

## HARD-CHARGING HARVICK

Kevin Harvick wins wreck-filled Daytona 500.

SPORTS, SEE PAGE B1

## FINDING THE FOOTBALL

Follow a middle-aged guy's training quest.

IMAGE, SEE PAGE D1

## DATE WITH A DENTIST

Team effort reaches hundreds of Magic Valley youngsters.

MAGIC VALLEY, SEE PAGE A6

Good Morning

High 45  
Low: 29

Partly cloudy.  
Details: B4

# Times-News

MONDAY

February 19, 2007

50 cents

MagicValley.com

## Nampa gas station fire burns boy, 12

### Accident blamed on older brother with cigarette

The Associated Press

NAMPA — A 12-year-old boy has burns covering up to 40 percent of his body following a gas station fire, authorities say, was started by the boy's older brother smoking a cigarette as he pumped fuel.

The boy, whose name has not been released, was taken to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise following the fire Saturday afternoon at Albertsons Express gas station.

"The best that we can understand is that while the older brother was fueling up his vehicle, he either was smoking or lit a cigarette while he was fueling up," Nampa Battalion Chief Capt. Paul Adams told the Idaho Press-Tribune. "Something caused the fumes from the gas he was fueling up to ignite from his cigarette or match or however he lit his cigarette."

Adams said that after the gas ignited, the 26-year-old man evidently stepped back from the pump while still holding the gas nozzle, spraying his younger brother with fuel.

The man, whose name has also not been released, suffered minor injuries, authorities said.

Police are still investigating a Nampa police spokesman told The Associated Press on Sunday, declining further comment.

"It's a tragic incident, but people need to learn from an incident like this," Adams told the newspaper. "There's a reason they have the no smoking signs around the gas pump. While they are rare, (fires) do happen. Also, static electricity can ignite."

Adams said motorists should avoid getting in and out of their vehicles while fueling because of the risk of static electricity igniting gas fumes.

"Once you get out of your vehicle and start everything, don't get back in your vehicle and get back out because that can cause a spark that will ignite the gas vapors," he said.

Nampa Deputy Fire Chief Doug Strosser said drivers should use common sense as well as obeying the law.

"Most people in my mind should have enough common sense to understand and recognize that you don't smoke when you're fueling a vehicle," he said.

# Sure sign of spring



Flowers from Moss Greenhouse in Jerome are displayed at the Home and Garden Show at the College of Southern Idaho over the weekend.

## Home and Garden Show lures thousands

By Matt Christensen  
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Want to get someone's attention? Try popcorn.

It worked well for Ronald Flechsig, a sales representative with Crum Electric Supply and company booth tender at the 27th annual Home and Garden Show at the Eldon Evans Expo Center. Flechsig competed with 106 other vendors for the attention of more than 10,000 people during the three-day exhibit, and the free salty, buttery snack proved more than effective at luring wanderers to his booth.

"I think it generated quite a bit of interest," Flechsig said as he stirred the latest batch on Sunday afternoon. He paused for a moment to demonstrate his company's line of home-surveillance televisions to a few curious onlookers — all munching popcorn.

Vendors pluck products at the show, and visitors take home loads of ideas for spring projects — and maybe a few freebies.



Doug Hughes of The Woodworks, left, talks with Justin Sterrett of Twin Falls during the show about doing work on Sterrett's kitchen.

It's called the Home and Garden show, but vendors push about anything: ice cream, vinyl siding, hot tubs, vacuum cleaners, playground equipment, gun safes, pots and pans, patio covers, brand recreational vehicles — even jewelry that's said to have magnetic healing powers.

Perhaps the most popular booth, at

least on Sunday afternoon, featured satellite television. About a dozen men watched the Daytona 500 as their wives or girlfriends perused the expo center's floor.

Most visitors, like Carolyn Rodgers and Ardith Schneider, paid the \$3 entrance fee to be inspired about warm-weather home projects.

"I'm here to get some ideas for landscaping my backyard," Rodgers said.

Schneider was more attracted to interior fare.

"I'm interested in finding something for a new kitchen in my house," she said

as she and Rodgers rested on a bench. They'd stopped for a break only a quarter of the way through the exhibits.

With more than 80 booths yet to see, chances are that Rodgers and Schneider — and all the other visitors to the show — will have plenty of work to do come spring.

Times-News staff writer Matt Christensen welcomes comments at 735-3243 and at matt.christensen@lee.net.

## 5 dead after avalanches in Montana, Utah, Idaho

The Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. — Weekend avalanches killed five people in Montana, Utah and Idaho, with one injured survivor traveling miles by snowmobile and on foot to reach help, authorities said.

A Utah snowmobiler died after an avalanche in eastern Idaho buried him in up to 8 feet of snow, authorities said.

Nicholas Gus Steinmann, 26, of Ogden, Utah, died Saturday after attempts by rescue personnel to resuscitate him failed.

The Bonneville County Sheriff's Office said Steinmann was one of four snowmobilers in the Palisades Peak area of Bonneville County, and that at least two others were also caught in the avalanche.

The sheriff's office said one snowmobiler who was not buried dug out two others who had been partially buried in the avalanche. The three started to probe the area with tree branches for Steinmann, who was not wearing an avalanche beacon.

They sent for help and two members from the Teton County Idaho Search and Rescue, who were in the area, responded and helped find Steinmann.

Life saving measures were started but later called off by medical officials in Jackson, Wyo., according to the sheriff's office.

A helicopter that had responded told other rescue personnel that the risk of another avalanche was high and to stay out of the area.

In Montana's Big Belt Mountains, the bodies of two snowmobilers caught in an avalanche were found by searchers early Sunday and removed by helicopter later in the day.

The avalanche happened Saturday at the base of Mount Baldy, about 20 miles from Townsend.

See AVALANCHE, Page A3

"They knew this all along and they didn't take action on it. It's upsetting to me. Why are we, as a country, protecting the companies? We should be protecting the kids."

—Alexa Engelman, a researcher at the Oakland, Calif.-based Center for Environmental Health

# How government decided lunchbox lead levels were OK

By Martha Meozza  
Associated Press writer

In 2005, when government scientists tested 60 soft, vinyl lunchboxes, they found that one in five contained amounts of lead that medical experts consider unsafe — and several had more than 10 times hazardous levels. But that's not what they told the public.

Instead, the Consumer Product Safety Commission released a statement that they found "no instances of hazardous levels." And they refused to release their actual test results, citing regulations that protect manufacturers from having their information released to the public.

That data was not made public until The Associated Press received a box of about 1,500 pages of lab reports, in-house e-mails and other records in response to a Freedom of Information Act request filed a year ago.

The documents describe two types of tests. One involves cutting a chunk of vinyl off the bag, dissolving it and then analyzing how much lead is in the solution; the second test involves swiping the surface of a bag and then determining how much lead has rubbed off.



Alexa Engelman, a researcher with the Center for Environmental Health, displays some lead-contaminated lunch bags in the center's offices in Oakland, Calif., recently.

ion of lead — the federal safe level for paint and other products. The highest level was 9,600 ppm, more than 16 times the federal standard.

But the CPSC did not use those results.

"When it comes to a lunchbox, it's carried. The food that you put in the lunchbox may have an outer wrapping, a baggie, so there isn't direct exposure. The direct exposure would be if kids were putting their lunchboxes in their

mouth, which isn't a common way for children to interact with their lunchbox," said CPSC spokeswoman Julie Vallesse.

Thus the CPSC focused exclusively on how much lead came off the surface of a lunchbox when lab workers swiped them.

For the swipe tests, the results were lower, especially after the researchers changed their testing protocol. After a handful of tests, they increased the number of times they swiped each bag, again and again on the same spot, resulting in lower average results.

An in-house e-mail from the director of the CPSC's chemistry division explained that they had been retesting with the new protocol "which gave a lower average result than the prior report ...," he wrote. "This shows ... that the overall risk is lower than our original testing would have shown, as the amount of lead dislodgeable is mostly taken out with the first wipe and goes down with subsequent wipes."

Vallesse explained it this way: "The more you wipe, the less lead you actually find. With fewer wipes we got a higher detection of lead presence. We thought more wipes was closer to reflecting how you would interact with your lunchbox. It was more realistic."

Please see LUNCHBOXES, Page A3

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# TODAY'S FORECAST

TWIN FALLS		
Today	Tonight	Tuesday
Scattered clouds	Partly cloudy	A touch warmer with brisk winds

## MINI-CASSIA

**Today:** A partly cloudy start to the work and school week. Highs, lower 40s.  
**Tonight:** Slaying dry and mostly clear. Lows, upper 20s.  
**Tomorrow:** Breezy to brisk winds at times with mostly sunny skies. Highs near 50.

Complete weather report: See page B4

# TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

## CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The Indian Paint Brush Camp, Minidoka County, Daughters of Utah Pioneers meeting, 2 p.m., Rupert West State Center, 26 S. 100 W., Rupert. (Any woman over age 18 with ancestors that came to the Utah Territory before completion of railroad, May 10, 1869, is eligible to join). 436-3055.

## HEALTH

The American Red Cross blood donations, noon to 6 p.m., at the Rupert City Building, 624 F St., Rupert, at 436-1344 to schedule an appointment.  
 TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) ID No. 3 Chapter of Twin Falls, weigh ins at 11:30 a.m., meeting from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Fellowship room, Magic Valley Church of Christ, 2005 Filer Avenue E., no cost to visit, 736-7237 or 736-9282.  
 Silversneakers Fitness Program, innovative exercise program designed specifically for Medicare beneficiaries' unique health and physical needs, 11:15 a.m. to noon, Twin Falls YMCA, 4751 Elizabeth Blvd., Twin Falls, no cost for Humana-insured or YMCA members and \$5 per class for non-insured, 733-4984.

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

Deadline for submitting an event for the March calendar (publishing Feb. 25) is noon Feb. 20.

# ON THE AGENDA

## Tuesday

- Twin Falls County commissioners, 8:30 a.m., courthouse, 425 Shoshone St. N., 736-4068.
- Blaine County commissioners, 8:45 a.m., courthouse, 206 First Ave. S., Halley, 788-5800.
- Jerome County commissioners, 9 a.m., courthouse, 300 N. Lincoln, 644-2700.
- Magic Valley Regional Airport Advisory Board, 11 a.m., Joslin Room, airport terminal, 733-5215.
- Twin Falls City Council, 5 p.m., council chambers, 305 Third E. E., 735-7274.
- Ketchum City Council, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 480 E. Ave. N., 726-3841.
- Buhl School Board, 6:30 p.m., district office, 920 Main, 543-6436.
- Halley Planning and Zoning Commission, 6:30 p.m., courthouse, 206 First Ave. S., 788-5570.
- Burley City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1401 Overland Ave., 878-2224.
- Castleford School Board, 7 p.m., school library, 500 W. Main, 537-6511.
- Gooding City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 308 Fifth Ave. W., 934-5699.
- Hansen School Board, 7 p.m., district office, 550 Main, 423-5158.
- Jerome City Council, 7 p.m., council chambers, 100 E. Ave. A, 324-8189.
- Rupert City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 624 F St., 436-9600.
- Shoshone City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 207 S. Rail St. W., 888-2030.
- Wendell School Board, 7 p.m., high school library, 750 E. Main, 535-6212.
- Filer City Council, 7:30 p.m., council chambers, 300 Main, 326-5000.

## Wednesday

- Twin Falls County commissioners, 8:30 a.m., courthouse, 425 Shoshone St. N., 736-4068.
- Blaine City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 140 Kentucky St., 352-1117.
- Filer School Board, 7 p.m., elementary school library, 700 Stevens, 328-4369.
- Twin Falls School Board, 7 p.m., administration office, 201 Main Ave. W., 733-6900.

## Thursday

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

## Friday

- Twin Falls County commissioners, 8:30 a.m., courthouse, 425 Shoshone St. N., 736-4066.
- Cassia County commissioners, 9 a.m., courthouse, 1459 Overland, 878-7302.

# OPINION

## MINI EDITORIAL

**Taking out the trash on 7th Avenue**  
 To the guy who stopped his car to throw an keffed cup out the window at me while I was walking on 7th Avenue Thursday night. What a spectacular display of ignorance and power. I hope we meet again so I can congratulate you in person. But then, I don't suppose you read the newspaper, do you?  
 —Kevin Courtney, copy editor

Send or e-mail to [mini@timesnews.com](mailto:mini@timesnews.com). Submissions should include the writer's name, address and daytime telephone number. Editors can't be held up to 50 words in length. They're expected to make the same verification as letters to the editor. Writers may publish both editorial and one letter per month.

# YOUR MORNING BRIEFING

## MAGIC VALLEY



### Staying with it when you're not the star

**RUPERT** — For every Michael Jordan there's a Colton Homer or a Britany Hardy.  
 Ever heard of them? Probably not. They're not leading scorers or sports heroes. They've never been carried off a field in glory. They probably never will play professional sports.  
 But without Hardy, the Kimberly girls' basketball team wouldn't have finished 19-2 this year. Without Homer, the Magic Valley football team might not have had a school record for wins in a season and won the conference championship.  
 SEE PAGE D1



### Elementary students get date with the dentist

**BUHL** — Eight-year-old Keyono Griffin had visited a dentist in the past but was still a bit nervous Friday about his turn in the patient's chair.  
 The second-grader at Buhl's Popplewell Elementary was first in line for a quick dental checkup and treatment provided to second- and third-graders as part of the free Dental Sealant and Fluoride Project.  
 SEE PAGE A6

### Home and Garden show draws thousands

**TWIN FALLS** — Want to get someone's attention? Try popcorn.  
 It worked well for Ronald Flechtig, a sales representative with Crum Electric Supply and company booth tender at the 27th annual Home and Garden Show at the Eldon Evans Expo Center.  
 SEE PAGE A1

### Keyburn man had young heart, spirit

**HEYBURN** — Not many people can remember the name of their driver's education instructor, let alone their school principal. But for the many students of Gary Masoner, he was indeed worth remembering.  
 Masoner died Feb. 2 at age 89.  
 SEE PAGE A6

### Prosecutor added to help battle against DUIs

**BOISE** — In the fight against impaired driving, adding more law enforcement officers doesn't always translate into more convictions or lead to fewer impaired drivers on Idaho highways.  
 So the state has enlisted a new ally.  
 SEE PAGE A6

### Luna visits Burley elementary school

**BURLEY** — Classrooms at Mount View Elementary School in Burley received a visit Friday from of state school superintendent Tom Luna.  
 SEE PAGE A6

## IDAHO/WEST



### Climate, homes are factors in rising wildfire deaths

**GRANTS PASS, Ore.** — The number of people killed fighting wildfires in the U.S. hit 24 last year — five of them a U.S. Forest Service engine crew overrun by flames as they tried to protect homes in Southern California chaparral country.  
 SEE PAGE A5

### Avalanches kill five in Mont., Utah and Idaho

**HELENA, Mont.** — Weekend avalanches killed five people in Montana, Utah and Idaho, with one braced survivor traveling miles by snowmobile and on foot to reach help, authorities said.  
 In Montana's Big Belt Mountains, the bodies of two snowmobilers caught in an avalanche were found by searchers early Sunday and removed by helicopter later in the day.  
 SEE PAGE A1

### Health workers say more psychiatrists for children needed

**COEUR D'ALENE** — Health care professionals in northern Idaho say there aren't enough child psychiatrists in the area to help treat depression, trauma, eating disorders and stress problems among the area's young people.  
 SEE PAGE A7

## NATION/WORLD

### Car bombings in Baghdad kill 63

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Militants struck back Sunday in their first major blow against a U.S.-led security clampdown in Baghdad with car bombings that killed at least 63 people, left scores injured and sent a grim message to officials — boasting that extremist factions were on the run.  
 SEE PAGE C1

### Senate Democrats trying to modify 2002 war resolution

**WASHINGTON** — Senate Democrats pledged renewed efforts Sunday to curtail the Iraq war, suggesting they will seek to limit a 2002 measure authorizing President Bush's use of force against Saddam Hussein. The top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said the proposal had little chance of succeeding.  
 SEE PAGE C1

### U.S. helicopter crashes in Afghanistan

**SHAJOL, Afghanistan** — After riddling in an unexplained loss of power and engine failure, a military helicopter crashed early Sunday in southeastern Afghanistan, killing eight U.S. service members. Fourteen survived with injuries. Officials immediately ruled out enemy fire as a cause of the crash, which left wreckage of the Chinook scattered on a dusty, open plain in Zabul province, 50 yards from the Kabul-Kandahar highway.  
 SEE PAGE C1

## SPORTS



### Harvick takes Daytona 500

**DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.** — Kevin Harvick nosed out Mark Martin in a frantic wreck-filled finish to win Sunday's Daytona 500. Veteran Martin, making his 23rd attempt at a 500 win, seemed to have victory in hand when a hard-charging Harvick barreled along the outside of Martin to earn his second victory in two nights.  
 SEE PAGE B1

### CSI baseball pounds Santa Ana College

**HENDERSON, Nev.** — Proper planning prevents poor procedure.  
 College of Southern baseball players throughout the ages have heard that marmot come out of current Golden Eagles hitting coach Skip Walker's mouth. Sunday afternoon, the 6-3 Golden Eagles put what are dubbed "The Five Ps" in play along with a slew of baseballs in their 12-4 drubbing of Santa Ana College (Calif.), during the final day of the Sixth Annual Coyote Baseball Sighting in Henderson, Nev.  
 SEE PAGE B1

### West dominates East in NBA All-Star Game

**LAS VEGAS** — The best in the NBA strutted their stuff Sunday night during the NBA All-Star Game in Las Vegas.  
 SEE PAGE B1

## SHOOTER'S GALLERY



I spend a fair amount of time driving around the Magic Valley to assignments, and I often take in the beauty of the amazing landscapes surrounding us. On a recent drive to Milner Dam I found this dog, or should I say this dog found me, on the back roads east of Fortuna. As I was driving along, the dog almost jumped in front of my car, which as you can imagine got my attention in a hurry. I continued about another 50 yards before turning north toward the dam. To my astonishment this dog kept pace with me as I was driving on a gravel road at 30 mph. I've never seen a



dog run so fast, and he kept up with me for about a 100 yards before getting lost. As you can tell, this dog is not a pup and I was pretty impressed with his effort.

