

Today: Mostly cloudy with brisk winds... High 52, Low 32



Fairfield company finds global niche.

See Money, page F1

When does it make sense to let teenagers have their own cars?

See Family Life, page E1



The Times-News

Twin Falls, Idaho/101st year, No. 64

Sunday, March 5, 2006

WWW.MAGICVALLEY.COM \$1.50



Fem Haines, left, of Filer gets help Friday with her property tax reduction application from June Requa, a deputy assessor with Twin Falls County.

Does Idaho need a replacement for property taxes?

By Sandy Miller Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — You find it inside your mailbox each year around Thanksgiving.

The dreaded property tax bill. The first half is due Oct. 20, the second half is due in June.

The owner of a \$126,000 three-bedroom, two-bathroom home and property in the city of Twin Falls can expect to pay \$1,433 a year in property taxes. The largest chunk of that total — \$558 — would go to the city of Twin Falls to help pay for services such as police and fire protection, streets, water and sewer. The Twin Falls School District would receive \$378 to educate children. Twin Falls County would get \$327 for stuff like parks and recreation, indigent care, court services, the jail and weed control. The Twin Falls Highway District would receive \$85 to pave highways and patch potholes. The College of Southern Idaho would get \$70 for higher education, and the Twin Falls County Ambulance District would receive \$15 for ambulance services. And, of course, a lot of that money goes to pay the salaries of the people who provide those services.

No one likes paying property taxes, but some people, like

Coming Monday

Officials talk about what might happen if the \$49.7 million school bond issue fails.

Mitch and Linda Watkins, owners of Watkins Distributing and the parents of four children ages 9 to 19, believe it's money well spent. Both supported last month's \$52.2 million bond referendum to pay for a 20,000-square-foot addition to the Twin Falls Public Library, which failed to pass. They also support the Twin Falls School District's upcoming \$49.7 million bond issue for school facilities and the Twin Falls County Fair Board's \$1.2 million, two-year override levy for a multipurpose center.

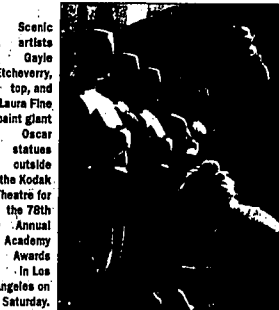
All three individually on their own are projects that benefit or will benefit Twin Falls. Mitch Watkins said, "As a business owner, all three of them really help out my business in the long run. They make Twin Falls look more attractive to other potential businesses that are looking to relocate. Those companies all have key employees who want to know where their kids will be going to school and what amenities Twin Falls has to offer."

Please see TAXES, Page A2

Property tax primer: What a homeowner pays

Average home prices: The average price tag on a three-bedroom, two-bath home in Twin Falls that sold in the last three months is \$126,000, according to Vicki Subter of the Greater Twin Falls Association of Realtors. Homeowner's exemption: Most all homeowners qualify for the homeowner's exemption. In this case, the homeowner's exemption would be \$50,000, which would bring this home's taxable property down to \$76,000.

You pay: This homeowner would pay \$1,433 a year in property taxes, according to 2005 tax levels. Here is how much goes to each entity: City of Twin Falls: \$558 Twin Falls County: \$327 Twin Falls School District: \$378 College of Southern Idaho: \$70 T.F. County Ambulance District: \$15 Twin Falls Highway District: \$85 Total: \$1,433



Scenic artists Gayle Etcheverry, top, and Laura Flint Oscar statues outside the Kodak Theatre for the 78th Annual Academy Awards in Los Angeles on Saturday.

Twin Falls 70, Capital High 48

CHAMPS!



Twin Falls players Eddie Nielsen (red) and Marcus Schaal (20) celebrate their victory over Capital in the Class 5A state basketball championship Saturday at the Idaho Center in Nampa. This is the Bruins boys' basketball program's first state championship in 32 years.

Bruins win first state title since '74

The Times-News

NAMPA — Those "Stokes 3:16" T-shirts were worth the money.

The Twin Falls High School boys' basketball team erased 32 years of close calls and could-have-beens Saturday night, capturing the program's first state basketball title since head coach Don IJaynes' 1974 team accomplished the feat. The Bruins drubbed second-place Capital High of Boise by 22 points, 70-48. "The Bruins won the jump ball and nearly everything thereafter, taking a 41-14 lead after two quarters of play. It was the subject of all those T-shirts. Brandon Stokes' red-hot shooting that led the way, as the senior guard

pumped in 12 points in the game's first 16 minutes. The Bruins hit 13 of 18 first-half shots, while a stunned Capital team connected on only 5-of-24 shots, including a pair of airballs from rattled junior forward Jarrell Ilopi.

Stokes finished with 17 points, while fellow senior Brett Vriesman's deli shooting touch netted him a game-high 20. Twin Falls starters Stokes, Vriesman, Brady Jardine, Blake Nielsen, and Tanner Simmons took their ceremonial curtain call with 2 minutes, 4 seconds left in the game as the Bruins reserves — the next group that will have to live up to this team's standards — took the floor to finish the decisive victory.

See Sports, D1

78TH ACADEMY AWARDS

Nominees projecting a conscience this year

By William Booth and Sonya Bell-The Washington Post

LOS ANGELES — The awards season in Hollywood is by its very nature a self-congratulatory affair. But this year, the filmmakers say their serious, somber movies really do matter — not just as entertainment or art, but politically; socially. Hollywood thinks the movies are important again.

Ang Lee, director of "Brokeback Mountain," speaks of "the power of movies to change the way we're thinking." Steven Spielberg, director of "Munich," has called this year's Oscar-nominated films "courageous for the risks they took with stories about racism, terrorism, government and corporate crime, and homosexuality. Mark R. Harris, a producer of "Crash," said "this

Awards ceremony tonight

Awards ceremony starts at 6 p.m. on ABC-TV

Worst ... honored?

Razzes handed out Saturday, Guinness who, Guess?

movie has changed people's lives." But, not everyone who thinks about the role of movies in society is convinced of their ability to create lasting social change.

At this year's Sundance Film Festival, on a panel titled "Brokeback Mountain: Entertainment and Social Change," Robert Redford expressed his skepticism, saying "I don't know how much films actually impact social movements. Fashion, perhaps."

He went on, "Did 'All the President's Men' really change journalism? Did the film impact anybody

Please see OSCARS, Page A4

Bush and Musharraf pledge more cooperation

By G. Robert Hillman The Dallas Morning News

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Standing together in the war against terrorism in one of its hottest battlefields, President Bush and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf on Saturday pledged closer cooperation in the war and in efforts to root out its cause. The two leaders, who have met often in the United States but never in Pakistan, also made it clear that victory is not yet in sight.

There are more tough battles ahead, Bush said during a joint news conference with Musharraf, and "it's important that we stay in the hunt." The president said he had come to the Pakistani capital to confer with Musharraf in part to please see TERROR, Page A2

Inside



Tillman death: Army to open criminal probe into former NFL player friendly-fire death ... AB



Personalamo: Personal stories emerge from ex-ambassador hearing files ... AB Federal land sale: Administration's plan tilts in favor of Northwest, analysis says ... AB

NOTICE TO READERS Times-News improving its printing press

Early today The Times-News begins work on a major addition to its printing press at its downtown facility.

We will be expanding our press by about 40 percent, adding four new units and a folder, and upgrading the press motors and electronic drives. We also have added color and e-

We'll look different For the duration of the press project, our color and reproduction quality will be better than ever.

However, when the project ends, our color and reproduction quality will be better than ever. The reliability of our press.

Monday's edition of The Times-News will be printed at our sister paper in Bruley. After that, we plan to print at The Times-News, using the half of the press that won't be impacted by the work.

The project will take several weeks. It will require us to meet earlier deadlines and our availability of color will be somewhat limited. We intend to minimize as much as possible any impact the project will have for our readers and advertisers.

INDEX

Table with 2 columns: Category and Page Number. Includes Business/Services, Classified, Community, Crossword, Dear Abby, Family Life, Horoscope, Idaho, Jumble.



Table with 2 columns: Category and Page Number. Includes Money, Movies, Nation, Opinions, Obituaries, Politics, Sports, Suldoko, Weather.

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Mostly cloudy with brisk winds expected. Highs low 50s. Tonight: Breezy with some partial clearing taking place. Lows low 30s. Tomorrow: Breezy with a low rain showers possible. Highs low 50s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Windy with a mix of clouds and patchy sunshine. Highs upper 40s. Tonight: Locally breezy to windy with cloudy periods expected. Lows middle 20s. Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy and windy at times. A chance of rain moving into the area. Highs upper 40s.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 5 columns: Today, Tonight, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. Includes weather icons and temperature forecasts.

Yesterday's Weather

Table with 3 columns: City, High, Low. Lists weather for various cities like Boise, Idaho Falls, etc.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 3 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity. Includes sunrise and sunset times.

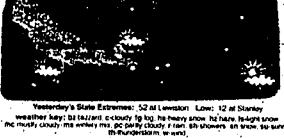
IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY SURROUNDING MTS. One more cool and dry day ahead of us with a steady return for next week. Unsettled conditions still will provide the necessary ingredients for daily snowfall next week.

Today Highs: 38 to 41. Tonight's Lows: 7 to 14. BOISE: Unsettled weather will dominate the heat wave days. Windy periods will precede developing rain showers.

NORTHERN UTAH Windy conditions will finish out the weekend, strengthening a chance of rain developing Monday, followed by a rain/snow mix Tuesday.

Yesterday's State Estimate: 52 at Lewiston. Low: 12 at Stanley. Weather key: (H) Heavy rain, (M) Moderate rain, (S) Snow, (C) Cloudy, (W) Windy, (F) Fog, (B) Breeze, (L) Light rain, (T) Thunder, (D) Drizzle, (N) No precipitation.



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MOONRISE AND MOONSET

Table with 3 columns: Moonrise, Moonset, Moon phase. Includes times and moon phase icons.

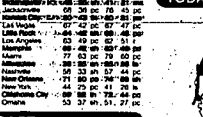
U.V. INDEX

Low Moderate High. The higher the index the more sun protection needed.

WORLD FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists weather for various international cities.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



CANADIAN FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists weather for various Canadian cities.

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Taxes

Continued from A1. Linda Watkins, a substitute teacher and co-chair of the Twin Falls School District's Long-Range Planning Committee, agreed.

"In my opinion, how can you not vote for something that is going to increase and enhance the area you live in?" she said. "This is an exciting time in Twin Falls when we can help direct its growth. We're trying to be proactive rather than reactive. I like to live in a place that's keeping up with the times."

However, Mitch Watkins said exemptions are needed for senior citizens and others on fixed income who can't afford a hike in their property tax bills. Indeed, reductions are available for certain people whose annual income is \$22,630 or less after paying medical expenses. They include people in households over 65, widows and widowers of any age, motherless or fatherless children under the age of 18, former prisoners of war and disabled veterans and others on disability through Social Security, railroad retirement and civil service.

Mary Gates, chief deputy assessor for Twin Falls County, said people who qualify for such tax breaks can see their property bills reduced anywhere from \$10 to \$1,000. County Assessor Gerry Bowden said the number of exemptions is growing. There are exemptions for religious, charitable, government, agricultural and some industrial properties. "It can be complicated," Bowden said. "Assessors are having more problems because of more and more exemptions. Everyone else has to make up that person's share."

Sharing the burden

Some say it's time to get a more creative about how to pay the bills for public services and facilities. "My main concern is there needs to be something done this week on which legal notices will be published. Postmaster, please send change of address form to: P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, Idaho 83402.

Impact of the \$49.7 million school facilities bond on this property owner.

If passed on March 14, the school facilities bond would add an additional \$1.28 to each \$1,000 of taxable property, raising this property owner's annual tax bill \$104.88 a year for a maximum of 20 years. However, the bond issue could be paid off sooner than that. Impact of the Twin Falls County Fair Bonds' \$1.2 million, two-year override levy on this property owner:

If passed on March 23, the fair override levy would add an additional 20 cents to each \$1,000 of taxable property, raising this property owner's annual tax bill an additional \$15.20 a year for two years.

and he's leaning toward supporting the school facilities bond. "I would support it if everything they're asking for is real. We need to build for the future. You can't just say enough is enough. We just ask that it's done in the most fiscally responsible way possible."

"The fair is a dinosaur from cultural land, and residential can live without. What we really need is a convention center." Like Puder, Kral said it's time to look at ways of financing projects other than bond issues. "It's a traditional way of getting increased monies, but it seems like you're almost penalized now for being a property owner," Kral said. "Let's be a little more creative and equitable. How about putting another penny on the sales tax to pay for school improvements? That way everyone is contributing. You can make a choice with everything you buy."

Property tax reform is definitely on the Idaho Legislature's agenda. In Idaho and much of the country, residential property is increasing in value much faster than commercial or agricultural land, and residential property owners now pay 63 percent of Idaho's \$1.1 billion property tax bill, according to The Associated Press.

A bill that has passed the House and is awaiting debate in the Senate would replace the homeowner's exemption from a maximum exemption of \$50,000 in value. The second is the property tax reduction package. To meet this requirement, the homeowner must be either age 65 or older, a widow or widower, blind, a former POW, fatherless or motherless minor or a qualifying disabled person.

Terror

Continued from A1. To determine whether he is "as committed as he has been in the past to bringing these terrorists to justice — and he is." Bush has courted Musharraf as a key strategic ally since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. And he praised him again Saturday for capturing or killing "hundreds of al-Qaida."

But there have been many bumps in the increasingly complicated U.S. relationship with Pakistan, an Islamic nation where Bush is widely unpopular for launching the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan. Near the top of U.S. concerns with Pakistan is the widely held belief that Osama bin Laden

and other top al-Qaida leaders are hiding along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, and that the Pakistanis are not doing enough to help find them. Additionally, critics say that Musharraf, an army general who seized power in a bloodless coup seven years ago, is not making Pakistani society free and transparent — quickly enough.

Democracy has definitely been part of our agenda here and it ought to be," Bush said, urging that the elections scheduled for next year be "open and honest."

"President Musharraf understands that, in the long run, the way to defeat terrorists is to replace an ideology of hatred with an ideology of hope," Bush said. Musharraf, though, brushed at critics' suggestions that he's trying to hold on to his military power. The Pakistani constitution allows him to retain his dual roles until next year, he said, and he offered no hint of hanging up his uniform earlier. "Sustained democracy has been introduced in Pakistan," he said, with notable gains for women and minorities.

Property taxes at a glance

Property taxes are used to pay for schools, cities, counties, local law enforcement, fire protection, highways, libraries and more. Most homes, farms and businesses are subject to property tax. Taxes are determined according to a property's current market value minus any exemptions.

Each year, taxable property must be assessed. Twin Falls County assesses 20 percent of all homes, businesses and farm grounds each year. "We don't hit everyone every year," said Deputy Assessor Mary Gates. "The other 80 percent are adjusted using the sales data we have." The county assessor estimates how much a typical buyer would pay for the property on Jan. 1. To do this, the assessor generally uses sales prices from properties in the county to develop guidelines for the assessment of each property. The assessor considers the features that influence what a buyer would pay for property, such as size, location, quality, age and condition.

A property assessment also includes improvements on the property, including any buildings, paving or other structures that add value to the land. All nonexempt property, including personal property, is subject to property taxation. Any nonexempt furniture, fixtures, equipment, or machinery used in a business or to generate income is subject to assessment and property taxation.

If you disagree with the assessed value of your property, you can file an appeal. Contact your county clerk to file an appeal with the board of equalization, which is composed of county commissioners. If you disagree with a decision from the board of equalization, you may appeal that decision within 30 days to the state board of tax appeals or to the district court.

The amount of property tax is determined by the budget needs of the taxing districts, such as the county, city, school district, fire district, etc., where the property is located. Officials for each taxing district decide the annual budget needed to provide services. The law does not limit the amount property value can increase from one year to the next. The law requires current market value as of Jan. 1 each year. This may mean a large or a small decrease or increase in value from the previous year. The market value of all properties in your neighborhood may have increased or decreased from the previous year, or the assessor may have discovered better information resulting in the decrease or increase in the estimated value of your property.

The law does limit the amount taxing districts (local governmental units) can increase the generally nonvoter-approved revenue to be received from property taxes. Each taxing district can increase the generally nonvoter-approved property tax revenue it will receive by 3 percent plus a growth factor for new construction and annexation. However, voter-approved issues like bonds and overrides may exceed the limitation.

There are different types of tax relief due available to homeowners. First, each owner-occupied primary residence is eligible for a homeowner's exemption. This exempts 50 percent of the value of the home up to a maximum exemption of \$50,000 in value. The second is the property tax reduction package. To meet this requirement, the homeowner must be either age 65 or older, a widow or widower, blind, a former POW, fatherless or motherless minor or a qualifying disabled person.

Source: Idaho State Tax Commission

Times-News writer Sandy Miller can be reached at 735-3264 or smiller@magicalvalley.com.

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Magical Valley News. The Times-News, Twin Falls, Idaho. 735-3345.

Land sale plan tilted in favor of Northwest

By Matthew Daly
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — A Bush administration plan to sell more than 300,000 acres of national forest to help pay for rural schools contains a disproportionate amount of land in the South and Midwest — while primarily benefiting schools in three West Coast states, a new analysis shows.

Nearly 60,000 acres in 13 Southern states and another 30,000 acres in 10 Midwestern states would be sold under the plan, while just 18,000 acres in forest-rich Oregon and Washington would be sold, according to an analysis by the Southern Environmental Law Center.

Southern states received \$37 million for rural schools this year under the program the sales are intended to benefit, while the Midwest received \$41 million, the analysis shows. Oregon and Washington got five times those amounts — \$210 million, with Oregon alone receiving nearly \$162 million.

About 80,000 acres in California would be sold; the state received nearly \$69 million from the Forest Service this year.

David Carr, public lands director for the nonprofit law center, called the regional disparity unfair, and said the land sale would set a dangerous precedent.

"Selling off America's natural heritage is not the way government services," Carr said. "We need to be adding to the public-land base." In the plan, he is not holding a biker sale on bits and pieces of our limited national forests for short-term budget needs.

Sen. Jim Talent, R-Mo., also questioned the proposal, saying there was no guarantee the money generated by the sales would stay within Missouri.

"We need to see more of the benefit of this proposal than we are now seeing," Talent told Bush administration officials at a Senate hearing last week.

Under the Bush plan, 21,566 acres in Missouri's Kaw National Forest would be sold, with proceeds going to a general fund. The sell-off would be one of the biggest in the country, while Missouri's share of the school-funding is among the lowest at \$2.7 million.

"Our schools need the money," Talent said.

Agriculture Undersecretary Mark Rey, who directs U.S. forest policy, acknowledged the disparity, but said the law was devised to help those rural counties hurt by logging cutbacks on federal lands. Parcels proposed for sale are isolated, difficult or expensive to manage, or no longer meet Forest Service needs, Rey said.

"They are not evenly distributed" throughout the country, Rey said, although Congress could adjust the funding formula as it sees fit.

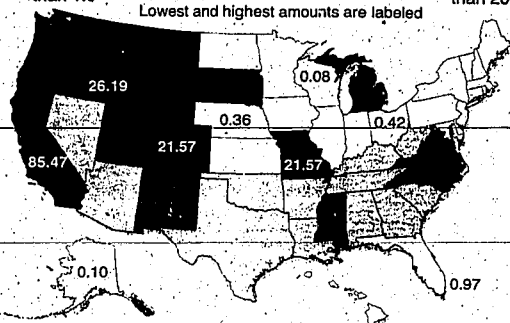
Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, said he wanted to "keep an open mind" on the land sale idea. But he asked, "Why sell most of the lands in those states that don't get much money from these payments and very little land in the states that get

Largest forest land sell-off in decades

The Bush administration is proposing to sell more than 300,000 acres of forests and other public land to help pay for rural schools.

Amount of proposed land to be sold, in thousand of acres

Less than 1.0 1.0-4.9 5.0-9.9 10.0-19.9 More than 20



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service

the most money?"

About 8,000 acres would be sold in New Mexico, which received just \$2.3 million under the plan this year.

Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, one of the chief architects of the rural schools law, called questions raised by Talent and Domenici legitimate, and said they were a key reason he opposes the land sale plan.

"I don't want to pit our beautiful forest against school stability in Missouri," Wyden, a Democrat, told Talent at a Resources meeting last week.

About 10,500 acres in Oregon would be sold under the Bush plan.

Wyden and other Oregon lawmakers say the state receives so much money under the rural schools law because it was hurt the most by federal policies that restricted logging in the 1990s.

Other states aren't half-owned by the federal government, and they didn't see a 95 percent harvest reduction on federal lands, as happened in Oregon and Washington, said Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore.

Money from the six-year-old "county payments" law has helped offset sharp declines in timber sales in Oregon and other Western states in the wake of federal forest policy that restricts logging to protect endangered species such as the spotted owl.

The law is set to expire Sept. 30. The land-sale plan would reauthorize the law for five years, but calls for a phased reduction in funding to zero by 2011.

DeFazio and other Western lawmakers call that unacceptable, saying consequences of a funding drop would be severe.

"You'll see falls closed, rural law enforcement virtually go away and the meth problem get worse," DeFazio said.

But Andy Sihl of Forest Ser-

vice Employees for Environmental Ethics, an environmental group, said Oregon is reaping what it sowed, when officials allowed its forests to be clear-cut for decades.

"Oregon benefited the most from the pillage of national forests that went on from World War II until ... the courts said they were breaking the law" in the late 1990s, said Sihl, whose group is based in Eugene, Ore.

Sihl said he considers the county payments law old-fashioned park, Northwest style, and said the land-sale plan puts

the law's inherent inequality in stark relief.

"Special places in other states are proposed to be sold so Oregon can get its pork," he said.

Carr, of the Southern environmental group, said he would oppose the sales even if funding formulas were adjusted to ensure more revenue for Southeastern states.

"We don't think they should be selling land in Oregon or Virginia or Alabama," he said. "The need is to fill in the gaps" of hard-won public land, "not get rid of what they've acquired."

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Forest Service land sale proposal:
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Southern Environmental Law Center:
www.southernenvironment.org/

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PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE INVITATION

Poleline Substation

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5 to 7 p.m.
Red Lion Canyon Springs Inn
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1357 Blue Lakes
Twin Falls, Idaho

In order to continue to provide reliable electric service to the growing number of Twin Falls and Filer residents, Idaho Power plans to construct a new distribution substation near the northwest corner of Poleline Road and 2600 East.

Idaho Power is holding an open house to share plans with the public for the proposed substation. Representatives will be available to discuss the need for the substation, types of structures, and construction details of the project. Visitors will have the opportunity to ask questions, share comments and provide written input.

For more information about the open house, please contact either of the following individuals:

Kristi Pardue, Facility Siting Coordinator
phone: (208) 388-2415
e-mail: kpardue@idahopower.com

Mark Slusser, Project Manager
phone: (208) 388-2042
e-mail: mslusser@idahopower.com

If you cannot attend the open house and have information you wish to be considered, please provide your written comments, no later than March 15, 2006, to:
Kristi Pardue, Facility Siting Coordinator
or **Mark Slusser, Project Manager**, at
Idaho Power Company
P.O. Box 70
Boise, ID 83707

Brad R. Hobbs, MD, and Michael K. Taylor, MD, welcome Bruce W. Madsen, MD to their ophthalmology practice.

Dr. Madsen is now accepting appointments and will be available to see patients beginning March 15.

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NATION

Secret justice: Thousands of federal defendants' cases kept secret

By Michael J. Sniffen and John Solomon Associated Press writers

WASHINGTON — Despite the Sixth Amendment's guarantee of public trials, nearly all records are being kept secret for more than 5,000 defendants who completed their journey through the federal courts over the last three years.

Instances of such secrecy more than doubled from 2003 to 2005. An Associated Press investigation found, and court observers agree, that most of these defendants are cooperating government witnesses, but the secrecy surrounding their records prevents the public from knowing details of their plea bargains with the government.

Most of these defendants are involved in drug gangs, though lately a very small number come from terrorism cases. Some of these cooperating witnesses are among the most unsavory characters in American courts — multiple murderers and drug dealers — but the public cannot learn whether their testimony against confederates won them drastically reduced prison sentences or even freedom.

In the nation's capital, which has had a serious problem with drug gangs marketing government securities, the secrecy has reached another level — the use of secret dockets. For hundreds of such defendants over the past few years in this city, should someone acquire the crucial case number for them and enter it in the U.S. District Court's computerized record system, the computer will display, "no such case" — rather than acknowledging that it is a sealed case.

At the request of the AP, the Administrative Office of U.S. Courts conducted its first tally of secrecy in federal criminal cases. The nationwide data it produced the AP showed 5,146 defendants whose cases were completed in 2003, 2004 and 2005, but the bulk of their records remain secret.

The computerized presumption is for openness in the courts, but we have to ask

whether we are really honoring that," said Laurie Levenson, a former federal prosecutor and now law professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. "What are the reasons for so many cases remaining under seal?"

"What makes the American criminal justice system different from so many others in the world is our willingness to cast some sunshine on the process, but if you can't see it, you can't really criticize it," Levenson said.

The courts' administrative office and the Justice Department declined to comment on the numbers.

The data show a sharp increase in secret case files over time as the Bush administration well-documented reliance on secrecy in the executive branch has crept into the federal courts through the war on drugs, anti-terrorism efforts and other national priorities.

This follows the pattern of this administration, said John Wesley Hall, an Arkansas state judge and second vice president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. "I am astonished and shocked that this many criminal proceedings in federal court escape public scrutiny or become buried."

The percentage of defendants who have reached verdicts and entered sentences, but still have most of their records sealed has more than doubled in the last three years, the court officials tally shows.

Of nearly 85,000 defendants whose cases were closed in 2003, the records of 952 or 1.1 percent remain mostly sealed. In 2004, 2,000 defendants with cases closed in 2004, records for 1,774 or 2.2 percent remain mostly sealed. And of more than 87,000 defendants whose cases were closed in 2005, court records for 2,390 or 2.7 percent remain mostly sealed to the public.

The court office also found a sharp increase in defendants whose case records were partly sealed for a limited time. Among newly charged defendants in 2005, 19.9 percent of 1,593 or 10.9 percent of all defendants

changed in 2003 to 11,508 or 12.6 percent of those charged in 2005.

But the AP investigation found, and court observers agree, that the overwhelming number of these cases sealed for a limited time involve a use of secrecy that draws no criticism — the sealing of an indictment only until the defendant is arrested.

AP's investigation found a large concentration of both kinds of secrecy at the U.S. District Court here: limited sealing of records and extensive sealing that continues even after the courts are done with a defendant.

"When the sentences are sealed, that's a con on the community," said Lexi Christ, a Washington defense lawyer for a firm recruited in a crack cocaine case.

In that case, all the defendant's names became public when the indictment was unsealed. But all other records for six defendants who pleaded guilty remained sealed more than two years after the public trial in which two of the drug dealers were convicted.

One of the cooperating witnesses admitted to seven murders and testified in open court against co-defendants who had committed fewer, Christ said. But like the others who pleaded guilty and cooperated, they were plea deal and sentence were sealed.

"Cooperating witnesses are pleading guilty to six or seven murders, and the jury doesn't know they're sitting on the Metro (subway) next to them a year later. It's really, really ugly system," Christ said.

Prosecutors argue that plea agreements must be sealed to protect witnesses and their families from violent retaliation. But Christ said that makes no sense after the trial when the defendants know who testified.

The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press found the U.S. District Court here has 469 agreements that have been sealed, that are listed by this court's electronic docket as "no such case." An AP survey over a shorter-period found similar numbers here and got oral acknowledgment from the clerks'



Lucy Dalgligh, Executive Director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, left, talks with Susan Burgess, center, and Kirstan Mitchell, right, at their office in Arlington, Va. Despite the Sixth Amendment's guarantee of public trials, nearly all records are being kept secret for more than 5,000 defendants who completed their journey through the federal courts over the last three years. Instances of such secrecy more than doubled from 2003 to 2005, an Associated Press investigation found, and court observers agree, that most of these defendants are cooperating government witnesses, but the secrecy surrounding their records prevents the public from knowing details of their plea bargains with the government. No matter how few turn out to be almost totally sealed after the defendant's case was completed, "it's still significant," said Dalgligh.

office that the missing electronic docket numbers corresponded to sealed cases. However, these figures include an unknown number of sealed indictments that will be made public if arrests are made.

"That's horrifying," said Loyola's Levenson. "When I was a prosecutor from 1981 to 1989, I never heard of secret dockets." No matter how few turn out to be almost totally sealed after the defendant's case was completed, "it's still significant," said Lucy Dalgligh, executive director of the Reporters Committee and a pioneer in campaigning against court secrecy.

"The Supreme Court has said, that criminal proceedings are public," Dalgligh added. "In this country, we don't prosecute and lock-up convicts and have no public track record of how we got there. That violates the de-

fendants' rights not to mention the public's right to know what its court system is doing."

Although Justice Department does not keep comprehensive nationwide statistics on secrecy in federal prosecutions, it does track how often prosecutors ask permission from headquarters to hold a secret court proceeding — like an arraignment, hearing, trial or sentencing.

The department estimates it got 100 such requests from October 2000 through October

2004. Justice Department spokesman Bryan Sierra said, "Another 100 arrived during the 12 months that ended October 2005," he said.

Sierra said the large recent increase occurred because the department sent a memo to all federal prosecutors in 2004 reminding them they need Washington's approval before requesting or agreeing to secret courtroom proceedings. Filing of secret papers in cases doesn't require such permission.

Oscars

Continued from A1 but maybe a bunch of young journalists who got into journalism for the wrong reasons because they thought "there was glamour there? I don't know."

Redford was answered on the panel by Ivan Glickman, the former Clinton administration agriculture secretary and now head of the Motion Picture Association of America, the lobbying organization that represents the major movie studios, who pointed to "North Country." The film, about the struggles of women in a Minnesota mine, was released last October to coincide with the efforts in Congress to pass the Violence Against Women Act. "North Country" was screened for members of Congress, and Glickman said that "hopefully, the screening of the movie had some kind of an effect on the process."

"It's our job as filmmakers to reflect the world right now, and this year has proven that you can make these movies and make them not taste like medicine," said Charlize Theron, who is nominated for an Academy Award for her role in the movie as a defiant victim of sexual harassment.

"North Country," as well as "Good Night, and Good Luck," and "Syriana," were financed by Jeffrey Skoll, a Canadian and the billionaire co-founder of eBay, who has taken his profits to Hollywood to make movies that first and foremost contain what he calls a "message for social change." He believes that "North Country" had a direct impact on policy.

But did it really? The Violence Against Women Act, up for renewal, already had overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress. It won approval in the House by a vote of 415 to 4 on Sept. 29 — three weeks before the movie was released in theaters.

"They've been so far but between, but some movies have made a difference," said Kim Gandy, president of the National Organization for Women, whose group partnered with Skoll to use "North Country" to educate audiences on sexual harassment. Asked what movies had made a difference for women, Gandy pointed to "Norma Rae" and, "in its own way," "Thelma and Louise." As for "North Country," Gandy said "it's not so much that it is motivating filmmak-

ers and voters in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences" in a director's roundtable published by Newsweek. Spielberg said: "I just feel that filmmakers are much more proactive since the second Bush administration. I think that everybody is trying to declare their independence and state their case for things that we believe in. No one is really representing us, so we're representing our own feelings, and we're trying to strike back."

Felicity Huffman, nominated for Best Actress for her role as a cooperative male-to-female transsexual in "Transamerica," said, "Politically, we're more on the right than ever, but maybe socially, we're moving toward more understanding and healing."

Jake Gyllenhaal, up for Best Supporting Actor as a gay cowboy in "Brokeback Mountain," thinks it is a reflection of the time, how the films this year

represent "a search for truth. I feel we're all looking for answers."

Ernie Levy, professor of critical studies in the UCLA Film School and author of the book "All About Oscar: The History and Politics of the Academy Awards," said he thinks the tremors of a post-9/11 world have just caught up with Hollywood in this year's Academy Award races. Levy said that when society faces a divisive issue, such as the war in Iraq or the response to terrorism, critical movies emerge, but not immediately.

"There is an expression in Hollywood that the studios make movies about what people were talking about last year. There is always a lag between idea and premiere," Munich, took six years to reach the multiplex. "Brokeback Mountain" took eight. "Syriana" is based on a book written during the Clinton administration.

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Randal Wraalstad, DPM Twin Falls Orthopedics, P.L.L.C. Complete Foot & Ankle Care 562 Shoup Avenue West • Twin Falls, Idaho 734-3455. HIGH HEELS. Question: I can't help it. I'm a 35 year old woman and I love high heels. Even though they make my feet hurt, I look taller and feel better about myself when I wear them. Are they really bad for me? Answer: This is a popular question: The simple answer is yes. Chronic wearing of high heels with pointed toes will cause or aggravate many foot conditions like bunions, hammertoes, neuromas, or corns. They can also be quite unstable and result in ankle sprains or tendonitis. However, some feet are able to endure these stresses better than others, and may suffer very few problems. I've found that what I have to say on the subject rarely changes what most women wear. If they want to wear high heels, they will do so. If you insist on wearing high heels, choose a reasonable height with a stable heel and as much room in the toe box as you can stylishly tolerate. Please call our office if you have additional questions.

NATION

Virginia capital bids farewell to its famous bears

By Rosalind S. Helderman
The Washington Post

RICHMOND — This city said goodbye to two of its most prominent citizens Saturday, 350-pound black bears Buster and Baby, whose deaths at the hands of their human captors have plunged residents into mourning so deep that hundreds called the police to report their distress, thousands posted to online bulletin boards and the city's famed mayor ordered the investigation.

Two weeks ago, one of the bears was accused of biting a 4-year-old boy who had stuck his hand through the 10-foot-high chain-link fence that encloses their habitat at Richmond's Maymont Park.

The child was not badly hurt — no stitches were needed. But with his mother unable to peg which bear did the biting, park and health officials decided five days later to euthanize both animals and send their brains to a state laboratory for rabies testing. The episode became public Feb. 21 only after both bears were dead and their headless, chemical-laced carcasses had been dumped at a local landfill.

The outrage was immediate and extreme. Dozens called 911 upon seeing the first news report; City Hall was flooded with calls. So was the park.

Mayor J. Douglas Wilder, the flamboyant former Virginia governor, promised quick action, including consequences for city officials involved in the decision to kill the bears and possible criminal charges against the child's mother. He ordered workers to find the bears and prepare a fitting memorial site.

“People say the bears were innocent, but this wasn't punishment for them.”

— Julia Dixon, Virginia Game and Fisheries Dept. spokeswoman

After three hours of sifting through a garbage with a backhoe last week, landfill employees recovered the bodies.

And so, on Saturday, Buster and Baby were laid to rest at Maymont.

In a sign of the city's emotion, about 500 attended the funeral, many sobbing loudly and clutching flowers and stuffed bears. A Boy Scout troop escorted a color guard and lowered bronze urns containing the bears' ashes into a hole dug in the soft mud. An Episcopal priest offered a prayer. Wilder gave the eulogy.

These bears are making a contribution even in their death, because they remind us



Ethan Pyle, left and Stavros Calos, boy accounts with Troop 498, lowered one of the two Maymont black bears boxes into a burial vault during a memorial service Saturday in Richmond, Va. Buster and Baby were euthanized after one of them bit a 4-year-old boy Feb. 18.

that they lived, but they were put to death not by their own kind," he told the crowd. "Let us continue to be certain that nature provides us with lessons for how to live."

Maymont is the Central Park of Richmond, a 100-acre oasis of rolling trails and gardens in the heart of the city. The prime attraction of the park has always been its animals, and for 25 years the most beloved of those creatures have been several generations of black bears. They are visited by about a half-million people a year, many of them children.

How, exactly, the 4-year-old was bitten is not clear. This much is known: The park separates bears from people with both the chain-link fence and a shorter, four-foot-high wooden fence. Neither was broken.

According to a preliminary report the mayor released Friday, the child's mother, who has not been identified, first told city officials that she helped the small boy over the lower fence to get closer. The report also indicates that she might have told a nurse at the hospital where the child's hand was examined that she had been visiting Maymont for years to feed the bears.

However, in an anonymous interview with the Richmond Times-Dispatch, the child's mother insisted that she glanced away from her son for a moment, and when she looked back he was over the short fence and trying to pet a bear.

Maymont staffers — along with officials from the state Department of Health and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries — have pleaded for calm.

They insist they had little choice but to destroy Buster and Baby after concluding that one had bitten the boy. Rabies is fatal for humans, and they contend that the bears could have contracted the disease after tussling with an infected but or raccoon in their habitat. There is no way to test bears for rabies without killing them, they said.

The only other option was to administer rabies treatments to the 4-year-old just in case, subjecting the child to a regimen of six shots with at least some risk of side effects. The bears' rabies tests came back negative, health department officials said.

"People say the bears were innocent, but this wasn't punishment for them," said Julia Dixon, a spokeswoman for the game and fisheries department, one of several state and city agencies participating in a three-hour meeting that resulted in the decision to kill the bears. "There was nothing fair about it. It was a set of circumstances that triggered protocol, and it is a win situation."

But residents and the mayor

have been unforgiving. "Our job is to protect them. We're sworn to protect them," Wilder said in an interview. "It's the same horror you have if someone says to an urchin on the street, 'Let me take you home, adopt you, keep you — and then beat you, abuse you and kill you.'"

Maymont officials have promised to replace the bears, which were given to the park by a state agency. One arrived as a 2-year-old labeled a "routinized" bear and the other as a cub orphaned by its mother. But replacement, many grieving bear lovers said, will do little to stem the sadness.

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Buffett's company chooses his successor

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The board of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. has unanimously agreed on who would succeed founder and chairman Warren Buffett, 75, if he is put in his annual

letter to shareholders Saturday.

"I should die tonight," Buffett just won't say who that is, at least publicly.

Buffett also said his board is prepared to oust him should the

need arise "from my decay, particularly if this decay is accompanied by my delusionally thinking that I am reaching new peaks of managerial brilliance."

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Hideous movie-making

'Dirty Love' earns three Razzie awards

By David Germain
Associated Press writer

LOS ANGELES — Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman and Paris Hilton won worst-of-prizes Saturday at the Razzies, an Academy Awards spoof mocking the worst of 2005.

But they were upstaged by Jenny McCarthy, who received three Razzies for worst picture, actress and screenplay as producer, star and writer of the gross-out romantic comedy "Dirty Love."

Cruise had been nominated for worst actor for "War of the Worlds," though he lost to Rob Schneider for "Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo." But Cruise did win in a new category for most tiresome tabloid target, for the public spectacle of his romance with Katie Holmes.

"As guarded, not necessarily secretive, but as private about his personal life as he used to be, for him to suddenly propose in front of reporters on the Eiffel Tower and jump up and down like the monkey in 'Curious George' on Oprah Winfrey's couch, there truly is some problem there," said Razzies founder John Wilson.

Hilton was named worst supporting actress for "House of Wax," a prize "I could have told you she would win as soon as I heard she was going to be in the movie," Wilson said.

Kidman and Will Ferrell were picked as worst screen couple for "Beovilched," while Hayden Christensen was chosen as worst supporting actor for "Star Wars: Episode III — Revenge of the Sith."

"Darth Vader portrayed as a Backstreet Boy gone bad just doesn't cut it as a villain," Wilson said. "Though it was fun to see his arms and legs cut off." "Son of the Mask," which had led the Razzies field with eight nominations, was named worst sequel or remake.



Jenny McCarthy arrives for the 33rd annual American Music Awards in Los Angeles in this Nov. 22 file photo. McCarthy's film 'Dirty Love' is the recipient of four Razzie Awards Saturday. 'Dirty Love' was given the nod for worst picture, worst director for John Asher, and worst actress and screenplay for McCarthy.

McCarthy's husband, John Asher, whom she is divorcing, received the worst-director prize for "Dirty Love."

The movie combines the husband-wife misfire of "Bolero" — winner of the 1994 worst-picture Razzie — along with "worst actress for Bo Derek and worst

director for her husband, John Derek — and the vulgar humor of "Freddy Got Fingered," Tom Green's 2001 Razzies champ.

The other worst-picture nominees were "Son of the Mask," "Deuce Bigalow," "House of Wax" and "The Dukes of Hazzard."



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NATION

Army opens criminal probe into Tillman death

Members of ex-NFL player's Ranger unit could face negligent homicide charges

By Josh White
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Army is opening a criminal investigation into the friendly fire death of former NFL player Pat Tillman to probe whether negligent homicide charges should be brought against members of his Ranger unit who killed him in Afghanistan nearly two years ago, according to defense officials.

At the time of the incident and that the proper procedures were not followed. He said the Army criminal investigation could yield the same conclusions as earlier probes.

Although it took weeks for the Army to reveal publicly that Tillman's death was fratricide, the first Army investigator to look into the shooting discovered

within days of the incident that Tillman was killed by his fellow Rangers. In what he concluded was an act of "gross negligence," according to documents obtained by the Washington Post. Soldiers admitted to emptying their high-powered weapons at an Afghan Militia Force soldier working with the Rangers and then on Tillman's position with-

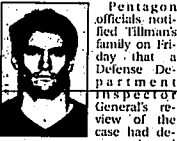
out knowing what exactly was in his sights. The Afghan soldier also was killed, and a U.S. soldier hiding near Tillman, behind a rock, survived.

The investigator later complained to Army officials that, in subsequent investigations, he felt the military chain of command allowed soldiers to change their stories to protect

individuals, and that the punishments did not fit with his finding of gross negligence. Seven soldiers were given various administrative punishments for violations ranging from dereliction of duty to citation of a team leader for failing to effectively command and control the fire and movement of his Rangers.

“ They knew all along that something was seriously wrong and they just wanted to cover it up.”

”
— Mary Tillman, Pat Tillman's mother



Tillman

Pentagon officials notified Tillman's family on Friday that a Defense Department Inspector General's review of the case had determined there was enough evidence to warrant a fresh look after initial investigations that were characterized by secrecy, mishandling of evidence, and delays in reporting crucial facts about what had happened.

