



THURSDAY  
January 4, 2007  
50 cents

# Times-News

MagicValley.com

## Hagerman may be a windy city soon

By Matt Christensen  
Times-News writer

HAGERMAN — A Magic Valley wind farmer and Idaho Power Co. are close to reaching an agreement that could launch a small-farm wind industry near Hagerman.

"We're continuing negotiations, and there's been good cooperation. We're optimistic we'll reach an agreement that will satisfy everyone."

— Dennis Lopez, spokesman for Idaho Power

resisted paying the power company \$60 million to upgrade its grid to accommodate two wind farms, Cassia Gulch Wind Park and Cassia Wind Farm. Grover has interest in both projects.

transmission system upgrades. Grover said it's up to the utility company to finance infrastructure improvements — wind farmers already pay to connect to the power system.

The matter was reviewed last month by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, which asked the parties to attempt to reach an agreement. Now, both sides say they're close to a deal that will make everyone happy, though neither party would talk about specifics.

"We're continuing negotiations," said Dennis Lopez, spokesman for Idaho Power, "and there's been good cooperation. We're optimistic we'll reach an agreement that will satisfy everyone."

Grover said the deal could be finalized by next week. That's good news to other wind farmers in the area who hope to start farms soon — farmers like Armand Eckert of Buhl, who wants to install eight wind turbines about eight miles north of the town.

Please see WIND, Page A3

## Otter appoints new water director

By Matt Christensen  
Times-News writer

BOISE — Gov. Butch Otter announced Wednesday that Dave Tuthill will become interim director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources.

Tuthill takes over from Karl Dreher, whom Otter chose last month not to reappoint. He will serve until a permanent director is chosen after a nationwide search, said Jon Hanlan, a spokesman for the governor.

Water director is, perhaps,

Please see WATER, Page A3

## The hidden hatchery



Steve Rivas, assistant manager of the College of Southern Idaho Fish Hatchery, tries to catch fish that Clayton Winter, a CSI student, dumps into a bucket Wednesday afternoon as they take samples of trout.

TOP: Steve Rivas grips a 1-year-old Snake River white sturgeon Wednesday afternoon at the CSI fish hatchery in Twin Falls.

## CSI hatchery has been stocking lakes and streams for years

By Joshua Palmer  
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — The location sucks. Literally. The College of Southern Idaho's Fish Hatchery is located at the bottom of Rock Creek Canyon, where water is drained from the higher

ground and then sucked into the tanks where fish are raised.

And the location may be the hatchery's biggest challenge.

Not only does it hide one of the few college-operated hatcheries in Idaho, but it's also subject to changes being made above it on the higher ground. Recently, those

changes included city approval of a new housing subdivision that could decrease the water supply needed to operate the hatchery.

"Well, it gives us the opportunity to teach the students how to maintain fish populations as if there was a drought, but we sure can't lose all the water," said Terry Patterson,

who has taught at the hatchery for about 28 years. "All this (the hatchery) depends on what the impact will be to the water supply."

He said the hatchery already works with a limited water supply in the summer months when the

Please see HATCHERY, Page A3

## Fiesta Bowl fever

Game is over, but memories don't end

By Blair Koch  
Times-News correspondent

BUHL — Euphoric. Surreal. Historic.

The game may be over, but Boise State University fans say they are still reeling with emotion from the Bronco's epic defeat of the University of Oklahoma Sooners in Monday's Fiesta Bowl.

It has been hailed as one of the best college football games in history and locals lucky enough to snag a seat wholeheartedly agree.

"It really was a Cinderella story come true," said Helen Brown, principal of Popplewell Elementary who

Please see FIESTA, Page A4



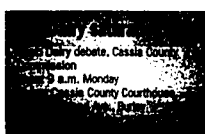
Boise State University fan and Fiesta Bowl transfer Helen Brown of Buhl was greeted with Bronco blue and orange when she returned Wednesday to her job as principal of Popplewell Elementary.

## Water users concerned about dairy numbers

By Janet Wells  
For the Times-News

BURLEY — Some local farmers believe Cassia County has taken its penchant for dairies a little too far. Members of the Southwest Irrigation District met this week with Cassia County commissioners to tell them that the number of dairies is hurting two critical groundwater areas — near the Burley Bluff and in Barb River.

Grant Wyatt, a spokesman for the Southwest Irrigation District, told commissioners the number of dairies is lowering the water table.



"We're not here against dairies, but we think the dairy industry has gotten out of hand," Wyatt said. "We are in a critical groundwater area and do not have enough water to support the way dairies are doing things."

Wyatt accused dairy operators of "double cropping," — planting triticale, a type of grain, then harvesting it and planting corn for silage.

"No way do we have that kind of water," Wyatt said. Brian Higgs, on behalf of the groundwater users, told the commission the Southwest Irrigation District has been trying since 2001 to get its current groundwater management plan accepted by the Idaho Department of Water Resources.

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TODAY'S FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: Today, Tonight, Friday. Includes weather icons and forecasts for Twin Falls, Mini-Cassia, and Magic Valley.

Today: Chilly with scattered rain and snow showers and brisk winds. Highs middle to upper 30s. Tonight: Partly to mostly cloudy and colder. An early snow shower is possible. Lows lower 20s. Tomorrow: Colder temperatures and partly to mostly cloudy skies.

Complete weather report: See page B4

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Auditions for Oakley Valley Arts Council's 'Hello, Dolly,' open to the public, 16 years of age and older; be prepared to read and to sing a short musical selection, 7 to 9 p.m. Howell Opera House, 118 N. Blaine Ave., Oakley, 862-3308.

CLUBS

Minidaca District Recognition Dinner, potluck dinner done in the Cub Scout Hawaiian Banquet theme, 7 p.m. (Leader RfUndatable at 8 p.m.), East Minic Middle School, 085 N 050 W, Rupert, small cover charge, 436-1543.

EXHIBITS

'The Circle' by Amber Scoon, former College of Southern Idaho art instructor, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Jean B. King Gallery, Herrett Center for Arts and Science, C.S.I. campus, Twin Falls, no cost, 732-6655.

FAMILY

Coordinated Community Response Task Force meeting, with speaker Kelly Miller of the Idaho Coalition, 4 p.m., Turning Point Family Center, 123 S. C St., Rupert, 436-0987 or 436-0332.

GOVERNMENT

Twin Falls County commissioners, 8:30 a.m., courthouse, 425 Shoshone St. N., 736-4068. Believe Planning and Zoning Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall, 115 E. Poplar, 788-2128.

HEALTH

Celebrate Recovery, a place to learn life-affirming, healthy behaviors, 7:30 p.m., Fitness Room of the Nazarene Fellowship Hall at Yakima and Main, Filer, 734-0557, 324-7237 or 326-7222.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

The Idaho Oldtime Fiddlers Association (IOTFA) District 6B meeting, jamming at 6 p.m., meeting at 6:45 p.m. and jamming afterward, meeting locations may vary, 735-1580.

List your event

To list events in the daily calendar, submit the event's name, a brief description, time, place, cost and contact number to Suzanne Browne by e-mail, sbrowne@magiclead.com; by fax, 734-5538; or by mail, Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0548. Deadline is noon, four days before the event.

OPINION EDITORIAL

Otter shows lack of respect for citizens. Gov. Butch Otter's private swearing-in ceremony Dec. 29 not only demonstrated disrespect for the spirit of Idaho's Open Meetings Law but also contempt for voters who elected him as well as those who didn't.

Want to submit a Mini Editorial for publication on this page? Send it by e-mail to minieditorial@timesnews.com. Submissions must include the writer's name, address and daytime telephone number. Mini Editorials can be up to 50 words in length. They are subject to the same verification as letters to the editor. Writers may publish one Mini Editorial and one letter per month.

YOUR MORNING BRIEFING

MAGIC VALLEY



Music and extreme skiing in Sun Valley

The Hands Ski Tour, which starts Jan. 11 in Kerchum and Sun Valley, will combine skier-snow and skier-fallside competitions with the BaseCamp Music Experience, a live music festival at each stop featuring cutting-edge bands from many popular genres.

Farmers call for limits on Cassia dairies

BURLEY — Some local farmers believe Cassia County has taken its penchant for dairies a little too far.

Teen pleads to avoid adult charges

TWIN FALLS — An 18-year-old accused of stabbing his mother with a kitchen knife and holding her hostage has pleaded guilty in exchange for being prosecuted as a juvenile.

Commissioner seeks boost in beer, wine tax

TWIN FALLS — Twin Falls County Commissioner Bill Brockman is hopeful state lawmakers will provide funding for substance abuse and overcrowded prisons.

Multimedia ads to target teen drug use

TWIN FALLS — For nearly five years, Michael Clair — relying solely on donations — has owned and operated with his wife the Western States College of Performing Arts and Humanities, giving students with a past of drugs and alcohol a hands-on introduction to film, music and the arts.

Bliss educator among Luna appointments

BOISE — Fourteen new appointments to the Department of Education, including one person from Bliss, have been made by state Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna, who said all of them agree that education reform is needed.

OBITUARIES

Garth E. Mitchell, 52. June D. Dittels, 69. Josephine Wavra, 83. Carl Charles Hoffman, 73.

CORRECTIONS

New location for Over Sixty and Getting Fit

The location of an Over Sixty and Getting Fit class that meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays has been changed from that listed in the January monthly calendar. The class will meet from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Tribal Middle School beginning Jan. 17.

IDAHO LOTTERY

Table with columns: WILD CARD, PICKS, ADVERTISEMENTS, CASSIETTES. Includes dates and times for various lottery events.

IDAHO/WEST



Teen shot to death at Tacoma high school

TACOMA — A teenager was shot to death in a high school hallway Wednesday as classes resumed after the winter break, and police arrested a fellow student found wandering a neighborhood a few miles away, authorities said. Police were trying to determine what prompted the shooting.

Smplot recovering from fall at bowl game

BOISE — J.R. Smplot, one of Idaho's wealthiest men, regained consciousness and was in stable condition Wednesday after undergoing surgery at Phoenix hospital for a head injury suffered during a fall after the Fiesta Bowl, a company spokesman said.

Work begins on statehouse expansion

BOISE — Crews at the Idaho Capitol this week completed the first of four wells that will be used to test groundwater levels and help pump water next spring from pits that will house two 50,000-square-foot underground wings.

ISU seeks funding for state medical school

BOISE — Idaho State University President Arthur Vailas has asked members of a panel that does out the state's share of a multibillion-dollar class-action tobacco settlement to spend \$300,000 to study creating the state's first medical school.

NATION/WORLD



Man risks life to save stranger from train

NEW YORK — In hindsight, jumping in front of an oncoming subway train may not have been the smartest move Wesley Autrey has ever made: "It's all hitting me now," Autrey said Wednesday a day after he saved the life of a young man who had fallen onto the tracks by pushing him into a gap between the rails.

Iraqi guard arrested for video of hanging

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The Iraqi government's dismay over the unauthorized release of footage of Saddam Hussein's execution led to the arrest Wednesday of a security guard who used a cellphone camera to record the hanging, according to an adviser to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. The prime minister's political adviser, Sadiq al-Rikabi, said Iraqi authorities are questioning the guard.

Gerald Ford in Michigan

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Gerald R. Ford, 94, was laid to rest on the grounds of his presidential museum along the grassy shore of the Grand River on Wednesday after an intimate service attended in close friends and family. As the sun set over his hometown, the ceremonies ended nearly a week of mourning.

Warm weather sparks strange sights in East

CHICAGO — Crocuses are pushing out of the ground in New Jersey, ice fishing tournaments in Minnesota are being canceled or are being called off, and golfers are hitting the links in Chicago on January, Much of the Midwest and the East Coast are going through a remarkably warm winter.

SPORTS



Bruins honor late teammate with win

TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls Bruins wrestling season home opener was a somber one as the Bruins and opponent Burley Bobcats paid homage to the late Justin Hernandez, a Twin Falls freshman junior varsity grappler who died in July 2005. The Bruins dedicated the match and the season to his memory and didn't disappoint as they defeated Burley 52-27 on Wednesday at Bain Gymnasium.

Richfield girls hoops team stays unbeaten

SHOSHONE — After facing two quarters of a tenacious Richfield zone and trailing 32-7 at halftime, Shoshone came out and won the second half 25-15 behind 15 points by senior Kari Bingham. But the Indians still came up on the short end of the score as the Indians were defeated by Richfield 47-32 in Magic Valley Northwest Conference play on Tuesday. The Tigers improved to 12-0 with the win.

LSU rolls over Irish 41-14 in Sugar Bowl

NEW ORLEANS — JaMarcus Russell thoroughly outplayed Brady Quinn and LSU's compelling cost that the mammoth quarterback's next pass should be on the NFL. As for Notre Dame, it was a familiar meltdown at bowl time. The Sugar Bowl returned to New Orleans with a Cajun-style party put on by No. 4 LSU, which dominated college football's most storied program in a 41-14 rout Wednesday night that had the Superdome rocking.

Alabama lures Saban away from Dolphins

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — A feverish reception Wednesday kicked off a "new era" for the Crimson Tide under Nick Saban, a coach they're hoping will finally restore the program to championship heights.

WEB READER REACTION

On the letter, 'Christmas a reflection of founders' religion'

CHUCK REIS: "... Article 11 of the 1796 Treaty of Tripoli states: 'As the Government of the United States of America is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion; as it has in itself no character of enmity against the laws, religion, or tranquility of Mussulmen; and, as the said States never entered into any war, or act of hostility against any Mahometan nation, it is declared by the parties, that no pretext arising from religious opinions, shall ever produce an interruption of the harmony existing between the two countries.' That's a powerful statement that abolishes the United States from endorsement of Christianity altogether. One thing of important note is that this treaty with this deliberately

On the letter, 'Silence provides no answers on BID'

DIANE STEVENS: 'Jack Goodman: Is it time for you to buy a dictionary?' For more comments Every story published on MagicValley.com has a link for readers to post comments. You'll find the comments link beneath each article.

Times-News

Table with columns: PUBLISHER, ONLINE, CIRCULATION, MAIL INFORMATION. Includes contact information and subscription rates.

# Hatchery

**Continued from page A1**  
 The natural runoff declines.  
 But new homes, streets and drainage systems could limit the water supply even more. It will also interfere with the natural process of filtering and temperature regulation as the water seeps through the soil and rock.  
 And the small hatchery needs the water so it can continue doing big things for the agriculture industry.  
 "In addition to giving CSI students hands-on experience in aquaculture, it also works with state agencies to research and maintain sturgeon populations in the Snake River."  
 The Snake River white sturgeon that it raises occupy the deepest, darkest holes on the bottom of the Snake River. The massive fish weigh in at 100 pounds, are several feet long and attract sportsmen from Idaho, Nevada and Wyoming to the Snake River.  
 "We know this because we tag them with small chips," Patterson said of the fish — not the sportsmen.  
 The CSI hatchery has tagged and released more than 7,000 fish with a microchip about the size of a grain of rice. Biologists use a handheld device to read the chip's numerical identification number, which can then be used to learn everything from where the fish was hatched to which fish is the mother and father. Besides researching the Snake River white sturgeon, the hatchery also raises about a half-million trout each year.

# Water

**Continued from page A1**  
 the most powerful natural resources position in the state. The director has final say in water-right dispute cases, and he oversees a department that manages all water for farming, municipalities and industry.  
 "I'm honored to be chosen for the job," Tuthill said moments after the announcement. "And I'm seeking consideration to be named fulltime director."  
 Tuthill, a Colorado native, came to Idaho after college in 1976 to work for the IDWR. "My initial thought was that I'd be here for a few years," he chuckled. "And I've been here ever since."  
 In his 31 years in Idaho, Tuthill has worked as chief of the water agency's adjudication bureau, earned an advanced degree in civil engineering from the University of Idaho and served for 30 years in the U.S. Army Reserve Corps of Engineers. His most recent position was administrator for the department's water management division.

Tuthill takes over at a pivotal time in Idaho water history: Ground and surface-water users are entangled in a state Supreme Court legal battle and last year the Legislature asked the department's board to develop a management plan for the depleted Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer.  
 The new director said he's up to the challenges.  
 "Sure, it's tough job," he said. "But I've got a wonderful group of people to work with."  
 The governor called Tuthill on Tuesday to offer him the position and to encourage him to approach obstacles as opportunities, Tuthill said.  
 Hanjan, the governor's spokesman, said he wasn't sure how long the search would take but said, "He's going to be in that job for the foreseeable future."

737-9553  
**AVEDA**

which are then used to stock public and private ponds and streams.  
 And all this serves as a classroom for about 12 students who are pursuing careers in aquaculture.  
 "I've been in the program for about a half a year, and I'm shooting for a master's degree in aquaculture," said Clayton Winter. "I like being in the outdoors and in the wild, so I'm hoping to work for either the Fish & Game department or a private business."  
 Many private companies such as Idaho Power also hire people with backgrounds in biology and aquaculture to monitor their environmental impact on fish and wildlife.  
 But these students will soon learn firsthand what environmental impact after the Twin Falls City Council approved a 110-lot subdivision that will be built on top of the drainage pipes that provide water for the hatchery.

Although the hatchery has water rights to the area, city engineer Fritz Worderlich said the pipes were installed years ago to prevent the area from growing too soggy, and the hatchery simply feeds off them.  
 "I don't know exactly how it will impact us, yet," Patterson said. "I guess we will just have to wait and see."

# Wind

**Continued from page A1**  
 He applied to do business with Idaho Power early last month. Grover already has finalized his project's rates with the company.  
 Under federal law, utilities must buy power from small alternative-energy producers, such as wind farmers. Rates are about \$61 per megawatt-hour. But financing system upgrades is still up in the air, and the Magic Valley farmers are holding off on construction until an agreement can be reached. Lopez said the dispute is unlikely to affect other wind farmers in the state because they aren't located in

# Dairy

**Continued from page A1**  
 "The data has been submitted, they just aren't making a decision," Higgins said. "I am submitting to you several hydrographs showing that groundwater levels are dropping everywhere."  
 He said wells that measured at 350 feet in 1962 are now at about 410 to 450 feet. After discussing water issues, Wyatt told the commission that the location of the dairies is another concern.  
 When he attempted to speak about a proposed dairy on the Burley Butte, county attorney

areas that would require system upgrades. The power company announced Tuesday requests to bring on four other wind generators, including Alkali Wind Generation Facility near Glenns Ferry.  
 Reluctance to incorporate the Magic Valley farms has area wind farmers wondering if Idaho Power is as committed to alternative energy as it claims.  
 "This is new ground for everybody," Lopez said. "But the question is: Who should pay for the improvement? The people who directly benefit or our customer base as a whole?"  
 "The answer will come soon."  
 Al Barris reminded Wyatt the commission may have to sit in judgment of that future proposal and could not discuss the permit.  
 Wyatt suggested the commission establish an emergency moratorium on new dairies until more studies can be done to determine the saturation point.  
 A 90-day moratorium adopted in August recently expired.  
 The commissioners agreed to study the issues surrounding new dairies before more are allowed.

