



Today: Scattered clouds and chilly

High 25, Low 14. Page A2



Second family Grandparents leap into parenthood again, often as meth destroys families

In Family Life, E1



Sempra protest Power plant foes bring their message to this weekend's Home and Garden Show

In Magic Valley, B1

# The Times-News

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Twin Falls, Idaho/101st year, No. 50

Sunday February 19, 2006

\$1.50

"I mean, it's something that young people don't understand — how lively this place used to be and just how beautiful it was."

- John "Kay" Powell, volunteer



The library in Bocoock Hall is in ruins. The fixtures were either stolen or destroyed after it was closed in 1970. This is the library where Lovell Turner met his wife of 65 years. (See Mini-Cassia, page A9)

"(These schools) were located in the rural areas because they thought it would help them and civilize them."

- Verlene Powell, Albion Historical Museum curator

## CRUMBLING CAMPUS

### Bocoock Hall

Built in 1920, the building housed an elaborate 700-seat auditorium, the library and administration offices.

### Normal Building

In 1893, Albion residents used rock from the surrounding area to build the first structure on campus. The Normal Building now houses the Albion Historical Museum.

### McMurray Hall

The second men's dormitory was built in 1930 to be fireproof, which proved useful when a fire erupted in the attic and the building suffered only minor smoke damage.

### Axline Gymnasium

The gymnasium, which was built in 1910, was innovative for its time. It included a suspended indoor running track that doubled as bleachers.

### Comish Hall

First built in 1918 and then expanded in 1926, Comish Hall served as the women's dormitory and also housed the school dances in a large parlor.

### Hansen Hall

Built in 1905, the building was the first women's dormitory. After a larger women's dorm was built, Hansen Hall was used for women's faculty apartments and classrooms. The building was torn down in 1980; the front stairs are all that remain.

### Miller Hall

The first men's dormitory was built in 1901. After the construction of another men's dorm, Miller Hall became a dormitory for married couples.

Graphic by CHRISTIAN DEAPER/The Times-News



An old floor washer sits in debris in a locker room in Axline Gymnasium. The lockers are one of a few fixtures that haven't been stolen in the old gymnasium.

## Albion State Normal School falling into serious disrepair

By Joshua Palmer Times-News writer

ALBION — Hope. It may be the only thing the Albion State Normal School has left now as it lies silent at the base of Mount Harrison. But even hope is eroding away as time — and vandals — take their toll on a monument to Idaho's history. Windows that were hand-drafted and installed by pioneers more than a century ago have been shattered by vandals and replaced with plywood. The red, white and black cougar mascot that was painted on the Axline Gymnasium floor is covered in debris and the carcasses of dead birds. Walls are pockmarked with holes that were kicked in during chaste parties. Elaborate furnishings such as lights, benches and moldings have been ripped out and either sold or smashed.

These are the scars left on the buildings that have withstood more than a century of change.

### New this week

The Times-News is launching a new Mini-Cassia page. It will publish each Sunday.

Page A-9

### More of this story

Albion historian reflects on school's past and future role. See Mini-Cassia page A-9

### On the Web

Tour the campus through photographer Meagan Thompson's slide show and listen to an interview with Verlene Powell, curator of the Albion Historical Museum. www.magicvalley.com

"It's kind of hard to think about," said John "Kay" Powell, who volunteers his time — and increasingly, his money — to maintain the campus. "I mean,

Please see CAMPUS, Page A2

## CAMPAIGN FINANCING

# Local candidates took contributions from here and far

By Michelle Dunlop Times-News writer

BOISE — Idaho politicians filled campaign coffers with donations ranging from the local dairy industry to a California energy company.

A glance at the 2005 campaign finance reports released earlier this month for both Magic Valley state legislators and candidates for governor reveals a range of donation sources. Contributions to the gubernatorial candidates came in from almost every corner of the country. But, local charities reaped the benefits of campaign fund donations from Magic Valley legislators.

In the gubernatorial race, the Republican C.L. "Butch" Otter raised nearly twice his Democratic counterpart, Jerry Brady. Otter got more industry than individual donations. Both gubernatorial candidates accepted money from around the country. Brady's donations came from 22 states and Washington D.C. while Otter's donations covered 28 states and D.C. Brady received about 70 percent of his donations from Idaho sources and 22 percent from out-of-state. Otter received roughly 71 percent from Idaho sources and 29 percent from out-of-state.

Magic Valley dairies donated over \$12,500 to Otter's gubernatorial campaign. The bulk of Brady's Magic Valley donations came from 22 Wood River Valley, with a \$2,000 donation from Teresa Heinz Kerry, the wife of Democratic U.S. Sen. John Kerry. As previously reported in The Times-News, Sempra contributed \$6,000 to Otter and had its \$250 donation to Brady returned. Sempra Energy also gave both the House and Senate Democrats and Republicans \$1,000 each. The House Democrats returned the money.

Sempra officials contributed \$250 to Rep. Scott Bedke. The Republican representative from Oakley said that accepting Sempra's money does not mean that he supports the energy company's 600-megawatt coal-fired power plant proposed for Jerome County. Bedke also told The Times-News that he donated the \$250 contribution to charity. Out of local state representatives, Bedke raised the most money in 2005, with \$4,100 in campaign contributions. House Speaker Bruce Newcomb, R-Burley, paid out the most last year in expenditures of \$11,346.75. Sen. Cliff Stennett, D-Ketchum, led the local senators with the most contributions in 2005 with \$4,655.51 and Sen. Dean Cameron, R-Burley, had the greatest amount of expenditures with \$7,703.89. Both Qwest and Anaheim-Busch contributed to several legislators around the region. Qwest shelled out \$1,500 in donations to Magic Valley senators and representatives while Anaheim-Busch gave roughly \$1,250. Employers Compensation Insurance contributed the largest amount to Magic Valley legislators of \$2,750. Many legislators turn around and donate the money their campaigns receive to local charities and schools. The Oakley High School is a benefactor of both Reps. Bedke and Newcomb's generosity, while the Boys and Girls Club of Magic Valley received money from Sen. Tom Carls, R-Idaho. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Make-A-Wish foundation received the first and second largest donations from Cameron and House Speaker Newcomb, respectively.

## Body part snatching case worries patients

By Lindsey Tanner Associated Press writer

CHICAGO — Every year more than 4 million Americans have medical procedures that use bone or other tissue from a cadaver — like disk replacements or dental implants.

But what if the donated tissue came from someone who had cancer? Or AIDS? Or hepatitis? That worry caused by a ghoulish scandal in the body parts business has led to distress for hundreds of people, and some prospective pa-

tients are now reconsidering how they want their surgeries done.

Experts familiar with the situation say patients' chances of getting a disease from the suspect tissue are small, but doctors are urging them to be tested.

"This is diabolical ... if what has been alleged has been done," said Dr. Stephen Pine, an orthopedic surgeon in Springfield, Ill. "Who goes to the whole public perception of bone and all other grafts can be catastrophic."

Please see PARTS, Page A2

7 days, 7 reasons to read

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Monday

### Basketball



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Tuesday

### Food & Home



The East End's under-\$7 fare.

Wednesday

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The M.V. Symphony

Thursday

### Outdoors



Idaho ice princess

Friday

### Religion



Magic Valley clergy talk about redemption

Saturday

### Family Life



Small towns, big families

Sunday

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WORLD/NATION

# Hope fades for victims of Philippine mud slide

GUINSAGON, Philippines (AP) — Hoping for a miracle, rescue workers in the Philippines searched for survivors Saturday in an elementary school swamped by a massive landslide that buried this town and killed some 1,800 people.

No more survivors were found, however, and reports that students and teachers sent cell phone text messages from inside went unconfirmed, leaving the search effort dispirited and empty-handed.

Fearing more landslides in the area, 11 villages were evacuated as U.S. military ships steamed to the scene.

As rain continued to fall, rescue workers were warned to tread carefully or risk becoming casualties themselves as the uneasy mud settled, a day after the slope of a mountain collapsed Friday.

The landslide, which followed two weeks of heavy rains, was believed to have killed nearly every man, woman and child in the farming village of Guinsaggon, which was covered with mud up to 30 feet deep.

The situation was so delicate that a no-fly zone was established over the area out of concern that blasts of air from the helicopters' rotors could send the mud oozing again in Guinsaggon, about 400 miles southeast of the capital, Manila.

Medical supplies and excavation equipment were being sent to the area on Leyte island, and U.S. military ships were expected to arrive today with 1,000 Marines to add to the aid effort.



Philippine soldiers dig in the mud Saturday in Guinsaggon, a village on Leyte island, after a rain-soaked mountain side collapsed on the village Friday, leaving an estimated 1,800 people dead.

But with no survivors found Saturday, it appeared the operation would be recovery instead of relief.

Only 57 people were plucked

from the mud Friday from Guinsaggon's population of 1,857. At least 50 bodies were recovered.

Officials suspended the search operation after dark, with the

footing too dangerous and no floodlights available to illuminate the massive mud field, which was surrounded by a shallow stream.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo mentioned reports about cell phone messages sent by survivors in the swamped school during a televised staff meeting on the disaster. The reports gave impetus to the military to dispatch 60 soldiers to the scene.

But as day turned to night, no signs of life were found, and officials admitted that they had been unable to confirm the existence of any genuine text messages from survivors.

Staff Sgt. Bienvenido Plaza of the Air Force Rescue Group said rescue workers shouted and yelped stones to bang on boulders. It hopes that survivors would hear. There was only silence, he said.

Sill, provincial Gov. Ilesette Leria said she was hoping for "a miracle" and she said rescue dogs would be sent to the school Sunday.

"I would like to believe it's true," she said, "knowing it to the benefit of the doubt, and that is why we are concentrating on the school building."

Not much else was left to concentrate on.

Survivors and relatives of the missing had trouble even figuring out where houses once stood in the 100-acre stretch of mud. Soldiers, firefighters and volunteers were given sketches of the village as it stood just days ago, but all the landmarks had been wiped away.

## Planning a wedding?

The Times-News welcomes wedding and engagement announcements and photos. To submit an announcement, stop by the office at 132 Fairfield St. W. in Twin Falls and fill out a form. If you have any questions, call Ramona Jones at 735-3282.



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# President promotes nuclear energy, plan for dealing with radioactive waste

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush on Saturday renewed his push for expansion of nuclear energy and sought support for plans to revive nuclear fuel processing to deal with radioactive waste from commercial power plants.

"As America and other nations build more nuclear power plants we must work together to address the challenges," Bush said in his weekly radio address. "We must dispose of nuclear waste safely and we must keep nuclear technology and material out of the hands of terrorist networks and terrorists states."

The administration has asked Congress for \$250 million next fiscal year to accelerate a decade-long research program into reprocessing nuclear fuel, reducing the amount of reactor waste that eventually would have to be buried.

The United States abandoned nuclear fuel reprocessing in the 1970s because of nuclear proliferation concerns. Conventional fuel reprocessing requires the separation of pure plutonium, which can be easily transported and could be used in a weapon if obtained by terrorists.

Bush's plan envisions a new approach to reprocessing—one not yet fully demonstrated outside the laboratory—that would not result in the separation of pure plutonium and, therefore, its advocates maintain, poses less of a proliferation risk.

Nuclear power must play a growing role in meeting future energy needs not only in the United States, but globally, the president said. He said he envisions a system where the United States and other countries such as Russia, Britain and France would provide reactors and lend nuclear fuel to developing nations. Used fuel would be returned and recycled.

"This will allow us to produce more energy while dramatically reducing the amount of nuclear waste and eliminating the nuclear byproducts that unstable regimes and terrorists could use to make weapons," Bush said.

The reprocessing initiatives have been met with skepticism by some members of Congress and nuclear nonproliferation advocacy groups.

"We are taking enormous risks going down this path," Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., told Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman earlier this week at a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

While calling it "a well-intentioned program," Clinton questioned its cost and said its potential proliferation risks seem to raise more dangers and questions than answers.

The Energy Department acknowledges that the \$250 million sought by the administration is only a small down payment for the program. The department envisions spending \$1.8 billion over the following three years and about \$13 billion over 10 years to develop a demonstration project for reprocessing, including a new-generation "fast" reactor needed to burn up more of the fuel.

Clinton said some studies have put the cost of developing a nuclear reprocessing technology at \$100 billion.

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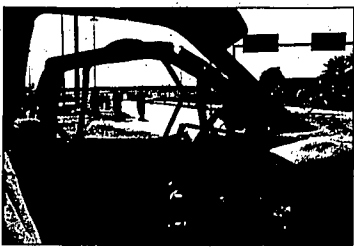
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NATION/WORLD



Iraqi policemen are seen through wreckage of a car following an explosion of a roadside bomb Saturday in Baghdad. Attacks on Saturday killed more than 20 people, including a U.S. soldier.

# U.S. soldier dies in Iraq bomb attack

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Car bombs and gunmen killed more than 20 people, including an American soldier, Saturday as the government said insurgency-related violence cost the country's vital oil industry about \$6.25 billion in damage and lost revenues last year.

British and Iraqi officials, meanwhile, confirmed that two foreigners who disappeared two days ago in the southeastern city of Basra were Macedonians kidnapped on their way from the airport to the city center. The kidnappers have demanded a ransom, officials said.

Most of the attacks Saturday were directed against the U.S. military and Iraqi police, with civilians caught up in the violence.

The American soldier died when a roadside bomb exploded about 6 a.m. near the Shaab soccer stadium in eastern Baghdad, the U.S. command said in a statement. It was the first death of an American soldier since Tuesday and brought the number of U.S. personnel killed since the Iraq war began in March 2003 to at least 2,273, according to an Associated Press count.

Four Iraqi policemen were killed when a roadside bomb exploded near a fuel tanker on an eastern Baghdad highway, police said. Another bomb exploded at midmorning in another part of east Baghdad, missing a police patrol but killing three Iraqi civilians and wounding four, police said.

A senior Baghdad police official escaped assassination when a bomb exploded near his convoy in the Karradah district. Brig. Abdul-Karim Maryashi was unharmed but two police escorts died, officials said.

Elsewhere, two more Iraqi civilians were killed in a pair of roadside bombings — one in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, 80 miles north of Baghdad, and another in Baquba, 35 miles northeast of the capital.

Both these bombs were intended for police patrols, officials in each city said. Another bomb in Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad, killed a child and blew off his brother's legs, police said.

U.S. soldiers killed three men trying to plant roadside bombs in Baghdad's notorious Dora neighborhood, police said. At least 10 other Iraqis died in a series of gunfights and ambushes throughout Baghdad, including two policemen slain on their way home Saturday night, police said.

The U.S. command said American and Iraqi troops found and destroyed 11 roadside bombs and three weapons caches in Baghdad in the past 24 hours. Twenty-nine suspects were arrested, the command said.

In addition, police found the bodies of four men — bound, blindfolded and shot to death — in three separate parts of the Iraqi capital. Their identities were unknown and it was unclear when they died, but they appeared to be victims of reprisal attacks by Shiite and Sunni extremists.

The Interior Ministry has announced an investigation into allegations of Shiite death squads in police ranks after U.S. troops arrested 22 policemen preparing to kill a Sunni Arab last month.

Also Saturday, a government official released figures showing the devastating effects of the insurgency on the country's oil industry, the foundation of Iraq's economy. The industry suffered \$6.25 billion in losses in 2005 due to infrastructure sabotage and lost export revenues. Oil Ministry spokesman Assem Jibad said.

The exercises because of the presence of al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf guerrillas on Jolo, about 560 miles south of Manila. The guerrillas have kidnapped Americans in the past and threatened to attack U.S. troops in the country.

The explosion occurred on the day about 250 American troops were welcomed by local officials in a ceremony on Jolo. They are to take part in "Balikatan," an annual joint war exercise between American and Filipino troops that has focused in recent years on counterterrorism.

Security is a top concern during the exercises because of the presence of al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf guerrillas on Jolo, about 560 miles south of Manila. The guerrillas have kidnapped Americans in the past and threatened to attack U.S. troops in the country.

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# Cartoon protesters attack Christians

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria (AP) — Nigerian Muslims protesting caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad attacked Christians and burned churches on Saturday, killing at least 15 people in the deadliest confrontation yet in the whirlwind of Muslim anger over the drawings.

It was the first major protest to erupt over the issue in Africa's most populous nation. An Associated Press reporter saw mobs of Muslim protesters swarm through the city center with machetes, sticks and iron rods. One group threw a tire around a man, poured gas on him and set him ablaze.

In Libya, the parliament suspended the interior minister after at least 11 people died when his security forces attacked rioters who torched the Italian consulate in Benghazi. Right-wing Italian Reformers

three-hour rampage before troops and police reinforcements restored order, Nigerian police spokesman Hazi Iwendu said. Iwendu said security forces arrested dozens of people in the city about 1,000 miles northeast of the capital, Lagos.