The Inspector General's review was launched in August after bitter and public complaints by the Tillman family that the Pentagon had tried to hold anyone accountable for the April 22, 2004 shooting or to fully explain its circumstances. His mother, Mary Tillman, has expressed deep frustration about what she calls a succession of "lies" she has been told about her son's death.

The Army originally reported that Tillman was killed in a fire-fight with enemy forces in the rugged mountains of Afghanistan near the Pakistan border, and officials lauded his heroism with a tale of how he was charging a hill against the enemy when he was shot. Weeks later, after a nationally televised memorial service, the Army revealed that he had been gunned down by members of his own unit who rounded a corner in a Humvee and mistook him and a civilian Afghan fighter for the enemy.

Mary Tillman said Saturday that she believes evidence of a crime has existed all along, and that the family's repeated calls for a criminal investigation were ignored until now. "It is completely obvious that this should have been done from the very beginning," she said. "The military has had every opportunity to do the right thing and they haven't. They knew all along that something was seriously wrong and they just wanted to cover it up."

Patrick Tillman Sr. expressed skepticism that the new investigation will yield additional answers. "I think it's another step," he said. "But if you send investigators to reinvestigate an investigation that was falsified in the first place, what do you think you're going to get?"

The loss of Tillman — a popular Arizona Cardinals football player before joining the military after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks — rattled the Army in part because of the controversy over the nature of his death and the interactions with his family. Another friendly fire incident just days after Tillman's death in Iraq, also included delays in notifying family members and confusion about what happened. Army officials have been working to improve the information flow to families of soldiers who die in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Col. Joseph Carlin, an Army spokesman at the Pentagon, said the Army would open an investigation to examine if soldiers violated military laws when they failed to identify their targets before opening fire on Tillman's position.

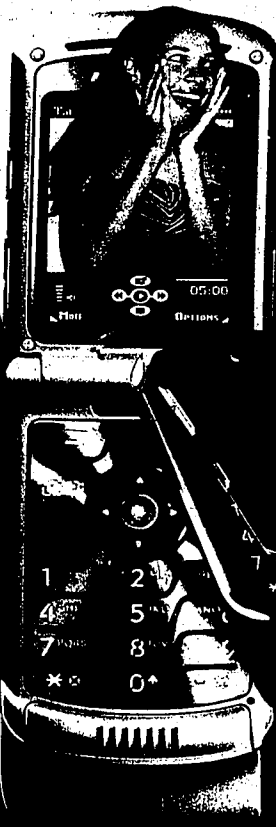
Although there have been several military investigations into the Tillman shooting, this will be the first criminal investigation. A defense official said that it will likely focus on the protection of the Tillman family's homicide, which means investigators will try to determine if soldiers fired recklessly without intending to kill their fellow soldier.

"We want to do the right thing for the family," Carlin said. "We owe it to the family. We owe them the truth."

Bryan Whitman, a Pentagon spokesman, said Saturday that the Defense Department has not come to any conclusions about the case nor has it determined that there was evidence of wrongdoing. He said the Inspector General's findings indicate instead that there should have been a criminal investigation for possible negligent homicide opened at

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WEEK IN REVIEW

Idaho officials attend Lincoln's Day luncheon

U.S. Sens. Larry Craig and Mike Crapo, Rep. Jantch Otter, Lt. Gov. Jim Risch, Attorney General Lawrence Warden, Idaho Speaker of the House Bruce Newcomb (R-Burley), state Sens. Denton Darrington (R-Declo) and Dean Cameron (R-Rupert), state Reps. Madeline Bell (R-Jerome) and John "Bert" Stevenson (R-Rupert) and numerous county and city officials attended the annual Lincoln's Day luncheon.

Among the candidates at the luncheon were Dan Adamson, who is running for governor against Otter; and Royce Chigbrow, a candidate for Idaho controller. Also present were three Republican candidates for the office of superintendent of public instruction: Steve Casey, Tom Luna and Steve Snyder.

The event introduced local Republicans to their party's candidates for various offices and raised money for the party. An auction of various donated items raised \$1,400, including a \$185 bid for homemade chocolate chip cookies on a hand-painted plate.

City crews begin road construction in Rupert

City crews began construction of north and sub-grade demolition on 100 South between H and I streets. The project is expected to last four to five months.

The city is undertaking the project to improve wastewater line capacity and roadway surface, the release said. Anticipated completion of the project is July.

Work will start at H Street and work toward F Street. Local traffic will still be able to use 100 South during the project.

Officials try to sell Albion State Normal School

Albion officials want to auction off the 111-year-old Albion State Normal School campus that's been vacant for most of the last 50 years.

There are proposals for a holistic wellness center and health training facility and the other for a convention center. The latter would include the existing buildings and add a hotel, dormitory, theater, retail complex and visitors center.

Avalanche kills snowmobiler near Antelope Creek

Collin S. Bowcut, 47, of Burley was snowmobiling and caught in an avalanche near Antelope Creek in Antelope Valley, approximately 25 miles west of Arco, at about 2:30 p.m., on Wednesday, according to information released by Butte County Sheriff Wes Collins.

The slide carried Bowcut about 200 yards down the mountainside. He was snowmobiling with fellow rider Brad Baker, who rushed to locate Bowcut and attempted to resuscitate him when he found him under about three feet of snow. The Sawtooth National Forest Search and Rescue Center issued an avalanche warning for the mountains of south central Idaho earlier this week.

Bowcut was self-employed in a custom spraying business and had a snowmobile and motorcycle shop, Over The Top, at his home. He and his wife, Carla, also own the Legacy Event Center, a wedding reception and convention center.

Funeral services will be announced by Rasmussen Funeral Home in Burley.

Idaho Supreme Court suspends Rupert attorney

An action for interim suspension of license to practice law for Rupert attorney Raymond Pena was granted by the Idaho Supreme Court, according to a court order released by the Idaho State Bar.

Pena will remain suspended from the practice of law until further order of the Supreme Court, according to the order. He was charged with and charged with two counts of procurement of prostitution resulting from an Idaho State Police investigation that led to a grand jury indictment.

The charges stem from alleged incidents, in which Pena reportedly asked for or compelled separate female clients to engage in sexual acts with him.

After obtaining evidence, which included audio recordings, investigators sought charges, which resulted in the seating of the grand jury Feb. 1, 2005, by Fifth District Judge John Nelson. The indictment was handed down and a search warrant was issued for Pena's office. Pena was arrested without incident in front of his office as he arrived for work Feb. 2, 2005, according to an investigator.

— compiled by Jami Whitford from the South Idaho Press

LIQUID LAW



Students from Buhl High School become students of snowboarding Monday at Pomerelle Mountain Resort. The ski area would like to increase ski season length by adding artificial snow machines — a process that opponents say would be too much of a drain on water resources.

Battle over water rights prevents expansion of ski resort

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

ALBION — As competing ski resorts grow larger and open earlier, Pomerelle is stuck in a difficult bind that is more challenging than any black-diamond run.

The Pomerelle Mountain Resort has been locked in a legal battle over water rights since 1996, which has prevented a proposed expansion of the resort. The legal battle has drawn out for so long that the owners of the resort, the United States Forest Service and residents of surrounding communities have all but given up hope on expanding Pomerelle — an expansion that would attract more skiers and allow the resort to open earlier in the season along with other competing ski resorts.

"We have grown so discouraged that we don't even talk about it anymore," said Woody Anderson, who co-owns the resort with his wife Sandy. "I mean, talk about red tape, this is something that has gone on for almost 10 years now."

The legal battle is as complex as it is frustrating.

In 1996, Woody and Sandy Anderson presented a plan to the

40 years of skiing

Pomerelle was built during the 1960's and was later purchased by Woody and Sandy Anderson in 1973. The lodge — which is located in the Sawtooth National Forest at about 8,000 feet — offers equipment rentals, and of age-appropriate classes for children as young as 3 years old.

The resort caters specifically to families and provides ski and snowboard classes for children.

To learn more about Pomerelle Mountain Resort, visit their Web site at:

<http://www.pomerelle-mtn.com/>

Forest Service, which has jurisdiction over the Sawtooth National Forest where the lodge is located, but has issued a license to the resort for use of the land since 1973. The proposed expansion includes the construction of a new 20,000 to 25,000 square-foot lodge, parking lot and two more lift chair slopes, which would require the production of artificial snow during seasons with low snowpack.

But three private parties voiced concern about the expansion because they claimed that the production of artificial snow

would infringe on their water rights. More than a year later, an objection was filed on behalf of Earl Warthen, citing concerns about the water source, purpose of water use and quantity that Pomerelle proposed to use for making artificial snow.

Since 1998 — when the objection was filed — a string of hearings, claims and requests have held up the appeal in the Snake River Adjudication Court, which is already sorting through more than 170,000 individual water-rights claims.

"Nothing has really happened with the case since 1998," said Steve Spencer, the water use specialist for the Forest Service. "There has always been something, and right now we're waiting for the adjudication court to take care of some of the details out there."

Spencer said the case caught the Forest Service's attention when a public hearing in Burley attracted a surprisingly large group of supporters.

"It kind of caught the department by surprise," Spencer said. "There was just a large number of people who were there after the protests were filed."

In 2002, two hydrologists — Chuck Brockway, employed by

the applicants of the water right, and Terry Scanlan, working for the opponents — concluded that the resort could use water from Bennett Springs to fill a reservoir, which would provide water to create artificial snow without impacting valley water rights.

But Warthen said concerns about Pomerelle's watershed use goes beyond the resort's development plan.

"There were nine primary springs up there until they put in a road and drained the springs out," Warthen said. "The feds had failed to get the proper permits and mitigate the impact on us down below, and really, we still haven't found any common ground on that yet."

Warthen said he wants the Forest Service to correct the damage it has already done on the watersheds, and he believes any expansion of Pomerelle would only increase the negative impact on watersheds below the resort.

The case is still locked in litigation among thousands of similar water-right claims and disagreements, and a conference to discuss the case's status is scheduled for Thursday, March 23. But to many, it seems like it's just another legal battle in a tiresome and impossible run.

Master chef 'Bo' Carl worked to keep his mind alive

By Trona Tegan
For The Times-News

BURLEY — Bo Carl had a loyal following for his column "Bo's Kitchen," which ran in *The Times-News* South Idaho Press and several other newspapers, but few readers knew how truly amazing he really was.

Bo battled the debilitating effects of Lou Gehrig's Disease for 12 years prior to his passing on Feb. 26. Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive neuromuscular disease that weakens and eventually destroys motor neurons causing paralysis. Many who are afflicted with the disease die within two years, but Bo had other ideas.

"Bo had a lot of tough breaks as a kid," his brother, Mike Carl said.

"But even then he would take them, figure things out and didn't quit. He was always resilient."

Bo had always led an active life. In high school, he excelled at baseball, taking his team to state championships in Oklahoma and California. He had the opportunity to attend Stanford University on an academic scholarship, but true to his giving nature, declined so he could stay near his parents who were having health problems at the time.

He later enlisted in the U.S.

aLife remembered

Maynard 'Bo' Duncan Carl

Born: March 4, 1957
Died: Feb. 26, 2006
Survivors: His mother, Lydia Carl of Princeton, Texas; brothers, Michael (Brenda) Carl of McKinney, Texas, and Marcus (Jeri) Carl of Princeton, Texas; sister, Lydia (Ronald) Martin of Princeton, Texas; and five nephews and three nieces.

Army where he served for eight years. He served in the Airborne in Germany during the Cold War and learned to speak seven different Slavic languages.

He loved education and the arts and played several instruments. He also loved the outdoors, which is what drew him to Southern Idaho. As a meter chef, he worked at several prestigious establishments as a gourmet chef.

Bo first began to show symptoms of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis in 1994. When the con-

dition worsened, he moved into an extended care facility, first in Utah and then to Parkview Care and Rehabilitation Center in Burley. His family made a point to visit him at least once a month, and they say he was a great motivator.

"No one could complain about having to do something when they realized how fortunate they were to be able to," Mike said.

"Thought processes and the mind are not damaged in most people with ALS. They remain sharp, although their body undergoes progressive degeneration, and Bo was no exception. With an IQ of 145, he worked to keep his mind alert, in spite of the weakness spreading through his body."

Bo's philosophy of life kept him going was, "I live — therefore I must do."

In addition to writing "Bo's Kitchen," he often spear-headed fundraising campaigns for various charities. One fundraiser helped establish a 100-book library in the previously facility where he lived. While at Parkview, he managed to raise \$62,000 for the Hunger Relief Fund. He sends out the solicitations for donations through e-mail and letters. Bo was able to

do this because of a specialized computer program that read his eye movement to type letters on the screen.

With all of his trials and afflictions, Bo never complained. "I never heard him say 'Why me?'" Mike said. "He was a true humanitarian. He had more dignity living in that bed than a lot of people who are up walking around."

"The last year of his life was difficult for his family said. He knew he was losing the battle with the disease and he wanted to make arrangements for his belongings.

His medical equipment was donated to the Muscular Dystrophy ALS program including his ventilator, chair, bed and specialized computer. His personal items such as his TV and stereo were donated to Desert Industries.

"He wanted to make sure someone else would benefit from these things," his Mike said.

His family attributes his strength to his attitude. "He said he had lived a full life and he would make the most of whatever he had to face," Mike said. "He was a special person and had a way of making people smile. He made the most of a horrible situation — and will be missed greatly."

WORLD

TRUE AFICIONADOS



A couple, names not available, chats as they enjoy a cigar during a gala dinner closing the annual Havana cigar festival in Havana, Cuba, Friday. Cigar fanatics travel across the world and pay thousands of dollars to experience the supreme stogie at its source.

World turns out for Havana cigar festival

By Vanessa Arrington
Associated Press writer

HAVANA — Passion comes in many forms. For hundreds of visitors to Cuba this month, it's brown, rolled and good with brandy.

Cigar fanatics, deterred by neither money nor distance, travel across the world and pay thousands of dollars to experience the supreme stogie at its source. Those making the pilgrimage to Cuba for the annual Havana cigar festival say the smokes bring them pleasure, peace and, often, big bucks.

"This is my life," said Jimmy Ng, a Malaysian who left the travel business to become a cigar merchant some 10 years ago.

Ng, 36, spends most waking moments devoted to his new trade. He owns hundreds of books on cigars, and smokes from five to seven stogies a day. At his La Casa Cubana in Singapore, he only sells Cuban cigars — "I'm a purist," he says — to a clientele that is 75 percent foreign.

Ng started smoking cigars when he was in his 20s, for "status" and to attract women. "But after five or six years, you get the right crowd, and you learn to really appreciate cigars from the brothers, the other aficionados," he said.

Ng, now married and a father, travels with a group of 30 friends every month in Singapore for a cigar dinner. Frenchman Guillaume Boudin says cigars helped him quit smoking cigarettes. He considers it a form of meditation.

"I know if I'm going to smoke a cigar, I have to take time to do it properly," he said. "It really clears my mind, and lets me come up with ideas and answers to problems."

The aficionados in Havana scoff at those who pay large sums of money for cigars but don't know how to smoke them.

"It should not be smoked like a cigarette, and it should not be smoked in a disc," said Abin Leung, a chef in Hong Kong. "It's just like at a fine restaurant; you shouldn't eat something as if it were a hamburger, or drink a

fine glass of wine as if it were Coke."

Leung, who sports long hair and a T-shirt of the Latin American revolutionary icon Ernesto "Che" Guevara, said real connoisseurs need to come to Cuba to learn about the history of cigars.

"You really want to appreciate the effort that goes into making it," he said.

Participants get to visit cigar factories and plantations and meet distributors at trade fairs and seminars. Multimillionaire businessmen and mysterious figures who decline to reveal their full names mingle with publishers, musicians and engineers.

The Cuban ballet and British actor Joseph, Fiennes opened the festival on Monday, and some 850 people attended Friday night's closing dinner, including Cuban Parliament Speaker Ricardo Alarcon, Vice President Carlos Lage and several of President Fidel Castro's sons.

Cigar aficionados from around the world paid more than \$720,000 early Saturday for

five handmade Cuban humiders signed by Castro at the gala closing of the cigar festival.

The auction's hot item was the Cohiba Humidor by sculptor Raul Valladares, fetching \$300,000. Next came the Montecristo Humidor, bought for \$230,000. Proceeds from the auction were to go to Cuba's state-run health care system.

The annual festival draws hundreds of cigar lovers from around the world. This year's event marked the 40th anniversary of the Cohiba brand, which launched the new, exclusive "Cohiba Behike" cigar to be sold in cases of 40 for \$18,000.

Cigars are one of Cuba's most important exports, worth about \$340 million annually.

Spain is Cuba's top customer. Europe in general buys up 66 percent of the island's cigar exports, followed by countries in the Americas — not including the United States — and the Middle East, according to Habana SA, Cuba's cigar marketing firm. Trade restrictions against communist Cuba prevent the island's cigars from legally entering the U.S. market.

Russia not strategic partner, task force says

By Peter Baker
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration should stop pretending Russia is a genuine strategic partner and adopt a new policy of "selective cooperation" and "selective opposition" to the authoritarian government of President Vladimir Putin, a bipartisan task force has concluded.

In a grip assessment of the recent "downward trajectory" under Putin, the Council of Foreign Relations reports that in Russia democracy is in retreat, corruption on the rise and the Kremlin an increasing obstacle to U.S. interests. The goodwill that developed between President Bush and Putin, particularly after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, has eroded.

"Russian-American relations are clearly headed in the wrong direction," the task force wrote. "Contention is crowding out consensus. The very idea of strategic 'partnership' no longer seems realistic."

Former senator John Edwards, D-N.C., who co-chaired the task force along with Republican former housing secretary Jack Kemp, said the administration has shied away from addressing Putin's behavior. "What they've done is focused on the positive things Russia is doing and been soft on the problems," he said in an interview, adding, "We need for the world to see what's happening inside, and at a minimum Putin needs to feel the pressure from that."

The report crystallizes a growing reassessment of Russia

in Washington five years after Bush first met Putin and looked into his soul, as the president put it at the time. Rather than champion democracy and Western values, the former KGB cabal has moved to reassert control over Russian society and eliminate opposition.

Administration officials have been disturbed by other actions in recent months, including Russian maneuvering to force U.S. troops out of Central Asia, Moscow's use of energy exports as a weapon against smaller neighbors, and Putin's outreach to Hamas, the radical Palestinian group that just won parliamentary elections.

At the same time, Moscow has moved closer to Washington in the effort to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons. Once considered a

virtual accessory to Tehran's alleged nuclear arms program, Russia lately has turned around and collaborated with the Bush administration to pressure the Islamic state to renounce any such ambitions, although the Kremlin still resists sanctions.

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Ex-Iranian leader issues warning

The Washington Post

TEHRAN, Iran — The former Iranian president Mohammad Khatami, whose foreign policy was defined by a quest for what he called a "dialogue between civilizations," warned Saturday that tensions between the Islamic world and the West are taking the shape of a new Cold War.

Speaking at a government conference promoting Inter-

fath dialogue, he said the West was largely responsible. Islam was being cast as the "enemy of humanity" by governments reverting to the polarized worldview that divided the planet for 50 years after World War II, he said.

The West "needs an enemy, and this time it is Islam," Khatami said. "And Islamophobia becomes a part of all policies of the great powers, of hegemonic powers."

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— Maria Montessori

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Personal stories emerge from files on Guantanamo detainees

By Ben Fox
Associated Press writer

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The evidence against the Kazakh apple seller showed he had been captured by the Taliban and forced to work as a cook.

In fact, the man told his U.S. military tribunal, he was only a cook's helper, and had never heard of al-Qaida or the Taliban until he was kidnapped and conscripted by Afghanistan's former hard-line Islamic regime.

"I never had a weapon. I never carried a weapon with me and I've never been in any kind of armed fight," he said in one of hundreds of military hearings to determine whether detainees at the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay are being properly held without charges as "enemy combatants."

These and other details emerging from about 5,000 pages of transcripts released Friday suggest the Bush administration has cast a wide net in its war on terror but often come up empty.

American troops have picked up any number of low-level suspects along with admitted al-Qaida and Taliban members and the rare high-value target, a Pakistani millionaire who twice met Osama bin Laden.

Captured in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terror attacks, the apple seller and dozens more men are identified for the first time in Guantanamo Bay transcripts the Pentagon delivered to the Associated Press.

People from many walks of life were captured and brought to the prison at the U.S. naval base in eastern Cuba, where most remain held without charges. They range from peasants to millionaires, from illiterate villagers to college graduates.

In a typical guerrilla war, conventional forces struggle to distinguish friend from foe. But the U.S. war against terrorism is unique. It is being fought across the globe, against enemies operating from the shadows in the Hindu Kush mountains in Afghanistan to the alleyways of Islamabad to the neighborhoods of London, Madrid, Spain; and Jakarta, Indonesia.

In Afghanistan, men often carry a rifle. Unless they are caught red-handed firing on U.S. troops, it is hard to tell the terrorists from the farmers.

"They're all armed," said John Pike, director of GlobalSecurity.org, a military policy think tank in Alexandria, Va. "If they weren't, they'd be in trouble. There are clan rivalries there. Without a weapon they'd feel naked."

Mohammed Gul, from Afghanistan's eastern Khost province, told his military tribunal at Guantanamo that he was captured at his home. A Kalashnikov assault rifle was found in the house, but Gul insisted he was just a farmer and not linked to forces attacking U.S. and coalition troops.

"I am a poor person," Gul said. "I have a small piece of land."

The Bush administration scoffs at such claims of innocence.

"They're bomb-makers," Vice President Dick Cheney said recently. "They're facilitators of terror. They're members of al-Qaida and the Taliban. If you let them out, they'll go back to trying to kill Americans."

Only a few detainees openly acknowledge taking up arms against the United States. One is Abdul Hakim Bukhary, of Saudi Arabia, who told his tribunal he



A detainee is escorted to interrogation by U.S. military guards at Camp X-Ray at Guantanamo Bay U.S. Naval Base, Cuba, in this Feb. 27 file photo. After four years of secrecy, the Pentagon released documents Friday that contain the names of hundreds of detainees held at a U.S. military prison. The release resulted from a victory by The Associated Press in a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit.

“
“They're bomb-makers. They're facilitators of terror. They're members of al-Qaida and the Taliban. If you let them out, they'll go back to trying to kill Americans.”

— Vice President Dick Cheney

“
“I never had a weapon. I never carried a weapon with me and I've never been in any kind of armed fight.”

— A Guantanamo Bay detainee's testimony at a military hearing

“
“They're all armed. If they weren't, they'd be in trouble. There are clan rivalries there. Without a weapon they'd feel naked.”

— John Pike, director of GlobalSecurity.org, a military policy think tank

fought in Afghanistan during the 1980s against occupying Soviet troops, then returned to battle invading U.S. forces after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Bukhary said he had a change of heart in American custody and now would support democracy. There is no indication from the transcript whether his tribunal believed him.

Other detainees were nabbed far from any battlefield.

Bisher al-Rawi, a Londoner with wealthy Iraqi and Jordanian parents, was arrested in

Gambra. He was accused of harboring radical Jordanian fighter Abu Qatada while in London. Videotapes of Qatada's sermons were found in a Hamburg, Germany apartment used by three of the Sept. 11 hijackers.

The United States classified

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"On three or four separate occasions, the questions involved Abu Qatada."

The tribunal president told al-Rawi the British did not back up his account.

"The British government didn't say they didn't have a relationship with you, they just would not confirm or deny it," said the judge, whose name was blacked out in the transcript. "That means I only have your word what happened."

There is no indication from the transcripts whether Gul, Bukhary and al-Rawi or any of the other hundreds of detainees who went through "enemy combatant" hearings remain in custody at Guantanamo Bay. The U.S. military will not comment on specific cases.

What the documents do suggest is that in hearing after hearing, the unclassified evidence seems frustratingly inconclusive. Witnesses are not reachable, testimony may be twisted and unanswerable questions — such as whether a detainee would attack the United States if released — are left hanging.

Some analysts say such confusion is emblematic of the type of war being waged.

"Irregular, warfare and counterterrorism blur the boundaries between normalcy and abnormality, between civilians and combatants, between just and illegal," said Prof. Ahmed S. Hashim, an expert in the Middle East and counterintelligence at the Naval War College. "Shortcuts are taken to achieve results without due process of law."

If al-Qaida attacks the United States again, the Bush administration might be less concerned about distinguishing

between friend and foe, Hashim predicted.

"There is a possibility that if there is another major attack, the net will be cast wider, not narrower," Hashim said.

Movies

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

Transamerica (81) Day 7:30-9:45
Sat-Sun 12:45-2:00, 5:15-7:00-9:45

Madeo's Family Reunion (131) Day 7:30-9:45
Sat-Sun 12:45-2:00, 5:15-7:00-9:45

When a Stranger Calls (101) Day 7:15-9:15
Sat-Sun 12:30-2:45, 5:00-7:15-9:15

Final Destination 2 (131) Day 7:00-9:15
Sat-Sun 12:15-2:30, 4:45-7:00-9:15

Big Momma's House 2 (131) Day 7:15-9:30
Sat-Sun 12:30-2:45, 5:00-7:15-9:30

Aquamarine (101) Day 7:00-9:15
Sat-Sun 12:15-2:30, 4:45-7:00-9:15

Jerome R. Without My (131) Day 7:15-9:30
Nanny McPhee (131) Day 7:15-9:30
Day 7:15-9:30
Sat-Sun 12:30-2:45, 5:00-7:15-9:30

Firewall (131) Day 7:00-9:15
Sat-Sun 12:15-2:30, 4:45-7:00-9:15

Eight Below (101) Day 7:15-9:30
Day 7:15-9:30
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Ultraviolet (131) Day 7:15-9:00
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Curious George (101) Day 7:15-9:00
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Running Scared (101) Day 6:45-9:30
Sat-Sun 12:15-2:30, 4:45-7:00-9:30

Nanny McPhee (101) Day 7:00-9:15
Day 7:15-9:30
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EDITORIAL

Bond plan is a bold way to improve T.F. schools

Twin Falls residents — whether they have kids in public schools or not — have a lexicon of reasons to support the Twin Falls School District's \$49.7 million bond issue for school facilities.

In a city experiencing significant growth, the ability to modernize classrooms and expand academic opportunities will pay off for the community, the economy, but most of all, our local students. We give the plan our full endorsement and encourage local taxpayers to vote up on March 14.

Proposed improvements are very popular in Idaho these days, but the need for school expansion is at its apex in Twin Falls. The district's Long-Range Facilities Plan charts a bold agenda that matches this unprecedented boom in Twin Falls city and county. And in spite of the \$49.7 million sticker shock, this proposal is actually an affordable plan when seen through the prism of local growth estimates.

The need

Twin Falls High School is the largest city in Idaho without a second high school. The high school's current enrollment of 1,542 is expected to jump to 1,720 by 2009. In fact, by 2009, the total enrollment in Twin Falls' elementary and junior highs will also go beyond capacity.

The district's enrollment rise is tied directly to Twin Falls' expansion. Idaho Commerce and Labor economist Greg Rogers pegs growth over the past five years at 2 percent. City officials say, Twin Falls has grown 3 to 4 percent over the past two years. Over the next five years, Commerce and Labor expects that same 3 to 4 percent trend to continue.

Twin Falls' growth is evident in booming building permits, recorded lots and child births. Charting that growth from 2000 to 2005, the district has seen a direct correlation between the birth rate and the kindergarten enrollment, both at 3.5 percent.

The bottom line is Twin Falls has reached a high-water mark for students, and more are coming.

The blueprint

The facilities plan would reconfigure classes in all district buildings, as most Idaho districts have already done. The high schools would have grades 9 through 12, and junior highs would become middle schools with grades 6 through 8. —Elementaries would teach kindergarten through grade 5, and have more room by losing sixth graders.

The centerpiece is a new

What's at stake?

Voters in the Twin Falls School District will decide Tuesday, March 14 on a \$49.7 million bond issue to build a second high school and renovate nine schools in the district. The Times-News offers its endorsement as a service to readers. We welcome opposing viewpoints.

\$37.6 million high school near Washington Street and North College Road. An additional \$6.5 million will renovate Twin Falls High School for incoming freshmen. Both middle schools would get \$100,000 renovations, and the elementary schools, for Oregon Trail, would receive renovations ranging from \$510,000 to \$1.2 million.

By adding the facilities and the class space, the district will have more class space and more focused educational opportunities. Students will have more opportunities to excel academically and in extra-curricular activities.

Any way you see it, Twin Falls needs to provide a growing student population the advantages of a modern education.

The cost

If passed, the bonding proposal would add an additional \$1.38 to each \$1,000 of taxable property. For a home and property worth \$100,000 after homeowner exemptions, that's \$138 a year, or \$115.00 a month. And that's using market value growth estimate of 3 percent over the next nine years.

But if that market growth rate goes to 5 percent, the amount paid by taxpayers would be even less. That's because more incoming Twin Falls residents will pay into the proposal, thus lowering the price and/or the bond schedule.

Critics of the plan may say this is too much at once for local taxpayers. But it's worth noting Twin Falls currently has one of the lowest tax levies rates (\$37 per \$1,000 of assessed value) in southern Idaho. We have the room to make this investment.

The payoff

Businesses and taxpayers should recognize the proposal will attract even more economic growth. A modern educational system is the catalyst to a vital work force. District employees can support this measure because it will improve working conditions and their students. Families can embrace the plan as a brighter path for their kids' achievement.

The future is now in Twin Falls public schools. Support for this bonding plan is the first step in making it happen.

High court helping GOP rebound

Ken Mehlman has not had an easy time of it in his first year as chairman of the Republican National Committee. As the point man for the White House's political team, he has experienced defeats at the hands of the Democrats in last November's two big gubernatorial races — and growing criticism from within GOP ranks about President Bush's policyumbles. From Social Security to Katrina to the Dubai Ports deal, Mehlman has been on the receiving end of brickbats.

But last week he could watch as two politically important victories became likely in an arena where Republicans still hold sway — the federal courts.

The justices' questions during oral arguments strongly suggested that legislation to limit campaign spending money by Vermont would be struck down — as Republicans hope.

In a more complex case, challenging Texas' mid-decade Republican congressional redistricting plan, the hints from the high court bench were that the substance of the scheme — joined in the public works about the limits being so low as to stifle competition.

The Texas case is harder to forecast. It stems from the Legislature, with a newly elected Republican majority, approving in 2003 a congressional redistricting plan, promoted by Rep. Tom DeLay, that yielded six more Republican seats in the 32-member delegation. The previous map was drawn up by the courts in 2001 when the Legislature then divided between the parties, deadlocked.

In numerous briefs filed by critics and supporters of the plan, the Republican plan, the court was asked to consider the propriety of any mid-decade redistricting, the rights and wrongs of



there really was any corruption present in Vermont and Justice Stephen Breyer — one of the two Democrats on the bench — joined in the public works about the limits being so low as to stifle competition.

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In numerous briefs filed by critics and supporters of the plan, the Republican plan, the court was asked to consider the propriety of any mid-decade redistricting, the rights and wrongs of

the oddly shaped districts that resulted and the impact on minority constituencies who enjoy special protection under the Voting Rights Act.

There was little in the oral argument to suggest the court would find any constitutional bar to the mid-decade redistricting — especially since it was the first plan to emerge from the Legislature.

As for the germanymandering of district lines, even in odd configurations, the court has traditionally chosen to stay out of that "political thicket," and Justice David Souter, often the most liberal of the Republicans, told the attorney challenging the plan that it's impossible "to take partisanship out of the political process."

The impact on Latino and African-American voters appeared to trouble some of the justices. Questioning showed that about 100,000 Hispanics had been moved out of a South Texas district, improving the election prospects of Republican Rep. Henry Bonilla. The state contended they were shifting Democrats — not Latinos — and Roberts, for one, appeared to buy the argument

that the motivation was political, not racial.

Mehlman, who supervised the Bush administration's bid on the case, came to court to watch the arguments and — with all the usual lawyerly cautions about not reading the justices' minds — said "forward." I feel very good about it.

Some scholars with less of a partisan bias warn that the Vermont case will tense the escalating cost of campaigns — unchecked and the Texas case may unleash a national wave of repeated redistricting every time a legislature changes hands.

Mehlman said he thinks those fears are exaggerated. Few states would contemplate setting campaign spending limits as low as Vermont did, he said, and the Texas circuit — legislative gridlock preventing passage of an earlier anti-redistricting plan open to criticism as a Democratic germanymandering — are unique.

Besides, after the year he's had, he's in no position to look a gift horse in the mouth.

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

My fearless, first-annual Oscar predictions

This is my first annual Oscar prediction column, for which I am — uniquely qualified by not having seen a single one of the movies nominated in any category. I've never even watched an Oscar ceremony, except once when a friend called me 35 minutes into Halle Berry's acceptance speech and I managed to catch only the last 20 minutes of it.

I shall grant my awards based on the same criteria Hollywood uses to give out its awards: green-light movies: political correctness. Also, judging by most of the nominees this year, the awards committee prefers films that are wildly unpopular with audiences.

The box office numbers for this year's favorite, "Brokeback Mountain" are more jealously guarded than the nuclear codes in the president's black box. Hollywood liberals want the government to release everything we know about al-Zarqawi, but refuse to release the number of people who have seen "Brokeback Mountain."

I shall summarize the plots of the five movies nominated for best picture below:

- "Brokeback Mountain" (gay) accepts "death penalty with bonus gay lead"
- "Crash" (racism)
- "Good Night, and Good Luck" (McCarthyism)
- "Munich" (few athletes at

Munich had it coming) Everyone says it's going to be "Munich" but I think "Crash" is too popular with filmgoers. Moreover, Hollywood feels it has done enough for the blacks. Hollywood can never do enough for the gays. Gays in the military, gays in the Texas Rangers, gays on the range. It's like a brokeback record! As Pat Buchanan said, homosexuality has gone from "the love that dare not speak its name" to "the love that won't shut up."

The nominees for best actor really that never didn't the Village People do that a couple of decades ago? Am I the only person who saw John Travolta in Urban Cowboy? "OK, back to predictions. The best director award will go to ... Ang Lee, director of "Brokeback Mountain." (For analysis, see also: Best Actress is Gwyneth Paltrow, Best Actor is Gwyneth Paltrow, Best Director is Ang Lee.)

The nominees for best actor in a leading role are:

- Phillip Seymour Hoffman, "Capote"
- Terrence Howard, "Justice & Fear"
- Heath Ledger, "Brokeback Mountain"
- Joaquin Phoenix, "Walk the Line"
- David Strathairn, "Good Night, and Good Luck"
- The winner in this category will be ... Phillip Seymour Hoffman. The awards committee can't give everything "Brokeback Mountain" and at least Truman Capote was gay (though not a cowboy). I personally would have chosen the lion in the thorn bush. The nominees for best actress in a leading role are:
- Judi Dench, "Mrs. Henderson Presents"
- Felicity Huffman, "Transamerica"
- Keira Knightley, "Pride & Prejudice"
- Charlize Theron, "North Country"
- Reese Witherspoon, "Walk the Line"
- I gave Reese Witherspoon a very good rating in "Walk the Line" but that's irrelevant — this is the Oscars! Felicity Huffman plays a pre-op transsexual in "Transamerica." That strikes a chord in Hollywood. It's not exactly gay, but close enough I say Huffman wins.
- For best actress in a supporting role, Rachel Weisz ought to win for "The Constant Gardener" because it's about lady drug companies are evil, which is the essence of quality acting. Plus,

English accent equals good acting. But Michelle Williams ("Brokeback Mountain") is engaged to Heath Ledger, who played a gay guy in "Brokeback Mountain." So I pick Weisz, with Williams as the dark-horse favorite.

The best original screenplay will be "Good Night, and Good Luck" as Hollywood's final tribute to the old Stalinists (Hollywood's version of "The Greatest Generation"). George Clooney will be named to chair the awards committee by going around boasting that conservatives have called him a "traitor," although I believe the precise term was "air-head."

Finally, my favorite category: best foreign language film. The nominees are:

- "Baarle" (Italy)
- "Joyeux Noël" (France)
- "Paradise Now" (Palestine)
- "Sophie Scholl" (Germany)
- "Isoteli" (South Africa)

After consulting with the Yale admissions committee, the awards committee will give the Oscar to ... "Paradise Now," a heartwarming story about Palestinian suicide bombers. How good is it? Al-Jazeera gave it a 4 1/2 pipe bombs. It's Azzera Street in Ramat Gan, a 1992 film about this month — go figure! I don't want to spoil the ending for you, but let's just say there won't be a sequel.

Normally, the smart money is on the Holocaust movie, so any other year, "Sophie Scholl" would have been the clear favorite. Unfortunately for the makers of "Sophie Scholl," their Holocaust movie came out the same year as a pro-terrorist movie, so they lose. As a final prediction, for the second year, there will be no mention of Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh, who was brutally murdered by an angry mob in a trailer over a year ago on the streets of Amsterdam. (Now that's blacklisted!) I also predict this will be the lowest-rated Oscars ever. Remember, most of your cat phones, no talking ... or sleeping.

Ann Coulter is a nationally syndicated columnist.

The Times-News

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LETTERS

Numbers don't lie

need for classes
At this time, Sawtooth Elementary has an enrollment of 880 students. Next year, we will have more than 900 students because we will have four classes of sixth-graders instead of three classes. Two years ago, we started the school year with 580 students. We have gained 100 students in two years.

I have concerns about the enrollment of Sawtooth in the future. I have been the principal at Sawtooth for 10 years and I have observed the trends in enrollment during these years. Sawtooth has always started with small kindergarten enrollment numbers and, as the children move through the grades, the enrollment increases.

For example, a class of 75 kindergarten students will probably have 100 students in it by sixth grade. This trend is true for the last 18 years. The major change that I have seen these past two years is the increased enrollment in our kindergarten and first grades. We are now getting classes in kindergarten and first grade of 90 to 100 instead of 75. As these classes move through the grades they will more than likely increase as they have in the past. Third grade this year is up to 105 students, and I expect this number to be around 125 in fourth grade. Two years ago, kindergarten started with 68 students and that class of second-graders now has 95 students.

At Sawtooth, we have one classroom being used by our two reading specialists and reading coach, and this classroom will be used for our fourth-sixth-grade classroom next year. The reading program with three teachers will be in a storage closet off of our cafeteria next year. If I have to add a teacher to any grade level, that extra class will be in the portable music room. The music teacher will go class to class. After that, your guess is as good as mine where I will put students. Right now we are using our physical education classrooms in one half of the cafeteria while we have students finishing up class in the other half.

The passage of a bond will free up an additional four classrooms since the sixth-graders will be moving into middle school. It will also build a multi-purpose room to our teachers. All I ask is that you take a look at the numbers and vote yes on March 14.

RANDY RUTLEDGE
Klamberly
(Editor's note: Randy Rutledge is the principal at Sawtooth Elementary School.)

Coyote shoot is wrong way to help habitat

A coyote-calling contest is no way to have a govt game as George Warren, president of the Mini-Cassia Chapter of Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, suggests. "Sportsmen plan coyote hunt for Situations. Offering prizes for slaughtering the most coyotes in a specified period of time is unethical and ought to be banned. Although the class aspiration of restoring habitat is a worthy fundraising cause, killing large numbers of coyotes, who play a key role in maintaining a health ecosystem, will do more harm than good. These contests, conducted in a party-like atmosphere, desensitize individuals by making the act of killing into a game. Even hunters like Jim Posewitz, retired Montana wildlife biologist and author of "Beyond Fair Chase," agree that killing for prizes violates the hunter's ethical code of fair chase.

When there are so many humane ways to reduce coyote conflicts, a killing contest is an unethical and excessive waste of life.
CASEY PHEFFER
Annapolis, Md.
(Editor's note: Casey Pheffer is a deputy campaign manager in the Hunting Issues Department of the Humane Society of the United States.)

Beware of backlash In consumer spending

Duad Lawley's defense of the "boon" produced by cuts from some of your home to half of the story, the other half being that Americans are paying significantly more for basic housing. And face it, Duad, which you call the talking heads want to blame the general uproar on liberals, more and more conservatives of conscience are being silenced. Timing of the tax cuts refers to average readers having already received most of their benefit from the 2001 legislation. However, 80 percent of the windfall

for the wealthy is scheduled to come from tax changes that phase in after 2005. If the Bush tax reduction expires in 2010, we will see 52 percent of the cuts go to the richest 1 percent.

Lawley's statement that "in 2005, the government collected more tax revenue than in any other year in history... so much for tax cuts" inspires a host of derision. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reports "much of the recent growth of (tax) revenues has occurred because of a boom in corporate tax receipts rather than in taxes on wages and salaries. This is consistent with the notion of increased income inequality and is consistent with revenues exceeding expectations at the same time that overall economic growth has not." Fifty billion dollars of that 2005 revenue came from expiration of a business tax-cutter that expired in 2004. All of this increased revenue wasn't enough to make up for the shortfalls which have developed since 2000.

Former chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, N. Gregory Mankiw, author of an introductory economics text book, wrote that any economist who claims that tax-subsidy pay for themselves is a "snake oil salesman who is trying to sell a miracle cure." But Rutledge's quote recently said, "I don't think it's only helping our economy, but it's helped the federal budget... You cut taxes and the tax revenues increase." In the last five years, consumer spending via credit cards and the real estate market have helped maintain the economy. There are now record loads of consumer debt and the real estate market is slowing. What will take their place?

Lawley writes "income can vary tremendously, depending on who is doing the definition," as an information "vary tremendously, depending on who is doing the definition." SHARON METCALF Gooding

Postal delivery service deserves its own jeer

I wrote a letter to The Times-News and after two weeks when I didn't get any response, I wrote a second letter. The day I wrote the second letter, I received my first letter back. On it was a note, "Unable to forward."

