

GOOD MORNING

WEATHER

Today: Mostly sunny and mild. High 84, low 54.
Page A2

MAGIC VALLEY



Fond farewell: Jerome woman leaves legacy of giving.
Page B1

COMMUNITY



Reaching out: Club campaigns to help families deal with cancer.
Page C1

SPORTS



End of an era: Legendary wide receiver Jerry Rice retires from professional football.
Page D1

OPINION

A new compromise: Environmentalist and cattle magnate strike a rare deal, today's editorial says.
Page A8

COMING UP

Rhubarb solutions: How to deal with this problematic produce.
Wednesday in The Times-News

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Bush: Roberts will succeed Rehnquist

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Seven weeks after he was nominated to the Supreme Court, John Roberts returned to the White House on Monday for a big promotion — to be chief justice of the United States and leader of an often divided Supreme Court.

With impeccable conservative credentials and winning charm, Roberts was chosen to succeed the late William H. Rehnquist as President Bush



John Roberts

tries to put his own imprint on the Supreme Court for decades to come. If confirmed by the Senate, Roberts will have rocketed in just two years from practicing law in a private firm to the top judicial position in the nation.

Bush takes safe route in choosing Roberts.

See page A4

Polished and plainspoken, Roberts had been on a likely track in recent days to be confirmed as an associate justice and it appeared Bush turned to him for the top job to avoid an acrimonious fight at a volatile moment. Bush was on the defensive about the administration's sluggish response to Hur-

ricane Katrina and his poll ratings had fallen to their lowest point of his presidency.

"For the past two months members of the United States Senate and the American people have learned about the career and character of Judge Roberts," Bush said. "They like what they see."

Roberts' nomination, just two days after the death of Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, raised fears among Democrats about a rightward shift as Bush fills two openings on the nine-member

court. Democrats have been frustrated by Roberts' popularity and said the Senate must take a closer look at his new nomination.

"The stakes are higher and the Senate's advice and consent responsibility is even more important," said Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., expressed concerns about the court's balance.

Replacing two justices at the same time will have an enormous effect on the court's balance. Please see ROBERTS, Page A2

BOXED IN

Residents struggle with mailbox vandalism

By Jonathan Graham
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — When Twin Falls resident Chris Huddleston awoke to hear a crunch outside his house last week, he knew his mailbox "had gone flying. Again."

Not that Huddleston hasn't thought long and hard about different ways to protect his mailbox, which gets mangled about twice a year. "I've been thinking for years for a way to build a box so that it would destroy the car without people inside being hurt, but I'm worried about the liability," Huddleston said. His ideas include building a box that would damage a car's undercarriage or even go so far as to flip it over.

For now, Huddleston said he just uses a simple plastic mailbox.

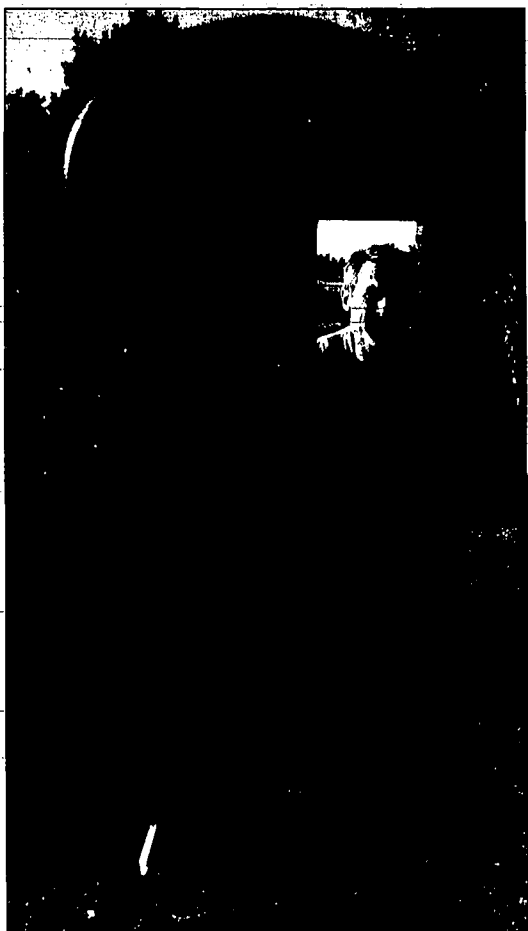
"The plastic ones hold out. I'd give them, though it depends on the hit, six or seven times," Huddleston said. "The metal ones are good for a couple times, but they never really open right afterwards."

After years of this postal box abuse, he's stopped being angry. "At first I got mad, but then it just became kinda funny," he said. "I just go down there, pick up the pieces and put it back together."

Not everyone in the area, however, is willing to forgive and forget as easily as Huddleston.

His next-door neighbor Jody Hall said she really became upset when her housebound mother, Sara Leonard, didn't receive birthday cards celebrating her 90th birthday because friends and family sent the mail to her home on E 4000 North — where the mailbox was taken down two years ago because of vandalism. The letters were lost or sent back and Hall was incensed.

"I think people should be aware of what happens to the mailbox," he said. Please see MAILBOX, Page A2



Chris Huddleston of Twin Falls looks through his mailbox at his home on the edge of town. Huddleston has had his mailbox bashed so many times, he now just buys a cheap plastic one. "I don't have numbers on my mailbox," he said. "I have to replace it too often."

Engineers plug levee

New Orleans mayor. As many as 10,000 dead from hurricane

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A week after Hurricane Katrina, engineers plugged the levee break that swamped much of the city, and floodwaters began to recede, but along with the good news came the mayor's direst prediction yet: As many as 10,000 dead.

Sheets of metal and repeated helicopter drops of 3,000-pound sandbags along the 17th Street canal leading to Lake Pontchartrain succeeded Monday in plugging a 200-foot-wide gap, and "water" was being pumped from the canal back into the lake. State officials and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers say once the canal level is drawn down two feet, Pumping Station 5 can begin pumping water out of the bowl-shaped city.

Some parts of the city already showed slipping floodwaters as the repair neared completion, with the low-lying Ninth Ward dropping more than a foot. In downtown New Orleans, some streets were merely wet rather than swamped.

"We're starting to make the kind of progress that I kind of expected earlier," New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said of the work on the break, which opened at the height of the hurricane and flooded 80 percent of the city up to 20 feet deep.

The news came as many of the 460,000 residents of suburban Jefferson Parish waited in a line of cars that stretched for miles to briefly see their flooded homes and to snap up soaked wedding pictures, baby shoes and other cherished mementoes.

"A lot of these people built these houses anticipating some flood water but nobody imagined this," sobbed Diane Dempsey, a 59-year-old retired Army lieutenant colonel who Please see HURRICANE, Page A2

Relations are still strained between Bush, governor

The Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — Like estranged in-laws at a holiday gathering, President Bush and Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco kept their distance as both toured a relief center for storm victims Monday. At their next stop, the Republican president kissed the Democratic governor on the cheek, but it wasn't clear whether they had made up.

State and federal officials are all facing public criticism for a slow response to the crisis. Behind the scenes, each suggests the other is to blame.

In front of the cameras during Bush's visit to the Gulf Coast states on Monday, the president and Blanco said little to each other, focusing instead on thanking relief workers. "I know I don't need to make any other introduction other than 'Mr. President,'" Blanco said tersely, turning the microphone over to Bush after praising his visit to the Gulf Coast states on Monday, the president and Blanco said little to each other, focusing instead on thanking relief workers.

Plane crashes into neighborhood, at least 147 dead

The Associated Press

MEDAN, Indonesia — Seconds after takeoff, an Indonesian airliner shook violently, veered to the left and slammed into a bustling neighborhood Monday, bursting into flames and killing at least 147 people — many on the ground.

Up to 16 passengers survived the crash, including an 18-month-old shielded by his mother's arms. The Mandala Airlines plane went down 500 yards from the Medan airport in north Sumatra, shoving aside cars and motorcycles before plowing into a row of houses. Witnesses said some people were on fire as they fled the shattered wreckage.

Investigators were trying to determine what caused the crash, Indonesia's second air disaster in nine months and the sixth worldwide since Aug. 1. Authorities considered foul play unlikely, but were examining possibility of human error



Residents walk through the remains of Indonesia's Mandala Airlines flight A330 which crashed moments after taking off from Medan, Indonesia enroute to Jakarta. The Boeing 737-200 crashed Monday, killing 100 people on board with 18 survivors.

technical failure, said airline managing director Asril Tanjung. Thousands of people, some standing on rooftops and buses, watched as firefighters struggled in a light drizzle to put out a fire that sent up thick clouds of black smoke. Several houses and dozens of cars and motorcycles were engulfed in flames. Survivors said the Jakarta-bound Boeing 737-200 started

shaking when it reached an altitude of about 100 yards before tilting sharply and smashing to the ground at 9:40 a.m. Some described a loud bang while the plane was still in flight, followed by a ball of fire.

"It happened very fast, no one even had time to panic," Behedi Kamsiah Sitoupu, 35, said from his hospital bed. "There was an explosion outside the plane followed by huge flames inside the cabin. Then we crashed."

"I struggled to take off my seat belt and then ran through a hole in the fuselage, jumping over charred bodies scattered all over the road," said Sitoupu, who had minor bruises on his legs. "It's a miracle I survived. I can't believe it."

The plane was carrying 116 passengers and crew, airline officials said. Sixteen survived, including the infant and his mother, said Nining, a Mandala spokeswoman, who like many Indonesians uses only one name.

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Mostly sunny and mild. Highs low to middle 80s. Tonight: A stormy and pleasant night. Low to middle 50s. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, warm and dry. Highs middle to upper 80s.

BURLEY/PERT FORECAST

Today: Sunny and warm with a light breeze developing. Highs middle to upper 80s. Tonight: Mostly clear and comfortable. Lows low 50s. Tomorrow: Warm with patchy clouds harboring a small chance of late day rain. Highs middle to upper 80s.

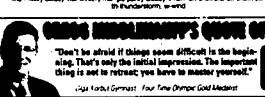
IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. A soft breeze will develop today with light showers and drizzle. A chance of rain will meander into the outlook later this week with seasonable temperatures persisting.

BOISE Mostly dry and warm weather will persist this week. A band of sunshiny and patchy clouds are expected most days if you can't see to the towers in the sky to see it.

NORTHERN UTAH Conditions early this week will be warm and dry. Some minor cooling will surface after an elongated small chance of rain.

Wednesday's State Estimate: 85 at Lowell. Low: 76 at Starry. Weather key: to avoid costly loss to his business, he's been mostly dry all winter, the property could see snow, rain, possibly, but not from warm.



There's a lot of things some officers in the beginning. That's why the initial impression. The important thing is to get to know you. You can't do that if you don't know you.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 5 columns: Today, Tonight, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 4 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure. Includes weather icons and numerical values.

Table with 2 columns: Moon Phases, Moonrise and Moonset. Includes moon icons and times.

Table with 2 columns: Regional Forecast, National Forecast. Includes city names and weather conditions.

Table with 2 columns: Canadian Forecast, World Forecast. Includes city names and weather conditions.

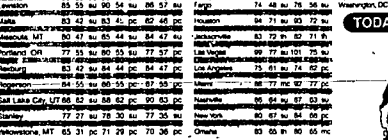


Table with 2 columns: Today's National Map, Canadian Forecast. Includes city names and weather conditions.

Yesterday's Weather

Table with 2 columns: City, High/Low. Lists various cities and their weather statistics.

Table with 2 columns: Sun and Sunset, Pollen Count. Includes sunrise/sunset times and pollen levels.

Table with 2 columns: U.V. Index, World Forecast. Includes UV index and global weather highlights.

Table with 2 columns: Today's National Map, Canadian Forecast. Includes city names and weather conditions.

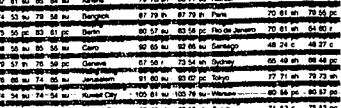


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Table with 2 columns: Canadian Forecast, World Forecast. Includes city names and weather conditions.

The Times-News

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Former presidents visit victims, announce hurricane fund

HOUSTON (AP) — Former Presidents Bush and Clinton visited hundreds of hurricane victims in Houston's Astrodome...

"They are beginning to think about the rest of their lives now, so I think it is up to us to fill in the blanks," Clinton said.

Leonard Thomas, weeping on his front porch. "That dude came and stuck the gun dead at my head, anarchy, and that disease could be spreading."

"I am glad that he came and showed that he cared," Denise Brown, 50, said after taking Bush if he could get her some hot chocolate.

Both former presidents indicated that with time their country will cope with the disaster. "I feel pretty good about what I saw today, even with all of the anger and all of the terrible stories, there is a sense of hope," Clinton said.

Hurricane

Continued from A1. could get no closer than the water line a mile from her Metairie home.

city for survivors, they were running up against a familiar obstacle: People who had been trapped more than a week in damaged homes yet refused to leave.

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Roberts

Continued from A2. mous impact on the court and on the lives and liberties of all Americans for decades," said Ralph Nabe, president of the liberal advocacy group People for the American Way.

conservative vote. O'Connor has offered to remain on the bench until her successor is named, and Bush called her Monday to say he would move quickly to find her replacement as well. He is not expected to name a new O'Connor successor this week.

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Mailbox

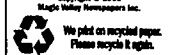
Continued from A1. owners when they do this," she said. "It's just so frustrating."

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Insurgents strike Iraq's Interior Ministry building

Chicago Tribune

BAGHDAD, Iraq — In a rare strike on a heavily fortified target in the Iraqi capital, insurgents attacked the country's Interior Ministry building, entrance with automatic gunfire and grenades Monday, killing two police officers and wounding five others.

The ambush came on a day when guerrilla violence spanned the country, from the northern city of Tikrit to the southern port of Basra. In all, 20 people were killed and another 20 injured.

The violence included a roadside bomb attack on a convoy near Basra that killed two British soldiers. In the Baghdad neighborhood of Shabak, a bomb was detonated near a U.S. military Humvee, wounding four U.S. soldiers, the U.S. military said.

The Iraqi Defense Ministry said Monday that 11 people were killed in a suicide car bomb attack in the Euphrates River valley town of Hillah, though it was unclear when the attack occurred. Three of the dead were Iraqi troops.

U.S. military officials have said they expect increased insurgency attacks as the Oct. 15 deadline for a referendum on Iraq's draft constitution approaches. Roughly 540 insurgency attacks occur across Iraq each week — most of them concentrated in just four of



U.S. troops remove a burned vehicle from the road in Baghdad on Monday. Four civilians died in a car bomb attack on a military convoy.

Iraq's 18 provinces. U.S. Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch said in late August.

At times, insurgents have unleashed attacks that appear to be aimed at displaying a show of strength. When militants killed 13 police officers and 27 Iraqi civilians in a daytime attack in Baghdad on Aug. 24, witnesses reported seeing the gunmen dressed in black balaclavas standing in the street, their rifles and rocket launchers in hand.

The attack on Interior Ministry police occurred Monday just after dawn. Carloads of insurgents stopped on an overpass overlooking the entrance to the Interior Ministry

building, a police lieutenant said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

The gunmen then opened fire and lobbed several hand grenades at Iraqi police officers posted at the ministry's entrance, about a half-mile from the ministry building, the police lieutenant said. The Associated Press reported that the insurgents used rocket-propelled grenades, not hand grenades, in the attack.

"We exchanged gunfire with them," the lieutenant said. "One of the insurgents got injured, and they put him in the car." The clash lasted several minutes, after which the gunmen sped away.

Saudi official: Most-wanted terrorist killed in police battle

DAMMAM, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi security forces battled heavily armed suspected al-Qaida members holed up in a sea-front apartment building Monday, a day after two militants — one of them the kingdom's No. 3 most-wanted terrorist — died in the fighting.

Zaid Spad Zaid al-Samari, a 31-year-old Saudi, was killed Sunday in Dammam, a security official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to give information to the media. A police officer also was killed Sunday.

Al-Samari was on a list of 36 most-wanted terrorists sought in relation to multiple terror attacks launched in this kingdom since May 2003. An unknown number of militants died Sunday to a white two-story building near Dammam's commercial district, which police surrounded on Monday as fires gun battles continued for a second day.

At least 30 anti-terrorism forces were wounded since Sunday, including several critically, according to Dammam Central Hospital, which treated the victims.

Police unleashed heavy barrages of gunfire but held off launching a direct assault on the building in hopes the militants will surrender, officials said.

Officers evacuated people from nearby buildings and blocked off streets leading into the area, including the city's main shore promenade.

"We are dealing with people who have a tendency to blow themselves up and it we know

they have a significant number of weapons and explosives," Saudi Interior Ministry spokesman Mansour al-Turki told the AP.

The ministry said security forces are carrying out an operation "against a number of elements affiliated to the 'deviant group,'" a term usually used in reference to al-Qaida's branch in the kingdom.

The clashes prompted U.S. authorities to close the American consulate in nearby Dhahran.

The violence came as President Bush's Homeland Security adviser, Frances Townsend, met top Saudi officials, including King Abdullah, in Riyadh. The deputy commander of the U.S. Central Command, Air Force Lt. Gen. Lance Smith, also met Saudi deputy defense minister, Prince Khalid bin Sultan. Saudi and U.S. sources declined to provide details on the

visits by the high-ranking American security officials. Since May 2003, Islamic militants have carried out numerous suicide bombings and kidnappings and regularly battled security forces. The attacks, which have tended to target Westerners and housing complexes were they live, have been blamed on al-Qaida and its allies.

Four die in mysterious blast in Gaza

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — A mysterious blast after midnight Monday leveled a building in Gaza City, killing four people and wounding at least 30, residents and hospital officials said. The violent Islamic Hamas group blamed Israel, but the Israeli military said it was not involved.

The explosion came hours after Palestinian security forces got their first look at demolished Jewish settlements in Gaza, touring the area ahead of Israel's formal handover in mid-September. The joint tour by Palestinian commanders and Israeli military officials marked the first time Palestinian authorities were allowed into the settlements, which were evacuated two weeks ago.

The blast in the Gaza City neighborhood of Shabak destroyed a house where known Hamas members lived. Hamas charged that an Israeli missile hit the house, with a group spokesman, Munir al-Masri, saying Israel of continuing its "dirty assassination policy, which gives us the right to re-

spond and to defend ourselves." Some residents said it was apparently a case of explosives in the house detonating prematurely as Hamas militants worked on a bomb.

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas called the explosion "regrettable" and said "security is investigating the cause."

Israeli aircraft have often raided the neighborhood, targeting Palestinian militants, but the raids all but stopped after a cease-fire went into effect in February.

Also Monday, an Israeli official said Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was planning to visit in November, another diplomatic dividend from Israel's Gaza pullout. However, Mubarak's spokesman said he had no such plans.

Israel is trying to revive low-level ties with Muslim nations that languished during more than four years of Israel-Palestinian conflict — as well as trying to establish new ones. Palestinians are unhappy with Israel's recent successes, however, and have urged Muslim nations to freeze ties with Israel

until a final peace deal is reached.

Mubarak will travel to Israel in November to attend a service marking 10 years since the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to make a formal announcement.

However, Mubarak's spokesman Subisman Awad told the Associated Press, "I can assure you that the president doesn't have any plans to go anywhere outside Egypt until the end of this year."

He is quite busy with so many things, the presidential and legislative elections, and doesn't have any plans to go anywhere outside Egypt," the spokesman added.

The Egyptian leader has not visited Israel since Rabin's funeral in 1995, and Israeli officials interpreted his planned visit as sending a message to other Arab and Muslim countries that Israel should be rewarded for evacuating 21 settlements in Gaza and four in the West Bank.

Fire kills at least 29 south of Cairo

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Fire broke out in an Egyptian theater during a crowded performance late Monday, causing hundreds of audience members to flee the burning building, a police fire official said. At least 29 people were killed, some from the flames and some in the ensuing stampede.

About 1,000 people were crowded into the theater in Beni Suef, a city on the Nile river about 60 miles south of Cairo, when the fire broke out at about 11:45 p.m., a police official said. It was brought under control by fire crews, but destroyed the building.

The official, who declined to be identified because he was authorized to speak to the media, said initial investigations indicated the fire started after lit candles being held by girls taking part in the play came into contact with theater curtains. The blaze sparked panic in

the packed audience, with hundreds stampeding from the burning theater to save their lives, the official added.

The bodies of at least 29 people were taken to the main

morgue in Beni Suef, with the victims dying either from burn-related injuries, suffocation or being trampled to death, the official added. At least 60 people were injured.

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NATION

Bush takes safest route with Roberts

By Ron Fournier
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush chose the path of least resistance in nominating John Roberts as chief justice, acting with unusual haste as the war in Iraq and Hurricane Katrina sap his political strength. He was the safest choice Bush could make.

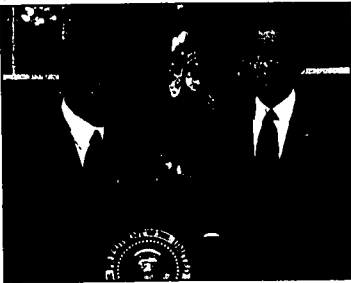
Roberts is a Washington insider well versed in the functions of the Supreme Court and the levers of power in Congress, an accomplished lawyer whose smile and sterling resume seem to take the sharp edges off his deeply conservative ideology.

Liberal activists who opposed Roberts' nomination to replace retiring Justice Stephen G. Breyer found little in his record to suggest they could thwart that nomination.

He will draw less partisan fire than other candidates pushed by Bush's conservative backers to succeed the late William H. Rehnquist — associate justices Clarence Thomas and Antonin Scalia.

White House confirmation still seems likely, he may face a tougher road to confirmation because the position of chief justice will be held to a higher standard. Bush's weak political standing could complicate things for Roberts, according to strategists in both parties.

Republicans and Democratic strategists also agree that Bush will come under intense pressure now to name a woman or minority to replace O'Connor. It's no small feat because the Clintons hit poor-black residents the hardest, raising questions about Bush's sensi-



Judge John Roberts, left, looks towards U.S. President Bush after he was nominated Monday for Supreme Court Chief Justice in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington.

"When Roberts' record on civil rights is reviewed inside the Judiciary Committee, it's going to sound more jarring post-Katrina than before the hurricane," said Democratic consultant Jenny Backus. "America was reminded about the big issue out there that has not been openly addressed by the administration — economic disparity based on race."

Bush may also be boxed in ideologically — less inclined to nominate somebody as conservative or to the right of Roberts. But officials close to the White House predicted the president would pick a conservative in the mold of Roberts.

