

LEADING LADIES

CSI softball begins its first-ever season Thursday.



SEE SPORTS, B1

FOR RAISES... presidents... better pay

SUPER BOWL SNACKS... What a sportswriter might... cook up for the big game.



SEE FOOD & HOME, C1

Good Morning

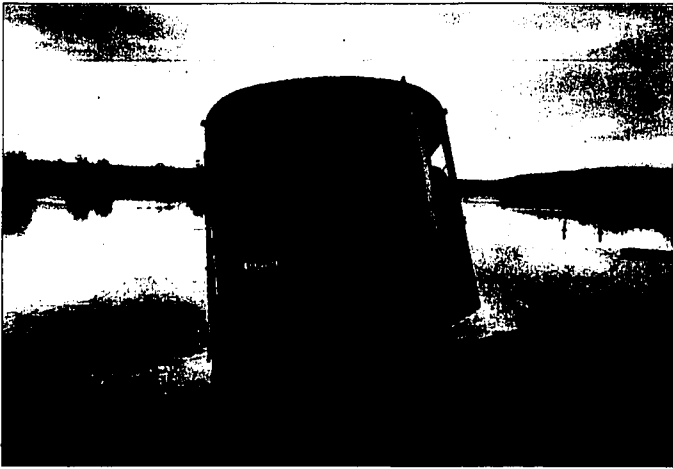
High: 30 Low: 16 Colder than normal, partly cloudy. Details: 98

Times-News

WEDNESDAY January 31, 2007 50 cents

MagValley.com

School bus swim



This bus with six Hagerman students on board rolled into the Snake River on Tuesday morning. No one was seriously injured.

No serious injuries after school bus plunges into Snake

By Cassidy Friedman Times-News writer

HAGERMAN — Six Hagerman Elementary students suffered bumps and bruises Tuesday morning after a bus rolled into the Snake River. "The kids were all treated at the scene and released to their parents," said Ron Echols, superintendent of the Hagerman School District. "None of them have come to school yet today. There were some parents that were concerned."

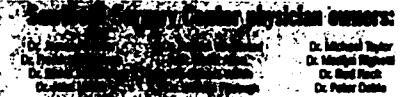
river, while the rear tires rested on the shore. Carsten had just picked up two students in Twin Falls County and was waiting to cross the one-lane Ously Bridge into Gooding County, where his six passengers attend school. "It was just a stupid error," said Jerome Fiscus, Carsten's boss and manager of North Side Bus Company. "He said, 'I thought I could take my coat off in just a second.' He can't even explain why. He says he always sets the park brake."

fourth grade, escaped with the driver through the back emergency door. Carsten has driven buses for the company for about eight years without incident, Fiscus said. "He just feels very, very stupid. Very embarrassed," Fiscus said. "We have always had a lot of faith in him. He's driven here all that time and no problems at all." The engine submerged in the water, Fiscus said. But the greater damage appears to have been caused when the bus was removed from the riverbank. "We messed it up more dragging it out than when it went in," Fiscus said.

Sawtooth Surgery Center sells 60 percent of business to lobbying company

By Sandy Miller Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Chicago based National Surgical Care has acquired 60 percent interest in Sawtooth Surgery Center. Three of Sawtooth's dozen doctor owners confirmed the sale Tuesday, but would not give a dollar amount. Magic Valley Medical Center, now owned by St. Luke's, had a chance to purchase Sawtooth Surgery Center but declined, Sawtooth's doctor owners will continue to own 40 percent of the center and patients shouldn't see



any changes in services. "The center will continue to operate mostly as it has," said Dr. John Howar, an orthopedic physician and one of Sawtooth's owners. "I don't see any dramatic changes happening." Doctors do not anticipate any changes in staffing, although National

Surgical Care will bring in new administrator Terry Hawes later this week. And local doctors will still have a voice in the direction of Sawtooth. "We'll still be actively involved," said Dr. Michael Taylor, an ophthalmologist.

See SAWTOOTH, Page A3

Withdrawn

Controversial feedlot permit application vacated, but it will be resubmitted

By Matt Christensen Times-News writer

JEROME — A permit application to bring an 18,555-animal feedlot to Jerome County has been withdrawn, said Art Brown, the county's planning and zoning administrator. The controversy over one of the county's most hotly contested permit applications, however, is far from over. The application will be resubmitted, and opponents of the feedlot have said they'll continue to fight it. "Oh yes," said Dean Dimond, unofficial representative of the feedlot opponents. "We're in this for the long haul." County Commissioner Charlie Howell said he received a call Tuesday morning and later a letter from Robert Williams, an attorney representing Don McFarland, the Eden businessman seeking the permit. Williams asked that a commissioners' hearing scheduled for Feb. 6 regarding the application be vacated until his client could amend it.

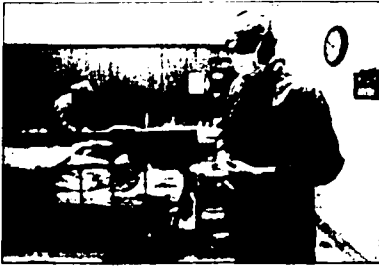
Please see PERMIT, Page A3

Idaho inmate numbers continue to climb

By John Miller Associated Press writer

BOISE — Idaho's third prison boss in the last six months says his biggest challenge is the same one that bedeviled his predecessors: making space for an inmate population that in five years will likely exceed the state Department of Corrections beds by 2,700 beds. Already, Idaho has sent 450 of its 7,000 inmates to facilities in Texas and Minnesota. "Sending them out of state is expensive. They cost about \$44 per day to house here, but the figure to ship them elsewhere could rise to around \$65 a day this year because of competition for prison beds from the federal government and California. "We're going to have some serious challenges," Brent Brunko told budget writers on the Joint Finance Appropriations Committee.

Please see PRISONS, Page A3



Dr. Scott Atlas, an ophthalmologist and part owner of Sawtooth Surgery Center in Twin Falls, prepares for an operation at the facility in February 2005. The center has sold a 60 percent interest to National Surgical Care, an organization that owns a national network of surgery centers.

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Merck lobbies states to require cervical-cancer vaccine for schoolgirls

By Liz Annita Peterson Associated Press writer

AUSTIN, Texas — Merck & Co. is helping lawmakers in Texas pass state laws requiring girls as young as 11 or 12 to receive the drugmaker's new vaccine against the sexually transmitted cervical-cancer virus. Some conservatives and parents' rights groups say such a requirement would encourage premarital sex and interfere with the way they raise their children, and they say Merck's push for such laws is under-

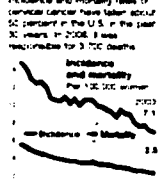
"What it does is benefit the pharmaceutical companies, and I don't want pharmaceutical companies taking precedence over the authorities of parents."

— Cathie Adams, president of the conservative watchdog group Texas Eagle Forum

handed. But the company said its lobbying efforts have been above board. With at least 18 states debating whether to require Merck's Gardasil vaccine for schoolgirls, Merck has funneled money through Women in Government, an advocacy group made up of female state legislators around the country. A top official from Merck's vaccine division sits on Women in Government's business council, and many of the bills around the country have been introduced by members of Women in Government.

A cancer declines

Cervical cancer is of particular interest to our members because it represents the first opportunity that we have to actually eliminate a cancer." Women in Government President Susan Frosch said.



Please see WIDECOM, Page A3



TODAY'S FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: Today, Tonight, Thursday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges (High/Low).

MINI-CASSIA

Today: Cold temperatures and brisk winds. Highs in the lower to middle 20s.
Tonight: Partly to mostly cloudy and cold. Lows near 10.
Tomorrow: Brisk winds, partly cloudy skies and still cold.

Complete weather report: See page B6

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Poetry Gathering with "King of the Swing Fiddle" Johnny Gimble and steel guitarist Bobby Koefler. 7 p.m., PST, Elko Convention Center, 700 Moren Way, Elko, Nev., \$26, (\$18 for day passes; no cost for children), (888) 880-5885.

EXHIBITS

Last day of "Discontinuity," contemporary abstract paintings of local artist Ben Browne in the Galleria Pequeña and new works by member-artists in the Full Moon Gallery, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Main Street Plaza, 132 Main Ave. S., downtown Twin Falls, no cost, 734-ARTS.

FAMILY

Party activities for all ages, including dance, foosball, card games, board games, ping pong, beach ball volleyball and more, 4 to 6 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m., Golden Heritage Senior Center, 2421 Overland Ave., Burley, \$2 for children (above preschool age) and adults and \$1 for senior citizens and preschoolers, 878-7973.

"Fam Jam," a family-value production that uses music, drama and storytelling for children in fourth grade and younger accompanied by their parents or guardians, 6:15 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. activities, Twin Falls Reformed Church, 1631 Grandview Drive N., \$3 to \$4, for the meal, 733-6128 or www.tffc.org.

Coping with Widowhood, first of the eight-week "Widowed Wellness Programs of Idaho's Bereavement Center for widowed men and women, 10 to 11:30 a.m., South Central District Health, Katz Conference Room, 1020 Washington St. N., Twin Falls, \$40 suggested donation (drop-ins welcome; no one will be turned away), 736-2122.

GOVERNMENT

Twin Falls County commissioners, 8:30 a.m., courthouse, 425 Shoshone St. N., 736-4068.

HEALTH

SilverSneakers/Humana New Member Orientation, noon, Twin Falls YMCA, Twin Falls, (208) 733-4384.

College of Southern Idaho's Over Sixty and Getting Fit, a guided walking workout with stretching and gentle resistance training, 9 to 10 a.m. at several Magic Valley locations: CSI gym, Jerome Rec Center, Shoshone High (old gym), Rupert Civic Gym and Blaine County Campus Gym; and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at CSI Burley Outreach Center; gym no cost, 732-6475.

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@magicalvalley.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.

YOUR MORNING BRIEFING

MAGIC VALLEY



What sportswriters cook for Super Bowl

TWIN FALLS — Now that Chicago and Indianapolis are set for Super Bowl XLI in Miami, only two questions remain: Who will win? And what should we eat while watching the game? Sportswriter Bradley Guire has come up with some ideas of what he'd want to eat if he threw a Super Bowl party. Not opening a bag of chips and a can of dip. Not where he'd go to eat and watch the game, but what he'd actually cook.

Jerome woman dies in two-vehicle crash

JEROME — Rebecca LaCombe, 36, of Jerome died Monday night in a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of 300 S. and Golf Course Road, according to the state police.

Wiseman to represent Idaho school principals

CASTLEFORD — Rural schools will now have a friend in high places. Andy Wiseman, Castleford school principal, was elected by other school principals in Idaho to represent them as the state coordinator in the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Medic makes final run after 36 years

BURLEY — Sandy Mabey says she would have died on a July day in 1971 if not for Warren Larson's help.

OBITUARIES

John S. Feldhusen Jr., 81, Byron Webster Nelson Jr., 82

IDAHO/WEST



Utter to hold talks on anti-meth campaign

IDAHO FALLS — Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter plans to meet with the billionaire founder of the Montana Meth Project about bringing an in-your-face advertising campaign on the perils of methamphetamine to Idaho.

Judges void EPA rule on field burning

BOISE — A federal appeals court panel has ordered the Environmental Protection Agency to reconsider its authorization of grass field burning in Idaho, because the agency didn't take the health and environmental impacts of the long-standing practice into account before making its decision.

State inmate numbers continue to climb

BOISE — One out of every 36 adult males in Idaho is either behind bars or on probation. Brent Reinke, the director of the Department of Correction, said Tuesday the problem is due to get worse.

Panel approves plan to trim Capitol wings

BOISE — The Capitol's wings are clipped but still flying. The Idaho Capitol Commission on Tuesday endorsed a plan to build a pair of single-story, 25,000-square-foot underground extensions to the existing 100-year-old building. A previous proposal called for two-story wings twice that size.

NATION/WORLD



Senators warn against drift to war with Iran

WASHINGTON — Republican and Democratic senators warned Tuesday against a drift toward war with an emboldened Iran and suggested the Bush administration was missing a chance to engage its long-time adversary in potentially helpful talks over next-door Iraq.

Scientists 'pressured' to downplay warming

WASHINGTON — Federal scientists have been pressured to play down global warming, advocacy groups testified Tuesday at the Democrats' first investigative hearing since taking control of Congress. The hearing focused on allegations that the White House for years has micromanaged the government's climate programs and has closely controlled what scientists have been allowed to tell the public.

Specter challenges Bush on war decisions

WASHINGTON — A Senate Republican on Tuesday directly challenged President Bush's declaration that "I am the decision-maker" on issues of war.

Bombs, mortar fire in Iraq kill at least 58

BAGHDAD — Iraq — Bombers struck Shiite worshippers in two cities Tuesday and gunmen ambushed a busload of pilgrims in a series of attacks that killed at least 58 people as more than 2 million Shiites jammed major shrines for the Ashura holy day.

SPORTS



CSI softball team to play first season

TWIN FALLS — Never will another team be what this 2007 College of Southern Idaho Golden Eagles softball squad is. Never again will there be the opportunity to be the first. Tomorrow, dirt and grass meet CSI cleats for the first time in NCAA Division I play.



Bruins beat Tigers in regional tourney

TWIN FALLS — During the opening round of the Region Four-Five-Six tournament, the Twin Falls Bruins trounced the Idaho Falls Tigers 56-44, knocking off the first of many conference rivals with "nothing to lose." "We're confident, but we know we have a target on our backs," sophomore guard Devan Markin said. "It's all on us."

CSI men remain at No. 8 in hoops poll

TWIN FALLS — Two wins over the nation's second-best scoring team weren't enough to impress voters as the College of Southern Idaho men's basketball team held steady at No. 8 in the most recent NCAA Division I men's basketball poll, released Tuesday.

FIVE-DAY PLANNER

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

- Feb. 1. A Pops concert, featuring all the East and West middle schools...
Feb. 2. Art of the West reception, featuring the works of five internationally known Western artists...
Feb. 3. First Fridays, featuring live jazz with Jeff Fox and Chapter Two Jazz Band...

- Feb. 3. Fundraiser: The Annual Fireman's Ball, includes dance and breakfast...
Feb. 3. Indoor Flea Market, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Hall at Anderson Camp, 164, ext. 182...
Feb. 4. A potato bar with all the trimmings fundraiser, for the Minidoka Christian Education Association...

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Feb. 1. Minidoka District Scout Leader Roundtable and District Meeting...
Feb. 1. The Rupert Historical Preservation Commission meeting...
Feb. 3. The Oddfellows/Rebelsaux Grading Feat. 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the 1100 F. Hall...

FAMILY

- Feb. 3. Magic Valley Military Support Group, special guest will be present...
Feb. 5. A caregiver support group meeting, with LuAnn Marchionni presenting the topic of self-awareness and caregiving...

HEALTH

- Feb. 2. Red Cross Bloodmobile, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., War Memorial Hall at 3rd Avenue W. and Idaho Street...

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

- Feb. 2. A Pinocchio Card Party and pre, open to the public, 7 p.m. (pre served) at 6:30 p.m. Paul Masonic Hall, 113 E. Idaho St. Paul, free will donation, 438-5358.

COMING TOMORROW



BLUES IN THE NIGHT

Buhl native Matt Ramsey is a member of the Blue Man Group rock 'n roll act, whose touring production is coming to the Idaho Center in Nampa next week.

Times-News

Subscription rates and contact information for Times-News, including phone numbers and website.

Sawtooth

Continued from page A1

and one of the Sawtooth owners. "It's still our center."

What National Surgical Care will do is take over the management of Sawtooth, which will give the doctors more time to practice medicine.

"The day-to-day issues can become time-consuming," Taylor said. "We can now focus on our patients."

Taylor said National Surgical Care will only bring in Sawtooth some 30 years of management expertise. It brings purchasing power. Since National Surgical Care owns and operates a network of surgical centers across the U.S., it can buy supplies in bulk at a lower price.

Sawtooth Surgery Center was a good find and National Surgical Care will certainly benefit from the transaction, too.

Dr. Fredrick Surbaugh, an orthopedic physician and another Sawtooth owner, said many companies like National Surgical Care are investing in

free-standing surgical centers like Sawtooth.

"They recognized the potential for making money," Surbaugh said. "They feel with their management and teams, they can make them more profitable."

Dr. Marilyn Righetti, a local ear, nose and throat physician and also a Sawtooth owner, said the sale will help Sawtooth Surgery Center grow.

"I think it was time," Righetti said. "It's time that Sawtooth had some expansion and built an office building."

She added that the sale will allow Sawtooth to "expand into other specialties or become a specialty hospital."

Righetti said it will also ease the tension that comes with physicians trying to manage each other.

Sawtooth's physician owners had given Magic Valley Regional the opportunity to purchase Sawtooth first. Surbaugh said discussions were ongoing for about two years, but in the end, Magic

Valley Regional wasn't interested.

"They didn't tell us why they didn't want to buy it," Surbaugh said. "It was something they weren't prepared to do."

John Groesbeck, chief financial officer at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional, confirmed there had been discussions between Sawtooth and the hospital.

"We were approached by Sawtooth and earnestly looked at the opportunity to see if we could come to some kind of a business relationship," Groesbeck said. "That didn't happen. Our decision not to pursue the relationship was really based on integrating our hospital into the new St. Luke's Health System."

Bulse-Buse, St. Luke's purchasing agent, said the hospital was really based on integrating our hospital into the new St. Luke's Health System.

Bulse-Buse said St. Luke's purchased the county-owned hospital July 1.

Prisons

Continued from page A1

as he presented his request Tuesday for money in the year starting July 1.

Reinke asked Idaho lawmakers to boost his funding by 10 million in fiscal year 2008, mirroring Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's request for the agency.

By 2012, the state's inmate population is estimated to rise to 9,800 inmates, largely from convictions on drug offenses such as methamphetamine abuse that accounted for more than a third of Idaho inmates last year. If no additional large prisons are built in the state by then, the state will likely have only about 7,100 beds, Reinke said.

A series of delays has pushed back construction to at least November of a privately run, 400-bed drug prison near Boise that is expected to cost about \$22 million. It was approved by the 2006 Legislature.

There's also a 300-bed expansion in the works at the privately run Idaho Correctional Center south of Boise.

And in his State of the State speech earlier this month, Otter backed \$1.8 million for cheap "sprung structures" — materials stretched over aluminum frames — to inexpensively house low-risk offenders.

Even so, these new facilities won't keep pace with demand.

In all, Idaho now has about 20,000 inmates and paroles.

"We are involved in the lives of one out of every 36 adult males" in Idaho, he said.

On Idaho's prison wish-list: three facilities totaling 2,300 beds for men, including a secure facility for the mentally ill, and another facility for up to 400 women. The cost is a staggering \$365 million combined.

and none are in the Correction Department's budget request.

"We have an insatiable appetite for state general funds," Reinke told budget writers. "We will always have more needs."

Former Department of Correction Director Tom Beauchamp quit in July after running afoul of then-Gov. Jim Risch. Beauchamp's miscue: He

made an emergency request for money to send 100 additional prisoners across state lines.

Former Ada County Sheriff Vaughn Killen, Risch's hand-picked successor, lasted fewer than six months before incoming Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter replaced him with Reinke, the Department of Juvenile Corrections head since 1997.

Permit

Continued from page A1

Because the applicant asked to cancel the hearing, the permit, Brown said he and the commissioners consider the application withdrawn.

But that's not how Williams sees it.

"We have not withdrawn the application. We have requested the hearing on the permit be vacated because we're submitting an amended application," Williams said. "We're going to take a few weeks to amend the application and give some additional things added."

Those additions include maps and technical information not previously in the application, Williams said.

Williams said he expects the commissioners to reschedule a hearing for the new application in the coming weeks.

Brown said McFarland must resubmit the application before a hearing is scheduled. Reapplying entails submitting a full written description of the property, numerous maps and a site plan.

It's unlikely the county will require a new siting team report — written by environmental experts from the Idaho

Department of Agriculture, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, and other agencies — unless the amendments include changes that could affect the environment, said Craig Tesch, siting team leader for the IDA.

In the letter to commissioners, Williams said an amended application will be submitted to the county in the next few weeks.

Times-News Staff writer Matt Christensen covers national news. Contact him at 735-3243 or at matt.christensen@timesnews.com.

Vaccine

Continued from page A1

Gardasil, approved by the federal government in June, protects girls and women against strains of the human papillomavirus, or HPV, that are responsible for most cases of cervical cancer. A government advisory panel has recommended that all girls get the shots at 11 and 12, before they are likely to be sexually active.

But no state has yet to add Gardasil to the list of vaccinations youngsters must have under law to be enrolled in school.

Merck spokeswoman Janet Skidmore would not say how much the company is spending on lobbyists or how much it has donated to Women in Government. Crosby also declined to specify how much the drug company gives.

But Skidmore said "We disclosed the fact that we provide funding to this organization. We were not in any way trying to obscure that."

New Jersey-based drug company could generate billions in sales if Gardasil — at \$90 for the three-shot regimen — were made mandatory across the country. Most insurance companies now cover the vaccine, which has been shown to have no serious side effects.

Cathy Adams, president of the conservative watchdog group Texas Eagle Forum, said the relationship between Merck and Women in Government is tenuous.

"What it does is benefit the pharmaceutical companies, and I don't want pharmaceutical companies taking precedence over the autonomy of parents," she said.

Adams said Merck's method of lobbying quietly through groups like Women in Government in addition to meeting directly with legislators are common in state government but still should raise eyebrows. "Its coverage is far as I'm concerned," she said.

A mandatory vaccine against a sexually transmitted disease could be a tough sell in the Lone Star State and other conservative strongholds, where schools preach abstinence and

"I look at this no different than vaccinating our children for polio."

— Texas Gov. Rick Perry

Parents' rights are sacrosanct.

But Merck has doubled its spending on lobbyists in Texas this year, to between \$150,000 and \$250,000, as lawmakers consider the vaccine bill for girls entering the sixth grade.

Also, the drugmaker has hired one of the state's most powerful lobbyists, Mike Toomey, who once served as Republican Gov. Rick Perry's chief of staff and can influence conservatives who see him as one of their own.

"What we support are approaches that achieve high immunization rates," said Skidmore, the Merck spokeswoman. "We're talking about cervical cancer here, the second-leading cancer among women worldwide."

The legislation already has the enthusiastic support of the conservative governor.

"I look at this no different than vaccinating our children for polio," Perry said. "If there are diseases in our society that are going to cost us large amounts of money, it just makes good economic sense not to mention the health and well-being of these individuals to have those vaccines available."

Proposals for mandates have popped up from California to Connecticut since the first piece of legislation was introduced in September in Michigan. Michigan's bill was narrowly defeated last month. Lawmakers said the requirement would intrude on families' privacy, even though, as in most states' proposals, parents could opt out.

Even with such opt-out provisions, mandates take away parents' rights to make medical decisions for their children, said Linda Klepack of the Colorado-based evangelical organization Focus on the Family. The group contends the vaccine should be available for parents who want it, but not forced on those who don't.

But Texas Rep. Jessica Farrar said her proposal is aimed at protecting children whose parents are less informed about or less interested in preventive care.

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AROUND THE WORLD

IRAQ Attacks leave at least 60 Shiite worshippers dead

BAGHDAD — Attackers using bombs, rockets and guns killed at least 60 Shiite worshippers Tuesday as they observed their most sacred holiday, Iraqi officials said. The day's deadliest incident occurred in the town of Baladruz, in Diyala province in eastern Iraq, when a suicide bomber walked through the main gate of the Ali al-Abbar mosque and detonated his explosives, killing 17 people and injuring at least 57, according to Ali al-Khairyam, a police spokesman.

The worshippers were marking Ashura, which commemorates the death of the prophet Muhammad's grandson in a 7th-century battle at Karbala, in southern Iraq. The city is the focal point of the 10-day festival, which culminated Tuesday. At least 11 other Shiites observing the holiday were killed in Khanaqin, also in Diyala, near the Iranian border, after a bomb left at a market exploded, Khairyam said. A roadside bomb killed 15 Shiites participating in an Ashura procession in Baquba, the capital of Diyala, and injured at least 30 civilians, according to Brig. Sadioun Salih of the Interior Ministry.

Five other people were killed in the province in other violent acts, Khairyam said. Violence targeting Shiites also broke out in Baghdad. A roadside bomb in the sprawling Shiite enclave of Sadr City struck an Ashura procession, killing seven people and wounding 23, Salih said.

