

POINTS OF INTEREST

CSI men have the highest scoring team in college basketball.

SEE SPORTS, C1

STORMING THE CASTLE
Lack of snow good news for backcountry exploring.

SEE OUTDOORS, D2

ANNA NICOLE DEAD

Tabloid queen dies after collision

SEE NATION, A4

Good Morning

High: 43
Low: 32

Passing rain showers early.
Details: D5

Times-News

MagkValley.com

Flu virus closes Murtaugh schools

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

MURTAUGH — The flu has closed down at least one school in the Magic Valley, and others are reporting a drop in attendance as more students come down with the illness.

Dennis Osman, superintendent of the Murtaugh School District,

announced that the district will be closed today.

"It was a difficult decision, but we needed to do it," Osman said Thursday.

"The flu has pushed out well over 20 percent of our students, and now we can't find enough substitute teachers."

The district is in need of five substitute teachers, but it can

See it online

Go to www.magicvalley.com to hear a health expert talk about ways to prevent the flu.

only find three who are not also infected with the flu. Other school districts are

reporting a drop in attendance, although administrators did not know if it was directly related to the flu virus.

No other schools have announced closures because of the virus.

"We think that the day off will allow us to get back on our feet," Osman said. "Then we can resume classes on Monday."

IDAHO LEGISLATURE

State senators debate college research dairy

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

BOISE — A primarily publicly-funded research dairy in Jerome County found its very namesake subject to debate Thursday in a state Senate committee — would it serve for commercial milk production or environmental research?

The Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee agreed the concept, for the facility — nearly a year in the works — would benefit Idaho, but aired concerns over both the research components and who would administer the facility should problems ever arise.

Proponents have touted the Idaho Center for Livestock and Environmental Studies, slated for at least 1,000 acres, as a groundbreaking facility to help students from the University of Idaho and College of Southern Idaho learn about, as well as solve environmental questions at confined animal feeding operations.

Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's proposed \$10.9 million is about a third of the \$25 million to \$35 million needed to initiate the program. IU will donate \$10 million and the dairy industry

Please see RESEARCH, Page A3.

Virginia company to buy 4,000 acres for nuclear plant

By Shannon Dinnity
Associated Press writer

BOISE — An alternative energy company announced an agreement Thursday to buy 4,000 acres of remote land along the Snake River to build a proposed nuclear power plant.

Virginia-based Alternate Energy Holdings Inc. in December announced plans to build a 1,500-megawatt nuclear plant in southwestern Idaho. The company, created last year, also said it was considering the possibility of making the facility a co-generation nuclear and ethanol plant.

The company signed the land purchase agreement with a farmer on Feb. 1. The purchase price was about \$20 million, Alternate Energy Holdings CEO Dan Gillespie said. The agreement should be finalized by the end of March.

Gillespie declined to identify the farmer.

"We believe that nuclear power is one of the cleanest sources of energy and one of the large-scale sources of energy," he said. "We're very excited about this opportunity."

If built, the plant would be the first commercial nuclear power plant in Idaho. The closest community to the proposed plant is Bruneau, west of the popular Bruneau Dunes State Park.

According to its Web site, Alternate Energy Holdings was created by former executives in the utility and finance industries to expand clean energy sources.

Jeremy Maxand, executive director of the nuclear watchdog group Snake River Alliance, said any community where a project like this has been proposed deserves full disclosure on issues like water use and waste management.

"Idahoans should be very wary of any company that seeks to purchase thousands of acres of land to build a nuclear reactor before a full open discussion with the public and elected officials," Maxand said in a statement.

Ticklin' the Ivories

Students sell four tons of cookie dough in two weeks to purchase 60 piano keyboards

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Ironically, the music room at Oregon Trail Elementary School is the quietest classroom in the building.

On Wednesday, students at Oregon Trail sat hashfully in front of 32 piano keyboards that were fresh off the factory floor. They poked the shiny keys when they thought the teacher wasn't looking. Of course, the bashfulness didn't last long.

"Wanna' hear me play the 'Mission Impossible' song," asked 8-year-old, Dallin Harris.

In less than 10 minutes, he could play the entire theme song with the right sound effect.

It was the first piano lesson for students at Oregon Trail and Lincoln Elementary, which recently purchased a total of 60 high-end electronic keyboards that would make even a private school blush. But these schools serve areas of Twin Falls with some of the highest poverty rates — teachers say many of the students cannot afford \$5 for a flute recorder.

So it came as a surprise to teachers and administrators when Shari Cowger, who teaches music at Oregon Trail and Lincoln, and her students raised more than \$9,000 for the new keyboards.

See it online

See and hear Cowger's third-grade class practicing for the first time on the new piano keyboards at magicvalley.com



Dallin Harris plays his keyboard during class Wednesday. One of his favorite tunes to play is the theme song to 'Mission: Impossible.'

"We sold four tons of cookie dough during a two-week period," Cowger said. "It started out as a small fundraiser to help send my honors class to Boise, but when we saw how fast they (the students) were selling it, I thought we might as well do this."

It's a music teacher's dream to buy enough piano keyboards for each student. But why keyboards?

Well, the answer is in the classroom. On Wednesday, the students started out counting the keys and the number of beats in each note. After a little confusion, they recited the names of

Please see KEYBOARDS, Page A3



Oregon Trail Elementary School third-grader Jasmine Jensen, right, helps in her music teacher, Shari Cowger, Wednesday afternoon in Twin Falls. Cowger, also the music teacher at Lincoln Elementary, sold four tons of cookie dough with students from both schools to raise money for new Yamaha keyboards.



ACLU takes stand on CAFO hearing process in Jerome County.

See Page B1

House bill regarding agriculture test results reintroduced.

See Page B1

Gov. Otter to make trip to Kimberly.

See Page B1

Lawmakers have hangups about robocalls bill

By Alicia P.Q. Wittmeyer
Associated Press writer

BOISE — They may be annoying during dinner, but these automated telephone calls with a recorded voice at the other end are a form of political expression that should be protected, lawmakers said Thursday.

A bill that would have banned the automated telephone messages — or "robocalls" — was killed by the House State Affairs Committee on an 11-6 vote. Opponents said it would infringe on freedom of speech.

"I find these calls as annoying as anybody," said Rep. Raul Labrador, R-Eagle. But, he added, "I think they are effective and there is a constitutional right to get your message out."

The number of robocalls that go out during political campaigns has increased over the past year, said Rep. John Rusche, D-Lewiston, who sponsored the bill. They're cheap — about 3 to 5 cents a call — and easy to mass distribute, which make them an attractive political advertising tool.

But the calls are often used for negative advertising, which makes them unpopular with voters who don't like the meddling going to take place over their tables at dinner time, Rusche said.

Please see ROBOCALLS, Page A3.

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TODAY'S FORECAST

TWIN FALLS

Today Tonight Saturday

Off and on showers Variably to mostly cloudy Mostly cloudy

High 43 Low 32 48 / 34

MINI-CASSIA

Today: Mixed showers in the morning, diminishing showers by the afternoon. Highs, 40s.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy and starting to dry out. Lows, lower 30s.

Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy skies. Highs, 40s.

Complete weather report: See page C8

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

Maie Comes Alive, a fundraising concert featuring more than 30 local musicians. 7 p.m., Roper Auditorium, Twin Falls, \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (proceeds go to the Boys and Girls Club). 736-7011.

BUSINESS

Reservation deadline for Feb. 10 Twin Falls Bank & Trust employees no-host lunch, for all current and former Bank & Trust employees. 12:30 p.m., Montana Steak House, 1826 Canyon Crest Dr., Twin Falls, cost of the meal, 423-5493 or 734-4895.

FAMILY

"Youth Options," activities for young people ages 13-19, 7 to 10 p.m., The Salvation Army, 348 Fourth Ave. N., Twin Falls, \$2, 733-8720.

GOVERNMENT

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

HEALTH

College of Southern Idaho's Over Sixty and Getting Fit programs, 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 12:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at CSI Burley Outreach Center Gym, no cost. 732-6475.

WOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) ID No. 48 Chapter of Jerome, a weight loss support group. 4 p.m., the Jerome Public Library, 100 1st Ave. E., Jerome, 420-3823.

Abuse in the Training for Addiction, video facilitated by Dr. Sharon Custer. 6:30 p.m., Miracle Valley Counseling Center, 213 3rd Ave. E., Twin Falls, no cost (free-will offering accepted), 734-9603.

AA/Anon/Alateen family groups, to help friends and families of alcoholics. hotline: 1866-592-3198.

MUSEUMS

Faulkner Planetarium, "Far Out Space Places," 7 p.m., Herrett Center for Arts and Science, north end of the College of Southern Idaho campus, Twin Falls, \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, \$2 for students and \$9 for families (children under age 4 not admitted), 732-6655.

SPORTS

Registration for American Red Cross Lifeguard Training Class (Feb. 26 to March 10), must be 15 years old to participate. Twin Falls, 734-2336.

To list events in the daily calendar, submit the event's name, a brief description, time, place, cost and contact number to Suzanne Brown by e-mail, sbrown@magvalley.com; by fax, 734-5539; or by mail, Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0548. Deadline is noon, four days before the event.

WEB READER REACTION

On 'Magic Valley Catholics deliver message about Roe v. Wade'

TANYA WALKER: "Cameron, just because 57% of America is against abortions, doesn't mean that the majority is 'right.' Years ago blacks were looked down upon as the 'inferior' race by the majority. That doesn't mean that the majority was correct in that assumption. Luckily, our government is set up to protect us from the majority. I am glad that you helped one infant that was born and put up for an adoption, however, there are not enough people to do that. If every woman who has had an abortion, had decided to put that baby up for adoption, there wouldn't be enough people to take them in...."

CAMERON ROBINSON: "Tanya, years ago it was decided by a majority of Supreme Court judges that a newly conceived human (or a human conceived several months ago) was an 'inferior' race. That doesn't make it true, or right."

On the letter, 'Poorest of the poor see small grocery credit'

LANCE BUTLER: "Maybe I'm wrong on this, but it seems like any kind of a tax credit has more to do with income tax rather than sales tax, and that this credit is helping those people who, at the end of the year, owe taxes because of their income, not simply because they exist or paid the same sales tax as the rest of us. I probably need to do some more research to see what the scoop is on the grocery credit and to see what it's intentions are."

On the letter, 'Children with good grades should get right to vote'

HERMAN NEWMAN: "Caleb, you made a very good proposal. Permit me to expand on it: Only children will be allowed to vote when and how many troops we send to other countries. However, this comes with the stipulation that children are never allowed to watch TV, in order for them to let their unbiased instinct guide them in their decisions."

YOUR MORNING BRIEFING

MAGIC VALLEY



Lack of snow opens up backcountry

The mountains of central Idaho are bare this winter. While many skiers lament the lack of snow, the clear January skies have created ideal conditions for exploring deep into Idaho's backcountry. Though powder turns are hard to come by, the low avalanche hazard created by the current dry spell offers ideal mountain climbing and skiing conditions.

SEE PAGE D1

State agency still trying to seal ag test results

BOISE — The state House Agriculture Committee voted Thursday to print a revised, controversial House bill that keeps some animal and seed test results confidential. The 7-3 vote was along party lines. The bill would seal test results conducted by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture on samples submitted by veterinarians, animal owners, seed producers and seed companies for disclosure, and give discretion decisions to the agency director.

SEE PAGE B1

Flu closes at least one school in Magic Valley

MURTAUGH — The flu has closed down at least one school in the Magic Valley, and others are reporting a drop in attendance as more students come down with the illness. Dennis Osman, superintendent of the Murtaugh School District, announced that the district will be closed today.

SEE PAGE A1

Oregon Trail students enjoy new keyboards

TWIN FALLS — Ironically, the music room at Oregon Trail Elementary School is the quietest classroom in the building. On Wednesday, students at Oregon Trail sat busily in front of 32 piano keyboards that were fresh off the factory floor.

SEE PAGE A1

'Capitol for a day' coming to Magic Valley

BOISE — Gov. CL "Butch" Otter said Thursday he will meet with citizens at 9 a.m. on Feb. 16, at the Kimberly City Council chambers, 120 Madison St. W.

SEE PAGE B1

OBITUARIES

Margo Ellis Sears, 47
Robert H. Rood, 76
Gerardine L. Bateman, 70

SEE PAGE B2

ONLINE NOW

Flu season advice

Hear a health expert discuss flu in the Magic Valley and how to prevent it.

At www.magicvalley.com

Your favorite movie

Vote on what film you think should win the Oscar.

Twin Falls basketball

See a photo gallery of the Bruins girls game.

Sweet keyboards

Watch a video of the new keyboards at Oregon Trail Elementary School.

OPINION

Fine dining in an unexpected place

The Desert Cafe at the College of Southern Idaho, operated by culinary students two days a week, is an undiscussed gem. These chefs-in-training are practicing truly professional skills. Expect fantastic flavors, studied presentation — and low prices.

— Virginia S. Hutchins, features editor

Want to submit a Mini Editorial for publication on this page? Send it by e-mail to mini@magvalley.com. Submitters must include the writer's name, address and daytime telephone number. Mini Editorials can be up to 50 words in length. They will be subjected to the same editorial process as letters to the editor.

IDAHO/WEST

Idaho highway officials asking for more cash

BOISE — Old pavement. Older bridges. Too many cars. That's the situation Idaho finds itself in. Department Director Pamela Lowe told lawmakers Thursday, as she defended her agency's budget request for nearly \$790 million in fiscal year 2008.

SEE PAGE A4

Lawmakers hungry on new rebroadcasts bill

BOISE — Lawmakers struck down a bill in committee Thursday that would have banned automated telephone messages, or "robocalls," because they said it would infringe on the right to political speech. "I find these calls as annoying as anybody," said Rep. Paul Labrador, R-Eagle. But, "I think they are effective and there is a constitutional right to get your message out."

SEE PAGE A1

Va. company to buy land for nuclear plant

BOISE — A Virginia-based alternative energy company on Friday announced an agreement to purchase 4,000 acres along the Snake River from a Bruneau farmer to build a proposed nuclear reactor.

SEE PAGE A1

Grocery relief passes House, on to Senate

BOISE — A bill to expand relief for the sales tax Idaho residents pay on food purchases cleared another milestone Thursday, passing the House on a 62-10-7 vote.

SEE PAGE A4

COMING TOMORROW

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Mustard Seed Ministries is more than your typical non-profit thrift store.

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Vol. 102 No. 40

SPORTS



CSI men lead college basketball in scoring

TWIN FALLS — The College of Southern Idaho men's basketball is not only ranked No. 7 nationally, it's averaging 111.2 points per game. That's more than any other team in the nation that provides basketball scholarships.

SEE PAGE C1

CSI women appear ready for big weekend

TWIN FALLS — Heading into tonight's first of two Scenic West Athletic Conference home games against Colorado North-western Community College, the CSI Golden Eagles women's basketball team appears to have its swaggar back.

SEE PAGE C1

Former CSI player Bond heads to Lewis-Clark

TWIN FALLS — Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston announced on Thursday that former College of Southern Idaho defensive specialist and Twin Falls High setter Whitney Bond will continue her college volleyball career.

SEE PAGE C2

U of I football coach Akey to visit Saturday

TWIN FALLS — University of Idaho football coach Robb Akey will be in Twin Falls Saturday for a meet and greet social at Jade Restaurant.

SEE PAGE C4



Bruin girls sweep conference for title

TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls girls' basketball team, for the fourth time this season, defeated the Skyline Grizzlies at Baun Gymnasium on Thursday, this time 52-45. The win marks the Bruins' first conference title during head coach Joe D. Shepard's tenure.

SEE PAGE C1

Burley girls top Preston, win title

BURLEY — The Burley High girls' basketball team beat Preston 45-36 Wednesday for a conference championship and the high seed heading into the Class 4A state tournament.

SEE PAGE C1

Robocalls

Continued from page A1 —
 His proposal would have allowed the calls if a live operator first obtained approval from the call recipient.

"This is an incredibly popular proposal and there's been an expression of support from the general population," he said. The bill, H 75, would "help Idahoans regain control of what is being delivered telephonically to their homes."

Rusche's bill also would have banned automated calls from charitable organizations and businesses, but was primarily targeted at political messaging. Those who do not wish to receive calls from businesses can already place themselves on a national "do not call" list that makes it illegal to contact them.

Twenty-three states have either banned automated calls already or have legislation in the works to ban them, Rusche said.

However, lawmakers who voted against Rusche's bill said it could move the state down a slippery slope. "Anything is part of the political process, and groups shouldn't be harassed from expressing their opinions," said John Eaton, a lobbyist with the Idaho Association of Realtors who testified against the bill. The group made about 100,000 robocalls during the November elections in support of Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter.

"Are we going to ban mail because we don't like having that in our mailboxes?" Eaton

"I got 16 or 17 calls a night sometimes," he said. "Unless someone puts a limitation on it, it's not going to get any better."

— Rep. John Rusche, D-Lewiston

asked. "The more times you touch them, they may say they're getting annoyed, but they will go out and vote." Rep. Eric Anderson, R-Priest Lake, who voted against the proposal, said he'd had negative advertising directed at him through robocalls during his campaign, and that his first thought had been to vote for the ban.

"I had to take a step back and realize it's not just about me and my experiences," he said. "It did open up a venue for this organization to express their feelings about a candidate they were not in favor of, and as much as I despised it...we should probably allow freedom of speech to continue."

Rusche said lawmakers killed his bill because it took away one of their cheap campaign tools.

"I got 16 or 17 calls a night sometimes," he said. "Unless someone puts a limitation on it, it's not going to get any better."

Research

Continued from page A1 —
 will donate \$5 million. Additionally, various dairy agencies and the U.S. Department of Agriculture will play significant roles, and the Idaho National Laboratory is expected to study different ways to use manure for energy.

This is going to be a mature factory and we are going to figure out how to handle it (the manure)," said Committee Chairman Tom Gannon, R-Idaho.

The facility will be a fully operational dairy with 1,500 cows and will sell milk commercially. Officials have touted it as self-sufficient with milk sales used to maintain the research and development. It will be administered by a non-profit organization.

But Senate Minority Leader Clint Stennett, D-Ketchum, said Thursday he is unaware of any actual cash flowing into the project for research. A study of the dairy industry by a consulting firm for the proposed facility used data from mainstream dairies, Stennett said, which leads him to believe research might not be a priority.

"It makes me uneasy," he said as he thumbed through the packet of materials. "There's no assumption for that built in there."

Sen. Tim Conder, R-Mountain Home, agreed Stennett's questions over research funding were not "accurately" answered at a recent meeting with the proposed facility's directors.

He suggested that if the primary purpose is research, perhaps the dairy should sell milk

at a low price. Stennett also took issue with the research at the Caine Veterinary Training Center in Caldwell — which includes tuberculosis — that will be implemented at the proposed research facility. If of its payment will come from the site of the Training Center building, but Stennett said the proximity of the testing might harm the new dairy's cows.

Sen. Jeff Sidaway, R-Terreton, questioned the sale of the Caine Center, and whether money for a research dairy is efficient while other agricultural industries in Idaho lose money.

"What I hear I'm not liking," he said.

Gannon is expected soon to make a presentation for funding to the Joint Finance Appropriations Committee. After Thursday's meeting, he said that research will be possible because unlike normal dairies, this facility will be non-profit and start debt-free — two staples of beginner dairies. "If we have extra money, then we'll put it into research," he

said. "We can roll that money back into doing research." Gannon said that research will be treated as a separate entity at the proposed facility because milk from a cow involved in research cannot be used commercially.

Stennett questioned the future of the project, too. He wondered if, after the state invested nearly \$20 million into the research dairy and it failed,

whether it would be sold off privately, run by the University of Idaho, or subsidized through a foundation.


"Who's going to be governing should this concept not be successful?" he asked. "I'm not sure we've dug deep enough into it."

Statehouse correspondent Janel S. Hopkins can be reached at (208) 735-3204 or jhopkins@magicvalley.com.


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Keyboards

Continued from page A1 —
 each note and its corresponding key. Then, they learned to play with only their right hand — their left hands rested on top of their heads as if they were waiting to ask a question.

"Music uses different parts of the brain, and statistics show that students who are actively involved in music have better math scores," Coger said. "I think it allows them to learn differently. In fact, I have an artistic student in my first-grade class who is

"one of my top students." It was obvious in Coger's class that it didn't matter if the students came from low-income families or families that didn't speak English, they were all learning how to play the piano for the first time — and that was a good reason for Coger to purchase headphones with each keyboard.

"I can pretty much tell if they are playing correctly just by watching their hands," Coger said.

"And it's a funny thing because my music room is the

quietest room in the school." About the only noise in the classroom was the gasping sound students made each time they found a new sound effect to play on the keyboard.

But at the end of the class, Coger introduced the students to the term, "orchestra."

"Watch this," she said, before asking the students to unplug their headphones. After setting each keyboard to the "orchestra" sound effect, about 30 students played "Hot Cross Buns" in unison — well, sort of.

Feds say Duncan case will stay in Idaho

BOISE (AP) — California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Thursday demanded that convicted killer Joseph Edward Duncan III be shipped to his state to be tried for the 1977 slaying of a 10-year-old boy, but federal prosecutors here said they expect to complete their prosecution of Duncan first.

Federal prosecutors have charged Duncan with kidnapping and related counts in the 2005 abduction-slaying of a young Idaho boy and the abduction of his sister and plan to seek the death penalty if he is convicted.

Schwarzenegger's office faxed a demand for extradition request Thursday evening. Bill Matle, spokesman for Schwarzenegger, said the request was also sent to Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter. U.S. Attorney Tom Moss in Boise charged Duncan last month with 10 felony counts,

including kidnapping resulting in the torture and sex slaying of 9-year-old Dylan Greene. Duncan is also charged with kidnapping Shasta Greene, then 8 years old. She was the lone survivor of a 2005 attack on her Coeur d'Alene-area home. The little girl was rescued July 2, 2005 at a Coeur d'Alene restaurant.

Moss' office says it expects Duncan to remain in Idaho, despite Schwarzenegger's demand.

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Performers include: Randy Hansen, Jack Cox, Summer Brander, The McBride Brothers, Gale Cartwright, Cam Van Buren, Debbie Kindred, Kody Reinstein, Ethan Kulhanek, Carolyn Anderson, Brian Cole, Brandon Severe, Luke West, The Golden Moments, Camera Man, Burt Hesthuis, Bob Hanchev and more;

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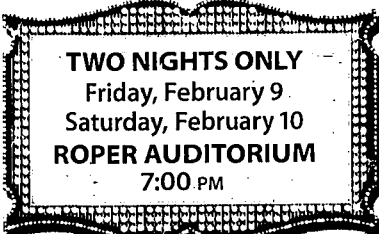
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NATION/WEST

Anna Nicole Smith dies after collapsing

What made us care so much?

By Suzette Laby
Associated Press writer

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — Anna Nicole Smith, the pneumatic blonde whose life played out as an extraordinary tabloid tale — Playboy centerfold, jeans model, bride of an octogenarian oil tycoon, reality-show subject, tragic mother — died Thursday after collapsing at a hotel. She was 39.



Anna Nicole Smith attends the *Mao Magazine* and *Mao Space* opening night party in September 2004 in New York.

She was stricken while staying at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino and was rushed to a hospital, Edwina Johnson, chief investigator for the Broward County Medical Examiner's Office, said the cause of death was under investigation and an autopsy would be done on Friday.

Just five months ago, Smith's 20-year-old son, Daniel, died suddenly in the Bahamas in what was believed to be a drug-related death.

Seminole Police Chief Charlie Tiger said a private nurse called 911 to find Smith unresponsive in her sixth-floor room at the hotel,

"Undoubtedly it will be found at the end of the day that drugs featured in her death as they did in the death of (her son) Daniel."

— Michael Scott, a former attorney for Smith

ings would likely be announced quickly. He cautioned, however, that definitive results could take weeks.

"I am not a prophet, and I cannot tell you before the autopsy what I am going to find," he said.

Through the '90s and into the new century, Smith was famous for being famous, a pop-culture punchline because of her up-and-down weight, her Marilyn Monroe looks, her exaggerated curves, her little-girl voice, her dizzy-blonde persona, and her over-the-top revealing outfits.

Recently, she lost a reported 65 pounds and became a spokeswoman for TrimSpa, a weight-loss supplement. On her reality show and other recent TV appearances, her speech was often slurred and

she seemed out of it. Some critics said she seemed drugged-out.