**College of Southern Idaho Community Education**

**CSI**

|                                                                                                         |            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Dance Fitness</b><br>Jan 16 - May 10 • Tues & Thurs • 12pm - 12:50pm                                 | \$125      |
| <b>Russian History</b><br>Jan 16 - May 15 • Tuesdays • 6:00 - 8:00pm                                    | \$100      |
| <b>Intermediate Russian</b><br>Jan 18 - May 7 • Thursdays • 4:30 - 6:30pm                               | \$80       |
| <b>Hidden Toxins</b><br>Jan 18 - Feb 15 • Thursdays • 6:00 - 8:00pm                                     | \$100      |
| <b>Basic Hatha Yoga</b><br>Jan 20 - May 5 • Saturdays • 9:00 - 10:40am                                  | \$125      |
| <b>German - Beg. &amp; Interm.</b><br>Jan 22 - May 7 • Mon • Beg. 6-8pm / Int. 8 - 10pm                 | \$69       |
| <b>Asian Diagnosis</b><br>Jan 23 • Tuesday • 7:00 - 9:00pm                                              | \$39       |
| <b>Self-Hypnosis</b><br>Jan 24 - Mar 14 • 7:00 - 9:00pm                                                 | \$125      |
| <b>Methods of Relaxation</b><br>Jan 27 - Feb 17 • Saturdays • 11am - 12:30pm                            | \$40       |
| <b>Stained Glass - Beg. &amp; Interm.</b><br>Jan 29 - Mar 19 • Mon • Beg. 7 - 10pm / Int. 6:30 - 9:30pm | \$125/\$75 |
| <b>Pottery</b><br>Jan 30 - Apr 10 • Tues or Thurs • 6:30 - 9:30pm                                       | \$110      |
| <b>It's Your Computer: the Basics</b><br>Feb 3 - Feb 10 • Saturdays • 9:00am - 12:00pm                  | \$49       |
| <b>Fiddle-Dee-Dee</b><br>Feb 3 - Apr 14 • Saturdays • 10:00 - 10:45am                                   | \$60       |

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AROUND THE WEST

IDAHO

**Simplot conscious and responsive Wednesday**

BOISE — J.R. Simplot, one of Idaho's wealthiest men, regained consciousness and was in stable condition Wednesday after undergoing surgery at a Phoenix hospital for a head injury suffered during a fall after the Fiesta Bowl, a company spokesman said.

The billionaire, who turns 98 on Thursday, fell from his motorized scooter as he was leaving University of Phoenix Stadium. Simplot is the founder of J.R. Simplot Co., the name-sake agribusiness conglomerate that manufactures agricultural, horticultural and turf fertilizers; animal feed and seeds; food products and industrial chemicals.

Forbes magazine's 2006 list of the richest Americans estimated the fortune of Simplot and his family at \$3.2 billion.

Company spokesman Fred Zerza said family members described Simplot as "responsive" and that there are no more procedures planned following the emergency operation at St. Joseph's Hospital. Simplot is still in intensive care, Zerza said.

The surgery was to relieve pressure from a large bump on Simplot's head after the fall.

**Money sought for Idaho med school study**

BOISE — Idaho State University President Arthur Vallas has asked members of a panel that does out the state's share of a multibillion-dollar class-action tobacco settlement to spend \$300,000 to study creating the state's first medical school.

"We don't have a shortage of students who are interested in health professions and that's a wonderful thing," Vallas said Wednesday. "We do have a shortage of the number of slots."

Idaho currently gets about \$24 million annually from a 1998 settlement with the nation's five largest tobacco companies. The money is put into an account called the "Millennium Fund," and lawmakers allocate 5 percent each year to spend on smoking prevention and related health programs.

Legislators on the Joint Millennium Fund Committee will weigh how to divvy up this year's \$2.5 million in available settlement money, said state Rep. Dennis Lake, R-Blackfoot, the panel's chairman.

The committee heard several proposals Wednesday and will offer a recommendation to the budget committee by February, Lake said.

**First of four new wells completed at Capitol**

BOISE — Crews at the Idaho

Capitol this week completed the first of four wells that will be used to test groundwater levels and help pump water next spring from pits that will house 50,000-square-foot underground wings.

Temporarily diverting the water beneath the lavans on both sides of the Capitol is one of the challenges workers must overcome before building the wings, which are meant to relieve overcrowding in the 100-year-old building.

By the project's planned 2010 completion, the water will be

allowed to surround the water-proof concrete "boxes of the wings — as if they were boulders in a hidden river," said Jan Frew, the state architect overseeing the project.

"The boxes would be impervious to the water, which would find its own way," Frew said Tuesday. "They're going to be doing some testing to see how fast the water is moving and what level the water is at."

The \$130 million Capitol undertaking includes the wings, as well as renovations slated to start after April.

CALIFORNIA

**Schwarzenegger misses festivities because of leg**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said Wednesday he will not attend his preinaugural festivities this week because his doctor advised him to stay off his broken leg as he recovers.

Schwarzenegger is scheduled to be inaugurated Friday, as part of a lavish two-day series of events.

inauguration and plans to attend the ball Friday night, his spokeswoman Julie Soderland said.

His orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Kevin Ehrhart, said in a statement that he did not want the governor to do anything to jeopardize his recovery from the surgery he had on Dec. 26. Schwarzenegger broke his right femur on Dec. 23 when he tripped over his ski pole while standing on a slope in Sun Valley.

—The Associated Press

# KLAUSSNER FURNITURE

## GRAND OPENING GALLERY

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY

**Everton Mattress Factory is proud to introduce it's newest line of furniture: KLAUSSNER Furniture!**

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Compact. Permanently lubed motor. 240 volt. Commercial quality shaft element. On/wall motor. Free rear warranty. Hydraulic thermostat control.

|            |        |        |
|------------|--------|--------|
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## Young man pleads guilty in stabbing of mother

By Cassidy Friedman  
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Facing the possibility of adult charges, an 18-year-old accused of stabbing his mother with a kitchen knife and holding her hostage has pleaded guilty in exchange for being prosecuted as a juvenile.

Joshua Barnes was 17 when he was charged Aug. 7 with aggravated battery and second-degree kidnapping. The Twin Falls County Prosecutor's Office wanted to charge Barnes as an adult because Barnes pleaded guilty to the stabbing — not the kidnapping — the prosecutor agreed to not charge

him as an adult and to dismiss the kidnapping charge. In both charges, it appears chemical dependency may have been a factor. Recovering on Aug. 5 from stab wounds to her lower back and the front of her right leg in the emergency room at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, his

mother Kathy, told police he went "out of control," according to a Twin Falls police affidavit. She said her son had become aggravated by a fight with his girlfriend. As she tried to calm him down, she said, he stabbed her once in the kitchen, once in the bedroom and then "made me get in the vehicle with him."

Then Barnes fled until he was tracked down in Oneida County. At the time of his crime, Kathy Barnes said, her son was taking Aderal, an amphetamine prescription that controls Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and was drinking alcohol.

After spending less than a month at the Snake River Juvenile Detention Center, Barnes was sent to an alcohol treatment program. Barnes is scheduled to be sentenced at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday. His mother did not return repeated phone calls from the Times-News.

## Anti-drug ads might be locally produced

By Jared S. Hopkins  
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — For nearly five years, Michael Clair — relying solely on donations — has owned and operated with his wife the Western States College of Performing Arts and Humanities, giving students with a past of drugs and alcohol problems a hands-on introduction to film, music and the arts.

Now Clair and his students might reach an even wider audience.

Mark Brunelle, director of research and development for Twin Falls County Juvenile Services, is requesting \$19,500 from the Idaho Juvenile Justice Commission to start a multimedia campaign to educate kids about underage drinking.

Local students, under the direction of Clair, will write, direct and star in commercials and a film that will air in the Magic Valley. More than half the money will be used to buy commercial airtime.

"They all have grown up in this age of MTV and trailers constantly harrying them and they understand the language and speak it," Clair said. "What we want to do is a film that creates an awareness of underage drinking. They get to actually make short films or commercials about dangers of underage drinking."

In conjunction with leadership and drama classes at the Twin Falls High School, at-risk students on probation at the college will create five commercials and distribute a five-minute short film about underage drinking. There will be two workshops to assist the students; the commercials will then air locally and be shown in schools.

"Kids will learn by teaching other kids. I think that's the key," Brunelle said. "They're going to learn some of the costs of underage drinking and that all costs have outcomes." While campaigns to curb alcohol abuse do exist — in the Twin Falls School District and the Boys and Girls Club run information and assistance programs, for example — the

"Kids will learn by teaching other kids, I think that's the key. They're going to learn some of the costs of underage drinking and (that) all costs have outcomes."

— Mark Brunelle, director of research and development for Twin Falls County

advertising campaign would be the first in the Magic Valley to be solely multimedia-oriented. It would be the second anti-alcohol campaign using multimedia in Idaho, Brunelle said.

The state grant application, which is due Jan. 19, received the required approval of the Twin Falls County commissioners on Wednesday.

"We've got some of those programs and they work well but they're just barely getting to the tip of the iceberg," Commissioner Bill Brockman said. "The problem is growing faster than the funding is."

The county's juvenile probation department serves about 200 people a month.

Alcohol continues to be the main drug of choice among teenagers in the U.S., according to studies; almost 20 percent of eighth-graders and 42 percent of 10th-graders said they have been drunk at least once, according to the National Institute of Drug Abuse.

Rep. Sharon Block, R-Twin Falls, who is returning as chairwoman of the House Health and Welfare Committee, said she liked the sound of the proposed program from Brunelle and Clair.

"I have attended some substance abuse conferences and some states are finding success with advertising," she said. "It's one way to educate young people about the serious effects that come with alcohol and drug abuse."

## WESTERN WINTER WIND



A storm blows in from the west Wednesday on a farm near Twin Falls. Today's forecast in the Magic Valley is for a chance of snow and a high of 36.

## Counties lobby for beer tax increase

By Jared S. Hopkins  
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Twin Falls County Commissioner Bill Brockman will have just left public service when the state Legislature convenes Monday.

But Brockman, who will retire Friday after seven years, is hopeful state lawmakers will provide funding for substance abuse and overcrowded prisons in Twin Falls County.

For the last several years, the Idaho Association of Counties has unsuccessfully lobbied to raise the excise tax on beer and wine by 5 percent and use the revenue for drug treatment and to ease overcrowded jails.

"I don't think you can know how much it would alleviate it, but if we could put \$15 million to \$20 million into treatment each year and stop those people from reconvicting, it could be huge," Brockman said. In a letter to 11 Magic Valley

"They're (excise taxes) kind of like a hidden tax. They're passed down to the consumer ultimately. They're not necessarily a fair tax to begin with."

— Anheuser-Busch distributor Mitch Watkins

lawmakers, Brockman has proposed increasing the excise tax on beer and wine. According to Brockman, an 80-cent can of beer would cost 84 cents after the hike.

But how to raise the money remains undecided, said Daniel Chadwick, executive director of the IAC.

The group could ask for an increase by percent volume of alcohol, by raising the wholesale tax, or by some other method.

"We'd like to be optimistic about it," Chadwick said. "The Legislature is going to have to make a judgment call on that. Right now our options are limited. We're going to have to look at new dollars."

Rep. Sharon Block, R-Twin

Falls, who is returning as chairwoman of the House Health and Welfare Committee, said previous efforts likely failed due to budget shortages.

"Maybe people have not realized how serious the problem is," she said. "A lot of people think that this is an area where we could get some funding for substance abuse issues, so I am certainly willing to support that and to be one of the sponsors."

Twin Falls County Commissioner Tom Mikesell said there has been concern not only about how the money will be used, but also how the distributors will be taxed.

"The distributors are not

very pleased with it," he said. "That might have to do with it, as they have a lot stronger lobbyist over there than us."

They're kind of like a hidden tax," he said. "They're passed down to the consumer ultimately. They're not necessarily a fair tax to begin with."

Tony Pinnell, the deputy director of IAC, said the money would be used only for treatment and prevention and not for staff.

"Nothing has really worked out yet," he said. "The important part here is that the revenue that is raised by whatever kind of increase needs to go to treatment and not for administration."

Reporter Jared S. Hopkins can be reached at (208) 735-3204 or jhopkins@magictimes.com.

## Luna builds his team; some educators unfamiliar with appointees

The Associated Press

BOISE — Fourteen new appointments to the Department of Education, including one person from Bliss, have been made by state Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna, who told all of them agree that education reform is needed. "To a person, they are all

convinced that change is necessary," Luna told the Idaho Statesman.

Nick Smith has been named deputy superintendent for school district support. Smith has taught and been a principal at the Bliss School District.

Christine Ivie has been named deputy superintendent for student achievement and school accountability.

She is a former academic officer for the state Board of Education.

Though most of the new appointees are from outside the department, many have been educators.

"They are basically not people who are well-known," said Linda Clark, Meridian School District superintendent. Stan Olsen, Boise School

District superintendent, said he didn't know many of the people appointed by Luna, either.

One person not yet hired is a chief deputy superintendent.

"I am not familiar enough with the department to be comfortable enough to hand off that day-to-day responsibility to another person,"

Luna said. "For now I am going to be very hands-on."

As part of his education reform plan touted during his campaign, Luna wants to make decisions that will focus on school accountability and student achievement. He also wants more school choice.

"That's the division that is going to drive a lot of the changes in the other divisions," Luna said.

The person to lead that division, innovation and school choice, has not yet been selected.

"We've interviewed a lot of people and I think that is going to be one of the most critical positions that we fill," he said. "We may end up doing a national search to look for the right person."

For more information, call Parks and Recreation Director Dennis Bowyer at 736-2265.

## Snowpack Levels

| Area               | % of Avg. 1971-80 | As of Jan. 3 |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Wapinitia          | 93%               | 39%          |
| Salmon             | 92%               | 39%          |
| Big Wood           | 91%               | 39%          |
| Little Wood        | 83%               | 34%          |
| Big Lost           | 80%               | 32%          |
| Little Lost        | 81%               | 25%          |
| Henry's Fork/Jeton | 80%               | 34%          |
| Upper Snake Basin  | 76%               | 34%          |
| Oasley             | 110%              | 44%          |
| Salmon Falls       | 90%               | 37%          |



## Open house set for Jerome County clerk

JEROME — An open house for retiring Jerome County Clerk Cheryl Watts will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. today at the Jerome County Judicial Annex, 233 W. Main St. In Jerome, Watts served 24 years as county clerk.

## Beck to deliver State of College address

TWIN FALLS — College of Southern Idaho President Jerry Beck will deliver his annual State of the College address to CSI faculty and staff at 9 a.m. Monday in the CSI Fine Arts Auditorium.

## AROUND THE VALLEY

Beck's address will apprise college employees of developments, goals, projects and policies, as well as an update on CSI's view of the legislative session about to begin in Boise.

## County to fete outgoing commissioners

TWIN FALLS — A farewell party will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Friday for the outgoing Twin Falls County commissioners, Bill Brockman and

Gary Grindstaff.

Anyone can attend the event, which will be held in the third floor conference room of the Twin Falls County Courthouse.

## City seeks applicants for golf commissioner

TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls Parks and Recreation Department is accepting applications for a position on the Twin Falls Golf Advisory Commission. The commission, which makes recommendations and advises the Twin Falls City Council, meets several times a year. The deadline for applica-

tions is Friday.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation Director Dennis Bowyer at 736-2265.

## Twin Falls County seeks fair board applicants

TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls County Fair Board is accepting applications for an opening. Applicants must be from the eastern part of Twin Falls or the Kimberly area. Those interested should submit a letter to the Twin Falls County commissioners by Jan. 25. Applications are available at <http://www.twinfallscounty.org>.

OBITUARIES/COMMUNITY

For obituary rates and information, call 735-3266 Monday through Saturday. Deadline is 3 p.m. for next-day publication. The e-mail address for obituaries is [obits@magiclevel.com](mailto:obits@magiclevel.com). Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 4 p.m. every day.

# Dan Harpole, who led Washington and Idaho arts panels, dead at 51

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — Dan Harpole, the former chairman of the Washington State Arts Commission, has died following a yearlong battle with cancer, the organization said Tuesday. He was 51.

Harpole died last Friday at his brother's home in Oregon. He had been serving as executive director of the Idaho Commission on the Arts.

"Dan provided strong and smart leadership for the arts locally and throughout the nation," said Kris Tucker, executive director of the Washington arts organization. "He brought vision, determination and integrity to the arts, and we will miss him greatly."

Harpole served for eight years as an assistant director and program manager for Centrum, a nonprofit arts organization in Port Townsend, where he also was on the city council from 1994-96. He went on to become a Jefferson County commissioner from 1997-2000.

Former Gov. Gary Locke appointed Harpole to the Washington State Arts Commission in 1995. He was elected chairman in 1998 and resigned to join the Idaho commission in 2000.

He is survived by two children, both of Boise. A memorial service was scheduled for Saturday in Boise.

## Josephine Wavra



TWIN FALLS — Josephine Wavra, 83 years old, of Twin Falls and formerly of Buhl, passed away Monday, Jan. 1, 2007, at Sun Bridge Care Center after a long battle with Alzheimer's, with her family by her side.

She was born Sept. 23, 1923, in Twin Falls, Idaho, to Fred and Teresa Inchausti and was raised in the Buhl area. She had one sister, Mary Leeper; and three brothers, Jess, Pete, and Tony Inchausti. On July 17, 1943, she married Edward Wavra, and they had two children.

They farmed for more than 52 years south of Buhl. She really loved her farm and was the happiest being around all of her animals, especially her sheep and chickens. She liked canning, baking and preparing big meals for the holidays. She really liked her coffee, Cheetos and Twinkles. She was a very happy person, always with a smile on her face, especially when she

went fishing and camping and just being outdoors. Josephine worked very hard and was a very strong woman all the way until the end.

Her husband, Edward Wavra, her parents, Pedro and Teresa Inchausti, and her brother, Pete Inchausti, preceded her in death.

She is survived by her children, Carmen (Patrick) Vecera of Twin Falls and Jim Wavra of Buhl; her brothers, Tony Inchausti of Filer and Jess Inchausti of Buhl; her sister, Mary Leeper of Pasco, Wash.; her grandchildren, Shaun Vecera (Maureen Marron) of Iowa City, Iowa, Shannon Inchausti of Jerome, Idaho, Jimmy (Shelia) Wavra of Pocatello, Lisa Cooper of Buhl and Joe (Katrina) Wavra, currently serving in Iraq; 10 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.

A viewing will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 4, at Farmer Funeral Chapel, 130 Ninth Ave. N. in Buhl. The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 5, at Farmer Funeral Chapel. The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made in Josephine's name to the Alzheimer's Association.

## June D. Dobbs



HOLLISTER — June D. Dobbs, 68, of Hollister, Idaho, passed away Sunday, Dec. 31, 2006, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls, Idaho.

June was born June 1, 1938, in Chicago, Ill. She was a longtime resident of Hollister, Idaho, where she had resided for more than 30 years.

Surviving June is her brother, Robert Tobys of Corvallis, Ore.; son, Danny Reed of

Jacksonville, Fla.; son, Robert (Hollister); Idaho; daughter, Karen Wolf and family of Eagle River, Alaska; Kathy Reed of Buhl, Idaho; daughter, Theresa Stroot of Brainard, Minn.; Tom and Shirley Tobys of Orofino, Idaho; Doug and Lori Breeding of Folsom, Calif.; 15 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and numerous other relatives throughout the United States and Europe. Her father, Joseph Tobys, and her mother, Jane Tobys, preceded her in death. In honor of her wishes, no service will be held. She requested that in lieu of flowers a donation to the charity of your choice be made in her name.

