



Inside today's TNT
Cowboy up with the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nev., featuring Baxter Black and Michael Martin Murphey, among other luminaries. Four of the five Oscar-nominated movies are playing in the Magic and Wood River Valleys this weekend.

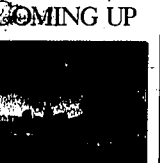
Plus: Bob Nora Band Dining guide

GOOD MORNING
WEATHER
Today: Mostly cloudy with chance of rain. High 40, low 29. Page A2



KNOCKED OFF
The Minico boys shock Twin Falls High in OT. Page B1

ELECTRICITY
Idaho Power Co. hopes to have a new, higher rate in place June 1. Page B7



Valley of Fire
Nevada park is a good drive and a warm winter getaway...
Friday in The Times-News

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BSU to CSI: Not so fast

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — To expand to the Treasure Valley, the College of Southern Idaho must win approval from Boise State University, a BSU spokesman said Wednesday.

This approval may be hard to get. "This area has been designated as a service area for Boise State for community colleges and services," said Frank Zang, director of communications for BSU. "CSI would have to ask permission from the state board and Boise State. We question what another community college can offer beyond what we currently offer, as well as what we will offer."

CSI officials announced Monday their desire to offer lower-division classes in the Boise area and said they would ask the state Board of Education for permission. On Wednesday, the state board confirmed that CSI needs to get permission from both the state board and BSU.

"Each college and university has a service area," said Lucie Willis, communication officer for the Idaho State Board of Education. "So if they go outside their service area they need to get permission from the state board."

But will BSU be willing to share its market?

Zang said there is a need for lower-division courses, but BSU is gearing up to meet that need.

"Although it's been a missing part of the educational equation in this area, we certainly feel that BSU has the ability to meet demand in this area," he said.

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Power plant bill advances

One of Stennett's proposals will hit the Senate floor.

By Michelle Dunlop
Times-News writer

BOISE — Residents of counties adjacent to a proposed thermal power plant site are one step closer to having their say in the matter.

"We aren't trying to inhibit the growth of developing power," Sen. Clint Stennett, D-Keetchum, told a legislative committee. "The point is to make sure people have the right to testify."

On Wednesday, members of a Senate committee voted 6-1 to send the first of five bills dealing with power plants to the Senate floor.

Stennett's bill, S1276, would require energy companies to notify residents in counties neighboring a planned power plant, like Sempra Generation's proposed 600-megawatt coal-fired facility in Jerome County. Property owners in those counties could then express concerns over the plan to the permitting county, thus allowing them a right to a takings if their property were

Please see LEGISLATION, Page A2



They 'Doc' call him

Medic went out of his way to improve health care in Iraq

By Sandy Miller
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — The people of Kirkuk, Iraq, always knew when Capt. James "Doc" Schroeder was going to show up at Barbarian Base, home for almost a year for the 2-116th Brigade Combat Team's Bravo Company.

It was one of Schroeder's regular stops as a medic with the 2-116th. His job was to tend to the health needs of some 750 soldiers in the 2nd Battalion, as well as to oversee the unit's medical team. But nowhere in his job description did it say he was to help Iraqi civilians. In fact, he was advised against it. But never did he turn even one of them away.

"Does a good guy," said 1st Sgt. Martin Rodriguez. "You never heard a bad thing about Doc. He's just a good worker and a hell of a soldier."

By the time these people came to him, they had already exhausted the free, but extremely lacking, Iraqi health care system. Schroeder saw children with cancer and heart problems and people with severe burns that hadn't healed correctly.

"It wasn't the simple, run of the mill stuff," Schroeder said. "They had reached the end of the resources available in the city."

He took a 13-year-old orphan boy with bone cancer under his wing. He couldn't do much for the boy medically, but he did take him to "grand rounds" at the local hospital — a time when doctors get together to discuss particularly challenging cases.

"No one was looking out for him," Schroeder said.

He also made house calls, usually at the request of the police chief or a special official in town who would clear it with the military.

Schroeder, schooled as a physician's assistant, is now back in his old job as the executive director of Family Health Services. He got back to the states in November and returned to the office a few weeks later. He said although it's great to be back home with wife, Madine, 6-year-old Tory and 4-year-old Quinn, he's had some readjusting to do. In a war zone, he explained, everything is done for you. You don't think about everyday chores like cooking or laundry or paying the bills. Now, he's getting used to sleeping the same hours every night and settling back into his old job, his old routine. It has been an adjustment not only for him, but for the people around him, he said.

"When you're gone, life goes on with-

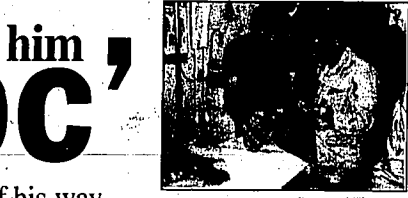


Photo courtesy of JAMES SCHROEDER
James Schroeder, left, assists a medic doing a suture repair on a U.S. soldier.



Idaho National Guard Capt. James Schroeder, executive director of Family Health Services in Twin Falls, reflects on his year long tour as a medic with the 116th Brigade Combat Team in Kirkuk, Iraq.

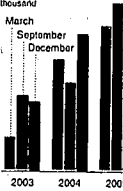
out you," Schroeder said. "You have to find your place again."

In Kirkuk, no two days in a row were the same. On slow days, he might see only a few soldiers come into the clinic on Warrior, the 2-116th's forward operating base in Kirkuk. They were usually suffering from minor things like colds, coughs or sprains. Then there would be days he and other medics would get called out into the field four times in a row. One night, the three-Hunvee medical convoy was called out two separate times after guards shot civilians who had driven through a perimeter.

Please see MEDIC, Page A2

Citizen soldiers

The number of U.S. Army National Guard soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan peaked at 69,416 in September of 2005.



Guard's role in Iraq will decrease

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After a tough year in Iraq, citizen soldiers of the Army National Guard will play a much smaller combat role for the remainder of the war, the Army's top two generals say.

For many Guardsmen, that will mean less frequent call-ups and fewer disruptions of their civilian lives, the officers said in interviews with The Associated Press.

Gen. Peter Schoonmaker, the Army chief of staff, said the Guard also will undergo a historic change in the way it is organized, shifting some units from combat to support tasks. The aim, he said, is to better prepare Guardsmen for both their federal role as a combat and support force and their

domestic job of responding to emergencies.

Schoonmaker, speaking in his Pentagon office this week, said the plan ultimately will produce a stronger and more modern force.

"Anybody who doesn't see that this is, in the main, a good news story doesn't get it," he said.

Gen. Richard Cody, the vice chief of staff, said in a separate interview that unusually heavy use of the Guard in Iraq last year bought time for the active Army to reorganize itself to make more combat units available for fighting, while also giving soldiers additional time at home between overseas tours.

The number of Army National Guard soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan peaked at 69,416 last September.

During the past year, the Guard had seven combat brigades in Iraq, plus the headquarters of the 42nd Infantry Division of the New York Army National Guard. That accounted for nearly 50 percent of all U.S. combat forces in Iraq.

"That was a high water mark," Cody said. "That will not be repeated" barring an unforeseen emergency.

Combining U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Guard will represent only about 30 percent of the total this year, Cody said, with active forces making up the other 70 percent.

In some months last year, the Guard and Reserve accounted for more than half of all U.S. military deaths in Iraq.

House votes to slash loans for students, Medicaid

Spending bill also includes subsidies for dairy farmers

By Andrew Taylor
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The House on Wednesday narrowly approved Congress' first attempt in eight years to slow the growth of benefit programs like Medicaid and student loan subsidies, sending the measure to President Bush.

The bill passed by a vote of 216-214, largely along party lines. Republicans halted the five-year, \$39 billion budget-cutting bill as an important first step to restoring discipline on spending. Democrats attacked the measure as an assault on college students and Medicaid patients and said powerful Washington lobbyists had too much influence on it.

President Bush said he looked forward to signing the bill into law.

"The House today passed a significant spending reduction package that will curb the growth of entitlement spending for the first time in years and help us stay on track to cut the deficit in half by 2009," Bush said.

The measure is a leftover item from the GOP fall agenda.

It blends modest cuts to Medicaid, Medicare and student loan subsidies with a renewal of the 1996 welfare reform bill and \$10 billion in new revenues from auctioning television airwaves to wireless companies. There's also \$1 billion in new spending to extend an income subsidy program for dairy farmers and a reprieve for physicians who had faced a 4 percent cut in Medicare fees.

Please see SPENDING, Page A2

FEELB

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2006



TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain. Highs near 40. Tonight: Breezy with a rain/snow mix developing. Lows upper 30s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Mostly cloudy and very windy. A few mixed showers possible. Highs near 40. Tonight: 200 mixed showers with mixed showers turning over to all snow. Lows 20s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY SURROUNDING MTS. Show showers are expected with light accumulations likely. The chance for snow is reduced on Friday with fog developing. Clouds and snow chances will increase on Saturday, becoming more overnight on Sunday.

BOISE

A blend of mainly rain and lets of wind will dominate the outlook today. Friday looks to be drier, but still rather windy.

NORTHERN UTAH

Windy with a mix of rain and snow showers expected today. Flows likely to be stuck in spots. Drier by Friday.

Table with weather forecasts for various Idaho locations including Burley, Boise, and Twin Falls.

Yesterday's State Extremes: 52 at Lewiston, Low: 19 at Stanley. Weather key: B: Breeze; C: Cloud; F: Fog; H: High; L: Low; S: Snow; W: Wind.

CREDIT EXPRESS logo and contact information.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Five-day forecast table for Twin Falls, showing conditions for Today, Tonight, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday.

Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, Sunrise and Sunset data.

Weather data for various Idaho locations including Boise, Idaho Falls, and Pocatello.

MOON PHASES

Table showing moon phases for Feb 5, 12, 19, 26, and Mar 5.

MOONRISE AND MOONSET

Table showing moonrise and moonset times for Friday and Saturday.

U.V. INDEX

Table showing U.V. index levels: Low, Moderate, High.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Regional forecast table for various Idaho locations.

NATIONAL FORECAST

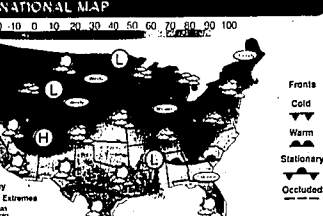
National forecast table for various states.

WORLD FORECAST

World forecast table for various countries.

CANADIAN FORECAST

Canadian forecast table for various Canadian cities.



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Stennett's power plant legislation

Sen. Don Burdett, chair. No hearing has been scheduled. \$1293 limits the amount of mercury emissions produced by coal-fired power plants in the state to its current level of zero.

Legislation

Continued from A1. Stennett introduced his five-page bill, all aimed at blocking Sempra's plans - nearly two weeks ago. At Wednesday's meeting, residents of Bluff, Filer and Dietrich traveled to the Capitol to show their support for Stennett's bill.

Spending

Continued from A1. The \$39 billion in cuts are generally small - a 0.4 percent cut in Medicaid funding and 0.3 percent cut in Medicare over five years - compared with deficits expected to total \$1.3 trillion or more through 2010.

Medic

Continued from A1. Schroeder said there was plenty of ethnic tension in Kirkuk, with its mix of Kurds, Shi'ites, Sunnis, Arabs and Turks. He said an Iraqi soldier or police officer was injured and taken to the hospital.

The Times-News NEW Information Line 735-3350. Lottery and Weather Information are just a phone call away!

CORRECTION: Jennings worked for Twin Falls Bank and Trust. Blorna Jennings worked at Twin Falls Bank and Trust for more than 13 years.

Governor asks coal mines to shut down

Manchin seeks voluntary halt for safety checks after two more miners are killed

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Gov. Joe Manchin called for all coal companies in West Virginia to shut down for safety checks after two more mine workers were killed Wednesday in separate accidents.

While Manchin's call was voluntary, he also ordered mine inspections speeded up so that all 544 of the state's surface and underground mines are examined by regulators as soon as possible.

"We're going to check for unsafe conditions, and we're going to correct any unsafe conditions before we mine another lump of coal," Manchin said.

David Dye, acting U.S. assistant secretary of labor for mine safety and health, later urged coal mines nationwide to con-

duct safety and training sessions on Monday for workers at the beginning of each shift. He cited the recent upsurge in mine accidents.

"I am asking miners and management at every mine operation to do the right thing: take one hour out for safety's sake this Monday," Dye said in a statement.

Both deaths Wednesday occurred at mines in southwestern West Virginia, officials said. One miner was killed at an underground mine when a wall support popped loose. And a bulldozer operator died at a surface mine when the vehicle struck a gas line and sparked a fire.

The deaths brought to 16 the number of mining-related fatal-



Manchin

The West Virginia Coal Association, whose members account for 80 percent of the state's coal production, said its members would heed the governor's request. Association President Bill Rancy expected the safety checks would take a matter of hours, depending on the mine type and size.

"They were immediately complying," Rancy said. West Virginia is the nation's second-largest coal producer, after Wyoming. Names of the two mine work-

ers who died Wednesday were not immediately released.

Caryn Gresham, a spokesperson for the state Office of Miners' Health Safety and Training, said that underground miner was killed at Long Branch Energy's No. 10 Tunnel Mine in Boone County. He was pronounced dead at a hospital.

The bulldozer operator died at the Black Castle Surface Mine, also in Boone County, Gresham said. Black Castle is operated by Elk Run Coal Co., a subsidiary of Massey Energy Co. The death was the third at a Massey subsidiary in less than two weeks.

The fatalities followed the deaths of a dozen miners from carbon monoxide poisoning after a Jan. 2 explosion at International Coal Group Inc.'s Sago Mine. The explosion trapped the men hundreds of feet underground. The sole survivor, Randall McCloy Jr., is recovering in a rehabilitation hospital.

White House, Chertoff scolded in Katrina probe

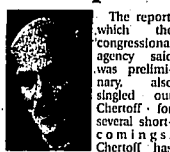
WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House and Homeland Security chief Michael Chertoff failed to provide decisive action when Hurricane Katrina struck, congressional investigators said Wednesday in a scolding assessment of slow federal relief efforts.

The White House had no clear chain of command in place, investigators with the Government Accountability Office said, laying much of the blame on President Bush for not designating a single official to coordinate federal decision-making for the Aug. 29 storm.

Bush has accepted responsibility for the government's halting response, but for the most part then-FEMA Director Michael Brown, who quit days after the hurricane hit, has been the public face of the failures.

"That's up to the president of the United States," GAO Comptroller General David M. Walker told reporters after being asked whether Chertoff should have been the lead official during the emergency.

"It could have been Secretary Chertoff" or someone on the White House staff, Walker added. "That's up to the president."



Chertoff

The report, which the congressional agency said was preliminary, also singled out Chertoff for several shortcomings, largely escaped direct criticism for the government's poor preparations and slow rescue efforts.

The Homeland Security Department angrily responded to the GAO report, calling the preliminary findings a "publicity stunt riddled with errors. Homeland Security oversees the Federal Emergency Management Agency and issued a national plan last year for coordinating federal disaster response with state and local agencies."

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2006

AROUND THE VALLEY

Speech, debate judges sought

BOISE — The Idaho High Schools Activity Association will hold a clinic for all individuals interested in becoming certified judges in speech and debate.

Certified judges are used to judge speech and/or debate tournaments. They can earn up to \$10 per round. Anyone can become a certified judge; the only requirement is that a judge has been graduated from high school for at least 20 months.

The clinic will be held Wednesday in Room 218 at the Jerome High School. Speech certification begins at 6 p.m., and debate certification starts at 7 p.m. Prospective judges may become certified in either one or both disciplines. Cost is \$7.50.

For more information, call Scott Barton at the Jerome High School, 324-0137, ext. 424H.

Magic Valley Arts Council sets reception

TWIN FALLS — The Magic Valley Arts Council will host an artist reception and gallery opening Friday night.

In the Full Moon Gallery, member artists will have new works on display through March 21. All Magic Valley artists, the Full Moon Gallery members have created new works in a variety of mediums and subjects. Sculptor Yvonne Jacques will provide a demonstration on her artwork during the evening.

Featured in the arts council's Galeria Pequena and the building's hallway will be the third annual Idaho Paints Idaho exhibit. Sponsored by the Idaho Falls Eagle Truck Art Museum, the exhibit showcases the Idaho artists and the Idaho State Parks and Recreation Department facilities. Paints Idaho is a juried exhibit open to resident Idaho artists, and will be on exhibit at the arts council through the end of March.

The reception, which is free and open to the public, is scheduled from 7-9 p.m. at 132 Main Ave. S.

How's the single life? Tell us your story

The Times-News is searching for singles of all ages. We want to know what it's like to look for love in Magic Valley. How do like-minded people meet? Where do they go to be single in your 20s, differing from singlehood and chafing later in life?

Whether you're a twentysomething, an eightysomething or anything in between, we want to hear your story. Call features writer Matt Christensen at 735-3234.

Jerome School District to meet

BOISE — A special meeting of the Jerome School District Board of Trustees will be held at 7 a.m. Friday at the district's administrative offices, 107 Third Ave. W.

The purpose of the meeting is approval of the bid for district property located on Flyer Drive and any other business that may come before the board.

The meeting was called pursuant to Title 33 and Chapter 23, Title 67, Idaho Code.

— compiled from staff reports

Snowpack levels

Watershed	100% of Avg.	90%	80%
Salmon	130%	80%	
Big Wood	146%	93%	
Little Wood	144%	87%	
Big Lost	120%	60%	
Little Lost	111%	66%	
Henrys Fork/Talon	133%	83%	
Upper Snake Basin	125%	78%	
Clear Fork	166%	104%	
Salmon Falls	144%	90%	

As of Feb. 1.

*A comparison of basin snowpack, on this day, with a 20-year average.
**An indicator of basin snowpack for the entire snow season, which peaks in mid-March.

Tax plans rile local governments

State legislation would limit budget increases

By Kyle Arnold
Associated Press writer

BOISE — Public hearings on property-tax legislation will last much longer than originally intended, as cities, counties and school districts raised objections Wednesday to suggestions for reining in local budgets to ease the pressure on taxpayers.

It was lawmakers' third day of hearings at Boise City Hall to take public testimony on the 34 property-tax bills that have been introduced in the House. Twenty remain to be addressed at public meetings in the Statehouse on Thursday and Friday and possibly into next week.

But some legislators say budget increases at the local level are the real issue,

and that property-tax relief from the state will do little to address the problem.

Lawmakers aren't getting much support from the executive branch either. Gov. Dirk Kempthorne has said property taxes are a local issue that should be addressed at the local level.

"Everybody thinks there's a silver bullet for this problem," said Rep. Mike Moyle, R-Slat. "But no matter what you do, someone is going to lose." Moyle said he favors spending limits. He's sponsoring a bill that would allow local citizens to cut tax-district budgets through an initiative process.

A bill by Rep. Jim Clark, R-Hayden Lake, would amend a 1991 law that limits local government budget growth to 3 percent per year, closing a loophole that lets entities exceed the limit if they didn't use the full 3 percent allotment in any of the three previous years' budgets.

Local government officials, such as Caldwell Mayor Garret Nancelos, say local governments have a hard time restricting budgets with rising health-care costs, development and growth.

"The city of Caldwell is in the same circumstances as a majority of the cities in Idaho," said Nancelos, also representing the Association of Idaho Cities. "We are struggling to keep up with the demand for services, the cost of new growth, the amenities and the safety services that our citizens deserve from municipalities."