I did not know that The Times-News had moved to a different location. I also did not know that Twin Falls, Idaho, had evolved into such a humongous metropolis with a zillion newspapers that the lowly Times-News couldn't be located by the U.S. Post Office.

I expect my second letter to be returned some time in March. At 39 cents a crack, that is ridiculous. Perhaps you should enter the U.S. Post Office in your jeers column. EDITH ROBERTSON Wendell

Beef plant's sewer woes started with city

The Opinion page of The Times-News had an article on the proposed Valley Beef plant proposed for the Hazelton area. They also had comments on the existing plant in Wendell and the problems the plant was encountering in Wendell. Some of the information was not correct.

The plant in the Wendell area was constructed with the approval of the Wendell Public Works and Department of Environmental Quality. They agreed on the construction plan and approved this system as built. It didn't work. This is why the system is not working properly. Valley Beef will install a system that will operate properly. They have the specifications to do this. They can and will handle their own waste and discharge waste that the city can do it. The city has a problem. It is in need of an upgrade on the city's own plant. They can and will handle their own over-capacitated itself, and the city needs to look at this hard, and soon. Hagerman has the same problems. Systems can only handle so much effluent. When they get overloads and heavy concentrations all at once, they fail. These systems can only OK back when these towns were small. They

Deadline for school bond letters

The Times-News welcomes all letters to the editor about the \$49.7 million bond issue election being held by the Twin Falls School District on March 14. All letters must be received by 5 p.m. Wednesday. To submit your letters to The Times-News: e-mail letters @magiv.com or fax 734-5538 or drop it off at our office at 132 Fairfield St. West, Twin Falls.

can't and won't work with the modern dentists. This is why cities all the time have to go to the new sophisticated sewer systems that cost in the millions of dollars.

The idea that a bond package is a plant that can't work and be compatible to the area is false; it can't and will operate and not even be known to be there if done properly.

People talk about bad dairies. This is because they are not run right, not that they are just bad. Any one of them can be done right. Some just don't do.

There isn't one dairy anywhere that can't be a clean spec one if our laws are enforced right. "BARNEY" ROWLAND Hagerman

Know facts before laying the blame on postmaster

I must respond to the letter from Corene Buher in the Feb. 11 edition of The Times-News.

She was a little vicious in her approach to the postmaster of Twin Falls. She implied he had "a pea-size brain." I wonder what she would call people who don't check out the facts before they attack.

Mr. Reese is not on a committee to send mail to Boise and won't get a bonus if that should ever happen. The location of processing plants is decided by national companies, not a local one. If the mail should ever be sent to Boise, I don't think that you would notice any difference. You may not get out much but I believe Boise is only a few hours from Twin Falls. Your mail would probably see a one-day turnaround just as it does now.

And by the way, your tax dollars have not paid the wages of any postal employee for around 30 years now, so please retire that old threat. Postal employees' wages are paid for by revenue (postal sales).

Please apologize to Mr. Reese for not checking out the facts before you attacked him publicly. I'm sure he will graciously accept your apology. JANICE M. STAMPER Idaho Falls

Bond plan an extension of school progress

Support the legacy of education. J.B. Perrine, Buzz Langdon, John Roper, Dr. James Thyler, Norman Herrett, Earl Faulkner and John Beckenridge are all men who stand as luminaries in the annals of our community, and despite their different backgrounds and business interests, they are connected in history by a dedication to growth and development in Twin Falls.

Each one of these outstanding individuals showed a commitment to support the school system and community development in their time, talent, and resources. Their sense of civic pride was seen as one way to "give back" to family, friends, neighbors and residents of Twin Falls yet unborn.

All of these gentlemen are now gone, with children and grandchildren left to further

their vision of a growing and prosperous Twin Falls and Magic Valley. On March 14, each voter in Twin Falls will have a chance to follow in the footsteps of legendary leaders in our community by supporting a school bond issue. This system, if Twin Falls that can respond to growth and change in our community for years to come. A "yes" vote for the school bond on March 14 will continue a legacy of support for education and for our community that was started by our founding fathers and has continued for well over a century.

On March 14, we will vote "yes" to support our children and the future of our community. It is the right thing to do, and we believe it is the right thing for those individuals who built and supported Twin Falls as it grew would have done. WILLIAM H. MILLER JOHN H. MILLER Twin Falls

County election policy is high-road politics

Upon recently, I felt that our Twin Falls County commissioners were doing a good job, but the mandate that county employees must resign if their county employment to run for office, well, in a word, is stupid.

Would you ask your child or grandchild to drop out of their high school to run for president? They could run for senior class president? I wonder how Hillary Clinton would feel about having to resign from being senator of New York to run for president. The state of Idaho seems to be OK with its employees running for office. The city of Twin Falls recently had a mayor who was a state employee.

I don't understand why running for office is such a distraction from job duties of high school students but elected officials? If those that are hired (by the elected officials) are professionals, they know the parameters of their job and should understand that they cannot campaign on "company time."

This also brings in to question campaigning for say, an event center. Would the fair manager have to resign their position to campaign for the approval of a new fair event center? And while I am on the topic of the event center, who paid for all the posters around the county to vote "yes? I hope, they were not put up by county employees on county time with county equipment on county property and were required to pay the same fees as any other exhibitor at the fair. I was not one in favor of the proposed center, as were many other taxpayers in Twin Falls County. I hope that my tax dollars did not go to promoting that proposal. FYI: For the sheriff's deputies who may be considering run for

sheriff in the future, I noticed in the classified ads that there is an opening for a corrections officer with Idaho Department of Corrections. I think that a few people need to put their eggs "in check" and get off their high horse and let the voters decide who is best for the job, whether those running are employed by Twin Falls County or not. ROBIN NETHERLY Twin Falls

U.S. can't ignore coal technology for power

Billie Henleise asked the question, "What's going on? Why do we need Sump?" If the United States does not upgrade its electrical power grid over the next 10 to 15 years, it's lights-out-50-the-issue isn't just Sump in Jerome. Nationwide, we're getting 131 similar coal-fired electrical generating plants. All are presently in the permitting or construction phase, all are rolling times and the program is designed to produce overall 82 gigawatts of much needed (relatively cheap) electrical power. And that's just the beginning - makes are coming.

Why not solar and wind power? Not enough soon enough. Solar can't produce the needed gigawatts and wind generators require a tremendous amount of maintenance: one-tenth of any particular wind farm will be down for maintenance at any given time. What happened? The environmental people have stopped nearly all advancements in energy production over the last 30 years. Nuclear and hydroelectric, in specific, but even liquid natural gas (LNG) importation has met with dramatic opposition. At this very moment, we have a trillion cubic feet LNG shortage, and this shortage will double in the next decade. The situation is so bad that without a significant move toward coal to produce electrical energy, it's certain we can look forward to natural gas prices quadrupling over the next six years. And that's just one part of the energy crisis coming.

How did this shortage happen? Radical environmentalism. Is it a good thing? We know good and bad are relative, so I'll not go there. But the shortage will affect our forest. Look at the trees in the 1960s, the United States had the healthiest forests in the world. Now look at them after decades of radical environmental management - they're dying. At this moment, North America is facing a massive electrical shortage unless we move forward with coal and nuclear power. Risk? Yes, so get the plants online ASAP with mandatory provisions to upgrade later - no grandfathering, no exceptions. It's only first world countries that can afford pollution controls. What we can risk is the probability of any electrical failure, because it will lead to economic failure and catastrophic cultural meltdown will follow - then we're nothing but a struggling Third World country. Ann Hinds, a brilliant human being, wrote, "We should be thankful for every dirty smoke stack."

MARK SCHUCKERT Twin Falls

Some ways to make U.S. a better place to live

- 1. Be 75 years old and these are things I would like to see change: to save lives and our country; 1. Our military coming home to stay and carrying a big club; 2. Our jobs staying in the USA; 3. Things you buy made in the USA; 4. Helping Americans before people in foreign countries; 5. Our government getting out of debt and not borrowing foreign money; 6. All credit cards cut up and burned; 7. People being honest again; 8. Using common sense again for money; 9. Things done for the good of the people and not for money; 10. Things being simplified instead of more complicated; 11. Interstate speed limit for cars and trucks of 65 mph; 12. Drivers not using cell phones while driving; 13. The steering rail in vehicle changed to help prevent rollovers from overcorrecting; 14. Things that work like they used to; 15. Automobiles built without computers and made dependable like they used to be; 16. Acres of solar cells put into desert country and lots of wind chargers in windy areas instead of coal-fired plants and atomic plants; 17. We need to take care of our country. I love it. GALE R. WAIRD Conner Creek

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- Bed Liner
- Tow Pkg.
- Stock #8065

Hertz Price \$30995



Hertz Gold Certified

2006 BUICK RENDEZVOUS CXL AWD

- Pwr Seats
- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- Cass/CD
- Leather
- Rear Air
- On-Star
- Roof Rack
- 3rd Seat
- Stock #8237

Hertz Price \$23995

DODGE



Hertz Gold Certified

2006 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT

- Pwr Seat
- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- CD Changer
- Leather
- Sun Roof
- Wheels
- Stock #745F

Hertz Price \$24995



Hertz Gold Certified

2006 HONDA RIDGELINE

- Pwr Seat
- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- CD Changer
- Leather
- Wheels
- Tow Pkg.
- Stock #8224

Hertz Price \$30995

CHEVROLET

GMC



Hertz Gold Certified

2003 FORD RANGER QUAD 4X4

- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- Slider
- Nerf Bars
- FX4 Pkg.
- Wheels
- Stock #8128

Hertz Price \$14995



Hertz Gold Certified

2002 CADILLAC DEVILLE

- Pwr Seats
- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- Cass/CD
- Wheels
- Leather
- On-Star
- Stock #448F

Hertz Price \$16995

JEEP

PONTIAC



Hertz Gold Certified

2000 LINCOLN LS

- Pwr Seat
- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- CD
- Leather
- Wheels
- Stock #756F

Hertz Price \$14995



Hertz Gold Certified

2004 HONDA CRV 4X4

- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- Cass/CD
- Wheels
- Leather
- Stock #8208

Hertz Price \$20995

BUICK

CADILLAC



Hertz Gold Certified

2004 BMW X5 4X4

- Pwr Seats
- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- CD Changer
- Wheels
- Leather
- Rear Air
- Stock #8151

Hertz Price \$37995



Hertz Gold Certified

2001 GMC 1500 4X4

- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- Cass
- Wheels
- Tow Pkg.
- Stock #8218

Hertz Price \$15995

LINCOLN

CHRYSLER



Hertz Gold Certified

2005 CHEVY CAVALIER

- Locks
- Tilt/Cruise
- CD
- Stock #769F

Hertz Price \$10995



Hertz Gold Certified

2006 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT

- Pwr Seat
- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- Cass/CD
- Rear Air
- Quad Seats
- 2 Sliders
- Roof Rack
- Stock #8240

Hertz Price \$22995

TOYOTA

HONDA



Hertz Gold Certified

2006 HYUNDAI SONATA

- Pwr W-L-M
- Tilt/Cruise
- CD
- Sun Roof
- Wheels
- Stock #725F

Hertz Price \$19995

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If you don't hear from me, send Pepercid

I'm married to a spicy-foods wimp, which would be OK if I weren't a spicy-foods fool. Victoria passes up any dish that appears to be even remotely hot. I, on the other hand, embrace all things containing capsaicin, which is the volcano-like alkaloid compound that gives peppers their um, zing.

So whenever we go out to dinner, something like the following conversation ensues:

Myself (to the server): "I'll have the Molten-Lava Enchilada, please."

Victoria (to me): "You sure you want to do that?"

Myself (smirking): "I laugh at the specter of second-degree burns to my mouth, pharynx and throat."



DON'T ASK ME Steve Crump

So Victoria will order milk toast, or its equivalent, and be sleeping peacefully when I sit bolt upright in bed at 3 o'clock the next morning. "My God!" I gasp. "I think I'm going to die."

At which point Victoria rolls over and, without opening her eyes, replies, "If I were awake enough, I'd tell you I told you so."

Victoria claims to have developed her healthy respect for the spicy during a semester she spent studying in Mexico during college. She lived in a modest household, and peppers were hanging everywhere. Her wife learned quickly to take her burritos bland.

I, however, grew up in Pocatello, where the prevailing cuisine needs, well, something So, in the manner of my forebears, I took to putting ketchup on everything.

Then, in the fullness of time, God created stuff like chipotle and salsa, lighting up my world quite considerably.

But Victoria remained true to her monastic palate, leaving us fundamentally at odds.

One day we went to dinner a couple of summers ago at a friends' home. On the menu was a Mexican dish called mole (pronounced mo-lay), which consists of beef or chicken cooked in a sauce made of onions, chili peppers, nuts, seeds and unsweetened chocolate.

The base for mole sauce is a paste that includes ancho chiles, pasilla negro chiles and dried guajillo chiles — collectively powerful enough to lift an Atlas V rocket right out of the atmosphere.

Victoria demurely scraped off most of the mole, but I — of course — dug right in.

We were dining alfresco, on a table in the backyard. A fly landed squarely in the middle of the mole on my plate. It died, on the spot.

This tempered my enthusiasm for fiery foods for a time, until we were lunching in a coffeehouse in Ketchikan some months later. Victoria ordered a tuna sandwich, which for some reason was garnished with hot mustard.

As she took a bite, tears welled up in her eyes, her face turned red and she was unable to speak. I fetched her a glass of milk — just the antidote for spicy foods — and comforted her until she regained her composure.

I looked down at the ham-and-cheese on rye that lolled insipidly on the plate in front of me, and then at the remains of Victoria's tuna sandwich.

"You gonna eat the rest of that?" I sn't it odd what you remember at 3 o'clock in the morning?"

Write to Times-News columnist Steve Crump at scrump@magicvalley.com.

Snowpack levels

Watershed	12/27/05	1/3/06	1/10/06
Salmon	116%	95%	112%
Big Wood	128%	110%	106%
Little Lost	127%	106%	106%
Big Lost	128%	106%	106%
Upper Snake	115%	95%	82%
Lower Snake	109%	121%	106%
Salmon Falls	126%	107%	107%

As of March 4
*An indicator of basin snowpack, on the basis of the average snowpack of all basins snowpack for

The man who made reading fun

Local kids honor Dr. Seuss' life with costumes and craziness

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

BUJIL — Before being treated to a green eggs and ham breakfast on Thursday morning, students at the Popplewell Elementary School in Buhl were greeted by the Cat in the Hat.

Once inside the cafeteria, students and their "lvo scurried to their table, tray in hand and the Grinch busily gobbled down his morning meal. Other students arrived at school as Cindy Lou Who and many red and white striped hats bobbed up and down in the cafeteria line.

His work lives on

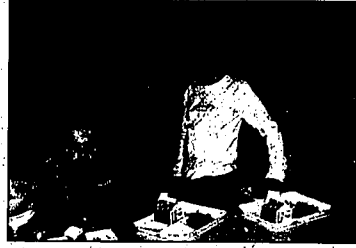
At the time of his death on September 24, 1991, Theodor Seuss Geisel had written and illustrated 44 books. His work has been translated into 15 different languages and over 200 million copies have been sold worldwide.

Why all the craziness?

It was Dr. Seuss' 101st birthday and faculty and students alike celebrated the beloved children's author with a flair that would surely have amused the prolific writer. "The green eggs are better in the book," said Jacob Jusen, sporting The Grinch's green hair. "But the ham was pretty good."

Jensen said that he couldn't think of a Dr. Seuss book he didn't like and having the opportunity to dress up as his favorite character was "awesome."

According to the Dr. Seuss



Popplewell Elementary first-grader Jacob Jensen and his sister, third-grader Natalie Jensen, brought the spirit of Dr. Seuss to the green eggs and ham breakfast Thursday with hairdos representing The Grinch and Cindy Lou Who, respectively.

Enterprise Web site at www.cathart.org, the author was born Theodor Seuss Geisel in 1904 in Springfield, Massachusetts. The site states that he would's mother, Henrietta, was born in Germany in Springfield. Please see SEUSS, Page B4

Shoshone officials seek public input on rate hikes

Wastewater plan could cost nearly \$2 million

By Rusty Tews
Times-News correspondent

SHOSHONE — Shoshone city officials have scheduled a public hearing for March 7 at 6 p.m. to hear public comments on the City Council's wastewater facility 20-year plan. According to the city plan, "Our (Shoshone's) 34-year-old system is not meeting Environmental Protection Agency requirements and major repairs are needed for the system." Shoshone's wastewater treatment plant was constructed in 1971 to serve a population of 2,000.

The city commissioned Pharmed Engineering of Boise to develop a long-range plan for the city's wastewater facilities. The firm gave the council five alternatives to meet the city's needs for the next 20 years.

Presently the city is charging \$23 per month for sewer fees and a one-time connection fee to the system costs \$250. Consultants suggested monthly fees be raised as high as \$46 and a one-time charge of \$2,500 to connect to the city's system.

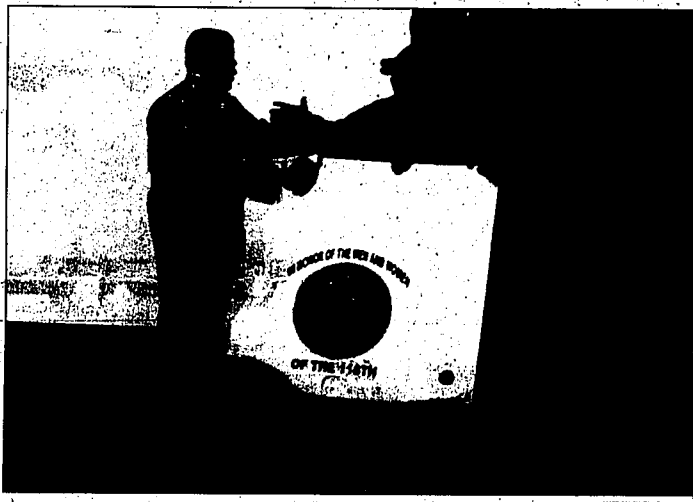
Increasing the building permit fees will also be discussed at the public hearing Tuesday evening. The City Council is proposing the increase to match fees currently charged by Lincoln County. The proposed fees would include an application fee of \$50, as well as building permit fees. Building fees are based on construction costs. The city estimates those costs at \$42 per square foot. The proposal is to raise that estimate to \$63 per square foot. Also proposed is increasing "set-up" fees for manufactured homes from \$50 to \$150.

A copy of the wastewater information plan, including the proposed fees, is available at the City Hall at 207 S. Rail Street in Shoshone.

Written comments can be sent to the City of Shoshone, P.O. Box 208, Shoshone, ID 83352.

Rusty Tews lives in north Shoshone. He can be contacted at tewsrn126@yahoo.com.

A HERO'S WELCOME



Capt. John Colton, left, and 1st Sgt. Martin Rodriguez, right, accept the hood of Randy Grubbs' reccer at the official welcoming home party for the 2-116th Brigade Combat Team. Grubbs took the car around the track in 16 races while the soldiers were deployed. Colton says they will hang the hood on the wall of their army.

Community says 'thanks' to local soldiers

By Sandy Miller
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — It brought to a close the final chapter in the story of a local National Guard unit's journey to war and back again.

Normally, children's cries during someone's speech might be annoying. But on this Saturday, in this auditorium, it was music to people's ears. These were children of soldiers — soldiers who had all come home in one piece.

"They can be as loud as they want," said City Councilman Trip Craig as he watched the ceremony from one of the seats in the audience.

"Congratulations on a job

well done and we're mighty happy to have you home," said Maj. David Jenkins, commander of the 116th who traveled in from Boise for the ceremony.

Jenkins remembered receiving that telephone call one morning in the spring of 2004. The 116th had been activated on an 18-month deployment that would include a year in Iraq.

"Before we knew it, we were on the tarmac of Gowen Field on July 1," Jenkins said referring to the morning when soldiers hugged their

families one more time before boarding the planes in Boise for combat training, first in Texas and later in Louisiana. They arrived in Iraq just before Christmas of 2004. Jenkins said by the time the 116th rolled into Iraq, they'd already been separated from their families for six months.

For almost a year, the 116th made its home on Warrior, a forward operating base in the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk. Bravo Company stationed itself at Barbarian.

Please see SOLDIERS, Page B4

Meeting on new Blaine County water district set for Tuesday

By Kathleen L. Turner
For The Times-News

HAILEY — Blaine County Commissioner Tom Bowman announced that the County will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, March 7 at 6 p.m. in the County Courthouse Annex conference room to review the rules and policies describing how a new Blaine County Water and Sewer District will function.

Bowman, along with Morgan Brown of Developing Green, LLC, addressed problems faced by the county and outlined goals of the new district in a recent meeting that included Blaine County representative Don Wright and South Central District Health's Senior Envi-

ronmental Health Specialist Bob Erickson.

Brown, with partner Martin A. Flannes of Developing Green, is working with the county to draft the ordinance establishing the Blaine County Water and Sewer District. The company advised the county early in the moratorium process in 2005 (regarding water and sewer management) and assisted the county in securing grants aimed at development and implementation of such an ordinance.

The county received \$70,000 from a Region 10 EPA grant and \$50,000 from a National Onsite Demonstration Program (NODP) grant. Upon receipt of the grants Developing Green was re-engaged to draft the ordinance and guide the county in creating the rules and policies section.

Nationally, the EPA has identified septic systems as a source of pollution and, as a result, has encouraged professional management of such "decentralized wastewater" or septic systems.

The ordinance, Brown explained, is designed as an enabling document that will allow the county to establish the district. Details of management, user fees, permits and inspections will be covered in the Rules and Policies document to allow periodic review and revision. The Rules and Policies document will be the focus of the March 7 meeting.

There will be a public hearing on the ordinance March 14 at 10:15 a.m.

Blaine County will be the first in Idaho to develop such a program and is ahead of the curve setting up the result as a possible model worthy of adoption by the EPA and replication in other sensitive environmental areas around the county.

What's in your water?

Clean, potable water could be something Blaine County residents are taking for granted. If your septic system, or your neighbor's for that matter, is not operating properly that crisp, clean glass of water or comforting shower that keeps you fresh could become contaminated by organisms and human waste escaping a failing system.

Blaine County Environmental Health Specialist for South Central District Health, said that Blaine County currently has about 3,600 onsite, decentralized wastewater systems, or septic systems, in an inspection program that began in 1996 that continued through 1997. Erickson found that 75 percent of the systems inspected needed some sort of attention requiring maintenance or repairs.

Erickson explained that septic systems need regular maintenance to operate properly. The systems should be pumped out every two or three years Erickson noted. Systems that are over capacity often see saturated drainfields that can contaminate groundwater and Please see BLAINE, Page B4

MAGIC VALLEY

OBITUARIES

For obituary rates and information, call 735-3266 Monday through Saturday. Deadline is 4 p.m. for next-day publication. The e-mail address for obituaries is obits@magicvalley.com. Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 4 p.m. every day. To view or submit obituaries online, or to place a message in an individual online guestbook, go to www.magicvalley.com and click on "Obituaries."

FILER — Joe W. Beard, who was born July 12, 1923, in Chapin, Idaho, (near Victor) and passed away March 3, 2006, at his home with his family in Filer, Idaho. He was raised in Driggs, Idaho, and logged in with his grandparents using oxen in Leigh Canyon, Wyo., at the Ft. Beard sawmill. Joe served as a master sergeant in the U.S. Army in World War II in the Philippines and in the occupation forces in Japan. He was honorably discharged from the military after two wars. He married Beth Moulton on Nov. 14, 1946, and had five children. They were later divorced.

Joe married the love of his life, Phyllis Jean Drake Lindholm on Aug. 8, 1986, in Jackson Hole, Wyo. Joe and Phyllis raised their daughter in Filer as well. Joe was active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, including being bishop of the Hazelton Ward. Joe enjoyed raising and showing ox teams, as has been the tradition of his father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He and Phyllis also raised paint horses and raised them on the race track throughout the Northwest. Joe was a farmer and a stockman. He raised cattle and cared for animals throughout his life. He homesteaded on the Hunt Project in Hazelton and owned and operated farms and ranches

Joseph William Beard



in Bellevue, Kimberly and Filer. Joe loved his family, his church and his life. Joe was preceded in death by his parents, Pansy and Richard Beard; his brother, Merlin Beard; and his great-grandson, Owen Joseph Beard. Joe is survived by his loving wife, Phyllis; six children: Dan (wife, Joy); Beate Criss, Rick (wife, Freda); Mary (husband, Rocky) Sligar, Matt (wife, Lesa) and Allison (husband, Justin) Touchstone; 16 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; his brother, James of Anchorage, Alaska; his sister, Eva Smith of Rexburg; his sister, Edna Jacobson of Phoenix; his brother, Sam of Tetonan; and sister, Betty Bernier of Sandy, Ore.



The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 7, 2006, at the Filer Stake Center of the LDS Church with the family greeting friends one hour prior to the service. Interment and grave-side service will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 8, 2006, at the Cache-Clawson Cemetery in Tetonan. Funeral services are under the direction of White Mortuary "Chapel by Park" in Twin Falls. A scholarship in honor of Joe will be established through the Filer FFA Chapter in Filer, Idaho. Contributions may be made to the Joseph W. Beard Memorial Scholarship Fund, Filer FFA Chapter, Attention: Brian Wolf - FFA Advisor, 2915 N. 2300 E., Filer, ID 83422.

Earl Arlyn Gernhart



Equipment as parts manager for many years, and Burks Tractor and Equipment until his

retirement. He was widely known for his knowledge of pumps. Surviving Earl is his wife, Lou Anne; children, Kathleen (John) Scafe, Robert, (Dorothy) Gernhart, Mary Lou (Gary) Hoy, Danny (Brandi) Gernhart and Betsy (Donnie) Brown; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. A memorial service for Earl will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, March 6, 2006, at the Parkside Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road, Twin Falls, with Pastor Bill Litchey officiating. All services and arrangements are under the direction of the Parkside Magic Valley Funeral Home of Twin Falls, Idaho.

KIMBERLY — Earl Arlyn Gernhart died Wednesday, March 2, 2006, at his home in Rulifson, Kan., the son of Ois and Rebecca Gernhart. He was a parts man and parts manager in Goodland, Kan., Burley, Idaho, and Rexburg, Idaho. He enjoyed fishing, camping and bird hunting. Earl was an active member of the Burley BPO Elks No. 1384 for many years. He married Lou Anne Whitted in Goodland, Kan., on July 29, 1950. They moved to Burley in 1956, where he worked at a Chisholm Hardware as an International Harvester parts man. In 1970, they moved to St. Anthony, Idaho, where he worked in Rexburg for Tri-County

Raymond James Hurley



Important thing in his life: He was a wonderful father and grandfather and will be missed by all his family and friends. Raymond was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Marriet; and grandson, J.T.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth of 54 years; eight children: Joyce (Paul) Hardiman of Wesley Chapel, Fla.; June (Jim) McConnell of Vancouver, Wash.; Jeannette (Steve) Humphreys of Roseville, Calif.; Jeannene (Steve) Jawak of Nampa, Idaho; Theresa (Fortunato) Marcos of Rigorous, Idaho; Jim (Karen) Hurley of Filer, Idaho; Jeff (Lori) Hurley of Filer, Idaho; and John (Kim) Hurley of Filer, Idaho; 30 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 7, 2006, at the Filer Church of the Nazarenes, 315 Yukina St. A viewing will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, March 6, 2006, at Farmer Funeral Chapel, 130 N. Ninth in Buhl. Memorial donations may be made to the Bickel Elementary Education Fund.

FILER — Raymond James Hurley, 79, of Filer, passed away March 3, 2006, in Twin Falls, Idaho. Raymond was born Oct. 27, 1926, to Albert Willis and Ivy Crisp Hurley in Manes, Mo. In March of 1951, Raymond married Ruth Cooper. They lived in Buhl for a short time and moved into farming in the Filer area. Raymond and Ruth had eight children. Raymond was a devoted husband and loving father. Raymond was the Bickel Elementary School custodian, where he received a reward for beautification of one of the state's oldest schools. Raymond loved to raise a garden. He grew many types of flowers and was especially fond of tomatoes, often trying new ones. He was proud of his many accomplishments and interests. His family was the most

Dr. Bill J. Hawkins



Color, and Barbara J. Hawkins of Casper, Wyo. He is also survived by his wife and four grandchildren and two step-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to his professional associations, he was an active civic and church leader. He contributed to the Fine Arts building at the College of Southern Idaho, was a board member signing the charter for the YMCA in the early 1950s, and also signed the original charter of the Twin Falls Golf Club. He belonged to the Filer Masonic Lodge, and at one time to the Exchange Club. His joys in life



included camping, fishing, hunting and family activities. He was also an avid golfer, and in high school, he lettered in football and baseball at Filer High School. He also played and lettered in one year of football at Twin Falls High School, when his father was the Twin Falls County sheriff. He was a 57 year member of the Twin Falls First United Methodist Church, where his service will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 7, 2006, with Pastor Greg Lindsay officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Parkside Magic Valley Funeral Home and Crematory.

Carrol 'Tex' Kolb



munomuh jack named Spook. He also enjoyed gardening. He is survived by his wife, Stella Kolb of Paul; his children, James Kolb of Cheyenne, Okla., Kathy Bruce of Denver, Colo.,

Roger Williams of Twin Falls, Ricky Williams of Paul, Randy Williams of Phoenix, Ariz. Ronda Hayes of Burley, and Robin Williams and his wife, Kelly of Kimberly, two brothers, Doyce (Pat) Kolb of Grandberry, Texas, and Harold (Norma) Kolb of Andrews, Texas; 16 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Betsy Wheat and a brother, Jesse Hiltson. The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, March 7, 2006, at Russumus Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St., Burley, with Pastor Dennis Stoneman officiating. Military rites will be provided by the Mini-Cassia Veterans. Friends may call from 5 until 7 p.m. Monday and one hour prior to the service on Tuesday at Russumus Funeral Home.

DEATH NOTICES

Mildred A. Farmer
GOODING — Mildred Adeline Farmer, 83, of Gooding, died Friday, March 3, 2006, at her home. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Farnsworth Mortuary in Jerome.

Karla Villalvazo Marin
ALMO — Karla Villalvazo Marin, 9, of Almo, died Friday, March 3, 2006, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident in Almo. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Payne Mortuary in Burley.

Freddy D. Broner
KIMBERLY — Freddy Darrel Broner, 67, of Kimberly, died Saturday, March 4, 2006, at his home. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home in Twin Falls.

Harold Cross
TWIN FALLS — Harold Cross, 92, of Twin Falls, died Saturday, March 4, 2006, at Cenoma House in Twin Falls. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home in Twin Falls.

Virginia Ann Schrock
HEYBURN — Virginia Ann Olson Schrock, 91, formerly of the Jerome District in Heyburn, died Saturday, March 4, 2006, at BridgeView Estates in Twin Falls. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Russumus Funeral Home in Burley.

Carol Walker
KIMBERLY — Carol Walker, 72, of Kimberly, died Saturday, March 4, 2006, at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise. A gathering will be held at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of Alesha Chapel and Tribute Center in Boise.

Ellen Scofield
BOISE — Ellen Scofield, 91, of Boise, died Friday, March 3, 2006, at her home. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Summers Funeral Homes, Boise Chapel.

Ralph L. Bowman
BOISE — Ralph L. Bowman, 81, of Boise, died Friday, March 3, 2006, at a local care center. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Summers Funeral Homes, Boise Chapel.

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The Family of
Eltha D. Boston
would like to thank all the friends and families for their kind words, flowers and food at the time of her passing.
A special thank-you goes to Dr. Matt Jolley, Dr. Robert S. Lobb, and all the nursing staff at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center for their kindness, understanding and great care they extended to Mother during her illness. We can never express our gratitude enough.
Reinholdt Bostron & Families

The family of **Dess R. Johnson** wish to express heartfelt thanks to the relatives, neighbors, friends & businesses for your cards, phone calls, food, flowers, prayers and assistance during our recent loss.
Your comforting expressions of sympathy & thoughtfulness will always be remembered.
Bernice, Danny, Ruth & Jack Johnson, Steve & Denise Bartlett & Sherry Hackworth

Thank You from the family of
Michele Bohling
The Bohling/Schroeder families would like to thank the many friends; extended family, neighbors and members of the community for their condolences and many kind gestures following the loss of Michele.
A special thanks to the Hamiltons and all the employees at Farmers National Bank; as well as Farmers Funeral Chapel. Your thoughts and prayers made this difficult time in our lives easier to bear.
Rob, Kathy, Birk, Mike, Peggy, Marshall & Debbie

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GOODING COUNTY COURTS

GOODING — Recent activity in 5th District Court included the following:

Misdemeanor arraignments
Roel Roldán Anumbula, 49, possession of a controlled substance; pretrial conference March 20; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Christine M. Brigham, 35; battery — domestic violence; pretrial conference March 20; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Mario Alberto Jimenez-Morales, 23; driving without privileges; pretrial conference March 20; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Misdemeanor sentences
David Everett Gates, 52; driving under the influence; \$1,087.50 fines/fees, \$600 suspended; one year suspended; probation 180 days in jail, 178 stay suspended for one day served; 180-day driver's license suspension; resisting or obstructing arrest; 90 days in jail suspended; credit for two days served; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Keith Edward Strout, 31; driving without privileges; attempted to interfere with purchase/invalid driver's license; \$141 fines/fees; use of possession of driver's license; \$400 suspended; one year suspended; probation 90 days in jail suspended; credit for two days served; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Scott Nicholas Thomas, 19; aiding/abetting delivery of a controlled substance; attempted to frequenting a place where controlled substances are used; \$172.50 fines/fees; 10 days in jail, credit for eight days served; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Divorces
Anisha Ann Crane vs. Shaun Langston Crane.
Delwin K. King vs. Cindy Lin King.

Child support cases
Sister of Idaho Health and Welfare vs. Nelson Luzardo Delacruz and Cesarando Evelia Reyes. Seeking of Mr. Delacruz \$283 monthly support for Daisya Ayanna Lozano, plus 67 percent of child's medical expenses; \$5,524 for his pro rata share of birth costs; attorney fees.

Seuss

Continued from B1
soothe her children by chanting rhymes from her youth and from this the author, better known as Dr. Seuss, developed his creative rhyming stories for which he is known.

According to several biographies written about the author, Seuss claimed throughout his life that he honed his humorous look at the world while performing his duties as student editor of the Dartmouth magazine and his job as editor, he continued to contribute material under the "Seuss" byline — presumably giving rise to the name that would ultimately become his for life.

"His books are the first ones kids can usually read," said Pippa Sisson, the author's biographer. "All of the books rhyme and are easy to understand. Rhyming is an important aspect of reading acquisition."

Sisson noted that activities including classroom reading of Dr. Seuss books have taken place week long. The author's birthday also coincides with the National Education Society read their favorite Dr. Seuss books.

The school is participating in promoting the NEAS goal of getting every student reading with a caring adult and some class-

Brian Gregory Peterson, 47; driving under the influence and/or inattentive/careless driving; \$398.50 fines/fees, \$150 suspended; one year suspended; probation 90 days in jail, 30 suspended; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Misdemeanor dismissals
Aurelio Amezcua-Alejo, 23; frequenting a place where controlled substances are used; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Ivan Paul Wilson, 36; unlawful entry; dismissed by prosecutor; Magistrate Judge Casey Robinson.

Chil
Idaho Collection Bureau vs. Leonor Rivera. Seeking \$33,175.74, plus interest, \$1,105 attorney fees, and costs; defendant owes for accounts assigned to the plaintiff for collection.

Idaho Collection Bureau vs. Carol Sisman. Seeking \$1,450.31, plus interest; \$450 attorney fees. Plaintiff alleges that defendant owes for accounting assigned to the plaintiff for collection.

Child support cases
Sister of Idaho Health and Welfare vs. Nelson Luzardo Delacruz and Cesarando Evelia Reyes. Seeking of Mr. Delacruz \$283 monthly support for Daisya Ayanna Lozano, plus 67 percent of child's medical expenses; \$5,524 for his pro rata share of birth costs; attorney fees.

Divorces
Anisha Ann Crane vs. Shaun Langston Crane.
Delwin K. King vs. Cindy Lin King.

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Delwin K. King vs. Cindy Lin King.

rooms have invited local community members to come in and read aloud to students.

"We thought that this would be a great way to honor Dr. Seuss," Sisson said.

Sisson noted that books by Dr. Seuss were among the most popular library books recently and that activities such as Thursday's breakfast help to promote an exciting learning environment.

"I dress up and be goofy if it helps a student get interested in picking up and reading a book," she said.

That attitude has helped students — such as first grader Frank Poppa — who said he loves to read.

"My favorite book is 'The Cat in the Hat Comes Back,'" he said. "I don't know why, but I just like to read it and other books. It was fun to come to school as my favorite character, The Cat in the Hat."

Other birthday events planned included a Family Night at the Buhl Public Library, which will feature the Buhl High School Honor Society read their favorite Dr. Seuss books.

Blair Koch lives in Buhl. She can be reached by e-mail at blair_20@hotmail.com or by calling 316-2607.

Blaine

Continued from B1
nearby wells that supply drinking water to neighboring households.

Morgan Brown of Developing Green, L.L.C., clarified the Blaine County problem.

"I think people are unaware and think that someone is overseeing the system operation. As it stands, after the installation, permits is issued, unless there is a problem, that's the last Bob hears of it," Brown explained.

"If you're out mowing the lawn and come across a slushy area, or water is not draining, or tub and shower drains do not empty as quickly as they should, the level in the septic tank may be higher than it should be, and the drainfield might be saturated," Erickson instructed. Erickson said it runs about 10-20 cents per gallon pumped to clean out a tank, usually amounting to about \$200 every few years.

Erickson said that most systems have inspection ports in the manifold that show the operating level of the system with a quick look inside. The cleanout

is also an accurate indicator that can tell how efficiently a septic system is operating, Erickson added.

"It is a misdemeanor not to fix failing systems," Erickson stated, concluding that his goal is to have 100 percent of wastewater generated in the county managed professionally.

Blaine County's Don Wright, through the details of putting a Blaine County Water and Sewer District in place with Erickson and Developing Green, said that education would play a big part in ensuring the quality of water throughout the county.

"We need to let people know the technology and how the systems work as well as what they need to do to maintain the systems," Wright said.

Brown said that many people do not even know they have a septic system and that their first step would be to locate the tank, then inspect the cleanout and the inspection ports.

For more information about the care and keeping of a septic system the EPA offers online reference at www.epa.gov.

TWIN FALLS ARRAIGNMENTS

TWIN FALLS — Recent activity in 5th District Court in Twin Falls County included the following:

Kelly M. Bradley, 36; Twin Falls; battery; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for April 11; released on own recognizance.

Cole M. Howard, 19; Twin Falls; driving under the influence; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for April 11; released on own recognizance.

April L. Jones, 24; Twin Falls; domestic battery; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for April 11; released on own recognizance.

Anna M. Pearce, 43; Twin Falls; fail to present identification; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for April 11; \$500 bond.

Jacob D. Miller, 22; Jerome; failure to appear for arraignment with a minor under 16, rape, dispensing alcohol to a minor; no plea entered; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 10; \$2,500 bond.

Britani L. Robinson, 22; Twin Falls; failure to appear for arraignment; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for April 11; released on own recognizance; possession of a controlled substance; no plea entered; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for April 11; released on own recognizance.

Novland, in an airline hangar at Gowen Field the morning he left for combat training. At the time, she was clutching a little, uniform-clad soldier who had earlier christened "Duane," the middle name of her father. She said she started to get teared up when watching Saturday's video presentation showing photographs of soldiers during their tour and back home with their families.

Soldiers

Continued from B1
Base inside the city. Before the soldiers' tour was over, they would conduct 5,533 combat patrols and man 1,601 traffic control points. They would experience 121 direct fire actions, not counting all the rocket propelled grenades that came raining on the base. They would be awarded 10 Purple Hearts and 50 Bronze Stars. As a unit, the second battalion of the 116th was lucky; than most, losing just one soldier.

Sgt. Travis Arndt of Echo Company out of Montana. He was one of eleven soldiers of the 116th's 4,200 strong including 2,000 soldiers from Idaho who didn't come home.

Capt. John Colton's fellow soldiers were sent to the stage with a loud "Hooah!" Colton spoke about how, in addition to their work training the Iraq Army and the local police force and manning the 2-116th would to improve medical care in the city and improve conditions at the local orphanage. The 2-116th left Kirkuk a much better place than they found it.

There were presentations to people in the community who went beyond the call of duty to support the 2-116th. The people included Jim Paxton of Snake River Pool and Spa, who donated a spa for a raffie that raised money for the homecoming celebration and a planned commemorative memorial.

"Thank you for what you do for this country," Paxton said to the soldiers after receiving a plaque for his efforts.

Shirley Huck was one of the people in the audience. Two of her grandsons — Cpl. Christopher Maher and Sgt. Andrew Doherty — were among the soldiers being welcomed home.

"It was a long time," Huck said of their deployment. "We're just so happy to have them home in one piece."

It's been almost two years since Destiny Nowland, now 11, sat tear-eyed in the arms of her father, Sgt. 1st Class Kent

March 10; \$5,000 bond; failure to appear; failure to stop/leave the scene of an accident; driving without privileges; no plea entered; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for April 11; \$5,000 bond.

Anthony A. Green, 43; Twin Falls; possession of a controlled substance; no plea entered; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 10; \$5,000 bond.

Filter attempted strangulation; no plea entered; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 10; \$5,000 bond.

Matthew G. Humble, 24; Jerome; forgery of a financial transaction card; grand theft; no plea entered; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 10; \$5,000 bond.

Anibel Baraja, 18; Jerome; possession of a controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for April 11; released on own recognizance.

Elijah C. Rea, 26; Tacoma, Wash.; fugitive; warrant for probation violation of rape of a child under age 16; no plea entered; public defender appointed; fugitive hearing set for March 10; \$20,000 bond.

Anthony Kopp, 46; staiding; no plea entered; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 10; \$10,000 bond.

