

**On the block**  
Farm families hit auctions to pick the perfect animal.  
Country Roads, D-1



**TO YOUR HEALTH**  
CSI-fitness facility will benefit public as well as students.  
Magic Valley, page A4

**GOOD MORNING**  
High: 61  
Low: 35  
Sunny, breezy and cool.  
DETAILS: A2

# Times-News

**TUESDAY**  
May 2, 2006  
50 cents

magicvalley.com

## Voicing a desire for freedom



Juan Garcia stands on Shoehorn Street in Twin Falls Monday morning while attending the rally at City Park.



Estpila Romero, of Twin Falls, attends a rally Monday morning at the Twin Falls City Park. Rallies, like the one in Twin Falls, occurred nationwide Monday, as some immigrants boycotted work, school and shopping to emphasize their importance in the community.

## Protesters rally across valley for immigrant rights

By Cassidy Friedman  
Times-News writer

**TWIN FALLS** — This is a story about a Californian who moved to Twin Falls for its lower cost of living.  
Protacio Ramirez found a better life for his family working the line at Falls Brand Independent Meat Company.  
On Monday morning he pulled into work to start his shift. He was greeted outside by a group of co-workers. "They said, 'we're united in support of one another,'" said Ramirez, and asked him to join them. They told him Hispanics across the country were boycotting — something he had heard nothing about.  
"I didn't know about it," said Ramirez, who had worked at Falls Brand for five years. "But I stayed outside to support them." Ramirez joined the group in City Park where they waved American flags and held up signs protesting discrimination.  
Monday had been slated as the National Day Without Immigrants, a grassroots campaign advocating a boycott to illustrate America's economic reliance on their dollars and their labor.  
Protests were less visible in Idaho than in many of the country's major cities, with organizers advocating that people stay in school and the workplace. Ramirez's group of two dozen boycotters were an uncommon sight yesterday.  
Pat Florence, owner of Falls Brand, said he understands the boycotters' concern,

**On the net**  
See video interviews with rally participants on the Times-News Web site.  
 [magicvalley.com](http://magicvalley.com)

but disagrees with their method. "I don't think that punishing the businesses that provide it (work) accomplishes much," he said. Regarding the employees that took the day off work without giving advanced notice, he said, "We have disciplinary policies for chronic abuse. In general, all it's going to be is a day of work."  
Elsewhere in the valley, protests maintained a more discreet tone.  
Major employers across the valley reported full staffs and no unscheduled absences. Parents excused their children but not in higher numbers than the boycott held in early April.  
Leaders of Idaho Community Action Network (ICAN), one of the chief groups responsible for organizing April's rallies for comprehensive immigration reform, decided to tone down the message. "Immigration reform is getting divisive," said Lead Organizer Leo Morales. "Great leaders unite, not divide."  
In Rupert, ICAN planned a "gathering" at Rupert Square Park, including Mexican dancers and a speech from the mayor.

Please see RALLY, Page A2

## Students show support without leaving school

By Joshua Palmer  
Times-News writer

**TWIN FALLS** — Most Hispanic students in Magic Valley chose not to skip school during yesterday's protest concerning immigration rights, but decided to show their support in other ways.  
"We think it's very important to support our people, but we also have a responsibility as students," said Lorena Del Con 20, the president of Latinos Unidos at CSI. "If we don't come to class then we lose something important, and that doesn't help our cause."  
DeLeon said Hispanic students at the College of Southern Idaho supported the demonstration, but the decision to participate was left to each individual to decide.  
"There are a lot of people that feel very passionate about this," she said.

Please see SCHOOLS, Page A2

## Districts ask voters to OK levy funding

By Joshua Palmer  
Times-News writer

**JEROME** — Spring means different things for different people — for school administrators, it's the time of year when they find out how much money they will need to avoid cutting programs.  
Most districts have reviewed their budgets, which includes the amount that the state is appropriating to each district, and many will ask voters to either renew existing levies or approve new ones.  
Currently, Jerome and Wendell school districts plan to bring supplemental levy elections to voters this month, and other districts may be doing the same within the next few months.  
"We're really just trying to keep basic services," said Jim Cobble, superintendent of the Jerome School District. "We're getting our budgets now, and although the cost of keeping existing services keeps going up, the state's funding continues to flatline."  
Although the greatest portion of Idaho's general fund goes to public schools, the state continues to add costly programs that retain, or reduce, funding that would go toward local school districts. This year Idaho will spend almost \$55 million on public charter schools — money that would have gone to local districts.

### Supplemental levy elections

**Jerome School District**  
When: Tuesday, May 9. Polls will be open between noon and 9 p.m.  
Where: Electors may vote at any district school building.  
**About the levy:** The Jerome School District is asking voters to approve a \$650,000 one-year supplemental levy, which will decrease the current supplemental levy rate from .0097 to .0094. According to the district, the supplemental levy will continue current educational opportunities for students.

### Wendell School District

When: Tuesday, May 16. Polls will be open between noon and 3 p.m.  
Where: Wendell High School gymnasium.  
**About the levy:** The Wendell School District is asking voters to approve a \$155,000 two-year supplemental levy, which will require property owners to pay \$7.36 each year for every \$10,000 of property value. According to the district, the supplemental levy would add two full-time teachers, and move one part-time teacher up to full time. It would also add vacation allowances in agriculture, honors choir and drama programs.

However, some school districts, such as Wendell, are trying to build programs that will help students meet future vocational needs.  
"We haven't had an ag program in Wendell for quite some time, which isn't good because ag is so huge," said Greg Love, superintendent of the Wendell School District.

Wendell-hopes to use money from the supplemental levy to provide a full-time ag instructor, who will also teach project-based math and science in the middle school.  
Jerome will be asking voters to approve its supplemental levy. Wendell does not currently have a supplemental levy, but will ask its voters to approve one.

## ORV's blamed for trashing remote nature preserve

### Vehicles banned from Goins Sump

**BURLEY** (AP) — All vehicles have been banned and a \$30,000 fence and 6-foot-deep "tank trap" are being built to try to protect a 200-acre wildlife area from off-road vehicle drivers who officials say are dumping trash and tearing up vegetation.  
The Goins Sump, located about 40 miles east of Twin Falls, will still be open to hikers. The sump is a wetland and wildlife area owned by the Bureau of Reclamation, though an irrigation district puts water

into it during emergencies. The land is open to the public for activities such as hunting, bird watching and dog walking.  
"We try to keep it cleaned up," Bill Thompson, manager of the Mindoka Irrigation District, told the South Idaho Press. "But we just don't have the enforcement to patrol it. There's a lot of garbage. It would be nice if we could get everybody to quit using it for a landfill. And it's pretty good wildlife habitat, but they run their four-wheelers through it and just destroy it."  
Besides damaging vegetation, people have abandoned appliances, furniture and beer

Please see WETLAND, Page A2

## Southern Idaho Career Fair today offers employment opportunities

By Bob Kirkpatrick  
Times-News writer

**TWIN FALLS** — The fourth annual Southern Idaho Career Fair is being held in the gymnasium at the College of Southern Idaho today. The event is scheduled to get underway at 10 a.m.  
Career advisors will be on hand to prospect applicants in front of representatives from the health care industry, the media, armed forces, the sales industry and academia.  
"This is an excellent opportunity for people to see what jobs are available in

**Come to the job fair!**  
• The fourth annual career fair is being held at the CSI gymnasium  
• Hours of event: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. today  
• Services offered include: mock interview sessions, resumes critiques, networking opportunities

the local community," said Chris Ordor, office manager of Idaho Commerce & Labor. "Individuals looking for work will have firsthand knowledge of

the types of skills employers in southern Idaho are looking for."  
The historically low unemployment rate in Idaho bodes well for the states economy, but it could mean fewer jobs for Idahoans. That is why Ordor says it is imperative for those entering Idaho's workforce to attend career fairs like the one today at CSI.  
She said the fair could mean the difference between looking for a job and actually obtaining employment.  
"We will have staff on hand at 3 p.m. to conduct an interview workshop," Ordor said. "We will be reviewing re-

sumes and teaching people how to dress for success."  
Ordor said a lot of potential employees have difficulty during the interviewing process. She said most do not communicate well, avoid eye contact, and forget that body language tells more about an individual than people realize.  
"A lot of young people entering the job market today don't even know how to shake hands with a prospective employer," Ordor said. "Most give a limp shake, instead of a firm grip, and that says a lot about a person's confidence."  
Ordor said it is also important for

individuals to research the company they want to work for because showing an employer they are genuinely interested, and to practice the interview several times before talking with someone that has the autonomy to hire.  
For more information on the Southern Idaho Career Fair contact, Eric Studebaker, coordinator of new student services at CSI at 732-6224.  
Times-News writer Bob Kirkpatrick can be reached at 735-3376 or by e-mail at bkirkpatrick@magicvalley.com

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TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Sunny, breezy to windy and cool. Highs low 60s. Tonight: Mostly clear and cool. Lows middle 30s. Tomorrow: Sunny and dry with cool weather. Highs middle 60s.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

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

Yesterday's Weather

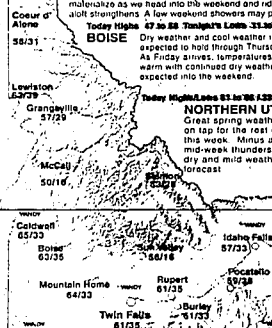
Table with 2 columns: City, Hi Lo. Lists weather for various cities like Boise, Coeur d'Alene, etc.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Mostly sunny and dry. Cool with windy periods expected. Highs low 60s. Tonight: Mostly clear and comfortably cool. Still breezy at times. Lows low to middle 30s. Tomorrow: Lighter winds expected. Sunny and dry. Highs 60s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. Cool and dry weather will persist with plenty of sunshine expected. A subtle warming trend will continue as we head into this weekend and riding altitudes throughout. A low weather window may open up around Friday.



ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

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

WORLD FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists weather for major world cities.

GREGG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Never does a man portray his character more vividly than his playing the character of another."

CANADIAN FORECAST

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

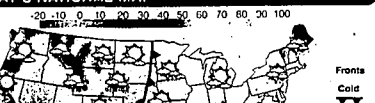
U.V. INDEX

U.V. Index scale from 1 to 10, indicating risk levels.

NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow. Lists weather for major US cities.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



Prosecutor tries to show Lay ignored staff's alarm

HOUSTON (AP) — Enron Corp. founder Kenneth Lay received a barrage of written warnings from employees questioning the energy giant's accounting entries in the fall of 2001 but he was too busy trying to save the company to investigate.

Immigrants, supporters hope marching is a step toward voting

By Teresa Watanabe and Nicole Gauvette Los Angeles Times. LOS ANGELES — They've rallied, they've marched, they've boycotted. So now what?

Wetland

Continued from A1. bottles. Fences designed to keep vehicles out have been cut, leading to the ranch.

Rally

Continued from A1. ICAN Volunteer Adab Ramirez said the program was for "appreciation for International Workers Day."

Schools

Continued from A1. "But we aren't forcing anybody to do it because nobody thinks the same way, so it's up to each person."

Schools

Continued from A1. school to show their support for immigration rights.

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Publication details for Times-News, including contact info and subscription rates.

Advertisement for Times-News Information Line, 735-3350, including lottery and weather information.

Advertisement for Corrections, featuring a 'Buhl Adult Community Prom had 7 p.m. start' and 'Subscribe now' call to action.

Advertisement for Schools, featuring a quote: 'If we don't come to class then we lose something important, and that doesn't help our cause.'

NATION

# Immigrants walk off jobs, into streets to show economic clout

By Gillian Flaccus  
Associated Press writer

LOS ANGELES — Hundreds of thousands of mostly Hispanic immigrants walked off work and took to the streets Monday, flexing their economic muscle in a nationwide boycott that succeeded in slowing or shutting many farms, factories, markets and restaurants.

From Los Angeles to Chicago, Houston to New Orleans, the "Day Without Immigrants" attracted widespread participation despite divisions among activists over whether a boycott would send the right message to Washington lawmakers considering sweeping immigration reform.

"We are the backbone of what America is, legal or illegal. It doesn't matter," said Melanie Lugo, who was among thousands attending a rally in Denver with her husband and their third-grade daughter. "We butter each other's bread. They need us as much as we need them."

Police estimated 400,000 people marched through Chicago's business district and tens of thousands more rallied in New York and Los Angeles, where police stopped giving estimates at 60,000 as the crowd kept growing.

An estimated 75,000 rallied in Denver, more than 15,000 in Houston and 30,000 more across Florida. Smaller rallies in cities from Pennsylvania and Connecticut to Arizona and South Dakota attracted hundreds not thousands.

In Los Angeles, protesters wearing white and waving U.S. flags sang the national anthem



Thousands of immigrants rights supporters gather for a rally at Los Angeles City Hall Monday in Los Angeles.

In English as traditional Mexican dancers wove through the crowd. In Chicago, illegal immigrants from Ireland and Poland marched alongside Hispanics as office workers on

lunch breaks clapped. In Phoenix, protesters formed a human chain in front of Wal-Mart and Home Depot stores. A protest in Tijuana, Mexico blocked vehicle traffic heading

to San Diego at the world's busiest border crossing.

Many carried signs in Spanish that translated to "We are America" and "Today we march, tomorrow we vote." Others waved Mexican flags or wore hats and scarves from their native countries. Some chanted "USA" while others shouted slogans, such as "Si se puede!" Spanish for "Yes, it can be done!" Others were more irreverent, wearing T-shirts that read "I'm illegal. So what?"

The White House reacted coolly. "The president is not a fan of boycotts," said press secretary Scott McClellan. "People have the right to peacefully express their views, but the president wants to see comprehensive reform pass the Congress so that he can sign it into law."

The boycott was organized by immigrant activists angered by federal legislation that would criminalize illegal immigrants and fortify the U.S.-Mexico border. Its goal was to raise awareness about immigrants' economic power.

But the effect was minimal in some places. On Manhattan's bustling 14th Street, only a few shops were closed, including a Spanish-language bookstore and a tiny Latin American restaurant.

Industries that rely on immigrant workers were clearly affected, though the impact was not uniform.

Tyson Foods Inc., the world's largest meat producer, shuttered after a dozen of its more than 100 plants and saw "higher-than-usual absenteeism" at others.

# Study: Spray flu vaccine may work better than shots for kids

By Lauran Neergard  
AP Medical writer

WASHINGTON — Flu shots don't protect babies and preschoolers quite as well as they do older children, but a new study suggests spraying flu vaccine into a small tot's nose may work better.

The study, presented Monday at a child-health meeting, found spray vaccine was 55 percent more effective than traditional flu shots when given to nearly 8,000 children under age 5.

The nasal spray FluMist, the only flu vaccine made of live but weakened influenza virus, now is sold only for children 5 and older. Manufacturer MedImmune Inc., which funded the new research, plans to seek government approval to sell FluMist for younger children as well.

Flu experts say the findings have important public health implications. Each winter, flu kills 36,000 Americans, most of them elderly — and children are influenza's prime spreaders, fueling infections in those older people.

"Our current thinking is that to control influenza, we really have to vaccinate all children," said Dr. Robert Belshé, a prominent vaccine specialist at St. Louis University who led the new study. "Anything that makes it easier and more effective (to vaccinate) children is going to contribute a lot to the protection against influenza."

The study did find a safety concern: A few of the very youngest patients, those ages 6 months to 2 years, had an episode of asthma-like wheezing in the weeks after the first FluMist dose.

The increased risk was slight — 1 percent more children wheezed after FluMist than after flu shots — and the reac-

tion was temporary. But Belshé still is analyzing whether the risk would offset the increased flu protection, and regulators undoubtedly will ask whether it means FluMist should be used only after age 2.

In one of the largest comparisons of flu vaccine ever performed, Belshé and colleagues in 16 countries studied youngsters ages 6 months to 5 years during the 2004 flu season. Every participant got both a nasal spray and a shot, but only one was the real vaccine instead of salt water, to allow unbiased comparison.

By winter's end, just 3.9 percent of nasal-spray recipients also got sick with influenza, compared with 8.6 percent of shot recipients.

More intriguing: That winter, a slightly different strain than was in the vaccine began circulating, and the nasal spray was

more protective against that new strain, too.

"It's clear that FluMist is an influenza vaccine whose potential has not yet been either reached or appreciated," said Dr. William Schaffner of Vanderbilt University, a vaccine expert who wasn't involved in the study.

Easier administration aside, it "apparently provides broader protection than does the injected vaccine," Schaffner added. "That's really very, very exciting because we all know the influenza virus has a tendency to drift," or mutate.

Why, biologically, might FluMist work better in tots? The live-virus nasal spray mimics real flu infection by stimulating immune defenses first in the nose and then body-wide. Flu shots, made with dead influenza virus, don't give the extra nose reaction.

# Creator of Spanish version of anthem cites comments by Rice

By Lesley Clark  
Knight Ridder News Service

WASHINGTON — The creator of a Spanish version of "The Star-Spangled Banner" is using the words of the musically inclined secretary of state and her department's Web site to needle President Bush, who maintains that the national anthem should be sung in English.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, interviewed on a Sunday morning talk show, appeared unfazed by "Nuestro Himno" ("Our Anthem"), telling "Face the Na-

tion" host Bob Schieffer that she has heard the national anthem "sung in any number of ways."

"I've heard the national anthem done in rap versions, country versions, classical versions. The individualization of the American national anthem is quite under way," said Rice, a classically trained pianist described by Schieffer as "not just a diplomat," but also a musician.

"From my point of view, people expressing themselves as wanting to be Americans is a good thing," Rice said.

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# MAGIC VALLEY

City Editor:  
Matthew Brady  
735-3234

Monday  
May 2, 2006  
PAGE A-4

## AROUND THE VALLEY

### Two women killed in auto accident

**HEROME** — At approximately 7:15 p.m. Monday the Idaho State Police responded to a fatal crash at 355 W. 200 North in Herome. At press time the authorities could only confirm that two women were killed in the one-vehicle accident.

The *Times-News* will update this story as more information becomes available.

### ACLU director to speak in Ketchum

**KETCHUM** — Jack Van Vleet, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Idaho, will speak at 6 p.m. on May 11 at the home of Gene Dallago, 600 Leadville S. in Ketchum.

The reception in Ketchum will be free, but organizers are asking for RSVPs by May 10 because space is limited.

For information, call (208) 344-9750 ext. 203.

### Astronomy Day at CSI's Herrett Center

**TWIN FALLS** — Two nights and a day of events are planned for this year's Astronomy Day at the Herrett Center for Arts and Science at the College of Southern Idaho.

Chris Anderson will present an astronomy talk, "Introducing Hydra, the Sea Serpent," at 6:15 p.m. Friday in the Rick Allen Community Room at the Herrett Center. Cost is \$2 for adults and \$1 for students. Admission includes a special viewing session at the Centennial Observatory after the talk.

Children's and family activities begin at 1 p.m. Saturday with make-and-take astronomy projects and other activities. All events are free.

Paul Verhage, NASA/JPL spokesman, will give a presentation on the Mars exploration rovers at 6 p.m. Saturday.

The Faulkner Planetarium will debut its newest show, "Journey to the Edge of Space and Time," at 4 and 7 p.m. Saturday. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, \$2 for students and \$9 for families.

Another star party will be held at 8:15 p.m. Saturday, weather permitting.

For more information, contact the Herrett Center at 732-6665 or visit the Web site at [www.csi.edu/herrett](http://www.csi.edu/herrett).

### Meet the Republicans

**RUBERT** — "Meet the Republican Candidates Night" will be held Saturday at the Herrett Wilson Theater, 614 Fremont St.

The event opens with a potluck fundraiser at 5 p.m. State and county Republican candidates will meet and answer questions beginning at 6 p.m.

### Kindergarten sign up

**TWIN FALLS** — Kindergarten registration for the Twin Falls School District will be held through Friday.

- **Bickel School** — Registration from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. daily. Open house and workshop at 4 p.m. May 6 (733-4116).
- **Harrison School** — Registration from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. daily. Open house and workshop at 3:30 p.m. Thursday (733-4229).
- **Lincoln School** — Registration from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Open house and workshop at 4 p.m. Wednesday 733-1321.
- **Morningside School** — Registration from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Open house and workshop at 3:30 p.m. Thursday (733-6597).
- **Oregon Trail School** — Registration from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Open house and workshop at 3:30 p.m. Thursday (733-9480).
- **Swanholm School** — Registration from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 3 p.m. daily. Open house and workshop at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday (733-4288).
- **Sawtooth School** — Registration from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. Open house and workshop at 9 a.m. Wednesday 733-6456.

— compiled from staff reports.

## Charges pending in cat case

By Cassidy Friedman  
Times-News writer

**TWIN FALLS** — Charges are in the works for a woman found with 323 cats living in horrific conditions at her home.

The Twin Falls prosecutor's office is figuring out how many counts of cruelty to animals Janet Hussmussen, the owner of Rocky Mountain Cat Resort, should be charged with.

"The sheriff's deputy brought up a charging request saying they think there have been 57 counts of cruelty to animals," said Prosecuting Attorney Grant Loebis.

Now Loebis said he has to sort through each cat's file with the sheriff's office and the veterinarians that screened the cats.

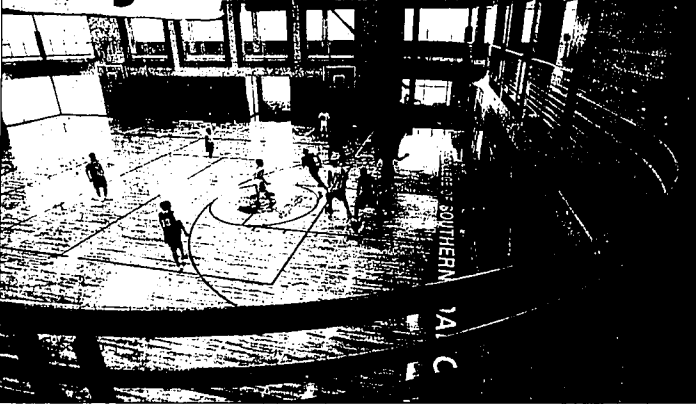
When he will determine which cats present his strongest cases and how

many counts to file. "My job is to select representative cases," he said.

