolf by foot, even horses. Trapping will help some, but it will not be enough (as Alaska is finding out).

If you are still not convinced about wolf problems, please read the letter in The Times-News that was submitted by

Inmate gets three square meals a day

In response to the inmate's letter that was in the paper a few weeks ago:

He stated that he had lost a lot of weight on the diet food or lack of food that Twin Falls County failed to serve the inmates. Does he think that the residents of Twin Falls County have stippled across their foreheads "It is a law that the inmates have to be served 2,500 calories a day. Now if the inmates choose not to eat the food, of course they will lose weight."

I checked the facts with two different people. The first one is my sister, who is the head cook for Madison County's jail, and the other was Sheriff Wayne Tinsley when I saw him in a local grocery store. He told me the same thing that my sister had told me: 2,500 calories a day are served to the inmates - a variety of different meals, not just sandwiches. The cooking in the county jail is contracted out to an independent company. Wayne told me that he eats some of his meals there when he is working and the food is really pretty good.

You are responsible for being

Letters

in jail; you did it to yourself by the choices that you and others in there made. So quit your crying, get a life, make the right choices! You are getting more food than the homeless on the streets and the children go to hungry because they don't have food to eat.

You put yourself there; no one else did, so take responsibility for your own actions and grow up!

CORENE BUHLER
Twin Falls

Vandals appled their talents in poor fashion

Read Wendell High School students who chose to display such fine artistic abilities and eloquent use of vocabulary at our home and dairy on Sunday, Feb. 20. And to use spray paint on your Trojan logo, bright yellow and blue to express such creativity. Your parents should be proud they have spawned such creative and talented youth. I hope they will be ecstatic when they bail you out of jail, pay your fines and reimburse us for all the clean-up costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to touch a good lesson to my 10- and 8-year-old boys and then spend some quality family time on their day off from school to clean up our mess. Sadly, not all of it is cleanable; therefore, we are reminded daily of the exceptional talent which exists in our community.

Our partner, who happens to be the property manager, was extremely impressed with the 20-foot by 20-foot mural left on

The Times-News

Brad Hurd... Publisher Chris Steinbach... Editor

The members of the editorial board and writers of editorials are Brad Hurd, Chris Steinbach, Steve Crump, Eleanor Burkhardt, Ramona Jones and David Cooper.

Getting in touch

Want to make your feelings known to your representatives in Congress? Here's how:

Sen. Mike Crapo
In Twin Falls, call or write: Heather Tiel; senior regional director
202 Falls Ave., Suite 2
Twin Falls, ID 83301
734-2515; Fax 733-0414

239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-6142
e-mail messages can be sent via Sen. Crapo's home page at www.senate.gov/~crapo

Sen. Larry Craig
In Twin Falls, call or write: Mike Mathews, regional director
560 Filor Ave., Suite A
Twin Falls, ID 83301

734-6780, Fax 734-3905
In Washington: 520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-2752
e-mail: http://craig.senate.gov/email

Rep. Mike Simpson
In Twin Falls, call or write: Charlene Barnes; agriculture field director
1201 Falls Ave. E., Suite 25
Twin Falls, ID 83301
734-7219; Fax 734-7244
In Washington: 1330 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-5531
Fax: (202) 225-8216
Access Simpson's e-mail through his Webpage: <http://www.house.gov/simpson>

Doonesbury

By Garry Trudeau

Mallard Fillmore

By Bruce Tinsley

Freedom of Speech

Our constitutional right to speak freely, unless we might offend absolutely ANY group of people ANYWHERE, except of course for white males. Political Christians of other groups that it's okay to offend - till the cows come home.

Doonesbury

Mallard Fillmore

Freedom of Speech

Doonesbury

Mallard Fillmore

Freedom of Speech

OPINION

Contractor bill protects homeowners

As a local homeowner, one of our suppliers told me about another contractor that had defaulted on his payments and reopened the test week under a new name. Unfortunately, this story is not unusual.

As contractors, our costs of business are driven up by the failures of other contractors. A couple of years ago, our plumbing subcontractor had to revive the old '70 Chevy pickup he drove in high school because he could not afford a pickup after a local general contractor went bad. Before that, our concrete subcontractor had his family's savings wiped out when another general contractor went bankrupt.

In the building industry, we know these things happen. It is most painful when we hear about homeowners caught in these problems. Our homes are typically the biggest single investment most of us will ever make.

Idaho has no qualifications to become a building contractor in our country and no standards or qualifications. There is also no way to stop a bad contractor — even if we know them to be unscrupu-

READER COMMENT
Ken Edmunds

lous, fraudulent or just plain bad builders. Similarly, there is no way to stop a contractor from re-inventing himself on paper, leaving the homeowner holding the bag with shoddy construction or with liens placed on the property and the threat of foreclosure.

For years, our Idaho Building Contractors Association (IBCA) has attempted to have legislation passed to protect homeowners. The IBCA represents all of our local associations, including an active group here in the Magic Valley. We are all small and medium-sized contractors. As a group, we fit the stereotype of the anti-regulation, small-business owners. Still, we are the ones asking for more control.

Under HB 163, known as the Contractor Registration Act, Builders would be registered with the Bureau of Occupational Licensing (BOL) and would provide:

- A statement, under oath,

that the builder and other owners in the business have never had a license or registration revoked or suspended.

(Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Utah and Montana all have some form of regulation — making Idaho a "safe-haven" for contractors who have been kicked out of their home state);

- A certificate of insurance showing that the contractor carries workers compensation insurance on all employees (which state law already requires); and
- A certificate of insurance showing that the builder carries liability insurance in an amount not less than \$300,000.

The act has been drafted so that the registration cannot exceed \$150 and that the registration can be granted for a period of 1 to 5 years (as determined by BOL).

We would require anybody in the construction industry, or those who hold themselves out as a contractor, to register. However, the act includes a list of exemptions to ensure that only true contractors and subcontractors are subject to the act.

Because our homes are the largest investment most of us

will make, it makes sense that the homeowner should have some assurance that the builder has never been disqualified in Idaho or another state, and carries at least the minimum liability insurance and state-required worker's compensation insurance.

Surprisingly, the bill is being attacked in a well-financed radio campaign as an assault by national building companies on small contractors. It is being portrayed as California-style legislation that will drive up building costs by 10 to 20 percent.


Nothing could be further from the truth. This is legislation from the local builders who see the need for basic homeowner protection. Please let your local representative or senator know that you support this bill.

Ken Edmunds is a local home builder from Twin Falls and a member of the Magic Valley Builders Association.

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Remembering the original George W.

MOUNT VERNON, Va. — Presidents Day came and went as it usually does — without much notice and little attention to the man whose birthday makes February's three-day weekend possible.

Those not stumped by the riddle, that man would be George Washington, also known as the father of our country and our first president.

Those not stumped are probably thinking, "This is ridiculous," and wondering "Who doesn't know that?" Would that they were right. Also, the un-stumped are vastly outnumbered by the perplexed, who arrive in droves each year looking for Mount Rushmore.

That's not a joke, though our education system surely is. Others who visit here — some 75,000 annually — frequently stop one of the historical interpreters roaming the estate grounds to ask about the Civil War.

What? Washington liberated the slaves, right?

Well, yes, he did liberate his own slaves upon his death, but many visitors here don't know that. Rather they're clearly confusing Washington with Abraham Lincoln, who is far more famous these days than the general who was instrumental in making "freedom" a word his American progeny are privileged to take for granted.

Tests, surveys and studies further confirm America's increasing ignorance. A test of high school seniors, for example, found that only one in 10 was proficient in American history. A survey of fourth-graders found that seven of 10 thought the original 13 colonies included Illinois, Texas and California. Six of 10 couldn't say why the Pilgrims came to America. Only 7 percent of fourth-graders could name "an important event" that took place in Philadelphia in 1776. When seniors at the nation's top 55 universities were asked to name America's victorious general at



KATHLEEN PARKER

the Battle of Yorktown, only 34 percent named George Washington.

Depressing statistics, which Mount Vernon executive director James Rees rattles off with thinly disguised ennui, shouldn't be surprising considering that Washington today receives one tenth the coverage in textbooks that he received 30 years ago. Rees tells of one textbook that offers fewer than 50 lines of text about Washington, but 215 about Marilyn Monroe.

Meanwhile, the famous Gilbert Stuart portrait of Washington, a reproduction of which used to hang in nearly every American classroom is long gone. As is the historical background and context critical to future generations' conduct of the nation's business.

One might easily despair were it not for the passion of a small cavalry of bejeweled and bedazzled ladies who — as one of them put it at a recent back-to-birthday dinner party in the first president's honor — "just want everyone to love George as much as we do!"

Meet the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union, a select and serious sorority of no-nonsense history buffs, without whom Mount Vernon would not exist. Now more than 150 years old, the association began with a woman famous in these parts — Ann Pamela Cunningham of South Carolina — who decided to save the house after her mother reported its dilapidated condition in a letter.

"I was painfully distressed at the ruin and desolation of the home of Washington," wrote

Mrs. Cunningham. "And the thought passed through my mind: Why was it that the women of his country did not try to keep it in repair, if the men could not do it?"

Whereupon, the younger Cunningham founded the Association in 1853 and, together with a group of ladies (today's vice regents), raised \$200,000 to buy the mansion and 200 acres of surrounding land, which subsequent generations have helped restore to their original state.

Today, Cunningham's soul sisters are continuing her take-charge legacy by tackling historical illiteracy through a \$85 million education project. Vice Regent Beasley of Georgia — chairman of the new facilities committee and surely the Queen of Sarcasm — summed up the group's spirit and governing principle: "If we don't do it, nobody will."

Plans already under way include 26,000 square feet of new construction to house an orientation and education center, all being built below ground so as not to disturb the estate's integrity. Other pieces of the project involve educational programs for students and teachers, classroom materials and a documentary film by Steven Spielberg.

Every penny for Mount Vernon, which is held in a nonprofit public trust, has been privately raised from foundations and individuals, as well as admission fees and sales revenues from the estate's restaurant and shops. Reads no government funds.

To date, the ladies have wrenched \$45 million from like-minded patriots, but are still about \$10 million short. Should any of you fellows out there have some spare change, the ladies would be charmed, I'm sure.

Kathleen Parker, a syndicated columnist for the Orlando Sentinel, welcomes comments via e-mail at kpark@kparker.com.

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 - Kit

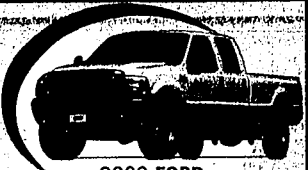
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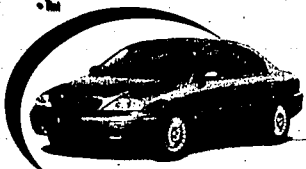
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 - CD
 - Power Air
 - Roof Rack

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\$12995



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LE SABRE CUSTOM

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 - CD/Cassette
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SMART BUY!
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 - Per W-L-M
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 - 5 Speed

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6

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 - Per W-L-M
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 - CD
 - Wheel
 - Automatic

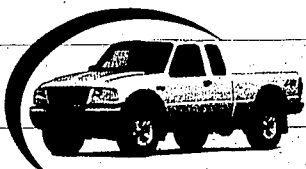
Retail \$18740
SMART BUY!
\$14995



2003 FORD
F250 4X4 QUAD CAB XLT

- Stock #7141
- Per W-L-M
 - TB/Cruise
 - CD/Cassette
 - Leather
 - Wheel
 - Per Flg
 - 5 Speed

Retail \$35275
SMART BUY!
\$30995



2003 FORD
RANGER XLT 4X4

- Stock #7151
- Per W-L-M
 - TB/Cruise
 - CD
 - Slab
 - Steel Back
 - EZ4 Flg
 - Leather

Retail \$21930
SMART BUY!
\$16995



2003 PONTIAC
GRAND PRIX SE

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- Per Seat
 - Per W-L-M
 - TB/Cruise
 - CD
 - Wheel
 - Speaker

Retail \$15375
SMART BUY!
\$10995



2002 HONDA
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 - TB/Cruise
 - Cassette
 - Steel Back
 - Automatic

Retail \$18690
SMART BUY!
\$14995

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AROUND THE VALLEY

Suspect faces robbery charge

TWIN FALLS — A Twin Falls man made an initial appearance in court Tuesday in connection with the robbery of a 7-11 convenience store at 1509 Kimbark Road.

Dustin Mark Johnson, 26, faces one count of robbery. Prosecutors are seeking a so-called enhancement, too, which could come with more severe fines and jail time because witnesses said a man fitting Johnson's description entered the store and showed a black handgun to the clerk.

The suspect made off with \$120, according to court documents. No one was injured in the incident. Johnson entered a plea Tuesday. A preliminary hearing has been set for March 11. His bond was set at \$50,000.

Commission delays decision on biotech

GOODING — On Monday, the Gooding County Planning and Zoning Commission delayed the public hearing on a permit for a proposed bio-products company at the request of the company's owner Mark Nebeker. Nebeker is applying for a special-use permit for his Idaho Bio Products company. Nebeker intends to locate his business in Hagerman in a residential area. Commercial and industrial uses are allowed, as zoned with a special-use permit from the county.

A number of Hagerman residents are circulating a petition requesting the commission deny Nebeker's permit. The hearing on Nebeker's permit will be held at 7 p.m. on March 28, in the planning and zoning meeting room. Located at 145 Seventh Ave. E. in Gooding.

Jerome man found dead in canyon

TWIN FALLS — An 88-year-old Jerome man was found dead Tuesday morning near the bottom of the Snake River Canyon, according to a local newspaper.

Hughes' body was found just east of the Perrine Bridge by search and rescue crews from Twin Falls and Jerome counties at about 8 a.m. Tuesday, said Jerome County Sheriff Sp. Rick Ustick. Search and rescue crews retrieved the body by boat.

Nunnally said she believes the cause of death is a stroke. Nunnally said Hughes had been depressed for some time. Nunnally said Hughes likely came down the canyon on the north rim of the canyon. She did not know the time of death.

Hospital Board will hold special meeting

TWIN FALLS — The process of looking into the future governance of the county hospital will be the subject of a special meeting, tonight, at the College of Southern Idaho. The Hospital Board will meet at 6 p.m. in rooms 478 and 277 of CSU Taylor Building. The evening will include the appointment of a steering committee to develop a plan for a new hospital facility with St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise. The merger is just one of the options Twin Falls County commissioners are considering when it comes to a possible change of governance. Commissioners are also looking at a possible sale of the hospital to another nonprofit or for-profit health care network.

Snowpack levels

Watershed	50%	60%	70%	80%
Sagehen	86%	89%	91%	92%
Big Wood	64%	62%	61%	60%
Little Wood	71%	69%	68%	67%
Big Lost	70%	68%	67%	66%
Upper Snake Basin	73%	70%	69%	68%
Hwy 96/Fallon	78%	76%	75%	74%
Upper Snake Basin	73%	70%	69%	68%
Salmon Falls	75%	73%	72%	71%

Senate eyes family planning bill

The Associated Press

BOISE — Social conservatives in the state Senate on Tuesday failed to stop a bill that supporters claim will prevent unwanted pregnancies through birth control counseling and save millions in future Medicaid expenses.

Debate lasted more than an hour, stopping twice amid a flurry of heated emotion. The second time debate was stopped, about half of the members trudged into the Senate President Pro Tem's office to hash through procedures in private.

The bipartisan bill, sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Shawn Keough, R-Sandpoint, and in the House by Rep. Margaret Henbest, D-Boise, eventually passed the Senate 18-17.

The bill would expand family planning services to women over 19, and families whose children are enrolled in the state health insurance program, called CHIP.



Twenty-one other states have enacted similar legislation, which specifically does not include abortion services, but does cover diagnosis, treatment, contraceptive supplies and counseling. It also provides testing for cancers, such as pap smears and mammograms.

Keough said the bill promotes sound policy that will lead to healthier babies and families. She also noted that the bill specifically excludes any money to fund abortions.

"We will have a great impact emotionally and for healthy families if we provide these family planning services so that

families have an opportunity to plan and think about what they are doing and make the correct choices," Keough said.

Responding to a series of questions from Sen. Patty Ann Lodge, R-Nampa, Keough said the bill was precluded by law from funding abortions.

She also said that while payments under the current Medicaid programs are split — 70 percent of the money comes from the federal government and 30 percent from the state — the new formula would pay 90 percent from the federal government and 10 percent from the state.

Sen. Gerry Sweet, R-Merid-

an, led the opposition, with concerns that government funding would wind up in the hands of Planned Parenthood, a national organization that provides family planning services and birth control counseling. However, Planned Parenthood of Idaho does not provide abortion services in the state.

Sweet said the bill "seems to be a well-intended piece of legislation," but that the bill goes further than that.

This legislation would fund Planned Parenthood of Idaho, allowing them to distribute condoms, birth control pills and emergency contraception pills.

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WEIGHING IN



Jill Perkins, center, an aerobics instructor at Gold's Gym, teaches a turbo kick class Tuesday evening in Twin Falls.

Event promotes a more healthy lifestyle

By Candace Baltz-Smylie
Times-News correspondent

TWIN FALLS — Julie Tadlock doesn't need a scientist to explain to her the connection between obesity and potentially fatal health problems. She's experienced it firsthand.

"The doctor told me I had an either-or option," she said. "Either I lose the weight or I wasn't going to be here."

Tadlock was diabetic and required numerous medications to control her insulin and blood pressure. But two years and 69 pounds later, Tadlock knows she made the right choice. Tadlock is no longer diabetic, and doesn't require any of the medications she once did. What's more, the weight loss has lowered her risk for cancer.

"It runs in my family, but so far I haven't had any," she said.

Today, the American Red Cross is teaming up with Weight Watchers to help cut the risk of cancer for even more people in the Magic Valley and around the country. The Great American Weigh In will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Weight Watchers, 754 Falls Ave. in the Turf Plaza. Participants will find out their Body Mass Index, an indicator for cancer risk, as well as ways to trim their waistlines as well as their risks. In addition, for every person who stops in to

be weighed today, Weight Watchers will donate \$5 to the American Cancer Society.

"When you tell someone, come on in, get weighed, and we'll tell you your BMI, they don't always understand," said Maggie Arrington, director of Southern Idaho Weight Watchers. "The BMI is a ratio of fat to muscle mass in the body. The higher the BMI, the greater the risk of diseases."

A BMI between 25 and 29.9 is considered overweight, higher is considered obese. A BMI of 18.5 or lower is considered healthy. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2000, 65 percent of U.S. adults were overweight or obese.

"That's always the best way to make decisions, right?"

"Wrong," says urban cultural anthropologist Jennifer James. "You're always being told facts that correspond with their core beliefs," James said. Therefore, people should take the time to distinguish between scientific knowledge and those gut feelings.

When people are unwilling to change, they can easily be swayed to believe in core facts that correspond with their core beliefs, James said. Therefore, people should take the time to distinguish between scientific knowledge and those gut feelings.

Want to Lose Weight?