## SERVICES

Dale "Doc" Stukenholz of Twin Falls, memorial service at 11 a.m. today at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls.

Martin A. Martinez Jr. of Rupert, funeral Mass at 11 a.m. today at the St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Rupert (Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel).

Nona P. Hawkins of Brunau, graveside service at 11 a.m. today at the Hot Springs Cemetery in Brunau. The family would like friends to meet at the American Legion Hall in Brunau where they will go in procession to the cemetery (Rest Funeral Home, McMurry Chapel in Mountain Home).

Vern Reeves of Twin Falls, funeral at 1 p.m. today at White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Dorothy Ellen Macharek of Buhl, celebration of life from 2 to 4 p.m. today in the fellowship hall at the Buhl First Christian Church (Farmer Funeral Chapel in Buhl).

Nora Anna Ward of Twin Falls, memorial service at 1 p.m. Friday at the Messiah Lutheran Church, 534 W. Iowa Ave. in Nampa (Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home in Twin Falls).

Lewis W. Meyers of Filer, memorial service at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 2628 Whispering Pine Drive in Twin Falls; potluck gathering from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday at the Twin Falls Senior Center, 530 Shoshone St. W.

Margaret "Peggy" LeMoine of Hagerman, celebration of life from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Hagerman Senior Center (Demary's Funeral Service in Gooding).

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## SPORTSMEN DONATIONS



From left are Tom Humphries, Bob Powers, Scott Allen, Major Dallas Fisher and Jack Oyer and Doug Palmer with the Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife Idaho Magic Valley Chapter, which provided chairs, toys and food boxes for 10 families for Christmas through the Salvation Army. Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife is a nonprofit wildlife conservation organization of sportsmen. The Magic Valley chapter will hold its fifth annual banquet on Feb. 24 at the Radio Rendezvous. For more information, call Doug Palmer at 316-3633 or check out the organization Web site at [www.sfwidaho.org](http://www.sfwidaho.org).

## Carl Charles Hoffman



BUHL — Carl Charles Hoffman went to be with the Lord Jesus Christ on Dec. 30, 2006, with his loving wife, Rowena, by his side.

Carl was born in Burley, Idaho, on July 30, 1933, and shortly after moved to Buhl, Idaho, with his family, where he spent his adolescent life. He entered the Navy at the age of 17 years old. After being discharged, he moved to Seattle, Wash. There he met his first true love, Delores Decker. Carl and Delores had three children, Tony, Michael and Carla. Carl passed away in 1979 after fighting her battle with leukemia. After losing his wife, he became a truck driver, which he had such a passion for, traveling several states and experiencing numerous adventures along the way.

In 1984, Carl met and married Renee Provost; they had two wonderful daughters, Raychel and Samantha, which has been a wonderful blessing to our entire family in 1999. Carl again married the woman that was intended to be there for him in his final years. Rowena has been a mother to all of his children and a wonderful wife and caregiver to our entire family. He has been suffering a lot of years with ill health and did not want anyone to have to take care of him. It was time for him to go to rest.

Though he will be sorely missed by all that knew him, he is no longer in pain and will be looking over us every day.

Carl was preceded in death by his parents, Della and Calvitt; his first wife, Delores; his brother, Nyal Hoffman; brother-in-law, Howard Hopkins; niece and nephew, Ben Sherman and Connie Gartner; and grandson, Joshua Hoffman. They are all laughing and sharing stories now. He is survived by his wife, Rowena Hoffman; children, Anthony (Tony), Michael, Carla, Raychel and Samantha; daughter and son-in-law, Tina and Dennis Hoffman; grandchildren, Carl and Brad Hoffman, Crystal and Michael Hoffman, Chad Murphy, Revell and Anthony Hoffman, and Austin Grindstaff; sister, Catherine Hopkins of Twin Falls; brother and sister-in-law, Kent and Juliette Hoffman of Pleasant Grove, Utah; sister and brother-in-law, Shirley and Ralph Sherrill of Darrington, Wash.; sister-in-law, Judy Hoffman of Filer, Idaho; his sister-in-law, Carole Jorhal of Ballard, Wash.; several nieces and nephews; and numerous stepchildren and step-grandchildren.

A viewing will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5, at Farmer Funeral Chapel, 130 N. Ninth Ave. in Buhl. The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, at the Lutheran Church on Main Street in Buhl, with a family visitation from 10 to 10:50 a.m. Internment to follow at the West End Cemetery in Buhl.

## Garth E. Mitchell



PHOENIX, Ariz. — Garth E. Mitchell, 52, of Phoenix, Ariz., passed away Dec. 27, 2006, after a short but courageous battle with cancer.

He was born in Burley, Idaho, on Dec. 19, 1954, to Norman D. and Marjorie J. Murphy. Garth moved to Phoenix from Kimberly, Idaho, in 1984.

He worked for VDCS in Phoenix for the last 20 years as a cable specialist.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and sister, Glenda K. Williams. Survivors include his daughters, Adria of Phoenix, Ariz., and Misty Dawn Mitchell of Las Vegas, Nev.; stepfather, Don Brown of Brunau, Neb.; brothers, Norman Eugene (Home) of Lusk, Wyo., Elmer V. "Mitch" (Suzann) of Twentynine Palms, Calif., and Byron "Phat" (Lalal) of Kimberly, Idaho; and seven grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Dec. 29 in Phoenix, Ariz.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Job's Daughters to install officers

TWIN FALLS — Shayla Charbonneau, daughter of Don and Teresa Charbonneau of Twin Falls, will be installed as honored queen of the International Order of Job's Daughters, Bethel 43 at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Masonic Temple, 883 Elmer Lakes Blvd. N. S.

Other officers to be installed include Erica Kobler, senior princess; Molly Bredand, junior princess; Natisha Lupton, guide; Erica Herrmann, marshal; Kaitlyn Hager, chaplain; Taylor Barlog, treasurer; Dakota Lyons, recorder; Haley Peterson, musician; Kendra McCollum, librarian; Madison Dahlquist, first messenger; Chelsea Bonnett, third messenger; Ariel Brim, fourth messenger; Caitlyn Probasco, fifth messenger; Katrina Myers, senior custodian; Aspen Butler, junior custodian; Kailie Hudson, inner guard; Katie Loya, outer guard; and Madison Houtson, choir/flour bearer.

Arvin Probasco, retiring honored queen, will be the installing officer. Other installing officers include Tara Lupton, Erin Ferlic, Jenni Lanning, Brenley Box, Jesse Jovan, Katie Baxter, Connie Kobler, Jill Newham and Jacinda Conrad. Peggy Kroll of Twin Falls will be the narrator. Chanel Crowley of Twin Falls will be the soloist. The Eric Crowley family will be the hosts. The public is invited to the installation and the reception.

### Gooding Bridge announces results

GOODING — Gooding Duplicate Bridge released Dec. 29 results.

First: Reuben Tschackofsky and Riley Burton; second, Don and Lorna Bard; third (tie), Jodi Faulkner and Louise Smith and Marg Pietsch and Susan Faulkner.

Duplicate bridge is played at 1 p.m. Fridays at the Gooding Senior Center, 308 Senior Ave.

For partnership information, call Kathy Rooney at 934-9732.

## DEATH NOTICES

### James E. Stone

EDEN — James Earl Stone, 70, of Eden, died Sunday, Dec. 31, 2006, at his home.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, 2007, at the Hazelton Cemetery. A viewing for family and friends will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5, at White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

### Lillian Rude

TWIN FALLS — Lillian Rude, of Twin Falls, died Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2007, at Bridgeview Estates in Twin Falls.

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home of Twin Falls.

### Ralph R. Eaton

TWIN FALLS — Ralph R. Eaton, 87, of Twin Falls, died Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2007, at Woodstone Retirement Center.

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

### Bertha M. Lopez

BUHL — Bertha Marcela

Beltran Lopez, of Buhl, died Monday, Jan. 1, 2007, at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise.

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Farmer Funeral Chapel in Buhl.

### Lois Andoe

HAZLETON — Lois Andoe, 86, of Hazelton and formerly of Jerome, died Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2007, at her home.

Arrangements are pending and will be announced by the Howe-Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome.

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- Home DELIVERY
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EDITORIAL

# Broncos trample myths of a flawed bowl system

In the past, the only way Idaho ever made national news was with a flood, an earthquake, or a daredevil stunt on national TV. That all changed on Monday night.

Boise State University's stunning 43-42 win in overtime over Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl will arguably be remembered as one of college football's greatest bowl games ever played — period. With theatrics that cannot be made up unless you're Ian Johnson's wedding planner, the Broncos delivered a performance that still has the sports world amazed.

The unbeaten Broncos mostly dominated powerhouse Oklahoma — a program with seven national championships and four Heisman winners. When the Sooners bounced back from an 18-point deficit, and took a 35-28 lead with over a minute to play, the stage was set for an epic finale.

BSU marched downfield and knotted the score with seven seconds on a brilliant misdirection pass-and-lateral play run to perfection. In overtime, the Broncos overcame another Sooners lead with a trick play touchdown, and followed it with a playground-stunt two-point conversion to the star tail-back Johnson.

But even more compelling than the finish is how the victory jolted the landscape of college football.

For all its pageantry and popularity, major college football is riddled with flaws — some would even call it corruption. National titles are determined by national polls and a system of bowl games. That system is overseen by large athletic conferences, corporate sponsors and tourism officials for host cities — all with the fig-leaf rubber stamp of the National Collegiate Athletics Association.

This system breeds controversy year after year. Whereas Division I-AA and smaller NCAA divisions earn a championship through a playoff, Division I relies on one final bowl to crown a "mythical" national championship. But the deceit is wider than that. Bowl officials give automatic bowl bids to the larger conference teams based on their ability to attract ticket holders and TV viewers. By going to a major Bowl Championship Series game, a team rakes in millions of dollars for its conference. The conference then pools money among all its teams, feeding the cycle for those few schools that generate the most money.

For years, teams from smaller conferences have been blackballed by the process. The result is larger conferences teams growing richer, while schools in the smaller "mid-major" conferences fight for scraps.

As proof of the imbalance, look at the ledgers of the Fiesta Bowl teams. In 2005-06, Oklahoma's football program earned \$33.7 million and spent \$13.8 million, according to the Department of Education. BSU reported \$8.5 million and spent \$4.5 million. OU coach Bob Stoops, who was clearly overcoached in the game, is the highest-paid football coach in the country with a \$3.45 million salary. First-year BSU coach Chris Petersen earns \$500,000 a year.

This year, the process changed to allow a top 12 team into a major bowl. Not because of the team's merit, but because smaller conferences threatened to sue the bowl system.

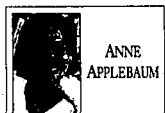
The Broncos didn't need a courtroom to make their case loud and clear Monday night. Their win may not change flaws in the bowl system. But it demolishes the myths preserved by the bowl force.

Teams like BSU belong in major bowl games, not because they can compete with the Goliaths of college football — but because they can convincingly beat them.

**Our view:**  
Boise State's Fiesta Bowl victory demolished preconceptions about major college football. What do you think? We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

# West misread Saddam's regime

Hitler shot himself before capture. Stalin received a grand state funeral and got buried under house arrest. Just last week, the brutal leader of Turkmenistan, Saparmurat Niyazov, died of natural causes. In fact, when the nose tightened around his neck early Saturday morning, Iraq's Saddam Hussein became one of a surprisingly small number of modern dictators executed by their own people: Benito Mussolini, Nicolai Ceausescu — and now the man who once called himself Iraq's president for life. Of those three, Saddam is the only one who had anything resembling a trial.



ANNE APPLEBAUM

Other than that, there is no reason to view Saddam as an exceptional or unusual heir to the 20th-century totalitarian tradition. Certainly he saw himself as part of the pantheon of modern dictators. Allegedly he boasted to KGB agents in Baghdad of his personal admiration for Joseph Stalin.

More to the point, Saddam Hussein kept his people in a state of constant terror, as did Hitler and Stalin at the height of their powers. The Iraq writer Kanan Makiya, whose book "Republic of Fear" remains the definitive account of Saddam's Iraq, estimates that in 1980, one-fifth of the economically active Iraq labor force were members of the army, the political militias, the police or the secret police. One in five people, in other words, was engaged to one or out institutional violence. The result was a country in which the families of political victims



MIKE LUCKOVICH RELATES DARK OFFICER OF DEATH

received their body parts in the mail; in which thousands of Kurds could be murdered with chemical weapons; and in which, as Saddam's truncated trial demonstrated, the dictator could sign a document randomly condemning 148 people to death — among them an 11-year-old boy — and feel no remorse or regret. As his defense team argued, he believed this was his prerogative as head of state.

Yet if Saddam's life and death prove anything, it is that in the 50 years since modern totalitarianism first emerged in Europe, neither the United States nor anyone else has learned to understand such regimes or even to recognize them for what they are. When Hitler emerged, the outside world's instinct was to appease him. When Stalin emerged, Americans and Europeans admired his economic planning. When Saddam emerged, our impulse was to ignore him — and then, since he seemed a useful counterweight to the

Ayatollah Khomeini's Iran, to support him. During his horrific and unnecessary war with Iran, millions of Iraqis and Iranians died — and the United States, reckoning Iran the greater threat, backed Saddam with weapons and intelligence. Germany, France, Russia and others also saw Saddam as a useful trading partner and, later, as a source of corrupt profits.

Yet only after he invaded Kuwait was Saddam, long a threat to his own people, perceived as anything worse than a local nuisance.

Belatedly, we identified him as a totalitarian dictator, but by then it was too late for our disapproval to have much of an impact, in Iraq or anywhere else. In the Arab world, most assumed that America's over-due criticism represented yet another political calculation on the part of self-interested Americans whose memories could not possibly be so short as they pretended.

Even now, in the wake of his

execution, our instincts are to argue about what Saddam meant to us, not that he meant to Iraqis. His death is being analyzed for its impact on Iraq's civil war and therefore for its impact on our troops. The chaos of his trial and execution are another excuse to attack the White House.

Someday, perhaps, when Iraq's civil war is over, and when Iraqis have achieved a measure of personal safety — an even more basic human requirement than political freedom — it may be possible for Iraqis, at least, to think objectively about the physical and psychological damage that Saddam's regime did to their country. Maybe someday Americans or Europeans will also find ways to discuss Saddam as something other than a pawn in their own games, or as a figure in their own political debates. But I doubt it.

Anne Applebaum is a Washington Post columnist.

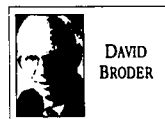
# Bush ignores advice at his own peril

An element of unreality has infected the speculation about President Bush's decision on a new strategy for Iraq. In the weeks since the Iraq Study Group issued its report and the president said he was going to canvass a variety of other sources before making up his mind, the assumption has grown that he will declare the next steps himself.

In reality, Bush's ability to act on his own is severely limited. He is not even tied at home and abroad. At most, he can suggest what he would like to do, but he is dependent on others actually to do it.

The overseas constraints begin in Iraq itself, where any policy depends on the cooperation and dubious capacity of the struggling government in Baghdad. That government is consumed by factional fighting and has yet to find the will to deal with its own tough Shiite elements or to reach any kind of accommodation with the rebellious Sunni minority.

Concuring up the corrupt and violent drone national police force would be the first precondition for any plan to



DAVID BRODER

bring order to Iraq, and that is something that only the Iraqis can do. Bush can wish it, but he cannot order it.

He is similarly constrained when it comes to improving the efficiency of Iraq's Cabinet ministries, accelerating constitutional reform or securing an equitable division of oil royalties. Exhortation is his only tool.

Here at home, the limitations on his freedom of action are at least as tight.

The new Congress that starts this week is not the same passive body that approved his decision to go to war and allowed him a free hand in managing or mismanaging the aftermath.

When the White House speculates about increasing the number of U.S. troops in Iraq for some indefinite period, it goes directly against the expressed policy wishes of the

new Democratic majority and its most influential members. The incoming chairmen of both the Armed Services and Foreign Relations committees, Sens. Carl Levin and Joe Biden, have counseled strongly against such a course, and the Democrats in both the House and Senate favor a gradual drawdown of American forces, not a buildup.

As commander in chief, the president can order most troops into the war zone, but such a step would undoubtedly provoke the most angry domestic debate of his term. The larger point made by the Iraq Study Group in its unanimous bipartisan report is that no policy for Iraq that does not command broad public and congressional support has a chance of succeeding. The nation and its elected representatives, as co-chairmen James A. Baker III and Lee Hamilton warned, will not sustain the costs in lives and treasure it would take to rescue a deteriorating situation in Iraq unless there is broad agreement on the course of action.

Sending thousands more

American troops into harm's way, when fewer than one in five Americans support such a step, is no way to build that support.

More and more of the president's fellow Republicans are making that point to him. Particularly significant were the comments on Fox News on Sunday from Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, the outgoing chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

He expressed skepticism — but not outright opposition — to the idea of expanding the U.S. military presence in Iraq. But his main plea was for the president to take the temperature of Congress by meeting personally with the Foreign Relations Committee and consulting seriously with its members, before settling on any action for Iraq. Any action Bush takes may still be thwarted by Iraq's own divisions. But if he does not bring Congress and both parties into the process, the policy will inevitably fail. He has to face that reality.

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

# Times-News

Brad Hurd ... Publisher    Chris Steinbach ... Editor

The members of the editorial board and writers of editorials are Brad Hurd, Chris Steinbach, Steve Crump, Traci Bliss, Bill Blitzenberg and David Cooper.

## Truth comes too late for some dairy neighbors

Funny how residents of this community ignore the plight of people who have had large dairy operations destroy their dreams of owning property that one can live on and raise children, drink the water, smell the clean Idaho air until the large operations want to build next to them. I bet Mr. Diamond and his neighbors never gave it a second thought until now when they are threatened.

The entire state had better come to the realization that our water, air and quality of life should matter more than money.

PATTY LYMAN  
Twain Falls

## An oath, and a government, behind closed doors

I guess it was inevitable that our new governor closed his door to be sworn in. It is a true Republican.

The governor and the Republican legislators can now think of a secret handshake to make sure their closed-door decision making is kept secret. Why not?

The Washington Republicans set the stage for the secret political society that prevails. After all, the unwashed public just does not need to know anything that affects their lives. The good old boys know what's good for their big-business contributors, so why get the voters all

stirred up with open meetings?

Anyway I think, or maybe I should not think, that Otter might or might not be legal. Do any of you really want A.L.-PETE-ADKISON Hagerman

## ISDB is the best option for most of its students

Regarding the Idaho School for the Deaf Study Dec. 10: I am so burned by these people in the Board of Education because they just give us so much pessimism. They are trying to bulldoze our Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind solely despite our work to save this school. We have many good activities

and five benefits for the deaf students.

The problem is the parents of deaf children do not understand ISDB. Most likely they believe keeping their children in their families, and I can understand it, but what about their deaf children's own good and need. ISDB is best for them.