ENGLAND Archaeologists find complex near Stonehenge

Archaeologists working near Stonehenge in England have discovered what appears to be an ancient religious complex containing a treasure trove of artifacts that may finally illuminate the lives and religious practices of the people who built the mysterious monument 4,600 years ago, British archaeologists said Tuesday.

The circle of massive stone blocks on England's Salisbury Plain southwest of London is one of the best-known archaeological sites in the world, but researchers know surprisingly little about the people who built it and lived in the region.

The new finds, reported at a teleconference organized by the National Geographic Society, vastly increase the knowledge of these early Britons, said archaeologist Mary Ann Oswe of Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa., who was not involved in the research.

To see the everyday lives of these people, to see people living in their houses, is filling in really important gaps in the record," she said. "We had some evidence, but this is so much richer."

The discoveries are also destined to change archaeologists' views of how the ancient people used the site. Stonehenge itself is typically thought of as a cemetery, and an astronomical observatory that was the site of pagan celebrations at the summer solstice.

The monument comprises concentric circles of massive stones, some weighing as much as 50 tons apiece, surrounded by a circular earthen bank and a ditch. Some of the stones were imported from Wales, about 150 miles away, while others were quarried about 24 miles north of Stonehenge at Marlborough Downs. It was constructed about the same time as the great pyramid of Giza in Egypt.

The new finds at Durrington Walls, two miles northwest of the stone circle, indicate that the entire region was a religious center where the early Britons gathered in midwinter for raucous feasts and solemn ceremonies.

CUBA Cuban TV shows Castro meeting with Chavez

HAVANA — Cuban state television on Tuesday showed a video of a healthier looking Fidel Castro meeting and speaking with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, the first images of the aging leader since his three-month illness.

The report said the 10-minute video clip was taped on Monday during a two-hour pri-

vat meeting in Havana that was not previously publicized. "It's not a lost battle," Castro said of his health problems. "Nor will it be," Chavez responded.

The newest images seemed to be aimed at knocking down the most recent round of reports about Castro's health, including a report in the Spanish newspaper El Pais earlier this month that described his health as "grave."

Both leaders appeared to take pains in the video to make clear when the session occurred. Chavez could be

heard saying that it began at 3 p.m. on Jan. 29. Castro read aloud a headline of an article dated Saturday from the Argentine newspaper Clarin. Castro, who was standing, looked more alert and heavier than in previous images that had showed him very thin and frail. Dressed in a red, white and blue track suit, the 80-year-old was also shown sitting and drinking orange juice.

"Fidel has said that we have not lost this battle," Chavez said in the video. "I'll say something more: we have won it."

— compiled from wire reports

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AROUND THE NATION

WASHINGTON

Senators warn of drift toward war with Iran

Republican and Democratic senators warned Tuesday against a drift toward war with an emboldened Iran and suggested the Bush administration was missing a chance to engage its longtime adversary in potentially helpful talks over next-door Iraq.

"What I think many of us are concerned about is that we stumble into active hostilities with Iran without having aggressively pursued diplomatic approaches, without the American people understanding exactly what's taking place," Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., told John Negroponte, who is in line to become the nation's No. 2 diplomat as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's deputy.

Obama, a candidate for president in 2008, warned during the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing that senators of both parties will demand "clarity and transparency in terms of U.S. policy so that we don't repeat some of the mistakes that have been made in the past," a reference to the faulty intelligence underlying the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., a possible presidential candidate, asked Negroponte if he thinks the United States is edging toward a military confrontation with Tehran. In response, Negroponte repeated President Bush's oft-stated preference for diplomacy, although he later added, "We don't rule out other possibilities."

Republican challenges Bush on war powers

A Senate Republican on Tuesday directly challenged President Bush's declaration that "I am the decision-maker" on issues of war.

"I would suggest respectfully to the president that he is not the sole decider," Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., said during a hearing on Congress' war powers amid an increasingly harsh debate over Iraq war policy. "The decider is a shared and joint responsibility," Specter said.

The question of whether to use its power over the government's purse strings to force an end to the war in Iraq, and under what conditions, is among the issues faced by the newly empowered Democratic majority in Congress, and even some of the president's political allies as well.

No one challenges the notion that Congress can stop a war by canceling its funding. In fact, Vice President Dick Cheney challenged Congress to back up its objections to Bush's plan to put 21,500 more troops in Iraq by zeroing out the war budget.

Underlying Cheney's gambit is the consensus understanding that such a drastic move is doubtful because it would be fraught with political peril. But there are other legislative options to force the war's end, say majority Democrats and some of Bush's traditional Republican allies.

The alternatives range from capping the number of troops permitted in Iraq to cutting off funding for troop deployments beyond a certain date or setting an end date for the war.

Pentagon suspends sale of F-14 fighter jet parts

The Pentagon said Tuesday it had halted sales of spare parts from its recently retired F-14 fighter jet fleet, even as lawmakers pledged tougher oversight of the military's surplus sales to stop buyers for Iran and other countries from acquiring gear.

Sales of F-14 parts were suspended last Friday pending a comprehensive review, said Defense Logistics Agency spokesman Jack Hooper said.

"It was the prudent thing to do," he said. The review will examine Pentagon policy for handling the spare parts and determine what should be done with them "in light of the current situation with Iran," Hooper said. Iran, currently at odds with the United States and other countries over its suspected nuclear weapons program, among other issues, is the only nation still buying the F-14 Tomcat.

The decision drew immediate praise from Congress. "This is an appropriate and necessary short-term step to solving this problem," said Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., a longtime critic of security gaps in Pentagon surplus sales. The Defense Department, he said, "needs a comprehensive review of its entire surplus sales operation to ensure that we aren't arming our own adversaries, selling them equipment we still need at bargain prices."

The Pentagon's move followed a report by The Associated Press this month on the F-14 surplus sales plans. An AP investigation found buyers for Iran, China and other countries had exploited gaps in sales security to get their hands on sensitive military equipment. The purchases included parts for the F-14 and other aircraft and missile components. Law enforcement officials say that in at least one case the contraband made it to Iran.

Group: Scientists played down global warming

Federal scientists have been pressured by the White House to play down global warming, advocacy groups testified Tuesday at the Democrats' first investigative hearing since taking control of Congress.

The hearing focused on allegations White House officials for years have micromanaged the government's climate programs and have closely controlled what scientists have been allowed to tell the public.

"It appears there may have been an orchestrated campaign to mislead the public about climate change," said Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif. Waxman is chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Committee and a critic of the Bush administration's environmental policies, including his views on climate.

At the hearing, two private advocacy groups produced a survey of 273 government climate scientists showing that many of them say they have been subjected to political pressure aimed at downplaying the climate threat. Their complaints ranged from a challenge to using the phrase "global warming" to raising uncertainty on issues on which most scientists basically agree, to keep-

ing scientists from talking to the media.

The survey and separate interviews with scientists "has brought to light numerous ways in which U.S. federal climate science has been filtered, suppressed and manipulated in the last five years," Francesca Grifo, a senior scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists, told the committee.

Grifo's group, along with the Government Accountability Project, which helps whistleblowers, produced the report.

Drew Shindell, a climate scientist with NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, said that climate scientists frequently have been dissuaded from talking to the media about their research, though NASA's restrictions have been eased.

W. VIRGINIA Explosion levels gas station, killing four

GHENT — Fumes from a leaking propane tank exploded inside a convenience store near a ski resort Tuesday, shattering the building into a pile of debris and killing at least four people, authorities said.

At least five other people were seriously hurt at the Flat Top Little General Store, where scarcely anything remained

except twisted metal and a sign showing the price of gasoline. The blast was felt at least a mile away at a store selling ski gear.

"I thought we got struck by lightning. The whole building shook. The power went off," said Ben Monast, manager of the Ski Shop.

Authorities said the explosion happened just as a fire truck was pulling into the station in response to a reported

gas leak. The fatalities included a paramedic and a retired firefighter who was also a building inspector.

State Fire Marshal Sterling Lewis said an above-ground tank capable of holding 500 pounds of propane was being worked on at the time of the blast. The gas apparently drifted into the business and exploded. — The Associated Press

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The Glenn family had started to build a new home when this tragedy occurred. We are asking the community to assist us in raising the funds to complete their home.

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Babies Born 2006

Times-News will be publishing a special section Babies born in 2006. It will be published on Wed. Feb. 17, 2007. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends can purchase a photo announcement. Simply fill out the order form below, send it with a clear photo of your baby.

Enter to win fabulous prizes! Prizes awarded for each month plus top multiple births! Employees and family of the Times-News will not be eligible for prizes.

Baby Entry Form

Baby's full name: _____

Date of Birth: ___/___/___ Boy ___ or Girl ___

Birth Weight: ___ lbs., ___ oz. Length: ___ in.

Parents Names: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Will Pick-up photo include a SSAE if you wish photo mailed to you.

Grandparents Names: _____

Entry Deadline: February 6 @ 5 pm. All mailed entries must be postmarked by Wed. Feb. 6th 2007. Price \$20. These fees will be donated to the NIE Program. Late entries will not be accepted.

Check or money order enclosed _____ Charge my credit card _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: ___/___/___

Signature: _____

Mail or bring photos to: Babies 2006 Times-News 132 Fairfield Ave. W., PO Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303 Publication Date: March 17, 2007

EDITORIAL

Misuse of public funds warrants stern state law

The Idaho attorney general's office wants to send a bold message to those who enter public service, including those at the lowest level of government. Those who pad their pockets with public money should expect to feel the heavy hand of the law. State laws that enforce misuse of public funds are critical to the democratic process. Voters place trust in officials at all levels, from the governor's office to the local school district or fire department, that they will guard taxpayer funds with extreme care.

When local officials break that standard to feather their own nest, their actions erode public confidence in our government institutions. Theft from public coffers is a misdeed that warrants felony prosecution under the state law.

But a ruling by the Idaho Court of Appeals last year threw a wrench in that engine of the law. The court ruled that a Hagerman police officer who charged three hunting licenses worth \$90.84 on his city credit card couldn't be hit with a felony, because dealing with tax funds wasn't part of his position.

The state's law for misuse of public funds is tailored to those "charged with the receipt, safe keeping, transfer or disbursement of public money."

Now Attorney General Lawrence Wasden wants an amendment to that law. Wasden wants to strike out the language that tailors the crime to only a certain few public officials. Instead, any public official who fiddles with taxpayer money will be subject to felony prosecution.

Wasden's staff has gained loads of experience prosecuting criminal cases involving public misuse of taxpayer funds, ever since he took office in 2003. One of the first cases involved former Boise mayor Brent Coles who misused public funds for personal use while on business trips.

Other cases involving corruption with public money have unfolded here in the Magic Valley in recent years.

Twin Falls County learned its former county clerk Bob Fort stole \$64,000 of local funds. Fort pled guilty to one count of misuse of public funds in 2003 and served a year in jail.

Two Malta residents, Dell and Betty Carlson, admitted to stealing \$86,000 from the Raft River Fire District for their own personal use. Those parties served jail time after pleading guilty to charges of grand theft. Dell Carlson served as fire district commissioner, secretary and treasurer.

Former Cassia County School District business manager Jim Pehrson served six months of jail time with work release after stealing more than \$49,127 from the school district.

Those cases involved officials with specific duties to handle taxpayer funds. But with agencies and public officials giving employees credit cards for purchases, the mischief can occur anywhere and with any public official.

By amending the law, Idaho can serve notice to rank and file public employees that taxpayer funds are to be safeguarded. "It essentially says that if you accept public employment, if you accept public trust, there is a higher duty placed on you," said Deputy Attorney General Bill von Tagen.

Misuse of public funds can occur at almost any level in state or local government. Until the state beefs up its laws, it's opening the door to more abuse.

Our view:
Any public employee who steals taxpayer money should be subject to felony prosecution. What do you think? We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

Perversity as foreign policy

Dick Durbin went to the floor of the Senate on Thursday night to denounce the vice president as "delusional." It was shocking, and Sen. Durbin should be ashamed of himself. Delusional is far too mild a word to describe Dick Cheney. Delusional doesn't begin to capture the profound, transcendental one-flavor-of-diffidence of the man.



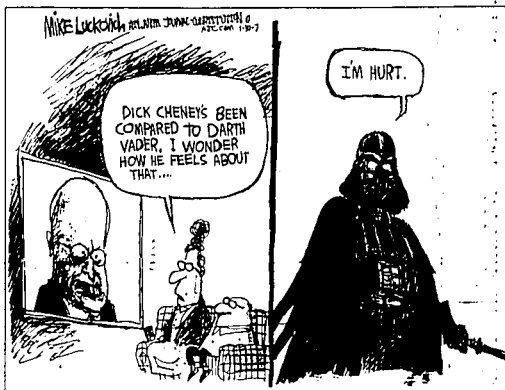
MAUREEN DOWD

Has anyone in the history of the United States ever been so singularly strong and misguided about such phenomenally important events and continued to insist he's right in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary?

It requires an exquisite kind of hubris to spend hundreds of billions destroying America's reputation in the world, exhausting the U.S. military, failing to catch Osama, enhancing Iraq's power in the Middle East and sending American kids to train and arm Iraq forces so they can work against American interests.

Only someone with an inspired alienation from reality could, under the guise of exorcising the trauma of Vietnam, replicate the trauma of Vietnam.

You must have a real talent for derangement to stay wrong every step of the way, to remain in complete denial about Iraq's civil war, to have a total misunderstanding of Arab culture, to be completely oblivious to the American mood and to be absolutely blind to how



democracy works. In a democracy, when you run a campaign that panders to homophobia by attacking gay couples and then your lesbian daughter writes a book about politics and decides to have a baby with her partner, you cannot tell Wolf filzter he's "out of line" when he gingerly raises the hypothesis of your position.

Cheney acts more like a member of the James gang than the Jefferson gang. Asked by Wolf what would happen if the Senate passed a resolution critical of the Surge, Scary Cheney rumbled, "It won't stop us." Such an exercise in democracy, he noted, would be "detrimental from the standpoint of the troops."

Americans learned an important lesson from Vietnam about supporting the troops even when they did not support the war. From media organizations to Hollywood

celebrities and lawmakers on both sides, everyone backs our troops.

It is I, and Vice who learned lessons from Vietnam, probably because they worked so hard to avoid going. They rush into a war halfway around the world for no reason and with no foresight about the culture or the inevitable insurgency, and then assert that any criticism of their fumbling management of Iraq and Afghanistan is tantamount to criticizing the troops. *Quiet demagoguery.* "Bottom line," Vice told Wolf, "is that we've had enormous successes, and we will continue to have enormous successes." The biggest threat, he said, is that Americans may not "have the stomach for the fight."

He should stop casting aspersions on the American stomach. We've had the stomach for more than 3,000 U.S. deaths in a war sold as a cake-

walk. If we were not so obsessed, with being seen as tough, Cheney could not influence him with such tripe.

They are perpetually guided by the wrong part of the body. They are consumed by the fear of looking as if they don't have guts, when they should be compelled by the desire to look as if they have brains.

Cheney has turned his perversity into foreign policy. He assumes that the more people think he's crazy, the safer he must be. In Dr. Nis's nutty world-view, anti-Americanism is a compliment. The proof that America is right is that everyone thinks it isn't.

He sees himself as a prophet in the wilderness because he thinks anyone in the wilderness, whether they will or not, is a prophet.

To borrow one of his many dismutive words, it's hogwash. Maureen Dowd's e-mail is libertics@nytimes.com.

President Bush's blessed omission

God bless President Bush for not saying "God bless America."

He ended his State of the Union address with a simple "God bless." He said the same thing the next day at a speech in Delaware.

Earlier in January, he gave the same ending to troops at Fort Benning. When he told the nation why he was sending 20,000 more troops to Iraq, he did not even say "God bless." He said, "We go forward with trust that the Author of Liberty will guide us through these trying hours. Thank you and good night."

Why, as of this writing, Friday morning, Bush has gone 26 days without ending a speech or appearance with "God bless America." The closest he came to divine politics and nationalism in that time period was in his Roe v. Wade anniversary telephone greetings from Camp David to abortion opponents on the Washington Mall. Bush said, "I ask for God's blessings on your work, and that God continue to bless our country."

The last time he actually issued the stock phrase, at

DERRICK Z. JACKSON

least according to online White House transcripts, was his New Year's greeting where he and Laura Bush closed with, "May God bless you, may God bless our troops and their families, and may God bless America."

It is enough to borrow from Michael Moore and ask, "Dubya, Where's my country?"

An attempt Thursday to ask that question to the White House press office was not met with an official answer. But we need not wait to complement the president on his blessed omission.

Bush has periodically said just "God bless" throughout his presidency. But this recent pattern is a long way away from 2003 when Bush said at the end of his "Saddam has 48 hours to get-out-of-town" speech, "May God continue to bless America." It is a long way from his announcement of Iraq under false pretenses of imminent danger that ended, "May

God bless our country and all who defend her."

It is light years from the concentrated dose of Amerecristic utterances in the first weeks of the invasion, where Bush closed appearances at Mac Bill Air Force Base, the White House, the Pentagon, and the port of Philadelphia with variations of "God bless America or our troops. The most God-awful moment was his speech at Chicago's O'Hare Airport two weeks after 9/11.

Nauseatingly symbolic of the relatively painless war has administration promised for nonfighting Americans Bush told us that we could show our patriotism by getting on an airplane to fly and enjoy America's great destination spots. Get down to Disney World in Florida. Take your families and enjoy life, the way we want it to be enjoyed. He dispensed with the real "may" and bluntly declared, "God bless America." To this day Bush has not asked for any significant sacrifice of US civilians even as more than 44,000 Iraqi civilians died last year in the aftermath of our

botched invasion.

For Bush's presidency, divinity has been too close to political design. Former Attorney General John Ashcroft quoted the Bible in depicting the war on terror as a "defense of our freedom in the most profound sense. It is the defense of our right to make moral choices, to seek fellowship with God." Bush, talked out of both sides of his mouth to the Washington Post's Bob Woodward, claiming that he would not justify a war based on God but that he prayed to be "as good a messenger of his will as possible."

Perhaps the messenger, in the privacy of his soul, questions whether they will wash out. So many years of asking God to bless America while curbing global cooperation has created more hell than heaven. Just maybe, Bush, seeing his party humbled in the November elections, has decided to take on a more humble approach in general.

Derrick Z. Jackson, a columnist for *The Boston Globe*, welcomes e-mail at dzj@comcast.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 Blase, Bill Bitzanburg and David Cooper.

LETTERS

YMCA celebration's success augurs well for the future

Congratulations to the YMCA for the superb evening in celebration of its 50th year. The very large attendance and participation in the auctions and raffle drawings of exceptional donations, including a beautiful black Labrador puppy, indicated just how vital the Y is in our community and surrounding areas. All awards, honors and recognitions were presented and received with pride. The tasty dinner and fun created an enthusiasm which lent to a highly successful evening, the proceeds of which will benefit programs the Y offers to all ages. Much history of the Y is lost, but as a past board member during the lean years, it

became apparent the Y is alive and well today. Thanks to Karen Jachymowska, director of the Y, her management staff, the board of directors, donors, dinner auction committee members and volunteers for all of their efforts in this big event. It was most commendable. GLARRY WARNER, Twin Falls

U.S. needs labels on food showing country of origin

Most people are not aware that currently there is no law requiring all imported foreign grown food products to be labeled as such so consumers can readily identify where their food is coming from. In the last decade, Maple

Valley grocery stores have more than doubled the items they stock from various countries around the world. During this period, the rate of food poisoning from foreign foods has risen by 59 percent or more.

Some people have died and thousands sickened from eating deadly organ-contaminated imported food. Labeling is an important line of defense for consumers and provides a more level trade policy for U.S. farmers and the U.S. dairy industry. Please consider contacting Sen. Craig, Sen. Crapo and Rep. Simpson asking them to support legislation requiring country of origin labeling of imported agricultural products at the final point of sale to the consumer. The country of origin should be clearly

stated and large enough to be easily identified. This will be a win-win situation for both consumers and producers in the Magic Valley. RICK MARTIN, Buhl

Some final words on Cassia Co. dairy proposal

To the Cassia County Planning and Zoning Committee, Reference to Critchfield proposed dairy site. At a meeting held on Jan. 4, we listened to a Mr. Olsenbergh for 40 minutes explaining how everything pertaining to the dairy was going to work and all that had been done. After he finished, those who opposed the dairy had 10 to 15 minutes to respond. I was

just about finished when Mr. Lake said you have 10 seconds left, so I sat down without my concluding comments. Rick Robinson and my son, Sander, made their comments and then Mr. Olsenbergh came back for another 10 or 15 minutes explaining that dairy manure has little odor and few flies.

I raised my hand to see if I could finish my rebuttal and was told that was not the policy. I muttered a few kind words under my breath and sat down again. This is what I wanted to say that they did not want to hear so maybe they might be able to read it. I am 80 years old and have lived where I live for all of my life except the two years in the Navy defending this great country during World War II. Never thought I

would have to spend my final years smelling dairy manure and sweating flies. Thank you, Your neighbor, DALLAN ELQUIST, Oakley

Write to us

The Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Because of space constraints, please keep letters to 300 words, include your signature, mailing address and telephone number. Winners who sign letters will receive a bonus. Letters may be printed in the Yule Falls office, 1000 N. D St., Box 542, Twin Falls, ID 83302; faxed to (208) 734-9530; or e-mailed to tp@timesnews.com.

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INSIDE: The Twin Falls girls opened the Region Four-Fix-Six tourney with a rout of Idaho Falls, B4



INSIDE: Scoreboard, B3 | Local roundup, B4 | Super Bowl & NBA, B5 | Weather, B6



Photo by MICHAEL HENNING/PhotoSource
Photo Photo by MICHAEL HENNING/PhotoSource

Leading ladies

First-year program has high aspirations

By Eric Larson
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Never will there be another team like this.
Oh yes, there will be other, different, maybe even better teams yet to join the path that the College of Southern Idaho women's fast-pitch softball program now sets foot on. In a future that spreads as wide open as a blue sky over calm seas, there will be similar feats: grand slams, double plays, walk-off home runs. Never though will another team be what this 2007 Golden Eagles squad is. Never again will there be the opportunity to be the first.

Not will a CSI softball team have the unique responsibility this team will bear. At CSI, where the craftsmanship of trophy cases is tested under the weight of 16 national championships and 75 region titles, the terms "tradition" and "history" do not simply refer to programs that have lasted through the years. For Golden Eagles athletics,

those terms refer to winning programs that have flourished through the ages. Tomorrow, dirt and grass meet CSI decks for the first time in NJCAA Division I play. Tomorrow, Golden Eagles softball begins building its own tradition.

"This group has something that's so special that no other Eagles softball team is going to have," CSI head softball coach Nick Baumert said. "Whether they're pioneers or leading ladies or whatever you call them, everything that they do will set the tone for whatever happens on down the line."

Captain call

While the on-field performance of 17 young women will set the tone for the future direction of CSI softball, its current state is based upon over a year's worth of careful planning. On Nov. 22, 2005, as the CSI volleyball team was on its way to its eighth national championship, the college's

CSI roster bios

page B2

Board of Trustees announced the approval of the addition of softball. The next logical step became the hiring of a coach, and in Baumert, the Golden Eagles found not only a known entity in Twin Falls, but a proven winner among the region's high school softball ranks.

Baumert compiled a 159-46 record in seven years as the head softball coach at Twin Falls High School, while his Twin Falls Terror summer softball squad constantly competed with the best programs in the region. While Baumert entered the junior college ranks with a strong reputation, he knew that as a college coach, he would only be as good as his players would allow him to be. With former Twin Falls High products Justine Williams and Jayme Harrison already flourishing among the scenic West

Athletic Conference ranks, Baumert set out to find similar players.

What he found is a selection of former high-school standouts from across Idaho, Utah, and British Columbia, Canada. While he's counting that the skill level will be there, Baumert also recruited for the intangibles that any winning program needs.

"Coach Baumert did a really good job," sophomore third baseman Jalena Williams said. "He got girls that are not only good, but have heart. I think the heart will carry us farther. Heart will beat a good athlete any day."