Kip Perkins, personal training director at Gold's Gym of Twin Falls, offers these tips:

1. Increase meal frequency. Weigh many dinners assume losing weight means losing meals, that kind of thinking is not only wrong, it can actually expand a waistline. People should eat several small meals throughout the day.

"In all-eat, the body needs calories to lose fat," Perkins said. "If they are eating 1,000 calories a day, their body thinks it's starving. And that can result in the body storing more calories as fat instead of losing weight."

2. Drive past the Drive-Thru. Nearly half of the calories in fast food can come from fat.

"So what happens is people are eating less often, and the food

they eat is high in fat," Perkins said. "People have heard it and heard it and heard it, but if you want to see results, you probably need to change the way you eat." He suggests eating a healthy amount of calories, getting enough protein with every meal, and eating five or six times a day.

3. Get up and get active. Despite the common misconception that as people age, their metabolism drops, Perkins says while it may account for a small decrease in metabolism, it isn't an excuse for not trying. "Metabolism doesn't slow down. We do," he said. "If we would run with our kids our metabolism would pick up and we would be leaner."

the physician's office.

"She's delighted. She and her nurse are both on the plan now," Tadlock said.

Now, Tadlock hopes other people who are overweight will take the opportunity to get weighed, identify their risk factor for cancer, and change their lifestyle.

Candace Baltz-Smylie is a correspondent for The Times-News. She can be reached by e-mail at Candacebaltz@hotmail.com.

organism printed in the New England Journal of Medicine concluded that obesity may account for 20 percent of all U.S. cancer deaths of women, and 14 percent of men. That's approximately 9,000 deaths each year, in the U.S.

The healthiest way to lose weight is at the rate of about two to five pounds per week. That's how Tadlock did it using Weight Watchers and walking about 2 miles a day. She not only impressed her doctor, she inspired

the DOE officials will temporarily turn off the system in order to observe progress.

"This will allow DOE cleanup teams to collect the information they need to find more efficient ways to treat the groundwater at Test Area North," said Matt Wilkening, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's manager for the cleanup.

The injection well used for dumping TCE into the aquifer was shut down in 1972.

However, the contaminant did not show up on-site at INL until 1988 in wells up to 600 feet away from the injection well, said Joseph Campbell, a spokesperson for

Please see TESTING, Page B4

DOE stops cleanup at INL for testing

By Michelle Dunlop
Times-News writer

ARCO — Scientists believe they have removed enough of a contaminant from one section of the aquifer at the Idaho National Laboratory to pause cleanup efforts and monitor water quality.

More than 50 years ago, workers in the Test Area North section of the INL began pumping the first of what could be thousands of gallons of a pollutant called trichloroethene into the Snake River Aquifer. Trichloroethene, or TCE, can cause cancer when ingested.

In 2001, the Department of Energy began operating a pump and treat system that has cleaned more than 350 million gallons of water to date.

This week, officials will temporarily turn off the system in order to observe progress.

"This will allow DOE cleanup teams to collect the information they need to find more efficient ways to treat the groundwater at Test Area North," said Matt Wilkening, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's manager for the cleanup.

The injection well used for dumping TCE into the aquifer was shut down in 1972.

However, the contaminant did not show up on-site at INL until 1988 in wells up to 600 feet away from the injection well, said Joseph Campbell, a spokesperson for

Please see TESTING, Page B4

NewsTracker

- **Last we knew:** In 2001, the Department of Energy began operating a pump and treat system that has cleaned more than 350 million gallons of water in the Snake River Aquifer below the Test Area North site at the Idaho National Laboratory to remove contamination.
- **The latest:** The DOE believes it has reduced contamination levels in one section of the plume by 90 percent. The department will pause treatment on this section of the plume for testing and resume cleanup if necessary.
- **What's next:** Testing on the cleanup site could last up to two years.

Don't always go with your gut, visiting speaker says

By Megan Hinds
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Go with your gut.

"That's always the best way to make decisions, right?"

"Wrong," says urban cultural anthropologist Jennifer James. "You're always being told facts that correspond with their core beliefs," James said. Therefore, people should take the time to distinguish between scientific knowledge and those gut feelings.

When people are unwilling to change, they can easily be swayed to believe in core facts that correspond with their core beliefs, James said. Therefore, people should take the time to distinguish between scientific knowledge and those gut feelings.

"When you go to the emergency room, you want the comfort of your minister, but you don't want him to be the one to cut you open," James said. "If you stray into a non-identifiable belief system, you're walking off a cliff."

But thinking can lead to the abandonment of logic as well as the basing of decisions on known facts. This "logic mentality" can be seen in many roles of society, James said, especially in politics. For instance, President Bush's planned Social Security overhaul is based largely on ideology, not on necessity, she said.

"If you don't think we have voodoo or 'deja-voodoo' poli-

tics, you need to read the fine print," James said. "I don't remember a time when Americans have believed so many things that aren't true. [The government] thinks you are really, really dumb, and if you tell us something enough times with a smile on their faces, you'll believe it."

■ Chamber president and chief executive Shawn Bariga said he felt many of James' ideas apply to Magic Valley's ever-changing business climate and especially the business community's premier organization.

"Her message of open-mindedness and using facts to make decisions can be applicable in many aspects of work and life,"

Bariga said. "I found a lot of ways to apply a lot of what she said to my work. Talking about corporate responsibility, especially with the challenges that have taken place at the chamber in the past few months."

■ **Too often,** Bariga said, people can become complacent with issues that fester that gut reflex, while ignoring larger issues that can really affect their lives.

■ **Five get so bogged down** with minor minutiae of our community and meanwhile, the big issues, sail right through," Bariga said.

"Times-News writer Megan Hinds can be reached at 735-3238 or megan.hinds@tnnews.net."

MAGIC VALLEY

OBITUARIES

For obituary rates and information, call 735-3278 Monday through Saturday, Deadline is 4 p.m. for next-day publication. The e-mail address for obituaries is obit@magicvalley.com. Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 4 p.m. every day. To view or submit obituaries online, or to place a message in an individual online guestbook, go to www.magicvalley.com and click on "Obituaries."

Larry D. Moore



EAST HELENA, Mont. — Larry D. Moore, age 67 of East Helena, passed away Saturday, Feb. 19, 2005, after an extended illness at the family home with his wife, Marie, and daughter, Lorraine, by his side.

Larry was born June 9, 1937, in Jerome, Idaho. He was the 14th of 15 children born to Joe and Gussie Moore. Dad attended school in Jerome. In 1954 he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. And was stationed at MCB 29 Palms, Calif. He received his honorable discharge in December 1958.

In 1961 he moved to East Helena and met his future wife, Marie Petek. Larry and Marie were married June 23, 1962, at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church in East Helena. Larry worked for the Bureau of Reclamation at Canyon Ferry for several years, the state of Montana, the Montana Contractors Association and was a contractor for the state Highway Department.

Larry was appointed to the East Helena City Council in 1981. He served on the council as president until he was appointed mayor in 1985. He served as mayor from 1985-

was his grandchildren whom he loved to tease.

Larry is survived by his wife, Marie, who had a great influence on his life. He is also survived by his children, Joe of Seattle, Mike and his wife, Suzanne, of Florence, Lorraine Donovan and her husband, Rick, of Mount Vernon, Wash., Holly Wilder and her husband, Joe, of Tigard, Ore., and Jeff of Plano, Texas; his grandchildren, Nichole, Shasta, Rick Donovan, Tyler Raney, Ellen Wilder, Shanna and Colin Moore; his brother, Max of Jerome, Idaho; and sisters, Elsie Donovan of Twin Falls, Idaho, and Ina Jo Ellis and her husband, Don, of Yuma, Ariz. Larry is also survived by his brother-in-law, Jim Petek; sisters-in-law, Ellen East and Garnet Dietrich; and numerous nieces and nephews that he truly enjoyed.

He was preceded in death by his parents; granddaughter, Tiffany Donovan; seven brothers and four sisters.

Larry was buried under the direction of Metz Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to St. Ann's Cemetery Box 525, East Helena, MT 59635 or to St. Ann's Cemetery 2475 Broadway, Helena, MT 59601.

1989 and again from 1994-2001. Larry enjoyed serving the people of East Helena and worked hard to improve the city while trying to keep the taxes as low as possible for all the citizens.

Larry enjoyed working in the yard and maintaining a garden and flowers. His lawn was also a source of pride. He enjoyed helping others with home projects.

Larry was always available to help someone with painting, fencing, dry walling and yard work. Larry was very meticulous about his work. Things had to always be done right. Larry's other source of pride

Floyd H. 'Chuck' Lancaster



WENDELL — Floyd H. "Chuck" Lancaster passed away Saturday, Feb. 26, 2005, at the age of 86 at his home in Wendell with family at his side.

Chuck was born Sept. 21, 1918, in West Jordan, Utah. He was the third of four children of Hiram Lancaster and Mary Anna Gold Lancaster. Chuck's early years were spent in West Jordan. Their lives were changed when their father was killed in an accident at the Smelter plant where he worked.

Some time later their family was made whole again when their mother married George R. Lancaster. He was Arthur's nephew.

When Chuck was 10, their family moved to Wendell. In those early years Wendell was a small village.

Ageless brush grew on every corner. It was a wonderful place to grow up in. One of the games they used to love was "Rubber Guns" which they made themselves.

It is used to recall that his Grandpa Gold would give him 25 cents to buy a box of shells so they could go hunting.

The depression set in and Chuck got a job at Broadhavs's Honey Plant in Wendell. He was a valued employee. The depression lingered on so in

Wanda preceded him in death June 14, 1998. He in the 14 years since her death he continued to live a full and rich life. He will be remembered as a kind and generous man.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Wanda; his mother and father, Hiram and Mary Ann Lancaster and Donna Eckles; and one brother, Gene Lancaster.

Survivors include two sisters, Velma Willard, Meridian, Idaho, Beth Bergegocha, Cascade, Idaho; one brother, Murlen Lancaster; his children, Ramon (Rose-Mary) Ydranga of Kentwood, La., Paula Murray of Sacramento, Calif., and Yves (Dewey) Durfee of Wendell; eight grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren as well as several nieces and nephews and many special friends.

A funeral will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 3, 2005, at the Wendell LDS Church with burial following at the Wendell Cemetery. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Demaray's Wendell Chapel.

The family suggests in lieu of flowers, that memorial contributions be made to: South Central Idaho Veterans' Home, c/o Wendell American Legion Post #41 P.O. Box 238 Wendell, ID 83355.

The family suggests in lieu of flowers, that memorial contributions be made to: South Central Idaho Veterans' Home, c/o Wendell American Legion Post #41 P.O. Box 238 Wendell, ID 83355.

He married Wanda Ydranga on May 12, 1962. He became an instant father with her three children. Wanda and her children made his life complete.

William Charles Davis



BOISE — William Charles Davis, 70, of Boise, passed away on Sunday, Feb. 27, 2005, at his home.

An open house will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, 2005, at his home. Burial services will be at Mountain View Cemetery in Altadena, Calif., at a later date.

Bill was born on a ranch in Tule Lake, Calif., in Feb. 26, 1935, to Wesley and Helen (Turner) Davis. The family relocated to Applegate, Ore., when Bill was quite young. He grew up on a ranch in that area and attended school in the Medford, Ore., school system. Two branches of Bill's family were early pioneers in the Pasadena, Calif., area and a third in the Paso Robles, Calif., area.

He attended Oregon State University and graduated with a degree in business agriculture in 1959. His early college career was interrupted with a two-year stint in the U.S. Army, having served most of that time in Korea.

In 1960, Bill married Janice Henry of Kimberly, Idaho, and that union produced three wonderful sons, Jimmy, George and Mark. Bill worked for several years in potato farming and trucking in eastern Idaho while keeping up on his real interest in investments, which brought him to Boise around 1982. He has been with several investment

property investments in the Sun Valley area. Later on he became an excellent tennis player and will be remembered by his many friends at Boise Racquet and Swim Club. He also was an avid golfer.

Bill is survived by his two sons, George (Theresa) Davis, Yuma, Ariz., and Mark (Paula) Davis, Meridian, Idaho; five grandchildren: a brother, Silas (Opal) Davis, Brookings, Ore.; two beloved nieces, Rimona and Lenore; several great-nieces and nephews and several including his second cousin and lifelong companion, George M. Burns, Boise, Idaho.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Gregory; a son, Jimmy; and two nephews.

During the past six and one-half years, Bill has been lovingly cared for by many wonderful caregivers including: Christina, Angela, Andrzej and Iola, Kimberlee, Nancy, Lon, Mike and Monica, Chris, Kathy, Steve, Casey, and many many others. Special thanks to his personal accountant, Wanda Dowd, and to his many physicians and other caregivers at St. Alphonsus Medical Center.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations to the Craig Injury research or to the Cong Institute in Colorado. Arrangements are pending under the direction of Meridian's Chapel of the Chimes Funeral Home.

SERVICES

Jeann Suttill of Twin Falls, graveside memorial service at 11 a.m. today at Sunset Memorial Park in Twin Falls (Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home).

Henry West, graveside service at 11 a.m. today at the Rupert Cemetery. Friends may call from 9 to 10:30 a.m. today at Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St., Burley.

Marilyn Saunders Young Bennett, memorial service at 2 p.m. today at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls.

Lola Fern Cunningham, graveside service at 11 a.m. today from the Gibbonsville Cemetery of Gibbonsville.

Beth Dalton Wayment of Burley, funeral at 11 a.m. Thursday at View 1st and 2nd Ward Chapel of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 550 S. 500 E., Burley. Friends may call from 6 until 8 p.m. today at Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St., Burley, and from 10 until 10:45 a.m. Thursday at the church.

Bessie Reiter Dorsey of Paul, funeral at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Paul United Methodist Church, 127 W. Clark St. Friends may call from 6 until 8 p.m. today at Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St., Burley, and from 10 until 10:45 p.m. Thursday at the church.

Gloria Goldie Shafer of Twin Falls, memorial service at 11 a.m. Thursday at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls.

Bellinda Marie Cox Wrigley of Twin Falls, graveside inurnment service at 11 a.m. Thursday at the View Cemetery in Burley (Reynolds Funeral Chapel, Twin Falls).

Ruth Tolman Hopkin Barrus of Wendell, funeral at 11 a.m. Friday at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Wendell. Viewing and family visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday at Demaray Funeral Chapel in Wendell.

Brandi Ann Fonseca, St. Charles Catholic Church. Interment will follow in the Halley Cemetery.

Bill A. Brooks of the Wood River Valley, funeral at 1 p.m. Saturday at the St. Charles Catholic Church. The vigil will

be at 7 p.m. Friday at the church.

Wayne Edward Kennedy, service at 3:30 p.m. Saturday at Park's Funeral Home. Visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Donald William Stivers of Twin Falls, memorial service at 10 a.m. Saturday at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls.

Andy Son Owens of Monroe, La., memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-

day Saints Stake Center in Filer. The family will greet guests from noon until time of the service.

James Alderman Evans of Hiley, celebration of life at 3 p.m. Saturday at the Light on the Mountain Spiritual Center. Shuttles will be provided to Light on the Mountain from East Fork parking lot at 2:30 p.m.

Winifred Ellen Stombaugh of Boise and formerly of Buhl, memorial service at 1 p.m. March 12 at Summers Funeral Chapel, Eagle and Ustick in Meridian.

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The family of **Wilma Kaykendall** wishes to thank everyone for their kindness and support following our recent loss.

We also thank Dr. Patrick Desmond for his care and dedication.

For all of our family and friends, we sincerely appreciate the many years of friendship and love.

We are so grateful to all of you.

Iro Kaykendall Jerry Kaykendall & Family Peggy Jelford & Family

We, the family of **Don Stivers** would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to the Staff and Care Givers of Mountain View Care Center for their professionalism and their personal touch and loving care of Don during his stay with them.

Sincerely, **Wanda Stivers, Barbara & Chuck Corwin, Daniel & Lee Ann Stivers and family**

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Lester Frederick Kuhn

NEWTOWN, Conn. — Lester Frederick Kuhn, 87, a Newtown, Conn., resident, died Monday, Feb. 28, 2005, at the Twin Falls Care Center.

Arrangements will be made by White Mortuary.

Raymond T. Moore

JEROME — Raymond T. Moore, 21, of Jerome, died Feb. 27, 2005, at his home.

A funeral will be held at noon Saturday, March 5, 2005, at the Jerome LDS Stake Center, 26 N. Tiger Drive in Jerome. Arrangements are under the direction of Farnsworth Mortuary, 1343 S. Lincoln, Jerome.

Juel Hughes

JEROME — Juel Hughes, 66, of Jerome, died Monday, Feb. 28, 2005.

Arrangements will be made by the Irvin Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome.

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Twin Falls Cemetery 2551 Kimberly Rd. Twin Falls, ID 83301

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OBITUARIES

Marjorie Marie Ferry Adriaansen



travels with Jack, especially to a Dutch community in Lyden, Wash., and her nursing service.

Marjorie is survived by sisters, Margaret Neuharth of Auburn, Wash., and Denise (Frank) West of Menlo Park,

Calif., and brothers, James Vincent Ferry of Rupert, Idaho, Kevin (Don) Ferry of Pocatello and Tom Bolton of Dewey Rose, Georgia; six nieces and nephews; 10 great-nieces and nephews; and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents and her brother, Dan.

A memorial Mass will be held at 11 a.m. March 4, 2005, at the St. Nicholas Catholic Church. A private family burial will follow at the Rupert Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials contributions may be made to St. Alphonsus Nephrology Center in Boise, Idaho, University of Utah Transplant Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, or charity of choice.

Marjorie was dearly loved as a sister, aunt and friend. She will be missed by all.

SEATTLE, Wash. — James E. Chappell died of natural causes on Feb. 19, 2005, at age 80 in Shelton, Wash.

A veteran of World War II, he moved to Twin Falls after retirement in 1984.

He was preceded in death

James E. Chappell

by his wife, Thelma "Sam" Chappell.

He is survived by two daughters, Mary Perry of San Jose and Kathie Adams of Shelton, Wash.; three sons, Jim Chappell of Los Gatos, John Chappell of Gooding, Idaho,

and Rob Chappell of Boise, Idaho; by eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren; son-in-law, Jerry Perry; and daughters-in-law, Barb Chappell of Los Gatos and Bev Chappell of Gooding. Services have been held.

Gloria Goldie Shaffer

Boise, Idaho. Her two beloved sons, Larry and Gary Peacock, were both born Jan. 14, 1950, and Dec. 1, 1950.

Gloria was preceded in death by her husband, James Shaffer, son, Larry Peacock; her parents; her brothers, Johnny and Eddy Meyers; and daughter-in-law, Julie Peacock.

Gloria is survived by her son,

Gary and wife, Sherry Peacock; sister, Marie Anderson; sister-in-law, Jeanette Meyers; and seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

There will be a graveside service at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 3, 2005, at Sunset Memorial Park. Services are under the direction of Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home.