Caldwell struggled last year to stay under the cap on spending growth after hiring seven police officers and freight-



ers, Nancelos said. Adding much-needed personnel alone can consume much of a city's allotted budget increase, he said.

One property-tax-related bill would cap annual growth in school maintenance and operations levels to 3 percent — a proposal that drew protest from educators.

Jane Orndorff, a member of the Boise school district board who spoke for Ada County schools, said schools can't afford to cut or limit budgets. "We are very concerned about the viability for funding of public education," she said.

House Revenue and Tax Committee Chairman Rep. Dolores Cross, R-Nampa, said the hearings will probably continue into next week.

Old news

Letter arrives five years after it was mailed

By Sandy Miller
Times-News writer

GOODING — The old Pony Express would have been faster. The four-page letter in the pink envelope arrived in Yvonne Denham's Gooding mailbox a week ago last Friday. It was postmarked Aug. 18, 2001, back when a stamp only put you back 34 cents.

It was from her longtime friend Shannon Warren, who had mailed it when she lived in Salida, Colo. Warren moved to Phoenix a few years ago.

"She told me about her illness and how she'd just gotten her little dog, McDuff," Denham said. "She said she hoped I'd come out to Colorado and see her because she needed some moral support during her husband's surgery. It was just a four-page letter talking about what was happening to her at the time."

Her friend later found out she had a lung disorder, which prompted her move to Phoenix where the lower elevation made for easier breathing.

Denham called Warren to tell her she'd finally received her letter.

"She said, 'It must be pretty dusty,'" Denham said. "I said, 'No, it's in mint condition. It wasn't dusty at all. It had a little bend in the envelope and there was no indication it had gotten here until 2006.'"

Denham said there were several letters she had mailed to each other that never reached their destinations. Her friend's husband found the Salida post office might be to blame.

"Her husband used to work for the post office in Salida and he said they'd had the letters up according to ZIP code and sometimes the box didn't get processed," Denham said. "Sometimes, they'd have a box of letters that didn't get out until they found it."

'A real cowboy:' Man says he lived at the perfect time

By Jami Whitel
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Einer Kalberg often told his wife and close friend Bill Whitel that he lived in the perfect time. He was able to see everything from stagecoaches and farming with horses to jet planes and people on the moon. In his lifetime, he had seen it all.

Kalberg, whom friends describe as a real and honest man who helped anyone he could, died Jan. 23 at 91.

"Einer Kalberg was a Norwegian and according to him a stibhorn one," Whitel said. "But he was a better man or a more honest one than you ever saw."

Kalberg joined the U.S. Army during World War II and served in several countries, including Norway. While serving as a machine gunner, he learned that the average life span of such was just 12 minutes.



Einer Kalberg jokes with his wife, Belle, in this undated photo.

"He said, 'No way, I walked into the Army and I'm walking out,'" said Whitel's wife, Ruth. When he returned to his family's Montana ranch, Kalberg was too happy to find that his father had sold his saddle horses, but, Bill Whitel said, it didn't take long for him to replace them.

He married Belle Holt in 1950 and gained five stepsons. After retiring from ranching in Montana, the Kalbergs traveled the country looking for a place they liked, Kalberg said they settled in Buhl in 1972 because the people were so friendly.

He often said the best way to have a good neighbor was to be one, and the best way to have a good friend was to be one. In Buhl, he found both.

A person couldn't help but smile when Kalberg talked because chances are there'd be a joke coming. From telling a White relative that there must not be enough pasture around



Yvonne Denham of Gooding displays a letter she received last week. It was postmarked Aug. 18, 2001, back when a stamp only cost 34 cents.

Denham and Warren met 26 years ago in Salt Lake City. They've been friends ever since and corresponded often during the years. Denham and her husband, A. L., moved to Gooding in 2000 after they retired. The two friends still keep in touch, but not via paper and pen.

"Now we do e-mails," Denham said.

Times-News writer Sandy Miller can be reached at 735-3264 or by e-mail at smiller@magicvalley.com.

Targeting meth

Lawmaker tries to restrict sales of cold tablets

The Associated Press

BOISE — Lawmakers are trying again to halt methamphetamine production by putting restrictions on sales of cold medications.

At issue are restrictions on the sale and possession of products containing pseudoephedrine, a substance used to make meth.

Last year's proposal was scuttled by a statewide pharmacy group and a coalition of anxious rural store owners, said Rep. Bob Ring, R-Caldwell, a sponsor of the bill.

"This year's bill is much more retailer-friendly and much more public-friendly," Ring said.

The bill would limit to 20 grams the amount of pseudoephedrine that can be possessed legally — about the equivalent of 666 capsules of a cold medicine such as Tylenol. Individual sales would be limited to 9 grams per purchase.

"It simply makes it illegal for a meth cooker to purchase a greater amount," Ring said Tuesday, adding that the average consumer wouldn't notice a difference.

Another meth-related proposal, selected by a House committee, would have instituted mandatory sentences for those convicted of manufacturing or selling meth in the presence of children. It was rejected after lawmakers argued that Idaho prisons are already overcrowded.



About Einer Kalberg

Einer Kalberg was born June 12, 1914, and died Jan. 23. He is survived by a host of friends in Buhl and five stepsons.

since he was so thin, to making a joke even in the worst situation. With his big smile or a sly smirk, he could always make people laugh.

Tim Whitel, Bill's son, remembered a story Kalberg often told, and every time he told it, he'd laugh harder. One day Kalberg was in his corral putting up poles when he noticed a neighbor coming down the road.

"He thought to himself, 'I'm going to get him today,' so as his neighbor approached closer, Einer stood up one of those long corral posts and while holding it, started jumping up, trying to get his tape measure

hooked on the top of it," Tim Whitel said. "Well, like ol' Einer was hoping for, his neighbor stopped. 'Einer, he said, 'what in the world are you trying to do?' Einer says, 'I am trying to figure out how high this corral post is' and his neighbor, with a dumbfounded look on his face, tells Einer, 'Wouldn't it be easier if you laid that there post on the ground to measure it?' And of Einer looks at him with a grin from ear to ear and tells him, 'You damn fool, I don't care how long it is, I want to know how high it is.' And they both got a good laugh out of it."

A good education was important to Kalberg, and he believed that it and college were important for children today. He enjoyed watching ball fishing, football and loved John Wayne programs.

Gardening was something he enjoyed and he was well-known for the large tomatoes that Ruth Whitel said people from Nevada came to buy. When a woman asked what fertilizer he used to get his strawberries so sweet, Kalberg told her he didn't use

MAGIC VALLEY/IDAHO

Idaho Supreme Court hears field-burning case

By Rebecca Boone
Associated Press writer

BOISE — Field-burning opponents have asked the state's highest court to find that the state Department of Agriculture acted capriciously when it decided there was no economically viable alternative to field burning for northern Idaho grass growers.

Attorney Brad Purdy — representing the American Lung Association, the Idaho Conservation League and an anti-burning group called Safe Air for Everyone or SAFE — presented his case to the Idaho Supreme Court on Wednesday.

The department used biased data when it concluded in 2004 that field burning was the only option for bluegrass farmers in Idaho's five northernmost counties, Purdy argued.

Clay Smith, representing the state Agriculture Department, said the case was essentially moot because the 2004 burning season is long gone. Agriculture Department Director Pat Takasugi issued a similar finding in 2005, and that declaration superseded the previous one, Smith said.

Neither SAFE nor the other burning opponents have filed lawsuits over the 2005 ruling, Smith told the court.

Field burning has long been a contentious issue in the region.

Bluegrass farmers say they must burn grass stubble to rid the fields of fungus and shock the crop into better production the following year. Field-burning critics contend the practice increases pollution and puts the health of local residents — especially those with respiratory problems — at risk.

The district is being debated on several legal fronts. Tuesday, a settlement was reached in another case between the farmers and those with breathing problems. Under that settlement, about 280 area residents will split \$600,000, but farmers will continue to torch their fields.

Two more lawsuits are pending in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, with oral arguments scheduled for this summer. The federal cases are seeking to rescind U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approval of state and tribal burning programs in Idaho.

In the case argued Wednesday before the Idaho Supreme Court, Purdy said Takasugi reviewed only a limited number of studies before declaring field burning the economically viable option in 2004.

Takasugi ignored studies that led the state of Washington to ban burning and the state of Oregon to drastically cut back on grass-burning, Purdy said. Smith said Takasugi's finding was well-reasoned. In the past, Takasugi has argued that neighboring states are geographically different from Idaho. At best, dryland grass farmers in Washington's Spokane County are breaking even, Smith said.

Besides, he told the high court, the matter is exempt from judicial review because it was simply a finding, not a determination action.

"The question before the court is simply whether there's a rational basis ... for the director's finding," Smith said. The Idaho Supreme Court does not generally say when it will rule on a case, with decisions sometimes coming weeks or months after oral arguments.

Burley group seeks signers


The Times-News

BURLEY — Burley Area Action Team will spend the next three weeks attempting to collect 1,500 signatures from Burley area voters to move a proposed recreation district one step closer to appearing on the May 2006 ballot. Members of the BAAT are heading the efforts, but they need those who want to see this election happen to come forward and help.

A final rally will be held to provide a place for people to gather and sign petitions the first weekend in February. The "48 hours for a Recreation District" blitz will begin at noon Thursday and continue until noon Saturday. BAAT members will spend the time in the hand shell in front of Centennial Park. People can park their cars on Overland Avenue in front of the park and come to the hand shell and sign a petition.

The district is meant to be a positive move for the area, a commitment to improve quality of life. The maximum tax amount would be \$3 a month and by law can only increase 9 cents.

Volunteers are welcome to help collect signatures. The deadline is Feb. 8.

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Man pleads guilty to livestock charge

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho (AP) — A Minidown man has pleaded guilty to one count of destroying livestock.

Dirk Parkinson originally faced four counts for fatally shooting four horses belonging

to a neighbor last October. He entered the guilty plea Tuesday after an agreement with prosecuting attorneys.

Prosecutors are expected to recommend that he be sentenced to one year of

probation, a \$500 fine, and a year of anger-management classes, the Idaho Falls Post-Register reported.

Destroying livestock carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

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Life

Continued from A4

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shop. He was a man, a one of a kind ... And he will be missed."

Times-News writer Janet Whitel can be reached at 735-3278, or write to her at jwhitel@magicvalley.com

Editor's note: Staff writer Janet Whitel is the granddaughter-in-law of bill and Ruth Whitel.

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OPINION

Bush tries to go beyond theatrics

The George Bush who stood in the chamber of the House of Representatives on Tuesday night, facing the members of Congress and a worldwide television audience, was not a lame duck president. When he said, in his peroration, "We will finish well... confident of the victories to come," he was making a promise to himself as much as he was encouraging the country's hopes for the remaining three years of his term.



DAVID BRODER

But he is a diminished political force — at home and abroad — weakened by events from the Gulf Coast to the Persian Gulf and by the less of public support demonstrated in every poll. In both tone and substance, this State of the Union address was closer to the one Bill Clinton gave in 1995, just months after the Democrats had lost control of Congress, than to the speech Bush delivered a year ago, after he and his party had triumphed in the 2004 election.

That speech was a call to the confident Republican majorities to take on huge challenges — from overhauling Social Security to democratizing the Middle East. Tuesday night, he was bucking up a nervous collection of GOP Legislators, looking at the worst poll ratings most of them have ever seen, and trying to placate the Democrats.

The parallels to the Clinton address of Jan. 24, 1995, are striking. Clinton's plea to the politicians seated before him, a quarrelsome lot, as he well knew, was to "put aside partisanship and pettiness and pride" and "come together behind our common purpose."

Bush, who knows he has squandered his mandate in less time than it took Clinton, was also reaching out to the opposition for help on Tuesday night. Near the top of his speech, he said that while policy differences are inevitable, they "cannot be allowed to harden into anger." He pledged to do his part to tamp down the fires — and he lived up to that promise, at least for the next 50 minutes.

Bush had good reason to be on his best behavior. Not only was he looking at an anemic 42 percent job approval rating in the latest Washington Post-ABC News poll, but the tone of much of the pre-speech commentary invited cynical reactions to everything that he might say. The Post and The New York Times both ran opinion articles questioning whether the State of the Union address was anything more than a cheap bit of political theater — as dated as the Miss America pageant. One columnist after another suggested that only a naive romantic or fool would take it seriously.

Some of what Bush did — the labored rhetorical bow to the first lady, the 50-minute letter home from the Marlin killed in Iraq and the introduction of his family seated in the visitors' gallery — justified that cynicism.

But there were several points where I thought Bush's

In both tone and substance, this State of the Union address was closer to the one Bill Clinton gave in 1995, just months after the Democrats had lost control of Congress, than to the speech Bush delivered a year ago, after he and his party had triumphed in the 2004 election.

statements — and the congressional reaction — showed where some headway might be achieved on significant national challenges.

One, oddly enough, came at the most partisan moment of the speech. When Bush acknowledged the failure of his 2005 effort to add private accounts to Social Security, the TV cameras showed Hillary Clinton leading a derisive Democratic ovation at this "good news." When the president said in the next sentence that the problem of financing Social Security and Medicare for the retiring baby boomers "is not going away," but will get worse because of Congress' inaction, it was the Republicans who cheered.

And then he surprised both sides by suggesting a bipartisan congressional commission to tackle the big entitlement programs — and all of the members cheered. Commissioners are often devices for postponing action, but the only way to deal with this issue is through bipartisan agreement — and Bush has opened the door to that possibility.

The other promising moment came when he endorsed the initiative to improve America's competitiveness by increasing federal scientific re-

search funds and training more mathematicians, scientists and technicians. As I wrote in December, this initiative had been tied up for presidential blessing by the National Academy of Sciences, spurred on by Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and Democratic Sen. Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico. They now have more than half the Senate co-sponsoring their legislation, and the White House announcement that Bush's budget will provide \$6 billion next year and \$136 billion over the next decade means that we could see a breakthrough in the teaching of those subjects and the recruitment of innovative workers with those skills.

His offerings on energy, health care and the budget were far more meager, but this initiative at least means the address could be more than a theatrical event.

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

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If You Purchased Electricity for Your Home or Business A Proposed Class Action Settlement May Affect Your Rights

Please Read This Legal Notice

Your rights may be affected by the proposed settlement of a lawsuit against Reliant Energy, Inc. and its affiliates ("Reliant"). The lawsuit is called *Ecker et al. v. Reliant Energy, Inc. et al.*, JCP# 4204-M0004 ("Ecker") and is in the San Diego Superior Court. The settlement has been proposed on behalf of "Class" or group of business and home electricity consumers that could include you. The settlement also resolves certain federal regulatory proceedings and related litigation involving Reliant and the States of California, Washington and Oregon, and California utility companies. This Notice is only a summary. For complete information, you should read the full Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement, which you can obtain by visiting www.reliantenergysettlement.com or by calling 1-866-216-0276.

and Washington, including funds for the benefit of electricity ratepayers.

If you are a member of the Class, you can ask to be excluded from the Class. Your exclusion request must be in writing and mailed/postmarked no later than March 15, 2006. For more details about how to exclude yourself, please read the full Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement, posted at www.reliantenergysettlement.com.

What Are My Rights?

If you are a member of the Class, you don't need to do anything. If you stay in the Class and the settlement is approved by the Court, you won't be able to sue Reliant on your own about the claims in the lawsuit.

What is the Lawsuit About?

The lawsuit claims that Reliant agreed with other companies to create fake shortages, and engaged in other conduct, in order to raise the prices of wholesale electricity. Reliant denies that it has done anything wrong.

What Are My Rights?

If you want to keep the right to bring your own lawsuit against Reliant about the claims in this lawsuit, you can ask to be excluded from the Class. Your exclusion request must be in writing and mailed/postmarked no later than March 15, 2006. For more details about how to exclude yourself, please read the full Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement, posted at www.reliantenergysettlement.com.

Am I Covered by the Settlement?

You are a member of the Class and are covered by the settlement if you purchased electricity for your home or business (and not for resale or distribution) between July 1, 1998 and October 12, 2005 in any of the following Western States: Arizona, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, or Washington.

When Will the Settlement be Approved?

The Court will hold a hearing on April 28, 2006 to decide whether to approve the settlement. The Court will also consider the application for up to \$557,142 in attorney's fees and costs.

What Are the Terms of the Settlement?

Reliant will provide cash and other consideration valued at approximately \$512 million. Of this amount, \$138.5 million will be paid to the Attorneys General of California, Oregon

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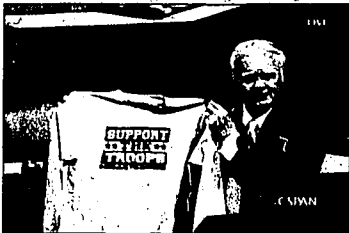
NATION

Police chief blames vague policies for women's ouster from Capitol

By James Kuhnmann
Knight Ridder News Service

WASHINGTON — Faced with a bipartisan furor, the chief of the Capitol Police on Wednesday apologized for expelling anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan and the wife of an influential Republican congressman from the State of the Union address and blamed vague policies for the actions of his officers.

"The officers made a good faith, but mistaken effort to enforce an old unwritten interpretation of the prohibitions about demonstrating in the Capitol. The policy and procedures were too vague," Capitol Police Chief Kenneth W. Gainer said. "The failure to adequately prepare the officers is mine."



Rep. C.W. 'Bill' Young, R-Fla., speaking Wednesday from the floor of the House of Representatives, holds up the T-shirt that prompted Young's wife to be removed from Tuesday's State of the Union address.

Before President Bush entered the House chamber on Tuesday, officers escorted Sheehan out of her seat in the House gallery for wearing a T-shirt inscribed with "2245 Dead. How many more?"

our Troops" sweatshirt. They ushered her out as well.

Sheehan was charged with a misdemeanor. Young wasn't charged.

Gainer said he met with Young, a powerful member of the House Appropriations Committee, and his wife to apologize and said he would take steps to avoid similar episodes. He said he left a similar message with Sheehan. He also asked the U.S. attorney's office to drop charges against Sheehan.

"I had two lawyers spend all morning looking at the law and at the rules, and we came up with absolutely nothing on which they could base what they did," the congressman said.

Writing on her Web log, Sheehan said she obtained a ticket to the speech from Rep. Lynn Woolsey, D-Calif., but initially had been reluctant to attend.

"I knew George Bush would say things that would hurt me and anger me, and I knew that I couldn't disrupt the address be-

cause Lynn had given me the ticket and I didn't want to be disruptive out of respect for her," wrote Sheehan, who blames Bush for the death of her son, Casey, in Iraq.

She said she took off her jacket because she was warm and at that moment a police officer yelled "protester" and ordered her out of the gallery. She said she was handcuffed, fingerprinted and charged. She said she was held for four hours before being released.

White House backs off vow to reduce oil imports

Knight Ridder News Service

WASHINGTON — One day after President Bush vowed to reduce America's dependence on Middle East oil by cutting imports from there 75 percent by 2025, his energy secretary and national economic adviser said Wednesday that the president didn't mean it literally.

What the president meant, they said in a conference call with reporters, was that alternative fuels could displace an amount of oil imports equivalent to most of what America is expected to import from the Middle East in 2025.

But America still would import oil from the Middle East, because that's where the greatest supplies are.

The president's State of the Union reference to Mideast oil made headlines nationwide Wednesday because of his assertion that "America is addicted to oil" and his call to "break this addiction."