Heart isn't the only thing that will carry this group. The Golden Eagles are built around their speed, pitching and versatility. While it's yet to be determined if CSI's hot hitting during the fall season will carry over against a higher caliber of SWAC pitching, the Golden Eagles believe they're good enough to set some heady goals for their inaugural season. Those include winning the conference title and hosting the Region 18 Tournament, along

Please see CSI SOFTBALL, Page B6



College of Southern Idaho sophomore third baseman Jalena Williams awaits the arrival of the ball during practice Jan. 25 at Twin Falls High School. The Golden Eagles open their first-ever season Thursday.



College of Southern Idaho business students Lauren Bartholomew (left), Anna Poljanec (center) and Anna Swartz (right) stand in the new field where the new home of Golden Eagles softball will be completed in the fall on the CSI campus. The cover to the right marks where home plate will be.

CSI's field of dreams

New home in the works for softball program

By Eric Larson
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — If Archibald "Moonlight" Graham appears in right-center on some lazy fall evening as the autumn leaves and setting sun engulf Twin Falls in a sea of amber, the intersection of Hollywood fantasy and real-world enterprise will seem almost fitting.

While the College of Southern Idaho is moving toward a new era of fast-pitch softball, the college served up one great, big, booming job ball of a story when the CSI Board of Trustees approved a proposal to build the new home of Golden Eagles softball on the northwest corner of campus.

The ground where a multi-phase softball complex will be built is currently nothing other than a corn field. While the coqs of progress were set in motion with the approval of the field's location in December, CSI head softball coach Nick Baumert and everyone involved understands there's still much to do before the program has its

field of dreams.
"Lots of blisters," Baumert quipped when asked what it would take to turn what is now a diagram on his office wall into the new perch of Golden Eagles softball.

CSI physical plant director Randy Dill and his department have already staked out the outline of the complex. The department will perform most of the labor on the first phase of the complex: a \$75,000 grass outfield with a "diamond dust" infield, fence, dugouts, a scoreboard and ice stands for temporary bleachers. The physical plant department will seek bids for some of the project's more intricate tasks, including the installation of an irrigation system. The cost of labor is not included in the phase-one estimate, but Baumert fully expects his team to earn its new home with some sweat equity.

"We were talking to a couple kids and they were like, 'Coach, are we going to be able to work on the field?'"

Please see FIELD, Page B6

SPORTS

2007 College of Southern Idaho Softball

Coaches



Nick Baumert

Head coach, First year

Career highlights: Before taking the position as CSI's first softball coach late in 2005, Baumert was the head coach of the Twin Falls High School Bruins program for seven years. During that span he amassed a 159-46 record, winning five Region Four-Five-Six titles and placing fifth three times at the Class 5A state tournament. At Twin Falls, Baumert coached one High School Region Four-Five-Six title and placing fifth three times at the collegiate level. He is a five-time Region Four-Five-Six Coach of the Year, two-time Times-News Coach of the Year, and seven-time District IV Coaches Association Coach of the Year. Baumert is married to Karen. They are raising two daughters, Katelynn and Kylie, in Twin Falls.

Rebecca Davis

Assistant coach, First year



Career highlights: Davis, who goes by Becky, is a 2003 graduate of Pocatello's Highland High School, where she starred as a pitcher for the Rams and led her team to a fourth-place finish in the Class 5A state tournament as a senior. She went on to play collegiate softball for one season at Yakima Valley Community College. Coach Nick Baumert says: "At Highland, she was just a tough-minded kid who always had her best. When we were looking for an assistant, I always had her in the back of my mind, so I gave her a call and we got it worked out."

Courtney Dale

Volunteer pitching coach, First year



Career highlights: Dale is a former NCAA Division I All-American pitcher who helped UCLA to the 1993 national championship, where she hit the game-winning home run. She was the Pac-10 Pitcher of the Year that year and went on to become the first pick of the 2000 USA Women's Professional Fastpitch Softball League draft. She competed on the U.S. National Team and played professionally in Japan from 2002-2005, where she won MVP honors in 2002 after leading her team to the Japanese League Championship.

Chalise Taylor

Team manager, First year



Career highlights: Taylor hails from Sait Lake City, where she graduated from Copper Hills High School. She was a multi-sport athlete who excelled in soccer and in the classroom. She comes to CSI from Copper Hills High along with CSI players Desirae Thomson and Katelynn Warren.

Players

1 Ali Spear

OF, freshman



Height: 5-6
Bats/throws: L/L
Hometown: Boise
Scouting report: Spear, a lefty slapper, will give Baumert some speed and versatility from the left side of the plate this year and will also be counted on to cover ground as one of the Golden Eagles' regular outfielders. Baumert touts Spear's arm as one of the best on the team. She will look to develop an aggressive streak to complement her array of softball tools. Coach Nick Baumert says: "The thing with Ali is we talked about learning to be aggressive and not being afraid to make those mistakes. Just getting after it because good things happen when you do."

2 Lauren Kurtenbach

INF/C, freshman



Height: 5-6
Bats/throws: R/R
Hometown: Surrey, B.C., Canada
Scouting report: Kurtenbach played for the Surrey Storm during the 2006 Canada Cup International Fastpitch Futures Tournament. She is a versatile player who will be able to move around the CSI lineup and fill in where needed around the CSI lineup and fill in where needed around the CSI lineup and fill in where needed around the CSI lineup. Coach Nick Baumert says: "Lauren is kind of a kid that will fit. Some holes for us, whether it's a DH or third base or catcher. She has some good pop in her bat."

3 Lacey Bowman

RHP, freshman



Height: 5-7
Bats/throws: R/R
Hometown: Pocatello
Scouting report: Bowman helped the Highland Rams to the second round of the 2006 Class 5A state tournament, earning All-Region Four-Five-Six honors along the way. She has been a linchpin in the pitching rotation of a Highland program that has been among the state's best in recent history. Coach Nick Baumert says: "Lacey is just kind of a batter. She probably doesn't have the best stuff on our staff, but she's just a kid that comes every day. Probably one of our hardest workers."

4 Rochelle Noren

OF, freshman



Height: 5-6
Bats/throws: L/R
Hometown: Langley, B.C., Canada
Scouting report: Noren played for the Surrey Storm during the 2006 Canada Cup International Fastpitch Futures Tournament. She's one of the Golden Eagles' fastest players and will be called upon to use that speed both on the base paths and in the outfield, where she will log a number of innings. Coach Nick Baumert says: "Rochelle's a speed kid. The key for her will be just getting the ball in play. She'll make great things happen when she gets the ball in play."



5 Desirae Thomson

RHP, freshman

Height: 5-6
Bats/throws: R/R
Hometown: South Jordan, Utah
Scouting report: Thomson earned the nickname "The Matrix" for her unorthodox pitching style as a high school standout at Copper Hills High School. She was an All-State Second Team and Class 5A State All-Star member as a senior.

She's expected to be an inning-eater with CSI. Coach Nick Baumert says: "Desi is just kind of a nuts-and-bolts kid for us. She'll get quite a few innings, pitching-wise and she'll just be a kid that gives you her best effort every time she steps on the field."



6 Rachel Evans

SS, freshman

Height: 5-5
Bats/throws: R/R
Hometown: Woods Cross, Utah
Scouting report: Evans was named to the Class 5A All-Star Team and the Salt Lake Tribune's Class 5A Second Team after her senior season at Viewmont High School, where she played with fellow CSI teammate Candice Benard. Evans will battle for the starting shortstop job and is expected to give CSI some explosiveness at the plate.

Coach Nick Baumert says: "Rachel's probably going to be one of our most durable kids. I think she's going to be kind of a live-wire for us and she'll kind of bounce around."



7 Jody Zillner

RHP, freshman

Height: 5-11
Bats/throws: R/R
Hometown: Emmett
Scouting report: Zillner led Emmett High School to a fourth-place finish at the 2006 Class 4A state tournament as a senior. She dominated among the 4A ranks with one of the state's best fastballs. At CSI she'll have to learn to mix her pitches up and rely more on her off-speed stuff to set up her strikeouts.

Coach Nick Baumert says: "Jody is probably one of our most talented kids. Just a big, strong, athletic kid."



8 Katelynn Warren

SS, freshman

Height: 5-5
Bats/throws: R/R
Hometown: West Jordan, Utah
Scouting report: Warren was one of the top offensive and defensive players behind fellow CSI teammate Desirae Thomson when they were both senior standouts in 2005 at Copper Hills High School. She'll be for time as CSI's starting shortstop and will be called upon to put the ball in play from near the top of the CSI order.

Coach Nick Baumert says: "I would say she's got a slick glove and she's a slick fielder. She'll probably be in the two spot, order-wise. She's kind of a contact-type kid."



9 Candice Benard

2B, freshman

Height: 5-9
Bats/throws: R/R
Hometown: Bountiful, Utah
Scouting report: Benard was named to the Salt Lake Tribune's 2006 Class 5A All-State team as an infielder at Viewmont High School. The hard-nosed fielder has the size and potential to be a major contributor for the Golden Eagles, both in the infield and at the plate.

Coach Nick Baumert says: "She'll stick her nose on a ground ball if it pops up on her and does a good job of that. Benard and her are betting it out for that spot at second."



10 Belinda Turley

2B, sophomore

Height: 5-6
Bats/throws: R/R
Hometown: Twin Falls
Scouting report: Turley was the 2004 Region Four-Five-Six and Times-News Player of the Year after she led the Twin Falls Bruins to a fifth-place finish at the Class 5A state tournament as a senior. That season, she hit .349 with 17 RBIs and 18 stolen bases while compiling a 1.58 ERA with 63 strikeouts as a pitcher.

Coach Nick Baumert says: "Belinda is just smooth. She's come a long way. She's a super-athletic, super-talented kid."



11 Jenna Volgamore

C, freshman

Height: 5-5
Bats/throws: R/R
Hometown: Meridian
Scouting report: Volgamore was a standout player at Meridian's Mountain View High School and will add her toughness, feeding ability and steady bat to the Golden Eagles as a catcher and first baseman. She had off-season shoulder surgery in late-November and is currently rehabilitating with the hope of playing again in mid-March.

Coach Nick Baumert says: "She's a good kid that's going to work hard to get back for us and do whatever we ask. She's going to do what it takes in her rehabilitation."



12 Anna Sorrell

C, freshman

Height: 5-8
Bats/throws: R/R
Hometown: Pocatello
Scouting report: Sorrell was one of the top catchers in Idaho last year and helped lead the Highland Rams to the second round of the 2006 Class 5A state tournament as a senior. Sorrell will be called upon to be CSI's leader behind the plate, where she is a fierce presence. Baumert is looking for more vocal leadership from her as the season progresses.

Coach Nick Baumert says: "Anna is a horse. Her nickname is 'Stallion,' and the girls. It's just kind of stuck with them. She's a big, strong kid that's not afraid to mix it up."



13 Sarah Haney

1B, freshman

Height: 5-6
Bats/throws: R/R
Hometown: Filer
Scouting report: Haney finished her senior season at Filer with a .286 batting average and only four errors at first base for the 13-13 Wildcats. She was named to the Times-News All-Area Team for her efforts and will add versatility and solidity to the CSI bench this season.

Coach Nick Baumert says: "She's going to be that kid that's going to be behind a few of our starters and is going to push them and make our starters better."



14 Breht Montgomery

3B, freshman

Height: 5-7
Bats/throws: R/R
Hometown: Burley
Scouting report: Montgomery helped the Buhl Indians to the Class 3A state tournament in her freshman, sophomore and junior years. Buhl took the state championship when she was a freshman and second when she was a sophomore. As a senior, Montgomery finished her final season with a .489 batting average and five home runs.

Coach Nick Baumert says: "I think athletically she can do it, it's just she hasn't had the number of innings that some of the other kids do. She's in good spirits and she's fun to be around."



21 Stephanie Holmes

RHP, freshman

Height: 5-7
Bats/throws: R/R
Hometown: Bountiful, Utah
Scouting report: Holmes was named to the state's Class 4A All-Star team and Salt Lake Tribune's 2006 Class 5A All-State team after her senior season at Bountiful High School. She led the Braves to the Class 4A state title game and earned 16 strikeouts in a 10-inning loss to champion Bon Elder High. The Braves finished 19-6 and Holmes tallied 166 strikeouts in 136 innings, finishing with a 1.33 ERA.

Coach Nick Baumert says: "Stephanie is probably going to be a kid who logs a lot of innings for us. She's moving the ball quite a bit."



22 Jalena Williams

3B, sophomore

Height: 5-7
Bats/throws: R/R
Hometown: Terreton
Scouting report: Williams spent the last two seasons playing basketball for CSI and has one year of softball eligibility to spend this season. Though better known around Twin Falls for her knee shot, Williams was a slugger at West Jefferson High School, where she hit .500 with five home runs, nine doubles and 21 triples as a junior from the right side of the plate before finishing her senior season with a .425 average while batting from the left side.

Coach Nick Baumert says: "Ja's a great kid and I think the kid that leads us on the field. She stays after us pretty good."

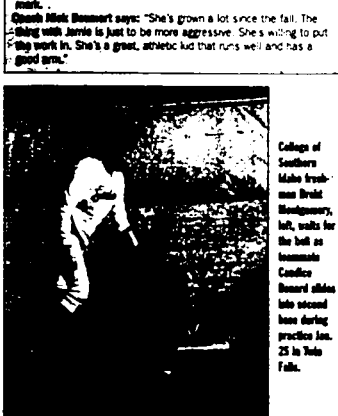


24 Jamie Stone

OF, sophomore

Height: 5-6
Bats/throws: R/R
Hometown: Hailey
Scouting report: Stone was one of the area's top sluggers as a senior at Wood River High School. She finished with a .493 batting average, five home runs and 34 RBIs, earning a spot on the 2006 Times-News All-Area Team. Her efforts helped Wood River to a Class 4A state tournament berth, where the Wolverines finished 1-2 to end the season with a 14-10 overall mark.

Coach Nick Baumert says: "She's gonna a lot since the fall. The thing with Jamie is just to be more aggressive. She's willing to put the work in. She's a great, athletic kid that runs well and has a good arm."



College of Southern Idaho softball team. From left to right: head coach Nick Baumert, assistant coach Rebecca Davis, manager Chalise Taylor, and players Ali Spear, Lauren Kurtenbach, Lacey Bowman, Rochelle Noren, Desirae Thomson, Rachel Evans, Jody Zillner, Katelynn Warren, Candice Benard, Belinda Turley, Jenna Volgamore, Anna Sorrell, Sarah Haney, Breht Montgomery, Stephanie Holmes, and Jalena Williams.

Information compiled by Times-News writer Eric Larson

Photos courtesy of Pomeroy Portrait Design Studios

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

WHL	W	L	Pct
Boise State	22	10	.688
Idaho State	18	14	.563
Idaho	17	15	.529
Utah State	16	16	.500
Wyoming	15	17	.469
Montana State	14	18	.438
Idaho Falls	13	19	.406
Idaho State	12	20	.375
Idaho	11	21	.344
Idaho State	10	22	.313
Idaho	9	23	.282
Idaho State	8	24	.250
Idaho	7	25	.219
Idaho State	6	26	.188
Idaho	5	27	.157
Idaho State	4	28	.126
Idaho	3	29	.095
Idaho State	2	30	.064
Idaho	1	31	.033

GAME PLAN

LOCAL
High school
 Wood River, Malco at Century, 4 p.m.
 Twin Falls at Madison, 5 p.m.
 Wenatchi, Riv River at Valley

Boys Basketball
 Minico at 7:30 p.m.
 Valley at Wendell, 7:30 p.m.
 Century at Twin Falls, 7:30 p.m.

Girls Basketball
 Class AA district tournament
 Buhl on opening at Kimberly, 7 p.m.
 Class AA Magic Valley
 Southdale tournament, Dietrich
 Shoshone vs. Carey, 7 p.m.

College
 Boise State at Idaho State, 7 p.m.
 Idaho State at Idaho, 7 p.m.
 Idaho at Utah State, 7 p.m.
 Utah State at Wyoming, 7 p.m.
 Wyoming at Montana State, 7 p.m.
 Montana State at Idaho State, 7 p.m.
 Idaho State at Idaho, 7 p.m.
 Idaho at Boise State, 7 p.m.

SKI REPORT

Big Lost - Sun 64 packed powder groomed 40-45 base of 52 trails, 100% open, 54 trails, 80% open, Mon 70-100 packed powder groomed 40-45 base of 52 trails, 100% open, 54 trails, 80% open, Tue 70-100 packed powder groomed 40-45 base of 52 trails, 100% open, 54 trails, 80% open, Wed 70-100 packed powder groomed 40-45 base of 52 trails, 100% open, 54 trails, 80% open, Thu 70-100 packed powder groomed 40-45 base of 52 trails, 100% open, 54 trails, 80% open, Fri 70-100 packed powder groomed 40-45 base of 52 trails, 100% open, 54 trails, 80% open, Sat 70-100 packed powder groomed 40-45 base of 52 trails, 100% open, 54 trails, 80% open, Sun 70-100 packed powder groomed 40-45 base of 52 trails, 100% open, 54 trails, 80% open.

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Bonds gives Giants the right to terminate contract if he's indicted

NEW YORK — Barry Bonds gave the San Francisco Giants the right to terminate his \$15.8 million, one-year contract if he is indicted. The unusual provision, included in the deal that was completed Monday night, protects the team in case Bonds is charged in the federal government's steroids investigation. Bonds' personal trainer, Greg Anderson, is in a California federal prison because he has refused to testify whether Bonds committed perjury when he told a 2003 grand jury he never knowingly used performance-enhancing drugs. Part of the agreement, if Bonds is indicted, the Giants have the right to terminate it under two sections of the Uniform Player Contract, a baseball executive said Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity because the team didn't announce that detail. Under 7(b)(1), a team may terminate a contract if the player shall "fail, refuse or neglect to conform his personal conduct to the standards of good citizenship and good sportsmanship or to keep himself in first-class physical condition or to obey the club's training rules." Section 7(b)(2) gives the team the right to end the deal if the player "shall fail, refuse or neglect to render his services hereunder or in any manner materially breach this contract." In addition, the Giants have the less drastic option of converting Bonds' deal to non-guaranteed, the baseball executive said. Players with non-guaranteed contracts can be released before opening day for 30 or 45 days' termination pay, depending on the timing. As part of the deal, Bonds gave up the right to ask the players' association to file a grievance if he is indicted and the contract is terminated. But nothing would stop the union from pursuing a grievance on its own. Giants owner Peter Magowan declined comment and Jeff Borz, Bonds' agent, didn't want to elaborate on the inclusion of the clause.

Bonds was at AT&T Park on Tuesday and held a meeting with about 100 members of the team's staff, Giants spokesman Jim Moorehead said. **Sosa says he won't disappoint**
ARLINGTON, Texas — Sammy Sosa is back in baseball — and back to fielding the same steroids questions that dogged him when he left the game more than a year ago. Sosa and the Texas Rangers agreed to a minor league contract Tuesday, giving the former slugger his first crack at the major leagues since his 2005 season with the Cubs, when he spent the past year working out and knows he must rightfully earn his spot. He added that he still has as much as five "good years" of baseball left in him. But the seven-time All-Star said his comeback isn't about disproving rumors that performance-enhancing drugs elevated him among the game's most feared power hitters.

Sports Shorts

Jerome grapplers meet
Jerome — Jerome High School's wrestling team will travel to Twin Falls and Filer to be held on Tuesday, Jan. 31. Tigers athletic director J. Iones said.

CSI hoops hosts meet and eat tonight
TWIN FALLS — The College of Southern Idaho basketball team will host a meet-and-eat event from 6-9 p.m. today in the Student Union Gymnasium. Both the men's and women's hoops teams will be in attendance to sign autographs. Posters will be sold for \$2 and basketballs for \$10. Dinner will be a buffet-style potato bar. The event is free for all CSI students, while boosters and fans can attend for \$5.

City bowling tournaments scheduled
TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls Women's City Tournament will be held Feb. 10-11 and 17-18 at Magic Bowl, while the Twin Falls Men's City Tournament will be held March 11 and 17-18 at Bowldrome. Entries for both tournaments are available at Bowldrome and Magic Bowl.

Idaho Youth hoops tournaments planned
TWIN FALLS — The 27th Annual Idaho Youth Basketball Tournaments begin Feb. 15-17 for girls in grades 5-6 and 7-8. On March 8-10, the tournament for boys grades 5-6 will take place, while the 10-year boys grades 7-8 will be held March 15-17. For an informational packet on the tournaments, contact Tony Bell at 532-4117.

COLLEGE HOOPS

No. 21 Notre Dame beats Syracuse
SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Luke Harangody had 21 points and 13 rebounds, and No. 21 Notre Dame beat Syracuse 103-91 on Tuesday night behind an impressive display of 3-point shooting. Notre Dame (18-4, 6-3 Big East) won for the first time in four conference road games and defeated a three-time Big East regular season champion Orange (15-7, 4-0) who lost their third straight game.

NFL

Singletary interviewed by Cowboys
IRVING, Texas — Hall of Fame linebacker Mike Singletary has been a motivational speaker, written four books and co-founded a company that provides leadership training since his

MAGIC VALLEY

Jerome grapplers meet
Jerome — Jerome High School's wrestling team will travel to Twin Falls and Filer to be held on Tuesday, Jan. 31. Tigers athletic director J. Iones said.

SPORTS

Jerome girls rout Minico in tourney

Times-News

JEROME — Jerome freshman Aubree Callen scored a game-high 22 points including three 3-pointers and sophomore Hailey Long came off the bench and provided an extra spark on defense for the Tigers as Jerome won its first-round game in the Great Basin West tournament over Minico 63-40 on Tuesday.

"The girls shot the ball well," said assistant coach Angel Harrison. "And it was a good team effort on defense, especially holding Minico to eight first-half points."

Jerome junior Jordan Burnham added 12 points and Molly Reid tossed in 11. For the Spartans, senior Dani Ramirez had 12 points and freshman Kendall Buehler added 10. Jerome travels to Burley on Thursday to play the Bobcats at 7 p.m. and Minico hosts Wood River also on Thursday at 7 p.m.

Sawtooth Central Idaho Conference tournament Gooding 32, Buhl 19

GOODING — The Gooding Senators defeated the Buhl Indians 32-19 to advance in the Central Idaho Conference tournament on Tuesday.

The win puts the Senators against No. 1 Kimberly, which earned a first-round bye, tonight at the Bulldogs' place.

"Tonight was a big win, just to get a win under the belt at the tournament," Gooding head coach Chris Comstock said. "I'll take a good game on our part (against Kimberly). We have to go in and play hard. Anything can happen in girls basketball."

Cheyenne Robinson led the 6-15 Senators with 12 points. Buhl faces the loser of tonight's Filter-Duel game on Thursday.

Table with 2 columns: Team, Score, Points, Rebounds, Assists, Steals, Blocks, Fouls, FT, 3PT, OTR. Rows for Gooding 32, Buhl 19.

Canyon Conference tournament Wendell 35, Glenns Ferry 33

GLENN'S FERRY — Wendell rallied late to beat Glenns Ferry 35 in the opening game of the Canyon Conference tournament Tuesday.

The Trojans used an 11-4 scoring edge in the fourth period to take the win and advance to face Valley on Thursday.

"You allow her to shoot a slight lead midway through the fourth when senior forward Alissa Crane fouled out. From there, the pilots went 1-for-6 at the free line."

"We played scared," said Glenns Ferry coach Kelli McHone. "Jon Fleming scored 10 to lead Wendell, while Jaci Lancaster added eight. Cranes 14 paced the pilots."

Glenns Ferry defeats the Valley-Wendell loser for a loser-out game on Monday.

Balanced Burley girls bury Wood River

By Ryan News For The Times-News

BURLEY — Burley's balanced offense proved to be much for short-handed Wood River Tuesday as the Bobcats cruised to a 71-30 win to open the District IV Great Basin Conference tournament.

Ten players found the scoring column for the No. 1 seed Bobcats. Meanwhile, the No. 4-seeded Wolverines struggled without leading scorer and rebounder Lauren Morgenthaler, who was sidelined with a lingering back injury.

"(Morgenthaler) is in the game, if you allow her to get the ball, you've got some things," said Burley coach Gordon Kerbs. "We told our kids in pregame, even though she wasn't play-

Wendell 35, Glenns Ferry 33. Box score table with columns for Team, Points, Rebounds, Assists, Steals, Blocks, Fouls, FT, 3PT, OTR.