"Undoubtedly it will be found at the end of the day that drugs featured in her death as they did in the death of poor Daniel," said a former attorney for Smith in the Bahamas, Michael Scott.

Smith attorney Ron Hale told The Associated Press that he had talked to her on Tuesday or Wednesday, and she had flu symptoms and a fever and was still grieving over her son. He dismissed claims her death was related to drugs as "a bunch of nonsense."

"Poor Anna Nicole," he said. "She's been the underdog. She's been besieged ... and she's been trying her best and nobody should have to endure what she's endured."

By Jocelyn Noveck
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Anybody who arrived from Mars and wanted to know what all the fuss was over this Anna Nicole Smith, would do well to watch just one clip: her appearance at the 2004 American Music Awards.

Prancing onstage in a tight-fitting black gown that showcased her cleavage — which was, as all else about her, larger than life — she grabbed your attention. Her looks were outlandish, but there was beauty beneath the excess.

And then she spoke. "Like my body?" she asked. Her slurred words spilled out dangerously. She was clearly very high on something, and you wondered if she would survive, literally.

It was hard to watch. And, of course, harder not to.

Many people were hard pressed to describe what exactly Anna Nicole Smith was. Actress? Model? Reality star? Rich widow? "I don't know exactly what she did," said talk show host Jay Leno, hearing the news over the phone.

"No question, she was beautiful," said Behar, of ABC's "The View." "We know people like to watch dysfunction. But beauty gives you something extra to look at. Dysfunction and beauty. Now that's something to watch."

How was she dysfunctional? Really, how wasn't she? Her strange life seemed to veer from one outsized struggle to another. She struggled famously with her weight and with her family. She sometimes struggled to speak without slurring. She had a TV show that could be so embarrassing you'd want to watch it with sunglasses on. Much more tragically, she lost her son. Five months ago she had a baby, daughter and now two more claim to be the father.

In other words, she was a perfect pop culture icon.

"With Anna Nicole, she was pathetic but at the same time you thought, 'Gosh, if I could just scoot you up and fix things, it would be OK,'" said Jerry Herron, a professor of American culture at Wayne State University. "You wouldn't want to scoot up Paris Hilton."

AROUND THE WEST

BOISE

Grocery tax relief passes House, on to Senate

BOISE — A bill to expand relief for the sales taxes Idaho residents pay on food purchases cleared another milestone Thursday, passing the House on a 62-to-7 vote.

It would boost an income-tax credit from \$50 a year for most Idaho residents, and \$70 for seniors. The existing tax credit is \$20, and \$35 for those over 65.

Earlier this week, the plan co-authored by House members and six state senators beat out a competing proposal from Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter in the House Revenue and Taxation Committee.

Montana has a similar grocery tax relief has intensified since August, when legislators boosted the sales tax to 6 percent from 5 percent to make up for revenue that was lost when they cut property taxes.

The existing income-tax credit cuts about \$26 million a year from the state's sales-tax revenues. The plan passed by the House will increase that by an additional \$47.5 million per year.

The measure now goes to the state Senate, where some expect the relief it offers to be lowered, to reduce its cost to the state.

Idaho highway officials asking for more cash

BOISE — Old pavement. Older bridges. Too many cars. The situation Idaho finds itself in, Department of Transportation Director Pamela Love told lawmakers Thursday, as she defended her agency's budget request for nearly \$790 million in fiscal year 2008. It includes \$264 million in bond proceeds for the second installment of Connecting Idaho, the largest road-building project in state history.

In 2007, the budget was \$700 million, including \$200 million borrowed for Connecting

Idaho. The agency is responsible for maintaining thousands of miles of roads, 1,761 bridges and aviation infrastructure across 84,000-square-mile Idaho.

Though Love's request covers the fiscal year starting in July, much of her presentation was devoted to the future — 2010 specifically — when she expects Idaho's share of Federal Highway Administration money to shrink to 2006 levels. The Idaho Transportation Board has recommended seven fee or tax increases to cover an expected annual \$200 million shortfall, as money from Washington, D.C., begins to dwindle.

"We can't expect a large influx of federal dollars to help us deal with our transportation needs," Love told the Joint Finance Appropriations budget writing committee.

The agency wants to add a 7 percent "highway preservation fuel tax," atop the existing 25-cent-per-gallon fuel tax, boost vehicle registration fees by 75 percent, charge new fees on rental cars and increase rental permit prices; and create impact fees for developments that boost traffic.

The package would raise \$203 million a year if all provisions are passed. Separate hearings on the proposals started Thursday in legislative committee.

NORTHWEST

Public has 60 days to have say on wolf de-listing

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Thursday opened a 60-day comment period on its proposal to take gray wolves off the endangered species list in the northern Rocky Mountains.

The proposal lays the groundwork for state-managed hunting of wolves in Idaho, Montana, and possibly Wyoming if that state can resolve a dispute with federal officials over its wolf management plan.

Comments can be submitted through April 9 to

NMGrayWolf@fws.gov, or by mail to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wolf Delisting, 585 Shepard Way, Helena, MT, 59601.

ARIZONA

Three migrants killed by gunman, others missing

TUCSON, Ariz. — Gunmen stopped a pickup truck full of illegal immigrants, shot several and took the rest captive Thursday in an attack that left at least three men dead and two

people wounded, authorities said. Immigration and Customs Enforcement investigators also believe the driver, who probably was the smuggler, and a guide escaped.

Pima County sheriff's officials said they believe the gunman shot three people — one fatally — along a known smuggling corridor near Tucson, then forced several others in the group of nine or 10 immigrants to leave with them, Pima County sheriff's officials said.

— The Associated Press

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Starts at 6:00 p.m.
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AROUND THE NATION/WORLD

IRAQ

Iraqi forces arrest official linked to death squads

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S.-backed Iraqi forces stormed the Health Ministry and arrested the No. 2 official Thursday, accusing him of diverting millions of dollars to the biggest Shiite militia and allowing death squads use of ambulances and government hospitals to carry out kidnappings and killings.

Shiite politicians allied with anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr denounced the arrest of Deputy Health Minister Hakim al-Zamilli as a violation of Iraqi sovereignty and demanded that the prime minister intervene to win his release.

The Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and his senior advisers remained silent. Al-Maliki, a Shiite, has under strong U.S. pressure to crack down on Shiite militias and has pledged not to interfere in the security operations in the Baghdad's streets of government from both Islamic sects.

The arrest took place at 5 a.m., an hour after Iraqi government offices generally open. Iraqi troops pushed through the iron gates of the Health Ministry building in northern Baghdad, ordered people to drop to the ground and rushed to al-Zamilli's ground-floor office, witnesses said.

One of al-Zamilli's bodyguards and American soldiers accompanying the force asked everyone to step aside and approached the deputy minister, who introduced himself.

Marine withdraws guilty plea in murder

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — A military judge granted a Marine corporal's request Thursday to withdraw his guilty plea to charges of murdering an unarmed Iraqi civilian, but warned the serviceman that he could be sentenced to death if convicted.

Cpl. Trent Thomas, 25, pleaded guilty as part of a plea agreement to several charges Jan. 18, including kidnapping and murder, in the slaying of 52-year-old Hisham Ibrahim Awad in Hamdania last year. But Thomas said Thursday that he no longer believes he's guilty and was following a lawful order.

"Sir, when my country gives me an order, I follow it," Thomas told the judge. Lt. Col. Tracy A. Daily, adding that the order came from the senior commanding Sgt. Lawrence Hutchins III, and higher up the chain of command.

The judge warned Thomas that he could face the death penalty because he is no longer bound by the plea agreement. But the death penalty is a long shot because Lt. Gen. James Mattis, who is overseeing the case, has said he does not want Thomas or any of the other troops accused in the case to face execution.

Thomas, of Madison, Ill., was one of a squad of seven Marines and a sailor accused last year of hatching a plot to kill an Iraqi in the town of Hamdania.

SAUDI ARABIA

Palestinian leaders sign deal on government

MECCA, Saudi Arabia — Rival Palestinian factions signed a power-sharing accord aimed at ending months of bloodshed Thursday, agreeing that the Islamic militant group Hamas would head a new coalition government that would respect past peace agreements with Israel.

However, Israel and the U.S. have demanded the new government explicitly renounce violence, recognize Israel and agree to uphold past peace accords. The vague promise to respect past deals — a compromise reached after Hamas rejected pressure for more binding language — did not appear to go far enough.

U.S. and Israeli acceptance is crucial to the deal's success. Unless they are convinced Hamas has sufficiently moderated, the West is unlikely to lift a crippling financial blockade of the Palestinian government, and "it" will be "unable" to implement the peace process.

In Washington, State Department deputy spokesman Tom Casey said "we'll see what any final agreement actually looks like and will have to make an evaluation from there" as to whether it meets international demands.

WASHINGTON

Defense to call Times journalist in Libya trial

WASHINGTON — "Scout" attorneys for J. Lewis "Scooter" Libby on Thursday won the opportunity to question a journalist they hope will undercut the prosecution's perjury case against the former White House aide.

A battle over the scope of the defense case broke out just after Special Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald rested the government's case in the CIA leak trial

in midafternoon. Libby, former chief of staff to Vice President Dick Cheney, is charged with lying to the FBI and a grand jury about his talks with reporters concerning Plame and with obstructing an investigation into how her name and employment at CIA got leaked in July 2003, days after her husband, ex-ambassador Joseph Wilson, criticized President Bush's justifications for the Iraq war.

After the jury was sent home until Monday, prosecutors joined news media attorneys in efforts to limit the defense's

ability to call and question other journalists.

U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton ruled that Libby's lawyers can call New York Times managing editor Jill Abramson over objections from the prosecutors and her lawyer, Charles Leeper.

ATLANTA - **Health officials say autism rate about 1 in 150**

ATLANTA — About one in 150 American children has autism, U.S. health officials said

Thursday, calling the troubling disorder an urgent public health concern that is more common than they had thought. The new numbers are based on the largest, most convincing study done so far in the United States, and trump previous estimates that placed the prevalence at 1 in 166.

The difference means roughly 50,000 more children and young adults may have autism and related disorders than was previously thought nationwide of more than half a million people. Advocates said the study pro-

vides a sad new understanding of autism's burden on society, and should fuel efforts to get the government to spend hundreds of millions of additional dollars for autism research and services.

"This data today show we're going to need more early intervention services and more therapists, and we're going to need federal and state legislators to stand up for these families," said Alison Singer, spokeswoman for "Autism Speaks," the nation's largest organization advocating for autistic children. — The Associated Press

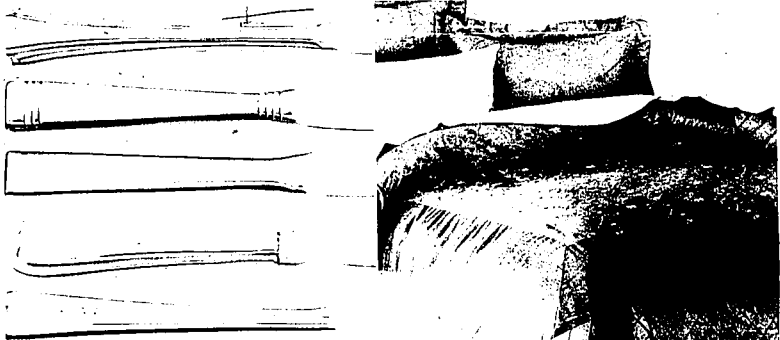
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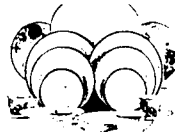
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EDITORIAL

Fish and Game appointees
succeeded with term limits

It may have taken years to achieve, but Idaho's Fish and Game Commission is running fairly smooth these days. So much so, in fact, that one leading legislator wants to keep it that way.

Senate Resource Committee Chairman Gary Schroeder, R-Moscow, has introduced a bill that would lift term limits for state Fish and Game commissioners. The intent is to keep commissioners who have gained valuable experience, longer than the current limit of two four-year terms.

Our view:
Taking term limits off Fish and Game commissioners could unravel calm on that political entity. What do you think? We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

While the idea has some merit on its surface, the fact remains that Fish and Game Commission issues have been some of the trickiest in state politics. Steady turnover has helped the commission bring new blood, new ideas, while avoiding thorny controversy.

Idahoans rejected term limits for good in 2002, by defeating an initiative to reinstate them. Most voters know the power to limit terms is at the ballot box. With term limits, that power is taken away. Schroeder says that's the disadvantage for Fish and Game commissioners, who are appointed by the governor for a four-year term. The commissioner can be reappointed once, but that official is limited to two terms.

"The commissioners are part of the executive branch and they work for the governor," Schroeder said. "The governor can determine the competence on the board and whether to reappoint them again." Gaining experience on the commission is indeed valuable. Most of Idaho's other state boards and commissions do not have any legal term limits. Each board member or commissioner can be reappointed at the end of a term, at the request of the governor.

But again, these are appointees, not elected officials. And with the Fish and Game commissioners, the political question has always been whether they wield too much influence, anyway. At the start of his term in 1995, former Gov. Phil Batt requested the resignation of all five commissioners, who were holdovers from Democratic Gov. Cecil Andrus. Batt's request was ignored. But new laws were passed to increase commission seats from five to seven, and cut their term from six years to four.

Carl Nellis, a retired supervisor for the Magic Valley Region spent 28 years working in Idaho Fish and Game. While he favored the longer six-year term for commissioners, he said serving beyond two of those terms is probably too long. "I don't think that would be the best thing for the resource or the agency," he said. "It's kind of like a benevolent dictatorship. If it's a good commissioner, it's good for the resource. But if someone isn't as good, it doesn't make much sense."

As for serving beyond two terms, "if they haven't done by then what they wanted to do, they're not going to get it done," Nellis added.

Given the commission's rough history in the past 12 years, many will be hesitant to lift the term limit provision. But experience does count for something on the Fish and Game Commission. The current group of commissioners has successfully named a new director in Cal Green, and wrinkles with the Legislature have been ironed out.

"I think there's a great amount of trust between Legislature and the commission right now," said Rep. Fred Wood, R-Burley, a former commissioner from Magic Valley. "It's easier to do (this change) now than it was six years ago."

We agree that the current commissioners have raised the standard of bipartisan effort on big political resource issues. If those good relations can continue, Schroeder's campaign may very well succeed.

But for now, Fish and Game commissioners seem to be making the most of their limited terms. It's hard to see why to change a system that has led to relative calm.

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, Tracy Billas, Bill Bitzberg and David Cooper.

It's not double jeopardy exactly, but still, I'd prefer not to kill the same man twice.



MAUREEN DOWD

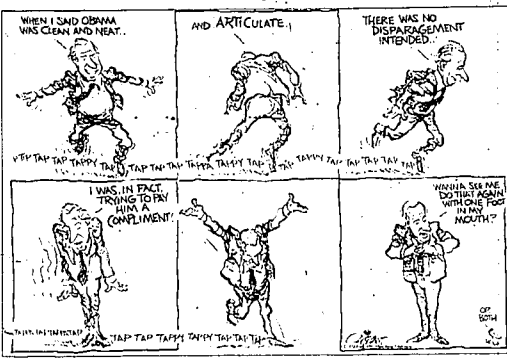
Having played a role in demolishing the Democrats' 38th presidential bid with stories on his overreliance on the speeches of Neil Kinnock and Bobby Kennedy, I felt compelled, now that the guy has slipped on another presidential campaign just 20 years later, to lend him a hand.

I wanted to give him a chance to wipe the slate clean and articulate his positions — without dredging up any painful memories of the words "clean" and "articulate." The senator called me between New York fundraisers Tuesday night. After his rough week, he sounded a bit chastened, not at all in the mood for a columnist's probing questions. He hadn't been feared.

"So," I asked him sweetly, "why has everyone been so mean to you?" "Well," he demurred, "they haven't been mean. The truth is, a lot of people in the African-American community were hurt by what I said. I really feel lousy about it. I got involved in politics because of civil rights." He said a lot more, but here's a 750-word column. I had another penetrating question ready: "Is Delaware big enough to launch a president?" "I think it is," he replied.

I had a tough follow-up:

This one's for you, Joe



"Will your first act as president be to get rid of those toll boards on I-5?" He laughed. "I get asked that a lot by people. I can't help 'em — they're on their own."

That's the straight talk I like to see. No pandering, like Hillary's telling Iowa she likes ethanol, and John McCain's telling Christian conservatives he likes Christian conservatism.

"People don't seem to appreciate your verbal generosity," I said. "Are you studying Bogie and Steve McQueen movies to become less verbose, or do you just hope people will come to see it as part of your charm?" "We're in a political culture where everything is reduced to bumper stickers and sound bites, and it's a lot more complicated than that," he said. "I'm fairly candid, and sometimes I'll cause controversy and sometimes I won't. It's who I am. I'm not going to change who I am."

That's my man. He states controversy in the eye and chats with it.

"In one sentence, with no more than two dependent clauses," I instruct, "tell me who you would make a great president."

"I really believe the American people get the fact that with the new president, there's no margin for error. He's going to inherit a world and a nation where this guy is going to leave him in a real deep hole. The next president is going to get us out of Iraq without ruining the Middle East, so the Americans should be looking for the person with the most experience."

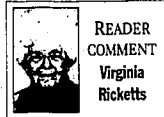
OK, that's three sentences, but who's counting?

"You've been a truth-teller on Iraq for years, so tell me the truth," I said. "Are we cooked?" Citing the soft partition plan he co-wrote, he noted: "Any country that comes into being as a consequence of the pen of a diplomat has never been able to be stable except by an imperial power dominating it, (b) a dictator or strongman, or (c) a federal system."

Are'tn Americans going to be angry at a Senate that's handing itself into a procedural pincer, rather than seriously tackling the future of Iraq?"

"They are going to be angry," he agreed. "Republicans are trying to avoid embarrassing the president. If you took a secret bill, I'd be disappointed if 20 senators thought send-

Will history be left behind on North Rim?



READER COMMENT
Virginia Ricketts

Recently, a third story appeared in the Times-News extolling the new North Rim Park, stating there will be a rim trail, will be used by motorized vehicles, have parking lots, kiosks and picnic areas, but here's a 750-word column. I had another penetrating question ready: "Is Delaware big enough to launch a president?" "I think it is," he replied.

decades to take care of this area: cleaning trash, enforcing laws, and fighting fires that have mostly been the acts of non-Jerome County residents who have used it for their personal pleasure.

The history that is encompassed in the area designated for the North Rim Park is a microcosm of the historic beginning of south-central Idaho. The Great Bonneville Flood created the park's landscape when the tremendous volume of flood water scoured everything movable in its path as it composed into the Snake River Canyon leaving behind stark evidence of its volcanic foundation and creating the canyon and the many falls on the river.

Within the boundary of North Rim Park are its historic sites that remain today and because of the badlands cre-

ated by the flood. Traversing the park east-west are spectacular traces of the North Side Oregon trail, first opened by the Hudson's Bay Company two centuries ago as the shortest route between Old Fort Hall and Fort Boise and then used by Oregon-bound emigrants and later the pioneer settlers. Yes, the Emigrant Road sign on Highway 93 north of the Perrine Bridge straddles that trail — sadly, target shooters and/or souvenir hunters have removed the cassette trail markers behind the sign.

Within the park area, deep swales and rock piles with rusty car parts and thousands of tons of iron wheels remain to document part of the historic value of the proposed park; and yes, there are graves but, except for the fenced one at Shoshone Falls, the locations are unknown so they may be protected.

Also there is the historic Walmagoot Road, State Highway 1, that worldwide travelers were transported from the railroad in Shoshone to the first destination resort in Idaho at Shoshone Falls. That road also carried all the

LETTERS

Term is used by Hispanics but not as insult

Response to "A New Reich is rising in Chavez's Venezuela," by Mark Schuckert: I am an American of Mexican descent, retired after 27 years in the state of California. I read your letter. I am sorry that you feel so much anger. However, I felt

personally hurt. I felt that you attacked the memory of my father. You wrote, "... Mexican nationals-in-country sucking up goodies (that) they never paid for, describe white Americans as 'gringos.'" My father was an American national until his death in 1973. He never received enough education in Mexico in his native language, which made it near impossible to learn the whole new English language.

Sir, my father came to the United States legally when the Santa Fe Railroad system brought in cheap labor from

Mexico to work on the rail-ways during the 1920s. My mother came soon after. This was in Kansas. They had nine live children. My father worked hard and bought a small house for his family.

If I first heard the word "gringo," which you say is so common, when I moved to Southern California. I never got the impression that the word "gringo" was used in contempt. I do know that it is the one used that tells you when it is meant in contempt.

MARY NORRIS
Buhl

Nuclear mistakes of the past return in new test

For my first 30 or 40 years, I rarely knew anyone suffering with cancer. Now I personally know dozens, including one Idaho downwind family with more than 30 such cases.

Gov. Butch Otter recently proclaimed Jan. 27 to be the Idaho Downwinders Day of Remembrance. Who knew that "That day, a boy who had had a brain tumor read this proclamation to open the Downwinders conference in Boise. Most attendees were

news media and people who were affected by cancer."

A SENECA Oak Ridge report, released last December, says that virtually all 160 million Americans who lived in the continental United States during the nuclear testing period were exposed to radioactive I-131. Researchers conclude that Americans diagnosed with thyroid cancer and thyroid-cancer autoimmune thyroiditis who were children during the years of open-air testing and drank fresh milk can make a compelling case that the development of their

disease was linked to fallout.

One recent federally funded report showed a more than 50 percent probability that such thyroid disorders in large areas of the West and hot spots across the entire continent were caused by fallout from the Nevada Test Site.

Apparently, such blessings from the sky were not enough. Therefore, our federal government plans to bring us "divine strikes." And that it would be exploded on the site of a previous nuclear test(s) and thereby most likely will be sending existing radioactive dust high

into the sky to fan out far over our land. Please follow this disturbing development.

ARMIN SUTTERLIN
Hagerman

Mexico to work on the rail-ways during the 1920s. My mother came soon after. This was in Kansas. They had nine live children. My father worked hard and bought a small house for his family.

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MARY NORRIS
Buhl

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Granularity: The nitty-gritty on this particulate of speech

There's that word again; granularity. It's a mouthful of a term used by guys like Army Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, retired Gen. Barry McCaffrey; and White House press secretary Tony Snow.

Responding to a question about potential sectarian violence in Iraq (U.S. forces withdrawal, Petraeus told a Senate panel, "It's hard from this distance ... to get a real feel, or the real granularity of what's going on."

On "ABC Nightly News," McCaffrey said that sending more troops to Iraq "to get down to detailed granularity to fight a counterinsurgency battle in a city of 6 million Arabs who are murdering each other ... is a fool's errand."

"And talking about the inability to definitively link Saddam Hussein and Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, Snow said in a news conference, "We just don't have that kind of granularity in terms of the relationship."

LINTON WEEKS

People have been invoking the word to mean specificity. Certain things, such as the administrator's vision for the future of Iraq, lack granularity. New York's "dems, psychics, network predictors and late-night kitchen-table get-rich-quick schemes also suffer from granularity deprivation."

Mike Mills, writing in Congressional Quarterly about the U.S. health care system's collection of personal medical information, noted that "sometimes the newer standard appears to take granularity to an extreme."

So what, specifically, are we talking about? "When I wrote that particular column," Mills said in an e-mail, "I remember hesitating before using the word, knowing at least subconsciously that it has now become jargon for detail."

In other words, "granularity" is a popular word for the

"nitty-gritty." But it's not so nitty, not quite as gritty, it's, about texture. Concreteness.

The word has migrated—from science and business to politics and popular parlance. Mills, a journalist who spent several years in the overdrive world of dot-com commerce, said that "its modern origin as a technical term comes from the digital realm of computer graphics—pixels."

The greater the number of pixels in an image, he pointed out, the greater the granularity, or clarity. The contemporary "use of this word seems to signal that the digital convergence has now crept into the human mind—which techies call 'weavare.'"

People now use digital imagery when trying to describe abstract concepts, Mills said. Mechanical terms have long been used to describe concepts. In the early 20th century, when Sigmund Freud wrote of pressure in the human brain and mental breakdowns, he used steam-engine metaphors.

"Granularity" is a hot word," said Mike Agnes, editor in chief of Webster's New World dictionaries. "It gives people a word they can use for a new way of looking at things—whether it's the engineering, business, politics—and a new way of evaluating."

