

SQUASHING MOSQUITOES

Twin Falls debates abatement district
SEE MAGIC VALLEY, D1



LICENSE TO RUST

License-plate collectors tag along with history.

A MAGIC LIFE

Shoshone man recalls 97 years in the Magic Valley.

Good Morning



High: 49
Low: 32

Mostly cloudy, breezy, cooler.
Details: B5

Times-News

TUESDAY
April 10, 2007
50 cents

MagicValley.com

Water woes

Season supply outlook dismal for Magic Valley

By Matt Christensen
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — For months, water experts have clung to a hope that a string of snow storms and cool weather could ensure a fruitful water year. Now, those hopes have dried up.

A Natural Resources Conservation Service report on Idaho's water outlook indicates the situation in southern Idaho couldn't be much worse. Dismal snowpacks, high temperatures and below-normal precipitation means farmers won't enjoy an outstanding water year, as they did last season.

Instead, farmers may have to plant fewer acres or switch crops.

"It's getting pretty late in the year to make those kinds of decisions," said Ron Abramovich, a water supply specialist with NRCWS. "Usually we're still accumulating (snow) this time of year, and that's just not happening."

In fact, snowpacks that affect Magic Valley irrigators peaked about a month earlier than normal — on March 1 instead of April 1. And much of the precipitation that fell in the past month was rain that sped snow melting.

Surface water irrigators rely on runoff from mountain snowpacks for much of their irrigation water. This year, storage water will be their crutch.

Lucky for farmers, strong snowpacks last season led to excess runoff that filled storage reservoirs.

Nevertheless, the Twin Falls Canal Co. has said it will offer their irrigators less water than last year, and they may cut back even further later in the season if the storage water gets used up.

Canal company head Vince Alberdi said in a previous interview that his company will tap reservoirs sooner than it would like because of the dismal snowpack.

That puts farmers off on the wrong foot going into next year's season. With little or no storage water to fall back on, farmers will be entirely dependent on snow. And if next year is anything like this one, farmers could be left high and dry.

Contact staff writer Matt Christensen at 735-3243 or matt.christensen@tee.net.

Burley native killed



Curtis Hall poses with two unidentified girls in this undated photo. Hall, 24, of Burley, was killed near Kirik while assigned to defusing and detonating bombs.

Sailor killed while defusing bombs in Iraq

By David Calvoop
The Daily Herald

EVERETT, Wash. — Petty Officer 2nd Class Curtis Hall, 24, of Burley was the type of man you might expect to volunteer to defuse bombs. To save people.

The towering 6-foot-7-inch former high school basketball player "was like a ray of sunshine," said his sister, Brenda Thibeault, 37. "He loved to tease and play, but knew where the line was. He always knew how just to have fun."

He was already a hero long before he died Friday in Iraq, while assigned to defusing and detonating bombs. Hall was probably killed by an improvised explosive device, or IED, although no specifics have been released, said a spokeswoman for Navy public affairs at the Pentagon.

As a lanky 14-year-old Boy Scout, he was credited with saving his father's life in a rafting accident in the rapids along the Salmon River.

A fierce windstorm worked a boulder loose from a cliff. A chunk split off, hitting Hall's father in his arm and head, breaking his arm and knocking him unconscious.

He plunged face down into the water.

Even though the teen himself was hit on the arm and injured by another chunk of rock, he jumped out of the raft in an attempt to save his father.

But he couldn't flip him over on his own.

One of Hall's older brothers, Randy, 16 at the time, jumped in after them, and together the boys grabbed their father and swam him to shore.

The young men were awarded the Boy Scout's Honor Medal, for unusual heroism and skill in saving a life at considerable risk to themselves.

Their story was featured in Boys Life, the official magazine of the Boy Scouts of America.

Years later, the brothers would join the Navy, both again, which she briefly did in Silicon Valley.

"I won't settle for less," Gardiner says.

She probably won't have to, given the thriving market for what the government calls "private household workers."

"I just filled nine positions, and I could have filled another nine - immediately," says Christopher Baker, who runs Christopher Baker Staffing in Los Angeles.

"The wealthy are living larger than ever. Forget about second homes. Now you have a third home, a fourth home. And these aren't little shacks.



A young Curtis Hall shows off his Eagle Scout award and The Honor Medal, given by the Boy Scouts of America to Scouts who demonstrate unusual heroism and skill in saving or attempting to save a life at considerable risk to themselves. Hall helped save his father's life during a rafting accident on the Salmon River.

As salesman and guy, Idaho's Otter likes his locales exotic

By John Miller
Associated Press writer

BOISE — When Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter and his 35-member entourage — including eight people from the Magic Valley — make landfall in Cuba today for a four-day trade mission, he can draw on his past experience in island nations.

In 1981, Otter had a personal audience with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos in his Manila presidential palace over a proposed \$50 million french fry processing plant for spud-king J.R. Simplot, Otter's employer at the time.

Afterward, an upset Otter said Marcos was even eyeing a trip to Idaho.

Marcos never made it to Idaho; he was run out of the Philippines in 1986.

Sull: in Otter's first official out-of-country trip as chief executive, he's continuing what's almost an avocation: Traveling to high-profile yet out-of-the-way locales with specialty political pedigrees in search of new markets for Idaho products. In addition to his Philippine fling 25 years ago, Otter has already been to Cuba three times, as a Republican U.S. House member or a lobbyist-funded trips.

With Cuba's communist dictator Fidel Castro ailing, Otter is among those optimistic that

Please see CUBA, Page A3

Otter's Cuba entourage

- (Magic Valley residents in bold)
- Gov. Otter and his wife, Lori
- State Department of Agriculture Director Curtis Gould and his husband, former House Speaker Bruce Newsum
- Rep. Torri Hall, Ft. Moscow and chair of the House Agriculture Affairs Committee
- State Agriculture Department official Laura Johnson
- State Department of Commerce and Labor spokeswoman Sarah Freeman
- Brigham Young University, Idaho business faculty Fernon Broadhead and Bruce Joseph
- Randall Lindley of Dargold
- Elizabeth Nutland of the Hands of Hope medical mission
- Bob Newcomb and Jim Stewart, of the Idaho Dairyman's Association
- Carl Hoenesberg, vice president of the Idaho Farm Bureau
- Matt Gellings and Scott Brown of the Idaho Grain Producers Association
- Frank Fair and Patrick Kole of the Idaho Potato Commission
- Jon McCune of Idaho State
- Ed Lehmann of Idaho
- Frank Vandenberg of Idaho
- (Non-Magic Valley residents)
- Sylvia Sand Cook of Idaho
- Mark Walker of Idaho
- Greg Walker and Jim Leachman of the Ted Miller Dairy
- Marty Peterson and John Heston of the University of Idaho
- Greg Heston and Joe Peterson of NRCWS/Independent
- (Other) Idaho residents



Peggy Gardiner, 51, is a professionally trained cook, good with kids, an expert on laundry and adept at bookkeeping. She's eager to get back to serving.

Wanted: Servants to care for the rich and richer

By David Strubel
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The rich might be getting richer, but their lives are hardly trouble-free. In Southern California, there aren't enough servants to go around.

Wealthy families need more chefs to prepare meals, more maids and butlers to serve them, more housekeepers to keep mansions tidy, and more nannies and night nurses to tend offspring.

All this demand is putting Peggy Gardiner in a pretty position. She's professionally

trained cook, good with children, an expert on laundry. She can do light bookkeeping and boss others. In her last gig, she oversaw a staff of six on a \$15 million estate near San Diego.

"My job is like being the best, most organized wife," Gardiner says. "I'll do almost anything to make you comfortable."

She's looking for a minimum of \$80,000 a year, plus housing, health insurance, three weeks' paid vacation and what she calls "good vibes," which means she doesn't want to work for a manic-depressive

again, which she briefly did in Silicon Valley.

"I won't settle for less," Gardiner says.

She probably won't have to, given the thriving market for what the government calls "private household workers."

"I just filled nine positions, and I could have filled another nine - immediately," says Christopher Baker, who runs Christopher Baker Staffing in Los Angeles.

"The wealthy are living larger than ever. Forget about second homes. Now you have a third home, a fourth home. And these aren't little shacks.

They need staffs."

The number of private household workers jumped 67 percent in Southern California over the last five years to nearly 150,000, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This total doesn't include illegal-immigrant nannies and gardeners or anyone paid off the books.

Dennis Meyers, principal economist at the California Department of Finance, says such strong growth isn't surprising. "We have so many new millionaires," he says.

Please see SERVANTS, Page A3



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TODAY'S FORECAST

TWIN FALLS

Today Tonight Wednesday

WINDY Breezy to windy and cool High 49 Low 32 56 / 36

MINI-CASSIA

Today: Breezy to windy and mostly cloudy. It will be cool as well with isolated showers. Highs upper 40s.

Complete weather report: See page B6

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

The Oakley Stingers will team annual Spring Review, 7 p.m., Oakley High School, 83, 862-3328.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

West Cassia Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors meeting, 11 a.m., Burley NRCS office, 1361 E. 16th St. 878-1125, ext. 35.

EDUCATION

"Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" book discussion by Cynthia Toppen, 7 to 9 p.m., Buhl Public Library, no cost, 543-6500.

GOVERNMENT

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

HEALTH

College of Southern Idaho's Over 80 and Getting Fit programs, a guided walking workout with stretching and gentle resistance training, 9 to 10 a.m. at Elder Elementary, 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. at Hayden High School.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

Burley Bluegrass Jam, traditional bluegrass focus (all skill levels welcome), 7 to 10 p.m., The Chadwick Grille, 139 W. Main St., cor. E. of Main and Oakley, Burley, 870-4868 or robcurtis2@gmail.com.

MUSEUMS

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

MINI EDITORIAL

The unfairness of the Mini Editorial
It takes 64 words for the Times-News editorial staff to explain the rules I need to follow when writing a 50-word mini-editorial.

MINI EDITORIAL

Want to submit a Mini Editorial? Send it by e-mail to mini@magicvalley.com. Include the writer's name, address and daytime telephone number.

YOUR MORNING BRIEFING

MAGIC VALLEY



Plate collectors tag along with history

BURLEY — Whenever Dan Crane and his wife go on vacation, they make a lot of stops at junkyards.

Man recalls life in Bliss, Gooding and Stanley

SHOSHONE — A hundred years ago, Idaho Gov. Frank R. Gooding took it into his head to name a Magic Valley town after himself, and Gooding, Idaho, was born.

Burley native killed while serving in Iraq

BURLEY — A Burley native was one of three sailors killed Friday while assigned to defusing and detonating bombs in Iraq.

Experts give up on water year

TWIN FALLS — For months, water experts have clung to a hope that a string of snow storms and cool weather could ensure a fruitful water year.

Cassia upholds zoning decision on CAFD

BURLEY — Cassia County commissioners — Lella County — have upheld a zoning decision allowing Dan and Carla Ward a permit to build a dairy southwest of Burley.

Jerome commissioners consider overtime issue

JEROME — The Jerome County commissioners will again talk about the issue of nearly \$70,000 in illegal overtime paid to their predecessors.

OBITUARIES

Wayne R. Bates, 81; Thelma Mae Murphy Pullin, 83; Willis R. Rider Fowler, 82; Wilda Ellen Worthington, 84

CORRECTION

Meth group's director to visit in October
Dr. Mary E. Holley, the founder and director of Mad Mothers Against Methamphetamine, will visit the Magic Valley from Oct. 22 to 26.

IDAHO/WEST



Otter leads 35-member trade mission to Cuba

BOISE — When Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter and his 35-member entourage make landfall in Cuba Tuesday for a four-day trade mission, he can draw on his past experience with island nations.

Idaho's cities show no sign of slowing

BOISE — Idaho's biggest cities and urban areas showed no signs of any slowdown in population growth last year, with four ranking among the nation's 65 fastest-growing cities.

Appeals court rejects Bush salmon plan

GRANTS PASS, Ore. — A federal appeals court Monday strongly rejected the Bush administration's novel 2004 plan for making Columbia Basin hydroelectric dams safe for salmon.

Rexburg's only bar closes doors for good

REXBURG — They're crying in their souls. In this Mormon town after its last bar made its last call, Miller's Hideaway, is no more.

Polar bear plan draws plenty of comment

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — More than 500 people have commented on a proposal to list polar bears as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act.

NATION/WORLD



Suspect in shooting had recently lost job

TROY, Mich. — A man suspected of shooting three people, killing one, at an accounting firm where was fired last week was arrested after a high-speed chase a few hours after the Monday morning attack, authorities said.

Iran says it expanded uranium enrichment

NATANZ, Iran — Iran announced a dramatic expansion of uranium enrichment Monday, saying it has begun operating 300 centrifuges nearly 10 times the previously known number — in defiance of U.N. demands it halt its nuclear program or face increased sanctions.

Guard units tapped for possible Iraq tour

WASHINGTON — Some 13,000 National Guard troops are receiving notice to prepare for possible deployment to Iraq, which would be the second tour for several thousand of them.

Tens of thousands of Shiites protest in Iraq

BAGHDAD — Tens of thousands of Shiites — a sea of women in black abayas and men waving Iraqi flags — rallied Monday to demand that U.S. forces leave their country.

Bush visits border to tout immigration plan

YUMA, Ariz. — President Bush visited the U.S.-Mexico border Monday to tout a guest-worker program for immigrants, pursuing a key domestic policy goal despite chilly relations with Congress.

Radio star fighting for job after racial insult

NEW YORK — CBS Radio and MSNBC said they were suspending Don Imus' morning talk show for two weeks following his insulting reference last week to members of the Rutgers women's basketball team.

SPORTS



Players cope with snowfall, wind chill

NEW YORK — Play (snow)ball after a frosty first week, baseball quickly made a move for warmth and shifted the Los Angeles Angels' series against the Indians from Cleveland to an enclosed field in Milwaukee.

Iowa celebrates Zach Johnson's Masters win

DES MOINES, Iowa — Asked to describe himself shortly after his Masters victory Sunday, Zach Johnson said, "I'm from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. That's about it. I'm a normal guy."

McNeley ties for second at Buhl Invite

BUHL — Twin Falls golfer Abby McNeley tied for second in the Class 5A-1A division of the Buhl Girls Invitational at Clear Lake Country Club on Monday.



Arkansas names new men's hoops coach

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — John Pelphrey was introduced as Arkansas' new basketball coach Monday — and he says he'll still be Arkansas' new coach when he goes to sleep Tuesday night. "I'm not getting anywhere," Pelphrey said. "But I have heard the first day is the toughest."

COMING TOMORROW

BETTER BEANS
A small coffee stand roasts its own. WEDNESDAY IN FOOD & HOME

ON THE NET

Cast your vote at magicvalley.com
Should for mer Jerome County commission return almost \$70,000 in overtime they paid them selves?

Times-News

Table with subscription rates for different regions (PULP, ONLINE, CIRCULATION, ADVERTISING, CARRYOVERS) and contact information for the Times-News office.

Hall

Continued from page A1

serving in combat in Iraq. Handy Hall was wounded in Iraq in 2003 when his Humvee was attacked, killing a sailor beside him.

He is now attending college in Dillon, Mont.

The Navy has agreed to fly him to a military mortuary in Dover, Del., this week to escort his brother's body to their family home in Burley.

Thibeault, 37, said saving their father's life was characteristic of her fallen brother, who would later volunteer for the dangerous job of dismantling bombs in the Navy.

Hall earned three medals as a specialist in defusing and exploding bombs underwater, a Pentagon spokeswoman told the *Times-News* on Monday.

He was the youngest of five children from a family in Burley.

After hearing the news, neighbors of Hall's parents and the Boy Scouts lined their cul-de-sac with 67 American flags.

Hall enjoyed shooting guns, riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycle, driving Jeeps and running around in his new snowmobile, Thibeault said.

Chuck Fogel, 24, of San Diego, became friends with Hall in Florida where the two were training to be explosive ordinance disposal technicians.

They became fast friends and spent many nights hanging out together, Fogel said.

"He loved the outdoors," he said. "He loved to go up in the mountains and go (four-wheeling) with his Jeep. He had a huge Jeep with huge tires."

He also had a more artistic side, learning to play guitar, piano and trombone, Thibeault said.

He also was family oriented, always taking time to visit his siblings.