Boys basketball Carey 55, Richfield 43

RICHFIELD — Carey averaged a low earlier this season to Richfield, winning 55-43 in a battle of Magic Valley Northside's top two teams.

Behind 16 points from Brad Flint and 10 from Allen Peck, the Panthers rolled to the road win. Richfield (13-5, 7-3 Magic Valley Northside) was led by Shayne Bucars' 20 points.

Richfield plays at The Community School on Friday.

Carey 55, Richfield 43. Box score table with columns for Team, Points, Rebounds, Assists, Steals, Blocks, Fouls, FT, 3PT, OTR.

Lighthouse Christian 64, Magic Valley Christian 52

TWIN FALLS — Lighthouse Christian defeated rival Magic Valley Christian 64-52. Justin Manning led all scorers with 27 points, including five 3-pointers.

Despite the big game from Manning, Lighthouse Christian coach Jason Fowler was most pleased with Cory Paulson.

"Paulson had incredible composure in the midst of adversity. He is a great floor general," said Fowler.

Paulson scored 10 points and had eight assists. Ryan DeKruyf also had a great game for Lighthouse, scoring 17.

Magic Valley Christian was paced by Branden Van Esch with 15 points, followed closely by Zach Kline with 14.

Lighthouse Christian (8-10, 4-7) will host Castleford on Thursday night at the Jerome Middle School.

Lighthouse Christian 64, Magic Valley Christian 52. Box score table with columns for Team, Points, Rebounds, Assists, Steals, Blocks, Fouls, FT, 3PT, OTR.

Castleford 47, Raft River 44

CASTLEFORD — A strong second half allowed Castleford to come back and claim victory, edging out Raft River 47-44.

Castleford coach Scott Dean lamented about his team's first half of play.

"We committed too many turnovers in the first half, but did play very good defense. We were able to ward off a bad first half, and were able to finally take a lead in the second half," said Dean.

Spencer Vulgamore paced Castleford with 12 points, followed by Dan Hill with 11 points. Zach Kline added 10.

Raft River did play tough inside, as it outrebounded Castleford by 10 boards.

Cody Powers led all scorers with 17 points for Raft River. Jacob Williams totaled 13 points, and Doug Hurst finished with 10 points for the Trojans.

Castleford (11-4, 8-3) will travel to Jerome, taking on Lighthouse Christian Thursday night.

Castleford 47, Raft River 44. Box score table with columns for Team, Points, Rebounds, Assists, Steals, Blocks, Fouls, FT, 3PT, OTR.

Hansen 78, Murtaugh 49. Box score table with columns for Team, Points, Rebounds, Assists, Steals, Blocks, Fouls, FT, 3PT, OTR.

Hansen 78, Murtaugh 49

HANSEN — Hansen blasted rival Murtaugh 78-49 Tuesday. Devon Jenks had the big game, scoring 20 points for Hansen.

Josh Hathaway and Richie Thomas each totaled 12 points, and Hyrum Stanger tallied 10 points for the Huskies.

Hansen coach Mike Pfleger said defensive pressure was the key. "We applied pressure and were hitting on all cylinders. Everyone contributed, and this was probably our best game of the year," he said.

For Murtaugh, Taylor Wilson scored 14 points, while Bryant Bishoff added 13 points.

Hansen (11-5, 7-4) will host Oakley Thursday night.

Hansen 78, Murtaugh 49. Box score table with columns for Team, Points, Rebounds, Assists, Steals, Blocks, Fouls, FT, 3PT, OTR.

Hagerman 59, Oakley 47

HAGERMAN — Hagerman jumped out to a 36-17 lead at half, and proceeded to ease into a 59-47 victory over Oakley.

Tony Novak led Hagerman with 28 points, leading all scorers. Jason Brown added 16 points for the Pirates.

Hagerman coach Kevin Cato said his team "played solid defense and attacked well on offense, especially in the first half."

Cole Washburn netted 13 points for Oakley. Rodrigo Artega followed with eight points, while Colton Bedke and Mitch Bedke each scored seven points for the Hornets.

Castles (15-2, 11-0) will host Raft River on Thursday night.

Hagerman 59, Oakley 47. Box score table with columns for Team, Points, Rebounds, Assists, Steals, Blocks, Fouls, FT, 3PT, OTR.

Camas County 54, Shoshone 49

SHOSHONE — Camas County edged past Shoshone 54-49. Trevor Dalin and Chase Lee had big games for Camas County as Dalin scored 18 points and Lee had 12, most coming in the first half.

Logan Ayre added nine more points for the Mustangs. "Shoshone coach Larry Messick acknowledged a first-half lapse by his team. 'As far as defense goes, Shoshone had none' in the first half, said Messick. Camas County exploded to a 21-8 first quarter lead that proved insurmountable for the Indians.

Topher Dayton put 16 points on the board for the Indians, followed by Jared Fitzgerald who totaled 11 points on the night.

Shoshone (6-12, 3-7) will host Carey on Friday night.

Camas County 54, Shoshone 49. Box score table with columns for Team, Points, Rebounds, Assists, Steals, Blocks, Fouls, FT, 3PT, OTR.

Bliss 51, Community School 38. Box score table with columns for Team, Points, Rebounds, Assists, Steals, Blocks, Fouls, FT, 3PT, OTR.

Bliss 51, Community School 38

BLISS — Senior night turned out to be a good night for Bliss as the Bears defeated The Community School 51-38 in Magic Valley Northside Conference play on Tuesday.

"The seniors played their tails off on defense and rebounding," said Bliss coach Bruce Clark.

Senior Mike Faulkner scored a game-high 24 points for the Bears (8-8, 5-5).

Bliss registered 45 boards with senior Eli Gough pulling down 14 followed by junior Dale Bulker with 10 and senior Adam Burk added nine. Junior Spencer Harris led the Cutthroats with 14 points.

Bliss travels to Dietrich and The Community School hosts Richfield on Friday.

Bliss 51, Community School 38. Box score table with columns for Team, Points, Rebounds, Assists, Steals, Blocks, Fouls, FT, 3PT, OTR.

Jerome 71, Kimberly 60

KIMBERLY — It was too much David Prescott as the Jerome senior guard tossed in 35 points to lead the visiting Tigers to a non-conference win over the Bulldogs 71-60 on Tuesday.

"We tried to keep a hand in Prescott's face and kept rotating on him," said Kimberly coach Roger Keller. "We had two players out (Jason Murrin and Nick Wright), but the other kids stepped up and battled real good."

Senior Mitch Deak led the Bulldogs (5-6, 3-3) Sawtooth Central Idaho conference) with 19 points and junior Evan Jerke added 12. Todd Adamson dished out seven assists.

For the Tigers, Jason Stokes followed Prescott with 10 points. Kimberly is on the road at Valley and Jerome hosts Minico on Friday.

Jerome 71, Kimberly 60. Box score table with columns for Team, Points, Rebounds, Assists, Steals, Blocks, Fouls, FT, 3PT, OTR.

Wood River 44, Buhl 36

BUHL — A bad night on offense led to the Buhl Indians' third loss of the season as they fell 44-36 to the Wood River Wolverines on Tuesday.

"We didn't shoot well," Indians head coach Ryan Bowman said. "We shot only 28 percent from the field and missed a lot around the bucket that we should have made."

Although the Buhl defense played strong, the offensive miscues tipped the balance to Wood River.

Eric Jacobson and Cory Rutkowski each scored in double digits for the Wolverines, while Will Chivers was the only Indians player to do the same.

Buhl (13-3, 5-0 SCIC) travel to Gooding for a conference game against the Senators on Friday.

Wood River 44, Buhl 36. Box score table with columns for Team, Points, Rebounds, Assists, Steals, Blocks, Fouls, FT, 3PT, OTR.



Twin Falls post Amber Petersen takes a shot Tuesday night against Idaho Falls during the Region Four-Five-Six Tournament at Baun Gymnasium in Twin Falls.

Bruin girls open tourney with win

By Bradley Gair Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — From Twin Falls girls basketball coach Joe D. Shepard to the girls on the squad, one phrase kept bouncing around Baun Gymnasium: "They've got nothing to lose."

During the opening round of the Region Four-Five-Six tournament, the Bruins trumped the Idaho Falls Tigers 56-44, knocking off the first of many conference rivals with "nothing to lose."

"We're confident, but we know we have a target on our backs," sophomore guard Devan Matkin said. "It's all on us."

The No. 1 seed in the tournament and that perfect 8-0 regular-season record gave teams like Idaho Falls plenty to shoot for when aiming at the Bruins. With the way things are going, Twin Falls is a shoe-in for the top area seed to the Class 5A state tournament in February.

The Bruins passed the first test as the fuel provided by eight consecutive conference wins was ignited by a match head called Matkin. The guard put up 12 points during the first half on her way to a team-high 14.

"Devan is capable of games like that," Shepard said. "She just has a way of creating her own shots."

But Idaho Falls certainly had an upset in mind as they kept within five of the Bruins to trail only 26-21 by the end of the half. Shepard credited the Tigers' defense and adjustments in breaking the press as elements which gave the Bruins a difficult time during the half and much of the third quarter.

Twin Falls broke the game open further with buckets from junior post Amber Petersen, junior forward Brooke Robinette and senior guard Jessica Bond. With the lead approaching double digits and time running out, the Tigers fouled like crazy but fell to no avail. Both senior Katelyn Jardine and junior Kelly Vriesman went to the line and hit 4-for-4, and sophomore Kaitelyn Fjeld made 3-of-4 to secure the lead and the win.

In Pocatello, the Highland Rams beat the Madison Bobcats 36-23 to advance to Thursday's game against Skyline, which has a first-round bye. The Bruins will face the winner of that contest at Baun Gymnasium on Saturday. Madison and Idaho Falls play a loser-out on Thursday.

Although the 18-3 Bruins are a confident bunch, at this point of the year a loss or two is nothing to shrug off.

"We're going to play tougher teams from now on," Petersen said. "We're going to get more focused and intense and hope we can stay that way."

The rest of the conference may have nothing to lose, but a loss here and there means the Bruins squander a strong regular season only to go home.

Region Four-Five-Six Tournament

Table with 2 columns: Team, Points, Rebounds, Assists, Steals, Blocks, Fouls, FT, 3PT, OTR. Rows for Twin Falls 56, Idaho Falls 44.

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Table with 2 columns: Team, Points, Rebounds, Assists, Steals, Blocks, Fouls, FT, 3PT, OTR. Rows for Twin Falls 56, Idaho Falls 44.

Burley's Nicole Tolman, left, is guarded by Wood River's Amber Ward (25) during the Wednesday 71-30 victory in the District IV Great Basin Conference tournament at Baun Gymnasium in Twin Falls.

CSI men hold steady at No. 8 in NJCAA poll

Tubes News

TWIN FALLS — Two wins over the nation's second-best scoring team weren't enough to impress voters as the College of Southern Idaho men's basketball team held steady at No. 8 in the most recent NJCAA Division I men's basketball poll, released Tuesday.

The 18-2 (#-2) Scenic West Athletic Conference Golden Eagles topped the College of Eastern Utah 110-104 and 97-28 last Friday and Saturday, highlighting the nation's leading scorer, Tyler Kepkay, to only 12 points in Saturday's win.

CSI is back in action Friday and Saturday, hosting in-state rival North Idaho College. CSI is the nation's top seed in team, averaging 112.9 points per game.

Redlands Community College (Okla.) held on to the top spot in the nation by improving to 20-0 on the season with a pair of wins, while 22-0 Indian Hills Community College-Ottumwa (Iowa) is second, followed by Chipola College (Fla.).

Men's JUCO Division I Poll

Through Jan. 20		Record	Pts	PPV
1. Redlands CC, Okla. (22)	20-0	156	1	1
2. Indian Hills CC, Iowa (21)	22-0	148	2	2
3. Chipola College, Fla.	22-1	128	3	3
4. Walters State CC, Ala.	21-1	109	4	4
5. Northwestern CC, Colo.	20-1	83	7	7
6. Okaloosa Walton College, Fla.	19-3	57	6	6
7. Barton County CC, Mo.	21-1	56	9	9
8. College of Southern Idaho	18-2	48	8	8
9. John A. Logan, Ill.	20-2	46	11	11
10. Arizona Western College	17-3	22	10	10
11. Mineral Area College, Mo.	14-6	13	14	14
12. Iowa Western CC	19-1	11	16	16
13. Tennessee CC	20-4	6	13	13
14. Abraham Baldwin, Ga.	19-3	6	14	14
15. Georgia Perimeter	18-4	5	17	17
16. Devil State CC, Ala.	16-4	4	18	18
17. San Jacinto Central, Texas	16-3	4	20	20
18. North Dakota State College	22-1	3	20	20
19. Southwest Tennessee CC	15-4	2	19	19
19. Easton College, Tenn.	16-3	2	20	20
19. South Plains College, Texas	16-4	2	20	20
Other qualifying teams: Aiken Technical College, S.C.; Coffeyville CC, Kan.; Dawsonville CC, Wis.				

Salt Lake Community College (16-4) moved up one spot into a tie for 19th despite splitting last weekend's two-game series at NJC. The Bruins travel to Ephraim, Utah to take on Snow College this weekend.

Bryant sits as Lakers fall to Knicks

NEW YORK — Playing without the suspended Kobe Bryant, the Los Angeles Lakers' late rally fell short in their season-high third straight loss, 99-94 to the New York Knicks on Tuesday night.

Eddy Curry had 27 points and nine rebounds and Stephen Marbury scored 22 points for the Knicks, who led most of the game but never pulled away. David Lee grabbed 13 rebounds and Jamal Crawford added 17 points.

Bryant was penalized one game without pay earlier Tuesday for hitting San Antonio's Manu Ginobili in the face late in the Lakers' overtime loss to the Spurs on Sunday. Without Bryant's 28.4 points per game, the Lakers shot only 43.3 percent and lost for the fourth time in five games.

Lamar Odom had 25 points, nine rebounds and six assists for the Lakers. Vladimir Radmanovic added 18 points and nine boards and Smush Parker scored 14 points.

Wizards 104, Pistons 99

WASHINGTON — Gilbert Arenas had 36 points, 11 assists and seven rebounds in a Washington victory tempered by a knee injury to Antawn Jamison.



Heat 110, Bucks 80

MIAMI — Dwyane Wade scored 28 points and Miami snapped a three-game losing streak.

Michael Doleac had his first double-double of the season with 11 points and 11 rebounds for Miami.

Charlie Villanueva scored 17 points to lead the Bucks, who have lost six of seven.

Pacers 103, Celtics 96

INDIANAPOLIS — Jamaal Tinsley scored a season-high 28 points as Indiana handed Boston its 12th straight loss.

Jermaine O'Neal added 25 points and eight rebounds for the Pacers, who won for the fourth time in five games.

The win kept the Wizards ahead of the Pistons, who atop the Eastern Conference and gave the teams a split of the four-game season series.

Chauncey Billups scored 24 points, Prince had 18 points, and Richard Hamilton and Rasheed Wallace finished with 15 apiece for the Pistons.

Baron Davis scored 21 points to lead the Warriors.

Donyell Marshall added 15 points, Zydrunas Ilgauskas left with 10 rebounds and Cleveland snapped a three-game losing streak at home.

Baron Davis scored 21 points to lead the Warriors.

Mavericks 122, Sonics 102

DALLAS — Austin Croshere had a career-high 34 points and seven rebounds as the Dallas Mavericks beat the Seattle SuperSonics 122-102 on Tuesday night, stretching their home winning streak to 14 games.

Jason Terry's 19 points, Greg Buckner's season-best 17 and Devin Harris' 16 helped the Mavericks set a season high for points.

— The Associated Press

SUPER BOWL XLI



Chicago Bears quarterback Rex Grossman, left, is shown in this Jan. 14 file photo in Chicago. Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning, right, is shown in this Jan. 13 file photo in Baltimore. The Indianapolis Colts face the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI in Miami on Sunday, Feb. 4.

A stark contrast at QB Manning vs. Grossman

MIAMI (AP) — One has been called Da Worst, the other is Da Man.

Rex Grossman of the Bears vs. Peyton Manning of the Colts in the biggest Super Bowl mismatch ever.

Not close to being true, of course, but it's perception that counts.

Rex Grossman can't do anything right, even in Chicago, where every mistake leads to more cries for his benching. He had a passer rating of zero in one game this season and 1.3 in another on a team that is carried by its defense.

Manning, the most talented in a family of quarterbacks, is a two-time NFL MVP who holds any number of passing records. Barring injury, he could retire as the most prolific passer in league history.

About all they have in common is zero Super Bowl victories. Until now, the only real knock on Manning is that he could never win the big one.

"I read the Colts media guide on the way down 18 pages of Peyton," Bears coach Lovie Smith said after he arrived in Miami. "It showed me what is store for you."

That compares with three pages for Grossman in the Chicago guide.

There will be more pages next season, but they will have to list games like those against Arizona, when he threw four interceptions and lost two fumbles. Typically, the Bears won 24-23 on two fumble returns and Devin Hester's punt return, enhancing the perception that Chicago finished 13-3 in the regular season despite its quarterback.

Grossman's take?

"That he has played 12 good games this season and six bad ones, including the playoffs."

But people only remember the bad ones, including two on national television — the Arizona game and the meaningless season finale against Green Bay when he threw an NFL record with a passer rating of 0.0, throwing more interceptions

(three) than completions (two).

Then he compounded his mistake by saying afterward that because the game had no bearing on the standings, he hadn't prepared as thoroughly as he should have.

Not preparing thoroughly is something Manning never does, meaningless game or not.

"I read the Colts media guide on the way down: 18 pages of Peyton. It showed me what's in store for us."

— Chicago Bears coach Lovie Smith

Yet he has thrown six interceptions in the postseason, compared to just one for Grossman, including one returned 39 yards for a touchdown by New England's Asante Samuel in the AFC title game. Still, he led the Colts back from a 21-3 deficit and finally got to his first Super Bowl with the most important drive of his career — taking the Colts 80 yards in the final minutes for the winning score in their 38-34 win.

Grossman's take on Manning: His accomplishments get him a free pass when he makes mistakes.

"It's justified," he said. "Guys like Peyton, like Tom Brady, they throw a bad interception and people excuse it because of what they've done in their careers. When I do it, especially in a city like Chicago, people get all over me. I just haven't realized how exaggerated it can get."

The Chicago reference is relevant because of the Bears' history.

When they've been good, it's because of their defense — specifically the middle linebackers, a tradition that includes Hall of Famers Bob George, Dick Butkus and

Mike Singletary. Now it's Brian Urlacher, the 2003 defensive player of the year and the NFL's best at that position.

Quarterbacks? The last Bear with any pedigree at that position was Sid Luckman, who retired in 1950. And the 22 seasons between Jim McMahon and the 1983 championship Bears and that one is dotted with names like Mike Tomczak, Steve Walsh, Erik Kramer, Shane Matthews, Gade McGehee, Jim Miller, Kendall Stewart, Chad Hutchinson, Craig Krenzel and Kyle Orton.

Hutchinson and Orton were starters largely because Grossman, a first-round draft pick in 2003, kept getting hurt — entering this season, he started just nine games in three years.

So realistically, this was his first full season, normally not something you can use to judge a quarterback's career.

Grossman has started every game in the nine seasons he has played, missing only one play because of injury; he threw 28 interceptions as a rookie in 1999.

He also has classic bloodlines: his father, Archie, played 15 seasons, most of them for terrible New Orleans teams. Both Peyton and his brother Eli were the first overall picks in the NFL draft. In fact, Eli, who has had an up-and-down three seasons with the New York Giants, suffers, as Grossman does, from comparisons with Peyton.

Grossman has a pedigree: his grandfather played briefly in the All-American Football Conference in the 1940s for the Baltimore Colts, who became the Indianapolis Colts in 1954. His father, uncle and cousin played at Indiana University and his parents have been Colts season ticket holders since the team moved to Indiana.

Manning went out of his way Tuesday to defend his counterpart.

"If you're a quarterback who's taken a team to a Super Bowl, you've done a good job," he said.

Silent Marvin speaks, and finds out it's not that bad

MIAMI (AP) — tick, tick, tick, tick.

For 3,600 seconds Tuesday, exclusive Colts receiver Marvin Harrison sat patiently and fielded questions he wouldn't think of availing himself for on a normal day.

But this is the Super Bowl, and this was media day. And only under auspices as grand as this would one of the NFL's best receivers consent to talk.

Actually, Harrison's hour at Podium No. 6 inside Dolphin Stadium was fairly newsworthy.

It was an insightful, introspective look at one of the NFL's most prolific and least understood receivers. And as surprising as it was to even see him there, so were his takes on the interview process itself.

"It's fine," he said. "I'm not itching to get up. It's the Super Bowl, and where else would you rather be right now?"

While most of the pregame hype surrounds Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning's long quest for a title, Harrison is in virtually the same boat. During 11 seasons, all with Indy, he has caught 1,022 passes for 13,097 yards and 122 touchdowns. He reached 1,000 catches more quickly than any receiver in history. He's healthy and not considering retirement anytime soon. In other words, with good fortune and good health, he could surpass Jerry Rice as the Greatest of All Time.

"That's not important to me," he insisted.

From Harrison, the state minister seems genuine.

In an era of preening, end-zone dancing, look-at-me receivers, Harrison is the anti-TO — a polite, businesslike athlete succeeding at a prima donna's position.

He is not a media hound. Harrison sightings during open locker room periods for the regular Colts media are

Super Bowl XLI

Colts VS. Patriots

When: 4:25 p.m., Sunday
TV: CBS
Line: Colts by 7.

about as common as an Indy snowstorm in July.

But he apologizes to no one, even when faced with the reality that Pro Bowl trips and Hall of Fame legacies are often built in the court of public opinion as much as the stat sheet.

"I've done his style of play and their style of celebration," he explained. "I don't think it hurt me any. I'd definitely like to know, who's won more games between me and the receivers who do the antics and tactics and things? I'd definitely like to know that I know I have more catches than them."

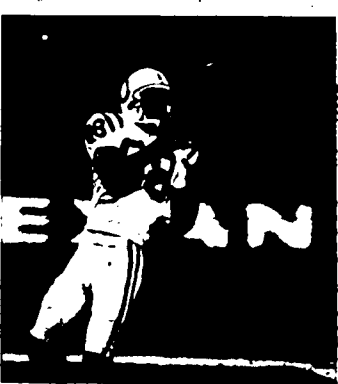
As far as basics go, that'll probably have to do for Harrison.

He just doesn't say much, and certainly would never supply fodder for an opponent's motivation.

Except, of course, the time earlier this season when he spiked the ball after a tipoff touchdown catch against New England. Spiking it was a big enough deal for Harrison. The fact that he received a 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty was even bigger news.

No big deal, Harrison insists.

"It wasn't taunting," he said, parsing the slight difference between that and unsportsmanlike conduct. "The ball hit one of my guys by accident. I'm not out there to embarrass anyone or harm anyone. My teammates love it but I don't have much of that. But I don't on special occasions."



Indianapolis Colts wide receiver Marvin Harrison catches a touchdown pass against the Seattle SuperSonics Feb. 4, 2005 in Houston. The Indianapolis Colts beat the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI in Miami on Sunday.



INSIDE: James Dullea, C3 | Comics, C6-7 | Horoscope, C6 | Dear Abby, C7



Super Bowl GLUTTONY

What a sportswriter might fix for The Big One

By Bradley Guire
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Now that Chicago and Indianapolis are set for Super Bowl XLII in Miami, only two questions remain: Who will win? And more importantly, what should we eat while watching the game?

It wasn't an easy answer. Though the caricature of a sportswriter lends itself to the idea of hosting Super Bowl parties, I break that mold. Until I got this job a few years ago, I was always the guy at the fast food joint on Super Bowl Sunday, making pizza for people who threw parties but didn't cook.

I decided this year to come up with some ideas of what I'd want to serve if I threw a Super Bowl party with a few friends. Not opening a bag of chips and a can of dip. Not where I'd go to eat and watch the game. But actually cook something.

While I'm not as authentic as Mario Batali or as easy on the eyes as Rachael Ray, I'm not too shabby in the kitchen. I can follow a recipe and get close to the intended result. In this case, however, not so close.