It means depth of detail, he said, "if you were a photographer or an astronomer, speaking of an image, you would use the term 'resolution.'" Agnes said, "It's a very interesting concept, and if we've got a concept we need a word."

It's also a way of speaking about basic things without sounding simplistic.

Businesspeople have used it for years. Now like "synergy" and "drilling down," it's creeping into the general consciousness. Asked about a proposal for a new San Francisco 49ers stadium, the assistant city manager for Santa Clara County, replied, "Until we drill down, until we see the granularity of this proposal and what the pieces of this plan are, we won't know

from a staff perspective if the definition of 'no impact on general fund' will be met or not."

According to Wikipedia, "granularity" is helpful when discussing systems. "The extent to which a system contains separate components (like granules). The more components in a system—or the greater the granularity—the more flexible it is."

Without granularity, it's hard to get traction. Words and phrases often move from the particular to the general. For instance,

Agnes said, he has noticed a surge (ahem) in the use of "event horizon."

"Originally it was used in physics, particularly cosmology," Agnes said. Lately it's been popping up in the business world to denote the moment that marks the beginning of an inevitable process, the point of no return. "Once you reach an event horizon, the event itself is sure to follow," he said.

With granularity. Linton Weeks writes for The Washington Post.

Exploding the myth of the idiot TV executive

Why does TV suck? I had always read that it was because clueless studio executives take good scripts and screw them up.

"They'd hear a pitch for a perfectly good cop show and say, 'Hey, would it be more interesting if he was also blind? That way we can call it 'Blind Justice.'"

JOEL STEIN

And then the poor writers would be stuck sitting quietly in a room all week until one of them said, "Well, I guess it's possible he smelt a crime."

"But it turns out that's not why television shows are almost always awful. After writing three failed network pilots and working as a writer on a sitcom, I'd say that 80 percent of the notes I was given from upstairs were really smart—telling me to be less broad, make my characters more complex and to excise unearned emotion.

As for the other notes, I was able to either argue against them, riddle out the problems without adopting their lame suggestions, or trick them into thinking I'd addressed them by marking unheeded dialogue with those "Final Draft" asterisks.

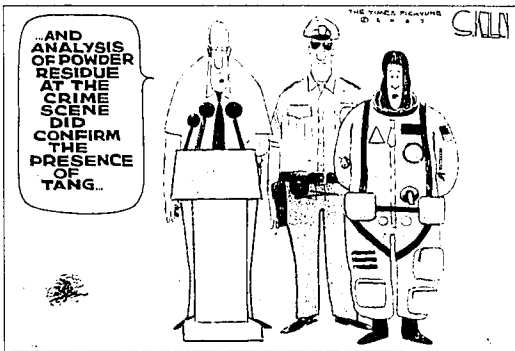
The main reason my pilots were bad was that I wrote them badly.

This is not to say that executives are geniuses and writers are stupid. Although most of the high-level execs I met are sharp and went to great colleges, the writers were always smarter. Much, much smarter. It's important that I'm clearer on that because my health coverage comes from the Writers Guild.

It's just that hearing pitches and reading scripts is infinitely easier than coming up with premises and writing dialogue. It just requires saying either "your main character needs to be more proactive," "we need to clarify the character's motivation throughout his journey" or "let's cast Heather Locklear."

When execs get it in their heads to come up with shows on their own, it's almost always painful.

This year, ABC actually told writers it was looking for a soap opera based on "King Lear." This undoubtedly made them feel smart. But "King



Lear" isn't great because of the plot. It's great because Shakespeare wrote it. No one wants to see a show about two bad sisters, one good sister and a guy who yanks his eyes out.

Unless, of course, that guy happens to be a cop. Played by Heather Locklear. It's hard to write anything good. The majority of the tiny percentage of novels that get published are still horrible. You just don't know that because you don't spend every night using your remote to flip through all the latest books.

In fact, to prove that execs are useful, try this experiment: Spend 6 until 11 every night going to see new plays. By Day 6 of hearing overeducated upper-class people argue about precisely why invading Iraq was a bad idea, you'll start begging for a remake of "Hello Larry."

Yes, networks turned down "The Sopranos." But executives don't make art. Their job is to create mass entertainment, and as the ratings for "Sopranos" repeats on A&E prove, it isn't mass entertainment; watching Paula Abdul drool on herself is.

When executives basically tell you that all the time, you tend to think they're ruining television. But they're actually helping to make the best

drooling Paula Abdul shows they can.

This isn't to say that networks don't give their overeducated lab departments and "standards and practices" offices way too much power to whittle shows down to blandness. Or that execs don't avoid risk out of fear.

But when Steve McPherson, ABC president of prime-time entertainment, told me that an actor I cast in a pilot wouldn't be "an engine of comedy," he proved to be right. Two friends of mine recently fought their studio and network to cast a really funny, weird, unimpeachable actor as their lead. They won, and every person in the focus groups said the show

was ruined by the funny, weird, unlikable lead actor.

And although I still can't admit it after four years of trying, the networks must be right that no one wants to see a sitcom set in a rehab clinic. Frustrated writers, working in an increasingly skillless, fractured medium that kills their shows without giving them a chance, have invented this myth of the idiot exec. But the truth is, they don't ruin television.

At least not the way newspaper editors ruin columns.

Joel Stein is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. E-mail him at stein@latimescolumnists.com

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INSIDE: Focus on people, B3 | Obituaries, B2

MCFARLAND FEEDLOT APPLICATION

ACLU to county: Grant due process

By Matt Christensen
Times-News writer

JEROME — The American Civil Liberties Union of Idaho is the latest group to express concerns over a controversial livestock permit application in Jerome County.

The ACLU sent a letter to county commissioners Tuesday — the same day a commissioners' meeting was scheduled to determine the status of the application — urging commissioners "to ensure due process to all parties involved in the case."

The application for an 18,555-animal feedlot, submitted by Eden businessman Don McFarland, has become

arguably one of the most hotly contested and unusual permit cases in Jerome County history. The ACLU of Idaho joins the Japanese American Citizens League, Valley School District and the National Park Service, among other groups concerned about the application process, or the proposed feedlot's proximity to the Mindoka Internment National Monument at just over a mile away.

This application process has bedeviled county commissioners, who've found themselves in unfamiliar territory several times since the application was filed late last year.

In what some suspect is a

first in the county, commissioners met Tuesday to decide if the permit application could be amended during the permit process, or if the application must be withdrawn and resubmitted with changes.

Commissioners voted to accept the applicant's withdrawal after it was agreed McFarland could resubmit the application with amendments.

Pending legislation "to expand the radius for public comment at related hearings stems, in part, from the McFarland case. Jerome County ordinance restricts testimony to those who live within one mile of the proposed site. A bill currently in the Legislature would expand testimony rights to "affected parties."

The latest confusion over the permit application has led commissioners to schedule a meeting for 3 p.m. on Monday, when the board will review the county's feedlot application process.

As for the McFarland case, a new application will be submitted in a few weeks, according to McFarland's attorney, Rob Williams.

Times-News staff writer Matt Christensen covers natural resources. He welcomes comments at 735-3243 or at matt.christensen@tn.com.

State agency still trying to seal some test results

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

BOISE — The state House Agriculture Committee voted Thursday to print a revised, controversial House bill that keeps some animal and seed test results confidential.

The 7-3 vote was along party lines.

The bill would seal test results conducted by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture on samples submitted by veterinarians, animal owners, seed producers or seed companies "for disclosure, and give disclosure decisions to the agency director."

The revised legislation — which eliminates the word "records" and was more specific than its predecessor, House Bill 59 — came after controversy and feedback from lobbyists and environmentalists who said the wording was vague.

John Chathburn, deputy administrator in the ISDA's division of animal industries, told lawmakers that the hubbub was a misunderstanding that there would be environmental testing, including water quality samples.

"What we've done is change the language," he said. "This is not environmental testing."

Seeds are tested generally for purity and germination. The animal tests are for a number of non-regulated and regulated diseases, including



bacteria, parasites and a variety of others.

The agency has said it sends tests involving environmental issues to non-ISDA labs, and those test results would remain public.

Officials have said the bill would not only encourage animal owners and seed producers to participate in disease control, but also eliminate people's reluctance to use the ISDA because their records would be public. Currently, the information is available for disclosure and for competing businesses. Michael Cooper, a seed bureau chief for the ISDA, said at least 100 different companies are submitting samples for testing each year.

It all boils down to unfair trade advantage, Cooper told the Times-News after the vote on the bill printing.

In the meeting, Republican lawmakers agreed with the department that confidential samples would generate interest among the seed and animal owners to use Idaho laboratories for testing.

"Personally, if it's all public I'm going to go somewhere else," said Rep. Jim Patrick, R-Twin Falls.

Please see B11, Page B3

FINE ARTS JOURNEYS



Brittany Richardson, a junior at Twin Falls High School, uses a map of the world in the school's culture room to point out her "future journeys." Small learning communities at TFHS invited local performers, visual artists and professionals in communication fields on Thursday to work with fine arts students. Jeannine Beriochoa, a Spanish teacher, worked with other leaders to present the culture workshop. Students also participated in community service events around town.

Children from troubled family in Health and Welfare custody

By Cassidy Friedman
Times-News writer

JEROME — The two boys had a father.

But his violent record limited his contact with them to three hours per month of supervised visitation. Then, their mother began breaking the law by refusing to let her husband, James Bonnell, have even those glimpses.

For now, Gabriel, 2, and Michael, 4, have lost both parents.

Last Friday evening, a judge sent Michelle Bonnell to jail after she refused to hand her children over to their father for the second time in two months. The mother said she feared her husband, who finished serving 180 days in jail for beating her.

A normally strong and adamant Michelle was despairing when she was released Wednesday evening, according to her sisters. She came home to find her three

boys gone, including the two she shares with James, and her oldest son, Zachary. The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare had taken them away.

"We're at a crossroads right now," said Jeniah Dahl, Michelle's sister. "I think that the guy (James) is dangerous and he scares the hell out of me. I feel he is a terrible risk. But if you go to jail who is going to take care of them?"

Michelle's sister, Gina Dahl and Mark Peabody, a long-time friend of the family, took care of Michelle's children while she stayed in jail. At one point, they left the three children unattended to get coffee, Jeniah said. They were gone about 45 minutes.

"When they returned, Health and Welfare had taken temporary custody of the children until permanent custody arrangement is reached."

"Who (which parent) is emotionally hurting the children worse?" said Jill Dean, Michelle's oldest sister. "The people that are supervising this visitation are going to (make sure) no one is going to harm these children. But if she (Michelle) is in jail, she is not going to be taking care of her children."

James Bonnell, who has never been charged with hurting his sons, could not be reached for comment Thursday.

"James has been working and trying to see his kids, and she's been fighting the whole way," said James' brother, Jay McDonald.

"Once they (Health and Welfare) get involved, it's ridiculous," he added.

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to talk about the Bonnell case. "Police declare an imminent danger because there is no one watching them (the children). We have a shelter care hearing within 48 hours. It may just take a while to place them with a relative."

Right now, Jill Dean is the most eligible relative willing to care for the Bonnell children.

But Health and Welfare won't simply hand them over. Dean must first undergo a 30-day background check.

"I love her (Michelle) more than anything in this world," said Dean, who has a 3, 8, and 24 year old. "I want to help her and the kids. The children's emotional welfare is being just cruelly ruined."

Cassidy Friedman covers crime and courts for the Times-News. He can be reached at (208) 735-3241 or by e-mail at cfriedman@magicvalley.com.

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Otter bringing 'Capitol for a Day' to Magic Valley

Times-News

BOISE — Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter said Thursday he will bring his monthly "Capitol for a Day" to the Magic Valley.

Otter and selected state agency officials will meet with citizens at 9 a.m. on Feb. 16, at the Kimberly City Council chamber, 120 Madison St. W.

The governor and first lady Lori Otter — a Kimberly High



Otter

School graduate — will meet with city and county leaders at noon at Chubb's restaurant, 105 Main St. N. in Kimberly. A public open house will continue from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

"My first Capitol for a Day in Bonners Ferry was a big success. I was impressed with the number of people who attended and the number of issues we tackled together," the governor said in a statement. "Eventually I'll get to every corner of Idaho. I'm excited about the chance to meet folks, hear what they have to say and hopefully do them some good."

Bill requires CAFOs to cut tires to cut down West Nile

By Jared Hopkins
Times-News writer

BOISE — Senate Minority Leader Clint Bennett, D-Kerchub, introduced a bill Thursday that would require confined animal feeding operations to horizontally cut tires in half when used to hold down tarps over sludge or waste.

The bill, introduced to the

Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee, is intended to help reduce mosquito populations that carry West Nile Virus. Bennett said water collects in the tires, which in turn attracts mosquitoes.

Committee Chairman Tom Gannon, R-Butte, said the bill will likely pass since it poses little harm to dairymen and could cut down on West Nile Virus.

Snowpack Levels

Watershed	% of Avg.	% season peak**
Saltwon	73%	48%
Big Wood	66%	45%
Little Wood	61%	40%
Big Lost	60%	38%
Little Lost	60%	43%
Herrys Fork/Teton	67%	45%
Upper Snake Basin	68%	45%
Oakley	75%	52%
Saltmon Falls	69%	46%

As of Feb. 8
*A comparison of basin snowpack on this day with a 30-year average.
**A comparison of basin snowpack for the entire snow season with what peaks in spring.

YOUR WEEKEND

Music for a cause

What: "Music Comes Alive," two fundraising concerts featuring two dozen local musicians, are planned for this weekend.

Where: Roper Auditorium, Twin Falls.

When: Today and Saturday, 7 p.m.

How much: Tickets, which are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, are available at Oats Stop 'n Go, Dunkey Music, Canyon Cartridge and the Boys and Girls Club of the Magic Valley.

Proceeds go to the Boys and Girls Club and to the AMACHI project.

Western comedy

What: Williams and Flew will play Jackpot this weekend.

Where: Cactus Petes Resort-Casino.

When: Today and Saturday, 8 and 10 p.m.

How much: Tickets, which are \$25, \$30 and \$35, can be reserved by phoning (800) 821-1103.

Soaring voices

What: The Magichords barbershop harmony vocal group will present a "100-man chorus" to sing the national anthem at the College of Southern Idaho basketball games on Saturday.

When: 7:30 p.m.

Where: CSI gym, Twin Falls.

How much: Tickets to the game are \$6, available at the door.

Plaid all over

What: The Sun Valley Resort will present Stuart Ross' musical, "Forever Plaid."

Where: Boiler Room, Sun Valley Resort.

When: Sunday, 7:30 p.m.

How much: Tickets, which are \$12, are available by phoning 622-2135.

OBITUARIES/COMMUNITY

Margo Ellis Sears

WENDLELL — Margo Ellis Sears, age 47, of Wendell, a loving devoted wife, mother and friend entered her Heavenly Father's presence on Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2007, at St. Benedict's Family Medical Center in Jerome.



She was born April 9, 1959, in Blackfoot, Idaho, the daughter of Merthan and Ronnie Elison Ellis. She attended school in Blackfoot until moving to Hagerman with her family, where she later graduated from high school in 1977. She attended Ricks College for one year, where she studied to become a secretary.

On Nov. 17, 1978, Margo married the love of her life, Jeff Sears, in the Idaho Falls Temple. They began their life together in Bliss, Idaho, where she worked as a secretary for the Bliss Schools and the Bliss-Highway District. They later moved to Wendell, Idaho, where she worked as a secretary for the Bliss Schools and the Bliss-Highway District. They later moved to Wendell, Idaho, where she worked as a secretary for the Bliss Schools and the Bliss-Highway District.

Margo, Jeff and their family moved to Grandview, Idaho, where they lived for a year and a half until moving to Hells Canyon in 1990. It was there Margo gave birth to her fifth child, Mindi. In 1993, they returned to the Wendell area. Her greatest joy in life was her family and she instilled in her children a love and service for people and for the gospel. Margo worked in the Wendell school system for 11 years. She started as an aide in the elementary school and then worked as a secretary for the middle school. She always greeted people with a smile. She was an active member of

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, where she served happily in many callings.

Survivors include her loving husband, Jeff Sears; children, Cody (Natalie) Sears, in Wendell, Dustin (Darcy) Sears of Bliss, Bonnie (Ranley) Koyle of Gooding and Mirell Sears of Wendell. Her parents, Merthan and Ronnie Ellis of Wendell, Paul and Bealeene Sears of Wendell; brothers, sisters and in-laws, Randy (Chris) Ellis of Houston, Texas, Kevin (Silvia) Ellis of Richfield, Idaho, Kim (Tami) Ellis of Smithfield, Utah, Merilee (Harold) Waters of Hunt, Idaho, Lanett (Barry) Hallows of Heber City, Utah, Garin (Lofanie) Ellis of Lehi, Utah, Karen (Bill) Collins of Boise, Idaho, Murray (Lisa) Sears of Clifton, Idaho, Gordon (Myra) Sears of Washington, Utah, Steve (Halley) Sears of Wendell, Idaho, Louisa (Vincine) Miller of Las Vegas, Nev., Paulette (Rich) Montes of Caldwell, Idaho, M.E. (Deon) Fincher of Las Vegas, Nev., and Brian (Merrilee) Sears of Twin Falls, Idaho. Also surviving are many nieces, nephews and friends. She was loved by all who met her.

She was preceded in death by her daughter, Andrea, and her brother-in-law, Reed Sears.

The funeral will be at 12 noon, Monday, Feb. 12, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on North Idaho Street in Wendell, Idaho.

Interment will be in the Wendell Cemetery. A visitation and viewing for family and friends will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the Demaray Funeral Chapel in Wendell and from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Monday at the church. A luncheon for the family will be held at the Wendell Middle School following services.

DEATH NOTICES

Cleo I. Benson

HEROME — Cleo I. Woods Benson, 91, of Jerome, died Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2007, at her home.

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

Joshua Barnes

TWIN FALLS — Joshua Barnes, 18, of Twin Falls, died Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2007.

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

Adaline A. Dohse

TWIN FALLS — Adaline A. Dohse, 89, of Twin Falls, died Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2007, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home of Twin Falls.

William W. Estes

BURLEY — William Woodson "Woody" Estes, 90, of Burley, died Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2007, at Highland Estates.

The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 12, at Rasmussen Funeral Home.

VIRTUOUS STUDENTS



Flies Elementary School students who were featured on the Virtue Award for demonstrating patience: Jacinda Corby Hudson, Becka Price, Hannah Frey, Josh Hughes, Sydney Richardson, Lucas Holmerson, Bethanie Pruitt and Jeffrey Gardner, Shay Brannen, Addie McCarty, Robyn Durrow, Jasmine Greenwell, Jennifer VanPatten, Mattie Swisher, Autumn Mattoon and Ray Chavez, Ben Cooper, Grant Liverman, Payton Richardson, Cooper Champney, Sara Frey, Jolofana Yabla, Asher Torz, Destiny Kiser and Mathewska Banks.

Geraldine L. Bateman

HEROME — Geraldine L. Bateman, 70, of Jerome, passed away Feb. 6, 2007, in Jerome.



She was born May 19, 1936, in Preston, Idaho — the daughter of James Pierce Lofitis and Cristina Pearl Erikson Lofitis.

Geraldine was raised in Gooding and Jerome. She graduated Calvin Floyd Bateman on July 15, 1954. They made their home in Jerome for over 52 years. Most of Geraldine's working years were spent helping Calvin with farm work and raising her family. She really enjoyed flowers, ceramics and knitting, and she was very good at fishing. She will be remembered as a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother.

Survivors include her daughter, Rose Helen Bateman of Washington; her

son, Ross Bateman of Jerome; and adopted daughter, Jenny Rebecca Bateman, also of Jerome; 15 grandchildren; three, great-grandchildren; sisters, Elaine Lofitis of Boise, Janeta (Lee) Goddard of St. George, Utah; Lucy J. (Dante) Brussa of Carlin, Nev., and Anna Lee (Redger) Bowcutt of Preston, Idaho; brothers, Jim (Mary Jean) Lofitis of Silverton, Ore.; George Lofitis of Melbourne, Australia, and Willis (Sharon) Lofitis of Tonopah, Ariz.; and many nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Calvin; three sons; four sisters and three brothers.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 12, in the Jerome LDS 2nd Ward Chapel, 50 E. 100 S. in Jerome, with Bishop Blain Hope officiating. Arrangements are under the care of Farnsworth Mortuary, 1343 S. Lincoln, Jerome, ID 83338.

SERVICES

Lillian P. Johnson of Rupert, viewing for family and friends from 9 to 10 a.m. today at the Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel, 710 Sixth St.

Elmer L. Meyer of Gooding, celebration of life at 10 a.m. today at the Gooding United Methodist Church (Demaray's Funeral Chapel).

Robert J. Barnes of Hagerman, graveside service and interment at 11 a.m. today at the Joplin Cemetery, 4700 E. Chinden in Meridian (Sundberg-Olpin Mortuary in Orem, Utah).

Marion Tennant Hugentobler of Orem, Utah, funeral at noon today at the Sharon Park LDS 1st Ward Chapel, 310 N. 100 E. in Orem, Utah; friends may call one hour before the service at the church. Burial will be at noon Saturday — at the Rupert Cemetery.

Timothy Darren Buxter of Twin Falls, service at 1 p.m. today at Demaray's Funeral Chapel in Gooding (Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls).

Dorothy M. Cutler of Halley, memorial service at 11 a.m. today at the Wood River Chapel in Halley.

Gary Neal Masoner, funeral at 2 p.m. today at the Heyburn LDS Ward Chapel, 530 Villa Drive (Hansen Mortuary Burial Chapel).

Brian J. Schmidt of Filer, funeral at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Filer LDS Church, 841 W. Midway; friends and family may call from 4 to 6 p.m. today at White Mortuary, 135 Fourth Ave. E. in Twin Falls, and from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Saturday at the church.

Thomas J. O'Halloran of Dayton, Ky., and formerly of Twin Falls, memorial service at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Edward's Catholic Church in Twin Falls.

Robert Dean Webster of Paul, funeral at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Paul United Methodist Church, 127 W. Clark St.; friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. today at the Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley, and one hour before the funeral Saturday at the church.

Col. Phillip N. McGaha of Twin Falls, funeral at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Peace Lutheran Church in Filer; friends may call from 7 to 9 p.m. today at White Mortuary in Twin Falls. 1

Troy H. Gudgell of Twin Falls, celebration of life at 11 a.m. Saturday at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Alderson Ave. E. in Twin Falls; friends may call from 5 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral chapel.

Dorothy E. Ratcliff Rose of Jerome, memorial service at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Jerome Presbyterian Church, 262 E. Ave. A (Farnsworth Mortuary and Crematory in Jerome).

Terrill Gean McCaskell of Twin Falls, memorial service at 1 p.m. Saturday at the

For obituary rates and information, call 735-3266 Monday through Saturday. Deadline is 3 p.m. for next-day publication. The e-mail address for obituaries is obits@magicvalley.com. Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 4 p.m. every day. To view or submit obituaries online, or to place a message in an individual online guestbook, go to www.magicvalley.com and click on "Obituaries."

Robert H. Rodd

HEROME — Robert H. Rodd, 76, of Jerome, died Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2007, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls.



He was born to James and Mabel Hinton Rodd in North Dakota on May 17, 1930. Early in his childhood, he moved to Idaho with his family. Robert joined the Army and in 1951 served in the Korean conflict. Earlier in life, he met and married Betty Dudley, and they were later divorced. During his years, in the Magic Valley, Robert farmed and worked for various companies, including Simplot, the C.J. Marshall Company and the Sarnborn Ranch. During this time, he lived in Jerome and Hagerman for a time.

In his free time, he enjoyed fishing, playing pool at the Jerome Senior Center and playing pinocle and bingo.

Robert was preceded in

death by his parents; four brothers — Ronald, Donald, Alvin and Leonard; two sisters, Irene and Dorothy; and Cleo Hatfield and Maxine Tucker. He is survived by his children, Barbara (David) Ankrum, Billy (Annie) Rodd, Bobby (Lanel) Rodd, Lauren (Wanda) Rodd and Harold (Kat) Rodd; one brother, Pete Quigley; one sister, Hilda Smith; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The family wishes to express their sincere thanks to all the caregivers from Mountain View Care Center of Kimberly and Heritage Homes in Twin Falls for their care and support and a special thank you to Dick Marshall for his kind words and support.