He called his mother, Pam, who is an elementary school teacher, on her birthday Thursday, the day before he was killed. It was his second tour of duty in Iraq.

During his first tour, Hall, a certified diver, trained dolphins to locate and clear mines.

Between tours, Hall visited his family for Christmas, and bought the snowmobile he kept in his parent's garage.

Thibeault said her family is still numb and in shock, try-

ing to cope with the loss of the young man who always seemed so full of joy.

She said her family has turned for comfort to letters at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, where they attend.

"My parents don't blame anyone, the war, or the Navy," she said. "But in some ways, they don't feel it's fair because he was such an amazing person. It's not fair to take somebody like that, but there's a reason for everything, and someday we'll know that reason."

One of Hall's older brothers, Michael, died of a mysterious illness in 2003.

Shortly before his death, he posted a tribute on the Web to his brothers, who were both in the Navy at the time.

"My younger brothers are heroes," he wrote. "Not only to me and my family but to the whole community of Burley, Idaho."

Funeral arrangements are pending and will be announced by Rasmussen Funeral Home of Burley.

Times-News reporter Cassidy Friedman contributed to this report.

CSI SUCCESS STORIES

Become a Programmer Work in a Leadership Position at CSI

<p>Rafael Bovee CSI Graduate • A.S. Mathematics, CSI • A.S. Electrical Engineering, CSI</p> <p>From CSI, Rafi transferred to Boise State University where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics. She currently works as Programmer Analyst at United Heritage Life Insurance Company in Boise.</p>	<p>Todd Behrman CSI Graduate • A.A.S. Drafting Technology, College of Southern Idaho • B.S. Vocational Education, University of Idaho • M.S. Educational Technology, Boise State University</p> <p>Todd is currently working on his doctoral degree in Education through University of Idaho. He is Instructional Dean at CSI.</p>
<p>Monica Arreaga CSI Graduate A.A. Secondary Education</p> <p>From CSI Monica transferred to Idaho State University where he earned a B.S. in Secondary Education and is currently working on a M.S. in Human Resource Training and Development through ISU's extension program at CSI. Monica is the Director of Human Resources at CSI. He is also among the top 1000 leaders in the world - he won the world championship of color and shape racing in 2005 and again in 2007.</p>	<p>Cynthia Larivick CSI Graduate • A.A. Finance, CSI • A.A. General Business, CSI • A.A. Management, CSI</p> <p>Cynthia transferred to Boise State University from CSI where she studied finance. He currently works as Banker/Accountant at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in Berkeley California.</p>

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Nominees must be either CSI graduates or current and former CSI students.

Cuba

Continued from page A1

political change will help turn the island's 11 million residents into big consumers, in March, Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman was the latest U.S. official to visit Cuba, which bought \$340 million in U.S. farm products in 2006.

"He's (Otter) going down there to sell groceries," said Jon Hanlan, Otter's spokesman. "It isn't to be adventurous. It's an opportunity to make some sales."

In 2004, on a mission to Cuba with U.S. Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, Otter gave Castro several bottles of wine from Idaho and got flowers and Cuban cigars in return.

This March 13, Otter told reporters he had a "respectful" relationship with Castro; the U.S. State Department is trying to oust him from power with an embargo (it doesn't include food) and travel restrictions on U.S. residents.

"The thing that irritates me the most about the State Department's policy toward Cuba is that it's not a policy toward Cuba," Otter said at an Idaho Press Club-sponsored

event. "You're a free American, you should be able to travel anywhere you want, whenever you want."

Back in 2004, Cnigard Otter signed a potential \$10 million nonbinding deal with Cuba for Idaho agricultural products. Still, the Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor has on

record just \$22,616 in sales to Cuba in the last decade — a shipment of frozen potatoes.

Cuba is trying to expand its oil and natural gas, and it's experimenting with turning some of its sugar into ethanol. When its natural resources take off, Otter says, so will demand.

Servants

Continued from page A1

More than a quarter-million households in the States and have incomes exceeding \$200,000 a year, according to census data, up 45 percent since 1999. There are multiple reasons for the rise, including a robust stock market. President Bush's 2001 tax cuts, the recent real-estate boom and an entrepreneurial economy good at creating wealth.

The burgeoning service industry now has its own glossy magazine, *CelebStaff*: Managing Mansions and Estates. Its offices are in Beverly Hills.

"For the average Joe, this type of lifestyle is unimaginable," write the *CelebStaff* editors, "but those that live it will have it no other way."

If the average Joe only knew, those in the field say, he could be upgrading his own life by working for the wealthy.

He could be making \$50,000, \$60,000, \$70,000 a year as a mansion in Bel Air with museum-quality furnishings rather than cooped up as a \$9-an-hour computer programmer in a cubicle in Mid-Wilkes," says Baker, who started his company in 2004 after a stint as a recruiter for a search firm.

Peggy Gardiner joined the ranks after signing up with Stanley International Institute for Household Management in Denver. Founded in 1989 by Mary Louise Stanley, it's one of the few comprehensive training programs for what Stanley, in another terminology upgrade, calls "household or estate managers." Cost of the eight-week course: \$13,000.

Starkey also acts as a placement agency. She says the demand for trained household managers is so great she could immediately find jobs for "hundreds of thousands" of them.

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Kissables Sundae or Shake

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Market Watch

April 9, 2007

Dow Jones Industrials	12,569.14
Nasdaq Composite	2,490.18
Standard & Poor's 500	1,444.61
Russell 2000	811.64

Stocks of local interest

close	change
Dell Inc.	23.71 ▲ 20
Lithia Motors	27.46 ▼ .10
Supervalu	39.88 ▲ 93

Commodities

close	change
May Oil	63.51 ▼ 2.77 (Light sweet crude by barrel)
May gold	871.90 ▼ 2.30

For more, see page A5

Logging off?
That might cost extra

Internet customers may pay special fee for dumping service provider

By John Danaher
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Breaking up with your Internet service provider isn't hard to do — but it may cost you.

Customers who subscribe to a high-speed Internet plan may pay \$150 or more if they terminate their service before their contract has expired, according to a new survey from Consumers Union, the nonprofit publisher of Consumer Reports magazine.

The practice is well known among cell phone providers — early termination fees in that industry run from \$150 to \$240 per line, according to the group.

The goals of the fees are largely the same — to cut down on "churn," the process of customers dumping one service provider to pursue greener pastures with another.

Jeanine Kenney, a senior policy analyst with the group, said the penalties "deprive consumers of the benefits of competition."

Broadband companies that assess termination fees, such as Verizon Communications Inc., say they are justified because customers who sign up receive a special low rate and other benefits.

Bobby Henson, director of media relations for Verizon, told Consumers Union that the company charges a fee to "regain what we have been giving the customer for free."

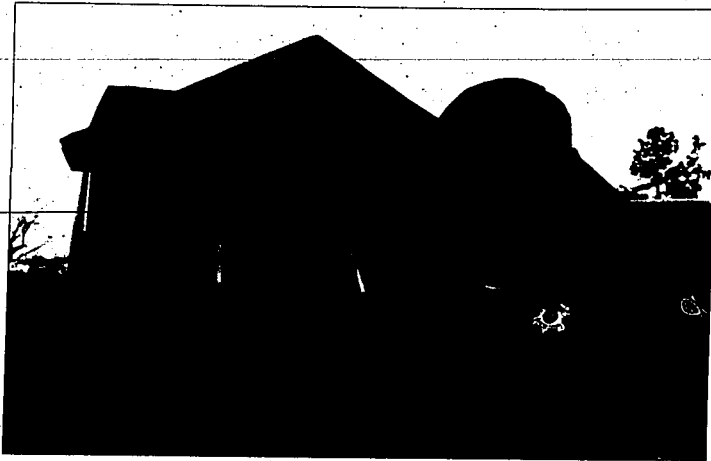
Henson said in addition to offering free installation and sometimes free equipment, customers also save \$2 to \$8 on their monthly rate.

Pricing broadband competition can be difficult. Broadband is rarely priced as a stand-alone service. Whether offered by a telephone company or a cable company, it is usually bundled with other services such as voice and video.

The advantage to the customer is easier billing and usually a price break. But the down side is if they drop one of the services to pursue a better deal elsewhere, they lose the discount.

Loyal customers produce steady, predictable revenue. Churn is an important measure when Wall Street analysts evaluate the health of subscriber-based companies.

Peacekeeper



Lexington County Deputy Sheriff Jon Shokes speaks about having to give foreclosure notices to people behind in their house payments, after serving notice to a home recently in Lexington County, S.C.

Deputy works to make sure emotions are kept in check during home foreclosures

By Pam Ivy
Associated Press writer

LEXINGTON, S.C. — Deputy Jon Shokes knows a few things about you by the time he shows up on your doorstep.

He knows whether you or anyone who lived at your home has ever been to jail. He knows if police have ever been called to the house.

And, with his roll of industrial-strength tape and an eviction notice in hand, Shokes also knows that you haven't made your mortgage payments.

"Like anything else I do in law enforcement, I want as much information as possible to keep myself safe," Shokes said during one recent day spent posting some of the 150 eviction notices he's served in the past 18 months. So far this year, he's on pace to serve about 120 notices — about the same as last year.

As mortgage foreclosures increase around the country, it's left to Shokes and other law enforcement agents to complete the final steps in the wrenching process of forcing a family from a home. It's a lengthy trail that leads from notices of late payments to court hearings before being handed to someone like Shokes. When it goes smoothly, he often finds a family has moved out before he posts the final, 60-day eviction notice on a door.

The few times it's gone badly, emotions run high.

"I guess the hardest part, and I don't run across it a

Delinquent loans

The national delinquency rate on mortgage loans rose to 4.95 percent in the fourth quarter of 2006, up from 4.87 percent in the previous quarter.

All loans	National
4.87	4.87 mortgage loan delinquency rate, by type
Prime	2.44
Subprime	2.57
30/28	4.20
30/28	12.50
30/28	12.80
30/28	11.10
30/28	5.93
30/28	6.90

Federal Housing Administration
Veterans Administration

NOTE: All data is seasonally adjusted and includes mortgage loans on one-to-four-unit residential properties.

SOURCE: Mortgage Bankers Association; AP

whole lot, is when they have children and the children don't understand. They see the uniform, they see the car, so I kind of work a little bit harder," said Shokes, a 20-year veteran.

So Shokes, the only deputy who serves foreclosure notices in Lexington County, does his research. He also makes three attempts to contact a homeowner before posting the eviction notice. He stops by at different times of the day and chats for a spell, mostly to make sure they understand what's about to happen.

"I just don't arbitrarily walk into this and say OK, I'm going to serve someone with some papers and tell them that they've got to be out of their house at this date and this time," he said with, "he

"Most people — I'd say probably 99 percent of them — understand why they're losing the home and they don't take that out on me."

— Deputy Jon Shokes

said. "Most people — I'd say probably 99 percent of them — understand why they're losing the home and they don't take that out on me."

He's been fortunate to have avoided "major problems," he said, but "it's still a very dangerous situation any time you're taking something from someone."

The notices effectively start a clock ticking toward a deadline for a family to vacate a home, which is usually the next time Shokes will arrive at their door.

Home to about 240,000 people in central South Carolina, Lexington County's foreclosures typically have stemmed from divorces, job losses or illnesses that leave people unable to pay mortgages, according to the stories Shokes has heard from the people he has evicted.

But the fastest growing area of mortgage foreclosures are high-priced loans made to people with problem credit — also called subprime loans. Many of those mortgages came with low introductory rates and payments, but as the rates have risen, borrowers are finding it more difficult to make payments.

In the last three months of 2006, about one of every 14 of those adjustable rate mortgages in the state was in foreclosure, according to the

Association. One consumer advocate group predicts that rate will increase to 17 percent for those loans made in South Carolina last year.

One day last month, Shokes made his rounds through Lexington County's tree-lined, middle-class neighborhoods, stopping at mostly middle-class, ranch-style homes on quiet streets.

On his first visit before posting a notice, he knocks on a door and — if nobody's home — he looks in windows to see if people are still living there and checks the meter to see if the electricity is still on. He can tell if power was cut off because the customer requested it or because they didn't pay the bills.

At one stop, when no one came to the door, Shokes touched the hood of the car parked outside — still warm. "I think someone's avoiding me on this one," he said.

Every so often, Shokes arrives at a home to find the residents in denial. They haven't prepared to leave, and eventually a bank sends a moving company to pack their things.

"I've had some that didn't want to leave," he said. "They don't believe that someone is actually going to take all their personal belongings and put them out on the street."

De Rato predicted last month that global growth for all of this year will clock in at close to 5 percent. De Rato said that would be the strongest five-year span for the world economy since the late 1960s.

"Projections will be released this week ahead of the spring meetings of the 185-nation IMF and the World Bank on April 14-15."

"Some of the risks are different, and there is greater consciousness of the uncertainties and paradoxes that lie behind our current prosperity," he said.

McDonald's to pay 1 cent more per pound for salad tomatoes

Move will help boost wages for migrant harvesters

By Laura Wides-Munoz
Associated Press writer

MIAMI — McDonald's Corp. agreed Monday to pay a penny more per pound for its Florida-grown tomatoes to help boost wages for the migrant workers who harvest them, following a two-year campaign by an advocacy group that called for the increase.

Under the agreement, a third party will verify that farmworkers who pick

McDonald's tomatoes will receive the increase. Oak Brook, Ill.-based, McDonald's will also require its suppliers to follow a workplace code of conduct that the workers would help create.

The deal involves payments for grape tomatoes that go to McDonald's, said a spokesman. McDonald's USA spokesman William Whitman said the cost would not be passed on to consumers.

The announcement was made by the nonprofit Coalition of Immokalee Workers and the nation's biggest fast-food restaurant chain at the Atlanta-based Carter Center, where they negotiated the deal.

The coalition targeted McDonald's in 2005 and were about to launch a cross-country bus tour to protest in front of the company's headquarters before the deal was signed.

The coalition had previously won similar concessions from Taco Bell after a four-year boycott against the restaurant chain, which is part of Yum Brands Inc. Numerous religious groups, including the Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Council of Churches lent support to the coalition's efforts.

"This is one step forward in the light," said coalition co-leader and farmworker Lucas Benitez.



Bob Langert, Corporate Social Responsibility executive at McDonald's, left, shakes the hand of Lucas Benitez, with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, at the Carter Center in Atlanta, Monday.

Not in the clear yet

IMF head: Global economy threatens lessening but policymakers must remain on guard

By Jeanine Aversa
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Threats to the global economy have lessened a bit in recent months, but policymakers must remain on guard nonetheless, the head of the International Monetary Fund said Monday.

The remarks by IMF chief Rodrigo de Rato come as investors have fretted about the severity of the housing slump in the United States and its impact on the rest of the world.

"Where is the global economy now? I do not think that the risks are greater than they were six months ago. Actually, I think they are a little lower," de Rato said in a speech to the Peterson Institute for International Economics.

Last week, an IMF report concluded that so far the economic slowdown in the United States — the world's largest economy and biggest importer — has had only a "small effect" on global economic activity.

Even so, de Rato said global economic policymakers must remain vigilant to potential dangers and not be lulled into a false sense of security.

"Central banks around the world have established credibility in taming inflation, and their task has been made easier over the last six months by lower oil prices," de Rato said. "But the risk that political events could disrupt the global economy remains."

So-called "global imbalances" — skewed trade and investment patterns, which are a threat to the world's longer term economic stability, continue, he said. And, an increased willingness by some financial players to take risks "has produced some questionable lending and borrowing," de Rato said.

"If political leaders don't think that global imbalances are important, or are complacent about financial market developments, it is more difficult to persuade them to take the actions needed to sustain global prosperity," he warned.

De Rato predicted last month that global growth for all of this year will clock in at close to 5 percent. De Rato said that would be the strongest five-year span for the world economy since the late 1960s.

"Projections will be released this week ahead of the spring meetings of the 185-nation IMF and the World Bank on April 14-15."

"Some of the risks are different, and there is greater consciousness of the uncertainties and paradoxes that lie behind our current prosperity," he said.

EDITORIAL

Allen delivers the goods at local chamber event

Sharon Allen may not have the name recognition of a Dick Cheney, Gerry Spence, Henry Kissinger or Joe Theismann. But unlike those past speakers for The Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce's Success Center, she certainly knows the local audience.