ABOVE: The photo of Milner Dam that ran in the paper Feb. 5. I used a wide angle lens at ISO 125, f-stop 6.4 and a shutter speed of 1/1000th of a second.

# Times-News

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# Avalanche

Continued from page A1

A survivor traveled the 15 or 20 miles back to the trailhead. Initially by snowmobile and then on foot after the machine became stuck. Lewis and Clark County Sheriff Cheryl Leidle said. Upon reaching a pickup truck at the trailhead, he used a cell phone to call for help. "It would appear the avalanche drove them into a grove of trees downhill from the avalanche itself," Leidle said. Families of the snowmobilers issued a statement identifying the deceased as Kris Itains, 26, and Brett Toney, 27, both of Townsend, and the survivor as Jason Crawford, 27, of Helena. Leidle described them as friends from the Townsend area. In Utah, two snowmobilers died in separate avalanches on Saturday.

Zachary Holmes, 16, of Fort West, was buried by an avalanche estimated to be 300 feet wide near Tower Mountain in the Uinta Mountains, about 14 miles south-east of Heber City, the Wasatch County sheriff's office said. Holmes was wearing a helmet and an avalanche beacon, deputy Michael Graves said. Following the beacon's signal, his cousins found him and dug him out of the snow. He later died at the University of Utah Hospital, authorities said. Earlier Saturday, a snowmobiler on Signal Peak in southwestern Utah triggered an avalanche that killed him, the Sevier County sheriff's office said. That man, whose name was not released, was climbing the back side of the peak when the avalanche buried him in an estimated 8 feet of snow, authorities said.

# JetBlue cancels more flights in aftermath of storm

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — JetBlue called off almost a quarter of its flights for Monday but hoped that would be the last round of cancellations as it struggles to recover from the snowstorm that saw some travelers sitting on grounded planes for hours. The news sent passengers scrambling to deal with the disruption to their plans. The airline had scheduled 600 flights for President's Day, more than the 550 to 575 flights it has on a normal Monday, but 139 of them were canceled, JetBlue announced late Saturday. The latest cancellations were needed to make sure all flight crews had gotten the legally mandated amount of rest before returning to service, JetBlue Airways Corp. spokesman Sebastian White said Sunday.

"Canceling one more day's operations will really help reset our airline," White said Sunday. All JetBlue flights were canceled in and out of 11 airports: Richmond, Va.; Pittsburgh; Charlotte and Raleigh/Durham, N.C.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Austin and Houston, Texas; Columbus, Ohio; Nashville; Portland, Maine; and Bermuda. The cancellations followed hundreds of other canceled and delayed flights since Wednesday, when the snow and ice storm that had plovered across the Midwest struck the Northeast, grounding the company's airlines at John F. Kennedy International Airport. Maria Arbelo and two companions had been ticketed for a JetBlue flight to Houston on Saturday morning to get on a cruise. That flight was canceled, as were all flights to Houston on Sunday. The airline put the three women up in a

hotel for the night, and had them on a Sunday evening flight to Cancun. From there, they would have to find a driver to take them on a four-hour trip to meet their ship. "Oh my God, horrendous," Arbelo, a teacher from New Haven, Conn., said of her experience. "It's been a terrible ordeal, I tell you. We've been from line to line." Arbelo said JetBlue staffers had been nice but seemed confused about what to tell passengers. "I laugh about it because there's nothing we can do," she said. White said JetBlue has been using several methods in efforts to reduce the backlog of passengers stalled by the storm, including charter flights, adding flights in certain regions, rebooking passengers who had some travel flexibility to later dates, and booking seats on other airlines.

# Lunchboxes

Continued from page A1

The test results also show that many lunchboxes were tested only on the outside, which is unlikely to be in contact with food. Valiese said this was because children handle their lunchboxes from the outside. As a result of their tests, the CPSC issued a public statement reassuring consumers they had nothing to worry about. "Based on the extremely low levels of lead found in our tests, in most cases, children would have to rub their lunchbox and then lick their hands more than 600 times every day for about 15-30 days, in order for the lunchbox to present a health hazard." Valiese said the commission stands by those statements. But the results were disconcerting to experts who reviewed them for the AP. "They found levels that we consider very high," said Alexa Engelman, a researcher at the Oakland, Calif.-based Center for Environmental Health, which has filed a series of legal complaints about lead in lunchboxes. "They knew this all along

and they didn't take action on it. It's upsetting to me. Why are we, as a country, protecting the companies? We should be protecting the kids. I don't think in this instance they did their job." Said Rep. Henry A. Waxman, D-Calif.: "I am concerned that the CPSC has failed to protect children from an unnecessary hazard they have known about for some time. We should protect our children by banning lead in all children's products." Although these test results are only now being aired publicly, the CPSC did provide them to the Food and Drug Administration last summer. The FDA's reaction was completely different from the CPSC's. In July, 2006, after receiving the test results, the FDA sent a letter to lunchbox manufacturers warning them that their lead levels might be dangerously high and advising them that the FDA might take action against them because the lead would be considered a food additive if it rubbed off onto kids' lunches. "The lunchboxes containing the lead compounds may be subject to enforcement action," said the letter.

In response to the FDA warning, Wal-Mart stopped selling soft lunchboxes with vinyl liners, and offered refunds to customers who wanted to return the ones they already had. "The safety of our customers is always a top priority for Wal-Mart," said store officials in a written statement last summer. Other manufacturers have recently revamped their manufacturing processes to eliminate lead, or stopped making the lunchboxes altogether. Those changes have been prompted in large part by pressure from the Center for Environmental Health and several other nonprofit advocacy groups in New York and Washington State that have been testing lunchboxes and publicly airing the results for several years. In Connecticut, where the safe threshold is 100 parts per million, Attorney General Richard Blumenthal has demanded that lunchboxes must be lead-free. "Lead, lunch and children are a perilous mix," Blumenthal said. "The discovery of lead in children's lunchboxes is appalling. Our law is clear:

Lead-laden lunchboxes are illegal." California, New York and Illinois, have forced specific manufacturers to pull their products from store shelves after individual boxes were found to have levels above 600 ppm. Lead is a stabilizing agent in vinyl, but there are other chemicals that can be used instead of lead. Almost every lunchbox found with lead in the vinyl lining was made in China. But they are distributed worldwide. Other information in the documents include an e-mail from Canadian health officials, who found more than 600 parts per million of lead in seven of the 11 lunchboxes they tested. **This Office Wants You!** Rent free for 2 months. Martin Street. [martinstreetoffices.com](http://martinstreetoffices.com)

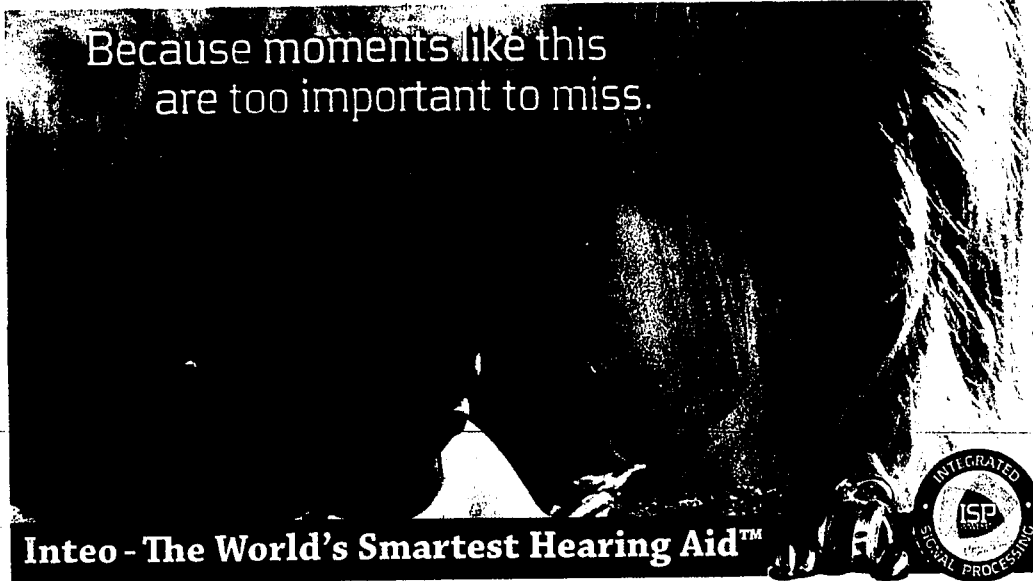
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NATION

# Some cocoa may improve blood flow in the brain, researchers say

By Randolph E. Schmid  
Associated Press writer

SAN FRANCISCO — A nice cup of the right kind of cocoa could hold the promise of promoting brain function as people age.

In an increasingly aging world, medical researchers are seeing more cases of dementia and are looking for ways to make brains work better.

One potential source of

help may be flavanols, an antioxidant found in cocoa beans that can increase blood flow to the brain, researchers said Sunday at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Iain MacDonald of England's University of Nottingham reported on tests given to young women who were asked to do a complex task while their brains were being studied with magnetic

resonance imaging.

Among the women given drinks of cocoa high in flavanols, there was a significant increase in blood flow to the brain compared with subjects who did not drink the cocoa, he said.

This raises the prospect of using flavanols in the treatment of dementia, marked by decreased blood flow in the brain, and in maintaining overall cardiovascular health, he said.

The next step, MacDonald said, is to move from healthy subjects to people who have "compromised" blood flow to the brain.

Norman Hollenberg of Harvard Medical School said he found similar health benefits in the Cuna Indian tribe in Panama. They drink cocoa exclusively.

But the cocoa typically sold in markets is low in flavanols, which usually are removed because they impart a bitter

taste, Hollenberg said. He also said the findings do not mean people should indulge in chocolate.

"Chocolate is a delight. It can never be a health food because we have a calorie problem," Hollenberg said.

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**PHOTO**  
Comedian Jennifer Dzura, a former egg donor who is hoping to donate another egg, poses for a photo before going on stage to perform a stand up at Petes Candy Store in Brooklyn, recently.

## In it for the cash?

As egg donations increase, some question whether it's money-driven

By Martha Irvine  
Associated Press writer

CHICAGO — Human egg donation was a rarity not so long ago. But heightened demand for eggs — and rising compensation for donors — are prompting more young women to consider it.

Jennifer Dzura, a 28-year-old New Yorker, is one of them. She received \$8,000 to donate her eggs in the fall of 2005 and hopes she'll be chosen again before the private egg broker she's registered with considers her too old. She realizes prospective parents who view her profile might think it a minus that her father is adopted, allowing for little medical history from his side. She also figures some are looking for a blonde, instead of a brunette.

"But, hey, I have perfect SAT scores," Dzura, an aspiring comedian and model, says with a slight chuckle.

As more older moms look for help getting pregnant, younger women have become increasingly willing to part with their eggs. Some do it to help relatives and friends, or from a sense of altruism, but others openly acknowledge money is a big factor in their decision, prompting critics to worry that they're helping drive an unregulated market for human tissue.

In 1996, women in federally monitored programs donated eggs just over 3,800 times. That number has risen steadily, to more than 10,000 in 2004, the most recent year for which the Centers for Disease Control has compiled data.

A decade ago, Dr. Joel Brasch, a fertility specialist in the Chicago area, had to work hard to recruit five or 10 young women for his own private donor pool — but not anymore.

"Everyone does it for the money," says Dzura, the egg donor in New York. "No one would do that for free — maybe for your sister, but not for a stranger."

The American Society of Reproductive Medicine, or ASRM, has set a compensation guideline of \$5,000, with a limit of \$10,000 for special cases — if, for instance, a recipient wants eggs of rare ancestry.

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# Climate and homes are factors in rising wildfire deaths

By Jeff Barnard  
Associated Press writer

GRANTS PASS, Ore. — The number of people killed fighting wildfires in the U.S. hit 24 last year — five of them a U.S. Forest Service engine crew overrun by flames as they tried to protect homes in Southern California chaparral country.

The 2006 death toll is not an all-time high, but is part of a rising trend — double the number in 2005, and six more than the average of the past 10 years. The 10-year average has been rising, too, from 6.6 in the 1930s to 14 in the 2000s.

Experts warn that the size and intensity of wildfires is increasing due to longer, hotter and drier summers and a buildup of fuel from trying to put out every fire. As a result, wildland firefighters face greater dangers, particularly trying to protect the growing number of homes in the woods.

"More telling than anything is where the fires are," said Dick Mangun, a retired U.S. Forest Service fire program leader at the agency's Technology and Development Center in Missoula, Mont., and author of a report on wildfire fatalities from 1990 to 2005. Bill Calhoret, executive director of the International Association of Wildland Fire, noted research indicating climate change has made summers hotter and longer, drought has afflicted much of the West, and the old Forest Service policy of trying to put out every fire by 10 a.m. has created a buildup of fuels in forests.

Firefighters are increasingly being sent in close to fires — what firefighters call direct attack or working with one foot in the black — to protect houses in the woods, he said.

Mangun added that firefighters have the experience and research to justify keeping their distance from explosive

fires, but when TV news shows air tankers on the ground and firefighters sitting on their engines while homes are burning, it creates "tremendous pressure" to attack a fire that would be left to burn if no homes were involved.

Within hours of the Esperanza fire starting Oct. 26 outside Two Pines, Calif., authorities charged a man with murder for starting it — 50 mph winds were driving flames up to 90 feet high through dense chaparral, overrunning the crew of San Bernardino National Forest engine 57 as they tried to defend a house, according to a preliminary report by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

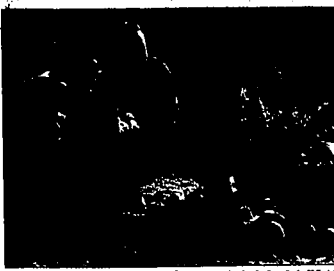
Results of a Forest Service investigation are not out yet. "We are fighting fires in the wildland urban interface more frequently because the wildland urban interface is growing," said Mark Rey, U.S.

undersecretary of Agriculture in charge of forest policy. "With 60 percent of new home construction nationwide being in the WUI, that's 8.4 million homes from 1990 to the present. You take a household size of four people, you moved the equivalent of the population of California into the wildland urban interface in the last 15 years.

"The good news," Rey added, is that only 800 homes were lost last year, despite a record 1 billion acres burned, compared to 3,000 homes lost in 2003, when 5 million acres burned.

Federal, state and local programs have focused on thinning forests, particularly those on the edge of cities and towns, but tens of millions of acres remain to be treated.

Rey said he hopes local communities will impose zoning restrictions on building homes in fire-prone forests, the way flood plains are regulated.



U.S. Forest Service firefighters working near near Myrtle, Calif., pause at a memorial last October in honor of the four firefighters who were killed while fighting the Esperanza fire.



## The Herrett Forum presents Carol MacGregor

Dr. MacGregor is a respected author and Idaho historian. Her topic, "Prosperity in Isolation," tells the remarkable story of young Boise, Idaho in the 1880's. Bypassed by the mainline of the railroad, how did it manage to survive, even thrive?

Admission is free of charge.  
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## Date with a dentist



Dr. Scott Chandler of Silver Creek Dental in Jerome gives Keynon Griffin, 8, of Poppellwell Elementary a checkup during Friday's free Dental Sealant and Fluoride Project.

## Collaborative effort reaches hundreds of Magic Valley youngsters

By Blair Koch  
Times-News correspondent

BUIH — Eight-year-old Keynon Griffin had visited a dentist in the past but was still a bit nervous Friday about his turn in the patient's chair.

The second-grader at Buhl's Poppellwell Elementary was first in line for a quick dental checkup and treatment provided to second- and third-graders as part of the free Dental Sealant and Fluoride Project.

Buhl was the project's latest Magic Valley stop, courtesy of the Regency Caring Foundation for Children, South Central District Health and local dentists including Dr. Adam Hodges, Dr. Kyle Poppellton, Dr. Troy Williams, Dr. Bryce Barfuss, Dr. Scott Chandler, Dr. Dallin Young and Dr. Mark Lambert.

College of Southern Idaho dental assistant students also helped. "I've been to the dentist before but this is still a little scary," Keynon said. "My best dentist is in Okidhamo."

However, he said he has lived in Buhl for four years and doesn't remember seeing a dentist recently. He may be a perfect example of the patient targeted by the project.

"Thirty-five percent of Idaho children don't have dental insurance and probably don't have regular access to one," said Kathy Ellis, Idaho coordinator for the

Regency Caring Foundation for Children. "We want to reach those kids and give them a good start with their dental care."

"The foundation provided \$5,000 for the project, which has been making stops in February throughout the Magic Valley in celebration of National Children's Health Month.

"There are a potential of about 400 students to be seen," said Hodges, an employee of Family Health Services and president of the South Central Idaho Dental Society. "As part of the (American Dental Association's) health month, they suggest providing services for oral health the first Friday of the month but we decided, with the grant and other efforts, to provide clinics each Friday."

The team has visited Castleford and Filor elementary schools, providing fluoride and/or sealants to more than 100 students.

Potentially, the group could see about 400 students and provide about \$30,000 worth of preventive care. They will return to Buhl next week and they also plan on making a stop in Hollister.

The treatments are open to all second- and third-grade students at the schools targeted, pending parental consent.

"It would cost about \$100 per student to receive the exam, fluoride treatment and sealant on their 6-year molars," Hodges said. "The objective is to seal the teeth prior to them getting decay."

The sealants are a simple and effective way to prevent the most common type of tooth decay in molars, which have chewing surfaces that have deep pits and grooves that are hard to clean with a toothbrush. The sealant is painlessly painted on the teeth. If children already have decay present, the sealants are not applied and the parent is notified, via a letter, describing the results of the checkup.

All of the youngsters received fluoride treatments.