Chima Ezeoke, a Christian Maiduquri resident, said protesters attacked and looted shops owned by minority Christians, most of them with origins in the country's south.

Most of the dead were Christians beaten to death on the streets by the rioters, Ezeoke said. Witnesses said three children and a priest were among those killed.

Nigeria, with a population of more than 130 million, is roughly divided between a predominantly Muslim north and a mainly Christian south.

Thousands of people have died in this West African country since 2000 in religious violence fueled by the adoption of the strict Islamic legal code by a dozen states in the north, seen by most Christians as a move to impose religious hegemony on non-Muslims.

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## Southern Idaho's News Source

NATION

# Crowd is smaller at Mardi Gras parades

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The first of the major Mardi Gras parades with marching bands, brightly decorated floats and flying plastic beads rolled down New Orleans' streets Saturday, greeted by small but celebratory crowds.

Despite the widespread destruction from Hurricane Katrina, officials decided to allow a scaled-back Mardi Gras celebration this year. New Orleans parades, put on by private groups, were restricted to one corridor to help cut the cost of police protection and trash pickup.

Five parades rolled back-to-back in New Orleans on Saturday under cloudy, damp skies through neighborhoods left mostly unscathed by the Aug. 29 storm. More were scheduled for Sunday and next weekend, leading up to Fat Tuesday on Feb. 28.

Capt. Juan Quinton, a police spokesman, said no major problems were reported along the route and that crowds, though small, were having fun.

Many of the residents attending the parades said Mardi Gras is an important part of the city's heritage. Children and families often gather on the same street corners year after year.

"What would the city be without Mardi Gras?" said 17-year-old Sadie Ables, standing in Lee Circle in the same spot three generations of her family has gathered for decades. Her mother, 37-year-old



Rob Sintee, left, and his son Brandon Sintee, 4, reach out to catch Mardi Gras beads Saturday during the Pontchartrain Parade on St. Charles Ave. in New Orleans.

Shelly Guidry, conceded she had conflicts about the cost to the city, especially given how many people remain displaced from homes.

Less than half the city's pre-Katrina population of about 480,000 has been able to return since the storm, and New Orleans' efforts to cover parade costs with corporate sponsors failed, forcing the City Council

to allocate \$2.7 million to cover expenses.

Sid, Guidry was on the street with family members and her 3-year-old son strapped in a seat atop a ladder, a tradition for children who grow up here during normal years when towering crowds of adults make it too difficult for children to catch beads.

"It's memories here," she said,

gesturing down the street.

Helen Phillips, 62, said tradition and memories also brought her to her usual parade-viewing corner on St. Charles Avenue this year, hunkered in a lawn chair against the cold.

"I'm out here because of them," she said, looking at her 4 and 9-year-old grandchildren. "We figured why break with tradition this year?"

## It's a boy! Woman, 62, gives birth

REDDING, Calif. — A 62-year-old woman gave birth Friday to a healthy 6-pound, 9-ounce boy, becoming one of the oldest women in the world to successfully bear a child.

Jaime Wulf gave birth to her 12th child. She is also a grandmother of 20 and a great-grandmother of three.

Family members said the delivery went smoothly despite earlier concerns about the mother's health. Wulf, a diabetic, experienced swelling and higher blood pressure earlier this week, prompting doctors to perform the C-section a week early.

Wulf and her third husband, Scott, 48, named the red-haired boy Adam Charles Wulf. He follows just 3 1/2 years behind his older brother, Ian.

"I hate to raise one alone, without a sibling," said Wulf, who was impregnated both times via in vitro fertilization.

### Fugitive gets 10 years despite new fingerprints

YAKIMA, Wash. — A man who had his fingerprints surgically removed to avoid being identified has been sentenced to 10 years in prison on charges of drug trafficking.

### Odds & ends

Federal prosecutors said Jesus Jimenez-Mejia, 23, was deported to Mexico in 1996 and illegally returned to the United States after having his fingerprints surgically altered to make a fingerprint comparison impossible.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Bud Ellis said Jimenez-Mejia had his fingerprints replaced with fingerprints from another human being. He said authorities do not know where the replacement fingerprints came from.

He was already in custody on immigration charges in May when authorities laughed a series of raids that resulted in more than 30 arrests on drug and immigration charges.

In September, Jimenez-Mejia pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

### Burglar makes off with one of Edison's original bulbs

CRESTWOOD, Ky. — It was hidden in a shoe box inside a drawer, but the burglar who stumbled upon it must have thought the ancient-looking light bulb was worth something.

The light bulb's owner said it was probably made by Thomas Edison, who is credited with inventing a long-burning filament that made the incandescent light bulb marketable.

Holten Grimes, owner of the Waldeck Mansion that was burglarized this week, said the light bulb had belonged to her great-great-uncle. Grimes said she was told by a Smithsonian institution expert that there are likely only 12 others like it.

Edison lived and worked in Louisville as a telegraph operator in 1855 and 1857. The Thomas Edison House in Louisville appraised the bulb.

"We're not interested in selling it, so it doesn't matter how much it's worth," Grimes said. Instead, Grimes and her husband, David Gleason, are offering a reward for information leading to the return of the light bulb and some silver trays and trophies that were also swiped during the burglary.

The bulb has a wooden base and is about the size of a peach, with glass tapering to a point on the top. Grimes said, though it has an electrical cord, it shouldn't be plugged into an electrical outlet, she said.

— compiled from staff reports

**Planning a wedding?**  
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NATION

# Political milestones or millstones?

## Analysts say certain incidents just capture the public's imagination

Los Angeles Times

Howard Dean screamed. Dan Quayle made a hash of the word "potato." Jimmy Carter fended off a wild-eyed rabbit.

Like pages in a political scrapbook, those odd episodes endure years, even decades, after the pundits and late-night comics have exhausted their high and low possibilities.

Now, Vice President Dick Cheney and his misbegotten quail hunt seem destined to join that collection of frozen-frame images stored in the nation's collective memory.

Together, these incidents and others — like the first President Bush's supposed befuddlement at a grocery store scanner — share certain threads.

They were spontaneous. They were easily comprehensible, unlike, say, the debates over weapons of mass destruction. "Buckshot in someone's face," said Bruce Newman, editor of the Journal of Political Marketing. "Story over."

They offered a glimpse of frailty (which is to say, humanity). And, perhaps above all, they seemed to capture each man in a crystallizing moment.

"That, experts and political analysts say, explains why in a world of ceaseless information there are certain events that seize the popular imagination, and, over time, prove indelible."

"What they do is bring all the abstractions together into one concrete image," said Anthony Pratkanis, a psychology professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and editor of a new scientific journal, Social Influence. In Cheney's case, he said, "it's very much like how they handled the statements on Iraq. Have they been shooting straight with the American people?"

He laughed. "Maybe I shouldn't use that metaphor."

Still, it is the ability to draw larger meaning from a single moment that makes events like Cheney's hunting mishap stand out. Pratkanis and others said.

Dean, the fallen Democratic presidential front-runner, underscored doubts about his steadiness when he loosed a pronghorn stork after finishing third in the Iowa caucuses. (Not that it hurt him irrevocably; he's now party chairman.) Former Vice President Quayle reinforced doubts about his intellect when he misspelled the word "potato" in front of a grammar-school audience.

For Carter, a bizarre drama in the spring of 1973 came to symbolize what many considered the haplessness of his administration. The president was on a fishing trip in Plains, Ga., when he was forced to show away a swamp rabbit that approached his small boat making hissing noises and gnashing its teeth. The "killer rabbit" made the extreme news and the front page of The Washington Post — and has since resurfaced in coverage of the Cheney incident.

Unlike those episodes, the coverage of the talk of President George H.W. Bush and a supermarket scanner is a subject of dispute. The president was at a National Grocers Association convention in Orlando, Fla., when, according to a New York Times account, he marveled as a quart of milk, a light bulb and a bag of candy were run through a checkout stand — a bit of everyday technology he presumably had never encountered inside the political bubble. Other witnesses reject that bit, but no matter. The notion of an elitist, out-of-touch president helped Bill Clinton defeat Bush a few months later.

What each event seemed to capture, fairly or not, were some of the most divided attitudes of each individual. The fact that they occurred at a time of political weakness was no accident. Indeed, it made them all the

more resonant. Anytime the vice president of the United States shoots someone — the last time it happened was more than 200 years ago — it is sure to be a huge story. Still, it would not have been as big a deal "if the administration wasn't down in the polls," said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, a political communications expert at the University of Pennsylvania.

Critics of Bush and the vice president "were searching for a metaphor" that would reflect their discontent, she said. "It's standing in for not having to follow the rules. It stands in for incompetence. It stands in for arrogance. It stands in for failing to release information in a timely fashion."

Both friends and detractors of the administration say the famously secretive Cheney turned the incident into a much bigger problem by withholding information and waiting days before publicly making amends. Even then, he seemed to do so under duress. (Any political damage, however, has to be weighed against the fact that neither Cheney nor the current President Bush expects to face voters again.)



Cheney

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**NATION**

**The next New Orleans?**  
Flooding risk increases in U.S.

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Concentrated development in flood-prone parts of Missouri, California and other states has significantly raised the risk of New Orleans-style flooding as people snap up new homes even in areas recently deluged, researchers said Sunday.

Around St. Louis, where the Mississippi River lapped at the steps of the Gateway Arch during the 1993 flood, more than 14,000 acres of flood plain have been developed since then. That has reduced the region's ability to store water during future floods and potentially put more people in harm's way, said Adolphus Busch IV, a son-in-law of the Anheuser-Busch brewing family who is chairman of the Great Rivers Habitat Alliance.

Similar development has occurred around Dallas, Kansas City, Mo., Los Angeles, Omaha, Neb., and Sacramento, Calif., said Gerald Galloway, a professor of engineering at the University of Maryland.

"The half-life of the memory of a flood is very short. You've already heard it in Washington, D.C.: New Orleans where?" Galloway said of the lack of action in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina last summer.

The research was presented Saturday at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

In California, development in the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta, where flood control efforts first started in the mid-1800s, represents a major risk to cities such as Stockton as they expand, said Jeffrey Mount, a professor of geology at the University of California, Davis.

"We are reinventing Katrina all over again," Mount said.

Mount estimates a two-in-three probability over the next 50 years of a catastrophic levee failure in the massive delta region east of San Francisco.

Even a moderate flood could break the delta's levee system, while a larger one, perhaps following an earthquake, would inundate the region, Mount said.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin delta, which covers 734,000 acres, receives runoff from more than 40 percent of California. Much of the land is below sea level and relies on more than 200 miles of levees for protection against flooding, according to the California Department of Water Resources.

"In California, we know that we have two kinds of levees: Those that have failed and those that will fail," Mount said.

The lack of coordination among local, state and federal officials after a flood was evident with Katrina. Similarly, even before a storm hits, coordination on issues such as land use and development is a problem, Galloway said.



Keith Carabell stands next to his wooded acres in Chesterfield Township, Mich., on Friday. Carabell has fought nearly two decades to develop the property that regulators say contains legally protected wetlands.

**Supreme Court to decide far-reaching wetland cases**

CHESTERFIELD TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — Keith Carabell parked his car beside a snow-covered woodland hummed in by overpasses, gas stations, a McDonald's, Kmart and other emblems of creeping suburbia on the northern fringe of metropolitan Detroit.

"This is what they call a wetland," the 78-year-old accountant said, gesturing dispassionately at the 19-acre parcel he and his partners own. "An island sitting out here in the middle of this residential and commercial development."

On Tuesday, the U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments in Carabell's two-decade fight to build condominiums on the property. Regulators say it's among the best forested wetlands in Macomb County and should remain intact for wildlife habitat and erosion control.

The court also will consider the case of John Rapanos, a Michigan landowner whose feud with regulators led to a criminal conviction after he illegally filled wetlands with dirt.

Dozens of interest groups have filed briefs in the cases, the resolution of which could affect millions of acres of swamps, marshes and bogs across the U.S. It also could signal whether the Supreme Court will ever rightward on environmental issues with the arrivals of Justices John Roberts and Samuel Alito.

Wetlands help filter contamination, control floodwaters and shelter spawning fish and waterfowl, but much of the nation's supply has been lost

over the years.

Four previous administrations of the Environmental Protection Agency, 34 states, environmentalists and outdoor recreation groups are among those supporting the government, which contends the Clean Water Act protects the Carabell and Rapanos wetlands.

Property-rights advocates, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and a coalition of Western water agencies support the landowners, who claim their properties are too far removed from any navigable water body to fall under the 1972 law.

The Clean Water Act requires landowners to get a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before putting fill material into waterways. Regulations and court decisions generally have interpreted the law as giving the Corps wide discretion to prevent wetland degradation.

But in a 2001 case, the Supreme Court excluded "isolated" wetlands that don't cross state lines and have no hydrological connection to navigable waters. In that case, the court ruled in favor of Chicago-area suburbs that wanted to build a landfill atop abandoned gravel pits that had filled with water and were being used by migratory birds.

The Michigan cases involve wetlands adjacent not to navigable waterways themselves, but to their tributaries. The Carabell woodland is a mile away from Lake St. Clair; the Rapanos

property is about 20 miles from a river that empties into Lake Huron.

The Army Corps says the wetlands are linked to the larger water bodies by ditches and streams, and that degrading them would allow pollution to reach the navigable waters. Protecting large waters but not their tributaries is "like saying that you cannot cut down a tree, but are free to poison its roots," said Jim Murphy, an attorney with the National Wildlife Federation.

He said a victory of Carabell and Rapanos "would be an enormous setback for the health of all waters and for future generations that will depend on them."

If stripped of their legal shield, more than half of the 100 million acres of wetlands in the lower 48 states that haven't already been drained or filled could be lost, said Scott Yalch, conservation director for Ducks Unlimited.

But Reed Hopper, who will argue Rapanos' case before the court, said most states and many local governments safeguard wetlands and can strengthen their laws if federal authority is curtailed. The Pacific Legal Foundation attorney contends the real issue isn't clean water, but federal overreaching.

Hopper contends that zealous bureaucrats have violated property rights by going to ridiculous extremes, at times asserting control over mostly dry land miles from any commercial or recreational waterway.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Changes to 2006 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program**

The Idaho Transportation Department is seeking comments on proposed changes approved by the Idaho Transportation Board during their January meeting.

**Key # 06961, US93, Falls Avenue to Polceline Road, Twin Falls**, was shown in the 2006 STIP as a "Contingent Project" in the 2007 construction year. As a "contingent project" there was no identifiable source of funding for this project. The project has now been moved into the 2009 construction year of the Highway Program and a funding source has been identified.

**Additionally, Key # 08370, US30, 400 West Road to Burley**, was shown in the 2006 STIP as a "Contingent Project" in the 2007 construction year. As a "contingent project" there was no identifiable source of funding for this project. The project has now been moved into the 2010 construction year of the Highway Program and a funding source has been identified.

For more information, contact Walter Burnside, Project Development Engineer District 4 Idaho Transportation Department (208) 886-7849.

Send your comments by March 31, 2006 to Patricia Rains, Intermodal Planning Manager, Idaho Transportation Department, P.O. BOX 7129, Boise, ID., 83707-1129 or by email to pat.rains@id.idaho.gov.

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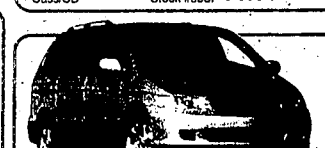
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 Krista Hlad  
 Adela Sanchez  
 Hannah Hunter

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 Travis Jullier  
 Michael Hovest  
 Benjamin Lenn  
 Spence Palmer  
 Danielle Peck  
 Michael Robinson  
 Kaye Rogge  
 Candace Smith  
 Sierra Vega  
 Maria Adams  
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 Andie Carraza  
 Caitlyn Chandler  
 Whitney Furniss  
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 William Paxon  
 Erinna Ruff  
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 Katherine Bingham  
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 Aaron Farris  
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 Kamilah Hamilton  
 Alex Hunter  
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 Geradine Lopez  
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 Shyan Holbrook  
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Total contributions in 2005: \$380,532.62

Donations of \$1,000 or higher:

Milton Adam, of Sun Valley; AL Afrod, of Lewiston; Dorothy Baltanayne, of...

Livingston, Mont.; F. Forrester Church, of New York, NY; Richard Clousen, of...

Martin, of Idaho Falls; John Martzell, of New Orleans, La.; Robert McCoy, of...

James Thompson, of Boise; Thornton Byron LLP of Boise; Barry Traub, of San Francisco...

Magic Valley Brady campaign contributions of interest in Magic Valley (\$500 and higher): \$1,500 from Milton Adam...