What are the five benefits for deaf students? Education, social life, sports, dolls and donuts, and role models. These are just the same as public schools. No difference, just different communication — sign language. All except education are better for the deaf students in ISDB than public schools. ISDB used to have good or-

entations, but in the early '90s, they are gone due to declining numbers of students. This was caused by the director of deaf services, not Dr. Ramon. Because I asked some students and they said they and their parents don't like him! He hurt our school! He and Jim Rainer, a former superintendent, made a big mistake shutting down all vocational classes where the deaf students can go to work without any vocational skill. Perhaps they will live on SSD benefit.

I asked the superintendent twice about a media message about this ISDB for TV program and let the parents know about our school. I learned about California School for

the Deaf in Riverside and the school is saved and now it has more than 500 students. Our school did not do anything in a few years. I wonder why? ERL HAFFER JR.  
Gooding

**Write to us**  
The Times-News welcomes letters from readers, but please limit letters to 300 words. Include your signature, mailing address and telephone number. Writers who sign letters with their names will be permanently identified. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls office, mailed to 80, Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to (208) 734-6538; or e-mailed to letters@mgcvalley.com.

## LETTERS



# Why isn't there a 'return to sender' stamp for e-mail?

**D**on't e-mail me. That address on the bottom of this column? That is the pathetic, confused death knell of the once-proud newspaper industry, and I want nothing to do with it. Sending an e-mail to that address is about as useful as sending your study group report about Iraq to the president.

JOEL STEIN

Here's what my Internet-forging editors have failed to understand: I don't want to talk to you; I want to talk at you. A column is not my attempt to engage in a conversation with you. I have more than enough people to converse with. And I don't listen to them either. That sound on the phone, Mom, is me typing.

Some newspapers even list the phone numbers of their reporters at the end of their articles. That's a smart use of their employees' time. Why not just save a step and have them set up a folding table at a senior citizen center with a sign asking for complaints?

Where does this end? Does Philip Roth have to put his e-mail at the end of his book? Does Tom Hanks have to hold up a sign with his e-mail at the end of his movie? Should your hotel housekeeper leave her e-mail on your sheets?

Are you starting to see how creepy this is? Not everything should be interactive. A piece of work that stands on its own, without explanation or defense, takes on its own power. If Martin Luther put his 95

Where does this end? Does Philip Roth have to put his e-mail at the end of his book? Does Tom Hanks have to hold up a sign with his e-mail at the end of his movie? Should your hotel housekeeper leave her e-mail on your sheets?

Theses on the wall and then all the townfolk sent him their comments, and he had to write back to all of them and clarify what he meant, some of the theses would have gotten all watered down and there never would have been a Diet of Worms. And then, for the rest of history, elementary school students learning about the Reformation would have nothing to make fun of. You can see how dangerous this all is.

I got that you have opinions you want to share. That's great. You're the Person of the Year. I just don't have any interest in them. First of all, I did a tiny bit of research for my column, so I'm already familiar with your brilliant argument. Second, I've already written my column, so I can't even steal your ideas and get paid for them.

There is no practical reason to send your rants to me. If you want to counter my opinion publicly, write a letter to the editor. If you want me fired, write a letter to the publisher. If you want a note back, write a letter in lipstick on the bathroom mirror. Or you could just write mean things about my column on some blog. Don't worry, I'll send them. I have a "Joel Stein" RSS feed that goes straight

into my arteries. But don't make me feel like you expect a return e-mail. Because this takes my assistant four to five hours every week. I know this because my assistant is me.

Huge portions of my e-mails come from people who haven't even read my article. They're just assuming, based on a headline or an excerpt on a blog, that I'm unpatriotic or irreligious or lecherous. Sure, they happen to be right, but it would have been nice if they had clicked on my column and moved me up on that "most-read articles" list.

A lot of e-mail screeds argue that, in return for the privilege of broadcasting my opinion, I have the responsibility to listen to you. I don't. No more than you have a responsibility to read me. I'm not an elected servant. I'm an arrogant, solipsistic, attention-needy freak who pretends to have an opinion about everything. I don't have time to listen to you. I barely have time to listen to me.

Part of the problem is that no etiquette has yet been established for the hyper-interactive world. And I, born before MySpace and e-mail, don't feel comfortable getting a letter and not answering it. And then, if I do, suddenly, we're then, with all those

pen pal responsibilities. And I don't want a pen pal who already has strong opinions about me. What fun is that? I want a pen pal named Simone who lives in Grenoble and is trying to learn English while I learn French, and teaches me with vague promises to come visit over summer break even though she never does.

So I'm going to establish a new etiquette. I'm asking my editors to build a page on opinionlatimes.com where, instead of e-mailing me, you can write about how arrogant I am.

And maybe on this site, one brave person will write about how I'm right to stand up against this world of false, easy community, where columnists pretend they think their essays are no more valuable than yours, and friendship is a stranger who thanks you for the MySpace add.

And I hope that this brave someone else is smart enough to think of a username and IP address that doesn't reveal that it's obviously me.

Despite Joel Stein's protests, readers can still e-mail him at [jstein@latimescolumnists.com](mailto:jstein@latimescolumnists.com).

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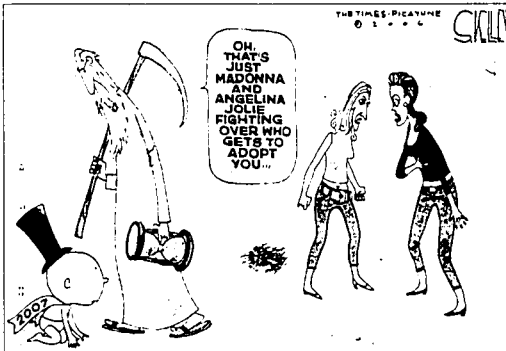
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**Twin Falls Canal Company NOTICE**  
Of Regular Stockholders' Meeting

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** that the regular meeting of the Stockholders of the Twin Falls Canal Company will be held on Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of January, 2007. The meeting will be called to order by the Directors at 9:00 a.m. in the Rick Allen Room of the Herrett Center at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls.

Directors from District 2 (Twin Falls and South of Kimberly) and District 4 (Buhl) will be elected for three-year terms.

Other business will also be transacted. There will be reports from the Company's General Manager, auditors and lawyers. There will also be reports concerning operation and maintenance efforts, 2007 water supplies, water call, and other matters of interest.

The corporate books will be closed for the transfer of stock effective December 29, 2006.

The polls shall be open at the office of the Company at 357 Sixth Avenue West, Twin Falls, Idaho, between the hours of 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m. on January 9, 2007.

Proxies shall be filed with the Company's Assistant Secretary at the Company Office on or before January 5, 2007.

DATED this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December 2006.

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Brian Olmstead, Assistant Secretary

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# Guard arrested over cameraphone at Saddam's hanging

By Athena Parlow  
The Washington Post

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The Iraqi government's dismay over the unauthorized release of footage of Saddam Hussein's execution led to the arrest Wednesday of a security guard who used a cell-phone camera to record the

hanging, according to an adviser to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

The prime minister's political adviser, Sadiq al-Rikabi, said Iraqi authorities are questioning the guard to see whether he acted independently or was working with others to undermine the government's desire

to reveal only a brief portion of the execution, al-Rikabi would not identify the guard, who had not been charged, or say where he was being held.

The video, which spread widely on the Internet, shows an unruly spectacle in which an onlooker taunts Hussein by yelling, "Go to hell." Another

voice is heard chanting, "Muqtada, Muqtada, Muqtada" in reference to Muqtada al-Sadr, the Shiite cleric who leads one of Iraq's most powerful militias.

The video outraged Sunni Muslim loyalists to Hussein and was condemned by some Western leaders, such as

Britain's deputy prime minister, John Prescott, who called the images "unacceptable."

The release of the footage was "a mistake. It was not something proper or acceptable," al-Rikabi corrected. "This execution was not an open event, to have been seen by the people all over the world. This is

an implementation of justice and we needed just a small piece about the execution, just to show the people. This is Saddam," he said.

al-Rikabi said cellphones and cameras were collected from witnesses after the execution in an attempt to prevent such an incident.

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SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

Table with columns for Team, W, L, and Points. Lists various teams and their records.

Table with columns for Team, W, L, and Points. Lists various teams and their records.

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Table with columns for Team, W, L, and Points. Lists various teams and their records.

GAME PLAN

LOCAL TV SCHEDULE

Table listing local TV schedules for various sports events, including basketball and football.

Table listing national TV schedules for various sports events, including basketball and football.

SKI REPORT

Text reporting on ski conditions and events at various resorts, including Snow College and Owyhee.

WRESTLING

Table listing wrestling results and records for various teams.

WRESTLING

Table listing wrestling results and records for various teams.

FOOTBALL

Table listing football game results, scores, and records.

HOCKEY

Table listing hockey game results, scores, and records.

TRANSACTIONS

Text listing various sports transactions, including player movements and signings.

WRESTLING

Table listing wrestling results and records for various teams.

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Table listing wrestling results and records for various teams.

WRESTLING

Table listing wrestling results and records for various teams.

HOCKEY

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Table listing wrestling results and records for various teams.

BETTING

Text discussing betting odds and market trends for various sports events.

HOCKEY

Table listing hockey game results, scores, and records.

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FOOTBALL

Table listing football game results, scores, and records.

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Table listing hockey game results, scores, and records.

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Table listing wrestling results and records for various teams.

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Dorian Dr.
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INSIDE: See what Snoopy and the rest of Peanuts are up to, D3



INSIDE: Comics, D2-3 | Stocks, D4

## Idaho's average annual wage jumped in 2005

But workers still struggle to make ends meet

By Sandy Miller  
Times-News writer

**TWIN FALLS** — Workers' paychecks got a little bigger in 2005, according to the latest study by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

In south-central Idaho, workers in Camas County saw the greatest salary increase between 2004 and 2005. Camas County workers had an average annual salary of \$24,260 in 2005, up from \$21,630 — or 12.12 percent — from the previous year. The bad news is that even with the increase, the salaries of Camas County workers are still the lowest in south-central Idaho.

Gooding County workers saw the second largest increase. The average annual salary of people in Gooding County in 2005 was \$26,997, up from \$24,486 — or 10.25 percent — from the previous year.

The figures in the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis study were determined based on the location of the employees, not where the employees live, according to a news release from Idaho Commerce and Labor. That gave Butte County the highest average wage in Idaho at over \$60,000 because of the highly paid technical jobs at the Idaho National Laboratory, the news release said. Ada County was second at \$36,332. Oneida County, heavily reliant on agriculture, had the lowest average wage at \$20,400.

The national average annual wage rose 3.5 percent to \$40,146 in 2005, and the

statewide average annual wage was \$30,306, up from \$29,423 the previous year, putting it back over 76 percent of the national average wage for the first time since 2002.

"One of the positives of that would indicate that there's a lower cost of doing business in Idaho compared to other states," said Brent Tolman, manager of the Mini-Cassia office of Idaho Commerce and Labor.

Still, salaries in south-central Idaho, with the exception of Blaine County, trailed well behind the statewide average. The average annual salary in Blaine County in 2005 was \$32,133, up from \$31,145 — or 3.17 percent — from the previous year.

Workers in Twin Falls County had the next to lowest salaries in the south-central region, making an average annual salary of \$25,138 in 2005, up from \$24,226 the pre-

### Average annual wages in south-central Idaho

| County     | 2004     | 2005     | % Change |
|------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Jerome     | \$25,179 | \$26,895 | 6.82%    |
| Gooding    | \$24,486 | \$26,997 | 10.25%   |
| Blaine     | \$31,145 | \$32,133 | 3.17%    |
| Cassia     | \$24,184 | \$25,453 | 5.33%    |
| Lincoln    | \$23,704 | \$25,843 | 9.02%    |
| Mildred    | \$22,894 | \$25,403 | -6.32%   |
| Twin Falls | \$24,226 | \$25,138 | 3.76%    |
| Camas      | \$21,638 | \$24,260 | 12.12%   |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

vious year. That's just a tad less than a \$1,000 increase, which the head of the Idaho AFL-CIO said wasn't a raise at all.

"If you got a thousand dollar raise for the year, you ended up in the hole," said Dave Whaley, president of the state chapter of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial

Organizations, a federation of 54 national and international labor unions. "Wages might have gone up a little, but living costs also went up, especially fuel. It was up close to \$3 a gallon. Nationally, we were up around the top for fuel costs."

Whaley said the costs of health care, food and housing also went up, making it harder for Idaho workers to make

ends meet, raise or no raise.

Whaley said the Idaho AFL-CIO would like to see Idaho lawmakers make things better for workers this year by raising the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour and then making sure it continues to keep up with the cost of living.

"We'd like to see the minimum wage indexed with the Consumer Price Index so it keeps pace with the cost of living," Whaley said. "Washington and Oregon already do that."

Whaley said it's time for Idaho to help its workers get ahead.

"We want to start turning things around," Whaley said. "We need to invest in our wages and our people."

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

## Washington potato producers fear Chinese competition

The Associated Press

MOSES LAKE, Wash. — The potential for competition from China is one of the top long-term concerns of Washington's potato growers and processors. The industry's state marketing agency has determined.

Changing consumer demographics, issues involving sustainable agriculture and natural resource management also were identified by the staff of the Washington State Potato Commission in Moses Lake as key issues, said Chris Voigt, executive director.

Reporting at the commission's long-range planning meeting last month in Pasco, Voigt noted that about half of Washington's potato crop is exported.

In 2005 potatoes ranked fourth in the state in terms of crop value at \$34.6 million, trailing only apples (\$1.23 billion), milk (\$835.5 million) and cattle and calves (\$601.3 million).

Washington is second only to Idaho in potato production nationally, and those two states combined with Oregon produce about 60 percent of the U.S. crop.

China has the capacity to become a world force in potato export markets despite significant challenges, including infrastructure, use of fertilizers and chemicals and transportation to bring crops to markets, Voigt said.

"We export about 50 percent of our crop overseas, and if all of a sudden China decides to become a big player in this industry, we essentially won't be able to export that much," Voigt said. "It'll be some competition."

For now the commission will aggressively pursue further exports and new markets for Washington potatoes, Voigt said.

"Once we start seeing China develop their potato industry, we're going to

"Once we start seeing China develop their potato industry, we're going to have to take a step back and re-evaluate what the next steps are."

— Chris Voigt, executive director of Washington State Potato Commission in Moses Lake

have to take a step back and re-evaluate what the next steps are," he said.

In the United States, the top consumers of potatoes are households with children, and producers are concerned about what happens when children leave home for college, the military or employment, Voigt said.

"As our baby boomers become empty nesters, the biggest group of our best customers are now going to be some of our worst customers," Voigt said.

At the same time, baby boomers have more disposable income and tend to eat out more often, boosting opportunities for sales restaurants and their suppliers but also raising other concerns, he said.

Several food service distributors have asked potato suppliers for a corporate stewardship policy on employee pay, environmental awareness and pesticide use.

"That is a concern for us because we don't want some guy in a cubicle making all these decisions, not knowing what it's like to farm," Voigt said. "We just need a seat at the table to say, 'A lot of these things that you're asking are possible. We can probably do them, but this is the added cost, or here are some of the tradeoffs.'"

## Shopping sabbatical



Friends, from left, John Perry, Kris Boyd and Rachel Kesel, look at Perry's Christmas tree Friday in San Francisco. Perry got the tree along with color-coordinated ornaments and lights on craigslist.org from a man who was only too happy to unload it. The friends have vowed to take a sabbatical from retail shopping.

## After a year of not buying anything new, San Francisco group looks back

By Lisa Laff  
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — It began, as grand ideas often do, over a dinner — risotto, artisan cheese and wine. What would it be like, 10 environmentally conscious friends wondered as they discussed the state of the planet, to go a year without buying anything new?

Twelve months later, the results from their experiment in anti-consumption for 2006 are in: Staying 100 percent true to the goal proved both harder and easier than those who signed on expected.

And while broken vacuum cleaners and malfunctioning cell phones posed challenges, some of the group's original members say the self-imposed shopping sabbatical was so liberating that they've resolved to do it for another year.

"It started in a lighthearted way, but it is very serious," said John Perry, 42, a father of two who works for a Silicon Valley technology company. "It is about being aware of the excesses of consumer culture and the fact we are drawing down our resources and making people miserable around the world."

The pledge they half-jok-

"It started in a lighthearted way, but it is very serious."

— John Perry, 42, member of San Francisco group who didn't buy anything new for a year

ingly named The Compact, after the Mayflower pilgrims, spread to other cities through the Internet and an appearance on the "Today" show. As it turned out, The Compact was modest as far as economic boycotts go. Several cities in the United States and Europe have communities of "freegans," people whose contempt for consumerism is so complete they eat food foraged from Dumpsters whenever possible, train hop and sleep in abandoned buildings on principle.

The San Francisco group, by contrast, exempted food, essential toiletries like toothpaste and shampoo, underwear and other purchases that fell under the categories of health and safety from their pledge.

But members because its members included middle-class professionals who could afford to shop recreationally, their cause caught on. Nearly 3,000 people have joined a user group Perry set up on Yahoo so participants could swap goods and tips.

Besides thrift stores and garage sales, participants found a wealth of free or previously owned merchandise in online classifieds and sites where people post stuff they want to get rid of, such as www.freecycle.org and www.garbageout.com.

After going through an initial period of retail withdrawal, discovering just how easy it was to score pretty much anything with a little time and effort was an eye-opener, according to participants.

Rachel Kesel, 26, who works as a dog walker, said she was astonished by how often the items she needed simply materialized — the friend who offered a bicycle seat when hers was stolen, the Apple store employees who fixed her laptop at no cost.

Similarly fortuitous timing happened often enough that group members came up with a name for it — "Compact Karma."

After postponing purchases such as a new desk breaker and a different surf for his pierced tongue — she couldn't

bring herself to buy a used one — Kesel broke down only twice.

Once was when she was planning a trip to Israel and couldn't find a used guidebook that reflected current political realities. The other was after her commuter coffee cup suffered a fatal crack.

"I really found a lot of times there were things I thought I needed that I didn't need that much," she said.

The pledge provided unexpected dividends as well, such as the joy of getting reacquainted with the local library and paying down credit cards. Gone, too, was the hangover of buyer's remorse.

Perry got satisfaction out of finding he had a knack for fixing things and how often manufacturers were willing to send replacement parts and manuals for products that had long since outlived their warranties.

Over the holidays, Compact members gave homemade gifts or charitable donations in a recipient's name instead of engaging in the usual Grinch-making shopping spree. Kate Boyd, 45, a set designer and high school drama teacher, visited a new downtown shopping mall and felt like she had just stepped off a flying saucer.

### Stocks of local interest

| Stock                         | Price | Change |
|-------------------------------|-------|--------|
| Dell Inc.                     | 25.49 | ▲ 40   |
| Lincoln Motor                 | 27.22 | ▼ 1.54 |
| Supervalu                     | 35.99 | ▲ 24   |
| <b>Commodities</b>            |       |        |
| Feb. oil                      | 58.32 | ▼ 2.73 |
| (Light sweet crude by barrel) |       |        |
| Jan. gold                     | 627.1 | ▼ 8.1  |

### Market Watch

| Index                 | Value     | Change  |
|-----------------------|-----------|---------|
| Dow Jones Industrials | 12,474.52 | ▲ 17.77 |
| Nasdaq composite      | 2,423.16  | ▲ 1.54  |
| Standard & Poor's 500 | 1,416.63  | ▲ 0.25  |
| Russell 2000          | 787.42    | ▲ 0.25  |

For more, see page D4

# COMICS

**B.C.** By Johnny Hart

RETIRED FOREST

OH, YOU'RE GOING TO THE FOREST?