Mable Bartlett



children, Donna Richardson, Steve (Denice) Bartlett, Darlene Taylor and Keaton (Bud) Jackson, all of Jerome, Shadon (Kathy) Ward of Bellevue, James (Terri) Bartlett of Twin Falls

and Teri (Steve) Suttles of Mitchell, Neb. She is also survived by 23 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and one sister, Maie Scarrow of Twin Falls.

Mable was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, one son, Truman Lee, one granddaughter, seven brothers and one sister.

Mable will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

A service will be held in her honor at 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 3, 2005, at Farnsworth Mortuary, 1343 S. Lincoln Ave., Jerome, with Pastor Gene Kistinger officiating. Friends and family may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday evening, March 2, at the mortuary. Interment to follow in the Jerome Cemetery.

Marva Jean Walters



Survivors include her daughter, Deborah (Rick) Hillier of Jerome; and a son, Dan Walters of Boise; two grandchildren, Ross and

Hanna Hillier of Jerome; and two brothers, Tom Keller of Eugene, Ore., and Gary Keller of San Clemente, Calif.

A funeral for Marva Walters will be conducted at 10 a.m. Friday at St. Jerome's Catholic Church with the Rev. Father Ron Wekerle officiating. Friends may call from 6 until 8 p.m. Thursday, March 3, 2005, at the Hove-Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome.

Memorial donations may be made in Marva's name to the Mountain States Tumor Institute of Boise at 100 E. Idaho St., Boise, ID 83712. Burial will follow at the Jerome Cemetery.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Hove-Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome.

JEROME — Mable Bartlett, 81, of Jerome, went to be with her Heavenly Father on Feb. 27, 2005.

Mable was born to Ike and Stella McAllister in Westpoint, Ark., on July 4, 1923. She married Truman Bartlett in Berryville, Ark., on Aug. 14, 1947. They moved to Jerome, Idaho, in 1950. Mable was employed at St. Benedict's Long Term Care Unit for five years. Mable and Truman farmed in Jerome until their retirement. They enjoyed raising their seven children. Mable also enjoyed working in her church and spending time with her family. Mable's dream of becoming a published author was realized when her autobiography was published.

Mable is survived by her

RUPERT — Marjorie Marie Ferry Adriaansen, a 66-year-old Rupert resident, died Feb. 28, 2005, at Mindoka Memorial Hospital supported by family and friends.

Marjorie was born to Patrick and Ciraco Ferry, Sept. 23, 1938, the fifth of six children. She attended school in Acaquia and Burley and was a member of the first graduating class of Minico High in 1956.

Marjorie worked as a nursing assistant for several years before completing a L.N.C. course taught at Mindoka Memorial Hospital. She continued her medical work there where she again worked at the Valley General Hospital.

She married Jack Adriaansen in 1988 in Seattle, Wash., and returned to Rupert where she again worked at Mindoka Memorial Hospital. She enjoyed gardening,

JEROME — Marva Jean Walters, 60, of Jerome, died Monday at her home, following an extended illness.

She was born May 7, 1944, at Toledo, Ohio, the daughter of Warren and Mary Germano Keller.

Marva came to Jerome in 1972 and for several years managed the Jerome County Airport facility and was a licensed pilot. She also owned and operated two restaurant and catering businesses. Later she became a licensed real estate broker and for a number of years owned and operated Landmark Realty.

She very much enjoyed traveling, golfing, entertaining and spending time with her children, grandchildren and friends.

Catherine Mecham Tolman



for the military. After the war they returned to Rupert to farm and milk his registered Gurnsey cow herd. She loved her family, especially her grandchildren and the out

doors.

Catherine is survived by her children, Wayne (Marlene) Tolman and Lois (Wendell) Dunn both of Rupert; sisters, Clea Guissola of Rupert, Lala McBride of Victor, Idaho, and Donna Hansen of Hermiston, Ore.; nine grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brothers, Willis, Eldon, Loyde and Jim.

A funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 3, 2005, at the Rupert LDS 3rd Ward chapel, 526 S. F St., with Bishop Gladys Chandler officiating. Burial will follow at the Rupert Cemetery. Family and friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Hansen Mortuary, Rupert, Idaho, 606 S. Sixth St., and one hour prior to service on Thursday at the church.

RUPERT — Gloria Rae Temple, a 71-year-old Rupert resident, passed away March 1, 2005, at Mindoka Memorial Hospital.

Gloria was born Feb. 6, 1934, in Burley, Idaho, the daughter of Herbert and Estelle Baugh Moultrie. She grew up in Burley and graduated from Burley High School in 1952. She married Virgil Temple Dec. 28, 1951, in Burley.

She was a homemaker and taking care of her family and being with her grandchildren was her greatest joy.

Gloria is survived by her husband, Virgil; her son, Dan (Betty) Temple of Rupert and their children, Ron (Nathan) Lant and Justin Temple; and her son, Jerry Temple of Rupert and his children, Lacey and Colter Blu Temple.

Gloria Rae Temple



She was preceded in death by her parents, one sister, Mariann Asher; and daughter-in-law, Kristi Newcomb Temple.

A funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, March 4, 2005, at Hansen Mortuary, Rupert



Chapel 710 Sixth St.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Idaho Eels Rehabilitation Hospital in care of Hansen Mortuary, 710 Sixth St., Rupert, ID 83350. Burial will follow at the Rupert Cemetery.

Viola E. Higgins Sorensen



Elmer Higgins, Colleen (Rex) Collins and R.B. (Sharon) Higgins; four stepchildren, Dave and Pam Sorensen, Scott and Vicki Sorensen, Ray and Linda Sorensen and Mark Sorensen; numerous grandchildren; and great-grandchildren; two sisters, Edna (Walt) Wheeler and Mary Derrine; a

brother-in-law, Russell Higgins; stepmother, Eula Sorensen; two sisters-in-law, Winnie Wardle and Mette Sorensen; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, a daughter, Hazel Turner; three sisters, Goldie and Bessie Smith and Elinor Polyard; a grandson, Jamie Higgins; a granddaughter, Winona Emmons; and a great-granddaughter, Codi Scott.

Viola was a wonderful mother and grandmother. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Bill to raise hunting fees might die

BOISE — A proposed 14-percent increase in hunting and fishing license fees appears to be dead, although some increase may still come this year after a House committee on Tuesday decided to permanently hold the current legislation.

There was little discussion after Rep. Mike Moyle asked

members to wait for new legislation to come to the committee later this year.

Moyle said after the meeting that while many organized sportsmen groups' indicated support for the bill, individual hunters and anglers have been contacting lawmakers asking for a lesser increase.

During the most recent hearings,

gave the 14-percent increase mixed reviews. It would have raised the department's revenue by about \$3 million.

Fees would have gone up less than \$5 for a hunting and fishing combination license.

The increase would also apply to animal tags and permits. Nonresident fees would have gone up a similar percentage.

MIDDLETON — Viola E. Higgins Sorensen, 90, of Middleton, Idaho, died Friday, Feb. 25, 2005, at the Caldwell Hospital of natural causes.

A funeral will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 5, 2005, at White Mortuary, Chapel by the Park, in Twin Falls. Interment will follow at Sunset Memorial Park in Twin Falls.

Viola was born at Leto, Colo., Jan. 20, 1915, to Elmer and Hazel Smith. She attended schools in Colorado. During her life she helped with the farm work, was a rural school bus driver, wife, a nurse and clerk. Viola married James R. Higgins, July 20, 1932. They had six children. Later she married Ray A. Sorensen, Sept. 21, 1971. She was a stepmother of four sons. Viola enjoyed music and gardening.

Surviving are her five children, Goldie (Aubrey) Smith, Raymond (Dartene) Higgins,

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FOOD & HOME



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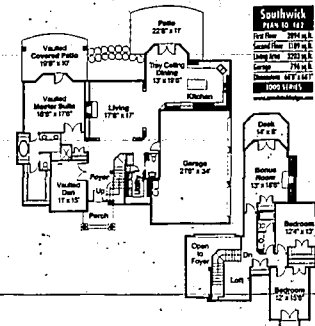
The Southwick's neo-traditional exterior can be likened to a musical composition. The rough, earthy texture of stone veneer here runs a complementary counterpoint to the smooth classical columns, graceful arches and ethereal neo-Gothic windows. These elements, along with the wrought iron balcony railing, combine to give this estate-size home a delightfully French flavor.

Passing through the vaulted porch, you enter a naturally bright foyer. Windows surround the door on the sides and top. Double doors on the left open into a vaulted den that could be a library, study or home office.

Directly ahead, ornamental columns flank a wide, arched opening that leads into the living room. A gas fireplace is centered along the long wall and custom cabinets fill that wall on both sides. Wide windows span most of the rear, offering a great view while admitting a generous wash of natural light.

Another column-topped, arched opening is across the room from the fireplace. This one links the living room to the dining area and kitchen.

Two more bedrooms are upstairs, along with a vaulted loft, a two-section bathroom, and a bonus room with a gas fireplace, home entertainment



center and balcony. For a review plan, including scaled floor plans, elevations section and artist's conception, send \$25 to Association Designs, 1100 Jacobs Dr., Dept. W, Eugene, OR 97402. Please specify the Southwick 30-482 and include a return address when ordering. A catalog featuring more than 400 home plans is available for \$15. For more information, call (800) 634-0123, or visit our website at www.associatedesigns.com.

Americans use homes like cash machines

The Sacramento Bee

Bull Sligh is only 36 years old, but she's fast becoming a real-estate lending terms.

Sligh and her husband, Paul, intend to pay off their 15-year mortgage in 13 years — well before retirement. They've resisted the temptation to tap home equity to enhance their lifestyle or to expand their Carmichael dry cleaning business.

"I would try my hardest not to take anything out. It's a last resource," explained Sligh, a mother of two young children. She said Depression-era mindset is fading fast.

Americans, who once viewed home equity as an untouchable strongbox, are increasingly using it as an ATM.

In three refinancing waves since 1993, many American homeowners lengthened the number of years they'll be paying on their mortgages and piled on billions in extra debt by cashing out equity or taking out equity loans and lines of credit.

According to mortgage giant Freddie Mac, U.S. households cashed out an estimated \$480 billion in home equity during the refinancing boom that started in 2001, peaked in 2003 and tapered off last year.

"More than two-and-a-half times the equity cashed out from 1993-2000.

"Folks paying off their loans and owning their homes free and clear is becoming increasingly a dim memory," said Keith Gumbinger, vice president of HSH Associates, a mortgage research firm in New Jersey.

"Someone in their 40s who has refinanced into a new, 30-year term has realistically signed themselves on for a mortgage until they are actuarially likely to be dead. It's the mortgage in perpetuity."

Far fewer Americans are likely to invite neighbors over for the once-common mortgage-burning party, a development which could profoundly impact retirees' financial security and the economy.

"I used to be people thought of it (their home) as their nest-egg that was only for life-changing events, such as medical emergencies or divorce," said Javier Silva, a senior researcher at Demos, a nonpartisan, New York think tank focused on the economic security of families.

Today they're going after it more for non-emergencies. It's a catch-all financing option. Forty-five percent of homeowners who refinanced between early 2001 and the first half of 2002 pulled cash out, and 74 percent wound up with more years on their mortgage — more years, on average — according to a Federal Reserve household survey.

Just 17 percent of those who refinanced chose to shorten the loan term, usually choosing a 15-year mortgage.

Americans owed \$766.2 billion in home equity loans and lines of credit in the second quarter of 2004 — more than twice as much as in 1998, according to the Fed.

Custom metalwork business booms for Denver man

The Denver Post

Ten years ago when Lloyd Lettlet opened Custom Coatings and Rails, it was a welding shop that made handrails that were, in his words, "nothing fancy."

"We were working on our first really high-end house, and they wanted nice to design rails for their curved staircases," he said. "I had never really done it before, but I said I'd give it a try."

Lettlet rolled the metal, a process that curves straight metal balusters to flow with the staircase. He powder-coated the metal with a distressed rusted finish for one rustic staircase and a copper color for an elegant staircase in the front part of the house. At the time, Lettlet was the only ironworker in Denver who could create a curved rail. "It turned out well, and the custom work just took off from there," he said.

Now, a majority of Lettlet's work is custom-designed ironwork. He has created everything from ornate handrails on a wine case door to a 10-foot-tall metal ficus tree. He still does railings, but now they are

"something fancy," like one staircase that features lighted, metal sculptures inside the posts. "I still have trouble thinking of myself as an artist or an inventor, but I guess that's what I've become," Lettlet said.

CORRECTION

In Dixie Thomas Reale's Valley Cooking column on Feb. 23, one ingredient — sugar — was omitted from her Best Biscuits recipe. Here's the corrected recipe.

BEST BISCUITS

- 2 cups flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar (more or less, to taste)
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 egg
- 2/3 cup milk

Mix all dry ingredients in a large bowl. Cut in the shortening. Beat egg into the milk, then stir the egg and milk mixture into the flour mixture until the dough forms a ball. Knead well on floured surface then roll out to 1/2 inch thick. Cut with a biscuit cutter and place rounds on ungreased cookie sheet with sides touching. Bake at 400 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes or until golden brown. Makes one dozen biscuits. Serve warm with butter and honey.

The Times-News regrets the error.

Is a surge suppressor for your whole house worth the money?

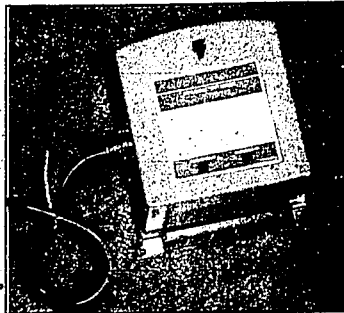
DEAR JIM: My computer and VCR were damaged by voltage surges last year. Will whole-house surge suppressors work better than the cheap plug-in ones? Will they also save electricity as I saw stated in some ads?

—LYNNE H. DEAR LYNNE: Whole-house surge suppressors are generally more effective than the ones which you plug into the wall and then plug in the appliance or electronic device. Almost every electric item in your home now has some type of sensitive electronic component which voltage surges may damage.

It's important to understand how voltage surges damage electronics. Everyone thinks of a huge surge, coming from a nearby lightning strike, that fries the electronics and this certainly can happen. Generally though, repeated, smaller surges, which you are not aware of, slowly degrade the components and the insulation materials until the malfunctions. Voltage surges are often created when an electric motor switches off. These may come from a freezer compressor in a delicatessen down the street or from the refrigerator or washer-inside-your-own-home.

The surges can range from just several hundred to several thousand volts in amplitude. A combination of a whole-house surge suppressor (mounted on the circuit breaker) and plug-in models provides your best protection against damage from surges. If there is a direct lightning strike on your home, even the best surge suppressor may not help.

You will see many ads for whole-house surge suppressors ranging in cost from about \$150 to nearly \$500. There are differences in the level of protection they offer which you can compare by their specifications. Some also include a warranty (up to \$25,000) to replace any items which are damaged by surges. Don't plan on saving much electricity from installing a surge suppressor as some



This surge suppressor will protect your whole house, rather than just a few electronic devices.



SENSIBLE HOME
James Dully

companies' advertisements indicate. There may be a negligible savings by reducing motor hysteresis caused by uncontrolled voltage surges, but your reason for investing in a surge suppressor should be protection.

The key specifications to consider are the maximum surge current, the energy dissipation and the clamping voltage. The more expensive models have larger and more MOV's (metal oxide varistor) to be able to handle higher surge current and dissipate more energy. A lower clamping voltage (the voltage where the unit starts to block the surge) is better.

If you have cable television, consider selecting a model with input/output terminals for the cable. Surges, often from lightning, can enter your video equipment and computer via the cable. Also use a plug-in model with telephone line surge protection. The following

companies offer whole-house surge suppressors: Control Concepts (800-288-6169 www.control-concepts.com), Eaton Electrical (877-932-9322 www.eaton-electrical.com), EET Electronics (800-877-1174 www.eetnet.com), Panamax (800-472-5555 www.panamax.com), and Square D (888-776-2733 www.squared.com). Send inquiries to James Dully, The Times-News, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dully.com.

DEAR JIM: We have a large picture window which has gotten foggy due to a leaky seal. We are going to replace all the windows next summer. What can I do temporarily to reduce the energy loss due to the leak?

—ELLEN R. DEAR ELLEN: There really is no need to do anything to the window now. The slight leak in the seal between the glass panes will not impact its efficiency. The fog just makes it difficult to see outdoors. The seals on your new windows will likely be of a higher quality. Many replacement window manufacturers now offer lifetime warranties on the seals. Make sure your new windows have insulating type spacers and seals.

Watch for our HERE'S HOW Wednesday, March 9 Guide



New Groups Forming Now

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Koast chicken made golden Table manners can make the difference

The Seattle Times and The Associated Press

Chez L'Ami Louis, a small restaurant in the Marais section of Paris, prepares what's been considered by many to be the best roast chicken in the world. Diners are served a simple, unadorned bird with crackling skin and juicy meat, and they're willing to pay plenty for it. L'Ami Louis' humble roast chicken for two will set you back about \$25.

That's a lot of bucks for such a plain bird. After all, there's no rich olive gras snuffing or flaming brandy sauce to set it apart. In this rendition, the chicken clearly comes first. France's flavorful, corn-fed Bresse chicken is the key, a bird so regal and genetically pure that it's protected by its own Appellation d'Origine Controlee, which is governed by precise rules for breeding and presentation.

There's a lesson to be learned from the French. When we begin with the best ingredients, something special can happen.

The poultry from Bresse may not be accessible to us, but we do have access to poultry cases full of chickens that have been raised following varying formulas and offer shoppers different flavors, textures and tenderness.

Except for kosher chicken, which has already been socked in a brine, all poultry will benefit from brining, which makes a big difference in both flavor and moisture content. Dr. Alan Sands, professor of poultry science at Texas A&M University, has studied the effects of salting poultry before roasting. "Salt dissolves protein in muscle, and the salt and protein reduce moisture loss during cooking," he said. "This makes the meat juicier and more tender, and improves the flavor."

The perfect roast chicken, like that served at L'Ami Louis, will have a crispy skin and moist, flavorful meat. Here's how to get similar results in the home kitchen without breaking the budget.

• Before roasting, remove excess pockets of fat from under the chicken skin and around the cavities.

• For even cooking and crisp skin, a roasting rack is crucial for lifting the poultry off the bottom of the pan so there's lots of air circulation around it.

• Fill the chicken cavity with herbs, pieces of citrus fruit or other ingredients that are compatible with the seasonings in the recipe.

• For moist breast meat, some publications suggest turning the chicken up to four times during roasting. But we found that just one turn still made a difference in the quality of the meat. Cook the chicken breast-side down for 30 to 40 minutes, then turn breast-side up and finish roasting another 40 minutes or until done.

• An instant-read or digital thermometer is the most accurate instrument for taking the internal temperature of roast chicken. Place the probe in the thermometer in the thickest part of the chicken between the leg and thigh; it should read 180 degrees. Make sure the gauge is not resting on bone.

• If a myth that basting repeatedly will keep poultry meat moist: In fact the basting liquid never penetrates the skin. For crispier skin, baste once halfway through the roasting time.