"The fight is over the next one," said Democratic consultant Nick Baldick. "Roberts is taking the Rehnquist voting slot and no one worried about him being much more conservative than Rehnquist."

"This is about who will run the Supreme Court for the next generation and it looks like they rushed a decision together in a way that doesn't look that thoughtful," said Joe Lockhart, press secretary in the Clinton White House.

Some Democrats urged Bush to delay the nomination process while he responds to Katrina, a not-too-subtle dig at his efforts thus far. "In the midst of a national disaster of biblical proportion," Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., said, "it is difficult for the American people to participate fully in the selection of the next chief justice."

In fairness to Bush, he had weeks to consider Roberts' qualifications, and a summer spent in the spotlight turned up no warts on the nominee.

"I think the public vetting process that body should be satisfied with, bright, knows the issues and can leave a long-term imprint on the court because of his youth and intellect," said Rick Davis, a GOP consultant.

"That is a major point that really gets lost amid the politicking. Roberts, 50, could lead the nation's judicial branch for a generation or more. He may be the last chief justice most Americans know."

On top of that, O'Connor's seat is a critical swing vote and she may not be the last justice who leaves during Bush's term.

When voters re-elected Bush, they gave Republicans the keys to the future of the U.S. Judiciary. Bush and his party control the Judiciary Committee and a solid majority of votes in the Senate. Nobody should be surprised that the Supreme Court — once a liberal bastion — will continue further down the conservative path plowed by Rehnquist himself.

Democrats wondered why it took Bush less time to name Rehnquist's replacement than it did to visit the Gulf Coast after Katrina hit.

Gulf Coast refineries are close to restarting

ON Sunday and its refinery in Norco, La., is expected to get back up and running by mid-week. Both are located west of New Orleans.

Marathon said over the weekend that its Garyville, La., refinery west of New Orleans should be fully operational early this week. Valero said it's still hoping to restart this week its St. Charles refinery about 15 miles from New Orleans.

When running at 100 percent capacity, these four represent slightly more than 1 million barrels of refined oil product a day.

In contrast, Chevron Corp.'s 325,000 barrel-a-day refinery in Pascagoula, Miss., and ConocoPhillips' 247,000 barrel-a-day facility in Belle Chasse, La., should be fully operational by late next week.

The ConocoPhillips facility, along with Exxon Mobil Corp.'s Chalmette, La., refinery and Murphy Oil Corp.'s facility in Meroux, La., also have no power. They represent nearly 630,000 barrels a day of refined oil products.

But industry experts say that even after power is restored, restarting an oil refinery is a tricky and time-consuming process. Crews must be meticulous with repeated inspections, checking and rechecking for leaks. They must also ensure that all saltwater has been cleared or risk igniting a fire.

Motiva, a joint venture between Royal Dutch Shell PLC and Saudi Refining Inc., said its Convent, La., refinery restarted

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The Sensible Environmentalist

(NAPS)—Dear Dr. Moore: I've heard that forestry can help reduce the threat of wildfires! How does that work?

What you're talking about is referred to as active management. Many are taking active steps in the forest to reduce natural catapostrophes such as fire, disease or insect infestation. The alternative is to leave the forest alone and let nature take its course.

It's a controversial subject. Some people believe that humans shouldn't interfere—that leaving the forest alone is always better. Throughout history, frequent low-intensity fires have played an important role in the health of forests and ecosystems, burning smaller trees and undergrowth and leaving large trees mostly intact.

Today, these fires are often suppressed—and for good reason. Our forests are in and around homes and towns where people live. Letting nature take its course puts human life and property at risk.

By suppressing these fires, we have created an unnatural build-up of what can best be described as a pump or heating oil for forest fires. North American forests are as abundant now as they were 100 years ago. But many, particularly in the U.S., are now overly dense and highly prone to fire. Some are also diseased and pose a very real danger to the healthy forest that surrounds them.

Catastrophic fires often burn at much higher temperatures than normal fires and cause incredible devastation. As we saw during this year's fire season, homes and even entire communities are lost. These fires also kill countless animals: pollute rivers, streams and lakes, resulting in the loss of entire fish populations, and leave the earth effectively sterilized for many years.

By actively managing these forests—removing dead wood and thinning the undergrowth, removing some trees, or intentionally burning areas that are distant from homes—we can help to maintain forests that are more open and resistant to natural catastrophe.

We have a responsibility to use our knowledge and experience to help keep North American forests healthy. I believe that a sensible environmentalist would support active forest management to reduce risks to the forest and its inhabitants, human life, and property.

Dr. Patrick Moore has been a leader in the environmental movement for more than 30 years. A co-founder and former president of Greenpeace, he holds a PhD in ecology and a BS in forenology. Questions for Dr. Moore can be sent to Patrick@SensibleEnviro.com.

Holiday travel slows with high gas prices

NEW YORK (AP)—Labor Day traffic slowed around the country as drivers lucky to find gas stations open paid over 30 percent more than before Hurricane Katrina disrupted Gulf Coast refining and pipeline operations.

Pump prices are starting to level off, but analysts say the dramatic rise in gasoline costs has led most consumers to begin rethinking everything from vacation travel plans to how much they can afford to spend for food, clothing and restaurant meals.

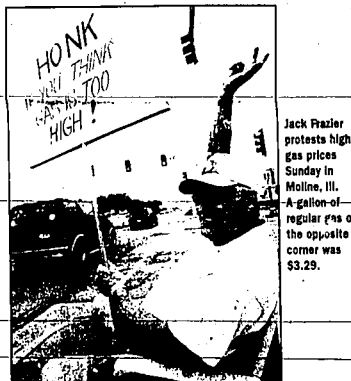
Drivers paid an average of about \$3.20 a gallon for unleaded regular on Monday, up \$1.25 from a year ago and 75 cents more than they did before the hurricane, according to Randy Bly, director of community relations for AAA Auto Club South.

The federation of motor clubs had originally forecast that \$4.5 million Americans would travel 50 miles or more this Labor Day weekend. But Bly thinks that estimate was too high as drivers were spooked by the spike in gas prices and reports of shortages at gas stations in midwestern, southern and northeast states.

"We feel very certain Hurricane Katrina will bring this (original estimate) lower," Bly said.

In Georgia, a moratorium on gas taxes and a slight dip in wholesale prices helped level fuel prices to an average of \$3.05. On Friday, Gov. Sonny Perdue ordered a month-long moratorium on state gas taxes and called legislators into a special session Tuesday to ratify the decision. The governor's order suspends Georgia's 7.5 cents-a-gallon excise tax and 1 percent sales tax on gasoline until the end of September.

Robert and Claire Smith of Rockford, Ill., had planned to



Jack Frazier protests high gas prices Sunday in Moline, Ill. A gallon of regular gas on the opposite corner was \$3.29.

take their four children to an amusement park, but the high price of gas kept them from making the drive of over one hour. Instead, they visited both sets of grandparents nearby.

"The kids just don't understand. Their day is not by what gas prices are," Robert Smith said, adding that on Labor Day morning his eight-year old had "this long face" of disappointment.

Ohio State Highway Patrol Sgt. Michael Forshe in Zanesville said traffic was definitely down on central Ohio's interstate, I-70, this weekend. "I don't see it as the end-of-summer blowout like it used to be," he said.

Higher gas prices may have also slowed sales in shopping malls this Labor Day weekend.

Michael Solomon, who owns and operates Great American Cookie stores in malls in Kentucky, Nevada, Indiana and West Virginia, said his weekend sales were "well below expectations."

"It started Friday when all the gas prices jumped up," said Solomon. Store managers in West Virginia and Kentucky also told him local gas stations were out of gas, which he assumes caused some consumers to stay at home rather than venture to malls.

"It was slower than usual. People spent the same amount

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of money. It just felt like there were less people," said Solomon, who fears that he may have to raise his prices if high energy costs boost what he pays for freight and other services.

Much of the rise in gas prices stems from major disruption in how oil and gas are produced and delivered in the U.S. Gulf Coast states.

These facilities were responsible for producing 1.4 million barrels of oil each day, equal to what is imported from Saudi Arabia each day and 80 percent of that, or some 1.2 million barrels, was halted because of Hurricane Katrina, according to John Felmy, chief economist at the American Petroleum Institute.

At one point, nearly 95 percent of the production from these Gulf Coast facilities was disrupted last week.

The magnitude of the damage to the Gulf Coast facilities and the time it takes to repair them may have an impact on the overall U.S. economy, warned Chris Lutz, chief economist at FTN Financial.

Low recalled that two years ago energy related costs like gas at the pump or heating oil for homes made up about 4 percent of household budget. That had risen to 5.5 percent prior to Hurricane Katrina and is likely to rise further, he said.

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Bubble ready to burst?

Slowdown in red-hot housing market could spell trouble

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's red-hot housing market may finally be nearing its peak, meaning the end of double-digit annual percentage price gains for homeowners and potential trouble for more recent purchasers who stretched to buy.

That's the assessment of economists, who concede they have been forecasting a slowdown in housing for some time only to be confounded as sales and prices continued to boom.

Sales have certainly been sizzling this year, putting the country on track for a fifth straight year of record purchases of new and existing homes.

Home prices have been surging as well. The government reported last week that prices jumped by 13.4 percent in the April-June quarter this year, compared with the same period a year ago, the biggest increase in 25 years. That is more than double the average annual price gains of 6 percent recorded over the past three decades.

But scattered among the statistics are some signs of a slowdown. In July sales of existing homes fell by 2.6 percent even though the nationwide median price rose to a record \$218,000.

Homes in some areas are staying on the market longer before they sell and the Mortgage Bankers Association reports that its index of demand for home mortgages now stands 11 percentage points below a June peak.

And none other than Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan recently said that "the housing boom will inevitably simmer down" with prices slowing and possibly even falling.

"The issue of how much of a slowdown will occur, and whether home prices will fall or

“

I think what we have in store is a slow deflating of the housing bubble, not a bursting of the bubble. But if mortgage rates rise more sharply than I am expecting, then the downturn in housing could be more severe.

”

— Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com.

Just not rise at double-digit rates will depend to large extent on the course of interest rates in coming months.

"I think what we have in store is a slow deflating of the housing bubble, not a bursting of the bubble," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Economy.com.

"But if mortgage rates rise more sharply than I am expecting, then the downturn in housing could be more severe."

The devastation from Hurricane Katrina could turn out to help the housing industry, mainly through falling interest rates. Investors pushed rates lower this week in anticipation that Katrina and the resulting surge in energy prices will act as a drag on economic growth and could persuade the Federal Reserve to pause in its 14-month campaign to push rates higher.

As a result, rates on 30-year mortgages dipped to 5.71 percent, down from a high this year of 6.04 percent set in late March. David Solders, chief economist for the National Association of Home Builders, said rebuilding from Katrina's devastation probably will not have much impact on the overall housing market since

residential building permits for all of Louisiana and Mississippi last year amounted to just 1.8 percent of the national total.

But analysts are forecasting that housing sales will begin to decline from record levels by the end of this year and into 2006. The slowing sales pace is expected to end the super-sized price gains many parts of the country have experienced.

Richard DeKaser, chief economist at National City Corp. in Cleveland, said he believes 53 metropolitan areas, representing 31 percent of the country's housing market, were "extremely overvalued and confront a high risk of a future price correction."

And what might that price correction look like? DeKaser said over the past 20 years, 64 cities have seen home price declines of 10 percent or more over a period of two years. But all of those declines occurred along with a weak overall economy, something not present now.

But if rising energy prices spread into more widespread inflation pressures and the Fed feels it needs to raise interest rates more quickly, then analysts said housing could be in

for a rougher landing.

Those most vulnerable in such a situation would be homeowners who took advantage of the growing popularity of various types of new mortgage products such as interest-only loans. They allow buyers to pay only interest initially while charging a lower interest rate that remains fixed for a certain period, often the first three years of the loan.

The problem comes when the introductory period ends. Then holders of these loans are faced with a double-payment shock. The interest rate they must pay is likely to rise and they will have to make not only interest payments but also begin paying back the principal.

Homeowners with already stretched finances may find themselves unable to make the new monthly payments, forcing them either to sell their homes or default on their mortgages. Either development would dump more supply into a slowing market and thus further depress prices.

But many analysts don't believe that doomsday scenario will come into play to any significant extent unless the economy seriously weakens.

They note that even with the growing popularity of interest-only loans and various other types of mortgages that feature low down payments, the number of loans going into delinquency has been falling.

Some see a slowdown in home sales as beneficial. If the frenzied buying levels off, the market will become more balanced between supply and demand and help to ease price pressures, said Lawrence Yun, senior economist at the National Association of Realtors.

Study links fewer birth defects to food fortified with folic acid

Los Angeles Times

The rate of spina bifida and anencephaly birth defects has fallen by more than one-third since the addition in 1998 of folic acid to the nation's enriched flours, rice and pastas, according to a study released Tuesday.

The study, published in the journal Pediatrics, prompted a renewed call from some scientists and health advocates for the Food and Drug Administration to double the required fortification levels to further reduce the rate of the birth defects.

"We're not at maximum prevention," said Jennifer Howse, president of the March of Dimes. "We would like the FDA to reconsider this matter, hold hearings and act as soon as they can."

Other scientists, however,

said not enough is known about the consequences of enriching food with folic acid and cautioned that even rags-side effects could affect a significant number of people when the entire population is receiving the vitamin through food.

"No one's really looked," said Barry Shane, professor of nutrition at the University of California, Berkeley. For instance, folic acid can mask the symptoms of vitamin B-12 deficiencies, which are common in the elderly and can lead to neurological problems. Spina bifida and anencephaly, known as neural tube defects, arise when the spinal column of a developing embryo does not properly close during the first weeks of pregnancy. The defect causes paralysis in spina bifida and fatal brain deformation in anencephaly.

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Engineer who got fired for eating pizza wins contest

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A computer engineer who lost his job because he ate two pieces of pepperoni pizza has been named the winner of an Internet contest that solicited stories about outrageous firings.

A panel of Silicon Valley judges picked Jim Garrison's strange tale from more than 1,000 entries submitted during the past month. The reward: a free Caribbean cruise.

Garrison, 39, prevailed over some tough competition. The runners-up included a furniture mover who got fired after he and a co-worker were caught fencing with some adult sex toys found in a customer's bedroom; a worker who misunderstood a manager's instructions to send some sensitive data to microfilm and e-mailed it to a "Michael Finn"

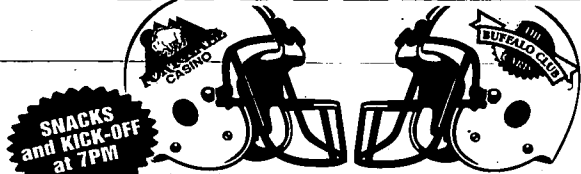
instead; and a warehouse worker found doing perverse things with the prosthetic made by his employer.

Garrison, who lives in Highlands Ranch, Colo., said he never thought he would be rewarded for getting fired. Then again, he never dreamed he would be fired after he ate two of the six pieces of pepperoni pizza left over from a company meeting.

What he didn't know is that several other employees had already worked out a plan to take the leftover pizza home with them.

When they discovered one-third of the leftover pizza pie had been eaten, the employees reported Garrison to management, ultimately leading to his firing last November — a month after he ate the food.

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Scientists find family of rare cheetahs

By Juliet Elperin
The Washington Post

A team of Iranian and Wildlife Conservation Society scientists has discovered a family of rare Asiatic cheetahs and photographed them with a remote camera, the scientists announced last week. Asiatic cheetahs used to roam from the Red Sea to

India, but the big cats are disappearing. Fewer than 60 now exist in all of Asia. Most live on Iran's dry central plateau. "As a species, the cheetahs are still in dire straits in Iran, so it is extremely encouraging to see an apparently healthy family in a remote habitat," said Peter Zahler, assistant director of the Wildlife Conservation Society's Asia Program.

The camera captured a mother cheetah and four cubs on Iran's isolated Dar-e-Anjir Wildlife Refuge. Luke Hunter, who coordinates the society's Global Carnivore Program, said the fact that the female cheetah "has managed to raise four cubs to six months of age is extremely encouraging." In the 1970s, biologists estimated that 100 to 400 cheetahs

lived in Iran, but widespread poaching in the early years of the 1978 revolution, coupled with livestock grazing, have pushed them to the brink of extinction. Asiatic cheetahs disappeared from much of the Middle East a century ago, though they survived in India until 1947 and in Central Asia as late as the 1990s.

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OK. So you told yourself that you were going to stop at ONE elephant ear. But before long, the temptation of some mini donuts, two foot-long corn dogs, an order of deep fried chicken and a waffle cone won you over (all in the space of about forty-five minutes). We are not just describing a few select individuals here...this scenario could well apply to all of Twin Falls County and beyond. Well, fortunately Swensens Markets is offering some real therapy. Stop by and pick up your fill of fresh, flavorful and very affordable local peaches and pears. And let your guilty conscience (and your fair fanny) disappear.

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States hear lesbian custody case

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — Battles over the custody of children between estranged spouses are nothing new, but this one involves a child born to a lesbian couple in a since-dissolved civil union.

And the case might end up in the U.S. Supreme Court because it produced dueling court rulings in Vermont, the first state to legally recognize same-sex relationships, and Virginia, which has a law saying neither same-sex marriages nor civil unions carry the force of law in that state.

The case comes up for argument before the Vermont Supreme Court on Wednesday and before the Virginia Court of Appeals a week later.

Both supporters and detractors of same-sex marriage and civil unions say whatever the outcome, it may become a landmark in the debate over when laws should govern same-sex relationships and the children born to them.

"This case has significant implications for a number of reasons," said Matthew Staver, a lawyer with the Federal Liberty Council, which opposes same-sex unions.

He said there have been other cases in which out-of-state courts have been asked to grant dissolution of Vermont civil unions, and refused because their states don't honor



Phil Griffin, right, attorney for Lisa Miller-Jenkins, left, speaks to the media in Winchester, Va.'s Joint Judicial Center Tuesday, in a Sept. 28, 2004 file photo, after Miller-Jenkins was awarded sole custody of her 2-year-old daughter, Isabella

such unions. In this case, however, "You have two state laws clashing for the very first time." If the fight goes to the U.S. Supreme Court, "This would have major precedential value," Staver said.

Jennifer Lovi, a lawyer with Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders who will represent Janet Jenkins at Wednesday's hearing, called that kind of speculation premature. She hopes that both courts will allow her client visitation with the 3-year-old girl at the center of the controversy.

Jenkins, now 40, and Lisa Miller, 36, both Virginia natives, fell in love in their home state, came to Vermont in 2001 just long enough to get a civil union and returned home.

In Virginia, Miller got pregnant by artificial insemination and gave birth in April 2002 to a girl they named Isabella.

They later returned to Vermont, where they lived for a little more than a year before breaking up. In filing for dissolution, Miller filled out paperwork indicating that Isabella was the child of the civil

union, a fact that Jenkins' team is using to argue that under Vermont law Jenkins is a parent of Isabella.

Miller later changed her mind and asked Rutland Family Court Judge William Cohen to find that she was Isabella's sole parent.

The judge denied her request and granted Jenkins visitation, even though she never formally adopted Isabella.

Miller appealed to the Vermont Supreme Court. She also moved back to Virginia and won a declaration in that state's courts that she was Isabella's sole parent, with no obligation to Jenkins for visitation or anything else.

Federal law, particularly the Parental Kidnapping Prevention Act, is set up to block a parent unhappy with one state's custody order from taking a child to another state's court in search of a more favorable outcome.

It says the second state must honor the first state's ruling on custody and visitation, and Jenkins' team is relying on this law in arguing that Virginia should let the Vermont ruling stand.

Miller said she does not dwell on the outcome. "I don't think about it one way or another," she said. "It's in God's hands."

Changes in Saturn's rings baffle scientists

LOS ANGELES (AP) — New observations by the international Cassini spacecraft reveal that Saturn's trademark shimmering rings, which have dazzled astronomers since Galileo's time, have dramatically changed over just the past 25 years.

Among the most surprising findings is that parts of Saturn's innermost ring — the D ring — have grown dimmer since the Voyager spacecraft flew by the planet in 1981, and a piece of the D ring has moved 125 miles inward toward Saturn.

While scientists puzzle over what caused the changes, their observations could reveal something about the age and lifetime of the rings.

Cassini-related discoveries were discussed Monday at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society's division of planetary sciences in Cambridge, England.

"I don't think Saturn's rings will disappear anytime soon; but this tells us how the rings are evolving and how long they might last," deputy project scientist Linda Spilker said in a telephone interview from England.

Scientists are interested in Saturn's rings because they are a model of the disk of gas and dust that initially surrounded the sun. Studying them could yield important clues about how the planets formed from that disc 4.5 billion years ago.

The ring observations were made this summer. The \$3.3 billion Cassini mission, funded by NASA and the European and Italian space agencies, was launched in 1997. Cassini is managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

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Scientists share new theory on mad cow

By Marc Kaufman
The Washington Post

Citing circumstantial evidence, two British researchers have raised the possibility that mad cow disease arose in English herds after they were given imported feed that contained remains of humans who had died of the flesh-eating Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

The infection may have come from India, Pakistan or Bangladesh, they wrote in last week's issue of the journal *The Lancet*, because scavenging for human bones and remains is widespread in those nations.

The researchers said there have been documented reports that those remains have been included in exported material used for animal feed and fertilizer that was used widely in England in the 1960s.

The researchers wrote that mad cow disease is most similar to the human variant of the infection.

Many researchers have hypothesized that mad cow disease came initially from sheep infected with scrapie, a similar infection, but the *Lancet* paper said all experimental efforts to transmit scrapie from sheep to cows, and to create the variant called bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease, failed.

British dairy farmers were aggressively feeding their animals meat and bone meal in the 1960s as a way to increase milk production. The processed scraps were given to calves as young as one or two weeks old, they said, and those animals were most prone to infection from the disease.

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EDITORIAL

Jarbidge grazing deal best for all parties

You may have missed it, but the lion lay down with the lamb last week.

Western Watersheds Project, a non-profit organization that is a ferocious opponent of the way public lands grazing is managed, reached an agreement with the I.H. Simplot Co. It allows the largest public-land ranching operation in the United States to continue running cattle on nearly a million acres in the Bureau of Land Management's Jarbidge Resource Area in the Idaho-Nevada border southwest of Ivin Falls.