The size of the sample Loebis chooses to charge her with will depend on the sentence he thinks she deserves, given that each count carries a maximum sentence of six months in prison.

"It's not like she is going to get 150 years in jail," he said. "I can achieve the appropriate sentencing with several representative cases."

## To your health



Members of the College of Southern Idaho basketball team practice Monday afternoon in the new Student Recreation Center's gym. The facility will help to increase classes and services offered to students, as well as the community.

## CSI fitness facility will benefit students, as well as the public

By Joshua Palmer  
Times-News writer

**TWIN FALLS** — Blame it on the good weather.

Although Monday marked the beginning of a week-long grand opening for the College of Southern Idaho's new Student Recreation Center, few people were taking advantage of the new indoor running track and aerobic equipment — most runners seemed to be using the old outdoor jogging path.

"A lot of it depends on what the weather does, and that's good that people are getting out and enjoying this weather," said Scott Rogers, coordinator of recreation for CSI.

"But between the students and the community members and all the classes we are offering, you will never see this place empty."

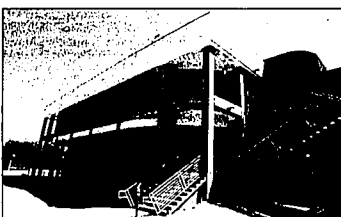
And in a couple months, neither rain nor shine will keep people from the new

fitness facility.

Besides adding three basketball courts — six half-courts when the divider is down — two volleyball courts, a new weight room and cardio floor with an indoor running track, the facility will also add many new fitness courses to the course catalogue. The recreation center received almost 400 responses to a survey which asked patrons what classes they would like to have offered at the center.

This year the center will begin offering everything from Pilates to Butts & Guts and most members of the community will appreciate the fact that you don't have to be a student to participate in these activities.

"Our first priority is the students," Rogers said. "And then our second priority is the CSI faculty and staff, but after that we hope to offer all programs to the community."



Landscaping and other facility details at the new Student Recreation Center will be completed by mid-August.

The new facility will be partially funded by the \$5 fee increase, which was approved last month by CSI board members, as well as membership fees by non-students who use the facility.

"It's not completed yet," Rogers said. "We have some

very high-quality cardio equipment on demo right now, but in July we will begin updating the cardio equipment. So even though the equipment may be top of the line, what we really want to know is if it's what the students want."

## Land to water and back again

By Sandy Miller  
Times-News writer

**TWIN FALLS** — More than anything, they wanted to be Navy Seals.

But most of them didn't survive the fifth week of the six-month-long Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training course. You see, the fifth week is "Hell Week." From Sunday through Saturday, the SEAL hopefuls are put through a grueling test of physical and mental endurance, running obstacle courses while carrying boats over their heads, swimming against the current off the San Diego coast, free falling out of airplanes.

Out of the 226 Navy men who entered BUD/S Training Class 54 in 1970, only 48 graduated. Jerome native Donald Beem was one of them.

"Everyday, you're muddy, wet, tired and cold," Beem said. "You get four hours of sleep the whole week."

Beem said his favorite part of training was free falling.

"They take you up to 10,000 feet with a parachute," Beem said. "You jump out and free fall 7,000 feet."

What was he thinking as he sailed through the sky?

"I hope everything works out OK," he said. Beem's secret to survival was simple.

"You just never give up," he said.

Today, after 38 years of naval service that included two tours of Vietnam, two tours in the Western Pacific and combat missions to El Salvador, Beirut and Afghanistan, Beem, chief of staff for Naval Special Warfare Command in Coronado, Calif., is retiring to Twin Falls.

Beem grew up on a farm east of Jerome, where his parents, Truman and Ruby Beem, grew beets, hay and grain.

"I was a good kid — a typical kid," said his mother, Ruby. "We were always proud of him."

Was there any hint of his Navy Seal potential early on?

"They swam in the canals," his mother said. "He never swam in the ocean until he went in the service."

Beem said it was a great place to grow up. When his farm chores were done, he'd grab his fishing pole and head for the nearest stream.

"I love Jerome," Beem said. "I had a good time growing up in a nice, small town. I fished when I could. I had great friends."

In high school, there was the occasional dance and party, and dragging Main Street on Friday nights.

After graduating from Jerome High School in 1966, he

took some general courses at the College of Southern Idaho and worked at the old Safeway store. A magazine article on Navy Seals caught his eye.

"I always liked that kind of stuff," he said.

So one day in 1968, he stopped to talk to a Navy recruiter.

"At the time, the Seals were doing a great job in Vietnam and there was an effort to increase the numbers," Beem said. "You were guaranteed a chance to get in."

After graduating from BUD/S training, Beem did two tours of Vietnam and two in the Western Pacific. Then he returned to BUD/S as an instructor. Twelve years after enlisting, Beem, who had been selected as a chief petty officer, finished his bachelor of science degree from Southern Illinois University and was commissioned as an ensign. As an officer, he served with various SEAL teams during deployments to the Caribbean, Central America, Europe and the Middle East. He rose further through the ranks to command two Naval Special Warfare Units in Puerto Rico and Spain. He eventually served in multiple positions at the U.S. Special Operations Command, including deputy director of the Special Operations War on



Terrorism Branch and deputy director of the Operations and Plans Branch. One of his most recent missions was to Afghanistan shortly after 9-11.

His sparkling career included humanitarian work as well. He helped clear channels and canals for small fishing villages in the world's poorest countries and delivered supplies to remote areas.

His career spanned five decades and eight presidential administrations. But any other fragment currently serving in the Naval Special Warfare Community, earning him the coveted title of "Bull Frog" in 2005, according to the office of the Naval Special Warfare Command. His honors include the

## Anti-wolf initiative may not make the ballot

By Michelle Dunlop  
Times-News writer

**TWIN FALLS** — Shortly before the 5 p.m. deadline Monday, Ron Gillett rushed from county to county submitting signatures for his anti-wolf initiative.

"It's just been overwhelming, the support for this," Gillett said. But the support may not be enough to get Gillett's initiative on the November ballot.

For more than a decade, Gillett has been an outspoken opponent of the 1995 reintroduction of gray wolves in Idaho. This year, the Stanley outfitter's Idaho Anti-Wolf Coalition wanted to have voters decide whether the federal government should remove wolves from the state. Monday afternoon, Gillett's group didn't appear to have the required 47,001 signatures from registered voters necessary to get their initiative on the ballot.

Gillett estimated the coalition had gathered about 38,000 signatures. However, they realized many of the signatures came from unregistered voters bringing the total down to about 12,000. An official count of registered voter signatures won't be available until the end of June.

Idaho's Department of Fish and Game has taken over the primary management role for the more than 500 wolves living in the state. However, the species remains on the endangered species list due to concerns from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over neighboring Wyoming's strategy for controlling wolves.

Neither Fish and Game nor other groups like Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife support the initiative, maintaining that it would only prolong delisting, which is expected to occur in 2010.

In mid-April, Salmon outfitter John Cranney called out in Twin Falls for a week collecting signatures. Cranney and his wife Cathy say the wolves have decimated elk herds, hurting hunters and small businesses like theirs.

While Cathy Cranney called it a "let us get our voices heard," she found the initiative's failure disappointing.

"It doesn't look like we're going to make it," she said. "It's a pretty bitter pill to swallow."

*Times-News* reporter Michelle Dunlop can be reached at 735-3237 or by e-mail at [mdunlop@magicvalley.com](mailto:mdunlop@magicvalley.com).

## MAGIC VALLEY PEOPLE

a slice from local life

Jerome native and Navy Seal Donald Beem, chief of staff for Naval Special Warfare Command in Coronado, Calif., is retiring after 38 years of naval service. His distinguished career earned him the coveted title of "Bull Frog" in 2005.

Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star and Meritorious Service Medal to name just a few.

For now, Beem plans to spend some quality time with his wife, Sidney, and children, left. Beem and his wife and their families on their 30-acre spread in Chesapeake, Va. Then he plans to go back to work.

"I'm going to enjoy retirement for a few months, then get some kind of contracting job working with special operations units as a civilian," Beem said.

*Times-News* writer Sandy Miller can be reached at 735-3234 or e-mail at [smiller@magicvalley.com](mailto:smiller@magicvalley.com).

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](mailto:obits@magicvalley.com). Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 5 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](http://www.magicvalley.com) and click on "Obituaries."

Norah Evelyn Nelson



RUPERT — Norah Evelyn Nelson went to her glorious Sestaor on April 27, 2006, of a sudden illness.

Norah was born on Jan. 27, 1926, to Albert James Beech and Ellen Barrel Beech of Ipswich Suffolk, England. She met and married her one and only love, Darcy William Nelson, on Sept. 5, 1944. He was stationed in England as a serviceman in the United States Army during World War II. To this union, five children were born, Gus (Donna) Nelson, William Dale Nelson, Teresa (Eric) Nelson, Douglas (Paula) Nelson and Darcy William Nelson Jr.

Norah is survived by her husband of 61 years three children: 16 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandson; three brothers and one sister who all live in England, Walter (Mae) Clarksons, Ron (Marilyn) Beech, Peter (Doreen) Clarksons and Blanche Armes; and several nieces and nephews.

She will be remembered for her compassion and care of others. She would always be of help to her husband on the

farm, whether it be milking cows, bailing the hay or helping to care for her father-in-law. She was a long-standing member of the St. Nicholas Catholic Church.

After her youngest child started school, she decided to work out of the home. Her first job was as a cook in the local Rupert Community. A viewing will be held Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m. with the resting of the casket at 7:30 p.m. at the Hansen Mortuary, Rupert, Idaho. Burial will follow at the Hansen Mortuary. A viewing will be held Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m. with the resting of the casket at 7:30 p.m. at the Hansen Mortuary, Rupert, Idaho. Burial will follow at the Hansen Mortuary. A viewing will be held Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m. with the resting of the casket at 7:30 p.m. at the Hansen Mortuary, Rupert, Idaho. Burial will follow at the Hansen Mortuary.

and other luscious desserts for Mindoka Memorial Hospital. She enjoyed work and helping fellow co-workers at the hospital until she retired. She did volunteer service with Mindoka Memorial Hospital Auditory Guild, working on various projects such as knitting beautiful hats for the newborn babies.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one sister, Nell Clarksons; two brothers, William Clarksons and Albert Beech Jr.; two children, Douglas Edward Nelson and Darcy William Nelson Jr.; and one great-granddaughter, Autumn Haman. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends. She was an angel in disguise.

The funeral Mass will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 3, 2006, at St. Nicholas Catholic Church, 802 S. St. in Rupert, with Father Mike St. Marie as celebrant. Burial will follow at the Hansen Mortuary. A viewing will be held Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m. with the resting of the casket at 7:30 p.m. at the Hansen Mortuary, Rupert, Idaho. Burial will follow at the Hansen Mortuary.

Ruth E. Morgan



BURLEY — Ruth Elizabeth Shipman Morgan, a 92-year-old resident of Burley, passed away Friday, April 28, 2006, at Highland Estates.

Ruth was born March 8, 1914, in Rock Rapids, Iowa. Her parents, Clint and Lenne Jennings Shipman, moved to Twin Falls, Idaho, where she graduated from high school before she attended the University of Wyoming. She graduated with a teachers degree and taught three years in Lewiston, Wyo. before marrying William Joseph Morgan. They moved to Burley in 1947 with their four children.

She was an active and devotedly devoted to her family, her church and her community in countless ways. No task was too large or too small when it came to the needs of the people of the Burley First Presbyterian Church. She was the force behind the church choir for 40 years and founded the children's choir. Whether as a president of PEO, designing and bringing into reality her dream home, preparing endless wedding buffets, sewing countless gowns for her three daughters and even their dolls, she filled every hour with purpose and meaning. She could sew better than any shop could provide and

could cook better than any restaurant in Idaho.

She created the loveliest home we could imagine, of music, fun and beauty. She was the best and kindest mother any four children could hope to have. She was one of the founders of the Pink Ladies and, until quite recently, spent hours volunteering at the hospital. Whether traveling to Africa, teaching skiing, reading, playing bridge and golf, arranging flowers, being with her family or many friends, or her long hours spent on the prayer chain, she brought her warmth, humor and deep appreciation to all that is beautiful, good and true in our world. She had within her the "Soul of Adventure," and she left us enriched and inspired that we might do any of it nearly so well.

She is survived by her husband of 67 years, William J. Morgan of Burley; her daughters, Ellen Greenwood of Reston, Va., Jane Daly of Belgrade, Serbia, and Lorana (H.L.) Pringle of Jerome; her son, Joe Morgan of Burley; nine grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; one sister, Mary Jean Salburg of Seattle, Wash.; and one brother, George Shipman of Moor Park, Calif. She was preceded in death by her parents; her sons-in-law, William Greenwood and Patrick Daly; one brother, Horace Shipman; and one grandson, Brian Pringle.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, May 4, 2006, at the Burley First Presbyterian Church, 2100 Burton Ave., with the Rev. Nina Lashari officiating. The family suggests memorials be directed to the Burley First Presbyterian Church, Shriners's Hospitals for Children or a charity of choice. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Hasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley.

Alexander 'Al' Massio



RUPERT — Alexander "Al" Massio, an 87-year-old resident of Rupert, died Monday, May 1, 2006, at the Mindoka Memorial Hospital.

He was born March 1, 1919, in Crystal Falls, Mich., the son of John and Mary Andriazi Massio. He received and completed his education in Crystal Falls. He spent his younger years in Chicago, where he joined the U.S. Civilian Conservation Corps. In 1938, he moved to the Minnicassa area, where he worked at Camp Kimama. During this time, he met his sweetheart, Gladys G. Collier. They were married on Dec. 30, 1942, in American Falls, Idaho, while on his first leave from the U.S. Marine Corps.

Al served during World War II, being stationed in the South Pacific. He was involved in many engagements including Bougainville, Guam, Tinian Islands, Iwo Jima and Okinawa Island. He was honorably discharged in 1946 as a sergeant and remained a "Proud Marine" throughout his life. Following his return from the armed forces, he worked as a mechanic at the Mindoka Dam with the Bureau of Reclamation. He later worked and retired from the Department of Defense with the U.S. Navy, having been a planner/estimator for public works.

He was a member of the Catholic Church and served in various civic organizations. He was a lifelong member of the Elks Lodge, BPOE No. 2106 in Rupert, and had served as exalted ruler. He was also a lifelong member of the VFW, DAV, The Marine Corps and Navy Corps Leagues, and also the National Association of Retired Federal Employees. He was a wonderful husband, father and grandfather. He enjoyed bowling, fishing, playing softball and especially loved to dance.

He is survived by his loving wife of nearly 64 years, Gladys Massio of Rupert; his children, Kathy, (Don) Mooso of Rupert,



Robert (Peggy) Massio of Heyburn and Ronald (Sandy) Massio of Roseville, Calif.; one brother, Paul (Amy) Massio of Camas, Wis.; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, three sisters and three brothers.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 4, 2006, at Hasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley, with the Rev. Father Mike St. Marie officiating. Military rites will be accorded by the Minnicassa Veterans.

As his family so simply says "Ciao," his how we say goodbye when we're afraid we're gonna cry — "Semper Fidelis."

Funeral Chapel in Jerome, with the Rev. Loran Bookwalter officiating. Burial will follow at 2 p.m. Friday in the Paul Cemetery.

Herbert A. Renn

JEROME — Herbert A. Renn, 83, of Jerome, died Saturday, April 29, 2006, at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Boise.

A service will be conducted at 1 p.m. Thursday, May 4, 2006, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, with the Rev. Baldwin Camin officiating. Visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 3, and 9 to 11 a.m. Thursday, May 4, at the Howe-Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome.

Ethel Horn

JEROME — Ethel Horn, 91, of Jerome, died Friday, April 28, 2006, at her home.

The funeral will be conducted at 10 a.m. Friday, May 5, 2006, at the Howe-Robertson

Jeri D. Dolg

TWIN FALLS — Jeri D. Dolg, 52, of Twin Falls, died Sunday, April 30, 2006, at her home.

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Reynolds Funeral Chapel.

Jan Hutchison

ALPINE REALTY

Alta V. Sutton



BURLEY — Alta V. Sutton, age 90, of Burley, Idaho, died April 30, 2006, at Park View Care Center.

She was born Nov. 6, 1915, to Walter M. and Helen V. Tanner Mooso. She was delivered by her father at home in the City of Rocks. Her parents had homesteaded land near the Twin Sister Rocks. When Alta was 2 years old, the family moved to a farm north of Declo, Idaho, where Alta and her siblings all received their schooling.

Early in 1932, she married Charles D. Warren. They became parents of three children. Times were hard to find jobs, so they moved to Woodland, Calif. Alta and Charles were divorced in 1941. Alta moved back to Idaho with her children, so her parents could help her raise her family. She worked various jobs around Burley over the years: bookkeeper at the Burley Lumber Co., the first manager of Powers Motel, Idaho of Devo Store and Simplot's Processing, from

which she retired.

Alta married Oscar E. Welton in 1950. He helped raise most of the children before passing away in 1972. She later married Clifford Sutton in 1977; he died three years later in 1980. Alta belonged to the United Methodist Church and the Ruth Hitchcock Lodge of Burley. Just being around her family and friends were her happiest times. She was a very creative person who loved to

SERVICES

Charles Paulin of Bliss, funeral at 10:30 a.m. today at Holy Apostles Catholic Church, 6300 N. Meridian Road in Meridian (Accent Funeral Home in Meridian).

Betty Zimmers of Buhl, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Buhl (Farmer Funeral Chapel).

Betty (Howard) Brussey Bybee of Buhl, memorial service at 11 a.m. today at the First Christian Church in Buhl (Farmer Funeral Chapel).

Cathy Gardiner Goff of Malta, funeral at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Malta First and 2nd Ward LDS Chapel; friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. today at Hasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley, and from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Wednesday at the church.

Ph. Jacob Allcott of Caldwell, funeral at 1:30 p.m. Friday at LDS Stake Center, 3015 S. Kimball Ave. in Caldwell; family will receive friends from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Thursday and from noon to 1

cook, sew, crochet and do quilting with her many friends.

She is survived by her children, C. Ray (Shirley) Warren of Burley, Idaho, Barbara J. (Gene) Priest of Burley, Idaho, Geraldine (Pete) O'Connor of San Andreas, Calif.; one sister, Vernessa (Ralph) Crane of Glenns Ferry, Idaho; one brother, Keith Mooso of Sparks, Nev.; 11 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; 11 great-great-grandchildren; and her longtime special friend, Harvey Beaver of Burley, Idaho. She is preceded in death by her parents; two husbands; one brother and his wife, Lyonal and Ida Mooso; sister-in-law, Irene Mooso; and five grandchildren.

The funeral will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday, May 4, 2006, at the Hansen Mortuary, Burley Chapel, 321 E. Main St., with the Rev. Darcy Gritzman officiating. Burial will follow at the Pleasant View Cemetery. A viewing for family and friends will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday.

Carline Swoyer of Twin Falls, memorial service Saturday, call (208) 421-0175 for details.

Jaquelln "Jackie" Eldora Ferrenburg of Anchorage, Alaska, and formerly of Wendell, memorial service at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 6, at the Hagerman Christian Center, 2750 S. 900 E.

New accessible voting this year

Idaho In Brief

BOISE — The state wants everyone to vote in the upcoming primary and general elections, even those who can't see, walk or hold a pen.

For the first time, every polling place in Idaho will have voting machines that are accessible to all for the May 23 primary.

"It's something brand new," said Secretary of State Ben Ysursa. "We want people to be aware of them."

Ysursa's office is using \$50,000 in federal funds provided by the Help America Vote Act to educate the public about accessible voting.

The new voting machines aren't necessarily designed for people in wheelchairs, who can use most voting systems in Idaho. They are designed to accommodate people with visual and other impairments that prevent them from doing things such as physically marking or punching a ballot.

Man sentenced in child molestation case

PARIS — A 67-year-old child molester who arrived at his sentencing at the Bear Lake County Courthouse in an ambulance was given what could amount to a life sentence — five to 20 years in prison for lewd acts with three teenage boys.

Fred Willie suffered a diabetic episode after his conviction in November and had been on house arrest in Montpelier until his court appearance last Friday.

His trial had been set for Bear Lake County, but was moved to Bannock County because both the defense and prosecution agreed the high-profile case

had likely tainted the rural jury pool. He was sentenced in Bear Lake by 6th District Judge Peter Medema.

Before the sentencing, Willie's lawyer, Keith Roark of Hillay, asked the judge to let his ailing client remain on house arrest. But McDermott said he could not.

"This is a heavy burden for this court. Mr. Willie," McDermott said. "Your family loves you. But the fact is, you molested these teenage boys."

After the sentencing, Willie was taken directly to the state penitentiary in Boise.

— compiled from wire reports

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MAGIC VALLEY/WEST

South-central Idaho construction update

**The Times-News**

**SITUATION** — Following is the construction update for the Magic Valley.

**U.S. 93 Twin Falls Alternate Route** Stage 1: Construction on the U.S. 93 Twin Falls Alternate Route project from Washington Street to Blue Lakes Boulevard is under way.