A HUNDRED TIMES I TOLD YOU: LEARN TO READ!

**Baby Blues** By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THE VAN WON'T BE READY UNTIL TOMORROW.

THAT'S WHAT I WAS HEARD OF.

WHY? IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH THE LONGER CAR?

ONLY ONE.

AFTER I GET THE CAR SEAT BOOSTER SEATS AND DIAPER BAG IN THERE'S NO ROOM FOR THE KIDS.

**Baldo** By Hector D. Cantu and Carlos Castellanos

OH MAN... I'M HAVING TROUBLE WITH MY EYES.

YOUR EYES?

I DON'T SEE WISEF CONING IN TOMORROW.

TOTALLY.

**Brevity** By Guy & Rodd

WANT TO BE A BREVITY BAGGAGE PORTER?

**Dilbert** By Scott Adams

MY DOCTOR SAYS IT WILL BE EASIER IF I DIET WITH A BUDDY. DO YOU WANT IN ON THIS?

GOOD LORD, I THINK I JUST DEVELOPED AN EATING DISORDER!

THEY SAY THE FIRST 20 POUNDS ARE THE EASIEST.

NOT HELPING!

**Doonesbury** By Garry Trudeau

I AM PRETTY SURE THAT MY DESIGNATION CHIEF HAD TO BE FOR LUNCHES AT THE OFFICE. SO I'M A...

THAT WAS THE ONLY REASON ON YOUR RECORD.

OH, SO I MAY HAVE ASSIGNED A LIGHT BROWN TURTLE NECK.

WELL, THAT DOESN'T SOUND SO GOOD.

AND THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO BE A BREVITY BAGGAGE PORTER.

I AM NOT SURE THAT I WANT TO BE A BREVITY BAGGAGE PORTER.

**The Elderberries** By Phil Frank and Joe Teise

It's 2007 already! Where does the time go, Dusty?

Seems like it was only yesterday that I was a man with nothing but a couple of dollars, a horse and a saddlebag full o' dreams.

Actually... that was yesterday, Dusty!

Esmeralda! I bring ya an apple!

**For Better or For Worse** By Lynn Johnston

WHEW! I'M IN THE HOUSE! I'M HOME!

WELL, YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE.

I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME. I GOT TO GO TO WORK.

WELL, THAT DOESN'T SOUND SO GOOD.

AND THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO BE A BREVITY BAGGAGE PORTER.

I AM NOT SURE THAT I WANT TO BE A BREVITY BAGGAGE PORTER.

**Frank and Ernest** By Bob Thaves

I WAS ON A ROLL AND THEN THE BACKSPIN KICKED IN.

**Luann** By Greg Evans

I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE PERFECT TO WEAR WHEN YOU READ THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BOOKS EVER.

SO HELP ME OUT IN A MINUTE.

WELL, YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE.

I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME. I GOT TO GO TO WORK.

WELL, THAT DOESN'T SOUND SO GOOD.

AND THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO BE A BREVITY BAGGAGE PORTER.

I AM NOT SURE THAT I WANT TO BE A BREVITY BAGGAGE PORTER.

**Mallard Fillmore** By Bruce Timsley

FOLKS WITH PH.D.S IN "EDUCATION"... I RESOLVE TO USE MY DEGREE... TO GET GRANTS AND MULL ARCAINE FACTS...

TO PREPARE STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THE NATION... TO SPEND THEIR LIVES FLIPPING BIG MACS...

**Pearls Before Swine** By Stephan Pastis

HELLO, SIR. I'D LIKE TO GET THE FATTEN-UP AND CHOCOLATE MEDIUM WELLS AND A GLASS OF YOUR FINEST PIROGNIER.

WELL, YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE.

I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME. I GOT TO GO TO WORK.

WELL, THAT DOESN'T SOUND SO GOOD.

AND THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO BE A BREVITY BAGGAGE PORTER.

I AM NOT SURE THAT I WANT TO BE A BREVITY BAGGAGE PORTER.

**Pickles** By Brian Crane

I THINK YOU SHOULD BE PROUD OF THE FACT THAT NO ONE WANTS TO BUY YOUR PAINTINGS.

IT VALIDATES YOU AS AN ARTIST. IT MEANS YOU'RE MISUNDERSTOOD. IT MEANS YOU'RE AN AVANT-GARDE.

YOU KNOW WHAT? YOU'RE RIGHT IT DOES!

WHAT'S AN AVANT-GARDE, GRAWP?

PHONN!

**Rose is Rose** By Pat Brady

WILL THEY BE OKAY, DADDY?

FREEZE! WE'LL HAVE TO SHOCK THEM LATER ON WHEN THEY OVER!

LET'S GO TO THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS EVER!

LET'S GO TO THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS EVER!

**Zits** By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY. I'M JUST SENDIN' U THIS TXT MSG BOIZ THE DAPPIN' BOIZ IN YER CRACK.

**Non Sequitur** By Wiley

THE OLD TESTAMENT, ACCORDING TO CLIFF'S NOTES

ON YOU SAY YOU ENJOYED GREG, BUT I WANT TO SEE SOME PROOF...

## Use fleeting superstar status, Gemini

IF JAN. 4 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: The allure of the fresh and exciting can bring you in contact with unusual people and progressive ideas between now and the end of February. Effective leadership skills can win you favors and assistance in May. Anything of major importance that you start in May should be blessed by good luck and favorable results. Focus on creating firm goals because in October and November your popularity will soar and you can apply for a new job, change careers, or maybe find the soul mate you have been searching for all your life.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Tread new terrain. Fly by the seat of your pants when putting unique ideas into motion. You will most successful by briefly ignoring the status quo and experimenting with the untried or untested.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20):** Recent relaxation has left you hungry for more. Investigate ways to have your cake and eat it, too.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Capitalize on fleeting superstar status. In your quiet corner of the world it isn't clear that there is a positive "buzz" about you. Your reputation gets a shot in

**HOROSCOPE**  
Jeralaine Saunders

the arm from an unknown source.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Work a few wonders. The desire for further adventure and excitement might not go over well with an old buddy. This is a good time to make a successful break from a bad relationship.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Apply for the flow. A significant other might surprise you with a touch of the exotic or a sudden change of plans. Play the part of the entrepreneur rather than remaining stagnant as a traditionalist.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Make up your own mind. It might be cultural expectations that cause you to choose "X" over "Y." Avoid repeating old patterns or following others along a well-worn and familiar rut.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You may be a magnet for admirers. Rather like moths to a flame, new people who appear in your circle now are attracted by your warmth, but hope your success will rub off on them.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Sniff out your most loyal companions. A special someone could find it to be a huge turn on. Business contacts are only interested in what you can do for them.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Gain the skills needed to handle change successfully. By boning up on the latest techniques or methods. Make new friends who might offer enlightenment or encouragement.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You can't hit two targets with one arrow. Don't spread yourself too thin or jump from one subject to another. Be flexible enough to listen, but hard-headed enough to "do your own thing."

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Enhance your street cred. You will be more effective if you let people know about your talents. Be willing to explore unusual options so you can navigate through a maze of information.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Jump important hurdles. Do not hesitate. Shake off limitations and bypass obstacles by getting right to the point and using dynamic leadership skills.

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



The Born Loser

By Art Sansom, & Chip



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



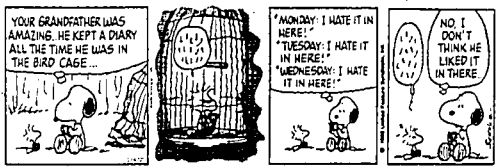
Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



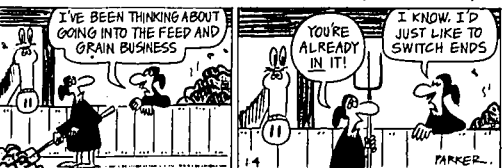
Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Keane



# Vets suffering from stress can find the help they need



DEAR ABBY Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** Although I am not a mental health professional, I am concerned for the welfare of "Stressed in Pennsylvania" (Nov. 22), who is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder due to his four tours in Iraq. As a current commander of troops and a two-time returnee from "down range," I take caring for soldiers seriously and I would opine that the writer's healing process has already begun. It began as soon as the soldier acknowledged he had demons he could not deal with.

Regardless of a soldier's location in the continental United States, the Veterans Administration has a steady stream of counselors available for any soldier — past and present — dealing with the aftermath of his experience in Iraq. In addition, depending on his location and current status (active duty or retired), he can go to any base and seek assistance through the Community Mental Health Agency. Within that office he will find a host of professional and able to assist him with the symptoms associated with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are witnessing and taking part in some horrific situations. Many of those incidents are unlike any war in which our forces have ever been involved. Post-traumatic

stress disorder cannot be taken lightly, and many people throughout our nation do not, nor should they, understand all of the underlying implications associated with the condition. It's something that should be addressed immediately, though, depending on the severity of the situation.

To the writer of that letter: Good luck, Godspeed, and thank you to all of my sisters and brothers in uniform for your service to our nation.

— CONCERNED MEDICAL SERVICES CAPTAIN

**DEAR CONCERNED:** Thank you for your helpful letter. For any other veterans who are reading this column and are perhaps in need of assistance, I am offering a reference you can use to begin your quest for support: [www.vetapd.va.gov](http://www.vetapd.va.gov).

The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched this Web site for the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, a special center within Veterans Affairs. The center is designed to advance the clinical care and social welfare of America's veterans through research, education

and training in the science, diagnosis and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder and related disorders. The Web site is provided as an educational resource regarding post-traumatic stress disorder and other enduring consequences of traumatic stress, for a variety of audiences, but does not replace face-to-face interaction with a clinical practitioner. If someone is in need of assistance for problems related to his or her experience in combat, he or she should seek help immediately. Read on:

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm a Vietnam vet who also has post-traumatic stress. "Stressed" should go to a veterans hospital, veterans center, or contact a veterans service officer through his county. Counseling is available on a one-to-one basis or group therapy.

I take two or three sets each month to assist them in getting the services and help they need. These are veterans of all ages, branches of the service and all wars/conflicts. The best way to resolve these service-related issues is to talk with someone else who has experienced the same problems.

Help is out there. "Stressed in Pennsylvania" can also look in the Yellow Pages of his phone book.

—VIETNAM VET, PITTSBURGH, CALIF.

## Military toilet paper has special pattern



RANDOM KINDS OF FACTNESS Erin Barrett & Jack Mingo

Military toilet paper is camouflaged, since bright white could attract enemy fire at a very vulnerable time. There have been reports in past wars of tank crews TP-ing their tanks to hide them better.

This day in history: Happy birthday, Jacob Grimm! While most famous for collecting fairy tales with his brother Wilhelm, Jacob — born on Jan. 4, 1785 — should also get credit for his most under-rated accomplishment: inventing the word "umbilic."

What were Ulam Gen. John Sedgwick's last words before he was felled by a Confederate sharpshooter? "What! Men dodging for single bullets? I am ashamed of you. They couldn't hit an elephant at this distance!" If you adopt a tortoise, make sure your children and grandchildren won't mind taking care of it. It's common for them to live 150 years or more.

a brand-name prescription drug they've seen advertised on television. Of those who asked, 34 percent received a prescription for that drug.

The first guide dog, they were trained in Potsdam, Germany, for veterans blinded in World War I.

A study found that the average household has eight toilet paper rolls in reserve to avoid running out. It also discovered that households run by people under 30 ran out of toilet paper more often than households run by people over 50.

Those who study hippopotamuses categorize their sounds into grunts, chuffs, and hanks. Whatever you can vocalize at 113 decibels, about as loud as a jet engine or rock concert.

Erin Barrett and Jack Mingo can be reached at [factmangos@mingo-barrett.com](mailto:factmangos@mingo-barrett.com).

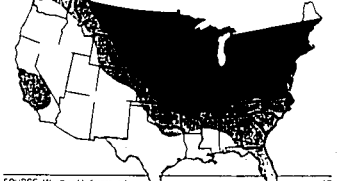
## Warm winter sparks strange sights

### Warm winter weather in East, Midwest

Temperatures for December were warmer than normal for much of the Midwest and East Coast.

Temperature departure from normal Dec. 2006

1-2° below 1-3° above 3-5° 5-8° 8°+



SOURCE: Weather Underground

CHICAGO (AP) — Crocuses are pushing out of the ground in New Jersey. Ice fishing tournaments in Minnesota are being canceled for lack of ice. And golfers are hitting the links in Chicago in January.

Much of the Midwest and the East Coast are going through a remarkably warm winter, with temperatures in many spots 10 to 20 degrees higher than normal in many places.

"I'm not complaining, I can take this," said Rudolph Williams, a doorman in New York City who normally wears a hat this time of year but stood outside in 50-degree weather with his shaved head uncovered. "The Earth is recalibrating itself. Last year, we had a cold winter, and it's balancing itself out now. In January, it feels like the middle of April."

New York City saw a November and December without snow for the first time since 1877. And New Jersey had its warmest December since records started being kept 111 years ago.

Maria Freitas said that not only are crocus bulbs blooming in her Rahway, N.J., backyard, but the asparagus is three inches high.

"They think it's spring. They're so confused," she said.

Meteorologists say the warm spell is due to a combination of factors: El Niño, a cyclical warming trend now under way in the Pacific Ocean, can lead to milder weather, particularly in the Northeast; and the jet stream, the high-altitude air current that works like a barricade to hold back warm

Southern air, is running much warmer than usual over the East Coast.

The weather is prone to short-term fluctuations, and forecasters said the mild winter does not necessarily mean global warming is upon us. In fact, the Plains have been hit by back-to-back blizzards in the past two weeks.

"No cause for alarm. Enjoy it while you have it," said Mike Halpert, head of forecast operations at the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center.

Whatever the explanation, Amanda Dickens was enjoying the weather Wednesday at Baltimore's Inner Harbor as she ate lunch outside with her husband and 3-year-old son. Temperatures there were expected to reach 60 degrees.

In Chicago near Lake Michigan, 30 people teed off between 9 a.m. and noon, when there are usually no golfers at all this time of year.

Leonard Berg, the course's superintendent for maintenance, gestured to the fairways with pride: "For this time of year there would be a brown singe to it. Look at that nice emerald green."

At New York's Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the "everblooming" cherry trees are flowering more than usual, producing thousands of blooms instead of hundreds.

But the mild weather is also hurting some businesses and events.

In Minnesotina, where a water skier in a wetsuit was recently seen on the Mississippi River near St. Paul, ice fishing tournaments have been canceled.

MONEY

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund performance data including columns for Name, Share Class, and various performance metrics.

Table of mutual fund performance data, continuing from the previous table with columns for Name, Share Class, and performance metrics.

COMMODITIES REPORT

CLOSING FUTURES

Table of closing futures prices for various commodities like Corn, Soybeans, and Wheat.

CHEESE

Table of cheese prices for various types such as Cheddar, Swiss, and Brie.

POTATOES

Table of potato prices for different varieties and grades.

LIVESTOCK

Table of livestock prices including cattle, hogs, and sheep.

SUGAR

Table of sugar prices for various grades and origins.

BEANS

Table of bean prices for different types like navy and pinto.

METALS/MONEY

Table of metal prices including gold, silver, and platinum.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of New York Stock Exchange market data including volume, index, and top gainers/losers.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table of market summary data for NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ, including volume and index values.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table of NASDAQ National Market data including volume, index, and top gainers/losers.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE (Continued)

Continuation of New York Stock Exchange market data.

MARKET SUMMARY (Continued)

Continuation of Market Summary data.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET (Continued)

Continuation of NASDAQ National Market data.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table of stocks of local interest with columns for Name, Share Class, and price.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Text explaining how to read the market report, including symbols and abbreviations used.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of American Stock Exchange market data including volume, index, and top gainers/losers.

# TNT

Thursday, January 4, 2007

www.tnticket.com

3/1

TIMES-  
NEWS  
TICKET

## Ski, music festival in Sun Valley

Ski Month  
will be 'a giant  
celebration.'  
Page 3

Blaine County  
man plans  
film premiere  
Page 15

Performance  
of a 'Queen'  
Page 4

Also inside: Gamers' need for speed.....page 2

'Snakes' out on DVD .....page 7

Ciara's in the spotlight .....page 14

## Staples

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 New on DVD ..... Page 7  
 Events calendar ..... Pages 8-9  
 Dining guide ..... Page 12  
 Restaurant review Page 12  
 Karaoke Corner ..... Page 13  
 Auditions ..... Page 16

## On the cover

Photo courtesy of Renzo A. Ojeda Records

Turbulent maestro DJ Logic will be one of 13 hip-hop music acts in *Katzenbach Inc.*, 12-13 for the *Howda, Ski! Tour*.

# TNT

A publication of the  
Times-News

### Publisher

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Janet Goffin ..... 735-3254

### Classified

Customer service  
..... 733-0931, ext. 2

### Mail Information

The Times-News (UPS 631-060) is published daily at 132 Fairfield St. W. Twin Falls, by Lee Publications Inc., a subsidiary of Lee Enterprises.

Periodicals paid at Twin Falls by the Times-News. Official city and county newspaper pursuant to Section 6C-108 of the Idaho Code. Thursday is hereby designated as the day of the week on which legal notices will be published.

Postmaster, please send change of address form to: P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, Idaho 83303.

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Magie Valley Newspapers Inc.

## TOP 5

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

### TELEVISION

1. "NFL Postgame Show," CBS.
  2. "Deal or No Deal" (Monday), NBC.
  3. "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," CBS.
  4. "Identity," NBC.
  5. "CSI: Miami," CBS.
- From Nielsen Media Research

### FILM

1. "Night at the Museum," 20th Century Fox.
2. "The Pursuit of Happiness," Sony.
3. "Rocky Balboa," MGM.
4. "The God Shepherd," Universal.
5. "Charlotte's Web," Paramount.

### HOT FIVE

1. "Irreplaceable," Beyonce. Columbia.
  2. "Hanna Love You," Akon (feat. Snopp Dogg), SRC.
  3. "Fergalicious," Fergie. will.i.am.
  4. "Smack That," Akon (feat. Eminem), SRC.
  5. "My Love," Justin Timberlake. Jive.
- From Billboard magazine

### ALBUMS

1. "Hip Hop Is Dead." Nas. Def Jam/Columbia/IDJMG.
  2. Soundtrack: "Hannah Montana." Walt Disney.
  3. "NOW 23." Various artists. Sony BMG Strategic Marketing Group. (Platinum)
  4. "Some Hearts." Carrie Underwood. Arista. (Platinum)
  5. "Love." The Beatles. Apple. (Platinum)
- From Billboard magazine

### CONCERT TOURS

1. Elton John.
  2. Cirque Du Soleil — "Destinum." 3. Eric Clapton.
  4. Red Hot Chili Peppers.
  5. Aerosmith/Motley Crue.
- From Pollstar

### VHS RENTALS

1. "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby." Sony Pictures Home Entertainment.
2. "The Devil Wears Prada," 20th Century Fox.
3. "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest," Walt Disney Home Entertainment.