Allen, a Magic Valley native, delivered a fine-tuned and noteworthy performance Thursday at the College of Southern Idaho. The chairman of the board for Deloitte and Touche USA, one of the four major accounting corporations in the country, Allen tailored her message directly to the hometown crowd.

As one of Forbes magazine's "Most Powerful Women in the World," Allen embodies principles taught right here at home — work, discipline, education and family — that can fuel a successful career in the workplace.

Just a few of the many key points by Allen that sparked interest among the 700 spectators included:

Work force development: Allen didn't mince words about the need to train, and then keep, employees to sustain a strong business. Citing what she called "an impending talent shortage," Allen noted how employers need to create flexible conditions to retain skilled workers. She later spoke to local high school students about the assets they should gain and utilize to become a crucial resource.

Reinforced business values: The accounting industry has just endured a dreadful decade thanks to the scandals of Enron, WorldCom and the downfall of Arthur Andersen — one of Deloitte and Touche's former competitors. Allen reminded that if businesses don't set a high bar of integrity and accountability, professional excellence is broken.

Women and minorities: Allen, whose great-grandmother Bernha Irwin was one of the Idaho's first female legislators, is a bold example to the equality factor. As the youngest of four daughters who grew up on a Kimberly farm, Allen (then Sharon Irwin) and her sisters were taught they could work just as hard as boys. Today, she not only teaches the same values of equality but proves them true in the corporate world.

Institution of family: Politicians love to boast of their family upbringing as a resume credential. But Allen's experiences seemed thoughtful, sentimental and extremely relevant to her message. Hearing about her upbringing with siblings, parents and grandparents, all on the same living block, the audience came away clearly impressed.

Allen and her husband Richard then donated \$5,000 to the Irwin Family Scholarship Fund (in memory of her mother Barbara Irwin). The chamber and other sponsors' made an initial contribution of \$10,000. The endowment will generate more scholarship funds for CSI.

The entire message proved to the community that success begins at home, and with deep and lasting roots, it never really goes away.

Our view: A locally raised corporate giant helped redefine principles found at the Success Breakfast. What do you think? We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

Times-News

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

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

LETTERS

Immigration policies bend too far in U.S.

Two border patrol agents are spending 12 years in prison for showing a Mexican drug runner who brought 750 pounds of drugs across our border. Our government pardoned the drug dealer and sent the border agents to prison. The drug runner is using America for \$5 million. Does something seem wrong here?

The head of the Catholic Church in California is in Washington, D.C., advising Sen. Ted Kennedy on his immigration bill which gives amnesty to the 15 million illegal aliens that have crossed our border illegally and now live in America. What's happened to the separation of church and state in America?

Who do you think will support the 70 million to 80 million relatives of the 15 million illegals now living in America when those 70 million or 80 million relatives come to America to live? The Kennedy immigration bill allows illegal aliens to bring

their parents, sisters and brothers, grandparents, and aunts and uncles to America to live with them when the illegals receive their green cards.

Five relatives times 15 million illegal aliens equals 75 million people who will come to America if Kennedy's bill passes and becomes law. How do you think 75 million people will affect our health system, schools and legal system? Of course, the Mexican government will be unhappy. The illegals in America send \$30 billion back to Mexico to their families each year. That's the second highest income Mexico receives. Oil revenue brings in the highest income.

The illegals in America won't have to send the \$30 billion back to Mexico anymore since all their relatives will be here living in America.

Just think when you call an American company, you will now hear, "Press 1 for Spanish and 2 for English."

AL DUTT Twin Falls



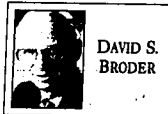
Tug-of-war continues on Iraq

In the continuing battle between the Democratic Congress and the Bush administration over policy in Iraq, logic is on the Democrats' side, but the crucial political leverage belongs to the president. It behooves the realists in both camps to recognize what the troops and the country have at stake and negotiate a compromise agreement.

The situation arises out of the mixed verdict of the public. In 2004, a year and a half after President Bush began the war of choice to change the regime running Iraq, his policy was challenged directly by John Kerry, his Democratic opponent, and Bush was re-elected by a clear margin of both popular and electoral votes. Two years later, public opinion had shifted, and Democrats captured both sides of the Capitol, largely if not exclusively on their opposition to the Iraq War.

The latter verdict — backed by public opinion polls — carries more weight. So the Democrats are fully justified in their effort to limit the use of war funds by imposing deadlines or target dates for the withdrawal of American combat forces.

But that logic does not overcome the fundamental fact of political and governmental life — that George Bush is committed to seeking victory in Iraq and the Constitution makes him commander in



DAVID S. BRODER

chief until noon on Jan. 20, 2009. As long as he retains that office and as long as he is seeking that goal, no one can veto his orders to the armed forces or dispute his authority to direct the generals in Iraq to carry out his plans.

Congress has the power of the purse and, in theory, could cut off funding for the troops he has deployed. But few Democrats are prepared for that drastic a step. Instead, they would like to redefine the mission to one of support and training for the Iraq forces, hoping against hope that a staged American withdrawal would force Iraq's Shiite and Sunni politicians to compose the differences that have brought that nation close to all-out civil war.

The scenario that has official Washington locked in suspense will see the House and Senate Democrats soon meeting to prepare a final version of the emergency funding bill that Bush has requested to finance the next year of the war. Once that bill reaches the White House, it will be vetoed, because of the limitations the Democrats attach to Bush's

use of the funds. The Democrats lack the votes to overcome a veto, so an impasse is inevitable. What happens next is the question, because both sides are stubborn and both are convinced of their own righteousness. What ought to happen is clear. There ought to be direct talks between them — with senior administration officials on one side of the table and leaders of House and Senate on the other. It might not be a bad idea to bring senior officials back from Iraq for the talks to give the conferees a sense of reality.

From the start, Democrats ought to concede one big point: Absent any readiness on their part to cut off funds to the troops in Iraq, those forces will be there as long as George Bush wants them to remain. Once that point is conceded, Bush should be called upon to pay some attention to the Democrats' demands — and the public opinion that supports them.

As a minimum, he should say he is willing to enforce on our Iraq allies the requirements everyone knows are

necessary steps for a political settlement of the internal conflict: the agreement on distribution of oil revenues, the promised amendments to the constitution, the creation of local and regional governments. Bush should indicate publicly — for the sake of American public opinion and as a clear signal to the Maliki government — that without those pledges being met, he cannot justify the sacrifices American troops are making. And Bush should reinforce Gen. David Petraeus' promise to keep Congress apprised of the situation on the ground by offering — and keeping — his own pledge to give Americans regular, honest briefings on the progress in Iraq. That is not an ideal solution, but something like it is probably the best compromise available that recognizes the available political situation our elections have created. Beyond that, only next year's election can set our future course.

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

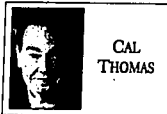
Rudy's contortions on abortion

Rudy Giuliani is playing the role of a contortionist in his attempts to convince enough pro-life voters to support his presidential candidacy.

After an unblemished record as a pro-choice mayor of New York City (if you don't count the "blemish" of babies not allowed to live), Giuliani surprised a lot of people when he said if he is elected president he would name only "strict constructionists" to the Supreme Court. That sounded pretty good to some, until Giuliani added last week during a CNN interview that he thinks a person who believes the Constitution should be interpreted as written could also vote to uphold Roe v. Wade and that he supports special financing of abortions for poor women — who want them.

Twisting himself even further, Giuliani said denying a poor woman tax dollars to pay for an abortion would deprive her of a "constitutional right."

While the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and a free press, it does not follow that the government should buy me a newspaper if I can't afford one. And as a strong support-



CAL THOMAS

er of Roe v. Wade, why would Giuliani name judges who oppose it? Would a pro-life candidate be credible if he promised to name only judges who read into the Constitution whatever he or she wishes?

Giuliani claims that Roe v. Wade established a "constitutional right" to abortion. The Court, unable to find that "right" clearly stated anywhere in the Constitution, finally concluded that it was implied in either the 14th Amendment, which protects one's right to privacy, or in the "penumbra" of the Bill of Rights.

Abraham Lincoln dealt with the danger of reading into the Constitution ideas and supposed rights that are not there in his brilliant speech at Cooper Union in New York on Feb. 27, 1860. Addressing the issue of slavery and whether it should be allowed to spread to territories outside

For (Giuliani) to take the position he does on abortion and then to say he would nominate strict constructionists to the bench twists him and the law into a pretzel.

of those states in which it was then practiced and rebuffing Sen. Stephen Douglas' assertion that the Founders expressly "popular sovereignty" to determine such things, Lincoln said: "An inspection of the Constitution will show that the right of property in a slave is not 'distinctly and expressly affirmed' in it [Chief Justice Roger Taney's majority opinion in Dred Scott contends that it was]. Bear in mind, the judges do not pledge their judicial opinion that such right is implicitly affirmed in the Constitution; but they pledge their veracity that it is 'distinctly and expressly' affirmed there — 'expressly,' that is, not mingled with anything else — 'expressly,' that is, in words meaning just that, without the aid of any inference, and susceptible of no other meaning.

Lincoln's point was there are no distinct words in the Constitution expressing the right of a human to own

another human. The Taney Court had to misread the Constitution in order to assert such a "right," which is what the Court did in Roe v. Wade a century ago.

If Giuliani believes in a strict construction interpretation of the Constitution, he could not support abortion, because a strict constructionist does not engage in "creative" permitting it. For him to take the position he does on abortion and then to say he would nominate strict constructionists to the bench twists him and the law into a pretzel.

Giuliani says people who don't like his position do not have to vote for him. Many social conservatives who view abortion as a make or break issue are likely to follow his advice.

Send mail to Cal Thomas at: Tribune Media Services, 2225 Kenmore Ave., Suite 114, Buffalo, N.Y. 14207. Readers may also e-mail Cal Thomas at insidertom@tribune.com.

Helping your kids: The mother lode of homework

Am I smarter than a fifth-grader? You want to know. Or, if not your piece, at least the band of precocious cutie-pies on the new game show "Are You Smarter Than A 5th-Grader?" And so I say: Glad you asked! Yes, in fact, I am smarter than a fifth-grader, and that is because my daughter is a sixth-grader.

Every afternoon my daughter comes home with a new truckload of work in social studies, math, reading and science that has to be transformed into a sheaf of accurate, neat and above all creative output by the next morning, even if it is an American Idol night. I don't want to embarrass her with this disclosure, but unlike others of her demographic, she is mortal and often can't perform this structured, go-go-like feat without parental intervention.

Can I deny that I have derived a sense of pride from my efforts? I cannot. Like so

many adults, I spend long hours doing work that does not require an intimate knowledge of absolutely everything in the world. I typically devote my free time to gossiping about my friends, none of whom are famous enough to be featured in a game-show question. If not for my daughter's homework, I might have forgotten vast stores of information including but not limited to the value of pi. Instead, I am a *Hernimance Mommy*. I can enjoy many quiet moments feeling superior to my televised fellow grown-ups as they struggle over test items about triangles and trapezoids, polar bears and penguins. (No, polar bears do NOT feed on penguins. They inhabit opposite ends of the Earth, you mortgage-obsessed fool!)

And consider the exhilarating adrenaline rush to the rightly deadline approaches. It's T-minus 60 minutes—that is, 9 p.m.—just one hour before

BETH HORNING

"American Idol!"—and my girl still has to do a double-sided math worksheet and read two more chapters in one of those novels they keep assigning about bad things that have happened in history. In addition, she must digest a social studies handout about ancient Egyptian religion so that she can write an article for a hypothetical ancient Egyptian newspaper about the activities of the ancient Egyptian gods.

Of course, in an ideal world she would brush her teeth and change into her pajamas as well, but I know that she can shave crucial minutes off her time if she completes those tasks during the lengthy "Idol" commercial breaks. I have also counseled her to do the ancient Egyptian newspaper article in the morning.

At 6:55 we are reading two

the home stretch. She has given me her math worksheet to check and I speed-read her book. The characters are languishing in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Maybe they will drown and maybe they won't. Meanwhile, I zip through the math, finding very few mistakes. I am reflecting that this is almost too easy when I turn the worksheet over and my blood runs cold. She has failed to complete the second side! And now it's—I glance at the kitchen clock—8:46! I shift into high gear.

Such was the scenario that unfolded last month, with thrills and chills that only she and I and perhaps her future psychiatrist will ever fully appreciate. I can report, however, that not only did my daughter get all her homework done but she witnessed "American Idol" in its entirety, including the usual failure to vote off the lissome Sanjaya. Yes, we watched. I kind of—

well, I basically dictated the ancient Egyptian newspaper article to her over breakfast. ("No, it's Ra—just Ra, no hi! He's a sun god, not a stadium cheer And cut your waffle. Please!") But hey, she's a kid, and her brain is growing all the

time. I'm an adult, and my brain, like everything else about me, is hurtling toward strophy. Who needs the mental exercise more?

Beth Horning is a freelance writer in Massachusetts.

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for its summer show, Gilbert & Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance." You must be at least 12 and still in high school. The auditions will be held on April 13th from 6:00 to 9:00 pm, and on April 14th from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at the First Presbyterian Church in Twin Falls.

Come prepared with a song to sing and a short recitation. If you would like to be a part of this fun and exciting musical production, call 423-6109 between the hours of 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm on April 10th or April 11th, to set up an audition time. There is a \$5 membership fee to join JUMP Company. Please check our website: www.jumpcompany.org for updates and new information.

We look forward to seeing you there!

LETTERS

Congress is doing the wrong job in this war

The current war on terrorism is controversial to many people, but it is a war that we have embarked upon. Many senators and congressmen voted to go to war and now claim they made a mistake. Their only mistake is sticking their noses and opinions where they do not belong.

Before our current "politically correct" society, the United States won the wars it fought. The military leaders were allowed to wage war and make decisions regarding the battles. The generals and military leaders have been trained to know what they are doing.

Since the Korean conflict, we have not been allowed to actually wage war. In Vietnam, we were not allowed to wage a full war. In our current political situation, the military's hands are bound by the demands and opinions of the political leaders who have not been trained to fight or strategize. Instead, they hamper our ability to fight effectively and to win. We are losing many lives because of the whimsy who think that a

war is a casual talk in the park. War is war!

People, yes even innocent people, are killed and maimed in a war. What better incentive to fight well and end the war than to have people face the realities of war.

Politicians need to concentrate on making laws, seeing that our Constitution is upheld and getting reports on how the war is going, and stop trying to run the war itself from their posh, padded seats on Capitol Hill. They were never elected to be generals or decision-makers in how to fight. Let those who are trained and know their duties get on with and win this war. Senators and congressmen, please allow the military to do its job effectively, and do the job you were elected to do.

DAL BRADLEY
Burley

Use volunteer week to learn about hospice care

April 15-21 is National Volunteer Week, a time to recognize and celebrate the thou-

sands of men, women and young people who volunteer in communities across the country. I am a hospice volunteer at Idaho Home Health and Hospice, and I salute all those who give their time and talents—particularly at the end of life's journey.

Many people are unaware that volunteers provide more than 16 million hours of service through our nation's hospices. That's more than 400,000 people giving selflessly to support and care for patients and families. More than 1.2 million people received compassionate care from hospice last year, and hospice volunteers are an integral part of the care team.

There are people who mistakenly think that hospice is about giving up; it couldn't be further from the truth. Hospice is about living as fully as possible, even at the end of life. At the center of hospice is the belief that each person has the right to die free of pain and

with dignity, and that our families will receive the necessary support to allow us to do so.

I encourage others to learn more about hospice by contacting Idaho Home Health and Hospice at 734-4064.

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- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Idaho State Police
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AROUND THE WORLD

IRAN

Iran announces expanded uranium enrichment

NATANZ — Iran announced a dramatic expansion of uranium enrichment Monday, saying it has begun operating 3,000 centrifuges — nearly 10 times the previously known number — in defiance of U.N. demands it halt its nuclear program or face increased sanctions.

U.S. experts say 3,000 centrifuges are in theory enough to produce a nuclear weapon, perhaps within a year. But they doubted Iran really had so many up and running, a difficult technical feat given the country's spotty success with a much smaller number.