A graveside service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, at the Jerome Cemetery by Dick Marshall. Visitation will be from 6 until 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9, at the Howe-Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome. Funeral services are under the direction of the Howe-Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome.

PUBLIC NOTICE JELLISON-MADLAND MEMORIALS HAS CLOSED

We would like to thank Southern Idaho for the many years of support. The tradition of local quality workmanship and attention to detail will be continued by LEE'S MONUMENTS & ROCK ART (208) 733-3566

Advertisement for hearing aid services, including contact information for 734-2900 and 1301 E. 16th Street in Burley.

Large advertisement for Career Fair, 'The Largest Career Fair in the area is coming April 24, 2007'. Includes contact info for 735-3290 and Southern Idaho Spring Career Fair 2007.

FIVE-DAY PLANNER

BUHL CITY COUNCIL

FOCUS ON PEOPLE

Buhl resident upset over address change

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Feb. 13 "Shopping For Your Heart" kicking-off jazz concert. Featuring Jeff Baker, Brent Jensen, Bill Anschel, Jeff Johnson and John Bishop, 7 p.m., the College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Theater, Twin Falls, \$40 (\$5 for current C.S.I. students with ID's), 732-6765 or 734-ARTS.

CARDS

Feb. 10 Deadline for registration for Feb. 17 Pinchle Tournament, Agness Senior Center, 310 Main St. N., Kimberly \$5 per player, (208) 423-4338.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Feb. 12 Safe Harbor's February Board meeting, with updates on Saturday meals and plans for opening homeless shelter, 8:15 p.m., First Christian Church, 601 Shoshone St. N., Twin Falls, open to the public, 735-8787.

Feb. 12 Magic Valley Symphony League meeting, open to all who wish to support the Magic Valley Symphony through marketing, receptions, ticket collection, youth promoters, or ushering, (light refreshments served), 10 a.m., in the home of Elaine Bowen, 2684 Heyburn Ave. W., Twin Falls, 734-5323.

FUNDRAISERS

Feb. 10 Benefit dinner for Lee Poehler, turkey, ham and fried chicken dinner with trimmings, 5 to 8 p.m., Buhl Poppewell Elementary School cafeteria. Buhl proceeds go to the family to help with medical expenses, 543-6881.

Feb. 10 A benefit auction for Ken O'Leary's proceeds to help with medical expenses, 5 p.m., Shakers, Deco, donations needed, 654-2719 or 654-4421.

Feb. 10 Jerome First Church of God Food Pantry Fundraiser, with three-course dinner, silent auction and raffle, 5:30 to 8 p.m., basement of Jerome First Church of God, 131 E. Ave. F, Jerome, hard goods, cash donations, gift certificates and discussion questions needed for auction, (208) 358-2147.

Feb. 13 The American Legion Post 7 and Auxiliary Spaghetti Dinner, includes raffle and entertainment for members, guests, prospective members and transfers from Post 85, 5:30 p.m. (6:30 p.m. dinner), \$3 per person, 733-0962 or 734-1435.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Feb. 12 Prham Weight Loss Program Introductory Class, 6 p.m., Gooding Christian Church, 334 Fourth Ave. W., Gooding, no cost, 834-8508.

Feb. 13 Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic for Cats, sponsored by The Sheena Foundation and limited to the first 50 cats, 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., Larue Veterinary Clinic, 3893 N. 2250 E., Filer, 208/326-8646 for cost and appointment.

Feb. 13, 14 AARP Driver Safety Class, for all ages, no membership required and insurance discount provided for participants age 55 and older, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Woodstone Assisted Living Center, 491 Caswell Ave. W., Twin Falls, \$10 (pre-registration required), 735-9680.

POLITICS

Feb. 13 The Jerome county Democratic Central Committee monthly meeting, planning for the coming year, 7 p.m., EMT meeting room on East Main Street, Jerome, 324-5493 or 324-2022.

By Blair Koch Times-News correspondent

BUHL — A couple of weeks ago Buhl Planning and Zoning Clerk Randy Clark received a building permit for a new home at 1457 East-4300 North within Buhl's impact zone.

Problem was, the address was already taken. "The permit was for a house next door to the one in existence," Clark said. "But it was set on a 'true grid,' system and the original home wasn't."

Instead, the home had been assigned an address where the mall was being delivered, down a lane from where the home sits.

Since SIRCOMM needs the actual physical location of the home to dispatch emergency

services, newer county developments are being assigned more accurate addresses than those in the past.

In order to meet this need Sandy Wagner, who owns the home at the original address, was assigned a new address by SIRCOMM. She received a letter from Clark stipulating the change and was at Monday's council meeting to say she wasn't very happy about it.

Wagner didn't think that an aerial address was any better than her old one and that her new address would send people in the wrong direction if they came looking for her home.

"My biggest problem is that it's been done without any discussion," Wagner said. She would have preferred an

opportunity to learn about why the change was warranted and how she would go about updating her information.

Wagner was also frustrated with the response given by the county about the change and said that SIRCOMM told her that it was the city's decision. "That's not true," said Clark. "What we have here is a situation where we have the responsibility to make sure emergency personnel can get to the residence. SIRCOMM made the decision to change (Wagner's) address so that it correlates with where it actually is, not where her mail is being delivered."

Wagner just wants her address to stay the same but the city told her that it could

not help her much because she lives within the impact zone and the county has authority over it.

"I don't know how to resolve the issue," said Mayor Charles Sheridan. "In that area we are without authority."

The council suggested that Wagner go to county commissioners and try to work something out with their planning and zoning board.

In the mean time Clark said the city is working with the county to draft an impact area agreement so that problems like this can be better handled in the future.

Times-News correspondent Blair Koch can be reached by e-mail at blairk@magvalley.com or by the city told her that it could

Senior center hopes people will pay more

TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls Senior Center raised the suggested donation cost of meals at the center and home-delivered meals to \$4.50 each, effective Feb. 1.

Jacquie Whiting, center director, said board members realize this will be a burden on the homebound elderly, but

the center is financially unable to continue serving the amount and quality of meals without raising the price.

The center has lost its availability to receive U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities for the time being, which has created the budget crunch. The monthly pancake breakfast has been discontinued for the same reason. A pancake supper may be

planned later in the year.

Gooding Duplicate Bridge results

GOODING — Gooding Duplicate Bridge released Feb. 2 results.

Section A: First, Max Thompson and Reuben Fehskeofsky; second, Mary Steele and Susan Faulkner; third, Edna Pierson and

Adelaide Gerard; and fourth, Sam Smutny and Mary Kienlen. Section B: First, Mary Steeler and Susan Faulkner; second, Edna Pierson and Adelaide Gerard; and third, Jodi Faulkner and Louise Smith. Duplicate bridge is played at 1 p.m. Fridays at the Gooding Senior Center, 308 Section Ave. For partnership information or directions, call Kathy Rounney at 934-9732.

Bill

Continued from page B1

While authorities are notified and a public record is made if any simple test positive for regulated diseases, those with signs of non-regulated disease do not require disclosure — and that endured the toughest criticism from Democratic lawmakers.

Rep. Liz Chavez, D-Leviston, said she received 50 e-mails from concerned citizens. "Having the director make the determination and not having that information is causing great concern," she said.

But those department it said there are supporting laboratories that need the business and non-regulated diseases — such as West Nile mosquito virus — are publicized if they

"One of the questions that was still not addressed was what harm is being done by having them be public record."

— Courtney Washburn, Community Conservation director for the Idaho

community Conservation director for the Idaho Conservation League, which called the previous bill too vague, said the new bill is an improvement.

"We feel the new bill gives a clear picture that the department wants exempted from public record," she said.

Washburn, however, said she was unsure if the ICL would endorse the bill.

"One of the questions that was still not addressed, was what harm is being done by having them be public record."

"Personally, if it's all public I'm going to go somewhere else."

— Rep. Jim Patrick, R-Twin Falls

"You just want to make sure we're all in the loop if something bad comes along," she said afterward. "I still don't like the language in it."

Committee chairman Tom Trail, D-Moscow, said a public hearing, which will be scheduled in the coming weeks, is likely to draw a substantial crowd.

Jared S. Hopkins can be reached at (208) 343-0911 or jhopkins@magvalley.com

LEARNING CENTER



The Marty Bowers Trust managed by the Masonic Bodies of Twin Falls presented \$10,000 to the Southern Idaho Learning Center. The donation will be used for scholarships to students with learning differences from low-income families. The Twin Falls center is nonprofit and provides assessment, remediation and other supportive services for students with learning differences.

Advertisement for Century Cinema 5 & Burley Theatre. Features listings for Norbit, The Work & The Glory III, The Queen, and Epic Movie. Includes showtimes and prices.

South Side Electric Inc.

All patrons of South Side Electric are cordially invited to attend the 60th Annual Meeting of the Members on February 12, 2007 • 7:00 p.m. in the Multi Purpose room at Declo High School.

Agenda includes reports from the Management, Board and Auditor, and the election of one Board member. All members encouraged to attend. Dinner will be served and door prizes awarded.

Keep up with the auctions.



Check the Times-News Magic Valley and Classified sections, and log on to www.magicalvalley.com for local auction information and times.

For More Information, Contact Jill Hollon: 208-735-3222

Times-News magivalley.com

Auction Calendar

- Auction calendar listing events for Saturday, Feb. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and March 2. Includes details for various auctions such as Public Auto Auction, HUNT BROS. AUCTIONS, and KLAAS AUCTION BARN.

GUN SHOW

Twin Falls County Fairgrounds • Fair Avenue • Filer, Idaho

Thousands of Bargains... YOU CAN BUY, SELL & TRADE! Saturday - February 10 • 9:00 am - 6:00 pm Sunday - February 11 • 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Find out more, click Auctions on www.magicalvalley.com and Classifieds Category #812 AUCTION SALES REP Jill Hollon 735-3222 • E-mail: jhollon@magvalley.com



Man in Black

Johnny Cash Tribute

FEBRUARY 23-24
TICKETS START AT \$15



Paul Revere & The Raiders

MARCH 16-17
TICKETS START AT \$30

.38 Special

MARCH 30-31
TICKETS START AT \$35



RAY PRICE
APRIL 13-14
TICKETS START AT \$30

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Cala Showroom performances are at 8pm & 10pm, ticket price includes two free drinks.

RESORT CASINO GETAWAY

RESORT CASINO GETAWAY

INSIDE: The Dallas Cowboys tabbed Wade Phillips as the successor to Bill Parcells, C5



INSIDE: Prep basketball playoffs, C2 & C4 | Local roundup, C4 | Comics, C6-7 | Weather, C8



Twin Falls guard Asbury Iones, left, battles for control of the ball with Skyline's Reina Shalsholtz during the third quarter Thursday in Twin Falls.

Bruin girls sweep way to region crown

Championship marks 20 wins for Twin Falls

By Bradley Greer
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — It's a good thing that the Class 5A state tournament starts next week, because the Twin Falls Bruins girls basketball team might be bored of beating Skyline.

For the fourth time this season, the Bruins defeated the Grizzlies at Dawn Gymnasium, this time 52-45 on Thursday in the Region Four-Five-Six championship game.

"It's tough to play a good

team (multiple times)," Twin Falls' head coach Joe D. Shepard said. "As you get more familiar with each other, it gets tougher."

The win marks the Bruins' first conference title and top-area seed to the state tournament during Shepard's tenure. Last week's win over Skyline marked the Bruins' fourth state berth in five years.

So maybe they shouldn't be bored with beating Skyline when good things like these happen. They certainly weren't

bored preparing for them.

"This week's practices were a lot more intense," said senior Kelsey Jardine, adding that while they didn't want to look past Skyline they are practicing for state.

Regardless, the Grizzlies didn't come to town just to look at the plaque.

Although they never led, Skyline kept within two or three possessions of the Bruins for the entire stretch. Most of their scoring came off second-chance points from 6-foot-2

See it online
Go to magicalvalley.com for more photos from the game

post Demi Dlouhy. The senior recorded 10 points and nine rebounds with a majority of those points from her rebounds: She was followed in scoring by Keisha Fisher — who missed last week's game due to injury — with nine points. Fisher hit three buckets in the fourth quarter in an attempt to rally the Grizzlies for a hoped-for upset.

Please see BRUINS, Page C4



The 14 active members of the College of Southern Idaho men's basketball team are combining to average 111.2 points per game this season.

Reenergized CSI women set for CNCC

Mood shifts as Eagles prepare for final stretch

By Eric Larsen
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — It wasn't like this a week ago.

Thursday afternoon, the College of Southern Idaho gymnasium was filled with the shouts and yelps of a Golden Eagles women's basketball team thoroughly enjoying itself. From sophomore point guard Maria Moore, talking up a block during half-court scrimmages to head coach Randy Rogers, shouting across the gym, "I see you, Maria," after Moore sank a pair of free-throws, something that's been missing from this No. 10 CSI team returned this week: the noise, the joy.

Heading into tonight's first of two scenic West Athletic Conference home games against Colorado Northwestern Community College, the Golden Eagles appear to have their swagger back.

"Maybe my mood's changed, to be honest," Rogers said after Thursday's practice. "Everybody's asking, 'Are you having fun?'" said, "No, I'm not having fun." I've got to find a way to have fun doing this job. I feel like we're a .500 team right now or a team that hasn't won a game. And we've lost 18-4 in the last 16th in the nation. I think we need to enjoy those things like that and kind of let the girls enjoy it."

While there's been an attitude shift, Rogers is still running

Please see CSI WOMEN, Page C2

Eagle Eyes

Tonight: No. 16 CSI (18-4, 9-3 SWAC) vs. Colorado Northwestern CC (5-16, 0-12 SWAC), 5:30 p.m.

Last time they met: The Golden Eagles had little trouble with the Spartans in Rangely, Colo., earlier this year. CSI swept CNCC with wins of 93-56 and 99-48.

On the horizon: The Golden Eagles are on the road next Friday and Saturday against Salt Lake Community College.

On the radio: All games will be broadcast on 1270 AM KTFI.

On your back: CSI fans are encouraged to wear gold on Friday and back to Saturday's games.

CSI season leaders (SWAC minimums apply): Points per game — Maria Moore 15.1, Brittanee Moore 12.9. Rebounds per game — M. Moore 6.7, Ashley Thompson 6.3. Assistants per game — M. Moore 4.0, B. Moore 3.1. Steals per game — M. Moore 2.9. Blocks per game — Don Hanson 1.2, Anita Burdick 0.8. Field goal percentage — M. Moore .432 (127-294); B. Moore .420 (94-224). 3-point percentage — M. Moore .432 (28/77); B. Moore .356 (48/135). Free throw percentage — Kenoyev .808 (205/307). Any Bracketed, 748 (47/63).

* Under SWAC minimum of two made per game.

From all angles

No team in the country scores like the CSI men

By Eric Larsen
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Go ahead, take a deep breath. The Golden Eagles dare you.

You've been huffing up and down the court for 11 minutes now, trying to keep pace with this whirlwind circus in black and gold. And now, College of Southern Idaho head men's basketball coach Barret Peery

has pulled his starters. This early in the game? Please. You've been working hard. Maybe it's time to take a play off. You can drop your heavy arms on defense, narrow your stance and give your quads a break, maybe even jog back after a miss against the CSI scrubs, right?

Wrong.

There's one fundamental flaw in relaxing against the CSI scrubs:

There are none on the No. 7 CSI men's team. Not on a team that averages 111.2 points per game — more than any other team in the nation that provides basketball scholarships. Not on a team that features five players averaging double digits. Not on a team that's low scorer is averaging over five points per game and nearly scoring a point for every minute played.

"That's what we do. That's what we design it for," freshman shooting guard DeCarlos Tuley said of the CSI offense. "All five in, all five out. Fresh new bodies that are going to play hard and keep it exciting."

Exciting and effective. From a Riley 3-pointer to a Juan Patti putback, CSI can score from all

Bobcats take top 4A state seed

By Ryan Howe
For the Times-News

BURLEY — The Burley High girls' basketball team beat Preston 45-36 Wednesday for the Great Basin Conference championship, and in doing so, earned the higher "seed" heading into next week's Class 4A state tournament.

"That was a tough game," said Burley coach Gordon Kerbs. "But you know what? All the games from here on out are going to be tough."

McKel Baker led all scorers with 15 points for Burley while Nicole Tolman added eight.

After the first quarter, it seemed like Preston standout Jaycee Rawlings would have her way as she scored six points right off the bat, helping the Indians to a 12-12 tie after the first period.

But Burley changed down defensively after that, holding Rawlings to just six points the rest of the game. Jessica Brice played a key role in frustrating the Indians' senior guard.

"We knew we had to play really great defense and keep them off the boards tonight," Brice said. "They set a lot of double screens for [Rawlings] so we just worked on



Burley's Nicole Tolman (left) and Preston's Jaycee Rawlings go for a loose ball during the Bobcats' 45-36 victory in Thursday's Great Basin Conference championship game.

Jumping out and helping. We played really good team defense."

Please see BOBCATS, Page C2

Cinderella Trojans earn trip to state

By Diane Phillips
Times-News writer

WENDELL — Back when Wendell coach Delon Hulise met the girls basketball team for the first time, the players told Hulise that their goal was to go to state. Hulise's reply was simple: He could get them there.

True to his word and of course with a little help from the nine players on the Trojan team, Hulise will take Wendell to state after the Trojans defeated Valley 39-35 in the championship game of the District IV Canyon Conference tournament on Wednesday.

Wendell began the tournament as the No. 3 seed. After beating No. 2 Glenris Ferry in the first round, the Trojans had to beat the top-seeded Vikings twice to earn the trip to state.

"I've been doing this for a

long time but I don't think I have ever been any prouder than I am of this team," said Hulise. "These girls refused to quit. Earlier in the season we were losing games by 30 points and now we're going to state. I just love each and everyone of these girls."

Sometimes in a victory, it isn't always the one who scores the most points or pulls down the most rebounds that gets the game ball.

"We dedicated this game and win to Mango Sears, who was our biggest fan," said Wendell junior Whitney Gines of the middle school secretary, who passed away on Wednesday. "For me, going to a state tournament is something that I have been dreaming about since the second grade. For our team, we wanted to be

Please see TROJANS, Page C4

SPORTS

Varsity Basketball Standings

As of Feb. 7. Boys and Girls Class 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A, 1A. Includes tables for Great Basin Conference, Canyon Conference, and Magic Valley North/South. Lists teams like Madison, Twin Falls, and Burley with their records.

Idaho Media Boys Basketball Poll. Records as of Feb. 6. Class 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A. Lists teams like Moscow, Skyview, and Aberdeen with their poll positions and records.

Minico drops heartbreaker to Pocatello

Two-point loss ends Spartans' season

By Ben Berg For the Times-News. BURLEY — The Minico girls basketball season ended Thursday as the Spartans dropped a 34-32 heartbreaker to the Pocatello Indians in the Great Basin Conference third-place game. The win propelled the Indians to a state tournament play-in game, even as it left Minico seniors Ti Short, Jorica Smith, Dani Ramirez, and Maggie Hansen pondering their basketball futures.



Minico players Laci Garner (23), Sheree Dessel (44), Candace Smith (10) and Ti Short (4) react after the Spartans' missed shot at the buzzer in their 34-32 season-ending loss to Pocatello Thursday.

"What more could a coach ask for than four girls who never say die and give it all they've got?" — Minico coach Clint Straatman

Scoring

Continued from page C1

angles of the court. The Golden Eagles are not only the most effective team in the nation at putting the ball in the basket — they're the best by far. Virginia Military Institute is averaging 102.6 points per game on the NCAA Division I ranks. The Keydets are 8.6 points per game behind CSI. Over the course of 22 games, CSI has scored 189 more points on the season than VMI.

seconds to go. Straatman drew up a play that freed freshman Brecka Fetzer for a 3-pointer from the left corner, but her shot fell short and right, and Minico couldn't come down with the ball for a second chance. "We had a couple different looks," Straatman said of the play. "We were trying to get the ball to Dani and let her make something happen."

most of the second quarter. Minico held a lead, but a banked 3-point shot by Pocatello senior Emma Andrews with one minute left in the half gave the Indians life. The teams went to the locker rooms at halftime with the score knotted at 15. "We started out really, really flat," Straatman said. "We came out and played not to lose early and felt we could turn it around later. But we picked it up a little too late."

kind of dead at the beginning and we just turned it around too late," she said. Ramirez, consistently the only Spartan able to create her own shot, was largely frustrated by Pocatello's interior defenders. Ramirez led the Spartans in scoring with 11 points, but never quite broke over the game, though she often threatened to do so.

"I didn't want it to be my last game," she said. "I just really much told myself that I've got to go up strong before I can get the foul called."

Pocatello will play the District VI No. 2 seed at 3 p.m. Saturday at Highland High School for the right to advance to state.

Eagle Eyes

Tonight: No. 7 CSI (20-2, 10-2 SWAC) vs. Colorado Northwestern CC (6-15, 0-12 SWAC), 7:30 p.m. Last time they met: The Golden Eagles turned up the tempo in Rangely, Colo., earlier this season, defeating the Spartans by scores of 127-84 and 131-91. Brad Garrett had a big weekend, leading CSI in scoring both games with 28 points in the first game and 29 in the second.

On the horizon: The Saturday night and Sunday night games will be broadcast on 1270 AM KTR. No one's out of this year's CSI team knows better than sophomore shooting guard Derek Lorenzen just how tested a player in the black and gold is every day at the CSI gymnasium. After going head-to-head with current NCAA Division I standouts Reggie Larry, Zarryon Ferrel and Darrell Jenkins, among others last year, Lorenzen practices with an even deeper group this season.

The Golden Eagles hope to take their next step in improving starting with tonight's SWAC home game against a 6-15 Colorado Northwestern Community College team that's suffering through an 11-game losing streak. The Spartans' most consistent weapon is sophomore guard Houston Power, who's averaging 15.6 points and 6.6 rebounds per game while fellow sophomore Jordan Pratt pitches in 12.6 points and 5.7 rebounds per game. The Spartans are an uptempo squad, but haven't found a way to parlay that into a SWAC win in 12 opportunities. Tonight and Saturday night, the Spartans get their turn to try and withstand the wave upon wave of talent Power can throw off his bench every night. So far, that proposition has been met with little success. The Golden Eagles hope to keep things that way.

Former CSI player Bond heads to Lewis-Clark St.

Warriors squad for the 2007 fall season. Bond, a 2005 Twin Falls graduate, averaged over two digs per game for the Golden Eagles as a sophomore after playing sparingly for North Idaho College as a freshman. He was a three-sport star with Twin Falls, participating in basketball, track and volleyball and winning a state championship as a runner on the 1,600-meter relay team.

Bobcats

practices with the same intensity and same expectations he's had all year. With only eight SWAC games remaining and important meetings with Salt Lake Community College, Snow College, and the College of Eastern-Utah yet to be played, the Golden Eagles know that there's no room for a letdown this weekend. Against a 5-16 Spartans team that has yet to win a SWAC game, the Golden Eagles not only want to win, but want to win by playing well.

CSI women

"It's important because it's going to show other teams that we don't just play down to other teams' levels by coming in here and doing what we've got to do," Maria Moore said. "While the Spartans haven't found the right combination in SWAC play yet, they came as close as they've been last week, losing by eight and nine points in a pair of games against CEU. Freshman guard Jessica Glazier and the rest of the Spartans aren't afraid to jack up the ball from the perimeter or play physical."

"I think our guys have bought into a bigger goal of just trying to win as much as we can," Peery said. "Just winning. I've preached all along that winning takes care of a lot of things." "Winning is the balm that soothes all wounds to any egos bruised by not being 'the man' at CSI. While surefire NCAA Division I prospects like Brad Garrett, Kevin Davis and Brandt Stores could be averaging 25 points per game at any number of junior colleges, each has put individual glory aside for the good of the team concept."

No CSI player plays more than Pattillo's 24.7 minutes per game. So why would a player who's been at the next level and playing the brand of team basketball that's earned CSI a 20-2 season record and a 10-2 mark to lead the scenic West Athletic Conference standings. "I think our guys have bought into a bigger goal of just trying to win as much as we can," Peery said. "Just winning. I've preached all along that winning takes care of a lot of things."