Bush vowed to fund research into better batteries for hybrid vehicles and more production of the alternative fuel ethanol, setting a lofty goal of replacing "more than 75 percent of our oil imports from the Middle East by 2025."

He pledged to "move beyond a petroleum-based economy and make our dependence on Middle Eastern oil a thing of the past."

Not exactly, though, it turns out.

"This was purely an example," Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman said.

He said the broad goal was to displace foreign oil imports, from anywhere, with domestic alternatives. He acknowledged that oil is a freely traded commodity bought and sold globally by private firms. Consequently, it would be very difficult to reduce imports from any single region, especially the most oil-rich region on Earth.

Asked why the president used the words "the Middle East" when he didn't really mean them, one administration official said Bush wanted to dramatize the issue in a way that "every American sitting out there listening to the speech understands." The official spoke only on condition of anonymity because he feared that his remarks might get him in trouble.

This individual has been classified as a High Risk Sexual Predator by the Idaho Sex Offender Classification Board.

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MORNING LINE

SPORTSQUOTE

I've been asleep all week, but now I got woke up. I've got my first taste of blood... and now I'm thirsty for more. Until now, it was 'Watch what I say,' 'I can't say this,' 'I can't say that,' 'Don't do anything silly,' but I'm ready now. I'm going to make sure he owns up to those words.

Steelers linebacker Joey Porter after Seattle tight end Jeremy Stevens effectively guaranteed a victory.

TRIVIA

QUESTION: Pittsburgh is 4-1 in its five Super Bowl appearances. Name the two teams that have won the Super Bowl five times.
ANSWER: Below

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

- College BASEBALL CCSN Tournament, Henderson, Nev. See related story. High School BOYS BASKETBALL Castelford at Hagerman, 7:30 p.m. Gooding at Buhl, 7:30 p.m. Lighthouse Christian at Murtagh, 7:30 p.m. Magic Valley Christian at Oakley, 7:30 p.m. Ruff River at Hansen, 6 p.m. West Valley, 7:30 p.m. GIRLS BASKETBALL Postseason SA Region Four-Five-Six Twin Falls at Skyline, 7 p.m. 4A Great Basin West Torrance at Burley semifinals, 7 p.m. Wood River at Minico, 7 p.m. 3A SCIC Buhl at Filer, 7 p.m. 2A Canyon Conference Wendell at Valley, 7:30 p.m. 1A Northside Conference, Shoshone HS Carey vs. Richfield, 7 p.m.

IN BRIEF

NYC girl scores record 113 points NEW YORK — Hey Kabe, top this. Epiphany Prince of Murry Bergtraum High School scored 113 points in a game Wednesday, breaking a national prep record previously held by Hall of Famer Cheryl Miller. Prince, a 5-foot-9 guard, led her team to a 137-32 victory over Brandeis High School. "It's an amazing thing when an individual does that," said Cavaliers star LeBron James, told about Prince's performance Wednesday night after Cleveland beat New Jersey. "I don't know who she is, but maybe we'll see her in the WNBA. For that matter, the NBA." Prince had 58 points at half-time for the Blazers, ranked No. 2 in the nation by USA Today. Miller scored 105 points for Riverside Cal Poly in California against Riverside Notre Vista in 1982. She went on to become an All-American at USC. "Two-time WNBA MVP Lisa Leslie scored 101 points in a half for Morningglow High School in Inglewood, Calif., against South Torrance in 1990. Leslie refused to play in the second half. "Princess of the nation's top high school players and a Rutgers recruit, shot 54-for-60 from the field with nine 3-pointers. Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant was 28-of-46 from the floor against Toronto.

Compiled from wire reports TRIVIA ANSWER: Dallas (5-3) and San Francisco (5-0).

Spartans shock T.F.

Undeclared Bruins fall 68-61 in OT

By Diane Philbin Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Undeclared no more. Minico knocked Twin Falls from the ranks of the unbeaten as the 6-11 Spartans defeated the Bruins 68-61 in overtime Wednesday at Butun Gymnasium in non-conference play. "We held our breath and crossed our fingers," said Minico coach Mike Graefe. "We knew it was a mismatch coming in and we knew what we were up against. When we got down early 14-12, we stayed in the game. Our seniors showed great leadership and the sophomores stepped up and assumed roles like the upperclassmen and coaches have asked them to do."

Twin Falls (14-1) held a 36-24 edge at the half and as the final period began, the Spartans still trailed 53-46. "We made some bad mistakes and did many things that are uncharacteristic," said Twin Falls coach Matt Ham. "We may have let the pressure of the game get to us. We passed up some inside shots and at the start of the overtime, we tried to force some things. We just didn't let the offense work for us."

In the fourth, opening back-to-back baskets by senior Bryce Jurgensmeier and sophomore Bill Carney cut the Bruins lead to 53-50. With a minute remaining in regulation, Twin Falls held a 57-52 lead. Brady Jardine was called for the foul on Kyle Stratman, who made his two free throws to make it 57-51.

Twin Falls inbounded the ball but fouled Minico in the backcourt, giving the ball back to the Spartans. With 51.7 seconds remaining, Carney hit a 3-pointer, tying the score and sending the game into overtime. Neither team was able to generate a quality shot afterward.

In overtime, Carney opened the scoring for Minico with a 3-pointer and Jurgensmeier added a 2-point bucket as the Bruins never got closer than five points again. Minico outscored Twin Falls 11-4 in the extra period as the Bruins managed only a basket by Brock Harding and two free throws by Brandon Stokes.

Twin Falls was led by senior Brett Veversman with a game-high 21 points and seven rebounds. Jardine ended with 16 points and six boards. Senior Kyle Stratman scored 20 points including three 3-pointers and dished out three assists. Carney followed with 13 points all scored in the second half. Jurgensmeier added 12 and Bill Kalval had 10 for Minico.

"We need to take the frustration of



Senior guard Kyle Stratman of Minico dribbles the ball past Twin Falls guard Brandon Stokes Wednesday night during the Spartans' 68-61 overtime win over the Bruins in Twin Falls.

tonight and put it into something positive. We told the boys to take a step back and know we are a good team," said Ham. Both teams return to conference play Friday as Twin Falls travels to Highland and Minico hosts Jerome.

Minico 68, Twin Falls 61, OT 22:11.11.11.11.11

By Nathaniel Gairbrandt Times-News writer

SHOSHONE — All that was missing from the Shoshone Indians fourth-straight Northside Conference girls' basketball championship game Wednesday night were business cards.

The top-seeded Indians made sure that rematch was anything but dramatic, holding their 11-0 lead to a second-half points for a business-assured 35-25 victory. "On Wednesday, the Indians were determined after squan-

Northside Tournament

Wednesday's games No. 1 seed Shoshone 36, No. 3 Richfield 25, championship No. 4 Carey 61, No. 2 Dietrich 50, 1st round

Thursday's game Carey vs. Richfield, 7 p.m.

during a 17-point halftime lead to Richfield at home on Jan. 18 in a stacking 43-34 loss. "I just reminded them that

Richfield came out and played a great second half against us last time," said Shoshone head coach Tim Chapman. "You could just see in the girls eyes that that wasn't going to happen tonight."

Richfield got off the blocks first, jumping out to a 7-0 lead, but Indians senior guard Kallie Axelson drained a three to get Shoshone on the board and the hosts put together a 17-4 second quarter en route to a 22-14 lead at the half.

Axelson hit past the arc four times on the game for 12

points, tying teammate Katie Strunk for the game high. "We just tried to mix it up every few plays. We really kept on their toes," said Axelson. "Right away they got ahead, but we just kept pulling at their lead. We just kept pushing for points. We were embarrassed from last time, so we wanted to show them that we were the better team. We don't want them to sing their school song on our floor again."

And hopes for another second half comeback were put to

Please see INDIANS, Page B2

T.F. girls confident for postseason

By Joe Paisley Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Quiet confidence prevailed during a Twin Falls High girls' basketball practice Wednesday as the Bruins prepared for their first-round bid game against Skyline at 7 tonight.

A win over 4A Century in the regular season finale has the Bruins (10-10) feeling pretty good about themselves and what is expected to be a tough matchup against a taller Grizzlies squad.

"We ended it on a good win," said junior guard Ashley Ions. "That is important for this year's Bruins. The Bruins split this season with the Grizzlies, winning at home and losing by a slim margin in Idaho Falls. That confidence has carried over into game preparation."

"We think we have a good chance," head coach Joe D. Shepard said. "We've had a couple good days of practice."

The Bruins will focus on slowing down three key players for the Grizzlies. Point guard Keisha Fisher is the key to the Skyline offense, with her ability to dribble penetrate, drive for layups or make a pass to the open player. "Twin Falls must also contain the Grizzlies two top post play-

Region Four-Five-Six Tournament

Thursday's games No. 3 seed Twin Falls at No. 2 Skyline, 7 p.m. Host Idaho Falls at No. 1 Highland, 7 p.m.



Bruins forward Kelsey Jardine dribbles the ball past Burley's Coleste Robins earlier this season in Twin Falls.

ers — 6-3 senior Jessica McFadden and 6-1 junior Demi Drouthy. Both make a living off offensive putbacks. "They're capable of combining for 20-30 points if we let that happen," Shepard warned. "A big concern is to keep them off the boards. We did that well down here (in the win)."

CSI rolls back to Nevada

4-0 Eagles out to improve short game in tourney

By Eric Larsen Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — The buzz is back. The College of Southern Idaho Golden Eagles baseball team backed the trend of slow-starting cold-weather teams, rising out to a 4-0 record during last weekend's season-opening tournament at the Community College of Southern Nevada in Henderson. New With the CSI campus already humming about head coach Boomer Walker's team's early success, the Golden Eagles return to the Seventh Annual CCSN Coyote Classic.

The Eagles have four games in two days against tough opposition to tune-up for their fast-approaching Sunbelt West Athletic Conference road opener at Salt Lake Community College on Feb. 17.

"I think our test will come more this weekend than last weekend, because those teams were good, but inexperienced."

Please see EAGLES, Page B2

Burley's Kerbs inks with ISU

The Times-News

BURLEY — Burley defensive end Taylor Kerbs signed a national letter of intent Wednesday to play football for the Idaho State University Bengals.

Kerbs is listed at 6-foot, 4-inches and 200 pounds and is expected to play offense at ISU.

Kerbs was a first-team all-conference player at both high school and college. He was named the conference player of the year and earned all-state honors as a light end.

See page B3 for 25 catches for 629 yards and four touchdowns.

The future accounting major is the son of Jeff and Cindy Kerbs.

Other Idaho State signees include: ...

Boise State

The Broncos signed a few in-state athletes as well but from outside the Magic Valley. They included tight end Kyle Eifaw of Capital High School, kicker David Lowery of Cambridge and his teammate Nate Potter, an offensive lineman.

A full list of signees follows: ...

Idaho

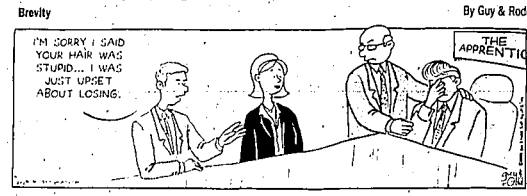
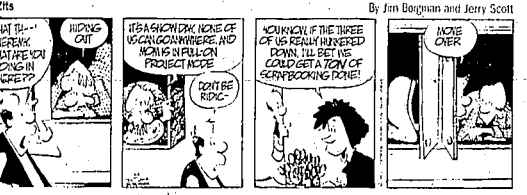
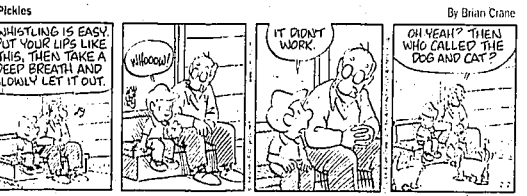
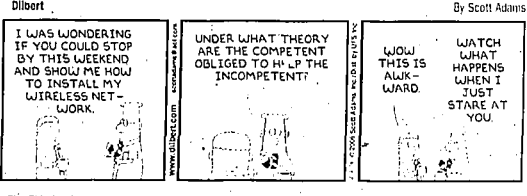
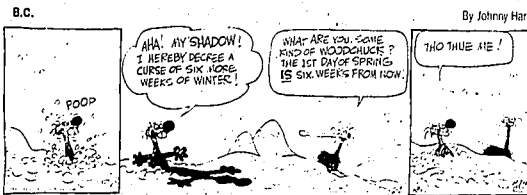
There were no in-state signees by Idaho. Here's the list: ...

Seventh Annual Coyote Classic

Community College of Southern Nevada, Henderson, Nev. Wednesday, Feb. 1 - at Morse Stadium Cochoise vs. Southern Nevada, 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2 at Morse Stadium CSI vs. Cochoise, noon Yavapai vs. S. Nevada, 4 p.m. Cochoise vs. Salt Lake, 7:30 p.m. at Las Vegas High School Arizona Western vs. Salt Lake, 1:30 p.m. at Burkholder Park CSI vs. Pima, 6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3 at Morse Stadium CSI vs. Yavapai, 9 a.m. CSI vs. Ariz. Western, 2:30 p.m. Pima vs. S. Nevada, 6 p.m. at Foothill High School Yavapai vs. Salt Lake, 1 p.m. at Burkholder Park Cochoise vs. Dixie State, 3 p.m. Ariz. Western vs. Dixie State, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 4 at Morse Stadium Pima vs. Salt Lake, 9 a.m. Ariz. Western vs. S. Nevada, 1 p.m. at Burkholder Park Pima vs. Salt Lake, 1 p.m.

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COMICS



Birthday today? Better start exercising

IF FEB. 2 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY, by next October you may be stepping to the beat of a different drummer and ready to enjoy your five minutes of fame. Until then you may be faced with the results of past actions and need to carefully reassess your situation. In late April and early June you'll find the best time to start new projects, make career moves or find a golden opportunity to improve your life. Take good care of your health by getting routine check-ups or starting an exercise regimen. Avoid making key changes or decisions in July — which can be a challenging time because others may not appreciate your best qualities. Feel free to make necessary changes in the fall when you can reinvent your life and shift to a more fulfilling direction.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The pen is mightier than the sword. Your words may hold more weight than your hands. Your hands are quick, your eyes keen — just don't miss the chance to show off your best work under these stars.

TALISMAN (April 20-May 20): Earn respect by being dedicated to your team, your cause and your company. This is a good time to put an important agreement into motion or strike an advantageous bargain.

...a letter can start a chain reaction that leads to a business coup and a feather in your cap.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Jump to it. Be like a stealth fighter and swoop in swiftly to scoop up the winnings. Act quickly to seal deals that have been lingering in limbo or to cash in on lucrative investments.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Wake up. People may shake you out of a dreamy reverie. Those in close connection may move swiftly to get things done and be on a campaign to put business ideas into motion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Enjoy a fast pace and swift decision-making skills. You won't make a mistake if you go along with the status quo. Your business instincts are enhanced by today's stars — so get cooking.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Those maven's of business magic have plenty of lessons to teach you. Trust that your partners or associates know how to hit the nail right on the head. Plant ideas and start new projects.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Raptured in her high tower had nothing to do all day but grow her hair. You, on the other hand, will find that people are anxious to jump into action and won't rest until you do, too.

HOROSCOPE

Jeraldine Saunders

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The power of numbers. Assert your rights and stand up for yourself. Use your enthusiasm to get key initiatives rolling. Partners will be willing to go the extra mile to assist your efforts.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The pragmatist. Think about practical applications for new technologies. Respect for old traditions can be mixed with a healthy appreciation of the latest fad. Your ideas will be applauded.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Commercial dealings thrive in these starry conditions. Put things in motion while you have time on your side. Don't be surprised if a new romance is just a fling or a business deal in disguise.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's business as usual. But if you want business to thrive, remember to refer leads to your friends and give thanks to the big boys. Go ahead and start new projects or launch initiatives.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Project a winning image. People like to deal with successful people, so look the part. A phone call or

For and about
the Latino
community

Comunidad

Comunidad editor: Pat Marzantonio - 735-3288

4-H reaches out to Latinos with programs

By Pat Marzantonio
Times-News writer

The University of Idaho Extension Service is trying to grow Latino participation in the 4-H program and seems to have earned a blue ribbon at doing so.

Last year, there were more than 4,500 Latinos in 4-H in Idaho. That's about 8 percent of total young people involved in the program, which teaches leadership, citizenship and life skills through clubs, contests and other activities, reported Arlinda Nauman, state 4-H director in Moscow.

That percentage of Hispanics in 4-H echoes the Hispanic population in the state.

The organization, which is operated through the UI Extension Service, has reached out to Hispanics and other youngsters through 4-H after-school programs, including using some bilingual tutors, Nauman said.

During spring break, art and technology camps also were held at migrant camps.

"They are definitely educational, and we make sure they are fun as well," she said of the camps.

The state 4-H has prepared brochures in Spanish so non-English speaking parents can read about 4-H. And, it is currently translating into Spanish 4-H record books, which help members keep track of their projects, Nauman said.

While the young Hispanic members know English, the materials will help parents who may not speak English in turn help their children with the projects, Nauman said.

In Lemhi County, information about 4-H has been provided to Catholic churches and other places to reach Hispanics, said Cindy Kinder, Cassia County extension educator and district educator in 4-H programming.

Last fall, Hispanic teens learned skills to further their education and parents learned how to help them along. The Idaho Commission of Hispanic Affairs had sponsored the one-day Latino Youth Empowerment Conference at the College of Southern Idaho campus. About 150 parents and students from 10 Idaho school districts attended the annual event.

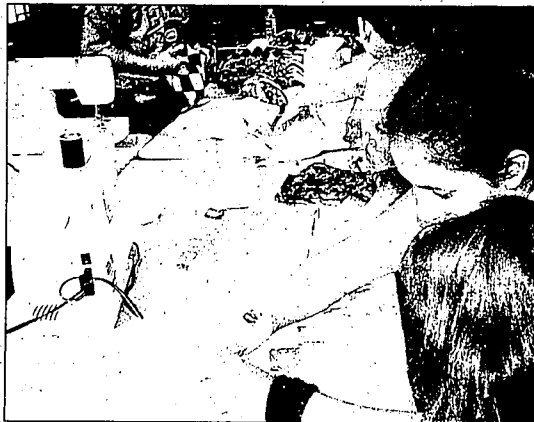
The event centered on student success with parent involvement, reported Kinder and Donna R. Gillespie, a Mullan County extension educator. Teens learned about the possibilities and availability of higher education, while parents were taught education skills and encouraged to become more actively involved in their child's education. While parents and teens focused on the workshop classes, younger children participated in a special 4-H program.

Gillespie and Kinder, along with Lincoln County 4-H coordinator Kristy Boguslavskii and two State 4-H Teen ambassadors who were CSI students, coordinated a full day of educational activities geared for children ages 5 to 12. Sessions centered on project activities from 4-H curriculum, including sewing, leather craft and soap making, the 4-H educators said.

Another activity was sewing fleece hats for themselves. They were encouraged to make others for people in need. This activity not only allowed the young people to learn an important life skill, like sewing, but also encouraged them to participate in community service in their communities, Kinder reported.

Most of the young people who attended said they had no prior knowledge of 4-H, the educators reported.

Elsewhere in Twin Falls, children participate in 4-H programs twice a week, such as



nutrition, card making, rockery and crafts, community service projects and more while their parents participate in English as second language courses at CSI, reported Rhea Lanting, an extension educator with the Twin Falls County office.