U.S. District Judge Lynn Winnill still has to sign off on the deal.

Did Simplot cave in under environmentalist pressure? Hardly. The company has agreed to reduce grazing by 5 to 10 percent in order to protect sage grouse habitat, that's remarkably little on a swath of public land of that size.

"We'll continue our operations as freely the same levels as in the past," Simplot spokesman Fred Zerza said.

Then has Jon Marvel, Western Watersheds' executive director, softened on public-lands grazing? Not really. It's part of a new strategy designed to bring the BLM into complying with what Western Watersheds contends is the agency's own management plan. Instead, Marvel says, the agency emphasizes increased grazing to the detriment of grouse and other wildlife.

In effect, Marvel has made a significant concession in order to gain a significant ally in his long-running battle with public-land regulators over grazing practices.

That said, Western Watersheds has been firm in the

driver's seat on this issue since July, when Winnill agreed with many of Marvel's allegations about BLM stewardship of the Jarbidge and temporarily put an end to grazing in the area.

Simple, other livestock permittees and the BLM filed motions opposing the judge's order. Recently, the parties settled on this coming Friday as the earliest day that ranchers would be required to remove livestock from the Jarbidge.

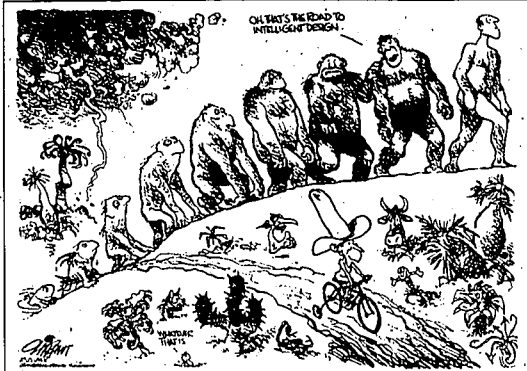
The Simplot deal doesn't affect other permittees in the case, although Western Watersheds continues to negotiate with them. Marvel has agreed not to sue Simplot over the Jarbidge for a set time period.

In exchange for continued grazing, Simplot will not "pursue legislative remedies" that contradict the agreement with Western Watersheds. In fact, if a legislative "rider" or other legislation is passed that would permit Simplot to increase grazing levels, the livestock producer cannot take advantage of those offers under the settlement.

"These ranchers have been accustomed to getting that kind of legislative help," Marvel said. (Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho) has a history of issuing riders for the Jarbidge.)

So does this astonishing agreement herald the beginning of a new era of cooperation between public-lands grazers and environmentalists? Don't hold your breath. There's little love lost between Marvel and most public-land grazers. But it does show that two very divergent interests can work together for the public interest when it's also in their interest.

At the very least, that's refreshing.



Presidential power rises

I took almost no time for President Bush to put his stamp on the national response to the tragedy that has befallen New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, a reminder that modern communications have reshaped the constitutional division of powers in our government in ways the Founding Fathers never could have imagined.

Because the commander in chief is also the communicator in chief, when a crisis emerges the nation's eyes turn to him as to no other official. We cannot yet calculate the political fallout from Hurricane Katrina and its devastating human and economic consequences, but one thing seems certain: It makes the previous signs of political weakness for Bush, measured in record low job approval ratings, instantly irrelevant and opens new opportunities for him to regain his standing with the broad public.

We have seen this before. Bill Clinton was foundering in his third year in office when the destruction of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City shocked the nation and set the stage for his flawless performance of the symbolic rites of healing and comfort for the victims.

And, of course, we saw how Bush's response to the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon revived a presidency that looked to have lost its direction and purpose after eight months in office in 2001.

By coincidence, the same day that the president flew back from vacation to take command of the hurricane response, a group of political observers was gathered two blocks from the White House to discuss the way in which Bush has come to dominate Congress.

What many of them see, in the words of Andrew Rudalevige, a presidential scholar at Dickinson College, is "a resurrection of the Imperial Presidency, facilitated by the combination of executive as-



DAVID BRODER

sertiveness and legislative acquiescence.

Citing examples from the mulling of controversial policies such as Medicare prescription drugs and the Central American Free Trade Agreement through Congress to the expanded use of recess appointments for unconfirmed nominees such as John Bolton to the denials of requests for information from congressional committees, Rudalevige and others said that this president has steadily expanded his domination of Capitol Hill.

"Bush is the most aggressive user of executive power since Richard Nixon," said Stephen Wayne of Georgetown University. Despite the recent dip in his poll ratings, the issues he has chosen occupy the legislative agenda. In foreign policy, he continues to pursue essentially unchecked an increasingly unpopular war in Iraq.

In a forum organized by American University and the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank, the only dissenting view came from C. Boyden Gray, a former White House counsel to President Bush's father and friend of the president.

He argued that Vietnam and Watergate had really ended the Imperial Presidency, and contended that globalization has eroded presidential power by increasing the importance of economic activities regulated by independent agencies such as the Federal Communications Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission, which are not directly under control of the White House.

But Gray joined the chorus of criticism of Congress as an institution, saying it is so frag-

mented in its committee structure and has so "muddled its own backyard" that it is no match for a president when it comes to setting policy.

Tellingly, the two former members of the House invited to speak at the forum admitted, rather than disputed, these complaints. Democrat Martin Frost of Texas said his former colleagues "are very good at staying in touch with their districts and being re-elected." But they do not spend enough time in Washington (with the prevailing Tuesday-to-Thursday work week) to do the oversight of executive departments needed to keep an effective check on presidential power.

Republican Mickey Edwards of Oklahoma was even more scathing. He recalled that Harry Truman, as a Democratic senator from Missouri serving in a Democratic Congress, made a name for himself — and helped the country — by investigating World War II procurement practices in the administration of Franklin Roosevelt. "Can you imagine (Senate Republican Leader) Don Rumsfeld?" Edwards asked.

The decline of oversight hearings on Capitol Hill reflects what many of the commentators called a loss of institutional pride in Congress. Majority Republicans see themselves, first and foremost, as members of the Bush team — and do not want to make trouble by asking hard questions. Democrats are more rewarding to raise campaign funds and cultivate their own constituencies.

The result is that a system of government in which Congress was supposed to be "the first branch" is — as this week once again has demonstrated — one in which the lawmakers are thoroughly overshadowed by the magnified figure of the president.

David Broder's e-mail address is davidbroder@washpost.com.

LETTERS

Media ignore the other side on Iraq debate

It seems to me that our major media pose a greater danger to the country than the opposition forces faced by our American and allied troops out in Iraq. In their never-ending search for sensationalism, almost unlimited coverage was given a few hundred people opposed to our president's war program, but they virtually ignored the thousands who were cheering.

Our American media would have us all believe the lack of electrical and water service to parts of Iraq is the fault of the Americans, not the anti-American forces that keep blowing up transmission lines, etc. The media take great pleasure, or so it seems, in reporting American and allied Iraq casualties, but seldom, if ever, report enemy numbers killed, wounded and captured.

The media never seem to emphasize the positive heroism of our military, rather they report suicide car bombings and show groups of masked insurgents waving their weapons. It looks to me as though the press does too much to encourage our enemies. In short, far more positive press is given to insurgents, success rather than to any of its failures. Much more press coverage is given to a few people camping outside the president's mansion than to any positive happening.

I'm not saying the press intentionally lies, but they sure don't report the whole story and we'd rather report the negative than positive of the complete truth. Press reports tend to encourage our enemies rather than our own.

ALL STRANGE
Jerome

St. Luke's the proven partner for MVRMC

I'm writing in response to the article by Sandra Bruce in the Paper, Aug. 31.

I have worked at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center for 29 years. The only thing I believe is that St. Luke's is the place we should really go to for help.

Magie Valley Regional Medical Center was even more scathing. He recalled that Harry Truman, as a Democratic senator from Missouri serving in a Democratic Congress, made a name for himself — and helped the country — by investigating World War II procurement practices in the administration of Franklin Roosevelt. "Can you imagine (Senate Republican Leader) Don Rumsfeld?" Edwards asked.

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David Broder's e-mail address is davidbroder@washpost.com.

JUDDI WALL
Twin Falls

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Revival of intelligent design debate raises many questions

President Bush was asked at a recent news conference if he would reveal his "personal views" on "the theory of intelligent design." Proponents of intelligent design argue that their view is an alternative to evolutionary theory.

STEPHEN VICCHIO

"Yes," Bush replied, "so people can understand what the debate is about."
Hutcherson followed up: "So you accept the validity of intelligent design as an alternative to evolution?"
"I think that part of education is to expose people to different schools of thought... You're asking me whether or not people ought to be exposed to different ideas, and the answer is yes," Bush replied.
Hutcherson began to try one more time. "So we've got to give

these groups," at which point the president cut him off. "Very interesting question, Hutch."
Bush has brought back to the public realm a debate that we have not seen since President Reagan advocated the teaching since the late 1980s.
There are, nevertheless, a number of important questions to be raised about this new incarnation.
First, note that Bush never answered Hutcherson's question. Does the president think that intelligent design should be accepted as an alternative to evolution? Why did he not explicitly respond to this question? The question he did

answer is very different from the one he refused to answer.
Second, the theory of intelligent design — that an organism's complexity is evidence for the existence of a cosmic designer — has existed in the history of philosophy since the late 18th century.
William Paley, an English philosopher, suggested that the universe is like a watch. In the same way a watch implies a watchmaker, the orderliness of the universe, he argued, implied a universe maker. This argument in philosophical circles came to be called the teleological argument, or the argument from design.
Third, the teleological argument was convincingly done in

by Immanuel Kant and David Hume with devastating arguments against the theory in the late 18th century. Indeed, since the time of Kant and Hume, the argument from design has been accepted by few Anglo-American philosophers as a valid one.
Fourth, creationism and intelligent design are not the same theory. It is unlikely, for example, that the advocates of intelligent design believe that the universe is only 6,000 years old, as the many proponents of biblical creationism believed. Creationism and intelligent design may be compatible theories, but they need to be explored more fully to determine that.

A final observation involves the amount of sheer, physical, scientific evidence that Charles Darwin was right. A corresponding amount of evidence could not possibly exist for intelligent design, for scientific theories are not proved, they can only be falsified. To show that gravity is a competent scientific theory, we would have to show one example where it did not work or devise a man by which we could show it is not true. With intelligent design, we do not have a scientific theory because there is no way of showing how it could be false.

Stephen Vicchio teaches philosophy at the College of Notre Dame.

Doonesbury



By Garry Trudeau



Mallard Fillmore



By Bruce Tinsley



Doonesbury



LETTERS

What's driving Sempra's Jerome campaign?

One must wonder what prompted Sempra to consider building a coal-fired electrical plant in Jerome County.

Could it be an available labor force? No! They will be bringing in trained employees from their other plants to run this plant.

Could it be easy access to the fuels needed so they may produce electricity for another state? Not all coal must and will be brought in by train and trucks.

Could it be that the people around here don't care? No! Everyone that I have talked to are completely opposed to the Sempra plant in Jerome County.

Could it be that the emissions from the plant are not harmful? Not! Studies show that the pollution from these plants contain poisons that are known to be harmful to the air, land, water, people and animals in the areas surrounding a coal-fired plant. Maybe this is a conspiracy to rid our lands of the smells and lies associated with the dairy industry that everyone complains about. What do you suppose that will be like in five or 10 years when the poisons coming from the Sempra plant have polluted the water, air and vegetation that our cows require to produce milk?

Am I the only one that can see the serious implications by building a factory that has absolutely no reason to be here in the first place? I have no hidden agendas. I'm just one small voice that would really like to know why our elected officials aren't willing to stand up for the good of their constituents. (Must not be an election year so who cares — is that it?) Maybe this is just a way for a few to make a quick buck and then move away to greener and cleaner pastures.

And why is the city of Jerome not willing to make a stand? After all, their main purpose for existing is to protect and serve the citizens. Isn't it contradictory to do nothing while allowing an outside force to endanger the lives and livelihood of the community? C'mon Jerome! Stand up for

the rights of your community. Don't be hesitant because it isn't a "city" problem. It is a city problem! After it is all said and done, we will be the ones to clean up this mess!

MARK SPITZ
Jerome

Wake up to the far left's unrealistic politics

I had a dream. I dreamed the Cindy Sheehan-hate-Bush-anti-war crowd won with the benevolent help of the major media.

George Bush was sent packing back to Texas and a Michael Moore-like president took office. Howard Dean became Secretary of State, Ted Kennedy became Secretary of Defense, George Soros, who supports legalization of drugs and helps finance movie.org, logically was appointed drug czar.

Woodstock-type festivals took place all over the country in celebration of peace. Participants celebrated the withdrawal of all our volunteer troops from Iraq and the Middle East.

Now life would be as it should be with a greater dedication to national priorities along with enhanced sex, drugs, and rock and roll.

Unexpectedly, terrorist acts continued in the most unpredictable ways. Even the former hate-Bush and anti-war people suffered. They blamed it on the history of our Iraq invasion and our international oppression. They remembered when we left Vietnam, the enemy didn't follow us. They forgot the al-Qaida attacked us before Iraq and vowed to attack us afterward.

A minority wondered why we hadn't realized we were in World War III with fundamentalist fanatics. There had been clues ranging from the fatwa death threat on author Salman Rushdie, the semi-failed first attempt on the Twin Towers before a second was successful, the killing of innocent beings acceptable when fighting the Great Satan, and just the fact we were weak infidels. This minority also remembered the militant Aug. 26, 2005, threat to one of our allies that they won't give up "until the Jewish state is

crased from the map." Time passed. The new administration was baffled. "We got out of Iraq and gave them and our protesting constituency what they wanted. Now it's harder to react because we're out of the Middle East, Israel is gone, and they speak of avenging the Crusades. What should we do?"

Then I woke up wondering if it was a dream or a nightmare. ART SELIN
Twin Falls

Bush fails to deliver on Iraq's rationale

It's obvious to me that President Bush has an awful lot to answer for. And the sooner he removes himself from the bubble he is in and enters the real world, the better off the world will be.

Sixty percent of us now believe that Bush lied to us when he said that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. Saddam's notorious regime posed a global threat (and a singular threat to us) and that Saddam was in cahoots with bin Laden.

But why aren't more people taking to the streets like people did during the '60s and '70s over the war in Vietnam? Why aren't more politicians, community leaders, members of the "faith community" and captains of industry clamoring for Bush's impeachment?

Isn't the bloodstains and body fluids on one American's body armor more obviously penetrating to our collective conscience than the stains on a dress?

I believe that people are not taking to the streets because the majority of us has been lulled and beguiled into believing that, because Bush exhibits religiosity and because he uses the catchwords of Christianity, criticism of him could result in charges of persons being against religion, and even treacherous.

There's something else about Bush's insistence that he has been truthful about Iraq: He shows no awareness that he must tacitly be operating with far different truth criteria than most of us use.

He surely must have some distinct reason for using his pe-

culiar take on truth, and some other conception of falsehood, in order to seemingly declare that he is the supreme arbiter of truth on Iraq.

There are clearly such things as perceptual hallucinations; however, Bush's difference in thinking about what perceptions are true and false must not be available to reason — belonging instead to the essential nature or constitution of a thing. In his case, his propositional utterances: "Iraq has weapons of mass destruction," etc.

Consequently, those of us who did operate with a generally accepted understanding of what it is that makes a propositional utterance true or false will never be able to accept as true what he purports to be true. Bush's use of essentialism is completely unacceptable.

To use a non-philosophical propositional utterance: Bush lied to us about Iraq.

JOHN WALSH
Burley

Cholesterol facts are rooted in very old lies

In a recent article, "Couple gets ready for first weigh-in" (Magic Valley section, A-4, Friday, Aug. 20, "Out of the ashes" front-page issue), I read an old, very old, textbook line that has misled health students for years. The line is: "You want oils that are liquid at room temperature." The ones that are solid, like stick margarine and butter, contain the fats that hurt your heart.

Here's the way I read it: You want fats that are liquid at body temperature (98.6 degrees), except manmade saturated fats such as stick or tub margarine, along with shortening that contains the fatty acids and trans fat molecules that will restrict and clog arteries, capillaries (remember them?) and veins and hurt your heart.

Look here, if you are room temperature, you're already dead so it's no longer an issue. Additionally, if the medical oil seed finance people want to pull a plug of hard science out of your refrigerated cadaver body, they can do it. Then take pictures and publish them to further their cause.

See the light? You're 98.6, not 65 degrees. Butter, lard and tallow from cattle comes from an animal body temperature around 101 degrees. Yes, at room temperature, they are solid but at body temperature, they become liquid.

If you want to read the real story go to nexusmagazine.com. The Oiling of America, Parts 1 and 2, by Mary G. Engle, Ph.D. This "angel" forced the Oil Seed Corporation Plantation to admit that trans fats cause a significant increase in heart disease and cancer.

You will also learn the history of the cholesterol lie. It involved a Russian named David Kritchevsky in 1954 (51 years ago) that fed a rabbit (vegetarian) cholesterol, causing formation of plaques that did


block arteries. Cholesterol is an animal product that comes from meat, cheese, eggs, butter and is found mainly in the brain construction, not found in plants a rabbit would eat!

Maybe the best summation is this: In ex-President Clinton's last State of the Union address on Friday, Jan. 28, 2000 (five years ago), front page under "diversity": "In a little more than 50 years, there will be no majority race in America. In a more interconnected world, this diversity can be our greatest strength." Duchi

I say: Dismantle the United Nations. They're inhuman and the World Health Organization dictates what goes into health book text.

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WORLD

Ex-Taliban leaders seek legislative seats

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Four years ago, Mohammed Khaksar was the Taliban's deputy interior minister, a powerful post in a regime feared for its Islamic fundamentalist policies, mistreatment of women and support for al-Qaida.

Now, he is one of at least four former senior Taliban officials running in U.S.-backed Sept. 18 elections for a new national legislature, seen as a key step in building Afghanistan's democracy after a quarter century of fighting.

Their candidacies come as holdouts from the Taliban's old regime pursue a reinvigorated insurgency that is seeking to undermine the vote; their rebellion has caused more than 1,100 deaths the past six months and left large chunks of the country off-limits to aid workers.

Having publicly renounced the movement that was ousted by American-led forces in late 2001, the ex-Taliban officials

running for office say it is better to pursue their goals peacefully.

"We need a strong government. We need (Islamic) Shariah law," Khaksar told The Associated Press in an interview. "But I am no longer a member of the Taliban. I only want good things for this country."

Sill, many Afghans who suffered during the Taliban's reign are troubled.

"These Taliban candidates were decision-makers in the regime. They were involved in policy that resulted in serious human rights violations," said Ahmad Nader Naderi at the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission. "I hope people will not vote for them. We have to keep them out of the parliament."

President Hamid Karzai has encouraged Taliban members to leave the extremist group and go through a formal reconciliation program. So far, about 300

rank-and-file members and some 50 senior officials have done so.

"Those who are no longer involved in terrorism are welcome to join the peace process and take part in the elections," said Karim Rahimi, Karzai's spokesman.

"We need reconciliation. There were hundreds of ordinary people in the ranks of the Taliban. If we give them a chance, they will work for the future of the country rather than fighting against it," Rahimi said.

Of the senior ex-Taliban officials seeking office, the most high-profile is Wakil Ahmad Mutawakil, the former Taliban foreign minister who spent three years in U.S. custody and then house arrest after turning himself in. He is running as an independent candidate in the southern city of Kandahar, the Taliban's former stronghold.

Qala Mudin, the former Tal-

iban minister of vice and virtue, also is a candidate. Before the Taliban were ousted, officers from his department used to beat men for not praying frequently enough and women for not wearing the all-encompassing burqa.

Both declined requests for interviews.

There are also a few former Taliban military commanders in the race.

Abdul Salaam Rocketi, a front-line general who fought the U.S.-backed Northern Alliance in late 2001, spent eight months in U.S. detention and now actively encourages other Taliban members to reconcile with the government.

"I support the government, not the Taliban," said Rocketi, an independent candidate in Qalat, Zabul province, which is a hotbed for insurgents. "The Taliban have even tried to kill me since I nominated myself as a candidate."

Nine die in cable car accident

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — A helicopter accidentally dropped a heavy tub used to carry concrete onto a cable car at a ski resort Monday, killing nine people — three in the gondola that was struck and six others catapulted from cable cars nearby.

All the dead — six children and three adults — appeared to be members of a German group of summer skiers, Edelbert Kohler, head of the criminal police in Innsbruck, told The Associated Press.

The accident occurred in the ski resort town of Soelden, 25 miles southwest of Innsbruck and some 300 miles west of Vienna.

The helicopter was hauling goods to the top of the cable car lift for construction work when the tub loosened and fell, Kohler said.

Seven people were injured, including two in critical condition, police said.

The Austria Press Agency said

the tub weighed about 1,500 pounds. It was unclear whether it was loaded.

The gondola that was hit hurtled to the ground while passengers spilled out of two others nearby that were whipped back and forth by the cable, said Jakob Falkner, an executive of the cable car company.

Austrian authorities announced an investigation.

The glacier area around Soelden — some of it higher than 10,000 feet — is popular with summer tourists and skiers who flock to its perennially snow-covered alpine peaks.

The accident evoked memories of another airborne ski lift tragedy in neighboring Italy, where a low-flying U.S. Marine jet sliced a ski gondola's cables in 1998, killing 20 people.

It appeared to be the worst of its kind since 155 skiers and snowboarders died in a November 2000 alpine cable-car fire.

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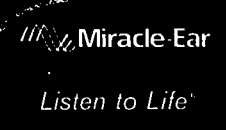
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AROUND THE VALLEY

Sealing continues; delays expected

TWIN FALLS — The chip-sealing project on Twin Falls City streets resumes today. Emery Brothers Construction is doing the chip sealing and Road Work Ahead Construction Supply is conducting traffic control. Excess chips will be swept away in about three days. Street sweeping will be conducted at night, and traffic control will be present to make sure the public is aware of any work crews. Signs and flaggers will be present to ensure safety and protection for those using the streets.

- Today's schedule:
- Crestview from Washington to Wendell
 - Blake from Falls Avenue West to Ridgeway
 - Roosevelt from north side of Falls Avenue West
 - Falls Avenue West from Grandview to North Washington

Walk to raise funds for Alzheimer's research

TWIN FALLS — Hundreds of Twin Falls residents will join the fight against Alzheimer's disease at the annual Alzheimer's Association's Memory Walk on Sept. 17 at Sunbridge Care & Rehabilitation for Twin Falls, 640 Filer Ave. W.