Total expenditures in 2005: \$158,402.92

Ketchum; \$500 from Sally Donat, of Ketchum; \$2,250 from Aron DuPont, of Sun Valley...

Total contributions in 2005: \$760,101.51

Donations of \$1,000 or higher:

Regence Blue Shield of Idaho; Charles Carlisle, of Boise; Wash-Ington Group International; Symms Fruit Ranch...

McEntee, of Boise; Bryan Norby, of Boise; Della Holloway, of Boise; Peter O'Hara International PAC, of...

Riverbend Commerce Park, of Post Falls; Bennett Lumber Products, of Princeton, Idaho; Knudsen Chevrolet...

Magic Valley Otter campaign contributions of interest in Magic Valley (\$500 and higher): \$1,000 from Bruce and Celia Newcomb...

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OPINION

LETTER

Need for Sempra is still not clear

I guess I'm missing the point on Sempra.

I like to think that I keep up on what's going on in Idaho and around the world. I read newspapers and watch news programs, but I can't seem to figure out why we need Sempra.

I guess it will be for the extra jobs. Let's see, Idaho is still spending dollars to clean up

old ore mines. Idaho is still fighting to get nuclear waste out of Arco. Some of our local communities are trying to get money because they have water problems with arsenic and mercury. New laws regarding odor and nitrates have been placed on the deltas. Idaho has been in a drought, and there are concerns over water rights.

And because of this, some farmers are having to make do with less water for crops.

Twin Falls has already implemented alternating days for lawn watering because of a worry that they will need more for its citizens in the near future.

In today's paper, it mentions recharging the aquifer. Personally I would prefer to see Idaho Power build 100 windmills and put up several solar panels on the proposed acreage if we need the power so much.

My dream is that still during my lifetime Idaho Power will

turn away from hydropower (still a clean energy) and rely more on wind and sun. Then Shoshone Falls will flow without as much diversions.

But I guess we need Sempra. Not because of the jobs it will bring during construction. Not for the jobs it will bring in its first years of production. So it must be for all the jobs that it will bring afterward.

BILLIE HENSLEE Wendell

Randal Wraalstad, DPM

Twin Falls Orthopedics, P.L.L.C.

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FOOT MYTH

Question: I've had problems with ingrown toenails, and my grandmother told me to cut a "V" in the middle of the nail to relieve the pressure on the sides. Does this really work?



Answer: The basic answer is no. Toenails are rigid, and simply cutting a "V" in them will not allow the sides to move enough to relieve any kind of pressure. This myth has been around a long time, and there are probably some people who coincidentally got better after they did this

to their toenail, but it really doesn't work. In fact, you stand a very good chance of catching the new sharp edges of your nail on a sock and causing more damage. Ingrown toenails are a very simple thing to treat, and can usually be permanently corrected with a simple office procedure. Please call our office if you need help.

Write to us

The Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls or Burley office; mailed to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to (208) 734-5538; or e-mailed to letters@magicalvalley.com.



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★ SALE 129.99

A. Tools of the Trade Belgique 10-pc. copper-bottom cookware set includes 1-qt., 2-qt. and 3.5-qt. covered saucepans, 8-qt. covered stockpot, and 8" and 9.5" frying pans. Reg. \$200.



★ SALE 199.99 QUEEN

B. Ryland 8 pc. Bed-In-A-Bag™ by Dun River. Includes polyester/cotton overstuffed comforter, two standard sheets, bedskirt and 200-thread count cotton flat sheet, fitted sheet and pillowcases. Imported Reg. \$270. King Reg. \$330. sale 249.99.



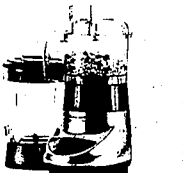
★ SALE 14.99

C. Tools of the Trade Belgique 3-qt. copper-bottom soup pot. Create savory soups, stews and more. With glass lid and riveted handles. Reg. \$30.



★ SALE 79.99

D. Cuisinart SmartPower Duet™ blender/food processor with 40-oz. glass jar and 3-cup work bowl. #BFP703CH. Reg. \$100.



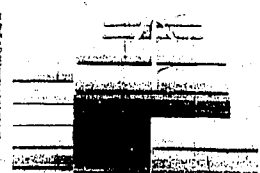
★ SALE 59.99 QUEEN OR KING

E. Moziqe Jacquard comforter set with decorative pillow, overstuffed comforter, bedskirt and shams. Polyester/cotton. Imported. Reg. \$120/set.



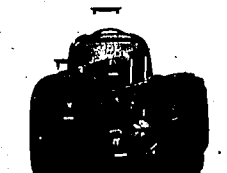
★ SALE 29.99 TWIN SET

F. Charter Club 400-thread count cotton damask Sheet set includes flat sheet, fitted sheet and pillowcase. Imported. Reg. \$60, previously \$39.99. Full-king Reg. \$85-\$150, previously \$59.99-99.99, sale 46.99-89.99.



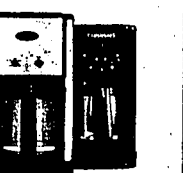
50% OFF + BONUS

G. New Samsonite Xton all-spinner collection in ultra-durable lightweight nylon/polyester Fibrelite™, with spring-loaded push-button locking handle. 20", 24" and 29" expandable spinner uprights/wheeled spinner garment bag, more. In black or blue. Reg. \$1,050-1,400, sale 79.99-99.99. Mail-in bonus\* \$50 Macy's Gift Card with a \$300 Xton. Silhouette® or Aspire™ Lite purchase.



★ SALE 79.99

H. Cuisinart Brewcentric™ coffeemaker. With brew pause, water filtration and auto shut-off. #DCC1200. Reg. \$120.



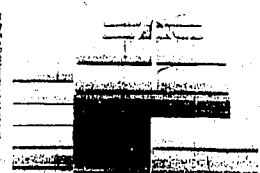
★ CLOSEOUT 79.99 ANY SIZE

J. Matterhorn white goose.ecoDown™ comforter by Charter Club. 240-thread count cotton woven stripe cover. Deluxe super lightweight. Made in USA and Imported. Twin-king. Orig. \$190-\$210, previously 109.99 any size.



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K. Charter Club pillows. Feather/down, down or polyester fill covered in cotton. Soft-firm supports. Made in USA and Imported. Sind/Queen or King. Reg. \$34-\$200, sale 16.99-99.99.



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B. Status denim for her. Orig. \* \$49, sale \$34.99.



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C. JM Collection and Alfred Dunner™™™ coordinates. Available in Misses and Petites. Reg. \$18-\$60, special \$9-\$30.



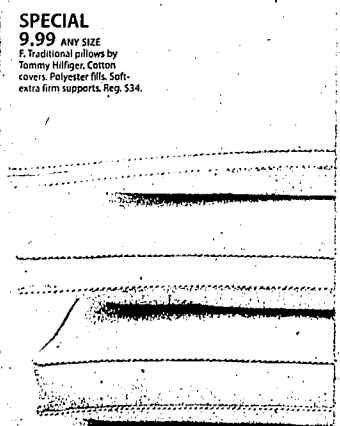
**SPECIAL 50% OFF**  
D. Mandeform™ Dream Bra. Style 7169. Reg. \$32, special \$16.



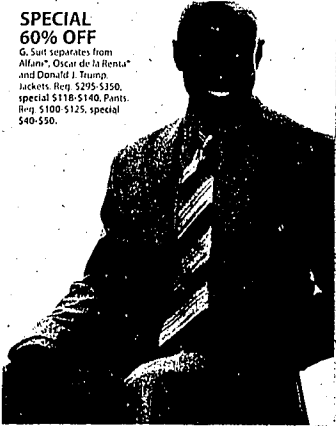
**SPECIAL 29.99**  
E. Puma® California (shown) or adidas® Superstar for her. Reg. \$29.99.



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G. Suit separates from Allam™, Oscar de la Renta™ and Donald J. Trump. Jackets. Reg. \$295-\$350, special \$118-\$140. Pants. Reg. \$100-\$125, special \$40-\$50.



**SPECIAL 19.99**  
H. Men's jeans and dress pants from Allam™ and Rosso dress pants. Reg. 49.50-\$65.



**SPECIAL 19.99**  
J. Cuisinart 5.5-qt. multi-cooker. Riveted cool grip for a confident hold. 18/10 stainless steel. Reg. \$40.



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## There is a free lunch!

For those of you who are Saturday grocery shoppers, I have an ethical dilemma for you to consider: It is possible to get a free lunch entirely by grazing the free-sample tables in supermarkets. But is it right? That's a dilemma that requires some true existential soul-searching: What is the nature of good and evil? Is it possible to objectively define right and wrong? Are the crabcake samples they're giving away on aisle 14 made from real crab or crab with a "k"? So is it right? Depends on what they're giving away. Look, supermarkets usually don't give away products that are already leaping off the shelves, so



**DON'T ASK ME Steve Crump**

you're doing these folks a favor. Still, the grocery store grazer has to learn to be a little flexible — you know, oyster egg rolls, macaroni and feta, that sort of thing. But you can, with a little perseverance, usually find free samples from all of the five major food groups: salt, fat, sugar, salsa and Mountain Dew. When sample-giving, it's always good to look for new products, and you can identify these because the folks giving them out are more cheerful than those sample-schleppers relegated to yet another eight hours of dispensing donut holes. Avoid sample-givers who appear to be wielding a spray can of cheese, and if there's bean-dip involved please make sure it's not a hot-bean. But aside from that, don't be afraid to mix and match. It is, for example, perfectly acceptable to start with Brownie-bits, progress to, say, water chestnuts and mandarin, skip the tater tots queso entirely and then tuck into a heaping paper napkinful of chili con chicken wings with a side of tater tots. Of course, it's important not to let yourself get busted for taking unfair advantage of the store's generosity, so if you're going to do that at any particular sample table, it's best to send your wife around the second — or third and fourth — time. If she won't cooperate, simply smile, look the sample-giver straight in the eye, and say — a little sheepishly — "I've been here before, but my three-year-old daughter dropped her pizza roll into the coffee-bean grinder." Most sample-givers, though, really don't care how often you stop by, they're just waiting for their shifts to end so they can get out of the burning-sausage fumes. To be fair, sample-giving is often an awful job. I saw a fellow in a store in the Seattle area one time whose duties consisted entirely of sampling Dream Whip on slivers of Pop-Tarts. Just down the aisle, there was a woman assigned to cut Hostess Twinkies into squares and skewer them on toothpicks. This, friends, is not cooking; it's vandalism. But sample-giving has its compensations, I suppose. Where do you think the leftover samples go after the store closes? I'm thinking there must be entire families in Idaho whose Saturday night dinner consists of bite-size peanut butter-and-jelly rollups. A couple off, of course, with a fine Snapple — in the two-ounce cups.

**Columnist Steve Crump can be reached at 735-3223, or by e-mail at scrump@magicvalley.com**

### Snowpack levels

Watershed	% of Avg.	% below peak**
Salmon	117%	85%
Big Lost	81%	87%
Little Wood	121%	80%
Big Lost	118%	80%
Little Lost	100%	88%
Heart Fork/Teton	102%	88%
Upper Snake Basin	117%	85%
Oakley	183%	117%
Snake Falls	128%	103%

\* As of Feb. 18  
\*\* A comparison of basin snowpack on this day, with a 30-year average. An indicator of basin snowpack, the highest of basin snowpack, the highest of basin snowpack, the highest of basin snowpack.

## TROPICAL DREAMS, SNOWY STREETS



In stark contrast to a wall mural at the corner of Shoshone and Second Avenue E, that shows a woman strolling along a sunlit path, Amanda Justman braves Mother Nature Saturday afternoon while walking Kristine, a canine friend. Justman is a caretaker with the Pet Tech program at CSI.

# Wintry blast leaves many in valley dreaming of spring

Frigid temperatures, steady snow wreak havoc on area roads

“It (the weather) surprised me because I live north of Kimberly and it wasn't that bad.”

— Sgt. Dennis Rinehart of the Twin Falls Police Department

The Times-News

**TWIN FALLS** — Note to Mother Nature: We've had enough. Enough of winter, that is. Saturday's slow but steady snowfall — combined with arctic temperatures — created havoc for area motorists and law enforcement agencies as roads became icy Saturday afternoon. “The side streets are really bad,” said Twin Falls Police Department Sgt. Dennis Rinehart Saturday evening. “And Blue Lakes is really bad, too.”

According to Rinehart, the Twin Falls police dispatch remained extremely busy fielding slide-off and snow-related collision calls Saturday afternoon. Ditto

for all area emergency agencies. Police scanner chatter became replete with the usual winter-weather fare, such as “we need a tow truck” and “non-injury collision.” An 18-wheeler apparently became a victim somewhere near Interstate 84 mile marker 77 — “It's upside-down and we've got a fuel spill. No injuries.”

The intensity of calls began to subside shortly after the 5 p.m. Blue Lakes bottleneck. “The 5 to 6 (p.m.) rush was pretty horrible,” said Rinehart. “But after that, it started to slow down.” Several accidents created traffic tie-ups, including one on the Perrine Bridge and another at Bridgeview and Blue Lakes. The sudden rash of accidents, like the mini-blizzard that rode a wave of low pressure into the Magic Valley, was somewhat of a surprise for many residents — including Rinehart. “It surprised me because I live north of Kimberly and it wasn't that bad,” said the Twin Falls police sergeant. And with Friday night's National Weather Service 30 percent chance of snow forecast, even the expert meteorologists may be searching their heads today. The same meteorologists that say warmer weather will arrive midweek, possibly rising above 40 degrees on Wednesday. For a full weather report and forecast, please see page A-2 in every edition of *The Times-News*.

## Carey man gets 70 months in prison for child porn

The Times-News

**BOISE** — A former Bellevue Public Works superintendent will serve 70 months in the federal prison for possessing child pornography on his office computer. U.S. Attorney Tom Moss reported Wednesday. Brian Kelly Whipple, of Carey, was sentenced Feb. 14 in U.S. District Court in Boise by Judge Edward J. Lodge. The judge ordered Whipple to serve eight years of supervised release following incarceration. During that time he will be prohibited from having direct or indirect contact with minors; living or loitering within 100 feet of a school or other place frequented by children, or working or volunteering in a situation that exposes him to children.



Whipple

Following the completion of the prison sentence, Whipple will be prohibited from possessing a computer or other device connected to the Internet and must participate in sex offender treatment and submit to polygraph testing. He will also be subject to random searches of his person, home and vehicle and will have to register as a sex offender. According to the U.S. Attorney's office, the investigation of Whipple's online activities began in late August 2005, when two public works employees reported to City Administrator Jack Stoneback that they suspected Whipple of using his computer to view pornography. On Sept. 1, Whipple's computer was seized and sent to the FBI for analysis. The next day Whipple, first denied — and then admitted — to City Marshal Randy Tremble that he had used his computer to view child pornography sites. His arrest followed the admission, Sept. 3, one of Whipple's co-workers observed six CDs in a trash bin behind the Public Works shop and retrieved them. An FBI analysis deter-

Please see PORN, Page B7

## Anti-Sempra booth turns heads at Home and Garden Show

By Bob Kirkpatrick Times-News writer

**TWIN FALLS** — Scores of people stood in line waiting to get a taste of homemade ice cream Saturday at the annual Home and Garden Show in the College of Southern Idaho's Eldon Evans Expo Center. But one of the day's busiest booths belonged to a group called Citizens Protecting Resources. CPR, a Jerome County group opposed to Sempra Generations' proposed coal-fired power plant, is dedicated to preserving a clean environment in the Magic Valley. “We're over the halfway point to reaching our goal of 1,000 signatures,” Carl Nellis, spokesman for CPR said. “On Friday we recorded 225 signatures, and so far today (by 1 p.m.) we've had 300 people sign our petition.” The anti-Sempra group wants to help prevent the San Diego-based power company from building a 600-megawatt coal-fired plant near Jerome because of what Nellis described as potentially hazardous water and health issues. “We don't want mercury based pollutants in our water or in the air we breathe,” Nellis said. “We're especially concerned about the adverse affects on children and pregnant women.” One of the people helping gather signatures at the CPR booth was Dr. Betty Sudden, a family practitioner in Jerome. “Even small amounts of mercury can cause toxicity to



the nervous system that may lead to mental retardation and hearing loss,” Sudden said. “The sulfur and nitrogen released from the coal can also aggravate asthma and emphysema.” Nellis said the group chose to use a petition-signing to get the attention of elected officials because the group was told it cannot address the Planning and Zoning Commission through the initiative process. He said more than 75 percent of the people he has spoken with the first two days of expo said they were willing to sign the petition. The other 25 percent, according to Nellis, they couldn't sign it because either their jobs required them to remain neutral on the subject, or that they hadn't decided if they were for or against the coal-fired power plant. He said others told him the Magic Valley had to have some type of power source and that they would rather

have coal than nuclear because coal generates less radiation. According to Nellis, coal-fired energy puts out more radiation than nuclear power. Magic Valley residents supporting the petition to prevent the construction of the coal-fired power plant offered their opinion also. “I am positively opposed to bringing pollution to the Magic Valley,” said Rubie Turmspeed of Filer. “They are not telling us the whole truth. Politicians need to look at the real picture and realize we can't be bought off.” Bob and Bobbie Husome of Buhl said they “didn't want Magic Valley resources to go to California.” Some of the other concerns of the CPR group according to Nellis is the 1,200-or-so jobs created with construction of the plant. He said that many of those jobs would be filled by transient construction employees that would move out of the counties once the facility is complete, taking with them disposable income that would normally be spent here. Nellis said the bulk of the remaining jobs would be high-tech jobs that Jerome and Twin Falls county residents would not be qualified to obtain. But that isn't his biggest concern. “If Sempra is allowed to build the coal-fired power plant, the Magic Valley would become an industrial community, thereby losing its agricultural identity,” Nellis said. “The only thing we'll be known as then is a waste dump where mercury for generations to come.”