The program is funded by the university with a \$4,600 grant. Six to 10 children attend per session last fall, Lanting says she hopes the word will spread to this semester's worth of classes, and already may have. Some parents have remarked that they will bring their children now that they know about it.

"It's really a great program," she said.

Nauman is pleased with Hispanic participation so far in 4-H.

"We feel we have more work to do," she added.



Hispanic students try out 4-H activities, while their parents attended an education empowerment workshop. The 4-H program is trying similar activities around the Magic Valley and the state to increase Latino participation in 4-H.

Travel card could be used to cross the Mexican, Canadian borders

The Orange County Register

Just when travel agents thought they had persuaded customers to get their passports this year, another option comes along.

The passport may not be necessary for many travelers now that the United States is planning to introduce a new "travel card" similar to a driver's license that would allow U.S. citizens to visit Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean.

"I've been telling everyone to get their passports by the end of this year," said Marianne Braly, owner of Now Voyager Travel in Huntington Beach, Calif.

"The deadlines have changed a few times, but I tell my single-women clients: 'You never know when you're going to meet that guy who wants to take you to Cancun.'" Now those clients could get by with the travel card, at an estimated cost of \$50. But at that price, they might as well get a passport that's good for 10 years, Braly said. A U.S. passport costs \$97.

"It makes it as simple as possible," she said. "Everybody in the rest of the world carries a passport." Instead of the new \$50 card, Braly suggested that the U.S. government offer a one-time discount early this year, reducing the passport price to \$60 as an incentive for everyone to get one.

Travel leaders applauded the Bush administration for addressing industry concerns.

The cruise industry, with popular routes from U.S. ports to the Caribbean and Mexico, could be especially hurt if passport regulations deterred vacationers. A \$399 cruise could turn into a \$496 cruise with the added cost of a passport.



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2006

Baking binges cause man to question wife's health

DEAR ABBY: My beloved wife may be killing herself, and I can't stop her. Once or twice a week she stays up all night baking cookies for her "friends" at work—huge numbers of cookies. Over Christmas, she was up all night after night baking, and it's very worrisome.

My wife is 63 and in a demanding profession. I cannot believe that the body can tolerate sleepless nights like this. She says she takes "a nap" in her car at lunchtime, but I doubt it.

How can I stop her from this self-destructive habit? I don't want to lose her, but I don't know what to do. If I try to dissuade her from cookie-baking, she gets extremely huffy, and it's hurting our marriage.

MARRIED TO THE COOKIE MONSTER IN CALIFORNIA
DEAR MARRIED: You appear to be a concerned and loving spouse. Sleep patterns can vary from individual to individual, and different people require different amounts of sleep to function well.

However, because you are concerned about how your



DEAR ABBY
 Jeanne Phillips

wife's sleep pattern could affect her general health, suggest to her—and possibly her physician—that she might benefit from discussing the subject with a sleep disorder specialist to determine whether she's getting the amount of rest she needs. And if she isn't, how she can get it. I hope this helps.

DEAR ABBY: Six of us had to put our 85-year-old mother and 90-year-old father into an assisted-living facility—Maid for Alzheimer's and Mom for heart problems and kidney failure. Our mother is in the late middle stages of her disease.

Dad died on July 2. My two siblings who live less than two hours away from Mom decided that it would not be a good idea to tell her that her husband

had passed away. Three of us don't like that decision. In fact, two of my brothers have stepped off a cliff because they're afraid she will ask if our father has died, and they don't want to be to her. She has been told that he is "sleeping a lot."

What do you think about the way this is being handled? I cannot tell you how sad I am about this and the fact that we actually "lost" both parents last July. I am the second-oldest child and could really use some good advice.

SAD IN CALIFORNIA
DEAR SAD: You have my sympathy for your loss. However, I advocate for telling the truth, unless it is a cruel one. In a case like this, where your mother has no short-term memory, each time your mother hears that her husband is dead it will be as if she's hearing it for the first time. It would be a kindness not to put her through that—again and again.

IS: At her stage of illness, I doubt that it will be asking your father has died. And, it's OK not to volunteer the information.

Beetle Bailey



By Mort Walker

Blondie



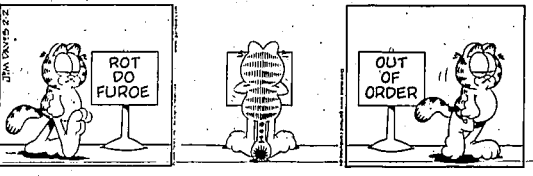
By Dean Young & Stan Drake

The Bon Loser



By Art Sansom & Chip

Garfield



By Jim Davis

Hagar the Horrible



By Chris Browne

Hi and Lois



By Chance Browne

Classic Peanuts



By Charles M. Schulz

The Wizard of Id

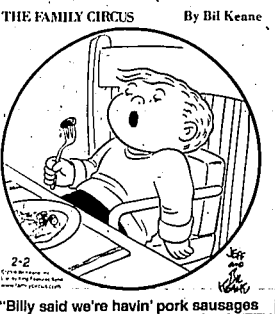


By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

Dennis the Menace



By Hank Ketchum



By Bil Keane

Groundhog or woodchuck? It's all the same

This day in history: It's both Groundhog's Day and Candlemas, each meant to celebrate the midpoint between the winter solstice and the spring equinox.

Groundhog is just an alternative name for what we call normally a woodchuck the 364 other days of the year. Coincidentally, it's also what "hardik" means in the Afrikaans language.

Can you name the top three orange-producing states? You probably got Florida and California, but may have had trouble with the third one. Try Texas.

Elvis Presley's first record was a self-produced effort made for his mother, Gladys, in 1953. For \$4, the 18-year-old truck driver rented the Sun Studio for an hour and recorded a two-sided disk with "My Hap-



RANDOM KINDS OF EXCITINGNESS
 Jack Mingo
 Erin Barrett

ness" and "That's When Your Heartaches Begin." The recording "brought him" to the attention of owner Sam Phillips, who signed Presley to a contract. The rest is history.

The world's best health care overall? The top major countries in order are France, Italy, Spain, Oman, Austria and Japan.

According to the World Health Organization, the United States medical system rates as the most expensive health care system yet is only the 37th-

best, behind the other industrialized nations of the world: Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica and Saudi Arabia.

Wilbur flipped a half-dollar, and his brother correctly guessed "heads." That's how Orville Wright became pilot for the first airplane flight in history.

Lists of musical acts have performed the "Star Spangled Banner" before the Superbowl—Anita Bryant, Charlie Pride, Barry Manilow, Kathie Lee Gifford, Cher, the Dixie Chicks, and so on—but only one has performed it twice. That would be the Grambling University Band from Grambling, La. (Superbowl II and IX).

Sherlock Holmes was very smart, but his older brother Mycroft Holmes was smarter. Seven years older than Sherlock, Mycroft appeared in three of Arthur Conan Doyle's stories.

Man arrested after he tells police of drug theft

OREM, Utah (AP)—A man who called police to report marijuana was stolen was arrested after police recovered the pot and invited him to come to the Public Safety Building to identify it.

Kory C. Tippetts, 18, of Orem, was arrested and booked into the Utah County jail for investigation of possession of marijuana in a drug-free zone with intent to distribute, police said Tuesday.

Tippetts called police Monday evening after someone broke a window, got cut on the glass and crawled into his home while he was away.

He told police the only thing missing was a bag of marijuana he was selling.

He gave police the caller's name.

Officers found Richard W. Hight, 23, at his mother's home in Provo, where they recovered six ounces of marijuana. Hight was arrested on his own and blood-soaked pants, police said.

He was arrested for investigation of burglary, theft and possession of marijuana in a drug-free zone with intent to distribute and booked into the Utah County jail.

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"ME AN' JOEY ARE GOIN' OUT TO PLUNDER AN' PILLAGE... WHATEVER THAT MEANS."

"Billy said we're havin' pork sausages for Groundhog Day 'cause they're made of ground hog."

MONEY

You are working on your company's taxes, right?

NEW YORK — What kind of tax season is your small business going to have? Do you already have an appointment with your accountant...

SMALL TALK

Joyce M. Rosenberg

businesses: They owe \$15,000 or \$20,000 in taxes. Don't pay it and don't file a return because they don't have the cash to spare...

Millwood, N.Y., and author of "J.K. Lasser's Small Business Taxes," says this is a problem particularly for young businesses...

The solutions in all these cases is to start now, organizing your records for last year — and while you're at it, getting your method on a better path for 2006.

Even to do the process of organizing your records is under way, you should

be sitting down with a tax professional, to try to anticipate what your tax liability will be...

Organized or not, many small business owners will find they're not going to meet this year's deadlines for filing returns — March 15 for corporations and April 17 for individuals...

Starting this year, individual taxpayers are getting a break on extensions — they need to file only one to get six months' before their returns are due.

In the past, the IRS would grant an automatic four-month extension, until

Aug. 15, to any taxpayer requesting one. Those who weren't ready when that day arrived could request another two months, until Oct. 15.

But there's a big caveat with extensions, and that brings us back to the topic of being organized: While an extension gives you more time to file your return, you still have to pay your taxes by the March or April deadline.

If you don't have the money to pay your tax bill, you really need to be talking with an accountant. He or she can help you work out a payment plan with the IRS and help you get your company on a sounder financial footing.

Joyce Rosenberg is a business writer for The Associated Press.

30-year Treasury bonds will make a comeback

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration, faced with the need to finance a rising federal budget deficit, announced Wednesday it will bring back the 30-year bond next week.

The 30-year bond was discontinued in 2001, when the government was running large

budget surpluses and did not need to borrow as much as it had in previous years of high deficits.

However, 2001 was the last year of surplus recession, war and President Bush's first term tax cut pushed the budget back into the red.

The deficit hit a record of \$413 billion in 2003 before declining last year to \$19 billion.

The administration is projecting this year's deficit will top \$400 billion, the second highest on record, pushed upward by spending to rebuild the hurricane-devastated Gulf Coast.

Enron

Continued from B7.

Enron also heard part of several Enron conference calls from 2000 and 2001 in which Koenig said Skilling exaggerated the success of Enron's broadband division — at the time a key part of Enron's growth strategy.

In one example, Skilling told an analyst \$50 million of the revenue in Enron's broadband division came from the sale of a fiber optic cable.

Koenig said he later learned the fiber figure was actually \$150 million, or nearly all of the broadband group's revenue that quarter. At the time, Enron

was touting broadband as a key part of its growth strategy. Koenig admitted misleading analysts on those calls himself.

"We were all on the same page of attempting to justify EBS (Enron Broadband Services) as still thriving and doing fine," he testified. "I wasn't about to jump in and stop that."

Koenig, 50, pleaded guilty in August 2004 to aiding and abetting securities fraud, saying he knew Enron masked losses in a highly touted and unprofitable retail energy unit by inflating it into the division that included the company's trading unit.

Koenig, who has not yet told jurors of his admitted crimes,

said in response to questioning by prosecutors Wednesday that he knew it was wrong to tinker with the earnings figures.

Skilling faces 31 counts of fraud, conspiracy, insider trading and lying to investors in the collapse of Enron, which left thousands of jobs and cost investors billions of dollars. Lay faces seven counts of fraud and conspiracy.

Koenig described the pair as intimately aware of how the company was performing compared with its peers and said they read analyst reports regularly.

When one analyst "didn't allude" to Enron's true financial condition, Koenig said Lay asked whether they

could disguise that analyst to future analyst gatherings.

Attempting to bolster the prosecution's argument that Lay and Skilling abused positions of trust, Enron attorney Kenneth Koenig earlier withheld records needed to know Enron's true financial condition.

"Their investment is at stake," he replied.

Koenig's career at Enron spanned 17 years, eventually rising to the position of executive vice president in charge of investor relations. He remained for several months past his bankruptcy filing. His testimony is expected to continue at least through the end of the week.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, High, Low, Vol, OI. Includes sectors like A-B-C, DEF, GHI, JKL, MNO, PQR, RST, UVW, XYZ.

NYSE

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, High, Low, Vol, OI. Includes sectors like A-B-C, DEF, GHI, JKL, MNO, PQR, RST, UVW, XYZ.

AMEX

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, High, Low, Vol, OI. Includes sectors like A-B-C, DEF, GHI, JKL, MNO, PQR, RST, UVW, XYZ.

NASDAQ

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, High, Low, Vol, OI. Includes sectors like A-B-C, DEF, GHI, JKL, MNO, PQR, RST, UVW, XYZ.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, High, Low, Vol, OI. Includes sectors like A-B-C, DEF, GHI, JKL, MNO, PQR, RST, UVW, XYZ.

MARKET SUMMARY

Summary table with columns: NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ, S&P 500, Dow Jones Industrial, etc.

INDEXES

Table with columns: Index Name, Last, Chg, High, Low, Vol, OI.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table with columns: Name, Div, PE, Last, Chg, High, Low, Vol, OI. Lists local companies.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Here are the 25 most active stocks on the New York Stock Exchange, the 400 most active on the NASDAQ National Markets and 100 most active on American Stock Exchange.

FUND NAME

Table with columns: Fund Name, Div, PE, Last, Chg, High, Low, Vol, OI. Lists various investment funds.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg, High, Low, Vol, OI. Lists stocks on the American Stock Exchange.

MARKETS

CLOSING FUTURES

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Change, and various market data for futures contracts.

BEANS

Table with columns: Bean type, Price, and market data for various bean futures.

GRAINS

Table with columns: Grain type, Price, and market data for wheat, corn, and soybeans.

CHEESE

Table with columns: Cheese type, Price, and market data for various cheese futures.

POTATOES

Table with columns: Potato variety, Price, and market data for potato futures.

SUGAR

Table with columns: Sugar type, Price, and market data for sugar futures.

LIVESTOCK

Table with columns: Livestock type, Price, and market data for cattle, hogs, and sheep.

METALS/MONEY

Table with columns: Metal type, Price, and market data for gold, silver, and platinum.

PIZZA

Continued from B7
Pizza deliverers log more miles — and more light — on Super Bowl Sunday.

"The traffic is very light," said Dana Harville, spokeswoman for Domino's Pizza.

FOSSIL FUELS

Table with columns: Fuel type, Price, and market data for oil, gas, and coal.

METALS/MONEY

Table with columns: Metal type, Price, and market data for various metals.

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Iran closer to U.N. consequences

The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — After months of fruitless negotiations, European nations set the stage Wednesday for reporting Iran to the powerful U.N. Security Council by the end of the week because of concerns the Islamic country's nuclear program is not "exclusively for peaceful purposes."

Iran remained defiant, warning such action will provoke it into doing exactly what the world wants it to renounce — starting full-scale uranium enrichment, a possible pathway to nuclear weapons.

Positions appeared to be hardening on the eve of an International Atomic Energy Agency meeting after the Security Council formally submitted a

U.S.-backed motion for the IAEA's 35-nation board to refer Iran to the Security Council. The two-day board meeting was to start Thursday.

"Nuclear energy is our right, and we will resist until this right is fully realized," President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told a crowd of thousands in the southern Iran city of Bushehr, site of a Russian-built power plant. "Our nation can't give in to the coercion of some bully countries who imagine they are the whole world."

Speaking a day after President Bush declared in his State of the Union address that "the nations of the world must not permit the Iranian regime to gain nuclear weapons," Ahmadinejad derided the United States as a "bully superpower" and vowed to pursue

the nuclear program.

The IAEA board was expected to approve the motion easily because Russia and China — which both have veto power on the Security Council — are now support reporting Iran following months of opposition.

"Iran will find itself before the Security Council," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said in Washington. "Iran is working to develop a nuclear weapon."

The developments were a boost to the United States, the main proponent of referral. Washington has waited years for international suspicions of Iran's nuclear ambitions to translate into support among board nations.

Iran's decision Jan. 10 to restart small-scale uranium enrichment — and Ahmadinejad's calls for Israel to be wiped off the map — apparently rattled Beijing and Moscow. Iran became more insistent on its right to pursue a nuclear program and less cooperative in talks with European negotiators after the election of the hard-line Ahmadinejad last June.

The call for referral was contained in a confidential resolution obtained by The Associated Press. It "requests the director general to report to the Security Council" on steps Iran needs to take to dispel international suspicion it could be seeking to make nuclear arms.

If the board approves referral as expected, it will launch a protracted process that could end in Security Council sanctions for Tehran.

The reallocation of funds

Congress appropriated \$18.4 billion for Iraq's reconstruction on Nov. 6, 2003, and allocated the funds to specific sectors. Unforeseen events have caused a diversion of these funds.

Changes to the \$18.4 billion funding allocations
Congress, Nov. 2003 Allocations as of Oct. 2005

INCREASES		DECREASES	
Private sector development	\$153 million	Water and sanitation	\$4,322
Iraq debt forgiveness	\$443	Electric	\$5,560
Justice, public safety and civil society	\$1,318	Oil	\$1,800
Security	\$3,243	Roads, bridges and construction	\$338
Education, refugees and human rights	\$280	Healthcare	\$793
Transportation and communication	\$500		
Administrative	\$509		
	\$213		

Attacks forced the cancellation of more than 60 percent of water and sanitation projects
Violence has driven away reconstruction contractors

SOURCE: Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction

Riot police clash with Jewish settlers

The Associated Press

AMONA, West Bank — Israeli riot police wielding clubs and water cannons cleared out part of this illegal Jewish settlement outpost Wednesday, as settlers fought back with sticks, stones, bricks and paint. More than 200 were injured, one-quarter of them officers.

In anguished scenes reminiscent of last summer's Gaza withdrawal, the security forces dragged hundreds of protesters from rooftops barricaded in barbed wire and flattened empty homes with bulldozers and heavy machinery. The military said 32 people were arrested at the scene along with "dozens of other rioters" in the area.

The fierce battle was a likely harbinger of what lies ahead if Israel decides to leave other parts of the West Bank. Acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, the front-runner in the March 28 Israeli elections, is widely expected to announce from a major area of the territory and dismantle additional Jewish settlements if he wins.

Olmert has said he is ready to make painful territorial concessions as part of a negotiated peace agreement with the Palestinians, but has signaled he will act unilaterally if an accord is not possible.

The likelihood of unilateral action — including limited withdrawals meant to boost Israeli security — has grown since the victory by the militant group Hamas in last week's Palestinian parliamentary elections.

Hamas, which has killed hundreds of Israelis in suicide bombings, has come under world pressure to change its ways. In the first major clash of the transfer of Amos, Israel froze the transfer of about \$45 million owed to the Palestinians while Egypt called on the Islamic group to give up violence.

The Israeli decision deepened a financial crisis for the Palestinian Authority, which said it did not have enough money to meet its monthly payroll. Palestinian officials said they had arranged emergency funding from Arab allies. The battle over Amona, an Israeli hilltop enclave in the heart



Jewish settlers and their supporters clash with Israeli troops and police as authorities evacuate the West Bank settlement of Amona on Wednesday. Thousands of troops in riot gear and on horseback clashed with hundreds of stone-throwing Jewish settlers holed up behind barbed wire and on rooftops in this illegal West Bank settlement.



A Jewish settler is pinned down by Israeli troops as authorities evacuated the West Bank settlement outpost of Amona on Wednesday.

outpost — including a synagogue, playground and cramped trailer homes inhabited by about 35 families — was not affected.

During the daylong operation, the rioters, most of them young Orthodox Jews, including girls, pelted police with eggs, rocks, sand and painted balloons from their rooftop strongholds.