The event raises public awareness and funds for local services for people with the disease — their families and caregivers. It is the largest national fundraising event for support programs for Alzheimer's disease.

Registration is at 9 a.m. An opening ceremony will be at 10 a.m.

For more information, call Dawn Meyer (McCo) or Steve Jones at 734-8645 or visit <http://www.memorywalk05twinfalls.kintera.com>

Jarbridge will host dance for the arts

JARBIDGE, Nev. — The Jarbridge Arts Council will hold a Harvest Dance in honor of Harlan E. Wilson from 7 to 11 p.m. Sept. 24 at the Historic Community Hall.

The dance will feature live music by Constock Lode, a trio of dance music. Dance lessons will be given from 8 to 8:30 p.m. Door prizes will be awarded, and a raffle of local artwork and other surprises will be held.

Everyone is welcome, including children. Admission is \$12.50 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Advance tickets are available at The Trading Post in Jarbridge by calling (775) 498-2315. Tickets also will be available at the door. Proceeds will benefit the Jarbridge Arts Council.

CSI will offer class on soil crusts

TWIN FALLS — The Community Education Center at the College of Southern Idaho is offering the zero-credit class "Biological Soil Crusts: A Magical Web of Life," from 7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 20 and 22 in Sleights 114 on the CSI campus.

Students will gain knowledge of soil crusts, which is essential to proper land management and stewardship. Biological soil crusts are one of the most important factors relating to the health of arid and semi-arid ecosystems, literally forming a web of life. The class includes an optional field trip on Sept. 24.

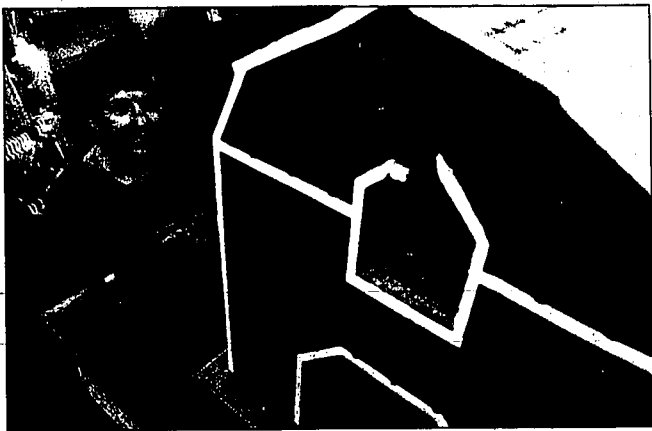
Instructor Miriam Austin has 25 years of experience in natural resources, resource management and agriculture. She holds a master's degree in conservation biology and is currently completing a doctorate in western rangeland ecology.

Cost is \$25.

For more information or to register, call 732-6290 or 732-6288.

— compiled from staff reports

FOND FAREWELL



Janet Babcock stands next to a barn made by Terry Gibbons at the Jerome library. The library is selling \$1 raffle tickets for the barn and proceeds will go to the community room at the library.

Jerome woman leaves legacy of giving

By Jaml Whited
Times-News writer

JEROME — To many, the Jerome community is a better place for having someone like Janet Babcock in it and all of her friends say her positiveness is just one trait of many they will miss as she bids a temporary farewell to a community that is as important to her as she is to it.

While raising her children in Jerome, she saw how nice it was to see her community reach out to each other. She says she couldn't do it then so it's fun to help out now.

This year she was surprised and humbled to learn she was chosen as 2005 Citizen of the Year.

Elizabeth Thomas, executive director of the Jerome Chamber of Commerce, said Babcock was chosen for her efforts with the Smithsonian Institution exhibit Barn Again, the library and with the community in general.

"She's just been on every committee of every program," Thomas said. "Several nominations came in for her and it was a unanimous vote from the committee."

But just what has Babcock done for Jerome?

Well, most people agree with

Thomas: "It's easier to tell you what she hasn't done."

Through Friends of the Library and as a member of the board of directors, she goes out of her way to promote plans, arrange for speakers, work with the state and she does it all out of the goodness of her heart.

"We had some great experiences and made lots of good friends," Babcock said. "I'll miss Jerome, but we'll be back."

She and her husband have worked with Guide Dogs for the Blind, she's been a tutor from home through the College of Southern Idaho's adult basic education program and put a lot of energy into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Kay Davidson has known Babcock for about 30 years and can't say enough about the things Babcock has done in the church.

"She's one of those that gives 110 percent," Davidson said. "She has this ability to bring out your best when you're with her."

One of her most remarkable traits is her dedication to projects and her dependability, whether at church, the library or other community functions.

"She's a person I admire a great deal because when she takes on a job, she does a wonderful job and sees it through to the end," said Jackie Last, a longtime friend.

As project director of Barn Again, Babcock said she just asked groups to

help out.

"The historical society, city councilors, Bill West is doing the exhibit," she said. "Everyone we asked has something to put into it, it's just a matter of connecting with everybody."

"There's also been a huge spirit of cooperation," she added.

Barns from all over Jerome County will be toured, quilting will be taught and participants can work on a quilt to be sent to Iraq and a beautiful model-barn, hand-made by Terry Gibbons, will be raffled. Proceeds from all events will go to the library's community room.

"It's been really fun to watch the community come together on that," Last said. "She has a real gift in her ability to bring people together with her positiveness."

When she's not busy on a committee or introducing programs for all to enjoy, she spends a lot of her free time doing "what else?" reading.

Soon she'll have to put her books away for a while, though.

For the next two years, the Babcocks will serve a mission in New Zealand, leaving on the same day and month her husband served a mission there in the early 1960s.

While the community awaits her return, most are happy for her opportunity to leave the small town she loves so she can serve a country with the same positive attitude Jerome will miss.

Assessor seeks to modify CAFO procedure

By Renee Wells
For The Times-News

BURLEY — Cassia County's assessor wants the county to look into changing the wording in a portion of the zoning ordinance that deals with notifying neighbors about proposed confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs).

Assessor Marty Holland asked the commissioners if the county shouldn't be liable when some neighbors are missed during notification processes, such as in a case where a new land owner doesn't get notified because the deed has not yet

been recorded.

"I just think when one person gets missed because of such a scenario, it doesn't seem that the applicant should have to go back through the process all over again," Holland said.

"Couldn't we have a provision whereby if someone gets missed, they would have a certain number of days to alter the county to that fact and they could still make comments on the issue?"

County Attorney Al Barrus said the rules are governed by the state's land use plan and cannot just be rewritten.

Barrus said it is up to the de-

veloper to see that all his neighbors get notified of such plans, and the county cannot be liable for situations like a recent one involving a dairy application by Orin Woodbury.

Woodbury missed notifying a neighbor when he sent out his intent letters because some names had been transposed and one name was left off a list generated by the assessor's office. The application process had to start from the beginning again.

"I don't own responsibility to provide the list to an applicant, but we've been doing it just to try to help out," Holland said. "I

want you to know we've been checking the lists closer since that time, but there is always room for human error, such as in a case where someone purchases land. It sometimes takes a few weeks to get the deeds and everything recorded and in the meantime, we could hand someone a landowner list that doesn't have the new purchaser's name on it."

Holland said he was uncertain if the county could change its zoning ordinance to include such a provision, but he thinks it should be studied to see if they can make things easier for applicants.

Ride on, sister! New club forms for Vespa scooter owners

By Susan Bailey
For The Times-News

HAILLEY — Traffic stopped and a small crowd gathered on Pine Street in Halley to check out a row of wheeled vehicles outside DiVine wine shop.

After some jockeying, their riders, all women, went into formation, every single pair of legs hidden by the distinctive front of their machines. Ten scooters: two red, one silver, four black, one white and two light green, sparkled in the summer sun.

This was the first gathering of a group of Vespa motor scooter owners who named themselves La Dolce Vita in honor of their Italian machines and the sweetness they've brought to life. As long as the weather holds, they'll be meeting 10 a.m. Sundays at the Halley Coffee Shop to ride together.

"I feel so happy when I'm on it," said Katrina Cartwright, one of the youngest members at 33 years old. "It's liberating."

The Vespa owners started buying the \$4,200 to \$5,200 Italian machines mostly within the last year, in part stimulated by high gas prices.

"One of the members said to me, 'I just came back from filling my tank, and it cost \$2.89,'" said Cecilia Giacobbi, a Halley resident. She bought her red Vespa last month and figures she averages 75 miles to the gallon.

Cartwright, a Ketchum resident, said she picks up her daughter at school, and runs errands on her Vespa.

"I love all the parking that opens up," she said.

Local interest by these women in motor scooters parallels national trends.

The Associated Press recently reported soaring sales of scooters in the U.S. due to higher gas prices.

Even before gas prices hit \$2.55, sales of motor scooters were estimated at 86,000 last year in the country, a figure that has more than doubled since 2000.

Mike Mount of the Motorcycle Industry Council attributed the surge directly to bringing back the Vespa scooter as a U.S. import in 2001.

Long missing from the U.S. market, the legendary Vespa made by Piaggio in 1946 boosted interest in motor scooters among men and women across the U.S. The machine has a long history of technological advances. During World War II, Piaggio made famed P108 bombers and passenger aircraft at a small plant in Tus-

cany later bombed by the Allies

because of its military importance.

When the war was over, aeronautical engineer Corrado D'Assano, who designed and flew the first modern helicopter, created a unibody steel chassis with a front fork like an airplane's landing gear. The design didn't have the protected rider from road dirt and debris and allowed women to wear skirts while riding.

Vespa, which means wisp in Italian, has kept this design for nearly 120 years. It is one of the great icons of Italian style and elegance. Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn zipped around the Coliseum on a Vespa in the film "Roman Holiday."

"I'll never forget the first Vespa I saw," said Giacobbi. "I was in downtown San Francisco. That woman was dressed to go somewhere, and there she was riding a motor scooter. She had on nylons and spike heels."

Residents gather signatures to save bridge

Public hearing slated for today

By Marla Mischel
For The Times-News

RUPERT — A passion to save a piece of local history drives the members of the Save Our Bridge Society.

"They have gathered more than 3,000 signatures on petitions to prevent the destruction of the Jackson Bridge and plan to continue their protest at a highway district public hearing today.

Meeting today

What: Public hearing about Jackson Bridge
When: 6:30 p.m. today
Where: Minico High School Auditorium
For more information: Minidoka County Highway District, 436-5112; or Burley Highway District, 678-5322; or visit <http://www.roadstudies.com>

The two-lane wooden Jackson Bridge crosses the Snake River near 500'E and 200'N. When it opened in 1950, it replaced the original bridge built in 1916 to connect Minidoka and Cassia counties.

In 2001, a state inspection report rated the Jackson Bridge structurally deficient. Two years later, it was closed to all traffic. Most, but not all, roadlet piles that support the bridge show strong indications of interior rot, according to a report produced by Butler Engineering of Stuyvesant.

The Burley and Minidoka County highway districts, which have joint maintenance of the bridge, are considering nearby side, because of liability issues.

Highway officials say the four-lane concrete Montgomery Bridge three miles downstream is a viable alternative route for traffic. Residents who live in the area disagree, but for them, the bridge is more than just a road across the river.

"People who live south of Burley or in Burley just don't understand," said Denise Buckley of Rupert. "If you took out one of your bridges, how would they feel? We live on the Cassia County side, and the Jackson bridge is a lifeline into Minidoka County."

The Montgomery Bridge adds five miles each way to the commute, and it's not to school or attend church in Acquia, she added. "I think for local traffic, (the Jackson Bridge) could be very easily repaired. The steel frame's shape protected the rider from road dirt and debris. When it comes right down to it, let's get a real bid on it, replace some of the piles."

The bridge is a convenient shortcut for those who have to cross the river to do business, acknowledged Darlene Hansen of

— Please see BRIDGE, Page B3

Susan Bailey writes for The Wood River Journal.

MAGIC VALLEY/WEST

Committee suggests increasing bonus limit for state workers

BOISE — An interim state legislative committee that's exploring state worker wage- and benefit reforms is considering several proposed changes including a suggestion to quintuple the bonus limit for state employees to \$5,000.

The bonus limit is currently set at \$1,000, the result of a 1988 decision. State agencies now sometimes skirt an accompanying rule requiring that higher bonuses be approved by a special panel by instead awarding temporary raises to good employees.

At a recent meeting in Boise, state Sen. Joe Stegner, R-Leviston, suggested boosting the bonus limit to bring the figure more in line with current standards and to stop the practice of short-term, temporary raises.

They can make budgeting less transparent for lawmakers responsible for the state's purse strings.

Stegner said the \$5,000 figure was just a "guess" at what would be needed to provide employees with meaningful incentives.

Land managers begin planting grasses, shrubs
BOISE — State land managers hope to begin planting

Idaho in brief

native grasses, shrubs and wildflowers, starting in October, in an area in the Boise foothills southeast of Idaho's capital that was damaged by a July wildfire.

Efforts to revegetate the 1,200-acre swath of charred grass and sagelead above the Boise River and nearby subdivisions including the Harris Ranch — are aimed at restoring forage for deer that graze in the area and reducing the danger of flash floods now that the hillside is devoid of growth.

In addition, replanting native grasses could help prevent incursions by noxious weeds that crowd out more desirable plant species.

Through the risk of flooding for the Harris Ranch development is still small, the area could be more vulnerable to flash floods if hit by a severe thunderstorm, said Rob Bousfield, assistant city engineer with Boise City Public Works.

"One of the things we're trying to make clear with people is we don't think there is a real high risk," he said of the area damaged by the Homestead Fire. "We're not advising people to flee their homes."

Still, at least one subdivision resident, Janet Howe, said she's going to check out flood insurance.

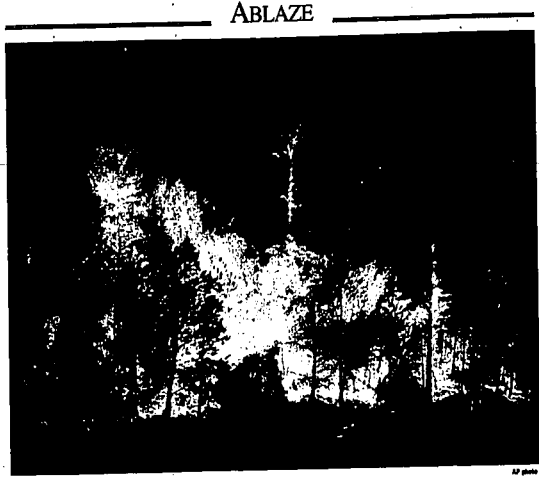
Police report more gas thefts at the pump

NAMPA — More people appear to be "filling and fleeing" southwestern Idaho service stations, now that the price of gas has hit \$3 per gallon or more at some pumps in the region.

Since Aug. 1, Navajo police have been notified of gas thefts 21 times. And in the first week of September, officers took nine reports of customers driving off after filling up at stations throughout the city.

"That's a bunch," said Nampa Assistant Chief Tim Vincent, providing details of the thefts: Last weekend, one motorist drove off with \$7.66 in gas, and following Hurricane Katrina's further escalation of prices, the amounts ranged as high as \$60.02.

Merchants are starting to require more and more customers to pay before they pump their gas, and some are installing additional security cameras to make sure those filling up their rigs don't dash away without first being recorded on video. — compiled from wire reports



A wildfire consumes trees on a hillside near Redpoint, Mont., on Sunday.

Utah students cycle on borrowed bikes

LOGAN, Utah (AP) — A new program at Utah State University lets students borrow bikes to make their way across campus.

The Aggie Blue Bike program is a cooperative venture between the school and the Utah Conservation Corps. It allows students to check out free bikes for up to 30 days.

"The Aggie Blue Bike Program is basically checking out a bike like checking out a book at the library," said Sean Damitz, program director for Utah Conservation Corps.

Twenty bikes are available currently for rent through the program.

The idea for the program came from a coalition of students, faculty and staff who thought the bikes might reduce parking issues and air pollution.

A survey of students showed an overwhelming interest in the idea, Damitz said.

Graduate student Marc Neilson, whose studying electrical engineering, said campus parking lots are congested — the program provides a practical way to get around.

"I drive to campus and I paid for a B-parking pass and I get here at 7:20 a.m., but there is only about one-third of the spaces left," Neilson said.

Students can check out bikes for free, but must sign a rental agreement with the corps. Students must agree to be the sole user of the bike, lock them up when not in use, and return the bikes in good condition.

Program managers don't want the bikes or damage to undermine the program.

Group angered by mercury study

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — A watchdog group says the state Department of Ecology has been suppressing a mercury pollution study that the group alleges is deeply flawed.

The \$20,000 study of mercury pollution in eight state landfills was posted to the department's Web site Friday, two years and a month after it was completed.

But Ecology has been sitting on this report for two years while critical policy decisions about mercury were debated. "I, Johnson, director of Washington Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, told The Spokesman-Review newspaper for Monday editions.

But Cullen Stephenson, the state agency's solid waste program manager, said there was no intention to hide the 48-page report.

There were just a bunch of procedural-and-workload-issues," he said.

The report showed mercury emission levels that were much lower than the national average, but PEER said the report is flawed because it only used one sample on one day from each of the eight landfills, and participation was voluntary.

Stephenson said the study was adequate to show that mercury pollution from landfills does not appear to threaten public health. He said samples

could have been taken involuntarily, but Ecology chose to ask for volunteers to protect its good relationship with the landfills.

Other states have done similar studies showing that trash from batteries, fluorescent lights and other waste can escape into the environment, and potentially threatening area residents and wildlife. But Stephenson said landfills are a small contributor to mercury pollution and containment systems would be very costly.

He said the state would rather devote efforts to preventing trash with mercury in it from getting to the landfills in the first place.

Rebuilt temple dedicated in Samoa

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The rebuilt Samoa Apia Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been dedicated by church President Gordon B. Hinckley.

The temple was dedicated Sunday as thousands of church members watched the proceedings on closed-circuit broadcasts in Western Samoa, American Samoa and in other Samoan congregations.

"It's a great pleasure to have a temple here again," Faamoaoni of Apia told "the Desert Morning News."

The country had been without a temple since a fire two years ago.

"Watching the temple burn was devastating to many Samoan Mormons who had been frequent visitors since the building was dedicated in 1983. Utah had been working as the temple's engineer when he got an evening phone call from an associate that it was on fire.

"When I saw the temple burning I cried," Utai said.

Utai, a translator, a trans-arranged-other-volunteers-on the roof and tried to save the

building. "The temple means a lot to me, so I didn't mind getting up there, but I didn't want to get hurt, so I went out of control," said Lameta, a bishop.

The Apia Samoa Temple's new president, Saunapuia K. Pe'a, admits to feeling worried and a bit impatient after he learned the original Samoan temple had been destroyed. It passed in a single second. "God wanted not let us go without. We prayed for a temple, and look what he has given us."

Victims, suspect in Sandy stabbing identified

SANDY, Utah (AP) — Authorities have released the names of two men who were stabbed in their home, one fatally, and the man being held for investigation of aggravated murder and attempted aggravated murder. Christopher L. Roe, 54, of

Sandy was killed and his roommate, Rex Edwards, was wounded and is in serious condition at University Hospital.

Investigators said the assailant went into their home at the Hooser Mobile Home Park late Friday and stabbed the two

men after an argument. Zachary Hart, 27, who lives in an adjoining trailer park, was arrested and was being held in the Salt Lake County Jail.

Alan Roe described his brother as "essentially a harmless guy."

SERVICES

Lillie Brackenbury Contrell Ward of Burley, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Burley 2nd, 4th and 10th Ward Chapel of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 11 a.m. today at the church (Rasmussen Funeral Home).

Falls, graveside service at 3 p.m. Wednesday at Sunset Memorial Park in Twin Falls (White Mortuary).

Barbara Marcene Vaughn of Burley, funeral at 2 p.m. today at White Mortuary in Twin Falls. Viewing will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. today at the mortuary.

Martha Ruby of Wendell, funeral at 11 a.m. today at Living Waters Presbyterian Church in Wendell (Demaray's Wendell Chapel).

Albert Kump of Idaho Falls and formerly of Jerome, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Idaho Falls LDS Central Stake Center, 2025 Jennie Lee Drive. Family will visit with friends one hour before the service today at the church (Wood Funeral Home, Idaho Falls).

Harold Roy Houser of Twin Falls, graveside service at 2 p.m. today at the West End Cemetery in Buhl (Farmer Funeral Chapel).

Erasmus "Eddie" Palomo of Burley, Mass of Christian burial at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Saint Nicholas Catholic Church in Rupert; rosary at 7 p.m. today at the church. Friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. today at the church-Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel).

John W. Ball BUHL — John W. Ball, 81, of Buhl, died Sunday, Sept. 4, 2005, at Cedar Road Living Center in Filer. Funeral services will be announced by Farmer Funeral Chapel, Buhl.

Barney M. Staten of Hazelton, funeral at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Hazelton LDS Church. Family will greet friends one hour before the service at the church (White Mortuary).

Yvonne Schorzman CASTLEFORD — Yvonne Schorzman, 74, of Castleford, died Sunday, Sept. 4, 2005, at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls. Funeral services will be announced by Farmer Funeral Chapel of Buhl.

Jose G. McDonald of Twin Falls, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Burley 2nd, 4th and 10th Ward Chapel of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at 11 a.m. today at the church (Rasmussen Funeral Home).

Chester Ralph Gobel TWIN FALLS — Chester Ralph Gobel, 72, of Twin Falls died Monday, Sept. 5, 2005, at a residential care facility in Twin Falls. Services are pending and will be announced by Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home of Twin Falls.

DEATH NOTICES

Jerry J. Gingerich BRUNEAU — Jerry J. Gingerich, 94, of Bruneau died Saturday, Sept. 2, 2005. Memorial service will be 11 a.m. Friday Sept. 9, 2005, at The Legion Hall Bruneau. Arrangements under the direction of Rust Funeral Home.

Edwards Jones

ABLAZE

Universities seek to cut fuel costs

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — With gasoline prices inching toward \$3 per gallon, Utah's biggest public universities are looking for ways to cut fuel expenditures and reduce the use of faculty and staff vehicles.

University of Utah officials estimate they'll spend about \$600,000 on gas for 466 vehicles. In the last fiscal year budget the school spent \$438,000 on fuel. Utah State University spent \$41,000 on gas.