Thomas S. Pickett, 43; Hagerman; aggravated assault; no plea entered; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 21; \$10,000 bond.

Lincoln K. Peterson, 30; Twin Falls; failure to appear/failure to purchase/invalid driver's license; no plea entered; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 21; \$5,000 bond.

Benjamin C. Hamilton, 23; Twin Falls; possession of a controlled substance; possession of drug paraphernalia; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for April 11; released on own recognizance.

Christina L. Pringle, 19; Twin Falls; frequenting a place where a controlled substance is used; paraphernalia; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for April 11; released on own recognizance.

Patricia Ortiz-Reyes, 24; Filer; failure to purchase/invalid driver's license; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 21; \$5,000 bond.

St. James Schouten, 24; Twin Falls; failure to appear-driving without privileges; failure to stop/leave the scene of an accident; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for April 11; released on own recognizance.

Ramon G. Zamarrin Jr., 37; Twin Falls; possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a concealed weapon; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 21; \$10,000 bond.

Alfonso Magdalena-Núñez, 40; Ketchum; petti theft; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 21; \$500 bond.

Ana M. Pearce, 43; Twin Falls; petti theft; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 21; \$500 bond.

Randie R. Rübner, 48; Twin Falls; driving under the influence; excessive; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 21; \$100 bond; probation violation/battery; no plea entered; public defender appointed; evidentiary hearing set for March 9; \$5,000 bond.

Gregory H. Deveraux, 45; Twin Falls; battery; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 21; \$100 bond; probation violation/battery; no plea entered; public defender appointed; evidentiary hearing set for March 9; \$5,000 bond.

Bill Werry of Jerome traveled to Twin Falls for Saturday's celebration. When asked if he had a family member in the 2-116th, his eyes welled up with tears. He explained that he was a National Guardsman for 37 years, and for a decade during the 1970s and 1980s, was the first sergeant at the local armory.

"They're all my guys," he said.

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

no plea entered; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 21; \$10,000 bond.

Qwynn L. Urzenga, 33; Twin Falls; possession of a controlled substance; no plea entered; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 10; \$10,000 bond.

Kristin H. Chelston, 25; Twin Falls; possession of a controlled substance; no plea entered; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 10; \$5,000 bond.

Alfonso Magdalena-Núñez, 40; Ketchum; petti theft; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 21; \$500 bond.

Ana M. Pearce, 43; Twin Falls; petti theft; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 21; \$500 bond.

Randie R. Rübner, 48; Twin Falls; driving under the influence; excessive; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 21; \$100 bond; probation violation/battery; no plea entered; public defender appointed; evidentiary hearing set for March 9; \$5,000 bond.

We wish to thank everyone for their overwhelming support of prayers, cards, calls and many acts of kindness while Gary was in the hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah.
Karen & Garey McManus

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MAGIC VALLEY/IDAHO

Driver charged in jogger's death

Man surrenders nearly 6 months after accident

alongside the road around 8 a.m. when Lukenbill's car veered off the road, hitting her and a power pole, according to the accident report.

Lukenbill wasn't injured in the crash but Johnson died later at the hospital, leaving a husband and three children.

The dog was also injured in the accident. Johnson was jogging at a safe distance from the road, Boise police say, and investigators have spent months trying to determine why Lukenbill's car veered off Cloverdale Road, which has no sidewalks.

Investigators had been awaiting results of drug and alcohol tests before deciding whether charges should be filed, said Ada County Prosecutor Greg Boyer. Court records show the case is a "gross negligence" manslaughter, indicating that

intoxication was not a factor. Lukenbill could face up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

"Friends and family were relieved with the charges. I think it really hit close to home because (Johnson) was a mom with three young children, doing something as innocent as jogging down the road when she was hit," Johnson's neighbor Heather Cull said. "People were very frustrated that it took so long... there is, some closure."

Cull has been working to improve safety along Cloverdale Road where Johnson was hit. Friends and neighbors also say Johnson was well-liked and outgoing, adding to the concern over the delay in charges.

"We miss (her) dearly... we are glad to see that things are proceeding," family friend Mike Buckingham said.

Counterfeiting arrests net possible assault weapon

POCATELLO (AP) -- Two Pocatello residents have been arrested after a counterfeit printing press netted drugs and a knife believed to have been used in a stabbing last month, police said.

charges were not filed because officers hadn't found the weapon. With the knife's discovery Thursday, he's also been charged with aggravated assault with a knife.

Police began investigating a possible counterfeit operation reports that fake bills were being used at local businesses. They were led to a home where Keeling and Esterhold were staying, and found the knife, more fake bills and drug paraphernalia on the floor, including a syringe containing meth residue.

Keeling was a person of interest in a stabbing Feb. 11; but

production and a computer and printer believed to have been used to alter one dollar bills into phony 10 and 20 dollar bills, the Idaho State Journal reported Saturday.

Two children under age 10 were also in the home which officers said was filthy and smaller of rotting food. The children were placed in the custody of the Department of Health and Welfare before being released to their grandparents.

The children's relationship to Esterhold or Keeling was not immediately clear, and police reached by The Associated Press on Saturday did not know.

LINCOLN COUNTY COURTS

SIOSHONE -- Recent activity in 5th District Court in Lincoln County included the following:

Misdemeanor arraignments Robert M. Abel, 69, driving without privileges; arraignment continued Feb. 22; Magistrate Judge Mark A. Ingram.

Civil Idaho Collection Bureau vs. Pat Riley, doing business as Pat Riley Construction, and Rae Riley, seeking \$6,930.22, plus interest, \$2,310 attorney fees. Plaintiff alleges that defendant owes for collection. NCO Financial Systems vs. Paula Preston, seeking \$1,538.18, plus interest, \$225 attorney fees. Plaintiff alleges that defendant owes for accounts assigned to the plaintiff for collection.

Divorces Scott Steadman Lucas vs. Heidi Melissa Lucas.

Juvenile Orin Platon, 17, battery on a 17-year-old entry change of plea Feb. 17; Magistrate Judge Mark A. Ingram.

Davidson Vernon, no date of birth listed; fraud -- insufficient funds check; pretrial conference Feb. 22; Magistrate Judge Mark A. Ingram.

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Juvenile Michael Burton Braun, 17, reckless driving; plea and sentencing Feb. 22; Magistrate Judge Mark A. Ingram.

Misdemeanor sentences Riley Chaffee, 26, driving without privileges; (third offense); 135 days in jail; two-year driver's license suspension. Separate case; 30-day conduct with a child under 16 years of age amended to battery; \$227.50 fine; \$72.50 court costs; two years supervised probation; 180 days in jail; Magistrate Judge Mark A. Ingram.

Sabian & Garden SABIAN PERFORMANCE PACK CYMBAL SET

Misdemeanor sentences Lawrence Shaw III, 45, driving under the influence; \$1,000 fine, \$500 suspended, \$87.50 court costs; two years supervised probation; 180 days in jail; 178 suspended; 120-day driver's license suspension; Magistrate Judge Mark A. Ingram.

Dean E. Smith, 27, theft by receiving/possessing stolen property; \$1,000 fine, \$1,000 suspended, \$87.50 court costs, \$55 probation fee; 18 months supervised probation; 180 days in jail; 170 suspended; 10 days served; Magistrate Judge Mark A. Ingram.

Embroidery Machine Luggage

Jason P. Valdez, 33; failure to purchase/invalid driver's license \$60.00 fine; \$72.50 court costs; Magistrate Judge Mark A. Ingram.

Misdemeanor withheld judgments Taylor Dwan Youngstrom, 19; no responsibility of minor; minor's liability with intent to sue; judgment withheld for one year; \$72.50 court costs; one year supervised probation; Magistrate Judge Mark A. Ingram.

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FAA recognizes Lewiston pilot for life-long aviation career

By Sandra L. Lee
The Lewiston Tribune

LEWISTON (AP) — Thousands of young men and women were thrust into the skies during World War II as part of the massive war effort.

But flying for Joseph W. (Bill) Stevens, 85, was more than being a soldier for his country. It was a love that began in high school and has never ended, closing in on seven decades later.

Stevens, a retired oilfield and Lewiston resident since 1977, marks points in his life-time by aircraft — as a practice student for a fledgling instructor while still in high school, the Luscombe he trained in at Spokane, Wash., the C-47 transport he flew during the war, an Air National Guard jet, the smaller Globe Swift, Taylorcraft, Ercoupe, Piper Tripacer, Cessnas, the Starduster II, and kit-bulls designated only by numbers.

Most mornings find him having coffee with friends in the Experimental Aviation Association hangar at the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Regional Airport, followed by a few hours working on his latest project, a scratch-built replica of a Piper Cub.

His other plane, an RV-6 all-metal low wing, fast little aircraft, was built from a kit 11 years ago. It's almost time to put it up for sale so he can buy more parts for the new one, he said.

"The only reason you give them up is so you can afford to build another one," he said. A new engine is \$20,000, "and that's a small one."

Stevens said, but he's not walking away either.

The Federal Aviation Administration recognized "his dedication to flight a couple months ago with the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. A two-page list of requirements boils down to 50 years of contributions "building and maintaining the safest aviation system in the world."

The number of pilots who have received that award number in the hundreds, according to an FAA Web site. Only about five have qualified from the FAA's Northwest district, representatives told Stevens and his wife, Colleen, 76, when they arrived at the couple's home a few days after Christmas.

The award is named, of course, for Wilbur and Orville Wright, the brothers who are credited with making the first successful flight on Dec. 17, 1903.

Stevens was born 18 years after that flight and was in high school when a friend working on an instructor's license used him as a guinea pig.

He liked it and in 1942 signed up for a civilian program to train pilots at Calkins Airport on the

outskirts of Spokane at what is now the intersection of Francis and Division.

Students lived in a dormitory at the airport and did their classroom work at Whitworth College. The government paid for their training, but they weren't yet in the military. That came a year later.

It was the height of the war in both Europe and the Pacific, and the military was hungry for pilots. They trained for months, hundreds of hours, in all kinds of situations. They dropped out of gliders, and learned to tow gliders, snatching them off the ground with a hook. He had to spend 10 hours flying a glider so he would know what that pilot was going through.

In August 1944, Stevens was assigned a new C-47. From Indiana, he flew in hops to Maine, Labrador, Iceland and finally Ireland when the original Scottish destination was weathered in.

There, he was assigned to the 27th Air Transport Group, based first in England and then in France. A primary duty was ferrying goods to the battle front — gasoline for Patton's tanks, ammunition, and other goods. Return flights were usually filled with wounded headed for English hospitals.

Most flights were uneventful, he said. One wasn't.

They were over Germany, descending through a thick layer of clouds when they were hit by flak.

One engine was damaged, the throttle and prop control were useless. A burst hit one wing just outboard of a fuel tank. Others lost the fuselage. The radio operator was wounded, but not seriously.

They had one passenger, a Frenchman working for the underground who systematically destroyed the documents he was carrying as the crew struggled to keep the aircraft flying.

They made a run for an airstrip at Verdun, France, Stevens said. With 500 feet of visibility, they came in right over the airstrip, made a tight circle so as to not lose sight of the field, and landed safely.

When a history of the 27th was being written by Jon A. Maguire a few years ago, Stevens wrote to him "I can remember wishing that I had a manhole cover for a seat cushion



Joseph W. (Bill) Stevens, 85, of Lewiston holds a homebuilt model airplane, Feb. 17. Stevens has been around airplanes so long he has been awarded the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award for more than 50 years of safe flying. He flew C-47 cargo aircraft during World War II, fighter jets in the Cold War and then a string of homebuilt airplanes.

to protect the future family." At his home, in a framed box of medals, is a 2-inch long piece of shrapnel as big around as his little finger. It was embedded in

his pilot's chair half an inch from the feet, Stevens said. That mission — marked by the safe return of airplane and crew earned him the

Distinguished Flying Cross. He also earned the Air Medal several times for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial

flight, for other incidents. He never lost a plane or a crewman, Stevens said.

Toward the end of the war his cargo became newly liberated prisoners who had to be de-loused with DDT before they were put on the plane.

"They picked up both Allied POWs and French political prisoners. The French were in really bad shape, he said. "They had been starved."

Stevens did a brief stint as Gen. J. Lawton Collins' private pilot at the end of the war in Europe, then volunteered for the Pacific.

He and others were on a train headed for a boat that would have taken them to the Philippines when a Frenchman jumped aboard at a small station. Stevens remembers his words as being something like "Japan kaput." The French newspaper the man had told of the dropping of the first atomic bomb.

In a few weeks, he was home in Spokane and the next year purchased his first airplane, a two-seater Globe Swift Aircraft, serial No. 3. It was the first one sold to a private pilot, he said.

He paid about \$4,100 for it, more than double what a Cub or Cessna would have cost, but he picked it for its looks.

"Very ahead of its time," Stevens said, with a low wing, retractable landing gear and overall sleek design.

He joined the Air National Guard in 1948 and aside from two years active duty in England during the Korean War spent until 1964 as a "Sunday soldier."

It gave him his flying fix, and the military paid for it, Stevens said, smiling widely. By the time he quit flying, he had qualified in jets.

"All planes are good," he said, but jets have something extra, smoother, and, well, they go fast.

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March 12 - 21, 2006

IDAHO



Nikki Tangen, owner of Access Behavior Health Services, holds up artwork given to her by her first foster child in the office at her company's headquarters in Boise Friday morning. Tangen is a foster parent of children with emotional disturbances and says that the state has come along way in how it provides care for families dealing with mental health issues, but it still has a long way to go.

State, court still wrangling over kids' mental health care

By Rebecca Boone
Associated Press writer

BOISE, Idaho — A quarter-century ago, a little boy known only as Jeff D. sued the state for institutionalizing mentally ill children instead of providing care for them.

He won.

Yet 25 years later Jeff D.'s case is still being fought in U.S. District Court. The state and his attorney are at odds over exactly what Jeff D. must do to provide care for severely mentally ill children.

U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winnill has warned all involved that he is losing patience. Last month he told the state he would accept no stall tactics and the case would be resolved by the end of 2007.

"I'm just sending a shot across the state's bow. When I say I expect full cooperation, I mean just that," Winnill said.

More than 17,000 children in Idaho suffer from serious emotional disturbances, according to the Idaho Council on Children's Mental Health. Most of them end up in the custody of the Department of Juvenile Corrections — sometimes because they aren't diagnosed until they commit crimes, and sometimes because there's just no other agency with the resources to care for them.

Several years ago, the court, settled on 250 action items, or tasks, that the state must complete to be in compliance with the Jeff D. ruling. Only two dozen of those requirements have been met to the satisfaction of both sides. That means the case will again go before a jury this August.

"It's still a question of whether they're in compliance," said Edward Belodoff, Jeff D.'s attorney. "The kids don't get the necessary, community-based services — they get locked up or institutionalized."

Belodoff's parent, Nikki Tangen, a respite care provider, said she couldn't get quick enough.

Tangen, the owner of Access Behavior Health Services in Boise, works with families of mentally ill children through the Idaho Federation of Families. She also began serving as a foster parent to severely emotionally disturbed children seven years ago.

She says the state's care system is improving, but still spotty. Parents and kids are frequently left with little choice but to wait for problems to get so out of control that police will intervene.

"Seven years ago you couldn't get respite care. You couldn't get basic services — just even trying to apply for psycho-social rehabilitation was a painstaking course of obstacles," Tangen said. "Now you can actually go in and talk to somebody at a private agency and they'll walk you through the department's hoops."

But that doesn't mean kids have quick or easy access to care, she said. Besides her own children, Tangen currently has the son of a friend living in her home, because the mentally ill child had become so violent his mother feared for her safety. He's doing better for now, at least during what she calls the honeymoon period.

"It's pretty typical in a new environment the child does well for a few weeks, and then falls apart," she said.

Few parents have the money to pay for the kind of intensive,

private treatment that such children need, she said. Yet many make too much money to qualify for Medicaid.

"A lot of parents will have a second or third mortgage on their house and sell everything they own so they can spend \$250 an hour for a psychiatrist and hundreds more a month for prescriptions," Tangen said.

"These parents are not in debt and have lost everything, because often one can't work because the child is too old for daycare but too immature to be left alone."

The Department of Health and Welfare charges families for many mental health services under a sliding scale, setting the price based on family income.

When the parents apply for children's mental health services through the state, they're charged on a sliding scale based on how much they make. But even so, the fees are often too high, Tangen said.

"When you tell a parent this service is going to cost you \$15 an hour and you're going to pay six hours a week, they can't do any more. We're talking about the working poor, so then the kids just don't get treatment," Tangen said.

"The state is doing the best it can," said Lt. Gov. James Risch, who leads the Idaho Council on Children's Mental Health.

"We are very, very serious about complying with what we need to do," Risch said. "When establishing a government program, like this, particularly pursuant to a court order, it's a difficult and time-consuming thing."

First the state created the statewide council, followed by seven regional councils and a tribal council. Finally, local councils were created to work

with specialists who develop comprehensive case plans.

But not enough specialists have been hired. During the fiscal year that ended in June of 2005, only an estimated 373 children or families were served by the local councils, according to the state's numbers.

"They have eight wrap-around specialists for the state and they deal with 80 children out of a target class of about 18,000," Belodoff said. "The governor has other priorities, I guess."

During some years, Gov. Dirk Kempthorne didn't request enough money from state budget writers to pay for the children's mental health program, nearly prompting Winnill to hold his administration in contempt of court. This year the governor requested nearly \$13.6 million for the program, about \$1.2 million less than the Department of Health and Welfare said it needed.

The state spends roughly \$6 million a year to send kids to inpatient treatment at State Hospital South, Belodoff said.

"No reputable person who works in this area would say that is a smart use of their money or good for the children," he said. "Idaho still tells parents that they should have their kids arrested to get them into juvenile jail and go through thrown in to get services."

Whether the lawsuit lasts another three months or 10 years, Idaho's attorneys will probably still claim they didn't have enough time to prepare for a trial, Winnill said.

"There seems to be so little grounds for agreement here. We may be better served just going to trial."

Woman drives car into abortion protest

NAMPA (AP) — A woman drove her car into an anti-abortion rally outside of a Planned Parenthood, protesting what she called "vulgar photos of an aborted fetus."

The incident happened at a doctor's office where a Planned Parenthood clinic had recently been established. The clinic, which operates out of the office one day a month, does not perform abortions but does offer free birth control and emergency contraception.

Call Mower, 52, of Nampa, on Friday drove her car into the sidewalk and into the

crowd of demonstrators after she became concerned over one protester's sign that depicted a "gurgling" picture of an aborted fetus, she told the Idaho Press-Tribune.

Mower said she wanted to park her vehicle in front of the sign to block it from the view of passing school children.

She ended up running over the protester's foot, wedging it between the tire and the sign. The demonstrator was not injured.

Another woman at the protest was holding a child and had to jump out of the way of

the oncoming vehicle, witnesses said.

Police said Mower had called police earlier in the day to complain about the "graphic and obscene nature of the sign" and wanted it removed. Since the sign had not been removed, she decided to take matters into her own hands. Mowers told investigators.

Mower was issued a summons for disturbing the peace, Vincent said. Other charges could be filed after a review by the Canyon County and Nampa City prosecutors' offices.

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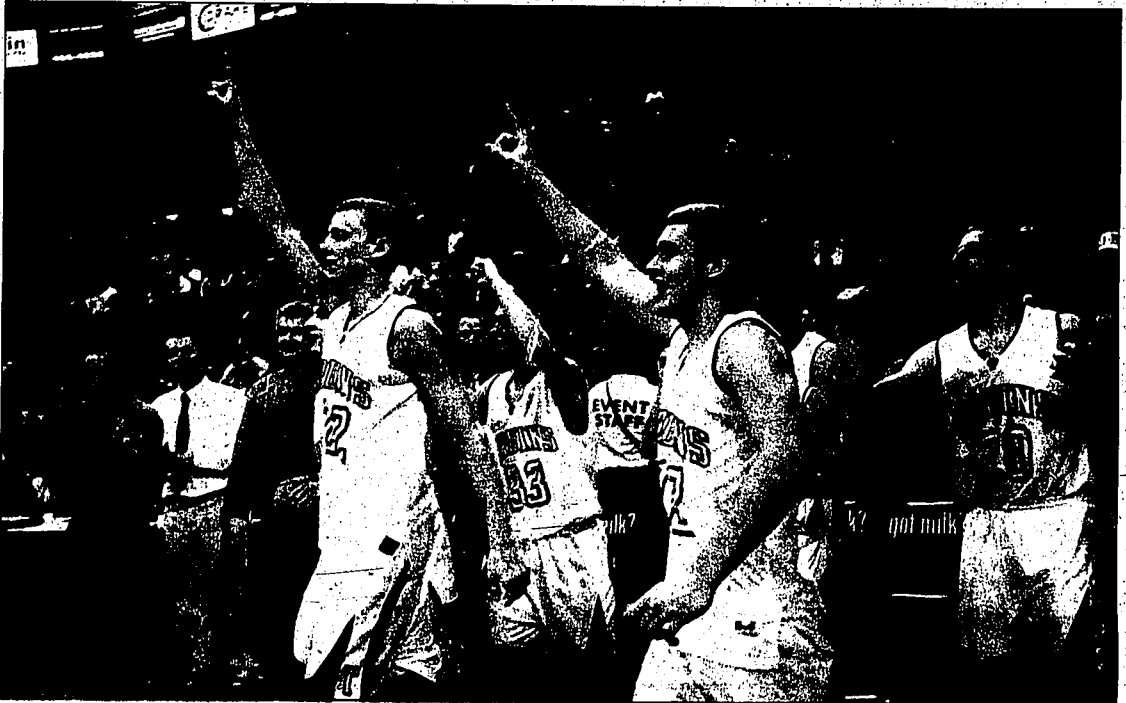
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Champions!



Brady Jardine, left, Brandon Stokes (22), and members of the Twin Falls Bruins boys basketball team react after winning the program's first state championship in 32 years. The Bruins defeated Capital High School of Boise 70-48 at the Idaho Center in Nampa on Saturday night.

Twin Falls captures first boys basketball title since 1974

By Nathaniel Garrahrandt, Times-News writer

NAMPA — Four quarters of utterly inspired basketball and three decades of disappointment concluded at once into a mob of Bruins white and blue at center court.

The drought was broken by halftime with the Idaho Center scoreboard awash in a torrent of Bruins three-pointers, reading 41-14. At game's end it read 70-48, the Capital Eagles left a bewildered and distant second place.

"I just think they were not going to be denied," Twin Falls head coach Matt Harr said. "They were not going to be denied."

By the end of the first quarter, the game had already begun to spiral into a rout, with Twin Falls taking a 21-9 lead off of four three pointers, two apiece from senior guards Brandon Stokes and Blake Nielsen.



"I expected a close game, a very physical game," said Harr. "But I think we stretched them out there in the first quarter by hitting a lot of threes and then we started getting a lot of offensive rebounds, and I think it just kind of snowballed from there. We knew we could run some sets and I told them before the game. If the shots are dropping, let's run with it."

With the 24-2 Bruins shooting 72 percent from the field during the first half, there was nothing the Eagles could do to keep up. "We just ran into a buzz saw," said Capital head coach Ted Hettlinga. "They just shot the ball unbelievably well. We knew we had to concentrate on (Brady) Jardine, but if you concentrate on Jardine, there are other kids that will hurt you. They got hot and knocked down

team with 13 points, but nine of them came in the second half. "There were a few guys we tried to be red on," said Bruins senior post Brett Vriesman. "Don't let them get the ball no matter what it takes and just help side. That's what we've been doing all year." Jardine opened the game with a lay-in, followed by back-to-back-threes from Stokes. With 3 minutes, 50 seconds to play in the opening quarter, Vriesman sank a bucket in the paint to spark a 9-0 run to make it 20-6. Twin Falls opened the second quarter with a massive 16-3 run, which included two threes from Stokes and another from Nielsen. Vriesman finished with a game-high 20 points on 9-of-12

shooting, scoring eight points in the third quarter when the inside game began to open up. "We just came out ready to play," Vriesman said. "We knew we had to maintain the defensive intensity, but for some reason the shots were just falling like crazy. It was mining." The Bruins drained seven three-pointers in the first half. Please see BRUNS, Page C2

They were not going to be denied. — Twin Falls head coach Matt Harr



Buhl junior guard Austin Laing drives past Bonners & Jerry defenders during the Indians' 57-50 defeat of the Badgers in Saturday's Class 3A state tournament consolation final game at Meridian High School.

Indians capture 3A consolation trophy

MERIDIAN — There's something to be said about humble beginnings and just what they can lead to. It was only three seasons ago that Ryan Bowman took over the reclamation project that was the Buhl High School boys basketball program. Only three seasons ago that the Indians finished 4-18 before finishing 4-14 one year later. Much like the blueprint for Buhl's new high school though, the groundwork was being set, the cornerstones laid in place. Saturday morning at Meridian High School, Bowman and his Indians started filling the hoops house they've built over the past four seasons, bringing home the Class 3A state tournament consolation trophy with a 57-50 victory over the Bonners Ferry Badgers. "All the hard work the kids put in, the time and effort, it's good to see it pay off," Bowman said. "I'm really just proud of the kids

for everything they've done." The Indians found themselves starting up at a 26-20 deficit at halftime, but surged in the game's final two periods, outscoring the Badgers 37-24. Buhl shot 52.2 percent from the field after the half while limiting Bonners Ferry to just 9-of-30 shooting in the game's final 16 minutes. "We knew going into the half that we'd played pretty good defense, we just didn't take good care of the ball," Bowman said.

"Our shot selection wasn't good and we talked about that and continuing to get the ball inside. Steve started falling for us. The kids kept going to what they needed to do." Junior Will Chivers finished with a 17-point, 15-rebound double-double while drawing the unenviable assignment of guarding Badgers standout Matt Rice. Chivers held Rice to 10 points and 10 rebounds, well below his averages. "He really took the kid and made him earn everything he got," Bowman said. "All the kids played great. Judd (Spencer) stepped up as did Austin Laing. They both hit some big shots down the stretch." Spencer finished with 12 points and three assists, while Laing finished with 12 points and three assists. Senior-point guard Mitch Broumer added eight points and three assists, while Chivers added five steals in the Indians' cause. The Badgers were led by 11-point efforts by both

Spencer and Kyle Behrens. The consolation trophy is the first state tournament trophy the Buhl program has brought home since Terry Adolphson's 1979 team took the Class 3A championship. Friday's consolation semifinal win was the Indians' first win at state since that championship victory. The Indians finished the 2005-06 season with a 19-6 mark and look forward to next year when six of this year's juniors return for their senior seasons.

Class 5A State Tournament
Saturday's games at Caldwell High School
Consolation final
Meridian 61, Bonh 52
Third place
Lewiston 58, Mountain View 49
Championship
Twin Falls 70, Capital 48

Class 3A State Tournament
Saturday's games at Meridian High School
Consolation final
Buhl 57, Bonners Ferry 50
Third place
Shelley 68, Bear Lake 55
Championship
Snake River 42, South Fremont 41

Table with 2 columns: School and Score. Lists various schools and their scores in different games.

Nets clip Raptors 105-100 in OT

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Vince Carter scored 30 points and Richard Jefferson, leading the New Jersey Nets over the Toronto Raptors to a 105-100 overtime win. New Jersey's Jason Kidd finished with 14 points, 15 assists and 13 rebounds for his 72nd career triple-double and his fifth this season, tops in the league. Morris Peterson led Toronto with 25 points and Chris Bosh had 23, 21 after halftime.

Toronto took a 91-89 lead in overtime on Charlie Villanueva's two free throws before New Jersey scored 10 of the next 13 points. The Raptors, who went to a final 50-0 celebration with one field goal, didn't make a shot other than Mike James' drive with 22 seconds left in overtime.

Heat 95, Hawks 93
MIAMI — Alonzo Mourning's dunk with 1.8 seconds remaining gave Miami its first

lead of the game, and the Heat beat the Atlanta Hawks 95-93 for their season-high eighth straight victory. Shaquille O'Neal had 21 points and eight rebounds before fouling out with 1:38 left for Miami, which overcame a 17-point deficit despite playing without Dwyane Wade. Wade was sidelined with a sprained wrist and is listed as day to day.

Joe Johnson scored 28 points for the Hawks, who have lost 10 straight games to Miami. Josh Smith added 21 points and eight rebounds.

Spurs 101, Trail Blazers 81
SAN ANTONIO — Tim Duncan had 22 points and 15 rebounds, and San Antonio hit five 3-pointers in the fourth quarter to pull away from Portland.

Leading 69-65 after three, the Spurs opened the final period with consecutive shots from behind the arc by Brent Barry, Timothe Udrin and Manu Ginobili.

Portland answered the gap to 90-75 on a layup and a three-point play by Zach Randolph, but San Antonio closed out the game by outscoring the Blazers 21-6.

Jeffery Parker had 18 points for the Spurs, who won their sixth straight. Ginobili scored 13. Udrin 11 and Barry and Nazr Mohammed 10 apiece.

Knicks 103, Bucks 98
MILWAUKEE — Steve Francis made five free throws in the final 20 seconds of his first win with New York. Eddie Curry had 20 points and 11 rebounds, and the Knicks snapped a six-game losing streak.

Jalen Rose had 19 points and Quentin Richardson 18 in the game. The Knicks are 1-6 in the Bucks, currently in eighth place in the Eastern Conference, from matching last seasons win total of 30 games when they finished 10-5.

third time in 25 games and picked up their fifth road win of the season.

Michael Redd had 23 points. Joe Smith added 19 and Maurice Williams 17 for the Bucks, who have lost three straight at the Bradley Center after a season-high six-game home win streak.

Nuggets 110, Magic 94
DENVER — Carmelo Anthony scored 24 points and Earl Boykins snatched out of a shooting slump with 21 in Denver's rout of slumping Orlando.

Ruben Patterson also scored 21 points, his most since joining the Nuggets from Portland in a four-team trade on Feb. 22.

Grant Hill scored 19 points for the Magic, who lost for the 12th straight time on the road and fell to 2-17 in their last 19 games overall.

Register forward Kenyon Martin missed the game with a sore left knee, which was surgically repaired in the offseason and went away Friday night. He's day-to-day.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Boys sixth-grade hoops tourney planned

GLENN'S FERRY — The Eastern Elmore County Recreation District will hold a basketball tourney for sixth-grade boys on Saturday, March 11, at the Glenns Ferry High School and Junior High school gymnasiums. The registration fee is \$20 per player. Each team is guaranteed three games, and trophies will be given to first- and second-place winners, while prizes will be given to all participants.

St. Patrick's Day Run/Walk is March 11

TUTTLE — The 16th Annual St. Patrick's Day Run/Walk will be held on Saturday, March 11, at 10 a.m. at Maled College State Park in Tuttle.

Register before March 7 for \$25 or register the day of the event for \$30 a person.

Register online at www.spondor.com or call Suzanne Jensen at 837-6116 for more information.

Minico boosters meet Monday

RUBERT — The Minico High School boosters club will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 6 in the Minico High School Library. Parents with students in grades 9-12 are urged to attend. The club will discuss for more information.

M.V. Boys & Girls Club plans hoops tourney

TWIN FALLS — Entries are still being taken for the seventh annual Boys & Girls Club Basketball tournament to be held April 8-9.

The games are held in seven Twin Falls gymnasiums, located at Robert Stuart Junior High, the Junior High, Twin Falls High School, the Magic Valley Boys & Girls Club. There will be prizes awarded for the first- and second-place teams for each age category.

The tournament is open to both boys and girls teams, Grade 5-12. The entry fee is \$150 per team with a three-game minimum guarantee. Entries are due by 5 p.m., March 30.

Game times will be available after 5 p.m., April 4. The tournament starts at 4 p.m., Friday, April 7.

Entrees are taken at the Boys & Girls Club, 999 Frontier Road, Twin Falls. For more information, call the office at 733-0740 or 280-4295 or Grady-Don Stanley at 326-4109.

All proceeds of the event benefit the programs and services of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Magic Valley.

MVRMC fundraiser announced for March 17

TWIN FALLS — Hoopfest 2006 will be held Friday, March 17, beginning at 5 p.m. at the Coe Center of Southern Idaho Gymnasium.

A fund-filled evening serves as a fun fundraiser supporting Children At Risk - Equitation Now. All proceeds from the 3-point and free throw contests for youth, high school and senior divisions.

Hockey

DETROIT — The Red Wings defeated the Boston Bruins 6-2 in Game 1 of the Stanley Cup Finals on Saturday night.

The Bruins took Game 2 on Sunday, beating the Wings 4-1.

NHL

MINNESOTA — The Wild defeated the St. Louis Blues 4-1 in Game 1 of the Western Conference Finals.

The Blues won Game 2, 3-2, to take a 2-1 lead in the series.

Nadal beats Federer to win Dubai Open

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Rafael Nadal, playing his second tournament in only four months, beat top-ranked Roger Federer 6-6, 4-6 Saturday to win the Dubai Open.

Federer had won this event the past three years. The Swiss star had captured his two other tournaments in 2006 — the Australian Open and Doha Open.

Nadal, seeded and ranked second, ended Federer's 56-match hardcourt winning streak.

The Spanish won in less than two hours.

Nadal, seeded and ranked second, ended Federer's 56-match hardcourt winning streak. The Spanish won in less than two hours.

Petrova upsets Mauresmo to win Qatar

DOHA - Qatar — Second-seeded Nadia Petrova beat world No. 2 Amelie Mauresmo of France 6-3, 7-5 Saturday to win the Qatar Open.

Petrova becomes the third Russian to win the Qatar title in six years. Anastasia Myskina won the Qatar title with Maria Sharapova.

SCORES AND STATS

Area ski report

Alta
• Super Slope — Sat 11:20p per night. Super Slope 63-89. 49-85 45 100% open. Super Slope 63-89. 49-85 45 100% open. Super Slope 63-89. 49-85 45 100% open.

Big Sky
• Super Slope — Sat 11:20p per night. Super Slope 63-89. 49-85 45 100% open. Super Slope 63-89. 49-85 45 100% open.

Deer Valley
• Super Slope — Sat 11:20p per night. Super Slope 63-89. 49-85 45 100% open. Super Slope 63-89. 49-85 45 100% open.

Four Seasons
• Super Slope — Sat 11:20p per night. Super Slope 63-89. 49-85 45 100% open. Super Slope 63-89. 49-85 45 100% open.

Northstar
• Super Slope — Sat 11:20p per night. Super Slope 63-89. 49-85 45 100% open. Super Slope 63-89. 49-85 45 100% open.

Palmer
• Super Slope — Sat 11:20p per night. Super Slope 63-89. 49-85 45 100% open. Super Slope 63-89. 49-85 45 100% open.

Steamboat
• Super Slope — Sat 11:20p per night. Super Slope 63-89. 49-85 45 100% open. Super Slope 63-89. 49-85 45 100% open.

Teton
• Super Slope — Sat 11:20p per night. Super Slope 63-89. 49-85 45 100% open. Super Slope 63-89. 49-85 45 100% open.

White Pine
• Super Slope — Sat 11:20p per night. Super Slope 63-89. 49-85 45 100% open. Super Slope 63-89. 49-85 45 100% open.

San Antonio Spurs

San Antonio Spurs 103, **Portland Trail Blazers** 81.
San Antonio (19-18) defeated Portland (2-19) 103-81 in a rout on Saturday night.

Tim Duncan had 22 points and 15 rebounds, leading the Spurs to a 105-100 overtime win. Jason Kidd finished with 14 points, 15 assists and 13 rebounds for his 72nd career triple-double.

Portland Trail Blazers

Portland Trail Blazers 81, **San Antonio Spurs** 103.
Portland (2-19) lost to San Antonio (19-18) 81-103 in a rout on Saturday night.

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What's on T.V.

ARENA FOOTBALL
• Regional coverage, NBC, 10 a.m.

AUTO RACING
• Busch Series, TeleMotorola 200, Fox, noon.

BASEBALL
• Puerto Rico vs. Mets, ESPN, 9 p.m.

Cubs vs. Giants, WGN, 8 p.m.

BASKETBALL
• Regional coverage, CBS, 10 a.m.

Pacers at 76ers, ABC, 11 a.m.

Women, ACC, championship game, ESPN, 11 a.m.

Missouri Valley Conference, championship game, CBS, noon

Southern Conference, championship game, ESPN2, noon

Suns at Mavericks, ABC, 2:30 p.m.

Manly at Virginia, FSN, 1:30 p.m.

Oklahoma at Texas, CBS, 8 p.m.

Women, Conference USA, championship game, ESPN2, 2 p.m.

Women, SEC, championship game, ESPN2, 4 p.m.

Women, Pac-10, semifinal, FSN, 4 p.m.

Bulls at Cavaliers, ESPN, 5:30 p.m.

West Coast Conference, semifinal, ESPN2, 6 p.m.

Women, Pac-10, semifinal, FSN, 6:30 p.m.

West Coast Conference, semifinal, ESPN2, 8:30 p.m.

PGA, Pepsi Championship, ESPN, 10:30 a.m.

GOLF
• European PGA Tour, Indonesia Open, final round, TGC, 7 a.m.

PGA Tour, First Championship, final round, NBC, 1 p.m.

Baseball

MLB Spring Training League
AMERICAN LEAGUE

Los Angeles	100
San Diego	100
Seattle	100
San Francisco	100
Texas	100
Arizona	100
Colorado	100
Chicago	100
Minnesota	100
New York	100
Philadelphia	100
Pittsburgh	100
St. Louis	100
Washington	100

National League

Atlanta	100
Boston	100
Chicago	100
Cincinnati	100
Cleveland	100
Los Angeles	100
Montreal	100
New York	100
Philadelphia	100
Pittsburgh	100
St. Louis	100
Washington	100

Basketball

NBA
EASTERN CONFERENCE

New York	100
Philadelphia	100
Pittsburgh	100
St. Louis	100
Washington	100
Atlanta	100
Boston	100
Chicago	100
Cincinnati	100
Cleveland	100
Los Angeles	100
Montreal	100
New York	100
Philadelphia	100
Pittsburgh	100
St. Louis	100
Washington	100

Western Conference

Denver	100
Los Angeles	100
Portland	100
San Antonio	100
Utah	100
Phoenix	100
San Diego	100
Seattle	100
Texas	100
Arizona	100
Colorado	100
Chicago	100
Minnesota	100
New York	100
Philadelphia	100
Pittsburgh	100
St. Louis	100
Washington	100

Football

Arizona Cardinals 100, **San Francisco 49ers** 100.
Arizona (10-5) defeated San Francisco (10-5) 100-100 in a tie on Saturday night.

San Francisco 49ers

San Francisco 49ers 100, **Arizona Cardinals** 100.
San Francisco (10-5) lost to Arizona (10-5) 100-100 in a tie on Saturday night.

Atlanta Falcons

Atlanta Falcons 100, **San Diego Chargers** 100.
Atlanta (10-5) defeated San Diego (10-5) 100-100 in a tie on Saturday night.

San Diego Chargers

San Diego Chargers 100, **Atlanta Falcons** 100.
San Diego (10-5) lost to Atlanta (10-5) 100-100 in a tie on Saturday night.

Buffalo Bills

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Buffalo (10-5) lost to San Diego (10-5) 100-100 in a tie on Saturday night.

San Diego Chargers

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San Diego (10-5) lost to Buffalo (10-5) 100-100 in a tie on Saturday night.

Indianapolis Colts

Indianapolis Colts 100, **San Diego Chargers** 100.
Indianapolis (10-5) lost to San Diego (10-5) 100-100 in a tie on Saturday night.

Baseball

MLB Spring Training League
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Montreal	100
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St. Louis	100
Washington	100

Basketball

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EASTERN CONFERENCE

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Boston	100
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Cleveland	100
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New York	100
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St. Louis	100
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Western Conference

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National League

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Basketball

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EASTERN CONFERENCE

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Montreal	100
New York	100
Philadelphia	100
Pittsburgh	100
St. Louis	100
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Western Conference

Denver	100
Los Angeles	100
Portland	100
San Antonio	100
Utah	100
Phoenix	100
San Diego	100

SPORTS



Marlborough, Ohio, musher Dean Rosar takes off down Fourth Avenue in Anchorage, Alaska, during the ceremonial start of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, Saturday. The 83 mushers will head to Nome, Alaska, from Willow, Alaska, on Sunday.

Iditarod's ceremonial start allows fans to hobnob with mushers

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Dog teams in the Iditarod's ceremonial start on Saturday didn't care that the clock wasn't running.

"They just wanted to race. Canine competitors from this year's field of 83 teams yelled and howled, begging to run as handlers hauled them at the starting line in downtown Anchorage."

Some strained forward in their harnesses in fruitless solo attempts to pull their sleds and furred teammates past Fourth Avenue's storefronts toward the fog-wreathed Chugach Mountains.

None seemed to care about conserving energy for the more than 1,100-mile journey to Nome.

"They're pretty excited," said Ken, runner-up in last year's Iditarod. "Facing is what they're thinking about."

The 1.1-mile ceremonial start through Anchorage gives spectators a chance to view dog teams up close and hobnob with their favorite mushers.

The race runs through windswept tundra, two mountain ranges and frozen seas and rivers, where temperatures can dip to far below freezing — not exactly fan-friendly terrain.

Pete Olhsson, of Temecula, Calif., brought a group of 180 people from 12 countries to Alaska for a ski trip, and made sure to tack on an extra day to watch the start.

"This is once-in-a-lifetime," said Olhsson of the International Skiing Fellowship of

Said wins pole in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Boris Said, a road-course specialist born in New York, won the pole and two Mexican drivers placed in the top five Saturday for the 100th NASCAR Sprint race south of the border in NASCAR's Busch Series.

Said averaged 1 minute, 28.295 seconds while reaching a top speed of 102.655 mph. Most of the top finishers from Friday's practice took the track after him but were unable to

Woods overcomes mistake to take lead

MIAMI (AP) — The show-down turned into a classic late Saturday afternoon at Doral until Tiger Woods came through with a risky shot into the 18th green and restored order to a tumbled leaderboard.