"Studies indicate the oral health problem in our nation is serious, sometimes causing overall long-term health issues. We're trying to remedy this widespread problem with preventive procedures early in life," Ellis said.

A visit to the dentist usually is rewarded with a surprise and toothbrush and these were no different.

Keynon was rewarded for his bravery and given a packet, including a new toothbrush and two-minute brush timer, to further his oral care at home.

"The fluoride kinda tastes icky," Griffin said. "But I'm glad the dentist saw me today."

Times-News correspondent Blair Koch can be reached by e-mail at [blairkoch@gmail.com](mailto:blairkoch@gmail.com) or by calling 316-2607.

## Idaho adds prosecutor to help in battle against DUIs

Times-News

BOISE — In the fight against impaired driving, adding more law enforcement officers doesn't always translate into more convictions or lead to fewer impaired drivers on Idaho highways.

So the state has enlisted a new ally.

Meet Jared Olson, the state's first Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor.

He will be a liaison and resource for prosecutors, judges, law enforcement officials and other stakeholders to draw on as they work to catch and convict impaired drivers across the state.

"The DUI law itself is very long and involved," Olson said.

He added that the newest prosecutors, fresh out of law school, end up handling many of the DUI cases and are often pitted against more experienced defense attorneys.

"I hope to help level the playing field," he said.

Olson said prosecutors are challenged to overcome perceptions by juries about what constitutes drunk driving.

"What we're talking about is likely over-the-limit 'huzzed' driving," he said. Desensitization is another reason juries sometimes have a problem convicting impaired drivers.

"What is illegal, alcohol is not," he said.

Although he was hired by the Idaho Prosecuting Attorneys Association last October, money for the position came through a grant funded by the Idaho Transportation Department's Office of Highway Operations and Safety.

Idaho is one of 31 states that uses TSRPs, said Kevin Beechen with highway operations and safety. During 2005, 100 people were killed in driver-impaired crashes in Idaho.

"Imagine what would happen if we had 100 murders in Idaho in one year," Olson said. "There would no doubt be some sort of statewide project to stop it."

In his role as the state's TSRP, Olson will travel throughout Idaho offering training to local prosecutors, law enforcement professionals and judges. He also will provide resource assistance including a library of legal briefs and access to expert witnesses, predicate questions, specific case analysis and individual technical assistance.

"I may not know all the answers, but I can probably find someone who does," Olson said.

He began his career in criminal justice as an emergency dispatcher while working on a bachelor's degree at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, and attending the Utah POST Academy at night. He later worked as a law enforcement officer for the Weber State University Police Department and then as a detective before attending law school at the University of Idaho.

## aLife remembered

### Heyburn man had young heart, spirit

By Jani Whitte  
Times-News correspondent

HEYBURN — Not many people can remember the name of their driver's education instructor, let alone their school principal. But for the many students of Gary Masoner, he was indeed worth remembering.

Masoner died Feb. 2 at age 69. He was raised as an only child, and that may have been the reason he enjoyed kids so much — and why he became a teacher in the first place.

At 25, Masoner was one of the youngest principals in Idaho and taught elementary through eighth grade. He worked in Wyoming, Decla, Oakley, Rupert and other districts, making a lasting impression wherever he went.

Always one to have a good time, Masoner was commonly seen on playgrounds at recess, and he ensured schools had good assemblies.

"He was a l w a y s wanting to do something exciting," said his wife, JoAnn. "It didn't matter if you were studying books, you had to do it exciting."

He did anything he could to make sure the kids had a good time and get to relax, JoAnn said. "He wanted them to excel," she added. "He believed in the motto, 'Be your best self.'"

He even drove a school bus from 1960 to 1963 and taught summer school and driver's education — when he was known to let the kids stop for ice cream. Another benefit of having Masoner as an administrator was that he implemented ski days for many schools.

His passion for skiing eventually led him to open his own ski business, which was first located at his home. People would often stop at the family's house to get fitted for ski and visit with the Masoners.

"I loved visiting and talking with people and finding out where they were from," JoAnn said. "He liked to make a connection to someone he knew."

His strong will and determination never flag. He recently skied 50 times in one year with oxygen on his back.

He had this motto that when he got to where he was going that wasn't his age, it was just his mileage," JoAnn laughed.

Masoner was also fond of telling adventurous stories of his life, and he wrote them in a book for his family.

In northern Idaho once, Masoner shot a bear and needed to charge his camera, so he knocked at a single woman's house and asked to use her home for a few minutes.

"He always laughed about that story because he was covered from head to

Please see LIFE, Page A7

## The 11th-grade students at Pershing Elementary School in Rupert from 1960 to 1961.

Photo by [unreadable]

## Holiday brings closures around the valley

TWIN FALLS — Many offices and facilities will be closed today for Presidents Day. Here's a rundown of what will be open or closed.

- City and county offices will be closed.
- State and federal offices will be closed.
- Post offices will be closed.
- Local banks will be closed.
- The College of Southern Idaho will be closed.

be closed.

- Twin Falls Public Library will be closed.
- YMCA/Twin Falls City Pool will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. (no water aerobics from 4 to 6 p.m.)
- Magic Valley Mall will be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Trash collection will follow the regular schedule.

## Snowpack Levels

Watershed	% of Avg	% season peak
Salmon	76%	55%
Big Wood	67%	50%

As of Feb. 18

## Luna visits Burley elementary school

By Laurie Welch  
For the Times-News

BURLEY — Classrooms at Mount View Elementary School in Burley received a visit Friday from the state school superintendent.

Tom Luna, state superintendent of public instruction, popped into several of the school's classrooms while touring the campus.

He was in town attending the Minl-Casla Republican's Lincoln Day Luncheon at the Burley Best Western Inn and Convention Center and made time for a school visit.

"Do you have everything you need in here?" Luna asked while visiting with kindergarten teacher Imelda Gomez.

She told Luna many of her students are reading on a first-grade level. Luna also knelt down and



Tom Luna, state superintendent of public instruction, talks with student Imelda Gomez in Burley on Friday afternoon in Imelda Gomez' kindergarten classroom.

### SERVICES

Seymour Osterhout of Declo, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Declo LDS Stake Center, 213 W. Main St.; friends may call from 10 to 10:40 a.m. today at the church (Hastmussen Funeral Home in Burley).

Sally (Schmitt) Sanford of Paul, memorial service at 11 a.m. today at Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley.

Norman B. Pothler of Hagerman, memorial service and celebration of life at 1 p.m. today at the Pothler residence; in case of heavy rain, service will be at the American Legion Hall in Hagerman (Demary Funeral Home in Gooding).

Alberta May Markley Montegomery of Roseburg, Ore., graveside service at 1 p.m. today at Sunset Memorial Park in Twin Falls; viewing from 11 a.m. to noon today at White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Maxine Leona Moore of Twin Falls, funeral at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Peace Lutheran Church, 600 Stevens St. in Filer; friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. today at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls.

Darwin D. Crane of San Lorenzo, Calif., and former of Oakley, graveside service at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Marion Cemetery (Payne Mortuary in Burley).

Lawrence Wendell Bowen of Meridian, graveside service at 1 p.m. Wednesday at Twin Falls Cemetery; viewing from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls.

Kenneth D. Vaughn of Kimberly, memorial service at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Kimberly Senior Center (White Mortuary in Twin Falls).

Jean Kennedy Swartling of Sun Valley, memorial service at 4 p.m. Thursday at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Sun Valley; a gathering will follow at her home, 105 Saddle Lane in Sun Valley.

Mary Ann "Red" Krellow of Halley, memorial service at 2 p.m. Friday at the Wood River Chapel in Halley.

Marian Harriett Oneida of Shoshone, rosary at 7 p.m. Friday at the Demary's Funeral Chapel in Shoshone; the Episcopal Church in Shoshone, a gathering for family and friends will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday at the funeral chapel.

Albert Franklin Davis of Jerome, memorial service at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Evangelical Free Church in Jerome (Hove-Robertson Funeral Chapel).

## Three climbers who fell on Mt. Hood are found

PORTLAND (AP) — Rescuers located three climbers who fell from a ledge on Mount Hood on Sunday and all appeared to be in "relatively decent" condition, an official said.

Rescuers were in the process of rappelling about 150 feet down a cliff to reach the three, said Jim Strovink, spokesman for the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office.

"One guy appears to be OK," Strovink said. The two others may have concussions, he said.

"We believe all three are in relatively decent" condition, Strovink said.

Five others who were in the party were also located and

were on the way off the mountain, he said.

The drama on Oregon's highest mountain began shortly before noon, when someone in the eight-person climbing party called emergency dispatchers to say three of the climbers had fallen off a cliff.

The climbing mishap occurred at about the 8,500-foot level.

Battling snow and strong winds, a team of rescue mountaineers scrambled up the 11,239-foot mountain to search for the three who had fallen and as well as the five others.

"It's harsh; it's whitout conditions," Strovink said.

The climbing party had cell phones and were carrying electronic mountain locator units.

The mountain can be treacherous for climbers, particularly in the winter. In December, search teams scoured Mount Hood for days in the hopes of finding a group of missing climbers alive. The bodies of Brian

Hall, of Dallas, and Jerry "Nikko" Cooke, of New York, have not been found. Another climber in their group, Kelly James, of Dallas, died of hypothermia.

The three had set out on a two-day trek, but James called his family to say that the party was in trouble and that his two companions had gone downhill for help.

## Northern Idaho health workers say more child psychiatrists needed

COEUR D'ALENE (AP) — Health-care professionals in northern Idaho say the region doesn't have enough child psychiatrists to help treat depression, trauma, eating disorders and stress problems among the area's young people.

"We've been trying to recruit some (psychiatrists) for quite a while at least since November," Lisa Brown, Kootenai Medical Center spokeswoman, told the Coeur d'Alene Press.

She said only two psychiatrists — Bruce Miewald and George Ulrich — treat youth in the northern Idaho city. "We have quite a few children under 18 with mental-health issues," said Nikki Schultz of the Mental Wellness Center.

No town has enough child psychiatrists, said Debby Kimbrough, a specialist in psychiatry and a clinical social worker in private counseling practice. "Parents don't know what to do, so I play detective and try to find out what's going on. I am a support person for

the parents. Parents need to know that they can be empowered."

Jeff Conroy directs a program called Intercept that has 15 patients in five homes in Kootenai County. Ulrich helps work with those kids.

"It's a therapeutic school for kids 13-24; they're residents there," Conroy said. They're in therapy. These are kids that have attention deficit hyperactive disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder and eating disorders.

Rick Jones, a counselor at Coeur d'Alene High School, said the lack of psychiatrists for children should concern the community.

"We don't have a quick reference for mental-health professionals for youth," Jones said. Some patients see psycho-social rehabilitation providers, who must have a bachelor's degree in behavioral science. But those health-care workers can't prescribe medications or do therapy, they aren't medical doctors.

### DEATH NOTICES

#### Mary Doris Pearson

FAIRFIELD — Mary Doris Pearson, 91, a resident of Fairfield, died Sunday, Feb. 18, 2007, at her home. Funeral arrangements are pending and will be announced by Demary Funeral Service in Gooding.

#### Mary E. Emmen

BOISE — Mary E. Emmen, age 91, of Boise and formerly of Twin Falls, died Sunday, Feb. 18, 2007, at the Life Care Center of Boise. Funeral arrangements will be announced by Reynolds Funeral Chapel.

## Nixon biographer Earl Mazo dies at 87

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Earl Mazo, a biographer of Richard Nixon and former political correspondent for the old *New York Herald Tribune* and the *New York Times*, died Feb. 17 at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, Md., of complications from a fall at his Chevy Chase, Md., home. He was 87.

Mazo wrote "Richard Nixon: A Political and Personal Portrait" (1959, reissued and

updated with Stephen Hess in 1968), which a *Washington Post* reviewer called "a respectable overview."

Mazo knew Nixon in the 1950s from when he covered the White House as chief political correspondent for the *Herald Tribune*. He accompanied Nixon on his 1958 trip to Venezuela and wrote a vivid account of how the Secret Service saved the "no-no" president from a mob intent on dragging Nixon from his car and killing him.

## Life

Continued from page A6

toe in blood from dressing the bear, and when she opened the door he was standing there looking like Jack the Ripper," said his daughter.

Annette recalled walking in northern Idaho around a bend with her father, and they saw a huge king salmon flipping on the rocks.

"He was extremely tender-footed," she said. "So he waded across the shallow river and caught the salmon

by hand."

With his great work ethic and strong belief that a family that stays together plays together, Annette said her dad wanted the family to enjoy life, be happy, fulfill his dreams and do things on with a positive attitude, because there was never really a reason to complain.

Leading by example, he lived his own life that way. "He never spoke it, but he lived it," she said. "He was definitely a man who loved to live his dream."

### THIS WEEK AT CSI

**Monday**  
Campus is closed for Presidents Day.

**Tuesday**  
Idaho State University student recruitment, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Student Union.  
Herrett Center for Arts and Science is open 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
"Mingle in the Jungle," free reptile revue, 6 p.m., Herrett reptile house.  
Magic Valley Builders Association general membership meeting, 6 p.m., Fine Arts lobby and theater.  
"Far Out Space Places," 7 p.m., Faulkner Planetarium.  
CSI Anime Club meeting, 7 p.m., Shields 208.  
Herrett Family Night: \$1 per person telescope viewing, 7:15 p.m., Centennial Observatory.  
"Dimensions" art show, Jean B. King Gallery, Herrett Center for Arts and Science (through March 24).

**Wednesday**  
Advanced Regional Technical Education Coalition board meeting, 6:45 a.m., Taylor 258.  
Regional school superintendents meeting, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Taylor 277.  
Idaho Department of Agriculture pesticide applicators testing, 8:30 a.m., Taylor 278.  
Tech Prep meeting with regional

superintendents, 9 a.m., Taylor 258.  
Herrett Center for Arts and Science is open 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (also Thursday).  
CSI Mini-Casual Center open house, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., 1600 Parke Ave., Burley (free information, workshops, refreshments, door prizes).  
Boys South Central Idaho Conference basketball tournament, 7 p.m., Shields 201.  
Stryx chapter, Narcotics Anonymous meeting, 7 p.m., Desert 113.  
The Herrett Forum presents Dr. Carol MacGregor, "Prosperity in Isolation," 7:30 p.m., Rick Allen Community Room (free; open to the public).

**Thursday**  
Nampa Recreation District visit and tour, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Herrett Center for Arts and Science.  
CSI Sait and Light Campus Ministry Bible study meeting, noon, Student Union 247.  
U.S. Sen. Larry Craig budget workshop town hall meeting, 5 to 7 p.m., Shields 117.  
Idaho Native Plant Society meeting, 7 p.m., Taylor 256.

**Friday**  
CSI Fine Arts Day for visiting high school students, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., all campus.

**Fifth Judicial District Court** volunteer mediator training, 6 p.m., Taylor 278.  
Taylor 278.  
Hugga's Bears chapter, Narcotics Anonymous meeting, 7 p.m., Desert 113.  
"Far Out Space Places," 7 p.m., Faulkner Planetarium.  
Faulkner Astronomy Talk, "Seeing Double: Binary Stars," 7:15 p.m., Rick Allen Community Room (\$2 per person, \$1 for students).

**Friday-Saturday**  
Herrett Center for Arts and Science is open 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and 1 to 9 p.m. Saturday.  
CSI Golden Eagle baseball vs. Salt Lake Community College, 1 p.m., Sig Walcott Field.  
CSI Golden Eagle softball vs. Community College of Southern Nevada, 1 p.m., Friday; and noon, Saturday; Henderson, Nev.  
CSI Golden Eagle women's basketball vs. Snow College, 5:30 p.m., Ephraim, Utah (game broadcast on AM 1270 KTF).  
CSI Golden Eagle men's basketball vs. Snow College, 7:30 p.m., Ephraim, Utah (game broadcast on AM 1270 KTF).

**Saturday**  
Dance Camp scholarship auditions, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Fine Arts Auditorium.  
CSI co-ed volleyball six-on-six tournament, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., gym.

CSI Music Department scholarship auditions, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Fine Arts 119 and 121.  
CSI library is open 1 to 5 p.m. (also Sunday).  
Faulkner Planetarium shows: "How to Build a Planet," 2 p.m.; "Star Signs," 4 p.m.; "Far Out Space Places," 7 p.m.; "Pink Floyd: Dark Side of the Moon," 8:15 p.m.

**Sunday**  
Magic Valley Symphony concert with guest artist Gae Garafano, 4 p.m., Fine Arts Auditorium.

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OTHER VIEWS

State plays risky game with closed ag records

(Idaho Falls) Post Register

Seventeen years ago, Idaho lawmakers adopted this simple premise: When it comes to government records, the public's business is public. Closed records are the exception, not the rule.

In a new bill, the state Agriculture Department wants to turn that sound idea upside down. It's focused on a couple of laboratories — one for seeds and another for animal health — which perform tests for producers. A farmer may want to know the prevalence of a disease that germinates and how pure that seed is. A rancher may want to test his herd for bovine viral diarrhea. Ag's case comes down to this: The information presents no public health threat. It's more of a trade secret — competitors would love to know about it. And under the current law, those competitors are entitled to obtain it.

Those labs depend on producer-initiated testing for half their budget and a good share of their work load. Testing done to enforce state agricultural regulations is a matter of public record.

So if producers seek out private testing — inevitably from out-of-state firms — the state labs would be undermined. Moreover, Ag would have a less complete picture of what's going on in the state.

Nevertheless, these are taxpayer-funded facilities. If there's a market for confidential testing, perhaps Idaho's economy could develop private labs.

Ag has backed off from its initial stance — it wanted to include results from its dairy and plant pathology labs under the security blanket. And new Director Celia Gould comes to this post with a proven record of openness in government.

Still, it wasn't that long ago that former Director Pat Takasugi had to be dragged into the Idaho Supreme Court because he sought to hide so-called "nutrient management plans" — how large feedlots plan to handle huge amounts of animal wastes — by sending them back to the feedlot owners.