Tips for reducing idling time and air conditioning use — which increased the amount of fuel burned — have been circulating across campus, said Orfeo Kostrenchik, the school's administrative manager of plant operations.

And school officials are giving thought to adding hybrid cars to the fleet.

Utah State, a land grant university with satellite locations around the state, already has a number of gas/electric hybrids in its fleet of 650 vehicles.

We certainly do try to get rid of the older vehicles," said Darrell Hart, USU assistant vice president for facilities. The school has also replaced older campus shuttles with buses that run on compressed natural gas. The switch was designed to improve air quality, but over time may also save on fuel costs, Hart says.

Utah State officials aren't ready to pass the rising fuel costs to students.

Utah State — University — In Ogden has increased the price of an on-campus shuttle system along with rising gas prices. Students are also now being charged \$20 per year to park at the formerly free Dee Events Center lot.

University of Utah officials say rising costs may have a ripple effect though the schools' self-sustaining commuter service department, which doesn't get state funds.

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Minidoka parents get connected

By Marie Mischel
For The Times-News

BURLEY — Minidoka County Joint School District parents no longer have to wait for letters from school to learn if their child is skipping class or not turning in homework.

A new computer program allows parents to log onto the Internet and check their student's attendance, homework assignments and grades.

Minidoka began the PowerSchool program last year on a

trial basis and implemented it districtwide this year.

"We did push it very hard at registration for parents to sign up," said Lynn Clark, Minidoka High School secretary.

"It's very user-friendly," Clark said. Once a parent enters the student's name and password on the PowerSchool Web site, the program shows grades, attendance and homework.

Additional information can be found by clicking on any item in light blue, she said.

For example, double-clicking

on the homework line brings up assignments handed out and the grades received on each assignment.

"It's a great tool," said Dan Rogers, Minico High School principal, adding he frequently goes online to check his own son's homework status. "It really opens a channel between him and me."

To obtain the password needed to access student records on PowerSchool, call the school your student attends.

The program, for Apple computers, can be accessed through the district Web site, a school Web site or through the PowerSchool Web site.

Cassia Joint School District is implementing the program with administrators, secretaries and teachers this fall. In January, a select group of parents will have access to the program on a trial basis to make sure we get the bugs out" before all parents can use it, said Jodie Mills, the district's technical and data coordinator.

942 POUNDS OF PUMPKIN



Nick Wrobel, 9, left, Johnathon Stephens, 7, and Kanton Stephens, 11, look at a 92-pound pumpkin at the Alaska State Fair in Palmer, Alaska, on Friday. The giant pumpkin, grown by J.D. Megehelsen, from Nikiski, Alaska, broke the 2004 state fair record of 700 pounds.

Seven Idaho fires burn near Stanley

BOISE (AP) — A growing wildfire that forced evacuations near the central Idaho community of Stanley expanded to 10,000 acres by Monday as Idaho firefighters battled at least seven blazes across the state.

About 200 people fought the Valley Road fire, near Stanley in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, and more crews were arriving.

A mountain pine beetle infestation has killed many of the region's lodgepole pines, adding to fire fuels. Still, winds from the southwest were lighter on Monday compared to a day earlier, helping fire crews and air tankers that were dropping retardant on the flames, said Bill Paxton, a spokesman with the Sawtooth National Forest.

"We saw the helicopters working, they're doing some airtanker drops," Paxton said, adding that firefighters have installed structure protection around several homes. "The goal was to work the flanks of the fire as it progresses to the northeast."

No homes have been lost, but about 20 homes in the Fisher Creek development near State

Highway 75 were evacuated. The human-caused blaze started Saturday on private property.

An evacuation center was set up at the Stanley Elementary School, with help from Red Cross personnel from Idaho Falls. "It's a second home, so you're just sort of hovering around and waiting to see what's going to happen," said Anne Parsons, owner of the Fisher Creek Lodge, a five-room guest house near Stanley. "It's quite emotional, leaving a home, and wondering if you'll ever see it again."

Meanwhile, Parsons said she helped make 150 lunches and 150 dinners for hungry firefighters who don't have enough caterers — because many of those who normally supply meals to fire crews are in Louisiana and other southern states hit by Hurricane Katrina.

Elsewhere in the state, firefighters also battled three new lightning-caused fires on and around the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, near Pocatello. In southern Idaho, using tanker aircraft to drop bright red retardant.

The Rattlesnake Fire was estimated just over 10,000 acres after being driven across dry grassland by a stiff breeze Sunday. By Monday, however, winds had died and more crews had arrived, said Joanna Wilson, fire information officer at the Eastern Idaho Interagency Fire Center.

"It's still burning but it's looking a lot better than it did yesterday," Wilson said. "We haven't got the winds like we did yesterday, and obviously we've got a lot more crews on it."

Still, officials with the Shoshone-Bannock tribe asked curious onlookers to clear the region's rural roads because gawkers were hampering efforts of firefighters to reach the blaze. Three homes were evacuated, but no structures had burned, Wilson said.

The Sawmill fire, also on the reservation, had burned 5,200 acres as of 11:30 a.m. Monday, four times its estimated size on Sunday. The fire is 11 miles east of Fort Hall. And the Juniper fire, burning in remote county 16 miles west of Holbrook, was at 2,400 acres.

To the southwest, near Boise, the Gregory fire about two miles

southwest of Idaho City had grown to 1,100 acres after expanding northeast and southwest, said Kathleen Celer-Hayes, a Boise National Forest spokeswoman.

Celer-Hayes said 260 firefighters had managed to secure an area along State Highway 21 that includes private residences. State Highway 21 responded to traffic following an 18-hour closure, with plow car escorts because of fire management activity.

The Greyclark Gulch campground south of Idaho City remained closed.

About 25 miles southwest of Mackay, the Wild Horse Fire near the head of Wild Horse Canyon doubled in size to 350 acres. The human-caused blaze was 25 percent contained, according to a release from the Salmon-Challis National Forest on Monday.

And near Pierce, in north-central Idaho, the Long Black Complex had burned 1,460 acres and was 25 percent contained. Steep terrain and unmet access continued to hamper containment efforts, according to the National Interagency Fire Center Web site.

High court will consider school funding lawsuit

BOISE (AP) — Twenty-one school districts that won a lawsuit challenging Idaho's system of relying on property taxes to pay for school construction will be watching the state Supreme Court closely in two weeks, when arguments begin over the state's apportionment of school funds.

District Judge Deborah Ball ruled in 2001 that Idaho's system for funding schoolhouses is unconstitutional, because it leaves the poorest districts unable to afford safe schools for kids.

Ball also rejected a 2002 Idaho law, passed to try to address the 2001 decision, forcing courts to order no-vote local property tax increases if districts didn't fix schools falling into disrepair. The requirement of a two-thirds majority vote in favor of school construction remains intact.

Now, attorneys from the Idaho Attorney General's office want the high court to reject Ball's decision, on grounds that some of the districts that sued have been beneficiaries of a state grant to fix their problems and no longer have building-safety issues.

For instance, the Wallace School District got a \$3.1 million grant to help build a new junior and senior high school and has since dropped out of the lawsuit against the state.

"What is at issue is whether the system is adequate for the plaintiff districts," said Deputy Attorney General Michael Gilmore, who is arguing the case for the state. "It is our position that most of the districts that are plaintiffs no longer have a case."

The Idaho Schools for Equal Educational Opportunity, the group of school districts that sued, contend the state should provide a substantial match to all voter-approved school bonds, plus provide more money for school building maintenance.

Even though problems in Wallace have been remedied, the state remains in other districts, including the Lake Pend Oreille School District in Sandpoint where there have been no state grants, no bond elections, and no new buildings, though its schools are overflowing with students.

"If the question is, 'Do we need renovated or new facilities?' yes, we do, because they're

Idaho officers join Louisiana relief effort

SANDPOINT (AP) — Food, socks, cash and cups. County sheriff's deputies driving southward will be taking with them Wednesday when they cross at least 19 Idaho counties to collect donations across the nation to help hurricane-battered Louisiana.

The northern Idaho deputies, on a self-proclaimed "Operation Backup," are headed to St. Charles Parish, just east of flooded New Orleans, where they hope to relieve their fellow officers — and some of the suffering.

With the effort, they're continuing a tradition started by police in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks when hundreds flocked to New York City from locked across the nation to help their beleaguered colleagues.

"They need help," said sheriff's Capt. Jim Drake, one of the organizers. "They're calling for backup."

In addition to deputies from Idaho, officers from throughout the country have driven toward the stricken Gulf Coast where more than 10,000 may be dead.

In many of the hardest-hit areas, rescue, relief and recovery efforts have been hampered by government and local law enforcement. In Louisiana's Jefferson Parish, parish President Aaron Broussard says officials with the Federal Emergency Management Agency turned back three trailer trucks of water, ordered the Coast Guard not to provide emergency diesel fuel and cut emergency power lines.

By the time Idaho officers arrive, their state badges will help them cut through the bureaucracy. Police officers in the stricken region have been work-

ing nonstop and struggling to find the gasoline for their squad cars. Let alone food, a place to go to the bathroom or dry socks.

"We're just going down to do what we can," Drake said, adding some officers are sending along their extra duty belts, including carry pistols, ammunition and other patrol essentials.

Just in case, the officers don't know where they're last some things, too — even the shirts on their backs.

On Saturday, St. Charles Parish Sheriff Greg Champagne told the local newspaper that his officers had been working round-the-clock with almost no outside help to keep their jurisdiction under control.

The small Idaho procession, including five officers, two squad cars and their rental truck, will travel south on U.S. Highway 95 and east on Interstate 84 in

Idaho, stopping to pick up donations along the way.

Although details were still being worked out, stops were planned in Coeur d'Alene, Boise and Twin Falls.

"We're going to get to them as fast as we can," Drake said, hoping to collect T-shirts, socks, underwear and other basic items.

Once there, the officers will also pitch in with police duties, including conducting regular patrols, staffing security posts and guarding prisoners. The sheriff's deputies will likely remain on the county payroll during their stint in Louisiana, said Drake, who called Sheriff Elaine Savage "very supportive."

The sheriff's office will continue to provide regular patrols and emergency services in Bonner County, according to a statement issued by the department.

Texas governor launches plans to move refugees

AUSTIN (AP) — With Texas shelters reaching their limit of refugees from Hurricane Katrina, Gov. Rick Perry launched plans to fly some of them to other states that have offered help.

With nearly a quarter million refugees already in Texas and more still pouring in, Perry said Sunday that Texas needs other states to help manage the growing crisis. Officials at Texas relief centers say they are simply running out of room.

"We want to make certain every evacuee has a safe haven where they can receive the medical care, water, food and other assistance," Perry said. "There are shelters set up in other states that are sitting empty while thousands arrive in Texas by the

day, if not the hour. We are doing everything we can to address the needs of evacuees as they arrive, but in order to meet this enormous need, we need help from other states."

Under his plan set up Sunday, aid centers will be established at airports in Houston and Dallas where incoming refugees can be given food, water and medical care before they are flown out.

The Texas National Guard will coordinate the air operation and the governor's office said that people should not just show up at an airport expecting to be transported. Perry said that American, Continental and Southwest Airlines, all of which are based in Texas, have agreed to lend their help.

Since Thursday, Perry's office has been in contact with several states, including the governors of Utah, Oklahoma, Michigan, Iowa, New York, West Virginia and Pennsylvania about providing shelter for Louisiana evacuees.

Perry's office said arrangements also were being made to bring cruise ships to Galveston to help house Louisiana residents left homeless by the storm and that Perry had told federal officials that more ships should be stationed in Beaumont and Corpus Christi.

Meanwhile, flashing traffic signs on Interstate 45 around Houston carried messages ordering evacuee buses to divert to Fort Chaffee, Ark.

Perry spokeswoman Kathy

Walt said she she didn't know how many refugees might ultimately end up in other states.

Governor Perry has been heartened by the number of governors who have called him, Walt said.

Texas has been taking in refugees from New Orleans since Wednesday. By Saturday, Perry warned the state was nearing its limit. The storm and its aftermath has displaced some 1.5 million people.

Texas officials estimate about 100,000 Louisiana residents are staying in hotels and motels across the state and another 139,000 are being temporarily housed in 137 shelters throughout the state from the Houston Astro dome to El Paso.

Your guide to life in Magic Valley

Read The Times-News every day

Bridge

Continued from B1

Accetta, but she also sees its historic value. "That was the first bridge in the area. We feel like we should take care of it. I think we should fix it so we can use it."

Shirley Timmons of Paul, who used to live near the bridge, says it is part of local history.

"The Jackson Bridge is just ... kind of like a member of the family. I used to ride my old saddle horse across it."

Marilyn Gray of Rupert has fond memories of watching sunsets from the bridge.

"It's breathtaking. It's a beautiful view," she said. "It's a part of history and it would be horrible to destroy it."

Marie Mischel writes for the South Idaho Press.

Call 733-0931 to subscribe to The Times-News.

Pet of the Week

Meet "Charley," a wonderful adult black Lab. Come see if you agree he'd make a wonderful addition to your family.

Mark your calendar for the Rim to Rim Race/Walk Saturday, September 17. TWIN FALLS ANNUAL SHELTER 420 Victory Avenue 733-2299

CENTURY CINEMA 5 & BURLEY THEATRE

TRANSPORTER 2
7:28 • R-18 (PG-13)

MARCH OF THE PENGUINS
7:28 • R-18 (PG-13)

BROTHERS GRIMM
7:28 • R-18 (PG-13)

RED EYE
7:28 • R-18 (PG-13)

MUST LOVE DOGS
7:28 • R-18 (PG-13)

MADAGASCAR
7:28 • G-6 (PG)

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WEST

Refugees settle in as Utah volunteer effort ramps up

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Some 600 refugees from Hurricane Katrina began to settle in to temporary digs at Camp Williams Monday as Utah volunteers ramped up volunteer efforts to support those stranded by the storm.

About 500 people attended impromptu volunteer training sessions held by the Greater Salt Lake Chapter of the American Red Cross, the organization's CEO Mariann Geyer said.



Hurricane Katrina evacuees, Patricia Moses, left, and her husband Sandy Price, both of New Orleans rest at a shelter at Camp Williams in Riverton, Utah, on Sunday.

Also on Monday, President Bush declared Utah in a state of emergency, clearing the way for federal funds to help pay for the cost of the evacuees.

Meanwhile, a team of 26 doctors and nurses from the University of Utah Hospital was in Baton Rouge, La. helping to care for the 100 people wounded in a makeshift hospital in the field house at Louisiana State University.

"A lot of the folks here are folks that need haemodialysis, are on blood pressure medicines, or insulin," said Dr. Steve Bott, a University Hospital anesthesiologist. "It's a way station for a lot of folks who are going to need more intensive care than we can provide here."

Bott said the field house can hold several hundred patients, although there were only 70 patients there midday Sunday. He said most patients were there within 12 hours. A similar facility for patients needing intensive care was set up in the school's Pete Maravich Assembly Center, the home of LSU's basketball team.

Over the past four days, the two facilities have treated some 5,000 patients, Bott said.

The University team spent its first 24 hours in Baton Rouge staffing a combination triage hospital and emergency shelter inside an abandoned Kmart store not far from the campus, Bott said. Officials are working to close that facility down for sanitary reasons, he said.

The 15 Utah nurses and 11 physicians expect to spend about two weeks in Louisiana.

"There's a lot of need and there's a lot of people suffering

Nationally the Red Cross predicts hurricane aftereffects will need up to 40,000 additional volunteers in the coming months, Geyer said.

"This is exactly what the Red Cross does," Geyer said. "We are the national first responders for the citizens of the nation."

Utah National Guard Major Hank McIntire said there's no way to predict if Utah will add additional numbers of refugees to the 600 brought here over the weekend. The largest pockets of hurricane victims have been moved out of the area, so that part of the relief effort has slowed somewhat, he said. And many other states have begun accepting refugees.

Utah is prepared to accept up to 2,000 people.

"It's anybody's guess whether we get more," McIntire said.

State and local agencies have set up an emergency center and have begun working with those brought here to understand their needs and get them connected with services, he said. Additionally, citizens have been showing up with offers of food, clothing and other services, he said.

"We have been overwhelmed with more assistance than we can handle," McIntire said. "Everybody's stepping up. It's very impressive."

Montana's Democratic governor shows what it takes in red state

The Washington Post

BUTTE, Mont. — The Democratic governor of this red state was excusing his "God-given" political gifts while seated in his gubernatorial aircraft.

"You know, if John Kerry could do what I do, he'd be president," said Gov. Brian Schweitzer, who was a mini farmer until last November and is now being talked about as the kind of bumpy populist the Democrats need to win back the White House.

Schweitzer, broad of shoulder, red of face and sure of self, was barnstorming in Big Sky country — four towns in 11 hours, sweating along local Republicans, praising random Montanans for the excellence of their dogs and slapping backs in barnrooms. He was advertising all that he has done for the 917,000 people of his state since they elected him as their first Democratic governor in 16 years. Schweitzer won by four percentage points, while Kerry lost here to President Bush by 20 points.

In the airplane between the mining town of Butte and the ranching town of Dillon, Schweitzer slipped the Big Picture: how Democrats could change their losing ways, seize the levers of power and be, well, like him.

"Be likable, be self-deprecating, don't be a know-it-all using a lot of big words," said Schweitzer, 50, who mixes plain speaking with blue jeans, a bolo tie, cowboy boots and, always somewhere nearby, a border collie named Jag.

"In politics, it doesn't matter what the facts are," he said. "It's who the perceptions are. It's the way you frame it."

In Montana, he continued, the best way to frame an issue is to get horses and guns into the picture. Schweitzer arrived at this epiphany, he said, after getting beaten in 2000 in a race against Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont.

That was Schweitzer's first go at elective politics and he found that men in Montana were 11 percent less likely to vote for him than were women. For his gubernatorial campaign, Schweitzer hired focus groups to find out why.

He learned a significant percentage of Montana men are mule-headed, unwilling to

change their minds on issues, even when presented with information showing their views are not supported by facts.

"So, I started doing my ads while I was sitting on a horse or holding a gun," Schweitzer said. "I spoke to them visually and showed them I am like them and help them be on a horse and talk about health care."

"Ninety percent of them don't ride horses and many of them don't shoot a gun, but my ads said visually that I understand Montana. My gender gap disappeared. I think I have just summed up why Democrats lose elections."

Schweitzer had something else to add about Kerry, who had visited him here in Montana the week before.

"When he goes out to meet people, he doesn't come off real," Schweitzer said. "It's like you can see the price tag on the barrel," he said of television appearances Kerry made last year with a shotgun in his hand.

There is more to Schweitzer, of course, than good visuals and bottomless self-regard.

Bills he pushed through the legislature this spring — more money for education, assistance for workers without health insurance, cheaper prescription drugs for the elderly — have secured solid job-approval numbers.

Behind the lavmaking and the image-crafting, many Montanans — including some of the governor's harshest critics — see a natural-born populist whose gift of gab is matched by his work ethic.

David Berg, a conservative Republican who hosts the only syndicated radio talk show based in Montana, derides Schweitzer as "overly ambitious." But Berg said — the governor was "a humble person, a helluva campaigner, and he has never stopped working to romance certain segments of the population."

Schweitzer makes speeches around the country and is often mentioned, along with a handful of other Democratic governors, including Bill Richardson of New Mexico and Janet Napolitano of Arizona, as part of a promising crop of New West politicians invigorating the Democratic Party.

Schweitzer playfully plays

down ambitions outside Montana: "I am just a Montana farmer. I don't know what I say or do is exportable. It is a long way from Little League to playing for the Yankees."

What's on his plate in this red state is hard enough for a Democrat, he said. When his plane landed in Dillon, he had a chance to demonstrate — at a meeting with Beaverhead County commissioners about roads on federal land.

Bush, in overturning a Clinton-era order that made almost 60 million acres of national forest off-limits to road-building, has asked governors to identify areas where roads should not be built. The commissioners in Beaverhead County, where beef ranching and resentment of Washington runs high, are eager to open vast stretches of roadless federal land.

Gingerly, Schweitzer explained why that might not work, first, he said, the Bush administration has no money to maintain the roads already built, let alone build new ones. Second — and this was the tricky part in a room full of Republican ranchers — Schweitzer said Montana was no longer a state dominated by ranchers, miners and timber companies.

He never once said "environmentalism" — the closest he came was mentioning the need to protect land for "hunting and fishing."

"I'm an aggie," said Schweitzer, who has a master's degree in soil science from Montana State University and who worked in Saudi Arabia for most of his career. He said he and the royal family build a dairy farm. "Agriculture will continue to be a large part of who we are in Montana. But growth depends on the ability to build land and quality of life."

Back on the gubernatorial airplane, Schweitzer noted he had explained the new facts of life in Montana "without scaring anybody."

"Look, if I stand in front of voters and tell them, 'Everything you thought you knew about Montana's economy is wrong,' then who in the hell is going to vote for someone like that?" he said.

"Didn't we learn anything from Al Gore?"

Seat belt use rises in Utah

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Seat belt use is on the rise in Utah, a new study from the state's office of highway safety says.

About 87 percent of Utah drivers and front-seat passengers in six counties use safety belts — a 1.2 percent increase over the usage rate in 2003.

"We've increased for seven years," said Kristy Highy, Utah Highway Safety program manager. "This is the highest percent increase, which is quite a lot when you have such a high rate like we do."

Officers from the Utah Highway Patrol conducted the survey in June, observing 63,768 drivers in Cache, Davis, Salt Lake, Utah, Washington and Weber counties at 162 highway, freeway or local road sites.

Usage increased in five of the six counties over 2004. But usage in Salt Lake County dropped by almost 5 percent, the study shows. The county previously had the lowest rate of use at 85.2 percent.

Officers also found that females and travelers on highways or freeways buckle up more frequently. Women use belts 90 percent of the time. Men observed used seat belts only 85 percent of the time.

"Males tend to be higher risk-takers in general," Rigby said. "That's just a general statement. It's the same nationwide."

The survey was approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and could help Utah get federal safety education funding.

Utah's first safety belt law was enacted in 1986, requiring all front-seat passengers and the driver to use seat belts. The fine for failing to belt is \$45, although it can be reduced to \$15 upon completing a traffic safety course.

The law is a primary offense for drivers under age 19. It also requires children under age 4 to be restrained in approved safety seats.