Woods recovered from a double bogey to surge into the lead, then carved a shot through the trees on the final hole and escaped with a 4-under 68 to leave him two shots clear of Daniel Chopra and Rich Beem heading into the final round of the Ford Championship at Doral in Doral, Fla.

A half-dozen players had a share of the lead at some point on the balmy Blue Monster until Woods emerged from the pack with three straight birdies on the back nine and finished at 17-under 199.



Golfer Tiger Woods hits out of a sand trap on the 10th hole Saturday during the third round of the Ford Championship at Doral in Doral, Fla.

"I'm in good shape, I guess," Woods said.

But he had plenty of help. Camilo Villegas, the 24-year-old rookie from Colombia, stayed with him step-for-step, birdie-for-birdie until hitting behind a banyan tree at No. 18 and having to play his next shot down the first fairway. It took 20 minutes to clear the gallery out of the hole before hitting off-palm to 30 feet, only to three-putt for double bogey.

"I was working hard on that one, but I had no shot when I got to my ball," he said. "I started focusing on hitting a good third shot, which I did. And unfortunately, I just missed a short one there to go home."

Phil Mickelson, playing in the final group with Woods that brought out a record crowd of 37,000, slowly lost ground on the back nine before hitting off-burden grass into the water on the 18th. He made a 15-footer to save bogey, but still wound up four shots behind.

Woods' sure grip got their money's worth, one man in particular.

He was hit by Mickelson's errant 5-wood on the 10th hole, and it broke his switch. Mickelson went to check on him, and pulled two \$100 bills from his bag to pay for the watch.

"It wasn't a Rolex," Mickelson said.

What Lefly wouldn't have paid for a little better putting.

When the zinnies subsided as the orange glow of the sun dipped, behind the clouds, Woods was atop the leaderboard and poised to win for the second straight year at the Blue Monster.

Woods is 33-3 on the PGA Tour when he has at least a share of the 54-hole lead, and he played solidly again except for *duking an 8-iron into* the water on the par-3 ninth for a double bogey.

Instead of Mickelson at his side Sunday, Woods will be paired with Chopra, who birdied two of his last three holes for a 68 and was at 15-under 201. Also two shots behind was former PGA champion Rich Beem, who was terrified of the Blue Monster's closing hole until he birdied it for a 69.

David Toms wasn't so fortunate. He was in rough so deep that he laid up short of the water, then failed to convert par from 92 yards and had to settle for a 70, leaving him at 14-under 202 along with Villegas.

The Colombian rookie was a star in this Miami market loaded with Latinos, and the

kept them on their toes until his untimely collapse on the 18th. Villegas wound up with a 71, but is still in the hunt for his first victory in only his 18th start on the PGA Tour.

But it will take some work to catch Woods, who is dominant with the lead.

"If you're leading, you're playing pretty good," Woods said about his record going into the final round.

He wasn't at his best Saturday, but it was good enough. He and Mickelson sparred through the first 13 holes until Woods began to pull away. They drew most of the gallery, and the atmosphere was electric as ever.

But it was only the third round, which is how both of them saw it.

"The great thing about today is it was not the last day," Mickelson said. "I know that obviously he's playing well, but because it was not the final round, I wasn't really concerned. I should be now — I'm four back."

Woods wasted one chance earlier to take charge of the tournament.

He birdied the first two holes and twice made big par saves on the first five holes. After his approach ballooned into the wind and trickled just short of the rocks guarding the pond on No. 3, he piched to 5 feet and made the putt. And after a gust knocked his ball into the bunker at No. 5, he blasted out to 10 feet and made another big putt.

"It appeared as though he might pull away with a 340-yard drive on the par-5 eighth, followed by a 5-iron into 30 feet for a two-putt birdie that put him two shots ahead of Mickelson. But he dumped his 8-iron into the water on the par-3 ninth and made double bogey, bringing everyone back into the mix."

That changed with a 6-iron into 3 feet on the 13th — the only birdie of the round on that par-3 — a wedge from 153 yards into 10 feet on the 14th and an 8-iron from 172 yards into 8 feet for his third straight birdie.

Equally important was his par on the final hole, one extra shot between Woods and those trying to catch him.

NFL labor talks break off with no progress

NEW YORK (AP) — Talks between the NFL and its players union broke off Saturday with no progress, and while the league said the sides would meet again Sunday, the union said it wasn't sure.

The stalemate increased the possibility that many high-priced free agents would become available on the market as teams struggled to get under the salary cap by 6 p.m. EST Sunday. Free agency would begin six hours later.

The league had no further comment.

Troy Vincent of the Buffalo Bills, the president of the NFL Players Association, commented that there had been little movement. And Gene Upshaw, the union's executive director, flew home to Wash-

ington and said he was unaware of any meeting scheduled for Sunday, the day of the deadline for free agency.

Earlier in the week, negotiations broke off and the league set the salary cap for free agency at \$94.5 million. Teams with a salary load far higher than that had anticipated an agreement that could have given them extra room to keep veterans, perhaps \$5 million to \$10 million more with a new deal.

If not, it's likely several teams would have to make wholesale cuts, some involving big-name veterans such as Kansas City's Willie Shields, Tampa Bay's Derrick Brooks and the New York Jets' Kevin Mawae and Chad Pennington. Upshaw contended that most of those players

would have been cut anyway and said that the deal on the table would actually provide less than players currently get because the league wants to abolish a policy called "cash over cap," a complicated formula in which teams can spend more on bonuses and other items as long as it is under the cap at the start of free agency each year.

Upshaw has said the NFL was offering 56.2 percent of its total revenues to the players. He also has said he will not go under 60 percent. Vincent said he had been told the league had increased its percentage offer Saturday.

But the problem involves more than that, notably a dispute among owners over revenue sharing. Low-revenue

teams complain that they would have to contribute a higher percentage of the money they get from advertising, naming rights and other non-television and ticket revenue than big-market teams.

Upshaw has always wanted that issue decided first among the owners, but that isn't likely to happen in these last-minute talks, which began Friday after the start of free agency was extended three days from Friday at 12:01 a.m. EST until Monday at the same time.

The labor agreement, extended several times since it was agreed to in 1992, has another year to run. But 2006 would be the last year with a salary cap.

There would be no cap next year.

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 March 9th, 10th & 11th

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Hwy 24 between Burley & Rupert
 Hours: Mon-Fri 10am to 6pm Sat 10am to 2pm

Annual Spring Sale
 March 9th, 10th & 11th

YAMAHA



Schmidt, Sheets make spring training debuts

NEW YORK (AP) — Jason Schmidt and Ben Sheets each took a promising first step as they work their way back from injuries that curtailed their 2005 seasons.

The Washington Nationals also got some good news: Outfielder Jose Guillen will not have major surgery after receiving a second medical opinion Saturday that recommended rehabilitation. Guillen led the team with 24 home runs last season.

Making his spring training debut for San Francisco, Schmidt gave up two hits in three scoreless innings of a 7-2 win over the Chicago Cubs in Scottsdale, Ariz. He struck out one and walked none.



Milwaukee Brewers pitcher Ben Sheets warms up during a pre-season game against the Oakland Athletics at the Maryvale Baseball Park in Phoenix, Ariz., Saturday.

ing him to throw off the mound on Monday — one day before he is scheduled to undergo arthroscopic surgery on his right knee.

Wood was expected to miss the start of the season after undergoing surgery on his right shoulder on Aug. 31. Trainer Mark O'Neal said Wood began experiencing "a tapping palpable pain" on the upper bone of his thigh about a week ago and an MRI revealed a medial meniscus tear.

O'Neal and Baker said the knee flares up when Wood is running — not pitching. And Dr. Lewis Neuman, the surgeon performing the operation in Los Angeles, gave the OK to keep throwing.

In Jupiter, Fla., the Marlins said they're still waiting to hear from second baseman Pokey Reese, with the team relieved he's safe but wondering if he's going for good.

Last seen Wednesday, Reese left spring training to return home, manager Joe Girardi said. The Marlins had no contact Saturday with Reese or his agent, general manager Larry Beinfest said.

Beinfest said Marlins officials had not tried to reach Reese. The only contact from his agent was a brief phone call Friday to allay concerns about Reese's safety, Beinfest said.

In other spring training games:

Athletics (ss) 13, South Africa 1

At Phoenix, Freddie Byrum scored three runs and had three RBIs, and Dan Meyer pitched two scoreless innings to rout a South African team preparing for the World Baseball Classic.

An even bigger surprise would be Francoeur starting in right field for the U.S. That could happen if Toronto's Vernon Wells is limited by a pulled quad.

For most players with only 257 major league at-bats, the idea of representing the United States in international competition might seem intimidating, but Francoeur is always smiling, and always confident.

"It'd be cool to play for that kind of team," he said. "To be honest, I was just looking forward to the opportunity to just go out there and represent your country, in whatever role it could be."



Larry Broadway each hit a three-run homer for the Nationals. Carlos Lee, Sherman Obando and Manuel Rodriguez homered for Panama's national team.

Venezuela 1, Phillies 0

At Clearwater, Fla., Miguel Cabrera's RBI single in the first scored Carlos Guillen. Venezuelan starter Kelvin Escobar allowed two hits over three innings.

Orioles 6, Dodgers 3

At Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Daniel Cabrera threw two perfect innings, striking out two and not allowing a ball out of the infield.

Pirates 7, Red Sox 6

At Tucson, Ariz., Sean Burnett took a short but significant step back from reconstructive elbow surgery by pitching one scoreless inning for Pittsburgh.

Indians (ss) 11, Tigers (ss) 8

At Winter Haven, Fla., Jake Gauffreau hit a three-run homer and Ramon Vazquez added a three-run double to lead Cleveland.

Indians (ss) 7, Twins (ss) 3

At Fort Myers, Fla., Andy Marte showed off his good glove.

Mets 5, Nationals (ss) 4

At Port St. Lucie, Fla., Aaron Hillman pitched two scoreless innings, lose Valentin drove in a pair for the Mets and Cliff Floyd went 2-for-3 with an RBI.

Tigers (ss) 6, Italy 5

At Lakeland, Fla., Kenry Rogers tossed three hitless innings and Kody Kirkland doubled in the game-winning run with two outs in the ninth.

Reds 4, Yankees 1

At Tampa, Fla., Edwin Encarnacion hit a two-run homer and an RBI double off Randy Johnson.

Nationals (ss) 10, Panama 7

At Viera, Fla., Frank Diaz and

starting two crisp double plays at third base for Cleveland.

Twins (ss) 6, Devil Rays 1

At St. Petersburg, Fla., Lew Ford had two RBIs and Terry Tiffie had three hits for Minnesota. Twins starter Scott Baker threw 2 2-3 scoreless innings.

Phillies (SS) 9, Blue Jays 7

At Dunedin, Fla., Abraham Nunez, Shane Victorino and Chris Roberson homered for Philadelphia. Ryan Howard started the spring with five straight hits before grounding

out in the third.

Marlins 9, Cardinals 0

At Jupiter, Fla., Miguel Olivo and Reggie Abercrombie each hit a three-run homer, helping the young Marlins improve to 4-0 this spring under new manager Joe Girardi.

Braves 10, Astros 6

At Kissimmee, Fla., Martin Prado hit a bases-loaded double during a four-run sixth-inning lead Atlanta. Morgan Ensberg homered and Preston Wilson went 2-for-2 in his first two at bats for the Astros.

Braves starter Tim Lincecum threw 42 pitches in two innings. Roy Oswalt started for Houston.

Scott Turner Memorial

Scott Lee Turner was tragically taken from us on January 23, 2006, at the young age of 39. We feel he would be honored to know that we have set up a memorial fund in his name with the Filer Recreation Department.

The money collected will go to build new dugouts for the baseball field, and shade awnings over the bleachers at the field and pool. Donations can be mailed to:

Key Edwards
Filer Recreation Department
2073 E. 4200 N.
Filer, Idaho 83428

Please include Scott's name with your donation as we would like to recognize everyone for helping us with this very special project. If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Turner at 208-326-4749 or Tammy "Turner" Danos at 208-573-0464.

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Francoeur may land in WBC spotlight

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) — In less than a year, Jeff Francoeur has gone from having 335 at-bats at Double-A Mississippi to being a possible starting outfielder for the United States in the World Baseball Classic.

That's just a typical leap for the precocious Francoeur.

After Francoeur made his major league debut with the Atlanta Braves on July 7 last season, he played as if determined to show he should have earned the full year in Atlanta.

He was hitting .413 at the end of July and was still around .350 in late August when his smiling face was featured on the cover of Sports Illustrated. By early September he was tied for the National League lead in outfield assists. After the season, he was third in rookie of the year voting.

Even so, Francoeur had no dream he would be considered among the top U.S. outfielders for the World Baseball Classic.

Every player was given forms to fill out to indicate their interest in participating in the tournament. The 22-year-old Francoeur figured spots on the World Baseball Classic roster were meant for the established superstars of the game.

"Last year when they gave the sheets out, I didn't even sign one to participate because I didn't think I had a shot to even be considered," Francoeur said.

Then (U.S. manager) Buck Martinez called me and said 'I need you to sign one.' It's an honor. I'm looking forward to it."

But even when he agreed to be considered, Francoeur didn't think he'd make the final 30-man cut.

"Besides getting called up to the big leagues, that was one of the greatest phone calls I've had," he said.

At Phoenix, Freddie Byrum scored three runs and had three RBIs, and Dan Meyer pitched two scoreless innings to rout a South African team preparing for the World Baseball Classic.

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YOUTH SPORTS

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Youths bowl at local tourney

This past weekend was the Twin Falls USBC Youth City Tournament held at Magic Bowl. This tournament has many divisions by age, so here we go:

Division I Team (15 years and older): First place was "The Three Stigoes," Duane Retch, Lucy Mullins and Trevor Wakley with 1,528. Second place went to "Black Magic," Monica E. Brudge, Zach Black and Cecilia Milloy at 1,846. Third was "Curious George," Zach Black, Alex Boywer and Eric Hleb at 1,820.

Division II (12-14 years) only had one entry so the "Warriors" took first at 1,703. Only one entry in the Division III (9-11) "The Plinksters" Miranda Curtis, Michael Jenkins and Kaitlyn Klassen 1,566.

Division I Doubles: Makayia Trammell and Casey McElliot took first at 1,224. Second was Jake Incaustin and Kevin Winkler at 1,166. Third was Duane Retch and Trevor Wakley 1,159.

Division II Doubles: Brooke Neelan and Miranda Curtis 1,180. Hyann Simpson and Jesse



LET'S GO BOWLING
Thomas Tucker

went to Miranda Curtis 485.

Division I Girls Singles went to Cecilia Milloy 631 followed by Monica Eldredge 600 and April Hill 595. **Division I Singles Boys:** Kyle Mason 611, Duane Retch 590, Josh Burkhardt 590. **Division II Singles Girls:** Hyann Simpson 658 and Brooke Neelan 580. **Division II Singles Boys:** went to Kevin Wakley 573 followed by Dominic Curtis 555 then Tyler Black 545. **Division III Girls Singles:** were Kaitlyn Klassen 526 followed by Jessica Klassen 525 followed by Jessica Klassen 525 followed by Jessica Klassen 525 followed by Jessica Klassen 525.

Division III Boys: went to Michael Jenkins with 502. **Division II Singles for Girls**

went to Miranda Curtis 485.

In All Events the top winners in each division were: **Division I Boys:** Trevor Wakley 1,839, **Division I Girls:** went to Cecilia Milloy 1,771. **Division II Boys:** was Dominic Curtis 1,692. **Division II Girls:** was Hyann Simpson 1,779. **Division III Boys:** Michael Jenkins 1,535. **Division III Girls:** was Kaitlyn Klassen 1,545. **Division IV Girls:** was Miranda Curtis with 1,444.

They will receive their awards on March 11 at noon in the meeting room at Bowldrome. This will also be the organizational meeting of the new USBC Youth Association. Plan on attending and get the youth bowling Association up and going for next fall.

Wow, these youth bowlers had a really good time. Keep up the good job boys and girls and as for the rest of us, join them and 'Let's Go Bowling!'

Thelma writes a column for YourSports. You can contact her at 733-4257 or by e-mail at tucker@magvalley.com.



Jesse Bauder (2) faces off against goalie Patrick Barga.

North Valley competes in-Pocatello

TWIN FALLS — North Valley Hockey took two teams to Pocatello Saturday. Both teams played two games against teams from Pocatello. Each team was segmented by age. One team had ages 8-12 and the other was a team made up of 13-18 year olds.

The younger team started first and held their own against a more experienced team in Pocatello. In the Game 1, Dillon Downing scores all five of North Valley's goals in the first game while both games were played mostly on one end. Dillon's younger brother, Derek Downing stopped the majority of shots that came his way.

They also got help from Troy Green, who scored one goal. They also had good efforts on defense from Bryce Tut, Casey Creek, Thayne Hagan and Taylor McKay.

At the forward position was Dillon Downing, Troy Green, Aaron Verret, Taylor Rudy. The younger team showed vast improvement since the last time they traveled to Pocatello when they only managed one goal in two games.

The speed, confidence and overall level of play was much better than the last trip we made. Coach Brett Downing said. The 13-18 year-old team also showed improvement, especially on the defense.

The anchor of the defense was Goalie Patrick Barga.

Despite being bombarded with shots, Barga made some spectacular saves and kept most of the shots out of the net.

Also helping out with the defense was defenseman Mike Bauder, Danny Barnes, Jesse Hill and Darrell Downing. It was Downing's first game for North Valley.

The offense was comprised of Joe Johnson, James Morrison, John Edwards and Taylor Drake. The older group, despite not scoring many goals, showed improvement since the last trip to Pocatello.

The team received many compliments for the intense defense and over all hustle shown.

YOUR SCORES AND STATS

SRTA

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score. Lists various teams and their scores for different categories.

BOULDER

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Grade-school children wait in line for lunch Jan. 10 at Alice Harte Elementary School in New Orleans. The school is one of 20 that have reopened in New Orleans since Hurricane Katrina struck last August. AP photos

A silver lining

Katrina brought devastation, but schools could benefit

By Sharon Cohen
Associated Press writer

NEW ORLEANS — The slimy mildew clinging to classroom walls for years, the termite-eaten floors, the paint peeling from school ceilings — Hurricane Katrina washed all that way.

The storm that destroyed much of this city also devastated the New Orleans public schools.

But that wasn't all bad. The system, regarded as one of the worst in America, had been rotting for decades. Buildings were neglected. Kids weren't learning. Millions of dollars were squandered or stolen.

Now, six months after Katrina, only a small number of schools has reopened so far, but many people see the storm's destruction as a unique opportunity to rebuild a system that had no place to go but up.

"This is the silver lining in the dark cloud of Katrina," says Seljan George, a turnaround expert who began working at the schools before the storm. "We would not have been able to start with an almost clean slate if Katrina had not happened. So it really does represent an incredible opportunity."

But how does a school system reinvent itself in a city when money is scarce and misery plentiful?

Boldly. That's what some educators are proposing with a plan that calls for a major shakeup. Schools would be grouped in clusters run by managers. Students would have choices about where they attend. And most money and hiring decisions would shift from the superintendent's office to the principals, who are considered more attuned to their schools' needs.

"We have to have a whole new mind-set about how we approach public education," says Scott Covey, president of Tulane University and head of a mayoral committee that developed the plan. "If we can get our heads around true transformation, we can turn it around."

But change won't come easily. There's a long history here of squabbling among board members, scandal and academic failure. And that was before Katrina. Now there are new headaches: Thousands of teachers have no jobs. Parents are frustrated with the slow pace of school reopenings. And insiders are openly skeptical of plans for the future.

"I don't think you turn around a failing system by changing the structure of the system," says Ora Watson, interim superintendent of the New Orleans public schools.

Watson also feels not everyone is being heard.

"Some people are being left out of the conversation," she says. "I'm talking about poor people, people who populated the schools, the African-American community."

The Bring New Orleans Back Education Committee that developed the plan says it consulted a diverse group of more than 1,500 people from New Orleans, including teachers, parents



First-grade teacher Cindy Ruel leads her class from their lunch break Jan. 10 at Alice Harte Elementary School in New Orleans.

and students, along with experts around the nation, and is committed to creating top-quality schools in every neighborhood.

The Orleans Parish school board has endorsed the plan. It has been no secret something had to be done to fix a system so mismanaged that budgets hadn't been balanced in five years, teachers often received inaccurate paychecks and corruption was endemic.

The system was already on the brink of financial collapse when Katrina roared in, severely damaging about a quarter of the schools. Roofs caved in. Fierce winds blew out walls and hurled desks through windows. Floodwaters drowned about 300 buses.

Total losses could reach as high as \$1 billion.

Federal dollars will go a long way toward rebuilding, but the schools still face a projected \$111 million deficit by June.

And the traditional streams of school dollars — property and sales taxes — have shrunk dramatically because some neighborhoods still look like post-apocalyptic burial grounds and many businesses remain shuttered.

Yet schools will be a major barometer of New Orleans' success in luring families back home.

"As long as we don't replicate what we had before, I think schools can be a magnet," in repopulating the city, says Jim Brandt, president of the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana, a think tank.

George, a managing director of Alvarez & Marsal, the turnaround firm hired to help the schools, agrees. "There is something symbolic about

physically opening a school that encourages people to come back," he says.

It took three months for the first regular public school to reopen. Now, 20 schools are holding classes, with about 9,500 students — slightly more than 15 percent of some 60,000 enrolled before the storm. Three more schools may open in April.

Some parents grumble that's not enough, but caution makes sense, says Bill Robert, another Alvarez & Marsal managing director. "Do you rush and open them the way they were," he asks, "or do you take the time and try to fix them?"

Explaining what's in charge of the schools these days requires a scorecard and some background.

Katrina prompted two dramatic changes that have turned the old Orleans Parish school system into a shadow of its former self.

Last fall, the state was given authority to take control of about 90 percent of the city's public schools — those considered "failing" because they fell below a state average based on test scores, dropout rates and attendance.

A handful of schools had already been taken over before the storm. Now, 112 of 128 that were in the Orleans Parish system are part of a state-administered "school recovery district" and will remain that way for five years.

The second big shift came when some educators — led by a school board member — split off 13 schools in the Algiers area on the less-damaged west bank of the Mississippi River and had them designated as charters.

Charter schools have their own



Damage caused by Hurricane Katrina floodwaters, including a black mold on the walls, devastated this area at Hardin Elementary School, pictured Jan. 10 in New Orleans. The school remains closed.

“
People are waiting to see ... whether it's a new school system or the same old, same old. ...
People are going to be watching very carefully.”
”

— Jim Brandt,
Public Affairs Research Council

boards, so they can design their own schedules and curriculum and choose their own principals and teachers.

After Katrina, chartering schools turned out to be "the most expedient and quickest way to jump-start the system," because federal dollars were immediately available for them, says Cecil Picard, the state superintendent of education.

There is no long-range plan to replicate them throughout New Orleans, but some say it's a fresh start.

And change clearly is needed in a system where some schools didn't have enough books or even enough toilet paper before Katrina.

Constant turnover at the top didn't help, either. Since 1996, nine temporary or permanent superintendents have run the public schools, according to Picard.

While there were outstanding public schools — including the states No. 1 in test scores — there were many more failures. Even insiders say there were disparities.

"Some schools prospered at the expense of others," says Riedinger, a 20-year veteran of the New Orleans schools. "We called it the 'haves' and 'have nots.'" There was never a sense of equity in the school district. "To make matters worse, incompetence and fraud bled the schools of resources."

"The system was just corrupt and terrible from top to the bottom," says

Carter Gulce, an assistant U.S. attorney. "It was a dog's breakfast of negligence to criminality."

Since 2004, 24 people in the schools, including administrators, teachers and secretaries, have been indicted on federal charges such as travel fraud, extortion and taking kickbacks. Fifteen have pleaded guilty.

Questions about financial wrongdoing also surfaced a few years ago when \$71 million in federal funds could not be accounted for; an audit turned up most of the money, however, and sloppy record-keeping was blamed.

Then last year, the state hired Alvarez & Marsal. They were stunned by what they found.

"They hadn't done bank records, so nobody could tell you exactly how much cash they had on hand," George says. "Nobody could reconcile the payroll accounts. Nobody could tell you how many employees they had."

The payroll error rate reached as high as 20 percent — compared with less than 1 percent nationally — meaning teachers frequently were underpaid or overpaid.

The plan to overhaul the system recommends moving most budget decisions to local schools.

"If you do that, you keep the pond of available money that can be stolen small enough so that it's not really worth going to jail for," says school board member Jimmy Fullenholz. "I'm very realistic."

Most people here expect a smaller school system in the years ahead. The state estimates about 26,000 students will be back this fall in about 50 schools.

Educators say turning the schools around will take years, maybe even a generation, and they know many residents — including those who want to return — will be looking for signs of progress.

"People are waiting to see, just as they are waiting to see if the levees will be strong enough," says Brandt, the think tank president. "They're waiting to see whether it's a new school system or the same old, same old." People are going to be watching very carefully.

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Local food processing company is currently hiring individuals willing to work both Light Duty Full-time heavy duty positions. Hiring for all shifts. No experience. No training. Excellent pay and benefits are offered.
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to host high school students for over 40 countries. Develop & coordinate a schedule with host families, schools & students. Earn college credit along with national and international travel rewards. To become a rewarded volunteer contact Holly Hallett at hjhl@citykimberly.com or call 208-467-8918. Check us out online www.clea.org

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JM KITCHENS Twin Falls most established cabinet & Bath company is seeking a Designer/Salesperson for the Magic Valley & Wood River areas. Products include custom quality cabinets. Must have dependable vehicle & clean driving record. Please apply at 787 2nd Ave W. Twin Falls, Idaho
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to host high school students for over 40 countries. Develop & coordinate a schedule with host families, schools & students. Earn college credit along with national and international travel rewards. To become a rewarded volunteer contact Holly Hallett at hjhl@citykimberly.com or call 208-467-8918. Check us out online www.clea.org

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SKI Lift Operators needed at Sun Valley Area Transportation provided.
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Local driver, long term overtime pay.
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The City of Gooding has a full-time position open for Auto, Diesel and Equip. Mechanic. Good benefit pkg. Call 833-2151 for full details. EOE, drug free work place

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Kiefer-Bull is a leading manufacturer of horse and live stock trailers. Has opened a new office in Gooding and is seeking employees in the following areas:
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SCS Staffing Services is looking for individuals willing to work for light duty manufacturing, with any skills available, excellent pay/work environment.
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-Machinery Handler
-Assembly
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-Production machining
8:30-5:15hr (depending on position)
Company benefits, employee health, dental, vision, vacation, paid holidays, 401k plan. Applications available at 1322 E. Main St. Plant Security Office 2162 S. Lincoln Jerome, Idaho 83301. Equal Opportunity Employer

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-Production machining
8:30-5:15hr (depending on position)
Company benefits, employee health, dental, vision, vacation, paid holidays, 401k plan. Applications available at 1322 E. Main St. Plant Security Office 2162 S. Lincoln Jerome, Idaho 83301. Equal Opportunity Employer

MANUFACTURING
Sears Mig Co., is accepting applications for the following FT positions:
-Fitting
-Plastic
-Fabrication
-Production
-Machinery Handler
-Assembly
-Bespoke
-Warehouse
-Production machining
8:30-5:15hr (depending on position)
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MECHANIC
Angamulated Sugar Cane Mill. Twin Falls plant is accepting applications for experienced Mechanic/Mechanic
Wages starting at \$31.98 with opportunity for advancement.
Health care and vacation/benefits available after 90 days. If interested applications are available thru the Idaho Commerce & Labor (Job Service) 771 N. College Rd. Twin Falls, Idaho 83301. Drug Free Workplace

MECHANIC
General Mechanic w/ Diesel engines, brakes, electrical, tune-up, etc. Also farm trucks and custom, welding a plus, modern shop, good pay.
208-324-5858

MECHANIC
The City of Gooding has a full-time position open for Auto, Diesel and Equip. Mechanic. Good benefit pkg. Call 833-2151 for full details. EOE, drug free work place

MECHANIC
General Mechanic w/ Diesel engines, brakes, electrical, tune-up, etc. Also farm trucks and custom, welding a plus, modern shop, good pay.
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MECHANIC
Exp. with Diesel, engine, transmission, electrical, & off-road machinery. Must have good safety record at Y & C Custom
1987 Highland Ave. Idaho Free Workplace.

MEDICAL
Progressive Nursing
RN/PA-CNA
THERAPISTS
Registry Staffing
Home Health
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EOE

MEDICAL
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Care Center
Have fun at work and feel good about it. We offer competitive LPNs and CNAs needed to care for our most sweet elderly residents. The most rewarding occupation there is. Available for workers and cheerful atmosphere makes Twin Falls Care Center an extraordinary nursing facility. Excellent benefits, PTO for qualified employees...
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We are an Equal Opportunity Employer

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Health: Positive work environment, flex schedule, bonuses, etc. salary, exc. team support, 505-9831 or call www2cdetravel.com

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Full-time RN for Health Vision and Vision Home
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MEDICAL
Full-time RN for Health Vision and Vision Home

200 Employment MEDICAL Nurse, Licensed Practical (LPN) full-time, bilingual English/Spanish for South Central District Health Center, to assist in public health clinics and programs...

200 Employment GENERAL Yard Foreman - Dispatch, loading, scales & etc. 208-731-5573

200 Employment HEALTHCARE N/A/NCMA for assisted care, swing shifts. Call 208-734-7774

200 Employment MEDICAL Direct Care Staff, Benefits available. Call 208-738-8530

200 Employment PROFESSIONAL Painter/Decorator - Falls biggest & best cabinet shop Blaine Fine Cabinetry 833-0318

RESTAURANT TRAVELER'S OASIS Home of the Garden of Eden Traverser's Oasis Truck Plaza is currently accepting applications for a Restaurant Manager...

200 Employment CONSTRUCTION Concrete Finisher needed. Pay DOE. 208-280-0810

200 Employment MISCELLANEOUS Lot Attend needed 5 days/week. Must have valid drivers license...

200 Employment PROFESSIONAL Brand Specialist \$10.50 per hour. Largest automotive group in this area is looking for two individuals...

200 Employment MEDICAL Immediate opening for Medical Assistant, exp. req. 735-1000

MEDICAL Choose St. Luke's Boise + Madison + Sun Valley IDAHO Employee Health Manager St. Luke's Regional Medical Center has an exciting opportunity for a Manager of Employee Health and Wellness...

200 Employment CUSTOMER SERVICE xingular edgeWIRELESS It's a new year with new opportunities and Edge Wireless is where you need to be!

200 Employment OPERATOR Mixer/Loader Operator for local fertilizer company. Must be able to lift 50 lbs. experience with side steer loader preferred...

200 Employment PROFESSIONAL Social Worker On call position in or out of town needed to provide part-time on call services for Dept. of Health & Welfare...

200 Employment SALES Make \$500-\$1,000 weekly! Sales Reps needed for ongoing promotions. Promote your local newspaper in stores, shows special events and door-to-door...

The qualified candidate will be either a Nurse Practitioner or Physician's Assistant with a Bachelor's in Management or a clinical field; minimum five years progressive clinical experience...

200 Employment INSURANCE Life Comes At You Fast Are You Ready? Allied Insurance, a Nationwide Insurance Company, can be On Your Side for employment if you want a career filled with growth and challenge...

200 Employment GENERAL DeAngelo Brothers Inc. one of the nation's largest and fastest growing Vegetation Management companies has immediate openings for HI-Rail Operators...

200 Employment CUSTOMER SERVICE Seastrom Great Opportunity for the New Year! Inside Sales / Customer Service Representative

200 Employment SALES TOYOTA sales are great with a superb new model lineup! You'll also be selling the "sharpest used" cars in town...

Join a facility that has been recognized for excellence in nursing since 1900 and quality patient care. In addition to excellent benefit package, salary commensurate with your education and experience, we offer a generous relocation package.

200 Employment MEDICAL Bridgeview NOW HIRING: CNA & RNs Life Care Centers of America, the nation's largest privately owned skilled care provider, has a full-time opportunity for the following:

200 Employment PROFESSIONAL ST. BENEDICT'S Family Medical Center 709 N Lincoln Ave Jerome, Idaho 83338 (208) 324-4301 Fax (208) 324-3878

200 Employment FINANCIAL COUNSELOR(F) Experience in all-pay accounts/collections, financial assistance program, other payments plans. Collection experience preferred.

200 Employment ADMINISTRATIVE/OCCUPATIONAL PROFESSIONAL CERTIFIED SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST-Part time, varied shift, LPN or graduate of an accredited Surgical Technology program and certification within six months following employment.

MAGIC VALLEY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER IS NOW HIRING FOR... ADMINISTRATIVE/OCCUPATIONAL PROFESSIONAL CERTIFIED SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST-Part time, varied shift, LPN or graduate of an accredited Surgical Technology program and certification within six months following employment.

200 Employment NURSING REGISTERED NURSE - Positions available in all areas - med/surg, ER, ICU, OR, full time or part time. OFFICE NURSE - Full-time days and occasional evenings, CMA, LPN or RN required.

200 Employment MAINTENANCE Eric Weinmeister 280-0037 Bridgeview offers: •Two Week Above Average pay •Tri Weekly Paid Vacation •Sick and Holiday Pay •Comp Days for Good Attendance •401k Retirement Plan •Health, Dental and Optical Insurance •College Tuition Assistance (Scholarship)

200 Employment COMPETITIVE WAGE/EXCELLENT BENEFIT •Health/Dental •PTO •Retirement plan plus 403(b) •Tuition reimbursement •Life Ins Add'd

200 Employment SALES TOYOTA sales are great with a superb new model lineup! You'll also be selling the "sharpest used" cars in town. We offer great commissions a 5-day work week, with reasonable hours. 401K, medical plan, vacation, if you are an enroute Automobile Salesperson who would enjoy a great atmosphere apply in person at

PROFESSIONAL -
Facilities Manager
 Jerome County, Idaho
 Full-time position to be responsible for all aspects of the Fair and fairgrounds accounting. Organizational skills, general accounting knowledge, supervisory experience a must. Knowledge of Word, QuickBooks, Excel helpful.
 \$22,000 to \$30,000 DOE. Benefits: health, dental, vision insurance, vacation and retirement.
 Resumes accepted until position filled. Send resumes to Fair Manager Position, Jerome County Commission, 200 N. Lincoln, Jerome, ID 83338. Complete job description available at www.jeromecounty.org or Clerks Office, Jerome County Courthouse, Jerome County an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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THINKING ABOUT A CAREER CHANGE?
 Are you self motivated?
 Do you enjoy sales, and dressing like a professional?
 Are you looking for a company that values training and a strong work ethic?
 We are positioned for incredible sales growth and offer base + commission with a great benefits package.

Now offering a Rise of \$1,500-\$4,500 / month
 and commission that you will be proud to receive.
 Please send your resume or apply in person to
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 South Central Idaho's Largest Honda Dealership
MIDDLEKAUFF HONDA
 Now in our new location on Blue Lakes

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 Come and join a growing dynamic organization.
 If you have a personal and professional commitment to providing personalized services that enrich the lives of both children and adults with developmental disability, come and see us.

We currently have three professional level positions open.
 •Developmental Disability Agency (DDA) Branch Manager
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All positions require a minimum of a Bachelors Degree (in related field) and experienced.
 We proudly offer:
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We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
 Candidates must pass a criminal history background check and a drug screening. See our website at www.slstart.com. Please contact the Twin Falls office for more details or send resume with references and cover letter to:
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 200 2nd Ave N., Suite E
 Twin Falls, ID 83301
 (208) 722-9510

SL START
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PROFESSIONAL
Safety and Environmental Coordinator
 Longview Fibre Paper and Packaging, Inc. is a major producer of corrugated boxes employing 160 employees at our Twin Falls, Idaho Plant. The plant is a highly modernized plant featuring state of the art equipment dedicated to producing a quality product, with an emphasis on service to meet customer demand.

Position Description: This position will be responsible for the site safety and environmental programs for the Twin Falls container plant as well as the warehousing operations in Caldwell, Idaho.
Qualifications:
 • Strong computer skills, particularly using Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint.
 • Ability to learn and apply all State, Federal and Company rules & regulations.
 • Must be able to work with minimal supervision.
 • Demonstrate excellent oral and written communication skills. Ability to present information to various audiences.
 • Ability to establish and maintain an effective records program.
 • An associate degree (or equivalent) in Safety/Environmental, or 2 years verifiable experience in a safety or environmental related field is preferred.
 Please send resumes to:
 Attn: Human Resources
 Longview Fibre
 P.O. Box 87
 Twin Falls, ID 83303-0087
 Resumes accepted through March 17, 2008
 EOE M/F/V/D

PRODUCTION PACKAGING
 The Times-News is accepting applications for our Packaging/Production Dept. Mechanical aptitude is essential. Must be able to lift 60 lbs. Work evenings and graveyard. Year-round work. Competitive pay.
 We offer an excellent benefits package, which includes medical, dental, vision, life insurance, 401 (K) retirement, insurance stock purchase plan, paid holidays and vacation.
 If interested, please fill out an application at The Times-News, 132 Fairfield St. W., Mary Karren
 The Times-News is a drug-free workplace.

DELIVER A BUNDLE AND MAKE ONE, TOO
Part-time Substitute Carriers Needed.
 Most of our routes can be completed approximately 2 1/2 hours, 7 days a week.
 Dependable truck or van, valid driver's license and insurance needed.

To apply:
 Fill out application
 The Times-News office
 at 132 Fairfield St. W.
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The Times-News
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SALES
 Oakwood Homes a Berkshire Hathaway Company is looking for top sales peopllet Stop spinning your wheels in "dead end" retail jobs & contact us!
 We are a nationwide leader in production, retail and financing of quality factory built homes. & we want to add team members for the upcoming season and new location at our Twin Falls store.
 NO real estate license needed. Duties include assisting customers with home buying decisions and possessing the ability to
 "Close The Sale!"
 Excellent commissions, benefits & training. Full-time, weekends.
 Apply locally at:
 2130 Hwy 20
 Twin Falls, Idaho
 or fax resumes 208-733-7771.

The Times-News & South Idaho Press
 Currently taking applications for the Mini-Cassia area.
 Carriers Wanted!!!!
 Adult and Junior routes.

MOTOR ROUTES
RT. 310
 South Idaho Press
 Monday-Saturday Delivery
 Malta, Sublett and Ratt River Areas
RT. 643
 Times-News
 7 Day Delivery
 Malta, Sublett and Ratt River Areas.
RT. 644
 Times-News
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 Southeast Burley, South Hwy. 27, and Oakley Area.
 If you are interested in being a newspaper carrier or substitute for the South Idaho Press & The Times-News
 Please contact
 Amy at 677-8761
 230 East Main, Burley
 District Service Manager

PROFESSIONAL
 Psycho-Social Rehabilitation Specialist, BA in Behavioral Science, Education or Experience, \$14-\$16/hr to start. 208-678-3350
SEAMSTRESS
 Clothing Co. seeking a Professional, Experienced Seamstress. Must have sewer. Pay per piece. Call 208-377-8263, email Casekat@aol.com for more information.
SECURITY
 Spears Manufacturing is accepting applications for Part-time Security Guard.
 Supplemental retirement income. Prior security background a plus. Alternating weekends plus some occasional week day hours. Must be team oriented. Applications available at 20 valid drivers license, no lifting restrictions and clean background. Promotion from within and benefits.
 Call Tara at 208-733-9277

TELEMARKETER
 Experienced Telemarketer. Great phone skills, outgoing, Hourly wage plus bonuses. 20 hours per week to start. Please fax resume to 732-0508
THERAPY TECH
 FT and PT positions available. Swing graveyard shifts, no exp. necessary. Must be 18 yrs of age. 20 valid drivers license, no lifting restrictions and clean background. Promotion from within and benefits.
 Call Tara at 208-733-9277

CLASSIFIEDS
 It pays to read the print
 Call The Times-News to place your ad
 208-733-0991 ext. 2
WAREHOUSE
 RT. 228: Full Time Position. Responsibilities include order fulfillment and prep. Must have strong organizational and computer skills. Must be able to multitask. Experience with common carriers helpful but not necessary. Wage will commensurate with experience. **W/1** - consider picking out equipment if interested. Please call Rob - 208-539-7288 or 208-733-0990
SALES
 The Woodriver Journal
 Seeking an assertive and dynamic Sales Representative for an expanding weekly newspaper based in Halley, Idaho. As part of Lee Enterprises, we offer competitive wages, benefits & opportunity in this growing, challenging market. To apply, stop by our office at 507 S. Main St., Halley for an application or email resume to: Trey.Spaulding@Lee.net.

RETAIL
 Production Manager for Ridley's Magic Valley. Full-time, competitive wage. DOE w/benefits call 324-4633 ext 174.
WAREHOUSE
 Shipping, Receiving & Delivery Asst. Must have clean driving record & be familiar with driving a manual transmission. FT, health insurance, retirement.
 Please apply at BSR Design & Supplies, 198 Locust St. South, Twin Falls, ID 83301
PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE
 Federal Employment Information is free. Remember, no one can promise you a federal job. For free information about federal jobs, please call America Connection, 478-757-3000

Business Opportunities
 Business Opportunity in the Magic Valley. Complete commercial drug house liquid measure utilization system. System includes all necessary equipment needed to land apply lagoon manure up to ¼ mile from the lagoon at up to 1500 gallons per minute. All equipment has been professionally maintained and is in excellent working condition. Equipment plus training available for a turnkey opportunity. **W/1** - consider picking out equipment if interested. Please call Rob - 208-539-7288 or 208-733-0990

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The Times-News
 No experience necessary
 We are currently accepting applications for independent contractors to deliver The Times-News to our customers. Are you available between 3 and 6 a.m., seven days a week? See how much extra income you could make in just a few hours each week.