Moreover, you don't have to try very hard to find producers who complain about Ag's testing program. So who is served by shielding Ag from public scrutiny? — the producers or the agency?

Then there's the precedent. Ag is not seeking merely the authority to deny some public records requests on the grounds of trade secrets, for instance. That's been a common practice — lawmakers have closed 82 categories of records since 1990.

Here, Ag wants to start from the premise that all of these records are beyond the public's grasp — unless the director decides differently. That's a lot of discretion to put in the hands of a gubernatorial appointee.

What's next? How long will it take for Gould's counterparts at Health and Welfare, state prisons or the Department of Environmental Quality to seek similar authority?

Let's not travel this path.

Protect the public trust

The Lewiston Morning Tribune

A police officer in Hagerman charged \$90.84 on his city credit card to buy three hunting licenses.

Suppose that's a misuse of public funds?

Not according to the Idaho Court of Appeals. It ruled in April the state's misuse-of-funds law applies only to officials whose "official position" entails "the receipt, safe keeping, transfer or reimbursement" of public money.

Because none of those things fall under the officer's job description, the court ruled, he couldn't be prosecuted under the law. That struck Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden as slightly crazy.

He rewrote the law to cover all government officials. However, House lawmakers rejected his proposal Tuesday on a 44-25 vote. Turns out there are some lawyers in the House. They said Wasden failed to make enough of a distinction between elected officials and plain old-fashioned bureaucrats.

Elected officials, after all, are keepers of the public trust. They can violate that trust without mistaking a lot of money. Even a little misuse is too much. Felony charges might be in order.

A mid-level state employee who takes his mistress out to dinner at Red Lobster on the petty cash budget, on the other hand, probably doesn't deserve more than a reprimand in the clinic.

All public officials should be covered under the law, but the punishment should fit the crime — and the level of public trust that has been violated. Wasden's proposal doesn't need to be scrapped. It just needs some fine tuning.

Even some of the legislators who voted against it agree. "If they (members of Wasden's staff) were to make those charges, I think it would breeze through," says James Ruchti, D-Pocatello.

Without some kind of revision of the law, devious schemers like those of the Hagerman police officer might fall through the cracks.

The state needs the power to prosecute people who may have misused public money. Ada County authorities are investigating former Idaho Historical Society Director Steve Guerber, who alleged racked up \$5,467.77 in improper reimbursements over a five-year period.

That's the kind of case that shouldn't be lost on a technically.

Whether you're talking about \$5,000 or \$500,000, an elected official or a paid bureaucrat, the public trust dare not be taken lightly. Wasden's proposal should be retooled and reconsidered.

Some crimes against the public trust may not be felonies, but they are serious.

Bang the shoe slowly with Putin

Vladimir Putin — Russia's president, although the more accurate title would be godfather — made headlines last week with a speech in Munich that set a new standard in anti-Americanism.



CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

He not only charged the U.S. with the "hypocrisy of force" "disdain for the basic principles of international law" and having "overstepped its national borders in... the economic, political, cultural and educational policies it imposes on other nations". He even blamed the spread of weapons of mass destruction, which the U.S. has been combating with few allies and against constant Russian resistance, on American "dominance" that "inevitably encourages" other countries to defensively acquire them.

There is something amusing about criticism of the use of force by the man who was in Chechnya into a smoldering ruin; about the invocation of international law by the man who will not allow Scotland Yard to interrogate the polonium-soaked thugs it suspects of murdering Alexander Litvinenko, yet another Putin appointee to protect an untimely and unprosecuted death; about the bullying of other countries decry by a man who cuts off energy supplies to Ukraine, Georgia and Belarus in brazen acts of political and economic extortion.

Less amusing is the greater meaning of Putin's Munich speech. It marks Russia's coming out of its closet with oil and gas revenues, the consolidation of dictatorial authority at home and the capitulation of both domestic and Western companies to his seizure of their assets. Putin is signaling to the world that post-Soviet Russia is preparing to reassert itself on



the world stage. Perhaps the most important line in his speech was the least noted because it seemed so innocuous. "I very often hear appeals by our partners, including our European partners, to the effect that Russia should play an increasingly active role in world affairs."

It is hardly necessary to invite us to do so. Soviet foreign minister Andrei Gromyko once boasted that no conflict anywhere on the globe could be settled without taking into account the attitude and interests of the Soviet Union. Gromyko's description of Soviet influence constitutes the best definition ever formulated of the term superpower.

And we know how Putin, who has called the demise of the Soviet Union the greatest political catastrophe of the 20th century, years for those superpower days. At Munich, he could not even disguise his Cold War nostalgia, asserting that "global security" in those days was ensured by the "strategic potential of two superpowers."

Putin's bitter complaint is that today there remains only one superpower, the behemoth that dominates the "unipolar world." He knows that Moscow lacks the economic, military and even

demographic means to challenge America as in Soviet days. He speaks more modestly of coalitions of aggrieved have-not countries that Russia might lead in countering American power.

Hence his increasingly active foreign policy — military partnerships with China, nuclear cooperation with Iran, weapon supplies to Syria and Venezuela, diplomatic support as well as arms for a genocidal Sudan, friendly outreach to other potential partners of an anti-hegemonist (read: anti-American) alliance.

Is this a return to the Cold War? It is true that the ex-KGB agent occasionally lets slip a classic Marxist anachronism such as "foreign capital" (referring to Western oil companies) or the otherwise weird adjective "vulgar" (describing the actions of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which infuriated Putin by insisting upon a clean election in Ukraine). He even intimated that he might undo one of the unequivocal achievements of the late Cold War era, the so-called "zero option" agreement of 1987, and restore a Soviet-style medium-range ballistic missile force.

Nonetheless, Putin's aggressiveness does not signal a

return to the Cold War. He is too clever to be burdened by the absurdity of socialist economics or Marxist politics. He is blissfully free of ideology, political philosophy and economic theory. There is no existential dispute with the United States.

He is a more modest man: a mere mafia don, seizing the economic resources and political power of a country for himself and his mostly KGB cronies. And promoting his vision of the Russian national interest — assertive and expansionist — by engaging in diplomacy that challenges the dominant power in order to boost his own.

He wants Gromyko's influence — or at least some international acknowledgment that Moscow must be reckoned with — without the ideological baggage. He does not want to bury us; he only wants to diminish us. It is 19th-century power politics at its most crude and elemental. Putin does not want us as an enemy. But at Munich he told the world that vis-a-vis America his Russia has gone from partner to adversary.

Charles Krauthammer's e-mail address is letters@charleskrauthammer.com

LETTERS

Offer not an opportunist like Kempthorne

Our Gov. Butch says he got his wolf fat. Said he wants to kill his wolf early. He says he's going out and spray a bunch of noxious weeds. We may have a governor that his primary interest is the state of Idaho and us, the people who live here. This is for damn sure a new kind of point of view. — The politicians today are in it for their future and the money and power attached to it. The leaders, too. The big money starts at city council, planning, county seat and up to the financial ladder to the president, for one of the hundreds of thousands vying for the golden rings, parachutes, the oil dollars.

Kempthorne worked his way from using the state city. Butch's call for trips and brown-nosing to the Secretary of the Interior. Too bad Boise Cascade, Georgia Pacific bought all the timber when it went for \$1 per thousand board feet, and they left the logs in the woods to rot below 24 inches in diameter at the little end.

I don't see Gov. Otter as an opportunist, period. And he had the finest teacher and money-maker in the world guide him at a young age. Mr. Billion Smilpot. He is, was, Idaho's No. 1 brain, dollar, wise, and he earned it. I think the real American way.

God bless both of these men.

B.J. "BARNETT" ROWLAND Hagerman

Hiring practices come back to bite the business

I'm not the world's most well-educated person, but I've noticed, as have some others,

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Because of space constraints, please limit letters to 300 words. Include your surname, mailing address and telephone number. Writers who sign letters with false names will be permanently barred from publication. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls office, mailed to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to (208) 734-5538; or e-mailed to letters@magoville.com.

A disturbing trend in the people who are hired: The more ignorant, rude or crazy a person is, the easier it gets the position!

Take for instance the recent episode with the NASA astronaut and her conductor. Yes, I'll agree that love makes us do dumb things, but when it borders on psychopathic behavior with the intent to commit murder? I'd bet NASA is reviewing its psychiatric test procedures. We have the best of the best, the elite, and this is what they do on their days off? Hmm. Houston? We got a problem!

A more local example of the modern hiring trend involves a friend of mine who was trying to finance his house. The loan officer at the institution where he was applying grabbed a handful of snack crackers before starting the interview. She loaded up her mouth with two or three crackers before starting the interview and conducted the interview with her mouth full.

Monument fever sweeps over CAFD debate

The headline catches your eye, "ACLU issues concern about a feedlot!" What?

All the taxpayers' money that has been wasted to date in the National Park Service's "Mindoko Management Plan" and not one thought that this resurrection of an old World War II Japanese Relocation Center was in the heart of one of America's dairy and farming communities!

But keep in mind that since around 1948, the Japanese-Americans have steamrolled over the top of anyone who gets in the way of their lifelong pursuit of re-telling World War II history from monuments in their names. They will stop at nothing.

Ex-Gov. Kempthorne was pro-Mindoko and is now Secretary of the Interior.

Congressmen Otter and Stroyan and Sens. Crapo and Craig endorsed HR 1492.

Clint Stender of Ketchum authored a punitive Senate Bill 1056. It helps to have friends in high places, not to mention Japanese-American Citizens League and American Civil Liberties Union. I'd say the farmers are outnumbered.

What will happen when

dust blows as the farmers till their fields?

All this hull over a feedlot in dairy country a mile and a half away.

Which dairy or feedlot is on the chopping block next? Guess it depends on which way the wind blows eh?

JUNE THRESHER Hailey

Solid governance starting to emerge

Some good news in Jerome County.

The city of Jerome is considering approving a new senior citizen center.

They have been told that renovation of the old one (really old) would cost more than building a new one. This is a positive thing to do and the senior citizens deserve it.

Other senior citizens beside me could help the cause by contacting the powers that be in City Hall and City Council.

Or write letters like me. Call them, too. Help yourselves. And the Jerome County commissioners are now at least thinking of the word "monorium" in connection with the fact that our air and water are being polluted by you know who. Move cows that people in Jerome County.

They may even change the one-mile rule (since the Legislature may do it before they do).

Now if the prosecuting attorneys would prosecute I mean give back to the county the \$75,000 paid to our three former commissioners who paid themselves overtime while on salary. The attorney general ruled it should be repaid, so why the lengthy delay? I want to know.

XENIA WILLIAMS Jerome



# Birthday of America's 'father' lost on many

In today's anti-patriarchal climate, it isn't surprising that the birthday of America's "father" has been reduced to a free day and cheap sheets.



KATHLEEN PARKER

To some extent, Washington might be pleased. Prosperity and freedom, after all are the happy offspring of America's struggle for independence.

Our unalienable right to the pursuit of happiness finds expression each year on the third Monday of February in the linen section of Wal-Mart.

American Revolution; fewer than half (47.9 percent) could identify the Declaration of Independence as the source for this line: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

They weren't much better on more recent events. Fewer than half of college seniors (45.2 percent) knew that Saddam Hussein's base of support was the Baath Party.

the Education Commission of the States, explained this phenomenon in *The New York Times*.

"If we start measuring, we will start finding out, that we didn't learn ... about the great traditions of Western thought. Then we have a nasty little problem on our hands."

That nasty little problem has its roots in a nasty little attitude of contempt toward history as written by and about white males. The spirit of equal outcomes that has dimmed down education also has distorted the teaching of American history.

from an 1862 engraving based on Gilbert Stuart's famous portrait, which he sells for about \$250 to cover the costs of printing and framing. He also lobbied for state legislation proposing that at least one Washington portrait be placed in each school district.

after the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) objected. Nancy Yallo, spokeswoman for the NJEA, summed up the general sentiment to USA Today:

ty's freedom." Maybe so, but only one person was the first president of the United States. Only one man was Gen. George Washington, who led American troops in the decisive battle of the revolution.

Kathleen Parker's e-mail address is kparker@kparker.com

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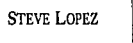
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## Hollywood justice for Spector

Let's say you were charged with murder in a death that occurred on Feb. 3, 2002. What are the chances you'd still be awaiting trial without having spent a day in custody?



STEVE LOPEZ

Of course, I'm talking about Phil Spector, the rock 'n' roll legend accused of murdering actress Lana Clarkson. The story is so old, you might have forgotten the details.

On the night in question, Spector left his Allamamba manse — built to resemble a French castle — for a night on Los Angeles' Westside. His driver was behind the wheel of Spector's Mercedes S430 and ferried him to the Grill on the Alley, Trader Vic's and Dan Tana's. Later, at the House of Blues, Spector met the statuesque Clarkson, who reluctantly agreed to go to Spector's house for a drink.

From several prescription drugs.

At long last, it may finally be time to air it all in court, with trial set for March 19. But why has Clarkson's family, which called Spector's contradictory stories "preposterous," had to wait so long for justice? Did Spector's wealth or his string of celebrity attorneys (Robert Shapiro, Leslie Abramson and Bruce Cutler) help keep him from facing the music, so to speak?

"We're at four years, and he's never spent one night in jail," said Edward Luzzi, a friend and former agent of Clarkson. "He's an accused murderer and he's gun crazy, and we're just hoping he doesn't shoot anybody else in the meantime."

There's no denying the advantage of Spector's wealth. Booked initially on suspicion of murder, the

"wall of sound" producer of the Ronettes and the Righteous Brothers posted \$1-million bail and walked.

Clayton Kopp and Robert Blake both spent time in lockup, but that's because no bail is allowed in cases that potentially involve the death penalty, and Spector's case does not.

It didn't hurt that Spector could afford to hire and dump big-name attorneys, buying time for himself to pad around the castle while his new counselors got up to speed.

"I don't think it's fair for anyone to be pointing a finger at Phillip or the defense and say we caused the delays," said Roger Rosen, one of Spector's lawyers.

Steve Lopez is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

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#### How Can Women Build Confidence in Ability to Retire Comfortably?

All of us would like to think we will enjoy a comfortable retirement. If you're a woman, however, you might be significantly more nervous than your male peers about life as a retiree. This fear may not be entirely justified, but, in any case, you can greatly improve your outlook for retirement by understanding where you are now - and how to get where you want to go.

But first, you may have to overcome both fear and a financial "gender gap." Consider these findings from recent surveys conducted by Harris Interactive:

- Forty-six percent of the women surveyed said they worry about losing all their money and becoming destitute. Surprisingly, this figure rises to 48 percent among women with incomes of \$100,000 or more.
- Women were almost twice as likely as men to worry about money and to doubt their capacity to invest and plan for their future.
- Only 10 percent of women said they feel quite secure about their finances.

These figures, while disturbing, at least partially reflect some basic realities of women's lives. First, women typically outlive men by nearly seven years, according to the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics - and more years of life mean more expenses. Also, women drop out of the work force for an average of 12 years to care for young children or aging parents, according to the Older Women's League, a research and advocacy group. This time away from the workforce results in women accumulating much less money in their employer-sponsored retirement plans.

Of course, if you are married, many of your financial assets are likely commingled with those of your husband. But that doesn't mean that you can abdicate responsibility for your financial future. Some 80 percent to 90 percent of today's women will be solely responsible for their own finances at some point in their lives, according to the National Center for Women & Retirement.

So, what can you do to boost your confidence in your financial management skills? For starters, take a close look at all potential sources of retirement income: Social Security, savings, investments and retirement plan distributions. Estimate about how much you might have available for your retirement years.

Next, try to envision your "ideal" retirement lifestyle and put a "price tag" on it. For example, if you would like to continuously travel the world when you retire, you're probably going to need more money from your retirement funds than your neighbor who wants to stay home, pursue hobbies and possibly even open a small business.

It's not always easy to plan, save and invest for retirement. That's why you may want to consider working with an experienced financial professional - someone who knows your risk tolerance, time horizon and long-term goals, and who can recommend the appropriate investments and strategies.

Learn as much as you can about every aspect of your financial situation. You'll boost your confidence about having sufficient resources for retirement - and you'll probably enjoy it more when you get there.

Questions: (1) True or False - Statistically, women outlive men. (2) True or False - Statistically, most women will be responsible for their own finances at some point in their lives.

Answers to last week's questions: (1) True (2) False

**nie Newspaper in Education**

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Because I Said So (10) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

**JEROME**  
Ghost Rider (11) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

Bridge to Terabithia (10) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

Slump the Yard (11) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

Code Purple a Notail (11) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

**TWIN 12**  
Mystery (10) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

Children/Men (10) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

Night at the Museum (10) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

Smiley Face (10) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

Happy Feet (10) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

Dreamgirls (10) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

The Messenger (11) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

The Queen (11) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

Handful of Stars (10) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

Pursuit of Happiness (10) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

Ghost Rider (11) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

Bridge to Terabithia (10) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

School Movie Marathon Discount Shows Unaccompanied Minors (10) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

Flushed Away (10) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

**ODISSEY 6**  
The Painted Veil (11) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

Epic Movie (11) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

Eragon (11) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

North and the Glory (10) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

Work and the Glory (10) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

Daddy's Little Girls (11) Day 7.00 - 9.45  
Fr. Mon 12:30 - 2:45 - 3.00 - 4.15

**NATION**

**Changes coming to meat, poultry inspections**

By Libby Quaid  
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The first major changes to food inspection in a decade will increase federal scrutiny of meat and poultry plants where the danger from E. coli and other germs is high or where past visits have found unsafe practices.

The new policy will result in fewer inspections at plants with lower risks and better records for handling meat and poultry.

"We're just putting resources where the risk is greatest, and those plants that demonstrate excellent control will get less of our resources," said Richard Raymond, the Agriculture Department's top food safety official.

To decide the level of scrutiny a plant should get, the "risk-based" system will consider the type of product and the plant's record of food safety violations.