Instead, the announcement may aim to increase support at home amid growing criticism of the hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and to boost Iran's hand with the West by presenting its program as established, said Michael Levi, a nonproliferation expert at the Washington-based Council on Foreign Relations.

BRITAIN

Government says freed sailors can't sell stories

LONDON — Britain's government beat a hasty retreat Monday under withering criticism for allowing sailors and marines to be paid large sums for their stories about captivity in Iran.

Officials banned further paid interviews as critics complained that the fees, reportedly as high as six figures, were unseemly and a slap at families of military personnel killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The appearance of the first paid interviews also brought new criticism that the 15 crew members yielded too easily to Iranian pressure to make confessions and apologies. Some worried the crew's actions revealed a loss of Britain's famed "stiff upper lip" in tough times.

"The sailors and marines held in Iran have been so compliant and have already said so much that they have caused excruciating embarrassment to many people in this country," a retired colonel, Bob Stewart, wrote in *The Times* newspaper.

Defense Secretary Des Browne said that pending completion of a review of the regulations governing paid interviews, announced earlier in the day, all service personnel were now barred from accepting fees for talking about their military experiences.

"The announcement does not affect any of the freed crew members who already accepted fees for talking to journalists, but bars them and all other service members from making new deals with media outlets," the Defense Ministry said. Two such interviews appeared Monday, but it was unknown if others had already sold their stories.

IRAQ

Iraqis mark anniversary of Saddam's fall with protest

NAJAF, Iraq — Turching American flags and demanding that U.S. troops leave Iraq, followers of Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr gathered by the thousands Monday for a protest that marked the fourth anniversary of Saddam Hussein's fall from power.

Shiite Muslims flocked to the shrine city of Najaf in a peaceful show of solidarity for al-

Sadr, whose grass-roots movement has been squeezed by U.S. and Iraqi forces since the start of the Baghdad security plan two months ago.

The young and once-obscure cleric has so far cooperated with the security crackdown, reining in his fighters in the capital. But with a militia of as many as 60,000 men, he has the ability to unleash a significant armed force against U.S.-led troops in Baghdad and southern Iraq.

On Monday, his fighters dressed in civilian clothes and not their trademark warrior

black as they waved the Iraqi flag, joining with Shiite and Sunni clerics and ordinary citizens in voicing anger and frustration over the U.S. government's record in Iraq since invading in 2003.

Al-Sadr, who did not attend the protest and hasn't been seen in public in weeks, sought

in a statement read to the crowd to present himself as a representative for all Iraqis, in a break from his fiercely sectarian image of the last two years.

"We live at this moment and so far 48 months of anxiety, oppression and occupational tyranny have passed, four

years which have only brought us more death, destruction and humiliation," al-Sadr was quoted as saying. "Every day tens are martyred, tens are crippled, and every day we see and hear U.S. interference in every aspect of our lives, which means that we are not sovereign, not independent and

therefore not free. Al-Sadr presented his victory as just a matter of time. He credited the Mahdi army with the decision of British forces to hand over most of Basra to the Iraqi security units, and noted the opposition to the Iraq war among some U.S. lawmakers.

— compiled from wire reports

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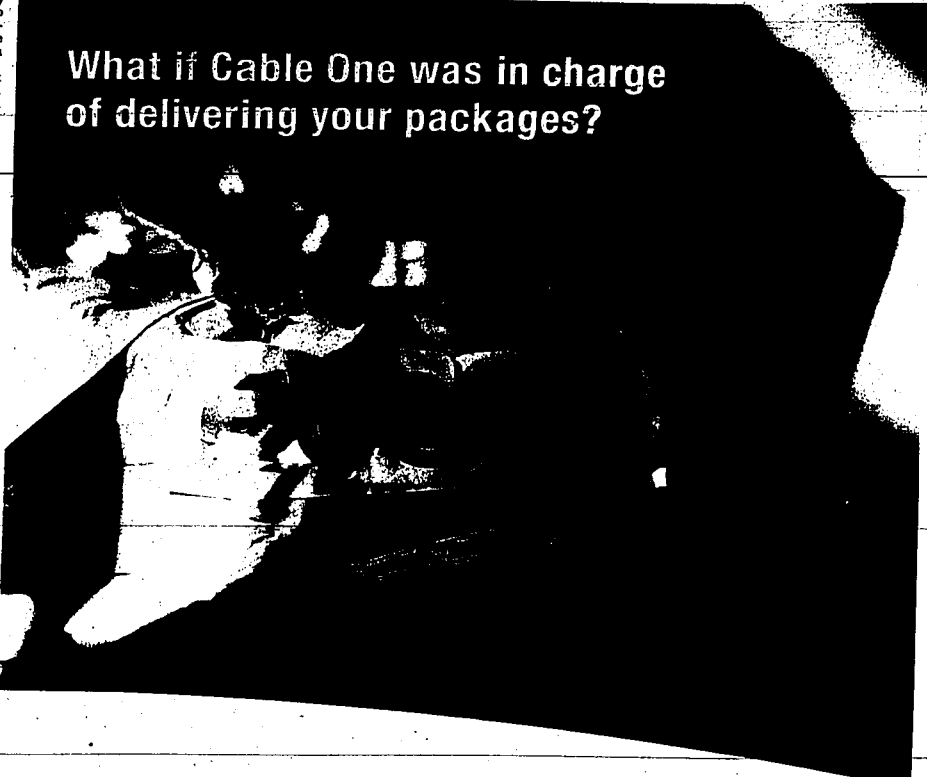
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Play (snow)ball!

Critics of Imus tired of hollow apologies

By Jocelyn Novack
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — It's a familiar dance that plays out ever more frequently in our popular culture. A public figure transgresses, and we wait to dissect the apology. Was it sincere enough? Contrite enough? Specific enough? Did he feel our pain?

Don Imus' critics don't really care. For them, it's time to dispense with the ritual and move on to a world where actions have consequences.

And there were some consequences Monday, though not the firing of the radio host that some have called for in response to his "nappy-headed hos" comment about the Rutgers women's basketball team. Both CBS Radio and MSNBC, which airs simulcasts of Imus' show, said they were suspending the program for two weeks.

Imus was working hard to save his job, especially in a key appearance on the Rev. Al Sharpton's radio program. But for some, the public apology — used so often in the past year — was seeming like a tired old ritual, a "meaningless incantation," in the words of ethics columnist Randy Cohen.

"I don't care about an apology," said Angela Burt-Murray, editor in chief of Essence magazine. "You're not a child on the playground. You're an adult who needs to take responsibility for his actions. And there need to be consequences."

The public apology has merely become a quick fix. Burt-Murray said, to get back to business as quickly as possible. "Michael Richards apologizes. We move on. Mel Gibson apologizes. We move on," she said. "When does it stop? When do WE make it stop?"

For one of the nation's top feminist activists as well, Imus' efforts at public remorse are pointless.

"It's completely hollow," said Kim Gandy, president of the National Organization for Women, who called his words "beyond racist and sexist." Her organization launched a drive Sunday for members to contact Imus' corporate bosses at CBS Corp. and NBC Universal to demand his firing — and she says a few thousand have responded so far.

"This guy is just trying to get himself out of trouble," said Gandy. "It's hard to take him seriously when you look at his past. He's not a first-time offender. The 47th time, I think it rings pretty false."

Imus had made several attempts to apologize for his remarks — his level of contrition apparently expanding with each new attempt. Last week, he said people should relax rather than be incensed over "some idiot comment meant to be amusing." On Monday, he gave a 10-minute explanation on his own show, saying "you can't make fun of everybody, because some people don't deserve it" and indicated the climate on his show would change. On Sharpton's program, he acknowledged he'd gone "way too far."

By the public-apology standards of the past year, he's trying hard. And it's been a busy time for apologies. Gibson went on national television with Diane Sawyer to say he wasn't an anti-Semite. Richards, aka Kramer of "Seinfeld," made a rambling apology on David Letterman's show for his "n-word tirade." Author James Frey faced the music with Oprah Winfrey. And Sen. John Kerry, after his gaffe about the military, went to explain himself at the

Please see B2



Seattle Mariners' Tinkles Betancourt tosses the ball to a teammate at Jacobs Field, Monday in Cleveland. After snow wiped out Cleveland's four-game series against Seattle for the fourth day in a row Monday, the Indians will move their next series against the Los Angeles Angels to Milwaukee's Miller Park. Seattle plays today at Boston.

Home runs drop with the temperatures

By Ronald Blum
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Play (snow)ball! After a frosty first week, baseball quickly made a move for warmth and shifted the Los Angeles Angels' series against the Indians from Cleveland to an enclosed field in Milwaukee.

That didn't do much good for Indians fans on Monday. For the fourth straight day, games were wiped out by snow at Jacobs Field, sending the Seattle Mariners packing without playing an inning that counted.

All of a sudden, players are tracking snowfall and wind chill with the same interest as balls, strikes and outs.

"It's stupid. It's crazy," Indians pitcher C.C. Sabathia said. "We should definitely be standing somewhere else, definitely on the West Coast or somewhere with a dome so this doesn't happen."

At least in Milwaukee the Indians will be assured of playing the Angels in a three-game set that starts tonight because Miller Park has a retractable roof. Fans will get a bargain: All tickets will be \$10.

Commissioner Bud Selig thinks it would be impracticable to start the season with games only in warm-weather climes and ballparks with domes.

"Games have been snowed out for 130 years. Like with everything in life, you need luck," he said. "It's an impossible situation because no matter what you do, the clubs don't want long road trips. You just do the best you can. This is very unusual. We're getting late-February weather."

During a week as cold as a Barry Bonds brushoff, temperatures weren't the only thing you'd want home runs plunged to their lowest level since 1993, with the average dropping from 2.4 in last season's opening week to 1.8 this year.

It hasn't been that low since a 1.6 average 14



St. Louis Cardinals' catcher Yadier Molina wears a lid mask under his catcher's helmet as he warms up before the first inning of the baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates in Pittsburgh. The temperature at the start of the game was 37 degrees.

years ago, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. "It's freezing. Who can hit a home run right now?" said Baltimore Orioles shortstop Miguel Tejada, a former AL MVP.

Runs per game dropped from 10.51 to 8.55, a level unseen since 1992's 6.21. Pitcher's ERAs fell from 4.94 to 3.72, also a 15-year low.

"Everywhere I turn on TV and watch highlights, it seems pretty cold," New York Mets first baseman Carlos Delgado said. "And I can tell hit when it's cold. That's my conspiracy theory right there."

In addition to the Mariners-Indians series, one game apiece was lost in New York, Chicago

and Detroit.

Cold didn't stop Tampa Bay's Ellijah Dukes, who hit his first two career homers at Yankee Stadium.

He connected for his second while wearing a ski mask with a slit around the eyes just wide enough to allow him to see, looking more cat burglar than slugger.

Baseball tried to work around the cold a decade ago, without great success. After enduring a snowout at Boston's Fenway Park, a snowy afternoon at Yankee Stadium and cold in Detroit and Chicago in 1996, baseball remade the schedule for 1997, using covered fields and every West Coast site.

After teams in the East and Midwest got home, eight games were washed out by weather on the season's second Saturday, raising that year's total to 17.

Draft schedules must be given to the players' association about nine months before opening day. Katy Feeney, baseball's senior vice president of scheduling, wished she had an advance forecast that early.

"Those warm-weather clubs, they don't want 25 April dates," Selig said. "Second-guessing about the schedule is just ludicrous. There is no other solution, and we have 130 years to prove it. I used to be one of those owners who was unreasonable."

That said, baseball is looking at alternatives, although no one is sure what can be done to make the schedule foolproof.

"You can have bad weather the third week in April in Detroit as easily as you could have had weather the first week," said Bob DuPuy, the sport's chief operating officer.

Sill, Tigers manager Jim Leyland thinks the warm-weather schedule should be given another try.

"They have not done a good job of scheduling when you've got Tampa Bay and Toronto playing, and both have domes. That's not too smart, is it?" he said. "It doesn't seem too smart to me."

Iowans elated over Zach Johnson's Masters win

By Luke Meredith
Associated Press writer

DES MOINES, Iowa — Asked to describe himself shortly after his Masters victory Sunday, Zach Johnson said, "I'm from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. That's about it. I'm a normal guy."

That helped steal the heart of the state.

Iowans were beaming like proud parents on Monday.

"It's like an Iowa kid. Kind of naive, very humble, and just a cool guy," said Ryan Hartman, Johnson's former teammate at Drake University in Des Moines and one of his closest friends. "My wife, who is a big city girl, said it best. She said that he is the nicest, most genuine person she's ever met."

What makes Johnson's victory all the more remarkable to those who know him best is that he hardly looked like Masters material growing up in east-central Iowa. Johnson was so small as a youngster that he joined the junior

program at his parents' golf club, Elmcrest Country Club in Cedar Rapids, four years after many of the boys had started playing.

After a strong but hardly remarkable stint at Cedar Rapids Regis High, Johnson showed up at Drake in 1994 as a 128-pound freshman who couldn't drive the ball worth a lick.

But he could putt, and as Johnson's slight frame grew, so did his overall game. He eventually became one of the better college golfers in the Midwest, but his former coach at Drake, Jamie Berner, said he never saw anything to indicate that Johnson could one day top the world's best at Augusta National.

"He wasn't a very big kid," said Berner, currently the coach at Colorado State. "Real tough competitor. Just a solid player who got a little bigger — and kept getting better and better."



Elmcrest Country Club member Luke Meredith of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, looks at a display detailing the golf career of 2007 Masters Champion and Cedar Rapids native Zach Johnson at the club on Monday in Cedar Rapids.

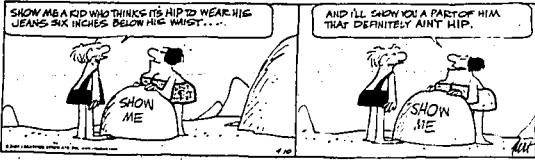
Please see MASTERS, Page B2

Please see B2

COMICS

B.C.

By Johnny Hart



Baby Blues

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Baldo

By Hector D. Cantu and Carlos Castellanos



Brevity

By Guy & Rodi



Dilbert

By Scott Adams



Doonesbury

By Garry Trudeau



The Elderberries

By Phil Frank and Joe Troisi



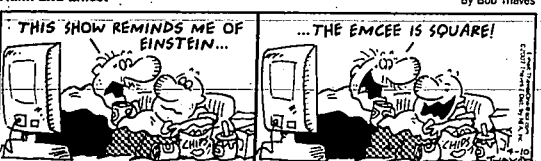
For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



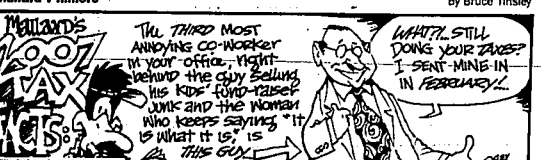
Luann

By Greg Evans



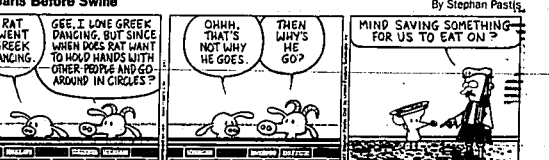
Mallard Fillmore

By Bruce Tinsley



Pearls Before Swine

By Stephan Pastis



Pickles

By Brian Crane



Rose is Rose

By Pat Brady



Zita

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



Non Sequitur

By Wiley



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Ask the right questions, Aquarius

IF APRIL 10 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Work diligently to achieve your dreams in the year to come. For the next six weeks you might seasaw between being coolly professional and tremendously sensitive and compassionate. Someone you will put business and spiritual needs into their proper perspectives. But it isn't a good time to launch major initiatives - a lack of confidence could undermine your efforts. Between mid-October and mid-November, you are generous, far-seeing and wiser than usual. You may receive a golden opportunity then or could launch any of your many important plans successfully. ARIES (March 21-April 19): Invite a special someone to play in your private sandbox. Share the shovel and bucket, as well as your heart. Someone's hidden desires may come out in the open and bring a smile to your face. TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Love and money both make the world go around. Your sex appeal and appetite for amusements may undergo a passionate surge. Someone may have set his or her sights on you. GEMINI (May 21-June 20):

When you speak, the whole world listens. Perhaps you have been afraid to broach a sensitive subject. The words you need to win someone's support or affection will come when needed. CANCER (June 21-July 22): It's deja vu all over again. Steer clear of unrealistic daydreams or financial decisions in the middle of the day. Delectable memories can be made tonight under warm, sensual stars. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Mirages disappear when you get close. Romantic partners or attractive business acquaintances will show their true colors in a one-on-one situation. Mutual interests will be served. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Sweet-talking guys and gals get their way. If you are trying to earn a big commission or make a romantic fantasy come true, trust that your gift for gab will land you the desired results. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Embraceable you can brace yourself for a few sensual courtships. If money makes your heart go zing, you are likely to make some. If your passions are physical, then you will attract a like-minded partner. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Play passionate patty-cake. You know just what you want. Achieve your financial aims or satisfy your romantic desires by connecting with the right person at the most opportune time. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Meet your match. You are more attractive than you think. Your intensity of purpose can be put to good use at the job or for a business project. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Let your heart rule your head. Read between the lines if loved ones are briefly evasive or pretend to play hard to get. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Ask the right questions. Ignite finances can be discussed frankly and the truth can be revealed. You might be able to reach in and grasp the contents of someone's secret heart and desires. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take time to tango. Body language will match up with the verbal message. A certain someone might whisper scandalizing sweet nothings or cooing you that he or she is totally trustworthy.