Police burst into the homes, climbing ladders and riding in the shovels of bulldozers to reach the roofs. The protesters beat the police with sticks and set fires on the rooftops. Thick black smoke from burning tires rose into the air and covered the area with a stench, as police aimed water cannons at the rioters.

Hundreds of protesters watched the melee from afar, occasionally scuffling with lines of riot troops, some on horseback. The homes were cleared out one by one, and bulldozers and large jackhammers knocked down the buildings.

Israel's rescue service said 219 people were injured, including 10 people in moderate to serious condition.

Iraqi insurgents severely slowing reconstruction

The Associated Press

DUJAIL — Guerrilla attacks in Iraq have forced the cancellation of more than 60 percent of water and sanitation projects, in part because American intelligence failed to predict the brutal insurgency, a U.S. government audit said.

American goals to fix Iraq's infrastructure will never be reached, mainly because insurgents have chased away contractors and forced the diversion of repair funds into security, according to an audit of the Iraqi Relief and Reconstruction Program released last week. It is the latest in a series of auditing reports being issued by the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction.

The rise of Iraq's insurgency was never envisioned by U.S. officials who originally budgeted about 9 percent of project security, the audit said.

As kidnappings, killings and sabotage drove local hires and foreign technicians from the reconstruction program, U.S. administrators were forced to step up protection for workers.

New measures like armored vehicles, private security teams and blast walls also added as much as 22 percent of project costs, according to the audit. "The whole purpose of those attacks was to drive those contractors out," said Wayne White, who headed the State Department's Iraq intelligence team until last year. "Lots of them had to leave. They were terrified."

Planners "envisioned a much more permissive security environment" than that experienced in 2004 and 2005. The Iraq insurgency has directly affected the cost of the reconstruction projects, increased the cost of materials and created project delays, the audit found.

Pre-invasion U.S. intelligence reports said guerrilla attacks were likely, White said.

"But nobody predicted anything of this magnitude in terms of resistance," said White, now an analyst with the Middle East Institute in Washington. "And in part, the magnitude of the resistance was spurred by our failures in reconstruction."

U.S. officials coped with the gathering insurgency by diverting \$5.6 billion of the \$18.4 billion U.S. aid package into Iraq's security and public safety sectors, while slashing projects aimed at restoring the country's water and electric infrastructure, the report said.

Funds earmarked for Iraq's military and law enforcement jumped 55 percent, funding ending and weapons for Iraq police and troops, prison construction and additional border guards.

U.S. occupation authority planners assumed incorrectly that rebuilding projects could proceed without interference from Iraqi insurgents, according to the audit, titled "Challenges Faced in Carrying Out Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund Activities."

The insurgency has had a very significant impact on reconstruction efforts, said Greg Sullivan, a spokesman for the State Department.

The spending diversions forced the cancellation of 60 percent of the 136 planned water and sanitation projects, including sewage, irrigation and dams. Just 49 water projects are expected to be completed, the audit says.

Of the 425 planned electric projects, 300 will be finished, meaning ambitious U.S. promises to restore Iraq's power will not be fulfilled.

Projects canceled include \$1 billion for six generating plants across Iraq, which will cut back U.S.-funded increases in Iraq's power generation capacity from a planned "3,400 megawatts to 2,100 megawatts," the report said. The stated monthly goal was 6,000 megawatts.

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400 Education

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600 Real Estate Rentals

700 Agriculture

800 Merchandise

900 Recreation

1000 Transportation

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TWIN FALLS COUNTY JOINT REPORT
1st Quarter of Fiscal Year 2006
10/01/2005 through 12/31/2005

Table with columns: Fund, Description, Beginning Balance, Received, Transfer, Pledged, Paid by, Ending Balance. Lists various funds including Current Expense, State of Idaho, Tax, Junior College of Southern Idaho, etc.

State of Idaho, Twin Falls County, We, Debbie Knuffman, Treasurer, and Kristina Glascock, Auditor of said County, do solemnly swear that the foregoing statement is correct and true for 10/01/2005 through 12/31/2005.

su do ku

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers and empty cells. Includes the text '© Puzzles by Pappocom' and 'MEDIUM #42'.

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. That's all there is to it. There's no math involved.

101 Lost and Found: FOUND horse in Kimberly, Cal. to identify. 208-423-4342. FOUND Bassett Hound on 13th Ma, Old...

113 Child Care Services: DAY CARE & PRE-SCHOOL ICCC. Child-care of all ages. DEE DUE DAYCARE... LILY PAD CHILD CARE CENTER...

200 Automotive: Do you have exp. in the Automotive Service industry and want a change of pace? Swathow Auto Sales... HOME CARE... BAKER... CASHIER...

104 Personal: Think Companionship and young at heart: A Cruise and more. We are a do-it-rental agency... Pregnancy Alternatives... PROFESSIONAL SERVICES...

108 Professional Services: BANKRUPTCY Inexpensive. Therapeutic Touch Massage Therapy... SUTTON & SONS... AUTOMOTIVE... BUY IT! SELL IT! A TIMES-NEWS CLASSIFIED WILL FILL EVERY NEED BUY IT! SELL IT!

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101 Lost and Found: FOUND 2 rings, at Fiber High School on Jan. 20th. Call to identify 208-410-5339. FOUND dog, Mini Schnauzer, long haired, seal point Himalayan... FOUND kitten, young adult, long haired, seal point Himalayan... FOUND puppy, female, white, with little black spots, tails white... Trying to find a good used automobile? Check out the classifieds for the latest selection available in your area today. (733-0293)

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WANTED TO BUY 4x8 single table, good hearing aids. Call 208-423-5634.

822 Wanted To Buy
WANTED TO BUY 4x8 single table, good hearing aids. Call 208-423-5634.

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RUGGER 357 like new, \$450. Call 208-423-5305.

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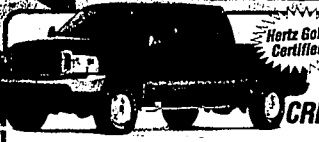
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2004 DODGE 1500 SLT 4x4 PREMI RUMBLE BEE

- Pwr Seat
- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- CD
- Slider
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2004 FORD F250 XLT CREW DIESEL 4x4

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- CD Changer
- Leather

- Slider
- Tow Pkg
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- Wheels
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Hertz Price \$32995



2004 BMW X5

- Pwr Seats
- Tilt/W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- CD Changer
- Leather

- Rear Air
- Wheels
- Roof Rack
- Stock #8151

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2005 BUICK LESABRE

- Pwr Seat
- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- Cass/CD

- Wheels
- Stock #644F

Hertz Gold Certified
Hertz Price \$15995



2005 CHEVY UPLANDER LS

- Pwr Seat
- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- CD/DVD

- Roof Rack
- Rear Air
- Pwr Sliders
- Stock #7898

Hertz Gold Certified
Hertz Price \$17995



2006 FORD EXPEDITION XLT

- Pwr Seats
- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- CD/Cassette
- Roof Rack
- Rear Air

- Running Board
- 3 Seat
- Wheels
- Tow Pkg
- Stock #8143

Hertz Gold Certified
Hertz Price \$29995



2002 FORD F150 XLT 4x4

- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- CD
- Wheels

- Stock #8166

Hertz Gold Certified
Hertz Price \$18995



2003 TOYOTA AVALON XLS

- Pwr Seats
- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- CD/Cassette

- Wheels
- Leather
- Sun Roof
- Stock #646F

Hertz Gold Certified
Hertz Price \$21995



2006 CADILLAC ESCALADE

- Pwr Seats
- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- Cass/CD Changer
- Leather
- Sun Roof

- 3 Seat
- Running Boards
- Wheels
- Tow Pkg
- On-Star
- Stock #8155

Hertz Gold Certified
Hertz Price \$52995



2002 CHEVY TAHOE LS

- Pwr Seat
- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- CD
- Rear Air

- Running Boards
- Wheels
- Tow Pkg
- Stock #8156

Hertz Gold Certified
Hertz Price \$21995



2002 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA GLS

- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- Wheels

- Stock #674F

Hertz Gold Certified
Hertz Price \$15995



2005 CHEVY IMPALA

- Pwr Seat
- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise

- Cassette
- Stock #536F

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Tim Burton's 'Corpse Bride' is out on DVD.

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Nora Band

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TOP 5

The week's most popular media, compiled by The Associated Press.

Television

1. "American Idol" — Tuesday, Fox.
2. Fox NFL Championship, Fox.
3. "American Idol" — Wednesday, Fox.
4. "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," CBS.
5. "Desperate Housewives," ABC.

— From Nielsen Media Research

Film

1. "Underworld: Evolution," Sony/Screen Gems.
2. "Hoodwinked," Weinstein Co.
3. "Glory Road," Disney.
4. "Last Holiday," Paramount.
5. "Brokeback Mountain," Focus Features.

— From Exhibitor Relations Co.

Hot 5

1. "Check on It," Beyoncé (feat. Slim Thug), Columbia. (Platinum — certified sales of 1 million units)
2. "Gritlz," Nelly (feat. Paul Wall, Ali & Gipp), Jive.
3. "Run It!" Chris Brown. (Gold — certified sales of more than 500,000)
4. "Be Without You," Mary J. Blige, Geffen.
5. "Stickwitu," The Pussycat Dolls, A&M.

— From Billboard magazine

Albums

1. "Unpredictable," Jamie Foxx, J.
2. "The Breakthrough," Mary J. Blige, Geffen.
3. "Curtain Call: The Hits," Eminem, Shady.
4. "Some Hearts," Carrie Underwood, Arista.
5. "The Legend of Johnny Cash," Johnny Cash, Legacy, (Platinum)

— From Billboard magazine

Concert tours

1. The Rolling Stones.
2. Paul McCartney.
3. U2.
4. Aerosmith.
5. Neil Diamond.

— From Pollstar

VHS/DVD rentals

1. "Wedding Crashers," New Line Home Entertainment.
2. "Red Eye," DreamWorks Home Entertainment.

3. "Transporter 2," 20th Century Fox.
4. "The Constant Gardener," Universal Studios Home Video.
5. "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," MCA Home Video, Inc.

— From Billboard magazine

VHS sales

1. "Buns of Steel 4: Advanced," Warner Home Video.
2. "Buns & Abs of Steel 9: Post-Pregnancy Workout," Warner Home Video.
3. "Buns of Steel 7: Intermediate/Advanced Step Workout," Warner Home Video.
4. "Thighs of Steel 2," Warner Home Video.
5. "Legs of Steel," Warner Home Video.

— From Billboard magazine

DVD sales

1. "Transporter 2," 20th Century Fox.
2. "Wedding Crashers (Widescreen Unrated Edition)," New Line Home Entertainment.
3. "Hustle & Flow," MTV Home Video.
4. "Wedding Crashers (Full Screen Unrated Edition)," New Line Home Entertainment.
5. "Red Eye (Widescreen)," DreamWorks Home Entertainment.

— From Billboard magazine

Top iTunes downloads

1. "Check On It," Beyoncé and Slim Thug
2. "Breaking Free," Gabriela & Troy
3. "Unwritten," Natasha Bedingfield
4. "Gritlz (Dirty)," Nelly featuring Paul Wall, Ali and Gipp
5. "Dirty Little Secret," The All-American Rejects

— Apple Computer, Inc.

Best-selling books

1. "Night" by Elie Wiesel, translation by Marlon Wiesel (Farrar, Straus and Giroux) (non-fiction/paperback)
2. "A Million Little Pieces" by James Frey (Anchor) (non-fiction/paperback)
3. "Memoirs of a Geisha" by Arthur Golden (Vintage) (fiction/paperback)
4. "The Broker" by John Grisham (Dell) (fiction/paperback)
5. "Honeycomb" by James Patterson and Howard Roughan (Warner) (fiction/paperback)

— USA Today

VIDEO GAME REVIEW



AP photo from InformationWeek

In the game 'Darwinia,' players enter a virtual reality filled with residents, called Darwinians, who must be saved from a growing viral infection.

In the lair of Dr. Sepulveda

BY MATT SAGLE
The Associated Press

If it seems the big publishers have lost touch with gamers, focusing more on wily marketing campaigns rather than interesting new titles.

"Darwinia" offers proof that there's something good about being small.

Crafted last year by the handful of programmers at Introversion Software, the \$29.99 downloadable game for Windows, Linux and Mac OS X sets itself apart with a retro, indie vibe.

The underlying gameplay doesn't deviate much from other real-time strategy titles; deploy forces, gather resources to expand your army and conquer territory.

It is the comically touching story, brilliant visuals and ease of play that make "Darwinia" such a standout.

The game happens in the virtual universe of Dr. Sepulveda's Darwin Digital Life Project. For years now, the ambitious, bespectacled Sepulveda has been breeding and evolving digital denizens he calls "Darwinians" on his computer servers.

But a problem has emerged, one many of us real computer users can identify with: an evil virus (its name, you're already guessing) has contaminated the Darwinians' home, systematically wiping them out at every turn.

As an unexpected visitor, your job is to help Sepulveda take back what the sinister virus has destroyed. Your tools include bits of computer code like engineers and squaddies, which can reprogram structures to assist

you, lob grenades and even call in airstrikes to eliminate the baddies.

But this game is really all about the poor little Darwinians. I couldn't help but care for my horde of little green stick figures. You'll spend a lot of time tending to their needs and making sure they don't do anything dumb. It's not easy.

To get the Darwinians to do your bidding, you must first promote a few of them to officers who can tell the masses what to do — most of the time.

For creatures that have purportedly been evolving for 10,000 generations, Darwinians can be downright stupid. They'll often get stuck in terrain or perform suicide missions in the face of overwhelming enemy forces. Getting them out of these predicaments can be a laborious, mind-numbing task.

This pixelated 3D world is stylistically gorgeous. Between the retro visuals and the electronic music and sound effects, "Darwinia" definitely harkens to the 1980s glory days of eight-bit computer games.

True to its name, "Darwinia" stays fresh by constantly evolving. There's a vibrant community of "modders," programmer who have created new gameplay twists and other add-ons that should keep "Darwinia" from going extinct.

I highly suggest you by the game via Valve Corp.'s Steam network, which saved me \$10 for the direct download. If you must have a physical copy, you'll have to pay full retail of \$29.95 plus shipping at Introversion's Web site.

COWBOY TROUBADOR

Well-traveled rock/country star Murphy left his heart in Elko

BY ARDELLA HAZARD
Elko Daily Free Press

ELKO, Nev. — Singer, songwriter and cowboy poet Michael Martin Murphy never misses the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, and he plans to be in Elko again this year for the event.

"I've never missed a year since I started coming. It's been more than 20 years," Murphy said in a telephone interview last week from his Wisconsin ranch. "There is just no other time when cowboy poets and cowboy musicians get together as much."

Murphy said he is excited about what he will be doing this year at the Cowboy Poetry Gathering — a solo show billed as "The Lonesome Rider."

His performance at 11 a.m. Friday at the Elko Convention Center is sold out, and tickets are still available Murphy's shows at the Stockmen's Hotel & Casino Thursday through Saturday.

The gathering runs through Saturday, featuring a packed schedule of performances, workshops and activities.

"I've been performing solos off and on all my life," said Murphy, 60. "There is something about singing a cowboy song around the campfire that is the essence of what we do."

Murphy is a true cowboy, too. "I hauled a steer to market this morning," he said in an interview last week.

In Elko, Murphy said he will be singing his most famous song, "Wildfire."

"I've got to do the classics," he said. "If you're a performer with a long career, you do the best-known songs. That's why people buy a ticket. I never get tired of singing 'Wildfire.'"

He said the joy is in seeing the "one-will-they-smile-or-terr" on the people in the audience as he sings the song.

The shows are scheduled 9:15 p.m. each day. Tickets are \$13.50 in advance from Stockmen's or \$15 at the door.

Murphy performs at Stockmen's every year when here for the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, and he said he has been coming to the gathering since his second year.

"Michael has been involved in the gathering since its inception," said Western Folklore Center Executive Director Charlie Seaman. "He's always been a very strong supporter."

Murphy said there are three key elements to the Cowboy Poetry Gathering, now in its 22nd year, that bring him back each year.

First, he enjoys the cowboy poetry and music.

Secondly, he enjoys the chance to meet the international cowboy poetry guests, which this year will be gauchos from Brazil and Argentina.

"I loved meeting the Mongolians, and the Colombians were very nice, and the Australians," Murphy said.

Murphy says he has always been a people person.

"I love to be around people. I love to look at them and become friends with people. It's all about how people react to the world."

The other thing that keeps Murphy coming back is the workshops that are part of the event each year.

"I've taught workshops and taken workshops," he said.

He also serves on the advisory board of the Western Folklore Center, which sponsors the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, and Murphy said he makes the meetings during the annual event.

"I feel good about being on the advisory board," he said. "They ask for advice, and they take it. It's a great job."

When Murphy isn't performing or writing music, he operates the ranch in Wisconsin with his wife Karen and his stepdaughters.

"I've consolidated ranching to Wisconsin, and I have a home in Plano, Texas," he said. "I divide my time between my home in Texas and the ranch (in Wisconsin)."

Murphy, who described himself as a "died-in-the-wool cowboy," said the Wisconsin ranch emphasizes horses, although the family has a small herd of longhorn and Black Angus cattle.

"I fell in love with northern Wisconsin," said the Texas native. His wife since 2003 is a horse trainer, and the ranch breeds and sells patials and quarterhorses. They also have a few draft horses, and acquired 16 Ponies of America appaloosas they are training and selling.

"And we have one pig, a 4-H pig," Murphy said.

This story originally appeared in Elko Daily Free Press, a newspaper affiliated with The Times-News.



About the Cowboy Poetry Gathering



• How to get in

In addition to ticketed shows, many performances simply require the purchase of a single-day pass or a three-day guest pass. Three-day guest passes are \$50; single-day passes cost \$18. Children under 12 are admitted free to non-ticketed daytime events.

• Where it's held

National Cowboy Poetry Gathering performances take place at the Western Folklore Center in Elko, Nev. (501 Railroad St.), the Elko Convention Center (700 Moran Way) and Great Basin College (1500 College Parkway).

• How to get there

Elko is served by SkyWest Airlines, Scenic Airlines, Airtrak and Greyhound bus. For travel reservations to Elko, call Cindy or Stephanie at Wright Travel at (800) 727-1606 or e-mail gruppss@wrighttravel.net; let them know you are attending the 22nd National Cowboy Poetry Gathering. For rental car reservations call Enterprise at (775) 738-2899 or (800) 593-0505, and give them the NCPG identification number CA42431. The Western Folklore Center provides van transportation between venues Feb. 2-4 only. These vans are not available to take attendees to hotels or restaurants.

• Lodging

For information on accommodations, call the Elko Convention and Visitors Authority at (800) 246-3556 or (775) 738-4091, or you can visit its Web site at www.elkocva.com. You can also contact the Elko Chamber of Commerce at www.elkonvada.com, or by calling (775) 738-7135.

• For more information

Call the Western Folklore Center at (888) 880-5885 or (775) 738-7500.

—Source: Western Folklore Center



Photo courtesy of Graham & Associates

He's been a rock star and a country star, but Michael Martin Murphy's first love is cowboy music.

About Michael Martin Murphy

One of the original "cosmic cowboys" of country rock, Michael Murphy started out as one of the leaders of the Texas-based "progressive country" music scene in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The Dallas native was studying creative writing at UCLA when he got a job as a staff songwriter for "The Monkees" TV series (Murphy wrote "What Am I Doing Hangin' Round") and eventually signed a record contract with A&M Records in Nashville.