A plant that makes hamburger and has repeated violations would get more inspection. A plant that makes cooked, canned ham and has a clean track record would get less scrutiny.

"There are certain food products that carry a higher inherent risk than others," Raymond, the undersecretary for food safety, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "And there are certain plants that do a better job of controlling risk than others."

For now, the new system will be used in processing plants, not in slaughter plants. No timetable has been set for shifting to the new inspection system.

Critics say the idea sounds good, but they fear department officials are rushing a complex new system into place.

"One of the concerns is that this is simply an effort to save money in a tight budget year," said Carolee Smith, D-Wa. food safety director

**Pounds per person**

In 2002, an average of about 87 pounds of meat was consumed per person worldwide.

Meat consumption

In 2002 XX XXXXX XX

In 2002 XX XXXXX XX

United States 276

High income countries 205

United Kingdom 175

China 115

Japan 97

World average 87

Low income countries 15.19

India 8.11

Bangladesh 7.7

AP



See video on the changes coming to meat inspection at [www.magicalvalley.com](http://www.magicalvalley.com)

at the Center for Science in the Public Interest. "We want to make sure a budget shortfall is not what's driving these important inspection decisions."

Raymond says the agency's budget is not driving changes in the inspection program. "We're not going to save any money on this part of risk-based inspection," he said, adding there could be cost-savings if the changes are extended later to slaughtering operations.

The risk-based inspection system will be the most significant change to food safety inspections in a decade. The department overhauled inspections in 1996 when hundreds of people got sick and four children died after eating undercooked hamburgers from Jack in the Box restaurants.

Daily inspections of meat and poultry plants are required under current federal laws, which date back to 1906. Food safety laws were enacted in response to Upton Sinclair's "The Jungle," which exposed horrifically unsanitary conditions in Chicago's meatpacking industry.

Agriculture Department officials say the agency's 7,500 food safety inspectors conducted about 9.2 million inspections at about 6,000 plants last year. About 90,000 microbiological samples are gathered and tested each year.

Still, about 76 million people get sick from food poisoning each year in the United States. Most get better after a day or two, but about 325,000 people are hospitalized. About 5,000 people die each year because of foodborne diseases.

Germs can contaminate many different foods. Spinach and lettuce were the culprits in E. coli outbreaks from bagged salad and from lettuce at Taco Bell restaurants last year.

Recently, large batches of *Canagra-made* peanut butter were recalled after the product was linked to a salmonella outbreak that left about 300 people ill in 39 states.

Germs can contaminate many different foods. Spinach and lettuce were the culprits in E. coli outbreaks from bagged salad and from lettuce at Taco Bell restaurants last year.

Illnesses from E. coli are down 29 percent from a decade ago, although rates inched up from 2004 to 2006. The numbers are not low enough, Raymond said. Reducing foodborne illness is the goal of the new inspection system.

Consumer groups, the inspectors' union and the meat industry all say the concept has merit.

# presidents' sale

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**INSIDE:** Charles Howell III breaks through with a playoff victory at the Nissan, B2



**INSIDE:** College hoops, B2 | Scoreboard, B3 | Weather, B4

## CSI baseball clobbers Santa Ana

### Golden Eagles club 20 hits in final SWAC tune-up

Times-News

HENDERSON, Nev. — Proper planning prevents poor procedure.

College of Southern baseball players throughout the ages have heard that mantra come out of current Golden Eagles hitting coach Skip Walker's mouth. Sunday afternoon, the 6-3 Golden Eagles put what are dubbed "The Five P's" in play, along with a slew of baseballs in their 12-4 drubbing of Santa Ana College (Calif.), during

the final day of the Sixth Annual Coyote Baseball Slugout in Henderson, Nev.

"A lot of it was better preparation," CSI head coach Doomer Walker said. "Last night, I felt the guys weren't ready to go. They were just going through the motions. We had to get on them before the game a bit and tell them that's not how we want to play."

The Golden Eagles rebounded from Friday's 3-1 loss to South Mountain

Community College (Ariz.) by drilling 20 hits and allowing only two earned runs on the day. Sophomore second baseman Tony Altavilla led CSI at the plate, going 4-for-6 with a pair of doubles, while both Jed Hanson-Mickelson and Trent Johnson finished 3-for-5. Walker was pleased with Johnson, along with Travis Reynolds and Cory Grover, who both saw their first significant playing time of the season.

Jason Oatman picked up the win in relief for CSI after Angel Cllapa battled to a 4-4 tie through the top of the fourth. Walker knows that the

Golden Eagles will have to continue playing the way they did Sunday as they start their Scenic West Athletic Conference schedule.

"I think for us, we can only play one way," Walker said. "We can't ever think that we've got it made. We've just got to stay battling all the time."

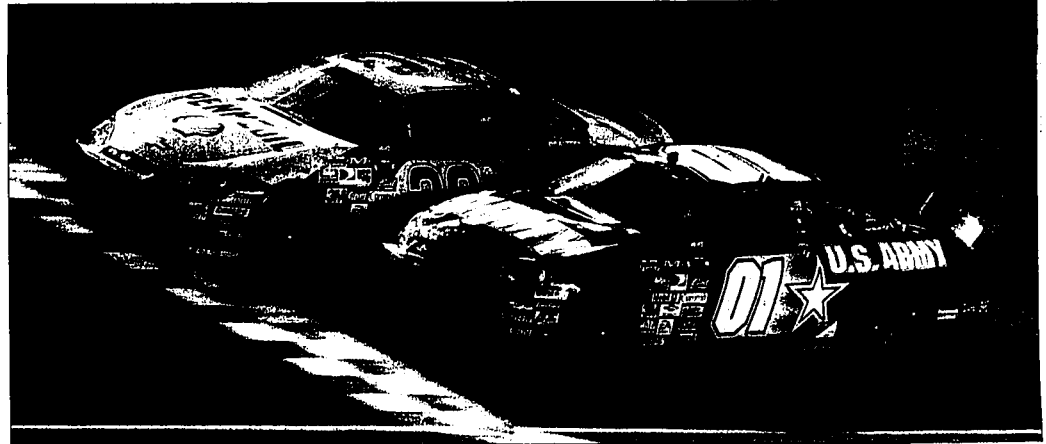
CSI opens its conference schedule with a four-game home stretch against Salt Lake Community College on Friday and Saturday.

### Scenes from state

Please see Page B4 for a few more scenes from the Burley and Richfield girls' state championship victories.



Burley's Jessica Brice



ABOVE: Kevin Harvick edges out Mark Martin at the line to win the Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., Sunday. BELOW, RIGHT: Harvick celebrates his win.

# It's Harvick by a nose

## Harvick edges Martin in wreck-filled race

By Jenna Fryer  
Associated Press writer

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Kevin Harvick nosed out Mark Martin in a frantic wreck-filled finish to win Sunday's Daytona 500.

Martin, making his 23rd attempt at a 500 win, seemed to have victory in hand when a hard-charging Harvick barreled along the outside of Martin to earn his second victory at Daytona International Speedway in two days. Harvick won Saturday's

Busch race — his first victory at Daytona.

As Harvick pushed into the lead, Kyle Busch wiggled behind them and bumped into Matt Kenseth to start a melee. Harvick and Martin raced side by side, waiting for NASCAR to call for a caution. When it finally came, Harvick was barely ahead.

"My go-kart experience over the winter paid off, because I didn't let off the floor and we just kept hitting things and the wall and bouncing off everything," Harvick said. "But man, this is the Daytona

500. Can you believe it?"

Martin finished second, followed by Jeff Burton. Harvick's teammate, and Mike Wallace, who raced his way into the 500. Fifth place was rookie David Reardon, the kid who replaced Martin when he left Roush facing this winter after 19 seasons.

It took several moments for NASCAR to declare the winner, finally giving it to Harvick and spoiling what would have been the biggest victory of the 48-year-old Martin's career. He's easing into retirement, and just left powerhouse Roush to run a partial schedule with Ginn Racing — a second-tier team bought last year by a Florida land developer trying

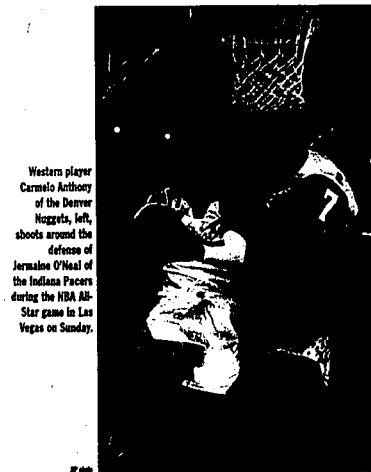
to satisfy his love of NASCAR. The decision was questioned by those who wondered if Bobby Ginn could give the ultra-competitive Martin cars capable of winning.

Boy, did he ever. "I didn't ask for a win in the Daytona 500. I asked for a chance," Martin said. "I let it slip away, slip through my fingers, and I'm fine with that. I am very proud of what this team did for me this weekend."

It was just the finish NASCAR needed to put racing back in the spotlight after a cheating scandal nearly ruined the Great American Race.

Five teams were busted for breaking the rules during

Please see HARVICK, Page B2



Western player Carmelo Anthony of the Denver Nuggets, left, shoots around the defense of Jermaine O'Neal of the Indiana Pacers during the NBA All-Star game in Las Vegas on Sunday.

## West tops East in NBA All-Star game

By Brian Mahoney  
Associated Press writer

LAS VEGAS — The Eastern Conference turned the NBA's big game in Las Vegas into a dud.

Overmatched by the West — or perhaps worn out from a weekend of partying in Sin City — the East bumbled its way to a 153-132 loss Sunday night in the All-Star game.

Kobe Bryant had 31 points and six of the West's record 52 assists and was the game MVP. Amare Stoudemire added 29 points for the West, which quickly built a big lead and held it this time, a year after blowing a 21-point cushion in a loss in Houston.

LeBron James scored 28 points for the East, and Dwight Howard had 20 points and 12 rebounds, but offense wasn't the problem — the East allowed a record 69 field goals.

An event that some locals called the biggest thing to hit Las Vegas featured showgirls, acrobats, magicians and Elvis impersonators — all the glitz and glamour that this city offers in excess.



Good thing the players had plenty to deflect the attention away from them. The East was hovering at barely 40 percent shooting for nearly all of the first three quarters in a game that isn't known for its defensive intensity before a late flurry during garbage time brought it up to 49 percent.

Late All-Star addition Carmelo Anthony scored 20 points and Shawn Marion of Phoenix, who played at the Thomas & Mack Center at UNLV, added 18.

Dwyane Wade had only 10 points on 5-of-12 shooting, but he had reason to be tired after hosting events Thursday and Friday night. Those were two of the many functions that kept the players out until all hours of the night.

Still, the game was secondary to the show in this most unusual of All-Star games — and it was quite a show.

With tickets unavailable to the public, brokers were asking more than

\$20,000 for a top seat. Jay-Z, Beyonce, Diddy, Prince, Eva Longoria and Adam Sandler were among those who scored spots in the front row, and Christina Aguilera and Toni Braxton performed at halftime.

The event started with a celebrity red carpet, where Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman, flanked as usual by his showgirls and backed by entertainer Wayne Newton, vowed again to get the NBA here full-time with a new arena to play in.

Magicians Siegfried and Roy then welcomed the fans to Las Vegas, before introducing the showgirls who escorted Newton out to the stage for a performance of "Viva Las Vegas." After the East All-Stars were introduced, Newton took the stage again for another performance before the West players were announced.

After another Las Vegas entertainer, Danny Gans, sang the national anthem, it was finally time for some basketball — after about a 45-minute pregame.

Please see NBA, Page B2

SPORTS

# Howell breaks through with Nissan win

LOS ANGELES — Charles Howell III finally ended that nasty habit of finishing second, making three clutch pars in a playoff that delivered a dramatic victory over Phil Mickelson in the Nissan Open on Sunday.

Howell closed with a 6-under 65 and got into a playoff when Mickelson bogeyed the 18th hole. Howell put away the two-time Masters champion with his third straight par save, hitting a 3-foot putt on the 14th hole and raising his head to the sky in utter relief.

"I said a prayer before I hit the putt," Howell said, his voice cracking. "I said, 'It's time, Go in.'"

It was only the second victory of his career, and Howell had been haunted by nine runner-up finishes since winning the now-defunct Michelob Championship in the fall of 2002. He already had two runner-up finishes in four starts this year, including three weeks ago against Tiger Woods down the coast at Torrey Pines.

Mickelson, bidding for his second straight victory, had control throughout the playoff until coming up short on green on the par-3 14th. He opted for putter, but it took a high hop leaving the blade and stopped 10 feet short. The par putt missed to the right.

Howell also was short, but his chip came out nicely just beyond the cup.

"I had every chance on the back nine to create some separation and not give anyone a chance," said Mickelson, who missed his putt inside 4 feet and closed with a 68. "I felt like I had the tournament in my grasp and let it go."

They finished at 16-under 268.

Howell earned \$36,000 and is atop the PGA Tour money list for the first time in his career. Aside from finally getting his hands on another trophy, Howell accomplished his first goal of 2007. The victory all but assures he can return to the PGA Tour in April to meet the Augusta native will climb into top 25 in the world ranking.

Along the way, he exorcised a few demons.

It was four years ago at Riviera where Howell lost a three-shot lead, then missed a 5-foot birdie putt on the second playoff hole. This time, he got past No. 10 with an unlikely par. He clipped the trees when he tried to chip off the



Charles Howell III holds the winner's trophy after winning the Nissan Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles, Sunday.

cart path, then got up-and-down from about 80 feet for par.

And while putting has been his nemesis, he held one big put for another — from 8 feet for par on the 18th to keep the heat on Mickelson, from 6 feet for par on the 18th to extend the playoff, and the 3-footer on 14 that must have looked like a mile.

"It's been a long time," Howell said. "I'm speechless."

## Watson takes Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am

LUTZ, Fla. — Tom Watson won the Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am for his first professional victory in Florida, closing with a 1-under 70 in cold and windy conditions for a one-

stroke margin over Jay Haas and Andy Bean.

The round was played in temperatures reaching the low 40s, with 30 mph gusts.

Watson, the five-time British Open champion who entered the week 0-for-93 as a pro in Florida, finished at 4-under 209 and earned \$240,000 for his ninth career Champions Tour title. Haas shot a 69, and Bean closed with a 72.

## Sterling wins Jacob's Creek Open

ADELAIDE, Australia — Scott Sterling won the Jacob's Creek Open, closing with a 1-under 71 for a one-stroke victory over Australia's David Lutterus in the event sanctioned by the Nationwide and

Australasian tours. Sterling finished at 12-under 276 on the Kooonga course and earned \$108,000 as his first Nationwide Tour victory. Lutterus closed with a 72.

## Ilonen best on Indonesian Open

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Finland's Mikko Ilonen shot a 1-under-70 for a one-stroke victory in the Indonesian Open, sanctioned by the European and Asian tours. Ilonen had a 9-under 275 total on the Damal Indah course. Filipino star Frankie Mineza (71), Australia's Andrew Tampion (69) and India's Shiv Kapur (67) tied for second.

— The Associated Press

# Gophers no match for No. 2 Buckeyes

MINNEAPOLIS — Greg Oden and No. 2 Ohio State hardly broke a sweat in beating Minnesota 85-67 Sunday, putting the Buckeyes in position for a shot at their first No. 1 ranking in 45 years.

Oden had 19 points, nine rebounds and two blocks, and Ron Lewis added 16 points. Mike Conley Jr. finished with 10 assists and five steals for Ohio State (21-3, 12-1).

Lawrence McKenzie was a force for the Gophers (9-16, 3-10 Big Ten), but his 22 points weren't enough against a deep and talented opponent. The Gophers lost their fifth straight and 10th in their last 12.

The No. 1 ranking in The Associated Press Top 25 is up for grabs Monday after top-ranked Florida lost at Vanderbilt on Saturday night. Fifth-ranked UCLA (23-3) also could make the jump to No. 1 after soundly beating No. 19 Arizona 81-66 Saturday.

In rounding the overmatched Gophers, Ohio State won its 11th game in a row and is looking for its first No. 1 ranking since Jerry Lucas, John Havlicek and a sub named Bob Knight led the Buckeyes into the national championship game against Cincinnati in 1962.

## Arizona St. 68, No. 2 USC 58

TEMPE, Ariz. — Jeff Pendergraph had 14 points and 15 rebounds to help Arizona State snap a school-record 15-game losing streak.

The Sun Devils (7-19, 1-14) beat a ranked opponent for the first time since March 20, 2003, when they defeated No. 19 Memphis in the first round of the NCAA tournament. They also avoided becoming the first team to go winless in the Pac-10 since the conference expanded in 1978-79.

Trailing 32-23 with 15:15 to play, the Sun Devils outscored USC 24-7 to take a 47-39 lead with 6 minutes to go, then hung on for the win.

Gabe Pruitt scored 22 points and Lodrick Stewart added 18 for the Trojans (19-8, 9-5), who have lost two of three.

## Late Saturday

### UC Riverside 81, Idaho 76

MOSCOW — Henrik Thomsen scored 21 points, including 15 in the first half, as UC Riverside beat Idaho 81-76 in a non-conference game Saturday night.

Justin Bell added 19 points and Larry Cunningham had 18 points for the Highlanders (6-20, 1-10 Big West Conference), who got their first road win of the season.

Keoni Watson led all scorers with 27 points for Idaho (3-23, 1-12 Western Athletic Conference).

Darin Nagle and David Jackson were the only other Vandals to score in double figures, with 13 points apiece.

After the teams finished the first half tied at 34, UC Riverside pulled ahead for good with 13:46 left on a Bell basket.

The Highlanders maintained a comfortable lead for the remainder of the half until Watson buried one of his three 3-pointers with 11:4 seconds left to cut the UC Riverside lead to 79-76.

The Vandals tried to foul but the Highlanders availed their attempts and Cunningham ended Idaho's chances with a dunk with 4 seconds left.