The road to Super Bowl gluttony was a bumpy one. Herein lie the recipes for Buffalo wings, Buffalo onion rings and mozzarella sticks, all of which look good on paper. I made sure that the difficulty level wasn't set too high for my culinary skills, yet even I was too big a fool for these foolproof recipes.

First off, I made only the dipping sauce for the mozzarella sticks. I don't care for blue cheese.

I began with the mozzarella sticks and the chicken wings because of the long prep time. While both of those sat in the refrigerator or freezer, the first dish I actually cooked was the platter of Buffalo onion rings.

The difficulty ranking was "medium," but that should be read: difficulty of not messing up. Sure, the batter was easy to make and I didn't lose any fingers chopping the onions, but I surely messed up somehow. As soon as I tossed some rings into the hot oil, the batter split off the rings and clumped in the middle. The end result looked more like a funnel cake with onion rings sprouting from the sides. Also, not enough red pepper. Those were some bland Buffalo rings. I recommend more cayenne than the recipe here calls for.

The mozzarella sticks came next, and they don't take long to heat up. After all, the sticks don't need to be cooked, just heated enough to melt the cheese and crisp the outside. Any more than 45 seconds and the cheese flows out and the sticks lose their shape. These should be eaten fairly quickly, as quickly heated cheese that turns room temperature is awful. As for the sauce, the recipe is more complicated than it needs to be. All that's really needed are the crushed tomatoes, a bit of oil and some Italian Mrs. Dash spices.

And now ... the chicken.

The Buffalo wings were about the only thing that went mostly right. Mostly. My biggest problem was cutting the chicken, as I received whole wings from my father-in-law, Tom, who owns a grocery store in Glenns Ferry. I'm not the master cutter he is when it comes to chicken. He makes it an art, slicing and chopping until the pieces are just right for his pressure fryer.

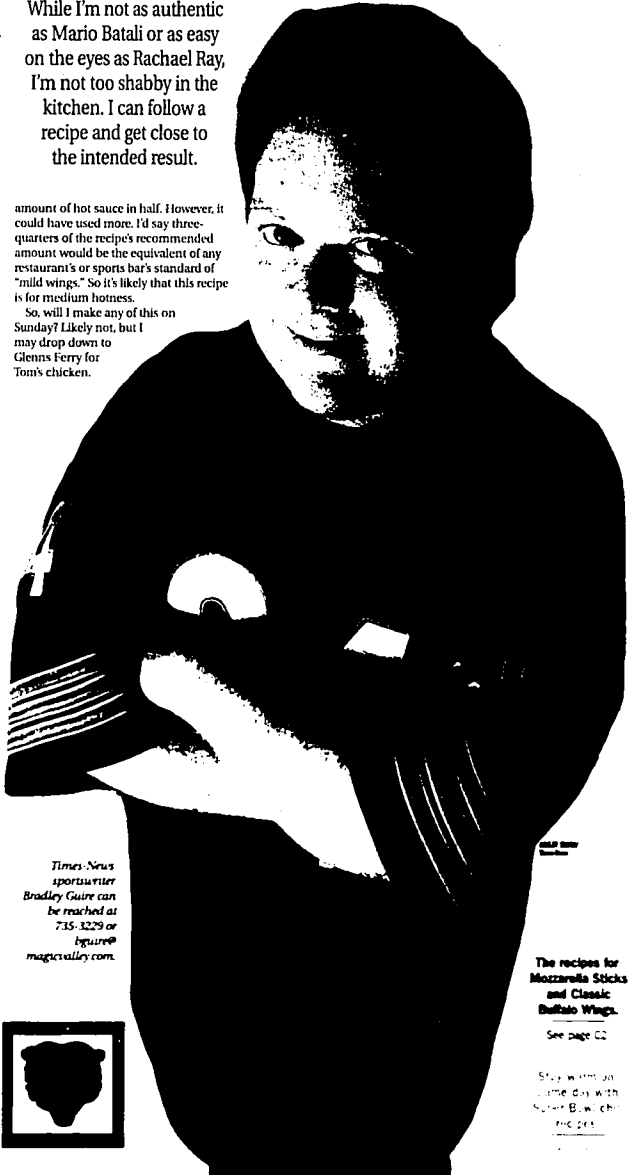
Besides the cutting, everything with this recipe is fine. The only real variable is how hot the wings should be. Despite the fact that a Southern man's chicken can't be hot enough, I'm not a big fan of extra spicy food, so I cut the

While I'm not as authentic as Mario Batali or as easy on the eyes as Rachael Ray, I'm not too shabby in the kitchen. I can follow a recipe and get close to the intended result.

amount of hot sauce in half. However, it could have used more. I'd say three-quarters of the recipe's recommended amount would be the equivalent of any restaurant's or sports bar's standard of "mild wings." So it's likely that this recipe is for medium hotness.

So, will I make any of this on Sunday? Likely not, but I may drop down to Glenns Ferry for Tom's chicken.

Times-News
sportswriter
Bradley Guire can
be reached at
735-3229 or
bguire@
magicvalley.com.



The recipes for Mozzarella Sticks and Classic Buffalo Wings.

See page C2

Stay warm on game day with Super Bowl chili and dips.



Super Bowl XLII
Indianapolis Colts vs.
Chicago Bears
Sunday
4:25 p.m. on CBS



SPICY BUFFALO ONION RINGS AND BLUE CHEESE DIP

Prep time: 25 minutes
Cook time: 20 minutes
Serves: 6

- Vegetable oil, for frying
- 4 eggs
- 3 cups 2-percent milk
- 6 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 tablespoon Cajun-style salt
- 2 tablespoons cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon white pepper
- 2 teaspoons black pepper
- 2 teaspoons dry mustard
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 3 extra-large yellow onions

Fill a large, heavy souppan with 2-3 inches of cooking oil and heat over medium-high heat. The oil temperature should be at 350 degrees when you start frying.

In a large bowl, mix the eggs and milk; then add the flour and baking powder and mix thoroughly with a hand-held mixer. Strain the mixture in a colander over a large, shallow bowl. In another bowl, mix the Cajun-style salt, cayenne, white pepper, black pepper, dry mustard and salt. Add this spice mixture to the batter. Cut the onions into thick slices, dust them in the batter and fry them, in batches, in the oil until golden brown.

Remove the onion rings with the blue cheese dip. Drain on paper towels.

For the blue cheese dip:
2 cups sour cream
1 cup butter/milk
2 cups blue cheese

- 1 tablespoon minced serrano chile peppers
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon hot sauce
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

In a large bowl, mix all the ingredients. Season

with salt and pepper to taste. Serve the sauce in a side bowl for dipping.

Source: Food Network



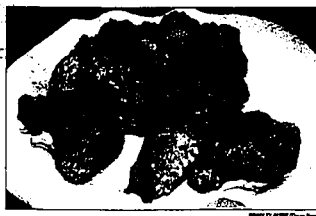
Super Bowl GLUTTONY

Continued from C1

CLASSIC BUFFALO WINGS

Prep time: 10 minutes
Inactive prep time: 30 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes
Servings: 6

- 30 chicken wings, small wing joint removed
- 2 cups hot sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- Vegetable oil, for frying



- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 Koshier salt
- 2 Cayenne pepper
- 2 large eggs
- 1/4 cup whole milk

Place the wings in a glass or other non-reactive bowl and add 1 cup of the hot sauce and the Worcestershire. Mix thoroughly, being sure all the wings are coated, cover and refrigerate for a minimum of 30 minutes.
Pour the oil for frying in a large pot to a depth of 2 inches and heat over medium heat

to 375 degrees.
Place the flour in a separate mixing bowl and season with kosher salt and cayenne pepper to taste. In a separate bowl, prepare an egg wash by whisking together the eggs and milk until well blended. Working with all 3 bowls (wings, flour mixture and egg wash): First dredge each wing in the flour mixture, then dip the wing in the egg wash; and finally dredge the wing completely in the flour mixture, coating it evenly. Deep-fry the wings for 12 to 15 minutes or until the batter achieves a crisp, uniform texture. When cooked through, set aside to drain on paper towels or the nonprinted side of a paper grocery bag.

- For the blue cheese dressing:
- 1 cup sour cream
 - 1/2 cup mayonnaise
 - 1 lemon, juiced
 - 1 tablespoon white vinegar
 - 1/4 cup chopped parsley leaves
 - 1 teaspoon minced shallots
 - 1/2 teaspoon minced garlic
 - 1/4 pound blue cheese, crumbled

In a mixing bowl and using a wire whisk, combine the sour cream, mayonnaise, lemon juice, vinegar, parsley, shallots and garlic until smooth. Gently stir in the crumbled cheese until completely mixed in.
To serve, place the fried wings in a large bowl and drench with the remaining 1 cup hot sauce (or less, to taste). Serve with the blue cheese dipping sauce and celery sticks on the side.

Source: Food Network

MOZZARELLA STICKS



Prep time: 30 minutes
Inactive prep time: 2 hours
Cook time: 10 minutes
Servings: 6 to 8

- 1 1/2 cups Italian-style dried bread crumbs
- 1 1/3 cups freshly grated Parmesan
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 16-ounce blocks pasteurized mozzarella cut into 4-by-1/2-inch sticks
- 4 large eggs, beaten
- 1 1/2 cups vegetable oil

Soak the bread crumbs, 1 cup Parmesan and 1 teaspoon salt in a medium bowl to blend.
Dip the cheese in the eggs to coat completely and allow the excess egg to drip back into the bowl.
Coat the cheese in the breadcrumb mixture, patting to adhere and coat completely. Place the cheese sticks on a baking sheet. Repeat dipping the cheese sticks in the egg and breadcrumb mixture to coat a second time. Cover and freeze until frozen, about 2 hours and up to 2 days.
Heat the oil in a large frying pan over medium heat. Working in batches, fry the cheese until golden brown, about 1 minute per side.
Transfer the fried cheese to plates, sprinkle with the remaining cheese and serve

with the marinara sauce.

- For the marinara sauce:
- 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
 - 2 small onions, finely chopped
 - 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
 - 2 stalks celery, finely chopped
 - 2 carrots, peeled and finely chopped
 - 1/2 teaspoon sea salt, plus more to taste
 - 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, plus more to taste
 - 2 32-ounce cans crushed tomatoes
 - 2 dried bay leaves

In a large casserole pot,

heat the oil over a medium-high flame. Add the onions and garlic and saute until the onions are translucent, about 10 minutes. Add the celery, carrots and 1/2 teaspoon each of salt and pepper. Saute until all the vegetables are soft, about 10 minutes.
Add the tomatoes and bay leaves, and simmer uncovered over low heat until the sauce thickens, about 1 hour. Remove and discard the bay leaf.
Season the sauce with more salt and pepper, to taste. (The sauce can be made a day ahead. Cool, then cover and refrigerate. Reheat over medium heat before using.)

Source: Food Network

Eating chocolate for a good cause

Times-News
TWIN FALLS — Chocolate lovers, the day you've been waiting for has almost arrived.
Yes, the Rotary Club of Twin Falls is sponsoring its 2nd Annual Death By Chocolate event, from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday at the Ballroom, 205 Shoshone St. N. in Twin Falls.
The chocolate feed raises money for local charities. Sponsors and the College of Southern Idaho culinary arts students will compete in five categories: best chocolate cake, best brownie, best chocolate spoke, best chocolate candy and best unique chocolate dessert.
You'll sample and judge the delectable delights and vote for your favorites in each category.
Admission is \$10 per person.
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FOOD & HOME

Keep eggs handy for quick supper

By Margo Perry
Special to Newsday

Eggs are my perfect pantry supper. I always have them on hand. From the simplest scrambled egg to a quick and satisfying omelet to forming the foundation of casseroles, they adapt in flavor and texture to suit nearly everyone's tastes.

HAM, ASPARAGUS AND CHEESE STRATA

Stratas are equally at home on the brunch and dinner tables.
You can assemble this the night before if it is for brunch, or in the morning if for dinner. It takes about 45 minutes to bake.

To make a lower-calorie and lower-fat version, substitute 5 egg whites for 3 of the whole eggs, and use low-fat (not fat-free) cheese.

- 1 cup (4 ounces) cooked lean ham, chopped
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 8 ounces asparagus spears, cut into 1-inch pieces (about 2 cups)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- 6 ounces sliced French bread (1 1/2-inch slices)
- 1 cup (4 ounces) shredded Gruyere cheese
- 6 large eggs
- 2 cups skim milk
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Coat an 8-inch baking dish or pie plate with cooking spray.
2. Heat a nonstick skillet over medium-high, add the ham, onion and bell pepper and cook, stirring, 1 to 2 minutes until ham is slightly browned. Add 2 tablespoons of water to the skillet and lower heat to medium. Add asparagus and cook 3 minutes, until onions are softened and asparagus is bright green.
3. Spread the mustard on the bread and layer it in the prepared baking dish. Top with the ham and vegetable

mixture. Sprinkle with the cheese.
4. Whisk together the eggs, milk, salt and pepper and pour the mixture into the baking dish. Let sit for at least 30 minutes, or up to several hours (wrapped and refrigerated).
5. Bake 45 minutes, or until lightly browned and puffed. Makes 4 servings.

SPINACH AND PROVOLONE FRITTATA

The cheese forms a luscious-looking top layer in this frittata. Made in a 10-inch skillet, the frittata is fairly thin; to make a thicker one, use a smaller skillet and cook it longer over lower heat.

- 8 large eggs
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- Pinch (1/8 teaspoon) nutmeg
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, finely

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Coat an 8-inch baking dish or pie plate with cooking spray.
2. Heat a nonstick skillet over medium-high, add the ham, onion and bell pepper and cook, stirring, 1 to 2 minutes until ham is slightly browned. Add 2 tablespoons of water to the skillet and lower heat to medium. Add asparagus and cook 3 minutes, until onions are softened and asparagus is bright green.
3. Spread the mustard on the bread and layer it in the prepared baking dish. Top with the ham and vegetable

minced
8 cups fresh baby spinach
4 ounces provolone, cut into 1/4-inch pieces

1. Preheat broiler.
2. Whisk together the eggs, salt, pepper and nutmeg and set aside.
3. Heat oil in a 10-inch cast-iron or ovenproof nonstick skillet over medium-high. Add the garlic and cook, stirring, 15 to 30 seconds, or until softened. Working in batches, add the spinach, tossing constantly and adding more spinach as it cooks down. The entire process should take 2 to 3 minutes. Spread the spinach in an even layer across the bottom of the pan.
4. Lower the heat to medium and pour the egg mixture over the spinach; cook for 5 to 6 minutes, or until the egg is almost set. Sprinkle the cheese over the top and cook under the broiler for 1 to 2 minutes, or until the cheese is melted and the egg is fully set. Makes 4 servings.

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BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF MAGIC VALLEY

Massive masonry fireplace heats long after fire goes out

DEAR JIM: I saw a home show about massive European-style fireplaces which can heat an entire home with only a 30-minute fire during the morning. Do these really work, and are they energy efficient?

— Judie M.



SENSIBLE HOME
James Dulley

DEAR JUDIE: These European masonry fireplaces are extremely efficient, clean-burning and decorative. Many also have built-in bake ovens, boot-warming areas, etc. With their massive size and unique appearance, they will become a focal point and comfortable gathering place in your home.

Using a large European masonry fireplace is much more convenient than a standard built-in wood-burning fireplace. Keep in mind though, most homes in Europe are smaller than the typical American home, so a single 30-minute fire during the morning will likely not keep an entire house warm all day.

These masonry fireplaces are designed to burn wood and heat differently from a typical American wood-burning fireplace. Our small fireplaces are designed with restricted combustion air for a long, almost continuous burn, and a blower to circulate the room air around the hot firebox.

European masonry fireplaces are designed for an extremely hot and fast burn. There is ample combustion air, so at the high temperature, the firewood burns cleanly with little smoke or creosote buildup. A 30-minute burn, or even shorter, is common with these fireplaces.

Instead of having the super-hot gases go directly up the flue or chimney, they wind back and forth through passages inside of the large masonry structure. This heats up the entire masonry structure. For many hours, it slowly radiates this heat out into your home long after the fire is out.



This large masonry fireplace doubles as a room divider and radiates heat to a very large area.

This warmed air naturally circulates throughout your house or you can run your furnace blower on low speed for more even heating. Having a furnace with an ECM variable-speed blower motor is an energy-saving advantage when it runs almost continuously.

When you are near the masonry fireplace, the direct radiant heat to your skin feels similar to standing in the sun's direct rays. With the huge thermal mass of the masonry materials, the exterior of the fireplace does not get extremely hot as does a standard fireplace.

There are various internal designs of masonry fireplaces with different hot gas flow patterns through them. A counter-flow model, often called a Finnish design, is very efficient. German and Russian designs have a more horizontal flow pattern and are ideal for lower fireplaces.

Most masonry fireplaces are built by a mason at your home. Some use simple modular or tongue-and-groove designs for the heart of the fireplace for easier assembly. The exterior can be finished in many decorative ways with the conven-

ience features you desire. The following companies offer large masonry fireplaces: Biofire, (801) 486-0266, www.biofireinc.com; Gimme Shelter, (715) 824-7200, www.gimmeshelteronline.com;

New England Health & Soapstone, (877) 491-3091, www.rodzander.com; Temp-Cast Enviroheat, (800) 561-8594, www.tempcast.com; and

Tullkivi, (800) 843-3473, www.tullkivi.com.

DEAR JIM: I close off some registers to the second-floor bedrooms after we are up in the mornings. I feel a cold draft coming down the stairs though. How can I stop this?

— Carrie L.

DEAR CARRIE: Your idea of reducing the heated air flow to the bedrooms during the daytime will save energy. Floor registers generally do not seal

well, so there still will be some heated air getting there.

There really is no way to stop the chilly draft. Cool air is more dense than warmer air, so it naturally flows down an open stairway. Run a ceiling fan in reverse in the first-floor room by the stairs to keep the warm and cool air mixed.

Send inquiries to James Dulley, 6906 Hoagwood Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.

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How slow can you go?

By Jane Touzalin
The Washington Post

Question: How slow can you go? I received a Crock-Pot as a gift. Because I am a slow-cooker novice, my question is about the time recommendations in recipes.

Most call for between six and 10 hours of cooking. From the time I leave the house until I return home at night is over 10 hours.

Is there a downside to cooking things two or three hours longer than recommended (assuming you add extra liquid)?

Answer: Beth Hensperger, author of the new "Not Your Mother's Slow Cooker Recipes for Two" (Harvard Common Press, \$12.95), tells us that some food can handle extra

time on the heat: brisket, lamb shanks, chunky stews, stocks, bean soups and large, tough cuts of meat. More delicate meats, including pork tenderloin and poultry, won't take kindly to it.

"The best suggestion I have is to make one of your favorite recipes on a weekend, when you are home, and plan to cook it 10 to 12 hours and check it," Hensperger says. Another tip: "Whenever you leave the house with the slow cooker bubbling away, always set on the low setting to avoid serious overcooking."



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body & mind

A Times-News Health Supplement

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- National Wear Red Day honoring Heart Month
- Give Kids A Smile Day: How are local dentists contributing?
- The latest ear, nose and throat treatments
- Money and how it affects your health
- Recipes for quick, healthy meals

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FOOD & HOME

Bowl game: Two favorite chili recipes

By Joe Yanan and Bonnie S. Benwick
The Washington Post

The two of us are not competitive people by nature. OK, that's not entirely true. But we've been getting along famously since we started working together a few months ago, finding that our palates are almost as aligned as our senses of humor.

Then came talk of Super Bowl XLII. Neither of us has a dog in this Sunday's fight, but when the subject turned to chili — a time-honored, crowd-pleasing game-day repast — a natural opposition emerged. Especially when a Texan is involved, no dish is as contentious.

One of us threw the first flag by suggesting publication of her favorite recipe, a comfort-food riff that includes vegetables and ground beef. The Texan launched a long drive about how real chili, which needs six to eight hours on the stove, has none of the above. The non-Texan said readers could make hers in a fraction of the time and could easily stomach much more of hers than his, which is really just chili-fired beef (and only beef) stew. The Texan not very graciously offered the translation of "chili con carne" from the Spanish, mumbled something about the world championship cook-off in Terlingua, and threatened to use quote marks when referring to her version.

Ultimately we decided that Super Bowl match-ups aside, this is a contest that doesn't need a referee. So we present two chilis, leagues apart but each all-pro in its own right. Make the one that speaks your language: pasta or spaghetti, Texan or not. Dish it out and turn on the television. Then let the cheering begin.

CHILI CON CARNE

4 servings

Joe Yanan's older brother, Michael, who lives in Ballinger, Texas, developed this recipe when asked to come up with a simplified version of a pasta chili. With only one kind of chili pepper but at least 6 hours of simmering, it's got the round flavors and slow-burning heat that define a "bowl" of chili. If you want



About oregano

Two types are prevalent among the dried versions. One, usually called Mediterranean, Turkish, Greek or Italian oregano, is known for its sweetness. Mexican oregano, specified in the Chili Con Carne recipe and used widely in Tex-Mex cooking, is not in the same family. More closely related to lemon verbena, it is less sweet than the Mediterranean variety and has a stronger bite. Look for it in Latin markets or in the Latin section of supermarkets.

Sources: Penzeys.com, "Field Guide to Herbs & Spices" by Aliza Green (Quirk, 2006)

something hotter, add up to 1 teaspoon of cayenne pepper, to taste.

This chili can be made in advance, transferred to an airtight container and refrigerated for up to 4 days or frozen for up to 1 month. (Skim condensed fat before reheating.) Serve with saltines, grated cheddar cheese, chopped onions and, if desired, pinto beans — on the side, of course. It also makes fantastic chili dogs and chili burgers.

- 6 dried ancho chili peppers, rinsed
- About 4 cups hot water, plus more as needed
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 1/2 pounds lean stew meat or chuck roast (trimmed of excess fat), cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- Salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 4 medium cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons onion powder
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano, preferably Mexican (see accompanying box)
- 1 tablespoon ground cumin
- Cayenne pepper (optional)

Cut or tear apart the ancho chili peppers, discarding the seeds and stems. Place in a dry skillet over medium heat



We present two chili recipes, leagues apart but each all-pro in its own right. Here, the purist's Chili Con Carne. Photo by JILL HESTER/The Washington Post

and toast for 5 minutes, just until fragrant, without allowing them to char. Transfer to a blender, add 1 cup of the water and blend until smooth. Set aside.

Heat the oil in a large Dutch oven over medium-high heat until it shimmers. Season the meat generously with salt and pepper to taste, then add just enough meat to the pot to avoid overcrowding. Cook in batches, stirring frequently, for 3 to 4 minutes each, or until the meat starts to brown.

Return all the meat to the pot, add the garlic and cook for a few minutes, stirring constantly, until the meat has browned all over and the garlic has softened.

Reduce the heat to medium, add the onion powder, stirring to mix well. Cook for 2 minutes, stirring constantly. Add the oregano, cumin and reserved ancho chili puree; stirring to combine. Add enough water to cover the meat by 1 inch (about 3 cups).

Cover the pot and reduce the heat to low. Cook for 6 hours, stirring occasionally, then stir over and use a spatula to mash and break up the meat.

Cook, uncovered, for another hour or two or until the

chili has become quite thick and the meat has almost melted into the liquid.

Taste and adjust seasoning with salt and cayenne pepper, if desired. Serve warm, with accompaniments of your choice.



WEEKNIGHT CHILI

4 to 6 servings (makes about 2 quarts)

This non-purist version, adapted from a recipe by California cooking teacher Linda Carucci, offers a little heat and a lot of comfort — especially when it is served over pieces of torn bread, which is how her mother made it.

Attention to detail makes for a tender chili. Among Carucci's pertinent cooking tips: Add the

dried herbs and spices to the sautéed vegetables to release their volatile oils. Use your fingers to crumble the dried oregano into the pot; that will release more of its flavor. Cook the chili over low, even heat to keep the ground beef juicy (boiling can shorten its protein fibers). If possible, don't let the condensation that forms on the underside of the pot lid slide off onto the chili and wash down its flavor.

The chili, which takes about an hour to make, can be prepared ahead, covered and refrigerated for up to 4 days or frozen for up to 1 month.