4. "World Trade Center," Paramount Home Entertainment.
  5. "Miami Vice," Universal Studios Home Video.
- From Billboard magazine

### VHS SALES

1. "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (Special Edition)," Walt Disney Home Video.
  2. "Frosty the Snowman," Sony Pictures Home Entertainment.
  3. "Shark Tale," DreamWorks Home Entertainment.
  4. "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring," New Line Home Entertainment.
  5. "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" Warner Reprise Video.
- From Billboard magazine

### DVD SALES

1. "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby," Sony Pictures Home Entertainment.
  2. "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest," Walt Disney Home Entertainment.
  3. "The Devil Wears Prada," 20th Century Fox.
  4. "Barnyard," Nickelodeon Video.
  5. "Cars," Walt Disney/Pixar.
- From Billboard magazine

### TOP ITUNES DOWNLOADS

1. "Radio Disney Exclusive: Push to the Limit," Corbin Bleu
  2. "Hip Hop Is Dead," Nas
  3. "Wintersong," Sarah McLachlan
  4. "Now That's What I Call Christmas 3," Various artists
  5. "Daughtry," Daughtry
- Apple Computers Inc.

### BEST-SELLING BOOKS

1. "For One More Day" by Mitch Albom (Hyperion) (fiction/hardcover)
  2. "Eragon" by Christopher Paolini (Knopf Books for Young Readers) (fiction/paperback)
  3. "The Audacity of Hope" by Barack Obama (Crown) (nonfiction/hardbound)
  4. "Cross" by James Patterson (Little, Brown) (fiction/hardbound)
  5. "The Innocent Man: Murder and Injustice in a Small Town" by John Grisham (Doubleday) (nonfiction/hardbound)
- USA Today

## VIDEO GAME REVIEW



A scene from the new video game 'Full Auto 2: Battlegrounds,' in which racers armed with machine guns and other weapons fight for first place.

## Racing games fuel the need for speed

BY MATT SLAGLE  
The Associated Press

Racing video games have come a long way since "Pole Position" was considered cutting-edge back in the 1980s.

Three recent titles — "Need for Speed Carbon," "Test Drive Unlimited" and "Full Auto 2: Battlegrounds" — show off the power of the newest consoles with jaw-dropping graphics that'll make you reach for a seat belt, even if you're sitting on the sofa.

• "Full Auto 2: Battlegrounds" (Rated T, \$59.99, PlayStation 3).

By far the best-looking of the bunch is "Full Auto 2" for the shiny new PS3.

It's less of a sequel than it is an enhanced version of the original "Full Auto," which was released for the Xbox 360 in early 2006.

The biggest changes to the original are improved graphics and new game modes. Notably, "Arena mode blends gas-guzzlers with shooting. Like in "Twisted Metal." Crossing the finish line isn't the goal here — blowing up your enemies is.

The game's regular racing modes are intense and the sensation of speed is practically overwhelming as you blur through various city districts with hood-mounted machine guns, missile launchers and smoke screens.

But like the original, the focus is on arcade-style action. The driving is about as simple as driving around in a bumper car.

Still, "Full Auto 2" is a pulse-raising escape from real-world gridlock.

• "Test Drive Unlimited" (Rated E10+, \$59.99, Xbox 360). This game for the Xbox 360 certainly does lap around the competition when it comes to realism.

An entire Hawaiian island is rendered in all its digital splendor, where speeding around is not a part of the daily commute — it's a lifestyle.

What's really unique about "TDU" is the online multiplayer feature for races against real people around the world. We've all played massively multiplayer online games involving dragons and dwarfs, but this is a first for race-car fans.

You can still play off-line, but clearly this game was meant to be enjoyed with others.

So what does one do here? Like most open-ended online games, that's really up to you. You can drive around, soup up your vehicles, win prize money from various races and even move into nicer dwellings eventually. Customizing and exploring are key draws here.

Please see RACING, Page 13

# Fire and Ice

## Inaugural Honda Ski Tour brings rock and skiercross to Sun Valley

Times-News

KETCHUM — Big-name music, big-time skiing.

That's the premise behind the inaugural Honda Ski Tour, a professional ski competition and music festival that will open in Sun Valley next week before moving on to Breckenridge and Aspen/Snowmass in Colorado and Squaw Valley in California.

The Honda Ski Tour, which starts Jan. 11, combines skiercross and skier halfpipe competitions with the BaseCamp Music Experience, a live music festival at each stop featuring cutting-edge bands from many popular genres. Musical acts include Hinder, Three Days Grace, The Wallers, Swollen Members, Don Carlos, Elan, Kamphire Collective, DJ Logic and DJ Jillian Ann.

The skier halfpipe competition represents a snow-bound evolution of skateboarding halfpipe, with competitors scored on the amplitude and style of their tricks.

Athletes confirmed for the Halfpipe competition include X Games medalists Tanner Hall and Simon Dumont, along with X Games competitors Matt Phillips, Laurent Favre and Justin Dorcy.



"Skiing is not considered the new, sexy thing, but it really is."

— Kipp Nelson, co-founder of the Honda Ski Tour

The skiercross competition involves head-to-head racing through a motocross-style course featuring jumps, banked turns, waves and modified terrain features. Skiercross competitors will include Olympians Daron Rahivets, Eric Schlopky,



Post-grunge Oklahoma rock outfit Hinder will perform at Ketchum's BaseCamp Music Pavilion on Jan. 13.

Canadian rockers Three Days Grace will open for Hinder at Ketchum's BaseCamp Music Pavilion.

Reggie Crist and Casey Puckett, along with X Games contenders Zach Crist, Davey Barr, Enak Gavaggio, Markus Wittner, Stanley Hayer and Kyle Sul.

Adding to the allure of The Honda Ski Tour was the recent announcement by the International Olympic Committee to add skiercross to the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Television coverage of The Honda Ski Tour is scheduled in four hour-long features to air nationally on ABC.

The co-founder of the Honda Ski Tour is former investment banker Kipp Nelson, a Blaine County resident since 2000.

"We don't have an event, a world-class event in the U.S. in the winter," Nelson said. Like NASCAR, the American version of the Grand Prix car races, the Ski Tour aims to challenge Europe, the place where most ski races happen. "We said, 'Why don't we do the same for skiing?' Skiing is not considered the new, sexy thing, but it really is."

Nelson hopes to develop a fan base for skiercross and skier halfpipe because they are visible and accessible for the average person.

"It's like roller derby meets motocross," Nelson said. "You see the first one over the finish line. If someone slides out on a turn, you see everyone pull away. You see mistakes and their consequences for the entire course. And the halfpipe is just awesome. I call them pilots. They really are pilots."

Nelson calls the Ski Tour "a genuine celebration" that starts on ski slopes and continues into the evening in town.

"It's got to have the whole town excited about it; otherwise, it's just a made-for-TV event," he said.

Sun Valley Ski Tour highlights will be broadcast on ABC Jan. 20.

— The Wood River Journal contributed to this report.

### Listen to the music

All tickets can be reserved by phoning (800) 965-4827, online at <http://www.ticketweb.com>, or at Atkinson's Markets in Ketchum and Hailey.

#### JAN. 12

- The Wallers and DJ Logic will perform at BaseCamp Music Pavilion at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15. The BaseCamp Museum Pavilion is on Ketchum's East Avenue between Fourth Avenue and Sun Valley Road.

- DJ Logic will play Whiskey Jacques at midnight. Tickets are \$10. Whiskey Jacques is at 251 N. Main St. in Ketchum.

- Swollen Members and Kamphire Collective will perform at the nextStage theater at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$20. The nextStage Theater is at 120 S. Main St. in Ketchum.

- Elan will play Ketchum Katina at 11 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Ketchum Katina is at 271 Main St.

- Daniela Cotton will perform at the Roosevelt Tavern at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Roosevelt Tavern is at 280 N. Main St. in Ketchum.

- Reardon & Friends will play Whiskey Jacques at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$15.

#### JAN. 13

- Hinder, Three Days Grace and DJ Aaro will play the BaseCamp Music Pavilion at 7-30 p.m. Tickets are \$35.

- DJ Aaro will perform at Ketchum Katina at 11 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

- Don Carlos will play Whiskey Jacques at 11 p.m. Tickets are \$25.

- Finger Eleven will play the nextStage theater at 11 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

- DJ Jillian Ann will perform at Roosevelt Tavern at 11 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

## Movies

## Now playing

## TWIN FALLS

## Twin Cinema

"Apocalypse"  
 "Carnie Royale"  
 "Charlotte's Web"  
 "Dipsy Doo"  
 "Eragon"  
 "Happy Feet"  
 "Happy Feet Ever After"  
 "The Heavenly Story"  
 "Night at the Museum"  
 "The Queen"  
 "We Are Marshall"

## Odyssey Theater

"Black Christmas"  
 "Blood Diamond"  
 "Code Name: The Cleaner"  
 "The Good Shepherd"  
 "The Pursuit of Happiness"  
 "Rocky Balboa"

## The Orpheum

"The Holiday"

## DANIEL YERGEN THEATRE

## Magic Lantern

"Blood Diamond"  
 "Dreagings"  
 "The Holiday"  
 "Night at the Museum"  
 "Rocky Balboa"

## Big Wood Cinemas

"Night at the Museum"  
 "The Pursuit of Happiness"  
 "Rocky Balboa"  
 "We Are Marshall"

## Ski Time Cinemas

"The Good Shepherd"  
 "The Pursuit of Happiness"

## BURLEY

## Century Cinema

"Charlotte's Web"  
 "Code Name: The Cleaner"  
 "Eragon"  
 "The Heavenly Story"  
 "Night at the Museum"  
 "Rocky Balboa"

## The Burlington Theater

"The Guardian"

## JEROME

## Jerome Cinema

"Apocalypse"  
 "The Holiday"  
 "Night at the Museum"  
 "Rocky Balboa"

## SHOSHONE

## Shoshone Showhouse

"Happy Feet"

## 'THE QUEEN'

## Helen Mirren's remarkable performance

BY DESSON THOMSON

Washington Post

It's drummed into every British head at some point during elementary school: The queen reigns but she does not rule. That constitutional irony is the chilly but entertaining subtext of "The Queen," Stephen Frears' (agelessly about the worst public relations crisis at Buckingham Palace since Henry VIII started behaving his wares.

The crisis begins in late August 1997, when Elizabeth II (played with frosty understatement by Helen Mirren) learns of Princess Diana's death. Refusing to make a public statement, the monarch remains sequestered at the royal family's Scottish retreat, hoping the whole thing will go away. Of course, it doesn't. And Elizabeth must learn that the road to the people's hearts is paved with empathy, not protocol.

Frears, whose assured resume includes "Dirty Pretty Things," "Dangerous Liaisons" and "My Beautiful Laundrette," proves again his uncanny instinct for fascinating matchups. "The Queen," which Peter Morgan scripted, plays as a battle between the forces of modernization — represented by newly elected Prime Minister Tony Blair (Michael Sheen) — and royal tradition, imperiously defenestrated by Elizabeth.

The queen wins the initial skirmish when she belittles Blair at their first meeting. ("You're my 10th prime minister," she informs him.) Later, when Blair suggests a state-side funeral to accommodate Diana's innumerable well-wishers, Elizabeth is no less withering.

"This is a family funeral, Mr. Blair," she says, "not a fairground attraction."

Blair's returning salvo is an impassioned speech before the



Helen Mirren's Queen Elizabeth II must learn that the road to the people's hearts is paved with empathy, not protocol.

David Lee

## 'The Queen'

Starring Helen Mirren, Michael Sheen, James Cromwell, Rated PG-13 for mild profanity. Now playing at Twin Cinema.

TV cameras in which he entombs Diana as the "people's princess" — a dead ringer, but he's memorable as a benevolent manipulator, moved by Diana's death yet resolved to use it to curry favor with his future subjects.

While it's fair to say "The Queen" gives the Windsors a right royal tanning, it also provides mitigating balance. Mirren's finely calibrated performance reveals a complex woman coping with a bewildering world, and Blair's growing sympathy for his beleaguered monarch gradually becomes ours. This nuanced compassion may not impress the real Queen Elizabeth II but, for us commoners, it makes for a richer experience.

Frears and Morgan show no such equivocation, however, when it comes to Diana. She's nothing less than a secular saint whose funeral — which we see in compelling news footage — brings state leaders, celebrities and common folk alike to Westminster Abbey. There are haunting images of her, particularly in the infamous TV interview in which she spoke of marital troubles with Charles. ("There were three of us in this marriage, so it was a bit crowded.")

And the many shots of real people grieving her death before mountains of flowers remain as moving now as they were nine years ago.

Against a spectral force like Diana, and all but corralled into the villain's corner, Elizabeth's only recourse is surrender. The same forbidding odds would seem to daunt Mirren's ability to evoke the audience's sympathy. But the actress, who returns to the British throne after a stunning, Emmy-winning performance as Elizabeth I, takes us on a breathless course from steele resolve to something approaching sensitivity. We gesture her every utterance and parse for the telling sign that portends deeper change.

Of course, we shouldn't hope for too much — this is based on a true story, after all. But watch Mirren as she steps outside her funeral car to inspect the scattered flowers and bouquets, only to find messages of contempt for the House of Windsor. See the pained eyes and the resolute bearing as she maintains her look of deep sympathy for the humbled crowds.

Understand what it truly means to reign but not rule.

Understand what it truly means to reign but not rule.

Understand what it truly means to reign but not rule.



It ain't over --- til it's over



# ROCKY BALBOA

PG Sylvester Stallone  
Now at Odyssey & Jerome

Help is Coming from Above



# Charlotte's Web

Now at the Twin Cinema

Birth of the CIA - From a Man Who Never Existed  
Matt Damon Angelina Jolie Robert DeNiro Joe Pesci



# the good shepherd

Now at Odyssey

Cameron Diaz Kate Winslet Jude Law Jack Black  
Sometimes times you need to Get away to Find Happiness



# the Holiday

Now at the Orpheum & Jerome Cinema

No One Can Out Run Their Destiny



# MEL GIBSON'S APOCALYPTO

Now at the Twin & Jerome Cinema

In a Dirty World, He is our Only Hope  
Cedric the Entertainer Lucy Liu Nicolette Sheridan  
Robert Clarke Deray Davis Gina Holden



# CODE NAME: THE CLEANER

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January 5 to 11, 2007

# MOVIES

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Sat - Sun 2:00 - 7:00 - 9:30 (Closed Thurs)

## JEROME 4

400 West Broadway  
St. Paul, MN 55102

The Holiday (R) Daily 7:00 - 9:30

In Stereo Surround Sound (Dolby) Daily 4:15 - 9:15

Sat - Sun 1:00 - 4:00 - 4:45 - 9:15

## Rocky Balboa (PG)

In Stereo Surround Sound (Dolby) Daily 7:15 - 9:30

Sat - Sun 12:30 - 1:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30

## Apocalypto (R)

In Stereo Surround Sound (Dolby) Daily 4:15 - 9:15

Sat - Sun 1:00 - 4:00 - 4:45 - 9:15

## Night at the Museum (PG)

In Digital Surround Sound (Dolby) Daily 7:00 - 9:15

Sat - Sun 12:30 - 2:30 - 5:15 - 9:15

## Twin 12

1400 East and Drive  
St. Paul, MN 55102

## Happy N'Ever After (PG)

Daily 7:15 - 9:15

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

## Casino Royale (PG)

Daily 7:15 - 9:15

Sat - Sun 12:45 - 3:15 - 7:45

## Charlotte's Web (G)

Daily 7:30 - 9:45

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

## Nativity Story (PG)

Daily 7:30 - 9:45

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

## Night at the Museum (PG)

Daily 7:00 - 7:15 - 9:30 - 9:55

Sat - Sun 12:30 - 1:00 - 3:30 - 4:00

## Eragon (PG)

Daily 7:30 - 9:55

Sat - Sun 12:30 - 3:30 - 7:30 - 9:55

## Happy Feet (PG)

Daily 7:15 - 9:45

Sat - Sun 12:30 - 3:30 - 7:30 - 9:55

## The Queen (PG)

Daily 7:20 - 9:45

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

## We Are Marshall (G)

Daily 6:45 - 9:30

Sat - Sun 1:00 - 4:00 - 6:45 - 9:30

## Apocalypto (R)

Daily 6:45 - 9:30

Sat - Sun 1:00 - 4:00 - 6:45 - 9:30

## Deja Vu (R)

Daily 4:45 - 9:30

Sat - Sun 1:00 - 4:00 - 6:45 - 9:30

## ODYSSEY 6

1400 East and Drive  
St. Paul, MN 55102

## The Pursuit of Happiness (R)

Daily 7:00 - 9:30

Sat - Sun 1:00 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:30

## Rocky Balboa (PG)

Daily 7:00 - 9:15

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

## Blood Diamond (R)

Daily 7:45

Sat - Sun 12:45 - 4:00 - 7:45

## Codename: The Cleaner (R)

Daily 7:30 - 9:45

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

## Good Shepherd (PG)

Daily 7:45

Sat - Sun 12:15 - 3:30 - 7:45

## Black Christmas (PG)

Daily 7:30 - 9:45

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

Denzel Washington



Now at the Twin Cinema

Inspired by a True Story

# the PURSUIT of HAPPYNESS

Golden Globe  
Nominated  
Will Smith

Now at the Odyssey



## The Future Looks Grimm

Sarah Michelle Gellar Freddie Prince Jr. Andy Dick George Carlin  
Bigmouth Weaver



# Happy N'Ever After

Now at the Twin Cinema

Based on a True Story - Hope Never Dies

Matthew McConaughey Matthew Fox Chris Cooper



Now at the Twin Cinema

Daniel Craig Eva Green Mads Mikkelsen Judi Dench



One of the Best Bonds Ever!

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it won't be a  
Silent Night

Ben Stiller Carla Gugino  
Owen Wilson Robin Williams



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and 1 at Jerome Cinema

Tradition prepared her. Change will define her.

Helen Mirren Michael Sheen James Cromwell Sylvia Syms

Golden Globe Nominated



Now at Twin Cinema

One Boy .... One Dragon..... World of Adventure

Edward Speleers Jeremy Irons Sienna Guillory John Malkovich



Now at the Twin Cinema

# Movie nuggets

• **"Apocalypse" / B-**  
Mel Gibson's latest passion play has all the gosh-gee elements you could find in the old Tintin series: a total eclipse, perilous leaps from a nighty waterfall, a man-eating panther, man-sucking quack and ritualistic human sacrifices. What it doesn't have is much of a story or deeper resonance than watching an Indiana Jones' sequence. Rudy Youngblood plays a young Mayan captured for sacrifice by warriors from the city, but he escapes and runs (and runs and runs) home. The highly accomplished filmmaking makes you wish all the more that Gibson would focus his talent on a film that didn't combine such simplistic storytelling with such elaborate orchestrations of bodily mutilation. Rated R (two sequences of graphic violence and disturbing images). In Yucatec Maya with English subtitles. 2 hours, 18 minutes.

• **"Black Christmas" / No rating** Remake of the 1970 horror movie about sorority sisters who are killed one by one over the holidays. With Michelle Trachtenberg, Mary Elizabeth Winstead. R.

• **"Blood Diamond" / B-** The movie's a diamond in the rough at best, but Leonardo DiCaprio's performance is a gem.