**Work on Washington Street** north of Pole Line Road is complete and the street has reopened to motorists. The portion of Washington Street from Pole Line Road to North College Road is temporarily closed. This closure is necessary to construct the intersection of Washington Street and Pole Line Road. The closure is expected to be in effect until mid-June.

**Traffic on Pole Line Road** from Highway Drive to Blue Lakes Boulevard has been shifted to the westbound lanes. Traffic is reduced from four lanes to two with a center turn lane.

**The intersection of Hillmore Street and Pole Line Road** will be controlled by temporary traffic signals. Motorists are urged to use caution as they travel through the intersections because of increased congestion and altered lane configurations. Truck drivers are encouraged to use Blue Lakes Boulevard to Addison Avenue. This second phase of the U.S. 93 Twin Falls Alternate route is expected to be complete by mid-summer.

**U.S. 30 Kimberly Road** from

3200 East to Red Cap Corner: Rehabilitation work continues one mile east of Twin Falls on U.S. 30 Kimberly Road, from 3200 East to Red Cap Corner (mileposts 221-223).

The route is reduced from four lanes to two, with one lane open in each direction. Flaggers direct traffic, and delays of up to 10 minutes can be expected. Vehicles are limited to a maximum width of 12 feet throughout the work zone. This phase of the \$3.9 million project is expected to be completed by mid-May.

**Airport Road south of Twin Falls:** Traffic on Airport Road south of Twin Falls, from 3400 North Road to 3500 North Road, will be detoured to allow reconstruction of deteriorated pavement. The project reconstructs a one-mile segment. The detour will be in place until mid-May.

The project includes replacement of the "Highline" Canal Bridge on Airport Road. Motorists should expect intermittent delays with brief lane closures. Stage 1 of this \$2 million project is scheduled to be completed in late May.

**Idaho 77, Declo to Albion:** This resurfacing project begins five miles south of Declo and

continues to Albion (mileposts 18-23). Delays of up to 10 minutes are possible. Construction is expected to be completed by late spring.

**U.S. 93, Salmon Falls Creek Canal Bridge:** Traffic on U.S. 93 over the Salmon Falls Creek Canal Bridge (milepost 25), two miles south of Hollister, has been shifted to a new section of bridge. The traffic shift is part of a project to widen the existing bridge in preparation for future widening of that segment of U.S. 93. The speed limit will be reduced to 50 mph. This stage of the \$1.6 million bridge project is expected to be completed by late spring.

**Idaho 81, bridge replacements:** Crews are replacing the existing 1841 Canal bridges on Idaho 81 (mileposts 23-25) one mile east of Declo. Vehicles longer than 45 feet will be required to detour around the work areas using Idaho 77 from Idaho 81 to Interstate 84, and I-84 from milepost 216 to 226. The \$2.1 million project is expected to be completed in late May.

For more information, dial 511 for 24-hour travel conditions or log onto the ITD Web site at 511.idahogov.

Initiatives make the ballot

By John Miller  
Associated Press writer

**BOISE** — Two Idaho groups say they've gathered enough registered voters' signatures to put separate citizen initiatives on the Nov. 7 ballot — one to boost education funding and another to tighten the state's eminent domain laws.

Other efforts, including a proposed initiative to limit property taxes to 1 percent of total assessed value and a plan to eliminate Idaho's wolves, likely failed to collect the needed 47,681 signatures ahead of Monday's deadline to deliver the names to county clerks; Secretary of State Ben Ysursa said.

The clerks now have 60 days to verify the signatures' validity before Ysursa

can make the final determination on which measures will go before voters.

On Tuesday, the Idaho Education Association planned to hand over to Ysursa's office 50,000 already verified signatures. Ysursa said that education funding measure will likely be Initiative 1.

And Laird Maxwell, head of a campaign to tighten eminent domain laws governing the seizure of private property for economic development, told The Associated Press that paying canvassers \$2 per signature helped his group collect more than 70,000 names.

"We have more than enough signatures, with a comfortable

margin," Maxwell said.

Still, his group's signatures haven't yet been verified by clerks, and Ysursa remained skeptical whether Maxwell's initiative would survive.

"I'd be surprised if eminent domain was on the ballot," Ysursa said.

The statewide teachers union used a staff of 14 to organize 3,400 signature gatherers, including teachers and parents who spread out across Idaho neighborhoods to tout an initiative that aims to hike the state's existing 5-cent-on-the-dollar sales tax by a penny to pay for about \$200 million in additional education funding.

Park Service keeps ban on most ads in parks

By John Hellprin  
Associated Press writer

**WASHINGTON** — Strict prohibitions on allowing advertising and marketing in the national parks in return for donations will remain, spelling an end to a National Park Service proposal that called for looser restrictions.

The Park Service proposed last year to let some employees solicit donations, including alcohol and tobacco company donations for the first time and giving donors the right to put their names on signs, benches and bricks. All were dropped in new guidelines issued Monday by Park Service Director Fran Mainella.

About \$100 million in donations and \$150 million in entrance fees augment the taxpayer funds that support the national park system. The 380-unit system has an annual budget of about \$2.2 billion.

Deciding what donations park managers can accept — and the level of recognition that can be granted in return — has been a touchy subject for the Park Service.

Park rangers and other employees who promote and sell environmentalists complained that last year's proposal went too far by opening the door to an unspecified amount of commercialization.

"Some level of donor recognition is, if tastefully done, is a good idea," Deputy Park Service Director Steve Martin said Monday. "You have to do it, and it can go downhill really fast."

The guidelines were last set in 1998 and are supposed to be reviewed every five years. Park advocates praised the new guidelines as responding to criticism of last year's proposal.

Much of the private support for national parks is contributed through the National Park Foundation, chartered by Congress in 1967.

The Largest Career Fair in the area is coming May 2, 2006

10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Inside the CSI Gymnasium

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NATION

# Social Security and Medicare trust funds both deteriorated in past year

By Martin Cutsinger  
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The trustees for the government's two biggest benefit programs said Monday that the trust fund for Social Security will be depleted in 2040, a year earlier than expected, while Medicare will exhaust its trust fund just 12 years from now.

The annual report showed deterioration in the financial condition of both programs although the problems in Medicare were depicted as far more serious because of the skyrocketing costs for health care.

A year ago, the depletion of the Social Security trust fund had been projected to occur in 2041, one year later than the current estimate, and the Medicare hospital insurance fund had been forecast to last until 2020, two years longer

than the current estimate.

The trustees, who include the head of the Social Security Administration and three members of President Bush's Cabinet, painted a sober assessment of the health of the two programs in advance of the looming retirements of 70 million baby boomers.

They stated that the projected long-term growth rates for both Social Security and Medicare are not "sustainable under current financing arrangements."

Bush tried last year to overhaul Social Security with the introduction of private investment accounts for younger workers but the idea went nowhere in Congress. Democrats attacked the Bush program as a hidden effort to cut future benefits.

In this year's State of the Union address, Bush asked Congress to create a bipartisan

commission to study entitlement reform. But even this modest proposal has not generated much interest, in part because lawmakers do not want to address entitlement reforms in a congressional election year.

Treasury Secretary John Snow, the chairman of the trustees group, said the new report depicted "a looming fiscal crisis as the baby boom generation moves into retirement" and he urged Congress to move forward.

But Democrats charged that the administration was using the trustees reports to try to create an air of crisis to make radical changes to the two benefit programs.

While the depletion of the reserves built up over past years is projected to occur in just 12 years for Medicare and 34 years for Social Security, both programs will face fi-

nancing issues much sooner at the point that the amount paid out each year exceeds the amount the government collects to fund them.

For Medicare, that occurred for the year of 2004. However, the program is projected to be in the black again this year before crossing over, to paying out more than it takes in permanently in 2006 and the years following that.

For Social Security, the point at which the program will pay out more in benefits than it takes in will occur in 2017, the trustees reported, the same as in last year's report.

The trust funds contain the equivalent of government IOUs. To raise the actual cash to meet obligations, the government must either borrow more money from the public by issuing marketable Treasury securities, raise taxes or cut spending in other programs.

# Anna Nicole Smith wins Supreme Court round

By David G. Savage  
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Anna Nicole Smith, the former Playboy playmate and widow of a Texas oil billionaire, won a unanimous ruling from the Supreme Court on Monday that clears the way for her to claim as much as \$500 million from her late husband's estate.



Nicole Smith

But the decision does not finally resolve the 11-year-old legal dispute, which has bounced back and forth between the state courts of Texas and the federal courts in California.

The court battle has been fought over who lived and died first in the estate of J. Howard Marshall: his son or his widow, Marshall was 89 years old and worth an estimated \$1.6 billion in 1994 when he married the 26-year-old model. He died a year later, and the fight was on.

A Texas court backed the oilman's son, E. Pierce Marshall, but a federal bankruptcy judge backed Smith.

In a victory for the widow, the Supreme Court tossed out a decision saying federal judges had no authority to decide a lawsuit she brought against her stepson. She claimed he schemed and forged documents to deprive her of a huge gift her husband promised her before his death.

ing over who gets to decide an issue, the first ruling is honored in the end.

After the death of Marshall, his will was probated in a Texas court, which granted her interest to leave his estate entirely to E. Pierce Marshall.

Meanwhile, in a separate suit brought in a bankruptcy court in California, Smith alleged the billionaire's son had — before her husband's death — schemed to deny her what she had been promised. She had filed for bankruptcy for unrelated reasons. She emerged with a judgment that the widow — Vickie Lynn Marshall in court and Anna Nicole Smith on stage — was due \$474 million from her late husband's estate.

Since then, the courts have been trying to decide which ruling should be honored: the Texas probate order or the federal bankruptcy decision.

Two years ago, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco threw out Smith's award entirely and said federal judges had no right to intervene in any matter involving a state's probate of an estate.

That ruling threatened to crimp the power of federal courts on several fronts. For example, the Internal Revenue Service often goes to federal court to seek taxes that are owed by an estate. For that reason, the Justice Department entered the case of Marshall v. Marshall on the side of Smith.

On Monday, the Supreme Court called the 9th Circuit's decision a mistake.

Despite his loss Monday, Pierce Marshall vowed to fight on. "I will fight to clear my name in California federal court. That is a promise (sic) and her lawyers can take to the bank," he said.

So far, both sides have taken plenty of money to their lawyers, not to the bank. Experts in bankruptcy law agreed the battle will drag on.

"There is a long way to go between here and her ability to collect any money judgment against Pierce Marshall," said Craig Goldblatt, a Washington lawyer who filed a court brief on behalf of experts in bankruptcy law.

That is because the Supreme Court did not decide whether the Texas court or the federal bankruptcy court in California handed down the first decision. Usually, when judges are dual-

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# TEN

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WHAT GOLPERS DEVELOP AFTER 2 HOURS IN THE GRILL ROOM



Baby Blues

By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



Baldo

By Hector D. Cantu and Carlos Castellanos



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The Eldorberries

By Phil Frank and Joe Troise



For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



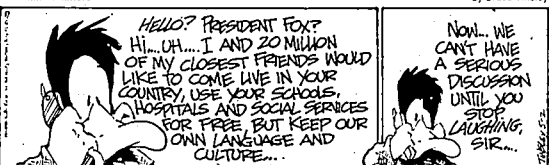
Luann

By Greg Evans



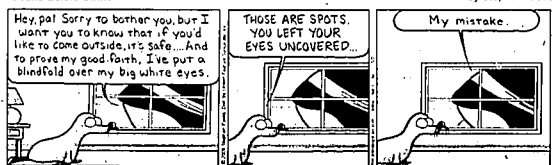
Mallard Fillmore

By Bruce Tinsley



Pearls Before Swine

By Stephan Pastis



Pickles

By Brian Crane



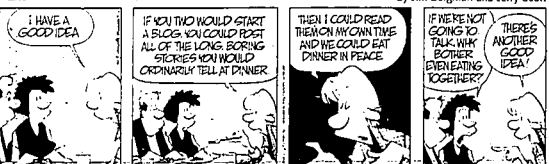
Rose Is Rose

By Pat Brady



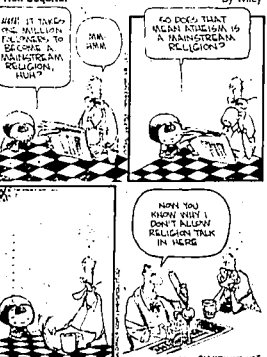
Zits

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



Non Sequitur

By Wiley



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Stay focused on goals, Gemini

IF MAY 2 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: The tolerant and non-judgmental atmosphere you have recently become accustomed to could disappear quickly, so prepare for several weeks in June when you must work hard, meet deadlines and keep up your end of a bargain without fail. Your ability to cope with responsibility is tested again in July, so do not seek extra obligations or use that credit card unnecessarily. Life will shift for the better in August and September when you can make beneficial changes or set key plans in motion that will enrich your life and bring smiles to your face. ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get that clasp off your shoulder. Your energies may be taxed by recent challenges so avoid becoming overtired. Taking a defensive position or throwing gauntlets will only cause conflict. TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Watch out for challenges to your authority. Remember what happens to the bull in the ring when the matador waves a red flag. If you overreact to perceived threats, you may end up in a bad position. GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Keep focused on long-term goals. Teamwork may only be

HOROSCOPE Jeraldine Saunders

achieved through pitting people against one another in a competition. Ride herd on projects to be sure they are completed. CANCER (June 21-July 22): Go fly a kite. A good idea or creative brainstorm could have value. You may be able to take advantage of a refreshing change of perspective or launch improvements in the next several days. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Walk the fine line between defending your rights and being abrasive. Cooperation between opposing factions is achievable, but it will take tact and finesse to avoid a brief blowup. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't sabotage plans. Executive decisions may be put into motion without enough forethought. Take your time to investigate or research perplexing issues so you are prepared for the future. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Use your powers of persuasion to overcome adversity. Avoid friction with others. Quire's ear creep up to disturb the harmo-

ny with the boss or your significant you-know-who for a few hours. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Hold your horses. Jumping into the heat of a competition can unleash angry words or ignite troubled situations. Think things through thoroughly; a rational approach is required. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Everything that glitters isn't gold; a more realistic approach might be required. There may be a chance to enter the opposition if you are careful not to lose your cool. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): He who hesitates might be wise. Your ambitious nature might be intrigued by an opening through which you can leap to a higher level. Be careful not to step on sensitive toes. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Charity always begins at home. If you adopt a philosophical attitude and let steamy situations die down, all will eventually go as planned. Brief confrontations will blow over quickly. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Remain poised above the fray. Borderline days will quickly edge toward an improvement, so it is better to wait than to act. Avoid hostilities and aggravations by concentrating on good deeds.



**Beetle Bailey** By Mort Walker

WHAT'S A MEGABYTE?  
2

1,024 KILOBYTES

WELL, I LEARNED SOMETHING TODAY

BUT YOU DIDN'T ASK ME ABOUT GIGABYTES, OR TERABYTES, OR PETABYTES...

OR EXABYTES, OR HENTABYTES, OR...

I'VE LEARNED NOT TO ASK YOU QUESTIONS!

**Blonde** By Dean Young & Stan Drake

YOU SAY YOUR BOYFRIEND IS VERY THIN?

YES, HE SAYS "THE SWEETEST" THINGS TO ME BY E-MAIL, BUT "HE'S AFRAID TO TELL ME IN PERSON!"

J.C. Dithers, you miserable, low-down...

**The Bom Loser** By Art Sansom & Chip

HEY, MOM, GUESS WHAT I FORGOT TO DO BEFORE I TOOK MY BATH?

BRUSH YOUR TEETH?

NOPE. TAKE OFF MY SOCKS AND SHOES!

**Garfield** By Jim Davis

ELLEN, YOU CAN GO OUT WITH ME NOW

REMEMBER YOU SAID YOU ONLY DATE MEN WHO LIVE DANGEROUSLY?

WELL, YESTERDAY I RAN WITH SCISSORS!

HE LAUGHS IN THE FACE OF STUPIDITY

**Hagar the Horrible** By Chris Browne

I JUST BOUGHT THIS SPECIAL DUCK CALL...

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT IT?

HOWN!!!

THE SALESMAN SAID IT WAS FOR "HARD OF HEARING DUCKS!"

**Hi and Lois** By Chance Browne

THIRSTY AND I HAVEN'T BEEN SEEING A MARRIAGE COUNSELOR

IS IT HELPING?

NOW WE HAVE TO GO SEE A FINANCIAL COUNSELOR TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO PAY FOR THE MARRIAGE COUNSELOR

**Classic Peanuts** By Charles M. Schulz

I'M NOT GOING TO SCHOOL ANYMORE BECAUSE I ALREADY KNOW EVERYTHING I'LL EVER NEED TO KNOW...

HOW FAR AWAY IS THE MOON WHEN WAS GEORGE WASHINGTON BORN AND WHAT'S THE FRENCH WORD FOR TOOTH PASTE?

I HOPE I HAVE A CUPCAKE IN MY LUNCH TODAY...

**The Wizard of Id** By Briant Parker and Johnny Hart

YOU DIDN'T FINISH YOUR OATMEAL

I'D LIKE A HORSEY BAG

**Dennis the Menace** By Hank Ketchum

ONE GOOD THING ABOUT VEG-TABLES, JOEY, THEY REALLY MAKE DESSERT TASTE GOOD.

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bill Keane

"Today was a lot like yesterday, Grandma. So you're right — history does repeat itself."

# Bald is beautiful for men unwilling to hide under rug

**DEAR ABBY:** Your reply to "Bald in Baltimore" the man whose considering getting rid of his wig, left me feeling you were advising someone with an "affliction" that isn't normally publicized. (I have false teeth, so should I also have a "coming-out party"? I'm intended.)



from under the wig. Her real objection was that his baldness made her feel "old." Perhaps that's what is behind "Bald in Baltimore's" quoter's comment as well.

—PATRICIA IN BELLEVILLE, ILL.

My 40-something-year-old son lost most of his hair by the time he was 22 — thanks to genes from my side of the family. When he was in his 30s, he and a couple of friends shaved their heads on a dare, and he has kept it that way ever since. It's a popular and fashionable look. "Bald in Baltimore" should retire the wig and join the bandwagon with a shaved head.

**DEAR ABBY:** Itoory to "Bald in Baltimore" who's thinking of ditching his rug. Many women find bald men attractive, and I am one of them. So what if his head is shaped a "little funny"? That's what makes him an individual, like our fingernails, noses or toes. I'd rather see a bald man any day than a "rag" or a "comb-over." That man needs to know he has nothing to lose and everything to gain. And bravo to you, Dear Abby, for suggesting a coming-out party. What an excellent idea.

—T.L.C., CANVAS, WVA.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am in my late 20s. When I was still in college, I met a wonderful man in his 30s. He was completely bald. He explained to me that when his hairline began to recede, he started shaving his head rather than dealing with the anxiety of it. I saw old pictures of him with hair, and I can honestly say I like him better without it. What attracted me to him was his personality, his intelligence, and the fact that he treated me better than gold.

**—NANCY IN SPRING, TEXAS**  
**DEAR NANCY:** If my comment about the "coming-out party" offended you, it was not meant to. I was being literal. Many other readers agreed with me that the hairpiece was unnecessary. Read on for a sample:

**DEAR ABBY:** I totally agree with your answer to "Bald in Baltimore." My husband has the same problem. I met him when he was bald. We have been married seven years and have three beautiful children together. I think it's time that writer ditch the wig and becomes the man he always wanted to be.

—M.S., OKEECHOBEE, FLA.

Please tell "Bald in Baltimore" to do what he feels comfortable with and be true to himself. In the end, he'll find it is the best decision he ever made.

—SHERIEN ALBERTVILLE, ALA.

**DEAR ABBY:** Your idea of a coming-out for off party is a great one. He must have a sense of humor about all this. Have a laugh and be done with it. I hope he knows that what makes a man appealing isn't a head of hair but his attitude, outlook, and the way he treats others. When he loses the wig he will gain his freedom.

—DENVER LADY

**DEAR ABBY:** I worked for many years with a man in the same situation. His mother also objected to him "coming out"

**DEAR ABBY:** When I read your advice to the man in Baltimore to have a "coming-out party" to get rid of his wig, I thought, "Wouldn't it be wild to arrange to 'shave' his head if people pledged money for cancer research or some other favorite charity?"

—KATHY IN CHICAGO  
**DEAR KATHY:** Yes! I love your idea. Way to go!

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**This day in history:** On May 2, 1997, President Clinton and congressional Republicans worked together on a bipartisan plan to balance the budget over five years. Afterward, Republican Newt Gingrich said: "This is a great moment for our



their blimp coverage of sports events. The publicity makes the free service worthwhile. The games are shot through an open window in the passenger compartment of the airship, which slowly circles about 300 yards overhead.

You may not believe this, but the patron saint for "people in doubt" is St. Joseph.

Erin Barrett and Jack Mingo can be reached at facemess@mingo-barrett.com.

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TUESDAY  
May 2, 2006

EDITORIAL

Elderly drivers should be tested more often

Experience tells us that older drivers aren't the ones who speed through school zones, drive on the left side of the road, or more importantly, make up the leading group of drivers in traffic accidents. It's usually younger drivers that create a lot of those headaches. To catch up with drivers who are a little slower, we have a few simple steps up us to help enforce the private sector's insurance ratings.

renewal is too wide. Too many medical conditions could take shape that impact older drivers. On all adult license applications and renewals, drivers are asked about medical conditions that could adversely affect their driving. If they answer yes, they are given a medical referral form that is to be filled out by a physician.

**Our view: Idaho may need to draft tougher rules for senior driver's license renewals. What do you think? We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.**

Idaho is one of 13 states that does not have a board of physicians statewide standard for physical impairment and driving. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and AAA are among groups advocating tougher standards in those states with review boards, and the creation of review boards in those currently without them.

for license renewals," she said. "That probably needs to change at a minimum, state law should require more frequent renewals for a driver's license — possibly from every four years to every two — after the age of 70 and possibly earlier. Senior drivers often set the example for correcting their driving skills. Such is the case with the AARP's "55 Alive" defensive driving seminar. The course is specifically designed for car drivers ages 51 and over, who haven't been in a roadway for many years.