Efforts to make Utah's safety-belt law a primary offense to drivers over the age of 19 has failed in multiple attempts at the state legislature.

New Exercise Group for People With Parkinson Disease

Magic Valley Regional Medical Center is happy to introduce a new exercise group for those living with Parkinson disease. This class is based on the information outlined in *Parkinson's Disease and the Art of Moving* by John Argue. The program builds on the premise that "soft" exercise can help delay the progression of symptoms while helping patients lead more active and comfortable lives. Instruction is based on individual ability with emphasis placed on:

- increasing flexibility, strength, balance and coordination.
- improving communication by developing vocal strength and the clarity of speech.
- helping patients meet daily challenges.
- improving symptoms - tremors, rigidity, poor balance, reduced range of motion and other associated symptoms.
- preparing the body for potential future symptoms.

Classes begin September 8, 2005

Meets Tuesdays and Thursdays • 11 a.m. to noon

The Office on Aging - CSI Campus
998 Washington Street North

Instructor: Tammy Diamond,
Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, Licensed

There is no cost. Call 737 2126 to register or for more information. The support of spouses and caregivers is beneficial for the success of any treatment, and their attendance is encouraged.



Is your animal the next...

Think your pet is a star?
We're looking for the 2005 Pet Idol

Send a picture of your pet and they may be voted the 2005 Times-News Pet Idol

All entries will be printed Sunday, October 9th, in a special Times-News tabloid. Readers will vote on their favorite pet. Pictures of the top twelve finalists will run in The Times-News. Readers will have another chance to vote. The overall winner will be the 2005 Pet Idol.

The 2005 Pet Idol will receive special recognition in The Times-News and a grand prize (TBA).

To enter, submit a photograph of your pet along with a completed entry form. Include your pet's name along with your name, address, phone number, and \$10 entry fee to sponsor our non-profit Newspaper in Education program, which supports Magic Valley Schools. Make your checks payable to Literacy Leadership Inc. The Times-News. No photos will be returned. Photos must accompany every entry form. Photos accepted. All entries for the contest must be received by Friday, September 30th.

For more information, contact Newspaper in Education Coordinator, Tiffany Tenley-Hansen at 735-3212 or thansen@magvalley.com

By 5:00 pm at The Times-News office. On Sunday, Oct. 9th photos will be published in The Times-News Pet Idol tabloid. Readers can vote for their favorite pet photo by submitting a ballot along with a voluntary \$25 non-profit Newspaper in Education donation per John. Voting ballots will be available in The Times-News. The number of photos and number of ballots we receive will determine the number of voting rounds that will take place. www.petidol.com

Not covered by employers or insurance carriers of The Times-News and Lee Enterprises newspapers.

The Times-News
magivalley.com

Please mail photo with entry form. No photos will be returned.

I am enclosing \$ Cash Check

Make checks payable to Literacy Leadership, The Times-News, PO Box 548, Twin Falls, ID, 83301.

Deadline for photos: Friday, Sept. 30, by 5:00 pm. Photos of pets along with pet names will be published in The Times-News for voting purposes.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

My Pet's Name _____

Club campaigns to help with cancer

By Jami Whitel
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — When her mom was diagnosed with cancer, her committee has raised more than \$6,000 to help families with fuel, lodging, food and more.

As a five-year member of the Twin Falls Optimist Club, she thought it would be a good time to help cancer families, so she joined the national club's efforts with the Childhood Cancer Campaign.

Just short of her first year as chairman, her committee has raised more than \$6,000 to help families with fuel, lodging, food and more.

She's only been able to help a few families so far, but she's working to spread the word about the campaign and reach out to more.

Because of patient privacy regulations, she had a hard time finding children to help, Volk said. "So we just pass on our information to the hospital."

In addition to doing household chores, like taking care of animals and plants when families aren't available, baby-sitting 30 parents can go out and watching a sick child so parents can spend time with their other children, the club provides help financially.

"There's lots of things that can get neglected and that's where we can come in and help," Volk said.

The services the campaign provides would be welcome in just about any household, but Volk said some families view it as a handout.

"And that's not what it's meant for," Volk said. "It's meant to be helpful."

Since there is no pediatric oncology center in Twin Falls, Boise or Salt Lake City, Utah, weekly which can put considerable financial strain on them.



Spencer Vargas, 4, walks around the perimeter of his play park while at his home in Twin Falls. Vargas, who suffered from a rare form of cancer, wished for a play park after his cancer was in remission for a year.

ASHLEY SMITH/The Times-News

Want more information?

For more information on the Childhood Cancer Campaign, and how to help, call Krista Volk at 736-6729 or Allie Vargas of the Wisting Star Foundation at 733-2254.

Often times, things like eating out, lodging, calling home and fuel get missed when anticipating expenses. That's where the Childhood Cancer Campaign comes in, providing certificates for gas, phone cards, housing and more.

But the group wants to help families relax and have fun, too.

"We've done goody boxes at St. Luke's," Volk said. "They have games, cards, notebooks, pencils, lots of things to do to help keep kids occupied."

In July, Steve Vargas, owner of the Magic Valley Speedway-let-children-come-into-the-pits, meet drivers and sit in the cars. In August, the Optimist clubs of Magic Valley hosted a Bark to School Carnival with help from Dennis Boyer, the director of the Twin Falls Parks and Recreation Department.

Almost all of the games, food and prizes were donated and proceeds benefited the campaign. The carnival raised more than \$200.

The Wisting Star Foundation, which makes the wishes of ill children come true, helped

with the carnival and has partnered with the campaign. It shares the same goal of reaching as many families as possible in southern Idaho.

"I'm hoping there isn't a big need for us," said Allie Vargas, co-president of Wisting Star.

"But I know there is. When most people hear a loved one has been diagnosed with cancer, it is hard for them to think of much else.

It's especially hard when it's their own child. That's how Vargas felt when his toddler, Spencer, was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer.

He had a 30 percent chance of recovery.

"When you're going through something like that, unless the

organization there to help is right there, the person going through it doesn't have time to look through the tunnel we're put in," Vargas said.

When he was 3 years old and one year in remission, Spencer Vargas received his wish for a big plastic playground that was installed in the family's backyard with landscaping.

"Spencer's Park" is enjoyed by the now 4-year-old, his younger sister and two older brothers.

Vargas says it's great to know the Childhood Cancer Campaign services are available. "There's a lot of people who can benefit from this," she said. "The bigger the branches we get in the community, the more we can all help."

STORK REPORT

Magie Valley Regional Medical Center

Alec Cleo Mort, son of Tracy Gene Holton of Wendell, was born Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2005.

Korbyn Marie Lee Kelley, daughter of Alisha Nicole Carpenter of Buhl, was born Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2005.

Jackson Carl Voss, son of Anissa June and Christopher Carl Voss of Buhl, was born Sunday, Aug. 28, 2005.

Madison Marie Hirsch, daughter of Britni Marie and Zachary Quade Hirsch of Jerome, was born Sunday, Aug. 28, 2005.

Lorelei Alexis Capps, daughter of Dawnette Nichole and Austin David Capps of Twin Falls, was born Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2005.

Libby Kay Traveller, daughter of Judi Lynne and Anthony Frank Traveller of Twin Falls, was born Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2005.

Irene Luree McCuiston, daughter of Martha and Buddy Robert McCuiston of Jerome, was born Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2005.

St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center

Sierra Kathleen Salltamachchia, daughter of Georgina Morelock and Thomas Salltamachchia of Italey, was born Friday, Aug. 19, 2005.

To announce a birth

Send a copy of the birth certificate to:

Jami Whitel
The Community Page
The Times-News
P.O. Box 548
Twin Falls, ID 83303

Or fax to: 734-5538

Deadline: Noon Tuesday for Sunday's paper, and noon Friday for Tuesday's paper.

More information? Call Jami at 735-3278

MISS RODEO IDAHO



Left, Sara Person of Gooding was named the new Miss Teen Rodeo Idaho during the recent Gooding County Fair and Rodeo. First runner-up was Tricia Crump of Pocatello. Second runner-up was Sarah Boyer of Rupert and third runner-up was Morgan Anselmi of Pocatello.

Right, Kyle Freestone, left, of Pocatello was named Miss Junior Rodeo Idaho. Measha Gittins of Dayton was first runner-up and second runner-up Kara Gydesen of Challis. Miss L1's Bilt Rodeo Idaho, right, was Aubrie Carpenter of Riggs. First runner-up was Bailey Bartomeo of Kuna and second runner-up was Shaylee England of Pocatello.

Photos courtesy of BETTY TAYLOR

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Jerome library hosts reading camp for public

JEROME — The Jerome Public Library is hosting "Camp Love to Read" from 10 a.m. to noon Friday at the library, 100 First Ave. E.

The event is open to the public. Stories, songs and activities will be held and the Jerome Fire Department will raise a new flag. Participants will also march and sing around the block holding their flag.

For more information, call the library at 324-5427.

Cub Scout meetings are held at area schools

A series of Cub Scout meetings for anyone interested in joining the Snake River Council, Boy Scouts of America will be held this month.

The Cubs Scouts is a youth development program that integrates activities with character building, leadership skills and citizenship development for boys ages 7 to 11. The cost is about \$10, depending on the pack.

Each elementary school has a number of Cub Scout Packs associated with it so the boys and parents will be able to choose the one that best fits their needs, organizers say. All the Cub Scout joining meetings will start at 6:30 p.m. in the elementary school's cafeteria. The schedule is as follows:

Oakley — Wednesday. Acequia — Sept. 15. Memorial — Thursday. Big Valley — Sept. 13. Valley — Sept. 13. Carey — Thursday. Shoshone — Thursday. For more information, call the Scout office at 733-2067.

Free luncheon for senior citizens will be Thursday

PAUL — A senior luncheon will be held at noon Thursday at the Paul Stake Center of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, West Ellis Ave. All senior citizens in Minidoka County are invited and the event is free.

For more information, call Kristine Stapleman at 438-5894.

Rosetta Assisted Living holds series of events

BURLEY — Rosetta Assisted Living, 1919 Hilland Ave., will hold several events open to the public.

There will be an open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday and Saturday to tour the facility, meet the new management team and staff and enjoy refreshments.

Sept. 12 will be blood pressure checks from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Golden Heritage Senior Center.

Sept. 14 will be the Mini-Casla Alzheimer's Support Group from 6-7 p.m. at the center.

Sept. 24 will be a fund-raising yard sale beginning at 9 a.m. at the center.

Volunteers are needed to help with activities throughout the week and church services for residents.

For more information on any of these events or at the center, call 677-5451.

DAR meets Saturday to learn more about center

TWIN FALLS — The Daughters of the American Revolution will meet at noon Saturday at Jake's Restaurant, 1598 Blue Lakes Blvd. N.

Sarah Todd will present a program about the Sacajawea Interpretive Center in Salmon. Prospective members are welcome.

On Sept. 17, members will travel to Pocatello for a joint meeting with the Wyeth (Pocatello) and Old Fort Hall (Idaho Falls) chapters of DAR. State Regent Shelly Hoolrick will be the guest speaker.

For more information, call 655-4100.

CSI offers faux painting classes for home design

TWIN FALLS — The College of Southern Idaho, 315 Falls Ave., is offering two workshops for faux painting techniques used in home design.

"Home Interior Faux Painting Techniques I" will teach techniques such as sponging,

additive and subtractive ragging, dragging, wood graining, crackling, color washing and more. The workshop will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 12 in the Art Lab, Room 123.

"Home Interior Faux Painting Techniques II" will include specialty paints, frottage, aging wall covering, reverse stenciling and effects with plaster. Faux Painting I is not a prerequisite for this class.

The workshop will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 19 in the Art Lab, Room 123. The cost for each class is \$27. Students are asked to bring poster board, a foam painting brush and \$5 for class materials. For more information or to register, call 732-6290 or 732-6288.

CSI offers basic course on dog obedience

TWIN FALLS — The College of Southern Idaho is offering a basic dog obedience course for owners and their dogs from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Sept. 13 to 29, on the East Expo lawn at CSI, 315 Falls Ave.

The cost is \$40. This class will teach pet owners how to train their dogs with basic obedience commands using positive reinforcement and behavior modification. Goals include better mannered and socialized dogs and more educated and empowered owners.

For more information or to register, call 732-6290 or 732-6288.

'Coping with Widowhood' meetings continue

TWIN FALLS — Widowed Wellness Programs of Idaho will begin a series of meetings on "Coping with Widowhood" starting Sept. 14.

Sessions will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the College of Southern Idaho — Aging — on Aging, 998 Washington St. N. Through the sessions, widowed men and women will receive information and support in dealing with the special problems of being widowed.

Organizers are also gathering names for a younger widowed support series to meet in the evenings and for those still working who would need to meet at the evening series. To suggest a name or to attend the evening session, call the Office on Aging.

For more information or to register, call Shawna Wascko at the Office on Aging, 736-2122, ext. 307.

Recreation club holds events this weekend

SHOSHONE — The West Magic Lake Recreation Club members will meet for the club's adopt-a-highway program at 10 a.m. Saturday at the members designated areas of the club house.

Foot Clinic

• Arch/Heel Pain • Toe/Joint Pain
• Ingrown Toenails • Toenail Problems
• Corns/Calluses • Other foot problems
• Timothy G. Tomlinson, DPM
1120 Montana • Gooding • 934-4500

MORNING BREAK

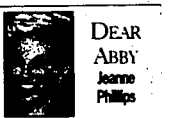
Be careful where you place your purse

DEAR ABBY: In response to the question of where to place one's handbag in my restaurant, you replied: "If you're carrying a small, dressy evening bag, place it on the table. However, if you're carrying a large handbag, put it on the floor or under your chair or beneath the table so the server won't trip on it."

I keep my smaller purses between my body and the wall or a place larger bags on the floor, making sure my foot is in contact with it at all times. (Usually between my feet.)

I work in a service business for many years, and customers would confide the most outrageous details of their personal lives. Once, a visiting woman told me of visiting a man in large churches when it rained because she could use her umbrella to reach under pews and hook purses to the wall. I was in a final prayer.

Women need visual contact with their purses at all times.



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

— OLDER AND WISER. SPRINGFIELD, MO.
DEAR WISER: It's sad to think that not even a house of God is safe from purse snatching. I received a lot of mail about that letter. Not everyone agreed with my answer to that question, nor do they agree with each other. Read on.

DEAR ABBY: Sadly, there are purse snatchers in restaurants, food courts, picnic areas, etc. I have seen women sling their open bag over the back of a chair and — swoosh goes the handbag or wallet.

Other than an evening clutch on the table, I place my hand-

bag either underneath the table, beneath the feet where I can feel it at all times, or sling the strap over my knee and let the bag hang or rest on the floor. It will be the most convenient, safe option, but I still have my bag when I'm ready to pay my tab.

—VANESSA R., CHICAGO

DEAR ABBY: Placing a purse on the table inconveniences the person sitting next to you. If you're at a table for two with no one beside you, it's still a bad idea. Even in upscale restaurants, the purse can be stolen. You suggested putting the bag on the floor. Floors in public places are dirty. Large handbags should be left at home, but if you have no choice, it should be balanced on your lap close to your knees. (This can be accomplished by keeping your feet flat on the floor or crossing them at the ankles.)

—V.A.R., JONESBOROUGH, TENN.

DEAR ABBY: Any purse placed under or next to a chair is vulnerable to theft.

If a woman puts it on the floor, she should put the strap under the leg of the chair, so someone tries to take it, the strap will be caught on the leg. Better yet, when she arrives at the restaurant, she should take out her bill and ask the purse in the trunk of her car.

—DAVID B., KANSAS CITY, MO.

DEAR ABBY: A portion of your answer to that question was correct.

Abby, in restaurants in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, a chair is always provided to hold a large purse. Only "ladies of the evening" put their purses on the floor.

Granted, not everyone is going to be going to Rio to a restaurant, but it is "fool for thought" here in the States.

—JAN R., BEVERLY HILLS, FLA.

'Transporter 2' carries solid Labor Day weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jason Statham delivered a bigger box-office package this week, with his action sequel "Transporter 2" taking in \$20.25 million to debut as the top weekend movie.

The followup's solid Labor Day weekend was more than twice the haul for "The Transporter," which took in \$9.1 million in its three-day opening weekend in October 2002.

"Transporter 2" took over the No. 1 slot from "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," which slipped to second place with \$16.6 million after two weekends on track, according to studio estimates Sunday. "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" raised its total domestic gross to \$71.9 million.

The well-reviewed "The Constant Gardener," starring Ralph Fiennes and Rachel Weisz in a John Le Carré suspense thriller, premiered in third place with \$10.8 million, a solid opening given that it played in just 1,346 theaters, nearly 2,000 fewer than "Transporter 2."

On the flip side were two new wide releases soundly trounced by critics and generally ignored by audiences.

"Underclassman," an action comedy starring Nick Cannon as a cop who goes undercover at a high school to investigate a murder, flopped with just \$3.1 million.

"A Sound of Thunder," with Edward Burns and Ben Kingsley in an adaptation of King Bradbury's sci-fi story about time travelers who disrupt evolution on a trip to visit dinosaurs, had a paltry \$1.15 million.

Hollywood ended its worst summer for movie attendance since 1997 on a positive note, with overall revenues rising during the long weekend.

The top 12 movies took in \$96.4 million, up 16 percent from "Labor Day" weekend last year.

"It's somewhat ironic in the final weekend of one of the worst summers ever that we have a strong showing," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations.

- At the box office**
1. "Transporter 2," \$20.25 million.
 2. "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," \$16.6 million.
 3. "The Constant Gardener," \$10.8 million.
 4. "Red Eye," \$9.3 million.
 5. "The Brothers Grimm," \$7.9 million.
 6. "Four Brothers," \$6.4 million.
 7. "Wedding Crashers," \$5.8 million.
 8. "March of the Penguins," \$5.4 million.
 9. "The Skeleton Key," \$4.1 million.
 10. "The Cave," \$3.7 million.

Relations. "Hopefully, this sets a positive one heading into the fall and holiday season."

Domestic grosses from early May through Labor Day were down 9 percent according to Exhibitor Relations.

Factoring in higher ticket prices, attendance was off 12 percent.

"Transporter 2" had a record debut for the Labor Day period, typically a slow time at theaters, beating the previous high of \$18.4 million held by "Jeepers Creepers 2" over the same weekend in 2003.

In just four days, "Transporter 2" nearly matched the total domestic gross of \$25.3 million for "The Transporter." The sequel features Statham's character on break from his high-octane gig as an ace delivery man of illicit goods, but forced back into action when the boy he chauffeurs is kidnapped by terrorists.

"People love the character," said Bert Livingston, a distribution executive for 20th Century Fox, which released both "Transporter" flicks. "It's escapism — and with all the tragedy going on in New Orleans, I think people want to get away and lose themselves for an hour and a half."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Monday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc., will be released Tuesday.

Ancient Romans often mixed wine with seawater

Ancient Romans drank a lot of wine, but they diluted it. One popular wine mixer was warm seawater.

Their day in history: It's a good day for setting in with the comics and an oversized sandwich — 75 years ago on Sept. 6, 1930 comic characters Blondie and Dagwood made their newspaper debut. When playboy her Dagwood Bumstead married gold-digger Blondie Bopadoop, his father disowned him, forcing him to seek work from tyrannical Mr. Dithers and live a modest middle-class life.

In the early days before the pesky truth-or-darwinizing lies, Grape Nuts claimed it



RANDOM KINDS OF FACINNES
Jack Mingo
Erin Barrett

"prevents appendicitis," cures malania, "tightens loose teeth" and "heals tuberculosis."

Can you name all four original Pop Tarts flavors? Probably not. You might remember Blueberry, Strawberry and Brown Sugar Gimmington, but you probably mercifully forgotten Apple-Currant.

The first presidential inaugu-

ration was not held in Washington, D.C., but in New York City. Federal Hall on Wall Street is where George Washington was first sworn into office in 1789.

Reader Ed Voss asks if any wild monkeys ever lived in Europe. Actually, they still do. A colony of Barbary apes lives on the Rock of Gibraltar. Despite its name, the Barbary ape is not really an ape. It's related to the rhesus monkeys, and in a scientifically consistent world would be called a Barbary macaque.

The British Open trophy is a claret jug a reminder of the days when golfers wore as dedicated to drinking as they were to driving.

Neanderthal man was named after the Neander Valley in Germany. The valley was named after the 17th century hymn writer Joachim Neumann, who used "Joachim Neander" as a shy pen name. (Neumann means "new man" in German; neander means the same thing in Greek.) It was just a coincidence that people discovered a new species of humans in "Neu-Main Valley."

Nirvana means "going out" in Sanskrit. It's a state of bliss that Buddhists try to attain by becoming free of all desire.

Erin Barrett and Jack Mingo can be reached at facinnes@timesnews.com.

Capricorn: Try taking a walk with someone you love

IF SEPT. 6 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Through the end of the year you are more sensitive to atmospheres and less worldly than usual. Because you can see all sides to any situation, it is easy to be impartial and you may shrink from competition in the dog-eat-dog business world. Startling news may, however, excite your curiosity. You may become the center of focus and one special person may open your eyes to endless possibilities you have avoided in the past. In January and April you may count your blessings and make firm plans, but avoid new starts or decisions in July and August.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Five mistakes you should avoid: With so many ions in the fire you are likely to find one that sets off inner passions and leads to success. Since you believe everything will work out for the best, it will.

TAURUS (April 20-May 21): Accentuate the positive. If you

can't say something nice about someone, say nothing at all. Get caught up in someone else's dream and let that other person's enthusiasm propel you forward.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Whisper kind words in someone's ear. Support your partner by being encouraging, even if you have to hang on to your hat to keep up with a frantic pace. Give in and don't fight progress.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be open to alternative avenues.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Enjoy lasting pleasures. Take time to stop and smell the roses along

the way. You are at your best when dealing with real estate or an theater. Be impartial regarding ethical matters to foster harmony.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Cooperation is your middle name. At work you may need to put the needs of others before your own and make minor sacrifices so that everything runs smoothly. Understanding is the key to success.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be a cheerleader and shake your pom-poms. Those close might identify a pioneering spirit and count on you to keep the home fires burning. Cooperate to the fullest in all new projects.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put money to work on your behalf. Remember that it takes money to make money. Listen to your friends and follow intuition where matters of chance concern you and you won't go wrong.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your get-up-and-go is

rolling along at full speed. Take the lead to explore uncharted waters and roam far from the beaten path. Some hard play-ers can pay off big in the future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Throat caution to the wind. Those who mess up with are an upbeat mood and might spend more to get the very best. Romantic partners prefer physical exercise to TV, so try roller-skating or water skiing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Know your part in the scheme of things. You may only be a cog in a giant wheel, but without your cooperation nothing can go forward. Be a team player and contribute your fair share.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Step back and take the long view. Maybe you're less ambitious than usual, but this means you can relax and bide your time and wait for something really important. Act on creative ideas.