**Times-News writer Bob Kirkpatrick can be reached at 735-3274 or by e-mail at bkirkpatrick@magicvalley.com**





CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT

CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAGIC VALLEY LEGISLATORS

Magic Valley legislators' 2005 campaign contributions and expenditures.

**Sen. Tom Gannon, R-Buhl, District 23**

Campaign contributions  
 Total .....\$0  
 Campaign expenditures  
 Boys & Girls Club of Magic Valley donation .....\$500  
 US Airways — Ag chairman's meeting .....\$291.40  
 Total .....\$1,683.55

**Rep. Frances Field, R-Grand View, District 23**

Campaign contributions  
 Qwest .....\$300  
 Total .....\$300  
 Campaign expenditures  
 Mileage expense .....\$890.40  
 Total .....\$1,221.40

**Sen. Chuck Colner, R-Twin Falls, District 24**

Campaign contributions  
 Total .....\$0  
 Campaign expenditures  
 Total .....\$0

**Rep. Leon Smith, R-Twin Falls, District 24**

Campaign contributions  
 Idaho Truck PAC, Inc. ....\$250  
 QUA — PAC .....\$250  
 Campaign expenditures  
 Total .....\$155

**Rep. Sharon Block, R-Twin Falls, District 24**

Campaign contributions  
 Total .....\$100  
 Campaign expenditures  
 Total .....\$0

**Sen. Clint Stennett, D-Ketchum, District 25**

Campaign contributions  
 Windmere Real Estate .....\$400  
 Atkinsons Market .....\$400  
 First American Title .....\$400  
 Karen Kooser, of Ketchum .....\$400  
 Gabbler Construction .....\$100  
 Employers Compensation Insurance Co. ....\$750  
 Idaho Cable Telecommunications .....\$300  
 ICUA PAC .....\$300  
 Total .....\$4,655.51  
 Campaign expenditures  
 Idaho State Democratic Party .....\$1,270  
 Total .....\$3,104.24

**Rep. Wendy Jaquet, D-Ketchum, District 25**

Campaign contributions  
 Anheuser-Busch Co. ....\$250  
 Idaho Cable Telecomm .....\$300  
 Total .....\$700  
 Campaign expenditures  
 Diane Cordes — bookkeeping\$500  
 Marisa Nelson — intern ? .....\$500  
 Wendy Jaquet — reimbursement for mailing .....\$372.05  
 Idaho Democratic Party — polling .....\$500  
 Total .....\$2,372.92

**Wondering about the gubernatorial campaigns?**  
 To review the major and the top Magic Valley contributions to the Democratic and Republican candidates for governor, go to page A11.

**Rep. Donna Pence, D-Goading, District 25-B**

Campaign contributions  
 Donna Pence — loan .....\$950  
 Total .....\$950  
 Campaign expenditures  
 Total .....\$22.87

**Sen. Dean Cameron, R-Rupert, District 26**

Campaign contributions  
 Employer Compensation Insurance Group .....\$1,000  
 Anheuser-Busch Co. Inc. ....\$500  
 CCA .....\$500  
 Idaho Dental PAC .....\$250  
 Eli Lilly & Comp. ....\$250  
 Qwest — Idaho PAC .....\$300  
 ICUA — PAC .....\$300  
 Total .....\$3,100  
 Campaign expenditures  
 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation — advertising/donation .....\$1,591.40  
 Rupert Renaissance .....\$250  
 Senate Republican Caucus .....\$300  
 Pheasants Forever — Sponsor/advertising .....\$485  
 House Directories .....\$407.40  
 Center — gifts .....\$948.06  
 Ken McClure — lodging/expenses .....\$357  
 Governors Cup .....\$7,708.89  
 Total .....\$11,991.40

**Rep. Denton Darrington, R-Declo, District 27**

Campaign contributions  
 Anheuser-Busch .....\$250  
 Employers Compensation Insurance .....\$750  
 Qwest .....\$300  
 Total .....\$1,300  
 Campaign expenditures  
 US Cellular .....\$1,022.64  
 Cassia Health Care Foundation .....\$445  
 Total .....\$3,893.20

**Rep. Scott Bedke, R-Oakley, District 27-A**

Campaign contributions  
 Amalgamated Sugar .....\$500  
 Simplot .....\$500  
 Idaho Retail Action Council .....\$250  
 Idaho Automobile Dealers .....\$250  
 Idaho Truck PAC .....\$250  
 Micron .....\$250  
 Evans & Keane LLP .....\$250  
 Rep Elgren .....\$250  
 Timber PAC .....\$500  
 Pinotch .....\$250  
 Western Dairy Solutions .....\$250  
 Idaho Association of Realtors .....\$250  
 IDABAN/PAC .....\$250  
 Benton & Associates .....\$250  
 Sempra Energy .....\$250  
 Idaho Sand & Gravel .....\$250  
 Qwest/Idaho .....\$300  
 Union Pacific Railroad .....\$500  
 Hecla Mining .....\$250  
 Total .....\$5,000

**Rep. Bert Stevenson, R-Rupert, District 26-A**

Campaign contributions  
 Qwest Idaho PAC .....\$300  
 ICUA — PAC .....\$300  
 Total .....\$600  
 Campaign expenditures  
 Minidoka Co. Republican Party .....\$500  
 Governor's Ball .....\$350  
 House Republican Caucus .....\$265  
 Louie's Pizzeria — Minico .....\$265  
 Young Republicans .....\$253.95  
 Tribute for Vets — Fourth


Ventus Advisors LLP .....\$250  
 NuWest .....\$500  
 Adams Petroleum .....\$250  
 Bedke's K-Say Ranch .....\$500  
 Westenberg & Associates .....\$250  
 Total .....\$2,800  
 Campaign expenditures  
 Oakley High School — band, yearbook & sports donation \$840  
 DL Evans Bank — CSD Conference .....\$306.80  
 Idaho Sporting Clays .....\$1,044  
 Total .....\$4,133.36

Campaign contributions  
 Bruce Newcomb (loan) .....\$1,433.66  
 Anheuser-Busch .....\$250  
 Employers Compensation Insurance Co. ....\$1,250  
 Total .....\$2,933.66  
 Campaign expenditures  
 Americanas — advertising .....\$500  
 Janet Miller — campaign donation .....\$335.59  
 House Caucus Club — donation .....\$1,100  
 Boise State University — donation .....\$252  
 Basque Center — staff dinner .....\$400  
 Basque Market

— staff dinner .....\$3,225  
 College of Southern Idaho Foundation .....\$900  
 Make A Wish Foundation .....\$1,000  
 Oakley High School .....\$250  
 The Times-News .....\$379  
 South Idaho Press .....\$261.56  
 Idaho State Journal .....\$582.90  
 Total .....\$11,346.75

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**Bill to raise Utah's minimum wage dies**

**SALT LAKE CITY (AP)**—A bill that would raise the minimum wage to \$7 an hour died in a House committee Friday, but an identical bill sponsored by Sen. Ed Mayne, D-West Valley City, will appear before a Senate committee next week.

Mayne said Rep. Neil Hansen, D-Ogden, sponsored House Bill 313 for him in case the Senate didn't have time to hear his bill. But that changed this week and Mayne skipped the House hearing. Mayne said public testimony won't be limited to two minutes when a State committee hears the identically worded Senate Bill 43 next week.

The debate Tuesday will likely focus on the same issues it did Friday, with advocates for the poor saying the wage needs to be raised to help people off poverty. Businesses say the market should dictate wages.

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# TRIATHLON TREATMENT

## N. Idaho couch potato sees transformation

COEUR D'ALENE (AP) — The first day of his training, he set his alarm for 5 a.m.

"Of course, when it had the audacity to actually go off at that forsaken hour, it scared the hell out of me," says Terry Pennington. "Then I remembered why I'd set it so early in the first place, and I got up, got dressed, and set out for an easy, 2 1/2-mile run."

"I made it two blocks," he says. "And I thought I was going to die."

"It would have been so easy, then, to give up the whole idea of getting back into shape. He's 43 now; he was 41 then, and he knew the years had taken their toll, knew that a job and a wife and a family had made him fat, dumb and happy."

"And if he could only find the strength to slam-dunk that stupid alarm clock into a night stand drawer and close it, he could go back to sleep without hardly having raised a ripple in his comfortable complacency. But he didn't."

Terry Pennington was on a mission. It began two years ago when his mother-in-law hosted three Ironmen and their families at her house. Terry and his wife, Rosie, went over to lend a helping hand. What he saw there changed him, changed him fundamentally ... more, maybe, than a doctor's opinions would have in spite of a family history of diabetes.

"You get married, you get stupid, you have a job and you chase kids around, then you get home and grab the remote," Pennington says. "Then one day you wake up and look in the mirror and go, 'OK, who the hell is THAT?' I was getting up to 245 pounds. To see yourself go that far away from where you were ... I didn't dare have my cholesterol checked."

"There's a look in their eyes

Terry Pennington was on a mission. It began two years ago when his mother-in-law hosted three Ironmen and their families at her house.

that most people don't have," Pennington says of the Ironmen. "You could tell they were special. And a desire was planted in me that day that hadn't been there for 20 years."

He told everybody he knew that someday he was going to enter and finish the grueling Ironman competition.

So after shooting his mouth off, he says, he had to follow through.

"I made a commitment to a bunch of people and I couldn't not do it," he says. "I stuck my neck out. Rosie was excited for me, but I'm not quite sure she believed it or not."

That same day, he went out to watch the race. "There I was, among all these athletes, smoking a cigarette," he says. "That night, I had my last cigarette."

The next morning, he went on his first run, those 2 1/2 miles that nearly killed him.

"I'd only gone those two blocks and I felt like there was an engine block on my chest," he says. "I did finish the distance, but I did more walking than running and I remember being very humbled."

An Ironman has to run 26.2 miles, bike 112 miles and swim 2.4 miles.

He quit smoking. He hired first a swimming instructor to help him deal with the unique complications of swimming long distances with your face in the water, and then in a total immersion course in Spokane that helped him rethink the mechanics of swimming.

"Swimming face down is very uncomfortable," he says. "You have to learn how to breathe, when to put your head up, how to not fight the water. It's really a choreographed art form."

He changed his diet. He learned to live with the sound of that blasted 5 a.m. alarm, although it scared him every time. He rearranged his schedule, sacrificed family time, gave up chocolate — well, mostly anyway — and packed on 15 to 20 pounds of solid muscle.

He dropped from nearly 300 pounds to 209. Like his first run, his first bike ride was less than stellar.

"I hadn't ridden a bike since middle school," he says. "The alarm went off at 5 a.m. again, and I jumped on my wife's mountain bike and took off. When I came back, I felt like I'd had a really great ride. When I measured it, I realized I'd only gone 4.7 miles. I thought I'd

gone at least 10 miles."

But at some point during that one solid year of training, with only two missed workouts, the Coeur d'Alene High School graduate knew he was going to make it. He was going to enter, and finish, his first Ironman.

In 2005, he did. He'll do it again this year.

"I don't really remember when I started thinking this would be doable," he says. "But I did. I knew it wasn't going to be pretty, but I knew I'd finish. I'd always been a very strong individual. I went down there on Friday, the first day of the race, and actually felt like I belonged there."

He finished the race in 16 hours, 44 minutes.

"I think I was the last local finisher," he says. "And it felt awesome."

## State proposes restricting ATV use for hunting in S.W. Idaho

BOISE (AP) — Officials with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game might put new restrictions on ATVs and motorcycles in more hunting areas in southwest Idaho during big game seasons.

Currently, only two of the 18 hunting units in the Southwest Region carry such restrictions, where hunters on ATVs or motorcycles are limited to roads "capable of travel by a full-sized vehicle."

"We've put all the other units on the table," Jon Rachael, Fish and Game's southwest regional wildlife manager, told The

Idaho Statesman. "We're asking folks to weigh in on it."

Public comments are being accepted until Friday. After that, Fish and Game commissioners will decide whether to put ATV restrictions on more hunting units in the area when they set seasons and hunting rules at their regular meeting March 1-3 in Boise.

Commissioners first imposed restrictions on ATVs in 2002 in Unit 47, located near the Nevada border.

The department has since put restrictions on 28 of Idaho's 99 hunting units.

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All patrons are cordially invited to attend the annual meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2006 at 7:00 pm at Declo High School. Our manager, board members and company auditor will be available to answer any questions concerning policy programs or our company's financial situation.

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# Micron looks to expand, purchases vacant Zilog plant

NAMPA (AP) — Boise-based Micron Technology, Inc. will buy a vacant computer component manufacturing facility in Nampa, the company announced after a week of speculation from local media, reported the Idaho Statesman newspaper.

Micron, Idaho's largest private employer, said the former Zilog plant, which it will purchase for \$5 million, will be used by the computer semiconductor producer to manufacture memory chips and image sensors in

camera cell phones and digital cameras.

"The acquisition... will free up space in our existing facilities and allow us to continue to meet expanding demand for our products," said Micron President Steve Appleton in a prepared statement.

Last week at an analysts conference in Sun Valley, Appleton said the company needs more space to keep up with growth in flash memory and image sensor markets.

He said Micron's business is expanding with growth in the digital camera and cell phone industries, using Micron's image sensor products. The company is also growing with investments in flash memory production, used in iPods and other MP3 players, in addition to their primary production, memory for personal computers.

The acquisition will likely mean new jobs at Micron.

"We will hire people for it, but we don't have a specific number for it at

this time," said Dan Francisco, a Micron spokesman.

Francisco said the plant will employ high-paying positions like operators, technicians and support staff.

Nampa city officials are excited about the acquisition, saying it could mean an infusion of jobs and make up for losses incurred when Zilog, which had manufactured products in Nampa since 1979, closed its doors in June.

Nampa Mayor Tom Dale said reopening the plant will help with

redevelopment plans in the area, spurring retail and commercial growth.

"It could be a spark plug for other business locating in the same area," he said.

The 160,000-square-foot memory chip plant on 38 acres is located near U.S. Interstate 84. It is reportedly worth about \$6.5 million.

Zilog still owns a smaller nearby facility that has been closed since 2001. Micron has no plans to buy the second facility.

## Idaho man gets six years for robbery plot

SANDPOINT (AP) — An Idaho man who planned to rob the owners of a Newport, Wash., theater has been sentenced to six years in prison.

In March 2005, Terry Lee Randolph, 40, of Priest River tried to enlist an accomplice to rob Rocky Theater owners Richard and Gladys Bishop, a Bonner County jury found.

Prosecutors said Randolph planned to bind and gag the couple in their Spokane, Wash., home and then break into their safe, reported the Bonner County Daily Bee newspaper.

But Randolph's would-be accomplice alerted police to the plan before the robbery.

In December, Randolph told the court the plot was only a joke and misunderstood by the would-be accomplice.

"The fact is Terry didn't do it. It was talk," said Linda Payne, Randolph's defense attorney.

First District Judge James Michaud ordered Randolph to a minimum two years in prison before he would become eligible for parole and rebuffed defense arguments that no crime was ever committed.

"Although no violence was carried out, the threat of violence was possible," Michaud said.

Randolph's defense also argued that he was manic-depressive, with mood swings and "grandiose" ideas. The plan to rob the Bishops was a result of that mania, Payne said.

Randolph said the Department of Corrections and previous judges were to blame for not treating his mental health issues after he was sentenced for a previous assault case in Lewiston.

Michaud said neither the state nor previous judges were at fault. He blamed Randolph for his own lack of conviction in treating the illness. Randolph had stopped taking prescription medicines.