Idaho law allows drivers between the ages of 21 and 69 to renew their licenses through the mail. After age 70, seniors must come in and renew in person for a license every two years.

But challenges with senior drivers grow as they get older and wane in health. Many families face a difficulty in having an elderly family member relinquish driving privileges. Perhaps it's more direct role in granting its license privileges.

That's not tight enough. In-person renewals should be required for senior drivers a few years before age 70. And the four-year gap between requirements for in-person

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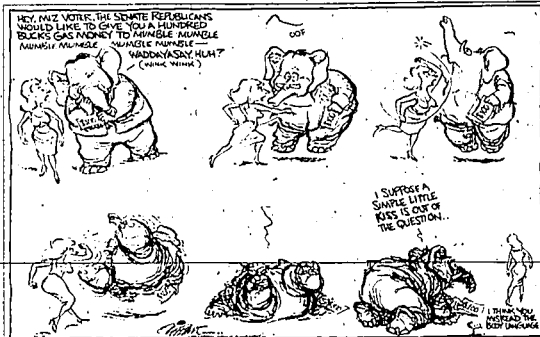
**Newcomers should immerse themselves**  
I'm not anti any ethnic group — while they're in their own country. But when they tell us how to run America, I take exception.  
Folks, here, we have welcomed others to our shores to work, learn and contribute. More than a century ago, they came for the land of opportunity for the chance to work and build a life. They accepted and obeyed our laws. They didn't come for the free medical, financial, family aid or the education, etc., that a burgeoning welfare society offers.

Now many receive an education unavailable to them in their own country, often subsidized by a generous nation. Most get this education with the intent of returning to improve their homeland but, with the lure of higher incomes and better living conditions here, they stay on.  
Now we are being told that we must change laws that seem to be in force for any way to advantage those who have already shown contempt for the land already at the point of bankrupting the working class that pays the runaway costs of Social Security and health care. It's a bucket leaking

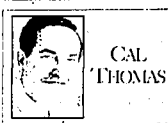
Republicans running on empathy

So it has come to this: A group of Senate Republicans has proposed a "windfall profits tax" on oil and gas. The idea is to ease their "pain at the gas pump." They also are entertaining the possibility of higher taxes on oil industry profits, as if government does not enter job of spending money than private industry. Have they forgotten the last time government imposed a "windfall profits tax" from 1980 to 1987? Oil production fell that demand grew so "big oil" had less incentive to explore. A history of this bad idea can be found on The Gas Industry Project Web page: [www.anti-tax.org](http://www.anti-tax.org)

A recent Wall Street Journal editorial called the \$100 rate proposal "designed for the pandering hall of fame." When Democrats vote to hand out checks, Republicans call it "tax relief" and they claim to oppose it on principle. What should it be called when Republicans do it, hypocrites? Cal Thomas, in the *midst of oil price hikes* may be the final proof that this is a party that has run out of gas. Democrats are not any better and should they reject a congressional majority this fall, it would be long before they again indulge in the same pandering to oil industry and oil and coal interest politics that has exposed Republican meanness.



What's any sign of real leadership? Republican Bush has made some personal changes at the White House, but does he intend to say what needs to be said and do what should be done? Why is it so difficult to let people that if they want to see gas prices go down, they should not complain about "some estimates" I've seen indicate that cutting consumption by as little as 3 percent could lower prices.  
I've heard supply and demand, but too many of us have been making too many demands, not only on peo-



ple, but also on politicians. Because contemporary culture is so self-focused, are Republicans afraid to tell people to do the equivalent of eating their vegetables? Republicans appear content to let people keep eating sugar by indulging them in the view that everyone is entitled to more, bigger and better in their pursuit of comfort and pleasure. Who will stand up and say, "Take control of your own lives and stop looking to Washington to solve everything?"  
Republicans have forgotten why they wanted power. It was to reduce the size and cost of government and return power (and money) to individuals. Now they mimic the Democrats, focusing on their political careers and

ever-expanding government. Some Republicans think they can squeeze by this fall with scare tactics, such as reminding voters of the liberals who would gain leadership positions if they lose their current majority. Democrats are better at scaring voters than Republicans. Traditional GOP voters have been known to stay home to punish Republicans for cross-dressing as Democrats. A visionary and optimistic agenda would be a far better strategy. It is the virtue of being more likely to succeed.

People want to vote affirmatively for their leaders. That's why the GOP's 1991 "Contract with America" was a politically brilliant document. Republicans put their intentions in writing and a majority of voters believed them enough to toss out Democrats who had been running the House for 40 years.  
This fall's election, can Republicans go to voters with a positive agenda and solid record of accomplishment? From the volatile subject of illegal immigration and law-

breakers demanding "rights" they do not want, to spending on wasteful and unnecessary projects, to a deficit and national debt that would almost shame Democrats (but doesn't shame Republicans), a majority of congressional Republicans are giving voters little reason to vote for them.  
How bold a party go from a visionary like Ronald Reagan who changed the world, not to mention restoring American optimism, to the tame vision of its illegitimate offspring who seem to care less about change than perpetuating themselves in office? They aren't even doing a good job of that as the fall election results may show, unless somebody or something quickly lights a fire under them. Better to use the derogatory phrase, "Republican in name only," applied to so many who have done so little for so few.

Send mail for Cal Thomas to: Tribune Media Services, 2225 Kenmore Ave., Suite 114, Buffalo, N.Y. 14207; or e-mail: [cal@calthomas.com](mailto:cal@calthomas.com).

It's time for Rumsfeld to cry uncle

Even some State Department officials thought it was like watching a cranky, eccentric uncle with a bad attitude, except that Rumsfeld was ordered to go to Iraq by the president, but he clearly has no stomach for nation-building, or letting Saddam run the show. He seemed under the weather after a rough overnight ride on a C-17 transport plane from Washington into Baghdad. And Condoleezza, controlling their eyes at the least respectful way the Defense treated the SecState as he deflected to be enthusiastic, in her cheer led automation way, about what she considers the latest last chance for Iraq.  
A reporter in Baghdad asked if Rumsfeld had the kerfuffle when "Gandhi" talked of "thousands" of tactical errors in Iraq. Rummy later noted that "I don't know what she was talking about, but she's perfectly honest" and that "anyone who said that had a lack of understanding" about warfare. She's just a silly girl, after all.



the civilians-mucking-up-the-military sense.  
The former "Matinee Idol," as W. liked to call him, is now a figure of absurdity, clinging to his job only because some retired generals turned him into a new front on the war on terror. On his case, brief visit to Baghdad, he was afraid to

Nuri Kamal al-Maliki.  
On the cusp of the third anniversary of "Mission Accomplished" in Rammy's denial despite the civil war with armed gangs of Shiites and Sunnis going out and killing each other and Bakrizing whole communities.

When a reporter asked him what the U.S. had to do to get "top militias under control and stop the sectarian dueling, he said "more than I can say. The first thing I have to say is we don't, the Iraqis do. It's their country. It's a sovereign country. This is not a government of "us" as "latents" in front of it or a transition" in front of it. It's a government that's in for a period of years and undoubtedly, unquestionably, will be addressing the question as to how they can best provide for the security of all of their people.

into a base for al-Qaeda and other militants. (And since it's our State Department, you've got to figure it's most peddling things.)  
April was the soft lethal month for U.S. soldiers this year, at least 67 dead.  
The Bush II hawks were determined to restore a Reaganesque muscular, "moral" foreign policy, as opposed to the tepidpolitik of Bush I. But by the military in sight, Congress is pressing for some reapportionment. With W's blessing, lawmakers are sending his father's old consigliere, Gen. Brent, to Iraq to look for a way out.  
As Iran vows to go ahead with its nuclear ambitions, the administration finds itself relying for help on the very people it steamrolled and undermined before the Iraq war: the U.N. and international agencies.

In further evidence of their astute connection with the Iraq culture, the Cabinet secretary showed up there without even knowing the correct name of their latest puppet. It turned out that Jawad al-Maliki, the new prime minister-designate, considered "Jawad" his exile name and had reverted to

As Iran vows to go ahead with its nuclear ambitions, the administration finds itself relying for help on the very people it steamrolled and undermined before the Iraq war: the U.N. and international agencies.  
"The Security Council is the primary and most important institution for the maintenance of peace and stability and security, and it cannot have its word and its will simply ignored by a member state," Condi said after a NATO meeting on Thursday.  
Rummy may be picky with his office niece, but who else but the automaton could make that threat with a straight face?  
Maureen Dowd's e-mail is: [liberties@nytimes.com](mailto:liberties@nytimes.com).

LETTERS

**Newcomers should immerse themselves**  
I'm not anti any ethnic group — while they're in their own country. But when they tell us how to run America, I take exception.  
Folks, here, we have welcomed others to our shores to work, learn and contribute. More than a century ago, they came for the land of opportunity for the chance to work and build a life. They accepted and obeyed our laws. They didn't come for the free medical, financial, family aid or the education, etc., that a burgeoning welfare society offers.

Now many receive an education unavailable to them in their own country, often subsidized by a generous nation. Most get this education with the intent of returning to improve their homeland but, with the lure of higher incomes and better living conditions here, they stay on.  
Now we are being told that we must change laws that seem to be in force for any way to advantage those who have already shown contempt for the land already at the point of bankrupting the working class that pays the runaway costs of Social Security and health care. It's a bucket leaking

fastest that it is being replaced. How long will it take to get? What's next? Should we begin to think the drinking age should be 12? Honor convicts who say forced detention is unfair? Legalize drugs and sex because some minors won't? Should we adopt the idea that it's unfair to restrict alcohol to airline pilots, listen to school bus drivers who consider it an invasion of privacy to require drug testing?  
Maybe rule by majority is old fashioned and no longer has any meaning, just like the flag and the motto "E Pluribus Unum." Should we have a referendum, swearing on the Bible and lion-

ing the God of our forefathers.  
MUGHAN PHELPS  
Twin Falls  
**County commission needs new leadership**  
As this letter is being written, a gaze out the front window shows the red, white and blue of the American flag blowing in the breeze. Its history is written with integrity, sacrifice and heroism and assures us the obligation and opportunity to honor its principles by going to the polls on May 23. It also assures that we have a forum to express our support or disagreement with

those running for office.  
The articles in *The Times-News* of the last few days make it very clear that we need a county commissioner who is thoughtful, can analyze information, draft ordinances that are in the best interest of the citizens of the county, and exercise good stewardship over county assets and funds. We need a confident leader. How refreshing to be given such an easy choice. Terry Kramer is the right choice.  
We cannot support the ineffective governing of issues as implemented by the Anderson Lumber building fiasco, the \$200,000-plus bill for consultants in the Magic Valley Regional

Medical Center-St. Luke's partnership proposal or the blatant protectionism for county elected officials who mislead their own pay and benefits.  
Terry Kramer will bring actual listening and a common sense perspective to county government. We urge you to make it a priority to exercise your right to vote and move Twin Falls County on a forward path with a commissioner who ponders the information before he makes a decision and, after doing his homework, has the courage to act.  
CHARLES BARNES  
LINDA BARNES  
Twin Falls

# Bush should level with public

**BILL FERGUSON**

President Bush has seen his approval ratings plummet into Jimmy Carter territory, and if he's not careful he could stumble into the basement with Bush and Nixon. The latest numbers show that only 32 percent of Americans approve of the job Bush is doing. Compare that with the end-of-term approval ratings for other recent presidents: Nixon 24 percent, Ford 53 percent, Carter 34 percent, Reagan 61 percent, Clinton (the Elder) 56 percent and Clinton 65 percent.

What I'm wondering is—should Bush really care how popular he is? OK, maybe he has some reason to care between now and November. I'm sure he doesn't relish the idea of finishing out his term with the kind of Democratic Congress in semi-hostile Republican Congress has had enough.

But looking ahead to his final two years in office, our collective opinion of Bush could provide him with a great opportunity to get real with America, to force us to face unpleasant realities we'd rather avoid. If he did

stop paying attention to his poll numbers, he would be like the State of the Union message in early 2007 might sound:

"Ladies and gentlemen, the state of our union isn't bad, but it could be a lot better. I've made plenty of mistakes in the last six years, and some of them have been whoppers. I know a lot of you can't stand the sight of me, and I really can't blame you if you feel that way.

"But what's past is past and I've still got two years to kill. Since I'm about as popular as Jane Fonda at a VFW convention, I've decided to stop trying to make you folks happy. You don't have to like me, but by golly you will listen to me, and I've got a few things to say.

"First, let's talk about Iraq. Like you, I have my doubts at this point as to whether or not the whole thing was a good idea, but the fact is we invaded that country and overthrew the government. It's our responsibility now, and it will still be

that way long after I ride off into the sunset. We're going to be there for a long time, it's going to cost a lot more money, and all that's going to take care of, I wish I could tell you more, but I'd be lying if I said I knew more than that.

"Let's talk about our financial situation. It isn't great. Every year we're spending way more than we take in, and when you Baby Boomers start to soak up your golden years entitlements, the house of cards is going fall down on us. We can't go on like this.

"I'm sorry to tell you folks this, but if I have my way you're about to become entitled to a whole lot less. I'm going to propose that we raise the retirement age to at least 70, maybe higher. And when you do retire, Social Security and Medicare will be means-based and not a simple entitlement.

"Is that fair? Heck no! A lot of folks are going to get hosed, and that's a shame. But a bigger shame would be to put our children and grandchildren in a huge financial hole or to continually raise taxes to make up the coming shortfalls, so our



options are pretty limited. Well, I had some more things to say, but frankly it's getting late and I'm tired, so you can all read the rest of my speech on the internet tomorrow. You can expect a lot more

painful honesty from me for the next two years and I look forward to seeing my approval rating slip into single digits. At least I'll be able to sleep at night.

God Bless you all, especially the precious few of you who still show me love. Bush out!  
Readers may write to Bill Ferguson at: The Mazon Telegraph, 120 Broadway, Mazon, Ga. 31201-3444 or e-mail: bfergout@hottmail.com.

## LETTERS

### Alternative roads have lower speed limits

Finally the spring and summer seasons have arrived!

Drivers need to be reminded that there are more pedestrians and bikers on the roads and sidewalks. Drivers need to slow down to the speed limits and pay attention.

I have witnessed several near pedestrian-biker accidents on some of the main roads (Pole Lane, Blue Lakes and Kimberly Road), drivers are using a lot of the side roads. We need to be reminded that on these side roads, the speed limit is not the same as the main roads, so be extra cautious! That goes for drivers on Falls Avenue heading to the parking fields. The speed limit is 35 all along that road. We have lost two dogs and numerous cats due to speeding drivers.

Businesses that are managing growth with all the new houses, industry and shopping centers being built, but is there an increase of police officers patrolling the streets?  
LEAH WILSEY  
Twin Falls

### Kramer shows leadership the county needs

As concerned citizens of Tivon Falls County, we are interested in good local government. It is that why we support Terry Kramer for District 1 county commissioner.

Terry exhibits the kind of candidate we need in this commission seat. He has a long record of responsible public service. He appreciates people who have differing ideas and looks for solid solutions for resolving issues.

Terry has supported the merging of the Magic Valley Regional Medical Center and St. Luke's. He has served on the Twin Falls County Office Space Assessment Committee. When I was a county commissioner, I had the opportunity to work with Terry when he served on the Twin Falls County Planning and Zoning Commission. He was a responsible, hard-working member who spoke up on issues and took responsibility for what he said and how he voted.

Terry supports careful analysis of county office space before going out to buy an empty warehouse like the Anderson Lumber building. He has the common sense, communication skills and respect for the constituents who are the taxpayers of this county. He will listen to local, knowledgeable citizens before going out and spending big bucks for off-site consultants. He also believes county employees have

the right to run for public office as he or any other citizen would. He would not have the taxpayers pay for the elected officials' families' health insurance while the employees have their families' insurance paid held out of their paychecks.

Terry Kramer is the right choice for county commissioner in the May primary. No, he is not the incumbent, but he's the right person for Tivon Falls County. He's got our vote. He will bring a fresh, listening and common sense perspective to county government. He's a good listener, a better leader, and a great choice for county commissioner.

**NORMA BLASS  
BOB BLASS**  
(Editor's note: Norma Blass is a former Twin Falls County commissioner)

### Public must stay involved in energy policy

I was very happy to see Ralph Friedemann's letter in last Saturday's paper (April 22). Indeed, the struggle to protect Idaho from the dollar-based interests of large energy corporations is ongoing and must not lose momentum. It is crucial for the public to stay informed and involved in order to protect our valuable resources and environment from those who would wantonly exchange public interests for private enterprise.

The public owes itself to get

and stay involved for the long-term outcome by putting pressure on the officials who are supposed to serve the public's interest (not big business). We have recently seen the process work, but all of that hard work will be overridden if the people become complacent.

Together, let's push for energy conservation, renewable energy, siting bills, zero mercury emissions, no cap and trade policies, clean water and independent, scientific research regarding viable resources for Idaho energy (not done by people currently on the payroll of existing energy companies). Together, we can make a difference. Let's make Idaho an example of forward-thinking energy policies. Let's not be content with business-as-usual politics regarding our energy future.

**KATHLEEN SYLVA  
Hansen**

### Twin Falls needs thriving events center

We have been studying the campaign for the Pioneer Events Center. Having lived in several different states, each of the towns where we lived has had an events center. The events centers were surprisingly busy, with something going on most weekends. Money spent for their construction is coming out as a good return on investment.

Our experience has led us to conclude that a facility of this nature contributes in many

ways to the community. An events center allows the town to draw events that normally would have gone to larger cities. They provide a venue for concerts, art shows, monster truck rallies, high school wrestling tournaments, trade shows and many other activities. Money comes into the community through visitors attending events, purchasing food, hotels and food. As Tivon Falls becomes the center for the Magic Valley, we need an events center.

This opportunity for positive growth should not be passed up. As property owners, we think this is money well spent and will help keep the Magic Valley prosperous.

**BRET CHRISTENSEN  
VALERIE CHRISTENSEN  
Buhl**



**Pet of the Week**  
There is cause for a celebration. My buddy, Clem, got adopted, but I am left waiting. I am "Bonnie" and I need a home badly. Please come see me!  
**TWIN FALLS ANIMAL SHELTER**  
420 Victory Avenue  
736-2299

**CSI Cinco de Mayo Fiesta**  
Authentic Mexican dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. Friday, May 5 in the Student Union.  
Traditional and folkloric dancers will entertain during concert. Piñatas for the kids.  
Entertainment by Dr. Alicia Garcia on Cinco de Mayo history.  
\$10/adults, \$7/students, \$5/for children ages 5 to 10. Tickets are available at the door.

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Announcing the official Steinway & Sons Factory Tour, bringing handcrafted instruments directly to you. Instead of bringing you to the factory, we've brought the factory to you. With one of the widest selections of elegant Steinway grands and verticals, in classic ebony and beautiful natural woods.  
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General Obligation Bonds, 2006

Investors are invited to participate in the sale of the Twin Falls County School District No. 41 General Obligation Bonds. In the opinion of Bond Counsel, interest on the Bonds is exempt from gross income subject to federal income taxation pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, subject to certain conditions and assumptions described in the Official Statement under "Tax Exemption." Availability of state and local income tax exemptions may be limited based upon residency or other applicable factors. The Bonds are not prelate activity bonds. Interest on the Bonds is included in the computation of certain federal taxes on corporations.

The Bonds will be priced to market levels the day of the offering, currently anticipated to be May 2. They will be available in \$5,000 denominations.

This shall not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy these securities, which may be made by the Preliminary Official Statement only.

\*Preliminary subject to change.

For additional information and a copy of the Preliminary Official Statement, please call South, North and Securities Corporation, at 1-800-452-9911, Edw and Jones at 1-800-Ed Edw, or 409W. Logans 1-866-893-3651, weekdays before 4:30 p.m. MDT prior to May 2, 2006.

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**With this introductory offer you can get two hearing aids for the price of one on any of our most popular styles and technologies.**

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- Easy design for simple function and insertion.
- Comfortable, clear hearing solution.
- Most effective telephone use-eliminates feedback.
- Most effective design/technology for background noise.

Engineered for Invisibility and Reliability™



## Micro Open Ear

- Nearly invisible hearing solution.
- Natural, unplugged feeling.
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- Most effective telephone use-eliminates feedback.
- Rapid adjustment period... You'll be comfortable in minutes, not months.

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Tuesday  
May 2, 2006

## SPORTS

## Johnson takes Aaron's 499

By Jenna Fryer  
Associated Press writer

TALLADEGA, Ala. — No controversy this time. Jimmie Johnson's win was fair and square.

Johnson erased a career full of Talladega Superspeedway troubles, barreling past teammate Brian Vickers with one lap to go then holding off a charge from Tony Stewart to win the rain-postponed Aaron's 499 on Monday.

It makes Johnson 2-for-2 in restrictor-plate races this year. And this one won't have an asterisk.

His season-opening Daytona 500 win fell under intense scrutiny when crew chief Chad Knaus was suspended for cheating during race preparations. Although Johnson rallied to win the race in a legal car, he was forced to defend himself and his team from a wave of criticism that spoiled the victory.

Not this time.