Jerry Lewis telethon raises money for Katrina victims

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — The Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon raised \$54.9 million for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and more than \$1 million for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Lewis, 79, decided to devote the two-day telethon to both children with muscular dystrophy and Katrina victims after seeing reports from the Gulf Coast.

The Katrina donations will go to the Salvation Army in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Tens of thousands of

people are out of their homes, and many of those homes have been destroyed.

"I'm overjoyed we were able to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina and at the same time continue our 40-year tradition of helping my kids," Lewis said.

The telethon's total to fight muscular dystrophy was \$4.5 million less than last year, but lower figures were expected due to the outpouring of donations for the hurricane victims. It was only the third time in 40 years that the telethon failed to surpass the previous year's total.

Court orders Kazaa to block pirated content

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — A federal court ruled Monday that the popular file-swapping program Kazaa infringes on copyright and gave its users two months to alter the system so its users can no longer engage in music piracy.

Hailed as a victory by the recording industry, the court's decision has implications well beyond the borders of Australia, where Kazaa executives are based, due to the Internet's global nature.

Federal Court Judge Murray Wilcox determined that Kazaa's owners and distributors, led by Sharman Networks Ltd., took no steps to remove illegal content despite posted warnings on their Web site urging Kazaa users not to swap copyright material.

Wilcox said it had been in the financial interest of Sharman and its partners to maximize, not minimize, music file-sharing.

He found six of the 10 defendants, including Sharman, its Sydney-based chief executive Niklas Henning, as well as Airtel and a Sharman software partner, guilty of copyright infringement and ordered them to pay 40 percent of the record industry's costs in the case.

A hearing will be held later to establish damages.

"We will ask the court when it comes to damages to reflect the value of the music these people ripped off," Michael Speck, a spokesman for the Australian recording industry, said of the millions of people who have used Kazaa to swap copyright music.

In a brief statement, Sharman said it would appeal and Kazaa software remained available online, with 800,000 downloads

reported last week. Sharman says its software is no different from a tape recorder or photocopier — and that Kazaa could control copyright infringement with users.

But Wilcox said that Kazaa's distributors actively encouraged users to share files, the vast majority of which were copyright material.

He said that if Kazaa is to continue, its owners will have to ensure that new versions of the software filter out unlicensed copyright material, a task the judge said would be extremely difficult.

Wilcox stressed, however, that the warning against "damaging" legitimate file-swapping with his ruling. He said Kazaa needs to be changed to protect copyrighted material "but without necessarily invading on others' freedom of speech and communication."

"It is clear that the judge is concerned not to stop the technology completely, but to encourage some middle line," said Kim Weatherall, a lecturer in intellectual property law at Melbourne University.

This case is the latest in a long line of courtroom showdowns between so-called peer-to-peer (P2P) networks and copyright holders led by the music and movie industries.

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Hollywood and the music industry can file piracy lawsuits against technology companies, even if they encourage customers to steal music and movies over the Internet.

The London-based International Federation of Phonographic Industries' lawsuit against Kazaa on Monday's ruling as "a milestone in the fight against in-

Leveler for file-swapping network Kazaa. Mary S.M. talks to the media outside the New South Wales Supreme Court Monday, after the court ruled that Kazaa was in breach of copyright in Australia.

term piracy worldwide."

"Today's judgment shows that Kazaa — one of the biggest engines of copyright theft and the biggest brand in music piracy worldwide — is illegal," federation chairman John Kennedy said.

But Kazaa has lost significant popularity since its 2002 heyday, due in part to legal pressure and sabotage efforts by the recording industry but also to the emergence of competing technologies.

Other peer-to-peer file-sharing tools and services that similarly do not require a central server, including BitTorrent and eDonkey, have supplanted it as the Internet's most popular.

FastTrack, the network tapped by Kazaa users, accounted for 10 percent of traffic volume in a six-week study begun in June of data swapped using the Internet's top four file-sharing applications. The study was done by CacheLogic.

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Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2005

THE ACES ON BRIDGE Bobby Wolff

"In jail a man has no personality. He is a minor disposal problem and a few entries on reports."
— Raymond Chandler

NORTH 09-B-A
 ♠ 7 5 2
 ♥ J 4 3
 ♦ A Q 10 4
 ♣ 8 6 4

SOUTH
 ♠ J 8 6
 ♥ 10 9 8 7 2
 ♦ 7 6
 ♣ 10 7 5

EAST A 10 9 3
 ♥ 6 5
 ♦ 8 5 2
 ♣ K 9 3 2

WEST K Q 4
 ♥ A K Q
 ♦ K J 9 3
 ♣ A Q J

Vulnerable: East-West
Dealer: South

The bidding:
 South West North East
 2♣ Pass 2♦ Pass
 3NT Pass 6NT All pass

Opening lead: Heart 10

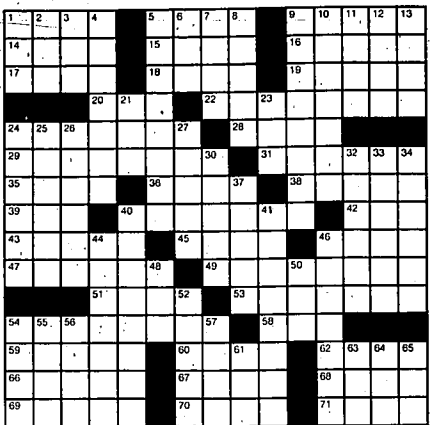
BID WITH THE ACES

South holds:
 ♠ K Q 4
 ♥ A K Q
 ♦ K J 9 3
 ♣ A Q J

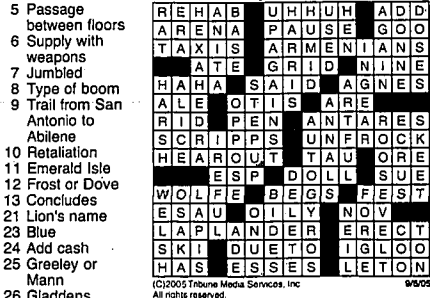
South West North East
 Pass 3♦

ANSWER: Double, planning to convert your partner's response to three no-trump to show a good balanced hand. You will not have shown all your values by any means (this auction suggests 20-25 or so), but you cannot afford to go past three no-trump on your own. If partner shows signs of life, you can reassess, of course.

- ACROSS**
- Time periods
 - Dupes
 - Thin pancake
 - Interstate
 - incline
 - Small group
 - Marsh wader
 - Approach
 - Prayer ender
 - Like Wrigley's walls
 - Ring king
 - Differs in opinion
 - Some tobacco users
 - Lyrical Sammy
 - Like jack-o-lanterns
 - Church.
 - doctrines
 - Levin and Gerstwin
 - Pub choices
 - Sierra
 - Strokes softly
 - Sign
 - poll
 - Frost over
 - Minute quantity
 - Profit
 - Flitted together in a stack
 - Fracture type
 - 51 Oklahoma city
 - 53 Casual tops
 - 54 Completely unused
 - 58 Drunkard
 - 59 Awaken
 - 60 Type of skirt
 - 62 Cake layer
 - 66 UP and about
 - 67 Sandwich cookie
 - 68 Nervous
 - 69 London lockups
 - 70 Light gas
 - 71 Fury



Monday's Puzzle Solved



- DOWN**
- European eagle
 - "Norma"
 - MDS' org.
 - Suburban expansions
 - Passage between floors
 - Supply with weapons
 - Jumbled
 - Type of boom
 - Trail from San Antonio to Abilene
 - Retaliation
 - Emerald Isle
 - Frost or Dove
 - Concludes
 - Lion's name
 - Blue
 - Add cash
 - Greeley or Mann
 - Gladdens
 - Alabama city
 - Downward measurement
 - Angora goat
 - Consecrate with oil
 - Fishing nets
 - Ermine in a light coat
 - Cash dispensers?
 - Thing left out
 - Kitchen tool
 - Play of light
 - Noisy clamor
 - Greek letter
 - Evil spirit
 - Boast
 - Diva Ponsolle
 - Sedan or coupe
 - Tightrope; e.g.
 - Classic beginning?
 - Actress Lupino
 - Ovum
 - whiskey

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SHOSHONE 4-pkcs. \$1,600 cash flow, \$129,000. 886-7794 www.showhomes.com

STANLEY Sawtooth Trophy Ranch, view, sawtoothranch.com for pictures & details.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square. To form four ordinary words.

MIDIO

LENEK

BUHSIL

ZIFLEZ

Answer here: " " " " (Answers tomorrow)

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

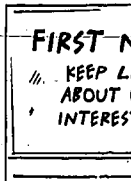
Don't just punt with all that food. It's the life of the chef.



WHAT THE ASSISTANT DID WHEN THE TALENTED CHIEF TOOK A VACATION.

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

Frank and Ernest



Brevity

By Bob Thaves



By Guy and Rodd

802 Homes For Sale

TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 2 bath, beautiful home in nice neighborhood. \$128,500. 2480 Alderwood Ave. 731-9895.

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802 Homes For Sale

TWIN FALLS Beautiful home! 4 bdrm, 2 bath, 1608 sq. ft. Custom built in 02, with many upgrades. \$152,500. 404-1148. 2525 Alderwood Ave.

802 Homes For Sale

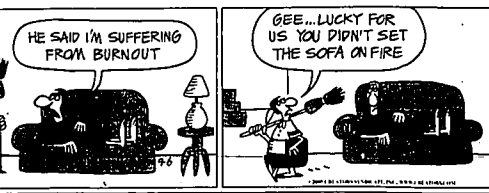
TWIN FALLS Only home for sale in sought after neighborhood. 2700 sq. ft., newly remodeled on 1 acre w/water shares \$245,000. 308-5995

Wizard of Id



Luann

By Parker and Hart



Luann

By Greg Evans



Rose Is Rose

By Pat Brady



802 Homes For Sale

TWIN FALLS 5 bdrm, 4 bath, 3298 sq. ft. central air, 2 fireplaces, hot tub, deck, auto sprinklers, fenced back, 2.5 bdrm, 2 bath, great RV parking. Sweet cul-de-sac \$325,000. Call 208-733-0789.

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802 Homes For Sale

TWIN FALLS Beautiful home! 4 bdrm, 2 bath, 1608 sq. ft. Custom built in 02, with many upgrades. \$152,500. 404-1148. 2525 Alderwood Ave.

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 2412 E 9800 N, Fair ID, Bank of ID 208-226-5445 or 888-262-1387. *****

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|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|
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|---|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|

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HONDA '04 Civic LX, 5 spd., AC, CD, cruise, ONLY 16K. \$15,499.
CENTENNIAL Sales
737-9700 or 308-5002

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737-9700 or 308-5002

HYUNDAI '03 Elantra. Grandpa's car, must go! 15,000 miles. Perfect condition. \$10,850. Call 208-734-2121 evenings.

ISUZU '88 4x4, new running gear, complete motor work, new car condition, all paperwork, 23 mpg. \$2650. FORD '85 Escort, good condition. 45 mi., diesel, long lasting engine. \$1300. Call 208-326-6856

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Budget

878-8874 or 800-574-1248

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White, cloth, nice car. \$17,950

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When purchasing a vehicle, make sure that the title is in the name of the seller. Under Idaho motor vehicle code a vehicle cannot be sold unless the title is in the name of the seller (exception: Idaho licensed dealer). The seller shall provide the new purchaser a signed bill of sale showing the following: Full description of the vehicle, vehicle identification number, amount paid and name(s) and address of the new purchaser. The bill of sale must be signed "as is" and show actual mileage at the time of sale. If you have any questions, please contact your local assessor's office.

Varsity sports from around the area.

MLB D2
Scores and stats D3
Comics D4

Sports Editor: Joe Paisley, 735-3239 (Hours: 2-11 p.m.)

MORNING LINE

SPORTSQUOTE

I work about four minutes a year. The rest of the time, I'm trying to have as good a time as possible.

49ers' long snapper Brian Jennings to the San Francisco Chronicle, recently, Jennings earned \$645, 928 last season for hiking to punters and placekicking holders.

TRIVIA

QUESTION: How did the Green Bay Packers win the NFL championship trophy in the same calendar year of 1957?
ANSWER: below

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

High School
Volleyball
Filet/American Falls at Buld, 4 p.m.
Valley/Rockland at Aberdeen, 4 p.m.
Carry at Blks, 5 p.m.
Jerome/Century at Wood River, 5 p.m.
Kimberly at Declo, 5:15 p.m.
Canns County at Community School, 6 p.m.
Hagerman at Huff River, 6 p.m.
Hansen at Oakley, 6 p.m.
Lighthouse Christian/Glens Ferry at Castleford, 6 p.m.
Magic Valley Christian at Murtaugh, 6 p.m.
Pocatello at Minico, 6 p.m.
Skyline at Twin Falls, 6 p.m.
Boys Soccer
Buhl at Declo, 5:30 p.m.
Girls Soccer
Buhl at Declo, 5:30 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Junior football jamboree Sept. 6
TWIN FALLS — The Magic Valley Junior Football program will hold its annual Mildred Bowl Jamboree fund-raiser Sept. 6 at Brain Stadium. Play begins at 4:30 p.m. for grades 5-6. Players are asked to gather between 3:30 and 4 p.m. Grade 7 games start at 7:30 p.m. They need to gather at about 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$2. Concessions will be available.

Minico Boosters host tailgate party
RUPEKT — The Minico High School Booster Club will host a tailgate party from 6-7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 9, prior to the Spartans' home football game against Wood River. Free hot dogs, chips and drinks will be served. Minico Booster Club T-shirts and sweat shirts will be available for purchase. The club will also be taking registration from those wishing to join. For more information call 438-5260 or 438-4194.

Heyburn to offer handgun safety class
BURLEY — Early registration has started for the Handgun Safety and Handling class from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sept. 17 at the Heyburn Police Department. The class includes four hours of classroom instruction before moving to the firing range for weapons and skill practice. Participants will need to bring a holster, handgun, hearing and eye protection and ammunition. No ammunition is allowed in the classroom. Class is limited to the first 12 applicants. The cost is \$50. For more information, call 678-1400.

TRIVIA ANSWER: They beat the Dallas Cowboys on Jan. 1, 1957 for the 1956 season title, and they defeated the Cowboys on Dec. 31, 1957 in the famous Ice Bowl for the 1957 championship.

Jerry Rice retires from football



Jerry Rice, the most prolific receiver in NFL history, waves goodbye after a news conference announcing his retirement in Denver on Monday.

By Eddie Pells
Associated Press writer
DENVER — Unwilling to be a bit player with the Broncos, Jerry Rice retired Monday, closing a 20-year career for the most productive receiver in NFL history. Rice, 42, made his decision over the weekend at home in San Francisco, then returned to Broncos headquarters and met with coach Mike Shanahan. He played 20 NFL seasons. "This is a happy day," he said.

"I think the tears that you see basically is that I have really enjoyed this ride. "I'm done. I'm looking forward to the next phase of my life." Shanahan confirmed what Rice already knew — that he would be a fourth or fifth receiver, at best this season, and Rice confirmed what many figured — that he would rather call it quits than be a bit player with the Broncos.

Rice signed with Denver over the summer, reuniting with Shanahan, who was his offensive coordinator in the 1990s in San Francisco. "For Rice, the idea was to play for a coach who was familiar

with him and for a team that could help him go out a winner. Shanahan made it clear he would not promise Rice anything, not even a roster spot. Behind the scenes, though, Shanahan said he knew it would never come down to him having to cut the league's best all-time receiver. He figured if Rice knew it was time to go, he would step aside himself. "I've pushed this body for 20 years," Rice said. "I was never a coach potato. I was always working out. I had to prove myself every year.

"A lot of guys here were 3 when I started playing. I think those guys are pretty much amazed that I can still run the way I can run." Early in training camp, Rice moved into Denver's third receiver spot and things looked promising.

In retrospect, the promotion was more a reflection on Darvis Thomas who struggled catching the ball, but improved as the preseason went on. "By the time preseason ended, Rice had only four catches for 24 yards and had been pushed back down the depth chart. As expected, he wasn't released when the Broncos announced their final round of



San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Jerry Rice waves to the crowd as he is carried by teammates after the 49ers' 17-0 win over the Chicago Bears in this photo.

preparation and the hard work and the dedication that I had to make to try to be one of the best receivers to have ever played the game." His agent, Jim Steiner, has said if Rice retired this time, he would not try to come back with another team. If that's so, Rice will close his career with 38 NFL records, including those for career receptions (1,549), yards receiving (22,895) and touchdowns receiving (197).

"To me it was never about what I accomplished on the football field. It was about the way I played the game," he said. "I play the game with a lot of determination, a lot of poise, a lot of pride." "I think what you saw on the field was an individual who really loved the game and I was just like a little kid. I enjoyed the

Florida State sacks Miami Hurricanes

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press writer

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida State finally caught a break against Miami.

After six straight years of frustrating finishes, the Seminoles found some good fortune against their rivals when the Hurricanes botched a short, potential game-tying field goal in the closing minutes of Florida State's 10-7 victory Monday night.

Jon Peattie lined up for a 28-yarder after a 19-play, 81-yard drive by Miami stalled with about 2:30 left. But holder Brian Monroe dropped the snap and the kick never got off. With No. 9 Miami out of dime-outs, No. 14 Florida State simply needed to run out the clock to secure its first victory in the series since 1999.

In a series that has seen countless missed field goals by Florida State deities, Jason, Miami missed two and couldn't even get off the biggest one of the game.

Florida State overcame its own inept offense with a defense that registered nine sacks and some solid special teams plays. Both Florida State's Kyle Weatherford and Miami's Drew Wright were making their first



Miami quarterback Kyle Wright, left, is sacked in the second quarter by Florida State's Andre Fluellen, right, Monday, in Tallahassee, Fla. collegiate start at quarterback and, at times, neither looked ready to lead a team to victory in one of college football's fiercest rivalries. Weatherford was awful, going 7-for-24 for 67 yards with an interception. He was pulled early in the fourth, but fellow redshirt freshman Xavier Lee, either no luck moving the 'Noles, either. Wright wasn't much better until the final Miami drive, when he completed six passes and converted three third downs to put the Hurricanes in position to break the 'Noles'.

Wahlstrom cruises to M.V. Amateur title

The Times-News
TWIN FALLS — Turns out, Sunday was the difference. After shooting a tournament-low 61 during the second round of the 2005 Pressbox Magic Valley Amateur at the Twin Falls Municipal Golf Course, Jason Wahlstrom didn't need to do anything special on Monday to take the tournament's title. Wahlstrom shot a solid round of 69 on Sunday to take the title by seven strokes. He finished in 193 strokes, 11-under par for

the three-day tournament. That low Sunday round proved key, as the tournament's top six finishers all shot 67 or lower during Monday's final round. Of those finishers, Brett Kleinkopf finished second with an even 200 for the tournament, while Michael Brisson took third at 201. Tulliver Latham moved into a tie for fourth with Allen Simkins after carding Monday's low round of 65 to finish at 202. John Slingh finished at 216 to take the first flight title, while Wes Startin's 220 was good

enough for top honors in the second flight. Greg Laning topped Bill Kimmel 216-217 for the third flight crown, while Wally Wahlstrom finished first in the fourth flight gross scoring at 237. Mike Mansing took home the fourth flight net honors at 184.

Results follow:
Overall
Championship
1. Jason Wahlstrom, 193
2. Brett Kleinkopf, 200
3. Michael Brisson, 201
4. Tulliver Latham, 201
5. Allen Simkins, 201
6. John Slingh, 202
7. Wes Startin, 220
8. Greg Laning, 216
9. Bill Kimmel, 217
10. Wally Wahlstrom, 237
11. Mike Mansing, 237
12. [Name], 240
13. [Name], 240
14. [Name], 240
15. [Name], 240
16. [Name], 240
17. [Name], 240
18. [Name], 240
19. [Name], 240
20. [Name], 240

Agassi wins again

By Steve Wiltain
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Three points from the end of a sunbaked five-setter, the man draped over the net like a wet noodle was 10 years younger than Andre Agassi.

Maybe to rub it in, maybe because Agassi felt rejuvenated, he hopped on his toes as Xavier Malisse, gasping and all but gone, peeled himself off the net and returned for the final moments of punishment.

Agassi shrugged off Malisse's brave last stand — a 20th ace — then crushed a forehand into the corner to set up double match point. At 35, Agassi tries not to waste too many opportunities to stomp on an opponent he has down, though he missed a couple when he was two points from winning in straight sets.

This time he unleashed a banana that the lunging Belgian whacked long, giving Agassi a 6-3, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 4-6, 6-2 victory Monday and making him the oldest men's quarterfinalist since Jimmy Connors' legendary run at 39 in the semis in 1991.

Age and balky back aside, Agassi suddenly is looking like a serious contender to go at least as far as Comoros did that year. At No. 7, he's the highest seeded player in the bottom half of the draw. He next faces unseeded, fellow American James Blake, who came back from injury and illness to knock off No. 2 Rafael Nadal in the third round and beat No. 13 Tommy Robredo in the fourth, 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-1.

A year ago Blake was recovering from partial paralysis of his face, caused by shingles, and watched the Open on television, wondering if he would ever again. Asked what he would have thought then if told he'd be playing Agassi in the quarters this year, Blake laughed. "I don't think I would have been able to speak," he said. "I think my year would have gotten worse" because "I would have had a heart attack."

Blake has the legs, the will and the game to beat anyone. He had enough left to drill three straight aces — two at 120-plus mph — and a service winner in his final serve against Malisse.

"Even a blind dog can find a bone every now and then," Agassi joked. He's better known for his returning prowess than his serves, but he's rarely been broken this tournament. Yet Agassi knows that the herniated disc in his back can flare up at any moment and then shoot scalding nerve pain down his leg, as it did when he lost in the first round of the French Open. He took a cortisone shot in the spine, missed Wimbledon, and came back to win a tournament in Los Angeles and reach the final of another in Montreal. That was enough to give him hope that he might just have enough left to challenge for the Open title he won in 1994 and 1999.