• Instead of basting, use dry, seasoning rubs on the outside of the skin and butters or pegs under the skin to infuse the meat with flavor and moisture.

• Let the roasted chicken rest for 10 to 15 minutes before carving. That juices have time to redistribute throughout the meat.

GEORGIA STUFFED CHICKEN

Makes 8 servings
Two 5-lb. chickens
2 Tbs. soft butter

For the stuffing:
4 Tbs. melted butter (fat from inside the chicken cavity)
2 onions
2 cloves garlic
1 cup basmati rice
1/2 cup dried wild rice, coarsely chopped
2 cups water
1/4 cup chopped parsley

For the stuffing, melt butter along with any goblets of fat from the chicken's cavity in a wide saucpan (one that has a lid). Process or finely chop the onion and garlic, and add to the pan with the butter. Fry over a medium heat until the onion softens and begins to color.

Discard bits of the rendered chicken, add the rice and chopped wild rice, and give everything a good stir so that



Roast chicken with mustard-sherry sauce. Photo by [unreadable]

- ### Safety tips for chicken
- **When buying a chicken,** pay attention to the use-by date and look for packages that don't have an excess of red juices in the tray.
 - **Place the unwrapped package** in a dish with sides to keep juices from contacting other food. Refrigerate immediately at 40 degrees or below for up to 3 days before using, as long as the time fits within the use-by date.
 - **The U.S. Department of Agriculture** recommends disinfecting cutting surfaces that have been in contact with raw chicken with a solution of 1 teaspoon liquid bleach per quart of water. Pour the bleach solution over the surface and let it stand for about 5 minutes. Then rinse and wash with hot soapy water. Pat dry with fresh paper towels.
 - **Cutting surfaces should be completely dry** before storing.
 - **It's not safe to partially cook a chicken** and finish it at a later time. If the chicken needs to be cooked in advance, reheat it in a low oven or microwave.
 - **Cool and refrigerate leftovers** within 2 hours.

the rice becomes slicked with the fat. Add the water and a sprinkling of salt and bring to the boil, then clamp on the lid and cook at the lowest heat possible for 15 minutes.

While the rice is cooking, preheat your oven to 425 F. When the rice is ready, fork through the chopped parsley and season with salt and pepper.

Spoon the chery-studded rice into the cavities of both chickens, and secure the openings with two or three cocktail sticks. The easiest way to do this is to pinch together the flaps of skin from each side of the cavity and make a slit to hold them with a cocktail stick.

Rub the secured chickens with the butter and roast in the oven for 1 1/2 to 2 hours. The skin should be golden and crispy and the meat cooked through; test by piercing the bird between the thigh and body and if juices run clear, the chicken's ready. The reason why the chickens take longer than you would normally give them is twofold: In the first instance, the rice stuffing impedes the flow of hot air. In the second, having two birds in the oven tends to make each take longer to brown.

Pull out the cocktail sticks and let the chickens rest before carving.

ROASTED CHICKEN WITH FRESH OREGANO, GARLIC AND LEMON

Makes 4 servings
1 whole chicken (about 3 1/2 to 5 lb.), preferably brined
1 Tbs. minced garlic
2 tsp. finely chopped fresh oregano leaves
1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Optional: 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, divided (if chicken has not been brined)

Juice of 1/2 lemon, divided
1/2 cup freshly ground black pepper

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line bottom of a roasting pan with aluminum foil, place

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Do the right thing
Mungry Sheldons who teach etiquette in Milwaukee, and Darna Panko, owner of Professional Skill Builders in Chicago, offered the following tips:

- ### Dining at home
1. **Entertainment** at family dinners is live, not electronic. Turn off the TV.
 2. **Break the habit of profanity.** These words are more effective when used only two or three times in your life.
 3. **Kids:** The mouth has two main functions, talking and eating. Alternate them so no one sees the food in your mouth.
 5. **Don't cut up all the meat on your plate at once.** Parents only do that for small children who are incapable of handling a fork and fork themselves.
 5. **Most important,** parents should lead by example at the table.

Business dinners and lunches

1. If you are a job candidate or client, it's safest to order from the "muffin of the menu" price range. Don't order the most expensive item, either, because it sends the message you think the host can't afford it.

2. **Drink from the water and wine glasses on your right;** eat the salad and roll on your left. Food is passed to the right.
3. **Compliment people on their accomplishments.** Save compliments for their appearance for special occasions.
4. **Women should not apply lipstick at the table.** Lie combing should be done in private.
5. **Turn off your cell phone.** If you are expecting a crucial call, advise everyone at the table that you may be interrupted. Apologize for the interruption and step away from the table to take the call, then turn off the cell phone for the rest of the meal.

Source: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

"Students ate pizza and hamburgers for four years and all of the sudden, they were confronted with multiple forks and questions such as, 'Who orders, can I order a drink, do you crush the crackers for soup, which fork do I use first, and can I eat the flower on my plate?'" Spencer said.

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FOOD & HOME

New bean quota seems lofty

Cox News Service

ATLANTA — Here's a recommendation that'll make you full of beans: Eat 3 cups a week.

You read that right. Three cups a week. More than three times as much as the average American currently puts away.

That's a lot of chili and black bean soup. That's a lot of something else, too.

"The federal government's message to eat 3 cups of legumes a week is good news for farmers and nutritionists, who recommend them as an excellent source of fiber and nutrients lacking in most Americans' diets. For almost everyone else, it's proving a bit tougher to digest."

"Ridiculous," pronounced food columnist Mark Bittman of The New York Times, while allowing that the people he cooks for do welcome bean dishes, at least for lunches or light suppers.

"You're supposed to eat 3 cups of beans a week?" asks chef Jason Hill, a legume fan who's started substituting beans for potatoes in some entrees at Wisteria restaurant. "I wouldn't know anyone who eats that many beans."

Even the scientists who put together the dietary guidelines report conceded that legumes can be a tough sell, despite health benefits that include reducing the risk of heart disease and some cancers.

They put together a list of substitutes that would provide similar nutrients, in case someone refused to pack away the peas.

"That attitude doesn't sit too well with bean farmer Brian Carlson of western Michigan, a spokeswoman for the American Dry Bean Board, who's an unabashed cheerleader for the food's taste and nutrients.

A registered dietician, she adds beans to meatloaf, canned soups and salsa; mixes them with vinaigrette for quick salads; and even uses a newly developed bean-and-corn flour to make pancakes and muffins.



Cassoulet — the apothecary of bean dishes — uses a variety of ingredients to riff on classic pork and beans.

Entrees with beans don't have to be blah

Cox News Service and the Los Angeles Times

CASSOULET OF BEANS

- 1/4 cup fava beans, peeled
 - 1/4 cup soy beans
 - 2 tablespoons dried marrow beans or other white beans, soaked overnight, at room temperature in 1 cup of water
 - 2 tablespoons dried cranberry beans, soaked overnight, at room temperature, in 1 cup of water
 - 1/2 cup chicken stock
 - 2 (2-inch) pieces leek, white parts only
 - 2 (2-inch) pieces carrot
 - 2 (2-inch) pieces onion
 - 1/4 cup green beans, trimmed, blanched until tender, cooled in ice and drained
 - 1 recipe "Quick" Sauce (see below)
 - 1 tsp. butter
 - 1 plum tomato, peeled and sliced, cut into 1/2-inch diamonds
 - 2 tsp very finely minced mixture leek, carrot and onion
- Coarse salt**
Freshly ground pepper
- Remove the "little gum" that is attached to the side of each fava bean. Blanch the beans in plenty of rapidly boiling salted water until tender, 1 to 2 minutes, then transfer them to an ice bath with a slotted spoon to cool. Drain when cool. Blanch the soy beans the same way, 3 to 4 minutes, chill and drain.
- Remove and discard any skins from the soaking beans that have risen to the top of the water. Drain and rinse the marrow beans and cranberry beans and place them in 2 separate pots. Cover each with cold water by at 2 inches and bring to a boil. Remove any bad beans that float to the surface. Drain the beans and run under cold water to cool.
- Return the beans to the pots and cover each with 1/4 cup chicken stock and enough water to cover the beans by three times. Add a slice of leek, carrot and onion to each pot. Heat the liquid slowly and bring to a simmer. Some beans that have not hydrated, and any loose skins will come to the top. Skim them and discard. Simmer the beans until they are tender, 40 to 50 minutes. (The recipe can be prepared up to this point one day ahead and the beans refrigerated in their cooking liquid, tightly covered.)
- Put the green beans and the chicken stock into a pot. Add pieces that are about 1 inch long.
- When almost ready to serve, drain the cooked marrow and cranberry beans from their liquid and combine with the fava and soy beans in a skillet with about 1/2 of the "Quick" Sauce. Bring to a simmer, skim any foam, purloons and cook until warmed, about 2 to 4 minutes. Stir in 1 teaspoon of butter, then the green and yellow wax beans, the tomato diamonds, the minced carrot, celery and leek and the salt and pepper to taste. Keep warm while cooking the lamb.

Add 1 cup water to the pot. Listen as the liquid goes into the pot. It will sizzle as it hits, then, as it reduces, it will become quiet. When the water has reduced to a syrup, about 15 minutes, stir, scraping up any glazed juices at the bottom. Continue cooking until the water has evaporated and the pot is glazed and sizzling again.

When the water has evaporated, deglaze the pot with 1/2 cup of chicken stock, following the same steps as the water. This time, as the stock boils down, the color of the bones and liquid will become deeper and the natural gelatin in the stock will glaze the bones.

Add the onions, leeks and carrots. The water in the vegetables provides enough liquid for quick deglazing. Cook as above until the moisture has evaporated and the vegetables are lightly caramelized, about 10 minutes. Scrape the vegetables as lightly as caramelized, add 2 sprigs thyme, 1 cup chopped tomatoes and 2 crushed cloves garlic and cook until the juices of the tomatoes as well as those from the vegetables evaporate to form another glaze. Deglaze the pot, scraping up the glazed juices from the bottom, then transfer the stock and bones to a smaller, narrower pot so that it will be easier to skim.

Bring to a simmer with the pot set partially off the burner to force the impurities to the surface of the pot and ladle them off as they rise to the top. Simmer until the stock has reduced to the level of the bones, about 1 hour.

Strain the sauce through a fine strainer and repeat. Do not force any of the solids through the strainer or they will cloud the sauce. You should have about 2 cups of liquid.

Pour the liquid into a small saucepan, reduce to about 1 cup and strain.

RED BEANS AND RICE WITH TURKEY KIELBASA

- 8 servings**
- 1 pound dry red kidney beans
 - 2 cups rice
 - 2 medium onions, chopped
 - 1 green bell pepper, chopped
 - 2 cups garlic, minced
 - 3 cups reduced-sodium chicken stock
 - 1 tbs. tomato paste
 - 1/2 tsp. hot pepper sauce
 - 1 pot of turkey kielbasa, sliced into 1-inch chunks
 - Salt to taste
 - 4 cups cooked brown rice
 - Rinse beans. In a large soup pot, combine onion and 8 cups cold water. Put the beans aside and let sit overnight. Or, for a shorter soaking time, bring beans and water to a boil, reduce heat and simmer 2 minutes. Remove pot from heat. Let stand 1 hour.
 - Drain and rinse beans. Heat 2 tablespoons of the oil in a soup pot. Add onion, bell pepper, celery, bell pepper, thyme, oregano, bay leaves, black pepper and garlic and stir to combine. When the vegetables soften about 5 minutes, add the drained beans, chicken stock, tomato paste and hot pepper sauce. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to a simmer, cover, for 1 1/2 hours, stirring occasionally to make sure there are no beans sticking to the bottom.
 - Meanwhile, add the remaining 1/2 tablespoon oil to a nonstick skillet on medium-high. Add the kielbasa. Cook and stir until slightly browned.
 - Add the kielbasa to the beans. Stir for 5 minutes more.
 - Check the beans to see if they are fully cooked (if they should be firm, with no hard core). Taste and adjust seasonings (salt shaker is handy) until they are fully cooked; otherwise they will soften. Discard sprigs and bay leaves.
 - Serve over rice. If desired, spritzed with additional hot pepper sauce.

Three cups a week?

- That's right.** 3 cups of cooked legumes a week. Do the math and it works out to a bit less than a 1/2-cup a day. Sounds a bit more achievable, right? Here are ideas for making beans a regular part of your diet. And stop with the fiber jokes, already.
- What are legumes?**
All cooked dry beans, beans and soybean products are legumes, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This includes black beans, kidney beans, split peas, lentils, chickpeas, black-eyed peas, tofu and edamame.
- Choosing**
The best dry beans are from the most recent harvest. Older beans can be tough, taking longer to cook and also causing more flatulence. Aliza Green, author of "Beans" (Running Press, \$19.95), offers these suggestions for spotting fresher ones: Avoid beans that appear shriveled or have chips. Buy from stores that have quick turnovers; she prefers Latin American markets. Harvest dates are printed on some packages, but not on most.
- Canned vs. dried**
Canned: Already cooked and ready for use. Ideal for quick recipes, cold salads and spur-of-the-moment bean dishes.
Con: Contains sodium, unlike dried.
Beans. Rinsing the beans removes some sodium, but not all. Tossing can be much safer than cooked dry beans.
- Dried:** Pros: The long simmering time lets you add flavor with seasoning ingredients such as smoked meat, onions or garlic.
Con: The long simmering time. You'll also need to plan ahead by soaking the beans before cooking, which means deciding what you're going to prepare anywhere from one to 12 hours in advance, depending on the bean.

- Freezing**
Beans freeze well. If you don't want to use canned beans, cook up a big batch of dried and freeze in smaller quantities for later use.
- Nutrition**
Legumes supply protein, fiber, potassium (good for reducing the impact of sodium), folate, zinc and other nutrients lacking in the American diet, including magnesium, calcium and iron for women. They're an especially powerful supply of dietary fiber. A half-cup of navy beans provides 9 1/2 grams fiber, about 40 percent of the daily requirement for women. They're low in fat and calories, and provide complex carbohydrates. Eating beans may reduce the risk of heart disease and some cancers.
- Preparing for cooking**
• Canned beans: Drain and rinse thoroughly.
• Dried beans: Pick over and remove any stones or debris.
Whether you need to soak legumes depends on the variety. Lentils, black-eyed peas and other shelled beans, split peas and fava beans do not need soaking. Other beans, such as black beans, chickpeas, navy and fava, benefit from soaking. Recently harvested dry beans typically don't require soaking, but most packages don't give information on harvest date, so it's best to soak.
If soaking, place in a large pot and add 10 cups of water for each pound of beans. If you plan to soak overnight, let the beans rest in the cold water. If you're soaking for a shorter time, bring water to a boil and continue to boil for two to three minutes. Remove from heat. Let soak one hour.
Drain and rinse, to remove some of the starches that cause gas. Use fresh water for further cooking.

- Measuring**
There are 1 1/2 cups of cooked beans in a 15-ounce can. One pound of dried beans equals 2 cups. When cooked, it produces 6 cups of beans.
- Reducing side-effects**
Buy dried beans from a store with good turnover. Dried beans from the current year's crop are less likely to cause gastric distress because the skins aren't as tough. If cooking dried beans, blanch them briefly in boiling water before soaking.
For dried or canned beans, drain and discard soaking liquid before cooking. Some herbs, spices and vegetables commonly paired with beans may reduce flatulence. They include epazote (for Southwestern dishes), ginger, turmeric, fennel seed and greens such as spinach, chard or escarole.
Eat beans often so your body adjusts and is able to process them better. Start gradually, though. Try dietary supplements like Beano, which contain enzymes that break down the starchy components in beans before they can produce gas.

- Quick ideas**
• Pasta: Add a can of cannellini (white kidney) beans to a marinara sauce with sausage.
• Salad: Sprinkle on garbanzo beans or add three-bean salad from a salad bar.
• Sleepy Joe: Add a can of baked beans to a potato bake to the meat mixture.
• Quesadillas, burritos: Spread a layer of no-fat canned refried beans on your usual filling.
• Appetizers: Pick up low-fat bean dips or hummus to serve with chips.
• Chili: Try a vegetarian chili or replace some of the meat in a favorite recipe with an equal amount of beans.
• Southwestern casserole: Try adding a can of black or pinto beans to a favorite dish, such as King Ranch casserole, Mexican lasagna or an enchilada bake.
• Meatloaf: Mash a can of white beans and add to a favorite recipe; use it to replace about a third of the meat.
• Soup: Add a can of cannellini beans to chicken noodle or chicken and rice soup. The beans will thicken the broth, giving the soup more of a homemade look and taste. If making vegetable soup, buy a frozen vegetable soup mix that includes lima beans.
For a quick white bean soup, puree a can of cannellini or other white beans, add a bit of water to thin, a drop of truffle oil, salt and pepper.
• Stirry-Try: using a pound of canned tolu (soybean) instead of meat.
• Side dish: Toss 2 cups of cooked frozen corn with a can of black beans. Add 1/2 teaspoon cumin, 1/2 teaspoon oregano and pepper to taste. For a spicier blend, add a can of diced tomatoes with chilies, or a chopped chile in adobo sauce, or 1 teaspoon ground chipotle pepper. You can also use this as a tortilla filling.

- Rich man, poor man**
Low-income Americans are more likely to eat beans, and prefer lima and pinto, according to Agriculture Department studies. When wealthier Americans eat beans, they're more likely to dine on black beans and chickpeas. The most popular beans, by far, are pinto, whether mashed for refried bean or turned into minestrone soup or three-bean salad. Navy beans, used in baked beans.
- More recipes**
• American Dry Bean Board: www.AmericanBean.org
• Michigan Bean Board: www.michiganbean.org
• NorthHaven Bean Growers Association: www.magicalfruit.org

- The "Quick" Sauce**
- Ingredients:**
1/2 cup oil
1 1/2 pounds bones (beef, chicken or pork), cut or chopped into 1-inch pieces
3 cups water, divided
2 (2 cups) chicken stock, divided
- 1 cup finely minced onions
 - 1 cup finely minced leeks
 - 1 cup finely minced carrots
 - 1 1/2 cups veal stock or 1 cup veal stock plus 1 cup stock made with heavy bones
- Heat the oil over high heat in a wider heavy pot large enough to hold the bones in 1 layer. When the oil just begins to smoke, add the bones. Sear the bones, without stirring, until browned, about 10 minutes. If the bones are moved before they are browned, they will give off their juices and begin to steam rather than brown. Turn the bones and cook until evenly colored, about 10 minutes more.

Sources: American Dry Bean Board; "Beans" by Aliza Green; Michigan Bean Board; U.S. Department of Agriculture; Jason Hill, chef/owner of Wisteria restaurant; bean farmer Fran Carlson

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Dr. Mark Kantor (center) from the University of Maryland attended the cereal tasting at The Washington Post. Dave Timothy Sharp, Jennie Yun Kantor, Michael Kramer, Thomas Lam and Madeline Cuddihy tasted the cereals (left to right).

Are new cereals worth it?