## Utah mulls another Olympic bid

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Some Utah officials are already considering another bid on the Winter Olympics, based on feedback they've been hearing in Turin, Italy, about Salt Lake City's games in 2002.

"There is no one that can compete to what Salt Lake City can offer for hosting another Olympics. To me, it ought to be rather a no-brainer," said Lane Beattie, president of the Salt Lake Area Chamber of Commerce.

Utah officials in Italy for the Winter Olympics said they're impressed with how many people approach them with fond memories of the Salt Lake City games.

"I am astonished that everyone who has come through the booth area is already acquainted with Salt Lake City because of hosting the Olympics," Alison McFarlane, the director of economic development for Salt Lake City, wrote in an e-mail from Italy.

McFarlane is staffing a Salt Lake City mission both at the World Pavilion in Turin. Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson, Beattie and McFarlane each were in Italy this month pushing the city as the obvious choice for a future Winter Olympics.

Beattie said he thinks Salt Lake City should bid for the 2018 or 2022 games. He said the idea was well received by representatives of the U.S. Olympic Committee. Beattie declined to name the representatives, and a USOC spokesman did not return a phone call to the Deseret Morning News seeking comment Friday.

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IDAHO/WEST

# USU challenges faculty, students to get fitter

LOGAN, Utah (AP) — A thick breath of chalky air blows out of Gaye Griffith's mouth as she steps outside her house into the cold. At 5 a.m., the streets are calm and frozen after the night's low temperatures.

It's the perfect time to go for a walk — at least for this participant in Utah State University's Physical Activity Challenge.

Griffith is one of more than 330 students and faculty who are participating in a 13-week competition aimed at promoting healthier lifestyles.

"I needed a little shove to get going after the holidays," Griffith said.

"My goal is to do the exercise so I can feel good physically and mentally."

Griffith wakes up at 5 a.m., every morning to exercise and also takes the long way back to the office after lunch.

The competition, which began Jan. 16, is sponsored by the Student Wellness Center. The participants are divided into teams of six, and each individual tracks each hour of

physical activity.

"From this challenge, I hope people will understand the importance of physical activity and have the incentive to continue with that," said Jamie McKinlay, program coordinator at the Student Wellness Center.

The challenge is in conjunction with the statewide A Healthier You awards program, which was started as part of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games. It is sponsored by the Utah Department of Health, the Utah Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, and community partners, said Connie Kitchens, program coordinator for A Healthier You.

After four weeks of competition, Griffith's team from the department of forest, range and wildlife sciences, where she is a staff assistant, is in third place with 99.33 hours of exercise.

The College of Education is in first place after exercising more than 113 hours. Team captain Hal Potter, a network administrator, said all of the people on his team exercised

regularly before the competition began.

Awards will be presented at a ceremony on April 20 for various categories, including students, athletes, faculty members and college departments.

Martha Dever, a professor in the department of elementary education, said she has always been physically active but thought it would be fun to participate in something as a team.

"I think anytime we draw attention to healthy lifestyles, it is a good thing," Dever said. "We know that exercise — appropriate for the individual — is about the best thing we can do for ourselves."

Participants are required to exercise a minimum of 10 minutes per day.

Many of the participants use on-campus facilities such as the swimming pool, weight room and indoor track to exercise. Combined, all 56 teams have exercised more than 2,100 hours since Jan. 16.

The program also focuses on

areas other than physical fitness, including nutrition, safety, substance abuse prevention, and preventive health screenings.

Extra time may be added to the participants' totals by eating five servings of fruits and vegetables daily.

Valahee Tennant is the captain for a team from the Substitute Teaching Institute, where she works as a staff assistant, and she said the competition has helped all of the members on her team to eat more fruits and vegetables.

"It encouraged us to eat better," she said. "Naturally, as we eat better, we feel better."

Matt Wright, a senior in pre-law, said he is participating in the program because he just wants to feel healthier.

"Every year, you just want to get in shape, and the university is providing a very feasible way to do that," Wright said. "It's setting a way to keep your goals by providing some support, which is essential to any health program."

# BLM drains Idaho reservoirs to make room for runoff

BOISE (AP) — Idaho reservoirs are filling up after an unusually wet winter. With more rain and snow expected in March, the Bureau of Reclamation is releasing water into rivers to make room in reservoirs for spring runoff.

"(The water releases) caused a little bit of consternation among the public that hasn't been there in a few years," said Brian Sauer, a water operations manager with the Bureau of Reclamation.

Sauer told the Idaho Water Supply Committee Thursday that Boise-area reservoirs are at 95 percent of average. Years of drought have left the Boise

reservoirs 5 percent below their 30-year average.

Water officials have cautioned that there could be flooding this spring. Because of deep snowpack and high rainfall this year, the bureau is releasing water into the Boise River at levels unseen since the late 1990s. The Boise River is flowing at about 4,000 cubic feet per second — 16 times the December flow of 250 cubic feet per second.

Idaho water officials haven't declared an end to the drought. If the good water supply continues, farmers will have enough water for crops and consumers will pay lower electric bills.

# Guard essay contest offers N. Dakota trip

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A National Guard essay contest is offering 10 selected high school students from every state and four territories a free trip to North Dakota this summer.

The Guard's Lewis and Clark Youth Rendezvous is being planned to bring the 5-10 students to North Dakota Aug. 13-18 to educate them about the journey of explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark nearly 200 years ago.

Two chapters from each state and territory also will get the free trip, the Guard said.

The students will be selected based on their thoughts about the military value of the Lewis and Clark expedition. The competition is open to those who will be high school juniors or seniors in August 2006.

"We're still looking for more entries," said Staff Sgt. Billie Lorenz of Bismarck, a Guard spokeswoman.



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WEST

# Injured U.S. soldier wins damages against man for Afghan attack

Lawsuit may be first one filed against terrorists

**SALT LAKE CITY (AP)** — A Utah soldier blinded in one eye during a skirmish in Afghanistan has been awarded part of a multi-million dollar default judgment against a man whose teenage son is charged with taking part in the attack.

Layne Morris of West Jordan, and the family of medic Christopher Speer, who was

killed in the 2002 gunbattle, were awarded \$102.6 million in the civil suit. It may be difficult for Morris to collect, however, because the father's assets are unknown.

U.S. District Judge Paul Cassell said in his ruling Friday that the lawsuit may be the first filed by an American soldier against terrorists under the Patriot Act.

Soldiers serving overseas can't usually identify their attackers, making it difficult to hold them responsible for injuries under the Patriot Act. But Cassell wrote in his ruling that the attacker's identity wasn't a barrier in this case.

Morris, who served with the 19th Special Forces, cited news reports — including interviews with his attacker's immediate family — indicating that Omar Khadr, then 15, had wounded him and killed Speer. The ruling cited similar evidence that the boy's father, Ahmad Sa'ud Khadr, was linked to al-Qaida and trained his son to attack American targets.

Morris and Speer were attacked while searching for foreign fighters in a remote Afghanistan village. The terrorists threw grenades at the soldiers, who were outside the compound's walls, and shot at

them with automatic weapons. Shrapnel severed the optic nerve in Morris' right eye.

Soldiers rushed the compound, wounding the boy and killing all other insurgents. Omar Khadr is charged with throwing another grenade that killed Speer. He was arrested and is being held at the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay. In November, the U.S. government charged the boy with murder, attempted murder, conspiracy and aiding the enemy. The Canadian government has protested the boy's imprisonment, because he is a minor.

Cassell said the Patriot Act extends civil liability for acts of terrorism, including attacks on foreign soil.

Morris has said he will take no money until he is assured that Speer's widow and two children are provided for. Their attorney, Dennis Flynn, said the U.S. and Canadian governments have frozen the assets of the elder Khadr.

The ruling said the younger Khadr was 4 years old when his family moved from Canada to Pakistan, where his father co-founded a humanitarian relief organization that supported al-Qaida terrorist training camps.

The boy returned to Canada in 1994, where he attended school for one year while his father was imprisoned in Pakistan on charges of funding the bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Pakistan, the court said.

The next year the family allegedly traveled throughout Afghanistan and Pakistan, meeting al-Qaida leaders, including Osama bin Laden, Ayman Al Zawahiri, Muhammad Atef and Saif Al Adel, as well as visiting terrorist training camps and guest houses, according to court documents. It is believed the father was killed in a firefight in Pakistan.

## Utah looks at more perks for war vets

**SALT LAKE CITY (AP)** — Utah enlists a smaller percentage of its population in the armed forces than nearly any other state, yet it has a reputation as a patriotic, military-friendly place that supports U.S. troops and veterans.

Several legislators want to make it even friendlier. One lawmaker has proposed a constitutional amendment to exempt veterans from paying the property taxes as a means of honoring their service.

Nearly a dozen bills have been introduced in the Legislature this year that would provide benefits and financial incentives to military personnel, veterans and their families.

While this is a "red" state that polls show gives President Bush the highest approval rating in the country during a time of war, some legislators acknowledge these bills could face opposition, even from some of the potential beneficiaries.

In the case of the property tax constitutional amendment, most local governments and school systems depend heavily upon property taxes for their funding, and it's unclear how such a bill would affect them. But it's already making some politicians uncomfortable.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Mark Wheatley, D-Murray, acknowledges that his bill has little chance of passing this session and changing the Utah Constitution would be difficult. But he plans to push a similar proposal during the interim session because it's important to honor those who put their lives on the line to defend their country, whether it was in World War II, Vietnam, Iraq or Afghanistan, he said.

If the amendment were to pass, every honorably discharged veteran in Utah would be exempt regardless of their financial circumstances.

There were 161,351 veterans living in Utah in 2000, the most recent Census figures available. As a percentage of the state's 18 and older population, that placed Utah 47th among states, just ahead of California, New Jersey and New York.

A 2002 Census report said that most veterans live in urban areas near military bases — such as Hill Air Force Base in Davis and Weber counties.

Wheatley's property tax proposal is giving at least one Weber County commissioner "heartburn" despite his appreciation for people in military service. Property taxes are the county's primary revenue source.

"That would probably be a significant hit on the budget," said Commissioner Ken Bischoff, who has not seen Wheatley's proposal and appreciates every day that he does for us, but we have to provide services to them just like everybody. And we all have to pay or we'd put an additional burden on the rest of the public."

But Wheatley's not discouraged. He believes Utah residents will support his efforts, even if it means shifting the tax burden. "The percentage is relatively small as far as taxes," he said. "I think the average Utahn would be supportive, but there might be a few who aren't." Some opposition could come from veterans. "Anything we can do to make it easier for these people who have committed their time to the military and country is a worthy cause, and I had the representative," said George VanDerWater, commander of the American Legion in Utah County. "But without really seeing it, it's a little hard to justify saying an individual who served six months and got an honorable discharge gets the same benefits of someone who served 24 years."

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## MORNING LINE

### SPORTSQUOTE

Try not to laugh when someone says these are the world's greatest athletes, despite a paucity of blacks that makes the games look like a GOP convention.

— Bryant Gumbel, host of HBO's "Real Sports" said about the Winter Olympics last week

### TRIVIA

#### QUESTION:

Which town lost 2006 hosting duties to Turin?

.....answer below

### IN BRIEF

#### Track clinic is next Monday

TWIN FALLS — A rules clinic will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 27 in the Twin Falls High School faculty lounge for all track and field coaches and officials.

#### Kimberly team wins, McNew takes third

POCATELLO — Brandon McNew of Twin Falls took third in the high school boys high jump competition with a mark of 6 feet, 3 inches at the 28th annual Simpson Games in Pocatello's Holt Arena. Cedar City, Utah jumper Daniel Donpler won with a mark of 6 feet, 7 inches while Idaho Falls' Eric Follett took silver with a jump of 6 feet, 5 inches.

The Kimberly Track team won the all-Idaho boys 4x200 relay event. The team members were Caleb Hopwood, Tyson Anderson, Jared Andreas and Brody Miller. Diana Blauer of Butley took fourth at 5 feet, 1 inch in the girls high jump.

#### Kids wrestling program offered

TWIN FALLS — The City of Twin Falls Parks and Recreation Department will take registrations for the Kids Wrestling program through Feb. 22. The sessions will begin on March 2 and run through April 13. Practices will run Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. for the grades K-2 and 6:30-7:30 p.m. for grades 3-5. Practices will be held at the Twin Falls High School wrestling gym. The cost is \$18 for in-city residents and \$21 outside the city limits. A \$10 late fee will be added after Feb. 22.

Participants will receive a Bruins T-shirt. For more information, please call 736-2265.

#### MVRMC fundraiser announced

TWIN FALLS — Hootfest 2006 will be held Friday March 17 beginning at 5 p.m. at the College of Southern Idaho Gymnasium. The fun-filled evening serves as a fund-raiser supporting Children At Risk Evaluation Services (CARES). There will be 3-point and free throw contests for youth, high school and senior divisions.

At 6:30 p.m., there will be a featured game between local physicians (a.k.a. The Sawbones) and local attorneys (The lawbones). The second game will pit firemen (The Heat) against policemen (The Holies).

CARES is a community service of Magic Valley Regional Medical Center that provides evaluation and intervention services to children when there is a concern about their well-being and safety. Hootfest sponsorships and volunteer opportunities are still available. Please contact Jody Tenhally at 737-2943 for more information.

Compiled from staff reports

TRIVIA ANSWER:   
Sion, Switzerland.

# Shoshone captures third



Shoshone senior Halley Harris, left, hugs her father, Mark, while Karla Davis hugs family friend Julie Merrick after the Indians defeated Richfield 55-34 Saturday for third place in the 1A state girls basketball tournament at Skyview High School in Nampa.

## Axelson sets tournament 3-point record

By Nathaniel Garrabrandt  
Times-News writer

NAMPA — If championships aren't in the works, there are worse ways to go out than one last victory over the season's biggest rival.

Facing Northside Conference foe Richfield for the first time this year, this time for the 1A girls basketball third-place trophy, the Shoshone Indians

buried the Tigers under an avalanche of first half 3-pointers, cranking to a 55-34 victory. "It's a special group," said Shoshone head coach Tim Chapman. "They came out hard and played hard. I knew those seniors didn't want to end the season with a loss to someone in our own conference. I know these seniors didn't want to lose to anybody."

which gave her the tournament record of 13. The mark surpasses the previous record of 12 held by 2A Grace's Billie Ann Randall (1995) and 1A Ligeraman's Alicia Lester in 2002. Axelson credited her teammates for the achievement. "They have to guard everybody," she said. "So I get a lot of open shots, because they have to guard every single person."

**Class 1A**  
at Skyview High School  
Kronrock 52, Lapwai 47, consolation championship  
Rimrock 49, North Gem 21, fourth place  
Shoshone 55, Richfield 34, third place  
at Idaho Center, Nampa  
Garden Valley 54, Wallace 48, championship

## Bobcats blaze back, take 4A third place

By Dustin Lapray  
Times-News Correspondent

BOISE — The Burley Bobcat girls basketball team overcame a 19-13 halftime deficit, rallied to a 39-30 win over Lakeland and took third-place in the 4A state tournament in the process Saturday at Timberline High.

**Class 4A**  
at Timberline High School  
Saturday's results  
Hilleshell vs. Shoyaw, consolation championship  
Burley 39, Lakeland 30, third place  
at Idaho Center, Nampa  
Wallace 49, Moscow 43, championship

extended it to 20-22 with a Bright Bohannon lay-up and free throw. But sophomore McKenzie Baker and her fellow Bobcats would not relent. Baker scored 12 points in the game and grabbed nine rebounds. She scored in every quarter, including four of the five points in the second.



Burley guard Kassi Kerbs drives past a Lakeland defender during the second quarter of their 4A third-place game at the state tournament Saturday at Timberline High School in Boise.

## Gooding takes consolation title

By Nathaniel Garrabrandt  
Times-News writer

BOISE — A historic season requires the proper finish. But first, the Gooding Senators just needed to finish the game.

**Class 3A**  
at Bishop Kelly High School  
Gooding 32, Priest River 26  
Bear Lake 44, American Falls 43, third place  
at Idaho Center, Nampa  
Shelley 49, Kellogg 44, championship

in to and Gooding senior guard Brittanee Jerome ran a steal the length of the floor on the next possession to cap a 9-2 Senators run that made it 29-23 with 1:14 left.

## Tigers advance to GBW boys championship

By Diane Philbin  
Times-News writer

JEROME — After losing to Jerome three times already this season, Minico certainly must of had a little thought of revenge on their minds as the two teams battled in a loser-out game in the Great Basin West boys basketball tournament game Saturday.