"I want to execute and win," he said. "I think I can beat this team by pressuring them, and beat them handily. But can we do that against the next team? We've got to do that because that's not only going to help us win this game, but prepare us for the better teams in the league." With CSI one game behind

"The athletes and players on this team always make you better and make you want to step up your game," he said. "The competition here, with such good players, you want to be surrounded by it." The Golden Eagles would likely beat the school and national record of the 1988-89 CSI team set by scoring 4,025 points over 39 games, but this squad is on track to smash the school record of the 1986-87 team's 105.1 point-per-game average. The Navajo College (Class) NCAA record of 116.1 points averaged over the 1990-91 season is a long shot for this CSI squad, but maybe not if the Golden Eagles can finish the season the way they want to. "I've been really excited about the fact that we have a lot of room for improvement," Peery said. "We have an opportunity to be really good at the end of the year."

"We don't take care of business this weekend." Regardless of how well the Golden Eagles play this weekend, the change of the mood around a team that has split SWAC series over the last two weekends is a welcome one. Rogers said Maria Moore has had her best week of practice in two years as a Golden Eagle, and hopes to carry his team's redoubtable excitement for playing toward winning a Region 18 title. "Whether we can carry that into the next two games or not,

"I'm happy with that," Rogers said. "They've focused right now and I think they're a little bit more reenergized for the last eight games down the stretch." *Ozaka Massage*

Mickelson eagles last hole for share of Pebble Beach lead

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Phil Mickelson finally showed signs of turning the corner Thursday.

Nowhere near the leaderboard since his collapse at the U.S. Open last summer, Mickelson hit 4-iron from 230 yards into 18-hole for eagle on his final hole at Poppy Hills for a 7-under 65 to share the lead with rookie John Mallinger and Nick Watney at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

"I didn't think it would take three tournaments to get to where I wanted to be," said Mickelson, playing for the fourth straight week. "But each tournament, I saw progress."

Mickelson and the rest of the 180-man field also saw a return of the notorious weather — known in these parts as "Crosby" weather as a tribute to when Bing Crosby was host of a tournament that featured every element but about an hour.

Cold. Windy. Wet.

It was better to be at Poppy Hills than the other two courses in the rotation because it is the farthest from the

Pacific Ocean and protected by treeline fairways. That's where Mickelson and Watney played.

The best round belonged to Mallinger, who was on the wrong course, but at the right time.

—Pebble Beach sits along the bluffs of the Pacific, bare to the windy wind that was going at times it toppled a tree on the 17th fairway around the corner at Spyglass Hill.

"There's nowhere to hide there," Jim Furyk said after his 67 at Spyglass.

Mallinger, however, started his round on the 10th hole in the virtual calm of the morning. The wind didn't arrive until he had only five holes remaining, and by then he had done most of his damage.

Of course, it helped that he made 100 feet worth of birdie putts on his first three holes, starting with a 60-footer just off the green.

"I got 14 holes with good weather," Mallinger said. "These are where you make your birdies, so when you've got good weather, you've got an advantage."

He should clearly "good" in this case, because sunshine has graced this picturesque peninsula the last six years; it was good for 14 holes because the clouds had not released the rain and it didn't feel like winter.

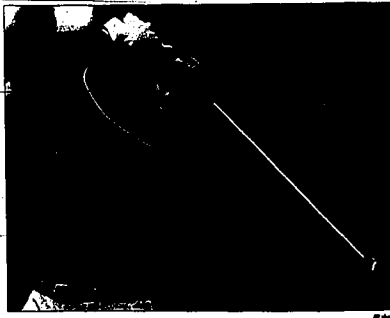
"It was beautiful," he said.

Over at Pebble Beach, Furyk played his best golf in the worst conditions. His 2-under start was wiped out by double bogey from two bunkers on the sixth hole, and he was even when the trees began to shake. Then he made five birdies on the back nine.

"I'm glad I got through there," he said.

But the place to be was Poppy Hills. It was the only course that averaged under par in the opening round at 71.73. Spyglass Hill, traditionally the subject of calm conditions, averaged 73.17, while Pebble checked in at 74.98.

"It's the most shielded course of the three," Watney said. "I got a good break playing Poppy."



Phil Mickelson tees off on the 12th hole during the first round of the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament at Poppy Hills golf course in Pebble Beach, Calif., Thursday. Phil Mickelson is tied for the lead after the first day.

Celtics' story is a long tale of woe

BOSTON (AP) — Paul Pierce didn't get a chance yet to read the inspirational book "Celtics: A Story" by Wyc Grosbeck left for him. The Boston captain was in the hospital with an elbow infection that derailed his return from a bad foot, and the book remained in his locker.

Wally Szczerbak left the book behind when he went to get his ankle taped after a 91-79 loss to the Miami Heat extended Boston's franchise-record losing streak to 16 games Wednesday. And Tony Allen's copy of "The Adversity Advantage" by blind mountaineer Erik Weihenmayer, was still in his locker, too; it's probably tough to carry a lot of stuff when you're walking in a full leg cast.

The first blind climber to summit Mount Everest, Weihenmayer was honored during a break in the Heat game Wednesday night as part of the Celtics' "Heroes Among Us" campaign. Grosbeck insisted the visit was long-planned and not intended to snap the team out of its franchise-record losing streak.

"If there's an advantage in adversity, I haven't found it yet," he said.

Neither has his team.

The Celtics matched their magic number with their 16th loss in a row — one for each of the titles that once made them the pride of the NBA. The league record of 23 straight in one season was set by the Vancouver Grizzlies in 1996 and matched by the Denver Nuggets in '98.

"Every game they're close," Grosbeck said. "Every game, there's two or three players that succeed. There's someone scoring 23, someone scoring 27, getting rebounds, people diving for loose balls. There's a lot to like about it, and they're playing hard for Doc."

"But it's time for a 'W'."

The Celtics won 16 titles from 1957-86 to establish themselves as the NBA's most prolific dynasty. But it's been a long time since the Celtics, who started their mascot "Lucky" and wore a shamrock on their uniforms, have had any good fortune.

The deaths of Reggie Lewis and Len Bias; the transparent tanking of the 1996-97 season in an

Jazz will retire Dantley's jersey

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Utah Jazz will retire Adrian Dantley's No. 4 in April.

A ceremony to honor Dantley and raise No. 4 to the rafters is scheduled for halftime of the team's April 11 game against the Denver Nuggets.

Dantley is in his fourth season as an assistant coach with Denver. He played for the Jazz from 1972-1986 and still holds the team record for career points per game at 29.6 — 4.2 more than Karl Malone.

"Adrian was an important building block in the foundation of the Jazz's playoff dynasty that lasted 20 years," Jazz owner Larry Miller said in a release Thursday. "He is part of the legacy of this franchise and we are pleased to retire his jersey."

Dantley ranks 18th on the league's all-time scoring list with 23,177 points over 15 seasons.

He will be the seventh Jazz player to have his number retired. Among Malone, John Stockton, Jeff Hummer, Mark Eaton, Darrell Griffith and Pete Maravich.

Cowboys hire Wade Phillips

IRVING, Texas — Twice during his introduction of Wade Phillips as Dallas Cowboys coach, Jerry Jones had to stop and gather himself. The decision was that emotional for the team owner.

"We needed to get it right," Jones said, pausing as tears welled up in his eyes. "In my mind, we got it right."

Phillips was hired Thursday, providing Dallas with an experienced replacement for Bill Parcells and someone well-versed in the 3-4 defense.

Maybe more significantly for Jones was getting a coach who can win now. The Cowboys haven't won a postseason in 10 seasons, the longest drought in the history of a team with five Super Bowls.

"This team is best served now, next week, next month and next season by an NFL head coach with experience, that knows the game, that candidly knows the personnel that are playing the game right now," Jones said.

The seventh coach in team history, Phillips is only the second to arrive in Dallas with previous NFL head coaching experience. The other was Parcells, who retired Jan. 22 after four seasons with the Cowboys.

Phillips, defensive coordinator at San Diego the past three seasons, has a 48-12 head coaching record over three seasons with Buffalo, two with Denver and season-ending interim stints with New Orleans and Atlanta. The 59-year-old son of longtime Houston Oilers coach Bum Phillips has been in the NFL for 30 of the last 31 seasons.

"It's great to have these cowboy boots back in Texas," said Phillips, showing his boots from the podium, where his father sat to his right. "(Jones) feels like I and I feel like I was the best fit for this job. ... I think I can make an immediate impact."

Phillips joins Tom Landry and Jimmy Johnson as the only Texas natives to be in charge of America's Team. Landry and Johnson both won two Super Bowls in Dallas.

"It's a big job, but I'm ready for it," said Phillips, who got a three-year contract that includes an option for a fourth season.

Jones interviewed 10 candidates before hiring his sixth coach since buying the team in 1989. Phillips was interviewed two weeks ago, and his chances of getting the job seemed to be fading when Jerry Turner was among five more who followed him.

"It was really tough," Phillips said. "In the game, I have control in a lot of things, like making the calls. In this, I didn't have any control. I'm just hoping ..."

But Jones chose the defensive-minded Phillips over Turner, a two-time head coach who was the Cowboys' offensive coordinator for Super Bowl titles after the 1992 and 1993 seasons. But Turner was only 59-63-1 in nine seasons as head coach for Washington and Oakland.

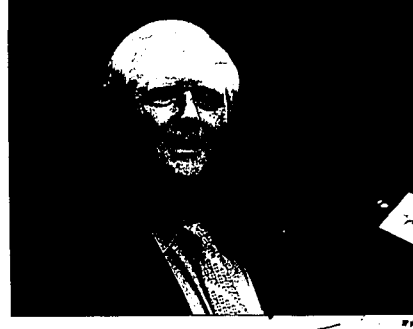
"It was important to get the experience and expertise and some of the specific things that I felt we needed to help our team out," Jones said. "How we were going to go forward with the offense, how we were going to go forward with the defense."

After Jason Garrett interviewed for the vacancy Jan. 25, Jones hired him to an unspecified role on the coaching staff. It had been presumed he would be the offensive coordinator, but Phillips said he didn't want to discuss Garrett's role until he had a chance to talk to the former backup quarterback.

Phillips' head coaching record includes 3-4 as a fill-in for the Saints and Falcons and 0-3 in the playoffs, most notably the "Music City Miracle" when Tennessee used a trick kick return for the winning touchdown in the closing seconds against the Bills in January 2000.

Besides carrying on his family tradition, Phillips has battled the dubious task of replacing Super Bowl coaches Dan Reeves in Denver and Mary Levy in Buffalo. So the idea of following Parcells doesn't bother him.

Parcells, who won two Super Bowls with the New York Giants, went 34-32 in four years in Dallas and lost twice in the playoffs. He implemented the 3-4 scheme in Dallas two years ago, and



Wade Phillips speaks during a news conference after being named head coach of the Cowboys headquarters in Irving, Texas, Thursday.

Raiders hire Rathman

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Tom Rathman, a two-time Super Bowl champion as a player with the San Francisco 49ers, was hired Thursday as the Oakland Raiders' running backs coach.

The Raiders also hired Taver Johnson as an assistant defensive line coach. Johnson had been the defensive coordinator at Miami of Ohio.

Rathman has been an assistant in the NFL for nine seasons with San Francisco and the Detroit Lions.

'Tank' Johnson pleads guilty

SKOKIE, Ill. — Bears defensive lineman Terry "Tank" Johnson pleaded guilty Thursday to violating probation in a 2005 gun case.

Cook County Judge John Moran denied a request to lift the player's home confinement, but said Johnson could leave his house to attend practices.

Johnson was arrested on misdemeanor weapons charges Dec. 14 after police raided his home in the Lake County town of Gurnee, about 40 miles northwest of Chicago, and found six unregistered firearms.

— The Associated Press

Lakers routed Top-ranked Duke women best No. 2 North Carolina

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Tayshaun Prince scored 20 points and Chris Webber had 18 points and 11 rebounds, leading the Detroit Pistons to a 93-78 win over the Los Angeles Lakers on Thursday night.

The Pistons have won five straight — building a two-game lead for the best record in the Eastern Conference — and are 9-2 with Webber in the starting lineup.

Kobe Bryant had 18 points on 5-of-13 shooting and eight turnovers, one short of his career high. Ronny Turiaf scored 13, Lamar Odom had 12 points. Smush Parker scored 11.

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Abby Wambach scored six of her 16 points during a key second-half spurt, leading No. 1 Duke held off No. 2 North Carolina 64-53 on Thursday night.

Wambach Smith had all 17 of her points in the first half. Lindsey Harding added 16 points and Alison Bales had 14 rebounds for the Blue Devils (25-0, 10-0 Atlantic Coast Conference).

Duke overcame second-half foul trouble and tied off their first-half lead at every critical juncture, improving to 9-0 against ranked teams and snapping a five-game losing streak to North Carolina.

Camille Little scored a season-high 21 points and Brianna Larkins had 14 rebounds for the Tar Heels (24-1, 8-1).

But Jones chose the defensive-minded Phillips over Turner, a two-time head coach who was the Cowboys' offensive coordinator for Super Bowl titles after the 1992 and 1993 seasons. But Turner was only 59-63-1 in nine seasons as head coach for Washington and Oakland.

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Butler 92, Cleveland SL 50
CLEVELAND — Pete Campbell made eight 3-pointers — six in the first half — and finished with 28 points, and No. 10 Butler showed off its outside touch by making a school record 20 3s.

No. 8 Memphis 70, UAB 56
BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Jeremy Hunt scored a career-high 30 points and Memphis limited UAB to 31 percent shooting.

The Tigers (20-3, 10-0 Conference USA) blew the game open by going on a 24-5 run starting late in the first half for their 12th consecutive victory.

No. 13 Oregon 55, Arizona St
EUGENE, Ore. — Tajuari Porter scored 24 points and Oregon held on to beat Arizona State 55-51 on Thursday night.

Porter hit six 3-pointers for Oregon (20-4, 9-1 Pac-10).

No. 14 Washington State 58, No. 25 Stanford 45
PULLMAN, Wash. — Derrick

Claim sought in Sutton case

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — A woman injured last year in a drunken-driving accident involving former Oklahoma State basketball coach Eddie Sutton seeks more than \$125,000 in a legal claim filed with the state.

Teresa Barnard says the university and its employees were "grossly negligent and in reckless disregard" of her rights and those of the public.

The claim, filed this week with the state's Department of Central Services, says Barnard incurred nearly \$40,000 in medical and injury-related expenses since the Feb. 10, 2006 accident with Sutton.

She wrote that she sustained injuries to her spine, right knee and right hip, as well as headaches, pain and suffering and mental anguish.

Sutton was driving to the Stillwater airport to catch a team flight to a game in Texas when his vehicle collided with Barnard's sport utility vehicle, then crashed into a tree without braking, according to reports. Court records showed Sutton's blood alcohol level was 0.22, almost three times the legal limit.

Low and Kyle Weaver each scored 12 points and Washington State used sophomore defense to beat Stanford to reach 20 wins for the first time since 1993-94.

Pooy Clark scored 11 points and Robbie Cowgill 10 as Washington State (20-4, 9-3 Pac-10) remained second in the conference.

Stanford (15-7, 4-2) shot just 28 percent in the game.

— The Associated Press

Hornets 109, Bucks 101, 2OT

OKLAHOMA CITY — Desmond Mason scored 24 points and David West shrugged off a bruised hand to add 21 points and a career-high 19 rebounds to lead New Orleans.

It was the second straight overtime win for the Hornets, who survived on Mason's last-second tip-in a night earlier in Denver.

Mo Williams had 30 points and Ruben Patterson added 28 points and a season-high 16 rebounds to lead Milwaukee, which has lost eight straight road games.

— The Associated Press

Men

Butler 92, Cleveland SL 50
CLEVELAND — Pete Campbell made eight 3-pointers — six in the first half — and finished with 28

Women

Butler 92, Cleveland SL 50
CLEVELAND — Pete Campbell made eight 3-pointers — six in the first half — and finished with 28

Market Watch

Feb. 8, 2007

Dow Jones
Industrial 12,637.63Nasdaq
Composite 2,488.07Standard &
Poor's 500 1,468.91Russell
2000 1,401.18
2000 816.39

Stocks of local interest

Local company	Price	% change
Dell Inc.	23.85	▲ 03
Libra Motors	31.34	▲ 24
Micro	22.90	▼ 07
Supervalu	38.19	▼ 33

Commodities

Commodity	Price	% change
Mar. Oil	59.71	▲ 2.0
(Light sweet crude by barrel)		
Live cattle	93.35	▼ .30
Feb. gold	658	▲ 5.7

For more, see page C7

Ninth case of mad cow confirmed in Canada

The Associated Press and
The Times-News

OTTAWA — The United States said Thursday it would dispatch a specialist to help investigate Canada's latest case of mad cow, but that Washington did not expect the new finding to hurt trade between the two countries.

On Wednesday, Canada confirmed its ninth case of mad cow disease since 2003, in an Alberta bull that died on a farm last week. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency said that a mature bull tested positive for mad-cow, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

Dr. George Luterbach, the agency's senior veterinarian for Western Canada, said the animal's death caused the

firm to identify it as an "animal of interest" as part of a national surveillance program. Eating meat products contaminated with BSE has been linked to more than 150 human deaths, mostly in Britain, from variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, a rare and nerve disease.

In 2005, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare received nine reports of Idaho residents — seven women and two men — diagnosed with Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease. Of those nine, five had autopsies and their brain tissue was sent to the National Prion Disease Pathology Surveillance Center at Cleveland's Case Western Reserve University.

Of those five, three women

— two women from Twin Falls County and the woman from Benewah County — tested positive for a prion disease, and final results on all three of them concluded they died of classic CJD and not the variant form associated with mad cow disease.

No human deaths as a result of mad cow have been reported in Canada.

Eight previous cases of BSE have been detected in Canadian cattle since May 2003, when the discovery of an Alberta cow with the disease caused the United States to slam the border shut to cattle exports entirely.

The border between the world's largest trade partners reopened for Canadian beef from younger cattle within

months of the original ban. But live cattle have only been allowed to move across the border since July 2005.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and USDA expert to Canada to help with the investigation, said Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns.

"Based on what I know at this time, I would not expect this Canadian detection to impact our trade with Canada," Johanns said.

An investigation is under way to find other animals born within a year of the bull that may have been exposed to the same feed source, Luterbach said.

"These animals are removed, destroyed, tested and disposed of in a manner

that they do not enter into the feed system," he said, adding officials are certain this particular bull also did not enter that system.

Five new cases were discovered in Canada in 2006, including one in a cow born five years after safeguards were adopted to prevent the spread of the disease.

"The small number of cases are, I suppose, unwelcome but on the other hand, not entirely unexpected," Luterbach said, adding other countries have seen a small number of "residual" cases after adopting strict feed regulations.

A ban on using cattle remains in feed in Canada went into effect in 1997 to guard against the spread of BSE.

Reversing the flow of flavors

By Evelyn Iritani
Los Angeles Times

It was an irresistible aroma that drew Ed Lee to a corner kiosk in Hong Kong's Mong Kok subway station in 2004. One bite of Beard Papa's crunchy choux pastry shell and creamy vanilla filling, and the Southern California businessman was smitten.

The next year, Lee, 47, and his partner, Joe Lung, 41, both immigrants from Hong Kong, opened their own Beard Papa Sweets Cafe at Hollywood and Highland Center in Hollywood. It was a hit from the start, with security guards having to be called in to control waiting crowds and sales reaching 5,000 cream puffs a day during peak holiday times.

Business has indeed been sweet for Lee, Lung and like-minded entrepreneurs, who are bringing foreign brands to the United States.

For decades, American icons such as McDonald's, Pizza Hut and Kentucky Fried Chicken have spread around the globe. Their success has transformed diets and dining habits, sparking an occasional backlash in some countries over the loss of home-grown tastes and cultures.

That flow of flavors is starting to reverse. Recently, there has been an uptick in foreign companies exporting popular foods to the United States, tapping into a "nostalgia factor" among this country's exploding immigrant populations, said Marcel Portmann, director of International Franchise Association in Washington.

"You are selling them a piece of their childhood," he said. Since 2004, Muginho Inc. of Osaka, Japan, has opened 22 Beard Papa franchises in the U.S.; it plans to add 10 this year, half in California. The company initially targets communities with large Asian pop-



Cream puffs are filled to order at Beard Papa Sweets Cafe in Los Angeles. The franchise of a Japanese chain was an instant success when it opened in 2005. The U.S. stores offer half a dozen fillings to cater to American tastes.

"You are selling (immigrants) a piece of their childhood."

— Marcel Portmann, International Franchise Association

ulations, though the cream puffs have developed a loyal fan base among non-Asians as well.

In San Francisco, site of the second-most-popular Beard Papa store after Tokyo, half the customers are non-Asian, said Akira Okura, the company's West Coast representative.

"It's time to get themselves to Denver," Colorado resident Elise Baudouin said after sampling the creamy puffs with her sister, Anne Lee, during a recent visit to Hollywood.

Portmann says foreign companies expanding to the United States usually begin

with company-owned stores. But they often switch to franchising so they can expand more quickly, he notes.

Prominent examples include Gallotempo chicken chain Pollo Campero and Filipino fast-food company Jollibee.

In California, fast-food restaurants and retail establishments were the most popular category of franchises opened in 2005, the franchise association said.

Few foreign companies have had enough capital and management expertise to tackle the competitive U.S. market, said Bob Goldin, vice presi-

dent of Technomics Inc., a Chicago-based food consulting firm.

But he predicts growth in this market because of the "American interest in authenticity and ethnic food." A weak U.S. dollar also lowers the cost of investing in the U.S. for foreign companies.

Franchising carries risks, particularly for companies unfamiliar with America's well-developed and heavily regulated franchise systems, in which operators buy the right to market and distribute the franchiser's products and to use the brand

for a fixed period.

Adapting a foreign flavor for a U.S. audience can be tricky. Roberto Denegri is executive vice president for Pollo Campero, whose local followers waited as long as seven hours to get a taste of home at the opening of the first location in Los Angeles in 2002.

Pollo Campero, which has opened 27 company-owned and franchise restaurants in the U.S., is seeking to expand its customer base without alienating its loyal Central American customers.

The company won't offer the basic menu — marinated and buttered chicken, French fries and coleslaw — but it is adding a salsa bar, rice, burritos and other extras to try to appeal to a broader palate.

Mortgage tax break to consider before time runs out

By Ellen Anderson
The Baltimore Sun

You already have a lot on your plate making sure you get your tax return in on time. But it's not too early to start thinking about trimming your 2007 tax bill.

One usual strategy is to contribute to tax-friendly retirement accounts. Thanks to changes this year, more people will be eligible for individual retirement accounts.

But some tax breaks are around only for this year, and you can lose out if you don't act in the coming months. For example, a tax credit for making energy-saving improvements to your home expires at year-end.

Mortgage Insurance Deduction: Congress inserted this temporary tax break into legislation passed late last year. If you buy a house or refinance a mortgage this year, you may be able to deduct all or part of your mortgage insurance premiums. It's only good for one year and only for mortgages issued in 2007.

Lenders usually require home buyers to take out mortgage insurance when their down pay-

Tax Tips



ment is less than 20 percent. In recent years, buyers putting little or no money down have avoided mortgage insurance by taking out two mortgages, says Keith Gumbinger, vice president of HSH Associates, a provider of mortgage information.

The first usually covers 80 percent of the home price and a piggy-back loan covers some or all of the balance, he says. This strategy grew popular a few years ago when interest rates were lower, Gumbinger says.

The Mortgage Insurance Companies of America estimates the deduction will save a homeowner an average of \$300 to \$400.

You must meet certain hurdles to qualify, though. You will be able to deduct full premiums, whether single or a joint filer. If your adjusted gross income is \$100,000 or less, after that, the deduction is gradually reduced and phases out once income tops \$109,000.

The deduction also applies to mortgages refinanced this year provided borrowers don't increase their debt with the new loan, says Bob D. Scharin, a senior tax analyst with Thomson Tax & Accounting.

Retailers report better-than-expected sales results for month of January

By Anne D'Amico
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — The nation's retailers finally got their sales boost in January, as shoppers redeeming holiday gift cards and enticed by the belated arrival of frigid weather splurged on winter leftovers. Now stores are pondering how spring merchandise — from baby doll dresses to lightweight cashmere tops — will fare.

"With December generally weak, that left more (winter) goods to clear," said John Morris, a managing director at Weichow Securities. "But that's tempering the outlook. Stores are not getting a clear read" on spring selling.