He plays a cynical smuggler in Africa in 1999 who wants to get his hands on a rare pink diamond. So does Djimon Hounsou, the poor farmer who found the jewel and needs it to get back his son. Journalist Jennifer Connelly doesn't want the stone itself, but its story so she can write an expose of the dirty dealings of the diamond industry. The movie often does itself in with its own bleeding-heart liberalism. Plus, it's much too long. But it's an ambitious effort to tell an important story, and DiCaprio may be nominated for an Oscar. Rated R (strong violence and language). 2 hours, 18 minutes.

• **"Casino Royale" / A-** In a kind of Bond Begins, Daniel Craig plays high-stakes poker with a bad guy who finances terrorists, romances luscious Eva Green and slowly acquires the expected accoutrements. The best Bond since Sean Connery, Craig brings consideration of aching chops to the role as well as a slynewy sense reminiscent of Steven Soderbergh's contemporary Steve McQueen. Rated PG-13 (intense sequences of violent action, a scene of torture, sexual content and nudity). 2 hours, 24 minutes.

• **"Charlotte's Web" / B-** Dakota Fanning plays the farm girl who saves the life of the runt pig Wilbur. But then it's up to the talking spider, Charlotte (voice of Julia Roberts), to save the porker again and again, making the movie a little repetitive. The

## About the rating system

The letter grades in these capsules are by reviewers for the **Associated Press**. The letter grades in these capsules are by reviewers for the **Associated Press**.

barnyard's vocal cast is starry (Robert Redford, Kathy Bates, Oprah). And kids will love the jokes. But the Life Lessons are laid on a little thick (if you made a drinking game of taking a swig every time someone mentioned the importance of keeping promises, you'd be tanked). Fair warning: The bitterness ending may provoke questions about death from young kids. Rated G. 1 hour, 36 minutes.

• **"Code Name: The Cleaner" / No rating** Cedric the Entertainer stars as an accidental undercover agent. PG-13.

• **"Deja Vu" / C-**

This hybrid time-travel, mystery/thriller stars Denzel Washington as an ATF agent who travels back in time to save a young woman (Paula Patton) and 500 people killed by a terrorist bombing of a New Orleans ferry. The movie tries to fuse time-travel romances such as "Somewhere in Time" and "Time After Time" with some of the futuristic video technology of "Strange Days." But none of it really sticks. And the ending is a head-scratcher that bends the rules of time-travel fiction. Rated PG-13 (intense sequences of violence and terror, disturbing images, and some sensuality). 2 hours, 6 minutes.

• **"Dreamgirls" / No rating** Adaptation of the Broadway musical about a female singing group in the 1960s stars Beyonce, Jennifer Hudson, Eddie Murphy and Jamie Foxx. PG-13.

• **"Eragon" / C+** More family-friendly (read: 12-15-year-olds) than soaring fantasy, this adaptation of Christopher Paolini's popular young-adult novel stars newcomer Edoardo Gobbetti as the farm boy/dragon rider who leads a re-

volt against nasty John Malkovich. Rachel Weisz voices her hero's blue-eyed dragon, and Jeremy Irons is the Aragon/Han Solo surrogate in the derivative flick. Pro that he is, Irons plunges into this stuff as if it were Shakespeare, but Speelers is model-peregrine and model-wooden. And Malkovich, at least on the evidence exhibited here, may be the laziest actor alive. Rated PG (fantasy violence, intense battle scenes and some frightening images). 1 hour, 39 minutes.

• **"The Good Shepherd" / A-** Director Robert De Niro has made one of the best films of the year — lengthy and demanding, but worth it. Matt Damon is superb as a CIA agent whose career begins at Yale in 1939 and ends in 1961 with the Bay of Pigs. The movie cleverly suggests the Mafia and the CIA operate in remarkably similar ways, while also showing us how power works in this country — how the corridors to a certain inner circle of presidents, CEOs, etc., open early and easily for a chosen few (read, mostly WASPs). Billy Crudup, John Turturro and William Hurt are fine as the men who maintain this shadowy world of intrigue and deceit, and Angelina Jolie is effective as a submissive '50s wife. Rated R (some violence, sexuality and language). 2 hours, 37 minutes.

• **"Happy Feet" / B-**

"Happy Feet" will be wooed by the stunning visuals — animated graphics crumble and CGI killer whales barrel into the sky. Happy penguins will love the classics-filled soundtrack. But some may be put off by the slushy plot and unnecessary ethnic and sexual stereotypes. Our hero, Mumble (voiced by Elijah Wood), is a dancing fowl in a tribe full of singing emperor penguins. The outcast sets out to find his own music and discover what's causing a deadly famine. The film is inventive, colorful, fast-moving and slightly soulless. Rated PG (some mild peril and rude humor). 1 hour, 38 minutes.

• **"Happily N'ever After" / No rating** Storybook characters find their existence in peril in this animated tale. With the voices of Sarah Michelle Geller, Freddie Prinze Jr. and Andy Dick. PG.

• **"The Holiday" / C** In this soggy, self-indulgent romantic comedy, a married L.A. type (Cameron Diaz) and a woe-gone English rose (Kate Winslet) swap houses for two weeks over the holidays, hoping the change will do them good. Jude and a unimpaired Jack Black play the men in their lives. Rated PG-13 (sexual content and some strong language). 2 hours, 15 minutes.

• **"The Nativity Story" / C+** In the wake of Mel Gibson's worldwide blockbuster "The Passion of the Christ" comes this new biblical film about the birth of Jesus. There's not much violence, thankfully, but plenty of greeting-card sincerity and moral fortitude. The acting is mostly just passable (real-life pregnant teen Keisha Castle-Neoh plays Mary). Oddly, director Catherine Hardwicke has chosen to drain most of the color from the film's cinematography. Her scenes are often dark and stark or just plain gray. What we end up with is something quite a bit less than the greatest story ever told. Rated PG (some violent content). 1 hour, 41 minutes.

• **"Night at the Museum" / C-** Jimmy Ben Stiller plays bumbling Larry Daley — a ner-do-we-didn't-dad, who, grasping at his last career straw, takes a job as a night watchman at New York's Museum of Natural History. Calculated, perhaps, to cover for a thin story and less than inspired performances, the computer-generated imagery kicks in quickly, when Daley learns on the first night on the job that the exhibits suddenly to come to life after the sun goes down, including Robin Williams as a wax figure of Rough Rider-era Teddy Roosevelt. But Williams, who looks his part, is pretty much unnecessary. **PG** **13**

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

**"Snakes on a Plane"**

R

This is an event. "Snakes on a Plane" is a rare example of a film not just living up to the hype, but surpassing it.

It accomplishes exactly what it sets out to do, and it does so in brilliant fashion. It's intense and suspenseful, scary and gory, darkly funny and sometimes giddily hysterical.

Director David R. Ellis ("Cellular," "Final Destination 2") and screenwriters John Heffernan, Sebastian Gutierrez and David Dalessandro faithfully work within the standards set by the fantastic disaster movies of the '70s—films like "The Towering Inferno" and "Airport 1975"—without resorting to outright parody, which "Airplane!" so ingeniously mastered.

So you can figure out who will live and who will die just by the obligatory bits of exposition about the characters as they board the red-eye heading from Honolulu to Los Angeles. The rude, condescending British guy who hates Americans is most likely a goner, for example. The two little boys flying by themselves for the first time will probably make it, as will the woman carrying a baby.

Agent Flynn (Samuel L. Jackson) has commanded first-class as he commands suffer-dude Sean Jones (Nathan Phillips) back to Los Angeles to testify about a murder he witnessed. Gang leader Eddie Kim (Byron Lawson), who committed the bloody killing back in Hawaii (and apparently wore a white suit specifically for the occasion) wants to make sure that Sean doesn't make it across the Pacific Ocean.

—The Associated Press

**"The Covenant"**

PG-13

All that's truly scary about "The Covenant" are the words that appear before the title: "A Renny Harlin Film."

This takes off from the man behind "Outback Island," "The Adventures of Ford Fair-



Jonathan Wrenk, Taylor Kitsch, Steve Strain and Toby Hemingway are bad company in 'The Covenant.'



Michael Houghton has a complaint about his air host seating in 'Snakes on a Plane.'

lane" and "Exorcist: The Beginning" feels more like the pilot for a geek-friendly prime-time drama on the old WB. It's trying very hard to establish its own unique supernatural world, albeit one that functions squarely within a recognizable, contemporary setting.

Based on a script by J.S. Cardone, the film follows the pampered descendants of four families that have had extraordinary powers since they arrived in Massachusetts in the late 1600s.

Known as the Sons of Ipswich, Caleb (Steven Strait), Pogue (Taylor Kitsch), Reid (Toby Hemingway) and Tyler (Chance Crawford)—what's with these names? what's their wrong with Dave or Mike?—are all stud competitive swimmers at the exclusive

Spenser Academy, which is a great excuse for them to walk around with their shirts off.

But there was also a fifth family which was cut out of the covenant for being too power hungry. Or maybe their abs weren't tight enough. Whatever. The longtime assumption was, that the last bloodline didp out—that is, until another unusual good-looking guy enrolls at Spenser Academy. And he can swim. And like the other four, his eyes flash with fire and then turn black when he's about to brandish his powers.

As the sinister Chase Collins, Jason Priestley look-alike Sebastian Stan amps up the campy melodrama as he snarls his way through the dialogue. He's especially over-the-top in tormenting Caleb's new girlfriend (Laura Ramsey), who—horror of horrors—transferred in from a Boston public school.

Harlin probably saved some money on the electrical bills—"The Covenant" seems to take place in a perpetual midnight under constant rain, which doesn't help convey a mysterious, gothic mood; it's just dreary. And there's nothing thrilling about the big climactic showdown between Caleb and Chase, in which they hurl giant bubbles of energy at each other. It just looks like a couple of guys in a mime class.

Not nearly as cool as "Buffy the Vampire Slayer."

—The Associated Press



Zach Braff has commitment issues with his pregnant girlfriend, Jacinda Barrett, in 'The Last Kiss.'

**"The Last Kiss"**

R

If names like Tony Goldwyn and Paul Haggis weren't at the table, you'd swear "The Last Kiss" was just another Edward Burns movie.

In fact, it's a lot like Burns' last movie, "The Groomsman," even though it's a remake of the Italian "L'Ultimo Bacio." Four guys, longtime best friends, all reach crisis points in their respective relationships as they approach 30. And they're all sensitive enough to express their fears and frustrations in hyperarticulate terms.

Michael (Zach Braff) is reluctant to marry his pregnant girlfriend, Jenna (Jacinda Barrett), even though she's obviously a smart, beautiful, cool woman. Fearful being tied down and longing for some surprise in his life—he's an architect, yawn—he ends up having a fling with a vivacious college student (Rachel Bilson).

Bilson's character has flashes of irresistible precociousness and does prematurely familiar things like taking his hand and placing it on her chest to feel her heart beat within minutes of meeting him. And Braff plays a selfish, childish, dead, one whose actions are despicable and destructive and definitely not well-thought-out.

Meanwhile, Michael's colleague Chris (Casey Affleck) is thinking about leaving his wife

after finding that having a child together didn't improve their marriage. Another friend, Izzy (Michael Weston), is still loveless over a recent breakup with his girlfriend (Marley Shelton) and becomes drunkenly obsessed with winning her back. It doesn't work. And so on.

There are some amusingly crass moments here and there. You know, guy stuff. But Goldwyn ("A Walk on the Moon"), directing a screenplay from Haggis, is tonally all over the place. Too often, he veers jarringly between wackiness and melodrama, between cute, intimate moments and bold sexuality. Once Jenna discovers Michael's infidelity—because this is one of those movies in which all the inhabitants are horrible liars—the result is screaming and crying, slapped faces and slammed doors, followed by proclamations of love and the obligatory, melancholy Coldplay song. It gets shrill and it feels like it will never end.

But Goldwyn does get some lovely moments out of Tom Wilkinson and Blythe Danner (with talent like that, it would be impossible not to) as Jenna's parents, whose 30-year marriage is also on the verge of collapse. When they're on screen, "The Last Kiss" feels like a different film—one that's substantial, alive and aching real.

—The Associated Press



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# Food

## South-central Idaho dining guide

### JACKPOT, NEV.

• **Barlon's Club 93 Restaurant** — Steaks, seafood, sandwiches, salads every day, \$6-\$15, buffets Thursdays (\$5-9.99), Fridays (\$6-93), Fridays (\$13-33), Saturdays (\$12-93) and Sundays (\$7-93); breakfast buffets through Saturdays, breakfast, buffets, Saturdays and Sundays (\$6-93); seafood buffet on Friday nights, prime rib buffet on Saturday nights, home-cooking buffet on Sunday nights. **Hours:** Open 24/7. Wednesday through Saturday buffets, 5-9 p.m.; Sunday buffets, 2-9 p.m.; breakfast buffets, 8 a.m. noon (7754-755-2341)

• **Canyon Cove, Cactus Pines Resort** Casano Buffet featuring Italian, Mexican, American and Chinese cuisine, options on the salt and acid crab claws. Friday and Saturday night seafood and prime rib fest. **Hours:** Sunday, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. \$14.99; Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., \$10.99; Monday through Thursday, 5-9:30 p.m.; \$11.99; Friday and Saturday, \$10 p.m. \$17.99 per person. (726-755-2361, Ext. 6338)

• **Dessert Room, Cactus Pines Resort** Casano Home style hot salad, chicken, french steak and gravy, sandwiches and tall pies. **Hours:** Tuesday through Thursday, 5-9:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 5-10 p.m.; \$17.99 per person. (726-755-2361, Ext. 6338)

• **Pancho Villa's, the Horseshoe Hotel** Specializing in Mexican cuisine. Local food, fresh and tender. \$5-29 \$14-99 full bar. **Hours:** Mondays through Thursdays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fridays, 11 a.m.-midnight; Saturdays, 7 a.m.-midnight; Sundays, 7 a.m.-10 p.m.

### JEROME

• **China Village, 123 S. Alder** — Family-style dining, Chinese and American combination dinners, rib eye and T-bone steaks, \$40-\$100. **Hours:** beer, Monday through Thursday 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m.-11 p.m.; closed Sundays. **Hours:** noon-10 p.m. (224-8777)

• **Deebee's Family Drive, 400 W. Main** — Fish and chow, chicken fried steak, baked shrimp, \$5-19-\$7. **Hours:** Mondays through Saturdays, 7 a.m.-9 p.m.; closed Sundays. **Hours:** Ron and Sandy Chiole, owners 324-4642

• **Dino's Burger & Brew, Three miles north of junction of U.S. Highway 93 and Idaho Highway 75** — One's salad, chili burgers, clam chowder, \$5-50-\$8.25. **Hours:** beer, Mondays through Saturdays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; closed Sundays. **Hours:** Randy Bryant, owner 324-6591

### KETCHUM

• **Apple's Bar & Grill, 215 Peach St.** Hosting specials: burgers, soups, salads. **Hours:** beer, Mondays through Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; closed Sundays. **Hours:** Mike, owner 726-7766

• **Black Italian Cakes, Trail Creek Village, 200 S. Main** — Alzabani bakery, pastries, bread with muffins, \$11.95-\$27.95. **Hours:** beer, Mondays through Saturdays, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. **Hours:** Rex Chandler, owner 726-7264

• **Brookwood Bread, 270 Northwood Way** — Walk in bakery features pastries, breads, cream-braided bread. **Hours:** Mondays

### About the dining guide

Every week, TNT publishes a rotating list of restaurants in south-central Idaho, along with their hours, food specialties and price ranges. For reasons of space, not every restaurant will be listed every week, but will be listed on a regular basis.

If your restaurant is not listed and you would like to have it in the weekly dining guide, call Steve Crump at 735-3223 or e-mail him at [scrump@magicalv.com](mailto:scrump@magicalv.com). It's a free service.

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• **Pezzo Hut, Cactus Pines Resort Casano** — Serving all of Pezzo Hut's menu items. **Hours:** Saturdays through Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

• **Plateau Room, Cactus Pines Resort Casano** Seafood, wide variety of continental cuisine. Angus steaks, Chicken Oscar. **Hours:** Tuesday through Thursdays, 5-10 p.m.; closed Mondays and Tuesdays (775-253-2341, Ext. 6335)

• **El Sombrero Restaurant, 153 W. Main** — Tacos, fajitas, enchiladas and some American dishes. \$4.75-\$10.95. **Hours:** Tuesday through Thursdays, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; closed Mondays. **Hours:** Paul, owner 324-7238

• **The Double A Cafe, 200 W. First St.** — Steak, shrimp, prime rib. \$4.75-\$14.95. **Hours:** Mondays through Saturdays, 5:30 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sundays, 5:30 a.m.-2 p.m. **Hours:** Abbott, owner 324-2311

• **T-Box, Jerome Country Club, 643 Golf Course Road** — Scampi shrimp, lobster, Swiss chicken, rib-eye steak. \$4.29-\$22.99. **Hours:** Mondays through Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Wednesdays through Saturdays, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; **Hours:** Jay and Terrielle Holstine, owners 324-3581

through Fridays 8 a.m.-2 p.m. 726-7034

• **Burger Grill, 371 N. Main St.** — Ham-burgers, salmon burgers, chicken burgers and hot dogs, sandwiches served with salad or fries. \$5-\$8. **Hours:** beer, Mondays through Saturdays, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; closed Sundays. **Hours:** Jimmy Boyle, owner 726-7233

• **Chandler's Restaurant, 200 S. Main** Ketchum — Black Canyon elk, Hawaii steaks, T-bone cutlet. \$10-95. **Hours:** beer, Mondays through Saturdays, 6-10 p.m. **Hours:** Chandler, owner 726-1776



Fish and chips is hearty enough for an evening meal at Twin Falls Aussie Eats restaurant.

STEVE CRUMP  
TNT.com

# A surprising taste of Down Under in Twin Falls

BY STEVE CRUMP

Times News Staff

## About Aussie Eats

1703 Addison Ave. E. Twin Falls — Fish and chips, meat pie, seafood, \$3.95-\$10.95. **Takeout and delivery available. Hours:** Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Brian Hall, owner. 734-2556.

Falls restaurateur, Lloyd Westbrook.

Aussie Eats is open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Grandpa's on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. It's an unusual business arrangement, but it seems to have produced some memorable food.

Aussie Eats' steak in trade is meat pie, an iconic Australian comestible widely considered to be the country's national dish. There are nine different meat pies on the restaurant's menu, ranging from steak-and-cheese (\$6.95) to hot curly pie (\$7.45).

But on the recommendation of my waitress, I tried the fish and chips (\$7.95). Made Aussie-style with cod and hand-cut

french fries, it's heartier fare than the English-style fish and chips most Americans are familiar with. Fish and chips is generally considered to be a lunch item, but the Aussie Eats version is enough for an evening meal.

Enough that I had to pass on an intriguing range of dessert offerings, including Lamination (sponge cake dipped in chocolate and covered in coconut shavings, served with cream and berry toppings, for \$3.95) and Crepe Suzette (three crepes filled with raspberries and cherries and covered with orange liqueur, which is set alight at the table, for \$9.40).

I did take along an Anzac biscuit, though; oats and coconut mixed in a corn syrup and shaped into a large cookie (\$1.25) it was delicious.

In a city like Twin Falls with not a lot of variety of foods on offer, Aussie Eats is a welcome option. I hope it finds an audience.