The "Tigers came out after the break and started the second half on a 3-pointer by David Prescott. Senior post Mike Norris began to take control of the paint halfway through the quarter as the perimeter players were giving him good feeds in-side for six quick points. At one time in the quarter, Jerome held a 37-25 lead. The half ended 37-20 as Minico senior guard Kyle Stratman knocked down a 3-pointer with 45 seconds remaining.

But Gooding limited what could've been a meltdown to just a dry spell as senior Katie Garcia converted two of the line followed by a huge 3-pointer by senior Amy Tranholt from the corner to regain the momentum and propel the Senators to a 32-26 victory. "It's nice to close your season

with a win," said Gooding head coach Chris Comstock, whose team concludes the season at 18-7. "There aren't too many teams that get to do that. I know it's been a long time since the Senators have won 18 games. It was the first time we've ever won hardware state, so it feels pretty good." Following Tranholt's shot, which made it 25-21, the Spartans converted an turnover into a bucket to cut the lead to a possession at 25-23 with 4:52 remaining. Garcia responded with a lay-

Priest River was able to make it a one-shot game with 30 seconds left with a basket and a free throw, but they were forced to send Gooding to the line three times over the last 30 seconds. "We kind of let them get back in it in the second half," said Jerome coach Marty Espinoza. "They came out fired up

again, the Spartans found themselves on the wrong end of a 15-point loss as the Tigers defeated the Spartans 74-59. "We came out and played like we knew how to play," said Jerome coach Marty Espinoza. "The kids really played hard. They wanted to continue playing. Our defense really controlled

SPORTS



Members of Tony Stewart's pit crew react to his win as a group of cars spin on the tri-oval at the end of the Hershey's Kissables 300 NASCAR Busch auto race at Daytona International Speedway Saturday, in Daytona Beach, Fla. Spinning in the background is Denny Hamlin, left, Jason Keller (11) Mark Green (4), Elliott Sadler (90) and Michael Waltrip (99).

Stewart wins crash-filled Busch race

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — As long as Tony Stewart is in the driver's seat, he has no recollection of running three-wide at the front of the pack — until Saturday. "I don't ever remember being part of something like that," Stewart said after eventually pulling away in the final laps to win the crash-filled Hershey's Kissables 300 NASCAR Busch Series race.

It was the second year in a row Stewart, the two-time and reigning Nextel Cup champion, has won the 300-mile race at Daytona in a car filled by fellow Cup star Kevin Harvick's Busch team. He has his only Busch wins in 54 tries. "I was just happy to finish a Busch race," Lamar said. "That was actually the first one I ever finished. We just got a top-notch team. If I can get to the level they're at, we'll have some success."

Jay Ward was credited with fourth and Harvick fifth in a second race. Harvick, who led the race for a while, but got so much momentum going that he had to make the pass for the lead when he did. "I was going to stay with him in there, but I had such a big run, there was no way to stop," Stewart said. "We would have both gotten blown by. So I just had to take it."

SLCC men slip by CSI in 20T

By Eric Larsen Times-News writer



TWIN FALLS — The Salt Lake Community College Bruins got their victory dance Saturday night in Twin Falls. The Bruins, previously declared ineligible for postseason play, got what will undoubtedly be the biggest win of their 2005-06 season, a 102-98 double-overtime victory over the No. 9 College of Southern Idaho Golden Eagles men's basketball team.

lay-ups or turnovers. "I was one of those nights where we were always fighting uphill in every situation, and just didn't get it done," Rogers said.

Moore finished with a game-high 34 points, 11 rebounds and 5 steals to lead CSI, while sophomore guard Jelena Williams was the only other Eagles player in double figures with 11 points. Andy Brantley finished with four points and 12 rebounds, but finished 1-for-10 from the floor. Bruins freshman post Brent Lawson finished with 26 points, while Alisha Young added 19 and Any Fassey 13 points and 13 rebounds. The Bruins lost to SLCC, 90-82, in a game that was played in a rain-soaked arena.

Earhardt, Gordon look to set tone for '06

By John Derr Times-News writer



DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — The date is wiped clean for Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Jeff Gordon, two drivers temporarily sprung from the shadows of their mired 2005 seasons. They were failures. Busts. A pair of clumps in eligibility for the biggest prize in NASCAR. All that was erased the moment they drove through the gates at Daytona International Speedway. This track belongs to Earnhardt and Gordon — they've combined for 20 wins here in their careers.

after the two spent the season apart in an ill-advised swapping of crews at Dale Earnhardt Inc. The move made Junior an also-ran most of last season, just a shell of his former self at Daytona and Talladega, the two places he was always a guaranteed contender. But with Larry car as his leader, Junior's back among the favorites for the Great American Race. "Working with Tony Jr. is going to be a lot of fun, there's a good, close bond there," Earnhardt said.

Valley comes up short in 2A consolation

MIDDLETON — The Valley Vikings' quest to return with a state consolation title, but they shaved signs of it during Saturday's short run. With his Eagles trailing 90-87 with 15.3 seconds remaining in the consolation game, the Vikings were down 13-10. In the consolation game, the Vikings were down 13-10. In the consolation game, the Vikings were down 13-10.

- Class 2A
at Middleton High School, first 52, Valley 35, consolation championship
at Idaho Center, Nampa
Boise City 75, Soda Springs 49, championship

- Class 5A
at Idaho Center, Nampa
Boise City 75, Soda Springs 49, championship
at Idaho Center, Nampa
Boise City 75, Soda Springs 49, championship

Gooding

Continued from C1
at the beginning of the third and we just kept our calm and executed in the fourth, kept the lead and made good shots when it counted. "Irene finished the game with seven points, which included a big trifecta to put the Senators on the board after being held scoreless for the first six minutes of the game.

Gooding 32, Priest River 26
Gooding 32, Priest River 26
Gooding 32, Priest River 26

Tigers

Continued from C1
The third quarter found Jerome extending its lead to 45-29 as the Spartans were outscored 15-9. The fourth quarter began with the Tigers holding a comfortable 52-37 margin. Minico battled and closed the margin to nine points, 55-46, with five minutes remaining.

- Great Basin West
Saturday's result
Jerome 74, Minico 59
Monday's game
Jerome at Burley 7 p.m., championship

Shoshone

Continued from C1
The Tigers (18-3) managed to keep the game to within 10 at the break, but the Indians opened the second half on a 2-2 run to make it 40-21 and pull the game well out of reach. "We just wanted everything to go smoothly our last game," said Shoshone senior Hailey Harris. "I don't think we made that happen. We just came out focused."

on the board after being held scoreless for the first six minutes of the game. "Our girls, they fought hard all game," said Comstock. "I don't think we played our best, but we did the things that we had to do to get a victory tonight."
Shoshone 55, Richland 34
Shoshone 55, Richland 34

Bobcats

Continued from C1
It wasn't a spectacular play, but the result of a scrum that sent Lakeland senior Kayla Stiegemeier to the floor with a broken leg. She also had a panic attack and an asthma reaction. Stiegemeier ran the point for Lakeland and led all scorers with 12 points. She also had seven rebounds and did not return to the game.

- younger kids mature and commit to a team system. We have been in every game and have competed to the end and never shortchanged ourselves."
Jerome will be Prescott with a game-high 22 points. Norris added 16 and senior Zach Blietz tossed in 15.

had on her, she's not bud." That kid was Lakeland post Brittnie Boucher, who matched up physically with Dalton. The Lakeland senior fouled out in the fourth quarter, finishing with three points and five boards. Burley held Lakeland to 12 second-half points and only ten in the final quarter. "We came out in the second half it took guts, courage and everything else," Robbins said. "We wanted to earn it." The Hawks didn't score again until a Natalie Richards, who shot with 1:56 remaining. By then, the Bobcats were shooting in the double bonus on almost every possession. The first half belonged to Lakeland. The Hawks dominated, though the score didn't truly show it. They shot 39 percent from the field (opposed to the 19 percent they shot in the first half) and had 11 points from Stiegemeier. The tables turned in the second half, with Burley shooting 49 percent and ending up with a 10.7 percent slanting performance (3-for-28). "We're pleased to take home some hardware," Kerbs said. "We have a lot of kids coming back. This will be good experience for those kids. It may have been a little hungry and maybe we can win the big game next year." The Bobcats return seven players next season. They finished with a 21-4 record, tying a school record and took home a trophy at state. It was their first time to state to the tourney since 1999. No boxscore available.







# YOUR SPORTS

YourSports Desk: 733-0931, Ext. 239 (Hours: 2-11 p.m.)



Members of the Jerome Middle School Grade 7 girls' basketball team include: Carrie Thibault, Heather Sturgeon, Sydney Sultter, Amelia Holbert, Mackenzie Chojnacky, Andrea Gonzales, Melissa Marsling, Cassie Novis, Rachelle Twitchell, Melody Zamora, Sierra Anderson, Ashley Henderson, Chayna Ruby and Katrina Albers. Team managers were Alyssa Carroll and Delmy Saravia. The coach is John Deet.

## Jerome seventh graders win conference title

The game as tied at 21 with five seconds remaining when Jerome (15-1) won foul. The first three throw attempts failed and the second rimmed out before Thibault snared the rebound and threw up a shot before the buzzer ending regulation. The ball rolled around the rim three times before falling in for the Tigers victory. Thibault finished with a team-high nine points followed by Heather Sturgeon with five.



The Jerome Middle School Grade 8 girls' basketball team finished with junior high careers with a perfect 33-0 record and their second-straight conference title, beating Burley 37-34. Tinley Garay scored 12 while Aubree Callen added 11. Team members include: Gary, Callen, Jordan Geist, Baylie Smith, Stephanie Bingham, Yvonne Bartholomew, Nicole Chojnacky, Robyn Thompson, Jennifer Fox, Breanna Gilbert, Tawnya Votrubeck and Krysta Nichols. Managers were Dani Butts, Mackenzie Ingraham and Casey Lloyd.

## T.F. Ladies City tourney ends soon

Last weekend was the start of the Twin Falls Ladies City Tournament. It ends this weekend. Leaders so far: Team Even — 1, Depot Girl (Kena Collins, Alicia Soran, Dani Bruns and Carrie Hansen), 2,619 pins. 2, Ten in the Pit (Anita Merrick, Dawna Litter, Cindy Scheer and Lynda Stout), 2,581 pins. Doubles — 1, Kim Lutz and Jeff Greene, 1,437 pins; 2, Linda Cline and Marie Stewart, 1,396 pins. Singles — 1, Evelyn Haslam 739; 2, Marie Stewart 720. All Events Handicap — 1, Marie Stewart, 2,163; 2, Evelyn Haslam, 2,161. All Events Scratch — 1, Barb Reynolds, 1,686; 2, Diana



Thelma Tucker writes a column for YourSports. You can contact her at 733-4357 or by e-mail at tucker@magick.com. Entry forms are currently available for the local men's and youth city tournaments as well. Good luck and 'Let's Go Bowling' during the final weekend of your tournament, ladies.

## MAGIC VALLEY EAGLE ALL-STARS



The Magic Valley Eagle All-Star cheerleaders competed recently at the Salt Lake Classic in Bountiful, Utah. The Mini squad (ages 4-8) took first place in their division. Team members are: Jordan Henley, All-Hernandez, Angela Hernandez, Sage Swan, Destry Anderson, Bailey Henley, Britney Hollstrom, Jaclyn Carr, Dana Whitesell, Samantha Easley, Hannah Buggess and Emily Whipple.

## MAGIC VALLEY EAGLE ALL-STARS



The Magic Valley Eagle All-Star cheerleaders competed recently at the Salt Lake Classic in Bountiful, Utah. The Junior squad (ages 10-15) took first place in their division. Team members are Hunter Stallo, Emma Stephens, Britney Miller, Britni Budd, Maddo Jenco, Reylene Abbott, Alexis Richardson, Jessica Holstene, Alisha Nanthanong, Paige Hartford, Amanda Vaccaro, McKayla Luper, Keaton Walker, Ilona Vaccaro, Carli Lutz, Shaelene Moreno, Candice Hendry, Aubrey Allen, Allison Cole, Hesteven Higley, Karon Artega, Nikole Williams, and Alexandra Lenard. Coaches are Andrea Pierce and Lacey Higley.

## YOUR SCORES AND STATS

Table with columns for various sports: Football, Soccer, Basketball, Tennis, Golf, etc. Includes scores and player statistics.

Table with columns for various sports: Football, Soccer, Basketball, Tennis, Golf, etc. Includes scores and player statistics.

Let us know Send e-mail to bguire@magicvalley.com. Please include: First and last names, Home/office phone numbers, Dates and place of the event, Scores or places won for the participants, A name and phone number for more info, Photographs are encouraged. Please send a self-addressed envelope if you want your picture returned.



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<p><b>2002 CHEVY IMPALA</b> STK# 340UJ</p>  <p><b>\$7788 or \$139**</b> PER MO**</p>	<p><b>1999 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN</b> STK# 1144</p>  <p><b>\$8488 or \$149**</b> PER MO**</p>	<p><b>2001 CHEVY BLAZER</b> STK# 1511</p>  <p><b>\$8788 or \$149**</b> PER MO**</p>	<p><b>2000 FORD EXPLORER 4X4</b> STK# H756</p>  <p><b>\$8988 or \$159**</b> PER MO**</p>	<p><b>2003 FORD MUSTANG</b> STK# 742U</p>  <p><b>\$10988 or \$179**</b> PER MO**</p>
<p><b>2000 CHEVY S10 EX CAB 4X4</b> STK# 125U</p>  <p><b>\$11988 or \$179**</b> PER MO**</p>	<p><b>2003 PONTIAC VIBE</b> STK# 516U</p>  <p><b>\$11988 or \$179**</b> PER MO**</p>	<p><b>2002 FORD ESCAPE 4X4</b> STK# 1289</p>  <p><b>\$12588 or \$189**</b> PER MO**</p>	<p><b>2001 VW BEETLE</b> STK# 637U</p>  <p><b>\$12888 or \$199**</b> PER MO**</p>	<p><b>2000 FORD F150 EX CAB</b> STK# 1471</p>  <p><b>\$12988 or \$199**</b> PER MO**</p>
<p><b>2001 DODGE 1500 EX CAB 4X4</b> STK# 1541</p>  <p><b>\$12988 or \$199**</b> PER MO**</p>	<p><b>2005 PONTIAC GRAND AM</b> STK# 636U</p>  <p><b>\$12988 or \$199**</b> PER MO**</p>	<p><b>2001 GMC YUKON XL</b> STK# 1439</p>  <p><b>\$14988 or \$229**</b> PER MO**</p>	<p><b>2002 TOYOTA CAMRY</b> STK# 651U</p>  <p><b>\$14588 or \$219**</b> PER MO**</p>	<p><b>1998 LEXUS LS 400</b> STK# 639U</p>  <p><b>\$15688 or \$239**</b> PER MO**</p>
<p><b>2002 FORD F150 SUPERCREW</b> STK# 1151</p>  <p><b>\$15988 or \$239**</b> PER MO**</p>	<p><b>2004 FORD FREESTAR</b> STK# 1359</p>  <p><b>\$16988 or \$259**</b> PER MO**</p>	<p><b>2004 MITSUBISHI DIAMANTE</b> STK# 613U</p>  <p><b>\$17588 or \$269**</b> PER MO**</p>	<p><b>2005 DODGE DAKOTA QUAD</b> STK# 1219</p>  <p><b>\$21588 or \$329**</b> PER MO**</p>	<p><b>2005 DODGE DURANGO SLT</b> STK# 1328</p>  <p><b>\$23988 or \$369**</b> PER MO**</p>
<p><b>2004 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4X4</b> STK# 1421</p>  <p><b>\$21888</b></p>	<p><b>2004 DODGE 1500 QUAD 4X4</b> STK# 1510</p>  <p><b>\$22888</b></p>	<p><b>2005 GMC 3500 CREW 4X4</b> STK# 1462</p>  <p><b>\$30988</b></p>		

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**OPEN 'TIL 7 pm**















### Local Jiffy Lubes offer scholarships

TWIN FALLS — Local Jiffy Lube stores are offering 20 \$500 college scholarships to qualified southern and eastern Idaho high school students. Applicants must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and attend school full time to be considered, and must be a resident of Southern or Eastern Idaho. Additional consideration will be given for a student's involvement in the community and school activities.

### FDA trying to define 'whole grains'

WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration this week proposed a definition for "whole grains" and labeling that would detail the quantity of the ingredient in breads, cereals and other foods, and to help consumers figure out what they're eating.

When the federal government encouraged Americans to eat whole grains last year, it didn't tell them what a whole grain was or give them help determining whether they were eating the recommended three-ounce daily allowance.

That left it to manufacturers of breads, cereals and other foods to decide whether their ingredients were whole grains and to stamp labels with claims saying their products were "excellent" or "good" sources.