HOROSCOPE Jeraldine Saunders

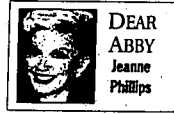
Diner makes matches along with serving hungry patrons

DEAR ABBY: I chuckled when I saw the letter from "Eating Single's Best Not Alone" (Feb. 5), about discovering single men in a diner at breakfast. She's right on. I own and run a diner that's been serving breakfast and lunch for more than 25 years. Not only do male customers meet and eat here every day, usually at the same time, so they can catch up with others who do. Many of the men are single, widowed, divorced or retired, and just want to start their day with a decent meal in a friendly atmosphere. Between 8 and 9:30 a.m. seems to be the most popular time — and yes, they sit at the counter.

My advice to single women: Bring the crossword puzzle from the daily paper and work on it so awkward. It will give you a legitimate reason for starting a conversation, and you may even get offered help with the answers.

—MAINE-LY COOKING IN PHIPPSBURG

DEAR ABBY: I'm a waitress at a 24-hour diner. Kudos to you for passing "Eating Single's" letter along. I love it when our "regulars" come in and become friends with each



DEAR ABBY: I'll tell you where all the dateable men are. If you like boating, go to the boat show. If you like motorcycles, go to a motorcycle show. If you like architecture, go to a home remodeling show. Go where the men are. You'll find men in all age ranges and income brackets. For the price of a \$10 ticket, you can have an experience you'll never forget.

Oh, and this is for the men: If you want to meet a nice woman, get-to-know-her background without asking questions, go to a nail salon and get a manicure and pedicure. My fiancé and I get pedicures and manicures together, and the ladies just love chatting with him. It's one of the few times they can talk and a man will listen.

—HAPPY HUNTING! NUTLEY, N.J.

other. Even if it leads to nothing more, it widens your circle of friends.

—AMANDA IN CARMEL, IND.

DEAR ABBY: I have another suggestion for meeting men — if you don't mind dating someone who's been around the block and already has children, that is.

On Wednesday, Friday and Sunday evenings (usually on the first, third and fifth weeks of the month), McDonald's is full of single dads either getting their kids for a Wednesday evening with not enough time to do anything but feed them, or just after picking them up on Friday night after a hard day at work, and again on Sunday just before dropping them off to Mom.

Some of these guys are a little sketchy, but there are some real treasures among them who make great friends until they're ready for something more. After all, one woman's trash is another woman's treasure. I hope this helps some of the gals out there meet Mr. Right, or at the very least, make some good friends. I speak from experience. I've

been married to my McDonald's man for 25 years.

—GOT MINE IN WEBSTER, TEXAS

DEAR ABBY: Folks who want to meet eligible singles should join their high school or college alumni association and attend all the events offered. There are beautiful "gems" out there among the attendees. I know, because a dear friend of mine met, reconnected with and married her husband that way.

—BARBARA IN GLEN ALLAN, MISS.

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker

Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake

The Born Loser

By Art Sansom, & Chip

Garfield

By Jim Davis

Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne

Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne

Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz

The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart

Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham

Titanic left Southampton on ill-fated maiden voyage on this date in 1912

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, April 10, the 100th day of 2007. There are 265 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On April 10, 1912, the RMS Titanic set sail from Southampton, England, on its ill-fated maiden voyage.

On this date:

- In 1790, President George Washington signed into law the first United States Patent Act.
- In 1866, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was incorporated.
- In 1925, the novel "The Great Gatsby," by F. Scott Fitzgerald, was first published.
- In 1932, German president Paul von Hindenburg was re-elected in a runoff, with Adolf Hitler coming in second.
- In 1957, Egypt reopened the Suez Canal to all shipping traffic. (The canal had been closed due to wreckage resulting from the Suez Crisis.)
- In 1957, John Osborne's play "The Entertainer," starring Laurence Olivier, opened in London.
- In 1963, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Thresher sank during deep-diving tests off Cape Cod, Mass., in a disaster that claimed 129 lives.
- In 1972, the United States and the Soviet Union joined some 70 nations in signing an agreement banning biological warfare.
- In 1981, imprisoned IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands was declared the winner of a by-election to the British Parliament.
- In 1998, the Northern Ireland peace talks concluded as negotiators reached a landmark settlement to end 30 years of bitter rivalries and bloody attacks.

Ten years ago: A federal judge struck down the Line-Item Veto Act, a law that let the president veto specific items from spending bills passed by Congress. (The U.S. Supreme Court later set aside the judge's ruling; however, the nation's highest court ultimately struck down the veto as unconstitutional in 1998.) One-time fighter and former POW Pete Peterson was confirmed by the Senate as the first postwar U.S. ambassador to Vietnam.

Five years ago: Eight Israelis were killed by a suicide bomber aboard a bus in Haifa.

One year ago: Former Enron Chief Executive Jeffrey Skilling began testifying in his fraud and conspiracy trial in

Houston, declaring himself "absolutely innocent." Hundreds of thousands of people demanded citizenship for illegal immigrants took to the streets in dozens of cities from New York to San Diego.

French President Jacques Chirac gave in to protesters, cancelling a law on youth employment that had fueled nationwide unrest.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Harry Morgan is 92. Actor Max Baer is 78. Actress Liz Sheridan is 78. Actor Omar Sharif is 75. Author David Halberstam is 73. Sportscaster John Madden is 71. Rhythm-and-blues singer Bobbie Smith (The Spinners) is 71. Sportscenter Don Meredith is 69. Reggae artist Bunny Wailer is 68. Actor Steven Seagal is 56. Folk-pop singer Terie Hoche is 54. Actor Peter Onorati is 54. Rock musician Steven Gustafson is 10,000.

Maniacs is 50. Singer-producer Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds is 49. Rock singer-musician Brad Senter is 48. Rapper Afrika Bambaataa is 47. Rock singer Katrina Leskanich is 47. Actor Jeh Adams is 46. Olympic gold medal speedskater Cathy Turner is 45. Rock musician Tim "Herb" Alexander is 42. Actor-comedian Orlando Jones is 39. Singer Kenny Lattimore is 37. Rapper Kamali (aka Q-Tip) is 37. Blues singer Shemekia Copeland is 28. Actor Chylar Leigh is 25. Actor Ryan Merriman is 24. Singer Mylan Moore is 23. Actor Haley Joel Osmert is 19.

Thought for Today: "To understand another human being you must gain some insight into the conditions which made him what he is."

—Margaret Bourke-White, American photographer (1904-1971)

THE ACES ON BRIDGE

Bobby Wolff

"Chesteron taught me this: The only way to be sure of catching a trout is to miss the one before it."

—P. Domanis

Avoidance technique is one of those areas of the game that may be simple in theory, but often difficult to apply. The idea is for declarer to decide which opponent he can safely let on lead and which he can't, and formulate his plan of attack on that basis.

Put yourself in South's shoes in three no-trump. You receive a spade lead and take East's 10 with your jack. What is the right way to go after nine tricks? The simple approach is to take the club finesse, but if you do, the fate of your contract will hinge on the success or failure of that finesse. If it loses, a second spade through your king will doom you immediately. Can you do any better than that?

The answer is yes. After winning the first spade, cross to the heart queen to lead a low diamond to your nine. Why is this a safer approach? Because if the finesse wins, you have nine tricks (four hearts, three diamonds and one trick in each black suit), and if it loses, it is West who is on lead, and he cannot hurt you. If he plays spades, it will set your king up for an extra winner. If he can win and lead a club through dummy, you will rise with the ace and cash your nine tricks.

If the cards in your diamond finesse succeeds, and you have your contract at once without needing the club finesse.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ K Q 10 4	♠ A Q 8 6 4	♠ 10 7 3	♠ 7 5 4
♥ A 4 2	♥ 8 2 2	♥ 10 9	♥ 7 5 3
♦ A 4 2	♦ 8 2	♦ 7 5 3	♦ K 7 5
SOUTH		WEST	
♠ K 3 2	♠ K 3 2	♠ 10 9 6	♠ A 9
♥ A 9 6	♥ A 9	♥ A 9 6	♥ J 10 9 6
♦ A 9	♦ A 9	♦ A 9	♦ J 10 9 6
♣ A 9 6	♣ A 9 6	♣ A 9 6	♣ A 9 6

Vulnerable: Neither
Dealer: East

The bidding:
South West North East
1♣ 2♣ 3♣ Pass
3NT All pass

Opening lead: Spade eight

ILD WITH THE ACES

South holds:		North holds:	
♠ 10 7 3	♠ 7 5 4	♠ 10 7 3	♠ 7 5 4
♥ 10 9	♥ 7 5 3	♥ 10 9	♥ 7 5 3
♦ A 9	♦ K 7 5	♦ A 9	♦ K 7 5
♣ A 9 6	♣ A 9 6	♣ A 9 6	♣ A 9 6

ANSWER: Jump to four spades. You showed a bad partner that an immediate two-spade bid would promise when you passed initially and then relayed a supported partner. When he now makes a game-try, you cannot afford to lose less than bid game.

If you would like to receive Bobby Wolff's award-winning bridge newsletter, please contact Bobby Wolff at bobby@acesonbridge.com

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THE FAMILY CIRCUIS

By Bill Keane

"Grandma said when she was little the only things on the web were spiders."

"MARGARET CAN'T DECIDE IF SHE WANTS TO BE JOSHUA BELL, OR BE MRS. JOSHUA BELL."

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Mostly cloudy, a stiff breeze and cooler. There is a slight chance of showers. Highs upper 40s.

BOISE VALLEY FORECAST

Today: Breezy to windy and mostly cloudy. It will be cool as well with scattered showers. Highs upper 40s.

IDAHO'S OHI CASI

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS.

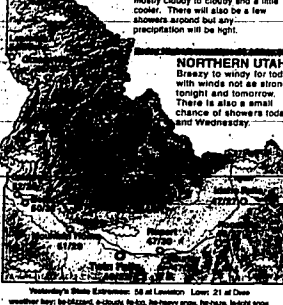
Scattered rain and snow showers are possible for today, tonight and tomorrow.

BOISE

Today through tomorrow will be mostly cloudy to cloudy and a little cooler.

NORTHERN UTAH

Breezy to windy for today with winds from the west, strong tonight and tomorrow.



TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

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

Yesterday's Weather

Table with 2 columns: City, High-Low. Lists weather for Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Jerome, Lowell, Pocatello, and Shoshone.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

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

Moon Phases

Table with 4 columns: Moon phase icons and dates for New Moon, First Quarter, Full Moon, Last Quarter.

Moonrise and Moonset

Table with 2 columns: Moonrise and Moonset times for various days.

U.V. INDEX

Table with 2 columns: U.V. Index level and corresponding weather icon.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Thursday. Lists forecasts for various regional cities.

NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Thursday. Lists forecasts for various national cities.

WORLD FORECAST

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Thursday. Lists forecasts for various world cities.

Gregg Middlekauff's Quote of the Day: "I'm not sure how often taking a shower has had an effect on me. It's the best thing I've ever done."

CANADIAN FORECAST

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, Thursday. Lists forecasts for various Canadian cities.

Today's National Map: A map of the United States showing weather fronts, cold, warm, and stationary systems.

New NHL champ could lurk in East

Last year's contenders in Stanley final fail to make 2007 playoffs

Wide open quest for Cup

Table showing NHL team statistics: Eastern Conference (No. 1 Sabres, No. 2 Devils, No. 3 Thrashers, No. 4 Senators), Western Conference (No. 1 Red Wings, No. 2 Mighty Ducks, No. 3 Canucks, No. 4 Predators).

Flames wrapped up the final berth in the West on the second-to-last night of the season, when Colorado's comeback ended in a loss to Nashville.

ing punch, and young goalie Marc-Andre Fleury can stand tall in the nets, the Penguins become the latest team to spoil the Senators' postseason plans.

"Every team is dangerous. You always look at teams that finish off strong. It's all about timing."

- Sidney Crosby, from the Pittsburgh Penguins

NEW YORK (AP) — One thing is certain: A new team will skate with the Stanley Cup this year.

And it could be a club from the East no one ever coming. For the first time in the modern NHL era, neither finalist from the previous season made it back to the playoffs.

added extra piece to the puzzle to help the organization get in. That's all you can ask for as a player is to get in.

The Hangers earned the No. 6 seed on the strength of a 13-3-4 surge and joined Pittsburgh, the Islanders and second-seeded New Jersey as Atlantic Division teams to qualify.

The Wild hope Backstrom will lead them deep into the postseason. In his first NHL season, Backstrom posted the lowest goals-against average (.197) and highest save percentage (.929).

Now they hope to avoid another first-round floundering against Calgary after getting knocked out quickly last year by No. 8 Edmonton. The

The Penguins got started in Ottawa on Wednesday, along with Minnesota at Anaheim, San Jose at Nashville in the West's 4-5 matchup, and No. 6 Dallas at No. 3 Vancouver.

New York's Rangers open at Southeast winner Atlanta on Thursday in the first playoff game in the Thrasher's seven NHL seasons. Calgary will be at Detroit. Tampa Bay visits Atlantic champion New Jersey, and the Islanders begin their tough series at Buffalo, which lost Game 7 of last year's Eastern Conference finals at Carolina.

"I've got a taste about what it's all about," Sabres forward Jason Pominville said. "It makes you want to get more and more. Hopefully, we can get to that next step."

BYU players suspended after arrests in dispute

OREM, Utah (AP) — Brigham Young linebacker Terrance Hooks and tight end Vic So'oto were suspended from spring drills after they were accused of breaking into two apartments in search of someone who threw a water balloon.

Hooks and So'oto entered the building but went to the wrong door and kicked it in after nobody answered, Edwards said.

BYU coach Bronco Mendenhall suspended Hooks and So'oto for the final week of spring practice, including the Blue-White scrimmage April 14, and possibly longer.

Mendenhall said the length of the players' suspensions will depend partly on what happens with the legal case.

The Utah County Attorney received the case Monday and was considering what charges were warranted.

So'oto, Hooks and his girlfriend were arrested. A pair of 22-year-olds accused of throwing the balloons were cited for criminal mischief.

The players were trying to find two people who hit Hooks' girlfriend with a water balloon from an apartment balcony after a dance in the parking lot, Edwards said.

So'oto's attorney, Tasi Young of Provo, said he was confident that his client's case would be resolved. Hooks' attorney had no immediate comment.

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JUMBLE
Uncramble the four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.
DUWNE
ALAFI
MISTEY
FLATUR
Answer: SHE

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN SHE SPELLED THE WORD RIGHT?
Correct You Win
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above caption.

Yesterday's Jumbles: LUNGE COUGH HAMPER CATNIP
The teen left his clothes on the floor because he had a HANG UP HANG UP.

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HOTEL

GENERAL
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GENERAL
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Apply at The Garden Cafe 2221 Addison Ave E.