As retailers reported better-than-expected sales Thursday, winners crossed all segments including Limited Brands Inc., Nordstrom Inc. and Federated Department Stores Inc. Wal-Mart Stores Inc. beat Wall Street estimates, though its monthly gain was modest. Even Gap Inc., which has long struggled with disappointing sales, beat analysts' expectations. The merchant success in clearing out its piles of winter leftovers, which became attractive when the weather turned cold.

"Across the board, the numbers are decent," said Ken Perkins, president of RetailMetrics LLC, a research company in Massachusetts.

Thomson Financial's sales tally of 55 retailers rose 3.9 percent in January, beating the 3.1 percent estimate. The tally is based on same-store sales, or sales at stores open at least a year, which are the industry standard for measuring a retailer's health.

The solid performance in January was soothing as it follows a largely disappointing November-December period, which averaged a modest 2.9 percent same-store sales gain, according to Thomson Financial.

The sales reports also provided some encouraging news about fourth-quarter earnings, as many stores at least broke their profit forecasts.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of Mutual Funds with columns for Name, Div, Last Chg, and various fund details.

COMMODITIES REPORT

Table of Commodities including Wheat, Corn, Soybeans, and other agricultural products with prices and changes.

CLOSING FUTURES

Editor's note: Most Commodity quotes were not available from Standard and Poor's On Thursday.

Table of Closing Futures for Beans, Potatoes, and other commodities.

CHEESE

Chicago cheese prices on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. Lows: 1.2000, Highs: 1.2000.

LIQUIDATED

POULTRY MARKET - Idaho Farm International. Market summary for various poultry products.

MEATS/MONEY

Selected weekly spot prices. Thursday. Market summary for various meat products.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of New York Stock Exchange activity including volume, high/low prices, and market indicators.

MARKET SUMMARY

Summary of market activity for NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ, including volume and index changes.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table of NASDAQ National Market activity with columns for Name, Div, Last Chg, and price details.

INDEXES

Table of major market indexes including Dow Jones Industrial, S&P 500, and others.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table of stocks of local interest with columns for Name, Div, Last Chg, and price details.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Here are the 525 most active stocks on the New York Stock Exchange, the 400 most active on the Nasdaq National Market and 100 most active on American Stock Exchange.

Name: Stocks are listed alphabetically by the company's last name. (Not the abbreviation of company names made up of initials at the beginning of each letter's name.)

Div: Current annual dividend rate paid on stock, based on latest quarterly or semi-annual declaration, unless otherwise indicated.

Last: Price stock traded at when last change occurred for the day. Chg: Loss or gain for the day. No chg: No change indicated by -- mark.

Fund: Name of the mutual fund and family. S&P: Most recent value, or price at which fund could be sold. Chg: Daily net change in the NAV.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of American Stock Exchange activity with columns for Name, Div, Last Chg, and price details.

Advertisement for A.G. Edwards & Sons Inc. featuring a bird and the slogan 'YOU CAN'T RIDE OFF INTO THE SUNSET IF YOUR NEST EGG WON'T CARRY YOU'.

OUTDOORS

YOUR RECREATION IN IDAHO AND BEYOND • TIMES-NEWS • OUTDOORS EDITOR DAVID COOPER: 735-3246

INSIDE: Blaine County Recreation District creates advisory council, D3

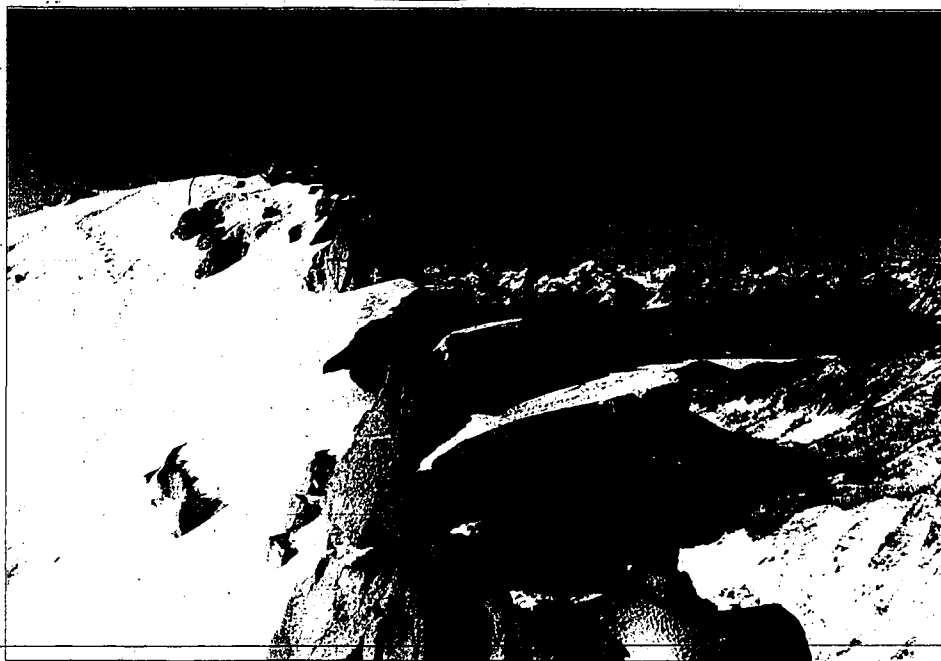
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FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 9, 2007

INSIDE: 'WILD' instructors, D2 | Delisting wolves, D2 | Buddy shoot, D3

"Climb the mountains and get their good tidings."

— John Muir



A skier looks over the north side of Castle Peak from a sub summit.

Photo by Bob Lohman

Storming the castle



Three skiers follow steps up an 800-foot couloir above Fourth of July Lake.

A contemplative ski descent in the White Clouds

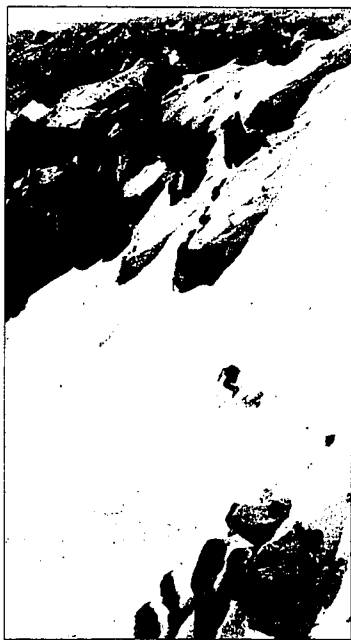
By Matt Leidecker
Times-News correspondent

The mountains of central Idaho are bare this winter. While many skiers lament the lack of snow, the clear January skies have created ideal conditions for exploring deep into Idaho's backcountry. Though powder turns are hard to come by, the low avalanche hazard created by the current dry spell offers ideal mountain climbing and skiing conditions.

During a recent prolonged forecast of clear skies and low avalanche conditions, a friend suggested we climb and ski Castle Peak in the White Cloud Mountains. The south couloir of Castle was high on my to-do list of local ski descents. Plus the extended trip deep into the backcountry would satisfy my craving for adventure and need for isolation from the worries and stress of my looming obligations of becoming a father. I re-arranged my weekend schedule to squeeze in time for the trip.

Our party of four pulled into the Fourth of July Creek parking lot at 6 in the afternoon. The sun had already set behind the Sawtooth Mountains and the temperatures were falling rapidly. We planned to snowmobile to the

Please see **BACKCOUNTRY**, Page D4



Adam Majors makes a jump turn just below a sub summit of Castle Peak.

INSIDE TODAY'S OUTDOORS SECTION

Rules on the ice

Fish and Game officer Gary Hompland gives the ins and outs of ice fishing.
See page D2



Lake's bounty

Idaho's Lake Cascade yields abundance of fish to ice anglers.

See page D2



On the slopes

Former professionals take to the hills to make ski movie.
See page D3



OUTDOORS

Special rules on the ice

Question: "Now that most of the hunting seasons have ended I'm turning my attention to ice fishing. Are there any special rules or things I should know?"

Answer: The fishing seasons, bag limits, and licensing requirements are the same for fishing in open water as well as holes cut in the ice.



AS THE OFFICER
Gary Hompland

There is no limit on the number of holes that one can cut in the ice but only five ice holes can be fished by one person at a time. A two-pole permit does not allow an angler to double the number of ice fishing rods.

Ice fishing rules allow a licensed angler to fish in up to five holes (five lines) cut in the ice at one time as long as all the fishing lines can be tended. Holes cut in the ice must be 10 inches or less in diameter to reduce the risk of injury by someone accidentally falling through the ice.

There is no limit on the number of holes that one can cut in the ice, but only five ice holes can be fished by one person at a time. A two-pole permit does not allow an angler to double the number of ice fishing rods.

Ice shelters left unattended must be tagged on opposing sides with the owners name, current address, and telephone number.

Additional considerations when ice fishing includes insuring adequate ice thickness for safety, sun block, and etiquette about use of over snow vehicles.

You show always carefully look for changing ice conditions near springs or as temperatures fluctuate. Experts suggest a minimum of 4 inches of solid clear ice to ensure it will support one person's weight. A minimum of 8 to 10 inches is recommended if using a snow machine or ATVs.

The snow and ice on a frozen lakes or reservoirs acts like a reflector, reflecting the sun's rays back into angler's faces. To protect you from sunburn and help reduce the potential for long-term sun exposure protection, anglers should liberally apply sun block to all exposed skin.

Frozen lakes and reservoirs are popular recreation areas for both ice fishing and motorized recreation such as snow machines and ATVs. Use of motorized vehicles can be important for transporting equipment and people to fishing locations. Idaho law requires people to operate snowmobiles and ATVs at reasonable and prudent speeds so as not to endanger persons or property of another. Idaho law also requires all snowmobiles and ATVs to be properly licensed and registered.

If you have any questions about the fishing rules contact your nearest Idaho Department of Fish & Game Regional Office. If you have questions about snowmobile or ATV registration or licensing contact your nearest sheriff's department.

Reference Idaho Codes 67-7110, 67-7103, 67-7122

Gary Hompland is a regional conservation officer at the Magic Valley Regional Office of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Lake offers ice anglers perch, trout and coho

By Roger Phillips
Associated Press writer

CASCADE — The snow crunches under your feet as you walk down the banks of Lake Cascade onto the ice, and there's no clear line between land and water. About 18 inches of solid ice separates you from the frigid water below and it feels as solid as terra firma. The lake is surrounded by snow-swathed mountains, and a bright winter sun burns through the cold blue sky. With sun reflecting off the snow, it's as bright as a summer day at the beach.

The walk across the ice keeps your body warm. As you crank the hand auger and drill your first hole, your body is flush with heat from the exertion. You are standing on ice and the temperature is hovering around the freezing mark, but you swear you feel toasty enough to peel off a layer of clothing.

You're standing on the fishes' roof top and they're lurking below. The trout are cruising, looking for a few morsels of food to hold them over while the long winter passes. The perch are amassed near the bottom, gathering in schools for the upcoming spawning season.

You impale a wriggling worm on your hook and add a flash of PowerBait to sweeten the deal. You grab a slush spoon and clear the ice hole, then lower your bait into the darkness below. You wait, and little crystals of ice form on your line.

Your rod looks comically short, just a wand of fiberglass with a few eyes for your line. You hold it patiently, waiting for a fish to telegraph its presence.

Before long, it happens: a faint tap, tap and then a sharp tick that makes your limber, stubby rod double over. You rear back and the hook embeds in the fish's jaw. The fish panics and sends your line racing tight laps around the ice hole.

You reel up the line, and with a steady pull, a silvery trout comes writhing out of the hole. You lower it onto the ice and it rolls around until it's caked with snow and looks like it's been floured and ready for the frying pan.

You unhook it, drop it into your bucket, and rebait your hook. You drop the bait back into the hole and realize it has filled with slush. You dip your spoon and toss the slush aside.



Kelly Daniels lands a trout while fishing on Lake Cascade as Duke, his black Lab, looks on, Jan. 27, near Cascade, Idaho.

You dip your hands into the water to remove the fish and worm slime. It hits you like a shock wave. Wow, that's cold. In fact, everything is cold: the ice, the snow, the water, and the air. But you haven't noticed.

You're too busy fishing. Richard Price of Meridian and Kelly Daniels of Boise take their ice fishing seriously.

They have a gas-powered auger, a gear sled, a pop-up shovel, and a propane heater. They also have a bunch of rods and a variety of different baits.

They make winter road trips to popular ice fishing destinations, such as Magic Reservoir and Wildhorse

Reservoir in Nevada. Last month, they were on Lake Cascade near dawn, drilling their first holes in

the ice for a day of fishing. "It's the closest place to ice fish, and I heard they were doing pretty good."



Fishermen by their luck Jan. 27 on Lake Cascade.

Fish & Game begins process for delisting wolves

For the Times-News

Idaho wildlife managers are excited by the news that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Jan. 29 announced its proposal to remove the gray wolf in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming from the endangered species list.

"We're in the process now of delisting the wolf," said Cal Green, director of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. "We're excited about that."

In a news conference Monday, Deputy Secretary of Interior Lynn Senflett and Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dale Hall announced the proposed delisting of gray wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains and the delisting of wolves in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

About 12 years ago 66 gray wolves were reintroduced to central Idaho and Yellowstone National Park. Today those wolves number more than 1,200, Senflett said. More than 700 of them are in Idaho, she said.

"I look forward, as do all the states that have been involved in wolf recovery, to returning management of the gray wolf in the northern Rocky Mountains to the states," Hall said.

The states are in a better position to manage delisted wolves, he said. And he is con-

fident that states will be responsible managers. State wildlife agencies will continue to submit annual reports on wolf status in each state, Hall said.

"Wolves have made a coming-back story," Green said during a news conference Monday afternoon. "It's a successful recovery story."

The Fish and Wildlife Service delisting proposal will be open for public comment for 60 days, including a series of public meetings and hearings. Fish and Wildlife will analyze the comments and expects to issue a final rule by the end of the year, Hall said.

The Fish and Wildlife Service plans a series of public hearings on the delisting proposal in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Washington, Oregon and Utah. Public meetings will run from 3 to 5 p.m., including brief presentations on the proposal at 3 and 4 p.m. Fish and Wildlife officials will take formal public comments during public hearings from 6 to 8 p.m. in each location.

Meetings will be March 5 at the Boise Convention Center on the Grove, 850 W. Front St., Boise; and March 8, at the Oxford Inns & Suites, 15015 East Indiana Avenue, Spokane Valley, Wash.

Other meetings will be February 27 at the Holiday Inn Cheyenne, 204 West Fox Farm Road, Cheyenne, Wyo.;

February 28, at the Plaza Hotel, 122 West State Temple, Salt Lake City; March 1, at Jorgensen's Inn & Suites, 1714 11th Avenue, Helena, Mont.; and March 7, at the Pendleton Red Lion Inn, 304 S.E. Nye Street, Pendleton, Ore.

Written comments on the proposed delisting may be sent electronically to NRMGrayWolf@fws.gov; mailed to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wolf Delisting, 505 Shepard Way, Helena, Mont. 59601; or hand-delivered to that address.

In anticipation of the completion of the delisting process, Fish and Game has started working on plans for hunting seasons on wolves.

The Fish and Game Commission on Jan. 25 agreed to ask the Legislature for changes in state law that would allow Fish and Game to issue tags and set the price of a wolf tag at \$26,500.

Officials are working on a wolf hunting and species management plan under the guidelines of the Idaho Wolf Conservation and Management Plan that would reduce wolf numbers in areas of conflict and try to stabilize numbers across the rest of the state.

Fish and Game's large carnivore manager Steve Nadeau has assembled a planning team that includes the Fish and Game wildlife managers and wolf specialists. The process will include public surveys and meetings with select groups of public and stakeholder groups to help guide a draft plan.

It's premature to talk about numbers or how the animals

Daniels said.

Price and Daniels were fishing for the lake's abundant rainbow-trout and coho salmon.

"Trout seem to taste better this time of year," Price said. "They had several on ice by late morning and were releasing the small ones in hopes of catching larger fish."

"They know from experience that big trout are out there."

"We had a couple 20-inchers last year," Daniels said.

The largest he ever caught was a 5-pounder, which can provoke a serious battle when you're using a 2-foot rod and trying to hoist it through a 10-inch hole in the ice.

"You don't really know how big it is at first, but when you get it halfway up and go oh, this is going to be interesting," Daniels said.

They try to keep their bait off the bottom to avoid the perch, a species many ice anglers prefer.

The perch and plentiful trout and coho have helped revive ice fishing at Lake Cascade. The perch population is rebounding, thanks in part to a restocking and predator control program run by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

The lake is about 75 miles from the Treasure Valley, and the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation keeps several of its lakeside parking areas plowed in winter, which provides easy access for ice anglers and a short walk to prime fishing spots.

The fish tend to congregate in shallow water in the winter, so ice shuffling often provides the most productive fishing.

Price said he typically likes to fish off points, because he can usually find fish there.

Ice fishing provides an outlet for anglers who don't want to wait until spring to start fishing again, and many folks will be surprised at how comfortable the temperatures can be.

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OUTDOORS

Reunited on the slopes

Former professional skier Yale Spina, of Memphis, Tenn., skis down the backside of Schweitzer Mountain Resort on Jan. 27. Spina reunited with Bob Howard and Bob Legasa to make a ski film at the



Former freestyle pros get together to make ski film

By Alison Boggs
The Spokesman-Review

COEUR D'ALENE — The sunny skies above Schweitzer Mountain Resort recently made for the best kind of reunion, one in which 20-year-old friendships were rekindled as skis swooped through sugary snow with cameras rolling. In the mid-1980s, a group of guys made a name for themselves as professional freestyle skiers, flying off jumps and twisting their bodies through the air as part of aerial shows sponsored by companies like Volvo. They won championships and traveled the world, eventually going off in separate directions to begin new phases of their lives.

Earlier this month, five of those former freestyle pros got together to go skiing in North Idaho, which is home to two of them — Bob Legasa and Dan Herby. Both left town to launch professional ski careers after graduating from Coeur d'Alene High School, but they eventually returned.

"We all ran away from home when we were 18," said Bob Howard, of Reno, while waiting his turn to descend a slope on Schweitzer's backside.

The reunion had a dual purpose. Legasa runs Freeride Promotions, a television and event production company that films ski shows for distribution on cable and network broadcast stations nationwide. The shows, called Freeride Adventures, are created in partnership with Peak Video Productions, run by Jim Bolser and Robin Rife.

The team began filming a new show at the resort. This one will focus on Bob Vogel, one of the former freestyle champions who was paralyzed from the waist down in a ski accident 21 years ago. Since his accident, Vogel has become a leader in promoting "adaptive" ski programs and teaches people with a range of disabilities to ski at Alpine Meadows near Lake Tahoe.

"There's literally nobody we can't get skiing," Vogel said, sitting in his mono-ski, holding

short metal poles with skis attached to the bottoms. Peak Video Productions and Freeride Promotions do two half-hour-long programs annually, which each take about three weeks to put together, Bolser said. The show will take them to Park City in Utah and to Tamarack ski resort in Idaho. The shows run throughout North America on 350 channels and are included on the in-flight entertainment program of two airlines, Bolser said.

"I call it the ultimate scam," Bolser said. "We get to do what we love to do." Bolser also works as a television cameraman on an independent contractor basis. Legasa's full-time job is with Discovery Builders Idaho, a company constructing an exclusive golf community on Lake Coeur d'Alene.

With Freeride Promotions, Legasa also puts on Yakety Outrageous Air Show and the Freeride Institute, both at Schweitzer. The institute brings in big names in freestyle skiing to teach others.

Legasa and Peak Video Productions also film Hiden Runs and Ski Tips.

"We make some money doing it, but mostly we have fun," Legasa said. "It keeps us somewhat young."

Soldier Bowler Co. took the group snowcat-skiing on the backside of Schweitzer on Saturday morning. Bounding out the group were Yale Spina, of Memphis, and locals Bill Savitz, John Hutchins and Shawn Taylor.

The trip was especially cathartic for Spina, who witnessed the death of a friend in an avalanche two years ago. The outing Saturday was his first in the backcountry since that incident, he said.

"His smile greets the group swooped down through trees and open meadows."

"For me, this is significant," Spina said. "I've had some of the funnest days of my life with these guys. We've skied all over the world together, but this is the first time: we've skied together in their hometown."

F&G course seeks 'WILD' instructors

POCATELLO — How would you like to be a "WILD" teacher? A "WILD" teacher is one who has participated in a Project WILD workshop presented by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Participants become involved in learning about wildlife and wildlife management concepts, and discover fun and exciting ways to teach wildlife conservation in the classroom.

Project WILD workshop will be held at the Portneuf Library located at 5210 Stewart in Chubbuck. The workshop will run from 4 p.m. until 9 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 23, and will continue from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24.

Project WILD workshops are ideal for all types of educators — schoolteachers (K-12), 4-H leaders, scoutmasters, nurses, interpreters for nature centers or zoos. The registration fee for this workshop is \$20. As an option, participants can attend the workshop for college credit at an additional cost of \$50. An outstanding assignment will be required for those who are tak-

ing the workshop for credit. Workshop participants will take home a variety of educational materials, including two activity guides which contain more than 150 activities related to wildlife and wildlife conservation.

All activities from Project WILD have been correlated to the Idaho State Education standards.

"Project WILD is a wonderful instrument. Fish and Game uses to help educators and the students they teach to connect to the outdoors and to Idaho's wildlife resource," says Jennifer Jackson, Regional Conservation Educator for the education region of Fish and Game. "If we can educate youth early on, they not only grow up with a love and appreciation for wildlife, they learn to better steward it for the resource. And, that's got to be good for the future of wildlife."

To register for this workshop, please contact Jennifer Jackson with the Fish and Game office in Pocatello at 232-7937 or register via Fish and Game's Web site at fishandgame.idaho.gov.

Blaine County Rec District creates advisory council

HAILEY — The Blaine County Recreation District has announced the creation of the Galena Lodge and Trails Advisory Council. Working in partnership with the BCRD, this dedicated group of citizens is made up of community-minded members whose vision will help plan the management, maintenance and funding of the lodge and trails in the North Valley, as well as Quigley and Lake Creek.

The Advisory Council membership includes recreation enthusiasts, Ted Angle, Jenny Busdon, Jim Doreen, Steve Haimis, Dick Hawn, Jim McElhinney, Eric Reeter BCRD Trails Director, Mark Gilbreath, BCRD Board Member, along with Galena Lodge concessionaires, Erin Zoll and Don Shepler. Many members have served since BCRD assumed ownership of Galena Lodge in 1984. It was Jenny Busdon who spearheaded the campaign to "Save Galena" when the Lodge was on the brink of permanent closure.

The stated vision for the groups "to celebrate and preserve the heritage of Galena Lodge and beauty of our community trail, through advocacy, fund raising, forward planning, and environmental awareness."

Goals of the group include capital improvements for the lodge and trails.

Currently on the docket for next winter projects are waste management upgrade (septic system) for Galena as well as structural repairs and overdue maintenance to the lodge.

From a skiers view the advisory council is half way to replacing Murphy Bridge with one that will allow grooming machines to cross over it.

This will improve grooming efficiency and safety to users. BCRD is also working with the US Forest Service, to widen the Harman trail at the point the path is restricted by a rocky outcropping locally referred to as "the rock cut."

Also high on the Advisory Council's agenda is to Master Plan the trail system surrounding Galena Lodge for both summer and winter use with the help of Big Wood backcountry trails.

The group plans a capital campaign that will allow them to replace a snow grooming machine each year as well as invest in the tools, parts and a facility necessary to properly take care of its equipment. They will also continue to work to clarify and improve communications of ski conditions.

Feel free to contact members of the advisory council through the BCRD at 798-2117 or www.bcrd.org on how you can help.

High Desert skier reports on Mexico City trip

Times-News

TWIN FALLS — Dennis Kincaid of Hansen will describe his experiences on a ski trip to Mexico City when the High Desert Nordic Association meets at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 14 at Idaho Joe's restaurant in Twin Falls.

Kincaid is a longtime member of the cross country ski organization and an experienced backcountry and high-elevation skier. The meeting is open to the public. HDNA members have been invited to assist the National Park Service with a ski day at Craters of the Moon National Monument on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 10

a.m. to 4 p.m. HDNA members will provide instruction to skiers and will also have an opportunity to ski some of the monument's trails. The association also has been asked to assist with a College of Southern Idaho ski outing at Galena on Saturday, March 3. Fifteen members of the organization joined in a moonlight ski in the Magic Mountain area this past weekend. The association's membership includes Nordic and backcountry skiers with a wide range of interests, ages and experiences from throughout the Magic Valley.