The FDA's proposal, now subject to 60 days of public comment, would not order manufacturers to revise their practices but would strongly advise them to do so. Failure to comply could prompt the FDA to issue warnings or take other actions, the agency said.

### Introducing Red Planet Capital equity fund

WASHINGTON — NASA is following the CIA into the venture capital business.

The space agency's contracting office in suburban Greenbelt, Md., last week sought initial proposals from investment firms interested in being its partner in an equity fund that will invest in early-stage technology companies.

The space agency said it is adding the major investor, the CIA's fund to invest in innovative technology, which gets about \$37 million a year from the intelligence agency.

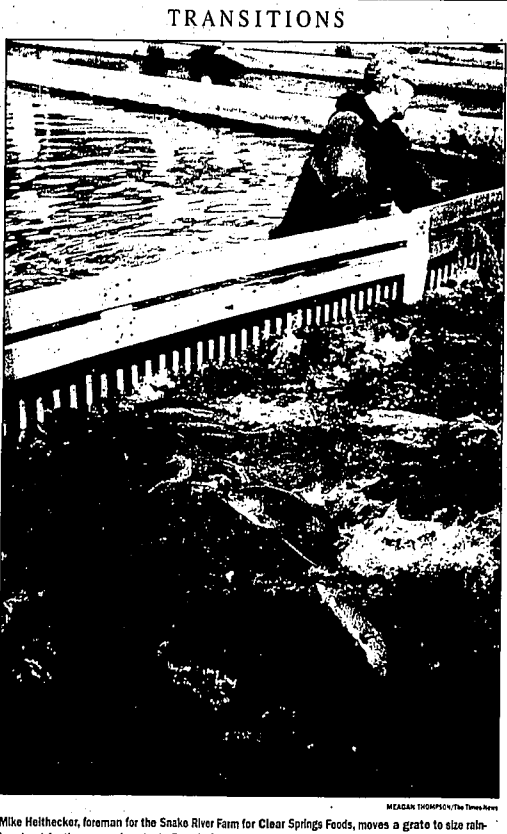
NASA said its fund will have \$11 million for investment and operations this fiscal year and is expected to increase to \$20 million a year.

One of the fund's goals, the agency said in its announcement, is "to attract and motivate private sector innovators and investors who have not typically conducted business with NASA, including tapping more efficiently into the pool of small, leading-edge organizations which are responsible for much of the innovative hi-tech thinking and research in the U.S."

SA's working title for the new fund: Red Planet Capital.

### Calendar

- Tuesday**  
Mini-Casala Ag Committee, 7 a.m., Mini-Casala Chamber of Commerce, Hayden  
Buhl Chamber lunch, noon, Grandstands  
Economic Development Forum, noon, Idaho Joe's, Twin Falls  
Twin Falls Area Chamber board meeting, 2 p.m., Chamber of Commerce, Twin Falls
- Wednesday**  
Mini-Casala Leadership Program, 8:30 a.m., Mini-Casala Chamber of Commerce, Hayden  
Ribbon Cutting for Valley Wooding by Twin Falls Area Chamber, 10:30 a.m., 639 Eastland Drive S., Twin Falls
- Thursday**  
Ribbon Cutting for Alphonso's UteLight, by Twin Falls Area Chamber, 11 a.m., at the helicopter pad behind Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, 650 Addison Ave. W., Twin Falls  
Business After Hours, Twin Falls Area Chamber, event, 5:30 p.m., Ballroom, 205 Shoshone St., Twin Falls



Mike Heithecker, foreman for the Snake River Farm for Clear Springs Foods, moves a grato to size rainbow trout for the processing plant. By reducing the space, Heithecker is forcing the smaller fish that can fit through the grato to separate from the larger fish that will soon head off to the processing plant.

## White moves from taters to trout

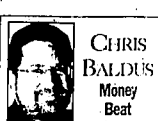
BUHL. — Ed White came to the Magic Valley in the mid-'30s already a 10-year ConAgra veteran.

ConAgra had just bought a Twin Falls frozen foods plant, and he came in as production manager soon after that becoming the plant manager. But now, 10 years later, he's resigned as the ConAgra operations manager to join Buhl-based Clear Springs Foods.

He's the new vice president of operations. Let me tell you what he's getting himself into. Clear Springs became an employee-owned company in 2000, said Larry W. Cape, president and chief executive officer. That's 400 employees' families who have a stake in the company, he said.

And the company, which turns 40 this fall, is the world's largest producer of rainbow trout and is fully integrated. What that means is Clear Springs raises its trout from eggs incubated at Soda Springs. The water is cooler there so it's better for the trout, said Cape.

Then, the little fish are brought to Clear Springs' eight fish farms that are within eight miles of each other by Buhl. Each farm, situated by



CHRIS BALDUS  
Money  
Beat

fresh water springs, has about 100 "raceways" where the trout are raised. The trout are harvested at various sizes and brought to two plants the company has in Buhl: one for cutting and the other is for making specialty products.

Then there are the trucks. Clear Springs has a fleet to get the fish freshly to customers from coast to coast. "Freshly" is key here.

Seventy percent of the product we're producing out of our cutting plant we never freeze," said Cape. "It's just refrigerated and goes out fresh to customers. And key markets will receive our product twice a week."

Key markets include East Coast cities like Baltimore, Washington, Philadelphia, New York City and Boston.

Clear Springs sells some fish retail, but it's primary market is selling to fine restaurants and food service

providers in the United States. However, the company also has done well in Canada and sold some trout in Mexico, he said.

And White, he's responsible for making that all happen now.

Why did he make the change? "The company's growing, and he won't have to move his family to grow with it. He and his wife, Laurie, have three daughters — Katie, 14, Kylee, 16, and Brandie, 19, and to continue advancing at ConAgra likely meant uprooting them and going to the Tri Cities in Washington, he said.

White has been very active in his community with groups like the Boys and Girls Club and serving on various community boards. Right now, he's the president of the Filer Wildlife boomer club.

"I just really believe in being involved in the community and Clear Springs does as well," said White. "We think it's our responsibility to do so, to take an active role. It takes a lot of time, but it's worth it."

He's also "a real believer" in employee ownership of Clear Springs and wants to do well for those folks - his neighbors.

## Alpacas may smell, but they're worth more than any cash cow

By Jim McLean  
Ventura County Star

SOMIS, Calif. (AP) — The friendly, inquisitive creatures that Brian Weiner and Claudia Weintraub are raising on their tiny SoCal ranch are linked biologically to llamas and camels but bear a strong resemblance to teddy bears.

Still, they have three stomachs and chew cud.

And, well, they have a bouquet about them that, while not as strong as that emitted by the desert's humped beasts of burden, is definitely eau de camel. They smell.

They're alpacas, and each of the 23 that roam the 4.5 tuckered acres is named for a character in a Shakespeare comedy. There's Othello, Portia, Isabella, Fabian and more. Every one is worth big bucks. A few might fetch more than \$50,000, at auction someday, others possibly more. Each is expected to sell for a least \$15,000.

backyard a little more than three years ago, naming it for one of her favorite Shakespeare plays, because at the time she taught Moorpark High School students about the Bard's works.

They had four animals then, but quickly outgrew their one-acre zoning and moved the ranch to Somis. Today, they own 21 of the alpacas there and board two others that belong to other investors. The ranch is also home to two horses, a dog, a cat and a rabbit.

Raising alpacas is fun, almost addictive and sometimes magical, the two say. The occupation also can be a lucrative business, one that can generate substantial tax breaks that, if handled carefully, can fund a comfortable retirement.

The animals, indigenous to Peru, Chile and Bolivia, resemble sheep but are a little larger with long necks and expressive faces. Weighing 100 to 140 pounds, alpacas are about one-third the size of llamas.

In South America, millions of alpacas are raised for their fleeces, because it can be turned into a nonmergeric, luxurious



Claudia Weintraub uses a syringe to give glycol to a six-week-old alpaca, named Isabella on Feb. 10 at their Somis, Calif., ranch. The friendly, inquisitive creatures that Brian Weiner and Weintraub are raising on their tiny ranch are linked biologically to llamas and camels but bear a strong resemblance to teddy bears.

# Google Company's fast growth sees critics

By Laura Smithman  
and Tricia Bishop  
The Baltimore Sun

Google Inc. became the unexpected darling of Wall Street when stock in the Internet search engine skyrocketed over the past two years to a peak of about \$475 a share.

In recent weeks, however, the company whose philosophy holds that you can be serious without a suit and make money without "doing evil" has seen its market fortunes shift. The stock plunged more than \$120 in the past month, including a 10 percent dive over the last week.

Google's rise and fall can be attributed in part to overzealous investors who, in a flashback to the Internet bubble of the late 1990s, were willing to overlook risks to the company's business model, analysts and industry experts said.

The wild ride also comes as Google has become entangled in controversy, such as efforts by the Chinese government to censor the Internet, an issue that led lawmakers to call executives from Google and other companies to Washington on Wednesday.

But in a broader sense, Google's market stumble might be a foreshadowing of the knocks the company will have to take as the world's most-used search engine.

For people who put themselves on a pedestal and say we will do no evil and then to start dealing with China under the Chinese-dictated terms, that would undermine some of the high ground they wanted to take," said Asher Epstein, managing director of the Diagram Center for Entrepreneurship at the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business.

Google has won kudos from privacy rights groups for fighting a Justice Department subpoena for search records the agency says it needs to combat online child pornography, although the case has shed light on the fact that Google retains personal information on users.

The company also has become embroiled in legal tangles with the Authors Guild and the Association of American Publishers, who have sued over Google's plan to create a digital internet library of printed books.

Google has faced some of its

harshest criticism for its recent decision to launch a version of its search engine in China that excludes information censored by the Chinese government, following similar decisions by Yahoo Inc. and Microsoft. Clay Systems Inc. has sold filtering equipment to China, which has come under fire for human rights abuses.

In moving into the lucrative market, Google said it sought to satisfy the interests of users, expand access to information, and respond to local conditions. The company also said it will tell users when content has been blocked.

Google's market stumble might be a foreshadowing of the knocks the company will have to take as the world's most-used search engine.

Responsible corporate citizens. They have aided and abetted the Chinese regime.

On Tuesday, Tibetan groups that agitate for an end to Chinese rule in the Asian region staged Valentine's Day protests against Google in London, Toronto and Mountain View, Calif., where the company has its headquarters. They posted their activities on [ndtv.google.com](http://ndtv.google.com).

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Please see GOOGLIE, Page F5

# YOUR BUSINESS

## CAREER MOVES

### Cleary Building employees

**HAZELTON** — Two Cleary Building Corp. recently received awards:

**Jeff Grigg**, region manager, received Top Sales Region of the Year for 2005. Grigg oversees seven offices in the states of Oregon, Idaho and Utah.



Grigg



Barton

**Carlynn Noh, Sheryl Patterson, Gail Quinn, John Robins, Linda Virginia and Tracy Woolman.**

The following agents were awarded for being 2005 Multi-Million Dollar Producers: Gayle Anderson, Nikki Boyd, Susan Brown, Sara Batchelder-Bullers, Ross Deahl, Shari Goedhart, Tad Haney, Judy Hoffmann, John Irwin, Bobbi Kelley, Nora Kent, Victoria Ray, Ken Roy, Roy Sabala and Willis and Jill Stone.

### Jackie Brennan

**GOODING** — Triple 7 Realty welcomed Jackie Brennan to their real estate team. Brennan has a ranch and back ground and believes that America's strengths come from the community.



Brennan

### Adam Bruno King

**KEITHUM** — Adam Bruno King has been named a partner in the law firm of Hawley Troxell Eppis and Hawley. King focuses on real estate and commercial transactions, immigration, business entities, condominium associations, landlord/tenant law, school law and municipal law. He is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and the Hastings College of Law, University of California.

### Irwin Realty awards

**TWIN FALLS** — Irwin Realty held their annual award ceremony where agents were recognized for their performance in 2005.

Willis and Jill Stone were awarded the Top Producers award for the highest volume of real estate closed.



Stones



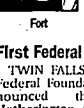
Roberts



Batchelder-Bullers



Roberts



### First Federal Foundation

**TWIN FALLS** — The First Federal Foundation Inc. announced that Debbie Hetherington, Otto Florence, and Mary Fort were re-appointed to the First Federal Foundation Board at its December meeting. Steve Westfall was re-elected as president and Mary Fort was re-elected as secretary/treasurer.

## MILESTONES



Owners Carma Koyle and Darren Funk are pictured cutting the ribbon in January at the opening of their new business, Exotic Tans. The business opened located at 1400 Pomerole Ave. in Burley. It has eight exotic tanning beds, a Mystic UV-free spray-on tanning booth and a massage bed. It's employees include manager Chelae Koyle, Kendra Koyle, Lacey Freeman and Treg Bryan.

### The Chair-Man opens for business in Twin Falls

Doug and Sue Gagliardi opened a new business in February. The Chair-Man, located

at 1341 Filer Ave. E. Twin Falls, specializes in better quality office furniture, repairs and set up. For a list of available services, visit their website at www.OfficeChairRepair.com.



Hemingway's Happy Hounds located at 2304 Eldridge Ave., Twin Falls held a ribbon cutting with the Twin Falls Chamber's Ambassadors. The business is a place where dogs can stay and play while their owners are away. Pictured from left are Robby Saal; Kilsan Murray; Darcy Harcourt; W.C. Hemingway; Sandle and Doug Hemingway, owners; and Matthew Hemingway.

### Matt Stokes insurance office moves location

Matt Stokes Insurance and Financial Services Team of State Farm Insurance recently moved to a new location at 1821 Addison Ave. E., Twin Falls. They will be sharing this newly remodeled office with the Jim Bieri State Farm Team. Stokes' team members are Stacy Price, Leana Harbert, and Greg Taylor. They offer an array of insurance and financial service products.

### Triple 7 Realty opens new office in Gooding

Anthony Fitzgerald of Triple 7 Realty opened a new office

located at 237 Main Street in Gooding. Fitzgerald has been in the Real Estate business for the past 10 years, specializing in new homes, farms, and ranches.

### 77 Fitness Center opens on Main Street in Gooding

77 Fitness Center has opened a new fitness center located at 245 Main Street in Gooding. Master Del Low, seven-degrees black belt of Tang Soo Do, is its full fitness gym manager.



Salon Sensations associates are, back row, from left to right, Jenny McGill, Billie Sneddon, Lacey Sibbett, Lorna Phillips, Megan Salvesen, Christy Cooper and Alexis Wright, receptionist; and front row, from left to right, Jane Garcia, Christina Arthur and Amy Robinson. Not pictured is Nilene Turner.

### Salon Sensations opens new business in Burley

Salon Sensations announced its new business located at 1244 E. Main St. in Burley. Business hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. They offer hair cut, color and styles, nails, tanning, spray tan, massage, facials and microdermabrasion. The owner is Todd Whitehead and managed by Amy Robinson and assistant manager Megan Salvesen. Staff includes Alexis Wright, receptionist; Amy Robinson, assistant manager and cosmetologist; Jenny McGill, cosmetologist and nail technician; Lorna Phillips, esthetician and skin care specialist; Christina Arthur, hair stylist; Billie Sneddon, hair stylist; Lacey Sibbett, nail technician; Christy Cooper, nail technician; Nilene Turner does the tanning and Turbo Spray Tan. Jane Garcia runs Natural Touch Healing inside Salon Sensations, offering massage as a natural way to help with the healing process.



Pictured from left are Xiaoling and Charles Reigh, owners of The UPS Store in Twin Falls.

### The UPS Store holds ribbon cutting ceremony

The UPS Store located at 280 Falls Ave., Twin Falls, held a ribbon cutting in January with the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce's Ambassadors. Xiaoling and Charles Reigh are the new owners and will be providing new mail and package sending services. They also have mail boxes available making it possible to send and pick up mail at the same time.

### Beef councils thank Les Schwab Tire Centers

The state beef councils of Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, Utah, Montana and Nevada have joined together to thank Les Schwab Tire Centers for its long-time support of the cattle and beef industry by naming the company an honorary Beef Backer. Since 1963, the company has given away thousands of pounds of free beef to customers during its Free Beef in February rewards program. The Idaho Beef Council is proud to recognize Les Schwab for their beef promotion efforts, said Laura Willard, executive director for the Idaho Beef Council. This year Les Schwab Tire Centers will give away approximately \$1.1 million worth of beef, as well as over 400 wood pellet grills.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

The First Federal Foundation Inc. met for a semi-annual meeting in December and the following organizations received grant funds from the Foundation: South Central Community Action Partnership for Emergency Fund, \$4,000; Hospice - Visions, \$3,000; Interfaith Caregivers, \$1,050; SCITRCA, \$2,500; Scott-Hite Foundation, \$3,000; Safe House, \$1,814; Jerome School District, \$5,000; Friends of Hospice, \$3,000; and Crisis Center of Magic Valley, \$2,000.