The Washington Post

Conscientious parents, or guilt-ridden ones, seek the word to major cereal manufacturers not too long ago: Make our little favorites with half the sugar, please.

Kellogg, General Mills and Post Cereals responded last year by reformulating a few of their most popular sweetened brands in two basic ways: They cut sugar back on the amount of sugar per serving and some began using sucralose, with the trade name Splenda, the newest sugar substitute.

With the words "reduced sugar" blaring on the boxes, a relatively small, high-profile wave of breakfast options has been rolling onto store shelves since last May. You can find the new counterparts with similar packaging parked near their original versions. A.C. Nielsen data show that sales in the "ready-to-eat cereals with less sugar claims" category were down as of Feb. 22, compared with a similar time period ending in October 2004.

Did moms and dads get the nutritional upper hand they were looking for? A Nielsen released last month confirms that the more added sugars young children consume daily—like those found in sweetened cereals and sodas, opposed to natural sugars in fruit—less they tend to eat foods with the nutrients they need.

Given the importance of the question, we invited some young people and a nutrition expert to breakfast for a taste test. We wondered whether kids could spot the difference between cereal types. We looked at what the manufacturers' reduced-sugar cereals and at their comparative costs.

With the results in, we're not so sure.

No cereal manufacturer Kellogg found that the taste and texture of its reduced-sugar Frosted Flakes and Froot Loops could be maintained with one-third the sugar, along with fillers and binders that count as added carbohydrates. General Mills managed 75 percent less sugar versions of Cinnamon Toast Crunch, the new Cocoa Puffs by using Splenda. Post Cereals' reduced-sugar Fruity Pebbles has one-half the sugar per serving, using sucralose and added carbohydrates.

While the new cereal versions succeeded in cutting back on sugar, they do not come with the benefit of fewer calories. (Check the side label. To measure the number of teaspoons of sugar in your cereal, see "How Big Is Your Cereal Bowl?")

Reduced-sugar cereals also do not mean calorie cheap. The cereals we tested cost more per ounce than their original versions, although that fact is not obvious. Watchful shoppers will notice that original and reduced-sugar cereals come in the same-size boxes, but those boxes can differ in total weight by as much as six ounces. And reduced-sugar cereals do not seem to go on sale.

Nothing beats the bottom line of a young palate, however. So we asked five KidsPost readers and University of Maryland nutrition professor Mark A. Kantor, to help us out. Madeline Cuddihy, 11, and Michael Kramer, 9, are both from Silver Spring, Md.; Thomas Lam and Jennie Yun are 8 years old from Springfield, Va. Dave Timothy Sharp, 9, lives in Washington. On a recent morning without the benefit of milk or parental input, the testers munched their way through 12 sweetened, ready-to-eat cereals—five examples of original brands and their reduced-sugar versions and two new Kellogg's "lightly sweetened" brands. The cereals were dispensed from plain bags.

How big is your cereal bowl?

No matter how few grams of sugar are listed in a cereal's nutritional label, the catch is in the serving size.

A serving of most sweetened breakfast cereals, according to the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act, is 30 grams. That comes out to be about three-quarters of a cup, as listed on the label.

Ponder those numbers... If the cereal enters at your house fill it into bowls to the top, chances are good that they're eating a lot more than a standard serving.

Many nutritionists say that six grams of sugar per serving of ready-to-eat, sweetened cereals is the maximum to shoot for with the exception of those cereals that contain dried fruit. Six grams of sugar equals 1 1/2 teaspoons.

University of Maryland professor Mark A. Kantor offers a common formula to calculate how many teaspoons of sugar (the combination of all natural and added sugars) are in a serving of dry cereal.

Check the nutrition label on the side of the box for grams of sugar as listed under "Total Carbohydrates." Now divide by four, since one teaspoon of sugar is a simple carbohydrate, equals four grams of carbohydrates. Some reduced-sugar cereals have already done the

math for you and include the per-serving teaspoons of sugar on their labels.

Take the Tiger: Kellogg's original Frosted Flakes has 12 grams of sugars in a serving (defined on the label as three-quarters of a cup, or 31 grams), the equivalent of three teaspoons of sugar. Frosted Flakes With 1/3 Less Sugar has eight grams, or two teaspoons of sugar.

The amount of so-called "total carbohydrates," in both the regular and reduced-sugar cereals we tested, remained about the same. How could that be? Because sugars, fiber and "other carbohydrates" all come under the total carb heading on the label. The reduced-sugar cereals we tested contain greater amounts of other carbohydrates such as the starchy powder maltodextrin that help offset and compensate for the properties of the missing sugar.

Kantor says that cereal serving sizes can vary due to the cereal's density; the serving size of some reduced-sugar cereals is not the same as that of their original counterparts. And a standard serving of a cereal with a lot of air in it may be 1 1/4 cups, while one serving of a bran cereal may be a half-cup.

Hunny Bs, which are made with the ingredients in name suggests. They have fewer grams of sugar per serving than most regular sweetened cereals. Five of our six testers were not favorably impressed with either selection.

At the end of the morning, none of the testers would've opted to rather eat the reduced-sugar cereals on a regular basis.

As of last week, Jennie was eating a "good for you" brand at her house. Thomas and Dave were enjoying their usual bowls of original Cinnamon Toast Crunch. Michael and his family hadn't tested Cocoa Puffs before, so the panel provided an opportunity that, as it turns out, they won't re-create at their kitchen table: "I actually was glad to try them in that setting and not in our house," says Michael's mom, Jill. (In truth, Michael and his 5-year-old brother, David, aren't big cereal eaters anyway.)

Maddy had obviously reconsidered, though, and asked her parents to put reduced-sugar Cocoa Puffs on the family's grocery list late last month.

"I'm probably going to get another box when this one's finished, too," she says. "Now that I have them at home, I can't tell they taste different from the regular ones."

Save a few calories, lose pounds

New York Times

Many recipes can be altered just a tiny bit to have fewer calories but the same good taste.

For example, you do not need to brown ground beef in oil, as many recipes instruct, for the beef has enough fat in it as is.

Also, you can cut sugar in many recipes, such as salad dressings, to taste.

Katherine Skipper gave me a recipe for a unique salad, saying that she uses much less sugar. She's also responsible for the muffins, which are delicious.

- 1/2 cup onion, chopped
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 2 packages ramen noodles, chicken flavored
- 1/2 cup rice wine vinegar
- 1 cup sugar (much too much, use about 1/2 cup)
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil
- Mix slaw, onion, pepper and noodles, broken into smaller pieces. Mix vinegar, sugar, oil and seasoning packets from noodles. Pour over slaw and refrigerate at least eight hours.

- 4 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 cups peeled, grated apples
- 1 cup raisins or dates
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1 cup grated carrots
- 6 large eggs, or egg substitute equivalent
- 2 cups vegetable oil
- 4 tsp. vanilla
- Grease or paper-line 36 muffin cups. In large bowl, sift flour, sugar, soda, cinnamon and salt. Stir in apples, raisins, pecans and carrots. Mix well. In blender, food processor or large bowl, combine eggs, oil and vanilla. Add to flour mixture and stir until blended. Bake in a preheated 350-degree oven for 25 to 30 minutes.

MORNING GLORY MUFFINS

- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 1/2 cups sugar
- 4 tsp. baking soda

BROCCOLI SLAW

- 1 package broccoli slaw mix

Poll reports on how America eats

Knight Ridder Newspapers

That's a huge question, but some pointers emerge in answers to a poll of readers of Bon Appetit, summarized in the magazine's March issue. The survey quizzed readers about their top food, travel and entertaining choices.

Among the food preferences, salsa was respondents' favorite condiment. Favorite vegetables

were spinach, artichokes and broccoli — in that order. The least favorite vegetable, by the way, was cardoon — perhaps because this near relative of the artichoke that looks rather like celery has more fans in Europe than in the United States.

Comfort food, artisanal foods and lots of small plates are "in" things; raw food and supercharging are not. As for desserts, if the choice is ice cream, or choco-

late, or layer cake or cheesecake, the answer is: All of the above.

Looking around the kitchen, the most-owned appliances are, first, the waffle iron, then the food mill.

And, generally, how does America cook? A majority declare their attitude is: I'll try anything once.

Source: Bon Appetit magazine, March issue

Let popcorn be a star at your party

Knight Ridder News Service

If you're in search of a party food idea, here's a suggestion from the folks at Jolly Time popcorn.

To make caramel popcorn party pops, you will need a bag of popped Jolly Time Blast O Butter Microwave Popcorn. 2 cups thin pretzel sticks broken into 1/2-inch pieces; 1 1/4-ounce package caramels; 2 tablespoons water; butter or margarine; about 72 whole thin pretzel sticks; and leup semi-sweet chocolate chips.

To make: Line three large cookies sheets with waxed paper and set aside.

Spray inside of large mixing bowl with nonstick cooking spray. Pop the popcorn according to package directions and pour into bowl, discarding unpopped kernels. Add broken pretzels to bowl with popcorn. Stir well.

In large microwave-safe bowl, microwave caramels and water, uncovered, on high for 2 1/2 to 3 minutes or until mixture is melted and smooth, stirring every minute. Pour over popcorn and pretzels. Stir until evenly coated. Let stand 5 minutes.

With buttered hands, shape popcorn mixture into 1 1/4-inch balls around whole pretzel sticks, pressing firmly and leav-

ing bottom half of pretzel sticks to form handles.

Place on cookie sheets. Let stand until firm, about 15 minutes.

Melt chocolate chips according to package directions. Let cool 2 minutes, then pour into a resealable sandwich bag. Squeeze out air; seal. Cut off small corner of bag and use bag to drizzle chocolate over popcorn balls.

Return to cookie sheet and let stand until chocolate is set, about 1-1 1/2 hours. Store tightly in sealed container until ready to serve.

Yield: about 6 dozen. For other popcorn snack ideas, visit www.jollytime.com.

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FOOD & HOME

The rise of the eco-renovators

It's getting easier to be 'green'

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — "Feel my windows," Al Rosen tells you. "Feel his windows?"

But you do, and the floor-to-ceiling glass enclosing Rosen's den and living room is cool to the touch, despite the blazing weather outside. This is triple-glazed glass filled with argon gas, and it lets in sunlight (which saves electricity and lightbulbs) and insulates against heat in the summer and cold in the winter.

When Al and Myra Rosen bought this house in 1997 — it then had a darker interior filled with heavy marble slabs — they began an eco-remodeling effort that continues to this day.

Try a glass of the Rosens' chlorine-free purified water from the low-flow kitchen faucet. Have a seat on the curved blue couch in the sunny living room, built from wheat board and formaldehyde-free foam and upholstered with untreated cotton fabric. Its pillows are filled with kapok, a natural seed fiber.

One glance through the house will tell you that green building isn't the same thing it was a decade ago, when eco-consciousness first began to drift into the corners of the mainstream. There is nothing plain, stark or utilitarian about this 3,000-square-foot house; instead, sunlight drifting through windows and skylights illuminates an interior landscape constructed of clean, modern lines and infused with vibrant color. It isn't palatial, but neither is it rustic, not by a long way.

As the Rosens testify, living green is no longer a kind of countercultural penance in which you must forgo comfort, personal style and your retirement savings in order to give back to the environment. In the last five years, green architecture firms, publications and building materials have kept up their relative niche obscurity to the forefront of culture and design. Even the home improvement chains such as Home Depot and Lowe's stock green materials — say, certified wood harvested from renewable sources — and independent green building stores are opening throughout the United States.

Five years ago you would mention green building and get a lot of blank stares," says Alex Wilson, executive editor of the monthly newsletter *Environmental Building News*, a veritable bible for anybody leaning toward green. "Today it's a known term for an increasingly large portion of the population." It's not a new term, but its relative, of course, what "green" means to one person is rarely what it means to another. By most estimates, green living mixes environmental, economic, social, sensitivity, social responsibility and concern for your health. "These days builders can put together a diverse palette of innovation and technology that fulfill all three requirements."

A clue to green's newfound popularity lies here with the Rosens. This is their second stab at eco-remodeling on their first project, redoing a Santa Monica condominium in 1992, began as a purely aesthetic endeavor. They had heard talk of "sick buildings," Rosen says, "of people who lived in mobile homes which were made out of plywood and were very tightly sealed, and these people were



The living room sofa is constructed of wheat board, which is made of wheat straw compressed without toxic adhesives. Cushions are of formaldehyde-free foam, upholstered with untreated cotton fabric, and the pillows are filled with kapok, a natural fiber.

Los Angeles Times photo

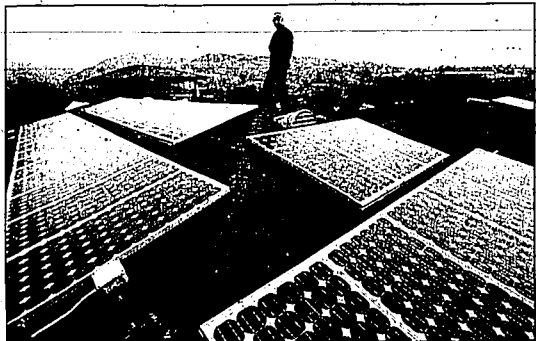


The bathroom — with its natural sandstone wall, glass vessel sink and steel counter — doesn't compromise on style.

getting sick." So in the spirit of caution they decided to avoid oil-based paints and materials that contained formaldehyde. Rosen pulls out an article about a 2004 decision by the World Health Organization to upgrade formaldehyde — a chemical found in many household products, such as glues, plywood and furniture foam — from a probable carcinogen to a known one. Once considered fringe science, the theory that chemicals in building products tend to "off-gas," or seep into the indoor environment, and thus into our lungs has by now gained significant scientific credence.

"It's that new-car smell," says Monica Gilchrist of the Green Building Resource Center in Santa Monica. "It's the smell of a new carpet. It's that new-desk smell — you bring in a new desk, and the panels are put together with a glue that contains formaldehyde. Off-gassing is the continual emission of the chemicals from the product. And these chemicals are found in blood levels over time."

The health component of green building is intertwined with energy efficiency, with try-



Al Rosen stands on the roof of his home, which is fitted with photovoltaic panels to generate solar energy.

ing to live within our environmental means — after all, a dilapidated planet is perhaps the largest health risk imaginable. Like a growing number of folks, the Rosens believe that our indulgent lifestyle is hardly sustainable. As "ozone depletion" and "global warming" enter the mainstream vocabulary, such hybrid cars begin to frequent our freeways, what was once perceived as a leftist rant is becoming a societal priority.

Systems like these are expensive, but as Rosen sees it, you have to look at the entire equation rather than simply the start-up cost. When the photovoltaic cells produce more electricity than is currently being used, the excess energy feeds back into the grid and the calibrated power meter actually runs backward, reducing the couple's utility bill. By Al Rosen's calculation, he and Myra should recoup their investment in about 10 years — and then start saving money.

"We have done almost everything you can do on the list of environmental and nontoxic construction," Rosen says.

Nearly all of the materials in

the house are of natural origin instead of petrochemical alternatives — wood, granite, slate and other stone, copper, steel, glass and ceramic, cork linoleum. Virtually all of the paints, sealers, adhesives and coatings are low in toxicity and are environmentally sensitive. As with many green projects, each new material had to go through a "life cycle analysis" before being used:

- Where does the product come from?
- How much energy did it take to create it?

- What does it do during its lifetime — does it off-gas?
- How does it end its life, at the dump or by being recycled?

The Rosens can trace the life of many products in their house from birth to death, and the renovation work have ended until they've constructed an environment that they're happy living in. Why look for an ending when you're enjoying the process?

Indications suggest building is getting greener, and quickly. Industry has already begun to react to the demand for green products at cheaper prices.

"Mainstream building products have become greener in the last decade," says newsletter editor Wilson. "The paints, across the board, have much less off-gassing than had been the case. All fiberglass is 20 percent recycled content." At the same time, he says, small companies have begun producing innovative products "ranging from shingles made with recycled plastic, to decking materials made from a composite of recycled plastic and wood fiber, to more efficient ventilation systems."

Green values are infiltrating the commercial building landscape too, and for good reason: A slew of studies suggest that people learn faster, work harder, purchase more freely and are generally happier in well-ventilated, sunlit environments.

The nonprofit U.S. Green Building Council instituted a green certification program in 2000, called Leadership in Ener-

gy and Environmental Design (LEED). It certifies buildings using a four-tier rating system. Since its debut, 167 commercial building projects have been certified, which is about 5 percent of the U.S. new construction market, says Rick Fedrizzi, president of the organization.

As science begins to validate the underpinnings of green philosophy, and as trailblazers lead the way toward sustainable engineering that's aesthetically pleasing and affordable, greenies are no longer just the Birkenstock-clad, granola-munching contingent. They are also real estate investors (Al) and retired business owners (Myra). They green their homes and their lives not out of a desire to climb a soapbox but rather because, as Al Rosen puts it, "you have a choice, and one way is responsible. Why not do the responsible thing?"

Before you go, come outside — there's something Rosen wants you to see. He's proud of his worms. There are about 15,000 of them, digesting food leftovers and bits of newspaper, wriggling around in a compost bin. He lifts the top of the bin and points to the layer of soft, fine black soil that will fertilize his herb and vegetable garden.

"Anything that can be composted, we put in here," he says. Recyclables wind their way to the other side of the house, into their corresponding containers. "For a whole week, we only have about 6 inches of trash."

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Meet The Fockers 11:30 - 9:45
Hope and the Glory 11:30 - 9:30
Hide and Seek 9:15
Constantine 9:10 - 9:30
Incredible 9:10 - 9:30
Jerome 4 Because Winn Dixie 11:30 - 9:10
Hitch 11:45 - 9:20
Son of Mask 11:30 - 9:10
Cursed 11:30 - 9:45
Arizona 12 Arizona 11:30 - 9:45
Nacional Treasure 11:45 - 9:20
Because Winn Dixie 11:30 - 9:20
Son of Mask 11:30 - 9:10
Ring Stripes 11:30 - 9:45
Hitch 11:45 - 9:45
Daddy Day Camp 11:45 - 9:20
Hitch 11:30 - 9:45
Mon of the House 11:30 - 9:15
Wedding Dolls 11:30 - 9:45
Kicker 11:30 - 9:20
Boogeyman 11:30 - 9:20

In interior design, think globally and buy locally

The Hartford Courant

If you're looking to spark your surroundings with style, start thinking globally.

Ethnic design — one of the hottest new trends in interior decor — features an exotic array of colors, textures and accents from around the world. Also referred to as world, or global, design, the eclectic look is showing up everywhere, from high-end showrooms to mass-market retailers.

Ellen Gefen, a home-furnishing expert in Highpoint, N.C., says the rich diversity of imported wares on the market, along with high consumer interest in all things exotic, is creating a real buzz in the design world.

"The global village" concept has come into our living rooms," says Gefen, who has appeared on HGTV and "Good Morning America." "We're seeing more and more world influences in everything from furniture and tableware to textiles, accent pieces and rugs."