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ACROSS

1 Pal

5 Actor's part

9 Sudden winds

14 Stockings

15 Always

16 Comic-strip orphan

17 Fkallon

19 Twisted thread

20 Helping

21 More

23 precipitous

24 Sandwich

25 Nighttime hooter

25 Nighttime hooter

26 Gobber.

30 Virtuous conduct

35 Paint type

36 LX

37 Low grade

38 Scottish Gaelic

39 Cash penalties

40 Immoral deeds

41 Had dinner

42 Wise lawgiver

43 Goli

44 Expression of gratitude

45 Club Med, e.g.

5 Sheepshead

7 Zodiac lion

8 Sea eagles

9 Means of access

10 Ailing

11 Out with shears

12 Prong

13 Tarot reader

18 Plains people

22 Legal wrongs

24 Fording

26 Pants-fold

27 Third planet

28 Perplexed

29 Born in Bordeaux

31 Yoked pair

32 Local lingo

33 High-strung

34 Affirmatives

36 Fodder storage structure

39 Vestibule

40 Lanka

42 Eurasian songbird

DOWN

1 Word with pork or lamb

2 Vagrant

3 Gorb's nation

4 Yoked pair

5 Club Med, e.g.

6 Sheepshead

7 Zodiac lion

8 Sea eagles

9 Means of access

10 Ailing

11 Out with shears

12 Prong

13 Tarot reader

18 Plains people

22 Legal wrongs

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824 Guns & Rifles

825 Camping/Hunting Equip

Monday's Puzzle Solved

P	O	R	G	M	S	A	T	P	S	I	T											
A	E	I	O	U	B	A	D	E	I	O	H											
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4/10/07

701 Seed and Fertilizer

702 Hay Grain and Feed

703 Equipment

704 Doors

705 Tractor

706 Bazaars and Crafts

707 Building Materials

708 Electronics

709 Hot Tubs & Pools

710 Coating & Furs

711 Computers

712 Firewood

713 Furniture & Carpet

714 Heating & AC

715 Auctions/Antiques

716 Jewelry

717 Lawn & Garden

718 Exercise Equipment

719 Miscellaneous For Sale

720 Musical Instruments

721 Office Equip/Supplies

722 Bicycles

723 Tools & Machinery

724 Body Shop/Services

725 Wanted To Buy

726 Medical Supplies

727 Guns & Rifles

728 Camping/Hunting Equip

812 Auctions/Auctioneers

814 Lawn/Garden

816 Miscellaneous For Sale

817 Musical Instruments

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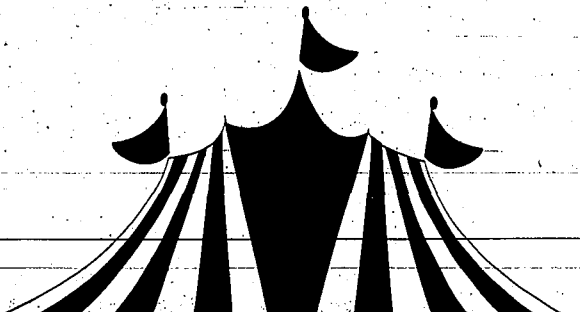
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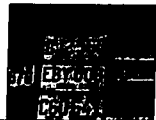
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INSIDE: Obituaries, D2 | Nation, D4 | Country Roads, D5-6

Scary skeeters: Twin Falls considers mosquito abatement district

By Matt Christensen
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Long merely a pesky nuisance in southern Idaho, mosquitoes became deadly last year, killing nearly 20 Idahoans who contracted West Nile virus.

The epidemic that eventually struck 996 Idaho residents — more than any other state in 2006 — caught lawmakers and health experts off guard.

This year, the state is better prepared.

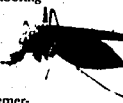
The Legislature passed a bill this spring that allows counties to create emergency abatement districts — places where chemists can sometimes spray to kill the insects. Twin Falls County may be among the first to combat mos-

quitoes under the new law.

Commissioner Terry Kramer said the county is interested in creating an emergency district, and he's contacting neighboring counties to learn about their mosquito plans.

Under the old law, counties could create abatement districts only through a general election. The new law allows commissioners to create emergency districts for up to two years, and also grants counties authority to spray on private property.

"We had a whole bunch of people that got West Nile last year," Kramer said, "and they were



asking us what we were going to do about it."

An abatement district, Kramer said, might be the answer.

But amid talk of creating a district last fall — at the height of the epidemic — commissioners came under fire from people, particularly organic farmers, who opposed blanket spraying from airplanes.

Kramer said the county is not considering blanket spraying at this point.

"We're not going to stop all mosquitoes, but this gives us resources to treat the hot spots," he said.

If the county creates an emergency district, it will use money from its general fund to finance spot spraying. That money could be replaced later by a property-tax increase.

But at this point, the county is still considering the project and has yet to make any official moves. Kramer spoke informally Monday to Jerome County commissioners about their mosquito plans, and he said he'll probably contact officials in Gooding County as well.

"I'm all for it," said Jerome County Commissioner Diana Obenaus. "What good does it do to handle mosquitoes in just one county if they can fly five or 10 miles?"

Commissioners in Jerome will discuss mosquitoes at a meeting later this month.

Kramer said Twin Falls commissioners will meet later this week with representatives from the Idaho Association of Counties and discuss the legalities and logistics of establishing an emergency district.

Problems with peppergrass

Environmental group sues government over rare plant

By Matt Christensen
Times-News writer

HAILEY — Environmental group Western Watersheds Project has filed a lawsuit in district court against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over what it calls failure by the department to protect slickspot peppergrass, a rare plant native to southern Idaho.

The lawsuit, filed Friday by the Hailey-based group, alleges Fish and Wildlife has refused to list the plant under the Endangered Species Act, even after U.S. District Court Magistrate Mikal Williams ordered the department in 2005 to reconsider its decision not to list the species.

In January, Fish and Wildlife announced again it would not list peppergrass because it said the current population did not appear to be threatened by habitat loss. Western Watersheds' lawsuit is in response to that decision.

The group further alleges that department political appointees under the Bush administration — including former Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne, who oversees Fish and Wildlife as head of the Department of the Interior — have purposely declined to list the species despite scientific evidence that indicates peppergrass is fledgling.

"At the end of the day, we want to see science — and not politics — control the Service's listing decisions," said Todd C. Tucci, an attorney representing Western Watersheds, in a statement released to the press. "Unfortunately, Secretary Kempthorne has proven as incapable of faithfully applying the ESA as his predecessor."

Calls to the desk and cell phone of a Fish and Wildlife spokesman were not returned.

Slickspot peppergrass grows only in south-central and southwestern Idaho. Fish and Wildlife acknowledged in a statement released earlier this year that the quality of some of the plant's habitat has decreased in recent years. At that time, Idaho Republicans lauded the department's decision not to list the species.

As reported by The Associated Press, Gov. Butch Otter said in a statement made earlier this year: "I stand ready to defend the Fish and Wildlife's sound conservation policies, as well as our state's ability and determination to protect our resources on our own terms."

Farewell, Phat Eddy's

Dance club gives way to Old West ambience

By Cassidy Friedman
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Goodbye hip-hop. Hello live country music, mechanical bull and lodgepole pine chairs.

Phat Eddy's restaurant and nightclub closed Thursday, after landlord Dave Woodhead told the owners he would not renew their lease. That lease expires at the end of April.

"We've just decided to take control of the space to be able to do what we want and to maximize the value of our liquor license," Woodhead said.

Enter Woodhead's brainchild: The Sidewinder Saloon. Woodhead owns a downtown building at 213 Fifth Ave. South that houses four commercial spaces: his bar Woody's, the vacant Lamphouse Theatre, Phat Eddy's and Tribes, an interior design firm. He hopes opening his second bar using Woody's liquor license will bring in the country crowd.

That could happen as soon as next month, he said.

Business for Phat Eddy's was booming until a fatal shooting outside the nightclub scared crowds away.

Luis Carlos Ramirez, a 21-year-old student at the College of Southern Idaho

was killed Nov. 19 in the parking lot outside the bar.

"Business had 100 percent tapered from the shooting," said Eddy Sabia, the namesake and former owner of Phat Eddy's. Sabia's uncle, however, was the last name on the lease.

But last month, it was interesting," Sabia said. "The shooting definitely had something to do with hurting business immediately (but) we are not closing because of the shooting. We were not closing because of failure."

Phat Eddy's managers have begun searching for a spot downtown to begin a new enterprise.

Their next endeavor will retain elements of Phat Eddy's tradition, such as New Orleans cuisine, without the nightclub aspect, Sabia said.

"We are concentrating on fine dining," Sabia said. "There will be a lounge area. We will have a dance floor. We want to continue our hours until 3:30 or 4 o'clock in the morning. But it's not going to be catering to a nightclub environment."

Sabia said not renewing the lease may be a blessing in disguise.

"It's going to give us an opportunity to have a fresh start, a fresh name," Sabia said.



Dave Woodhead, owner of Woody's bar and grill, is going to open a country-western bar called the Sidewinder Saloon that will feature live music.

Kimberly Elementary School principal put on administrative leave

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

KIMBERLY — A brief announcement in the Kimberly School District newsletter caught some parents and students by surprise.

The newsletter, which was sent to parents on Thursday, informed them that Kelly Messmer, the elementary school principal, was on "temporary leave."

The announcement came after the Kimberly School Board decided the day before to put Messmer on administrative leave.

School officials would not say why, saying only that it was a personnel matter. Officials would not give the *Times-News* a copy of the meeting minutes, which recorded the discussion regarding Messmer.

"The meeting minutes are unofficial at this point," said John Garner, superintendent of the Kimberly School District. "After the board has reviewed them, they will be available to the public."

John Lothrop, attorney for the principal of the elementary school since 2004, could not be reached

"Because it's a personnel matter, I don't want to say anything that might get us in trouble."

— John Garner, superintendent of the Kimberly School District

as of press time.

Garner said Brian Willford, a physical education teacher at the elementary school, will oversee Messmer's responsibilities until the "issue is resolved." Messmer is still on the district's payroll until the board reaches a final decision within 20 days.

"Because it's a personnel matter,

I don't want to say anything that might get us in trouble," Garner said. "But I can say that everyone is entitled to all the steps of a due process."

*Times-News writer Joshua Palmer covers education. He can be reached at jpalmer@magicvalley.com or at (208) 420-0526.

Snowpack Levels

Station	4/9/07	% of Normal
Blackfoot	625	613
Big Wood	478	446
Little Wood	478	476
Big Lost	429	413
Little Lost	398	328
Haystack	446	328
Upper Snake Basin	629	64
Oakley	607	678
Shoshone Falls	529	379

As of April 9

Cassia CAFO moves forward

By Russel Wells
For the Times-News

BURLEY — Cassia County commissioners leaned on the issue of jurisdiction in upholding a zoning decision involving Dan and Carin Ward a permit to construct a dairy southwest of Burley.

The permit was approved by the county's Planning and Zoning Commission in a 4-2 vote, but later appealed by a neighbor who said he was concerned the land would not be able to contain run-off and waste.

Commissioners pointed out that just as the state has jurisdiction over nutrient management plans, it also has the authority to control irrigation and flood issues.

"We don't have the resources or expertise to manage these issues," Commissioner Paul Christensen said. "The Idaho Code delegates that responsibility to the Idaho Department of Water Resources." The commissioners questioned if they, as a governing board, had the right to tell property owners how to handle waste or what crops they can grow on their property.

The appeal was filed by Marvin Blacker, asking that the permit for the dairy, at 500 W. 535 S., be rescinded. Blacker said the property would likely not be able to contain run-off water, resulting in contamination of other farms in the area. Blacker's attorney, Rich Carlson, told the commission the county's appeal process is flawed because it does not allow the commissioners to consider new legal arguments in cases where the information has previously been considered by other county boards.

"There is something wrong when citizens have to go to court to see whether or not the laws were appropriately applied by the board," Carlson said.

John Lothrop, attorney for the Ward Dairy, said his client's property followed the county's permitting process and now merely want to have the lawful right to use the land.

He said he was impressed with

Jerome County to discuss illegal overtime

Times-News

JEROME — The Jerome County commissioners will again talk about the issue of nearly \$70,000 in illegal overtime paid to their predecessors.

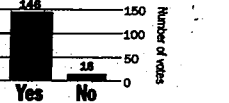
The commission will meet at 10:30 a.m. today at the Jerome County Courthouse, 300 N. Lincoln.

By law, elected officials can't be paid overtime, yet for four years Jerome County commissioners paid themselves overtime. Now the state says they should pay it back. However, the state is not pressing criminal charges because it found no "criminal intent" and last week, the current commissioners voted not to pursue civil charges because of legal costs.

None of the former commissioners has paid back the money. Veronice Lierman paid herself \$51,857; John Elorrieta, \$16,200 and Alvin Chojnacky, \$425.

At magicvalley.com

Should former Jerome County commissioners return illegal overtime payments?



Poll results as of press time Monday.

In the *Times-News* online poll, 146 people voted that the former commissioners should pay back the money; 16 people voted that they shouldn't. To cast your vote, go to <http://www.magicvalley.com>. The poll is informal and unscientific.

OBITUARIES/IDAHO

Thelma Mae Pullin

COMPTON JUNCTION, Mo. — Thelma Mae Murphy Pullin of Compton Junction, Mo., and formerly of Kimberly, Idaho, passed away Friday, April 6, 2007, at her home. Thelma was born July 15, 1923, in Huntsville, Ark., to Allen Franklin and Rebecca Murphy. She was a very loving and caring mother and grandmother, and her family was very important to her. Everyone who met her loved her. Her parents and siblings: her husband, Leonard R. Pullin; son, Larry E. Walker; and grandson, David R. Pullin, preceded



her in death. She is survived by her children, Clara (Dean) Pullin, Willey "Pete" (Shirley) Pullin, Linda (Tom) Moore and Kathy (Gary J.) Woodruff; 15 grandchildren; and many great- and great-great-grandchildren. A visitation for Thelma will be held Wednesday, April 11, from 9 to 11 a.m., at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. at the funeral home with Pastor Wayne McClellan officiating. Interment will be held following the service at the Sunset Memorial Park in Twin Falls. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be sent to the American Cancer Society, 2676 S. Vista, Boise, ID 83705.

Wilda Elen Worthington

TWIN FALLS — Wilda Elen Worthington passed away Friday, April 6, 2007, in her home with her loving family. Wilda Elen Worthington was born Dec. 30, 1922, in Burley, Idaho, to Delbert and Lona Johnson. Wilda attended schools in Barber, Idaho; and Twin Falls, Idaho; and Burley, Idaho. On Aug. 17, 1941, she married Wendell H. Worthington in Burley, Idaho. They resided in Oakley and Boise and, in 1947, moved to Twin Falls and purchased a small family grocery store, "Truck Lane Market," which they owned and operated for 23 years. Wilda was very creative and talented. She taught ballroom dancing in her home for 25 years. She enjoyed oil painting interior design and yearly camping trips with her family and various other hobbies. Wilda will be dearly missed by all who knew her.



She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Wendell of Twin Falls; her children, Judy Cole of Auburn, Ind., Renae Wilda Elen of Burley; Lee of Twin Falls, Idaho, Gary (Tami) Worthington, also of Twin Falls, Idaho; as well as eight grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; five step-grandchildren and 10 step-great-grandchildren. Also surviving is her sister, Norma Irwin of Nampa, Idaho; and her brother, Jim Johnson of Yakima, Wash. She was preceded in death by her mother, Lona Johnson; her father, Delbert Johnson; her brothers, Harold Johnson, Dean Johnson and Keith Johnson; and her sister, Sharon Johnson Prestel. At Wilda's request, there will be a private family viewing and graveside service on Thursday, April 12. Services are under the direction of Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls.

Willia R. Rider Fowler

TWIN FALLS — Willia R. Rider Fowler, 82, of Twin Falls, died Sunday, Friday afternoon, April 6, 2007, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.



Willia is survived by her husband, Warren Fowler of Twin Falls; her two sons, Lynn (Garth) Osterhout of Burley and Roxie (Richard) King of Portland, Ore.; one brother, John Paul Gerhardt of Oregon; as well as two grandchildren, Zachary (Raymond) Sneed and Dana Sneed; three great-grandchildren, Justice and Ayden Sneed and Dallas Ward. Willia was an addition to another family came to love and support from Warren's children; Scott (Carla) Fowler of Athens, Ala., Laurie (Jackson) Allred of Oakley, Julie (Roger) Oberst of Twin Falls, and Beth (Robert) Olmstead, also of Twin Falls; eight grandchildren, Nathan Fowler, Adam Fowler, J.W. Allred, Jeanine Allred, Alex Carter, Blake Carter, Grace Crist and Drew Crist. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Fran Rider; two brothers; and one sister.