DO YOU LIVE NEAR ANY OF THESE LOCATIONS? IT'S AN EASY WAY TO PICK UP EXTRA CASH ...

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• 900-999 Morningside Dr. TWIN FALLS	• 1700-1800 Borah Ave. E. TWIN FALLS	• 500-700 Rinyveld Dr. TWIN FALLS	• Routes in President Street Area Available TWIN FALLS
• 100-500 VanBuren TWIN FALLS	• 100-500 Hamilton TWIN FALLS	• 100-500 Sunrise Blvd. N. TWIN FALLS	• Routes in President Street Area Available TWIN FALLS
• 100-500 Tyler TWIN FALLS	• 350-500 Madrona St. N. TWIN FALLS	• 300-400 Eric Ct. TWIN FALLS	• Routes in President Street Area Available TWIN FALLS
• 1900-2100 Laura Cir. TWIN FALLS	• 500-700 Cindy Dr. TWIN FALLS	• 100-500 Filer Ave. W. TWIN FALLS	• 1300-1500 Heytum Ave. E. TWIN FALLS
• 1900-2100 Sherry Dr. TWIN FALLS	• 500-700 Monte Vista Dr. TWIN FALLS	• 300-500 Bracken TWIN FALLS	• 200-600 Locust St. N. TWIN FALLS
• 1000-1300 Nevada St. GOODING	• 300-500 Buckingham Dr. TWIN FALLS	• 200-500 Orchard St. GOODING	• 100-700 5th Street ILER
• 1000-1300 Utah St. GOODING	• 200-400 Nottingham Dr. TWIN FALLS	• 1800-2100 Whiskey GOODING	• 200-800 Midway West ILER
• 1800-2000 Alturas Dr. TWIN FALLS	• Mon-Sat. McBride Cir. to "Almo Ave." & East 27th to Diana Dr. SIP-BURLEY	• South Park Ave. TWIN FALLS	• Mon-Sat. Burton to Fallmount & Teton Dr. to Pratt Place SIP-BURLEY
• 1900-1900 Dorlian Dr. TWIN FALLS	• Mon-Sat. Malta, Sublett and Ratt River Areas SOUTH IDAHO PRESS MOTOR ROUTE 310	• 7 Day Malta, Sublett and Ratt River Areas THE TIMES-NEWS MOTOR ROUTE 643	• 7 Day Southeast Burley, South Highway 27, & Oakley Area THE TIMES-NEWS MOTOR ROUTE 644

Call now for more information about routes available in your area!

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 Please contact
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Vending Route avail. NOW. MUST sell by 3/31/06. 288-8677
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Cashday Business Established in Burley since 1988. Owner's death requires sale. 2008 \$30,000 in the back. Furniture and Equipment \$5,000. Asking Price \$70,000. Except for 2005, records not totally reliable. Good management, good income, good customer base. Contact the Personal Representative John Looze 232-7863 or 406-2337

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301 Business Opportunities

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Big profits usually mean big risks. Before you do business with a company, check it out with the Better Business Bureau. For fee information about avoiding investment scams, write to: Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. 20580 or call the National Fraud Information Center, 1-800-876-7060.

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301 Business Opportunities

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Sun Valley area. lots of cash flow. Price \$123,000

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This profitable business can be operated where it is (Home/Visa) or moved. Price \$115,000

301 Business Opportunities

Sporting Goods Store
Profitable Sun Valley area. Concentrates on archery, fishing and firearms. Price \$148,000

Established/Profitable Magic Valley Day Spa
Available where you live! Real estate Business only. Price \$380,000

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Profitable, good cash flow. Price \$345,000

301 Business Opportunities

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Open Saturday 11-3
Custom 3 bdrm., 3 bath home on 1 fenced & cross fenced acre in desirable upscale neighborhood. Features tile, rock fireplace, jetted tub, 10 foot or vaulted ceilings throughout, huge patio, front sitting porch, 3 car garage. A great buy for \$299,999
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4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths
4237 Sq. Ft.
Family Room
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1.10 Acres
\$269,900

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Reserve your plants today!

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ID Lot #2
180 acres dryland (80 crop acres)
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Blids will be accepted until 5:00 pm, March 20, 2006.
For further information, contact Melissa Starnan at (801)715-9100.

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JEROME 3 bdrm., 1 bath, 1,396 sq. ft. City lot and quiet neighborhood. \$92,500.
Call 208-324-5499 or 208-316-0824 Jerry.
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RICHFIELD 3 bdrm., 2 bath, 2 garage. Borders River/BLM. 3 aunas, 2 ba, gar. Corner lot. \$149,900.
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Realtor, GR
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Julie Hill
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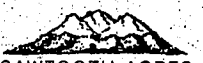
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569,000 Jerome, MLSPR234438
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4 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, Lots of sq. footage for the dollar! Irrigation water included.
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3 bedrooms, 2 baths
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3 bedrooms, 2 baths, Nice home-Large fenced yard & automatic sprinklers
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593,000 Twin Falls, MLSPR232434
3 bedrooms, 1 bath
912 Elm Street-Great starter home
Steve Bielemeier 737-3903 or 404-9017

597,900 Twin Falls, MLSPR234338
506 Callaway Court-Great location by 506 Callaway Court
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5155,000 Bald, MLSPR231177
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Michelle Hodges 404-9019/737-3919

5115,000 Gooding, MLSPR222499
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2092 sq. ft. Detached 2 car garage
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Beautifully maintained & updated 12 x 24 shop
Dorothy Geist 737-3903 or 543-6790

5129,000 Elmer, MLSPR229655
2 bedrooms, 1 bath, Country living on 102 acre, living year to year
Marianna Krachunov 539-5008 or 737-3904

5129,000 Twin Falls, MLSPR222243
2 bedrooms, 2 baths, Better than new, 1200 sq. ft. built in 2003
The LynnRasmussen Team 737-9968/28-2887

5135,000 Bald, MLSPR230906
3 bedrooms, 2 baths
407 Laurel Street-"To be built"
LynnRasmussen.com Lynn Rasmussen 735-9968

5136,500 Twin Falls, MLSPR232869
3 bedrooms, 2 baths
548 Hunter Avenue-"Great 1st home"
LynnRasmussen.com Lynn Rasmussen 737-3906

5164,900 Twin Falls, MLSPR231687
4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths
"The Maple" by Wolverton Homes
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5195,000 Twin Falls, MLSPR239566
Spectacular, modern, clean, open rim, fabulous view!
Carolyn Cutler 737-3912 or 426-3381

All of our residential listings can be found on the INTERNET at www.gemstaterealty.com. Go to the Twin Falls site, & enter the MLS number found in our ads.

5184,000 Twin Falls, MLSPR230881
3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths
1320 Oakley Drive-Super floor plan
LynnRasmussen.com Lynn Rasmussen 735-9968

5199,900 Twin Falls, MLSPR230639
3 bedrooms, 2 baths
229 Madia Avenue
Great location in Brockmeagle
Carolyn Cutler 426-3381 Ann Corred 286-3977

5199,000 Kimberly, MLSPR221132
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, Northeast acreage with great views-Minutes from Twin Falls
Kathy Partridge 737-9708/Ann Reese 737-3915

5212,000 Twin Falls, MLSPR231948
4 bedrooms, 3 baths
1377 Abby Drive
LynnRasmussen.com Lynn Rasmussen 737-3906

5238,000 Twin Falls, MLSPR233447
3 bedrooms, 2 baths
The "Woodway" by Wolverton Homes
Alex Castaneda 536-5758/Ann Reese 737-3915

5299,000 Twin Falls, MLSPR1912369
3 bedrooms, 2 baths
"The Talbot" by Wolverton Homes
The LynnRasmussen Team 737-9968/28-2887

5249,900 Kimberly, MLSPR219035
4 bedrooms, 2 baths
2355 sq. ft., 1.53 acres, shop and more!
The LynnRasmussen Team 737-9968/28-2887

5275,000 Twin Falls, MLSPR233708
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, each with
749 & 751 Alyssa Avenue
LynnRasmussen.com Lynn Rasmussen 737-3906

5279,900 Twin Falls, MLSPR222510
4 bedrooms, 3 baths
2298 Howlin Lane-"Near Candlelight"
Steve Bielemeier 404-9017/737-3903

5329,000 Twin Falls, MLSPR227775
5 bedrooms, 3 baths, Charming, remodeled country home-GOOD home property
Diana Whitney 737-3969/731-3366

5394,000 Jerome, MLSPR223123
3 bedrooms, 2 baths
8 acre home property
The LynnRasmussen Team 737-9968/28-2887

5403,000 Twin Falls, MLSPR205749
3 bedrooms, 2 baths
Radio Roundabout Hilltop
LynnRasmussen.com Lynn Rasmussen 737-3906

5409,999 Twin Falls, MLSPR234341
3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths
2 1/2 acres with water
LynnRasmussen.com Lynn Rasmussen 735-9968

5429,900 Wendell, MLSPR27604
5 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths
Spectacular! 2.68 acres
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5444,900 Twin Falls, MLSPR230185
4 bedrooms, 4 baths
Top of the line home-"To be built"
The LynnRasmussen Team 737-9968/28-2887

5504,000 Twin Falls, MLSPR225622
Income property-8 units-1041 Washington St S
LynnRasmussen.com Lynn Rasmussen 737-3906

5720,000 Twin Falls, MLSPR230077
Two 8000 sq. ft. bldgs, each with 4 lg. units on 1.6 acres
Carolyn Cutler 426-3381/Carolyn Cutler

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Sales Associate
539-3183

ALEX CASTANEDA
GR, Sales Associate
Hablo Español!
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Sales Associate
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MARIANNA KRACHUNOV
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Sales Associate, GR
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JIM CORNELL
RS, AFS
Sales Associate
737-3928/308-1097

NICHOLE HODGES
Sales Associate
404-9519

REAL ESTATE

Sunday Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

NAME IT By Ed Volle, Gillette, Wyoming

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604 Unfurnished Apts. And Duplex

TWIN FALLS 1 bdrm. in basement. \$500. Call 208-734-4120.

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm. basement apt. Stove, refrigerator and utility room. Water & sanitation furnished. No pets. \$400 mo. + \$500 dep. Call 208-733-6727 v. msg.

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TWIN FALLS Microwave, refrigerator. Call for prices. **Capri Motel** 208-733-6422

TWIN FALLS MOTEL Daily and weekly rates. Quiet, clean, affordable. 733-8620.

606 Rooms For Rent

TWIN FALLS Quiet rent by week \$105 or \$375 month. Call 208-736-1888

607 Mobile Homes

JEROME 2 bedroom, new carpet, \$375 month + \$300 deposit. Call 208-324-3897 or 208-539-7065

607 Office And Retail Rentals

GOODING exc main st. traffic, phone & computer, \$450. 539-0809

TWIN FALLS new office building for lease, corner of Eastland and Julie Lane. 1728 sq. ft. 4 elev. W/D incl. Finish to suit. 733-2323 or 733-7051

608 Commercial Property

TWIN FALLS JMAX Industrial Park. New office, warehouse, manufacturing facilities under construction for design, build, lease. Prices starting at 40 cents per sq. ft. 10 acre building site in Phase 1, w/19 acre site in Phase 2

TWIN FALLS Microwave, refrigerator. Call for prices.

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TWIN FALLS all utility furnished, W/D, kitchen use. \$300 month. 208-420-5170.

TWIN FALLS roommates wanted 2 rooms with room for horses. 3 miles South of airport. 208-212-1038.

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BULLS Black Angus registered, 2 year olds and yearlings. Ready to go to work. Call 543-5283 or 308-5283

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704 Pets And Pet Supplies

AIREDALE TERRIER AKC puppies, \$450. Great parents. Call 208-242-8522

BEAGLE puppy, male roger, 9 weeks old, AKC registered. \$350. Call 208-318-4222

BICHON FRASE male, 11 months, neutered, full blooded, all shots. crate trained, loving, good with kids. \$500 offer. All accessories included. 208-878-2412.

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FREE Lab mix puppies, (1) black, 9 weeks old. Call 324-6849.

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FREE puppy, purebred... 208-324-5151

FREE SHAR, 6 1/2... 725-9230

GERMAN SHEPHERD puppies... 408-280-1589

GERMAN SHEPHERD female... 502-938-0073

GERMAN WIRE-HAired POINTER... 208-280-1589

GOLDEN RETRIEVER purebred... 208-312-2424

GUANNA 1 1/2 yrs old... 208-312-2424

LAB CROSS/AUSTRIAN SHEPHERD... 208-312-2424

LAB puppies AKC reg... 208-312-2424

MINI DACHSHUND dapple... 208-312-2424

PARROT African Gray... 208-312-2424

PUG puppies 3 Boston... 208-312-2424

YORKIEPOO puppies... 208-312-2424

YORKIES AKC reg... 208-312-2424

705 Farm Equipment

MANURE SPREADER Kirby... 208-212-1100

MANURE SYSTEM Business opportunity... 208-212-1100

NEED A TRACTOR or tractor plow... 208-212-1100

TRACTOR JD 3620... 208-212-1100

SKIDSTEER 10 Toro... 208-212-1100

SPUNDIK 92 (2) 91... 208-212-1100

TRACTOR JD 3620... 208-212-1100

WANTED TO BUY Tractors... 208-212-1100

WANTED tractor... 208-212-1100

PIVOT wheel drive... 208-212-1100

WHEEL LINES (2) 1/2... 208-212-1100

WHEEL LINES 2... 208-212-1100

WHEEL LINES for sale... 208-212-1100

WHEEL LINES 2... 208-212-1100

WHEEL LINES 2... 208-212-1100

WHEEL LINES 2... 208-212-1100

709 Hay Grain & Feed

Hay for sale... 208-558-2444

HAY 3/4 grass hay... 208-558-2444

HAY Alfalfa 1 1/2... 208-558-2444

HAY Alfalfa 1 1/2... 208-558-2444

HAY Alfalfa 1 1/2... 208-558-2444

OAT Hay big and... 208-558-2444

STRAW clean, solid... 208-558-2444

T.S.G Hay Retrieving... 208-558-2444

Tired of rotten mucky... 208-558-2444

WANTED horse hay... 208-558-2444

WANTED TO BUY Tractors... 208-558-2444

WANTED tractor... 208-558-2444

PIVOT wheel drive... 208-558-2444

WHEEL LINES (2) 1/2... 208-558-2444

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WHEEL LINES 2... 208-558-2444

801 Antiques And Collectibles

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Bedroom set... 208-558-2444

811 Furniture & Carpet

King pillowtop... 208-558-2444

Queen pillowtop... 208-558-2444

Sofa sleeper... 208-558-2444

Stone top patio set... 208-558-2444

Headboards... 208-558-2444

Hide-a-bed... 208-558-2444

Wood stove... 208-558-2444

Wood stove... 208-558-2444

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BIRTHDAY PHOTOS

Have you forgotten to pick up your birthday photos?...

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802 Appliances

Washer/Dryer set... 208-558-2444

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803 Bazaars And Crafts

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813 Jewelry

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814 Lawn And Garden

Riding mower... 208-558-2444

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816 Miscellaneous

Carpet new textured... 208-558-2444

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616 Miscellaneous For Sale
TICKET 4-3 day event, March 10, 11, 12, re- seating, Nascar Las Vegas, \$200 ea. offer. Call 208-202-3711.

617 Musical Instruments
BASE CABINETS (1) Model TVX412 Peavey, \$350. 1115 B.W. #108, 208-324-0442 after 5 pm.

618 Office Equipment and Supplies
COPIER KAN-1815 printer, scan, network, internet. 18 pages per minute. 1 year old. New toner, cartridge. Call 208-312-1931.

619 Tools & Machinery
SAW 10" Craftsman Radial Arm \$400/offer. Cement Mixer, portable, gas motor, \$250/offer. Lawn mower, 32 hp heavy duty aluminum, \$150/offer. Call 208-228-4831.

620 Tools & Machinery
SAWS 18 inch McCulloch, \$75. Electric pole saw, \$90. Dresser #400. 734-1531.

621 Garage Sales
Come Treasure hunt at the new Flea Market March 4th - 5th (10am-4pm) Twin Falls Fair Grounds. 50 admission. Bargains for everyone! Call 208-735-6684.

BUSINESS SERVICE DIRECTORY

To advertise call classifieds 733-0931 ext. 2

APPLIANCE REPAIR
Use appliances with warranties. Parts & Delivery Available. 208-212-0341

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OIL PAINTING Traditional Training for Intermediate/Advanced Small Classes in Twin Falls. Call 825-1119 for free informational packet.

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TWIN FALLS PLANTROOM Jobs to bid for all construction. Blue print dupes. 734-PLAN (7360)

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FRED'S CUSTOM DESIGNS Kitchen Cabinet Services. Spring Sale. Free Estimates/Design. Call 208-734-2801-1801 Ask for Lora

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Magic Touch For All Your Home Improvements. NO JOB TOO SMALL. 734-7454 280-1801 Ask for Lora

DORRY REPAIR & INTERIOR PAINTING
Restretch & repair carpets. custom install. Magic Valley. Garry Bandick 208-423-4687

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Cleanup, weed control, flower beds and other odd jobs. Call 208-731-7933

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Karen's Cleaning I clean up your house for you. 735-2400 - 490-6212

COMPUTER REPAIR
In-home repair and tutorial. Guaranteed to fix your problem or service call is free. (208) 208-4292

CONSTRUCTION
Concrete to Cabinets Roofing & Painting. Budget Additions, Decks & Fencing. Nuts, clack, & reliable. 208-733-9494

CONSTRUCTION
Demolition & removal of existing concrete. All types of concrete work. Other Bobcat service. WM Construction. Call 359-2290 328-3387

CONSTRUCTION
Remodels, additions, roofing, roof repair, decks, patios, siding, building material. 208-735-6179

DRYWALL REPAIRS
No job is too small. Free estimates. 20 Years Experience. Call Byron 208-410-0664

EMPLOYMENT
Quality Employees Served and Ready to Work. Also, Payroll Service. Personnel Plus. Call 208-733-7300

EXCAVATION
Septic Systems Pipe Lining. Building pads and foundations. Doves and Doves. 208-306-2620

HANDYMAN
Residential, Plumbing, Drywall, Cement, Tree, Electrical, The Floor, Carpet, and more. Commercial Painting. Serving Twin Falls. Tom Sawyer. Call 208-948-9078

HANDYMAN
Will do a royal job at a budget price. Tree, drywall, painting, & more. Service Dudes. Regal 208-423-4004

HANDYMAN & CLEANUP
Salinas Solutions We fix problems. Free Estimates. odd jobs, remodeling, window details. We do it all + more. Ruben 208-734-6303

FAX YOUR CLASSIFIED AD
TIMES-NEWS CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT 208-734-5538

HANDYMAN
The Right Choice. Decks, fences, rental renovations, general handyman work. 208-324-4571

HANDYMAN
Plumbing, electrical, trim line cleaning. \$15 minimum. "No job too small" Williams 736-2841

HANDYMAN WORK
General home repairs. Interior painting, plumbing, painting, & drywall 16 yrs. Carpentry experience. Free Estimates. John 208-735-6179

HEATING AND AC
Jerry's Heating and Air Conditioning Service. Free Estimates. 208-212-2174

HOME CONSTRUCTION
HENRY AD SONS Construction Small Job Interior & Exterior. Concrete, the Mini-Cooler and Mini-Cooler units. 208-735-6818

HOME REPAIRS & LANDSCAPING
Tony's Home Repair and Landscaping. Painting, drywall, faucets, clean-out, help. 734-3322 or 410-0911

HVAC SERVICES
SAWTOOTH SHEET METAL Heating service and repair. Residential and Commercial. 208-733-8548

IRRIGATION
Clyde's Sprinkler Pipe Repair. Mobile Free. Hood Lines, Main Lines and Wholesaler. 208-431-7149

IRRIGATION
River Bend Pipe Repair. Mobile free for your irrigation repair needs. Landline, maintain & overhaul lines. Call Kirk 431-6807

KITCHEN AND BATH
H & S INC. Kitchen and Bath remodeling. Covering the Magic Valley and Mini-Cooler area. 735-6818

LANDSCAPING
VIVANCO Spring clean-up. Lawn care, shrub, tree, pruning, mulch, potting, etc. 825-4168 / 208-2611

LAPTOPS AND COMPUTERS
New, Used and Refurbished Sales, Service & Repair. 208-734-6658

LAUNDRY SOLUTIONS
Fais & Friendly Service! Pick up and deliver. No job is too small. Call 208-410-5538

LAWN CARE
All Around the Yard Professional lawn care, clean-up, and property maintenance. 733-7821 / 260-1898

LAWN CARE
Gerry Theener Lawn Care & Maintenance. Spring Clean-up. Call now for estimate. Call 208-308-3593 or 208-733-2732

LAWN AND YARD CARE
High Desert Lawn Service. 2nd Season Service. Call Jeff Proke at 208-329-0228

LAWN CARE
Jose's Lawn Care. Lawn Care, Trimming, Pruning, Deciduous Rock/Bark. 420-785-4284

LAWN CARE
Pedro's Lawn & Garden. Mowing, trimming, mulching, fertilizer, sprinkler installation & repair, soil, & fence repair. 208-431-8555

ODD JOBS
AAA Cleaning. Cleaning, Painting and Yard Work. 208-731-1207

PAINTING & DRYWALL
LUPHER PAINTING INC. Painting, Remodeling Texturing & Drywall. Free Estimates. 208-324-3476

PAINTING
Warmth Painting Drywall hanging and finishing. Paper hanging. Interior & exterior painting. Registered and insured. 208-733-5381

PLUMBING
Lester Plumbing & Heating. New Construction, Water Heaters, Remodels. 208-430-9657

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Amber's Resumes With original, analytical, California Ad. More. 208-430-3742

SATELLITE SYSTEMS
RPS in Jerome Local custom install. Dish Network. Starlink High speed Internet & wireless. RPS 208-324-4668

STORAGE
Magic Valley Storage (Behind Shih Inn) 208-736-0023

STUMP REMOVAL
Complete Tree Service. Free Estimates. 208-324-7878

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DIAMOND EDGE TILE Professional tile installation. Free estimate and competitive rates. 731-0800 or 734-0629

TREE SERVICES
Forests Tree Company Open 7 days a week. Tree removal, 15 years experience. Locally owned. Forest 212-3330

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TREES & STUMPS OF MAGIC VALLEY. Certified Arborist. 490-0771 / 734-1919

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WEDDING SHOP Renas & Sells Dress. Concert, Prom, Chino Fit Flower Girl Dresses and more. 208-734-6658

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SAW 10" Craftsman Radial Arm \$400/offer. Cement Mixer, portable, gas motor, \$250/offer. Lawn mower, 32 hp heavy duty aluminum, \$150/offer. Call 208-228-4831

WANTED TO BUY
Lincoln Ranger 8 welder with spot gun. Kirk 208-431-6867

WANTED TO BUY
Ford F570 truck with short wheel base. 208-946-0372

WANTED TO BUY
Ford F350 pickup. When in origin. Call 208-734-4841

WANTED TO BUY
Guns & Rifles. Browning 7mm Rem Mag. white/gold. 208-736-0023

WANTED TO BUY
Harley Davidson 1200 Sportster. Custom many extras. \$6250. Low miles. Call 208-948-5300

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HEART HEART

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 Calls cost \$2.09/minute, plus a
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Save up to 25%
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Surf more @ www.magicvalley.com

WOMEN SEEKING MEN

HI
 SWF, 21, very easygoing, Cancer, N/S, enjoys shopping and meeting new people. Seeking WM, 19-27, for friendship, hopefully leading to more. Hollister ☎916306

NOT AFRAID TO GET MY...
 hands dirty. SWF, 19, 5', dishwasher-blond/hazel, Aquarius, N/S, enjoys dancing, Mexican food, and movies. Seeking WM, 19-30, N/S, to chat with. Burley ☎918228

NEEDS SOME SUGAR
 SWF, 48, loves walks, picnics, hot tubbing, cuddling on the couch, seeking SWHM, 38-54. Hollister ☎844241 @ JoinISuite

NEED A NICE GUY!
 Romantic, fun SWF, enjoys family life, movies, dancing, horseback riding, gardening, cooking, and fishing. Seeking a tall SWM, N/S, 40-60, who wants to share a good friend and possible LTR. Twin Falls ☎888961

LET'S ENJOY LIFE
 45-year-old SWF, mother of two, CNA, I love camping, mountains, long rides, etc. ISO a SDWM, 35-65, who has similar interests. Burley ☎907501

SWEET, PETITE CHRISTIAN
 SWF, 57, employed, part-time, seeks caring, honest SWM, under 57, 58-68, who enjoys the outdoors, mountains, reading, music, the simple life. Twin Falls ☎911920

LET'S ENJOY LIFE!
 SWF, 50, 4'10", medical profession, HWTR I enjoy yard work, walks, relaxing at home, animals, etc. Seeking a SWM, 55-67, to share special times together, friendship and more. Hollister ☎913531

SEEKS FUN AND MORE
 SWF, 51, outdoorsy-type, likes dining out, dancing, laughing/seeking a nice guy, 45-60, for romance, fun, maybe LTR. Abilene ☎810168 @ DebFwyhobop!

I WANT TO LIVE, LAUGH...
 and love again. WF, 34, mother of two boys, loves the outdoors, long conversations, cuddling and more. Looking for an understanding, honest, shared man. 45. Finley ☎893542 @ Kamster

SEEKING COMPANION
 DF, 40, 5'2", brown/blue, great smile. Enjoys fishing, slow dancing, romantic evenings and more. Looking for a SM, 38-43, who has a relationship with the Lord, stable, funny and outgoing. Burley ☎729245

LOOKING FOR A GREAT GUY!
 Spontaneous SWF, 19, competitive tennis player, enjoy having a good time, living life to the fullest. Seeking down-to-earth SWM, 18-23, for LTR. Appleton ☎905428 @ victorlatktf

LOOKING FOR A FRIEND
 SWF, 19, 4'11", enjoys horror and comedy films, pizza, hanging with friends, music, more. Seeking responsible loving SM, 18-25, to share talks, dates, friendship and more. Hollister ☎912173

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU
 SF, 21, 5'2", short brown, dark brown 150lbs, looking for someone child-friendly, outgoing, honest man to share a friendship, fun and maybe more. Hollister ☎974280

WHY WAIT?
 SWF, enjoys fishing, camping, walks, dancing, dining out, quiet times at home. Seeking SWM, 21-50, to share interest with and get to know. Kimberly ☎885784

MEN SEEKING WOMEN

PRETTY OPEN
 Kind-hearted WM, 29, 5'7", 180lbs, brown/brown, likes camping, fishing, outdoors, working out, hanging out with friends, more. Looking for an honest, outgoing WF, 18-36. Burley ☎843856

SHY FLOW BOY
 SWM, 23, grew up on a farm, enjoys motor sports, outdoor and family activities, seeks female, 18-27, with similar interests, for possible romance. Murtaugh ☎9128979 @ SHYFLOWBOY

COUNTRY GENTLEMAN
 Easygoing DWM, 60, 5'7", 140lbs, self-employed, N/S, likes camping, fishing, traveling, dining out. Seeking active SWF, 40-60, N/S, looks unimportant, must be honest, caring and true friendship first, maybe LTR. Twin Falls ☎616440

HANG OUT PARTNER WANTED!
 SWM, 41, financially secure, loves to try new restaurants, weekend getaways, sporting events, very open to new ideas, seeking SF, 18-45. Let's explore. Hollister ☎67625 @ funtime1111

STILL SEARCHING...
 SWM, 48, 6'3", very mature and car! enjoys outdoors, dining, sports, and more. Seeking SF, 18-28, for friendship, and dating. Twin Falls ☎913296

A GOOD GUY STILL EXISTS
 Hard working, churchgoing SM, 27, 6'4", 180lbs, brown/blue, glasses; enjoys horseback riding, karaoke, fishing, country music, camping, comedy, action/adventure films, partying with friends. ISO fun SWF, 19-28. Hollister ☎917497

SEEKING A PRETTY GF
 WM, 52, 6'4", weightlifter, enjoys hunting, fishing, outdoors, church, animals, cruising in my muscle car. Seeking pretty Christian lady, 30-50. Twin Falls ☎556967

HOW ABOUT ME?
 SWM, 62, hard-working, loves the outdoors, horseback riding, 4-wheeling, snowmobiling; occasional nights out. Seeking happy, sincere lady who loves animals and the great outdoors, friendship/relationship. Murtaugh ☎743399

JUST AN ORDINARY GUY
 HM, 41, short, dark and handsome, very hard-working, seeks a woman, 25-45, to connect with. Hollister ☎899654 @ pokerpro

ONE WOMAN MAN
 SWM, 53, 6'3", 150lbs, clean-cut, N/S, easygoing, hardworking, likes movies, dancing, Country music, outdoors, camping. Seeking fun, SWF, 48-58, slender, for friendship, maybe more. ☎619157

DO YOU LOVE JESUS?
 SWCM, 34, devout conservative, sincere, sensitive, empathetic, N/S, N/D. Enjoys going to movies, candle-light dinners, indoor/outdoor activities. ISO SWHF, 24-34, any race, height, build, dependable, church-going, has personal relationship with the Lord. Hollister ☎825282 @ Jesus-Fanatic

HELLO LADIES!!!
 SWM, 57, 160lbs, single parent. Enjoys outdoors, skiing, dancing and socializing. Would like to meet a SWF, 40-55, for a LTR. Hollister ☎907904

STILL ME YOURS
 SWM, 27, outdoor-type, likes diners, movies. I just got back from Iraq. Looking to meet a nice SWF, 18-27, to have fun and live life to the fullest. Hollister ☎883843 @ attheshockrob

LET'S TALK
 SM, 51, 5'10", 210lbs, out going, fun, works construction, likes dining, walks, camping, more. ISO active to love and cherish. Hollister ☎904446

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU
 SM, 50, enjoys the outdoors, hunting, fishing, camping. Seeking SF, N/D, who enjoys the same, for talks, dates, friendship and more. Hollister ☎850460

LET'S HANG OUT
 SHM, 18, People know me as a cowboy. I don't wear my wranglers all the time only when I am out riding bulls or horses. ISO SF, 18-25. Wendell ☎898679 @ cowboy2180

MAKE IT HAPPEN
 SWM, 20, looking to meet a single female, 18-30. Someone who knows how to have a good time. If this sounds like you, contact me. Hollister ☎913536

NEW TO THE DATING SCENE
 SWM, 35, very real person, enjoys the outdoors, horse riding, hunting, skiing, seeking honest SF, 23-45, to love and cherish. Hollister ☎867057 @ justme102005

GOOD CHRISTIAN MAN
 Male, 20, N/S, works in a sawmill, loves camping. Seeking good CR, 19-30, N/S, just as a friend. Rock Creek ☎915525

A GOOD MAN STILL EXISTS
 SM, 32, hard-working, active, enjoys family times, golf, stock car racing, fishing, simple times. Seeking similar child-friendly woman who knows how to enjoy life. Fairfield ☎742831

LOOKING TOO
 SWM, 52, enjoys golf, movies, gardening, getting lost and finding the way home, seeks SF, 35-55, to get to know each other. Paul ☎875531 @ helmbak

ISO HONEST RELATIONSHIP
 SM, 39, 5'7", 150lbs, black/brown, enjoys fishing, taking walks, dancing, etc. Looking for SF, 18-30 for a LTR, kids ok. Cottoral ☎955647

WHY NOT CALL?
 SWM, 36, 6'2", 180lbs, light red/blue, looking for an intelligent, kind-hearted, open-minded SWF, not afraid to be herself, to share friendship and fun that could lead to lasting love. Hollister ☎900835

DIPLOM IN THE ROUGH
 SWM, 28, with various interests, ISO SF, 22-35, to share casual dates, good times and just get to know. Possible LTR. Appleton ☎651341

CALL ME
 WM, 5'9", 175lbs, brown/hazel, likes country music, good movies, and cuddling on the couch. Seeking SWF, 48-58, with similar interests, for friendship, possible LTR. Wendell ☎859500

ROMANTIC
 SWM, 42, 5'8", enjoys fishing, cycling, gardening, long drives and more. Looking for someone for their friendship, maybe leading to something more. Appleton ☎862225

HOW IT WORKS??????

Call the FREE membership number.
 Record a voice greeting.
 Answer some basic profile questions, and if you choose, have us write a print ad for you.
 Choose your notification method: e-mail, phone, cell phone.
 Relax and watch the matches come in.

WHY IS IT BETTER??????

Members are matched using our latest technology.
 Members are then alerted to their matches via a chosen notification method.
 Members access the service at a discounted rate.
 Pre-paid blocks of time make it fast and easy.

MAKE IT HAPPEN
 SWM, 21, 5'11", average build, Sagittarius, N/S, seeks WF, 18-50, N/S, just as a friend. Curry ☎756992

SEEKING COMPANION
 SHM, 28, single father of two. Seeking single female 25-35, who is honest, truthful and likes to have fun. Hollister ☎85482

COME JOIN ME!
 SWM, 6', 175lbs, enjoys camping, bowling, dancing, movies. Seeking female for a friendship, quality time and good conversation. Contact ☎868223

MAYBE YOU'RE THE ONE
 SM, 42, electrician, enjoys the outdoors, rock climbing, enjoys friends, quality times with a special lady. Will you be that lady? Buhi ☎870343


ARE YOU THE ONE
 SM, 18, laid-back enjoys the outdoors, looking for someone who shares the same interests. please call. Hollister ☎873481

I'VE BEEN LOOKING
 SM, 39, athletic, enjoys sports. Looking for an older BW who keeps herself up. Gooding ☎873680

WORTH IT!
 SWM, 26, 6'2", shaved head, red poles, 25, very athletic, enjoys metal and rock music, snowboarding. Looking for an outgoing girl who wants to have fun. Hollister ☎874113

ROOM IN MY HEART
 SWM, 39, 5'10", 250lbs, great SOH, enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, outdoor sports, gardening. Seeking SF, race open, 30-45, slender to medium build, with similar interests for LTR. Paul ☎892445

Are the Usual Suspects



a little UNusual?

Call 1-800-335-6125 for an easier way to meet great people!

What's this @ symbol all about?

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Sunday, March 5, 2006

THE ACES ON BRIDGE Bobby Wolff

Dear Mr. Wolff: What is the best way for responder to play the three-level bid of a minor after using Stayman? Should it be weak, invitational, or forcing?

ANSWER: The best way to play, in my opinion, is to use the sequence as forcing with a five-card or longer suit, the sequence also implies a four-card major. One transfers into the minor directly to play there, or to follow up with a new suit to show strength.

Dear Mr. Wolff: Holding A-K-2, A-Q-9-3, A-J-7-4-3-2, I opened one club, with which my partner responded one spade. Was I right to rebid two hearts, or should I have repeated my clubs?

ANSWER: Much as I hate to repeat such a bad suit, I do not think the hand quite measures up to a reverse. So one has no real choice but to rebid two clubs, like it or not.

Dear Mr. Wolff: What are dummy's rights as regards calling the director if dummy believes there has been a revoke? Should he call the director in midhand, or at the end of the hand, or is he not allowed to call the director at all?

ANSWER: Dummy may not call the director during the play, but at the end of the deal he may summon the director and explain the position.

Dear Mr. Wolff: How much do you need to move, facing a pre-empt? With A-K-J-4, A-Q-9-8-3, 7-2, A-J-8, I

heard my partner open three diamonds. I tried three hearts, ending up in five diamonds down two tricks. I was told that I needed more to bid here. What do you think?

ANSWER: If you imagine that partner has about seven points with, on average, no more, than two hearts, do you really want to look for game in hearts? I'd pass and hope my partner could make his contract.

Dear Mr. Wolff: I was faced with a problem when my partner opened one club, the next hand doubled, I passed, and my LHO bid one heart. When my partner doubled, I had no idea whether this was for penalty or for takeout. I had a balanced three-club with four diamonds and three cards in each of the other suits. How would you describe West's double after the first round?

ANSWER: The general rule is that the partnership's first double is takeout either if partner has not had a chance to act, or has passed at every turn. Similarly, low-level doubles when the opponents agree a suit are generally takeout, and the sequence you give is an extrapolation of that idea, making West's double takeout. This does not apply to a double of a one-no-trump opening or overcall. Of course, negative doubles expand the base of such doubles a little.

Upwardly Mobile, Ketchikan, Alaska

Oliver Twist, Torrance, Calif.

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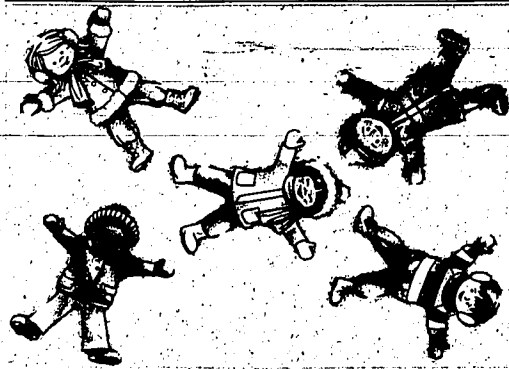
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8	6	9	7	3	2	4	1	5
3	2	5	9	1	4	6	7	8
4	1	7	6	8	5	2	8	9
5	4	3	2	7	6	1	9	8
6	7	2	8	9	1	5	3	4
9	8	1	4	5	3	7	6	2
1	3	4	6	9	8	2	7	5
2	9	8	1	4	7	3	5	6
7	5	6	3	2	8	9	4	1

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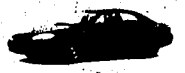



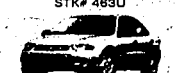











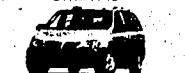







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Sorry, what were you saying?

In one episode of my favorite television show, the main character finds herself able to read minds. She is both amused and appalled to learn how much her best guy friend thinks about sex. He tries to control his thoughts by doing math in his head: "Four times five is 20. Five times six is 30. Seven times eight is 49. Nine times nine is maked girls. Help!" She smiles at him and asks if that's all he ever thinks about. He mopes, he gazes for a moment, says, "Well, actually ...," then darts off.

MAMA TALK
Suzanne DeSelms

A teenage guy may spend most of his time with his mind in the gutter, but it's nothing compared with what it's like to be a new mama away from her baby. I even tried the math trick. I got as far as "One times two is babies. Babies times babies is babies." I swear I am really, really trying to pay attention at work. But it's not going well.

"Here's your budget. Suzanne, you'll find your photos in ... (I wonder when he last saw me) ... probably will need to go pump soon. He sure is going through so much more milk now! I remember when he used to just take one ounce per feeding, and now he can sometimes go through five ounces just like that. If only! ...)" ... and if you finish with that and need more, could call home real quick! Just to see if it's OK. Sometimes he gets really fussy not because anything's wrong, but just out of boredom. He likes to play with his rattle. Some new and is almost always fascinated with his rattle. I hope I put it in the diaper bag! I couldn't find it last night!"

"Suzanne? Did you hear what I said?"
"Uh, yeah. OK, I'll get right on that."
"It's not that I don't like my job. In fact, on my first day back, I was surprised at how comforting and familiar it felt when I started to design the Openation page. My fingers remember what keys to press without me having to think about it. Sure, a few things changed while I was gone, so I had to ask some questions. But for the most part, work was easy and relaxing."

At first, my theory is that the milk-producing hormones build up in my brain every minute that I'm away from the baby. By the time my husband came to pick me up for my dinner date, I was going nuts. I sat in the back seat with Ben while he cried, and though my husband talked on the way home, I didn't even pretend to listen. It's only a three-minute drive, but the whole way there, my heart was breaking. Ben seemed to know. "Want a milk date, come back!" I'm really hungry and we're driving in this car and I don't want to suck on this pacifier on your finger my turnmy is empty and I want a nurse and why are we still driving and not nursing right now?"

I flew out of the car with the baby before the garage door even closed. I spent about half my break feeding Ben while my husband made food for me. After hugs and snuggles, it was time to head back.

So am I glad to be back to work? That question has been stumping me all day. I do like my job, and it is nice to get out of the house. The main problem seems to be this racing mind of mine. Twenty minutes after that fed Ben, I might be eager to get home ... and give him a kiss, but work is still fun. Three and a half hours after I last fed him, I start to freak out that maybe he's screaming for me and no one else can comfort him — or worse, that maybe I could get away forever and he wouldn't even miss me.

It is time to go home yet? How 'bout now?
Times-News copy editor Suzanne DeSelms promises that if you write to her at sdeselms@magically.com she'll pay attention long enough to read what you wrote. Really.

Wheels and deals



Guy Keegan, 17, sits at the wheel of his '81 Toyota Land Cruiser on Tuesday outside of his home in Twin Falls. Keegan's parents opted to buy an older vehicle for him and his brothers.

Does it make dollars and sense to get your teen a car?

By Steve Crump
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — The Keegan family has found an affordable solution to the high cost of having a teenage driver in the family.

A 1981 Toyota Land Cruiser with 150,000 miles on it.

"Our son, who's 17, drives it now, and his brother, who's 19, drove it before him," Janet Keegan said. "The Toyota is good transportation, but it isn't worth a lot."

Except when the family's car insurance bill shows up in the mailbox every six months. "The most affordable solution may be to get an older car and then insure it only for liability," said Tim Obenchain of Obenchain Insurance. "If you're not paying for collision or comprehensive coverage, you can save some money."

And there's another reason not to invest too heavily in a teenager's car.

"Young drivers get into accidents," Obenchain said. According to Insurance Institute of North America, 16-year-olds — the age of most first-time drivers in Idaho — have higher crash rates than drivers of any other age. They are, in fact, three times more likely than drivers of all ages to die in a car wreck.

Almost half of the highway deaths involving 16-year-old motorists in 2003 happened when there were teenage passengers in the vehicle. Statistics show that 16- and 17-year-old driver death rates increase with each additional passenger, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

But the risk is even more vivid if sketched in dollars and cents.

According to the Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association, a newly licensed male teenage driver in Colorado who has never had an accident can expect to pay between \$1,065 and \$1,375 every six months for car insurance, provided he has a good-student discount and a multiple discount on his parents' policy.