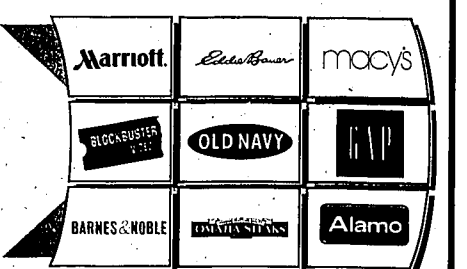
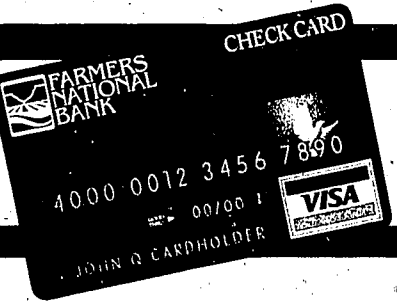
The South Central Idaho Dental Society recognized the following dentists who provided dental care for children at no charge at the Give Kids a Smile day held in February at the dental assisting clinic at the College of Southern Idaho. Dr. Eric Thomas, Dr. Paige Humphries, Dr. Justin Cress, Dr. Kyle Poppleton, Dr. Bryce Baruss, Dr. Adam Hodges, Dr. Mark Alexander, and Dr. Mark Harpster.

The South Central Idaho Dental Society also presented the dental assisting students at the college with a \$500 scholarship donation.

The dentists and assistants together provided complimentary care to about 60 patients worth around \$9,000.

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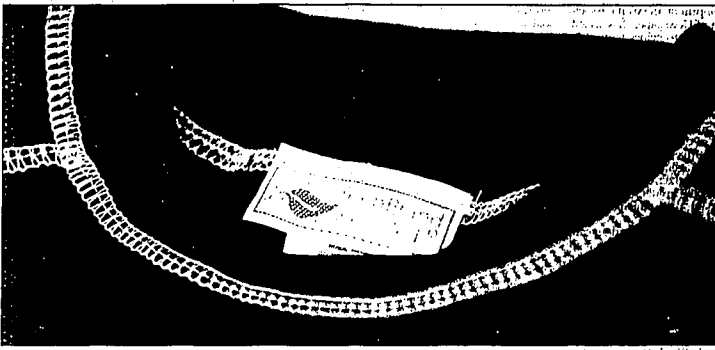
Jerome 324-3800 Buhl 543-4351 Twin Falls 734-1500 Wendell 536-5271  
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MONEY

# RECYCLED CLOTHES



GreenBrand clothing company provides clothes made from recycled cloth.

## Companies find ways to reuse discarded fabric scraps

By Christy Harris  
The Salt Lake Tribune

SALT LAKE CITY — Macem "Buck" recycles. But he doesn't do it because he's an environmentalist. He does it because he's a businessman.

"I'd like to tell you I'm a tee raggey, but I'm not," said Macem, the president of Sanségal Sportswear in Sandy, Utah, which makes GreenBrand outdoor clothing. "There's basically a lot of demand for recycled garments, and cotton in particular."

The Outdoor Retailer convention, held Jan. 20-31 at the Salt Palace Convention Center here, has long stood out for its environmentally conscious bent — a rarity among trade shows. The show featured a panel discussion of cause-related marketing and a keynote speech by Ray Anderson, who switched his carpet company over to using recycled materials and environmentally friendly manufacturing processes and found it saved him money.

Manufacturers of clothing and gear for outdoor enthusiasts realize that without an outdoor ecosystem, there would be no place to use their gear. Increasingly, their customers are realizing the same thing.

A few years ago, the National Service, one of SanSegal's biggest clothing accounts, started getting requests from park visitors for more gift-shop items made from recycled materials. But the company couldn't find anyone who could supply T-shirts and fleece made from recycled material.

So it started from scratch, finding sources of discarded material and offering to buy use in new clothes — pleasing customers who wanted something comfortable and carefree but a lot of at the same time. Now, SanSegal makes orange and red cotton T-shirts, hats and pants.

Recycled pop bottles have been around for 20 years, but recycled cotton has only been around for about three years," Buck's said.

Recycled fabric usually costs more than new, though the price of the raw material is only one of the cost of garments and observation-conscious buyers are sometimes willing to pay a little more for recycled products. But with rising costs of raw materials, especially oil for manmade fibers, recycling is becoming more cost-effective.

Buck and other manufacturers say the fabric counting, most of recycled clothing's quality is the quality of fabric made from previously used materials.

"It's kind of a perfect storm of all of those companies that want to do the right thing and always have — and it's a good business. They realize the quality of the business depends on the future of the outdoors," said



Matt Fransom, of SanSegal Sportswear, wearing a sweater made from recycled materials, holds clothing scraps used to make GreenBrand garments at San Segal Sportswear on Jan. 23 in Sandy, Utah. Conservation-minded consumers are increasingly demanding products that are friendly to the environment.

Nate Simmons, spokesman for Polartec, which makes clothing for several brands. It has long made fleece out of recycled plastics, but now new technology makes quality better as customers demand more sustainable manufacturing.

"There's enough momentum and interest and ability to do it ... We've been doing it for years, but there's a lot more interest now from many more companies than ever before," Simmons said.

"Recycled" means different things to different companies. For Polartec, it means making polyester out of plastic already used. For something else, for SanSegal, the term means pre-consumer waste material left over on the cutting room floor.

Rudick has overheard customers in stores looking at clothing tags. "They often don't know what they're looking at. They think it's (made of) garbage," he said.

SanSegal buys the fabric from a few companies that collect material from plants around the world, then matches them by color, blends the fibers together and comes up with a heathery yarn using closely guarded methods. SanSegal buys the yarn, finishes the fabric, designs the clothing and puts the finishing touches on the garments in Sandy.

Some of Patagonia's clothing is made from recycled materials — literally. "We were the first manufacturer to create clothing made of post-consumer waste," said company representative Dave

Pinegar. Patagonia's "Common Threads" program encourages customers to "drop your drawers" and bring worn-out base layers of Capilene, Patagonia's trademark polyester fabric, to Patagonia outlets. They are collected, compacted and shipped to Patagonia factories, where they are broken down into plastic chips and re-spun into new synthetic yarn.

That process wasn't possible until recently with the introduction of new manufacturing technology that allows the companies to make recycled garments that are the same quality as the original. The new clothing made from discarded Capilene will hit store shelves this fall.

The company also switched to all organic cotton and is using more hemp, which is easy to grow and requires less water than other fibers. But Pinegar acknowledges there are always places to improve. "We're by no means beaten to the environ-

ment," Jim Heiden, owner of Boulder, Colo.-based sock company Teko, agrees that some companies — including Patagonia, Nike and Timberland — are making strides toward reducing their impact on the environment. But most outdoor clothing is still made in China or other countries where oversight is poor and attention to the environment minimal. "Are we better than Wal-Mart? No. We just change more," he said.

He does see a little progress. People stopping by his Outdoor

# Love happens, but not without consequences

By Amy Joyce  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Who needs Match.com, eHarmony or J-Date when you've got your old workplace?

We spend many hours together. We obviously have some of the same interests (or at least, similar resumes). Connections are made across cubicles and over coffee meetings.

Love at work? It happens. And many of us accept that.

According to a survey conducted by Randstad USA, a staffing firm, 31 percent of adult Americans think it is appropriate to date a co-worker. And for some, it works out well.

Take Janice Raybuck, who in two short months will marry someone she met at work in 2000.

Raybuck, who works in catering sales in the Washington area, met the love of her life at her first real job on a dinner-cruise ship where she had worked part time when she was in college. They flirted, got along incredibly well and dated.

Sure, he was technically above her in the workplace hierarchy, but he wasn't her direct supervisor. And she never expected to work there after graduation anyway. But then came graduation and no job. The company needed a salesperson, and Raybuck needed income. So she took the job, and the couple tried to deal with the tricky situation of dating a co-worker.

"We've tried to avoid each other, but that put a strain on the relationship," she said.

So they began to eat lunch together. And not only that, but she also had the typical reaction most have when they fall in love: She wanted to tell everyone. And of course, her "everyone" included close friends at work. It ended up not Raybuck and her boyfriend but little to worry about. "Pretty much everyone suspected or knew, but no one really cared," she said.

Raybuck left the company after two years, and life with her fiancé is even better now just think. Now they have two workplaces to converse about.

According to a recent Spherion workplace snapshot survey, only 26 percent of U.S. workers think openly dating a co-worker would put their job in jeopardy. Of course, it doesn't always turn out that well. Workers need to be careful.

There are those hugely uncomfortable stories about things gone awry ("How could I have known he was married?") and long relationships with co-workers that ended badly ("We had to work together on a project right after she dumped me!").

As one woman wrote to her office friend, "I'm usually, especially because of this created competition which led to me taking his (she says this did not help her relationship)"

... I got this from another woman. The relationship ended with a big fight. He dumped me for our own reasons. He dumped out the firm who wanted his girlfriend (which I knew about) and a legit girlfriend (which I didn't).

That sort of situation makes for some tricky ethical issues, but as for when intra-office dating isn't handled oh-so-delicately. That's where the Love Contract comes into play.

Ray Tannenbaum is an employment lawyer in San Francisco. About a decade ago, he was asked to draft a "consensual relationship agreement" for an executive at a technology firm who wanted his girlfriend to know she wouldn't suffer if they broke up.

The letter's popularity took off. It showed up on the defendant's My Network TV show and often mentioned in newspapers and magazine stories about dating at work. "I'm still a bit bemused by it all," said Tannenbaum, who added that many of the letters have wound up in court.

Some employees have felt prodded Tannenbaum asking that he write a different kind of contract: one that would prohibit employees from having relationships, or at least that would ask them to disclose any relationship to their supervisor.

But he doesn't think that's the answer to avoiding litigation or other issues at work. He called that sort of approach "unwise."

"I don't think employees should be in a position of trying to be relationship police and asking employees to come forward and identify relationships," he said. "It also risks invasion of privacy or the appearance of invasion of privacy."

Such a contract is useful, he said, when a relationship is already having a negative impact on the workplace or if there is a position-of-power situation in which a supervisor and subordinate date. The contract could provide the company with some legal protection if things go awry. It could also let an employee know their rights. Otherwise, they may feel compelled to stay in a relationship they don't want to be in because they are unsure of their rights under those circumstances, he said.

Generally, the smart move is to refrain from dating a boss or subordinate. But sometimes Cupid just gets in the way.


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Google

Continued from F1  
 books, alleging copyright infringement. In a separate development, the World Association of Newspapers has lashed out at search engines, particularly Google, that grab news from other sites and post it online. Google's much-watched founders, Sergey Brin and Larry Page, have been under scrutiny as well. Critics take issue with Brin and Page for unloading billions of dollars worth of Google stock. Investors typically want top management to hold sizable stakes in their companies, and often take insider sales of stock as a sign that something might be amiss. "For them to say they don't care about profits, we just want to generate a growing enterprise, well, they have the luxury to do that because they've already cashed in enough chips," said Andrew M. Schroepfer, president of Tier 1 Research, an independent firm. Brin and Page continue to

own Google shares, and they insist they aren't in business for the money. If that were their motivation, they "would have sold the company a long time ago and ended up on a beach," Page said in a recent interview with Time magazine. The duo, are known for esporting fruitgals and both have owned the environmentally friendly, economically priced Toyota Prius cars, though they recently started using a refurbished Boeing 767 airplane for more extended travel. At the same time, they have snubbed Wall Street ways. They refuse to give analysis any guidance on the company's quarterly earnings, saying they are focused on building the business over the long term and not on short-term profits. And when the company went public in August 2004, it cut out investment banks by selling shares directly to investors through auctions. After critics snuffed that the initial stock price was too rich at

\$85, the stock zoomed past \$200 by early 2005, past \$300 by last summer and beyond \$400 last fall. Or other media to advertise. Two weeks ago, Google reported higher-than-anticipated taxes and spent more on marketing and infrastructure than analysts had projected for the fourth quarter. Though revenue nearly doubled, the number mislead analysts' expectations, and the stock slid in an investor sell-off. Still, about three-quarters of analysts following Google recommend that investors buy the shares, and some predict the stock price will soar back toward \$500 within the year. In spite of the recent, conspicuous stumble, many analysts say Google's prospects are almost as infinite as the Internet's. This month, the company joined a group that included Skype Technologies SA to invest in Von, a venture that's developing a network of wireless fidelity,

or Wi-Fi, locations for Internet access. Last month, Google announced plans to buy a radio advertising company for more than \$1 billion, and the company has launched "Google Video," a clearinghouse for downloadable TV shows and movies. It also has Froogle.com, a comparison shopping service. A January report by Bear Stearns & Co. speculated that Google is "in the midst of creating its own iTunes competitor" to compete with Apple on digital music. This fits in with Google's recent moves and its ultimate goal of organizing the world's information," the report said. "Google's chances of having complete and utter domination is far greater than, say, Wal-Mart," said Schroepfer of Tier 1 Research. "If you could do all of your phone calls, all of your shopping and have all of your TV shows delivered over a Web browser, everything except for actual human interaction could be done over the Internet."



Claudia Weintraub of As You Like It Alpaca hand feeds some alpacas Feb. 10, at the Somis, Calif., farm.

Alpacas

Continued from F1  
 fabric more valuable than cashmere. However, in the United States, which banned importing live animals about 20 years ago, alpaca ranching is a cottage industry. Owners breed, buy and sell them, always with the goal of improving their herd's blood lines. Like people who breed thoroughbred race horses, they study each animal's genetics and DNA, and they carefully evaluate them at shows. Those with the strongest characteristics can command breeding fees from \$5,000 to \$10,000 or more in the hope that their offspring will be even better. Because there are about 55,000 alpacas in the U.S. and it takes at least 1 million to sustain a fleeces-processing mill, most of the country's 3,500 owners sell the 5 to 6 pounds of fleeces shorn annually from each animal to Latin American companies for \$800 to \$1,000. Not Welner and Weintraub, though. They've started mixing their fleeces with Latin American product to produce high-end sweaters, coats, shawls, capes and other garments in a product line called Luxury Fiber Essentials. They plan to market the products through TV shopping channels, a Web site and a network of retailers. In some garments, the alpaca fiber will be mixed with silk. Their plan is to use more domestic fiber as the U.S. herd grows to capitalize on quality improvements resulting from up-breeding. They said the animals' growth rates in breeding because it continues to improve fleeces quality. "That baby that greeted you ... she's about 5 weeks old, but already she's probably worth about \$50,000 because she's just an incredible girl," Weintraub told a visitor. "I'm going to be taking her to shows when she's 6 months old, and if she wins ribbons, does well at the shows, her value will start to go up. The moment she starts to breed and have babies, her value will go up even further."

Claudia Weintraub's fascination with alpacas began when a friend gave her an article on them. After some online research, she suggested to her husband that they look into buying one or two animals. He wasn't interested at first, but became smitten when she found information on the high breeding fees paid for animals with good blood lines and the premium prices their offspring bring.

going to sell. If you're financing a \$20,000 animal that's conservatively throwing you \$2,000 babies every other year for 10 years, then the money you've invested is bringing you \$100,000 back." Two years ago, the couple said, a male born to their best female after breeding with a "Ferrari male" fetched \$75,000 at an auction. That's rare, but the cria, the name for newborn alpacas, had an outstanding lineage that could be shown with meticulously kept records on file with Alpaca Registry Inc., which tracks data on animals under strict rules for collecting and testing DNA and blood samples. The Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association also sets exacting standards for evaluating the animals and maintains a nationwide genetics database that breeders can use to determine the odds of the offspring of two animals being a certain color, having fine, thick fleeces or being born an undesirable shade because of a recessive gene. Female alpacas are more valuable than males, Weintraub said. The price of a pregnant animal averages \$20,000, and the biggest risk is that its offspring might be mostly males. Males run about \$10,000 each unless they have good blood lines and can be bred for premium fleeces as "herd sires."

The animals are fun to care for, she said. They eat hay and one cup of mineral and vitamin pellets daily and drink very little water. She calls each animal by its Shakespearean name and lets her children and their friends name the animals if they can tell her something about the character whose name they picked. Only the names of characters from Shakespeare's comedies are allowed. "I choose the comedies because we don't want to jinx the ranch by taking, say, Macbeth, where everybody's dead at the end," she said. "We're naming a couple of animals after characters in tragedies, but I decided the rest's just to do the comedies."

"So each month you're making a payment, but because that payment is really going into your retirement, it's really like a forced savings account that you can't stop," she said. "You're essentially saying off your assets that you're eventually

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