The loss was Idaho's ninth straight. It also marked the worst start ever for a Vandal team, eclipsing the mark of the 1946-47 squad that started 3-22.

— The Associated Press



Ohio State center Greg Oden (20) stuffs the ball over Minnesota forward Bryce Webster during the first half of Sunday's game in Minneapolis.

# No. 1 Duke women drop Maryland, take ACC title

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Lindsey Harding scored 20 of her career-high 29 points in the first half, and No. 1 Duke 'disappointed a sellout crowd by defeating No. 6 Maryland 69-57 Sunday night to remain undefeated and clinch the Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season title.

Carrem Gay added 14 points for the Blue Devils (28-0, 13-0), and Allison Bales had 12 points and 12 rebounds. Duke took control late in the first half and never trailed over the final 25 minutes in beating the defending national champions for the second time this season.

Crystal Langhorne had 15 points and 12 rebounds for the Terrapins (25-4, 9-1), and Marissa Coleman had 12 points, 10 rebounds and six assists. The crowd of 17,950 matched the largest single-

game attendance in ACC history, set earlier this season when the Terrapins hosted North Carolina.

Duke led by as many as 13 points in the second half. After Maryland got within seven, the Blue Devils kept the Terrapins scoreless for nearly 4 minutes.

## No. 2 North Carolina 93, Miami 70

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Ivory Latta scored 21 points and North Carolina bounced back from an upset to beat Miami.

Carmille Little scored 13 points, and Erlana Larkins added 13 points and 13 rebounds for the Tar Heels (25-2, 10-2 Atlantic Coast Conference), who were coming off a 72-65 loss to unranked North Carolina State on Friday. The Tar Heels took their

frustrations on the Hurricanes (11-17, 2-11), shooting nearly 46 percent, never trailing and leading by as many as 35.

## No. 24 Michigan St. 62, No. 4 Ohio St. 59

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Michigan State's 6-foot-9 Alyssa DelHaan scored 25 points to help the Spartans and Ohio State's 17-game winning streak.

Tere Haynes had a steal and two free throws in the final seconds to seal the victory for the Spartans (21-6, 12-2 Big Ten).

Ohio State (24-2, 13-1) was trying to clinch a share of its third straight Big Ten title.

## No. 8 G. Washington 64, Saint Louis 47

ST. LOUIS — Kimberly Beck

and Sarah-Jo Lawrence scored 16 points apiece and George Washington overcame poor shooting to defeat Saint Louis and win its 16th straight game.

Jessica Adair added 11 points and 10 rebounds for the Colonials (23-2, 12-0 Atlantic 10).

## No. 10 Arizona State 80, UCLA 69

LOS ANGELES — Briann January had a career-high 22 points with nine assists and six steals to lead Arizona State over UCLA for the Sun Devils' sixth straight win.

Emily Westerberg and Danielle Orsillo added 12 points apiece for Arizona State (23-3, 15-2 Pacific-10), which remains a half-game behind first-place Stanford in the conference race.

— The Associated Press

# Harvick

Continued from page B1

Speedweeks — Including two-time winner Michael Waltrip, who won the NASCAR race by tampering with his fuel before qualifying and humiliating Toyota in his Nextel Cup debut.

The scandal put the sport in the spotlight for all the wrong reasons and NASCAR stepped up its penalty process to prevent its premier event from turning into a joke.

Finishes like this one might fix everything.

Martin led 28 laps and was cut front when a fire-car accident brought racing to a standstill with five laps to go. It made for an agonizing 11 minutes, 39 seconds for Martin, who sat idly in his car trying to plot his strategy during the stoppage.

When racing resumed with

two laps to go, Martin seemingly needed only to hold off Kyle Busch in a sprint to the finish. He weaved high and then low to block Busch's attempts, which may have distracted him from Harvick.

Running in his own high line, Harvick charged hard on the outside and was side-by-side with Martin when Busch triggered the accident. Neither driver let up as they charged ahead waiting for NASCAR to call it.

Before the frantic finish, the race was shaping up to be a fight to the finish between Tony Stewart and Kurt Busch, who combined to lead 130 of the 200 laps. But they wrecked each other while leading the race with 48 laps to go.

Stewart was leading coming out of the fourth turn when

his Chevrolet wiggled just a bit. Busch, closing fast, couldn't avoid running into Stewart's bumper, and both cars careened into the outside wall.

Busch, who led 95 laps in his bid to give car owner Roger Penske his first Daytona 500 win, was heartbroken.

"We both got taken out of the Daytona 500 on my mistake," he said from inside his car. "I made the first mistake. I apologize to (Stewart), but I know that doesn't mean anything now."

Stewart, who led early but dropped to the back of the field after a pit road miscue, led 35 laps and just had surged back to the front when he wrecked.

It dropped Stewart to 0-for-9 in Daytona 500s, a streak he

was determined to snap when he reported to Speedweeks intent on adding the race to his impressive resume. After winning the Budweiser Shootout exhibition race and a qualifying event Thursday, Stewart had established himself as the favorite and said he'd trade all 11 of his Daytona victories to just win the 500 once.

It appeared to be his race to lose, and he knew it — saying on pit road before the start "this is the best chance I've ever had, the best car I've ever had."

He was surprisingly calm and collected after wrecking.

"It just wasn't meant to be today," he said with a smile. "I'm still disappointed, but we've got a lot to be proud of. We had an awesome Speedweeks."







INSIDE: Classifieds, C2-10 | Jumble, C8 | Sudoku, C5 | Business and Service Directory, C8

## Democrats consider new ways to limit Iraq war

By John Solomon  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Thwarted in their attempt to formally rebuke President Bush, Senate Democrats on Sunday shifted their focus to narrowing the U.S. military mission in Iraq to fighting terrorism, training Iraqi forces and protecting American assets, rather than cracking down on sectarian fighting in Baghdad.

Meanwhile, an influential Republican urged the president to reach out to Democratic leaders in Congress and seek bipartisan legislation on Iraq, citing as a possible roadblock Ronald Reagan's compromise with Democrats on Social Security in 1983.

"My guess is that the president might make headway, and that would be well served by having a bipartisan policy

which does pass ... the House and the Senate. It has, really, a stamp of the American people at a time in which they see the urgency of Iraq," Sen. Richard Lugar (Ind.), the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said on CBS's "Face the Nation."

A day after seven GOP senators joined Democrats in unsuccessfully attempting to condemn Bush's current Iraq policy, the White House offered no sign of compromise.

Instead, it urged lawmakers to give the Bush policy more time to succeed. "The war is tough, but the solution is not to get out," press secretary Tony Snow said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"What I would say to members of Congress is: Calm down and take a look at what's going on, and ask yourself a

simple question: If you support the troops, would you deny them the reinforcements they think are necessary to complete the mission?"

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., took his own hard line, calling Iraq "the worst foreign policy mistake in the history of the country," even worse than Vietnam. "We find ourselves in a very deep hole," Reid said on CNN's "Late Edition."

Democrats revised their aims after failing Saturday to gather enough votes in the Senate to permit debate on a symbolic resolution criticizing Bush's decision to send more troops to Iraq for a crackdown on growing sectarian violence. The House passed such a resolution Friday.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin, D-Mich., rejected calls from some within his party to

push next for legislation cutting off funds for troops in Iraq.

Instead, he and Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Joseph Biden, D-Del., discussed substantially narrowing U.S. troops' mission in Iraq by changing Congress's war authorization in 2002.

"That was a wide-open authorization, which allowed (Bush) to do just about anything," Levin said on "Fox News Sunday." "We, I think, will be looking at a modification of that authorization in order to limit the mission of American troops to support mission; instead of a combat mission."

Levin said he believed such a bill would be a constitutional way to effect change in Iraq without trampling on the president's war powers and was more politically palatable than

cutting off war funding, as some liberals have advocated.

"I don't think there's support to cut off funds," Levin said. "I think that sends the wrong message to our troops. We're going to support our troops, and one way to support them is to find a way out of Iraq earlier, rather than later."

Pressed on what sort of duties U.S. troops should be limited to in Iraq, Levin suggested going after al-Qaida fighters, training Iraqi forces to take over and protecting U.S. diplomats and other assets.

Biden, who is running for the Democratic nomination for president, said on "Face the Nation" that he already was drafting legislation along the lines Levin suggested. Biden said he hoped the bill could be married with "some hard-headed diplomacy" get a political solution between warring factions in Iraq.

## IRAQ Dozens killed by two car bombs

By Ernesto Londano and Nasser Mehdavi  
The Washington Post

BAGHDAD, Iraq — After a brief respite from carnage in Baghdad, the city's skyline on Sunday once again featured a robust, gray cloud billowing slowly from a devastated commercial area that has been the scene of numerous times before.

Two car bombs, placed a few blocks apart in the New Baghdad neighborhood of the capital, exploded in quick succession at 3:30 p.m. An Iraqi official put the preliminary death toll at 40. Other officials quoted by Iraqi television and news services said at least 60 people were killed and more than 100 injured.

"It was complete devastation," said Abu Noor, 40, a calligrapher who was in his third-story apartment in the area when he heard the blasts. "You could see people melting in their cars."

Some residents wondered whether the latest bombings were insurgents' response to reports from Iraqi officials that a newly launched Baghdad security plan had taken a foothold in this battered city.

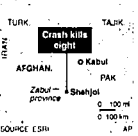
"Those people might be challenging the security plan," said Faris Saliman, 30, a mechanic who works at one of the many parts shops in the targeted area. "They are showing that they have the strength, that they are able to target innocent and poor people. As long as you say we are successful with the security plan, we are also showing we are successful in killing innocent people."

The bombing was the most lethal attack in the country since the security plan was officially launched Wednesday, and it came as thousands of troops, including many American soldiers, are being deployed to intercity security stations. The plan, designed by Iraqi officials, was intended to make the country inhospitable to violent extremist groups by stepping up patrols in neighborhoods, cracking down on unlawfully possessed weapons and tightening security along Iraq's borders.

The first bomb exploded across the street from the Baghdad movie theater, a once-popular cinema where projectors have not been turned on for months.

### Helicopter down

A U.S. military helicopter crashed Sunday in southern Afghanistan, killing eight Americans and wounding 14 others, reports an engine failure.



## American helicopter crashes in Afghanistan

By Sharifullah Azimi and Laura King  
Los Angeles Times

KABUL, Afghanistan — A U.S. military helicopter crashed before dawn Sunday in southern Afghanistan, killing eight American service members and injuring the remaining 14 aboard, military officials said.

The pilot had reported an unexplained loss of power shortly before the twin-engine CH-47 Chinook transport helicopter plunged to the ground in Zabul province, which lies between the Afghan capital, Kabul, and the southern city of Kandahar.

It was the first U.S. military helicopter crash involving multiple fatalities since May, when 10 troops were killed in eastern Kunar province as the pilot tried to set down on a mountainside in the park.

In July 2006, the crash of an Apache helicopter as it was taking off from the NATO base outside Kandahar killed one crew member.

The U.S. military said there was no indication that the crash was caused by enemy fire, although the Taliban are known to be active in the area. The insurgents are expected to intensify their fight against allied troops as mountain snow melt and the weather improves.

Unlike in Iraq, where the downing of U.S. helicopters has emerged as a prime tactic of the insurgents—the Taliban have demonstrated little ability to menace allied aircraft. Only one U.S. helicopter is thought to have been brought down by hostile fire in 2006.

Rough terrain and often-turbulent weather pose substantial dangers to military aviation in Afghanistan. A mixture of rain and snow lashed parts of Zabul province overnight, and the provincial governor, Dilber Jan Arman, said through a spokesman that poor conditions might have been a factor.

"It was rainy and snowy," said the spokesman, Gulab Shah Ali Khail.



Fireworks light up the skyline in downtown Gulyarg in southwest China's Dushuobu province, Sunday, The Lunar New Year, or Spring Festival, started on Sunday and marks the beginning of the Year of the Pig.

## Asians greet Year of the Pig with feasts and prayers

By Alexa Olesca  
Associated Press writer

BEIJING — Asians flocked to temples, parks and Disneyland on Sunday to pray, play, eat, and celebrate the first day of the Lunar New Year, ushering in the Year of the Pig.

At the Lama Temple and White Cloud Temple in Beijing, faithful burned incense and tossed coins at incense burners, believing that if they landed in the pot they would have better luck in the New Year.

At a traditional fair in the capital's Dilan Park, performers sang folk songs and snipped pieces of red and yellow ribbons of people snaking through the park, many carrying

balloons and pinwheels. Vendors sold pork dumplings and other treats, such as freshly made caramel candy sculpted into chubby pig shapes.

The pig symbolizes 12 animals (or mythical animals in the case of the dragon) on the 12-year cycle of the Chinese zodiac, which follows the lunar calendar. According to Chinese astrology, people born in pig years are polite, honest, hard working and loyal. They are also lucky, which is why many Chinese like to have babies in a pig year.

Across China, revelers ushered in the New Year Saturday night and early Sunday morning by exploding firecrackers and fireworks — an ancient

New Year tradition meant to drive away bad luck and scare off evil spirits.

In Beijing, the streets were littered with tattered red paper and the earthenware casings from spent fireworks.

The official Xinhua News Agency reported that in Beijing 125 people were reported injured from fireworks, including one person who lost both eyes. Police said shoddy fireworks were to blame.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao made separate visits to remote villages in poorer areas, chatting and cooking with locals in far western Gansu and northern Liaoning provinces.

Such trips have become an

annual ritual for the leadership — part of efforts to show that the government cares about those living in the countryside, where incomes average only \$100 a year.

He tried dough twists with farmers on the outskirts of Gansu's Dingxi city, helped cut traditional door decorations from red paper, and received a basket of potatoes from a poor farmer. State media said the

China's booming economic growth in the last several decades has pulled hundreds of millions out of poverty, but a growing wealth gap in recent years has exposed cracks that Hu and his government have acknowledged threatens social stability.

## Rice busy between meetings preparing for summit

By Glenn Kesler  
The Washington Post

JERUSALEM — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Sunday shuttled between meetings with Palestinian and Israeli leaders, seeking to lay the groundwork for a successful three-way summit Monday in the face of Israeli anger at a new Palestinian government that includes the militant group Hamas.

Rice made it clear she is staking her reputation as secretary of state on her ability to leverage the talks Monday into a new effort at forging Middle East peace that includes not only the two parties but also Arab

neighbors.

"I am committed to this," Rice told a group of U.S. reporters Sunday night. "This takes hard work. It takes patience, it takes perseverance, it takes getting up after a bad day and trying to make a better day. And that's what I am going to do. As long as I am secretary of state, that's what I am going to do. And that's what the president wants me to do."

Both Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas are politically weakened, making it difficult for either side to make tough compromises. Olmert is also feeding openly with his foreign minister, Tzipi Livni; she is also Olmert's chief political rival, making him less interested in backing diplomacy that might enhance her position.

## Global poll: Most do not believe conflict is inevitable between Muslims and the West

By D'Arcy Doran  
Associated Press writer

LONDON — A majority of people around the world do not believe—the world is locked in a "clash of civilizations" that will lead to violent conflict between Islam and the West, according to findings of a poll published Monday.

The British Broadcasting Corp. World Service poll of more than 28,000 people found that 56 percent of respondents believed "common ground can be found" between Muslims and Westerners, while only 28 percent said violence was inevitable.

The survey also found that 52 percent of people believed that tensions between Muslims and Westerners were caused by political power and interests, com-

pared to 29 percent who said religion and culture were to blame.

The poll was conducted for the BBC by the international polling firm GlobeScan and the Program on International Policy Attitudes at the University of Maryland.

Pollsters questioned about 1,000 people in 27 different countries, including the U.S., Britain, France, Germany, Russia, China, India, Brazil, Mexico and Australia; as well as four predominantly Muslim countries: Egypt, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Indonesia; and two countries with large Muslim populations: Lebanon and Nigeria.

The respondents were interviewed in person and over the phone from November to mid-January. The margin of error ranges from 2.5 percent to 4 per-

cent, depending on the country.

Since the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, countries around the world have struggled with how to deal with Islamic radicalism at home and abroad. The poll's results are hopeful, given they show most people believe differences between Muslims and Westerners can be worked out, said Steven Kull, director of PIPA at the University of Maryland.

"Most people around the world reject the idea that Islam and the West are caught in an inevitable clash of civilizations," he said.

Fifty-eight percent of respondents blamed tensions on militant minorities, not cultural groups as a whole. But 28 percent identified fundamental differences between the cultures as the root cause.



Rice









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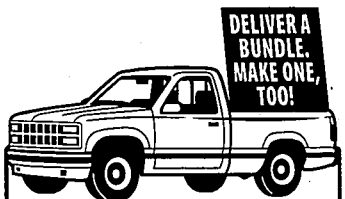
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	<b>Unfurnished Homes</b> TWIN FALLS 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$375 + deposit Call 208-420-5170.	<b>Unfurnished Homes</b> TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm, 1 bath, fenced yard, close to hospital. No smoking \$550 month + deposit. Call 208-251-2172	<b>Unfurnished Homes</b> TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 2 bath, wood hook up, garage \$710 month + deposit. 235 Sunrise #2 Call 208-732-8284
	<b>Unfurnished Homes</b> TWIN FALLS 2 bedroom, 2 bath, approx 1750 sq. ft. dep. no dogs. 438 Adms. Call 208-423-0661	<b>Unfurnished Homes</b> TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 2 bath, in nice area. 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 2 car garage, close to hospital. No smoking \$550 month + deposit. Call 208-251-2172	<b>Unfurnished Homes</b> TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 2 bath, wood hook up, garage \$710 month + deposit. 235 Sunrise #2 Call 208-732-8284
	<b>Unfurnished Homes</b> TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 2 bath, approx 1750 sq. ft. dep. no dogs. 438 Adms. Call 208-423-0661	<b>Unfurnished Homes</b> TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 2 bath, wood hook up, garage \$710 month + deposit. 235 Sunrise #2 Call 208-732-8284	<b>Unfurnished Homes</b> TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 2 bath, wood hook up, garage \$710 month + deposit. 235 Sunrise #2 Call 208-732-8284

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all developing advertisers in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD at (800) 669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is: 800-927-8275.