After one ticket, however, the tab goes up to between \$2,425 and \$2,977. After one ticket and one accident, the premium increases to between \$4,177 and \$5,070.

That's for six months of coverage. Car insurance costs more in Colorado than in Idaho, but local agents say such dramatic premium increases can happen to young drivers here, too.

"At some point, we can't do business with some young drivers with bad records," said Jim Bleh, a State Farm agent in Twin Falls.

And there's even citation that a young driver receives automatically means a steep premium increase; it depends on the policy and the insurer.

And cutting a young driver loose to fend for himself in the car insurance market isn't always the cheapest solution, local agents say.

Which means that a young driver's today calculate premiums using factors other than driving records.

Credit ratings, for example. Or the number of cars that a family drives.

But there are some pitfalls to having the car that a teenager drives in his parents' name. "Teenage drivers lend their cars to other young

16-year-olds have higher crash rates than drivers of any other age. They are, in fact, three times more likely than drivers of all ages to die in a car wreck.

Top 10 used cars for kids

Make	Model	Year	Average price*
1. Chevrolet	Blazer	2000	\$7,900
2. Honda	Civic	2001	\$9,935
3. Toyota	Corolla	2002	\$9,799
4. Nissan	Altima	2001	\$8,995
5. Hyundai	Elantra	2003	\$8,990
6. Ford	Ranger	2003	\$12,900
7. Suzuki	Aerio	2003	\$8,888
8. Toyota	4Runner	1998	\$9,500
9. Mercury	Cougar	2001	\$9,300
10. Ford	Taurus	2003	\$9,300

*Average price of all examples of this make, model and year posted for sale on AutoExtra.com, March 1, 2006.

drivers," Obenchain said. "And if there's an accident, the (financial) liability comes back to the parents."

But not parents are willing to take that and other risks. According to CNW Marketing Research, which tracks national purchasing trends, 41 percent of 16- to 19-year-olds in the United States own cars, up from 23 percent in 1995. Forty percent of them were paid for by their parents, up from 19 percent in 1995.

Eighty-two percent of teenagers' cars were purchased used, according to a survey by Opinion Research Corp. last year. Twenty-three percent of parents share the cost of their teenagers' cars with the young drivers in their households.

"I ask parents who insure young drivers with us to send them in here to have a talk with me about insurance premiums," Obenchain said. "They won't listen to their parents on this subject, but I guarantee they'll listen to me."

Times-News features writer Steve Crump can be reached at 735-3223 or scrump@magically.com.

Years ago, a wave of British women followed love to a new land

By Tamara Jones
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Vera is certain even now that it began with the red dress in London — in the waning months of World War II was unbearably dark and dreary. Vera Crneknal was just 18, and sick of the anti-barrage balloons that blotted out the sun, sick of carrying the smelly rubber gas mask wherever she went. One day a flash of color — brought her to the outside of a downtown shop window. Vera remembers "her older sister shaking her head."

"You can't buy that! It would take all your coupons!"

The dress had tiny brass rivets and a twirly skirt. Vera was a junior hostess at an American Red Cross club behind Hartwood's. Dangling with the flirtatious GIs left her forget the screaming bombers and deafening ack-ack guns. She handed over her entire year's worth of clothing rations and took the red dress home.

When she wore it for the first



British war brides have an annual Guy Fawkes Day costume party in Sterling, Va.

time, an American sergeant followed her into the club and asked her to dance. In the sun-room of his Leisure World condo near Leesburg, Va., Charles Long recalls the moment with tender conviction: "It was love at first sight, absolutely." With her raven hair, porcelain skin and eyes the

down her war service as part of an amazing armada carrying some 70,000 young British war brides and their babies.

They slipped — quietly — into their new lives, and were quickly forgotten.

Love isn't like that anymore. It's what Joan Stubbs will tell you if you ask her. "Today people stand up in front of the altar and pledge their lives and don't mean it," she laments from the house her husband built her in Gloucester, Va. She married her

Walter when she was just 17. He was one of the Army Air Corps boys who played cards each night in the village cafe; she was the air-rail warden's daughter who would come remind them to draw the blackout curtains. Sometimes Walter would walk her home in the moonlight. "He liked to talk," she remembers, "and I liked to listen."

War had already torn a gaping hole in Joan's childhood. She and her older sister were among thousands of school-

children evacuated from their homes in the United Kingdom to escape the

bombing of British cities. They were sent to the United States to live with American families who provided them with a safe haven during the war.

Joan's family was one of the many who took in a young British girl. She lived with them for two years before returning to her native England.

When she was 17, she met Walter, an American boy who had been evacuated from his home in England. They fell in love and married in 1945.

Walter was a pilot in the Royal Air Force and was shot down over the English Channel. He was captured and held in a prisoner-of-war camp in Germany. Joan spent the war years waiting for his return.

When Walter returned home, he was a hero. He had been held in a prisoner-of-war camp for two years. Joan was proud of her husband's bravery.

Washington and piled swamp boats through the backwaters of Mississippi.

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FAMILY LIFE

SENIOR CALENDAR

Twin Falls Senior Center
503 Shoshoni St. W.
Dinner—served from noon to 12:30 p.m. Suggested donation is \$3.50 for seniors. Cost is \$5 for people under 60, and \$2.50 for children under 12.
Pool room open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Lounge—room available for television, puzzles and reading.
Bargain Center open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Menus:
Monday: Spaghetti, Italian vegetables, pea salad, french bread, tapioca pudding.
Tuesday: Stewed turkey, potatoes and gravy, peas and carrots, bread, coleslaw, apple crisp.
Wednesday: Salisbury steak, potatoes and gravy, winter mix vegetables, spinach salad, bread, dessert.
Thursday: Sweet and sour chicken with rice, oriental vegetables, pineapple and orange, bowl of fruit, fortune cookie.
Friday: Fish or chicken, cob of corn, bread, pudding with fruit, cookie.

Activities:
Today: Dance
Bible study, 6:30 p.m.
Monday: Quilting
Monday Bridge
No exercise on Mondays throughout March.
Tuesday: Ticket Tuesday
Wednesday: Blood pressure /tux assistance
Thursday: Texas card game
Friday: Quilting
Elks Card Club
Medicare D
Exercise
Backstop trip, 3 p.m.
Thursday: Center pinocchio
Tux aid
Medicare D
Friday: Blood pressure
Lunch bingo
Quilting
Exercise
Saturday: Super bingo

West End Senior Citizens Inc.
1010 Main St., Buhl

Menus:
Today: Turkey dinner, 1 p.m.
Monday: Soup and sandwich
Tuesday: Sweet and sour over rice, California blend vegetables, salad, fruit, fortune cookie, ice cream
Wednesday: Taco salad with salsa and sour cream, nacho chips, chilled fruit, breadsticks, cookie
Thursday: Barbecue ribs, baked potatoes, vegetables, salad, dessert
Activities:
Today: Bingo, 1 p.m.; \$4 for seniors, \$5 for people under age 60 and \$3 for those age 12 and younger
Monday: Exercise, 10 a.m.
Card, 6 to 8 p.m.
Tuesday: AARP tux assistance, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Bingo, 7 to 9 p.m.
Wednesday: Exercise, 10 a.m.
Thursday: Blood pressure check, 11:45 a.m.

Filter Senior Haven
2225 Main St.
Dinners served at noon. Suggested donation \$3 for seniors.
Home-delivered meals available each mealtime.

Menus:
Tuesday: Beef stew, cornbread, tossed salad, appetizer cake
Wednesday: Smorgasbord
Thursday: Baked bread of chicken, milk gravy, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, celery with peanut butter, roll and butter, Texas sheet cake
Activities:
Monday: PACE class, 1:30 p.m.; Bingo, 6 to 8 p.m.
Tuesday: Puzzles, 11:30 a.m.; Cards, 1 p.m.
Wednesday: Puzzles, 11:30 a.m.

Jerome Senior Center
212 First Ave. E.
All dinners served at noon. Suggested donation is \$3.50.

Menus:
Monday: Ham and beans, cornbread, pickled beans, fruit, cookies
Tuesday: Beef enchiladas, scalloped potatoes, corn, Jell-O with fruit, peach cobbler
Wednesday: Barbecue ribs, potato wedges, carrots, fruit salad, carrot cake
Thursday: Roast pork, potatoes, gravy, Brussels sprouts, green salad, appetizer cake
Friday: Meatloaf, potatoes and gravy, Italian vegetables, fruit medley, bread pudding

Activities:
Monday: Fitness class, 11 a.m.
Bowling
Tuesday: Ticket Tuesday
Pinocchio, 1 p.m.
Snack bar, 6 p.m.
Early bird, 6:45 p.m.
Bingo, 7 p.m.
Wednesday: Board meeting
Tuxes, 10 a.m. to noon
Fitness class, 11 a.m.
Pinocchio, 1 p.m.
Thursday: Foot clinic
Blood pressure
Friday: Gem State Fiddlers, 11:30 a.m.
Pinocchio, 1 p.m.

Ageless Senior Citizens Inc.
310 Main St. N., Kimberly
Milk, coffee, juice and tea served.

Menus:
Sunday: Pork chops, potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, salad, hot rolls, dessert
Monday: Cook's Chicken
Tuesday: Chicken, potatoes, gravy, green beans, celery with peanut butter, peach cobbler
Friday: Ham, potato pancakes, corn, Jell-O, vegetables, butter-scotch pudding.

Activities:
Monday: Exercise, 10:30 a.m.
AA meeting, 8 p.m.
Al-Anon meeting, 8 p.m.
Tuesday: Bingo, 7 p.m.
Wednesday: Exercise, 10:30 a.m.
Thursday: NA meeting, 7 p.m.
Friday: Tux aid, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Exercise, 10:30 a.m.
Bingo, 11:50 a.m.
Pinocchio, 1 p.m.

Gooding County Senior Citizens
All dinners are at noon. Suggested donation \$3 for seniors.

Menus:
Monday: Meatloaf, potatoes and gravy, green beans, penny corn salad, cake, bread
Tuesday: Fish and chips, broccoli, tossed salad, dessert, bread
Wednesday: Ham and beans, Jell-O salad, apricots, cornbread
Thursday: Salisbury steak, potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables, salad, peach cobbler.
Friday: Leftovers

Activities:
Sunday: Backstop bus
Monday: Ticket Tuesday
Pinocchio, 12:30 p.m.
Wild One, 6 p.m.
Tuesday: Pool, 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Hand and foot, 6 p.m.
Bridge, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday: Pool, 9:30 a.m.
Board meeting, 1 p.m.
Shower, 6 p.m.
Thursday: Quilt social, 9 a.m.
Pool, 9:30 a.m.
TOPS, 4 p.m.
Pinocchio, 7 p.m.
Friday: Bridge, 1 p.m.
Bowling, 1:30 p.m.
Bingo, 6 p.m.

Hagerman Senior Center
140 E. Lake
Open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; lunch is served at noon. Suggested donation is \$3 for seniors \$4 for others, and \$2 for children under 12.

Menus:
Monday: Pork spare ribs, sauté/riced, potato wedges, green beans, salad, fruit, bread, dessert
Wednesday: Meatloaf, potatoes and gravy, corn, salad, fruit, bread, dessert
Friday: Soup, turkey wraps, vegetable, salad, fruit, dessert

Silver and Gold Senior Center
Eden
Suggested donation for seniors is \$3. All meals include salad, dessert—fruit—milk—and coffee. Thursdays are cookie and bread bake days, and Wednesdays are cinnamon roll and maple bar bake days.

Menus:
Tuesday: Sweet and sour pork, rice, cottage cheese, mixed vegetables, fruit
Thursday: Hamburger steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, carrots, coleslaw, fruit
Activities:
Wednesday: Bingo, 7 p.m.
Saturday: Pinocchio breakfast, 7:30 to 11 a.m.

Blaine County Senior Center
721 Third Ave. S., Halley

Menus:
Tuesday: Meatloaf with gravy, macaroni, green beans, corn, biscuits, lime Jell-O, salad, chocolate pudding cake

Wednesday: Chicken and noodles with carrots, cornbread, pears, chocolate chip cookies
Friday: Turkey dressing, gravy, mashed potatoes, hot rolls, broccoli, cranberry sauce, fruit salad, stumwberry cake

Activities:
Monday: Shopping in Twin Falls, 8:30 a.m.
Tuesday: Caregivers, 10:30 a.m.
Blood pressure, 11:30 a.m.
Exercise, 1:15 p.m.
Wednesday: Red Hatlers, 11 a.m.
Thursday: Exercise, 1:30 p.m.
Friday: Hearing counselors, 11 a.m.

Three Island Senior Center
492 E. Cleveland Ave., Glenns Ferry

Meals served at noon Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; beverages with meals. Rides are available by phoning the center at 366-2651. Suggested donation is \$3 for seniors, \$5 for people under 60, and \$2.50 for children under 12.

Menus:
Monday: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, California mixed vegetables, carrot cake, bread
Tuesday: Chicken rice casserole, green beans, corn, roll
Thursday: Chicken strips, potato, fruit, spinach, bread
Carrot/pineapple salad, spinach

Activities:
Monday: Tux aid, 1 to 4 p.m.
Tuesday: Blood pressure clinic, 11 a.m.
Thursday: Business meeting, 12:30 p.m.
Friday: TOPS, 9 a.m.
Cardio, 1 p.m.
Saturday: Tux aid, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

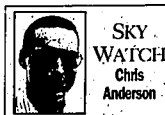
Camas County Senior Center
127 E. Willow, Fairfield
Noon meals are served Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The center is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on meal days. Cost of the meal is \$3.50; children under 10 pay \$2. The suggested donation for those 60 years and older is \$2.50.

Menus:
Tuesday: Stir fry, fruit, salad, bread, dessert
Wednesday: Casserole, fruit, salad, bread, dessert
Friday: Turkey, mashed potatoes, fruit, salad, bread, dessert
Activities:
Monday: Exercise class, 7 to 8 a.m.
Tuesday: Exercise class, 7 to 6 a.m.
Wednesday: Exercise class, 7 to 8 a.m.
Board meeting, 7 p.m.
Thursday: Exercise class, 7 to 8 a.m.
Art class, 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Friday: Exercise class, 7 to 8 a.m.
Saturday: Breakfast, Pancakes, sausage, fruit, orange juice, coffee

Minidoka County Senior Citizens Center
702 11th St., Rupert
Meals are served at noon and home delivered upon request. Food and assorted beverages are served every day with meals. Gift shop hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Menus:
Monday: Barbecue ribs, baked beans, salad, cornbread, ice cream
Tuesday: Finger steaks, french fries, carrots, Texas toast, salad, brownies
Wednesday: Taco salad, Texas toast, cottage cheese, mouse
Thursday: Ravioli, spaghetti, garlic bread, vegetables, salad, pudding
Friday: Smorgasbord
Activities:
Monday: Exercise, 10 a.m.
Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Pool, 1 p.m.
Tuesday: Pool, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Wednesday: Exercise, 10 a.m.
Blood pressure, 10 a.m. to noon
Pinocchio, 1 to 4 p.m.
Pool, 1 p.m.
Thursday: Pool, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Friday: Pool, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Pinocchio, 1 to 4 p.m.
Bingo, 7 p.m.

Orion is the centerpiece of the winter night sky



SKY WATCH
Chris Anderson

Here's the scene: You're on "Family Feud" and the category is "Famous Constellations." Dad has just buzzed in with "The Big Dipper," the No. 1 most popular answer, and now it's your turn. What do you say? If you answered "Orion," survey says it's the No. 2 answer!
It's no wonder. Orion is full of bright stars in a distinctive pattern, recognized by cultures around the globe as resembling a human form. Orion's most conspicuous feature is his belt: three bright, bluish stars in a nearly perfect line, currently visible in the southern sky in early evening. From left to right they are Alnilak, Anilam and Mintaka.

Above the belt are Orion's shoulders, red Betelgeuse on the left and blue-white Rigel on the right. The hunter's sword comprises a line, topside triangle of stars, the brightest of which is Meissa.
Below Orion's belt are his bright knee and foot stars. Saiph on the left and brilliant blue Rigel on the right. Also-

Sky calendar through Saturday

- Planets: One-hour before sunrise: Venus, SE, very low; Jupiter, SEW, low; One hour after sunset: Mars: SW, very high; Saturn: ESE, high
- Moon: First quarter, 11:16 p.m.
- Monday: Easy close to Mars late tonight. Close to Saturn Friday evening.

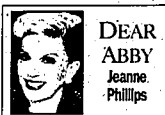
gather, Orion hosts seven of the 75 brightest stars in the sky, with both Betelgeuse (7) and Rigel (6) in the top 10. To see why requires a clear, moonless night. But, just past the left (east) side of Orion is the winter Milky Way, a pale

ghost of its more prominent summer counterpart.
The winter Milky Way is faint because it compresses our galaxy's sparse outer rim. Observing dust and gas (most easily seen as dark lanes in the summer Milky Way) is relatively scarce here, allowing distant supernovae stars that would otherwise be hidden (like Orion's belt) to be seen at great distance.

Finally, any tour of Orion would be incomplete without a stop at the Great Nebula, appearing like a fuzzy star directly below Anitak. This glowing gas cloud is the nearest stellar nursery, where new stars have just begun to blaze forth. Its glowing bluish is a favorite target of backyard telescope owners.

Chris Anderson is the production specialist and observatory manager at the Faulkner Planetarium at the Hermet Center for Arts and Science at the College of Southern Idaho.

Grandma who favors grandson is causing major harm to family



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My mother has eight grandchildren. Four are mine; four are my sister's. One, however, is her obvious favorite. She spends no expense when it comes to my sister's oldest-son, "Johnny." She buys him extravagant gifts, praises him constantly and hands him large sums of money in front of the other children—often making a big deal out of presenting it to him.
Last Christmas, she insisted that all the children come and sit around Johnny as she presented him with a \$100 bill. When we're out together in public, she will say to her strangers, in front of all the children, "I love all my grandchildren, but I have special feelings for Johnny. We have a special relationship that I don't have with the others."
My children are hurt by her actions and comments.
When the children were young, they could disguise their favoritism, but as my children have grown older, they are very aware of her feelings and actions. When my sister's son confronted Mother about it, she cried. She said she wouldn't listen to such "hateful lies," then stormed from the room. Is there a way to help my mother see what she is doing to our family, or should I just protect my children from her abuse by staying away from her?

— PROTECTIVE MOM IN TEXAS

DEAR MOM: You and your sister should have formed a united front and put a stop to this years ago. As it stands, your mother has already alienated seven out of her eight grandchildren, and understandably so. If you're asking for my permission to protect your children from your mother's obsession with their cousin, you have it. And your sister should follow your example.

DEAR ABBY: I am the mother of two children ages 7 and 4. In a recent child development class, there was a discussion about sex education for small children. My professor mentioned that if children aren't asking questions about sex, we should initiate talks with our children. She also said that children should have the sex talk by 8 years old. Is this correct?

DEAR FATHER-TO-BE: When someone comments that the baby resembles you, stick with the tried-and-true. Smile and say, "Thank you!" It's all that's required from any proud papa.

DEAR SYLVIA: Much depends upon the level of maturity of the child, which can vary from individual to individual. Parents should certainly use correct terminology when talking about body parts. It's best to arm children with speaking before their hormones kick in. I agree with your professor that by age 8 or 9, some discussion of puberty should be introduced. If you start much later, your children will hear "the facts" from their friends instead of from you, and too often, the information they receive from peers is incorrect.

DEAR ABBY: About a year ago, I found out that I am biologically older than my child. My wife and I looked into several options and chose to go with an anonymous donor.
How would you suggest I deal with the situation that my baby looks just like you, or "She has your eyes." Because our baby will be a girl, I was hoping for something like, "I hope you'll she'll never get a date looking like me." Any other suggestions?

Death, illness can harm a couple's other half

By Bill Glauber
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

MILWAUKEE — Romantic writers and hard-edged researchers have long debated with the possibility that when an elderly wife or husband dies, the surviving spouse may die of a broken heart.
It turns out that even the hospitalization of a spouse can harm an elderly partner's health and contribute to the partner's death, according to a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine.
"We showed it's not just death that can give you a broken heart, but illness in your spouse can give you a broken heart and contribute to death," said Nicholas Christakis, a physician, Harvard Medical School professor and co-author of the study.
The authors honed in on the "caregiver burden" and "widow effect," problems that can strike anyone who cares for spouses who are ill or dying. The study found that partners faced a greater risk of death after a spouse was hospitalized with dementia, psychiatric disease, a serious fracture, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or

congestive heart failure.
"It's the disabling of the disease that can harm (the partner)," Christakis said. "Having a spouse with cancer doesn't really increase the risk of death." The death of a spouse within the previous 30 days increased the risk of death for the surviving spouse, but only if the study showed.
Christakis and Paul Allison, chair of the University of Pennsylvania's sociology department, studied 51,829 couples enrolled in Medicare in 1993. The study lasted nine years, and during that time, 74 percent of husbands and 67 percent of wives were hospitalized at least once and 49 percent of husbands and 30 percent of wives died.

The study showed the need for physicians to look at the husband and wife as a critical group, whose lives and health are interconnected, said Edmund Duhle, professor of

medicine and chief of geriatrics-gerontology at the Medical College of Wisconsin.
"I'm in caring for an elderly person. I've got to think about the spouse," Duhle said. "I have to ask, 'What's going on at home?' That's relevant to my own patient's care."
Those involved in care for the elderly, the results are not surprising. They have seen firsthand the stress and strain placed on partners who provide care for their spouses.
"Caregivers don't take care of themselves," said Pat Bruce, director of the Milwaukee-based Family Caregiver Support Network. "They don't put themselves heart and soul into taking care of the other person and totally neglect their own care."
Bruce said she knows of instances when the spouse who is the caregiver will give up medication to help delay medical costs.

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Indulge yourself in the whimsical, Gemini

IF MARCH 5 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Big changes are just around the corner, so your year ahead may be a whirlwind. Helpful people and lucky breaks are likely to offer you a leg up on the ladder of success in May. In July, the high-spending wings and fly independently may force some alterations in your lifestyle, but practice hops may be necessary before you can fly solo. You could make major mistakes in August, so keep your head low and avoid controversy because in September the cosmic tides turn in a happier direction and you can successfully put key plans in motion.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Let your hourly activities be highlighted under today's stars. The workweek ahead may give you ample opportunity to come to amiable terms with loved ones or business partners.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Sing a happy romantic duet

HOROSCOPE

Jeraldine Saunders

with your special someone. Perfect harmony is possible if you follow your intuitions. Plan to ask for favors and generosity from the boss in the week ahead.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Indulge in the whimsical. A spirit of blissful agreement settles in today making significant relationships a centerpiece of tranquility. Consider long-term partnership plans early in the week.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Fight fire with fire. A little enthusiasm will strike a harmonious chord with that significant other in your life. Get important business matters and plans tended to early in the week.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You've

got that loving feeling. Buy with an eye toward enduring values. You are on the right track through midweek and can develop key strategies that will meet with helpful cooperation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Perfect attunement can make a relationship soar to new heights of ecstasy under these stars. Listen with your heart instead of the mind. Work on big improvements at home early in the week.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Start the week off with a romantic retreat. Hide away with a loved one and indulge romantic fantasies. Penmanship efforts will serve to improve a situation by the middle of the week.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Create a tranquil atmosphere and lure a lover into your lair. Put key plans into motion early in the week while team spirit is in the air. Lucky breaks can improve your career outlook.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Enjoy precious times with loved ones. Romance gets the green light today. Blissful cooperation exists in the first part of the week ahead so spin wheels in the right direction.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Romance is on the front burner. Head off on a shopping trip for that perfect something and derive lasting delight from a purchase. Get major plans accomplished early in the week, if possible.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Let imagination run wild. Plan a capricious romp with a romantic partner under these benign celestial conditions. Make long range plans early in the week for the best success.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Love and marriage go together like a horse and carriage. You could hook up with the perfect partner to achieve your long-term dreams and find ways to harness mutual aims together.

It's about YOU and Family Mealtime

Does your family eat together often or is everyone too busy? Here's how U.S. kids fare.

65%	65%	42%
Eat a meal as a family six to seven days a week	Do so four to five days a week	Do so zero to three days a week

Source: Pew Research Center

Gleanings from the annals of unnecessary research

The Washington Post

Children who spend more time watching television spend less time interacting with their family and playing creatively, report, researchers from the University of Texas at Austin and Harvard Children's Hospital.

They also found that older kids who spent more time watching TV spent less time on homework.

War brides

Continued from E1

children evacuated from the capital when the London Blitz began, sent to the countryside to live with strangers. In 1941, the bestaged capital was 30 miles away, she guesses, and "at night you could see London burning." When Joan was 14, her father came to collect her and their house had been destroyed in a direct hit, and now her parents were fleeing the city as well. They all moved to a one-lane village called Bourne End, near the aerodrome where B-17s took off. Walter Stubbs belonged to the regiment known as James's Favourite.

Joan was aboard that first love boat to America. She remembers the Argentine setting sail without fanfare. "We weren't allowed to have anyone see us off," she says. Families had to bid their daughters farewell at the train station. The girls then reported to processing camps, where there were mountains of forms to fill out in triplicate, thick-stacks of documents to read and humiliating physicals to endure, standing naked before Army doctors who scanned their bodies with flashlight beams.

The U.S. military bore the cost of transportation, but the Red Cross budget to staff and supply the operation was \$100,000. At the processing camps, cradles were made out of orange crates, while 20 war vessels were stocked with purged peas, ration papers and safety pins. Babies had to be at least 3 months old to travel, and women could not be more than seven months pregnant. Joan met a woman who slipped on the deck and nearly lost her daughter overboard if a passing steward hadn't caught the infant. Thirteen babies who sailed from Belgium with their mother aboard the Zebulon Vance were reported dead after an outbreak of diarrhea.

Sometimes the stress of waiting for passage from war-torn Europe pushed the brides to the breaking point. When 87 women expecting to ship out of Germany discovered there was no room for only 10, bedlam erupted at the processing camp. Covered in ice from an overnight storm, the Argentine liner New York Harbor at 2:30 that February morning, Joan remembers the brides all rushing to the deck, shivering in the first gush of their new homeland. "Can you imagine after four years of darkness what it was like to see the Statue of Liberty all lit up for us?" Joan's voice cracks on the memory. "It was such a beautiful sight."

Walter was waiting for her in Virginia, where they would be living with his parents. She called him from the New York train station. He was shocked to find her in the baggage room, sitting on the "colored" bench. Segregation was an alien concept. The teen bride is 78 now. She lost Walter two years ago this April. Their two children, and even the grandchildren, are grown and gone. Now a great-grandchild is on the way. "I'm kind of alone here," says Joan. She feels him beside her still, in a dream where he rescues her one day, or when she discovers an old birthday card tucked inside a book, or when she misplaces something and hears her name called out. "Who would it be?" and then it always turns up. He is the only man she ever loved. "Who would think all this would come out of war?" she wonders.

The stereo is blaring "Yes, We Have No Bananas," and the septuagenarians are out of control.



Vera and Charles Long of Leesburg, Va., on their wedding day in 1945. Vera was one of 70,000 British war brides who crossed the Atlantic for love.



Vera and Charles Long at their home in Leesburg, Va., where they still love to dance to the music of their courtship years. Charles never truly forgot, Vera says; he thought sending instructions to fill out the Army's seven-page application expressed his feelings well enough.

They dance a conga line through the hostess' living room, a Carmen Miranda in silver lame kicking up her heels with the Groucho Marx surgeon who keeps squaring people in the face with water from his gag-syringe. Something that sounds like china crashes to the floor. "There's trifles!" the hostess crows, hoping to herd some of the revelers into the dining room, where the table offers polite testimony to English culinary arts involving unset Jell-O and Matherhorns of whipped cream.

The annual Guy Fawkes Day costume party in November commemorating a failed plot to burn the British Parliament — is a rip-roaring success. The war brides beam. The small clubs they formed out of newlywed loneliness became cultural touchstones polished smooth over the decades. They hold garden parties each June to celebrate the queen's birthday. They fly the Union Jack on British holidays.

The Trans-Atlantic Brides and Parents Association began even before the last war bride ship had left England back in 1946, formed by families who despaired that they would never see their daughters again. The young women came largely from working-class homes, and travel was prohibitively expensive. Telephones were rare and



Doris Amsbaugh of Wales, honeymooning with her American husband, Jack, in England in March 1945.



Doris Amsbaugh put a notice in the paper to find other British war brides in Vienna, Va., and was surprised when a dozen responded.

the women gaze at the old pictures Vern collected.

"There's Patricia, didn't she look just like Ingrid Bergman? She's dead, and this couple here, the husband is dead and Eunice moved closer to her daughter out West. There's Jack and Doris on their honeymoon. 'That's Margaret; she's here but has dementia, and here's Annie the Scottish girl; she died this past year."

They cross-winter's seas together still. Baby showers have given way to funerals, love letters have become eulogies.

No one kept any statistics on how many of the marriages lasted, though Vera's research led her to hypothesize that the divorce rate was around 8 percent. The number who stayed in unhappy marriages would never be known. Return passage to England was funded by the government for only one year after arrival, and for moth-

ers whose children were American citizens, going home could mean losing custody in a U.S. divorce. Some women got off the bride ship only to discover that their GI husbands were already married. Others found themselves isolated in rural areas, London birds nest as prairie wives in the Dakotas, or

married no longer to a dashing soldier but to a trapper living in a backwoods cabin with no running water or electricity.

"I think people were tougher then and you accepted what you had," says Doris. She remembers how the stress of adapting made her hair fall out in clumps for the first two years here. Only a handful of actual war brides remain in her club, but the tea party grew to 50 at one point, and has since expanded to include couples, nonwar couples, homeseek and natives and British expats in perpetual search of a decent trifle.

Doris' husband, Jack, converted their Vienna basement into a faux English pub where they threw parties. "But after Jack died, 'I didn't much like coming down here alone,'" Doris says. She is 86 now. Jack's been gone nearly 20 years. The mahogany four-poster he bought for her arrival still stands polished in their bedroom.

Those whose wartime romances did endure describe love not as a complicated mystery but as simple as tea.

Charles never proposed properly. Vera reveals over Yorkshire tea and digestive biscuits in her dining room. Chairs slip guiltily from his chair as he thought sending her cheery instructions to fill out the seven-page application required by the Army made his intentions clear enough.

"What check?" Vera declares. "What about that first date? Charles counters. They were supposed to meet at Marble Arch, and Vera never showed. "As I got ready to go, this other American who was always bringing me presents brought this huge case of strawberry preserves," she explains.

"Remember, I brought you lemon drops," Charles counters playfully. "You brought me lemon drops, yes."

They still love to play the music from those days, that war-time time. Vera turns 60 next month, but the four different British organizations she now belongs to keep her busy, and she takes exercise classes keep her fit. She worries, though, about Charles. He is 87, and having some trouble getting around. She puts Glenn Miller on to coax him away from his computer.

"Come on, come on, come on," Vera will plead. "Dance with me." Charles will shuffle into her arms, and they hold each other close, the handsome soldier and his girl in the red dress, knowing each step by heart.

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"Real Estate Corner"

LOT BUYING

by Laura Fitzgerald
Re/Max American Dream Realty

Finding a desirable location is only the first step in selecting a prospective lot for your future home. Here are some things you should check:

BOUNDARIES - The legal description of the lot should be physically inspected. If there is any doubt about the limits of your domain, have the property surveyed.

DEED RESTRICTIONS - Be sure you know and understand what limitations may exist on the use of the land.

ZONING - Don't assume your lot is zoned the same as nearby parcels.

EASEMENTS - An easement gives someone else the right to use a portion of your property for a specified purpose. Ask about easements. And make sure to check for SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS AND LIENS. ☺

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FAMILY LIFE

Taking identity from a baby

By Anisle Willett Knight Ridder News Service

At age 7, Zach Friesen's Social Security number was stolen by a stranger who used it to buy a \$10,000 houseboat. Zach wasn't the only young victim...

Anti-fraud tips for parents

- Do not carry your child's Social Security number in your wallet, and shred old papers you throw out that have your child's name on them.

Boolder, travels the country warning teens about the crime as part of a campaign by telecommunications giant Qwest.

Blood glucose monitoring system designed for pets

Data from the newly released National Health Interview Survey shows that more than 50 percent of U.S. adults are overweight...

THE BOND Marty Becker

the upheavals of testing and injecting their diabetic pets were, well, a little weird. No more! Not only are such highly dedicated pet parents much more common, their actions are now considered normal...

Foul moods are highly infectious, but you can protect yourself

By Eric Adler Knight Ridder News Service

Psychologists call it "emotional contagion." But you can think of it as the wretched friend, the crabby boss, the depressed party guest...

We are fundamentally like bees and ants that have evolved as ultra social creatures

mate groups in their entirety enter a similar mood, de Waal says. It's all of a sudden, all of them are fully hyping or anti-hyping.

British groups of nurses and accountants showed that, within the same work group, individuals tend to share the same up and down moods.

Beagle-pug cross is the latest 'it' pet

By Gerry Doyle Chicago Tribune

If there was a bundle of puppy love under the tree this Christmas, there's a good chance it had floppy ears, a hyperkinetic, curly tail, and a catchy name: puggie.

She said she loves Rbody, who is "a big dog trapped in a little dog's body." When she first started looking for a dog, she wanted a pug but decided on a mixed breed to avoid that breed's breathing problems...

SINUSITIS or COLDS

Because the symptoms of sinusitis sometimes mimic those of colds, you may not realize that you need to see a Sinus Specialist.

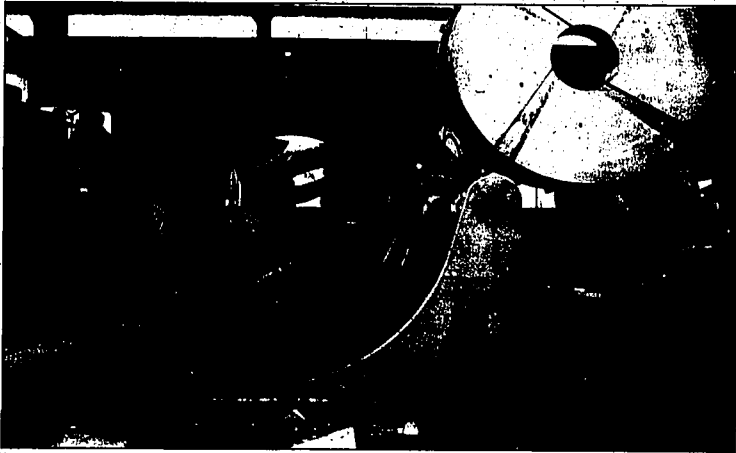
Table with 3 columns: SYMPTOM, SINUSITIS, COLD. Rows include: Facial pressure/pain, Duration of illness, Nasal discharge, Fever, Headache, Pain in upper teeth, Bad Breath, Coughing, Nasal Congestion, Sneezing.

Fairfield company finds global niche

By Karma M. Fitzgerald
Times-News writer

FAIRFIELD — High Country Fusion Company is not exactly the kind of business one might expect to see nestled in the quiet mountain town of Fairfield. Farming equipment... recreation, maybe — but this is high density polyethylene pipe (HDPE) of all shapes and sizes. High Country is a company that's found a way to blend global business with a small-town lifestyle. It does more than \$10 million of business a year, the majority of which is out of state or overseas. Fairfield, population 450, is about an hour away from the closest freeway exit and 40 miles from the nearest airport. Not ideal qualities in a global marketplace, but perfect for raising a family and spending time outdoors. High Country owners think they have the best of both worlds, although company owners say they have to think carefully to do business worldwide from a place where there's no such thing as overnight delivery.

"You can't receive FedEx at 9:30," said vice president Doug Hanks. "It's forced us out of the box of saying you have to do this to how can we work together?" High Country specializes in fusing HDPE pipe. Heater plate is inserted between two ends of pipe. Using custom equipment and high heat, the pipe is fused together forming a seamless bond. The company works with pipe ranging in size from half-inch to 63 inches. One can find either in the Fairfield plant or on a construction site using portable machinery, the pipe is used to carry everything from water to hazardous waste and everything in between. The company has its origins in Salt Lake City where Hanks and his step-father, High Country President Steve Wilson, worked for a similar business. When that company was sold,



Richard Walgorak, a senior technical machinist at High Country Fusion in Fairfield, removes the fusion bead from a 54-inch pipe. Once he's done, the interior of the pipe will be smooth. The pipe will handle 300 psi. In a water cooling system at a nuclear power plant in Arizona.

the two decided they were ready for a challenge. At first they just rented out the equipment used to fuse the pipe. Slowly, they started to offer more of the products and services needed to construct HDPE. They both have a passion for the business and according to Wilson, theirs is one of only a handful of similar businesses in the country. It's a niche business that grows them in the flexibility of creating what they need. "We get to create a lot of the stuff," he said. "A lot of what we do is stuff that hasn't been done before. In some ways we get to be artists."

By the mid-'90s, the Salt Lake City area was growing too crowded for Wilson and Hanks and their family. While on vacation in Idaho they fell in love with the clean air, recreation opportunities and slower pace. At first, they settled in Tully, but in 1997 moved to Fairfield. It was the choice of a lifetime. "We took a whole different turn," Hanks said. "I Hanks said their clients told them they needed to start building the fittings for the pipe and servicing the equipment. What started out as a two-man operation has blossomed to 41 full-time employees in their plant

just outside of Fairfield. In January, High Country opened an office in Salt Lake to be the nearer to a transportation hub for shipping. Since they opened up the Fairfield headquarters, business has boomed. "We've increased in size by no less than 50 percent a year," Hanks said. Contributing to that growth, a market that has expanded substantially in the last 10 years, Hanks said. High density pipe is pretty common in the mining and gas industries, but is new to water works. Over the last few years, HDPE pipe has become more and more popular for

transporting water. Last year, the city of Seattle just decided to install HDPE pipe for a drainage line in a sports park. In Honolulu, Hawaii, High Country put in an underwater waste line. In Indonesia, the pipe is being installed for a seawater intake and cooling system. Locally, the city of Aberdeen replaced its entire water system with HDPE pipe, Hanks said. "Our biggest challenge is getting people educated," Hanks said. "In a day and age when water is as good as gold, they shouldn't have a pipe that leaks." Beyond the market, Hanks credits the staff for the com-

pany's success. "We have fantastic people," he said. "They are the key to our success. One hundred percent the key."

According to Fairfield Chamber of Commerce President Ed Reagan, High Country is one of, if not the, largest employer in the area. Employees and contractors for High Country have a huge impact on the local economy. Reagan said it's been 30 years since a company the size of High Country has been in Fairfield, and it's been a welcome sight.

"High Country Fusion is one of the bright spots," Reagan said. "There are a number of other businesses in the community struggling to make ends meet." The difference is, according to Reagan, High Country doesn't rely on the local population to sustain its growth. That doesn't mean, the company doesn't pay attention to what's going in Fairfield.

"They're a growing business and we like to see that. The owners are very community minded," Reagan said.

Hanks is the mayor of Fairfield and several High Country employees are involved in the Chamber and other community groups.

"I've never heard anyone complain about the business," Reagan said. "They've been very good for the community."

Wilson said it is more difficult to do business in Fairfield — he can't just drive down to the local hardware shop and get something for the shop — but the trade-offs — family, lifestyle, and peace of mind — are worth the struggles. He says he wishes that ask why High Country chooses to stay in the isolated town. His answer is simple and straightforward: "Because we can."

Writer Karma M. Fitzgerald can be reached at 735-3233 or kfzgerald@magcity.com.

Starbucks gets serious about breakfast

By Elizabeth M. Gillespie
Associated Press writer

SEATTLE — Once premium java percolated into the mainstream, it was only a matter of time before major fast-food and doughnut chains got more serious about their coffee.

Bracing for that threat, Starbucks Corp. started trying out toasty egg and cheese sandwiches in its 150 downtown coffeehouses three years ago.

Now, as McDonald's Corp. and Burger King Corp. offer premium brew, and Dunkin' Donuts sells caramel oatmeal treats, the Seattle-based coffee behemoth is more than doubling the number of stores that sell hot breakfast sandwiches each year.

Offering such trimmings as peppered bacon and Black Forest ham, Starbucks added the English muffin sandwiches to stores in Washington, D.C., last month, and in Portland, Ore., last month. That will expand to San Francisco in early April, and Chicago later this year.

By the time its current fiscal year ends in October, Starbucks says it will offer breakfast sandwiches at roughly 600 stores — up from about 250 today.

Industry analysts say it's a sensible move that doesn't involve much risk. "Starbucks can get food right. It gives them a whole new leg of growth," said Linda Nanniger, an Edward Jones analyst.

The biggest gamble, analysts say, is whether hot food can be served without slowing down service.

Vendors prepare the breakfast sandwiches daily and deliver them first thing in the morning. The sandwiches are heated up in a convection oven to control the size of the average microwave, a process that takes about three minutes, Starbucks spokesman Alan Hilday said.

Starbucks has not disclosed earnings for the past year, but its business is affecting its bottom line — only that on average, it boosts same-store revenues by about \$30,000 a year, or roughly 3 percent. Drinks remain its primary



Starbucks barista Christopher Brown greets morning customers Feb. 22 from behind a case displaying breakfast sandwiches, pastries, and other food at a Starbucks store in Seattle. As McDonald's Corp. and Dunkin' Donuts begin to offer premium coffee Starbucks is more than doubling the number of stores nationwide that sell hot breakfast sandwiches.

and fastest-growing revenue source, accounting for 77 percent of \$5.4 billion in sales at company-run, retail stores for fiscal 2005. That's up from 61 percent since fiscal 1996, when company-run retail store revenue was about \$599 million.

Starbucks counts sales at company-run stores separate from those at its licensed shops in hotels, malls and the like. As a percentage of revenue, fresh food has remained relatively constant over the past decade, ranging from 12 percent to 16 percent of annual company-run retail sales. In fiscal 2005, pastries, desserts, sandwiches and salads accounted for 15 percent of those sales.