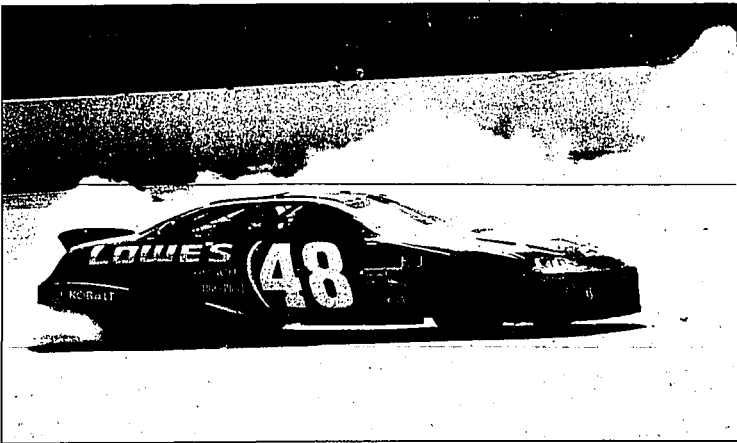
Using a similar strategy from Daytona, when he stayed low under the radar until the very end, Johnson powered to the front only when it mattered.

He pulled his Chevrolet alongside Vickers and eased it past him and into first at the start/finish line of the final lap. Vickers knew the move was coming.

"You come down to the last couple of laps, and teammates or not, all bets are off," Vickers said.

Once out front, Johnson still had to contend with Stewart.

Stewart had been the leader coming out of the final caution, racing out to a huge lead on the restart with nine to go. The pack behind him quickly caught up and Stewart was shuffled out of the top 10. But he sliced his way through the traffic and onto



Jimmie Johnson performs a burnout after winning the NASCAR Nextel Cup Aaron's 499 auto race on Monday at Talladega Superspeedway in Talladega, Ala.

**NASCAR**

Johnson's bumper for the final lap.

Johnson used a huge block to hold him off and seal his third win of the season. It was also a bit of redemption for him — he was widely blamed for at least three accidents last year at Talladega that wrecked 39 cars.

Stewart finished second. Vickers was third and was followed by Jeff Burton and Jamie McMurray. Matt Kenseth, Kurt Busch, Carl Edwards and Scott

Riggins rounded out the top 10.

Dale Earnhardt Jr., hoping to cap a weeklong tribute to his late father, had his day come to a disappointing end when his engine failed 37 laps from the finish.

The drivers' mood with soft new bumpers on the front of their cars in NASCAR's attempt to limit the bump-drafting practice that created dangerous conditions at Daytona.

The bumpers were designed to keep drivers from slamming into the car in front of them, and Jeff Gordon was quickly

frustrated by them.

"Now I know why we bump draft," he radioed his crew. "It's a lot harder to NOT bump draft than it is to just do it."

But it wasn't bump-drafting that caused the first big accident. Instead, intense racing was to blame for the 15-car wreck just nine laps into the race. It was too many, too close together, and Kyle Busch, in slight bobble triggered the pile-up.

Mark Martin, who began the day fourth in the points, was one of the drivers involved and

was disgusted by yet another frustrating finish in Talladega.

Martin finished 35th and dropped three spots in the standings.

"It's ridiculous, it's way beyond angry — it's stupid," he fumed. "It would be ignorant for me to be mad about it. It was one of the most fun places I ever came. In 1982 it was just a blast to race here. But in today's day and age, it's hard to have fun when you know that the pin is out of the grenade."

"It's just a matter of time before it goes off."

## Red Sox ruin Johnny Damon's return

By Howard Ulman  
Associated Press writer

BOSTON — David Ortiz hit a three-run homer to ruin Johnny Damon's return to Fenway Park, leaving the Boston Red Sox over the New York Yankees 7-3 Monday night in the first game of the season between the two rivals.

Fans chanted "Johnny Johnny!" after the Yankees center fielder watched helplessly from a few feet away as Ortiz's 11th homer sailed into the Red Sox bullpen in the eighth.

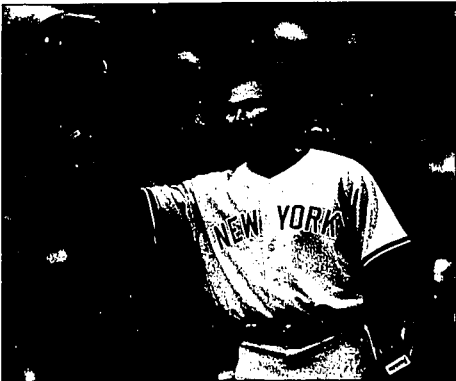
Damon couldn't do much with the previous batter either. He could only trot in to pick up Mark Loretta's single that broke a tie in the four-run inning.

Booted each time he came to the plate, Damon, who bolted to the other side of baseball's biggest rivalry as a free agent, went 0-for-4.

It was a bad night for another former Red Sox player, Mike Myers, Boston's lefty specialist last year, entered the game after the single by Loretta, who had been in a 1-for-17 slump, and gave up Ortiz's drive on a full count into a strong wind.

Another turning player who had a more pleasant night was Boston catcher Doug Mirabelli, reacquired earlier Monday from San Diego where he had been traded for Loreta last December. Boston obtained him to resume his role as knuckleballer. Tim Wakefield's personal catcher after Josh Bard, who went to the Padres, had 10 passed balls in Wakefield's four previous starts.

Mirabelli also went for 4 but didn't have a passed ball and threw out a run-



Current New York Yankees outfielder and former Boston Red Sox player, Johnny Damon, tips his helmet in Boston Monday, during his first at-bat at Fenway Park in a Yankees uniform on Monday.

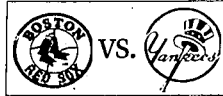
ner trying to steal.

Mike Timlin (3-0) got the win with help from Jonathan Papelbon, who retired the side in order in the ninth with two strikeouts. Aaron Small (0-1) took the loss after giving 10-0 for the Yankees

last season.

Before the game, Damon, who spent the past four seasons with Boston, said, "I'm just really excited about taking the field" and he wasn't nervous.

The boss lasted 30 seconds when he



stepped into the batter's box to lead off the game before taking off his helmet and waving it to the crowd as the cheers and applause increased.

But when he retired on an easy popup to right fielder Trot Nixon, the crowd roared when he reached second and turned back toward the visitors' dugout. Damon was retired easily on his next three at-bats on a groundout to Wakefield, a popup to third and a groundout to second.

The fans appreciated Mirabelli's loud exclamation when his name was announced in the starting lineup. He arrived at Fenway Park just 13 minutes before the game after a long flight.

The Red Sox took a 1-0 lead in the first when Kevin Youkilis led off with a walk, took second on a groundout and scored on a single by Ortiz.

Wakefield allowed just a hit and a walk through three innings before falling behind 3-1 in the fourth. The Yankees loaded the bases with no outs on a single by Derek Jeter and walks to Jason Clement and Alex Rodriguez.

Hired Matsui's groundout to first baseman Youkilis drove in one run and Robinson Cano singled in two.

In the eighth, Coxe walked and Youkilis was hit by a pitch before Loreta's single to Damon broke the tie.

## Pitcher falls just short of third perfect game

By Mike Fitzpatrick  
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Nobody's perfect all the time. Anthony Valquez gave it a shot.

Coming off two straight perfect games, the New York City high school junior finally allowed a few baserunners in his finest shutout Monday, ending his unprecedented run of dominance.

No pitcher in prep history had ever thrown consecutive perfect games before, according to the National Federation of State High School Associations.

"I really didn't care about pitching another perfect game or no-hitter. I just wanted to win," Valquez said after his Bayside High team beat nearby rival Cardozo 11-0.

The 5-foot-7, 145-pound righty retired his first two batters Monday before hitting Jamie Lebowitz with a pitch. Next up was Adam Barnes, who slapped a sharp grounder off the second baseman's foot and reached safety. Bayside scored in an error. Cardozo called it a hit.

Valquez settled down from there. He gave up a clean single to Mike Bean in the second but no other hits in a

game shortened to five innings because of the mercy rule. Far from overpowering, he used a sharp curveball, deceptive changeup and excellent control to strike out six without a walk. He needed only 54 pitches to dispatch the Judges.

"I'm a finesse pitcher," Valquez said. "Kid perfect promised to 5 with a 0.69 ERA and 45 strikeouts this season. He has walked just one batter."

"Only a one-hitter. Kind of disappointing, I guess," coach Pat Torney said with a touch of sarcasm. "I wish I could get my other pitchers to pitch like that."

Only two pitchers had thrown a pitch of perfect games in their entire high school careers, according to the NISHS. Ken Beardslee did it for Vermontville in North Carolina in the late 1940s, and L.J. Grantham for Mchlin High in North Carolina — one in 1958 and the other in '59.

Valquez said he learned how to throw his curveball from a friendly man in his neighborhood when he was about 10.

Valquez wears No. 42 just like his favorite players, Yankees closer Mariano Rivera, and in honor of his late father, who was born in 1942 and passed away six years ago.

## Leinart gets \$10M ballroom class bill

Matt Leinart's final year of college consisted of exactly one class: ballroom dancing.

This weekend, he got the bill: \$10 million.

Or more.

If you're saving to put a kid through college, you may want to relax. This story isn't about the spiraling cost of higher education, unless that kid throwing the football you've backed out will grow up to win the Heisman Trophy someday.



JIM LITKE

Leinart didn't really get a bill from Southern California — he was on scholarship — or anyone else. The \$10 million is how much less he will pocket as the No. 10 pick in Saturday's NFL draft versus what Leinart would have received as the presumptive No. 1 pick a year ago. And that's a conservative estimate.

At the time that because quarterback Alex Smith skipped his final year at Utah, became the top pick in the 2005 draft instead and got \$24 million from San Francisco in guaranteed money — the only real way to compare NFL deals, that's more than twice the \$10.5 million guaranteed to receiver Mike Williams, the No. 10 pick in last year's draft.

Leinart could wind up with a better contract in Arizona than Williams, his former USC teammate, got from Detroit. But it won't be nearly as good as the one signed by quarterback Matt Ryan, who Leinart and USC in the Rose Bowl, skipped out on Texas a year early, went as the third pick overall in Tennessee and stands to make roughly \$7 million more than Leinart will.

Money wasn't the furthest thing from Leinart's mind when he announced he was returning to USC in January 2005, fresh off delivering a second straight national championship at Southern California and being the Heisman. A week later, he answered his cell phone and said his only regret was leaving to squeeze another few thousand miles out of an aging Ford pickup bed dubbed the "Danger Ranger." Leinart acknowledged having his eye on a new Chevy Tahoe, but said the jalopy would do for the time being.

"It still gets me where I need to go," he adds.

To Leinart's credit, his time hasn't changed. Every time he stood still for an interview over the weekend, he looked like he'd just seen a ghost. Or worse, Italy Lewis bursting through the Cardinals' porous offensive line. But Leinart said all the right things.

"There were 'still no regrets' and never any regrets where he'd wind up being drafted, either this year or last. There were 'no regrets' more than getting picked 10th, and the money (somewhere between \$11 million and \$14 million guaranteed) is enough to buy a fleet of shiny SUVs. Maybe it was a "blessing in disguise." And it definitely was a little extra motivation "to go out there and prove all those doubters wrong."

So hold off on the bake sale and the pity. Leinart is walking into a world that might be a perfect fit. He gets an offensive-minded coach in Denny Green, a proven mentor at quarterback in Kurt Warner, a top-flight running back who can shoulder much of the load in free agent Edgerrin James, and even a pair of promising young receivers, Anquan Boldin and Larry Fitzgerald, to play catch with for the next few years. Leinart will have time to ease into the job, a good supporting cast and warm weather besides.

The only victim, in fact, is the "stay-in-school" crowd, that loose affiliation of college coaches, boosters and fans

Please see LITKE, Page B2



Bayside High School's Anthony Valquez pitches during a baseball game against Benjamin Cardozo High School in the Queens borough of New York on Monday.

SPORTS

Buhl softball downs Minico

Local sports
Buhl scored 10 first-inning runs en route to a 16-1 four-inning win over the Minico Spartans in Game 1 of the Indians' season finale doubleheader.

Table with 2 columns: Game 1, Game 2. Rows for Minico and Buhl with statistics like runs, hits, errors, and pitchers.

Baseball

Buhl sweeps Minico JV
Pitcher Austin Laing put up five shutout innings in the opener and Buhl put 21 hits on the board to sweep the Minico junior varsity Monday afternoon at home, run-ruling their guests 10-0 in a five-inning opener before making the nightcap 11-0.

tournament," said Indians head coach Mark Laing. "Pitching in that first game was good, we had some good hits, and played some good defense. It was a good ball game."

Senior James Osterkamp hit a triple for Buhl in Game 2 while Mitch Boutner collected the win on the mound.

Table with 2 columns: Game 1, Game 2. Rows for Buhl and Minico with statistics like runs, hits, errors, and pitchers.

Mavs finish Grizzlies

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — The Dallas Mavericks wanted to get this one over quickly. They sure picked the right opponent.

Dirk Nowitzki had 27 points and Josh Howard had 24 to lead the Mavericks over the Grizzlies 102-76 on Monday, Dallas' first best-of-seven sweep and an NBA-record 12th consecutive playoff loss for Memphis.

The Mavericks will face the winner of the San Antonio-Sacramento series, which listed at two games apiece, in the Western Conference semifinals. "You always want to close it out when you have the chance," Nowitzki said.

Nowitzki, who averaged 32.7 points in the first three games, was 12-of-21 from the floor and made all three of his 3-point shots, while Howard was 9-of-17. Howard had nine rebounds, Pau Gasol led Memphis with 25 points and Mike Miller scored 10. They were the only Grizzlies in double figures.

The Grizzlies were swept for the third time in three consecutive playoff appearances, and fans began filing out of FedExForum early in the final period. Announced attendance was 15,104. The Grizzlies put a sell-out at 18,119.

The Grizzlies already had the longest losing streak of any playoff team before a first post-season victory. The previous record of 11 consecutive playoff losses was set by Baltimore and matched by Denver.

Memphis was swept in the first round by Phoenix last year and San Antonio the year before.

Dallas also got 19 points from Jerry Stackhouse and 12 from Jason Terry.

Dallas began pulling away in the third period and went up 62-47 following an 11-4 run that was sparked by two 3-pointers by Nowitzki and steals by Nowitzki and Terry. Gasol lost the ball during the Dallas run when he bounced the ball off his foot on a dribble.

Though trailing Dallas from early in the first period, the Grizzlies stayed close until the final minutes of the half when Memphis turnovers helped the Mavericks mount a 10-1 run to break for intermission with a 48-39 lead.



Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki (41) drives around Memphis Grizzlies forward Shane Battier, right, in the first quarter of Monday's NBA playoff game in Memphis, Tenn.

Pistons 109, Bucks 99

MILWAUKEE — The Milwaukee Bucks kept missing shots and mishandling the ball. Chauncey Billups kept hitting free throws. Billups was 16-of-16 from the foul line and scored 34 points to send the Pistons back to Detroit with a 3-1 series lead, beating Milwaukee 109-99 in the first round of the NBA playoffs Monday night.

The Pistons can finish off the Bucks with a victory in Game 5 Wednesday night in Detroit. The Bucks had taken an 86-85 lead on Joe Smith's jump shot with 5:52 remaining in the game. But the Pistons answered with an 8-0 run, including back-to-back 3-pointers by Billups and Richard Hamilton, to put Detroit ahead 93-86 with 3:47 remaining.

The Pistons led 95-90 when Antonio McDyeess was whistled for a technical foul — Detroit's second technical of the game — with 2:42 remaining.

Milwaukee's Michael Redd made the free throw and was fouled on the ensuing possession, hitting another two free throws to cut the Pistons' lead to 95-93 with 2:29 remaining. But six straight free throws by Billups, combined with missed shots and mishandled balls by the Bucks, allowed the Pistons to put away the game. Redd led the Bucks with 33 points, including 15 in the first half to lead all scorers. The Pistons held Redd to 11 points in the first game of the series, but the Bucks' leading scorer had 40 in Saturday's victory in Milwaukee.

Milwaukee took a 76-74 lead into the fourth quarter thanks to 16 third-quarter points by T.J. Ford, but Ford picked up his fourth foul with 1:51 remaining in the period.

Oilers eliminate Red Wings

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — The Edmonton Oilers won their NHL's best team in the regular season, rallying Monday night to beat the Detroit Red Wings 4-3 and win the first-round playoff series in six games.

Alex Henksy scored twice, including the winner with 4:11 left in regulation time, capping a comeback from a 2-0 deficit after two periods. It was Edmonton's first playoff series win since 1998 — and another huge early-round disappointment for Detroit.

Fernando Pisani also scored twice for the Oilers.

Johan Franzén, Henrik Zetterberg and Robert Lang scored for the Red Wings. The Oilers tied it 3-3 on a power play when the puck deflected off Edmonton's Shawn Horcoff to Henksy at the side of the net. He checked away at the puck, then Wings defenseman Nicklas Lidstrom pushed Henksy into the net. The puck went in, too, and the play went under video review to determine if the puck was

kicked in.

After a lengthy delay, officials eventually awarded Henksy the goal with 3:53 remaining. Franzén flicked in a rebound at 10:07 of the third period to put the Red Wings ahead 3-2. Pisani had tied it 2-2 when he deked goalie Manny Legace and scored with a shot through the left side at 6:40 of the third.

Pisani's power-play goal 2:56 into the third period brought the Oilers within 2-1. The Red Wings controlled the second period, outshooting the Oilers 17-2. Steve Yzerman set up Lang's power-play goal to make it 2-0. Red Wings captain Yzerman sat out the previous two games with a nagging back injury.

Yzerman's point moved him ahead of Bryan Trottier into eighth spot with 185 career playoff points.

Zetterberg got the Red Wings a 1-0 lead late in the first period, when the Oilers' outshot Detroit 15-10. The forward scored on Dwayne Rofooson six times this series.

The Red Wings have lost in the first or second round of the last three playoffs.

Litke

Continued from B1
who hope to convince stars that another season at State is, or fallback U.I., in an e-mail case, is mostly reward and little risk. They just lost their poster boy.

A dozen underclassmen went in the first round Saturday, including the top three picks and six of the first 10. That figure fits squarely in the five-year average, but the number of underclassmen declaring for the draft has been climbing, from an average of 34 in the years 1998-2004, to just under 50 the past two years. I had Maurice Clarett won his court challenge to the NFL's minimum-age requirement, there's no telling how much faster those ranks would have swelled.

me," Leitner said. Who knew there would be so few of those left?

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlitke@ap.org.

Whether Leitner becomes a cautionary tale — you can almost hear some agent whispering to a kid next year, "Don't pull a Leitner" — remains to be seen. But his already part of a disturbing trend. The NFL draft is becoming more like the NBA version, where potential promises proven every five minutes and upside is every thing.

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SCORES AND STATS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

WHAT'S ON T.V.

Baseball: White Sox at Indians, ESPN, 5P. Rockies at Cubs, WGN, 5:20 P.M.

BASKETBALL

NBA: Phoenix, Bulls at Heat, TNT, 6P. Lakers at Suns, TNT, 8:30 P.M.

AUTO RACING

NASCAR Next Cup Series #499: 1. Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 188. 2. Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 186.

Baseball

Seattle Mariners at Minnesota Twins: Seattle 1, Minnesota 0.

Baseball

Chicago White Sox at Tampa Bay Devil Rays: Tampa Bay 1, Chicago 0.

Baseball

Texas Rangers at Los Angeles Angels: Los Angeles 1, Texas 0.

Baseball

Arizona Diamondbacks at New York Yankees: New York 1, Arizona 0.

Baseball

San Diego Padres at St. Louis Cardinals: St. Louis 1, San Diego 0.

Baseball

Philadelphia Phillies at Cincinnati Reds: Cincinnati 1, Philadelphia 0.

LOCAL SCHEDULE

Baseball: Jerome at Burley, 4:30 p.m. Fire at Kimberly, 4:30 p.m.

GOLF

Gooding, Fire, Kimberly, Buhl, Community School at Gooding CC, 2:30 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Burley at Fossilbault, 4:30 p.m. Fire at Kimberly, 4:30 p.m.

TENNIS

Burley at Twin Falls, 3:30 p.m. Minico at Pocatello, 3:30 p.m.

Baseball America Top 25

Table with columns: Rank, Team, Record, Win %.

2006 SWAC Baseball Standings

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct.

BASKETBALL

STANFORD

Table with columns: Player, Pts, Reb, Ast.

PHILADELPHIA

Table with columns: Player, Pts, Reb, Ast.

HOUSTON

Table with columns: Player, Pts, Reb, Ast.

DETROIT

Table with columns: Player, Pts, Reb, Ast.

MEMPHIS

Table with columns: Player, Pts, Reb, Ast.

SAN ANTONIO

Table with columns: Player, Pts, Reb, Ast.

INDIANA

Table with columns: Player, Pts, Reb, Ast.

ATLANTA

Table with columns: Player, Pts, Reb, Ast.

ORLANDO

Table with columns: Player, Pts, Reb, Ast.

MIAMI

Table with columns: Player, Pts, Reb, Ast.

NEW YORK

Table with columns: Player, Pts, Reb, Ast.

CHARLOTTE

Table with columns: Player, Pts, Reb, Ast.

JHS offers boys basketball camp

BETHLEHEM — The annual Jerome High School boys basketball camp will be held on June 12-14.

Taylor attacker faces hate crime charges

DAVIE, Fla. — The man charged with assaulting Miami Dolphins linchasser Taylor faces hate crime charges, police said Monday.

Gooding Amateur golf tournament approaches

GOODING — The 2006 Gooding Amateur will be held May 13-14 at the Gooding Golf Course.

Jerome's Tibbault leads Burlington Bees

BURLINGTON, Iowa — Jerome Tibbault is the leading hitter for Burlington Bees through the first month of the season.