For additional information call 733-1882 or 734-4935 or go the HDNA Web site at www.ski-hdna.org.

No snow in the Sierras has resorts relying on machines

RENO, Nev. (AP) — One Sierra ski area has called it quits for the season while others struggle to keep lifts running and workers busy during the driest winter in nearly two decades.

Northern California's June Mountain, which averages 250 inches of snow at the top of its 10,890-foot summit, closed to Saturday Jan. 28. "We had to say, 'Just not this year. We got to the point where we finally pulled the plug,'" General Manager Carl Williams said Monday. With a base of 3 to 10 inches and limited snowmaking capability at the resort some 180 miles east of San Francisco, Williams said June Mountain was not providing a quality experience for skiers. "It was very marginal when we opened. Much longer, it would have gotten unsafe," he said.

"Last year it was 600 inches of snow. This year, it's nothing, so it's still an average of 100." Most of June Mountain's 175 workers were let go a week ago. About 20 full-time staff were reassigned to Mammoth Mountain, its sister resort 20 miles to the south, which is soaking around the clock to maintain a 3-4-foot base of packed powder and machine-groomed snow, Williams said. "It's the same story some 150 miles north in the Lake Tahoe Basin where the clock to the hour are being 'ticked' as much as 90 percent to try to avoid layoffs.

Although other western ski areas benefited from storms late last year, most of the snow skipped over the Sierra on its way east, leaving the mountains along the California-Nevada line without their seasonal thick white caps.

T.F.-Jackpot buddy shoot scheduled for Feb. 18

Times-News

TWIN FALLS — Join the Twin Falls Gun Club for its Jackpot 2d 3rd Draw Buddy Shoot, on Feb. 18. The event will include 10 targets at 65-yard flight shot on the 25-yard line, and 10 targets at Wobble/Continental Shot from 25-yard line.

The cost is \$10 per shooter. Pay back for the 1st team is 55 percent; 2nd team earns 30 percent; 3rd team earns 15 percent.

All shells will be purchased from the gun club. All budgets will be on draw basis (spoker chip style). Shoot as many times as you wish with a new draw partner. All

shoot-offs will be after shoot. The draw will be at 11 a.m. and shoot starts at 10 a.m. All teams will shoot on traps Nos. 5 and 6.

All 1st place partners will shoot off for 1st place prize; 2nd place partners shoot for 2nd place; 3rd place partners shoot for 3rd place prize. In the event one shooter is in a shoot off with two different buddies, he will shoot off in the order each squad was shot. Shoot off will be done off the Wobble/Continental Shot.

For more information contact the Twin Falls Gun Club at 734-0570 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursdays.

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Backcountry

(Continued from page D1)
 of the dirt road, when
 our gear into a snowdrift
 of a week. I had
 must be added, finding
 of a purist. Tucking
 must while towing behind
 the snowmobile, I started
 thinking about the use of
 motorized vehicles in these
 beautiful places. The moon-
 light filtered through a skele-
 ton forest, casting shadows of
 recently burned trees onto the
 snow. At the same moment,
 the roar of the machine
 echoed off the canyon walls,
 disturbing the wintery silence.
 It seemed a harsh juxtaposi-
 tion and I imagined what it
 would be like to glide silently
 through this eerie burned for-
 est in the moonlight.

We turned off the machines
 just past the trailhead, travel-
 ing only a bit farther than we
 could drive in the summer.
 After an hour of skinning we
 dropped our packs and
 camped at a camp plat-
 form. We then turned our
 attention towards the striking
 colloid that split the band of
 cliffs above the lake.
 The half moon hanging
 overhead provided plenty of
 light as we kicked steps into
 lead to the top of the colloid.
 We gained the ridge and were
 treated to a sweeping, moon-
 lit view of the west face of
 Castle Peak. A quote by the
 author Henry David Thoreau
 came to mind.

"I did not wish to take a
 cabin passage, but rather to
 go before the mast and on the
 deck of the world, for there I
 could best see the moonlight
 and the mountains. I do not
 wish to go below now."
 ...We were standing on the
 prow of a great ship, with the
 landscape dropping away
 beneath our feet. It was a
 beautiful evening and we lin-
 gered long enough to catch
 our breath and enjoy the still-
 ness of a rare moon-lit night
 in the mountains. We skirted
 the narrow sliver of snow by
 headlamp. Each turn edging
 into the chaly, wind-hard-
 ened snow brought us closer
 to camp, and eventually sleep.

Starting early the next
 morning, we re-traced our
 steps up the colloid to the
 ridge. In the light of day, I
 noticed that many of the
 rocks in the Fourth of July
 main were decorated with the
 in-marks of recreating
 snow machines. We carved
 signs down an east face to the
 snow. As we made high-
 speed turns through the low-
 angle terrain of Chamberlain
 Basin, I appreciated the ex-
 pansion of untracked, pristine
 snow. Similar terrain in the
 region we just left was criss-
 crossed with snowmobile
 tracks.

With the biggest challenge
 of the day still ahead, we
Elk group
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The Magic Valley Chapter
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affixed skins and crampons to
 our skis and started climbing
 the south couloir of Castle
 Peak. The clear weather had
 hardened the snow into a
 rough, early season corn crust,
 that provided great climbing
 conditions. Slowly, the valley
 fell away as I turned inward to
 focus on the exertion of the
 climb. My breathing became
 labored but rhythmic. As I
 neared the summit, counting
 steps helped push me closer
 to the top. Twenty steps, rest,
 20 steps, rest.

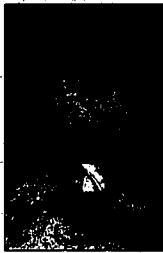
Finally, I dropped my ski
 poles and took a step in a
 small saddle at the top of the
 south colloid. I continued the
 short distance to the summit
 underneath a stunning,
 cloudless sky. To the north,
 the White Cloud peaks
 stretched away for miles.
 Smooth fields of snow flanked
 serrated knife-edges of granite
 that stacked one upon the
 other in an endless display of
 ridges, minarets, and sum-
 mits.

For the second time on the
 trip we rested and caught our
 breath at the top of a beautif-
 ul mountain. The sun
 warmed our faces and we
 reluctantly started thinking
 about the long descent and
 climb back out of
 Chamberlain Basin. I asked
 myself if the remoteness of
 the tour added to the experi-
 ence. Would sitting on the
 summit of Castle Peak be the
 same if we could have driven
 our snow machines to the
 base of the mountain?

For me the answer is an un-
 equivocal no. I can under-
 stand and accept that people
 will choose different kinds of
 recreation. One is not neces-
 sarily better or more right-
 eous than the other. It is
 important, however, to have
 places where you can leave
 behind the conveniences of
 society and the machines of

Industry. Large fields of
 untracked, pristine snow and
 mountains inaccessible to
 motorized vehicles have merit
 unto themselves.
 ...For me, these places are
 where I go to rejuvenate.
 Where I can challenge the
 physical capabilities of my
 body and fill my spirit with
 the "good tidings" the moun-
 tains have to offer.
 My companions and I
 enjoyed a final few moments
 on the summit of Castle Peak
 to enjoy the view and silence

of the mountains. Back at the
 saddle, we stepped into our
 packs. Three thousand feet of
 mid-winter corn stood
 between us and the long ad-
 back to our machines, our
 lives, and future obligations. It
 would be a rejuvenating jour-
 ney.



Flashlights light up the inside of a tent while skiers descend the colloid by headlamp.

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The Times-News

Friday, February 9, 2007

Page E-1

2007 MAZDASPEED 3 HATCHBACK

Kickin' asphalt & takin' names

Row/Worthy!
By Ken Chester, Jr.
Motor News Media Corporation

In kicking things up a notch for 2007, Mazda introduced the third vehicle in their zoom-zoom MAZDASPEED go-fast portfolio—the MAZDASPEED3 hatchback. In the mold of the MAZDASPEED MX-5 (Miata) and the lethal MAZDASPEED6 sedan, the latest addition to this exclusive Mazda brotherhood is billed by the automaker as “one of the fastest and quickest front-wheel drive cars in the world.” With a zero-to-60 time of under six seconds and an electronically limited top-speed of 155 mph, the MAZDASPEED3 is in the class of compacts nicknamed “pocket-rockers.”

Like the Mazda3 hatchback on which it is based, the front-wheel drive MAZDASPEED3 receives many of the same exterior changes, added standard content and seven new exterior colors for 2007. Other changes and enhancements include a standard tire pressure monitoring system and available dynamic stability control and traction control system.

Exterior cues that separate the MAZDASPEED3 from its vanilla siblings include P215/45R18 tires, 18-inch alloy wheels, sporty front and rear bumpers, MAZDASPEED3 unique rear lifigate spoiler, side sill extensions, clear lens LED tail



Motor News Media Corporation Photo

lights, Xenon high intensity discharge headlamps and body color dual power mirrors.

Taking the compact car to an entirely new level of refinement and quality, the MAZDASPEED3 is best summed up in two phrases: fun promised, fun delivered. Available in Sport and Grand Touring models, the MAZDASPEED3 is propelled by a turbocharged MZR 2.3L four-cylinder powerplant featuring Direct Injection Spark Ignition (DISI). Torque is communicated to the street through the standard six-speed manual gearbox and a torque sensing limited

slip differential. On the road, the small Mazda hatchback is fast, precise, flexible and sure to drive. Funky and fun to drive, the MAZDASPEED3 is a “kick in the pants” when underway. Drop the pedal and pull away from the pack—fast! Vehicle grip, stability and handling are world-class excellent!

The MAZDASPEED3's impressive handling and control attributes can be traced to the vehicle's robust underpinnings that allow Mazda engineers to optimize the suspension setup for both road holding/control and a comfortable ride.

Local reinforcements were added to produce a body sufficiently stiff to handle the increased horsepower of the turbo motor. Other body upgrades include a reinforced front cowl, a large closed-section brace under the car that reinforces the floor tunnel for torsional rigidity of the whole body and at the rear, a gusset was added to the bottom of the rear suspension towers to maintain the correct suspension geometry under all cornering loads.

Both the MacPherson strut front suspension and multi-link rear suspension have higher spring rates and

larger diameter stabilizer bars than the standard Mazda3. The result of the spring and stabilizer bar upgrades produces 60 percent more roll stiffness than the standard Mazda3. Inside the cabin, changes and enhancements for 2007 include new interior trims and fabric, added rear center armrest with dual cupholders and an additional 12-volt powerpoint in the center console. The MAZDASPEED3 benefits from engineering that produced a roomy cabin that is both upscale and sophisticated. The placement, touch, feel and operation of displays, controls and switches was purposely considered and designed. The driver enjoys good outward visibility, while the interior is full of surprises: a glovebox large enough for a laptop computer, purse, two-liter beverage bottle or as many as 16-CD cases. Cupholders abound throughout the cabin. Front seating is well bolstered and very supportive for aggressive driving. Rear seat passengers receive the same treatment. Hip, shoulder and knee room was increased, making the rear seat a very hospitable place for adults—something not usually said about vehicles in this market segment. The standard 60/40 split folding rear seat adds space to the good-sized, well shaped cargo area.

2007 MazdaSpeed 3 by the Numbers

PRICING: The base Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) for the 2007 MAZDASPEED3 hatchback starts from \$22,240 for the Sport and \$23,955 for the Grand Touring model. Destination charges add \$585.

WHEELBASE: 103.9 inches
Overall length: 178 inches
Width: 68.6 inches
Height: 57.1 inches
Wheelbase: 103.9 inches

ENGINE: 2.3L Turbocharged four-cylinder
263 hp at 5,500 rpm and 280 lbs-ft of torque at 3,000 rpm.

TRANSMISSION: six-speed manual.

EPA FUEL ECONOMY: 20 city/28 hwy.

CARGO CAPACITY: 43.4 cu. ft.

SAFETY FEATURES: Dual front airbags, limited slip differential, automatic Xenon, high intensity headlights, rain sensing front wipers, tire pressure monitoring system, four-wheel disc brakes with anti-lock, dynamic stability control, fog lights, traction control, engine immobilizer, remote keyless entry, front seat-mounted side-impact airbags, side-impact head curtains and security system. Available safety features include navigation system.

WARRANTY: Basic: 3-year/36,000 miles, bumper-to-bumper. Powertrain: 5-year/60,000 miles. Corrosion: 5-year/unlimited miles. Roadside assistance: 3-year/36,000 miles, 24-hour.

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2003 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GT #61517A 3.8L V-6 • LEATHER • SUNROOF • ALLOYS
\$12,980.

2003 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT GLS WAGON #A1628A 1.8 TURBO • LEATHER • SUNROOF
\$13,980

2002 PONTIAC BONNEVILLE SSEI #77111A SUPERCHARGED • LEATHER • 49,000 MI
\$13,980

2003 GMC ENVY SLE 4X4 #A1577B V-6 • ALLOYS • WELL EQUIPPED
\$14,980

2004 CHEVROLET MONTE CARLO SS #X529A 3.8L V-6 • LEATHER • SUNROOF • PWR SEAT, 24,000 MI.
\$14,980

2004 HONDA CIVIC EX #X437A SUNROOF • POWER WINDOWS • KEYLESS ENTRY
\$15,980

2003 GMC SIERRA XCB 1500 SLE 2WD #A1438A 4.8L V-8 • KEYLESS ENTRY • 35,000 MILES
\$16,980

2003 GMC 1500 CREW CAB 4X4 #H334A SLE • 4DR V-6 • WELL EQUIPPED
\$19,980

2005 SUBARU OUTBACK XT LTD #77274A SUPERCHARGED • LEATHER • SUNROOF
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2003 TOYOTA TUNDRA ACCESSCAB 4X4 #X509 V-8 • OFF ROAD PKG • KEYLESS ENTRY
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2004 LEXUS RX330 AWD #X525 SUNROOF • LEATHER • LEXUS'S POPULAR SPORT UTILITY!
\$33,980

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<p>AUTOS</p> <p>CHEVY '95 Monte Carlo, nice car. \$3000/offer. Please Call 208-309-6369</p>	<p>AUTOS</p> <p>HONDA '04 Civic, 40K miles, 4 door, auto, \$11,995. Please call 208-734-2076</p>	<p>AUTOS</p> <p>MAZDA '03 Protégé, very clean, great gas mileage, 64K miles. \$6,950</p>	<p>AUTOS</p> <p>TOYOTA '96 Camry The vehicle has 147,016 miles on it as of 2/7/07. We are selling it for \$2,500 but are willing to negotiate. If interested call 731-4806. It is located in Gooding.</p>	<p>AUTOS</p> <p>HYUNDAI '99 Accent 5-speed, 52,700 miles. Call 224-7185 or 639-7188</p>	<p>AUTOS</p> <p>NISSAN '95 300ZX non-turbo, runs \$2200. Best offer. Call 208-218-0642.</p>	<p>AUTOS</p> <p>OLDSMOBILE '01 'Aero, loaded, remote starter, tinted windows. \$4300. Call 208-596-0722</p>	<p>AUTOS</p> <p>TOYOTA '03 Corolla S, 38,000 miles, charcoal, 5 speed, tons of fun. \$12,200. Call 208-543-6570</p>	<p>AUTOS</p> <p>VOLKSWAGEN '01 Passat 1.8 liter turbo, standard fully loaded. \$8,000/offer 735-8502</p>
<p>AUTOS</p> <p>DODGE '98 Magnum PW, 1.6L, CD, cruise, Stock #1694D. \$17,995</p>	<p>AUTOS</p> <p>MERCUY '01 Cougar, V8, air, PW, PL, sunroof, alloy wheels, low miles, hard to find! Now \$8,998</p>	<p>AUTOS</p> <p>MITSUBISHI '03 Lancer, 4 door, automatic, CD, new tires, 30 miles per gallon, good condition. \$8,500. Call 208-308-7285</p>	<p>AUTOS</p> <p>TOYOTA '96 Corolla, air, AM-FM, CD, custom wheels. Now \$4,888</p>	<p>AUTOS</p> <p>MIDDLEKAUFF</p>	<p>CARS WANTED! Sell your vehicle for immediate CASH TODAY! Buying all years, makes and models 1-800-574-1248.</p>	<p>AUTOS</p> <p>VW '03 Jetta, 4 door, 5 spd., excellent condition inside & out. 63K miles. only \$13,900. ASSET AUTO BROKERAGE 275 S. Idaho St. Wendell 208-636-1900</p>	<p>AUTOS</p> <p>FORD '02 Taurus SES, V8, auto, air, PW, PL, alloy wheels, dual air bags. Now \$3,988</p>	<p>WHO can help YOU sell your car? Classifieds Can! 733-0931 ext. 2 tntad@magneworld.com</p>
<p>AUTOS</p> <p>DODGE '99 Intrepid, runs good, new tires, \$1,500. Call 208-536-2168.</p>	<p>AUTOS</p> <p>FORD '05 Focus, automatic, AC, nice. \$8,950. 324-0069 2811 So. Lincoln Jerome, ID.</p>	<p>AUTOS</p> <p>NISSAN '02 Maxima SE, PS, PW, PL, PM, air, cruise, cassette, CD, wheels, spoiler, \$13,995.</p>	<p>AUTOS</p> <p>NISSAN '04 Sentra, 45,000 miles, great gas mileage, some warranty left. \$8,500. Call 208-312-1593.</p>	<p>AUTOS</p> <p>NISSAN '08 Altima 2.5S, 19,000 miles, power windows, CD, alloy wheels. \$18,500/offer. 208-431-1232 or 208-679-2141.</p>	<p>AUTOS</p> <p>CARS WANTED! Sell your vehicle for immediate CASH TODAY! Buying all years, makes and models 1-800-574-1248.</p>	<p>AUTOS</p> <p>FORD '99 Taurus 4 door. \$800 or best offer. Call 208-731-7908</p>	<p>AUTOS</p> <p>FREE CONSIGNMENT for nice cars and trucks. For details call 324-0069 2811 So. Lincoln Jerome, ID.</p>	<p>AUTOS</p> <p>HONDA '02 Accord EX, PS, PW, PL, PM, air, cruise, cassette, CD changer, leather, sunroof, wheels. \$13,995.</p>

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<p>05' FORD F150 SUPERCAB FX4 STK# 3417 \$22988</p>	<p>02' CHEVY 2500 HD DURAMAX CREW 4X4 STK# 3463 \$23988</p>	<p>05' GMC 1500 CREW 4X4 STK# 1822 \$25988</p>	<p>03' DODGE 2500 QUAD CUMMINS 4X4 STK# 1384 \$26988</p>
<p>04' CHEVY VENTURE STK# 350S \$13988</p>	<p>06' DODGE GRAND CARAVAN W/DVD STK# 3310 \$15988</p>	<p>05' KIA SEDONA STK# 3506 \$14988</p>	<p>06' TOYOTA SIENNA STK# EA753 \$22988</p>
<p>03' FORD ESCAPE STK# 1623 \$12988</p>	<p>02' JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE OVERLAND STK# 1636 \$15988</p>	<p>03' DODGE DURANGO SLT STK# 3429 \$16988</p>	<p>04' CHEVY TRAILBLAZER LS STK# 3644 \$17988</p>

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WARNING
When purchasing a vehicle, make sure that the title is in the name of the motor. Under Idaho motor vehicle code a vehicle cannot be sold unless the title is in the name of the seller (exception: Idaho licensed dealer). The seller shall provide the new purchaser a signed bill of sale showing the following: Full description of the vehicle, vehicle identification number, amount paid and name(s) and address of the new purchaser. The bill of sale must be signed, dated and show actual mileage at the time of sale. If you have any questions, please contact your local assessor's office.

SUPERJOBWEEK

CUSTOMER SERVICE



Project Mutual Telephone
has an immediate opening for a Fulltime
Customer Service and Sales Representative.
Excellent verbal and interpersonal skills are needed as well as
the ability to work well with others and the public. Must be
people oriented, outgoing and enthusiastic. A good knowledge of
computers and Customer Service experience is required. Must
have the ability to work flexible schedules as needed. Should
be very comfortable in helping customers with all of their
communication needs by introducing them to our exciting array
of products and services.
Please leave applications and resume at
Project Mutual Telephone
in Rupert, Burley or Twin Falls Office
by February 10, 2007

BANKING



Why Join Idaho Central's Team?
We're the fastest growing Credit Union in
Idaho! We are qualified, professional
people helping members achieve
financial success. If you're ready for a
career with incredible opportunities for
personal growth AND earning potential,
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Twin Falls
Assistant Branch Manager
Assist in managing all areas of the branch
including lending, training, coaching and
Business Development. Train to
become Branch Manager.
Bachelor's Degree in related field or
equivalent experience preferred.

Apply on-line at
www.lccu.com

DISPATCH

The Southern Idaho Regional
Communications Center
is accepting applications for the position
of Emergency Communications
(9-1-1) Dispatcher.

Minimum requirements:
19 years of age, HS diploma or GED,
valid Idaho Driver's License,
SIRCMM hiring process will include,
but is not limited to, a skills test, oral
interview, background investigation,
polygraph, drug screen, hearing and
eye exams. Successful applicants must
work FT, 40 hrs per week min. on a
shift rotation schedule.

For an application call
(208) 324-1344 or visit
911 East Avenue H, Jerome, ID
between 8-5 M-F
SIRCMM is an EOE

FARM

Experienced Farmworkers. 03/15/07 to
11/01/07 thru 1/01/08, \$8.47/hr 48
hrs/wk. Single worker housing for those
who cannot return to their residence the
same day, utilities, work comp, work
tools, gloves, boots & aprons,
guaranteed pay for 1/3 of the work
contract. Travel cost reimbursed at 50%
of contract and upon completion of
contract for out-of-state workers.
EXPERIENCE and a REFERENCE is
required. Contact any state
Job Service office for referral,
Job # ID1246902, ID1246905,
ID1246892, ID1246899.
Multiple employers throughout Idaho.

GENERAL

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MANAGEMENT

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Some Insurance companies
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AAA Idaho seeks Insurance Sales
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reputation provide a great foundation for a
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We write property & casualty insurance
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Make great money and enjoy our
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If you meet the above criteria why not join
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Please apply in person at: AAA Idaho,
1445 Fillmore St, Suite 1100,
Twin Falls, ID 83401.
Or fax resume to: (208) 734-0443.
Or email: recruiter@aaaoregon.com
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maintain a drug free workplace and
pre-employment drug screening is
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April 24th 2007

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Please call Randi Eldredge
at 208-735-3290 or email
employ@magicvalley.com.



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- Half-price health club dues
- Paid holidays and vacation
- We are an equal-opportunity employer and a drug-free workplace.

See us online at www.magicvalley.com
and read about our parent company at www.lee.net

The Times-News is seeking empowered, talented and creative
Individuals for the following job opportunities...

- **Advertising Sales Representative (Full-time)**
- This individual will develop and sell advertising campaigns to existing clients and potential advertisers, service advertiser accounts, write ad copy and prepare sales presentations.
- The successful applicant should possess excellent verbal and written communication skills, effective time management and organizational skills. The ability to multi-task and work with deadlines in a fast-paced environment are essential. Sales experience or a bachelor's degree is preferred; must possess a valid driver's license, reliable transportation and good driving record.
- **Human Resources Assistant (Part-time)**
- This individual should have a positive attitude and good communication skills to work in our human resources department. This is a 20 hr/wk position with a Mon-Fri. flexible schedule.
- The position requires a keen eye for attention to detail, follow through, good organizational skills, and ability to work in a team environment. Candidates must be knowledgeable with computers.

Send resume to: Times-News
P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303,
Attn: Mary Karren or
email to mary.karren@lee.net

TIMES - NEWS • MAGICVALLEY.COM

SUPER JOB WEEK

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Twins Falls, ID

SUNRISE EXPRESS 1-800-655-0825

COMPANY DRIVERS
Owner/Operators (Hrly Rates)

Deluxe Late Model Equipment
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FARM

Experienced Tractorists: 03/15/07 to 11/01/07 thru 11/15/07, \$8.47/hr. 48 hrs/wk. Single worker housing for those who cannot return to their residence the same day. Utilities, work comp, work tools, gloves, boots & aprons, guaranteed pay for 3% of the work contract. Travel Cost Reimbursed at 50% of contract and upon completion of contract for out-of-area workers. **EXPERIENCE and a REFERENCE is required.** Contact any state Job Service office for referral.