- 2 tablespoons mild extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 medium yellow onion, chopped (about 1 1/4 cups)
- 1 large carrot, trimmed and cut into 1/4-inch dice
- 1 large stalk celery, peeled to remove strings and cut into 1/4-inch dice
- 3 to 4 teaspoons mild chili powder
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano, crumbled
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 2 large cloves garlic, finely

CHAMPION CHOCOLATE
Winning recipes from 'Death By Chocolate.'
NEXT WEEK IN FOOD & HOME

One-dish meal offers meat, pasta and veggie

By Lisa Tanzalin
The Washington Post

Meat and vegetables make this a one-dish meal, but crusty bread and a green salad dressed with a tangy mustard vinaigrette would be nice accompaniments.

Adapted from "The Best of Fine Cooking: 101 Quick and Delicious Recipes" (Taunton Press, \$7.99) on newsstands.

ORECCHIETTE WITH CARAMELIZED GARLIC, SAUSAGE AND BROCCOLI

4 servings

10- to 12-ounce broccoli crown, cut into 1 1/2-inch florets, excess stems discarded

4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

3/4 pound sweet Italian sausage, casing removed, cut into 1-inch pieces

3/4 pound dried orecchiette pasta (may substitute penne pasta)

3 cloves garlic, sliced very thin

Salt

8 oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes, drained and cut into thin strips

1 tablespoon chopped thyme

Freshly ground black pepper

1 tablespoon lemon juice, or more to taste

3 tablespoons grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, plus more for serving

3 scallions, sliced thin, both white and light green parts

Have ready a medium bowl of very cold water.

In a large pot of boiling salted water, cook the broccoli until it softens to a tender crunch, 1 to 2 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, transfer the broccoli to the bowl of cold water. Keep the water in the pot boiling.

In a large skillet over medium-high heat, heat 2 tablespoons of oil until hot.

Add the sausage and cook, stirring until it browns and is just cooked through, about 6 minutes.

Transfer to a plate. Meanwhile, add the pasta to the boiling water. Drain the broccoli in a colander.

Reduce the heat under the skillet to medium-low, then add the remaining 2 tablespoons of oil and the garlic. Season with salt to taste and cook, flipping the garlic slices occasionally, until they start

to brown, 3 to 4 minutes. Raise the heat to medium-high and add the broccoli and sausage to the skillet, cooking until everything is heated through, about 1 minute. Add the sun-dried tomatoes and thyme, stirring to combine.

Finish cooking the pasta until it is just tender, about 10 minutes total, and reserve 1 cup of the pasta water. Drain the pasta and add it to the skillet. Increase the heat to high and toss well for 30 seconds.

If the pasta appears dry, add some of the reserved pasta water as needed. Add the pepper, lemon juice, Parmigiano-Reggiano and scallions and stir to combine. Add more salt, pepper or lemon juice to taste.

Serve immediately, sprinkled with more grated cheese.

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Vintage that is worth the toil

By Lisa Boone
Los Angeles Times

In the eyes of furniture restorer Denise Karger, no vintage flea market find is too far gone for a 21st-century revival.

Her advice for that Alvar Aalto armchair you scored? "Refurbish it the right way," says Karger, who has run Loomers, a custom upholstery business in Los Angeles, for 15 years. Quality restoration involving eight-way hand-tied springs and industrial overlocked seams can be expensive. "You have to make a commitment to the piece," she says.

Her tips for choosing flea market furniture that's worth reupholstering:

Big picture: When shopping at a bustling flea market or auction house, people often have a hard time visualizing the whole environment they're furnishing. They see single elements but don't think about how those elements relate to the surrounding space. "People can fall in love with one piece and forget about an entire room," Karger says.

Emotional response: That said, Karger suggests, "If you fall in love with it, buy it." You can change the composition of a room to complement the scale of any new purchase. Taller legs or artwork, for example, can make a small midcentury sofa with clean lines work in a larger room.

Basics: When walking the stalls of a flea market, look for the style you want — perhaps Victorian, midcentury or modern — then examine the bones of the piece. "You have to like the way it sits, and you have to like its design," Karger says.

Spring: Examine each piece closely. "Sometimes it's ripped and you can see the guts," she says. Pull up the cushions and



Frank Lloyd Wright, in leather and wood.

push down to see if a sofa has coil springs. Coil springs will give you a better "sit" and are a sign of quality. Even if you stumble upon a plum "find" that seems to need little work, Karger says, "Just make sure the springs aren't gone."

Pitch: Sit in the chair or sofa and analyze the pitch — the angle of the back. Older couches are more likely to have been custom built, and they often have wonderful pitch, Karger says.

Stuffing: Some older furniture at flea markets will have horsehair stuffing. Horsehair is rarely used anymore, and pieces that have it are worth preserving. (The horsehair adds what she admiringly calls "crunch.") Karger recommends steam cleaning the horsehair and reusing it. Feather and down also can be excellent stuffing materials, but Karger

points out that their effectiveness depends on the structure of the chair and your personal preference. A down-filled Shabby Chic-style sofa may be too soft for some.

Frame: There's so much you can modify and change," Karger says. Dimensions can be tweaked. "Inlet feet can build up a chair. A square arm can be made round. For an industrial look, Karger loves to add casters. "I love when they are exposed," she says. Just remember: If you've picked out a vintage piece because you love its lines, drastic changes are counterproductive.

Deal-breaker: It's the broken frame. "That would have to be dowelled and braced and wouldn't be worth it," she says. "It's fixable, but expensive."

Fabric: Karger doesn't advise clients to buy their own fabric. "They don't understand scale,

repeats, and they can't picture it done," she says. She recommends enlisting the help of an upholsterer who understands textures and will know, for example, that loose-weave fabrics need to be backed with cotton.

Samples: Live with the fabric samples. "I like my clients to buy a yard and take it home with them," Karger says. Lighting in the home will be different from the showroom.

Source: Estate sales, auctions and eBay are good places to look for vintage furniture. For Karger, a self-described scavenger, the fun is in the hunt. "There's a great challenge in getting something that has a certain aesthetic and taking it and reconstructing it."

Shifting neutral into another gear

The Washington Post

Too often, the word "neutral" gets a bad rap in home decor. Immediately we think beige, tan — and boring. Some even charge that neutrals are a refuge for people who don't like color, or perhaps are even afraid of it.

A new book, "Perfect Neutrals: Color You Can Live With," by Stephanie Hoppen (Watson-Gupilli, \$35), preaches that we all need to expand our definition of neutrals. Shades of blue, green, even red, purple and brown are what she calls "dirty" neutrals, colors that are just as versatile as buff and cream but "are so much more interesting and uplifting to live with." (Incidentally, the book's cover undercuts her argument, showing a bedroom draped in taupe and khaki.)

Hoppen, a London art gallery owner, has written several books about decorating and color and knows the word neutral conjures up an image of "rather dreary, nondescript beige." She tries to change that with beautiful photos of rooms painted violet, celery and tangerine, explaining how they work with other colors.

"Perfect Neutrals" is more user-friendly than your average coffee table book, thanks to the paint index at the back of the book. High-end custom mixes? Not here. Most of the colors are from Sherwin-Williams and Benjamin Moore.

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Not your grandpa's country club food

Times-News

TWIN FALLS — Blue Lakes Country Club has seen many changes lately — among them, clubhouse renovations and some new flavors, the latter by Executive Chef Greg Clinton.

Now, Clinton and country club General Manager Michael Collins will teach a cooking class titled "Country Club Menu" from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at Rudy's — A Cook's Paradise, 147 Main Ave. W. in Twin Falls. Cost is \$35. Clinton and Collins breathed new life into an already beautiful setting, Rudy's said, and their class will give a taste of things to come.

The night's menu: Roasted Beet Carpaccio; Stuffed Prawns with Wild Rice Cakes, and Cream Cheese Ice with Berry Consommé.

Clinton began his culinary career in a hotel kitchen at age 15.

After an American Culinary



Blue Lakes Country Club chef Greg Clinton will teach a Twin Falls cooking class next week.

Federation apprenticeship. Clinton took a position as chef de cuisine at Greenbrier in West Virginia, working under a certified master chef, then moved to the Southwest and was saucier at a private country club, under another CMC.

After a position as executive chef at a resort hotel in northern Arizona, he joined Cactus Pines as assistant executive chef. In May, Clinton became executive chef at Blue Lakes Country Club. To sign up, call Rudy's at 733-5477.

Last chance today: Nominate the valley's best burgers

Times-News

Nominations have been pouring in from folks who say they know Magic Valley's best burger.

Today is your last chance to put your own nomination in the pot before our Burger Bracket settles the question.

In March, your favorite burgers around Magic Valley will compete to win the favor of our culinary readers — on the road to our 2007 burger championship.

You can watch their progress through each round here in Food & Home. But the Sweet Sixteen lineup is up to you.

Burger Bracket

Ending today, you can nominate burgers from any restaurants in Magic Valley (including Mini-Cassia).
Fried or flame grilled.
Dressed up with mushrooms and sauce, or plain old ground beef in a bun.
Whatever you think has a shot at the big game.
E-mail your nomination today to virginia.hutchins@lee.net — with "Burger Bracket" in the subject line.

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By Johnny Hart



Baby Blues

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



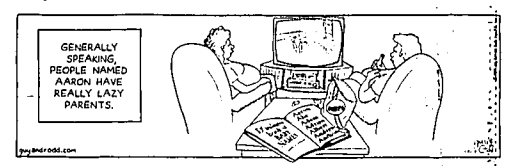
Baldo

By Hector D. Cantu and Carlos Castellanos



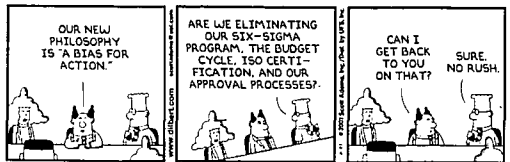
Brevity

By Guy F. Reed



Dilbert

By Scott Adams



Doonesbury

By Garry Trudeau



The Elderberries

By Phil Frank and Joe Troise



For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



Luann

By Greg Evans



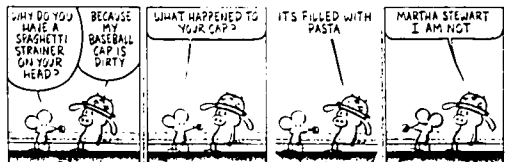
Mallard Fillmore

By Bruce Tinsley



Pearls Before Swine

By Stephan Pastis



Pickles

By Brian Crane



Rose is Rose

By Pat Brady



Zits

By J. Borgman and Jerry Scott



Non Sequitur

By Alex



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Aries' nose will meet the grindstone

IF JAN. 31 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: During this wonderful year you could fall in love, someone might fall for you, or you could make major progress in career aspirations. For the next several weeks you have what it takes to charm even the most reserved. If you are already in love, it might lead to your destiny. If you wish to climb higher in the world of commerce or business, this is the time to make your moves. Your charisma is evaluated in September, but for now you people you meet then might not be who they seem — or you may read more significant into events than they deserve. Your popularity and attractive new peaks again as December makes every effort to get ahead in business or form important relationships while you have extra help from the universe.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The moon and the grindstone are likely to meet for the next several days. It is best to be as thrifty as possible and avoid adding credit card debt.

TALPUS (April 20-May 20): Talpini will get you nowhere better than the bathroom and restroom mirrors for the next few days. It is time to be diligent

HOROSCOPE

Jeradine Saunders

about meeting deadlines and to be consistent as usual to get things done.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The tradition may be the best way to get exercise. You can really have a great deal and a head to head, but your thinking capabilities are not quite as sharp as they used to be.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Search for rational solutions to complex problems. It may be difficult to get attention from partners or significant others who seem to be working behind you. Hold off on any purchases.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Search for a discipline. When you're up to your neck in responsibilities, it is wise to at least tread water. You may be a bit like doing an extra as needed, but obligations can pile up if you're not careful.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A hand like a steel trap depends upon a healthy and durable spring. Don't forget to get pieces of exercise and to take breaks from tedious jobs. Take a time out to stretch physical muscles.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):

Which year you and you. During the next few days the world might be pulled over your eyes where a certain relationship is concerned.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Stick to your guns. To make or remain someone must turn the page on the past. The attraction came to hold on for a long time may be unsustainable unless you remain realistic.

SAQUARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Concentrate on one thing at a time. Put your enthusiasm in an envelope — then wait as long as it takes to get the mail. It is wise to be realistic and not be too optimistic than care-free.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Roll up your shoulders. Love romantic matters to the characters and try to maintain a harmonious atmosphere. Your commitment and diligent efforts will pay off eventually.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make your intentions as clear as possible. Emotional matters may lead to adopt an attitude of where a doubt, don't participate don't spend money on obligations such as donations or gestures.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be disciplined about the budget. It's best to spend more than you make.

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 Brent Parker & Jimmy Hart



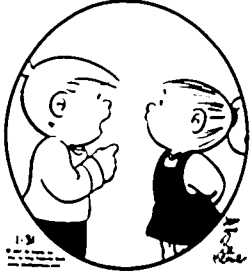
Denise the Menace

By Mark Arthur



THE FAMILY CIRCLE

By Bill Keane



Aunt weighs telling niece the facts of her adoption

DEAR ABBY: My sister, "Elizabeth," died recently. She had adopted a baby at birth and insisted that the child not be told that she was adopted.

The "child" is now in her 50s, and we think that for years she may have suspected that she was adopted because she's different in appearance and temperament from other family members.

On the off chance that she has siblings, would it be wise to inform her at this late date of her adoption? I think the reason Elizabeth didn't want her to know was that she was afraid of losing her daughter's affections. I did not agree with that decision, but I honored it while my sister was alive. What are your thoughts on this matter?

— STAYING MUTE

IN NEW JERSEY
DEAR STAYING MUTE: Remain mute no longer. Your niece has a right to know her personal history.

Adoption stopped being considered a deep, dark secret decades ago. I am sure she will have mixed feelings knowing this was kept from her for so long — but it's important you share with her any and all information you have so that she can initiate a search if she wishes. At the least, she should know if there is a genetic pre-



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: We moved to a small (six-house) cul-de-sac last October, and a few weeks later we were outside raking leaves. Two of our neighbors were outside as well, and no one introduced themselves or even waved.

disposition to any illnesses in her background.

DEAR ABBY: Is it appropriate for my husband's mother to take him alone to dinner to celebrate his birthday? We have been married for 13 years and have two children, yet she did not include the rest of us. My husband thinks it's because she can't afford dinner for all of us, but I think she should then just order a pizza and have us to her house.

ON THE LEFT COAST
DEAR LEFT OUT: If his mother wants alone time with her son, she could invite him to join her for lunch that day so they could talk privately. As it stands, I agree, you are being excluded — and I'm curious about why your husband would go along with it.

We left a very friendly subdivision and were hoping to find the same in our new neighborhood. We are just looking for a smile, and someone to watch our house if we're out of town, etc. We'd be happy to return the favor.

Any advice for this new neighbor? When we bought the house we were told that all the neighbors were friendly and about our age.

— UNHAPPY
IN THE CUL-DE-SAC
DEAR UNHAPPY: Please do not make a snap decision about your new neighbors. The "natives" may indeed be friendly. They may not, however, be as outgoing as your former neighbors were.

My advice is to go to each of them, introduce yourself, perhaps invite them over for coffee, and let them get to know you.

Relationships take time to build, and not everyone may respond as you wish, but I'm betting some of them will hold a good thought.

Plotter in England had plans for a big boom

This day in history: On Jan. 31, 1606, England executed Guy Fawkes for plotting to kill King James I and nearly all government officials. He had been caught with 36 kegs of gunpowder under the Houses of Parliament right before its opening ceremonies began. When tortured on the rack, Fawkes revealed ten other conspirators, who were also hanged.

If a latter-day Guy Fawkes had successfully pulled a similar stunt during last week's State of the Union Address,



RANDOM KINDS OF FACTNESS
Eric Barrett & Jack Mingo

Although the invention of the bicycle has been credited to many, Leonardo DaVinci actually drew a blueprint for one in 1490. As far as anyone knows, though, he never actually got around to making it.

An early precursor to the bicycle was the Celerifer, invented by a Frenchman named Comte de Sivrac in 1791; it was basically an animal-shaped bicycle without steering or pedals, and riders pushed themselves along with their feet.

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AS HEARD ON PAUL HARVEY NEWS Thousands across the nation are saying no to higher heating bills

Never be cold again

Safely heats a large room in minutes

By John Whithead, Media Services

Yes, hundreds of thousands now use an advanced portable heater in their homes.

A new advanced quartz infrared portable heater, the EdenPURE®, can slash your heating bills.

You have probably heard about the remarkable EdenPURE® as heard on Paul Harvey News and on television features across the nation.

The EdenPURE® can pay for itself in a matter of weeks and then start putting a great deal of extra money in your pocket after that.

And that's just the start of the benefits for the new EdenPURE® Quartz Infrared Portable Heater.

The EdenPURE® does not get hot, cannot start a fire, and will not reduce humidity or oxygen.

A major cause of residential fires in the United States are portable heaters. But the EdenPURE® cannot cause a fire. That is because the quartz infrared heating element never gets to a temperature that can ignite anything.

The outside of the EdenPURE® only gets warm to the touch so that it will not burn children or pets. Pets can sleep on it when it is operating without harm.

The EdenPURE® will also make you healthier. That is because, unlike other heating sources, it will not reduce humidity or oxygen in the room. Typical heating sources reduce humidity which dries out your sinuses, makes you more susceptible to disease and makes your skin dry. With other heating sources, you'll notice that you're snoring when the heat comes on because they are burning up oxygen.

The EdenPURE® heats a large room in minutes with even heat wall to wall and floor to ceiling.

The advanced space-age EdenPURE® Quartz Infrared Portable Heater also heats the room evenly, wall-to-wall and floor-to-ceiling. Other heating sources heat rooms unevenly with the heat concentrated high in the room and to the center of the room. And, as you know, portable heaters only heat an area a few feet around the heater. With the EdenPURE®, the temperature will not vary in any part of the room.

Unlike other heating sources, the EdenPURE® cannot put poisonous carbon monoxide into a room or any type of fumes or any type of harmful radiation.

For more details on the amazing EdenPURE® Quartz Infrared Portable Heater, here is my interview with Julius Toth, Director of Product Development for BioTech Research.

Q. What is the origin of this amazing heating element in the EdenPURE®?

A. This advanced heating element was discovered accidentally by a man named John Jones. He had a large old farmhouse that was impossible to heat. Jones had a coal furnace in his basement. Jones placed a sheet of cured copper near the furnace to store it. Cured copper is a type of copper that goes through an extensive heating process to give it special properties.

After the fire went out in the coal furnace, Jones noticed that the sheet of copper was heating his entire base-

The EdenPURE® Heater



Cannot start a fire; a child or animal can touch or sit on it without harm.



ment evenly, even though the furnace was no longer putting out heat. He also did not want it to be as big as the heat stayed in the copper and continued to warm the room. Jones was so taken back by this that he started to experiment. He formed a company to develop a heating source out of this cured copper. But Jones had a number of children and he did not want a heating source that would cause a fire or create other hazardous situations like creating carbon monoxide or radiation. He also did not want his children to get burned.

To make a long story short, through a great deal of research and development, Jones developed a heating source that utilized commercial infrared quartz tube heating source products?

A. John Jones designed his heating source around the three most important consumer benefits: economy, comfort, and safety. The final development of this infrared quartz heat source cannot be matched by any other heating system in the world.

In the EdenPURE® system, electricity is used to generate infrared light which, in turn, creates a very safe heat. Infrared is the safest form of heat because it does not create carbon monoxide or harmful radiation. And, most importantly, infrared heat does not reach a burning heat and cannot start a fire.

After a great deal of research and development, very efficient infrared heat chambers were developed that utilize three unique patented solid copper heat exchangers in one EdenPURE® heater. Over 5 years of research, development and real life field testing stand behind this heat source. It has now worked in residential and commercial applications worldwide for over 25 years.

Q. Why is it that this

quartz infrared heating source uses less energy to create heat than other sources?

A. Actually, there is more than one reason. One of the primary reasons is that heat at combustion level, which is what all other heat sources use, causes the heat to instantly rise to the ceiling. Therefore, the heat is not evenly distributed, causing a very inefficient and uncomfortable heat source.

The EdenPURE® Quartz Infrared Portable Heater does not use burning heat. Once the heat exchanger absorbs the infrared heat, it exhales the heat into the living area which is carried by the existing humidity in the air. This causes the heat to travel rapidly and evenly throughout a room.

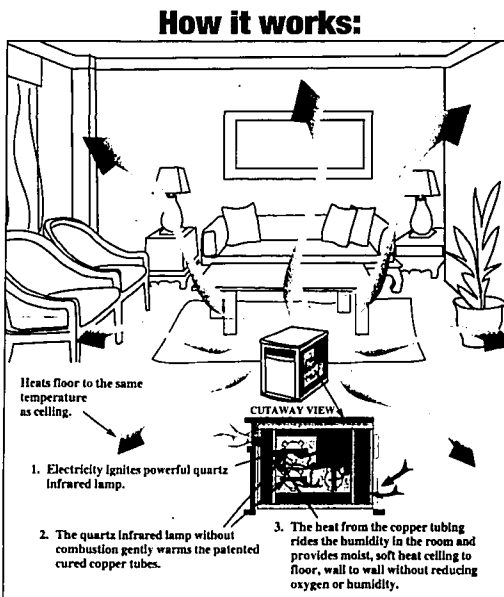
In actual studies, photos using infrared lighting demonstrated that the heat was almost perfectly even from floor-to-ceiling and wall-to-wall. The EdenPURE® Quartz Infrared Effortless heat source absorbs the heat, not on just fan movement. This heat is coined as "soft heat" due to how comfortable it is.

Q. What are the other disadvantages of combustion heat sources?

A. Heat sources that are above the burning level have many unhealthy side effects. One of these is that it creates dry, irritating indoor air. It also burns a great deal of oxygen in the air. If you remember, when you sit in front of a fireplace or a portable heater or close to a heat source, you will remember yawning. This is because you are not getting enough oxygen.

This dry irritating heat and lack of oxygen in the air causes sinus and mucus in the throat and makes people susceptible to disease. The lack of oxygen causes fatigue.

Also, many combustible heat sources produce carbon



monoxide, static cling, and some produce radiation.

Q. So you're saying that children or pets can come up to this unit and touch it and not be harmed?

A. That is absolutely correct. As a matter of fact, pets are actually drawn to this heat because it is a natural source of heat, just like the sun heats the earth. Animals are much more instinctive than humans. This heat not only heats the air, but it also heats the objects in the room. It is a perfectly balanced heat.

Q. How can a person cut their heating bill by up to 50% with the EdenPURE®?

A. First, the EdenPURE® uses less energy to create heat than other sources, but that is just part of why it will cut a person's heating bill. The EdenPURE® will heat a room in minutes. Therefore, you can turn the heat down in your house to as low as 50 degrees, but the room you are occupying, which has the EdenPURE®, will be warm and comfortable. The EdenPURE® is portable. When you move to another room, it will quickly heat that room also. This can drastically cut heating bills, in some instances, by up to 50%.

Q. I also understand that the EdenPURE® produces clean fresh air without furnace filters. How can it do that?

A. A furnace generates a lot of dust due to the combustion. By lowering the furnace temperature, you are using your furnace less and therefore reducing the requirement for the furnace filters. Also, when there's no combustion, there are no harmful fumes.

Q. So, the EdenPURE® is totally safe to use?

A. It absolutely is. The EdenPURE® has zero clearance for the furnace filters. Also, you can push it up against the wall or furniture without risk of fire. Tests prove the unit does not transmit any energy into the atmosphere that will burn or harm anyone regardless of

distance between the person and the EdenPURE®.

The EdenPURE® will pay for itself in weeks. It will put a great deal of extra money in a user's pocket. Because of today's spiraling gas, oil, propane, and other energy costs, the EdenPURE® will provide even greater savings as the time goes by.

The EdenPURE® comes in 2 models. Model 500 heats a room up to 300 square feet and Model 1000 heats a room

up to 1,000 square feet.

End of interview. Readers who wish can obtain the EdenPURE® Quartz Infrared Portable Heater at a \$75 discount if they order in the next 10 days. Please see the Special Readers Discount Coupon on this page. For those readers ordering after 10 days from the date of this publication, we reserve the right to either accept or reject order requests at the discounted price.