Mirabelli traded back to Boston Red Sox

SAN DIEGO — Doug Mirabelli, who during his tenure in Boston was Tim Wakefield's personal catcher, was traded back to the Red Sox on Monday.

Former ski star killed at parents' home

ST. MAURICE, Switzerland — Former Swiss ski star Corinne Rey-Bellet and brother Alain were fatally shot in their parents' home.

Police are searching for Rey-Bellet's husband, Gerold Stadler

IN CHAMBERLAIN, Wis. — Police are searching for Gerold Stadler, the husband of Corinne Rey-Bellet, who was shot with her brother and sister-in-law.

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Market Watch

May 1, 2006

Dow Jones Industrials	-23.85	11,343.29
Nasdaq composite	-17.78	2,304.79
Standard & Poor's 500	-8.42	1,305.19
Russell 2000	-3.42	761.12

SP 500

Stocks of local interest

close	change
Albertsons	\$25.33 ▲ .04
Con Agri	\$22.72 ▲ .00
Dell Inc.	\$25.65 ▼ .55
Idacorp	\$33.83 ▼ .22
Micron	\$16.74 ▼ .23
SuperValu	\$28.97 ▼ .04

Page C2

Commodities

close	change
Oil, by barrel	\$73.70 ▲ 1.82
(June, light sweet crude)	
Live cattle	\$75.02 ▲ 1.52
Gold (May)	\$657.5 ▲ 5.70

Page C3

Marketing workshop for business owners

TWIN FALLS — An all day workshop at the Magic Valley of Southern Idaho will help participants explore and discover the marketing strategies that will work for their business. The workshop is sponsored by the Idaho Small Business Development Center.

CSI business professor Dennis Heiner will teach participants to see competition as an exciting element of business. Participants will plan strategies, select target markets, blend product, place, promotion, and price to develop a competitive advantage in the market.

The workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 6 in Room C93 of the Evergreen building. Cost is \$15 cost per person, which includes lunch and all materials. For information or to register, contact Sherry Just at 732-6455 or for information at 732-6455 or at jrjust@csi.edu.

Magic Valley Leads to meet this week

TWIN FALLS — The Magic Valley Leads Group will meet at 7 a.m. Wednesday in the Great Room at Bridgeview Estates. Magic Valley Leads is a business networking group. It meets the first Wednesday of each month. For more information, contact Jill Sherman at 320-2766 or jills Sherman@yahoo.com.

Problem antibiotic to come off the market

WASHINGTON — An antibiotic plagued by serious blood-sugar complications is coming off the market. Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. confirmed Monday that it plans to stop making and selling Tequin. Spokesman Eric Miller said the company will return rights to the drug to Kyorin Pharmaceutical Company in Japan. He said the company acted after an evaluation of the product as well as ongoing transition in the company's focus. Approved for sale in 1999, Tequin has faced questions about its effects on blood sugar, being associated with both high- and low-blood sugar in some patients.

William Morris and Starbucks team up

Starbucks Corp. has tapped William Morris Agency to help find projects that are its cup of chaf. The alliance, which will be announced Monday, authorizes the Hollywood talent agency to identify music, film and book projects for the world's leading coffee retailer to consider for marketing and distribution in its stores, according to a news release. And not a moment too soon, as Starbucks' first venture into the world of movie marketing is any measure. Three months after the Seattle-based company announced it would launch a movie marketing venture with the feel-good feature film "Akeelah and the Bee," the firm opened to sluggish box-office returns. — compiled from staff and wire reports

# Economy has goods news with bad

## Factory activity, consumer spending up, but so is inflation

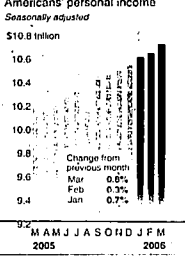
By Joanne Aversa  
AP Economics writer

WASHINGTON — The national economy carried its strong momentum into the second quarter as factories cranked up activity, builders boosted construction spending to a record high and consumers opened their pocketbooks ever wider. But inflation picked up, too. The information was contained in a trio of economic reports Monday. "Households and corporations are still very active and are creating economic momentum, which is tremendously encouraging news for the econ-

omy," said Carl Tannenbaum, chief economist at LeSalle Bank. "The only dark cloud comes from the news on prices, which are going up." A report from the Institute for Supply Management showed manufacturing activity grew briskly in April. The group's manufacturing index jumped to 57.3 in April, from 55.2 in March, the strongest showing in six months. The report also showed prices are rising not only for energy but also for other commodities, such as aluminum and copper. "The indicators of prices ... are beginning to point more clearly toward inflation pressures," said Stephen Stanley, chief economist at RBS Greenwich Capital. Moreover, the sinking value of the U.S. dollar — which fell to a seven-month low against the Japanese yen — also raises some inflation concerns. A weaker dollar can increase the price of imported goods flowing into the United

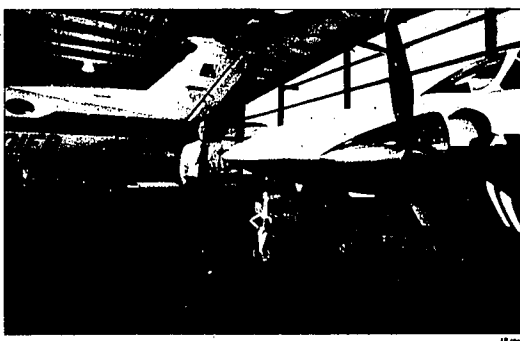
States. That in turn can give U.S. companies more leeway to boost their own prices. On Wall Street, stocks finished lower. The Dow Jones industrials lost 23.85 points. In a second report, the Commerce Department said total construction spending in March climbed to \$1.199 trillion, on an annualized basis, surpassing the previous record high set in February. That marked a 0.9 percent increase. Private builders ramped up spending on a variety of projects in March, including residential construction and factories. The government also spent more on big public works projects, including power plants. "The construction engine was firing on all cylinders," said Ken Sitton, chief economist of The Associated General Contractors of America. Please see ECONOMY, Page C2

Personal income



# On the wings of Precision

By Bob Kirkpatrick  
Times-News writer



Mark Doer, owner of Precision Aviation, Inc. stands in a hangar at Magic Valley Regional Airport. The company has added two planes to its fleet.

TWIN FALLS — Precision Aviation, Inc. has added two planes to its fleet, a Cessna 340 and a Beechcraft King Air 200, as part of its charter service operation based at the Magic Valley Regional Airport. The Cessna 340 is a six-passenger pressurized all-weather twin-engine aircraft capable of reaching speeds up to 210 mph and with a cruising altitude of 18,000 feet. The Beechcraft King Air 200 (Precision has two in their fleet) is also an all-weather pressurized plane with eight-passenger capacity and is capable of reaching 310 mph at a cruising altitude of 26,000 feet. "The 340 is a welcome addition to our flight operation (because) the size of the aircraft falls nicely between our King Air 200 and our Cessna 206," said Mark Doer, owner of Precision Aviation, Inc. "It allows us to further grow our aircraft management side of the business, while also in-

creasing the number of available planes." The Cessna 340 is not owned by Precision Aviation, but is managed and operated on behalf of a private owner. Doer said he started Precision Aviation a little more than four years ago because "Twin Falls didn't have a quality charter service that catered to business owners and private citizens in the Magic Valley." Doer said Precision Aviation engages in on-demand non-scheduled flying. "The service we provide is intended to be an alternative to commercial flights offered in Twin Falls," Doer said. "It's

not an inexpensive alternative, but our chartered aircraft offers a convenience factor that is important to all of our customers." Doer said no distance is too short or too far to travel in one of the chartered aircraft. "Passengers can arrange to take sightseeing flights around the Magic Valley, or we can take them all the way to Cabo San Lucas," Doer said. "This year we will also fly as far north as Ketchikan, Alaska." Please see PRECISION, Page C2

# Mexicans boycott American businesses

By Mark Stevenson  
Associated Press writer

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Thousands of Mexicans took to the streets Monday to support migrants in the United States and celebrated what they called a "Day Without Gringos" by shunning U.S.-owned supermarkets, fast-food restaurants and American goods. Measuring the boycott's impact proved difficult, however, because business is normally reduced to a fraction of normal volume on Mexico's May Day holiday. Some Mexicans vowed not to buy from or patronize any businesses related to the United States, while others said they found it difficult to avoid doing so.

Customers streamed into some branches of Wal-Mart, McDonald's and Burger King in the Mexican capital despite the boycott, which was timed to coincide with a call for immigrants to skip work when shopping in the United States. Juan Ortiz, a 28-year-old salesman who left a Wal-Mart franchise in downtown Mexico City pushing a cartload of food and bathroom goods, said he supported legalizing migrants in the United States but didn't think it was practical to boycott U.S. goods here. "You have to buy what is least expensive here and I have to buy things for my family," he said.

Celestino Garcia, a 32-year-old sandwich seller outside the Wal-Mart, said he was seeing the same number of shoppers Monday as on any other day. It also appeared to be business as usual at a McDonald's franchise in a working-class neighborhood near Mexico City's international airport. But Marina Serna, deputy manager for a downtown Burger King, said she thought the boycott was having an effect. Please see BOYCOTT, Page C2

Precision Aviation Inc.

- Private charter service out of the Magic Valley Regional Airport in Twin Falls
- The company was founded in 2002
- Has two Beechcraft King Air 200's, one Cessna 340, and one Cessna 206
- Pilots average 25 years experience and have logged at least 12,000 flight hours
- All pilots must meet FAA standards and have recurring training every six months

# PRICES AT THE PUMP

## Sometimes, flying is cheaper than driving

By Traber Banstetter  
Knight Ridder News Service

FOURTH WORTH, TEXAS — Travelers may want to do one last thing before they pack up the car for the annual road trip this summer — check air fares. With gas prices topping \$3 per gallon, airline executives say they've seen a recent boost in fliers who otherwise would have driven, particularly on shorter routes with competition from discount airlines. "Air travel is still a tremendous bargain," said Stan Giedke, chief financial officer of AirTran Airways. "With the price of gas, you have to evaluate closely whether you're saving much by not flying."

Ed Stewart, a spokesman for Southwest Airlines, said he anticipates expensive gasoline will boost airline travel this summer. "You'd be nuts to drive," he said. "You can save money and time, and we all know flying is a lot safer." If expensive gas sends more travelers to the airport instead of the highway, it would be a rare positive development for the airline industry, which has spent billions of additional dollars on jet fuel over the past few years thanks to high oil prices. "The airlines are always looking for an alternative, and I think this is adversely and I think this is likely to be a genuine one," said Hugo Borge, a travel analyst and vice chairman of In-

ternet travel firm Cheap-seats.com. "If you do the math, on some flights it's certainly cheaper to fly than get in your car." To be sure, fares aren't as cheap as they were a year ago — rising jet fuel prices have spurred the airlines to increase prices several times in recent months. "But on competitive routes, airline fares are still low enough to make motorists take a second glance." Southwest has always competed as much with the car as they have with other airlines," said Henry Hertzfeldt, an analyst with Forrester Research. "As gas prices go up, I think we're going to see more and more demand for airline travel."

For example, someone traveling from one town in Fort Worth to St. Louis could expect to spend roughly \$150 on gas driving a car that gets 26 miles per gallon on the highway, such as a 2005 Jeep Cherokee. A driver of a more economical car, like a 2005 Toyota Camry, would see a gas bill of about \$115, while a truck with a healthy appetite for gas, like a 2005 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup, could cost about \$320 to drive to St. Louis and back. Meanwhile, American Airlines and Southwest are selling round-trip tickets to St. Louis for \$99. "Particularly if you have flexibility, you definitely can find a better deal in the air," Stewart said.

# Bolivia's president nationalizes natural gas

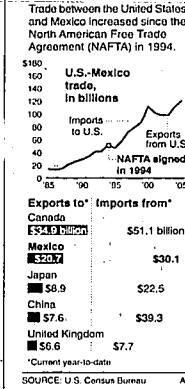
By Alvaro Zuzo  
Associated Press writer

LA PAZ, Bolivia — President Evo Morales ordered soldiers to immediately occupy Bolivia's natural gas fields Monday and threatened to evict foreign companies unless they sign new contracts within six months giving Bolivia majority control over the entire chain of production. Morales said soldiers and engineers with Bolivia's state-owned gas company would be sent to sites operated by foreign petroleum companies. "The time has come, the awaited day, a historic day in which Bolivia retakes absolute control of our natural resources," Morales said in a speech from the San Alberto petroleum field in southern Bolivia to decree what he called a nationalization of the natural gas industry. The field has been operated by Brazil's Petroleo Brasileiro SA in association with the Spanish-Argentine Repsol YPF SA and France's Total SA. Bolivia has South America's second largest natural gas reserves after Venezuela, and all

foreign companies must turn over most production control to Bolivia's cash-strapped state-owned oil company, Yacimientos Petroliferos Fiscales Bolivianos, Morales said. Multinational companies that produced 100 million cubic feet of natural gas daily last year in Bolivia will be able to retain only 18 percent of their production, with the rest being given to YPF, he said. Forrester did not name the companies. Morales has acknowledged that nationalization will not

mean a complete state takeover, because Bolivia lacks the ability to tap all its natural gas on its own. Last week, Morales told Brazil's Major Economico newspaper that Bolivia would have to "set up a new battalion, a new army of oil and gas specialists to exert the property right" for a complete state takeover of petroleum production. Other major petroleum companies doing business in Bolivia, include Britain's BG Group PLC and BP PLC and U.S.-based Exxon Mobil Corp.

Major trade partner



MONEY

'United 93' draws a strong, sad response

By Josh Friedman Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD — Ever since Hollywood greenlighted the new feature film to dramatize the events of Sept. 11, 2001, the question has been asked: Will Americans be ready to see it? This past weekend, moviegoers have flocked en masse to theaters across the country to watch the new film, "United 93," which tells the story of the hijacking of the flight that crashed into the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. The film, which is being distributed by Universal Pictures, has received a strong response from audiences, particularly in the Northeast. The film's success is a testament to the power of storytelling and the ability of Americans to confront difficult subjects. The film's director, Peter Jackson, has received praise for his sensitive and respectful handling of the subject matter. The film's success is also a reflection of the public's desire for a more realistic and accurate portrayal of the events of Sept. 11, 2001. The film's success is also a reflection of the public's desire for a more realistic and accurate portrayal of the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

Precision

Continued from C1

Doer said passengers wanting to make a trip this summer to British Columbia can leave Twin Falls and be "fishing four hours later." Doer said passengers are concerned about their safety while flying in smaller planes with a charter service — or the qualifications of pilots who aren't at all direct airlines. Doer said they should be. "Our multiengine pilots average 25 years experience and have logged over 12,000 flight hours," Doer said. "They must also attend recurring training every six months to ensure they meet FAA standards." Doer is one of the pilots working for Precision Aviation.

He's flying planes as large as a Boeing 737 commercial airliner for more than 15 years.

"We are committed to excellence in our service," Doer said. "This is a great, safe, dependable way to travel, especially in a geographically-challenged area like the Magic Valley. Our pilots are not just a lot of direct airline pilots, they are the best of the best."

For more information on Precision Aviation call Mark Doer at 208-330-1852, or visit their web site at www.precisionaviation.com.

Times-Newspaper Book Kirkpatrick can be reached at 725-3376 or by e-mail at kirkpatrick@magicvalley.com

Economy

Continued from C1

In another report from the department, consumer spending rose 0.6 percent in March, an improvement from February's 0.2 percent increase. Consumer spending plays a key role in shaping overall economic activity. Economies, the fuel for future spending, advanced 0.8 percent in March. That was up from a 0.3 percent increase in February and was the largest gain since September. Income includes government payments as well as wages. Payments from the new Medicare prescription drug plan had the effect of helping to boost overall income in March. Wages, meanwhile, grew by a moderate 0.4 percent for the second month in a row.

The spending and income figures are not adjusted for inflation. When adjusted for inflation, consumer spending looked more subdued, rising by 0.2 percent in both February and March. An inflation gauge tied to the consumer report revealed inflation accelerated. The measure showed that prices — excluding energy and food — went up 0.3 percent in March, compared with a 0.1 percent increase in February. Over the last 12 months, these "core" prices rose 2.5 percent — considered the upper bound of the Fed's comfort zone for inflation.

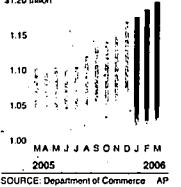
The inflation report didn't include the big run-up in oil prices seen two weeks ago. At that time, oil prices topped \$75 a barrel, a record high. Prices have retreated a bit since then.

To fend off inflation, the Fed is expected to raise a key interest rate to 5 percent at its May 10 meeting.

But many economists believe the Fed will move to

Construction spending

Monthly construction spending for the past 13 months:



SOURCE: Department of Commerce

the sidelines for a while to assure low inflation increases are affecting economic activity. Others, however, predict the Fed will be forced to push up

Boycott

Continued from C1

"The restaurant had only one client in its first 90 minutes Monday, even though it is owned by Mexican-franchise holders," he said. "I'd say that this is bad because even if we work in a company with an international brand, the owners are not from the United States, they are Mexicans," she said.

Sergio Segura, 42, a member of an Aztec Indian dance group, stood outside of a McDonald's waiting for some friends, but said he did not plan to eat there.

"Sure, Mexicans buy the franchises, but part of the earnings go to the markets on Wall Street. I'm not eating here

today or tomorrow." Pointing across the street to a vast market replete with tacos, tortillas and sandwiches, Segura said, "I'd like to see three hamburgers from McDonald's you can buy for the whole family and eat well at the market."

But he is heated against his Ford minivan, Segura acknowledged the difficulty of avoiding all U.S. products. "Here in Mexico, there is no way to buy Mexican cars, but there is."

Although federal officials tried to distance themselves from the events, at least a half-dozen state governors in Mexico endorsed the boycott of U.S. companies, and thou-

sands of unionized workers — who traditionally hold labor rallies on May 1 — dedicated Monday's marches to the cause.

Some of the demonstrators who gathered in the huge downtown plaza known as the Zocalo carried banners with slogans that read "Unrestricted Support for Migrants."

The U.S. Congress has been debating several immigration reform bills, including at least one that would legalize millions of undocumented workers. They would allow Mexicans to participate in temporary guest-worker programs. "Yes, we want guest-worker programs, too, but first we

its key rate to 5.50 percent in the months ahead to prevent inflation from taking off. The economy is moving ahead despite rising interest rates and energy prices.

For the first quarter, the economy grew at a 4.8 percent pace, the fastest in 2.5 years, the government reported last week. A big pickup in consumer spending figured prominently in the strong showing. The first quarter's performance was a vast improvement over the feeble 1.7 percent growth rate seen in the final quarter of 2005.

In the current April-to-June quarter, economic growth is expected to slow to the 3 percent range, which would still be healthy, as consumers moderate their spending. All three economic reports released Monday showed stronger economic activity than analysts were forecasting.

want legalization," said Maria Garcia, a national leader of Mexico's left-leaning Democratic Revolution Party.

Protesters gathered in front of the U.S. Embassy on Mexico City's central Paseo de la Reforma boulevard.

About 50 police officers, many in riot gear, lined up the nearby Mexican-Stock Exchange.

"Thousands of workers, parents, students and Indians in Honduras and Nicaragua also staged May Day marches to support the boycott."

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg. Lists various stocks like ABC, ACC, ACD, etc. with their respective prices and changes.

MARKET SUMMARY

Summary table with columns: NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ. Includes sub-sections for Most Active, Gainers, Losers, and Indices.

NASDAQ MARKET

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg. Lists various NASDAQ stocks like AAX, ABB, ABC, etc. with their respective prices and changes.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table with columns: Name, Div, PE, Last, Chg, YTD. Lists local stocks like Abertson, Abitibi, Acorn, etc. with their respective prices and changes.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Here are the 525 most active stocks on the New York Stock Exchange, the 400 most active on the Nasdaq National Market and the 100 most active on the American Stock Exchange. Mutual funds are 1,115 trading. Stocks in bold changed 5 percent or more in price.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg. Lists various American Stock Exchange stocks like ABB, ABC, ACD, etc. with their respective prices and changes.

CLOSING FUTURES

Table of closing futures prices for various commodities including Mon, Commodity, High, Low, Close, and Change. Includes sub-sections for 8,000 lb minimum, cents per bushel and 5,000 lb minimum, cents per bushel.

BEANS

Table of bean prices for various types like Valley Beans, Green Beans, and Pinto Beans, listing prices per cwt.

GRAINS

Table of grain prices including Wheat, Corn, and Soybeans, listing prices per bushel.

CHEESE

Table of cheese prices for various types like Cheddar Cheese and Swiss Cheese, listing prices per cwt.

POTATOES

Table of potato prices for different grades and varieties, listing prices per cwt.

SUGAR

Table of sugar prices for various grades and quantities, listing prices per cwt.

LIVESTOCK

Table of livestock prices including cattle, hogs, and sheep, listing prices per cwt.

MARKETS

Table of market prices for various commodities like Wheat, Corn, Soybeans, and other grains, listing prices per bushel.

METALS/MONEY

Table of metal and money prices including Gold, Silver, and various metals, listing prices per ounce.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund prices for various investment funds, listing prices per share.

Picasso of bananas says his art is a gas

By Steve Harrison Knight Rider News Service

MIAMI — Pat Foster doesn't plant banana trees. He doesn't pick bananas. But he's responsible for making the bananas you buy at the grocery store an appetizing candy yellow or an appetizing lime green.

Foster's official title is Chiquita's director of ripening, but think of him as the Banana Gas Man. At his warehouse in Port Everglades, Fla., he puts the finishing touches on green bananas, jump-starting the ripening process by exposing them to ethylene gas in a careful balance of temperature, timing and dosage.