His second single, "Wildfire," was a big crossover hit in 1975, and in 1980 his "Cherokee Pride" was included the soundtrack of the film "Urban Cowboy." Murphy also wrote the screenplay for "Hard Country" in 1980.

In 1982, Murphy had a pop hit with "What's Forever For," but he increasingly turned to country, scoring major Nashville hits with "Still Taking Chances" (1982), "A Face in the Crowd" with Holly Dunn (1988) and "From the Word Go" (1988). After 1990, Murphy turned to cowboy songs, and in 1986 he founded WestFest, an annual traveling celebration of Western art, history and culture.

—Source: "Rolling Stone Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll"

Movies

Now playing TWIN FALLS

Twin Cinema

"Annapolis"
"Brokeback Mountain"
"Capote"
"Fun with Dick and Jane"
"The Grapes of Wrath: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe"
"Glory Road"
"Hoodwinked!"
"King Kong"
"Memors of a Geisha"
"Munch!"
"Harry McPhee"
"Walk the Line"

Odeyssey Theater

"Big Momma's House 2"
"End of the Spear"
"The Last Holiday"
"Sydney"
"When a Stranger Calls"
"The Working and the Glory: American Zoo"

Lamphouse Theater

"Capote"
"Good Night, and Good Luck"
The Orpheum
"Underworld: Evolution"

HAILEY/KETCHUM

Magical Lantern

"Capote"
"Glory Road"
"Good Night, and Good Luck"
"The Squid and the Whale"
"Walk the Line"

Bigwood Cinema

"Big Momma's House 2"
"Glory Road"
"Harry McPhee"
"When a Stranger Calls"

RedTime Cinema

"Brokeback Mountain"
"Munch!"

BURLEY

Century Cinema

"Big Momma's House 2"
"Glory Road"
"Harry McPhee"
"Underworld: Evolution"
"When a Stranger Calls"

Burley Theater

"Cheaper by the Dozen 2"

JEROME

Jerome Cinema

"Big Momma's House 2"
"Hoodwinked!"
"Hosts"
"Underworld: Evolution"
"When a Stranger Calls"

Movie nuggets

• "Annapolis" No rating James Franco stars as a local kid accepted into the Naval Academy who enters the Brigade Boxing Championship to prove himself. With Lyse Gideon, Jordana Brewster, Bonnie Wahlberg, Chi McBride and Vicellous Shannon. Justin Lin ("Better Luck Tomorrow") directs. PG-13 for some violence, sexual content and language.

• "Big Momma's House 2" No rating Martin Lawrence goes undercover as the plus-size housekeeper for the dysfunctional family of a suspect in a national security case. Nia Long, Emily Procter, Zachary Levi and Martin Moss. Directed by John Whitesell ("Matilda's Best Wishes"). PG-13 for some sexual humor and a humorous drug reference.

• "Brokeback Mountain" *** "Ang Lee's heartbreaking film starring an incomparable Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal as Wyoming cowpokes who encounter bliss on a notch between the rocky Tetons and the unforgiving hard place of 1960s society. With Michelle Williams and Anne Hathaway. 2 hours, 14 minutes it (nudity, sex)

• "Cheaper by the Dozen 2" No rating Many families are likely to find this sequel to the 2003 hit a holiday treat. Steve Martin, affable father of two, has a great sparring partner in Eugene Levy, cast as a super-successful lifelong rival, and the two face an inevitable showdown at a Wisconsin summer resort. The film's good-natured humor is deftly shaded by the awareness of the inevitability of change and

the passing of time as Martin rounds up his family of 12 for one last family vacation before his oldest children strike out on lives of their own. With Benita Lum, Carmen Electra, Hillary Duff, Piper Perabo. (1:34) PG for some crude humor and mild language.

• "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" *** The menagerie of mythological beasts in "Narnia" don't seem quite genuinely, but they're undeniably real. That's not to say this "Wardrobe" isn't worth climbing into. Only that along with the dollops of delight, a bit of disappointment awaits on the other side. PG (bottle sequences and frightening moments)

• "End of the Spear" *** Based on the true story of an American missionary slain by primitive tribespeople in the jungles of Ecuador, this dramatization preaches a strong message of forgiveness and empathy, but does so in a simplistic fashion, rife with meaningful glances, muddling performances and melodramatic music cues. 1 hour, 52 minutes. PG-13 (violence) —Stephen Lee.

• "The Family Stone" *** This slapstick sleeper is a holiday funko concocted by four diamond-sharp performers. Sarah Jessica Parker comes to meet her gyp's parents (Diane Keaton, Craig T. Nelson) and finds the family that prides itself on its tolerance completely intolerant of her. Notable work by Keaton, Nelson, Luke Wilson and Rachel McAdams. 1 hours, 42 minutes. PG-13 (drug and sex references)

• "Fun with Dick and Jane" *** In this brisk but flat farce, a couple of 1977 comedy, Hugh Grant and Carey T. Lee team play a couple who turn to crime when their lux, white-collar existence goes down the toilet. 1 hour, 30 minutes. PG-13 (mild profanity, sexual references)

• "Glory Road" *** The basketball team from tiny Texas Western College, who used black players to win the NCAA tournament in 1966, is the subject of this film starring Josh Lucas and Derek Luke. Sweet but superficial and sermonistic. 1 hour, 46 minutes. PG (violence, racial epithets)

• "Good Night, and Good Luck" *** George Clooney's resonant, cautionary tale about newsmen Edward R. Murrow and his crusade against Sen. Joseph McCarthy asks timely questions about television's role. Political watchdog or entertainment show dog? 1 hour, 33 min-

utes PG (mature themes)

• "Hoodwinked!" *** stars It may be a poor cousin to "Shrek" franchise, but this made-on-the-cheap computer-animated feature still has more style and snarky gags than Disney's recent CG hit, "Chicken Little." 1 hours, 23 minutes. PG (some mild action and thematic elements)

• "Hosts!" Two young American tourists end up as victims in an Eastern European torture chamber in this vile and disjointed horror film. 1 hour, 35 minutes (intense violence, profanity, nudity, sex and drug use)

• "King Kong" *** Peter Jackson ("Lord of the Rings") has remade "King Kong," the one and only to a European and the 50-foot gorilla who fall for each other, literally and figuratively, and it's a doozy. With Naomi Watts as Ann Darrow and Andy Serkis as the towering ape, Kong's facial and physical movements. 3 hours. PG-13 (marauding dinosaurs, creepy creatures, violent deaths)

• "Last Holiday" No rating Queen Latifah stars as a New Orleans cookware saleswoman who flings caution to the wind and heads to a European resort when she learns that she has limited time to live. With LL Cool J, Timothy Hutton, Gerard Depardieu, Alicia Witt, Giancarlo Esposito. With LL Cool J, Timothy Hutton, Gerard Depardieu, Alicia Witt, Giancarlo Esposito. (1:52) PG-13 for some sexual reference.

• "Memors of a Geisha" ** Pretty as a picture and soulless as a Hollywood producer (OK, a cheap joke), this big studio adaptation of Arthur Golden's best-seller is a lush, best-of-snoozefest set in the enigmatic world of Japanese courtesans. Zhang Ziyi stars as the fishing-village-urchin-turned-reigning-geisha in Sato of the 1930s and 1940s. 2 hours, 14 minutes. PG-13 (adult themes)

• "Munch!" *** Set in the wake of the 1972 massacre of the Israeli Olympic team, Steven Spielberg's taut thriller chronicles the covert operation to hunt down and kill the men believed to have masterminded the terrorist operation. Eric Bana stars as the Israeli agent who heads the covert hit squad, crisscrossing Europe on a mission of vengeance. With Geoffrey Rush, Ciaran Hinds and an international cast. 2 hrs. 44 R (violence, profanity, nudity, sex, adult themes) —Steven Rea

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Capote

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Sat. & Sun. 4:30-7:00-9:00
Next Wed. & Thurs. 7:00-9:00 **R**

Good Night, and Good Luck

Tonite & Fri. 7:15-9:15
Sat. & Sun. 4:45-7:15-9:15
Next Wed. & Thurs. 7:15-9:15 **PG**

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Now at the Twin and Jerome Cinema

Features and Showtimes for February 5 to 9, 2006

Odyssey 8 Theatre

Last Holiday (13) Daily 7:15 - 9:45

Sat - Sun 1:15 - 4:15 - 7:15 - 9:45

End of the Spear (13)

Daily 7:15

Sat - Sun 1:15 - 4:15 - 7:15

Cheaper by the Dozen 2 (PG) Daily 7:30 - 9:45

Sat - Sun 12:45 - 3:00 - 5:15 - 7:30 - 9:45

When a Stranger Calls (13)

Daily 7:00 - 9:15

Sat - Sun 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:00 - 9:15

Work & Glory 2 - All Seats \$2.00 (13) Daily 7:00 - 9:15

Sat - Sun 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:00 - 9:15

Big Momma's House 2 (13) Daily 7:15 - 9:30

Sat - Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30

Syriana (R) Daily 9:45

Twin 18 Cinema

Magic Valley's Entertainment Complex

Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (PG) Daily 9:45 - 9:30

Sat - Sun 12:30 - 3:45 - 6:45 - 9:30

Memories of a Geisha (13) Daily 7:45

Sat - Sun 12:45 - 3:00 - 5:15 - 7:30 - 9:45

Family Fun Hoodwinked (PG) Daily 7:15 - 9:00

Sat - Sun 12:45 - 3:00 - 5:15 - 7:15 - 9:00

The Johnny Cash Story - Walk the Line (13) Daily 6:45 - 9:30

Sat - Sun 12:30 - 3:45 - 6:45 - 9:30

Disney's Glory Road (PG) Daily 7:15 - 9:45

Sat - Sun 1:15 - 4:15 - 7:15 - 9:45

Nanny McPhee (PG) Daily 7:00 - 9:15

Sat - Sun 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:00 - 9:15

King Kong (13) In Digital Sound

Long Long Time Ago 3 Shows: Please Don't Accept Any

Daily 7:00 Sat - Sun 2:00 - 7:00

Annapolis (13) Daily 7:30 - 9:45

Sat - Sun 12:45 - 3:00 - 5:15 - 7:30 - 9:45

Munich (R) Daily 7:45

Sat - Sun 1:15 - 4:15 - 7:45

Capote (R) Daily 7:30 - 9:45

Sat - Sun 12:45 - 3:00 - 5:15 - 7:30 - 9:45

Fun with Dick and Jane (PG) Daily 7:30 - 9:45

Sat - Sun 12:45 - 3:00 - 5:15 - 7:30 - 9:45

Brokeback Mountain (R) Daily 6:45 - 9:30

Sat - Sun 12:50 - 3:45 - 6:45 - 9:30

Will You Answer the Phone.....

or Run

When a Stranger Calls

Now at the Odyssey and Jerome Cinema

All Seats Only \$2.00



Now at the Odyssey (PG-13)

Nominated for 2 Academy Awards with George Clooney for Supporting Actor



Now at the Odyssey (R)



Underworld: Evolution (R)

Sat - Sun 2:40 - 4:50 - 7:00 - 9:05



Kate Beckinsale

Underworld: Evolution (R) Daily 7:00 - 9:15

Sat - Sun 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:00 - 9:15

Martin Lawrence

Big Momma's House 2 (13)

Sat - Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30

Al Pacino, Robin Williams, Kevin Spacey

Hoodwinked (PG) Daily 7:00

Sat - Sun 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:00

Hostel (R) Daily 9:00

When a Stranger Calls (13)

Daily 7:15 - 9:30

Sat - Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30



The Academy Award Movies You Want to See

8 Academy Award Nominations including Best Picture, Directing, Screenplay, Actor, (Heath Ledger), Supporting Actor (Liam Neeson)



Now at the Twin Cinema

5 Academy Award Nominations including Best Picture, Directing, Screenplay, Film Editing, Music



Now at the Twin Cinema

5 Academy Award Nominations including Best Picture, Directing, Screenplay, Actor (Dilip Sengupta Hoffman)



Now at the Twin Cinema

5 Academy Award Nominations including Best Art Direction, Cinematography, Costume Design, Sound Mixing



Now at the Twin Cinema

4 Academy Award Nominations including Best Actor (Joaquin Phoenix), Best Actress (Renée Zellweger), Sound



Now at the Twin Cinema

Nominated for 2 Academy Awards



The Chronicles of NARNIA

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Now at the Twin Cinema

The BIG Momma of all Comedies is Back...



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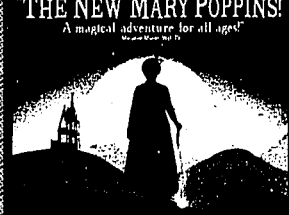
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EMMA THOMPSON COLIN FIRTH

Nanny McPhee

You'll learn to love her. Warm and all...

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Movies

Movies continued from page 4

• "Nanny McPhee" No rating Emma Thompson stars in and wrote the screenplay for this film about a governess whose effect on a widower and his seven children is otherworldly. Colin Firth, Angela Lansbury and Thomas Sangster also star. Directed by Kirk Jones ("Walking Ned Devine"). PG for mild them-



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Tuesday, Feb. 7... 6:00pm

HERRETT FAMILY NIGHT
11:30pm Sky Viewing
Centennial Observatory
(weather permitting)
Tuesday, Feb. 7... 7:00pm

ASTRONOMY TALK
"The Universe in 3D"
Bick Allen Community Room
Friday, Feb. 3rd... 7:15pm
\$2/adults, \$1/kids, \$5/families
Telescope viewing in the Centennial Observatory follows at 8:30 if skies are clear.

TICKETS FOR ALL SHOWS
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Senior... \$3 Families... \$9

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About the rating system

The ratings in these capsules are by Knight Ridder News Service review. 4 stars: Excellent; 3 stars: Good; 2 stars: Fair; 1 star: Poor

matic elements, some rude humor and brief language.

• "The Squid and the Whale" ***½ Noah Baumbach's melancholy comedy about Brooklyn brothers, circa 1986, entangled in the tentacles and maw of joint custody. With Jeff Daniels and Laura Linney as the parents. 1 hour, 28 minutes. R (profanity, sexual candor)

• "Syriana" ***½ Stephen Gaghan's feverish and urgent political thriller maps the New Oil Order. With George Clooney as a CIA agent, Alexander Siddig as a progressive Middle Eastern prince, and Matt Damon as an energy analyst. 2 hours, 6 minutes. R

• "Underworld: Evolution" *** Kate Beckinsale and Scott Speedman return in this monster mash sequel that pits vampires against werewolves. Its sensational looking but ponderously plotted. 1 hour 45 minutes. R (strong violence, sexual situations, profanity)

• "Walk the Lion" ***½ A blazing biopic about American music legend Johnny Cash and his stormy relationship with June Carter Cash, with Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon at the top of their games as the couple who shared good times, bad times and hard times in the name of some historic music biz craziness. Phoenix and Witherspoon do their own singing, and they pull it off. 2 hours, 16 minutes PG-13 (adult themes, sex, drugs, violence)

• "When a Stranger Calls" No rating A high school student's babysitting gig ends in a nightmare when she receives mysterious phone calls at the house to check on the children, only to find them dead. Years later, the traumatized woman must fight for her life when the stranger starts calling for her. With Camilla Belle, Brian Geraghty, Tommy Flanagan. PG-13.

• "The Work and the Glory: American Zion" No rating. The story of the fictional Steed family against the historically factual backdrop of the Mormon people's move into the West.

Sources: Knight Ridder Newspapers, Los Angeles Times

'Capote'

BY STEPHEN HUNTER
The Washington Post

Truman Capote was as corny as Kansas in November, which is to say not corny at all.

So what was the elfin, mincing, vicuna-wrapped, dowager-loving, gossip-mongering, gay, S.T. Looking writer doing in a small village in the western edges of the Jayhawk State in November 1959? (He probably didn't even know what a Jayhawk was.) The answer is twofold, according to Gerald Clarke's great 1988 biography "Capote" and this terrific movie based on a substantial part of it: writing a great book and destroying himself.

That intertwined trajectory of creation and destruction is at the heart of the severe film, almost like a diagram of the primal Faustian bargain: The artist grows and more and gains so much, achieves immortality, really — and it only costs him his soul.

Capote, a doyen of the salons (but never the saloons) of the Upper East Side and secure in his world and reputation as the New Yorker's best and brightest boy, saw an article in the *New York Times* recounting the slaughter of a prosperous farm family named Clutter on the high plains by persons unknown. Something provoked his imagination, perhaps the hugeness of the crime juxtaposed with the stolidity of the community and its solitude way out there where the rain is Tess, the fire's Jo and they call the wind Maria. Within days he was headed there in the company of his boyhood chum, the soon-to-be-published writer Harper Lee, who served as his enabler as he attempted to make contact with the sundared town, its law-enforcement professionals and, ultimately, the perpetrators of the deed.

In "Capote," director Bennett Miller, writer Dan Futterman and most of all actor Philip Seymour Hoffman in the little role (all are boyhood friends, publicity materials say) capture this process with exquisite accuracy if minimal flourish: The genius of the film, besides Hoffman's stunning performance, is that it knows exactly how to never overplay, lingers or punches up. It "writes," as it were, in the cinematic equivalent of the spare, eloquent prose the New Yorker is famous for.

Miller shrinks each sequence to its salient story point, then cuts it in a rush. It's almost as if he went through Futterman's screenplay and cut the first half out of every scene. Meanwhile, he uses the severe landscape — flat, the horizon a hundred miles out, the sky gray and mean, the thick making the sound like forks was out there yin, the rustle of the dry corn, the frozen patches of snow — to suggest the inner state of his title antagonist's mind.

And the filmmakers pull no punches: Truman's a bitch. With an airy wave of his fat, most fingers he disdains poor, square cop Alvin Dewey (played by Chris Cooper as if his first name were Gary) and then acknowledges, in a throwaway line as he Jean-Claude Van Damme dramatically through the police station with a sweep of his stylish coat, "Oh, I don't really care if you catch them or not." Not exactly meant to endear himself to stoical law-"in"-order types.

But Tru has charm and, though you can't see it under the gay bling, gilt: And he's able to use his outsider-ness to reach people from odd angles, for example playing up his New Orleans background to captivate Dewey's wife, a New Orleansian herself. You never heard *N'Awlanszone* spoken with such high Talulahesque zing! As he was with the Dowager Swans of the



Sony Pictures Classics

Philip Seymour Hoffman nails the character of writer Truman Capote.

Starring: Philip Seymour Hoffman, Chris Cooper, Clifton Collins Jr.

Rated: R for scenes of violence and brief strong language.

Starts Friday at:
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Rich Old Lady Set in New York a few years later, he's able to ingratiate himself first with her, and by extension with the square-shootin' Dewey, which gives him almost unlimited access to the investigative machinery of the state and, in turn, the cred to get inside the prison system. Other than Dewey and Catherine Keener's grounded but hardly Alabama-seeming Lee, the movie has nothing nice to say about anyone. It views all humanity through Truman's jaundiced eyes, including himself.

It suggests that not only was the killing done in cold blood, but, over the following few years, so was the writing.

"Capote" gets at the writer's ethical dilemmas: Real people and their lives are never as tidy as a good story, and they must be nudged, shadowed, manipulated to get with the program. Every writer of long-form nonfiction faces this issue; he also needs the cooperation of people his book will be unkind to, and so the manipulations are creative, as are, in his interior life, his justifications.