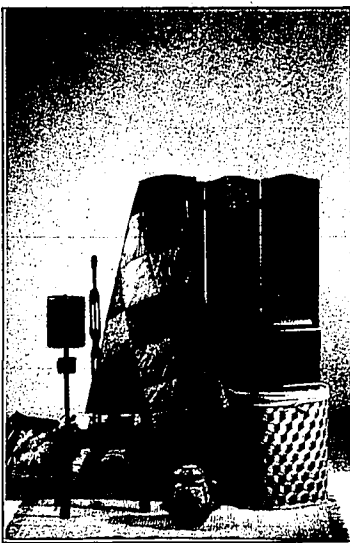
"The new style encompasses elements from India, Asia, Africa, Latin America and other exotic locales — which means whether your tastes run to Zen in the den, Moroccan Kasbah or somewhere in between — global design can work in your inner space."

"Elements of world design can be added to an existing decor or used to create an entire room or home," says Gefen. "The range of textures, woods, finishes and colors is practically limitless."

For example, the clean, spare lines, soothing colors, high-gloss lacquered woods and metallic finishes from Asia, earth tones, masks and tribal cloths of Africa work well with contemporary furnishings, while dramatic colors, lush fabrics, metallic embroidery and "ethnic" prints from the Moroccan and Turkish influences add excitement to traditional decor. Color palettes can range from saturated purples, reds and deep blues to greens, blues and neutrals.

"Think of people you know who have traveled and have brought back unique and beautiful treasures that they've incorporated into their homes," says Gefen. "It's that element of interest and surprise that adds so much to a room."

And a trip to a flea-market or an African market-



Examples of ethnic design include a wood bird cage, \$29.99; a wood stool, \$34.99; a wicker screen, \$79.99; an African woman figurine, \$39.99; small blue bowls, \$3.99 apiece; and a queen-size quilt, \$89.99, all from Target. From Pier 1 Imports are an oval wood chip hamper, \$50; a Vallarta serving bowl, \$30; a Vallarta cookie jar, \$35; a rouge beaded accent lamp, \$35; pillows, \$26.18 to \$30; and a 3-by-8-foot rug, \$25.

place aren't in your budget, not to worry. Stores such as Pier 1 Imports and Bombay Co. around the world.

In January, Target Corp. introduced a new, limited-run Global Bazaar promotion featuring 1,000 or so imports from Africa, Asia, Europe, India and Latin America.

Target spokesperson Aimee Sands says the collection, which ranges from \$12.99 silk pillows to a \$249.99 ebony stained dining room table, has received positive feedback.

"The global influence is a major trend in home decor now," says Sands. "Global Bazaar is part of our continuing effort to make good design affordable to everyone."

Shoppers have particularly liked Target's Asian selection,

including rattan and wicker storage pieces, graceful ceramic vases and simple wood accent tables and lamps, says Sands. "Incorporating a few pieces into your existing decor gives you high impact for low cost," says Sands. "It's a low-risk way to experiment with automatically different looks."

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Bamboo branches out

The Boston Globe

Till someone you're planning to decorate with bamboo and they may wonder if you are taking your cues from "Fantasy Island," with its Tiki bars and oversized chairs.

"That image is so old that even bamboo, the newer image in the home, but designers today are using this strong, versatile grass all over the house, for everything from kitchen cabinets to countertops, cutting boards to serving bowls, shower curtains to dining room chairs."

The appeal of bamboo is often its clean, airy look and perhaps its association with warmer climates, but there's more to it than that. It has greater tensile strength than steel; it's a sustainable, environmentally friendly material (it grows fast enough to be harvested within three to five years without depleting natural resources, and it regenerates quickly); and it can cost less and last longer than red oak, the wood most commonly used for flooring.

One company bringing fresh interpretations to bamboo is called, suitably enough, bamboo. The New York firm makes bowls, chutney and flatware, and biodegradable plates. Fortune magazine named bamboo's Venneerware plates among the 25 best products of 2004.

Founder and designer Rachel Speth and partner Jeff Dinkin answered questions "about bamboo from Shanghai, where they live."

"When we created bamboo, we set out to inform and excite people about renewable materials. That was our goal. But we also realized that to do that effectively, we had to create products that offered good design and aesthetic appeal at a good value," writes Speth. "Customers have to like what it looks like, enjoy what it feels like. Then, when they learn of all the wonderful environmental benefits of bamboo, it enhances the buying experience."

Bamboo kitchenware has come a long way from chopsticks and steamers. Totally Bamboo, a North Hollywood

company owned by Tom Sullivan and Joanne Chen, makes a wide range of laminated bamboo cutting boards, serving bowls, and utensils. Sullivan says he's also done prototypes for bamboo dashboards and gearshift knobs in cars as well as shower curtains. Recently he made a guitar for a client. Later this year the company intends to launch a line of countertops and is looking into making building materials.

"We're trying to break new ground with everything we do," Sullivan says.

Bamboo furniture designers are also breaking new ground with sleek and modern pieces. Gertraud Minakawa is the founder of Ukaa, which means "way of life" in Swahili. The line includes tables, seating, and custom-designed pieces that are available at RSD Woods in Providence. Minakawa, a Rhode Island School of Design alumna, spoke by phone from Bolivia, where he was working with Andean textile weavers and helping a nongovernmental organization devoted to bamboo products get on its feet.

"In 2000, I visited my sister in Japan for three weeks, and discovered how people could live with bamboo. I realize now how

"important this is, because rather than simply being a chic or trendy object, it has been a cultural icon in Japan since time immemorial," Minakawa says. "After thousands of years, (the Japanese) and other cultures continue to technologically re-

fine and offer exciting artistic interpretations to the material."

Despite the wide range of uses for bamboo, flooring remains one of the most popular. Trevor Gilmore, a partner in Bamboo Mountain, based in Novato, Calif., says his company uses formaldehyde-free glue and Moso bamboo from China that's harvested every five to six years and grows as tall as 100 feet.

The one caution Gilmore offers consumers is to make sure you're getting a quality product with a long-term warranty.

"We suggest everyone get one sample and take a look at the side view. There shouldn't be any gaps," he says. "If there are, that means the manufacturing and the glue are not up to par and there could be problems down the road with warping and buckling."

San Francisco's Smith and Fong has been selling bamboo products for almost 20 years. Like Bamboo Mountain, Smith and Fong's East Coast clientele is growing, especially among those drawn to bamboo's environmental benefits, says company cofounder Daniel Smith. "I went searching specifically for formaldehyde-free materials," says Howard Goldkrand, a Smith and Fong customer and artist from New York. "The flooring has been in place less than two months. It's great looking. It does all the things they say it does. But more important, I'm happy with the environmental choices I'm making."

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Wet/dry vac works best for cleaning up moisture

Knight Ridder News Service

Is water from melting snow seeping into your basement or garage, soaking your carpets or flooding your floors? Your regular vacuum cleaner is good for picking up dust and dirt, but major moisture cleanups are best handled with a wet/dry vac.

• **Need to know:** Capacity. A five-gallon-capacity wet/dry vac is all that a typical household needs, says David Ristenbatt of Ristenbatt Vacuum in Lancaster. Anything bigger gets heavy.

• **But if you go for a larger-capacity vacuum** (to handle a bigger house or a small store, for instance), get a machine with a valve that can be opened over a drain or sump for emptying.

• **Be sure to buy a wet/dry vac that comes on wheels** and has a plastic, not metal, collection canister. Metal canisters rust and cannot be replaced — you have to buy a new vacuum.

• **Common mistake:** Using the wrong filter. A wet/dry vac comes with a paper filter for dirt cleanup and a foam one for water cleanup. If you don't change filters, the paper filter will turn to mud.

• **Don't do this:** Leaving the vacuum's hose wet after either sopping up water can trap dirt and clog the hose. Squeeze all the water from the foam filter, after use, and be certain it dries completely. If the hose becomes clogged, hook it into the motor fan vent and blow the clogged material out into a trash can.

• **What it will cost:** Wet/dry vacs for the home sell for \$30 to \$150 and are available at home centers and retailers. Commercial units can cost \$200 to \$1,000.

Recreate Every Thursday in The Outdoors section, The Times-News guides you to recreational opportunities.

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King Crab Louis Salad

- Ingredients:**
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 2 large tomatoes, cut into wedges
 2 hard-boiled eggs, cut into wedges
 1 cucumber, sliced
 8 asparagus spears, cooked or canned
 1/2 cup pitted black olives
 Lemon or lime wedges
 Your favorite 1000 Island Dressing

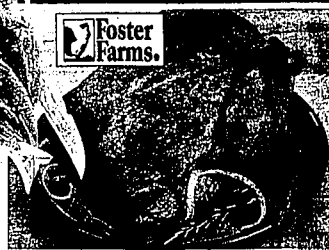
Instructions:
 Divide Fresh Express Triple Hearts among four plates. Top each with tomato, and season with salt and pepper to taste. Place avocado over tomato and top with 1/4 of the crab meat. Garnish with sliced cucumber and asparagus. Spoon dressing over the crab and sprinkle each salad with egg and black olives.



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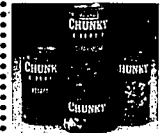
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Wednesday, March 2 through Saturday
March 5, 2005. Cash value 1/20th of 1¢.



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Great for
baking and snacking.
One coupon per purchase. Valid
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March 5, 2005. Cash value 1/20th of 1¢.



**Hershey's
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1.4 to 2 oz. Bars.
Assorted varieties.
One coupon per purchase. Valid
Wednesday, March 2 through Saturday
March 5, 2005. Cash value 1/20th of 1¢.



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Coming Thursday

A look at the other state basketball area hopefuls.

The Times-News

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

Section D

MORNING LINE

SPORTSQUOTE

“This is the morning of a new day. The NCAA and its member universities and colleges will now be held accountable for the academic success of student-athletes.”

— NCAA president Myles Brand

TRIVIA

QUESTION: What Academy Award-winning actress qualified for the U.S. Olympic Trials in archery in 1999?

...answer below

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

High School BOYS BASKETBALL
IA state tournament, Caldwell. See related story.

IN BRIEF

CSI's Hixon commits to ISU

TWIN FALLS — CSI sophomore forward Joanna Hixon gave a verbal commitment to Idaho State on Tuesday to play basketball for the Bengals beginning with the 2004-05 season. Hixon, a 5-foot-11 transfer from Montana State, is scoring 8.8 points per game and grabbing 4.3 rebounds per contest for the Golden Eagles. She'll join former CSI forward Andrea Sivakova with the Bengals. Also committing recently to a four-year school was forward Krystin Patterson, who signed with Albion College. Center Lenka Zimova is making a campus visit to Syracuse University (N.Y.) today.

USSF offers referee entry-level clinic

TWIN FALLS — A spring sports entry-level referee clinic will be held from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Twin Falls Parks and Recreation office, 136 Maxwell Avenue. For more information, call John Jacobson at 734-3151.

Cal Ripken tryouts are Saturday

TWIN FALLS — The 2005 Cal Ripken observation day is scheduled for Saturday, March 5 at Harmon Park. Players in the ages 8-10 league will be observed from 10 a.m. to noon and players in the ages 11-12 league 1-3 p.m. Report with your gear at the Harmon Park Rec building. There are still limited openings in the 11-12 year old league available on a first come, first served basis. Call Allen Stanley at 737-0653 for more information.

President will honor fun-loving champs

FOHT MYERS, Fla. — Nixon is heading to the White House. The Nixon, that is. The Boston Red Sox will be honored as World Series champions by President Bush on Wednesday in a ceremony unlike the serious ones usually held there. "I think President Bush would love to grab a beer with us," Johnny Damon, who good-naturedly teased his Red Sox teammates "idiots" last year, said Tuesday. "We'd kick back and go hunting for pheasant. You know, that type of stuff. So I think he would mix in well with us."

Compiled from staff reports

TRIVIA ANSWER:

Geena Davis placed 24th out of 28 semifinalists in the Trials and ultimately didn't qualify for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. Davis won the Academy Award in 1988 for Best Supporting Actress in the movie, "The Accidental Tourist."

Kansas arena, filled with memories and noise, turns 50

The Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Allen Fieldhouse has turned 50, and is showing a little wear. There are dark, sooty smudges on the outside of the building where Oscar Robertson once scored 56 points, where Wilt Chamberlain grabbed 36 rebounds and where Roy Williams' team scored 150 points against mighty Kentucky. Renovation plans are in the works, yet many Kansas fans would prefer to leave their basketball cathedral just the way it is.

Three generations of Kansans will argue that no arena in the country is any louder or more beloved than their gently aging edifice facing Nalsmith Drive, a street named after the former Kansas professor who invented the game.

Most Kansas fans don't even refer to it as "Allen Fieldhouse," or even "Allen." To them, it's simply "the fieldhouse."

"I'll never forget the first time I walked into the fieldhouse," said Williams, now coach at North Carolina, who won 419 games in 15 years as Kansas' coach.

"I had just gotten the job. It was dark and I walked in there by myself and just stood there and looked around," I thought, "Boy, this will probably be an unbelievable year." But I had

ALLEN FIELDHOUSE



Kansas students do their best to intimidate Oklahoma State players during a game at Allen Fieldhouse, Sunday, in Lawrence, Kan. The landmark basketball venue is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

no idea." Named in honor of longtime coach Phog Allen, the fieldhouse was dedicated March 1, 1955, with a game against Kansas State. So when Kansas State visits Wednesday night, the university will mark the milestone anniversary. "It's one of the great venues in America," broadcaster Dick Vi-

tales said. "It's an unbelievable experience and a place with fantastic enthusiasm. You walk in here, you think about Clyde Lovellette and Phog Allen and Wilt Chamberlain, Jojo White, Danny Manning all the great ones, all the great ones that's been here." It's a rare night when even

one of the 16,300 seats is empty. Visitors are amazed by the wall of sound and noise. "I couldn't hear myself talking to my teammates," Texas point guard Daniel Gibson said after Kansas beat the Longhorns 90-63 this season. After the Jayhawks beat Oklahoma State 81-79 on Sunday, Kansas raised its record to 564-

102 in the building. For tens of thousands of Kansas grads, the fieldhouse is the thread that binds through the years. The band playing and crowd pulsating on frosty winter nights. Come spring, the sunlight streams through long rows of little windows way up high.

The only four days that matter ...

Area quartet heads to state

By Eric Larsen
Times-News writer

CALDWELL — In the world of high school basketball, everybody plays for one thing — a state championship. The midseason upsets, the district titles, the all-conference teams, all pale in comparison to hanging that white and red banner in your high school's gym. Four Magic Valley Class IA teams have that opportunity this week as today marks the start of the 2005 state basketball tournament in Caldwell.

The top-seeded Richfield Tigers are joined by the Raft River Trojans, Hansen Huskies, and Camas County Mushers as District IV representatives holding court today at Caldwell and Valley High Schools. The 21-2 Tigers head from Richfield with a load of confidence and state tournament experience tucked in their gym bags. After last year's tournament berth and subsequent narrow first-round loss to eventual champion, Cole Valley Christian, the Tigers return on an improved team heading into today's game against the Horse-shoe Bend Mustangs.

"I think last year was real valuable," Richfield head coach Gene Ward said. "Going up knowing we were the underdog against Cole Valley and stepping up, you can either dwindle down because of the pressure and step up and win." There's no doubt that senior point guard Victor Vazquez has stepped his game up for the Tigers. Vazquez is averaging 24.7 points, 3.4 assists, and 7.2



Richfield senior guard Tommy Scott drives past Community School defender Kevin Wade earlier this season. Scott and the Tigers begin play in the Class IA State Basketball Tournament today at 1:15 p.m. against the Horsehoe Bend Mustangs.

steals per game for the Tigers. He is most dangerous in Richfield's college style full-court press, which will undoubtedly be one of the best in the tournament. "It's going to have a big effect

on how we do," Ward said. "We rely on our steals and our deflections a whole bunch and converting those into points." Role players like senior post Steven Ward, sharp shooting

Please see QUARTET, Page D2

Plan might put student back in student-athlete

Myles Brand already held some credentials as a reformer when he was named to head the NCAA a little over two years ago. This was a guy, after all, who had the guts as president of Indiana University to give the boot to Bob Knight.

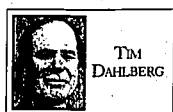
That move didn't exactly endear Brand to the home folks, some of whom joined angry students to hang Brand in effigy outside his own home. Police eventually had to come to take Brand and his wife away to a safer location until calmer heads prevailed.

Brand's latest assault on the spoiled culture of college sports isn't likely to move people to protest in the streets. But you can be sure it has coaches across the country muttering under their breath. On Monday, Brand and the NCAA nudged America's colleges and universities a step closer toward putting the student back in student-athlete by introducing a plan that will hit coaches where it hurts most if they can't get their athletes to graduate.

At first glance, it's a maze of formulas, numbers, arcane phrases and acronyms that look as if they were drawn up in some mad professor's lab. Only people who live in the world of academia can put out with a straight face a plan that is sprinkled liberally with APPE, CSR, and phrases like "contemporaneous penalties."

Look deeper, though, and for the first time there are some serious performance standards being put into place that will hit coaches where it most hurts should they fail to live up to them.

Put simply, it's this: Fail to graduate an average of 50 per-



cent of your players and you'll lose scholarships. Keep it up, and you could find your team banned from postseason play, something the NCAA does now only if the coach is caught on videotape showing hundred-dollar bills into a recruit's pocket.

"This is the morning of a new day," Brand said. "The NCAA and its member universities and colleges will now be held accountable for the academic success of student-athletes."