To Foster, who has spent 40 of his 59 years working with bananas, ripening is an art. "You don't create a Picasso by painting by the numbers," said Foster, who grew up in Kingston, Jamaica.

Foster's chemical wizardry is a critical, if little-known, step along banana ripening from sprawling Latin American plantations where they are grown to supermarket shelves.

Wholesalers like Wal-Mart get the spiciest dose of ethylene. Through ethylene can be explained in a few words: it's a natural gas that ripens fruit. It's a natural gas that ripens fruit. It's a natural gas that ripens fruit.

Wholesalers like Wal-Mart get the spiciest dose of ethylene. Through ethylene can be explained in a few words: it's a natural gas that ripens fruit. It's a natural gas that ripens fruit. It's a natural gas that ripens fruit.

WONEY TIP

Get ready for HD radio

By Marshall Leeb MarketWatch

NEW YORK — HD, for high-definition, seems to be all around us these days. High-definition television is the rage for the avid football fan who naturally loves who wants a crystal-clear picture on the tube.

It's given that somewhat sonorous name, HD radio, is the next step in the evolution of radio. It's given that somewhat sonorous name, HD radio, is the next step in the evolution of radio.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund prices for various investment funds, listing prices per share.



WORLD

# Groups: Polar bears, hippos among 16,000 threatened species

GENEVA (AP) — Polar bears and hippos are among more than 16,000 species of animals and plants threatened with global extinction, the World Conservation Union said Tuesday.

According to the Swiss-based conservation group, known by its acronym IUCN, the number of species classified as being in serious danger of extinction rose from about 15,500 in its previous "Red List" report, published in 2004.

The list includes one to three amphibians, a quarter of the world's mammals and coniferous trees, and one in eight birds, according to a preview of the 2006 Red List. The full report is published later this week.

Biodiversity loss is increasing, not slowing down, said Achim Steiner, the conservation group's director general. "The implications of this trend for the productivity and resilience of ecosystems and the lives and livelihoods of billions of people who depend on them are far-reaching."

The Red List classifies about 40,000 species according to their risk of extinction and

provides a searchable online database of the results.

The total number of species on the planet is unknown, with 15 million being the most widely accepted estimate. Up to 1.8 billion are known today.

People are the main reason for most species' decline, mainly through habitat destruction, according to IUCN.

Polar bears are threatened by global warming and melting ice caps, because they are conditioned for the icy environment and depend on Arctic ice floes for hunting seals. They are predicted to suffer 50 percent population decline in the next 45 years.

The hippopotamus population in war-ravaged Congo, meanwhile, has plummeted by 95 percent, mainly because of unregulated hunting for meat and ivory in their teeth.

"Regional conflicts and political instability in some African countries have created hardship for many of the region's inhabitants, and the impact on wildlife has been equally devastating," said Jeffrey McNeely, chief scientist at IUCN.

# Miners make contact with rescuers

Two men have been trapped for a week

BEOACONSEFIELD, Australia (AP) — Wedged for nearly a week in a cramped cage a half-mile underground, two gold miners got right to the point when rescuers made radio contact: "Get us out."

The words brought joy to this town of 3,000 on the southern Australian island state of Tasmania, but officials said it could be two more days before emergency crews are able to rescue the trapped men.

Bruce Webb, 37, and Todd Russell, 34, were trapped April 25 by a cave-in that killed another miner. Webb and Russell apparently were saved by a slab of rock that fell into the cage of their cherry-picker and prevented smaller rocks from hitting them after a small earthquake.

To reach the two miners, rescue workers must tunnel through 40 feet of collapsed rock without triggering another collapse.

On Monday, rescuers fed the trapped men biscuits, water, a protein drink and vitamin tablets through a tube. The men had been getting by on rancid water that drips through the rocks. Enough oxygen also got through to



Gift shop owner Shayne Smith shows a display at his store in Exeter, Australia, that he put up after two trapped miners were found to be alive.

keep them alive.

Mining is dangerous work. In January, 14 miners died in two accidents at mines in West Virginia. In Mexico, 65 miners died in February after an explosion trapped them underground. However, in Canada, 72 potash miners walked away from an underground fire and toxic smoke in January after being locked down overnight in airtight chambers with oxygen, food and water.

On Sunday, the Australian rescuers managed to drill a tiny tunnel that reached the miners. After feeding a cameraman a microphone through the narrow hole, they established communication with the men.

"Last night, Larry's family came down onto our front lawn with those 200 people and told us how lucky we were and shared our happiness with their grief," Russell's father, Noel, said in a televised interview. "I was grateful. They were the brave people."

Michael Kelly, Webb's father-in-law, described how he learned the miners were alive. "When a man rushed through the door, covered in mud and crying, we thought that was the bad news," he said. "He burst into the room and fell down on his knees in front of (Webb's wife) and sobbed 'It's alive.'"

The Australian Broadcasting Corp. cameraman Paul Di Benedetto, whose microphone brought the voices of the trapped miners to the surface, said there were celebratory parties in the town of Exeter.

Those two brief sentences — the first confirmation that the two survived the collapse — brought relief to their families and to the miners working to reach them.

But the joy was tempered by sympathy for the family of Larry Knight, who was crushed in the initial collapse and whose body was retrieved last week.

The town got the news Sunday of Webb's and Russell's survival, and Knight's relatives were among those who celebrated.

"It was pretty amazing," he said. "The euphoria was palpable."

With the help of a surgical glove, tape and 300 feet of cable, Di Benedetto was able to lower the microphone to the trapped men.

"I did get some pretty funny looks when I asked for a condom," he said, "but they explained it was to waterproof the microphone capsule."

# Darfur rebels wary of peace deal

By Shashank Bengali  
Knight Ridder News Service

NAIROBI, Kenya — U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick rushed to Nigeria on Monday, hoping to break a crucial impasse in peace talks over Sudan's Darfur region.

Zoellick's unexpected trip came a day after thousands rallied in Washington urging the Bush administration to do more to end the war in Darfur, and amid fading hopes that rebels would sign a peace plan backed by the Sudanese government before a deadline Tuesday night.

The rebels held a Monday to their demands for greater political representation and security guarantees as State Department spokesman Sean McOrourke renewed calls for a diplomatic solution to the three-year conflict that's killed more than 200,000 people.

The United States urges the Darfur rebel movements to focus on the few key issues that stand in the way of reaching a settlement, McOrourke said in Washington. "All the parties should make a concentrated effort to seize this opportunity for peace."

The long-running peace talks in Abuja, Nigeria, saw a glimmer of hope Sunday when Sudan said it would support a plan drafted by the African Union, an intergovernmental body that's the African equivalent of the United Nations. It was the first time in eight rounds of torturous negotiations that either side had backed a comprehensive peace proposal.

But representatives of Darfur's rebel groups — who took up arms against the Sudanese government in 2003 to protest being politically marginalized — rejected the document. U.S. envoys got the African Union to extend negotiations by 48 hours, to 7 p.m. EDT Tuesday, hoping for a compromise.

But early Monday, the leader of Sudan's delegation, Vice President Ali Osman Taha, left the negotiations to return to Sudan. It wasn't clear whether he would return, and some analysts suggested that his departure — despite overtures from the rebels that he stay and discuss their differences — meant that the Sudanese government thought it had won the diplomatic high ground and wouldn't cede much to the rebels.

It was unclear whether there'd be further negotiations if the talks fail. The Bush administration has said repeatedly that the talks offered the best chance for peace.

The negotiations, which have gone on for two years, have been complicated by divisions among the rebels, now split into three factions. But rebel leaders said they had a united front and wouldn't bow to international demands that a deal be

# HOME TOWN BUSINESS GUIDE

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The Largest Career Fair in the area is coming May 2, 2006  
 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Inside the CSI Gymnasium

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| <b>Interviewing Skills</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3:00 p.m. - Seminar on Mock Job Interviews presented by the Magic Valley Office of Idaho Commerce and Labor. They will also be available through out the day for individual mock job interviews.</li> </ul> | <b>Resume Critique</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experts on hand to give you advice on your resume:</li> <li>• Magic Valley Office of Idaho Commerce and Labor (Job Service)</li> <li>• Stan Vossler from Gem State Staffing</li> </ul> | <b>Career Opportunities</b><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional and Technical Career Opportunities</li> <li>• Explore Education Advancement Possibilities</li> <li>• Full, Part-time, Entry-level and temporary Positions Available</li> </ul> |
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For more information call Christy, 735-3267 or go to www.magicvalley.com/careerfair

This event is co-sponsored by The Times-News and the College of Southern Idaho

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Southern Idaho Spring Career Fair 2006









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YOUR LANDSCAPE • YOUR LIVESTOCK • YOUR LIFESTYLE



## On the block

### In search of new farm animals, local families head to the auction

By Blair Koch  
Times-News correspondent

**BURLEY** — You know the song that celebrates Old MacDonald's farm, and rural families across Magic Valley want one just like his. So some are taking to auctions in order to fill their acreages with sheep, goats, pigs and other common farm fare.

Regardless of the herd's size, it seems that the rural experience isn't complete without critters, said Laura Leavitt of Twin Falls.

The Leavitts, all eight of them, moved to Magic Valley from Oregon recently and are enjoying their new-found leg room — all four acres of it.

"We didn't have this opportunity in Oregon," Leavitt said. "We lived in town. Now we want to make the most of it, so we are looking at getting a few animals. It doesn't really matter what. I grew up in L.A. County so this is all new to me, but I am excited."

She said the place needed something a little more hardy than chickens and ducks — as the neighbor dogs tend to enjoy them for supper — so the family went to the Twin Falls livestock auction on a recent Saturday morning to pick out that perfect animal.

Veterinarian Patrick Jones, owner of Fairview Veterinary Center in Buhl, said there are some things to look for when buying animals at the auction.

"The first thing you want to look for, regardless of species, is the animal's weight. Does it look thin or have a rough coat? You may want to keep clear," Jones said. "Also look to see if the animal has any eye or nose discharge; that wouldn't be good."

If the animal has a bowel movement during the auction, Jones said to check for diarrhea and to stay away from the animal if it does.



The Leavitt family of Twin Falls attends a recent Saturday auction to look for animals to fill their newly purchased country acreage. From left, Sunny, Acaya, mother Laura holding Brighton, Cannon, father Glen, Jonah and Tru Leavitt.



Jesse Ward, 4, and her father, Steve Ward of Almo, watch as animals are ushered through the livestock auction on a recent Thursday in Burley.

Another outward sign of overall animal health could be personality: It is better if the animal is alert and bouncing around, not sulking in the corner looking sorry for itself.

Leavitt's children are all for chipping in and helping to raise a pig, sheep or even goat. "I'd like some goats, one or two of them, and I already help out with chores," said Sunny Leavitt, 10.

Once the Leavitts bring their new friend home, precautions can be taken to minimize shock, Jones said.

"The three rules are: keep the animal warm, dry and well fed," he said.

Other tips: Keep the animal in a tranquil zone for a couple of days. Don't let little kids all over it. And keep the animal secluded, for at least a couple of days, from other animals who may be ready to let the newbie know where they belong in the pecking order.

"Two reasons for keeping the new animal away from others are that the new animal is more likely to get sick and keeping it by itself will help from spreading it, also.

Please see AUCTION, Page D2

#### A sale near you

**Burley Auction Yard**  
1100 Occidental Ave.  
678-9411  
www.burleylivestock.com  
Auctions at 11 a.m.  
Thursdays

**Producers Livestock Marketing Association**  
(Cattle only)  
11 E. 100 W., Jerome  
324-4245  
www.producerslivestock.com  
Auctions at 11 a.m.  
Tuesdays

**Twin Falls Livestock Marketing Association**  
630 Railroad Ave.  
733-7474  
www.twinfallslivestock.com  
Auctions at 11 a.m.  
Saturdays

**Shoshone Sale Yard**  
15 E. U.S. Highway 26  
886-2281  
Auctions at 11 a.m.  
Thursdays

#### Be health wise

When buying an animal:

- Does it look thin and sickly?
- Diarrhea or eye and nose discharge may indicate a problem.
- A perky animal is better than a dopey willflower.

#### Pay the price

Prices at Twin Falls Livestock Commission as of April 18:

- Goats: \$55 to \$145 each, depending on size
- Lamba: 75 to 110 pounds — 81 cents to 92 cents per pound
- Lamba: 110 to 135 pounds — 67 cents to 77 cents per pound
- Baby pigs: \$30 to \$50 each
- Feeder hogs: 80 to 150 pounds — \$95 to \$77.50 each
- Fat hogs: 220 to 300 pounds — 41 cents to 45 cents per pound
- Dairy and beef cattle: Market reports are updated weekly on auction service Web sites.

## Learn to use native plants in traditional landscape settings

Times-News

to 9 p.m. May 16 and 18.

**TWIN FALLS** — The Community Education Center at the College of Southern Idaho will offer the zero-credit class "Landscape with Native Plants: Choosing What to Plant, Where, and Why" from 7

The class will meet in Shields 108 on the CSI campus. Costs is \$35.

Students will learn what kinds of native plants can be expected to thrive in local yards and municipal landscapes, where to obtain them,

and why such plants can offer beautiful alternatives to traditional landscapes, class organizers said.

The class is for anyone interested in learning about using native plants in traditional landscape settings and focuses on native plant

species suitable to a variety of Idaho elevations and climates.

The class will not cover the technical or engineering aspects of landscaping, such as irrigation systems.

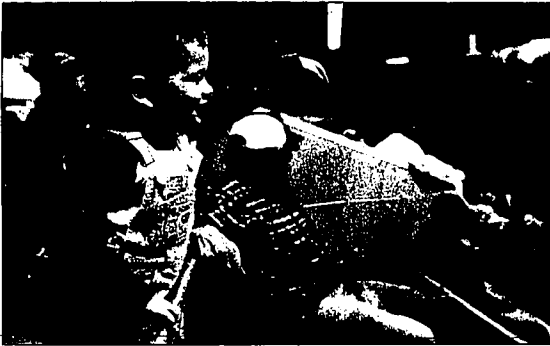
Instructor Miriam Austin has 26 years of experience in natural re-

sources, resource management and agriculture.

She holds a master's degree in conservation biology and is completing a doctorate in Western rangeland ecology.

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

## COUNTRY ROADS



Reells Murphy, 2, of Hazelton reacts as a cow and her calf enter the livestock auction arena in Burley. Murphy's parents were there selling some steers.

### Auction

Continued from D1  
 cot-mingling animals - right away can be stressful," Jones said.

Also at that Saturday sale were Paul and Laura Sluder of Shoshone and their two children, Jake, 10, and Isabella, 6. The Sluder family comes to the sale about five times a year to sell sheep based on the family farm. Both children are active in caring for the 100 head of ewes.

"I feed sometimes," Jake said. His parents explained that proceeds from selling ewes they hoped to get about \$30 apiece for the six they brought pay-for their sons' 4-H lamb, Jake gets to keep the money from the sale of that animal at the county fair. Isabella "is a good sheep herder," said Paul. "Right now she is 4-H as a Clover Bud, and I think that helping out at home will prepare her for future responsibilities."

It seems that selling animals at auction to buy new ones is common. "At the Burley Livestock Auction on a recent Thursday, Darin Perry of Bupert was waiting to see what was new in the



Gary Booth, at left, and grandson Harley Lyon, 3, of Snowville, Utah, watch on a recent Thursday as cattle move through the livestock auction in Burley.

goat market. "My two oldest boys take pigs in 4-H, and I sold our old goats to buy them their pigs," Perry said. "So today I am here looking for new goats."

He said that although this time of year usually means higher prices, he wasn't going to shell out more than \$60 for a goat. "I paid the others for \$55 (each)," Perry said. His daughter, Ansley, 2, was

on hand to help dad pick out a decent animal. After all, Ansley's rural experience wouldn't be as lively without livestock. "She loves watching the pigs from the window - when you can keep her inside," he said. "She'll yell the piggy's out! The piggy's out!"

*Times-News correspondent Blair Koch lives in Buhl. She can be reached at blair\_206@hotmail.com.*

# To make the cut in spring, attend to your lawn mower

By Alan J. Heavens  
 Knight Ridder News Service

Blades of grass are pushing their way through; soon they'll be a thicker to be reckoned with. Time to get that lawn mower ready for action.

Gas-powered mowers: If the outside of the mower is dirty, heat can build up and wear out the parts too quickly. So you need to get rid of any built-up grass and dirt on the underside of the deck around the blade.

To clean the underside, you need to turn the mower over. You'll have to drain the fuel tank first. Disconnect the rubber hose from the tank to the engine and drain the gasoline into a bucket. Remove the spark plug or find a way to ground the plug wire. With a putty knife, scrape away any grass, being careful not to nick the undercarriage. Then you can wash it with a hose.

A dull blade tears rather than trims grass, so sharpen your blade. Loosen the bolt with a wrench. Remove the blade right away, spray WD-40 lubricating oil on it. Use a file or a bench grinder and follow the blade angle evenly along its length.

Brushing the spark plug is a good idea. Remove the wire and use a socket wrench designed to extricate plugs. Don't overtighten the new plug; reposition the wires.

Then change the oil and the

filter, and clean the fuel tank. Take off the engine cover (screw removal usually), and vacuum out dust and dirt first. Remove the oil dipstick, tip the mower, and drain the oil. With the hose disconnected, lift the fuel tank; clean it by putting a little gas in and swooshing it around a bit, then disposing of the gas. The old air filter should easily slide off the carburetor fitting for replacement.

Electric mowers: These motors also can burn out if they get too hot, so make sure air vents are free of grass and dirt. The best way is by removing the motor housing and blowing the stuff out with a shop vacuum.

Check the plug on the power cord. If the prongs are bent, straighten them with pliers. If a prong is loose or broken, you'll need to take the machine in for a new plug. Check the extension cord for cuts or abrasions. The cord connecting the switchbox on the handle to the motor can get pinched and tear. Tears in the casing can be wrapped with electrical tape; replace the cord if the wires inside have been cut.

Most electrical motors have two carbon blocks called brushes that wear down and need replacement. On most models, the brushes slide in and out for replacement. They should be changed if the brushes are longer than they are wide.

For blade replacement or sharpening, follow the procedure listed for gas-powered models. Clean underneath the deck with a hose; allow some time for the deck to dry, though electric mowers, unlike gas-powered ones, are designed to operate in the rain.

Make sure the wheels are adjusted at the same height, or you'll get an irregular cut. Reel mowers: Grass is cut by a spiral reel of blades as you push, but only grass that comes between the cutter bar and the reel. To make sure the cut is even across the cutter bar, insert a sheet of paper and turn the blades. If only part of the paper gets cut, adjust the bar (check the owner's manual), but don't overtighten. Regularly lubricate the mower's bearings and cutting edges.

Reel blades tend to get dull quickly. If a local hardware store won't sharpen them, you can do yourself. If the blades are not that bad, lapping compound should do the trick: A bit is probably available from the mower manufacturer. You remove one of the wheels and fit a hand crank on the axle. With a palm brush, apply the lapping compound evenly on the blades and the sharp edge of the cutting bar, cranking until the blades become sharper. If the blades are really dull, use an abrasive strip also available from the manufacturer.

## Profusion Fire and Profusion Apricot zinnias are great for the landscape border

By Norman Wintler  
 Knight Ridder News Service

Two outstanding zinnias are the Profusion Fire and Profusion Apricot. No matter where you live the Profusion series will be an outstanding performer.

The Profusion series has put zinnias back in America's mainstream gardens. The Cherry, Orange and White, the first in the series, each earned the All-America Selections Gold Medal award. The Profusion Fire and Profusion Apricot varieties have the same superior performance and disease-resistance. They bloom from spring until October.

If you liked the old Profusion Orange, the Profusion Fire will blow you away with its scarlet and orange. The Profusion Apricot is light coral with a rich terracotta center. The plants form dense compact mounds 15 inches tall and as wide that are upright and bushy. The flowers are only 2 inches wide, but they stand out like beacons when you have 50 of them on a plant.

Select a site in full sun with fertile, well-drained soil because they cannot survive wet feet. Prepare the planting area by tilling in 3 to 4 inches of organic matter along with a slow-release, 12-6-6 fertilizer.

Incorporate 2 pounds of the fertilizer per 100 square feet of planting area. Plant nursery-grown transplants at the same depth they are growing in the container, spacing 10 to 12 inches apart. Apply a layer of mulch after planting.

Feed with a light application of fertilizer one month after transplanting and every four to six weeks throughout the growing season. If the mound shape

The Profusion series has put zinnias back in America's mainstream gardens. The Cherry, Orange and White, the first in the series, each earned the All-America Selections Gold Medal award.

becomes less than desirable, prune lightly to generate more growth and blooming for the fall garden. The Profusion series is also outstanding as a mid-summer or fall-planted crop and absolutely late September and October.

The Profusion Fire and Profusion Apricot zinnias are perfect for the front of the border and are outstanding with Victoria Blue salvia. They also make a stunning combination when planted in large drifts next to the icy blue flowers of Blue Daze eucalyptus. Try them also with the new Mystic Spire Blue salvia, the first dwarf/compact selection of Indigo Spires. Pro-

fusion Apricot is incredible with coleus like Tilt-a-Whirl and ornamental grasses like Purple Fountain. For a really show display, try planting a Santa Fe Mix - a combination of the Profusion Fire, Profusion Apricot and Profusion Orange. Plan to plant in a large informal drift, spacing your plants 12 to 15 inches apart and alternating your colors. If you like to have small little vases with fresh flowers, then these zinnias are superb.

*Horticulturalist Norman Wintler is the author of "Paradise Found: Growing Tropicals in Your Own Backyard."*

## Queen of the fairy garden says her inspiration came by accident

By Lori Bethesda  
 Knight Ridder News Service

SANCTA ANA, Calif. — A fairy garden is just like a big garden, only really, really, really little.