Meanwhile, Starbucks has beefed up its corporate-level food division from about a half-dozen employees a decade ago to roughly 70 today.

Tom Barr, who heads up the food division, realizes he faces increasingly stiff competition but said that's not the reason Starbucks is focusing more on food. It's just part of the business of keeping its customers happy, he said.

When it first rolled out warm breakfast sandwiches in April 2003, Starbucks got mixed reviews.

Since then, it bagged one egg,

sandwich with roasted peppers, red onion and Colby Jack cheese and replaced it with others that have proved more popular: eggs Florentine with baby spinach and havarti, and herb sausage and egg with aged sharp cheddar.

Officially, Starbucks isn't saying how many more markets might get breakfast sandwiches in the coming years, but Barr said, "We're confident in the program," and that he'd be surprised if Starbucks didn't expand the service to at least a couple new markets next year.

Bill Whitman, spokesman for McDonald's USA, said Starbucks' heightened focus on breakfast food comes as a compliment to a company that considers itself the inventor of the fast-food breakfast.

"I think there's much work left to be done to catch up to the industry leader," he said. "Wary of crediting any competitor, with forcing the company to revamp its coffee strategy, Whitman said McDonald's committed to the upgrade.

once it realized consumers were getting their caffeine fixes throughout the day, not just at breakfast.

McDonald's began adding "premium roast" coffee to stores in most major U.S. cities in re-

cent months and plans to roll it out in all of its 13,700 restaurants nationwide early next week.

Dunkin' Donuts, which used to pride itself on offering just a regular joe's cup of joe, started selling cappuccinos and other espresso drinks a few years ago, adding local versions last year.

During peak times of year, the new beverage line has accounted for as much as 10 percent of revenue and has also pushed up sales of regular brewed coffee — a boost the company didn't expect, said John Gilbert, Dunkin' Donuts' vice president of marketing.

Early this year, it added a light latte made with a zero-calorie sugar substitute. It's done so well, a vanilla version is planned for summer.

Doughnuts, of course, have always been the company's mainstay, but much like the competition, Dunkin' Donuts recently broadened its line of breakfast sandwiches.

Those will surely give Starbucks' sandwiches — more commonly as Dunkin' Donuts expands westward. It has about 4,800 stores today, most of them in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, and plans to open about 800 new stores year, with a national total of 15,000 stores by 2020.

Ad firm CEO tackles Hispanic stereotypes

By Dianne Sells
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — Juan Faura plays provocateur in the Hispanic marketing world. As chief executive of a Dallas advertising and marketing firm, he upends stereotypes — and sometimes embraces them. He's just written a book in which he looks at the Hispanic market and why it's so important.

"Hispanic Marketing Grows Up" boldly features a stereotype on its cover: a low-rider car filled up like a station on its hind legs. Why a low-rider?

Advertising, in Low Rider magazine might not be the wrong thing to do, he said. It sounds stereotypical but is, in fact, what a lot of Hispanics read in Los Angeles.

Marketers shouldn't be so afraid to break into stereotypes. He's not saying that. He's saying that some of the truths about them are lost, he argues.

The Hispanic population is booming, borders blur and corporations are hustling to figure out which language to use.

They also wonder which niches remain underserved among this group of 41 million consumers.

Faura, 39, is the product of a rapidly fusing world himself. Before the Census Bureau created the term Hispanic, he was born the child of a Puerto Rican father and a Mexican mother.

His youth was spent in Mexico City, shuttling between two neighborhoods — really two worlds. One, Tecamachalco, was rich and light-skinned. The other, San Antonio, was poor and caramel-skinned.

He hit the U.S. as a teenager, worked as a pipe fitter and mechanic and earned business and law degrees. He eventually landed marketing posts in California and Texas.

Markers shouldn't be so afraid of falling into stereotypes that some of the truths about them are lost, argues CEO Juan Faura.

ing career? A. It helped me to know the audience I serve now — not just by being Hispanic, but having worked with them and gone to lunch with them.

Q. What's the significance of music and the Grammys to the Hispanic market? A. Oftentimes people ask me, "When did this whole Hispanic craze take off? When did people sort of pay attention?" I tried to come up with the moment — the rallying cry. I thought that that happened at the '99 Grammy Awards. Ricky Martin was such an impactful thing from a pop-culture standpoint.

You had this humdrum show full of pop culture. And there is this guy from Puerto Rico who steals the show.

Then you started to see all the covers of the magazines touch on Latin America. Then came the census. It was the first shot that said, "Here we are."

Q. When a Latino is asked the question, "What language do you feel most comfortable in?" why does it not always follow that they will consume all their media in that language?

A. If you listen to Spanish, you do prefer to watch television in Spanish. But not by as large a margin as we previously thought.

Q. What show like "CSI" you can wait until Telemundo or Univision buys or produces a show like that. But even then, you're waiting for the production quality to be the same as a regular "CSI." What do you do? Your options are to watch it in English.

Q. Is Spanglish the solution? Please see HISpanic, Page F2

YOUR BUSINESS

CAREER MOVES

Blake W. Hanks

BOISE — Blake W. Hanks of Hal Davis Jewelers in Boise was awarded the title of registered jeweler of the American Gem Society Blake, formerly of Twin Falls, demonstrated knowledge and experience in the jewelry industry in order to win the award. Bill Siles, American Gem Society president, said, "I want to congratulate Blake for achieving a level of skill reached by only some 51,400 jewelers throughout the United States and Canada."

Glanbia employees

TWIN FALLS — Glanbia Foods has announced recent staff promotions and new hires.

Carl Garcia has been promoted from project manager to director of why operations. He is responsible for all production and logistics of Glanbia's why products. He joined Glanbia in 1996 and is a member of Glanbia Foods' Executive Leadership Team.

Kristine Sletten, certified public accountant, has joined Glanbia as plant controller at the Richfield facility. She will be responsible for overseeing expenses related to inventories and maintenance, working with the plant manager to monitor costs, meet budget and identify opportunities to make the plant more profitable. She brings 13 years of experience to this position and holds a bachelor's

degree in accounting from Boise State University.

Jason Deins has been promoted to associate accountant in Glanbia's auditing plant facility. He will assist plant and corporate controllers with accounting and financial projects. He brings eight years of experience to this position.

Sarah Boyd joined Glanbia as associate accountant at Glanbia's Twin Falls headquarters office. She is responsible for banking and cash reporting, reviewing Glanbia services accounts, milk futures and other general related projects. She will receive a bachelor's degree in business accounting from Boise State University this May.

Patricia Marcantonio

TWIN FALLS — "Red Ridin' in the Hood and Other Cuentos," a book written by Patricia Marcantonio has been featured as one of the critics' picks for 2005, among children's books published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux in New York.

Marcantonio is the online editor at The Times-News and the editor of School Days and Comunidad pages.

"Red Ridin'" which takes familiar fairy tales and gives them a Hispanic twist and flavor, also has been named as a Book Links Lasting Connection book. The book has received several recommendations, including a starred review from the Ameri-

ca Library's Association's Booklist.

It is illustrated by Renato Alarcón. For more information, visit www.fsgkidsbook.com.

Tamara McEntarfer

TWIN FALLS — Alliance Title & Escrow Corp. announce the promotion of Tamara McEntarfer to senior advisory title officer. She has 25 years of experience in the title industry with regards to insuring commercial, residential and agricultural properties, as well as foreclosures. She completed Courses I and II in Appraisal prior to her entrance into the title insurance profession, making her one of the most well-rounded title officers in Twin Falls county.

McEntarfer is a native of the Magic Valley and has worked for title companies in Idaho and Montana. She enjoys sports, spending time with her family, and singing.

Casino workers

JACKPOT, Nev. — Cactus Pete's Resort Casino announced its team members of the month for January 2006. Richard Moon works in the Support Division in the Facilities

Department. He joined Cactus Pete's in April 1982.

Jeff Jensen is a dealer in the Table Games Department in the Gaming Division. He joined Cactus Pete's in November 2001.

David Guthrie is a kitchen steward in the Food and Beverage Division. He joined Cactus Pete's in December 2004.

Laura Drake

TWIN FALLS — Laura Drake of Laura Drake Insurance and Financial Services successfully completed the Property and Casualty Insurance exams and received additional insurance licenses in December.

As an independent agent, she is able to market to a number of insurance companies to provide coverage at competitive prices. She is a member of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors and an ambassador for the Twin Falls

Chamber of Commerce. Drake also owns and operates Rafters D Ranch, a therapy program that uses horses in providing physical therapy to individuals with disabilities. Drake lives in Filer with her husband, Randy and their two children, Caleb and Loreta.

Darclie Clair

TWIN FALLS — Century 21 Greater Valley Properties announced the addition of Darclie Clair as sales associate. Clair was born and raised in Sun Valley. She has two children and three grandchildren with one on the way.

Clair teaches continuing education classes in Twin Falls and the Film and Audio Arts College. She and her husband, Michael Clair founded, which is an institution that works with "at risk teens" and provides service to the adult population in the Magic Valley.

Shawna Reeves

TWIN FALLS — Alpine Jewelers announced Shawna Reeves as the new assistant manager. She is a Twin Falls resident with 21 years of jewelry experience. She is also a certified diamond expert. Alpine Jewelers welcomes her

experience in buying, customer service and diamond grading expertise.

Milt Banner

HEYBURN — Milt Banner recently returned from an advanced workshop for Biodesal Solutions in Reno, Nev. for FuelMeister, a personal biodesal production system. Banner and his brothers, Les and Brent,

have been using the product for the last year and are branching into marketing the product for home use as well as on a larger scale for ranches, farms and truck lines. They will be using seminars to educate interested parties on advantages and use of producing your own biodesal, and exploring new avenues for production of crops for the purpose of producing oil for biodesal.

TELL US

Your business is a weekly feature that highlights commercial activity in the Magic Valley. If you have information about any of the following, The Times-News wants to hear about it:

- Promotions and staff changes.
- New certifications.
- Seminars and workshops.
- Awards and achievements.
- Charitable business activities.

Please email items to Money editor Chris Baldus at cbaldus@magicvalley.com

Hispanic

Continued from F1.

A. It depends on the medium. Spanglish in print did not work. It never works. The reason is pretty simple. Spanglish is a spontaneous thing. When you put it on paper, it becomes pre-mediated. It might work in broadcast and radio.

Q. Your book mentions the high deferential index of the Mexican, vs. someone from Bogota or San Juan. So showing respect is particularly important to Mexicans?

A. Those kinds of cultural nuances can or do play a role. It is also Central-Americans who tend to be that deferential. In categories that require a high level of trust between the marketer and the consumer, showing the correct amount of respect is critical. Cubans and Puerto Ricans are bolder.

Q. Talk to us about the stereotype of Latinos shopping in a pack.

A. What is heard most often about them is that they make going to the supermarket a family outing. One reason is that the male or husband likes to go to the supermarket with the family — but they don't go with the mindset that this will be a family outing. One reason is that the male or husband likes the idea that he is controlling the money as the wife controls buying the brands. And the other reason is that they have no one to take care of the kids.

Q. What about the stereotype of Hispanics being brand-loyal?

A. It used to be that you only had options of five brands (in the country of origin). Then you had options of 40 brands. Hispanics are as brand-loyal as anyone else.

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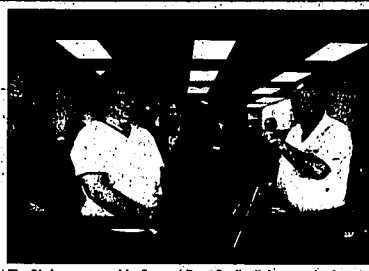
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MILESTONES



Key Bank located at 103 Main Ave. E., in Twin Falls celebrated with the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors by cutting the ribbon at its newly remodeled facilities. Pictured from left are (front row) Renee Avram, Jill Bailey, Karen Kestle, (back row) Patricia Dalos, Jared Simkins, Cindy Packard, Larry Hall, Dan Cole/Tony Reda.



The Chair-man, owned by Sue and Doug Gagliardi, is a new business located at 1341 Fillet Ave., Twin Falls. They celebrated by holding a ribbon cutting with the Twin Falls Chamber's Ambassadors. The Chair-man carries mid to high-end office furniture. They can assist you with your furnishing needs for home and office. Pictured are Sue and Doug Gagliardi, owners, and Chamber Ambassadors.



Pictured from left are Mike Dunn, vice president/sales and marketing at Hot Spring Spas; Molly Flamant, western regional sales manager, Hot Spring Spas; Jim Paxton, owner and general manager, Snake River Pool and Spa Inc.; and Mark McKahan Jones, national sales manager, Hot Spring Spas.

Snake River Pool and Spa earns excellence award

Snake River Pool and Spa Inc., a local hot tub retailer with two retail locations in Twin Falls and Boise, was recently awarded with the 2005 Retail Excellence Award by their hot tub manufacturer, Hot Spring Spas. Jim Paxton, owner of Snake River Pool and Spa Inc. was re-

cently honored at an awards ceremony in Palm Springs, Calif., at the manufacturer's annual dealer conference and product show. He was selected from 750 Hot Spring dealers worldwide to receive this symbol of excellence because of the company's commitment, professionalism, product knowledge and outstanding customer service.

Woman opens permanent cosmetics business

Lisa Flaxbeard opened a new business at 560 Blue Lakes Blvd N., in Twin Falls. Make It Permanent Cosmetics, specializes in Electrolysis and SofTapi Permanent Cosmetics. All treatments are done by Flaxbeard who is a registered nurse. She is also a Licensed Electrologist and Certified Permanent Cosmetic Technician. For a consultation or for more information, call 734-4765.



Flaxbeard

Local Angus breeders recognized in report

Clare and Rosa Armstrong of Hansen have been recognized nationally by the American Angus Association for having one registered Angus cow included in the Association's 2006 Pathfinder Report. Spring Cove Ranch, located in Bliss, has been recognized nationally by the American Angus Association for having five registered Angus cows included in the Association's 2006 Pathfinder Report. Only 2,187 of the more than 34,000 American Angus Association members are represented in this year's report, according to John Crouch, executive vice president of the Association, headquartered in Saint Joseph, Mo.

CONTRIBUTIONS



Trent Trappen of Rob Green Auto Group recently accepted a plaque from Living Independent Network Corporation for the auto dealer's donations, which helped provide a Christmas party at the Golden Corral for people with disabilities, and continuing support. Transportation, safe environment and limited resources can be barriers for seniors and people with disabilities to have access to recreation activities. Rob Green is proud to be a part of helping the community.

Members of the Project Mutual Telephone Company bowling team participated in the Organization of Rupert business fundraiser on Feb. 21. The event raised \$950 for scholarships for Minidoka County high school seniors.

Does your staff meet?

The Associated Press

Few rituals in working America are as hallowed as the periodic staff meeting. A survey suggests they may also rank among the most inefficient exercises we perform. The typical weekly staff meeting is around 50 minutes, with people in the survey saying they could probably shave 16 minutes from the total if they could eliminate the inefficiencies. Even more striking was the lack of output from these efforts. Fifty-nine percent said

they don't take minutes for most meetings. 56 percent said action items are documented only sometimes or not at all and 68 percent said input from the discussions is used only sometimes or rarely when implementing action items. The 130 responses included workers at a range of organizations, from Intel Corp. to the U.S. Navy to George Washington University. The survey was conducted between November and January for GroupSystems Corp., a software company, based in Broomfield, Colo.

TELL US YOUR BUSINESS

Your business is a weekly feature that highlights commercial activity in the Magic Valley. If you have information about any of the following, The Times-News wants to hear about it:

- Promotions and staff changes.
- New certifications.
- Seminars and workshops.
- Awards and achievements.
- Charitable business activities.
- Other business news.

Please e-mail items to: Magie@timesnews.com or contact Bakula at: cbakula@magievalley.com

Or contact Bakula at: The Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, Idaho 83303, 733-0931, Ext. 259, Fax: 677-4543 or 734-5538



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Register Early and You Could Win!

Starting March 1 at 9:00am you can register early and preview items up for auction at bidditmv.com

Register before Wednesday midnight on March 11 and be automatically entered to win one of three, \$100 Biddit gift certificates applicable for winning auctions.

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The "Junk Collector" is a limited edition print by American Painter Dale Kee. Enjoy this matted and framed copy in your home. Must claim by June 30, 2006.

Retail Value \$350

Professional Frame
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Franklin Building Supply
1300 Highland Avenue East
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301
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Recreation & Sports

HUNTER'S STORAGE AND SIGHT PACKAGE

1 AVAILABLE

Deluxe double patrol w/ audible voice alert alarm and Alpen 9x32 long eye relief binoculars w/ neck strap.

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bidditmv.com

March 12-21, 2006

MONEY

Automatic backups have their problems

Q. I know I need to back up my files, since someday the hard drive will crash and I will be "seriously out of luck." I've heard that Windows XP does automatically make exact copies of the data on the main hard drive if a second internal hard drive can be installed. What are your thoughts on this approach?



ASK JIM
James
Coates

I looked everywhere for the startup routine that Adobe obviously hid on my hard drive to make those time-wasting un-needed scans happen.

—Edward Daines
A. You're far from alone, Mr. D. Many photo-viewing programs, including those XP features designed to automatically acquire and store all the images on a digital camera's memory card, each come with a card reader device connected to the computer through USB port.

This does such highly useful things as time stamping images to show when it was taken, what settings the camera used to make each shot, how large the file is and so forth. The images then are stored in folders called albums where the software can later quickly find desired photos among hundreds of thousands.

But, as you have learned to your dismay, the scanning software will kick in every time a new storage device is plugged in, thereby calling up the organizing software needlessly time and again.

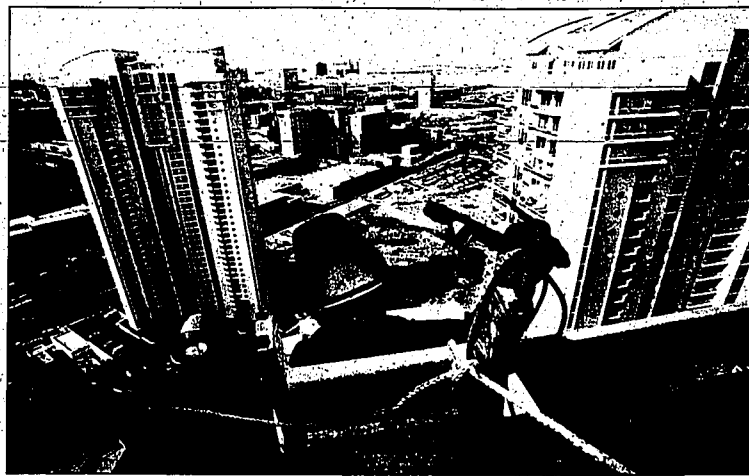
The fix is to disable the automatic scanning feature and the command to do that is pretty well hidden. Open the Adobe Photoshop Elements software and click on the icon called File Browser that appears in the mid-right-hand side of the display when it is set to edit images.

This calls up the Organizer that is the interface used to search out photos after they are stored in their proper albums.

Next click on the Edit item in the toolbar by the Organizer and select the Preferences in menu that drops down. Now scroll through the options for the "Cards and Scanners" item. Be careful that and there will be a check box in the display that is right that will toggle the automatic scanning tool.

Keep in mind that doing this means that your storage will no longer automatically download and file images in the future. But you can always order the computer to scan by plugging in the camera or card reader or external drive and then clicking on File and then Scan in the Organizer module of the software.

Contact Jim Coates via e-mail at jcoates@rblume.com or via snail mail at the Chicago Tribune, Dept. 400, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611. Questions can be answered only through this column. Add your point of view at chicago@tribune.com or askjim.com.



William Rivas welds panel clips at Turnberry Place in Las Vegas on Wednesday. The skyrocketing costs of materials and labor have toppled some high-profile luxury condominium projects, turning the market skittish. At least six projects have publicly folded or stalled in a little more than a year.

Costs bring Las Vegas developers back to earth

By Kathleen Hennessy
Associated Press writer

LAS VEGAS — The glossy brochures promised rooftop gardens and posh European spas. Private basketball courts and butler service. The Las Vegas Strip and billions of dollars of hedonism just past your uniformed doorman.

Such is the stuff of high-rise living in the imagined vertical Las Vegas — billed as the next sexy center of condominium living, a 21st century Manhattan or Miami, and an antidote to the sprawl plaguing lesser Western cities.

But developers' lofty dreams have met with some not-so-sexy realities — the cost of cement and copper pipes, a shortage of skilled labor and contractors, horrendous competition from deep-pocketed casinos.

By most accounts, the skyrocketing costs of materials and labor have toppled some high-profile, luxury condominium projects, turning the market skittish. At least six projects have publicly folded or stalled in a little more than a year, a fraction of the more than 100 now proposed, but enough to make some real estate watchers declare a loss to the boom.

Many in the Las Vegas condo market describe the situation as more of a breather. Seventeen high-rise condominium projects are under construction, they note. Although about half are filled with a time-share hybrid called the condo-hotel, the others are filled with residential units that are 80 percent sold.

"What we're having here isn't a demand constraint," he said of the failed projects. "It's a situation that nobody predicted. The No. 1 problem is construction costs and lack of skilled labor."

The price of steel, diesel fuel

and concrete, along with such materials as pipes and wiring, has driven up the costs of building a high-rise tower, said Ken Simonson, chief economist for the Associated General Contractors of America.

The cost of a cubic yard of concrete rose from 10 percent to 15 percent last year and will see a similar increase in 2006, he said. The average cost for diesel fuel used in construction trucks is up 36 cents a gallon from last year. The cost of gypsum, the main ingredient in wall board, rose 42 percent since 2004, and copper used in wiring and fixtures rose about 70 percent in two years, Simonson said.

"We'd have to go back to the '70s to see prices that were rising so rapidly," he said, adding that strong demand, shortage of supply and a shift to a global marketplace were responsible for the increases. "I think it's a sign of nervousness in which there is going to be worldwide competition for materials."

At the ground level, it means the roughly 25,000 cubic yards of concrete needed to build a 19-story tower costs \$625,000 more today than it did two years ago — when some of the doomed projects were planned and priced for condominium units were set.

In the case of Related Las Vegas' canceled "Icon Las Vegas" towers, a highly anticipated collaboration of two experienced developers, those prices were locked in when the units were sold. While a lawsuit over views, stalled construction, building costs nearly doubled and ate into potential profit, said Related Las Vegas President Marty Burger when he scrapped the project in January.

"The costs made it impossible to build Icon based on original pricing without seriously impacting the integrity of the development," he said.

Even one of the most success-

ful high-rise developers in Las Vegas, South Florida-based Turnberry Associates, has had to absorb costs, though the company got into the market before land and construction costs took off, according to John Riordan, vice president of sales.

The company built a reputation, targeted top-tier buyers and benefited from being one of the first in the market. Turnberry has sold more than 3,000 condominiums in Las Vegas since 1999, has six towers under construction and three completed. A 30 percent increase in costs from its third to fourth tower — identical buildings built over two years — wasn't a deal killer.

But materials are only part of the hurdle. Riordan said.

"It's little things — the cost of an electrician," he said, explaining Turnberry's choice to use union workers to "add to the quality." "Union labor is a huge factor in the increase in costs."

Plumbers, electricians and ironworkers are hot commodities for union- and nonunion jobs. Subcontractors say they've held back from bidding on projects for fear of not getting the labor. Their biggest dilemma isn't winning the bid, but staffing the bids they win.

"We do a labor forecast, we work on it on a daily basis. It's the hardest challenge — you can't see work and just expect that you're going to get 50 or 60 guys for help," said Jim Manning, president of Interstate Plumbing and Air Conditioning. He said he uses nonunion labor but pays union-competitive wages, offers benefits, training and a 401(k) to his workers in an effort to retain them.

"It feels like you're in a bidding war for your own people," Manning said, adding that the shortage keeps him from taking some of the challenges of a city not known for either humility or realism.

But developers say it's the

general contractors and subcontractors who are reaping the benefits of the shortage. With more work than they can handle, contractors can name their price and be choosy. A \$15 million elementary school put out to bid late last year got no takers.

Of the few capable of doing the work required for a high-rise, many are tied up on the massive and continual casino expansion projects on the Strip.

"You're competing against a billion-dollar monstrosity," said Jim Stuart, co-founder of Centra Properties and a partner with actor George Clooney in the planned Las Ramblas condo project. The gaming giant can afford to play in this market and anybody other than the three or four biggest companies in town have tremendous pricing issues to deal with.

The biggest giant is MGM Mirage's planned \$7 billion megaproject Project CityCenter, a development that some predict will tip its cap as much as 30 percent of the work force when construction is at full force. Work is expected to begin this summer.

The competitive climate has made developers resort to extreme measures, Stuart said. Some have paid as much as \$1 million in monthly non-refundable retainers to key contractors, he said. Turnberry's Riordan said the company had to bring an electrical contractor from Michigan to work on one of its towers.

In the meantime, developers who want to build a piece of the Las Vegas skyline are both humbled and realistic as they confront the challenges of a city not known for either humility or realism.

"What we're really dealing with is the success of our city. It's ironic if you think about it," Stuart said.

Top 25 books of corporate America

Knightrider News Service

- 1. "I've Seen A Lot of Famous People Naked, And They've Got Nothing On You!" by Jake Steinfield, Steven Spielberg (Foreword); AMACOM
- 2. "The Ultimate Questions: Driving Good Trends and True Growth," by Fred Reichheld; Harvard Business School Press
- 3. "The Power Years: A User's Guide to the Best of Your Life," by Ken Dychtwald, Daniel Kutler; John Wiley & Sons
- 4. "The Ice Cream Maker," by Subir Chowdhury; Currency
- 5. "Your Ship," by Michael Abrashoff; Warner Business Books
- 6. "The Resilient Enterprise: Overcoming Vulnerability for Continuous Advancement by Yossi Shefi; The MIT Press
- 7. "Blue Ocean Strategy: How to Create Uncontested Market Space and Make Competition Irrelevant" by Chan Kim, Renée-Mauborgne; Harvard Business School Press
- 8. "The Success Principles,"

What it's about

- 1. "I've Seen A Lot of Famous People Naked, And They've Got Nothing On You!"; Jake Steinfield, founder of Body by Jake, encourages and tells people how to start their own business.
- 2. "The Ultimate Questions: Driving Good Trends and True Growth," by Fred Reichheld; Harvard Business School Press.
- 3. "The Power Years: A User's Guide to the Best of Your Life," by Ken Dychtwald, Daniel Kutler; John Wiley & Sons.
- 4. "The Ice Cream Maker," by Subir Chowdhury; Currency.
- 5. "Your Ship," by Michael Abrashoff; Warner Business Books.
- 6. "The Resilient Enterprise: Overcoming Vulnerability for Continuous Advancement by Yossi Shefi; The MIT Press.
- 7. "Blue Ocean Strategy: How to Create Uncontested Market Space and Make Competition Irrelevant" by Chan Kim, Renée-Mauborgne; Harvard Business School Press.
- 8. "The Success Principles,"

Loral Langemeier; McGraw-Hill

- 17. "Pursuit of Passionate Purpose: Success Strategies for a Rewarding Personal and Business Life," by Theresa M. Szezarek; John Wiley & Sons
- 18. "Experience Economy," by B. Joseph Pine II, James H. Gilmore; Harvard Business School Press
- 19. "Ten Rules for Strategic Innovation: From Idea to Execution," by Vijay Govindarajan, Chris Trimble; Harvard Business School Press
- 20. "The Number: A Completely Different Way to Think About the Rest of Your Life," by Lee Eisenberg; Free Press
- 21. "The 7 Irrefutable Rules of Small Business Growth," by Steven S. Little; John Wiley & Sons
- 22. "One Million Customers: Lessons from the Front Lines of Doing Business in China," by James McGovern; Free Press
- 23. "Life After the 30-Second Spot," by Joseph Jaffer; John Wiley & Sons
- 24. "The Mindful Effect: Breakthrough Insights at the Intersection of Ideas, Concepts, and Cultures," by Frans Johanson; Harvard Business School Press
- 25. "Pay It Down! From Debt to Wealth on \$10 a Day," by Iean Chatzky; Portfolio

Magic Valley Realtors Online



Will Brown
American Dream Realty



Jason McCurdy
Red Door Realty



Kilah Al Wilkinson
Century 21
Greater Valley Properties



Debra Nelson
Nelson Realty
LOGAN and LUCK
REAL ESTATE



Rich Whitescarver
Greater Valley Properties

magicvalley.com The Times-News Online

Deregulation damage difficult to undo for Montana

By Matt Gouras
Associated Press writer

HELENA, Mont. — Almost a decade after the utility deregulation fad swept through Montana, the state is learning the hard way it isn't easy to rebuild the broken pieces of a stable, publicly regulated utility once it's gone.

Montana's plight is unique in some ways, but it is not the only state where resentment to electricity deregulation is growing.

When the old Montana Power Co. came to lawmakers in 1997 with a plan to offer consumers a multitude of choices for cheap power, deregulation was seen as inevitable. But power today isn't cheaper — it's far more expensive — and the other promises made that year now ring hollow.

Montana Power sold off its dams and power plants, and then its utility business, to pursue an ill-fated pipeline to become a fiber-optic company. It quickly went bankrupt. The company that bought the utility piece of Montana Power, NorthWestern Energy, filed for bankruptcy itself and reorganized.

Along the way, Montana went from having some of the lowest electricity prices in the country to among the highest in the region.

"It's almost an unbelievable story when you go through all the events that happened there," said Ken Rose, a senior fellow at the Institute of Public Utilities at Michigan State University. "It's not the best soap opera than in other states."

Backlash, percolating almost from the day deregulation passed the Legislature, has grown and given birth to new efforts to undo the effects of deregulation.

Separate efforts, like one from a group of cities looking to buy the utility from NorthWestern, aim to rein in skyrocketing electricity rates and give public officials more authority. But all face huge hurdles, including price tags or federal approval.

NorthWestern Energy said it



Alec Hanson, executive director of the Montana League of Cities and Towns poses beside NorthWest Energy power poles, Feb. 27 in Helena, Mont. Almost a decade after the utility deregulation fad swept through Montana, the state is learning the hard way it isn't easy to rebuild the broken pieces of a stable, publicly regulated utility once it's gone. "I think there seems to be an understanding if Montana is going to have any say at any time on how this business is operated, this is the last chance," said Hanson.

can't be held responsible for decisions made by the old Montana Power.

NorthWestern finds itself in a market-based system with no power plants of its own. Prices will rise as they go up around the country, said NorthWestern spokeswoman Claudia Rapkoch.

"We're just trying to find out what is going to be the best option for our customers going forward," she said. "And quite frankly they are fairly significant questions."

Options could include changing part of the deregulation law to let NorthWestern build its own power plants, she said.

"It's a difficult position to be in," Rapkoch said. "NorthWestern is the entity people get their bills from and they turn a lot of that wrath on NorthWestern. But the drivers of energy prices have to force out in the marketplace."

Montana isn't alone in trying to figure out how to deal with market-based pricing as the full effects are becoming known.

— In Delaware, Delmarva Power has said that customers can expect a 60 percent electricity rate increase — when seven-year rate caps expire in May. Republican leaders, under election year pressure, are talking about re-regulating the industry.

— Lawmakers in Connecticut say they may revisit deregulation following news late last year of double-digit electric rate increases.

— Electricity rates in Ohio are expected to rise this year as a provision in that state's 1999 deregulation law that required discounted rates expires, and consumer advocates are looking for ways to ease the effects.

Many states that passed deregulation put a cap on rates at the time, but many of those

caps are about to expire. The cap lifted three years ago in Montana, and electricity rates have gone up about 30 percent since then.

It's becoming clear that rate hikes have been higher in deregulated states than those that bucked the late 1990s trend and stuck with a traditional system, Rose said. Deregulation has now been thrown into reverse across the country, he said.

California got all the headlines for its post-deregulation fiasco that was topped by energy market manipulation by Enron Corp., but it's Montana that some point to as the poster child for "deregulation gone awry." Montana was seen as the only low-cost energy state talked into deregulation.

In Montana, observers say there will never be a way to return to the days of cheap power generated by regulated dams

On the Net:

www.northwesternenergy.com
montanapublicpower.org/

that had already been essentially paid off.

Deregulation "will be a bone in the throat of the lobbyists," said state Public Service Commissioner Tom Schneider. Montana Power, was one of the biggest sponsors of lobbying at the 1997 Legislature. "I wrote the deregulation bill then persuaded lawmakers it was a good idea," said David Ewer, a legislator then and now budget director for Democratic Gov. Brian Schweitzer.

Ewer was among the minority to blast the plan as a bad idea for consumers. He recalled lobbyists rained the bill through in a month and "bastardized the process."

"I said Montanians are at grave risk here. We risk losing cheap power. We risk losing good jobs," he said. "Now we are going into the ninth year of deregulation and there is still no customer choice. This idea we were going to have robust competition? There is no competition."

"The proof is in the pudding. We are now the most expensive electricity in the region."

"The disintegration of Montana Power, and the regulated, cheap power provided by dams and power plants it once owned, is what bothers people the most. Putting it all back together exactly like it was is impossible."

An offer by five Montana cities to buy the Montana utility business from NorthWestern Energy for more than \$2 billion is supported by the public in recent polls.

Backers of the idea say it is important to get the utility under public ownership and build the base for stable power prices.

"I think there seems to be an understanding if Montana is going to have any say at any

time on how this business is operated, this is the last chance," said Alec Hansen, executive director of the Montana League of Cities and Towns. "Any efficiency, any savings, anything we can do will go back to the ratepayers, not to corporate stockholders."

But the offer has been roundly rejected by company executives — even though the largest shareholder has accused executives of spinning the offer just to protect their own jobs. And critics say government ownership would buckle under the weight of the debt used to buy the operations.

Plans to put an initiative on the ballot in November that would force the new owners of the hydroelectric dams, PPL Montana and Avista, to sell to a public agency faces voters who rejected the potentially expensive proposition four years ago. A vote has not been set for the dams.

Gov. Schweitzer recently predicted it would fall again under the weight of a new advertising blitz from the energy industry.

The best hope for stable, regulated electricity prices is an effort by the state to rule that PPL is a monopoly, utilities Commissioner Schneider said. Such a decision could force the company to sell electricity at about cost, rather than at rates determined by the marketplace. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is expected to decide the issue soon.

But even then, "cost-based prices" under PPL are going to be higher than back when the dams had already been paid off and sat on Montana Power's books at decades-old figures.

There is no way to really put "the genie back in the bottle," Ewer said, and get really cheap power again.

"I don't think we will ever get back to where we were," Schneider said. "There's a potential for things to be better than they will likely be — but we'll never get what we had."

Navajo herbalist combines the best of her two worlds

By Levi J. Long
Arizona Daily Star

TUCSON, Ariz. — As a Navajo herbalist and entrepreneur, Virginia Boone has learned to walk a fine line.

In her youth, Boone learned Navajo traditions and language while living with her family off the reservation.

Today she's learning how to balance a career as the head of a traditional Navajo healing herb company, based in Marana, without compromising family and tribal traditions.

"We were taught at a young age about our connection to the Earth and to the plants," said Boone, 50, owner of Medicine of the People LLC, which makes all-natural healing balms and herbal spa products. "We also learned to respect their medicinal qualities."

With her father's teachings, Boone and her siblings spent their childhood and teen years learning about the healing qualities of plants and herbs and throughout northern Arizona.

The Boone family lived near the Navajo Army Depot, now known as Camp Navajo, outside Flagstaff. Weekend visits and summer vacations were spent with relatives on the Navajo Reservation.

Though traditions were emphasized, education was also highly regarded in the Boone household.

The idea was to remain modern and educated. But her mom and dad were adamant about learning Navajo teachings and beliefs, Boone said. "Language was key. That was the one thing my parents did not want us to lose."

Boone has parlayed a long-held family tradition into selling a line of products that include sage-lavender massage oils, peppermint foot balms, conditioning hair oils, white-sage creams and sore-joint salves.

The products are sold at local gift shops, museums, cultural centers and regional gift shops, including a few at Sky Harbor International Airport in Phoenix.

Using herbs and plants found on the Navajo Reservation, Boone, along with her partner Leonard Marcus, markets their products at their home. Their company incorporated in 2004.

Product growth started to pick up last summer, due in part



Virginia Boone, left and her partner, Leonard Marcus on Feb. 9 display some of the traditional Navajo healing herbs used in the natural products they produce and sell in Marana, Ariz.

to a new marketing plan, redesigned packaging and an updated Web site, which contributed to increased orders in the last year.

"It can be hard to find quality products that are made by Native Americans and are produced in Arizona," said Lynn Bullock, a bookstore manager at the Heard Museum Shop and Bookstore in Phoenix.

The shop stocks most of the Medicine of the People products.

"The products are selling well and we reorder quite often. It's been very successful."

After meeting through a family acquaintance in 1993, Boone and Marcus decided to try a relationship and started to sell some herbs at weekend powwows — Intercultural fairs — and arts and crafts fairs.

Sales started with various teas and dried herbs that could be used to help treat skin prob-

lems, backaches, stomach problems and to relieve arthritis pain.

"We weren't sure how we were going to do it," Boone said. "But there was this energy around us," Marcus said. "We sold out fast, and we thought, 'We can actually do this.'"

By emphasizing socially responsible behavior and supporting various cultural beliefs, Boone and Marcus said having a business that does not harm the environment or compromise their traditional beliefs is possible.

Becoming a major corporation is not part of the plan, Marcus said.

The couple still sells at regional powwows and art shows throughout the Southwest.

"We're still holding onto those grass roots," said Marcus. "But we have to grow. It's important to keep that balance and not stray from our vision."

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Auction season starts with a bang

PAUL — Bidders from around the world competed with local farmers for more than 1,000 lots of used farm machinery and equipment at one of the largest farm auctions ever held in southern Idaho.

Technology played a key role in the March 1 Young and Young auction north of Paul. Eighty-seven registered bidders from 11 states plus British Columbia and the Netherlands competed with nearly 680 live and proxy bidders from 16 states plus Mexico and Canada during the nearly 12 hours of bidding.

Each of the 1,033 sale lots was photographed and arranged in a video presentation shown simultaneously on two large screens in a main room at the farm as well as over the Internet auction site. A telephone line allowed internet bidders to follow the live auction and place bids immediately. As the items were placed, a ring man assigned to watch the computer called out the bids.

It was a situation that kept the Mussert Bros. veteran auctioneers awake before the auction. "We were totally reliant on technology between the computers and internet and projection screens," said Randy Mussert.

Livestock groups push for price reporting

WASHINGTON — The sheep industry has taken a hard hit since mandatory price reporting by meatpackers expired last September, industry officials say. Since then, meatpackers have been reporting voluntarily.

Most in the industry have continued to comply. But Peter Orwick, executive director for the American Sheep Industry Association, said companies who import lamb into the United States quit reporting their prices almost immediately.

"Importers are extremely sensitive to people looking at their prices," he said.

One reason is because imported lamb comes in at a large discount compared to what U.S. producers can sell for, Orwick said.

"As soon as it was no longer mandatory, they (lamb importers) quit," he said. "They snubbed their nose at the process."

Bean price drop spurs shift to seed beans

Idaho's dry cullbe bean farmers are likely to consider planting more seed beans this spring in the face of reduced prices for commercial beans, industry officials said.

Prices for Idaho farmers have

AG WEEKLY Fambeat

Highlights of this week's Ag Weekly.

dropped significantly in the past year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Market News Service in Greeley, Colo. The hundredweight farm price of pinto beans, which the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service reports is most widely grown bean in the state at 37 percent of total acreage in 2004, dropped from \$30 a year ago to \$18 now.

Pinks declined from \$22-\$23 to \$19-\$20. Small reds fell from \$22-\$23 to \$18-\$20. Any green northerns dropped from \$19 to \$18, the Market News Service reports.

A national increase in production is behind the price decline, said W.K. "Buck" Moore, of Moore's Inc. bean dealership at Hansen.

Spud prices jump; grower initiative pays off

IDAHO FALLS — Gem State potato growers are seeing a healthy increase in prices.

Russett Burbank cartons jumped \$3.75 per hundredweight the first week of February, said Bruce Huffaker, publisher of North American Potato News, Idaho Falls. And the good news continues, with increases coming in across the board for Idaho's leading varieties. As of Feb. 22, increases from the same time last year range from an increase of \$5.50 cwt. for baled 10 pound mesh non-A to a \$10 cwt. increase for 80-pound cartons.

"The market looks strong this year, but it will depend on the farmers and their planting," Huffaker said, adding he won't predict the coming market.

A reduction in potatoes this year is the primary reason the market is up, he said. And Idaho isn't the only state that's seen a production decrease and price increase.

Fewer potatoes is leading to increases from \$3 for 100-count Norkotas in the Klamath Basin to a whopping \$20 cwt. for 50-pound tied creamers in Florida.

Rising costs squeeze forage grower profits

TWIN FALLS — Rising input costs are squeezing forage profits, but experts urge growers to be cautious when looking for cost savings.

Fuel prices, for example, have risen 240 percent since the early 1990s, jumping 75 percent from 2003 to 2005, according to the

University of Idaho. UI extension economist Paul Patterson collects price data each July so the reported increase — from \$1.20 a gallon diesel in 2003 to \$2.10 per gallon in 2005 didn't even reflect last year's peak.

"Seed, fertilizer and interest are other expenses that have seen sharp increases, while chemical prices and custom rates have not increased as dramatically. Custom harvesters may not be able to pass along the entire fuel cost increase without losing some customers," Patterson said.

Overall, the cost to raise 6.5 ton per acre hay in the Magic Valley increased \$10 per ton or \$70 per acre from 2003 to 2005. That's a 14 percent increase from \$498 to \$568 per acre.



More than 780 bidders — in person, on-line and by proxy — bid on more than 1,000 lots during one of the first live Internet farm auctions held in southern Idaho on Wednesday.

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