Willia was born Aug. 7, 1924, in Terre Haute, Ind., the daughter of Henry and Willia Roseanna White Gerhardt. She grew up and attended schools in North Dakota. She furthered her education in Pennsylvania and where she received her bachelor's degree. On Dec. 1, 1945, Willia married Francis "Fran" Rider in Gettysburg, Pa. Together, they raised two daughters, Lynn and Roxie. In 1960, they moved to Twin Falls, where Willia taught music for more than 25 years.

Willia was an outstanding organist and piano musician. She played at numerous places throughout her life in the Magic Valley. She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, where she was past matron and presently secretary of Twin Falls Chapter 29 Order of the Eastern Star, as well as the grand organist for the state of Idaho; treasurer of the Twentieth Century Club in Twin Falls and treasurer of the Methodist Women's Association. Willia was employed at Reynolds Funeral Chapel for many years, as well as the church organist for the Rock Creek Community Church in Twin Falls. After the passing of Fran in 2004, Willia fell in love again and married Warren Fowler on June 18, 2006, in Twin Falls. They shared nine months and gave each other wonderful companionship.

Wayne R. Bates

TWIN FALLS — Wayne R. Bates, 81 of Twin Falls, passed away in the arms of his family at his home on April 8, 2007.



He was born Nov. 7, 1925, in Tisbury, Idaho, the son of John O. and Grace Malone Bates. He graduated from Twin Falls High School in 1943, and then went on to join the United States Marine Corps.

While in the Marines, he served in the South Pacific Theater in the Iwo Jima and Peleliu, Palau Island, campaigns. Upon returning from the service, he married Bethine Scott on Jan. 17, 1948, in Elko, Nev. He worked as a salesman for Sears-Roebuck, until his retirement.

He then went to work for The Bon Marche until illness forced his retirement. He was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church and a past member of the Twin Falls Monarch Lions Club. Wayne enjoyed hunting, fishing, fly-fishing and bowling, as well as spending time with his loving family. Many family outings were enjoyed with his children by his side.

Surviving are his wife,

Bethine of Twin Falls; son, John W. (Cheri) of Twin Falls; daughters, Karen (Lynn) Baird of Twin Falls, Raeline (Dave) Frantz of Twin Falls, Yvonne (Ed) Iskra of Bremerton, Wash., and Christine Rene of Salt Lake City, Utah; step-children, Gary Pearson of Wyoming; stepdaughters, Camille Rice of California and Maline Cornwall of Boise; and along with 13 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and one great-grandchild, Makennah Anderson.

Friends may call Tuesday, April 10, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls. A service of remembrance will be held Wednesday, April 11, at 2 p.m. at the Immanuel Lutheran Church, with luncheon to follow at the Twin Falls Cemetery.

The family would like those who wish to make memorial contributions in his name to the Immanuel Lutheran Church.

DEATH NOTICES

Roy Elmer Sisiam

BELLEVEUE — Roy Elmer Sisiam, 88, died Thursday, April 5, 2007, at his home in Bellevue after a long illness. A graveside service will be at 2 p.m. Friday, April 13, at the Bellevue Cemetery, with the Rev. Fred Walton of the Bellevue Community Church speaking. Urn interment will follow the service. Arrangements are under the care of Wood River Chapel of Halley.

Charles Catholic Church in Halley. Urn interment will be in the Halley Cemetery following the Mass. Arrangements are under the care of Wood River Chapel of Halley.

Elmae Hamblin

BURLEY — Elmae Hamblin, 81, of Burley, died Sunday April 8, 2007, at her home. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by the Hansen Mortuary Burley Chapel.

Susan Kobe

HALLEY — Susan Kobe, 66, died Thursday, April 5, 2007, at the Blaine Manor in Halley. Rosary and vigil will be at 7 p.m. Friday, April 13, at the Wood River Chapel in Halley. A funeral service will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 14, at the St.

Brenda Blakeslee

WENDELL — Brenda Blakeslee, 55, formerly of Wendell, died Sunday, April 8, 2007, at her residence in Filer. Arrangements are pending and will be announced by Demary Funeral Service, Gooding Chapel.

SERVICES

Jerry — William Rosenkrantz of Caldwell and formerly of Buhl, service at 11 a.m. today at Dakan Funeral Chapel, 504 S. Kimball Ave. in Caldwell. Graveside service will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the West End Cemetery in Buhl.

Eugene C. Slaughter of Jerome, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the First Baptist Church in Jerome (Hove-Johnson Funeral Chapel in Jerome).

Olive Mae Brooks of Fairfield-Gooding, funeral at 2 p.m. today at Demary Funeral Chapel in Gooding.

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Lynn Johnson, AAMS 1126 Eastland Twin Falls, ID 733-6322	Gertrude W. Cody, WY 2716 S. Lincoln St. Paul, ID 248-1111	Patsy Turner, AAMS 1445 Blinn St. Boise, ID 737-6277	Tom & Loni Hessman 1327 Adams Ave. Burley, ID 978-1131

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Latest census data reinforces Idaho's urban shift

BOISE (AP) — Idaho's biggest cities and urban areas showed no sign of any slowdown in population growth last year, with four ranking among the nation's 65 fastest-growing cities, according to the latest U.S. census data. Estimates also show the population of Idaho's 11 urban centers grew nearly three times faster last year than the rest of the nation's urban areas. Those communities recorded a combined population gain of 2.8 percent from mid-2005 to mid-2006, while the nation's other 327 statistical areas grew by just 1 percent.

The 11 urban centers are now home to 84.9 percent of the state's overall population, up 1.1 percent from the 2000 census. Boise-Nampa continues to lead the way, growing at 4.13 percent clip. The Bureau estimates a 2006 population of 567,610, up from 545,411 in 2005 for the five-county area. The population in Idaho Falls increased 3.23 percent, followed by Coeur d'Alene at 2.86 percent and Twin Falls, which grew by 2.79 percent or about 2,500 people, according to estimates. The estimates support a growth trend for Boise and Coeur d'Alene that has been

under way since 2000. Both urban centers have grown by more than 20 percent, and now rank 23rd and 27th, respectively, among all statistical areas across the country. Since 1990, Coeur d'Alene ranks 14th nationally with 88 percent growth. The growth rates have created problems for communities of all sizes. Camas County, in southeastern Idaho, has grown nearly 10 percent since the 2000 census. Recent data estimates the population at 1,088, the first time in history the county has been home to more than 1,000 residents.

Polar bear proposal generates heavy public comment

By Dan Joling
Associated Press writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — More than 500,000 people have commented on a proposal to list polar bears as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act.

Monday was the deadline for the public to weigh in on whether America's polar bears, found exclusively in Alaska, merit additional protection due to global warming.

Bruce Woods, spokesman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska, said Monday that e-mail comments alone topped the half-million mark. He said it could be several days before the agency has a tally on the number of comments but that the agency also received enough surface mail and petitions to fill multiple boxes.

Woods could not say with certainty whether any other species has brought in as much public comment.

"To my knowledge, none equals this," he said.

Conservation groups

claimed Monday that their side alone provided half a million comments.

"The sense of urgency about the fate of the polar bears is like nothing we've ever seen in the history of the Endangered Species Act," said Andrew Weizler of the Natural Resources Defense Council. "The plight of these animals is critical, and so is the sense that the changes affecting them are eventually going to affect us. That's why there is such tremendous public support for getting this listing done."

The comments collected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, however, were not an opinion poll.

Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne said in a December proposed listing polar bears as threatened, defined in law as likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future. The more drastic listing under the law is "endangered" — in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Woods said the agency sought public comment regarding the science behind

the December decision, plus additional information on polar bear denning, sea ice change and potential threats to the animals.

In the next eight months, he said, the agency will review the collected comments and consider new studies that could help decision-makers.

"We'll continue to work with GS (U.S. Geological Survey) and our international partners to continue to gather the best available data," Woods said.

Kempthorne's decision about the proposed listing was forced by a petition, filed by the Center for Biological Diversity of Joshua Tree, Calif., which said polar bears could become extinct by the end of the century because their sea ice habitat is melting away due to global warming.

Polar bears are considered marine mammals because they spend most of their lives on sea ice. They use it as a platform to hunt their main prey, ringed seals, plus other ice seals. In Alaska, females use sea ice to den or to reach denning areas on land.

The Fish and Wildlife

Service is required by law to render its listing decision by January.

Conservationists hope — and Alaska business interests fear — that designating polar bears as threatened due to global warming will carry a huge economic cost, forcing federal agencies around the country to consider the affect on polar bears before granting permits that would increase greenhouse gas emissions.

"The listing likely will force anyone in America whose business requires the emission of greenhouse gases to go through an additional layer of consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, creating delays and expenses," said Marilyn Crockett, deputy director of the Alaska Oil and Gas Association, in testimony last month.

If polar bears are listed, agency officials will form a recovery team to formulate a recovery plan.

"If we were going to go forward and propose critical habitat, economic impact would be part of that formula," Woods said.

MAGIC VALLEY/IDAHO/WEST Rexburg's only bar makes its last call

REXBURG (AP) — They'll have to cry in their soda pop in this Mormon town from now on.

Miller's Hideaway, is "no more, leaving this alcohol-eschewing bastion of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints without a single watering hole."

Owners Sherrie and Jim Miller said business had run dry by the time the place closed last March — especially after officers with the Rexburg Police Department targeted patrons leaving the parking lot for frequent traffic stops.

"They didn't like being watched so close," Jim Miller told The Associated Press. The Millers told the Associated Press, a lot of people were being pulled over consistently.

Police say the Millers' repeated complaints during their 11 years of operation were unfounded.

"We've dealt with them since they opened, accusing us of putting patrol cars out there," said Capt. Nancy Lewis. "We do not randomly stop people."

Whatever happened, it's part of a trend.

Thirty years ago, locals say, there were five bars.

Now the closest place to wet your whistle is in St. Anthony, a few miles to the north.

Rexburg population 43,000, is a college town, but nearly all of the 12,000 students at Brigham Young University-Idaho belong to the Mormon faith.

Coffee, another Mormon no-no, is also a rarity.

Rexburg is the kind of place

where ice-cream parlors, not nightlife, are the toast of the town, said Donna Benfield, executive director of the Rexburg Chamber of Commerce.

"There are still lots of things to do here," Benfield told the Idaho Falls Post Register. The college has an entertainment series that brings in some great groups, we have several very nice restaurants — a huge movie theater, bowling and games for the kids."

This isn't the first time alcohol — and Rexburg's tradition of temperance — have affected local commerce.

National chain Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar withdrew plans for a restaurant last summer after running into Rexburg's 1947 law that prohibits selling liquor by the drink within city limits.

Miller's Hideaway sold only sold beer and wine. There was also a jukebox with country standards such as Hank Williams Jr.'s "There's a Bar in My Beer" — rhymes better than with diet Coke — pool tables and regular karaoke.

During the early years, the Millers brought in live music, Off-road enthusiasts who ride the nearby St. Anthony Sand Dunes were among the most frequent guests during the summer.

Eventually, though, he says business just tapered off.

Miller says he and his wife felt like they were betraying the few regulars that remained.

"After 10 years, you get close to people," Miller said.

Appeals court rejects Bush salmon plan for Columbia dams

By Jeff Bernard
Associated Press writer

GRANTS PASS, Ore. — A federal appeals court Monday rejected the Bush administration's novel 2004 plan for making Columbia Basin hydroelectric dams safe for salmon, saying it used "slight of hand" and violated the Endangered Species Act.

The ruling by a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco upheld U.S. District Judge James Redden's order rejecting the dams to sacrifice power production to help juvenile salmon migrating to the ocean.

It also keeps open the possibility that Redden could order four dams on the lower Snake River in eastern Washington breached to restore salmon —

a step he has said he would be willing to take if needed.

"Under this approach, a listed species could be gradually destroyed, so long as each step on the path to destruction is 'slight of hand,'" Justice Sydney R. Thomas wrote of the Bush administration's approach to balancing dams against salmon. "This type of slide into oblivion is one of the very ill the ESA seeks to prevent."

The ruling was the latest of a series in recent weeks going against the Bush administration's environmental policies, including global warming, forest management, and protecting endangered species.

Michael Garrity of American Rivers, one of the conservation groups that filed the original lawsuit, said the ruling made it clear that "small

tweaks to the system" are not going to save salmon, from a legal or scientific standpoint.

Larger steps, such as breaching the four lower Snake River dams and taking the irrigation water from who away, need to be seriously considered, he said.

NOAA Fisheries, the federal agency in charge of restoring salmon populations, has fallen to a fraction of historical levels, and the Bonneville Power Administration, which sells the power generated by the dams, did not immediately comment on the ruling.

NOAA Fisheries has been trying to come up with a valid plan for operating federal hydroelectric dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers since 1993. Each one, known as a biological opinion, has been found wanting by federal courts.

In total, 13 species of salmon and steelhead that pass over the dams are listed or threatened, or endangered. Juveniles swimming downstream to the ocean are hit the hardest. Each dam kills a few percent of each overall run when they fish are ground up in turbines, disoriented by plunging over spillways, and eaten by predators in slow water, adding up to a major impact.

Redden has ordered the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to spill more water over the dams, leaving less to go through turbines, as a way to help more fish survive.

NOAA Fisheries concluded in 2000 that it might be necessary to breach the four dams on the lower Snake River to save threatened and endangered salmon, but after President Bush took office in 2001, he promised the dams would stay.

In 2004, NOAA Fisheries



Tom Brown looks on the Snake River dam in California's sport season opened over the weekend, but many amateur anglers fished for a while and then came back disappointed.

Gooding Woman to celebrate 90th birthday

GOODING — Mary Katherine Young will celebrate her 90th birthday with an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday at Solid Rock & a p 11 s 1 a Ch. 11, 2148 Main St.

Young was born April 4, 1917, in Moffat, Colo. She is the mother of 11 children. After high school, she attended Business College in Kansas

where she met Harold E. Young. They later married in Allentown, Pa. She retired in 1987 from the U.S. Postal Department in California and moved to Gooding. Her hobbies include sewing, crafting, gardening, collecting Santa's, friends and family.

Children include Linda (Earl) Brown, and Carol Wallace, both of Gooding, and Harold E. (Debbie) Young Jr. of California. She has nine grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

The family requests no gifts.

don't think anyone would have chosen to have the issues to deal with there, but it is a fact that the company has brought a great deal of economic prosperity to Mini-Cassia. With the economic changes have come technological changes which have made it better."

Handy said, in 10 to 15 years, there will likely be less intrusive dairies with the technology that is coming.

CAFO

Continued from page D1

the detailed resolution drafted by the zoning board, which requires the Wards to "over-engineer" the site to address potential problems, such as those raised by Blacker.

At Monday's deliberations, the commissioners agreed unanimously that the Wards be properly applied, and should therefore be permitted for a dairy.

Commissioner Clay Handy said today's dairy issues are not unlike issues that he remembers as a child growing up in the shadow of The Amalgamated Sugar Co. in Paul.

"They now process in an hour the number of bags processed in a week when I was young," Handy said. "I

don't think anyone would have chosen to have the issues to deal with there, but it is a fact that the company has brought a great deal of economic prosperity to Mini-Cassia. With the economic changes have come technological changes which have made it better."

Handy said, in 10 to 15 years, there will likely be less intrusive dairies with the technology that is coming.

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AROUND THE NATION

ARIZONA

Bush seeking support for immigration proposals

YUMA — President Bush boasted of tougher enforcement along the Mexican border Monday as he tried to revive his stalled efforts to overhaul U.S. immigration laws. Many of his fellow Republicans in Congress are opposing him.

Frustrated by his failure to get a bill approved last year when the GOP was in charge, Bush said prospects look brighter in the Democratic Congress. "I think the atmosphere up there is good right now," he said.

His message — particularly to conservative critics from his own party — was that stepped-up border enforcement is working and it's time to adopt a temporary worker program. Bush said U.S. employers are unable to find the workers they hire and resolve the status of the millions of illegal immigrants already in the United States.