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<b>TWIN FALLS quiet 2 1/2 bedroom, 2 bath, approx 1750 sq. ft. dep. no dogs. 438 Adms. Call 208-423-0661</b>	<b>TWIN FALLS small 1 bedroom with wash 1275 monthly + deposit. Call 208-424-5028 or 208-410-0199</b>	<b>TWIN FALLS furnished studio, utility. Incl. \$395 mo. + dep No smoking/pets. 735-0473</b>	<b>TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 1 bath, brand new carpet, all top, carpet, vinyl clean, fenced yard. 2 car carport water/garbage area + dep. No pets/smoking. Call 208-734-2997</b>
<b>TWIN FALLS (2) 3 bedroom, 2 bath like new homes in quiet NW Twin Falls. Single level, 2 car garage, fenced yard, town car. No smoking. \$985 month + deposit. Call 222 Andy and 209 Canyon Trail Way. Call 208-420-4187 or 208-404-4345</b>	<b>TWIN FALLS 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$375 + deposit Call 208-420-5170.</b>	<b>TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm, 1 bath, fenced yard, close to hospital. No smoking \$550 month + deposit. Call 208-251-2172</b>	<b>TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 2 bath, wood hook up, garage \$710 month + deposit. 235 Sunrise #2 Call 208-732-8284</b>
<b>TWIN FALLS 2 bedroom, 2 bath, approx 1750 sq. ft. dep. no dogs. 438 Adms. Call 208-423-0661</b>	<b>TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 2 bath, wood hook up, garage \$710 month + deposit. 235 Sunrise #2 Call 208-732-8284</b>	<b>TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 2 bath, wood hook up, garage \$710 month + deposit. 235 Sunrise #2 Call 208-732-8284</b>	<b>TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 2 bath, wood hook up, garage \$710 month + deposit. 235 Sunrise #2 Call 208-732-8284</b>













## Age-defying fitness for boomers and beyond

A 30-minute daily walk is simply not enough. There is much more to becoming—and staying—fit as you age than taking a regular brisk walk.

Unless you do exercises in five domains of fitness—endurance, strength, posture, balance and flexibility—to purposely slow the deterioration that comes with growing older, you become a prime candidate for “boomeritis.”



ALIVE AND WELL  
Jan Mittleider

Age-related structural changes with too little or too much activity at one time set the stage for bursitis, tendonitis, arthritis, sprains, strains and fractures that are loosely lumped under the term “boomeritis.” Actually, the variety of musculoskeletal ailments can happen to boomers and beyond.

“By their 40th birthday, people often have vulnerabilities—weak links. As the first generation that is trying to stay active in droves, baby boomers are pushing their frames to the breakpoint,” says orthopedic surgeon Dr. Nicolas DiNubile.

Musculoskeletal injuries are now the No. 1 reason for seeking medical care in our country. Injury and arthritis are the main reasons people stop exercising. And falls have become the leading cause of injury deaths for both men and women 65 years and older.

“The antidote to aging is activity,” write Marilyn Moffat and Carole Lewis in their recently published book, “Age-Defying Fitness.” “Inactivity magnifies age-related changes, but action maintains and increases your abilities in all five domains.”

See how you do on this quick quiz that assesses the status of your posture, strength, balance, flexibility and endurance:

1. Are you not standing as straight and tall as you once did?
2. Are you getting up from a chair more slowly than you used to?
3. Is standing on one leg difficult for you?

4. Do you get stiff sitting through a long sermon—or a movie?
5. Does walking or jogging a distance take longer than it used to?
6. Is it getting harder to look to either side as you back up your car?

To counter the inevitable declines with age, incorporate regular activities to supplement walking or other cardiovascular workouts. For example:

- Stretch daily using slow, controlled movements to prevent stiffness and maintain joint mobility.
- Strength train to protect against falls and maintain mobility, especially the front and sides of thigh muscles which stabilize the knee and the core muscles of the trunk (back, butt and abdomen) to protect the spine.
- Practice standing on one leg while you're waiting in line to improve static balance.

- Prevent postural slump by purposely lengthening the space between your collarbone and chin to counteract prolonged sitting and working on a computer.
- Sign up for a class or schedule an appointment with a personal trainer to jump-start a commitment to total fitness.

Staying fit reaps benefits beyond personal empowerment. It costs less. Although researchers are just beginning to evaluate the link between health care costs and exercise, prevention costs less than treatment.

In the next 25 years, federal spending on Medicare alone will rise faster than the rate of inflation. This trend is not sustainable. A mere 10 percent reduction in physical inactivity, according to a recent Canadian study, could reduce U.S. direct health care expenditures by \$150 million a year.

It's not too late to change the way we age—and the costs associated with it.

Health educator Jan Mittleider is coordinator of the Over 60 and Getting Fit Program at the College of Southern Idaho.



Colton Homer is manager for the Minico High School football team—and the basketball and track-and-field teams. He handles the grunt work with a smile because he loves to make friends, but he's never given up the dream of playing someday.

# Making the difference

## You don't have to be a star player to benefit from team sports

By Matt Christensen  
Times-News writer

RUPERT — For every Michael Jordan there's a Colton Homer or a Brittany Hardy.

Ever heard of them? Probably not. They're not leading scorers or sports heroes. They've never been carried off a field in glory. They probably never will play professional sports.

But without Hardy, the Kimberly girls' basketball team wouldn't have finished 19-2 this year. Without Homer, the Minico football team might not have tied a school record for wins in a season and won the conference championship.

Without the teams, Homer wouldn't have so many friends, and Hardy wouldn't have learned the value of teamwork.

It takes more than a star scorer to win games, especially in high school sports. Nobody knows this better than Homer and Hardy.

That's not to say Homer and Hardy don't strive to be the best.

Homer tried out for football in eighth grade. Perhaps his lanky body, smiling face and welcoming personality weren't made for bone-crushing hits, and Homer didn't make the team. He was devastated.

But he had more heart than the whole offensive line put together—the coaches said that much—so when Homer asked to be manager, they consented. Fill the water bottles. Hang the jerseys. Run the practice clock. Just having him around

would make their players better.

When Homer entered high school this year, Minico football coach Tim Perrigot appointed him manager of the football team.

“He's really just an outstanding kid,” Perrigot said. “Always willing to help anyway he can. We're lucky he wants to do this. You don't find kids like Colton, and it's our pleasure to have him.”

As much as Homer helped the team, they helped him. The No. 1 reason Homer handles the grunt work with a smile is that he loves to make friends.

“It's really fun because I get to meet new people. They're really nice to me,” he said, implying that he's never in his life has always been so friendly. “The players help me out, and they talk to me.”

Homer was such an excellent football manager, coaches asked him to manage the basketball and track-and-field teams, as well. He was honored to be asked.

Any contact he can get with the teams—even if it's just watching practice—will make him a better athlete, said the 16-year-old.

But isn't it torturous to be on the sidelines day in and day out when it's your dream to play?

Not really, said Homer, who hasn't given up on putting on the pads someday. “I'm OK with it. I don't mind not playing. I get to see what they do and get to learn new things, how to improve myself,” Homer said.

Even athletes who make a team



Brittany Hardy, a starter on the Kimberly girls' basketball team, doesn't make the highlight reel. But she's always hustling on defense, always cheering teammates.

can play whole careers without much fanfare—players like Hardy, a starter on the Kimberly girls' basketball team. She doesn't make the highlight reel, said her coach Rich Bishop, but she's one of the hardest working players on the team. Always hustling on defense, always cheering teammates, Hardy, a senior, leads by example.

“She's a great leader, and she always works hard in practice,” Bishop said. “But she doesn't score a lot of points and doesn't get a lot of recognition.”

Hardy, however, isn't in it for the glory.

She knows that every player on a

team has a role, and she's comfortable with the one she plays. Setting up shooters with a good pass, making a solid pick, playing aggressive defense.

Helping teammates excel is Hardy's reward. It's a lesson in humility, but simply sitting up—just being around the team—has made her a better person, she said.

Same with Homer.

“It's just fun being part of a team,” he said.

Times-News features writer Matt Christensen can be reached at 735-3243 or at matt.christensen@tnnews.net.

# Goals to get me going

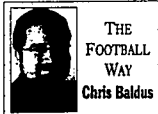
His training project began about three months and 10 pounds ago, and I've hit the dieter's plateau.

So what do I do? Produce for Better Health Foundation says eat five fruits a day.

Mom's old Diet Center books say drink eight glasses of water a day.

A grumpy little old man's little old book I found in my dusty old basement says do 50 push-ups a day.

The little voice in my head says compromise: Eat a fruit-flavored Push-Up frozen treat in eight minutes



THE FOOTBALL WAY  
Chris Baldus

five times a month. I'm not really a dieter.

So, while I'll try to eat better, the answer lies with action and bribes. Walk into any workout palace, and burly men you will never look like ask you about your goals. And my best coaches were great at rewards: “For the love of ...

I need to be jarred. I need to face down my most-hated foe. I need to tilt at windmills. I need to sing an “Impossible Dream ...” Uh, never mind.

do it right or run a mile!” So, I'm going to set some goals and rewards.

Goal: Over one week's time I must do 30 roughly 40-yard sprints starting from my stance.

Former football player uses rewards to motivate training program

## Keep track

News Editor Chris Baldus, 37, a former college lineman, is in training to play in an alumni football game this fall at Augsburg College in Minneapolis. He's tracking his progress in his blog “The Football Way,” which you can read at [www.magnavolley.com](http://www.magnavolley.com).

Why? For you, coach. And I need to be jarred. I need to face down my most-hated foe. I need to tilt at windmills. I need to sing an “Impossible Dream ...” Uh, never mind.

Reward: A new Capt. America T-shirt. I never had one, and Don Quixote's line never really took off.

Goal: Six sessions of four sets of 360s. One 360 is sprinting around a football field once. A set is four times. Exercise motto: “Don't worry, you'll pass out before you die.”

Reward: Contact lenses. It's difficult to play football in glasses. Defensive

Please see GOALS, Page D4

# COMICS

**B.C.** By Johnny Hart



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



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



**Brevity** By Guy & Rodd



**Dilbert** By Scott Adams



**Doonesbury** By Garry Trudeau



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



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



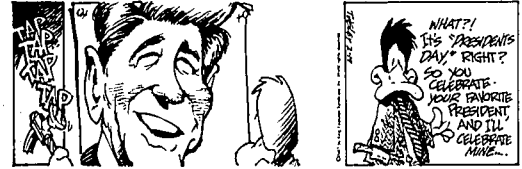
**Frank and Ernest** By Bob Thaves



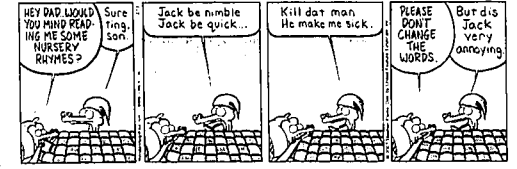
**Luann** By Greg Evans



**Mallard Fillmore** By Bruce Tinsley



**Pearls Before Swine** By Stephan Pastis



**Pickles** By Brian Crane



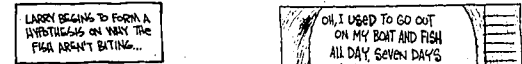
**Rose Is Rose** By Pat Brady



**Zits** By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



**Non Sequitur** By Wiley



**Strange Brew** By John Deering



## Good news has many forms for Gemini

**IF FEB. 19 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY:** Work hard to find ways to use your energy and initiative in constructive ways as this year unfolds. Put your business savvy and street smarts to good use in March and August. Consider running your personal life in the same efficient manner in which you handle your career or business responsibilities. For instance, schedule routine physical checkups and have a regular exercise regime in place. If you do this, when October rolls around and there are a few challenges to deal with, you will be in good shape to handle anything you do and you have your best chance to achieve security.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Competitive spirit can't abate caution. You are capable of making executive decisions and taking the bull by the horns to succeed. Note, however, that you may step on a few toes along the way.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** The clash of the titans causes turmoil. Powerful people might

### HOROSCOPE Jeraldine Saunders

be on a single-minded crusade. Trying to appease someone with a passionate desire might be too big an order to fill.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Good news comes in many forms. Take the time to digest fresh information. Those you deal with in the business world, or on the job, might be motivated by jealousy or greed.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Unmask the masquerader. Flattery could be the sure sign of a spin doctor. Someone might annoy you by flaunting things you can't afford to purchase.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Might makes right. You need not create an argument to defend your territory or stake out your claim. Stand up for your rights and take pride in your ability to take action when it is necessary.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Partners provide flattering mirrors. You attract those with similar traits. Just because money is burning a hole in your pocket doesn't mean you must rush out to buy a new pair of trousers.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** All

that glitter is not gold. Don't make a sizable investment. You can get away with just about anything because others in the immediate vicinity will turn a blind eye to your faults.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Snuggle up to the comfort blanket of creativity. You have talent and resourcefulness to amuse yourself when others stare foolishly at the ceiling. Be proactive about your possessions.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Break the sound barrier. Get in touch with family members or relatives. Don't take the offensive where finances are concerned, but be quick to defend your assets and possessions.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Take the phone off the hook. You may receive more than your fair share of special offers and promotional contacts.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Take pride in your work. Clear your virtual decks so you can make progress towards an important goal.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** The sun moves into your sign today. Perhaps all that means is that your birthday is looming on the horizon—but don't be surprised if your ability to charm people is on the upswing.

COMICS

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Blonde

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



The Born Loser

By Art Sansom & Chip



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



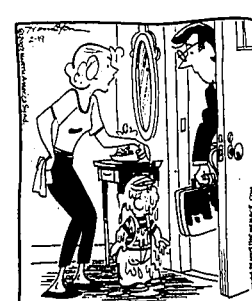
The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



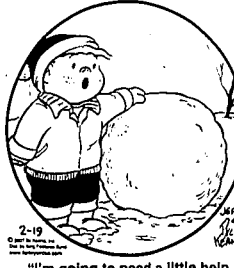
Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Keane



# Wedding isn't right time for brothers to reconcile

**DEAR ABBY:** My brother and I are one year apart and grew up practically as twins. We buried our mother and bought some land together. Then, in our late 20s, my brother met and married a woman. We still lived together, only with hostility and distance.

Five years have gone by, and we now live apart. However, the feelings of hurt still remain — and in fact have intensified. Recently I wrote a letter to him expressing my anger about the past, and he cut me off permanently.

We both understand that we needed to separate and how unfortunate it was that it happened with a lot of anger and resentment. However, I am being married this summer and am unable to decide if I should invite him to the wedding. On the one hand, I don't want to create another wound, but on the other, it feels as if we have finally broken free, and it is time to move on and respect his wish to be rid of me.

I am actually relieved that the end has finally come. The truth is, I'm not even sure if I want him there. But the rest of our family probably will. What do you think?

— GERALD IN SAN FRANCISCO

**DEAR GERALD:** A wedding is the joining together of a couple who hope to spend the rest of their lives committed to each other. It is NOT a time for



**DEAR ABBY**  
Jeanne Phillips

because Carrie and Lee's marital situation bothers you so much, why don't you mention this to them?

After that, however, I would urge you to devote your attention to your own marriage, because how others choose to conduct their lives is no reflection on the sanctity and authenticity of your wedding bands — and frankly, it's none of your business.

feuding brothers to attempt a reconciliation, which could be distracting for all concerned. If you plan to patch things up with your sibling — it before the wedding or don't invite him.

**DEAR ABBY:** It is appropriate for a couple living together — "Carrie" is a widow and "Jack" is divorced — to wear wedding bands on the ring fingers of their left hands? They say they are "married in their hearts" and cannot marry legally for financial reasons.

My husband and I feel that the wearing of wedding bands without following the rules of marriage (i.e., a ceremony conducted by a person licensed to marry and the receiving of a legal document) diminishes the sanctity and authenticity of our own wedding bands and those of all others who are legally married.

— JEAN IN LOS GATOS, CALIF.

**DEAR JEAN:** Couples who find themselves in the situation of the couple you have described sometimes discuss it with their clergyman and exchange vows so they can be "married in the eyes of God."

**DEAR ABBY:** My precious daddy died of cancer seven years ago. My problem is, Mother has never laid him to rest. She keeps his ashes in her dirty garage. She says it's because he wanted all three of us children to be together when his ashes were scattered — but my brother lives 1,000 miles away and hasn't been able to get back home.

I have tried talking to Mom, reasoning with her, even suggesting she drive off one day and do it by herself if it would make her feel better. Still nothing! Isn't this disrespectful? Dad deserves better, but she refuses to let him go.

— STYMIED IN SACRAMENTO

**DEAR STYMIED:** Your mother's inability to let go of your father's ashes is not as unusual as you think. Consider this: Your father is in heaven. The ashes in the garage are but the remains of his discarded earthly shell. If enough time elapses, you can scatter your parents' ashes together.

# Slippery food doesn't get away from penguins

Penguins are perfectly suited for eating slippery seafood. A penguin's bill has a hook at the end, perfect for grabbing dinner. It also has backward-facing bristles on its tongue that keeps fish from wiggling off.

This day in history: When British vessels appeared at the mouth of the Hudson River on Feb. 19, 1647, Holland ceded its colony of New Amsterdam to England without firing a shot. Faster than a New Amsterdam minute, England renamed its new colony New York.

Not all of New Amsterdam got renamed when the Brits took over. For example, Dutch farms were called bouwerijs, and an area they treated with buccolic farms is still called the Bowersy. And Harlem had been named by homesick settlers after Haarlem, their city back in Holland.

Arundo donax is a woody plant that is popularly known as bamboo. There's a good reason for the name—it's the plant they make oboes reads out.

Studies have found that heavy coffee drinkers are 30 percent to 50 percent less likely to develop type 2 diabetes. This wasn't the first health claim for the drink, however. "Coffee is beneficial for miscarriage, hypochondria, dropsy, gout, and scurvy," makes skin exceedingly clear and white... It quickens the spirits, and make the Heart light-some."