Throughout the long writing (close to six years) of "In Cold Blood," Capote plays these games with a grandmaster's finesse, even when they become clouded by emotional engagement, possibly even love. He falls for one of the killers, a Clifton and embittered loser named Perry Smith (Clifton Collins Jr.). Yet even as he loves the poor to what thing that Perry is, he must use him, first to find out what it is that enables a man to put a 12-gauge muzzle to the head of other humans and pull the trigger — four times! — and second, for the killer's account of the event, which he knew would form the climax of his book and make it great.

So he seduces Perry at least metaphorically (the picture avoids the suggestion that some others have by offering a physical relationship) and guides him by being and withholding love, by enabling the young man's fantasies of specialness and, cruellest of all, by denying the nature of the book he is writing, even to the point of lying about what the book's title will be. He also knows something more terrible: His book will be better if Perry swings at the end of the Kansas hangman's rope. He needs that scene.

New on DVD Synopses of films recently released for home viewing.

"Tiny" Burton's "Corpse Bride" PG

With Tim Burton, it is understood that you're going to take a walk on the macabre side: a creepy guy with blades for hands, a cross-dressing autocrat, campy chocolate factory owner working out Oedipal issues. This is a dude who digs the dark, even when he's flooding the screen with Technicolor brights. So there should be no surprise that his latest offering is a homage to the love that dares not speak its name: necrophilia.

Yes, the titular "Corpse Bride" of Burton's latest animated creature feature is indeed dead. She's literally coming apart at the seams, protruding at an alarming rate, notwithstanding her prodigious cleavage. Sure, she's cute, but she has a wayward eye that pops out at inopportune moments, thanks to a mouthy maggot renting space in its socket.

Weird? Without a doubt. A corpse marriage may not be to everyone's tastes, young children in particular. But the movie has its appeal, especially those of the blushing bride herself, voiced by a pretty Helena Bonham Carter.

But she isn't exactly marriage material, as Victor Van Dort, voiced by Johnny Depp, discovers when he's dragged from the Land of the Living into the Land of the Dead and finds out that, through a rather unfortunate twist of fate, he's hitched to the moaning miss. And therein lies Victor's dilemma: Will true love — with Victoria, a living lass (voiced by Emily Blunt) — pre-empt over the Corpse Bride's (Geri Corrie) vengeful determination? Or will Victor end up spending the rest of his days picking up his bride's brittle body parts?

Tough call. Victor's not the strongest of souls. It's being dragged into an arranged marriage that his nouveau riche parents (voiced by Paul Whitehouse and Tracey Ullman) have orchestrated with the titled but dead-broke Everglots (Noanna Lumley and Albert Finney). Never mind that he doesn't get to meet Victoria, his betrothed, until the day before the wedding.

"What if we don't like each other?" Victoria, quite sensibly, asks her control-kick parents. "If that has anything to do with marriage," her parents sniff. After all, business is business.

Good thing for Victor and Victoria that it's love at first sight, the kind of instantaneous infatua-



Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

The corpse bride, voiced by Helena Bonham Carter, has been dying to meet the very much alive Victor, voiced by Johnny Depp.

tion that you only find in, well, the movies. But that love is soon tested by Victor's bungling. He ends up beneath the floor of a creepy forest, hanging out in the Land of the Dead, where our determined heroine resides: As it turns out, the underworld is a hip and happening place, complete with the doot and moatromatics of the Land of the Living. Those cadavers, they sure know how to party, and Victor is drawn in by the Corpse Bride's sill vial charms.

Poor Victor. Here is a man clearly torn between two lovers, straddling the fence between life and death.

Based on a Russian folk tale, "Corpse Bride" makes for a breathtaking viewing: It's set in a 19th-century European village, shot in stark shades of black, whites and grays, and rick-jacked together using not computers but older-school stop-motion animation. The film is tongue-in-cheek and wry, with kitschy musical numbers featuring singing skeletons. (At times, the dialogue was difficult to follow, which could have been the fault of the print we watched.)

But for all its charm, we can't quite figure out for whom the film is intended: Talking maggots and decaying bodies do not a kiddie movie make, and the song-and-dance numbers aren't edgy enough to appeal to adults. Increasingly with "Children's Series of Unfortunate Events" and "The Incredibles," the dialogue and plot lines are engineered to engage the parents — with enough Pixar-like animation or live-action theatrics to keep the kids distracted. Every one's happy, or so the studio says

hope, but with "Corpse Bride," the result is a strangely disjointed hybrid, though tweeners will probably get a giggle from the gross-out factor.

"In Her Shoes" PG-13

Adapted from Jennifer Weiner's 2002 novel of the same name, "In Her Shoes" is about Rose (Collette) and Maggie (Cameron Diaz), sisters whose relationship has been on the verge of explosion since childhood. The truth of what happened back then comes in tantalizing hints — a mother who was killed in a car accident, a stepmother they dislike: a beloved dog called Honey Bun who gave the girls that "one perfect day." Meanwhile, we witness the interplay between the two siblings whose character differences are so polarized they could be called Pro and Con.

Rose, the older, was always the more responsible sister and, it's clear, her role hasn't changed. A junior partner for a Philadelphia law firm, she makes good money, has her own home, and always seems to be hauling out Maggie, a party girl who has never had a steady job and borrows (even steals) money. When we meet Maggie, she's having a drunken sexual encounter with an old schoolmate at her 10-year high school reunion. When that goes awry (duh), she ends up penniless and miserable on Rose's sofa — again.

Rose, anxious to get her sister out of her life, forces Maggie to look for a job. It's bad enough that Maggie blows a potential video-jockey job by flunking a teleprompter reading test. (This

is where we learn, *Movie of the Week* style, that she has a reading problem.) It's worse that Rose's car gets towed (thanks to Maggie's unpaid tickets, and that Maggie breaks Rose's favorite shoe and uses gum to repair the heel. But the real killer is the stolen boyfriend).

Maggie's never been short of men, the one advantage she has over Rose. So when Rose finally lands her smooth-operating boss Jim (Richard Burgi) and Maggie casually seduces him, that's the end of the sisters' relationship.

This should be the movie's most crucial moment. We've entered new, dark territory. But instead of intensifying things, the movie takes a frustrating walkabout. The sisters spin off in different directions — they end up more than 1,200 miles apart, in fact — to find their true selves. And here's where watching dueling subplots:

"The Legend of Zorro" PG

Proudly flourishing the Z that stands for "Zorro" is "The Legend of Zorro" — cr. "Zorro" is dumb like a fox.

It's a full seven years since the original "Mask of Zorro" made Catherine Zeta-Jones a star and Jothly Wood royalty in the same breath, and nobody connected with this film — including Zeta-Jones, Antonio Banderas and director Martin Campbell — really wants to revisit the scene of the initial triumph. So they don't. They pretend to make a Zorro film, when they're really making what feels like a sequel to the dreadful big-screen version of "The Wild, Wild West."

Where's Agent Jim West when you need him! Surely, it's more his part of the forest than Zorro's to stop a mega-conspiracy plot to surrender the United States into Civil War in 1850 by equipping the Confederate states (pay no attention to the fact there were no Confederate states until 1861) with a weapon of mass destruc-

tion called nitroglycerine, giving them the impetus to start blowing things up. That will destroy the country, paving the way for some shadowy European one-worldist plot to take over.

As this plays out without much in the way of conviction, it seems mostly to involve running around to no good end and not much point. The action sequences — over-edited, over-stylized and full of acrobatic stunts — look like a collision between a track meet, gymnastics meet, Spanish club and a costume party.

Campbell screws up... nothing. There's just a nonsense plot, too many action sequences of no consequence all festooned on the absurd plot. What a waste of talent, time and money. And guess what else? Not only is "The Legend of Zorro" stupid and boring, but — ta-dah — it's also really long!



Photo courtesy of Columbia Pictures

Antonio Banderas buckles his swash again in "The Legend of Zorro."

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Food

South-central Idaho dining guide

ALBION

• **Sage Mountain Grill**, 255 N. Main — Pizza, pasta, burgers, salmon, 10-rye steak, \$5.50-\$16.95. Full bar. Hours: Mondays through Thursdays, 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 8 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sundays 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Tom and Ira DiGrazia, owners. 673-6686.

BELLEVUE

• **Jesse's Country Grill**, 401 N. Main — Burgers, chicken-fried steak, meat-lover delight, \$5-\$7.50. Beer. Hours: Mondays through Saturdays, 6 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sundays 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Jorge Mirra, owner. 788-9002.

BLISS

• **Obow Cafe**, 199 East Highway 30 — Pasta, steak, seafood entrees, \$7.99-\$15.99; weekend 8-ounce prime rib special, \$39.99. Hours: Daily 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Terry Sheaffer, owner. 352-4250.

BUHL

• **Garibaldi's**, 113 Broadway S. — Burritos, tacos, chimichangas, shrimp fajitas, \$4.25-\$11.75. Full bar. Hours: Mondays through Saturdays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Primitivo Perez, owner. 543-6268.

• **Grandstands Sports Bar and Restaurant**, 1003 Main — Finger steaks, shrimp/chicken baskets, sandwiches: \$3.50-\$8.99; "chicken wings appetizers, \$3-9.99. Wine, beer.

Hours: Mondays through Saturdays, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Mark and Debra Laing, J.R. and Sheri Ard, owners. 543-8855.

• **Home Town Cookin'**, 1000 Burley Ave. — Steak, shrimp, specialty pies; prime rib and catfish specials Friday nights, \$6.99-\$13.99. Hours: Mondays through Thursdays, 6 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 6 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sundays, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

Terry and Kay Sheaffer, owners. 543-2252.

• **Jackson's Kountry Komer**, 1101 Broadway N. — Steak, jumbo shrimp, huli-huli, chicken-fried steak, homemade biscuits and gravy, \$5.95-\$16.95. Wine, beer. Hours: Sundays through Thursdays, 5 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 5 a.m.-11 p.m. Lee and Linda Jackson, owners. 543-6570.

BURLEY

• **Angel's Authentic Mexican Food**, 1198 E. Main — Burritos, tacos, fajita meals, \$5-\$18.49; baby back ribs weekend special (after 5 p.m.), \$13.99. Wine, beer. Hours: Mondays through Thursdays, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m.-11:30 p.m.; closed Sundays. Ted and Josie Garcia, owners. 678-9913.

• **China City Restaurant**, 502 Scott Ave. — Pork/chicken fried rice, Moo goo gal pan, chicken-fried steak, \$4.55-\$10.75. Hours: Mondays through Thursdays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Pete Yan, owner. 436-8339.

• **Edith's Cafe**, 144 Highway 81 E.

— Burger and fries, \$2-\$5. Hours: Tuesdays through Fridays, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Tom Jones, owner. 678-2248.

• **Garibaldi's**, 610 N. Overland Drive. — Tacos, burritos, chimichangas, hamburgers, \$5.75-\$11.75. Full bar. Hours: Mondays through Saturdays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Jose Perez, owner. 678-2117.

• **George K's**, 325 E. Third St. — Wok-cooker stir fry, Cantonese chicken, steak and lobster, \$4.95-\$19.95. Full bar. Hours: Mondays through Thursdays, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and 5 p.m.-9 p.m.; Fridays, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.-10

p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, noon-8 p.m. Russ Hutchison, owner. 678-9173.

• **Guadalupe Mexican Restaurant**, 262 Overland — Tacos, burritos, fajitas, \$4.95-\$12.25. Full bar. Hours: Mondays through Thursdays, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; Fridays through Sundays, 10:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Andres Arcoo, owner. 678-8635.

• **Price's Cafe**, 2444 Overland Drive — Hot meatloaf sandwiches, finger steaks, meals for small appetites, \$4.75-\$10.49. Hours: Mondays through Saturdays, 6 a.m.-9 p.m.; closed Sundays. Derek Anderson, owner. 678-5149.

DECLO

• **Jake's Over the Top**, 232 North Highway 77 (Take Exit 216 off Interstate 84) — Burgers, chicken tenders, fresh fruit shakes in season, \$2.30-\$6.49. Hours: Mondays through Saturdays, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sundays 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Debby Kavan, owner. 654 9891.

• **Carmela Restaurant** — Fettuccini, seafood, steak, \$3.95-\$14.95; weekend prime rib specials, \$15-\$20. Wine, beer. Hours: Daily, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; closed Christmas and New Year's Day. Weekend reservations recommended. Rieger Jones, owner. 366-2539.

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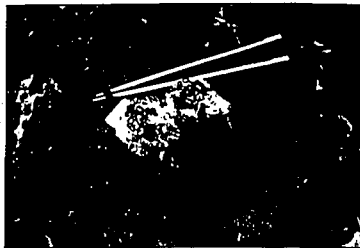
• **El Comedor**, 127 3rd Ave. E. — Enchiladas, burritos/lado combo plates, Mexican food buffet, \$3-\$11.50. Hours: Mondays through Fridays, 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; closed Saturdays and Sundays. Debbie Lagunas, owner. 934-5852.

• **Mainline Cafe**, 116 4th Ave. W. — Chicken-fried steak, finger steaks, burgers and soup, \$4.95-\$10.95. Hours: Mondays through Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 10:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; closed weekends. Eldon Crisp, owner. 943-

8969.

• **New China House Restaurant**, 222 4th Ave. E. — Sweet-sour chicken, pork and seeds, grilled shrimp, \$4-\$8.75. Wine, beer. Hours: Tuesdays through Sundays, 6 a.m.-9 p.m.; closed Mondays. Frank Chie, owner. 934-9500.

• **Woodriver Inn**, 530 Main — Steak, shrimp, chicken strips, and daily specials, \$4.95-\$13.99. Full bar. Hours: Mondays through Thursdays, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Bonita Koonce, owner. 934-4059.



MEAGAN THOMPSON/The Times-News

Upside down shrimp make a tasty dish at Sushi Ya.

Belly up to the bar At Sushi Ya, it isn't fast food: it's a food experience

BY KATHA M. FITZGERALD
Times-News writer

About Sushi Ya

TWIN FALLS — Sushi. Just the name tends to create images of raw fish and food poisoning — but think again. According to our friends at <http://www.dictionary.com> the actual definition is this: "cold cooked rice dressed with vinegar that is shaped into bite-sized pieces and topped with raw or cooked fish, or formed into a roll with fish, egg or vegetables and wrapped in seaweed."

See? Raw or cooked? You can find about anything to suit your liking at Twin Falls' Sushi Ya. I grew up with a Japanese step-father, so I had been introduced to sushi a long time ago. But I hadn't tried it locally, so I took the Times-News' resident sushi queen, Tiffany Hartgen, and headed for Sushi Ya on a recent Friday night.

It's clean and brightly lit. Tiffany said the best place to sit is at the bar where you can talk directly to the sushi chefs and see how each item is prepared. Sushi Ya has an extensive menu covering everything from chick-

412 Second Ave. E., Twin Falls — Prices range from \$2.50 for a small serving of sushi to \$18.95 for the dinner-sized all-you-can-eat. Non-sushi dishes run between \$6.95 and \$12.95. Hours: 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and 5-9 p.m., Mondays through Saturdays. Betty Bari, owner. 733-0777

en teriyaki to freshwater eel. As for the sushi, you can order from a long list of varieties in both small or large sizes. Sushi is ordered by the piece and variety, with prices ranging from \$2.50 for Night Sushi (a bowl of rice with fish on top), to \$7.50 for the Caterpillar Roll (eight bites with several different types of fish and vegetables wrapped in the rice).

Ordering a variety of sushi types can add the bill up quickly. Tiffany is a self-proclaimed Sushi Ya junkie and, after extensive research, has found the best bargain is ordering the "all-you-can-eat" option. For lunch it's \$13.95; for dinner, you'll pay \$18.95.

"We tried the 'Rocky Mountain' first in a long roll. A long roll contains eight pieces. A hand roll is a small cone shape mound of rice topped with the fish.

"The Mountain" contains six pieces see SUSHI, Page 15

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Karaoke with Lone Star Entertainment will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Pioneer Club. No cover charge. The Pioneer Club is located at 1519 Kimberly Road.

P & D Karaoke will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Montana Steak House. No cover charge. Montana Steak House is located at 1826 Canyon Crest Drive.

Karaoke will be featured from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Klover-Klub Lounge. No cover charge. The Klover Klub is located at 402 Main N.

Burley

Kroakers Karaoke with Daniel Krieger will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Riverside. No cover charge. The Riverside is located at 197 W. Highway 30.

FRIDAY

Twin Falls

Karaoke with Lone Star Entertainment will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Pioneer Club. No cover charge. The Pioneer Club is located at 1519 Kimberly Road.

Karaoke will be featured from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Klover Klub Lounge. No cover charge. The Klover Klub is located at 402 Main N.

Burley

Miller Time Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Cheri's. No cover charge. Cheri's is located at 163 West U.S. Highway 30.

Karaoke will be featured from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the G10 Club. No cover charge. The G10 Club is located at 1054 Overland Ave.

Rupert

High Mountain Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Blue Room. No cover charge. The Blue Room is located at 613 Fremont Ave.

Kroakers Karaoke with Daniel Krieger will be featured from 9

Please see KARAOKE CORNER, Page 14

BAND IN THE BOX

BY MATT CHRISTENSEN | Times-News writer

Bandhood

The band has been together in various incarnations for about 15 years.

Home

Twin Falls

Beginnings

Bob Nora, the band's leader, cut his teeth in Los Angeles jazz clubs during the late '60s and early '70s. Nora played with music greats such as "Louie Louie" writer Richard Berry and country legend Johnny Paycheck.

But it was bebop saxophonist Sonny Criss who turned the novice Nora into a versatile horn player. Nora heard Criss playing on a local radio show and called in to speak to the jazzman. Criss hung up the phone. Undeterred, Nora tracked down his hero at home and pestered him for three months. Finally, Criss gave in and agreed to pass along his saxophone secrets to the young Nora.

Nora took his talent to the Los Angeles clubs and lounges — and, when he couldn't get a gig, the street.

"I learned a lot about people playing on those streets," Nora said. "If I couldn't guess what kind of music a person liked, then I wasn't going to get paid." Nora can still read an audience, though when he does now it's in smoke-filled Magic Valley bar rooms — not across noisy LA sidewalks. About 15 years ago, Nora began to feel smothered in California, so he returned to Twin Falls, his childhood home, to look after his aging parents.

That is when Nora met Cheri Chandler. Both were auditioning for a spot in a local band. The band hired Nora, even though he thought Chandler deserved the job.

"Well, if you won't hire her, Nora told the band, "then I will." The Bob Nora Band was born. The two have been together since — as band mates as well as lovers.

"We probably work better together than live together," Chandler confessed at the Cove last week. Her comment drew laughs from the bar patrons.

"We butt heads sometimes," Nora said. "But the music keeps us straight."

Nora and Chandler have played with various drummers and bassists over the years. Now, longtime Twin Falls musician



NEALAN THOMPSON/The Times-News

Bass player Jeff Silcock, left, vocalist Cheri Chandler, center, and Bob Nora make up part of the Bob Nora Band, a local band that plays tonight at The Cove in Twin Falls. Not pictured is drummer Nate Harper.

The Bob Nora Band

Bob Nora
Sax, flute, piano, vocals
Cheri Chandler
Piano, vocals
Nate Harper
Drums
Jeff Silcock
Bass, vocals

Jeff Silcock plays bass, and Nate Harper mans the drum kit.