Job # ID1246902, ID1246900, ID1246905, ID1246862, ID1246689. Multiple employers throughout Idaho.

GENERAL

Mountain Village Motel

Stanley, Idaho

Has Openings for the following positions:

- Cashiers (must be 19)
- Front Desk Attendants
- Housekeepers

Apply online at www.mountainvillage.com or fax resume to (208)744-3647

Limited housing is available.

TECHNICIANS YEAR ROUND EMPLOYMENT!

Satellite Technicians are in HIGH Demand!

No Experience? No Problem! Must have own Truck or Cargo Van. Piece Rate Wages \$50 and Up per Job! Get paid for the work you do!


Great Benefits!
Paid Training and Certification
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Fax to 208-461-2108
Attn: Chris or email nmanager@starwestsatellite.net or For Details Call 856-317-9399

STAR WEST SATELLITE

MANAGEMENT

The City of Twin Falls is accepting applications for **FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT MANAGER**. Beginning monthly salary \$2939. The primary responsibilities of this position include: the development and implementation of a comprehensive building, fleet and equipment management program to include procurement, maintenance, inventory, issue and assignment, and record keeping. Employment application, including job description and qualifications, are available at www.tfd.org. For additional information contact the Personnel Office located in City Hall, 321 2nd Ave E. or phone (208) 735-7268. Closing date is 02/16/2007. The City of Twin Falls is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Drug Free Workplace.

EDUCATION




The Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind is accepting applications for the following positions:

- Bus Monitors**-Duties include supervising students on a bus.
- Cottage Aide**-Duties include supervising children in cottages.
- Teacher** Substitutes-Duties include managing a class of students while the teacher is absent.

Interested candidates should send a resume to ISDB, Dept of Human Resources 1450 Main St, Gooding, ID 83330 or by fax to 208-934-8352. Attention: HR.

For more information, please contact Jeff Woods or Shelley Comstock at 208-934-4457.

MEDICAL



Willowa Memorial Hospital, located in Enterprise, Oregon currently has one Full-time position available.

Medical Lab Technician/Technologist

Benefits include health, vision, prescription, and dental; we provide FTEs with Life Insurance and Short Term Disability with match to a retirement plan; Our new hospital will be opening in March 2007. If interested please contact

Linda Childers, Human Resource Director at (541)-426-5313, or email lchilders@wchcd.org or visit our web site at wchcd.org

DELL

Have a DREAM? FULFILL IT. Have a GOAL? REACH IT. Have a RESUME? BRING IT.

The world's leading computer systems company is interested in you! Turn your great people into the next news on Dell's Twin Falls location.


CUSTOMER SERVICE REP

Using your customer service skills, you will be responsible for providing exceptional product sales service to Dell customers by being an issue between customer and manufacturer. Technical support and product services to resolve issues, product on delivery and shipping. Please only work with computers you enjoy and are comfortable with. We are looking for:

- As a Dell employee you'll receive:
 - Base Salary (20-25k)
 - Medical, Dental and Life Insurance
 - Education of All Stages
 - Employee Stock Purchase Plan
 - 401(k)
 - Employee Stock Purchase Plan
 - Relief from 9-5

To apply, please E-mail your resume to: twinfalls@dell.com or drop off your resume to 851 Pookline Rd in Twin Falls.

SALES



SALES PERSON NEEDED!

Oakwood Homes

A Berkshire Hathaway company is seeking experienced sales people to assist customers with their home buying. Purchase. Successful first year housing consultants can make in excess of \$50,000. This housing industry leader offers a full benefits package including health, dental, vision, 401K, stock options and incentive trips. Training provided, no real estate license required.

Send resume to 208-733-7771 (fax), or e-mail r780@clayton.net or apply in person at 21360 Hwy 30 in Twin Falls.

MEDICAL



South Central District Health
Keeping your family & community healthy

Senior Registered Nurse

for South Central District Health, full-time, Burley, assist in a variety of programs in schools, homes, and communities plus office clinics for family planning, immunizations, and communicable disease control programs. Some travel required to assist in office, vehicle provided. Starting salary range \$18.86-\$21.00 per hour-Plus Competitive Benefits! Applicants need to be on State of Idaho registry, by February 26. Use announcement # 07574090289. Apply online at <http://www.dhr.idaho.gov> or at any Idaho Dept of Commerce and Labor office. For questions, call Tom Machala, 208-737-5963 or Kathryn Egbert, 208-737-5971 EOE/AA, Veteran's pref.

Come work for us...

As an employee of ConAgra Foods-Lamb Weston, the largest potato processor in North America, you can earn a competitive wage and benefit package including medical, dental, vision, prescription, and life insurance; 401K savings plan, pension, and educational reimbursement.

Lamb Weston, Twin Falls Plant, has immediate openings for:


- Processing Maintenance Mechanics:** Essential duties include plant-wide maintenance on processing equipment, installation of equipment, and fabrication of support equipment.
- Packaging & Processing Machine Operators:** Prior food processing machine operation experience preferred. Required to complete operator training program.
- Sanitation General Laborers:** Prior clean-up experience with sanitation chemicals helpful. Must complete sanitation training program.
- General Laborers for packaging, raw product receiving, and warehouse.**

Openings available on swing shift (3 pm to 11 pm) or graveyard shift (11 pm to 7 am).

Qualified applicants should report in person to 856 Russel Street to complete an application. No phone calls, please.

Lamb Weston

WELDER



Experienced Full-time **STEEL WELDER** needed immediately for busy manufacturing plant. Wages DOE and benefits available after probationary period. Practical welding test will be given. Apply at Charmac Trailers, 452 South Park Ave W. Twin Falls, Idaho. No phone calls please. A Drug-Free Workplace

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Times-News
magicvalley.com

Part-time Human Resources Assistant

Times-News is seeking a part-time assistant with a positive attitude and good communication skills to work in our human resources department. This is a part-time position working 20 hours per week, Monday through Friday with a flexible schedule.

The position requires a keen eye for attention to detail, follow through, good organizational skills and ability to work in a team environment. Candidates must be knowledgeable with computers.

Send resume to: The Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303, Attn: Mary Karren or email to mary.karren@lee.net.

The Times-News is a drug-free workplace.

SUPER JOB WEEK

MANAGEMENT

CSS FARMS

CSS Farms, Idaho-Lay's largest supplier, of chip potatoes in North America with farms in six states-NE, TX, FL, CA, MD, CO has the following employment opportunity:

POTATO SHIPPING MANAGER

CSS Potato Farms has an immediate opening for the Potato Shipping Manager at our farm in Dalhart, Texas. This is a new position and the manager will have the opportunity to operate and manage a new state-of-the-art automated grading system. The manager will oversee the shipment of 5,000 plus truckloads of potatoes per year, which will include the supervision of crews, sanitation, maintenance, waste tracking, and improving operating efficiencies.


Education & Experience Level:
BS degree in agricultural engineering, agribusiness, computer science, or related fields (preferred but not required) with five or more years of agricultural commodity (fruits or vegetable) shipping experience preferred. Bilingual is required. Must possess the ability to understand and operate computerized equipment and computer software including Excel, PowerPoint, etc. Also, must have excellent communication skills with ability to foresee problems. Experience in leading and managing people is a plus.

Interested applicants should mail or e-mail resumes by March 5, 2007 to:

Jamie Lockhart, Business Manager
CSS Potato Farms, LLC
2225 U.S. Hwy 54
Dalhart, TX 75022
jamie.lockhart@cssfarms.com
with "Potato Shipping Manager Position:" in the subject line.

Salary will DOE. CSS Potato Farms has a full range of benefits. EOE

OPERATOR



An IDACORP Company

Construction Equipment Operator
\$20.46+/Hour DOE

Idaho Power Company has an immediate opening at our **Twin Falls Operations Center.**


The **Construction Equipment Operator** will operate a variety of heavy construction equipment per specific assignment at various locations system-wide. May perform other construction-related ground work when equipment is not in use. Qualified candidates must have a high school diploma or equivalent, Class A CDL, and experience using crawler tractors, excavators, semi-tractors, and backhoes.

Idaho Power offers an excellent benefits package; stability, and work/life balance. For a full job description, please visit our web-site at www.idahopower.com or call 208-388-2965.

Resumes without Idaho Power Employment Applications will not be accepted. Deadline to apply is **February 12, 2007.**

Idaho Power Company
Human Resources
PO Box 70
BOISE, ID 83707
Idaho Power is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

GENERAL



Swire Coca-Cola, USA is accepting applications for a **Service Technician and a Utility Merchandiser.**

Responsibilities Include:

- Repairing fountain & vending equipment
- Frequent lifting
- Invoicing
- Filling out paperwork

Swire Coca-Cola offers:

- Competitive pay
- Full benefits package
- Paid vacation
- Opportunities for advancement

Qualified applicants will have:

- Good driving record
- High School Diploma/GED
- Ability to pass background check & drug test

Apply in person with a current 3 year driver's license record
Swire Coca-Cola, USA
398 Victory Ave.
Twin Falls, ID.
(208)733-3833
EOE/AA

GENERAL



The City of Twin Falls is currently hiring for the following positions.

Engineering

Assistant City Engineer \$3,772 - \$5,571
Serve as the liaison and manager for complex engineering construction projects. Duties include the management of complex construction project design, surveying and inspection. Open until filled.

Lead Engineer Technician \$2,939 - \$4,341
Completes technical work involving engineering design, surveying, construction inspection, and related engineering work for the City's public works construction projects. Open until filled.

Public Safety

Communications Specialist/Dispatch \$2,333 - \$3,445
Answer emergency and non-emergency calls for police, fire, public works and other city services using a multi-line telephone and 911 systems. Must work varying hours, including night, weekend and/or holiday shifts in a general, 24 hour, office environment. Open until filled.

Facilities & Equipment Manager \$2,939 - \$4,341
The primary responsibilities of this position include: the development and implementation of a comprehensive building, fleet and equipment management program to include procurement, maintenance, inventory, issue and assignment, and record keeping. Closing date 2-16-07

Building Inspections


Plans Examiner \$2,939 - \$4,341 -
The primary job duties are to explain, interpret and provide guidance to the public ensuring compliance with building codes and city ordinances. Closing date 2-28-07

Public Works

Public Works Coordinator \$3,772 - \$5,571
Directs public works activities in wastewater collection, vehicle-maintenance and building maintenance for the City. Develops maintenance procedures, maintains records and responds to requests for service. Closing date 2-26-07

You may obtain a City employment application, job announcement and requirements at www.tffid.org

For additional information, contact the **Personnel Office** located in City Hall, 321 2nd Ave E, Twin Falls, or call 735-7268. The City of Twin Falls is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Drug Free Workplace.



Northeastern Nevada's Four-Diamond Award Winning Resort and Casino

You bring us your leadership skills and personality. We'll give you the opportunity to show them off.

We are looking for outgoing and friendly people who want to be rewarded and appreciated for a job well done.

Can you handle working in a fast paced, ever changing, fun filled environment?

If the answer is yes, then give us a call.

Dynamic Leaders Wanted

Join our Talent Recruitment Program

Management and Supervisor positions available in Food and Beverage, Gaming, Hotel, and Finance

Positions are Bonus Eligible plus Complimentary Privileges on property
Salary based on experience and position.
Affordable Housing Available

Full Benefits Package
To include Medical, Dental, Vision, and 401k

For more information and other positions available
Call Eric
775-755-6912
EOE/Drug Free Workplace

Classifieds



Phone Hours: M-F 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
 On Wednesdays only
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 132 Fairfield St. Twin Falls
 or place your ad online at
www.magicvalley.com

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- Unfurnished Homes
- Furnished Apartments
- Unfurnished Apartments
- Rooms for Rent
- Mobile Homes
- Rentals to Share

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- Horses & Tack
- Pets & Supplies
- Farm Equipment
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Sudoku Answers:

Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in a 9x9 format.

Pets And Supplies
COCKER SPANIEL puppies, AKC reg.
FREE RIODESIEN Ridgeback, m/f, male.
FREE Mountain Kennel Puppers, AKC reg.
DACHSHUND pups.
ENGLISH BULLDOG Puppies, excellent Champion bloodlines.
ENGLISH BULLDOGS 2 males, 12 weeks old.

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TWIN FALLS new office space, 1150 E. Latah.
TWIN FALLS Office space for lease, 2000 sq. ft.
TWIN FALLS Office/Retail/Storage 392-6400 sq. ft.
WENDELL Building for lease, 1400 sq. ft.

Livestock/Poultry

CALVES ready for butchering.
PIGS for sale.
ROSPING STEERS.
CONNECT WITH CUSTOMERS YOU NEED
YOUR SERVICE

Commercial Property

JEROME Brand new GIGOME and wabbase building.
Office, Shop, Warehouse
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TWIN FALLS New Building/Construction Warehouse/Storage

Dairy Cattle And Supplies

CORRALS with lock ups and feed available.
FREE Golden Retriever, female, 4 years old.
FREE Golden Retriever, to a good home, 3 yrs old.

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TWIN FALLS 1 roommate wanted for a 3 bedroom house.
TWIN FALLS 2 rooms for rent in large house.
TWIN FALLS 2 bedrooms, 2 baths house.

Pets And Pet Supplies

AQUARIUM 100 gallon with fish and accessories.
COCKATIE Family of (4) with cages, \$25 each.
AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD Puppies, NSDR reg.

Livestock/Poultry

ALL NATURAL BEEF \$1.15 per lb.
BULLS (2) registered Black Angus, 2 years old.
BULLS (2) registered Black Angus, 2 years old.
BULLS (2) registered Black Angus, 2 years old.

Pets And Pet Supplies

GERMAN SHEPHERD Puppies, AKC reg.
GERMAN SHEPHERD Puppies, AKC reg.
GERMAN SHEPHERD Puppies, AKC reg.

FREE Border Collie, m/f, pup, 10 weeks.
FREE Border Collie, m/f, pup, 10 weeks.
FREE Border Collie, m/f, pup, 10 weeks.
FREE Border Collie, m/f, pup, 10 weeks.

GERMAN SHEPHERD Puppies, AKC reg.
GERMAN SHEPHERD Puppies, AKC reg.
GERMAN SHEPHERD Puppies, AKC reg.
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GERMAN SHEPHERD Puppies, AKC reg.
GERMAN SHEPHERD Puppies, AKC reg.
GERMAN SHEPHERD Puppies, AKC reg.
GERMAN SHEPHERD Puppies, AKC reg.

YELLOW LAB Adorable female puppy, 7 weeks old.
TOY Poodles AKC UNLIMITED boys \$500, girls \$600.
TOY Poodles AKC reg.
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YORKIE pups AKC reg.
YORKIE pups AKC reg.
YORKIE pups AKC reg.
YORKIE pups AKC reg.

GERMAN SHEPHERD Puppies, AKC reg.
GERMAN SHEPHERD Puppies, AKC reg.
GERMAN SHEPHERD Puppies, AKC reg.
GERMAN SHEPHERD Puppies, AKC reg.

GERMAN SHEPHERD Puppies, AKC reg.
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WENDELL Building for lease, 1400 sq. ft.
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GERMAN SHEPHERD Puppies, AKC reg.
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COMICS

B.C. By Johnny Hart



Baldo By Hector D' Cantu and Carlos Castellanos



Dilbert By Scott Adams



The Elderberries By Phil Frank and Joe Treise



Frank and Ernest By Bob Thaves



Mallard Fillmore By Bruce Tinsley



Pickles By Brian Crane



Zits By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



Non Sequitur By Wiley



Strange Brew By John Deering



Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman & Jerry SCOTT



Brevity By Guy & Flood



Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



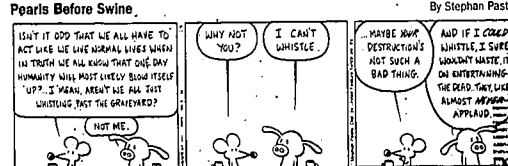
For Better or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



Luann By Greg Evans



Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady



Stay home and wash hair, Aquarius

HOROSCOPE
Jeralinde Saunders

IF FEB. 9 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Maintain a low profile and don't initiate anything of importance until March. This month, and again in June, you could incur criticism or make errors of judgment. In March and April, spiritual concerts may occupy your mind and you will find that you feel younger and more creative than usual. Romantic Neptune will be giving your arts of the zodiac special attention for a long time, so you will likely become more sensitive to subtle influences. August is the best month to launch important plans, but you might also receive a helpful opportunity that will improve your life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Waste not, want not. Don't squander hard-earned gains on items of dubious quality. Loved ones may wish to be spoiled a bit this evening, but you needn't go overboard and break the bank.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It always looks darkest before the dawn. The path to career success might not be entirely clear yet, so keep your nose to the grindstone — and don't leave work early.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Temporary turmoil tucks tact.

Evade attempts by others to tie you down with a commitment. Those who appear tolerant and generous on the surface could be calculating their profits.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Enjoy the exotic. You know that the best things in life are free and know just where to find them. This isn't the time to take huge chances with career matters or to push a private agenda.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Tread water. Problems may be magnified under these celestial conditions, so solve crucial decisions until next week. Outings or entertainments might cost more money than anticipated.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Try healthy skepticism. Remain leery of offers put on the table. Don't enter into new commitments or sign agreements. Enjoy tender moments with a tried and true companion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Pretty is as pretty does. You might think you can get by on the kindness of others, but it is best not to take anything for granted. Make sure you fulfill promises and complete assignments.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Toe the line. It is easy to mistake flattery for sincerity. Put priorities in order and be a bulldog about fulfilling responsibilities. Partners have a taste for luscious items.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Rein in enthusiasms. Events may highlight certain areas where you were overly optimistic in the past. Let experience guide your hand. Hold off on making irrevocable decisions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Criticism could put you in your place. Be prepared to face feedback from your authority with good grace.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Hidden hitches could be heartful. The stars could bring a charming new admirer into your life, but starting a new relationship now could mean troublesome. Stay home and wash your hair.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Extra preparation might be called for. Delay the launch of major initiatives or large purchases — and don't sign important contracts.

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Blondie



The Born Loser



Garfield



Hagar the Horrible



Hi and Lois



Classic Peanuts



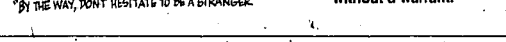
The Wizard of Id



Ogniss the Menace



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



Parents deny probable cause of son's obsessive behavior

DEAR ABBY: My nephew, "Vincent," is 16 and has had problems with obsessive handwashing for years. I have enough professional experience to strongly suspect that he suffers from obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). My brother and his wife refuse to believe their child has a problem and will not take him to get help. My nephew's hands are chafed and raw, and his parents reprimand him for this behavior when he really needs professional help. His mother is the biggest problem. She mixes all issues, that suggest a problem, and my brother will not stand up to her. What can I do?



Men who love women usually want an exclusive relationship. Unless you are contemplating an "open" marriage to this man, my advice is to dump him. You and he have very different values.

DEAR ABBY: I don't have a question, but perhaps you'd like to give your readers a smile.

My late Aunt Isabel's wit was legendary in our family. We come from a small town in Connecticut where many roads are so narrow that if a car should stall, the car behind it would be unable to pass.

DEAR ABBY: I am engaged to a man I love deeply. I met "Eric" when I was 14 and he was 42. When I turned 16, we got together. I have never been happier, except for one thing. He has had other sexual relationships in the past, while I haven't.

Once we became engaged, he offered to let me go out and have one-night stands. He said he suggested it because he loves me, and he wants me to have a shot at the experience I am missing out on.

DEAR WORRIED AUNT: Your sister-in-law may not want her son "labeled," but ignoring the problem will not resolve it. And reprimanding the young man for something he can't help is cruel. Your nephew is old enough to discuss the problem intelligently. Start out by asking him if he thinks he has a problem, and whether he would like to get help for it. After all, as his age he must be self-conscious about his flaking skin.

DEAR JOE B: Thank you for the smile, but when I read what your Aunt Isabel did, my smile turned wistful. Gone are the days. Someone who tried that today would risk a physical altercation or worse.

DEAR WORRIED AUNT: If he's agreeable, suggest he talk to someone at school about it — preferably the stu-

dent health officer or a trusted teacher. If that's not possible, and there's a free clinic in your area, offer to take him there.

DEAR WORRIED AUNT: I am missing out on how to handle this.

DEAR JOE B: Thank you for the smile, but when I read what your Aunt Isabel did, my smile turned wistful. Gone are the days. Someone who tried that today would risk a physical altercation or worse.

McCarthy's allegations sparked fear in 1950

This day in history: On Feb. 9, 1950, Sen. Joseph McCarthy shocked — an audience in Wheeling, W.Va., when he accused a list of people (which he later admitted was just a laundry receipt) and announced: "I have here in my hand the names of 205 men that were known to the secretaries of the Communist Party and who nevertheless are still working and shaping the policy of the State Department."



More than half of the peanuts grown in the United States are made into peanut butter. About a quarter are sold as roasted peanuts, and the most of the rest are made into peanut oil.

Who was the youngest president? Not John Kennedy. At 43, Kennedy was the youngest president elected president. However, 12-year-old Teddy Roosevelt, elevated from the vice presidency after William McKinley's assassination, was the youngest person to serve as president.

During the Third Reich, it was illegal in Germany to name a horse "Mallory."

That Masterson made a smooth transition from Wild West gunfighter to life in the modern world, he became a sports writer for the New York Morning Telegraph. After two decades of "word-slingin'," he died with his boots on — in front of his typewriter at work.

The Coca-Cola company painted its first billboard in 1894 on a drugstore in Cartersville, Ga. It wasn't its last. About 10,000 Americans die of food poisoning each year. Think parenthood ends when your kids can vote? Think again. Average adults get

\$30,000 of support from their parents from age 18-34, or an average of \$2,200 a year.

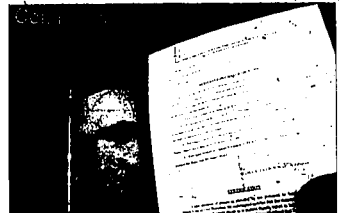
The typical 30-second commercial costs about as much to produce as the half-hour sitcom interrupt.

In old-time diner lingo, the waitress would call out: "More yams, pluddin'" to indicate that you'd ordered yam.

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

Bears fan to take on name of rival quarterback

DECATUR, Ill. — Scott Wiese is a man of his word. But soon his friends will be saying that about Peyton Manning. Wiese, a die-hard Chicago Bears fan, will legally change his name to that of the Indiana Colts quarterback after signing a pledge in front of a crowd at a Decatur bar last Friday night. He vowed to adopt Manning's name if the Bears lost Sunday's Super Bowl.



The final score was Colts 29, Bears 17. So on Tuesday, Wiese went to the Macon County Courthouse and started the process of changing his name. "I made the bid," he said, "and now I've got to keep it," said the 26-year-old, who lives in Forsyth, just north of Decatur.

Chicago Bears fan Scott Wiese holds an official name change petition as he prepares to enter the Macon County Circuit Clerk's office in Decatur, Ill., to file a request to change his name to Peyton Manning.

Wiese will now have to advertise his intention in the local newspaper — the Herald & Review — for several weeks and then have a judge give him the OK to become legally anything: Peyton Manning.

programs to improve conduct. "One campaign for "civilized behavior" will be kicked off Sunday in the upmarket Waunder shopping area, located just east of Hanneman Square. This will be the first "Queuing Day," which will take place on the 11th of each month.

The men have little in common. Wiese acknowledges. Manning the quarterback is 30 years old, stands 6-foot-5 and has a contract with the Colts worth more than \$100 million.

The 11th was picked because the two numbers — 1-1 — resemble two people lining up.

Wiese is 5-foot-11 and works at a Staples office-supply store for somewhat less. "I think I kind of represent all Bears fans," he says, "but that I'm saying they're all idiots like me, but I represent their passion because I really care about my team, you know?"

People spitting could be fined up to 50 yuan, equal to about \$6.50, the daily income of a Chinese college graduate (can buy 16 subway tickets on the Beijing system).

While he pledged to sign up on the new identity, Wiese didn't make any promises about how long he would keep it.

"Everyone will be fined for spitting," read the headline in Thursday's Beijing Daily News. In a chaotic city of 15 million, jumping ahead in line is common. So is spitting and littering, which officials hope to restrain in an effort to improve the city's image.

Officials have announced a range of measures including "punishment and reward"