The sandshark has not one uterus but two. Although each can house many embryos simultaneously, only one offspring emerges at the end. The embryos battle and the strongest consumes the



**RANDOM KINDS OF FACTNESS**  
Erin Barrett & Jack Mingo

an airplane's wheel well? Not the brightest idea. Since 1947, 79.7 percent of the people who have been known to have tried it died. Those were the ones who were found — experts believe that many more may have tumbled undiscovered into water or remote land.

A vampire bat eats by making a small slice in the skin of a large animal, and then licking a few trickles out of the blood that trickles out.

others before birth. Westward slow Wagon trains heading west averaged only about 1 to 2 mph. Thinking of stowing away in

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**Elder Law Forum**  
Straight Talk on Elder Law and Estate Planning

**VANISHING POA**

**QUESTION: Just prior to her death, my mother gave me a power of attorney to sign an earnest money agreement for the sale of her home. Can I use the power of attorney at the sale closing?**

No. A power of attorney (poa) is ineffective once the principal (authorizing party) dies. This is true even if the instrument was executed as a **durable power of attorney**. Durable means that the poa remains effective even if the principal becomes mentally incapacitated.

The means of conveying title to real property vested in the name of a deceased person is by court appointment of a **personal representative** of the deceased person's estate. In Idaho this is generally a simple procedure.

POAs are a great device, but they have legal limits. Death is one of them.

**Voorhees LaMure LLP**  
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Certified Elder Law Attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation.  
Certified Estate Planning Law Specialist by the Idaho Law Specialist Board, Inc.

# Pilot lucky with the lotto

MAPLEWOOD, Minn. (AP) — An airline pilot from Maplewood won a \$25,000 lottery jackpot — two days in a row.

Raymond Snouffer Jr. matched the winning numbers 11-14-23-26-31 to win Saturday's Northstar Cash drawing with odds of about 170,000 to 1, Minnesota Lottery officials said.

On Sunday, Snouffer stuck with 11 and switched to 3-7-19-28 — and won again.

Lottery officials said such a sequence was so farfetched that the odds against it were "virtually incalculable."

IMAGE

# Bayer Diabetes Care sponsors program

Bayer Diabetes Care is sponsoring a diabetes education program. "Know Your Nutrition," at 6 p.m. Tuesday at the KMVT Community Room, 1100 Blue Lakes Blvd. N., Twin Falls.

Manina Schroeder, registered dietitian from St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, will discuss meal planning, how to count carbohydrates and how to eat to prevent diabetic complications. Participants will receive a free blood glucose meter and measuring cups.

The program is free. Pre-registration is encouraged; call 1-800-800-9666, ext. 9493. For information, call Kurt's Pharmacy at 734-8177.

## Parkinson's support

The Magic Valley Parkinson's Support Group will meet at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Twin Falls Senior Center, 530 Shoshone St. W. Jacqueline Nix Whiting will present information about the center.

The senior center will serve lunch at noon for \$4.50. The lunch and meeting are open to the public. Call Don Arrington at 733-8868 or Ray Clark at 324-5013.

## About diabetes and heart disease

The Diabetes Support Group will host Dr. Samantha Marshall, an internal medicine physician in Gooding and Wendell, to lead a discussion on diabetes and heart issues.

The meeting is for 7 p.m. Tuesday at South Central District Hospital, 1020 Washington St. N., Twin Falls. Use the north entrance.

The meeting is free and open to the public. Call Susie Beem at 737-5946.

## 'Baby and Me'

St. Benedict's Family Medical Center offers "Baby and Me" classes from 11 a.m. to noon Tuesdays at the Jerome Recreation District, 2032 S. Lincoln. This week's topic is "Got the Blues?"

The session is for parents of children from infancy through toddler years. The class is free. Call 324-7262.

## Learn CPR for babies

An infant safety and cardiopulmonary resuscitation class will be offered from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesday in the lobby at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center's downtown campus, 660 Shoshone St. E., Twin Falls.

The program is part of the prepared childbirth course.

## To do for you.

New parents and grandparents can learn about infant CPR, choking, child safety and injury prevention.

The class is free. Pre-registration is not required. Call 732-3148.

## Alzheimer's support

SunBridge Care and Rehabilitation Center will hold an Alzheimer's Support Group meeting at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at SunBridge, 640 Filer Ave. W., Twin Falls.

The support group is open to Twin Falls-area residents who have family members with Alzheimer's. Call Steve Jones or Dawn Meyer at 734-8645.

## Learn adult CPR

An adult cardiopulmonary resuscitation class will be offered from 5:30 to 9:15 p.m. Wednesday at the American Red Cross office in Twin Falls. An instructor will train participants how to prevent, prepare for and respond to breathing emergencies.

Cost is \$34. Prepayment is required. To register, call 1-800-853-2570; go online at www.redcrossidaho.org or stop by the office, 853 Fourth Ave. N., Twin Falls.

## About childbirth

Prepared childbirth classes will be offered from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays, this week through March 21, in the lobby at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center's downtown campus, 660 Shoshone St. E., Twin Falls.

The class includes instruction on wellness of the mother, labor and delivery process with relaxation and breathing techniques, care of the postpartum mother and care of the newborn including breast feeding and bottle feeding, and a video tour of the Women's and Infant Center.

Wear comfortable clothing and bring two pillows and, if possible, a support person.

Cost is \$50. Pre-registration is required; call 732-3148 or go online at www.mvmmc.org.

## Heart health

Gooding County Memorial Hospital will host a presentation on improving heart health, "Cooking For Your Heart," from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday in the hospital's board room.

Sue Ormond, registered dietitian, and Linda Wiggins will

discuss plant-based diets, adding fiber to your diet and recipe modification.

The class is free. Lunch will be provided. Pre-registration is required; call 934-9884.

## Mini Health Fair

St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center is sponsoring a Mini Health Fair from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at Magic Valley Mall (near JC Penney).

The event will include reduced-priced laboratory services, health screenings and free blood pressure checks. These screening tests will be available:

- Lipid Screen (cardiac risk profile includes LDL and LDL, and triglycerides levels) for \$16. Fast for at least 10 hours before the test.
- PSA (Prostate Specific Antigen) for \$25.
- TSH (Thyroid Stimulating Hormone) for \$20.

## About children's hearing loss

Idaho Hands & Voices, a support organization for families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing, will hold a workshop from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Jerome Library, 100 First Ave. E.

The workshop is open to parents, professionals and friends of children with any degree of hearing loss who wish to learn more about Hands & Voices, local resources and each other.

It's free and lunch is provided. Attend the morning session or the entire day. To pre-register, call Lorna Irwin at 324-7544 (v/tty).

## Learn CPR/first aid

A first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation class will be offered from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday in the Sage Room at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center's Education Center, 588 Addison Ave. W., Twin Falls.

The class combines first aid and CPR training under the guidelines of the American Heart Association and includes emergency procedures for mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, chest compression and choking response for adults and infants. The program includes classroom instruction and hands-on practice. Emergency certification is required; call 737-2007.

## Brain injury support

The Brain Injury Support Group will meet from 6:30 to 8

p.m. Feb. 27 at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center's Outpatient Rehab, 560 Shoup Ave. W., Twin Falls. Dr. Craig W. Beaver will present an overview of neuropsychology and traumatic brain injury.

The support group is for people who have had a brain injury and for their family, friends and caregivers. The meeting is free. Call 737-2126.

## About infant CPR

Infant and child cardiopulmonary resuscitation classes will be offered from 5:30 to 9:15 p.m. Feb. 28 at the American Red Cross office in Twin Falls.

Cost is \$35. Prepayment is required. To register, call 1-800-853-2570; go online at www.redcrossidaho.org or stop by the Red Cross office, 853 Fourth Ave. N., Twin Falls.

## Refresher course

A childbirth refresher course will be offered from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Feb. 28 in the lobby at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center's downtown campus, 660 Shoshone St. E., Twin Falls.

It's for those who have previously taken childbirth classes. Childbirth preparation and procedures will be reviewed, along with a video tour of the Women's and Infant Center.

Cost is \$20. Pre-registration is required; call 732-3148.

## Self defense for women

The College of Southern Idaho's Community Education Center will offer a "Self Defense for Women" class from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 3 and 10 in Room 201 of the Canyon Building on the CSI campus.

The class — for women of all ages — teaches basic self-defense techniques, tips on how to be aware of surroundings, and measures to safeguard their own environment. Instructor Gary Taylor is a 10-year law-enforcement veteran with instructional certifications in arrest techniques and ground fighting, and he holds a Blue Belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

Cost is \$30. To register, call 732-6442 or go online at www.csi.edu/community.

"To do for you is a listing of health-related activities, events and education. Submit information by Thursday for publication in the following Monday's image section. Mail notices to: Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83403, or deliver to our office at 132 Fairfield St. W.

# Check in, cough out

## The Washington Post

Hey, you with the suitcase and the head cold: It may have been not the poor ventilation on the airplane but those microorganisms in your hotel room that gave you the sniffles. Researchers at the

University of Virginia found that a cold-infected adult leaves behind transferable viruses on as much as one-third of commonly touched surfaces: TV remote controls, telephones, light switches, doorknobs, etc. during an overnight hotel stay.

**SilverSneakers** Fitness for seniors — even when they travel. Next week in Image

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# The numbers game: How many headaches?

## The Washington Post

18 — Percentage of adults under age 45 who said they

had a migraine or severe headache in the preceding three months

15 — Percentage of people

aged 45 to 64 with migraine or severe headache

7 — Percentage of those aged 65 to 74 reporting having

had such an episode

Source: 2004 National Health Interview Survey. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## Goals

Continued from page D1  
lost some new slacks anyway.  
Goal: 250 pounds.  
Reward: Buy a "Buttstar Galactica" DVD set. By this point I think it will be OK to sit in a chair and watch 60 straight hours of TV. I promise to eat a piece of fruit.

Goal: 240 pounds.  
Reward: Put on my Capt. America T-Shirt, go to a comic book shop and then hide in my basement reading. Hey, this is my middle crisis, eat your own.

Goal: 210 pounds.  
Reward: 10 minutes of peace on a porch with a glass of wine and my wife

talking about how darn good I look now. Then, we'll shift to what we're going to do about my growing bald

spot. See, this one, right here, where my cowlick used to be at the apex of my head.

Chris baldus, Times-News news editor, can be reached at chaldus@magicvalley.com or 735-3259.

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**Have you Pre-planned your retirement?**

Determining whether or not you've planned wisely enough to enjoy a comfortable retirement requires a critical look at several important variables. If you haven't developed a plan yet, remember that it's never too late to begin!

Know your ideal retirement — Do you know what your daily life during retirement will look like? Where will you live? How will you spend your time? How much will this cost?

Consider your life expectancy — The Center for Disease Control estimates that the average 65-year-old can expect to live another 18.4 years. Consider making plans toward the optimistic end of the scale, after all, nobody's ever become disenchanted if the money outlives him or her.

Account for rising medical costs, including long-term care — A 2006 Fidelity Investments study determined that a retired couple without an employer-sponsored health insurance program could anticipate spending \$200,000 on medical expenses during the course of retirement. For these reasons, you should allocate a large portion of retirement savings to cover this expense.

Sit down and discuss your options with a financial professional. Remember, the sooner you begin preparing, the quicker you can enjoy what the future holds.

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TWIN FALLS

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OF COMMERCE

# Business Beat

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

## A Busy Time for Your Chamber!

As we're into the new year and the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce has plenty on its plate. This month's *Business Beat* highlights the awards from the Chamber's Annual Meeting, introduces you to the Chamber's four new Board Members, and has the details on the upcoming Success Breakfast (buy your tickets now!). Our Chamber depends on the active involvement of its membership — so give us a call if you're interested in volunteering for a committee or want to learn more about what you can do to add to our community's economic vitality and quality of life.

*Inside*

**Nominations Needed**

- **Awards Presented at Annual Meeting**

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The Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit business organization providing members a strong voice, vision and focused leadership to enhance the economic vitality and quality of life in our community.

## "Riding the Waves of Success" — 2007 Success Breakfast Coming April 5<sup>th</sup>

et ready for the Success Breakfast, presented by the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors and the College of Southern Idaho. We've added some exciting new aspects to this year's event. Here's the rundown of what's happening:

### Thursday, April 5

7 am — Breakfast (CSI Gymnasium)  
Recognition of Person of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award Winners  
Presentation of Small Business Awards  
8:30 am — Guest Speaker Sharon Allen, Chairman of the Board, Deloitte & Touche USA LLP (CSI Fine Arts Auditorium)  
10:30 am — Breakfast Educational Sessions (non campus) to help you succeed in your business. Featuring Sharon Allen — Fred Ball, Zion's Bank — Idaho Commerce & Labor — CSI — Times-News — Mike Hutchins

Tickets are \$40 and include breakfast, the guest speaker's presentation, and breakout sessions. You can order your tickets at the Chamber office (733-3974) or buy online at [www.twinfallschamber.com](http://www.twinfallschamber.com).

### Special Thank:

An endorsement will be established at the College of Southern Idaho Foundation in Sharon's name to offer local students scholarships in their pursuit of business education. The endorsement is made possible by the generosity of these business underwriters:

The Times-News  
St. Bonielet's Family  
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Garden Cafe  
St. Luke's Magic Valley  
Regional Medical Center  
Syringa Wireless

### More on Guest Speaker Sharon Allen:

From her roots in Kimberly, Idaho, to her first marriage (she left at Deloitte's Boise office more than 30 years ago), to the boardroom of one of the largest professional services firms in the world, Sharon Allen, Deloitte & Touche USA Chairman of the Board learned many lessons about life, relationships and success along the way. Her address "The Changing Face of Business: Talent, Diversity and Values" will outline those first influences and early lessons in business that guide her today as she oversees an \$8 billion organization of nearly 40,000 people in the United States. Allen will also share strategic insights and best practices on a wide range of current issues including talent management, diversity, and the importance of values for competitive success. In 2003, Allen was the first woman elected as Chairman of the Board of a major U.S. accounting and consulting firm. In 2005, she was appointed to serve on the prestigious President's Export Council. This past year, she was named to Forbes list of the "Most Powerful Women in the

World". She remains actively involved in the Idaho community, along with her husband Rich, also from Idaho. Sharon holds an honorary doctorate from her alma mater, the University of Idaho.



Sharon Allen

## Small Business awards to be Presented at Success Breakfast — Nomination Needed!

New this year, the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce will recognize local businesses in 4 separate categories for business success. Nominations are needed in all categories (self-nomination is allowed).

For the purposes of these nominations, small business is defined as a locally-owned or locally-operated business with 1 to 300 employees.

To complete the nomination, please provide the business or individual contact information and details related only to the information requested. Please do not submit additional information such as news clippings, letters of support, copies of other awards, etc. Email to [sharon@twinfallschamber.com](mailto:sharon@twinfallschamber.com) or mail to the Chamber office.

**Small Business Person of the Year** This award is presented to recognize a local small business person who has

demonstrated achievement in ownership or management of a small business, as well as leadership in the business community or to one who has made significant contributions to the small business environment. The individual selected will have demonstrated leadership in bringing about business growth and have an outstanding reputation. Management skills may be demonstrated through many facets, including innovation, cost controls, quality of business performance, problem-solving abilities in response to adversity, etc.

### Special Accomplishment Award 2007

This award recognizes a small business or an organization in business in the community for at least one year for extraordinary achievement other than excellence in entrepreneurship, business growth or cornerstone contributions. Major achievements that are especially noteworthy would be eligible for this

award as would situations where major challenges have been surmounted. Examples might include the following:

- A small business that made an exceptional change in operations or direction with major results

- Situations where owners or employees have exhibited efforts for above and beyond those encountered in normal business relationships
- A small business that overcame adversity, facing a unique circumstance not generally encountered in the normal course of business and made a comeback in spite of odds against it.
- An organization that has provided exceptional assistance to others in business by assisting them in a unique, complimentary or above average manner
- A unique franchise development or other business evolution or process

### Growth Award 2007

This award is given to a business that is locally-owned or locally-operated, in

business at least 3 years under the current ownership or management, and has demonstrated significant or continuous growth in sales, services and employees. Data should show comparative growth over the 3 year time period (all information will remain confidential).

### Entrepreneurial Award 2007

This award is given to a business that is locally-owned or locally-operated, in business at least two years but not more than five years. The business will have demonstrated a creative business approach and current success. It will have had impact on the local business community.

**Deadline for nominations for these Small Business Awards is Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.**

The awards will be presented at the Success Breakfast on Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Business After Hours

Thursday, February 22, 2007

- 5:30pm - 7pm -

Hosted by Key Bank

103 Main Ave. E. - Food, drinks, prizes and FUN!

## Twin Falls Today

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

- 12 Noon -

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## Chamber Banquet a Success!

Thank you to all who attended last month's Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Banquet.

Congratulations to your 4 new Board Members:  
 Jill Stone / Irwin Realty  
 Jody Tremblay / St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center

Cindy Bond / College of Southern Idaho  
 Deb Yoder / Jayco, Inc.

Thank you to our outgoing Board Members:  
 Con Paulos / Con Paulos Chevrolet-Pontiac-GM  
 Jack Jarline / Middlekauff Automotive Group  
 Todd Wadsworth / Cooper Norman

Also - congratulations to the following award winners:  
 Jerry Russo / Clearwater Mortgage - Ambassador of the Year  
 Melissa Peave / Cooper Norman - Volunteer of the Year  
 Intermountain Gas Co. - Charter Member Award  
 The Music Center - Charter Member Award

Bish's RV - Rookie of the Year Award  
 American Real Estate and Appraisal - Curtis T. Eaton Award  
 Dan Willis - 2006 Person of the Year  
 Ruth Dyer - Lifetime Achievement Award  
 Lyle Poppleton - Lifetime Achievement Award

Thank you to the following businesses for their ongoing commitment to the work of the Chamber!

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