At the core of the NCAA's new formula is the number 925, a figure that interested coaches before only if it happened to be the SAT of a prized recruit. Now it's a number coaches must meet or risk losing up to 10 percent of their scholarships beginning next year. Just how the number is arrived at is no big secret. A semester or two of calculus and anyone ought to be able to figure it out. Actually, it's a relatively simple formula that subtracts points to a player's academic eligibility or leaves school the previous semester. If a school scores 925-half-of-its-athletes are expected to graduate, while a 1,000 mark is a perfect score. The first figures released Monday show some schools have some work to do to avoid penalties. Of the 5,270 teams at Division I schools, 410 fall below the magical 925 mark, and half the 328 schools have at

Please see PLAN, Page D2

Data suggest obesity is rampant in NFL, league calls study bogus

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — It's no secret that size matters in the National Football League, but a new study suggests that a whopping 66 percent of NFL players would be considered obese by some medical standards. The NFL called the study bogus for using players' body-mass index, a height-to-weight ratio that doesn't consider body muscle versus fat. The players' union, which is the family of big-bruising football jerseys, there's no proof that obesity is rampant in the league. But former defensive tackle John Ju-



kovic said he's seen plenty of evidence that players have gotten not just bigger but sometimes fatter, "big as houses" in recent years because of league pressure — to intimidate opponents and win. "The NFL teams want it because it's working," said Jurkovic, who played for Green Bay, Cleveland and Jacksonville before retiring in 2000. The theory is that bigger men, especially linemen and defensive players, are better blockers and harder to move. But the study results suggest that big-

ger players don't make a team more successful. There was no relationship between teams' average player BMI and their ranking in 2003-04, the season studied. Arizona had the highest average BMI, but also the worst record in its division. In the study, University of North Car-

Football facts? According to the study, NFL players' BMI: The science is weak because it doesn't measure muscle. **WIDE RECEPTIONS:** It's cause for concern. **WIDE RECEPTIONS:** Being overweight is linked to concussions, diabetes and other problems.

olina endocrinologist Joyce Harp and student Lindsay Hecht used statistics on the NFL Web site to calculate BMIs of 21,168 NFL players, nearly all those playing in the 2003-04 season. Almost all the players qualified as overweight, and 56 percent had BMIs of

Please see BOGUS, Page D2

COMICS

Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



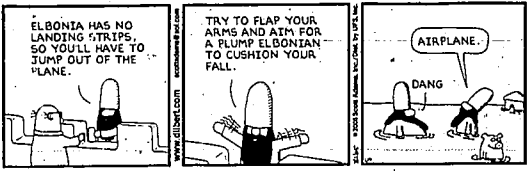
For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Dibbert

By Scott Adams



Blonde

By Dean Young & Stan Drabo



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



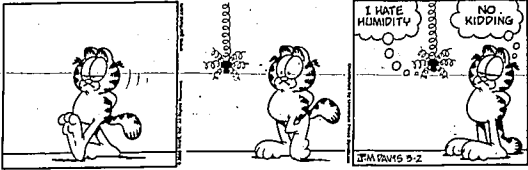
Pickles

By Brian Crane



Garfield

By Jim Davis

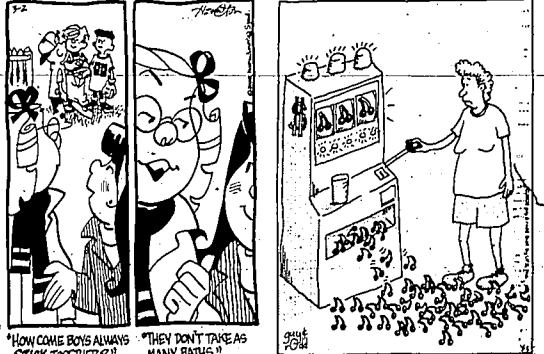


Domini the Menace

By Hank Ketcham

Brevity

By Guy & Odd



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Rose Is Rose

By Pat Brady



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Zia

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



Boetie Bailey

By Mort Walker



Luann

By Greg Evans



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



Strange Brew

By John Deering

Non Sequitur

By Wiley



The Born Loser

By Art Sansom & Chip



BRIEFLY IN MONEY

Volunteers offer tax preparation help

TWIN FALLS — Volunteers throughout Magic Valley offer free tax return preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and AARP Tax-Aide programs.

For locations and hours of the sites, call Idaho Caroline, 800-926-2588; AARP Tax-Aide, 888-227-7669 (select 1); or the Internal Revenue Service, 800-829-1040 (select 1, then select 4).

The volunteers prepare basic Form 1040 tax returns and claims for the Earned Income Tax Credit and other credits — and the comparable state tax forms — for seniors, the disabled and people with low incomes or limited English proficiency.

They do not prepare complex or business returns. The volunteers are trained by the IRS, the Idaho State Tax Commission and AARP.

When coming to a VITA or Tax-Aide site, taxpayers should bring photo identification; Social Security cards (for individual taxpayer identification numbers) for themselves, their spouses and dependents; and all relevant information concerning their income and expenses, such as their wage and earnings statements (Forms W-2 and W-3) and dividend statements (Forms 1099). It is helpful if they also bring last year's returns, if available.

Most sites offer electronic filing.

Both spouses must be present to sign the required forms to e-file their returns.

IHFA raises income, home sales price limits

TWIN FALLS — Beginning this week, qualified borrowers considering an Idaho Housing and Finance Association (IHFA) loan are eligible to purchase a new-construction dwelling or existing home of up to \$200,000 in any county in the state, and up to \$275,000 in Blaine County.

Coupled with an increase in income limits for first-time home buyers, and below-market interest rates that IHFA provides — currently 4.99 percent — this opens the door for home ownership opportunities statewide, the organization said.

IHFA said it has nearly tripled sales price limits in many counties in the past few years. Camas and Mindokoa counties, for example, had sales price limits of \$82,000, but qualified borrowers now can have an IHFA loan for homes costing \$200,000.

Income limits govern the maximum annual gross income a household can have, and still qualify for an IHFA home loan.

The income limits for a one- or two-person household are: for a three- or more-person household, respectively, are: in Blaine County, \$71,200 and \$81,800; in Twin Falls, Camas and Mindokoa counties, \$50,850 and \$58,478; and in Cassia, Gooding, Jerome and Lincoln counties, \$61,020 and \$71,150.

CSI offers workshop on 'Job Seeking Skills'

TWIN FALLS — Seeking to upgrade their skills, many people interested in starting a new job or moving up in current employment, or simply building confidence to get the jobs they've always wanted, are attending a free "Job Seeking Skills" workshop offered by the College of Southern Idaho's Center for New Directions.

Participants will learn the basics of job seeking from a career facilitator.

Some of the skills are application processes, resume formats, cover letter impact, interview techniques and follow-up with a potential employer.

The free workshop is for anyone who feels a little shaky about their job-search skills. It is scheduled from 2 to 5 p.m. March 8.

Students must call or come to the center to sign up. For information, call 732-6680.

Compiled from staff reports

A LIFETIME OF SUCCESS



Gary Babel, owner of Babel's Cleaners in Twin Falls, won the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement Award during the annual Success Breakfast at the College of Southern Idaho on Tuesday. Here, Babel works on getting some stains out of a customer's shirt Tuesday afternoon.

Chamber honors outstanding members

By Megan Hinds
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — The local business community honored a former television executive and the owner of a dry cleaning shop Tuesday. But those titles are just for the winners' day jobs.

The Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and the College of Southern Idaho, at their annual Success Breakfast, awarded 2004 Chamber Person of the Year honors to George Brown for his work against drug abuse. Longtime community volunteer Gary Babel took home a 2004 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Chamber president and chief

executive Shawn Barigar was pleased with the event's healthy turnout; more than 600 attendees at the breakfast.

"The breakfast is a great opportunity to recognize people who go above and beyond in both business and community accomplishments," Barigar said.

Chamber Person of the Year The chamber's 2003 Person of the Year honoree, Tracy McCurdy, presented the 2004 award to

retired KMYT-TV general manager Brown, paraphrasing a quotation by writer Henry David Thoreau.

"There are a thousand people chopping at the branches of evil to one who is chopping at the roots," McCurdy said. "George chops at the roots."

As part of his work with Southern Idaho Partners Against Drugs, Brown spearheaded a project in which Magic Valley students, businesses and community members planted 30,000 red tulips around the valley last fall. The project raised awareness for Red Ribbon Week, an effort that teaches schoolchildren to say no to drugs.

Brown emphasized the im-

portance of drug and alcohol abuse awareness, citing especially the effects of methamphetamine on families.

"Meth is a big problem and it gets a lot of attention because it's so devastating," he said. "Eighty percent of kids who need child protection come from meth homes."

The tulips, planted in October, will bloom in spring — perhaps just in time for April's National Alcohol Awareness month, Brown said.

"I hope the tulips come up then," he said. "That would be appropriate."

Lifetime Achievement Awards

Last year's Lifetime Achievement

Please see SUCCESS, Page E3

Dollar Sense Program turns cents into dollars

By Candace Baltz-Smylie
Times-News correspondent

TWIN FALLS — When Beverly Carter signed up for the Dollar Sense Program at South Central Community Action Partnership in Twin Falls, she hoped it would teach her to stretch her \$656-a-month budget.

After paying all her bills each month, she typically had barely enough money left to take herself out to eat. Her goal was to learn to manage her money better. She also would take herself to a nice restaurant. Now, after a month's worth of classes, she has a bigger goal of saving for a trip to visit her family.

"I'm going great. I've learned a lot," she said. "I'm planning to save enough money to go see my daughter in Washington this summer. She's 18 and going to college, and I'd really like to see her."

Carter hopes to purchase a bus ticket in the coming months.

She knows saving enough money on a tight income will probably mean either giving up her monthly lunches out or landing a job — but she's ready.

She has also started tracking every penny she spends.

"The class has taught me not to spend all my money in one day. So far, I've been spending better," Carter said.

One assignment that Dollar Sense instructor Ken Whiting gave his students was to keep diaries tracking every purchase they made. Whiting hopes the assignment gets participants to think before they spend.

"Since all of the participants

enrolled in the Dollar Sense Program voluntarily, I do feel they personally realize there must be changes in their spending patterns to at least break even at the end of each month," he said. "From some of the comments we learned that many of them did not realize how small spending on little things tends to add up during the course of one month."

Carter doesn't have much she can cut back on — except maybe her satellite television. But she decided that's worth keeping because of all the movies.

"I might not have a lot of money, but I still have to have fun," she said.

Tonight's class will focus on banking. Many of the students do not use a bank at all, and

Please see BUDGET, Page E3

For more Information

The Dollar Sense Program will start a new series of classes later this month in Mini-Cassia, and the following month in Blaine County.

The course, offered by South Central Community Action Partnership, will travel around Magic Valley until Sept. 30.

The classes are free, but students must meet criteria in order to attend, including falling at or below 225 percent of the poverty level.

To learn more or to apply in Twin Falls, call 733-9351; in Burley, 678-3554; or in Jerome, 324-8853. Or e-mail Ken Whiting at kwh@ccap-ld.org.

Democrats press bankruptcy-bill provision to help military personnel

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats pressed Tuesday to protect seniors and U.S. military personnel from provisions in a spending bankruptcy bill that would limit it much more than it does for people to use the law to shed their debts.

The measure, whose supporters are predicting victory after nearly eight years of congressional gridlock, would significantly increase the burden of those trying to erase credit card and other debts in bankruptcy court.

The Democrats said they were concerned about financial hardships faced by veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and their families. Some soldiers in the National Guard and Reserves have seen their businesses fail after they were called up to serve, they said.

"Many men and women in the military are making extraordinary sacrifices," said Sen.

Dick Durbin, D-Ill., principal author of the proposed amendment to the bankruptcy overhaul legislation. "It's unfair that they should come home to face this new harsh bankruptcy law."

The amendment would exempt members of the military from a new test in the bankruptcy legislation to measure people's income and assets to determine whether they must repay their debts or have them canceled in bankruptcy. Under the current system, bankruptcy judges have the discretion to decide that.

Durbin's proposal also would allow service members more generous property exemptions when applying for bankruptcy so that they could keep their homes and vehicles.

The proposal by Durbin, who is the Senate's No. 2 Democrat, prompted Republicans to draft their own amendment aimed at military personnel. Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., described it as

Please see BANKRUPTCY, Page E2

Qwest proposes 15,000 job cuts in MCI merger

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Qwest Communications International Inc. made its most forceful case yet Tuesday in its bid to buy MCI Inc., detailing a plan that includes up to 15,000 job cuts in hopes the long-distance phone company will scrap its deal with Verizon Communications Inc.

"We have a superior bid, and even if you don't think it's superior, there's clearly potential for a superior bid," Qwest Chief Executive Dick Notebaert said in a meeting with investors in New York, complaining that MCI has declined to communicate with Qwest directly since the revised \$9-billion offer was submitted last week.

"We need to hear from their board. I think it's unfortunate that it's being in the media more than one-on-one," Notebaert, who has led Qwest's recovery from an accounting scandal and deep financial troubles,

detailed in a presentation which outlined more than \$10 billion in cost savings in the first four years of the potential Qwest-MCI combination.

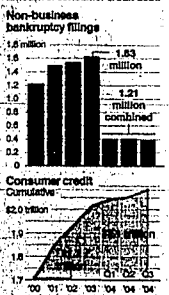
Qwest, the local phone company for most of the Rocky Mountains and Pacific Northwest — including most of Magic Valley, has embarked on an increasingly aggressive campaign over the past week to break up the \$6.7 billion Verizon deal, which MCI agreed to despite a price premium Qwest revised \$8 billion bid offered enhancements to speed up the cash payoff to MCI investors and provide downside protection on the stock portion of the deal by offering to increase the amount of Qwest stock paid if the market value of those shares declines.

Those enhancements were designed to address concerns by MCI shareholders that, although the Qwest deal offered a higher initial payoff, Qwest's revenue, financial and strategic health made the terms

Please see QWEST, Page E3

Bankruptcy filings

The number of Americans who filed for bankruptcy protection has climbed along with the amount of consumer credit debt.



SOURCES: American Bankruptcy Law Journal, Federal Reserve

MONEY

Chip upgrade, lower oil boost stocks

NEW YORK (AP) — Falling oil prices and a broker upgrade of the semiconductor sector pushed stocks higher Tuesday, enticing buyers back into the market after the previous session's losses.

Technology shares climbed as both J.P. Morgan Securities and Lehman Brothers upgraded the chip sector. Morgan cited "a more bullish view of the industry. Technology shares have lagged as other stocks moved up last month, and investors greeted the news as a sign that the recovery was finally spreading to the tech sector."

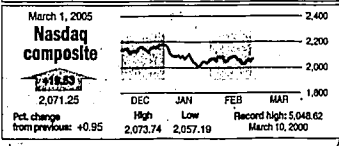
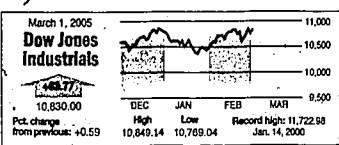
A drop in oil prices helped fuel buying in stocks, as investors hoped that crude futures would not pass \$52 per barrel. Light, sweet crude for April delivery fell 7 cents to \$51.68 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

"With oil lower, you're seeing the market move broader, moving out of energy stocks and into everything," says Tom Ivers, Suskind, head trader at Ryan Beck & Co. "Just across the board, there's a sense the market wants to move higher this spring."

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 63.77, or 0.59 percent, to 10,830.00.

Broadcaster stations also closed higher. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 6.81, or 0.57 percent, to 1,210.41, and the Nasdaq composite index gained 19.53, or 0.95 percent, to 2,071.25.

Investors were disappointed with the Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing index for February, which came in at 55.3, lower than the reading of 56.1 in January. The index fell from January's 56.4. However, those fearing inflation could see the report as good news, since a slide in demand for industrial goods would



for lower prices. Some investors awaited Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan's testimony before the House Budget Committee on Wednesday, saying that the Fed chief's assessment of the economy will further boost stocks.

"I think we're doing pretty well here, but we'll see what Greenspan says tomorrow," said Bill Greenwald, head trader for Finance Investments. "Ideally, that could help us break through our highs for the year."

The dollar gained ground against the euro and other major currencies, with traders expecting Greenspan to argue for a stronger dollar before Congress. Gold prices fell toward the end of the session, with the yield on the 10-year Treasury note settling at 4.38 percent.

Qwest Communications International Inc. continued to press its case for an \$8 billion merger with MCI Inc., which has already agreed to a \$6.7 million takeover by Verizon Communications Inc. Qwest executives said up to 15,000 jobs would be cut in its proposal, more than double the jobs cut projected in the Verizon offer.

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Bankruptcy

Continued from E1
Democrats also have been considering legislation to attach to the minimum wage, one of their highest priorities.

They say they are heartened by the swift passage two weeks ago of a bill aimed at discouraging class-action lawsuits.

Banks, credit card companies and retailers have pushed since 1997 for a bill overhauling the bankruptcy laws. Consumer, civil rights groups and unions say the legislation would shred a safety net for those who have lost their jobs or face mounting medical bills.

Democrats also want the bill to prohibit protesters from using bankruptcy to avoid paying court fines for blocking abortion clinics, if the demonstrators knowingly violated the law.

Personal bankruptcies appear to have broken the upward trend of recent years, slipping 0.8 percent in the 12 months ending June 30, the most recent figures. Some experts say the decline means that while the level of bankruptcies is still high compared with four years ago, some consumers finally have been able to benefit from an improving economy and low interest rates.

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Full-year sales grew 12.1 percent to \$2.35 billion, while comparable-store sales increased 0.9 percent.

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NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Chg, Last, High, Low, Volume. Includes Dow Jones Industrial Average, S&P 500, and various individual stocks.

MARKET SUMMARY

Summary table for NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ, showing Most Active, Gainers, and Losers.

DIARY

Table showing advanced and unchanged items for various commodities like wheat, corn, and soybeans.

INDEXES

Table of market indices including Dow Jones Industrial Average, S&P 500, and various sector indices.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table listing local stocks with columns for Name, PE, Last, Chg, YTD, and Volume.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Here are the 525 most active stocks on the New York Stock Exchange, the 400 most active on the Nasdaq National Market, and the 100 most active on the American Stock Exchange.

Market names made up of initials appear at the beginning of each letter list. YTD: Current annual dividend rate paid on stock, based on last dividend or semiannual dividend, unless otherwise noted. Price change indicated by + or - mark.

Last: Price of stock for the day. No change indicated by - mark.

Plunged: Name of stock that fell sharply.

Advanced: Name of stock that rose.

Unchanged: Name of stock that did not change.

Declined: Name of stock that fell.

Source: The Associated Press. Data figures are approximate.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, High, Low, Volume. Lists various NASDAQ stocks.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, High, Low, Volume. Lists various American Stock Exchange stocks.

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Unclaimed property?

Check out the listings for Rupert.

THURSDAY IN MONEY

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MARKETS

CLOSING FUTURES

Table with columns for Commodity, High, Low, and Change. Includes categories like Soybeans, Corn, Wheat, and various oil products.

BEANS

Table listing various bean types (Soybean, Pinto, etc.) with their respective prices and changes.

GRAINS

Table listing grain prices for items like Soybean Meal, Soybean Oil, and various flours.

CHEESE

Table listing cheese prices for various types such as Cheddar, Swiss, and Brie.

POTATOES

Table listing potato prices for different grades and varieties.

SUGAR

Table listing sugar prices for various grades and types.

LIVESTOCK

Table listing livestock prices for cattle, hogs, and sheep.

POCKET FLOORS

Table listing pocket floor prices for various types of flour.

POCKET FLOURS

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MARKETS

Table listing market prices for various commodities like oil, sugar, and other goods.

METALS/MONEY

Table listing metal prices for gold, silver, and platinum.

METALS/MONEY

Table listing metal prices for various types of metals.

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Qwest

Continued from E1. MCI, based in Ashburn, Va., has said its board of directors will evaluate the revised Qwest bid...

Success

Continued from E1. Notetaker argued the same point in a letter to the editor published in Monday's edition of The Wall Street Journal.

Budget

Continued from E1. Whittling them out there are cuts in banking. Not only can a bank cash a paycheck, but savings accounts earn interest.

Something missing?

We are able to customize our market reports, if you're interested in a stock, mutual fund or in commodities that not in our report.