Winning a 3-hour, five-setter only raised Agassi's hopes. "It's a great sign," he said. "I've trained hard. This is why you work so hard, so that physically you can do it. Something like a nerve, you never know when it's going to be an issue. I'll keep my fingers crossed from this day forward. I play by different rules now. My body plays by different rules. I need to listen to that."

Age didn't baffle Lindsay Davenport. The 1998 champion and the second oldest woman in the tournament, at 29, reached the quarterfinals with a 6-0, 6-0 romp over Francesc's Nathalie Dechy. Davenport "retired" next plays sixth-seeded L. a Dementieva. Last year's runner-up, who beat No. 11 Patty Schnyder in straight sets, No. 3 Amelie Mauresmo, beat No. 19 Elena Likhovtseva, also in straight sets. Agassi's trainer and close friend Gil Reyes, and they worked hard on Agassi's leg strength this summer. The trick now is to keep Agassi healthy enough to play best-of-five matches every other day. Reyes is particularly concerned about Agassi's recuperative time at his age. "We will do whatever we need to do to have him ready," Reyes said. "I asked him just a little while ago. At 35, what are we going to do? And he said 'I don't know.' I've never been 35 before." He said, "Let's learn together."

SPORTS

Browne pulls out victory at Boston

NORTON, Mass. (AP) — Despite falling to keep his PGA Tour card the last two years, Olin Browne never doubted he could still compete with the best players. Now he has a victory to show for it, after leading a 4-hole comeback on Monday to win the Deutsche Bank Classic.

Browne emerged from a five-way tie for the lead to build a three-shot advantage on the back nine. And with Jason Bohn closing fast, he held a 15-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole to restore his cushion.

Browne needed an eagle on the par 18th to force a playoff, but his fairway metal from the right rough sailed to the right of the green, and his chip never had a chance. Bohn settled for a birdie and a 68 to finish one shot behind.



Olin Browne tees off on the ninth hole on his way to winning the Deutsche Bank Championship at TPC Boston in Norton, Mass. Monday. Browne finished at 14 under par.

"It's been so long," said Browne, who won for the first time since the 1999 Colonial. "I'm speechless."

Browne finished at 14-under 270 and earned \$990,000, more than he had made in any of his five previous years on the PGA Tour. More importantly, it gave the 46-year-old Browne a two-year exemption on tour.

He has been scraping by the last few years after near-break endings to his season kept him out of the top 125 on the money list. Browne had to write letters to tournament directors asking for exemptions, or being into the lower-ranked events that had room in the field.

"The amount of times you play is irrelevant," said Browne. "It's how you play when you get in."

He was at his best on the TPC of Boston, especially on

Monday. Browne kept the ball in the fairway and on the greens, and kept his mind from wandering. The reward was sweeter than he could imagine, especially after he decided to rebuild his swing last year with Houston swing coach Jim Hardy, a risky move that led to a slump in the twilight of his career.

Bohn, who won the B.C. Open in July, also showed his mental toughness by giving himself a chance on the 18th hole.

Reno-Tahoe Open champion Vaughn Taylor shot a 68 to finish third at 10-under 274. Charles Howell III had a 67 and finished three others who joined another shot behind.

Tiger Woods, the first-round leader, was never a factor over the final three days. He shot 71 to tie for 40th.

The five-way tie for the lead going into the last round was the biggest since the 1983 Colonial, and with 16 others within two shots of the lead, it seemed certain to come down to the final holes.

And it did — but only Browne and Bohn were left standing. Hometown favorite Billy Andrade fell apart with a double bogey when he hit in the front fringe. John Rollins shot 40 on the front nine to also disappear.

Carl Peterson slowly tumbled from contention, unable to

make birdies as Brown and Bohn surged ahead.

No one from back in the pack made a move, least of all Woods.

After opening with a 65 to take a one-shot lead, the world's No. 1 player never broke par the rest of the way. He closed with the 71 to tie for 40th, ending his streak at seven straight finishes in the top 5. All that mattered was getting out of town and onto his boat for a week of vacation.

"To be honest with you, I really don't care right now," Woods said. "I'm done. I've had a very long summer. I haven't taken hardly any days off this summer, so it will be nice to actually get some time off and let my mind and body just kind of heal."

King Felix gets third win for Mariners

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Teen-phenom Felix Hernandez (3-2) allowed four hits in seven innings, struck out five and walked one, dropping Oakland Athletics' lead to 1-1.

Seattle scored in the sixth against Adrian Beltre's sacrifice fly and Grege Dobbs' run-scoring single.

Yankees' Benoit struck out the first batter in six games. Eddie Guardado worked the ninth for his 30th save, completing a five-hitter.

Minnesota made two errors that led to five unearned runs and dropped 5-7 games behind the Red Sox.

Carlos Silva (9-7) allowed six runs — one earned — and eight hits in seven innings. He is 2-4 since the All-Star break despite a 2.85 ERA.

Prospect Francisco Lirio made his major league debut for the Twins, giving up a long home run to Gary Matthews Jr. in the ninth.



Seattle Mariners pitcher Felix Hernandez releases a pitch against the Oakland Athletics in the third inning Monday in Oakland, Calif.

Jeff Suppan didn't allow any earned runs in six innings, and five relievers finished as St. Louis stopped the Cubs' three-game winning streak.

Jason Irfinghausen forced in a run in the ninth with a bases-loaded walk to Jerry Hairston Jr., and Julian Javier allowed pinch-hitter Jose Macias' sacrifice fly before getting Derrek Lee to hit a game-ending double play grounder for his fourth save.

Adam Dunn of the Reds tied the game in the fourth with his 36th homer of the season and first in 30 at-bats since Aug. 26.

Los Angeles' Matt Kemp hit a three-run homer for Houston, which moved into first place in the NL wild-card standings.

San Francisco moved a half-game ahead of Philadelphia and one game ahead of Florida with their 10th consecutive win over the Phillies. Washington is 1.5 games behind Houston while the New York Mets trail by three games.

Pettite (14-9) allowed three hits, struck out five and walked none. Brian Lidge pitched the ninth for his 33rd save, although he gave up one run and had the tying run at third and the winning run at second before getting the final out.

Berkman's 17th homer off Brett Myers (12-7) in the first gave Houston a 4-0 lead.

Armando Benitez pitched the ninth for his 12th save.

Reliever Yency Brazoban (2-8) took the loss, giving up one run and one hit.

White Sox 5, Red Sox 3
BOSTON — Brandon McCarthy pitched seven innings of shutout ball and Paul Konerko homered off Curt Schilling to lead the Chicago White Sox over the Boston Red Sox 5-3 Monday for their fifth straight win.

Ivan Uribe had a single, a double and a homer in the makeup of an Aug. 14 rainout. Boston lost for just the third time in 24 home games, and the AL East lead over the second-place New York Yankees was cut to three games.

McCarthy (2-1) allowed three hits and a walk, striking out seven.

Schilling (5-7) gave up four runs, nine hits, three walks and a hit batter in 6 2/3 innings, striking out four. It was the first time in six starts this season the former ace, who is recovering from ankle surgery, allowed fewer five earned runs.

Kelth Foule pitched 1 2/3 hitless innings in his second scoreless game for left knee surgery.

Tony Graffanino hit a three-run homer with two outs in the ninth off Bobby Jenks.

Indians 2, Tigers 0
DETROIT — Scott Elarton (9-17) allowed four hits in 6 1/3 innings as Cleveland pulled within 1.5 games of the AL wild-card lead. He had been 0-2 in five starts since Aug. 2.

Jose Hernandez homered to help send Detroit to its fifth straight loss. The Tigers haven't scored in 19 innings.

Bob Wickman pitched the ninth for his 36th save, getting pinch-hitter Chris Shelton to ground into a game-ending double play with runners on first and second. Shelton nearly won the game on the previous pitch, hitting a foul ball into the seats near the pole in right field.

Mike Maroth (12-4) allowed two runs and five hits in six innings.

National League Braves 4, Mets 2

ATLANTA — Chipper Jones hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the eighth inning and ran and drove in one. Bruce Chen (11-9) allowed two runs and five hits in six innings.

Astros 4, Phillies 3

PHILADELPHIA — Andy Pettite pitched 5-2-3 scoreless innings and Lance Berkman hit a three-run homer for Houston, which moved into first place in the NL wild-card standings.

Berkman's 17th homer off Brett Myers (12-7) in the first gave Houston a 4-0 lead.

Giants 3, Dodgers 1

LOS ANGELES — Julio Ramirez scored the go-ahead run on a throwing error by third baseman Mike Edwards in the eighth inning, helping the San Francisco Giants defeat the Los Angeles Dodgers 3-1 on Monday night for their sixth straight victory.

The second-place Giants trail the San Diego Padres by five games in the NL West. The third-place Dodgers fell 7.5 games behind the Padres, losing their fourth in a row.

Lafrey Hawkins (2-5) earned the victory despite facing one batter and giving up the game-winning sacrifice fly to pinch-hitter Ricky Ledes. Hawkins came in with the bases loaded and one out.

Ledes' fly ball to center scored Jose Cruz Jr., but Jason Werth was thrown out trying to advance to third.

Armando Benitez pitched the ninth for his 12th save.

Reliever Yency Brazoban (2-8) took the loss, giving up one run and one hit.

Cardinals 6, Cubs 4

ST. LOUIS — Albert Pujols hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the eighth off Roberto Novoa (3-5), and Jim Edmonds followed

Cardinals 6, Cubs 4

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Saints exploring options for home games

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The New Orleans Saints understand that the NFL wants to consider every option for the team's home field this season since Hurricane Katrina ruined the Superdome.

In turn, the Saints hope the league understands how badly they want to play at LSU's Tiger Stadium.

From general manager Mickey Loomis to coach Jim Headett, the organization seems to be lobbying to play about 75 miles from New Orleans in Baton Rouge, La.

"I can't uplift anyone, obviously that's worthwhile to us," Loomis said Sunday. "We're representatives of the people of Louisiana and the people of New Orleans."

Other options are the Alamodome in San Antonio, where the team is living and practicing, or playing all 16 games on the road.

"I hope they keep the games as close as possible," Horn said. "For us to play, having to play if someone could come and support us, that's where we were. It would be good."

The team has moved its day-to-day operations to San Antonio. They were talking about practicing in the area Monday, with Loomis saying that going to be the case all season, regardless of where they end up playing their home games.

Loomis' assistant GM Horn all said using the Alamodome would be better than playing all 16 games on the road. The Saints already are down for nine road games as their home opener has been moved to Giants Stadium, home of their foe, the New York Giants.

tonio Independent School District's Spring Sports District, which was upgraded several years ago when the Dallas Cowboys trained in the city. The Saints practiced three last year while taking refuge from another hurricane.

Everyone involved in the organization, and their families, fled New Orleans a few days before Katrina hit. It was evident the Superdome wouldn't be available for this season, and likely many more.

Tiger Stadium holds almost 92,000, although there might be issues of whether the turf can handle LSU games on Saturdays and Saints games on Sundays.

The Alamodome is about 540 miles from the Superdome, making it more difficult for fans to reach. However, Texas is now filled with roughly 100,000 fans, including about 25,000 in San Antonio at Kelly USA, a former military base.

Several coaches and players visited Kelly on Sunday. Loomis said the first person their caravan came across was a former team employee whose son now works for the organization. The man was taken back to a few hours where he was to be reunited with his son. Their names were not immediately released.

The Alamodome seats about 60,000 for football and has only a few dozen of the moneymaking luxury suites teams crave, part of the reason the nation's eighth-largest city has never been a serious candidate for getting a team via expansion or relocation.

Loomis also announced that the team is creating a relief fund for the hurricane victims. He said Saints owner Tom Benson and his family would make the first donation.

"We are still the New Orleans Saints," Loomis said. "Our commitment to our city is stronger than ever. We want to be on the forefront of rebuilding our city. We'll play this season with the same toughness and resiliency of the people of New Orleans."

OU goes with Bomar

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — After being upset in its opener, Oklahoma is making a switch at quarterback.

Redshirt freshman Rhett Bomar will replace Paul Thompson as the Sooners' starting quarterback for Saturday's game against Tulsa and get an opportunity to be the one to replace 2003 Heisman Trophy winner Jason White.

"We're going to give Rhett Bomar an opportunity to start and see where he takes over," coach Bob Stoops said Monday.

Bomar played in four series in the No. 7 Sooners' 17-10 loss to TCU on Saturday and completed 2 of 5 passes for 19 yards on his first play after substituting for Thompson late in the second quarter. Bomar failed a handoff to tailback Adrian Peterson and fashed a 23-yard pass to the right side, bullying a defender along the way.

But he also was responsible for a turnover that led to TCU's

winning score.

Stoops said coaches believe Bomar didn't have a chance to do much.

"He only threw five balls. He didn't have nearly the number of snaps and preparation coming into the game... He's had the fewest number of snaps overall when you look at the amount of time here and he's been that close all along that we feel maybe giving him more opportunities, more snaps, maybe he'll do more with it. We'll see," Stoops said.

The 20-year-old from the Dallas area lost a close competition to Thompson to become the starting QB for 19 years ago. Bomar announced beforehand that Bomar would play both early and late in the team's opener.

"I have a great opportunity to go out there and do something to establish myself," Bomar said. "I'm really excited. It's what I've been working for. It's what I've been trying to do all my life and now it's here."

Florida

Continued from D1
 hearts again.
 Wright finished 16-for-28 for 232 yards and a touchdown pass.

So, it came down to the defenses and special teams, and Florida won those units set by their offenses with prime field position, it was no sure thing they'd capitalize. The Seminoles wasted a first-and-goal from the 1 in the third quarter.

Most of the talk leading up to the 50th meeting of Miami and Florida State was about the two first-time starters at quarterback, and when it took almost nine minutes for either team to complete a pass, it became apparent the offenses were in for a long night against one another.

Wright worked through his problems, including two early interceptions and a few dropped passes, long enough to guide an 81-yard touchdown drive in the second quarter. The sophomore's first career TD pass was a 34-yarder, zipped over a defender to Ryan Moore to lead the 17-0 Florida State.

The Seminoles held a three-point advantage at half time, but the signs weren't good for Florida State.

Wetherford had completed just three passes for 14 yards

while Wright seemed to be capable of making plays when he got help from his line and receivers.

It looked even more ominous for Florida State when Lawrence Timmons blocked a Miami punt that left the Seminoles with first-and-goal at the 1. After three runs lost 3 yards and a punt, Miami's FSU back another 5, first-year starter Gary Cisnesia hooked a 23-yard field goal.

The Seminoles grabbed a 10-0 lead in the third quarter with help from the first interception thrown by Wright.

The pick set Florida State up at the Miami 29 and moments later James Coleman bulled in from the 1 for a 7-0 lead and the Seminoles' first career TD against the 'Cans since FSU's last win six years ago.

Cisnesia made the first field-goal attempt of his career from 37 yards out a few minutes later, much to the delight of the Seminoles' fans, who have been crushed by bad kicks against Miami too many times to count.

The Seminoles' veteran who made 15 of 24 field goal attempts last season, missed badly from 47 and 39 in the quarter.

Wright turned out to be a good option for Florida State.

SCORES AND STATS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

WHAT'S ON T.V.

Baseball
Cubs at Cardinals, WGN, 6 p.m.
Mariners at Athletics, FSPT, 8 p.m.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE
All-Time Hit List
Boston 1,000 1,000 1,000
New York 75 58 47 163

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ANAHEIM, Calif. — Barry Bonds might want to play for the Los Angeles Angels, but the feeling is not mutual.

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PITTSBURGH — Wide receiver Hines Ward and the Steelers reached a four-year deal on Wednesday.

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PHILADELPHIA — A popular Eagles receiver spent the first part of last season on special teams until his impressive play earned him a starting job on defense.

Nationals call up pitcher Darrell Rasner
WASHINGTON — Right-hander Darrell Rasner was recalled from Double-A Harrisburg by the Washington Nationals on Monday.

Olympic showjumper loses doping appeal
LAUSANNE, Switzerland — An Olympic showjumper lost his appeal Monday on a drug disqualification that cost Germany the team gold medal at the Athens Games.

Volleyball
The court, the highest for world sports, said Beerraum made a mistake by administering a medication with a prohibited substance.

Reliever Luis Ayala was scheduled to have an MRI exam on his bothersome right elbow Monday.

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Blue Lakes '04 Ford '04 Mercury. 2008.36.2480. 1.800.493.0320

COMICS

B.C. By Johnny Hart

FROM NOW ON YOU WILL ADDRESS ALL TEACHERS AS "MA'AM" OR "SIR." YOU GOT THAT, CLASS?

YES, SIR!

...SIGH... IT'S GONNA BE A LONG YEAR....

Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott

HAMMIE, I HAVE SOME BAD NEWS.

WHAT?

IT'S ABOUT YOUR SUPER-REINFORCED HEADQUARTERS, TRIPLE-GAUGE INDUSTRIAL GRADE CAPTAIN INDESTRUCTIBLE ACTION FIGURE.

WHAT ABOUT IT?

WIPEN WAS PLANNING WITH HIM.

GASP!

Baldo By Hector D. Cantu and Carlos Castellanos

TODAY IN SCHOOL, WE LEARNED WHAT TO DO IF WE FAD AN ANIMAL WHO'D NO BLESSING ON THE ROAD.

SO... WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

I'M NOT SURE.

BUT I THINK TO THROW UP.

Beetle Bailey By Mort Walker

THIS IS OUR NEW ROBOTIC SOLDIER. IT DOES EVERYTHING YOU TELL IT TO DO.

IT GOES INTO BATTLE, SEEKING OUT THE ENEMY FIRES...

NOW I DON'T WANT YOU TALKING TO IT, BEETLE!

GREGG MORT WALKER

Blondie By Dean Young & Stan Drake

WHAT COULD HE BE DOING? GEEZ, LOUSE!

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! DAGWOOD'S NOT HERE!

YOU'RE RIGHT, HE STARTED HIS VACATION TODAY!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! HE'S NOT EVEN HERE AND HE'S MADE US LATE!

WELL, HE'S SURE GONNA BE ABOUT THIS ONE WHEN HE GETS BACK!

The Born Loser By Art Sansom & Chip

WHAT'S THAT?

A NEW AIR FRESHENER—IT'S UNSCENTED!

THEN HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S WORKING?

Dilbert By Scott Adams

I HEARD THAT PORPOISES ARE SMART, SO I HIRED ONE.

PORPOISES HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO SAVE HUMANS BY ATTACKING SHARKS WITH THEIR SNOUTS.

HEY, IT'S OUR COMPANY LAWYER AND COO. THAT'S ONE UGLY SNOUT WOUND.

The Elderberries By Phil Frank and Joe Triole

Boone... I don't know how I would've gotten this ferret cat to the animal shelter to raise her, so I'd. Without your help, Evelyn.

There it is on the left! I am so nervous!

She sounds pretty nervous too.

Does she suspect anything?

She seems okay. I could use a hand training her off the headlines!

For Better or For Worse By Lynn Johnston

MY MOM AND DAD SPONSORED FOR GOOD THIS SUMMER. I'M LIVING WITH MY MOM AND SEE MY DAD EVERY OTHER WEEKEND.

HE'S PAYING FOR MY VOICE LESSONS! I'M DOING GREAT! IT'S FREEBIES MOSTLY, BUT GOOD FOR PRACTICE! ANY GUESS WHO HAULS MY STUFF?!

ROBBY JAMES! HE'S MY ROBBIE! APRIL! I'VE GOT MY VERY OWN ROBBIE! I'LL NEED NOW IS A REALLY BIG SOUND SYSTEM!

BECH, YOU ARE A REALLY BIG SOUND SYSTEM!

Garfield By Jim Davis

THAT'S DISGUSTING!

WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?

WOULD YOU THINK HE'D NEVER SEEN A HAIRBALL SCRAPBOOK BEFORE?

Hagar the Horrible By Chris Browne

REMEMBER, TO WIN A SWORD FIGHT YOU MUST WATCH YOUR OPPONENT'S EYES TO SEE WHAT HE'LL DO NEXT!

RIGHT!

GULP.

Hi and Lois By Chance Brown

IS THAT HOW YOU'RE DRESSING FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL?

THEY CAN MAKE US GO BACK NOW...

...BUT IT'S STILL SUMMER FOR TWO MORE WEEKS!

Classic Puns By Charles M. Schulz

WHEN YOU DIE AND GO TO HEAVEN DO THEY TAKE YOU THERE IN A SCHOOL BUS?

NO, THEY PICK YOU UP IN A GOLDEN CHARIOT.

SILVER IF YOU COME IN SECOND.

Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis

BEHOLD! THE SUPER STICK OF SMARTNESS! A BIG, LONG STICK I USE TO HIT STUPID PEOPLE IN THE HEAD AND THEREBY MAKE THEM SMART.

YOU DON'T MAKE STUPID PEOPLE SMART BY HITTING THEM IN THE HEAD WITH A STICK.

OH? AND I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE A BETTER SUGGESTION FOR MAKING STUPID PEOPLE SMART?

YES. BOOKS MAKE STUPID PEOPLE SMART.

SMACK

Pickles By Brian Crane

I SEE YOU'RE WARMING UP WITH MY BLANKET IN THE DRYER.

YES, SHE SLEEPS HER WARM BLANKET!

THAT CAT REALLY WAS YOU TRAINED! SHE MEOWS AND YOU JUMP!

THAT'S NOT TRUE!

I HAVE TO GO. MUFFY NEEDS ME TO ADJUST THE TRACKING ON THE BIRD VIDEO SHE'S WATCHING.

Zits By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott

WHA, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE ME AS A BABY?

LOUD, SHRIeking, DRINKING, NERDY.

UH-HUH, UH-HUH, GOOD.

AND THEN HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE ME TODAY?

BESIDES "TALLER"?

Dennis the Menace By Hank Ketchum

"YOU MUST HAVE A LOT MORE FUN PLAIN' THAT STUFF THAN I DO LISTENIN' TO IT."

THE FAMILY CIRCLES By Bill Keene

"If we were home-schooled, it would be good for our backs."

Non Sequitur By Wiley

QUICK! FORM A COMMITTEE!!

THE BIRTH OF CORPORATE LEADERSHIP

Strange Brew By John Deering

1000 B.C. - THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF INTELLIGENT DISCOURSE...

NOT ENOUGH FOR YA?