The tunes

Light, mellow jazz fueled by Nora's breezy sax and flute.

A typical gig features an eclectic mix of covers — "Smooth Operator," "No Woman No Cry," "My Girl" — and Nora's original compositions. The band makes the covers their own, thanks to Nora's innovative arrangements. And the originals are pleasant and relaxing.

Chandler's pure backup singing complements Nora's unusual vocal phrasing. Nora's light and breezy drawl voice is reminiscent of the old jazz crooners — unexpected inflection and emphasis — and Chandler brings stability to many of the songs.

The rhythm section stays mostly out of the way for Chandler's piano and Nora's sax. It's

clear the musicians know what they're doing. Nora's playing style is wild and sensual; Chandler's is reserved and calm. It's a nice balance.

Music-writing philosophy

Write what you know. Nora pens all the lyrics and music from tunes and words that appear in his mind. Sometimes a melody pops into his head while he drinks coffee. Other times he's just out walking.

"He thinks 'em up. I write 'em down," Chandler said.

But even when the music is on the page, a Bob Nora Band song is never finished. A new bass line here, a new harmony there, every song is different at each performance.

"If you're any kind of musician, the song will be different every time," Nora said.

Influences

No Led Zeppelin or Bob Dylan here. In fact, when asked about influences, Nora doesn't drop any names.

"Nature, people, conversations. Those are what influence my music," he said.

Well, there is one person: Chandler — though Nora won't say which songs his muse

The name

Nora rolled his eyes when asked about the name.

"I didn't want to call it my name," he said. "We were getting ready to play our first gig — it was at the Mule Chute in Halley, I think — and the manager asked what our name was. I wanted to call it 'Galena' because I rode my bike up there all the time. But he said nobody knew what that was. He said, 'You wanna get paid? Then you're the Bob Nora Band.'"

Discography

The band has three albums under their belt. The most recent is the 1995 "First Sight." Nora said he's making plans to record a new album of love songs soon.

"Everybody likes love songs," Nora said.

Catch them

The Bob Nora Band plays at 7:30 p.m. tonight at The Cove, 496 Addison Ave. W. in Twin Falls. They have a standing gig at 8 p.m. every Wednesday at The Oasis, 1007 Blue Lakes Blvd. N. in Twin Falls.

JAMES BLUNT

Singer stirs U.S. listeners with 'Beautiful' song

NEW YORK (AP) — Linda Perry, the prolific producer and songwriter for Pink, Christina Aguilera, Gwen Stefani and others, was in London to get a job of inspiration from the city's trend-setting music scene when a friend slipped her a demo from an unknown singer-songwriter.

"It was poorly produced and, Perry deemed it mediocre as a whole. Yet the scratchy tenor and lyrical content left Perry transfixed when she heard it three years ago.

"Anybody with an ear could hear that this guy was amazing," says Perry, who maintained her poker face while she was listening but recalls "kicking my manager under the table like, 'Oh my God!'"

Now the rest of the world knows why Perry was so riveted. The singer on that demo, James Blunt (whom Perry signed to her fledgling label) has become music's latest It Boy due to his soulful, stirring single, "You're Beautiful." The ballad, about a split-second encounter with a stunning woman that leaves him wondering what might have been, became a mainstay on adult contemporary formats before crossing over to top 40 radio, where it has become a top 20 hit.

"Every time we play it, we get phone calls and e-mails asking, 'Whimsy!'" says Sharon Dastur, the assistant program director at pop station WJZZ-FM (Z-100) in New York City. "It's just one of those songs that people are just so drawn to that people want to keep hearing it."

But Blunt doesn't want people to get too caught up in "You're Beautiful" — because he thinks his debut album, "Back to Bedlam," has a lot more to offer.

"It's like a book, like 10 chapters," he says of the disc, which was released last fall and is approaching gold status. "It seems sometimes ludicrous to sometimes focus on Chapter 1." While the chapters on "Bedlam" may captivate, they may not be as interesting as some chapters in the 28-year-old Blunt's life. He knew since he was a youth that he wanted to be a musician; he was trained in guitar, piano and violin and began writing songs at 14.

But instead of focusing on music full time when he became of age, he got a military scholarship and served four years in the British army after graduating from college. That led to him



AP Photo

British singer James Blunt has done what few of his countrymen have been able to accomplish in recent years — score a major hit on U.S. charts, capturing the attention of millions with his searing ballad, "You're Beautiful."

being stationed as a reconnaissance officer in Kosovo in 1999 as part of the NATO peacekeeping force.

Blunt's experience in the war-torn territory inspired him to write the poignant track "No Bravery," a wrenching account of the tragedy he saw during his time there. When asked about the experience, Blunt's ocean-blue eyes signal that he's weary of talking about the maelstrom of his background that has become so newsworthy. But he believes he managed to make a difference in people's lives there.

"We were in a country where people were murdering each other and we were directly standing in between them and stopping them from murdering each other," says Blunt. "Both Serbs and Kosovo Albanians, whose houses were there, whose lives we were defending, were really glad we were there."

It was after he returned to Britain to serve out his military commitment that Blunt started seriously concentrating on his music — and it didn't take him long to make golden connections. He caught the attention of Ebon John's management, who signed him up, and then later, the ear of Perry, who signed

him for her label, Custard Records, with the promise of complete artistic control.

He even managed to get his dream producer in Tom Rothrock (who's worked with Beck and the late Elliott Smith), "It was the best deal I could have possibly imagined," really," says Blunt, who moved to Los Angeles to work on his debut.

But even before the album was finished, Blunt began to wonder if it would ever be heard. Custard Records had a distribution deal with Elektra, which underwent cutbacks and layoffs by its parent company Warner Music Group in 2004, and was folded into Atlantic Records.

Blunt recalls not having enough money during the project. But he remained unflappable.

"My ambition was to make an album that I could hold up and say this one copy of the album documents the songs that I hear in my head," he says. "I had made an album I really enjoyed — this is the most important thing to me."

Perry didn't handle the situation the same laid-back attitude, however ("I'm not the kind of person that waits around for something," she says with a seri-

ous tone).

So she says she wrangled him from Elektra. He ended up at Atlantic and "Back to Bedlam" was released by the label overseas in the fall of 2004. After a slow build there, Blunt took off in his native Britain.

Perry expected the same scenario to occur in the United States as well — and has been pleasantly surprised that it's "happening a lot faster than expected."

Already, he's gotten plump TV exposure on "Saturday Night Live" and the "Today" show, and if there was any question of his growing celebrity status, "O.C." temptress Mischa Baran stars in his new video, "Goodbye My Lover."

KARAOKE CORNER

continued from page 13

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Melody Bar, 502 Sixth St.

Paul

Kroakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Red's Bar on Sixth E. Idaho St.

SATURDAY

Twin Falls

Karaoke with Lono Star Entertainment will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Pioneer Club. No cover charge. The Pioneer Club is located at 1519 Kimberly Road.

Karaoke will be featured from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the River Club Lounge. No cover charge. The River Club is located at 402 Main N.

Burley

Karaoke will be featured at 9 p.m. at The Steakhouse and Convention Center. No cover charge. The Steakhouse is located at 1340 Oakley Ave.

Kroakers Karaoke with Daniel Krieger will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Riverside. No cover charge. The Riverside is located at 197 W. Highway 30.

Karaoke will be featured from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the 610 Club. No cover charge. The 610 Club is located at 1054 Overland Ave.

Filer

Wild Side Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Moon Bar. No cover charge. The Moon Bar is located at 306 Main.

Rupert

High Mountain Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Blue Room. No cover charge. The Blue Room is located at 613 Fremont Ave.

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Harmonic convergence

Seattle's Coats bring their mellow sound to King Center

The Times-News

BURLEY — In 1987 on the University of Washington campus in Seattle, four young men found a common passion for singing and became the spirited four-part vocal ensemble The Trenchcoats, now shortened to, simply, The Coats.

The foursome's unusual name evolved out of necessity. Performing outdoors meant braving Seattle's infamous weather, and trench coats not only protected them from the rain but also made them recognizable.

The Coats sang for that money, bouncing harmonies off campus walls for passing students and giving impromptu performances anywhere and everywhere people would listen — local restaurants, sporting events and supermarkets. They became regulars at Seattle's Pike Place Market, constantly honing the distinctive sound that audiences have come to recognize as "those a cappella guys from the Northwest."

The Coats will perform



The Coats

Wednesday night at the King center in Burley, the third Mini-Cassia Community Concerts event of the season.

Their "cover" repertoire spans the popular hits of more than four decades and includes everything from 1950s doo-wop to jazz, country ballads to rhy. They continue to produce original music, some with musical-

accompaniment. Most recently, they wrote and recorded a series of country originals.

Writing and composing much of the ensemble's original music, tenor Jamie Dineveny is the creative force behind The Coats. Baritone Doug Witness, the group's founder, is its leader and financial guy. They're joined by bass Kerry Dahlen and tenor

If you go ...

- **What:** Mini-Cassia Community Concerts will present The Coats in concert.

- **Where:** King Fine Arts Center, Burley.

- **When:** 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

- **How much:** Admission is by season membership. No individual tickets are sold at door. Season memberships are available at the door at any concert.

- **Prices:** are \$37.50 for adults; \$18.50 for students; and \$10 for families. Family memberships include children living at home over the age of 5 years. For information, call Paul Lyons at 678-0799, Susan Turft at 678-1788 or Jan Manning at 678-7447.

Keth Anderson.

In 1995, The Coats swept the National Harmony Sweepstakes,

becoming the U.S. National Grand Champions. They have performed with Jay Leno, The Beach Boys, Trisha Yearwood, Jewel, Caligaris and others. The Coats were first exposed to harmony when a high school music teacher asked them to perform for her class. An instant hit with that age group, the guys decided to try to expand their audience. Soon they were booking concerts with junior highs, high schools and colleges around Washington state and later throughout the nation.

As part of the show, they offer a workshop before the performance to help young singers transform their individual talents into group potential.

There are two recordings, including "The Coats Collection" and the group's first Christmas CD, "On the Wings of Time," both released in fall 2000. In addition, they have released five independent recordings, beginning in 1984. The Coats' 1995 "Year Joy," "When I'm With You," "Are You Up!" and "Exposed."

Footlight company dances 'Firebird' on Saturday

The Times-News

HAILLEY — Footlight Dance Company will present a contemporary version of Igor Stravinsky's storied ballet "The Firebird."

The company of 30 dancers will present this version of a classic Russian folk tale Saturday night at the Community Campus Theater.

The evening concert will also include special guest dancers from the Idaho Moving Project (I-Move), a modern dance company from Idaho State University.

"Footlight's concert, titled "Now Kid on the Block — Firebird," was inspired by the visit of the Dalai Lama to the Wood River Valley last fall. Irina, a new girl in the neighborhood, finds it hard to make friends. Different groups ignore her, taunt and torment her until dancing in a frenzy by the end of Firebird, the groups come to realize their mistake.

The dancers will display the story through styles of ballet, modern, jazz, tap and hip-hop and forms.

For the second half of the concert, I-Move will display its modern choreography that includes live music, text and avant-garde movement. The dancers will present "Naiman Sharag" by ISU faculty

Dance in the mountains

- **What:** Footlight Dance Company will present Igor Stravinsky's "The Firebird."

- **Where:** Community Campus Theater, Halley.

- **When:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday

- **How much:** Tickets, which are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, are available at Chapter One Bookstore in Ketchum, Iconocast Books in Halley or at the door.

member Melanie Klezeid and "Off the Wall" by another ISU instructor, Lauralee Zimmerman.

"Naiman Sharag" displays athletic movement supported by a score of Mongolian choral music. "Off the Wall" paints an emotional collage based on Zimmerman's recent travels to Malaysia.

The Firebird lead will be danced by Wood River High School senior Addy Mason, while Irina is Community School senior McKenna Peterson.

Proceeds will go toward summer dance scholarships for Footlight dancers.

Sushi continued from page 12

different types of meat, including eel, tuna and scallops. The rice is sweet and sticky and each of the fish flavors were distinct.

Next, we tried the "Godzilla" which features a type of yellowtail tuna called hamachi and green onions. Again, a distinct flavor.

None of the options we sampled that night had a true "fishy" flavor except the freshwater eel. The eel was fine on a night of adventure, but won't become a favorite. The same holds true for the octopus. I tried it. It was fine. That's enough.

Sushi Ya carries some wonderful tempura offerings — with a light and flavorful batter. Another co-worker, Lisa, ordered fried rice and said it was well done.

There are some specific rules to eating sushi at Sushi Ya. There's no sharing an all-you-can-eat order, so don't go thinking you can pay for one all-you-can-eat and split it among friends. You're also expected to eat all the rice. That's part of the dish, they figure, so eat it.

Each order comes with a helping of thinly sliced ginger to cleanse the palate between each bite, and wasabi, a green hot condiment best blended with soy sauce for an extra kick. It's spicy enough to peel your socks off and a great remedy for a stuffed-up nose. It's also a great flavor booster when used sparingly in all the right places.

The restaurant also carries a low-sodium soy sauce, which is nice for those watching their salt intake.

Perhaps the best part of bellying up to the sushi bar is the experience. This isn't fast food — this is a experience.

We became good friends with Carl, the sushi chef in our section. We talked, compared flavors and enjoyed each other's company. I found myself laughing to the point of being giddy — as if drunk on raw fish and ice tea. While it was quiet when we were there, Tiffany says the place can fill up on a weekend evening — with everyone chatting tables of sushi experiences far and wide. By the end of the evening, we were exchanging exercise advice with our chef and vowing to keep in touch.

Not unlike the experience of bellying up to a bar of a different sort, only there are no laws on the books for driving under the influence of sushi.

Betty Bari co-wins Sushi Ya. She bought it in August 2001. In 70 percent of sushi dishes are cooked. They try to find easy items like shrimp for first-time sushi eaters. Bari says most people become hooked once they try it.

Times-News writer Karina Fitzgibbon can be reached at 735-2328, or write to her at kfitzgerald@magickalley.com

Travel

Colorado's mountains of sand

Great Sand Dunes is America's newest national park

BY BOB DOWNING
Knight Ridder News Service

ALAMOSA, COLO. — Sand hiking isn't easy.

For every step upward, you slide half a step downward in the giant sand dunes.

It's tough, gritty hiking but it's the best way to really get a glimpse of the 750-foot-high dunes that are the big attraction in America's newest national park in southern Colorado.

And that's lots of sand, nearly 40 square miles of massive dunes.

Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve — the country's 58th national park — was officially created in late 2004, although President Bill Clinton signed the legislation setting the process in motion in late 2000.

The new national park had been a national monument. It was just under 43,000 acres when it was created in 1932. It was enlarged to 107,451 acres.

An adjoining preserve of 31,686 acres was created.

The new federal designation was granted after the federal government gained control of the 97,000-acre Baca Ranch that lies to the west of the dunes. The Nature Conservancy helped with the purchase.

One-third of the ranch was added to Great Sand Dunes, although most became a new federal wildlife refuge.

The park also grew with the addition of two ranches to the south and portions of the Rio Grande National Forest to the east.

Some U.S. Forest Service land was also added to Great Sand Dunes.

The acquisition of 151 square miles of land helped preserve the entire ecosystem that surrounds the dunes.

The dunes, the tallest in North America, extend more than 100 miles to the northeast from the park's visitor center and campground.

The dunes spread across the eastern side of the San Luis Valley. It is a 50-mile-wide swath of ranch land 8,200 feet in elevation.

The dunes — clearly visible

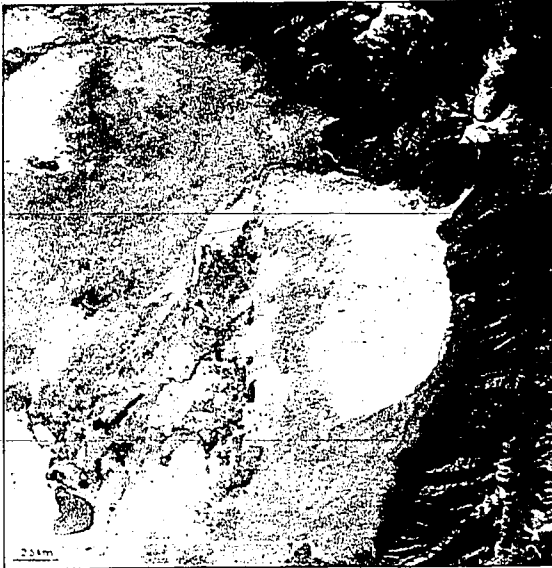


Photo courtesy of NASA

A space-eye view from NASA's Landsat Enhanced Thematic Mapper of Colorado's Great Sand Dunes National Park. The Sangre Cristo Mountains are at right, and 40 square miles of dunes stretch toward the San Luis Lakes (lower left).

as brown waves 20 miles away

— are tucked next to the 13,000-foot-high peaks of the pine-covered Sangre de Cristo (Blood of Christ) Mountains.

The dunes were created when winds carried sandy particles from the San Juan Mountains that were deposited by the Rio Grande River.

The sand particles are trapped at the foot of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains by

countering winds that blow down the mountain valleys. Two creeks flowing out of the mountains provide an

added barrier.

One of the best ways to see the park is to get out into the dunes. There are no trails. You can hike anywhere you want in the dunes.

Not far from the park's Visitor Center is the High Dune. It is not the tallest in the dune field, but it is among the dunes that have the highest elevation above sea level.

High Dune — about 650 feet from base to top — is one of the most accessible of the park's big dunes just across Medano Creek and one of the

most visited.

The sand is soft and the slopes are steep — as much as 32 degrees. To get to the top is a moderately strenuous hike as you zigzag up the dune's ridge lines. There is a great view from the top. That's your reward.

Getting down is much easier. Some folks ski down or ride sand boards. The best conditions for that are when the sand is cold, from October through April.

The wind-shaped dunes and sand patterns are strikingly colorful and pretty, especially in

the soft light of early morning and twilight.

The dunes are also popular when the moon is full for nighttime walking.

Dune walking is fairly simple. Leave your shoes on. Sand temperatures in the summer can hit 140 degrees. Hot and rough sand can blister feet.

Distances in the dunes are deceiving.

Things are often further away than they appear.

Summer temperatures are in the 70s and 80s, dropping into the 30s at night.

Dunes have two slopes or faces. The shallow, gentle side is the windward face. Sand blown from the windward face is deposited on the steep leeward side. Sand avalanches result when the slopes get too steep.

They remain largely in place due to reversing storms and the moisture in the sand.

It's a tough environment for plants and animals.

The Colorado dunes — the tallest in North America — attract about 200,000 visitors a year.

But there's more to the park than just sand.

Some trails lead up into the mountains, with their Alpine meadows, rugged canyons, waterfalls and lakes.

The park is a little off the beaten path. Go west to Denver, hang a left and go south on Interstate 25 through Colorado Springs and Pueblo. Before you get to New Mexico, turn right at Walsenburg. Head west and then north.

You are 34 miles northeast of Alamosa and 130 miles southwest of Colorado Springs.

Camping and picnicking are permitted. Keep tours and horse rides are offered by concessionaires.

The park entry fee is \$3 a person. The camping fee is \$12 a night.

For more information, contact the park at 11500 Highway 150, Mosca, Colo. 81146; 719-378-6300 (headquarters) or 719-378-6399 (visitor center). The Internet site is www.nps.gov/gsand.

You can also get information from the Alamosa Visitor Center at 800 Park Alamosa, CO 81101; 800-BLU-SKYS.