"How great is that?" Stef Letrarskas. Leter is one of untold enthusiasts who have fallen into the groove of fairy garden fever.

"Once you do one, there's no turning back," she says flatly. "It's sickening. You just can't stop it. My poor husband ..."

It was a year and a half ago that her sister-in-law gave her an itty-bitty garden of miniature flowers and mosses spiced with a rock garden tin (along with a toothpick-sized pebble fence, brick path, iron arbor and porcelain kitty). "I said, 'Oh, My God. That's the cutest thing!'"

Since that day, she has created another 20 or so fairy gardens for her front porch and backyard in Orange, Calif. "It's not my fault," she says. "I didn't start it."

Beverly Turner did. Turner, head designer at M & M Nursery in Orange, Calif., pioneered this style of gardening, at least in her corner of the world.

It was quite by accident, she says. Turner grew up longing for a dollhouse, but money was tight. At 40, she decided to make the dream a reality and build herself one.

Being a typical gardener, she started work on the garden even before the house was finished. Turner spun roses, larkspurs and delphiniums out of

craft paper and fabric and fashioned pathways, brick planters, birdbaths and bunnies. In the end, the garden was twice the size of the house.

Friends and family could enjoy it like a new puppy. "I've always been fascinated with minis," Turner says. "This is when I realized I was not alone."

Wouldn't it be neat to have a real miniature garden, a friend asked one day. Yes, Turner thought, it would.

After pitching the idea to her boss, Turner began planting her first mini garden in a raised bed at the nursery. Six years later it still stands a beacon to fairy gardeners everywhere.

They came from Bakersfield, Cambria, and San Diego, Calif., and they stand before the Lilliputian land, marveling over every adorable detail.

"There's just something about creating this perfect little world," says Turner, who lives in Orange, Calif., with her landscape husband.

The joke in the gardening community is this: "You should have seen my garden yesterday." There are always weeds to be pulled, bushes to be whacked. Flowers are forever fading. "But in a little 12-inch bowl," says Turner, "it can be perfect always."

Perhaps that's why 25 percent of M & M's customers now come for the fairy gardens. Sharon Clanin still makes a monthly pilgrimage even though the left Orange County for Redlands, Calif., two years ago.

"I sort of need to stop," confesses Clanin, 62. "It's addict-

ing. I'm thinking, 'I do not need another bowl.'"

But then a spring wind blows, and the nursery calls your name. And once there you see one of Turner's latest creations, perhaps a hanging fairy garden with elfin thyme spilling over the sides or a rustic farm scene planted in a wheelbarrow. And just like that you're off the wagon.

"She's always taking it to another level," Clanin says wistfully.

When Turner began planting tiny gardens six years ago, she had to make do with the dozen or so herbs and other plants that stay teeny (an inch or so high) and spread slowly so they won't outgrow their cozy homes (everything from bird baths to buckets). She asked Native Sons Wholesale Nursery if they could find her more minis. Now the Central Valley grower is her main supplier.

Tim Fruss, sales manager for Native Sons, says that wherever they travel in search of plants, they scout for Turner, typically bringing back a handful of new varieties, often from Europe, mostly England.

Southern California fairy gardeners now have about 70 dwarf trees and true miniature flowers, mosses and thymes to choose from.

Turner planned that first garden, her boss, Ted Mayeda, believed "It was just a pleasure for our customers." And when customers began demanding to know how to make their own, Mayeda wondered how long it would take to run his course. He's still wondering.

## New line of clothes kills mosquitoes, other bugs

Knight Ridder News Service

You can put on your insect protection just by getting dressed.

The new line of gardening apparel and accessories called Mumz has the insecticide permethrin bonded to the fabric to kill mosquitoes, ticks, chiggers, ants, flies and midges that are in contact with it.

The Mumz name comes from the fact that permethrin is a manufactured version of an insecticide that occurs naturally in some chrysanthemums.

The Mumz line includes shirts and pants for men, women and children, as well as aprons, gloves, hats, bandannas and socks. All are 100 percent cotton.

The items are available at [www.mumzarden.com](http://www.mumzarden.com) and some garden stores. Suggested retail prices range from \$12 to \$49.

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# Cutting gardens bring the great outdoors inside

By Joel M. Lerner  
Special to The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Until about a hundred years ago, one of the most important areas of any large garden was the cutting garden, where flowers were planted to be harvested, like a crop, and taken inside for display.

Ceasel heiress Marjorie Merriweather Post thought having cut flowers in her house at all times was so important that when she bequeathed Hillwood, her Washington estate, to Smithsonian Institution in 1973, she stipulated that fresh flowers should always be on display. The gardens at Hillwood continue to grow flowers for arrangements in the museum.

Spurred by garden and lifestyle magazines and television garden shows, from Martha Stewart to HGTV, the cutting garden seems to be on track for a revival.

Cutting gardens are associated with grand homes, but it isn't necessary to have acres of space or a staff of two dozen to create a space for flowers to cut. You can have a cutting garden in a space as small as 15 square feet. And if it's properly sited and planted, you can have a wonderful variety of plants in a space as small as 15 square feet. And if it's properly sited and planted, you can have a wonderful variety of plants in a space as small as 15 square feet.

Requirements are simple: sun, a generous portion of organic matter (one part compost to two parts native soil), irrigation and good drainage.

The trick is to have flowers constantly in bloom. You can use a mix of annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees to produce ornamental foliage, flowers and stems year round. The principle that makes it easier is that the garden doesn't have to be an extensive landscape plan with carefully designed splashes of color and intricate planting. Its purpose is utilitarian.

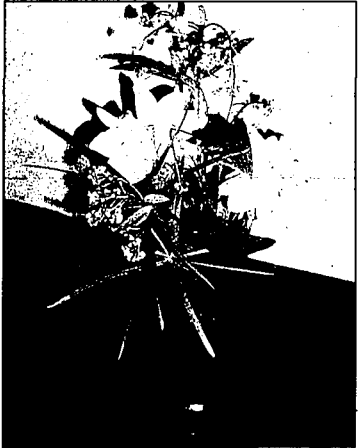
A cutting garden can be beautiful, but it can also be hidden behind a fence. Cover the fence with vines such as sweet peas and clematis, and they will add to your floral displays. Display cutting flowers by inter-planting them in a vegetable garden, in the manner of a French garden, in garden. In fact, your vegetable garden can contribute to your cutting garden. Frilly plants such as dill and culinary sage are great



Photo by SANDRA LEVITT LERNER/For The Washington Post

**ABOVE:** In the cutting garden, flowers are planted to be harvested, like a crop, and taken inside for display. Chrysanthemums are a good cut flower for the fall.

**BELOW:** Spirals, round and lacy flowers, tucked in with some foliage, create an attractive cut-flower arrangement.



additions to a bouquet, and herbs such as rosemary, sage, mint and lavender can make an arrangement smell as good as it looks. Some vegetables, such as artichokes, are beautiful in themselves and look great in big, bountiful arrangements.

Don't forget trees and shrubs. Branches of flowering trees such

as crab apple, cherry and dogwood look stunning in vases. Lilac, crape myrtle, pussy willow, hydrangea and peony are gorgeous on their own or arranged with other flowers. Trailing vines such as wisteria and ivy can add a graceful touch to a flower arrangement. Attractive twigs and

Harry Lauder's Walking Stick (*Corylus avellana* "Contorta") add structure and interest to bouquets.

Cutting gardens should include a minimum of three types of plant forms. They are defined by their shapes: spikes for height and architectural purposes (larkspur, gladioli, salvia); round for focus (roses, peonies, marigolds); lacy for filler (ferns, baby's breath, dill). Foliage and ornamental grasses, such as moor grass (*Panicum sp.*), blue grama grass (*Bouteloua gracilis*) or blue switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*), will add texture to an arrangement.

Keep in mind that the best cutting flowers are strong, easy growers, taller varieties (not short bedding plants) that are long blooming and have a wide range of colors.

The following are some of the plants that would be good in cutting gardens:

- Spring: Forsythia, peony, daffodil, iris, tulip, gladioli, lilac, flowering cherry and crab apple.
- Summer: Astilbe, rose, monardra, crape myrtle, cosmos, lily, dahlia, crocosmia, hydrangea and allium.
- Fall: Chrysanthemum, dahlia, salvia, marigold, spirea, rose, Japanese anemone or butterfly bush, which flowers through summer up until the first freeze.

The best time to cut flowers is the early morning, before the heat of the day. Cut just as the flower buds are opening. If you cut when the buds are green they may wilt and not open; if you cut full-blown flowers they won't last long indoors. Cut non-woody stems on a slant for maximum water absorption, and cut woody stems straight across. Place cut stems in water immediately. Indoors, prepare the vases, then re-cut the stems, remove any foliage that would be below the water line and put the flowers in the water.

Joel Lerner is president of Environmental Design in Capitol View Park, Md., and author of "Anyone Can Landscape" (Ball 2001).

# Winnemucca will host first races that involve cloned mules

RENO, Nev. (AP) — The 20th annual mule races in Winnemucca this summer will mark the first time cloned mules will compete in an athletic event, organizers say.

The two genetically identical clone mule brothers from the University of Idaho — Idaho Gem and Idaho Star — will be among the competitors at the Western-themed event June 2-4.

"Watching mules race is fun because you never know the outcome," said Kim Petersen, director of the Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Authority.

"Sometimes your mule doesn't make it to the end of the race. He turns around and goes the other way," he told the Reno Gazette-Journal.

A mule is a hybrid with a donkey father and horse mother, and it usually can't reproduce.

Idaho Gem was the first clone born from the horse family on May 4, 2003. Two more clones were born to different surrogate horse mothers: Utah Pioneer on June 9, 2003, and Idaho Star on July 27, 2003.

All three were created from the same fetal mule skin cells. That makes the mules identical, although they are of different ages and born to different

ferent surrogate mothers, who could pass off personality traits, Utah Pioneer remains in Idaho, and is not racing.

"These guys have personalities," said Gordon Woods, team leader for Project Idaho and director of the Northwest Equine Reproduction Laboratory on the Moscow campus.

"Particularly Gem. Personally, I'm a horse person, but working with them changed me. I don't know what a camera clicking does for him, but he purrs or snorts," he said.

Don Jacklin, president of the American Mule Racing Association, leased Gem, and the association's vice president, Roger Downey, leased Star. The men sent the mules to separate training facilities to prepare for the annual race.

Gem and Star will race in the same bracket because of their age, but there's no guarantee they'll face each other in the first round, said Kate Snider, spokeswoman for the Mule Racing Association.

However, if both make it to the finals, the brothers will add a new dimension to the "nature versus nurture" debate.

"It's going to be real exciting to see all this in action," Petersen said of the event that usually draws no more than 2,000 people. "We anticipate a big crowd this year."

# Outdoor faucet is hot, cold

By Mary Beth Breckenridge  
Knight Ridder News Service

Now you can have water from your outdoor faucet that's just the right temperature.

Moen has introduced a single-handle outdoor faucet capable of mixing hot and cold water, just like an indoor faucet. It works similarly to some shower faucets. You pull it to adjust water flow and turn it to get the right temperature.

The faucet is supposed to be easier to install than hot and cold outdoor faucets, because it requires only one waterline.

It also has frost protection and an anti-siphon mechanism to keep outdoor water separate from the indoor water supply.

The faucet retails for \$65 and is available from plumbing supply stores and kitchen and bath showrooms that carry Moen products.

# If you zero in on bottom line, the quality of this fence makes it worth it

By Cindy Hoedel  
Knight Ridder News Service

Two hundred and sixteen pickets make an impressive stack. Or imposing, depending on whether you're finished doing something to them or getting ready to do something to them.

I'm finished, finally. They still need to be mounted to form a fence around my 20-by-20-foot bandman kitchen garden, but not by me. When I use a nail gun, the nails go in crooked and the heads stick out at jaunty angles. I do even more damage with a hammer, embossing the wood with quarter-sized depressions around each nail. I didn't spend the better part of several evenings and a couple of weekends hand-sanding beautiful slim pickets with slightly convex points only to ruin them with incompetent nailing.

I have stacked and restacked the pickets for the same, after single-handedly seeing them through five operations: tracing curved points on the pickets, cutting the points with a band saw, sanding down the points

with a hand sander, hand sanding all edges front and back, and staining.

Like a new parent, I want to show everyone these precious things I've produced, or at least talk about them a lot.

"You've never seen such gracefully curved points," I say to anyone who will listen. Or: "The white stain is quite lovely — not garish like paint."

But no matter what I say, the conversation quickly degenerates, usually like this:

"How many pickets did you make?"

"Two-hundred-sixteen."

"You're crazy."

"They're beautiful."

"But who would do that, besides you?"

Coming from newspaper colleagues, that reaction is understandable. We get paid to write about people who do cool and interesting things, not to do them ourselves. Fair enough. But even the guy at the lumberyard expressed surprise when I told him what I was up to. He seemed even more surprised when I said the price he quoted wasn't high enough. I knew what

top-grade cedar cost.

"We don't usually get people in here looking to spend more on lumber," he said.

I just don't understand that. Why would anyone ever want the cheaper wood instead of the good stuff? If the price premium for top-grade wood is going to ruin you, maybe you shouldn't be undertaking the project in the first place.

There is no escaping people's fixation on money.

"Bottom line," people keep asking, "how much per picket?"

Well to me the bottom line is quality, so the answer would be zero. Zero loose knots, splits or warping per picket. Zero remorse for having cheated out. Zero worries about how my pickets will perform.

Of course, that's not what people want to know. In dollars, each 2.5-by-36-inch picket cost roughly \$3.29 in lumber. By comparison, a prefab 4-by-4-inch dog-eared picket from a home improvement warehouse costs about \$1.50. In other words, I got fiber mignon for just over twice the price of patio steak. And that's a bargain.

# "Get A Little Kick In 2006" PARADE



The Twin Falls Western Days parade will be held June 3, 2006.

This years theme is "Get A Little Kick In 2006"

- All entries must be pre-registered. Your entry must be postmarked no later than May 25, 2006. We will accept no entries after this date, there will be no exceptions.

- When you arrive that morning please come to the sign up table which will be located on the west side of the CSI Expo Center to pick up your entry number. All entries must be in place and decorated by 8:30am. The parade will start promptly at 10:00am.

If you are interested in participating in the Twin Falls Western Days Parade please contact MaryAnn at 539-5270 or entry forms may be picked up at the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce Office.



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COUNTRY ROADS



Photos by RUSTY TEWS/Times-News

It's a sinking feeling when a rancher sees a cow lying flat. Old Yeller and her baby at Tows Ranch after a March rainstorm.

# Life without mama is tough

## But medicine can't always save the cow

By Rusty Tews  
Times-News correspondent

**SHOSHONIE** — The brown heifer calf was born early on a Monday morning in March, and mama moved her across the 40-acre field by afternoon. No problems there, the calf had nursed and the pair eyed the dogs as we checked again at dusk.

Monday night, a big rain-storm blew through, making the cows miserable as they hid with their new calves behind the rock piles and willows. The next morning I saw the old yellow mama lying with her calf behind the big rock pile. Mentally I checked them off as OK.

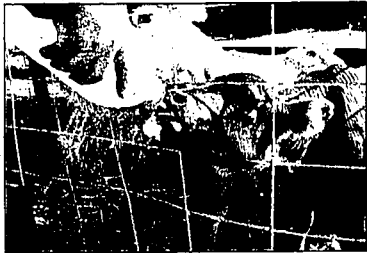
Later that morning, I took the cows a load of oat hay. Disaster! The big yellow cow was lying flat on her side. Sometimes older cows lie too close to a hole and become trapped on their backs. The pressure on their hearts and lungs can drown them in their own skin.

Old Yeller was still breathing, every breath a groan as she pushed air out of her prone body. A big cow is heavy. Dad always said that God put a tail on a cow for a handle and you don't need to lift the whole cow to move one. I grabbed her tail and pulled. She stiffened but didn't fight to gain her feet as I pivoted her to new ground.

Old Yeller was now bloodshot and her breathing labored. The decision to call for professional help is a mental dance between compassion, duty and economics. A \$600 cow, a \$150 vet bill and a 50-50 chance of recovery makes figuring gambling odds look easy.

Calling the vet for a sick cow isn't quite the same as dialing 9-1-1. With the vet, you wait your turn. It might be an hour, or it might be several hours. Dr. Rand Bergstrom came in two hours.

Doc probed and listened. No fancy CT scans or laser-guided blood tests.



It's feeding time for orphan babies, and this is a satisfied customer.

He laid out the facts. Older cow, not thin, gave birth two days ago, big udder and bloodshot eyes. "Beef cows aren't supposed to do this," he said as he prepared to treat Yeller. "Milk fever isn't really a fever, it's a calcium imbalance.

"The bloodshot eyes make me think she is also toxic from not shedding the calf's entire placenta." Doc continued as he poured two bottles of calcium, dextrose and a host of vitamins and minerals into the downed cow's jugular vein.

A mega dose of antibiotic, and still the vet was searching in his truck box for something more. "I'm not sure what we have here. I'm going to treat her with a shotgun approach to medicine."

Doc was still searching for miracles as he pulled out of the field. "Give her two more bottles of cal/dex this evening." He paused. "And good luck."

Vets have a way of making us think in practical terms. The manner in which he said, "older cow down 24 hours and not a very good history of getting them up," brought us to the realization that there weren't any magic bullets for Yeller.

It's not in a cattleman's na-

ture to quit a cow without a fight. We stacked bales of straw around to keep her upright and protected. We carried buckets of water, rolled her over to keep her joints loose, and pushed and prodded to get her to stand.

Through three days and nights of this battle, the little brown calf hid in the weeds and sneaked a drink from her sick mother whenever we weren't around. After three days, Yeller was failing — and failing to provide milk for her new baby. Ironically, she was sick from the effort to provide milk for her calf. The flush of milk production removed too much calcium from her blood, throwing her into a shock from which she didn't recover.

On Friday, old Yeller gave it up. She sprawled stiff and unresponsive in the scattered straw. We gave up as well; we carried the little brown baby to the straw shed and gave her a warm bottle of reconstituted milk. Life without a mama is tough.

Times-News correspondent Rusty Tews lives in the north Shoshone area. He can be reached at teusranch2@yahoo.com.

# BRINGING OUT THE BEAUTY

## Heirloom tulips have history

By Adrian Higgins  
The Washington Post

In the winter of 1637, investors gripped with something history would call tulipomania crowded into a room in the Dutch town of Alkmaar and bid 5,200 guilders for a single tulip bulb — the amount an artisan might earn working six days a week for 20 years.

I am enjoying my own tulipomania this spring, happily with a somewhat smaller investment. The total of about \$120 I shelled out in November represents approximately \$8.50 per bulb, way over the odds for garden-variety tulips such as Apricot Beauty or Orange Emperor but not the sort of reckless extravagance that ruined many a Dutch speculator 369 years ago.

There is one link between the centuries: The tulips that fueled the mania all those years ago and those in my planter are diseased, afflicted with a virus that causes the petal pigments to go into wild, ravishingly beautiful streaks, flames and feathers. Of the 16 I gingerly planted in the fall in prime potting soil and a frost-proof container, 14 have grown, nine have flowered and the rest are budding nicely. They look a little gangly in their ragged grouping and unsynchronized flowering, and the stems wander like green irbe snakes seeking an anchoring branch, but they are bizarre. And rare.

Of the close to 450 million tulip bulbs imported into the United States each year, fewer than 2,000 are these heirloom Dutch tulips — variously called broken tulips, for the way the virus causes the solid colors to break, or florist's tulips, for the old term for tulip fanciers.

Funny as an aspect of plant collecting does not grab me as much as it does some gardeners, but I find these blooms strangely handsome. They are not to last, tastes, and people

who equate price with size will be unhappy with them, I suspect. They are not ramrod straight three-lobed, like sturdy modern hybrids, and the flowers are small, but I find them beguiling, especially for their associations with history.

The first to bloom was Silver Standard, which began its show as a muddy pink before the flames-of-white became more pronounced during its 10 days of display. Driven as much by the effects of the virus as genetic expression, the petal colors and patterns change, and the darker shades become more saturated. The decorative gyrations occur as the chalice bloom itself grows larger and the stem continues to elongate and squirm, so the whole effect is akin to a floral cabaret.

The next was Insuline, which starts out a creamy yel-



A 17th-century style Dutch tulip called Insuline.

low and turns into a striking flower of deep violet with ivory feathers. The pollen ripens to an intense blue-gray, which has its own appeal.

Dutch growers consigned the breaking tulips to various types, of which the most desired were the Rosen, which were pink or red on a white ground; Violetten, purple or violet on white; and Bizarren, red, purple or brown on yellow. Silver Standard is a Rosen; Insuline is a Violetten. My big disappointment is a Bizarren named Abston. All five bulbs opened a new color with faint promises of feathers that never arrived. Now, however, a bright Rosen named Mable has just flowered and looks every bit as stunning as Silver Standard.

These relics are of no interest to the modern Dutch flower bulb industry, whose growers dutifully pull virused bulbs, as required by trade standards. But broken tulips are the iconic Dutch tulip, captured on canvas by the Old Masters and on paper by botanical illustrators. In homage to them, the modern hybridizers have produced disease-free streaky parrot tulips and a variegated class it calls Rembrandt tulips. But to broken-tulip connoisseurs these are heavy-handed replicas whose streaking has none of the intense separation of fine or degree of transformation found in the genuine article.



Courtesy of Lambert T. Moutz Library, New York Botanical Garden

Three unnamed varieties of broken tulips, circa 1740, in an engraving by Johann Wilhelm Weilmann. The popularity for the tulips is growing again, not just in North America but in various European countries.

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