SPECIAL READER'S DISCOUNT COUPON

The price of the EdenPURE® Model 500 is \$372 plus \$17 shipping for a total of \$389 delivered. The Model 1000 is \$472 plus \$27 shipping and handling for a total of \$499 delivered. People reading this publication get a \$75 discount with this coupon and pay only \$297 delivered for the Model 500 and \$397 delivered for the Model 1000 if you order within 10 days. The EdenPURE® comes in the decorator color of black with buried wood accent which goes with any decor. There is a strict limit of 3 units at the discount price - no exceptions please. Check below which model and number you want:

Model 500, number _____
 Model 1000, number _____

* To order by phone, call TOLL FREE 1-800-591-1066 Ext. EPH4236. Place your order by using your credit card. Operators are on duty 24 hours, 7 days.

* To order online, log on to www.edenpure.com

* To order by mail, by check or credit card, fill out and mail in this coupon.

This product carries a 60-day satisfaction guarantee. If you are not totally satisfied, your purchase price will be refunded. No questions asked. There is also a one year warranty.

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INSIDE: Mini-Cassia residents rally for higher wages, D4



INSIDE: Obituaries, D2 | Money, D4 | Stocks, D5 | Idaho/West, D6

Confronting my darkest hillbilly fears

Many of us who grew up in — gosh, how to put this delicately — colorful rural settings have this hidden, primal fear that we're going to turn into our Uncle.

Ned spends his days soaking his dentures in hand elder in a Mason jar and sitting in the broken porch swing with his bronco, playing "Foggy Mountain Breakdown."



DON'T ASK ME
Steve Crump

And we suspect, in our heart of hearts, that country bumpkinism is genetic — not learned behavior — and that sooner or later bib overalls will triumph over Dockers.

To make matters worse, a number of the people who settled in southern Idaho were from the Ozark Mountain region of southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. These folks were some of the original hillbillies.

And they brought with them a legacy of certain, well, rustic sensibilities.

OK, I know this is mostly Hollywood myth, but when I look at some of my kin I see — in my mind's eye — busted lawn sprays, broken refrigerators on the front porch, sofas on the overgrown front lawn and a lamentable neglect of oral hygiene.

Could that be the default condition of you and me? Look, we all know that civilization is just a thin veneer, beneath which rolls bootlegging and an unhealthy obsession with pork rinds. The rutted road to the backwoods leads to marrying your first cousin, covering your walls with velvet Elvises and painting your truck in londo.

I'm oversensitive to all that, I suppose, because I grew up in a trailer — a completely honorable place to live, but prone to abuse. Our neighbors hung hubcaps on their trailer skirting. The trucker who lived across the street had mud flaps with naked women on them, and my best friend Jake's family owned a goat.

So I'm alert, in my fiftysomething years, to symptoms of backsliding. Ear hair, for example, is alarming, nose hair downright terrifying, and I've had a secret hankering lately to hear Little Jimmy Dickens on an 8-track player.

But so far, I've been resolute in leaving Green Acres at bay. A couple of months ago, I bought a suit, and while the tailor was measuring the pants she asked whether I would be wearing suspenders with them.

It was a sensible question, because I have a belly but not hips. I spend a lot of time hitching up my britches.

Politely but firmly I replied that I preferred to wear a belt, for there is no clearer declaration of intent to join the fed Clampett clan than sporting suspenders.

Suspenders — big red ones, with polka-dots — practically hold up Arkansas, and if you wear them all the time you're just a corker pipe and a jog away from "Deliverance."

Show me a man who has surrendered to suspenders, and I'll show you a man with no shirts — but a dozen sets of leg jeans — hanging in his closet. The longer you wear suspenders, the less often you wear socks — and after that comes the craving for possum and dandelion greens.

Your rustic Uncle Ned may be happy in the lifestyle he has chosen, and he has every right to be.

He don't have to look at himself.

Pass me a cheek-full of Red Man.

Struggling life ends in tragedy

By Cassidy Friedman
Times-News writer

Jerome woman dies in two-vehicle accident Monday

JEROME — A Jerome woman died Monday night in a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of 300 S and Golf Course Road, according to the Idaho State police.

Rebecca LaCombe, 36, was gashwound at 9:25 p.m. on 300 S in a 1994 Dodge Caravan with Dallas LaCombe, her 9-year-old son, according to ISP. The state police said LaCombe failed to yield at a stop sign on Golf Course Road and hit a 1989 Ford F250 pickup driven by Patrick Schuyler, 39, of Jerome.

LaCombe, who was not

wearing a seat belt, was ejected from her van and died at the scene, ISP said. Her son and Schuyler, both of whom were wearing seat belts, were both treated and released at St. Luke's Medical Valley Regional Medical Center.

"She was loving, very kind-hearted. She was just a wonderful person all over," said her older sister, Teresa Williams of Wendell.

But she was also a bull-headed alcoholic, Williams

said of LaCombe, who was driving drunk at the time of the accident, according to ISP.

LaCombe rebuffed her family's attempts at intervention. And Williams said, her sister had been dating a man who was not helping her raise her sons, Destry, 19, Darriek, 17, and Dallas, 9.

LaCombe was driving to her boyfriend's home in Twin Falls when the accident happened, Williams said.

She said other family

members will help take care of LaCombe's children.

"My brother is going to adopt the baby," Williams said. "The 17- and 19-year-olds, police said, are old enough to take care of themselves."

The two older boys have been living with Williams' son.

None of her sister's abysmal lows made hearing the news any easier. Her daughter broke it to her.

"I didn't believe it. It's not true. It's not real," Williams said. "It wasn't a good life. She's had her ups and downs. She was probably more on the down part at this time in her life."

TAKING FLIGHT



A hawk takes flight off of a power pole Tuesday afternoon as the sun sets near Gooding.

Cassia County medic makes his final run

Larson retiring after 36 of service

By Renee Wolfe
For the Times-News

BURLEY — Sandy Mabey says she would have died on a July day in 1971 if not for Warren Larson's medical expertise.

"I had a broken neck, what they call a hangman's break," said Mabey, who was hit by a car as she rode her bike along Overland Avenue.

"If anyone would have even jarred me, I'd have been dead, or at least paralyzed from the neck down," she said.

"Warren put me on one of those boards that come apart, completely stabilized me and saved me."

Larson, director of Life Run Ambulance Service, retired on Jan. 24 after 36 years of responding to emergencies in Mini-Cassia. Some resulted in beautiful memories, miracles seen and lives saved. Others are tucked deeply in his mind, and still bring tears.

"It's those that are impossible to forget," Larson said. "I've seen enough of death and dying, and my health isn't getting any better and I'm not getting younger. I want to be able to do a few other things."

Please see MEDIC, Page D3



Life Run Ambulance Director Warren Larson enjoys a light moment as he displays an honorary jacket and belt presented to him last week by the Emergency Run crew at Shoshone Memorial Hospital.

Cowboy Gallery: Renovations make a colorful splash

By Jared Dahlke
For the Times-News

ELKO, Nev. — The Western FolkLife Center's redesigned and modernized Wiegand Gallery is ready to open after undergoing major renovations since last fall.

The gallery was funded largely by a grant from the Wiegand Foundation, the state cultural affairs commission and donations from patrons of the WFC.

The new gallery will be officially unveiled during a ceremony today.

One unveiling is from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. for WFC members, and another from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. for the general public.

The Gitzano Family and The Gimbles will provide live entertainment.

WFC Executive Director Charlie Seemann said the new gallery is "wonderful." Seemann also used the

term "grown up" to describe the gallery's transformation from its original style and construction to the more modernized facility it is now.

"They (the grants) allowed us to do a lot more in here than we've been able to do before," Seemann said.

Aside from a new paint job and redesign of exhibit space, the gallery is now divided into two distinct areas. The back corner near the gift shop is home to an

exhibit on the Gardians — French bull herders of France's southern Camargue region.

While the exhibit features the typical photographs, posters and Gardian herding gear, there's also a brand-new flat-panel television set with films on the Gardians. The rest of the gallery, which features the long-running Hispanic heritage backuros

Please see GALLERY, Page D3

On the lookout

Police looking for man who approached young girl

TWIN FALLS — Police are looking for a white male who approached an 8-year-old girl waiting for the bus.

The girl was waiting near Forest Vale Circle and Knottingham Drive at 7:50 a.m. Tuesday, when a 30- to 35-year-old man asked her if he could take her to the ice cream parlor. She ran home and told her parents.

The man had long black hair, a blond mustache and a scar on the right side of his face. He wore a black leather jacket and a black shirt with red Chinese characters on the front.

Twin Falls Police stress the importance of reviewing tactics that child predators may use. They may offer your child toys or candy, falsely identify themselves, say you have sent them or that they are looking for a lost pet — all to gain your child's trust.

Parents should teach their children to yell "no" and run to a safe place when a stranger makes them feel uncomfortable.

Police ask anyone with information regarding the incident to call them at 735-HELP (4357) or 311 if calling from inside the City of Twin Falls.

A rural rep

Castleford principal elected as representative of school principals

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

CASTLEFORD — Rural schools will now have an advocate in high places.

Andy Wiseman, Castleford school principal, was elected by other school principals in Idaho to represent them as the state coordinator to the National Association of Secondary

School Principals.

"Part of the reason I wanted to do this was to stay active in the organization of Secondary School Principals," but also wanted to do this because there are many small, rural schools in Idaho and I think it's important for people to know how the issues affect rural schools," he said.

Please see REP, Page D3

Snowpack Levels

Location	% of Avg.	% of Norm.
Salmon	78%	47%
Big Wood	72%	45%
Little Wood	87%	40%
Big Lost	65%	37%
Little Lost	72%	42%
Harvey Fork, Section 7	71%	42%
Upper Snake Basin	72%	42%
Oakley	81%	51%
Salmon Falls	75%	48%

* A comparison of basin snowpack to the 1971-72 and 1996-97 averages. ** An indicator of basin snowpack for the entire snow season. ***% means in spring.

OBITUARIES

Byron W. Nelson Jr.

ASHTABULA, Ohio — Byron Webster Nelson Jr., a resident of Astartaba, Ohio, and formerly of Gooding, Idaho, died Friday morning, Jan. 12, 2007, at the Astartaba Community Center.



Born Oct. 2, 1924, in Boise, Idaho, he was the son of Byron and Clementine (Whittle) Nelson Sr. He graduated from Gooding High School and attended Idaho State College for one semester before joining the Army Air Corps. He served with the 418th Squadron and joined the 100th Bomb Group on Oct. 5, 1944, flying from Thorpe Abbot, England. After his discharge, he attended College of Idaho, and worked for Mountain States Telephone before heading for the Midwest, where he worked on Ore Boats for Cleveland Cliffs Corp.

On July 23, 1955, he married

the former Delores Marie Narducci in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Astartaba. He worked for National Distillers and Chemical Corp. in the chemical divisions. He retired from General Corp. He enjoyed reading and traveling. He was a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and the Elks of Astartaba.

Survivors include his wife, Dee; a daughter, Lori (Michael) Verette of Sunrise, Fla.; brothers, Walt (Pat) of Gooding, Frank (Sue) of Manteca, Calif., Fred (Sherry) of Polson, Mont.; a sister, Mary Ann (Jack) Fox of Brentwood, Calif.; nephews, Walt Jr., Joe, John, Peter Nelson, Jack Jr. and Jim Fox; nieces, Katherine Tate, Margaret Stevens, Janet Tritter, Shelly Morris and Sheila Trapp. He was preceded in death by his father, Byron; and mother, Clementine; and stepmother, Marie.

The funeral was Tuesday, Jan. 16, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery in Astartaba.

John S. Feldhusen Jr.

KIMBERLY — John S. Feldhusen Jr. passed away in his home on Jan. 27, 2007. John was born April 1, 1925, in Boise, Idaho.



John was married to Gladys and John Feldhusen Sr. He was raised on the family farm in Kimbly, B.E.L. While attending Kimberly High School, he was extremely proud of having the opportunity to play with the high school band at the Rose Parade in Portland. After high school, he attended the University of Idaho. He was a member of the Delta Tau Delta Fraternity and the Alpha Zeta Ag. Honorary Society. He was also a member of the U of I Livestock Judging Team.

After graduating from the University of Idaho in 1949, he married his college sweetheart, Mary Ann Harden, on June 19, 1949. They established themselves on the family farm in Kimberly, where he became active in the cattle industry. He was a member of the American Angus Association, Potato Growers of Idaho and Farm Bureau.

John was also involved in Jaycees, Elks and Livestock Evaluation with the U of I. He was a member of the Twin Falls United Methodist Church. A favorite pastime for John was coaching baseball for his son's team. He enjoyed playing golf, bowling and fishing with his many close friends.

John and Mary Ann had two

sons, Carl and Mark. Mary Ann passed away in 1984. John married LoDeMa Walker on Sept. 22, 1989. They enjoyed 17 wonderful years doing everything from running the potato piler during harvest to traveling in their motor home. John especially enjoyed the trips they took to Alaska and to Arizona visiting with family and friends. John was especially proud of his grandchildren and always wanted an update from each of them on their many activities.

John was preceded in death by his parents; Mary Ann; and a stepson, Sherwood Walker. He is survived by his wife, Dee; his sister, Jean (Rory) Lesser; sons, Carl (Sue) Feldhusen and Mark (Feldhusen) and his stepchildren, Melody (Paul) Kuecks, Theresa Auld, Jim and Paula Walker. He also has six grandchildren, Eric, Amy (Dan), Lisa, Jill, Emily (Brad) and Darlene; and six step-grandchildren. He is survived by two great-grandchildren.

The funeral will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, at White Mortuary, "Chapel by the Park" with the Rev. Dale Metzger officiating. A viewing will take place from noon until 2 p.m. Thursday at the mortuary.

A private family interment will be held following the service at Sunset Memorial Park. The family suggests memorials to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Idaho Division, 1674 Hill Road, Suite 18, Boise, ID 83702; or to the American Cancer Society, in care of Hazel Wilder, 559 Orchelara Ave., Twin Falls, ID 83301.

'I Love Lucy' writer Bob Carroll Jr. dies

LOS ANGELES — Bob Carroll Jr. and Madelyn Pugh Davis were walking down a street in Hollywood one day in the 1950s when they noticed a pizza maker in the window of an Italian restaurant tossing pizza dough into the air — nothing out of the ordinary.

But for the comedy writing team of Carroll and Davis, two of the three original writers on Lucille Ball's top-rated "I Love Lucy" TV series, it was potential gold.

"Bob and I looked at each other and said, 'Ah-ha!'" Davis recalled this week. "We called

Lucy, and she came down and went in and the guy taught her how to do that, and we used that on the show."

Carroll, who spent a good portion of his more than 40-year comedy-writing career dreaming up new comic stunts and schemes for television's red-haired queen of comedy, died Saturday at his home in Los Angeles, said his daughter, Christina Carroll. He was 88. The cause was not announced.

Carroll and Davis were writing for Ball's CBS radio show "My Favorite Husband," when she decided to launch a television series co-starring real-life husband Desi Arnaz.

SERVICES

Roy Kenneth Mobert of Elko, Nev., service at 10 a.m. today at St. Joseph's Catholic Church (Burys Funeral Home in Elko, Nev.).

Antonio "Tony" Barela Sr. of Oakley, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Oakley LDS Stake Center; friends may call from 10 to 10:45 a.m. today at the church (Payne Mortuary in Burley).

Windell "Wink" C. Martin of Glenns Ferry, memorial service at 11 a.m. today at the VFW Hall in Glenns Ferry (Rost Funeral Home, McMurtry Chapel in Mountain Home).

Randy Lee Claiborn of Boise and formerly of Kimberly, celebration of life at 11 a.m. today at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 404 Carriage Lane N. in Twin Falls.

William E. "Bill" Hone Sr. of Twin Falls, celebration of life at noon today at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Adairson Ave. E.; friends may call from 10 a.m. to noon today at the mortuary.

Laurel "Laurel" Naomi Hansen Draper, of Logan, and formerly of Shoshone, funeral at 11:30 a.m. Thursday at the Logan LDS 18th Ward Chapel, 300 N. 5001, viewing from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday at the church (Allen-Carmory Mortuary in Logan, Utah).

Edna Irene Billey of Twin Falls and formerly of

Heyburn, funeral at 11 a.m. Friday at the Twin Falls LDS 5th Ward Chapel, 425 Maurice St. N.; friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at White Mortuary, 136 Fourth Ave. E., and from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Friday at the church.

Janice Fay Parks Wardle of Burley, funeral at 11 a.m. Friday at the Burley LDS 3rd and 7th Ward Chapel, 2200 Oakley Ave.; graveside service at 9:30 p.m. Friday at the Riverside-Thomas Cemetery in blackfoot. Friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley, and from 9:30 to 10:40 a.m. Friday at the church.

Shirley Kolman Stroud of Bliss, memorial service at 1 p.m. Friday at Demary's Funeral Chapel, 737 Main St. in Gooding; viewing from noon to 1 p.m. Friday at the mortuary.

Elmo Mayer Burgess of Jerome, service at 1 p.m. Friday at the Wine Press Christian Fellowship, 687 Filer Ave. (on the corner of Fillmore) in Twin Falls (Lansworth Mortuary in Jerome).

Oda Inez Elizabeth Ciseo of Puyallup, Wash., memorial service at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Bible Baptist Church, 12407 Canyon Road E. in Puyallup, Wash. A graveside service in Idaho will be announced later (Toward Memorial Center in Puyallup, Wash.).

DEATH NOTICES

Harvey M. Erickson

WENDELL — Harvey M. Erickson, 75, of Wendell, died Sunday, Jan. 28, 2007, at Magic Valley Manor Assisted Living in Wendell.

The funeral will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, at Demary's Wendell Chapel. Interment will be in Duluth, Minn.

Carl A. Gooch Jr.

MURKHAUGH — Carl Arleth Gooch Jr., 62, of Murkhaugh, died Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2007, at his home in Murkhaugh.

A graveside service will be at noon Saturday, Feb. 3, at the Oakley Cemetery in Oakley. Friends may call from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday at Payne Mortuary, 221 W. Main St. in Burley.

Doris A. Labakken

BURLEY — Doris A. Labakken, 74, of Burley, died Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2007, at the Cassia Regional Medical Center.

Arrangements are pending

and will be announced by the Hansen Mortuary; Burley Chapel.

Rebecca J. LaCombe

JEROME — Rebecca Jean LaCombe, 36, of Jerome, died Monday, Jan. 29, 2007, in Jerome.

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

Pat Stephenson

BURLEY — Patricia Pauline Stephenson, 81, of Burley, died Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2007, at her home in Burley. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Payne Mortuary in Burley.

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PATIENT SPOTLIGHT

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Agreement to develop Hunt Camp reached

TWIN FALLS — The College of Southern Idaho, the Friends of Mindoka and the National Park Service have signed a memorandum of agreement with regard to future development of an interpretive center at the Mindoka Relocation Camp located in Jerome County.

More than 10,000 Japanese-Americans were relocated at the Hunt Camp as it is also known during three years of World War Two.

The three entities will be instrumental in overseeing development and future management of the site. Other plans include building annual symposiums and pilgrimages, and providing educational programs and courses about race war, immigration, legal and civil rights issues related to the relocation camp.



Seated from left are Janet Langston of Friends of Mindoka; Dr. Al Frost, a CSI Board Trustee; An Azumano of Friends of Mindoka; National Park Service area superintendent Neil Diaz; and CSI history professor Ben Trueman; Standing: Boise State University history professor and relocation camp expert, Bob Slaw; and Bill Young of Friends of Mindoka.

Kentucky lawsuit accuses Mormon missionary of sex abuse

PLATTYSVILLE, Ky. (AP) — A Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints missionary who was accused of sexually abusing three people in 2005 during a missionary trip has been sued along with the church by the mother of one of the accusers.

The eastern Kentucky woman contends that Jason Stark's conduct damaged her son psychologically, socially

and mentally. The lawsuit says the boy, who is younger than 18, has suffered public scorn, ridicule and embarrassment because of Stark, who is from Idaho.

The case was filed in Lee County Circuit Court in December.

The Morning church asked last week that the case be moved to federal court.

The mother, who is from Lee

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Rep

Continued from page D1
He will work with school representatives and congressmen in Washington, D.C., to communicate Idaho's education needs.
Wiseman will begin at a critical time in education when several education issues — such as the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind act — will be discussed in Congress.
"In Idaho, we are facing some challenges that other states have already faced," he said. "So I think there are

probably some things we can learn from them."
But Wiseman said other states also can learn from Idaho's successes, such as partnerships with communities and businesses, as well as the implementation of the Idaho Standards Achievement Test.
Wiseman has been principal in Castelford for 12 years. He will succeed John Brumley, principal of Lake City High School in Coeur d'Alene, who was state coordinator for six years.

Medic

Continued from page D1
Cassia Regional Administrator Ken Harman said the entire staff recognized how hard retirement was for Larson.
"We know you didn't save every patient you came in contact with, but you saved a lot," Harman said. "Our hospital is better because you have been here."

Asked about his most memorable run, Larson said he could not talk about it.
"Those are the kind that just stay in your mind, and in your heart, and never go away," he said, with tears brimming his eyes. "You breathe a sigh of relief and thank God when the runs go good. You tell yourself you did everything you could when they don't. And you never, never forget."
Larson's wife, Sharon, said she really didn't expect him to be away from the ambulance

"You breathe a sigh of relief and thank God when the runs go good."

— Warren Larson, retiring Life Run Ambulance director

permanently, because Larson has a way of injuring himself. That comment brought up memories of Larson trying to beat the automatic door on the ambulance bay on his bicycle.
"I'd get on his bike at the back, push the control button and race to get through the door before it closed too far," Sharon Larson said. "One time he got through, looked back smiling and said, 'That was cool,' just as his bike ran into a curb. He was thrown off and knocked out."

Gallery

Continued from page D1
enter a side door and sit in privacy so you can experience a more movie-like atmosphere.
As if all those doodads aren't enough, the corner next to the Black Box Theater features an old diner-style booth, complete with mini-jukebox. In a fitting gesture, the jukebox features country-western hits from the past, including a tune from Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys, of which Johnny Gimble of The Gimblets was a fiddle player.

Multi-talented author Sidney Sheldon dies at 89

By Bob Thomas
Associated Press writer

by his side.
"I've lost a dear friend," Cowan said.



Sheldon.

LOS ANGELES — Sidney Sheldon, who won awards in three careers — Broadway theater, movies and television — then at age 50 turned to writing best-selling novels about stunner women who triumph in a hostile world of ruthless men, has died. He was 89.
Sheldon died Tuesday afternoon of complications from pneumonia at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, said Warren Cowan, his publicist. His wife, Alexandra, and his daughter, author Mary Sheldon, were

longtime and dear friends.
"In all my years in this business, I've never heard an unkind word said about him."
Sheldon's books, with titles such as "Rage of Angels," "The Other Side of Midnight," "Master of the Game" and "If Tomorrow Comes," provided his greatest fame. They were cleverly plotted, with a high degree of sus-

pense and sensuality and a device to keep the reader turning pages.
"I try to write my books so the reader can't put them down," he explained in a 1982 interview. "I try to construct them so when the reader gets to the end of a chapter, he or she has to read just one more chapter. It's the technique of the old Saturday afternoon serial: leave the guy hanging on the edge of the cliff at the end of the chapter."
Analyzing why so many women bought his books, he commented: "I like to write about women who are talented and capable, but most

important, retain their femininity. Women have tremendous power — their femininity, because men can't do without it."
Unlike other novelists who tolled over typewriters or computers, he dictated 50 pages a day to a secretary or a tape machine. He corrected the pages the following day, continuing the routine until he had 1,200 to 1,500 pages.
"Then I do a complete rewrite — 12 to 15 times," he said. "I spend a whole year rewriting."
Several of his novels became television miniseries, often with the author as producer.