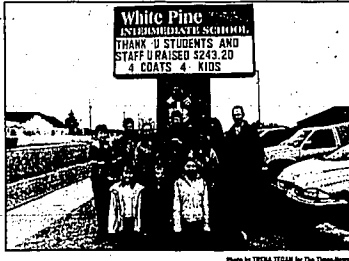
MUTUAL FUNDS

Large table listing mutual fund performance, including columns for Fund Name, Assets, and Returns.

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Advertisement for PERKINS, SMART & BOYD, INC. featuring the slogan 'When You're Serious About Investing...' and listing services for IRAs, Roth IRAs, and more.

FUND-RAISER



White Pine AN IMMEDIATE SCHEDULE. THANK U STUDENTS AND STAFF FOR RAISING \$23,220 4 ADULTS 4 KIDS

Photo by TINA TRUSS for The Times-News

Student council members of White Pine Intermediate School in Burley held a drive to raise funds for the Mini-Casta Community Chest-Kid's Chest. The purpose was to supply money to help buy coats for children who may need one for the cold winter months.

Domenic is intelligent, loving

Curious, intelligent and loving are words used to describe Domenic. Domenic is deaf and understands American Sign Language, but that wasn't always the case.

Wednesday's Child



Domenic Age 11

Domenic is deaf and understands American Sign Language, but that wasn't always the case. He is excitedly frustrated when he can't figure something out. He is also learning that cooperation, sharing, and respect are how to make friends and keep them.

T.F. Optimist Club holds poker tournament Friday

TWIN FALLS - The Twin Falls Optimist Club is having a "Lost Vegas" casino night, featuring Texas no-hold-em poker and "21" tables from 7 to 10 p.m. Friday at the Turf Club, 734 Falls Ave.

Proceeds benefit Optimist-sponsored programs. For more information, call 733-2278 or 539-6526.

American Mothers Inc. holds luncheon today

TWIN FALLS - American Mothers Inc. of Magic Valley will hold its monthly luncheon today at noon today in the Great Room of BridgeView Estates.

Filer man celebrates 80th birthday Saturday

FILER - John G. Gister, of Filer, will celebrate his 80th birthday from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Filer Legion Hall.

DAV group holds public dance Friday at hall

TWIN FALLS - The Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary will hold a public dance on 8 p.m. Friday at the DAV Hall, 459 Shoup Ave.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Olde Time Fiddlers will provide the music. For more information, call 734-5208.

For more information, call 733-6610.

Foundation provides info about adoption programs

TWIN FALLS - Anyone interested in learning more about United States or International adoption programs is invited to a free seminar on creating your family through adoption from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Friday in Room 207 of the Taylor Building of the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls or from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the same location.

Safe Harbor in need of locations to help needy

TWIN FALLS - Safe Harbor Inc. will provide free food for the needy at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at Ascension Episcopal Church, 371 Eastland Drive N.

Elks Lodge fund-raiser benefits cancer patient

JEROME - The Snake River Elks Lodge is hosting a fund-raiser benefit to help member JB Knuston, who is fighting cancer.

Filer Rose Society will meet on Saturday

FILER - The Filer Rose Society will hold its first meeting of the year at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Twin Falls County Fair Office, 215 Fair Ave.

Mom's group focuses on flowers at meeting

TWIN FALLS - Moms on the Run will meet from 10:30 a.m. to noon Tuesday in the Sewing Room of the First Church of the Nazarene, 1231 Washington St. The cost is \$5.

Club Calendar

- Rotary Clubs: Blue Lakes - 7 p.m. Tuesday at Red Lion Hotel in Twin Falls; Burley - 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Burley Inn; Caldwell - 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Caldwell Inn; ...

Junice Anderson and Betty Jepsen

Feb. 22: first, Foye Koehnfeldt Madeline Savanna; second, Bunice Anderson and Jim Holden; third, Bonnie Aspiarte and Endi Cook; fourth, Al and Frances Ang...

Rock Creek Rebels holds stallion service auction

FILER - The Rock Creek Rebels 4-H Club Annual Stallion Service Auction and Tack Sale will be held Saturday.

Paul teenager receives Eagle Scout award

PAUL - Justin O. Maughan, son of Otto and Laurel Maughan of Paul, received his Eagle Scout award in a Court of Honor at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Paul Stake House of First Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 424 W. Ellis.

Junice Anderson and Betty Jepsen

Junice, 16, is in the 10th grade at Paul High School. She enjoys snow boarding, playing soccer and church basketball and bike riding.

Civic

- Blue Lakes - 7 p.m. Tuesday at Red Lion Hotel in Twin Falls; Burley - 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Burley Inn; Caldwell - 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Caldwell Inn; ...

Rotary Clubs

- Blue Lakes - 7 p.m. Tuesday at Red Lion Hotel in Twin Falls; Burley - 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Burley Inn; Caldwell - 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Caldwell Inn; ...

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Other

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Other

- Blue Lakes - 7 p.m. Tuesday at Red Lion Hotel in Twin Falls; Burley - 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Burley Inn; Caldwell - 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Caldwell Inn; ...

Support Groups

- Moms in Transition - 7 p.m. Tuesday at 833 Falls Ave. in Twin Falls; ...

National Alliance for the Mentally III (NAMI)

- Mental Health Support - 7 p.m. Tuesday, Wood River Middle School lounge, call 788-2877; ...

Alcoholics Anonymous

- AA Meetings - 8:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Bungalow Club in Burley; ...

Disabled American Veterans

- DAV Meetings - 8:30 p.m. Tuesday at 459 Shoup Ave. in Twin Falls; ...

Other Organizations

- Spring Lake - 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at Spring Lake High School; ...

Suspect lived remarkably stable life, criminologists say

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — He was trusted as a Cub Scout leader, respected as a churchgoing family man and accepted as a regular guy with a secure marriage, a steady job and all the other trappings of middle-class success.

He was also, according to police, an insatiably murderer who tortured and killed strangers over 17 years, boasting about his crimes in taunting, gruesome letters and poems that he mailed to police and the news media.

Dennis L. Rader, a 59-year-old municipal worker suspected of being the BTK killer responsible for 10 murders, is believed by investigators to have led a jekyll-and-hyde existence.

Experts on the criminal mind say that is not unusual for serial killers. But what sets Rader apart is his remarkably stable life and deep roots in the community.

"Mostly, serial killer are drafted and Michael Rustigan, a California criminalologist, "Typ-

ically they're single, have problems with women, are in and out of jobs, in or out of relationships." But in Rader's case, he said, "We're rarely seen serial killers so well-integrated into the community."

Rader has called the Wichita area home almost his entire life, earning a criminal justice degree at a local university. The father of two — he has a grown daughter and son — had been married for nearly 34 years and held jobs for long periods, including a position at a home security firm for 15 years, part of the time as installation manager.

Rader was arrested Friday by police, who said they were confident he is BTK — the killer's self-coined name that stands for "Blind, Torture and Kill." He was charged Tuesday with 10 murders committed between 1974 and 1991 and is being held on \$10 million bail.

The BTK killer terrified the Wichita area from the late 1970s through the mid-1980s; most of the victims were strangled, others

were stabbed or shot. In one instance, the killer called 911 to report the homicide. In another, The Wichita Eagle-Beacon was alerted to a letter in a library book that provided details of some murders only the killer could have known.

The killer resurfaced last March — the 30th anniversary of his first murders — with a series of letters to police and the media. One included a photocopy of the driver's license of one of his victims.

Police will not say what led them to Rader, but his arrest stunned many in suburban Park City, where he lived for more than 25 years and worked as a compliance officer, handling code violations and stray dogs.

Some described him as a friendly, solicitous man who helped neighbors and recently brought spaghetti sauce to a salad to a supper at Christ Lutheran Church, where he was an usher, president of the council and a member for 30 years. "Dennis was in church as

often as I was," said pastor Michael Clark.

But others say he could be a nupticker and a bully, always looking to cite his neighbors' property violations, once using a tape measure to determine if a neighbor's grass was too long. If Rader turns out to be BTK, he will not be the first serial killer to engage in what some experts call doubling — leading two lives. They cite other examples: Gary Ridgeway, the Green River killer, was a truck painter. Jeffrey Dahmer worked in a candy factory. John W. Gacy was a building contractor who sometimes performed as a clown.

"They lead a benign, if not friendly and helpful life with family and friends. Then they kill strangers," said Jack Levin, author of several books on serial killers and the director of the Benedict Center on Violence at Northeastern University in Boston. "It's almost like the dead camp doctor who goes home and plays with his children."

These two lives are "the way they survive. That's why they're not detected," said Steve Egger, a serial killer expert and associate professor of criminology at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. "Their interactions with people who love them, with people they associate with, are very natural. But they're able to split off and compartmentalize these fantasies they have ... then they go out and have to act on them."

Rustigan, the California criminologist, said he wonders how Rader, if he is the BTK killer, could hide a sinister life from his wife.

"You can fake 'nice guy' at work," he said. "But how do you fake 'nice guy' when you're married? That's a very powerful question in this case."

Rader's pastor said Rader and his wife, Paula, were close. They were always together — except if one of them was dead. Clark said, "It was as solid a marriage as any."

Clark said he has consulted members of Rader's family, who

have remained in seclusion and are bewildered by the allegations. "There's no such thing as reality for them," he said.

If Rader is found to be the BTK killer, some experts say it also will be noteworthy that he managed to carry on for so many years without drawing suspicion in a community where neighbors know and socialize with each other.

It would be relatively easy in Miami or New York City, Rustigan said, "but how do you keep this secret so well in a small-knit community?"

Howard Brodsky, a Wichita psychologist who consulted on the BTK case in the 1970s, said that is one of the big unanswered questions. Brodsky said that when he heard of Rader's arrest, he was surprised the complaints by neighbors about his overbearing behavior did not eventually raise red flags.

"He was always a little better than I thought," Brodsky said. "Or maybe he just surprised himself with a lot more naive people."

The Times News

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LINE AD DEADLINES Publication Day...Deadlines Sunday...4 pm Friday Monday...4 pm Friday Tuesday...2 pm Monday Wednesday...2 pm Tuesday Thursday...2 pm Wednesday Friday...1 pm Thursday Saturday...1 pm Friday	100 Announcements	500 Real Estate for Sale	900 Recreation
200 Employment	300 Financial	600 Real Estate Rentals	1000 Transportation
400 Education	700 Agriculture	800 Merchandise	BUSINESS HOURS Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

<p>ADVERTISEMENT FOR SALE OF TENANT PERSONAL PROPERTY Idaho Storage, LLC, 292 Jordan Ave., Pocatello, Idaho 83208, pursuant to Title 55, Idaho Code, and the terms of the lease, we will sell at auction, after March 2, 2005, the contents belonging to Charlene Voorhes, 1625 Maple Street, #32, Bush, Idaho 83316</p> <p>PUBLISH: February 26 and March 2, 2005</p> <p>INVITATION TO BID</p> <p>All sealed bids must be received by 9:30 P.M. on March 2, 2005. All sealed bids will be opened at 10:30 A.M. on March 2, 2005 at the Idaho</p>	<p>TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT, PURCHASING SECTION Location: 311 West State Street, Boise, Idaho. Bidders are invited to be present at the bid opening. This is to furnish materials, equipment and labor to the above project. A copy of the specifications and drawings can be obtained by contacting the Transportation Department, 311 West State Street, Boise, Idaho, or by calling (208) 333-2446.</p> <p>PUBLISH: February 23 and March 2, 2005</p>	<p>IN REQUISITION NUMBER D-242710 MARKET LISTING PURCHASING AGENT IDaho TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT Copies of Bid Package, Bid Results and Holders List may be obtained by visiting our web site at: http://idaho.gov/bids or by contacting your local Plan Room.</p> <p>PUBLISH: February 23, 2005</p>	<p>Dated this 23rd day of February 2005 MARKET LISTING PURCHASING AGENT IDaho TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT Copies of Bid Package, Bid Results and Holders List may be obtained by visiting our web site at: http://idaho.gov/bids or by contacting your local Plan Room.</p> <p>PUBLISH: February 23, 2005</p>	<p>Plan Holders List, may be publicly opened and read at the above address and also, independent Contractors Agency, Services to be performed, and other documents may be examined and obtained from the District Office, 195 E. Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada or by calling Jonavito Medrano, District Program Officer, at (757) 777-2700. All proposals shall be made the Bid Proposal form furnished by the Department. Said proposals shall be furnished along with materials, services, equipment, tools and personal expenses necessary to perform the work in a manner satisfactory to the Director of Transportation. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids, or to accept the bid deemed best for the interest of the State of Nevada.</p> <p>PUBLISH: February 16, 23 and March 2, 2005</p>
<p>NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. 05-01004 Doc ID# 0002058392005TS 1404 T. The following described property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, payable in lawful money of the United States. At 10:30 A.M. on Thursday, February 24, 2005, at the Courtroom North, Twin Falls, ID, on the 27th of February 2005, at 10:30 a.m. (recognized local time) for the purpose of foreclosing that certain Deed of Trust recorded 10/17/2002 as Instrument Number 2002-021492, and executed by JOSEFINA M. VARILLA, as Grantor(s), in favor of Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Beneficiary, to ReconTrust Company, N.A., the Current Trustee of record, covering the following real property located in Twin Falls County, state of Idaho: Lot 14 in Block 6 of Monte Vista Subdivision No. 2, according to the Official Plat thereon, filed in Book 7 of Plat at 1404 T. The Trustee has no knowledge of a more particular description of the above referenced real property, but for purpose of compliance with Idaho Code, Section 69-113, the Trustee has been informed that the street address is 730 Boulevard North, Twin Falls, ID 83301. In some instances associated with said real property, bidders must be prepared to tender the trustee full bid under the bid sale and the amount of cash or a cashier's check drawn on a state or federally insured savings institution. Said bid will be made under the bid sale and the amount of cash or a cashier's check drawn on a state or federally insured savings institution. Said bid will be made under the bid sale and the amount of cash or a cashier's check drawn on a state or federally insured savings institution. Said bid will be made under the bid sale and the amount of cash or a cashier's check drawn on a state or federally insured savings institution.</p> <p>PUBLISH: March 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2006</p>	<p>VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 262 NOTICE OF SALE</p> <p>NOTICE is hereby given that the Board of Directors of Valley School District No. 262, Jerome County, pursuant to Section 35-101, Idaho Code, as amended, has determined that it is in the best interest of said school district to sell the property, more fully described below, as a parcel of land located in the Northeast Quarter 36 of the Northeast Quarter of Section 34, Township 9 South, Range 19 East, Boise Meridian, Jerome County, Idaho, more particularly described as follows:</p> <p>Beginning at the Northeast corner of said NE1/4 NE1/4; Thence South 0°00'00" East a distance of 354.60 feet along the Eastery boundary of said NE1/4 NE1/4; Thence South 69°18'00" West a distance of 220.02 feet to the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; Thence South 89°16'00" West a distance of 482.18 feet; Thence North 0°39'37" West a distance of 317.38 feet; Thence North 90°00'00" East a distance of 431.80 feet; Thence South 69°14'47" East a distance of 312.29 feet to the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING.</p> <p>The above described parcel contains 3.23 acres more or less and includes an easement for ingress and egress and public utilities over a strip of land 20.00 feet in width and more particularly described as follows:</p> <p>Beginning at the Northeast corner of said NE1/4 NE1/4; Thence South 0°00'00" East a distance of 626.10 feet along the easterly boundary of said NE1/4 NE1/4 to the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; Thence South 69°14'47" East a distance of 264.00 feet to the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING.</p> <p>Said property will be sold by sealed bids only for not less than the appraised value to the highest bidder.</p> <p>Said bids: A cashier's check or money order for 100% of the bid must accompany the bid and the successful bidder will have their check or money order returned immediately after the bid opening. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.</p> <p>The property to be sold may be inspected at the above described location immediately after the bid opening may be made with the Superintendent by calling 208-628-5333.</p> <p>Witness my hand and the Seal of the Board of Trustees of Valley School District No. 262 Jerome County, Idaho POSTED: February 21, 2005 PUBLISH: February 23 and March 2, 2005</p>	<p>IN REQUISITION NUMBER D-242710 MARKET LISTING PURCHASING AGENT IDaho TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT Copies of Bid Package, Bid Results and Holders List may be obtained by visiting our web site at: http://idaho.gov/bids or by contacting your local Plan Room.</p> <p>PUBLISH: February 23, 2005</p>	<p>IN REQUISITION NUMBER D-242710 MARKET LISTING PURCHASING AGENT IDaho TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT Copies of Bid Package, Bid Results and Holders List may be obtained by visiting our web site at: http://idaho.gov/bids or by contacting your local Plan Room.</p> <p>PUBLISH: February 23, 2005</p>	<p>IN REQUISITION NUMBER D-242710 MARKET LISTING PURCHASING AGENT IDaho TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT Copies of Bid Package, Bid Results and Holders List may be obtained by visiting our web site at: http://idaho.gov/bids or by contacting your local Plan Room.</p> <p>PUBLISH: February 23, 2005</p>

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Wednesday, March 2, 2005

THE ACES ON BRIDGE Bobby Wolff

"Brave people add up to an aristocracy. The democracy of that shall-not is bound to be a collection of weak men." -D. H. Lawrence

Today's deal is tough to bid accurately, particularly after a high-level pre-empt from East. Many pairs reached a delicate grand slam here. When that grand slam was in diamonds, inspired guesswork was needed in the trump suit, and most declarers failed. But even when the grand slam was in spades, the diamond finesse may have looked mandatory. In fact, though, no finesses were necessary.

When West led the club 10, South inspected an opponent's convention card and confirmed they were leading top of a doubleton. What was the best route home?

Declarer would have to get set up a long heart in dummy if West's club suit was prepared to risk a possible second round ruff. So, trumps were drawn and the second club was cashed. Then came king, ace, and a heart ruff - East showing out.

The hand was now an open book so long as South could get set up properly. East had started with seven clubs and with two cards in each major. That gave room for just two diamonds, leaving three diamonds and one heart for West.

Declarer simply ran his spades, watching West's cards carefully. On the play of the last heart, South relinquished a diamond. Since East was known to have begun with exactly two diamonds, and West had been forced to come down to a doubleton diamond, the diamond trick, followed by a diamond to the ace, was sure to bring down the queen - a classic example of a show-up squeeze.

If you would like to contact Bobby Wolff, e-mail him at bobbyw@msdnet.com.

South West North East 4 6 Pass 5 4 Pass 4 4 Pass 7 4 Pass

Opening lead: Club 10 BID WITH THE ACES 6 2 D

South holds: 7 3 Q 10 Q 6 Q 9 J 7 6 5 3 South West North East

"ANSWER" Pass, and do not open three clubs. In third seat (if any vulnerability) or even in first seat nonvulnerable, it might be worth pre-empting here. But in second seat you are as likely to cross up your partner as you are to get in the opponents' way. With your side-suit honors, uninspiring shape, and poor suit, this is NOT worth a pre-emptive opening.

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911 MOTORHOMES & RVs

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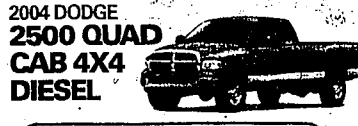
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