Times News features writer Steve Crump can be reached at 735-3223 or [scrump@magicalv.com](mailto:scrump@magicalv.com).

## Movies *Continued from page 6*

wasted, while *Stiller* spends much of his screen time resorting to the same jittery moves he's used in a dozen other movies. Rated PG (mild action, language and brief rude humor). 1 hour, 49 minutes.

### • "The Pursuit of Happiness" / B-

Inspirational movies like this have been mishandled so many times, even the ads can be nauseating. But leave the Pepto at home. This one's much better than you might think, thanks to Will Smith. Based on a true story, it's about a single father (Smith) in 1981 San Francisco, trying to earn a job at a brokerage firm via unpaid internship and, at the same time, take care of his son (Jaden Smith, the star's real-life boy). "Happiness" might bring in an Oscar nomination for Smith. Rated PG-13 (some language). 1 hour, 57 minutes.

### • "Rocky Ballas" / B

The sixth round of the franchise that wouldn't go down without another fight rings up nearly every macho cliché writer-director-star Sylvester Stallone can conjure in the space of an hour and 42 minutes. But the big sur-

prise is that it also has just enough referential wit and nostalgic charm to keep the smiles coming through the schmalz, as the aging, arthritic fighter believes he still has "some stuff left in the basement." And he gets to prove it against the reigning champ, Mason "The Line" Dixon, in an improbable "Skill vs. Will" exhibition match in Vegas. Care the old Bill Conti "Gonna Fly Now" fanfare and get ready to revive Rocky with a splash of grace. Rated PG (boxing violence and some language). 1 hour, 42 minutes.

### • "We Are Marshall" / B

An inspirational red-ruby movie that actually works. Based on the true story of the 1970 plane crash that killed most of Marshall University's football team, coaches, staff and boosters, the movie stars Matthew McConaughey as the new coach willing to take the job of rebuilding the team and, more importantly, helping a wounded small-town community. Wisely, the movie takes the same approach. It's less about the Big Game than about coming to terms with grief.

—Atlanta  
Journal-Constitution

## Racing *Continued from page 2*

If your idea of a perfect Sunday afternoon involves motoring around curvy country roads in some exotic sports car, this could be your game. If not, you might get car sick from all the driving around.

• "Need For Speed Carbon" (rated R, \$29.99-\$59.99, all platforms). If you thought "The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift" was like, the coolest movie ever, then "Carbon" is your video game.

"Carbon" is the latest in a long line of street-racing games from Electronic Arts Inc. where "drifting" along curvy canyon roads is just as important as stomping on the gas and brake pedals.

The sensation of speed is impressive, especially on the graphically tweaked Xbox 360

and PlayStation 3 versions I tested.

Yet, sadly, EA seems intent on cranking out a new sequel every year, regardless of innovation.

What this means is there's not much new from last year's "Need for Speed: Most Wanted," so if you already have that game there's not a whole lot of new stuff to check out.

One of the best features — high speed police chases — is missing this time around.

The new "Autoculpt" feature lets you customize your hot rods in numerous ways, yet the end result doesn't seem to affect performance much.

But of these three racers, "Carbon" definitely strikes the best balance between simulator and arcade game.

## Sound bites: RECENT CD RELEASES

### Bow Wow "The Price of Fame." (Columbia)

Ex-kiddie rapper BowWow opens his fifth album explaining how he's dealt with fame's high price. Granted, the Ohio rapper's much-publicized break-up with R&B hottie Ciara probably hurt even more when Internet rumors alleged the relationship was merely staged to make him appear cooler. But being blog fodder is about as rough it gets for BowWow, the 20-year-old MC, who's spent most of his formative years in a child star bubble. Any angst comes from his girl drama, not street drama.

On the band "The Price of Fame," he gets all heartily breaky twice — on the bougie, reconciliation attempt "Bill Me" and the slow burning "Outta My System" featuring T-Pain's vocalized croon. The latter sees BowWow rhyming to guess who "You still running through my mind when I'm knowing that you shouldn't be."

Yet wallowing in the emo mood isn't wise strategy for someone who's trying to become



a credible adult MC. Hence BowWow spends the bulk of the disc tossing off empty boasts about his wealth ("I'll stand on my wall, I'll be bigger than Shaq") and his young heartthrob appeal ("Ladies on the home like I'm 'Demellé' Short cut, big cham-rocking like I'm 17").

The production, handled mainly by BowWow's mentor le maître Daptar, is often as stunted as his lines. The student, piano-driven "Give It To You" recalls a hard-bumping G-Unit throw-away beat while the serpentine synths of "Don't Know How" is cookie-cutter snap music. Such missteps are curious signs that as BowWow grows older, he's not getting much wiser. —Associated Press

### Freddie Mercury "Lover of Life, Singer of Songs: The Very Best of Freddie Mercury Solo" (Hollywood)

Queen's late, great rock god (who wouldn't have been 60 this year) didn't have a prolific career says his regular mates, but his solo work was as powerful as it was compact. A Paris funk bomb Farrokh Bulsara, Mercury is celebrated here with a double-disc beauty including cuts culled from his solo albums plus 15 remixes.

Mercury's eighth-wonder voice is all parts operatic and hammy, gut-wrenching and nuclear. The man tackled his music with bear-hug gusto, especially on such muscular dramas as "There Must Be More to Life Than This." Unlike Queen's reliance on Brian May's guitar laser beams and related gonzo effects, Freddie's solo work is



much simpler, built via piano and synth and that open, vulnerable voice. Oh, that voice.

—St. Petersburg Times

## Music

## KARAOKE CORNER

### DAILY

#### Twin Falls

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

### DAILY (except Sunday)

#### Burley

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

### THURSDAY, JAN. 4

#### Twin Falls

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

Katwalk Karaoke will be featured at 9 p.m. at Kruezer's Night Life. No cover charge. Kruezer's is at 121 Fourth Ave. S. Lone Wolf Entertainment will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Pioneer Club. No cover charge. Pioneer Club is at 1519 Kimberly Road.

#### Burley

Krakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Riverside. Cover charge is \$2. The Riverside is at 197 W. Highway 30.

#### Declo

Karaoke by Lou Brown will be featured from 8 p.m. to midnight at Steak House. No cover charge. Steak House is at 876 Highway 81.

### FRIDAY, JAN. 5

#### Twin Falls

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

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

#### Burley

Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the 610 Club. No cover charge. The 610 Club is at 1054 Overland Ave.

#### Rupert

Krakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Melody Bar.

Please see KARAOKE, Page 14



## Music

KARAOKE  
CORNER

continued from page 13

No cover charge. Melody Bar is at 502 South St.

## SATURDAY, JAN. 6

## Twin Falls

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

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

## Burley

Kroakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Riverside. Cover charge is \$2. The Riverside is at 197 W. Highway 30.

Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the 610 Club. No cover charge. The 610 Club is at 1054 Overland Ave.

## Rupert

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

## Declo

Miller Time Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Big Kahuna. No cover charge. Big Kahuna is at 9 E. Main.

## SUNDAY, JAN. 7

## Twin Falls

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

## WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10

## Twin Falls

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

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

## Paul

Kroakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Red's Bar. No cover charge. Red's Bar is on South E. Idaho St.

## Ciara growing up in the spotlight

Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD — Sharking through gridlocked Hollywood Boulevard in a chauffeur-driven SUV, the 21-year-old, mono-nomiered R&B sensation du jour Ciara was running dangerously behind schedule for a not-to-be-missed appointment: the Victoria's Secret Lingerie fashion show.

She seemed thoroughly un-concerned, though, with missing its cavalcade of sauntering supermodels: Gisele, Alessandra, Adriana, et al. Rather than fret at the thought of missing an opportunity to promote her buzz-worthy second album,

"Ciara: The Evolution" — which topped the national album chart last week — by walking a gamut of press and paparazzi listing the "pink carpet" at the event, Ciara seemed intent on maintaining positive mojo.

"I feel magic in the car," she said. "I'll work out — it always does."

That quasspiritual uplift and can-do attitude helped rocket the Atlanta-based singer-songwriter, christened "the first lady of Crunk & B" by Lil Jon, from teenage obscurity to the top of the hip-hop/R&B and pop singles charts inside three years.

Her party-thumper-filled, Grammy-nominated 2004 debut album, "Goodies," has gone triple-platinum and spawned three No. 1 singles in the process. Ciara has become the embodiment of both booty-finess and female empowerment for generation TRU.

But back to the religious overtones. She speaks of music as her "calling." In reference to her career choices as "preordained," talks often of feeling "blessed." And for nearly 15 minutes one recent Tuesday night, after successive cover shoots for XXL and King magazine, Ciara expounded on her belief that "everything in life is written."

"A lot of times, we chase dreams and end up making the



Los Angeles Times

Ciara's second CD sold 338,000 copies in its first week in stores. She co-wrote all the songs.

process much longer because we're fighting what's really in us," she said. "I chose to find my strongest attributes. When I was 14 years old, I knew I wanted to be an entertainer."

Ciara's '80s electro-inflected "Evolution" moved an impressive 338,000 copies in its first week of release, outpacing new CDs from brand name pop idols Britney and Gwen Stefani. More impressive still, the singer (who like Labelmate and fellow R&B phenom Chris Brown is renowned for her dance-floor athleticism) co-wrote every song on the album, co-producing much of it with an all-star roster of top 40 hitmakers, including will.i.am, Pharrell Williams, Dallas Austin and Lil Jon.

Hence, the album's title. "I felt a natural evolution taking place in my life as an artist and as a woman," Ciara said. "I wanted to show my fans that I have grown in so many different ways. And I'm a perfectionist. I am involved in every aspect of

my career, from accounting to marketing to choreography to writing to producing."

Yet it's undeniable that "Evolution" comes as the latest entry to a crowded R&B subgenre full of grandiloquently titled "statement of purpose" albums by female performers: Monica's October CD, "The Makings of Me"; Mary J. Blige's 2005 "The Breakthrough"; Mariah Carey's smash hit "The Emancipation of Mimi"; and Mya's fourth album, "Libertine," expected out this spring, neither among them.

Further complicating matters for Ciara, R&B has become so glutted with exotic-sounding one-name chanteuses — Rihanna, Brandy, Tania, Fantasia, Beyonce, LeToya, Amerie, Lina, Tweet, Nivea and Ashanti, to name a few — that MTV's VJs need phonetically spelled cue cards to keep them all straight.

But such are the unavoidable music-business realities that Ciara (Ciara Princess Harris to

her family) manages to keep squarely in perspective, even while attempting to expand beyond her 'tween-age fan base to exert a greater mainstream appeal.

"I'm motivated and never get complacent," she said. "I take advantage of every moment, because I realize there could be another girl in my shoes right now."

By 14, not long after heeding her "calling" to become an entertainer by giving up her spot on the cheerleading squad, Ciara was recruited and then quickly dropped by the all-female R&B trio Hear Say. A deal with LaFace Records quickly followed (the label was absorbed by Zomba Music Group in 2003).

A chance pairing with Lil Jon on "Goodies," the title track of her debut album, led to her first smash hit: the sly, female-empowering pro-abstinence song remained at No. 1 on the Billboard 100 chart for eight consecutive weeks. But it also led to a lasting misapprehension about Ciara's musical leanings. "People called me the Crunk & B princess," she said. "I'm like, 'How in the world am I that,' when I only have one song that's Crunk & B! But I know that's time would tell. And now it is."

Ciara's trophy haul since 2004 — three Teen Choice Awards, two Black Entertainment Television Awards, two MTV Video Music Awards, a Vibe Award and her citation as Soul Train's female entertainer of the year — helps further the impression she's no flash in the pan.

A few hours after the Victoria's Secret fashion show, Ciara reflected on her remaining career ambitions: to launch her own record label and design a fashion line, to become an actress and sell millions more records. But the show's supermodel success and T&A bombast reawakened another long held dream in the demurely self-possessed "daddy's girl."

## MVAC slates second annual Brown Bag Lecture Series

Times-News

TWIN FALLS — The Magic Valley Arts Council has announced its 2007 Brown Bag Lecture Series in collaboration with the Twin Falls Public Library and Magic Valley Reads!

The lectures are planned for the last Friday of each month, from January through May. All lectures begin at noon at the Twin Falls Public Library program room.

The five lectures are:

• Jan. 26 — John Bleier, advisor and instructor at Boise State University, will present "Aukera: A History of the Basque in Idaho."

• Feb. 23 — Arthur Hari, director emeritus of the Idaho State Historical Society, will present "Our Architectural Heritage."

• March 30 — Kelly Florence Jones, author of "The Seventh Unicorn," will read from her soon-to-be released novel, "The Lost Madonna."

• April 27 — Russell Tremayne, assistant professor of history at the College of Southern Idaho, will discuss his recently published book,

The lectures are planned for the last Friday of each month, from January through May.

"The History of the Twin Falls Canal Company."

• May 25 — Robert Sims, professor of history emeritus and former dean of the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs at Boise State University, will present "Minidoka: A Japanese American Prison Camp."

The program is sponsored by the Idaho Humanities Council, the state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Falls Brand Independent Meat Co.

The lectures are open to the public at no charge, and those who attend are encouraged to bring a brown-bag lunch.

To pre-order a box lunch or for more information, call the arts council at 734-ARTS.

## Magichords plans 100-man chorus performance on Feb. 10

Times-News

TWIN FALLS — The Magichords, the Magic Valley chapter of the International Barbershop Singing Society, is organizing a 100-man chorus to sing the National Anthem at a College of Southern Idaho basketball game on Feb. 10.

All male singers are welcome to participate. Since the "Star-Spangled Banner" will be sung in four-part harmony, it will be

necessary to hold two short rehearsals for the event.

The rehearsals are planned for the basement of the First United Methodist Church in Twin Falls at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 30 and Feb. 6. A copy of the music will be provided at the first rehearsal. There will be no auditions and no singers will be turned away.

For more information, call Chuck Lehman at 543-5480, Fred Burkhardt at 324-5365 and Burt Hush at 734-3874.

## From Looney Tunes to 'Desperation'

Blaine County man prepares for film premiere

BY KAREN BOSSICK  
For the Times-News

KETCHUM — Max Kessler grew up watching films made by Steven Spielberg and Tim Burton on the screen of his father's Magic Lantern Cinema.

Now on Thursday young Kessler plans to roll out the red carpet for the Idaho premiere of his own film.

The new film and television production company 8/0 Productions will present "Desperation" at 9:30 p.m. at the Magic Lantern Cinema, 100 Second St. E.

The showing, which will cost \$5, will follow a private screening for the executive producers who helped finance "Desperation" beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Both screenings will include the showing of two music videos, a few short films and brief talks by Kessler and a few of his filmmaking colleagues.

"Desperation," which was directed by Kyle Morrison with cinematography by Patrick Scaglia, is a 15-minute coming-of-age story of two high school seniors trying to decide whether to steal beer from their neighbor's garage.

Kessler wrote it during Company of Fools' New Voices project, which has been held for the past two years to introduce teenagers to playwrighting.

He took the play with him to Boston's Emerson College where he is a sophomore studying filmmaking. A couple of his college classmates got so enthused about it they decided to use it for an independent filmmaking project.

"Emerson is one of the best film schools in the nation — kids get to work on film sets

their first year," said Kessler, who has curly shoulder-length brown hair and a gentle smile. "Everybody's passionate about filmmaking there."

While Kessler is studying filmmaking — just as his father Rick Kessler did years ago — his real passion lies in script writing.

Inspired by his father's penchant for Looney Tunes cartoons, Kessler and his grade school buddy Tyler Martin wrote their own cartoons during grade school. In eighth grade he wrote a feature script about a lottery winner forced to run from those who wanted to share in his earnings. His stint with New Voices only took his passion to the next level.

"I like script writing because it's the foundation for everything. The scriptwriter creates the purpose for everyone being there and everyone builds on what the scriptwriter did," he said.

"And it's the story that moves people. It's the story that makes people think about the choices they make. Being in the theater all the time, I saw the effect films had on me — they changed me. And I want to do stuff to make people feel better, stuff that will make the world a better place."

Kessler, who starts in "Desperation," pared his original script from 22 pages to 15, shelving dialogue in favor of action and suspense.

He and about 50 people worked on the film, shooting it from sundown to sunup over four nights in Massachusetts. Kessler said the costs will probably add up to about \$12,000, including film festival fees, thanks to all the little things like gels to

cover lights for color effect and recreating snow in the studio.

"You can make a film look good but if you don't have good sound, you can't watch it," he said.

Kessler persuaded nine Blaine County residents to put up at least \$500 each to help produce the film.

"We proposed to our financiers — all generous Blaine County donors — that we wanted to prove ourselves as professionals, not students. And we pitched the idea that perhaps they can make money off in the future as we go to film festivals, do more projects. I learned a lot from it, like how to make phone calls, how often to call back..."

Kessler says he could get a job producing films tomorrow. But that would mean sacrificing his writing, which is what he really wants to do.

"Seeing my film for the first time reminded me why I wrote it. Once I saw the first uncensored version, I thought, 'Ohmigod, I have something.' It was one of the most exciting times of my life," he said.

"Now I can't wait to do something else. I feel like I have things to say — and you have to have that as a writer. Always in the back of my mind I think, 'Who are you to say that?' But it's true. I recently got involved with the poetry scene at Emerson — and they all have something to say. That's why we write."

This article was originally published in the Wood River Journal, a weekly newspaper in Halley that is affiliated with the Times-News. The journal is published on Wednesdays.

## Local

# 'Oz' auditions next week in Twin Falls

Time: 12:30

**TWIN FALLS** — The Dilettante Group of Magic Valley will sponsor auditions for its upcoming production of the musical "The Wizard of Oz" next week.

Tryouts are scheduled Sunday from 2 to 8 p.m. and Monday from 6 to 9 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 910 Shoshone St. E.

Enter the church through the back door.

Show dates are March 15-18. Rehearsals will begin Jan. 22 at 7 p.m.

Actors of all ages are needed for the production, including children.

For more information, call Sandy at 234-5511 or Lori at 736-7136.

## What's funny about life in Twin Falls?

What's funny about life in Twin Falls?

Here's your chance to tell Second City.

The Chicago-based improvisational comedy troupe, which has launched careers ranging from Billy Crystal to Billy Murray, will perform at Twin Falls.

Jan. 22. Second City is looking for local material — amusing things about living in the Magic Valley.

If you'd like to add your two cents, e-mail Steve Grump at [scrump@magicvalley.com](mailto:scrump@magicvalley.com). We'll forward your comments to Second City.

## OVAC plans 'Hello Dolly' auditions this weekend

Time: 12:30

**OAKLEY** — The Oakley Valley Arts Council will hold auditions for its upcoming production of the musical "Hello Dolly" on Thursday and Saturday.

Tryouts are scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday and from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at How-

ells Opera House.

Performance dates are March 1-17.

Auditions are open to the public.

Participants should be 16 or older and should come prepared to read. They should also have a short musical number ready to sing.

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For complete list of artists go to:

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## Upcoming Events!

Glen & Debby Campbell, January 14

Sawyer Brown, January 19

Gordon Lightfoot, January 26

Mel & Pam Tillis, February 9

Merle Haggard, February 16 & 17

REO Speedwagon, February 23

Don Rickles, February 24

Foreigner, March 2

Jo Dee Messina, March 9

Doors open one hour before the show

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