Calif. man attacked by a mountain lion upgraded to stable condition

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The Humboldt County man who was attacked by a mountain lion is showing signs of improvement and was upgraded to stable condition Tuesday, doctors said.
Surgeons at California Pacific Medical Center said Jim Hamm, 70, was sitting up and talking and that the antibiotics he was given seemed to be helping.
Hamm was transported to the San Francisco hospital in a medical plane Sunday night after he took a turn for the worse at an Arcata facility. He first underwent surgery Wednesday after a female mountain lion attacked him

while he and his wife were hiking in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, about 50 miles north of Eureka.
At a news conference Tuesday, Dr. Rudy Buntle said an upcoming procedure would take muscle tissue from one area of Hamm's body and move it to his head, where his most severe injuries were. Then Hamm would have skin grafted on top of that.
Hamm's wife, Nell, 65, smashed the cat in the snout with a large branch and stabbed it with a pen to fend off the attack.
"At one point I was crying and screaming and I said,

"Honey, it's not working. It's not working, and I don't know what to do," she recalled Tuesday. "And he said, 'There's a pen in my pocket. Get the pen and poke it in the eye.'"
The animal then fled.
Game wardens later closed the park and shot and killed a pair of lions. Researchers identified one of them as the attacker.

Twin Falls County Lincoln Day Banquet coming up

TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls County Lincoln Day Banquet will be held Feb. 16 at the Turf Club, 714 Falls Ave.
Social hour starts at 4 p.m., and a prime rib dinner will be served at 7 p.m. Special invited guests include Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, Sen. Larry Craig, Sen. Mike Crapo, Rep. Mike Simpson and Rep. Bill Sall.

Tickets are \$30 each. Please RSVP and purchase tickets by Friday.
To RSVP and buy tickets, call Mike Mathews, chairman of the Republican Central Committee, at 735-0712; Kristina Glascock, banquet co-chairman, at 736-4075; or Jennifer Gose-Eells, banquet co-chairman, at 735-4400.

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Minimum wage increase debate

Senate clears way for bill's passage, businesses divided over tax breaks

By Jim Kahnben
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The Senate cleared the way for an increase in the minimum wage Tuesday, but only with business tax breaks that House Democrats want removed.

Final Senate passage of the legislation is expected later this week, setting the stage for a round of difficult negotiations between House and Senate Democrats over how to get the legislation to President Bush for his signature.

In a key test, the Senate voted 67-10 to end debate on the bill Tuesday, well clear of the 60 votes needed.

Earlier this month, the House passed the same increase in the wage floor — from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour over two years — without any tax provisions.

Senate Democrats tried to push through the House version last week, but failed to get the 60 votes to end debate.

The vote Tuesday emphasized how Senate passage of the bill depends on the tax package to attract Republican votes. The White House has also signaled that Bush wants tax breaks in the legislation.

"Raising the minimum wage will cost some jobs," Al Hubbard, the director of the president's National Economic Council told reporters aboard Air Force One Tuesday. "We think it's important to counter that with tax breaks that will replace those jobs."

"The Senate has recognized that our economy is interdependent," said Sen. Michael Enzi. "It's important not to claim credit for helping workers at the same time that they're hurting the businesses that employ them."

The tax breaks in the Senate bill have divided the private sector, putting small business

es and retailers that would benefit from them against the larger corporations and manufacturers that would have to pay for them. The package costs \$0.3 billion in lost tax revenue over 10 years.

To help pay for the tax breaks, corporations no longer would be able to deduct the cost of jury verdicts or settlements in liability suits against them and their executives. In addition, pay packages would be capped at \$1 million a year.

The bills business critics are especially annoyed that the tax benefits would be short-term while the provisions that pay for them would alter tax law for the long-term.

"The permanent tax law changes here far outweigh and outweigh the few benefits," said Bruce Josten, the chief lobbyist for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which opposes the bill.

The bill would extend tax breaks that allow small businesses to deduct up to \$112,000 in new investments a year. It also would reduce the depreciation period for improvements to retail properties and extend a tax credit for businesses that hire low-income or disadvantaged workers.

"We think they are all significant," said Dan Danner, an executive vice president at the National Federation of Independent Business, whose membership consists mostly of small business owners with 10 or fewer employees.

The rift stems from the new Democratic Congress' approach to tax relief, which requires that every tax dollar lost to a new tax has to be offset by a tax increase or closed loophole elsewhere. It also signals the new Democratic majority's willingness to pay heed to the small business community even as it irritates larger corporate interests.



LaDern Velasco, left, and Adan Ramirez rally in front of the Cassia County Courthouse Monday for the federal government to increase the minimum wage and for Idaho to follow suit.

Mini-Cassia residents rally for better pay

By Laurie Welch
For the Times-News

BURLEY — The blare of honking horns filled the moon-time air Monday in front of the Cassia County Courthouse, as a band of Mini-Cassia citizens waved signs proclaiming the need for an increased minimum wage.

"Parents aren't out there working two or three jobs because they just love to be out there working all the time, it's because they have bills to pay," said Jesse Torres, a member of the Idaho Community Action Network.

The event coincided with the reconvening of the U.S. Legislature where a bill proposing an increase in the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 by 2009 is bound for the Senate for a vote. The bill has already passed the House.

The ICAN rally in Burley was one in a series sponsored by the group to raise awareness

for the proposed federal wage increase and the need for Idaho to follow suit. Many low-wage jobs are regulated by state minimum wage laws and some proponents say that allows employers to take advantage of certain workers.

In Idaho, employers are allowed to pay \$3.35 an hour to an employee if the worker makes at least \$30 a month in tips. It also allows employers to pay workers under 20 years old only \$4.25 an hour for the first 90 days of the job, even though many of those jobs do not require much training.

Torres said the state minimum wage law also needs to be adjusted annually to the cost of living. Many people earning a minimum wage support families and are not high school-age children or those who want a little part-time job, which is a common myth, Torres said.

"The minimum wage did not rise in the last 10 years, and everything else still went up. This is about real life and what's important for humanity,"

— Adan Ramirez, Idaho Community Action Network member

to make \$9.82 in order to make a living wage. A single parent with two children would need to make \$20.58. Minidoka County works out to \$9.35 an hour and \$11.89 in Cassia.

Opponents of the measure say the economy would likely suffer if the state mandates a higher minimum wage and it would especially impact small business. But Torres said neighboring Oregon and Washington, which have both passed increased minimum wage laws, have economies that are flourishing.

"They say if they raise the minimum wage, the cost of everything else in the economy will go up," said Adan Ramirez, ICAN member. "The minimum wage did not rise in the last 10 years, and everything else still went up. This is about real life and what's important for humanity. These people don't want a handout in this is about struggling families."

S.D. going after Utah visitors

The Associated Press

SOUTH FALLS, S.D. — State tourism promoters will give special attention to the younger market and potential visitors from Utah.

Officials are optimistic that two straight years of growth in visitor spending will increase again in 2007, said Wanda Romkens, public relations manager for the state Department of Tourism and State Development.

The state had a 5.6 percent increase in visitor spending in 2006, to almost \$600 million, according to state data.

The tourism department also will continue with video and information about South Dakota on MySpace.com, an online community Web site, in part to attract a younger crowd, she said.

"We continue to see that new media is something that we need to be involved in," Romkens said. "I think we can continue to attract a younger audience because of the adventure opportunities in the state. We have a plethora of activities for 'young people'."

The tourism department will have focused some of its marketing money and will target the area outside Salt Lake City, said John Brockelstein, a member of the South Dakota Tourism Advisory Board.

Idaho lawmaker wants to end tax break for Cabela's

By John Miller
Associated Press writer

BOISE — A tax concession that allows some businesses to avoid collecting sales taxes from online and catalog sales from Idaho residents is unfair and should be dumped, a state lawmaker says.

The issue arose after the giant outdoor goods retailer Cabela's Inc. won contracts from the state Tax Commission before opening its first Idaho store in Boise last August.

Nebraska-based Cabela's had not previously collected

sales tax from Idaho residents who bought goods through the Internet or from its catalogs, and the Tax Commission allowed that to continue after the Boise store opened.

Sen. Brad Little, R-Idaho, says that isn't fair to other businesses here that do collect taxes on their so-called remote sales to Idaho residents.

Idaho residents who shop online from companies that don't collect the tax are required to send sales tax from those transactions to the state, but they rarely do.

The Legislature should

have a policy of not giving an unfair advantage to one company over another," Little said. Sports Authority, another national sporting goods retailer with stores in Idaho, also doesn't collect sales taxes on its online transactions with customers from Idaho.

If Little's legislation to eliminate the tax exemption survives the state House and Senate and is signed by Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, it would boost the state's coffers by about \$90 million annually, he said.

Cabela's, which gets \$1 billion of its \$1.8 billion in annual

revenue from online or catalog sales, often asks for such concessions when it expands its large stores in new states.

Nineteen states have approved similar exemptions. The company is now conducting sales in most Idaho and neighboring Washington for more stores.

Some northern Idaho lawmakers fear eliminating the tax loophole could wind up chasing the company — and the economic infusion it would provide to the local economy — across state lines.

Recently, however, Cabela's has given up demands for the

special tax status elsewhere in the United States.

In Maine, its moving ahead with a \$75 million development after dropping insistence on a sales tax waiver on catalog and online orders from in-state customers there, Little said.

Cabela's spokesman James Howell didn't immediately return phone calls from the Associated Press seeking comment on the Idaho measure.

Washington Group thrives following two bankruptcies

The Associated Press

FOISE — Five years after what Washington Group International was emerging from its second bankruptcy, the company's share price appeared the company's image would be severely tarnished.

Instead, the Boise-based engineering and construction giant appears to have rebounded.

Washington Group International is in as great a shape as it has ever been in all the years it's followed them," said Matt Peters, an analyst with D.A. Davidson & Co. in Portland, Ore., who has followed the company for 15 years.

Washington Group remains debt-free today. Earnings have soared 50 percent in the past year, and company leaders say earnings for 2006 should be \$75 million to \$85 million when they are reported in March.

At the end of 2005, the company's stock was trading at

"We have about \$18 billion in work under way around the world in 40 states and 30 countries, and about \$9 billion of work to go."

— Washington Group President and CEO Steve Hanko

just over \$15 a share today, its nearly \$10.

The company has 24,000 employees worldwide working on projects as diverse as food processing plants, oil refineries and mass transit systems in Los Angeles and Malaysia (and the new stockpile of chemical weapons in an eastern U.S. city) across the United States.

"We have about \$18 billion of work under way around the world in 40 states and 30 countries, and about \$9 billion of that work to go," Hanko said. CEO Steve Hanko told Idaho's State Journal for a story Monday.

Regis said the company has benefited from a strong economy and lucrative government contracts, which now

make up 60 percent of its revenue. Larger competitors like Fluor and Bechtel have also reported strong revenues over the last few years.

For many, the bankruptcy proceedings is just history.

"I'm Matt Neece. I think five years in an eternity," Regis said. "But I think also that there is still a recognition that when things go bad, they can go really bad, and Washington Group is a prime example of that."

Washington Group filed for bankruptcy protection for the second time on May 17, 2001. Hanko and other company leaders learned the long-term acquisition that brought with it significant restrictions to

Market Watch

	Jan 30, 2007
Dow Jones Industrials	-32.83
Dell Inc.	12,523.03
Nasdaq Composite	-77.86
Standard & Poor's 500	-1.48
Russell 2000	-4.87

Stocks of local interest	Low	High
Cell Signet	30.70	▲ 33
Dell Inc.	24.29	▲ 24
Idaho Power	37.87	▲ 33
Utah Motors	28.64	▲ 30
Idaho National	9.88	▲ 9.98
Superior	37.77	▲ 33

Commodities	Low	High
March Oil	56.97	▲ 2.90
Light sweet crude by barrel		
March Wheat	98.80	▲ 39
Feb gold	647.2	▲ 1.1

For more, see page B5

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund performance data including fund names, share classes, and various performance metrics.

COMMODITIES REPORT

Table of commodity prices for various futures contracts, including energy, metals, and grains, with closing prices and changes.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

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

MARKET SUMMARY

Summary table of market activity for NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ, listing most active and most volatile stocks.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

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

LOSERS

Table listing the top 10 losing stocks on the New York Stock Exchange.

LOSERS

Table listing the top 10 losing stocks on the NASDAQ National Market.

DIARY

Table listing the top 10 losing stocks in the Diaries sector.

DIARY

Table listing the top 10 losing stocks in the Diaries sector on NASDAQ.

INDEXES

Table of major market indexes including Dow Jones Industrial Average, S&P 500, and others.

INDEXES

Table of major market indexes including Dow Jones Industrial Average, S&P 500, and others on NASDAQ.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table of stocks of local interest, including companies like Florida Power and Light, and others.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Text explaining how to read the market report, including symbols for up/down, volume, and price changes.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

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

Advertisement for PERKINS, SMART & BOYD, INC. featuring the slogan 'When You're Serious About Investing...' and contact information.

AROUND THE WEST

IDAHO

Clipped but flying: Panel endorses Capitol wings

BOISE — The Capitol's wings are clipped but still flying.

The Idaho Capitol Commission on Tuesday endorsed a plan to build a pair of single-story, underground extensions at the 100-year-old building — an expansion only half the size of the previous proposal.

The smaller package is part of a deal struck Friday by Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, his long-term opponents in the state Senate and House. It ends an impasse that began Jan. 12 when Otter ordered work stopped on the \$130 million Capitol expansion and renovation project.

There's no state estimate for the cost of the smaller wings, which will add 50,000 square feet of space. However, officials said it's unlikely to be just half of the \$45 million estimate of the original plan for two-story wings totaling 100,000 square feet.

Idaho may use graphic ads to fight meth

IDAHO FALLS — Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter plans to meet with the billionaire founder of the Montana Meth Project about bringing an in-your-face advertising campaign on the perils of methamphetamine to Idaho.

Tom Siebel, a part-time Montana resident who founded a software company he later sold to Oracle Corp. for \$5.8 billion, created the Montana Meth Project two years ago after meeting with the state's attorney general, Mike McGrath.

Since 2005, advertisements on Montana billboards, newspapers and radio and television stations aim to dissuade children between the ages of 12 and 17 from trying methamphetamine.

On the radio, children share methamphetamine-related horror stories. Montana television stations repeatedly show a boy sticking desperately on a small glass pipe. Outside of Great Falls, Mont. — a city roughly the size of Idaho Falls — a large billboard features a young man with a horribly pockmarked face.

The epidemic won't actually doing meth won't make it easier to hook up.

Siebel provided \$5 million to kick-start the campaign and another \$5 million late last year to continue the project. Otter plans to meet with Siebel Tuesday about bringing the campaign to Idaho, but he intends to pick Siebel's brain, not his pocket.

Judges void EPA rule allowing field burning

BOISE — A federal appeals court panel has ordered the Environmental Protection Agency to reconsider its authorization of grass field burning in Idaho, saying the federal agency didn't take the health and environmental impacts of the long-standing practice into account before making its decision.

The unanimous ruling Tuesday from three members of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals does not stop field burning while the EPA studies the health effects, but environmental groups who challenged the EPA's decision said they expect the agency to bar the

practice eventually.

"Any honest look at this will show field burning is dangerous to health and the environment and that the EPA cannot allow it," said attorney David Baron. "The smoke from that burning travels into Eastern Washington, Western Montana and even into Canada. The smoke is so thick sometimes people can't drive on the roads there, and there's been at least one death and dozens of hospitalizations."

Ron represents Safe Air For Everyone, a Washington and Idaho-based clean-air group as well as the American Lung Association.

The groups sued the EPA in 2005, saying that earlier that year the agency had illegally amended a federal law that banned field burning to allow the practice, without first studying its effects on human health.

Officer claiming wrongful firing was disciplined

POST FALLS — A former Post Falls police officer who was fired after allegedly beating a man was previously censured or disciplined for improper use of force and a stun gun and unprofessional conduct, according to city records.

Erik Andersson worked for the department from May 2002 until he was fired in May 2006. He has filed a claim against the city, alleging wrongful dismissal. The claim seeks \$500,000 in damages, including lost wages and benefits, as well as attorney expenses.

Andersson now lives in Sugarloaf, La. The department fired him after a January 2005 incident in which Andersson was accused of using inappropriate force. A 37-year-old motorist, Bradley Platt, has claimed he was beaten and is suing the city and Andersson.

But the incident with Platt was one of multiple cases where Andersson was censored or disciplined, according to an internal investigation report obtained by the Coeur d'Alene Press.

In a case last March, Andersson allegedly pulled a 37-year-old woman and threatened a stun gun unnecessarily during a traffic stop. Andersson was also cautioned in June 2004 for inappropriate use of handcuffs while stopping a bicyclist who was riding without a light at night.

OREGON

Smith: No timber county payments, no U.S. budget

WASHINGTON — Oregon Sen. Gordon Smith is threatening to filibuster a must-pass spending bill if Congress does not end federal payments to rural counties hurt by cutbacks in federal logging.

"The federal government has an obligation to rural Oregon, and it's time to meet that obligation," said Smith, a Republican. "We are talking about people's jobs, children's schools and general public safety in 700 timber counties in 49 states."

Congress is considering a \$6.5-billion spending bill that would pay for 13 Cabinet agencies this year. Democratic leaders hope to move the bill through the House as early as Wednesday, with the Senate likely taking it up after that.

Smith said he would try to

block the bill if it does not include funding for the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, a 7-year-old law that has pumped more than \$2 billion into Oregon and other states hurt by federal policies that restricted logging in the 1990s. The policies were aimed at protecting the spotted owl and other threatened species.

The law — known as "county payments" — expired last year, and the federal government sent out its final checks to counties last month.

Agency considers petition to remove or kill sea lions

PORTLAND — The federal government will consider a petition by three states to remove or kill troublesome sea lions in order to protect endangered salmon and steelhead running through Bonneville Dam to Columbia and Snake river spawning grounds.

The action applies to fish protected by the federal Endangered Species Act, which includes about a dozen Columbia and Snake river fish populations, Brian Gorman, spokesman for the NOAA Fisheries Service, said Tuesday.

A decision to remove or kill the sea lions, he said, likely will be a year or more away.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act, established in 1972, protects California sea lions and many other species, although the sea lions are far from endangered.

Accepting the application starts a process that will set up a task force and request public comment on the petition from Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

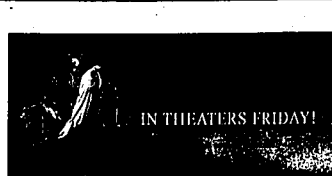
Fishermen contend the sea lions, who gather at the base of

the dam as salmon head upriver, eat too many of the fish and reduce the available catch.

Authorities have tried huge firecrackers, rubber bullets, underwater broadcasts of loud sounds and other remedies, to little avail.

Opponents of killing the animals say the sea lions are only a small part of larger problems that include the dams themselves, agricultural runoff, industrial pollution and destruction of spawning areas and other habitat.

— The Associated Press



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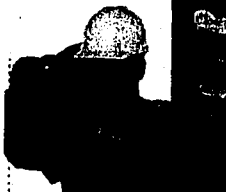
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FOUND dog at Farmers Corner in Burley, Collier type, older, brown in color, wearing collar & tag 208-678-8229 or 312-4060.
FOUND German Short-hair in North Jerome, Call 208-328-4734 to identify.
FOUND Lab, yellow male, around Jan. 10th near 100 S. 200 W. Burley. Call 208-331-1428.
FOUND Man Pin in the Rupert area. Please call to describe, Call 208-436-1933.

108 Professional Services
Bankruptcy Chapter 7
 Guaranteed lowest price for attorney representation. We are a debt relief agency. Free Consultation Call 1-866-658-2399.
113 Child Care Services
CHILD CARE NEEDED for 2 and 4 year olds, 7 days, nights, and weekends. Both parents doing shift work. Needs to be flexible and loving. 735-8370, 731-8521

200 Employment
AGRICULTURE
 Full-time position for processing plant. Duties include: blending, packing, warehouse, & forklift. Experience helpful but not required, will train. Must be able to lift 50 lbs. Apply in person Mon-Thurs, 9:00am-4:00pm Ag Concepts Corp 17285 US Hwy 30 Bliss, Idaho

200 Employment
CLERICAL
 Experienced Legal Secretary, Salary DOE, must resume to Box 84528, C/O Times-News PO Box 548 Twin Falls, ID 83303
CLERICAL
 Full-time Parts Coordinator. Experience a must with computers, equipment & preferably parts. Apply in person at 1315 Addison Ave W Twin Falls

200 Employment
CONSTRUCTION
 Wanted Mechanic/Oiler for busy excavating company. Pay DOE. Drug Free company, benefits. Call 208-934-4510
CUSTOMER SERVICE
 Openbank Insurance is looking for an 800 commercial lines customer service representative. Must have property and casualty experience, is licensed or willing to become licensed. Must enjoy working with the public. Excellent benefits, good working environment. If you qualify please contact Sandi Standley 208-733-1076 10am-2pm only

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 Dental Assistant needed for busy, local practice. Expanded functions and experience preferred. Full-time, immediate opening. Call 208-733-2090
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24 "Love Me"
25 Lash marks
27 Radar gun's target
30 Emulate party
32 White
33 Talitress
34 Dairy farm sound
35 Type of kick
39 November
40 Hanging out
42 Loco
43 Quilt yielding
45 Musical syllable
46 See socially
47 Speech
49 Footstool
8 Fainting
9 Arkin of Hollywood
10 Counterparts
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13 Disparaging remarks
15 Rustic
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27 Slammer or drink
28 Johnnywadd
29 Sunrise direction
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37 Computer loader
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15x15 crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-47.

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Solved crossword puzzle grid with words: SPAS, ATHENA, UMA, CANTON, NEURAL, NAB, RINE, YAMAHA, OTE, UST, LI, ENI, BELLI, OGHAM, PRES, T, EAR, P, B, S, SETH, GOSH, OSAGE, HAREM, USE, ILLAD, ERASE, CLAY, ELLS, NHL, HERALD, PESO, POST, MORTMTE, OTE, WEA, TABLE, RIN, CLAMAS, COI, CUT, POPOUT, EMZO, HIS, SNEAKY, SEAN.

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Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2007

THE ACES ON BRIDGE® Bobby Wolff

"We don't see the end of the tunnel, but I must say I don't think it is darker than it was a year ago, and in some ways lighter."
— John F. Kennedy

Defending three hearts, West led her singleton spade to partner's ace, ruffed the spade return (East playing back a low spade to suggest nothing in diamonds), then switched to the diamond king. South won and continued with the heart jack, which held. West won the next heart honor, cashed the diamond king, and exited with the diamond jack, ruffed by declarer. After this start, the contract hinges on locating the club queen. Declarer can get a full count of the hand, but is that enough?

South drew the last trump, dummy and East pitching spades, and reviewed the information gleaned so far. East had started with spades. As East had also discarded spades on the third round of each of the red suits, she was marked with three clubs, and therefore was the more likely candidate to hold the club queen.

But declarer appreciated that she had no need to guess which she was to finesse, as dummy's spade 10 was going to become a threat against East's queen. She cashed her trumps, throwing clubs from dummy, and when the last one was played, she came down to two clubs and the spade 10 in dummy and three clubs in hand. Which three cards was East to keep? As the release of the spade queen would have promoted the 10 in dummy, East reluctantly discarded a club. Now a club to the king and another to the ace left declarer's club five as the ninth trick.

NORTH 01 31 A
♠ 10 7 6 3
♥ 2
♦ 10 9 2
♣ K J 10 8 6

EAST 01 31 B
♠ A Q 9 8 5 2
♥ 10 7
♦ 8 6
♣ Q 4 9 7 2

SOUTH 01 31 C
♠ A K
♥ K Q J 9 8 4
♦ A 3
♣ A 3

Vulnerable: Neither
Dealer: South

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ 2♦ Pass 2♠
3♥ All pass

Opening lead: Spade four

BID WITH THE ACES

South holds: 01 11 B
♠ A 6 5 3
♥ K Q J 5 4
♦ Q 4
♣ 3

ANSWER: One of the most difficult parts of standard bidding to master is the concept of the reverse. Here, if you bid two hearts, partner cannot give you weak preference back to diamonds below the three-level. Forcing the auction up like this is called a reverse and promises real extra above an opening bid — and you do not have them. Simply rebid two diamonds; let partner introduce hearts if he has extras himself.

If you would like to contact Bobby Wolff, e-mail him at bobby@bobbywolff.com or call him at 208-733-1822.

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Sudoku Answers:

8	6	2	7	5	3	4	9	1
5	3	9	8	1	4	2	6	7
4	1	7	9	2	6	8	3	5
7	4	5	3	9	8	6	1	2
9	8	1	4	6	2	5	7	3
6	2	3	1	7	5	9	8	4
1	7	4	2	8	9	3	5	6
2	5	8	6	3	1	7	4	9
3	9	6	5	4	7	1	2	8

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