He shut the opening of a new border patrol station in this southwest corner of Arizona and said, "This border is more secure and America is safer as a result."

The president was joined by Sen. Jon Kyl, the Arizona Republican whose support is crucial to any deal in the Congress. Another lawmaker in the White House, Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, issued a statement that said, "President Bush did the right thing today by speaking out."

MICHIGAN

Police say fired worker is suspect in office shooting

TROY — An accounting firm employee who was fired last week shot and killed a woman and wounded two men Monday at the suburban Detroit building where he worked, then led officers on a high-speed chase, police said.

Hours after the shooting, a motorist 50 miles north of Detroit spotted a vehicle described on radio reports and notified authorities, touching off a 30-mile pursuit that passed through a construction zone and reached speeds of 120 mph, police said.

Anthony LaCalamita III, 38, said nothing after officers surrounded him. Genesee County Sheriff Robert J. Pickel said, "Officers found a 12-gauge pump-action shotgun and three live shells in the vehicle. Very, very, very subdued," the sheriff said.

LaCalamita's calmness at the conclusion belied a frantic mid-morning at the offices of Gordon Advisors, a 40- to 50-employee company where workers had been busy preparing tax returns.

"We heard pop, pop, pop," smelled gunpowder and heard co-workers yelling, said Jean Larson, 48, a staff accountant for GAC, a subsidiary of Gordon Advisors.

"I heard one employee screaming, 'He's got a gun. He's got a gun.' ... It was a panic. No one knew what to do. No one knew where to go."

After briefly assembling in the employee lunchroom, some employees opted to hole up inside individual offices. Others fled to two fern co-workers, barricading the locked door with chairs, turning off the lights and silencing their cell phones.

Beneath a desk, the three crouched up and kept quiet.

"I was just so scared," Larson said. "I just kept thinking, 'This can't be happening.'"

Police said the person killed was a 63-year-old woman from Warren but would not name her. A message posted Monday afternoon on the accounting firm's Web site said the office would be closed Tuesday in memory of Madeline Kafury.

Larson said Kafury was well-known and well-liked. She said Kafury retired last year following the conclusion of tax season, but returned part-time this year after her successor quit.

were not announced until Monday. They are the Army National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, based in Little Rock, Ark.; 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oklahoma City; the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Indianapolis, and the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Columbus, Ohio.

The units would serve as replacement forces in the regular tour rotation for the war, and would not be connected to the recent military buildup for security operations in Baghdad, the Pentagon says.

One unit would deploy in December and the others in 2008, the Army said.

The new "receiving" alert orders now in order to provide them the maximum time to complete their preparations," the Defense Department said in a news release. "It also provides a greater measure of predictability for family members and flexibility for employers to plan for military service of their employees."

The final determination on whether the units will deploy will be made based on conditions in Iraq, officials said.

Congress approval hits highest point in a year

Public approval for Congress is at its highest level in a year as Democrats mark 100 days in power and step up their confrontation with President Bush over his handling of the Iraq War, the issue that overshadows all others.

Yet for all their eagerness to challenge Bush, congressional Democrats so far have failed to attract significant support among independents, a group that helped propel them to power in last fall's elections and now appears more strongly opposed to the war than the general public.

The findings from an AP-Ipsos nationwide poll provide a snapshot of public sentiment in the days after the House and Senate triggered a series of veto threats from the president by passing separate bills that provide funds for the war, yet also call for the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops.

Overall approval for Congress is 40 percent. The survey shows Bush approval rates remain in the mid-30 percent range, that a striking 39 percent strongly disapproves his handling of foreign policy and the war in Iraq, and that 61 percent has seen hopes that the president and Congress can work together to solve the country's problems.

New focus on asthma control to help patients

Only one in five children with asthma has the disease under good control, sobering findings that are helping to fuel a shift in care.

The change: A stronger focus on day-to-day symptoms, not just the bad attacks, so that more of the 20.5 million Americans of all ages who have asthma can breathe easier without limiting their activities.

Federal guidelines due this summer are expected to urge doctors to more closely monitor whether treatment is truly controlling everyday symptoms and improving patients' quality of life — and to adjust therapy until it does.

Already, a campaign is under way to teach patients to recognize they need better help, and how to convey that to a doctor. If your doctor's happy that you've had no flare-ups but doesn't know you had to quit playing soccer to do it, you're not achieving good control.

Too often, physicians don't

realize how severe symptoms are, says Dr. Jill Halterman, a pediatric asthma specialist at the University of Rochester. With children, their own parents may underestimate symptoms.

It's more complicated than denial: When wheezing while running or waking up at night coughing has been routine for years, people may not know to complain.

"It may be part of what they view as normal," says Halterman, who is studying the control gap. "We're hoping we can change that so the goal can really be for the child to have no symptoms and no limitations on activities."

That's the goal for adults, too, as specialists shift from asthma's severity as the chief treatment guide to this broader goal of asthma control, adds Dr. Allan Luskin of the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

"They can live normal lives but it takes work," says Luskin, who is working with the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America on a patient campaign. "Patients and doctors need to understand that asthma can be controlled and we really ought to expect nothing less."

Effects of deforestation depend on location

The effect of deforestation on climate depends on three things — location, location and location.

Environmentalists concerned about global warming have long encouraged preservation of forests because they absorb carbon dioxide, the most abundant greenhouse gas in the atmosphere.

But the issue, like most things, may be more complicated than it first appears.

"New research in this week's online edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of

Sciences, confirms the effectiveness of tropical forests at reducing warming by absorbing carbon. But it suggests that in snowy latitudes, forests may actually increase local warming by absorbing solar energy that would otherwise be reflected back into outer space.

That doesn't mean forests in cold areas should be chopped down, stressed Kon Caldeira of the Carnegie Institution department of global ecology in Stanford, Calif.

"I am a little concerned about this being misapplied as an excuse to chop down the forests in the name of saving the environment," said Caldeira, a co-author of the report.

"A primary reason we are trying to slow global warming is to protect nature. It just makes no sense to destroy natural ecosystems in the name of saving natural ecosystems," he said.

But, he added, efforts to increase the forested areas in

northern regions may be ineffective in combating warming and can be a distraction from the real answer, which is the need to reform our system of energy production.

The result does "suggest it's more important to preserve and restore tropical forests that had been previously recognized," he added.

Tropical forests help cool the planet in two ways, Caldeira pointed out — by absorbing carbon dioxide and by drawing up soil moisture which is released into the air forming clouds.

NEW YORK

Talk radio's Don Imus suspended for two weeks

CBS Radio and MSNBC both said they were suspending Don Imus' morning talk show for two weeks following his reference last week to members of the Rutgers women's basketball team as "nappy-headed hos."

— The Associated Press

The suspension begins next Monday.

While CBS made its announcement without comment, MSNBC said Imus' private comment and his stated dedication to changing the show's discourse made it believe this was the appropriate response.

"Our future relationship with Imus is contingent on his ability to live up to his word," the network said. MSNBC simulcasts his radio program weekday mornings.

Imus, who has made a career of cranking insults in the morning, was fighting for his job following the joke that by his own admission went "way too far." He continued to apologize Monday, both on his show and on a syndicated radio program hosted by the Rev. Al Sharpton, who is among several black leaders demanding his ouster.

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 Amazing Grace 10 8:45 - 9:30
 Blades of Glory 10 7:30 - 8:45
 Fishhouse Dog 10 7:15 - 8:45
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 The Look Out 10 7:00 - 8:15
 Meet the Robinsons 10 7:15 - 8:45

OMEGA G
 Hills Have Eyes 2 10 7:00 - 8:15
 Are We Done Yet 10 7:00 - 8:15
 The Reaping 10 7:30 - 8:45
 Meet the Robinsons 10 7:00 - 8:15
 GridHouse 10 7:30
 Breach 10 7:00 - 8:30

IDAHO

They've got your number

License-plate collectors tag along with history

WORLD FAMOUS POTATOES

By Steve Cramp
Times-News writer

BURLEY—Whenever Dan Crane and his wife go on vacation, they make a lot of stops at junk yards.

"Great place to find old license plates," said Crane, a retired Cassia County farmer. "I usually come away with one or two."

But the trouble with collecting vintage license plates is that it's impossible to stop at a few. Crane owns more than 700. Ted Klaas of Jerome has several thousand—including 1,000 or so still stored in cardboard boxes.

"I've been at this about 30 years," said Klaas, who runs Klaas Furniture Auction. "I've stopped counting."

License-plate collecting is the most down-home of hobbies; traditionally, they've just been swapped—and less frequently sold—among collectors.

"Buy has changed all that, too many of the rarest tags change hands for just a few hundred dollars."

"A lot of them, people have just given me," Klaas said. "It's anybody's guess how many vintage license plates there are in the Magic Valley. They've long been a fixture of farmsteads, with some



Ted Klaas

ingenious uses. Klaas' collection includes plates that were once makeshift irrigation gates.

Those are displayed, along with Klaas' collection of old metal signs. In his auction house, there's a plate from every state in the nation, dozens of foreign countries and most of the counties in Idaho.

"Here's one from Desert Storm

"A lot of the trade in license plates is still by barter. If you've got a plate that I really want—say 1915—I'll dig into my collection and trade you several of my plates."

— Ted Klaas

(the 1991 Gulf War) that a guy brought back," Klaas said, pointing to a well-worn tag bearing Arabic script. "We had it hung upside down for a long time until somebody noticed it."

All license plates interest Klaas, but like the hobbies of stamp and coin collecting the real thrill is finding few-of-a-kind treasures—such as the first tags issued by Idaho in the years before and during World War I.

"I have the first two years, but they're reproductions," he said. "If anybody knows of a 1915 Idaho plate, I'd sure like to talk to them."

Please see PLATES, Page D6

County license plate prefixes

Before 1932, a straight numerical system was used with no county prefix. In 1932 and 1933, the letters A, B, H, K and R were used with the numerals 1 through 9 as county prefixes. From 1934 through 1944, the same prefixes were used except that the B was changed to a P in 1945, the present county prefix designation was started.

County designations, 1932-present

County	1932-1933	1934-1944	1945-	County	1932-1933	1934-1944	1945-
Ada	A1	1A	1A	Gem	H5	5H	1G
Adams	A2	2A	2A	Gooding	H6	6H	2G
Bannock	A3	3A	1B	Idaho	H7	7H	1
Bear Lake	A4	4A	2B	Jefferson	H8	8H	1J
Beneath	A5	5A	3B	Jerome	H9	9H	2J
Bingham	A6	6A	4B	Kootenai	K1	1K	K
Blaine	A7	7A	5B	Latah	K2	2K	1L
Boise	A8	8A	6B	Lemhi	K3	3K	2L
Bonner	A9	9A	7B	Lewis	K4	4K	3L
Bonneville	B1	1P	8B	Lincoln	K5	5K	4L
Boundary	B2	2P	9B	Madison	K6	6K	1M
Butte	B3	3P	10B	Minidoka	K7	7K	2M
Camas	B4	4P	1C	Nex Perce	H8	8K	N
Canyon	B5	5P	2C	Oneida	H9	9K	1O
Caribou	B6	6P	3C	Owyhee	R1	1R	2O
Cassia	B7	7P	4C	Payette	R2	2R	1P
Clark	B8	8P	5C	Power	R3	3R	2P
Clearwater	B9	9P	6C	Shoshone	R4	4R	S
Custer	H1	1H	7C	Teton	R5	5R	1T
Elmore	H2	2H	E	Twin Falls	R6	6R	2T
Franklin	H3	3H	1F	Valley	H7	7H	V
Fremont	H4	4H	2F	Washington	R8	8R	W



Some of the license plates in Ted Klaas' collection.

A life in Magic Valley

Shoshone man, 97, recalls life in Bliss, Gooding and Stanley

By Ariel Hanson
Times-News writer

SHOSHONE—A hundred years ago, Idaho Gov. Frank R. Gooding took it into his head to name a Magic Valley town after himself, and Gooding, Idaho, was born.

Two years later, and not far away, another birth. Between King Hill and Bliss, Paul Bancroft emerged in 1909, the second child of ferry operator George Bancroft. Paul Bancroft had called southern Idaho home since then—as a youth near Gooding, a Forest Service employee near Stanley, a cattle rancher near Clover Creek, and now a 97-year-old retiree in Shoshone.

"They call me the storyteller," he said. "My wife used to say I lie and I don't try to trick people, but I make the story sound a little better than it was

as she saw it."

With a smile: "I don't know whether that was flattery, or not." Bancroft seems an endless repository of stories about Magic Valley, from one of the last American Indians to live outside of an Idaho reservation to recreational fights between drunken miners in Stanley.

There are not many people still alive and spinning tales whose personal histories parallel that of 20th century southern Idaho. With the centennials of some of our towns just past and others on the horizon, it seems worth a moment's pause to hear one of these histories first-hand.

Ferries and Indians

When Paul Bancroft was born, Idaho residents journeyed by horse and buggy, and

the Snake River was a serious obstacle to travel. His father operated one of many small ferries across the river, a boat 60 feet long and 20 feet wide that could handle two teams and wagons, "or pretty near a whole band of sheep," Bancroft said.

The boat was strung on ropes between the two banks, powered by turning it against the current, which pushed it one direction or another. A small buggy was charged 25 cents for the crossing, and larger teams 50 cents.

"A dollar was worth a whole lot more than it is now," Bancroft said.

The family farmed nine acres, and its closest neighbors were a small group of Blackfoot Indians who lived in a large cave, led by a man they called Buckskin Joe.

"He lived there with what we thought was his wife and her



Paul Bancroft, 97, lives in an assisted living home, DeSano Place in Shoshone.

mother, but we learned later, was his two wives," Bancroft said. "It wasn't too bad a place to live, I guess. My dad said he got along fine."

Idaho historian Jim Gentry said Buckskin Joe is an example of the few American Indians who were left alone during the creation of reservations in the West, likely because of the

Blackfoot's connections to the white men.

"You have individuals who understand themselves to the local community and they were kind of a bridge between the white community and the Indian community," said Gentry, a professor of history and chairman of the social science department at the College of

Southern Idaho in Twin Falls. This situation was acceptable, "as long as (the Indians live) as a white person and accept the white person's mores."

Buckskin Joe earned money in the spring shearing sheep, enough in combination with subsistence living and deer

Please see BANCROFT, Page D6

COUNTRY ROADS

Plates

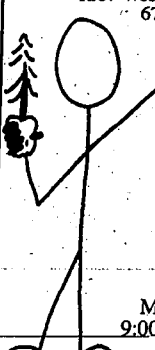
Continued from page D5
 Klaas' favorite plate is a 1947 Idaho tag, bearing the image of a skier.
 "There was still a shortage of metal in the aftermath of World War II, so they only issued one (a single plate for each vehicle)," he explained.
 In 1943-44, all available metal went to the war effort, so Idaho printed license decals that were displayed in the car's window.
 "When I got one of them, it was still attached to the glass," Klaas said.
 The centerpiece of Crane's collection is his complete set of Idaho plates — one from each of the 44 counties.
 "The ones from the north

were kind of hard to come by," he said. "So I just wrote to the courthouse in the counties I needed, and they sent me an old plate."
 Some of Klaas' license tags have been painstakingly restored, which is becoming something of a cottage industry among collectors.
 "It takes a lot of skill and patience," he said.
 "Sometimes it's pretty tough to match the paint."
 Until 1956, Idaho issued plates that were the year the state began selling green-on-white and white-on-green tags in alternate years. In 1950, Idaho minted the now-familiar red-white-and-blue

state's centennial, and those colors have been used since.
 "The first plate with a spud on it was 1928," Klaas explained. "The first 'famous potato' slogan came along in 1940."
 Although vintage license tags are of modest value compared with some other collectibles, Klaas only half-jokingly refers to his collection as his "retirement fund."
 "A lot of the trade in license plates is still by barter," he said.
 "If you've got a plate that I really want — say 1915 — I'll dig into my collection and trade you several of my plates."

The advent of personalized tags in the past 30 years has given collectors a nearly limitless supply of used license plates to choose from.
 Klaas has displayed several such tags on various vehicles he has driven in the past, including a 1978 plate bearing the word "Klaasic."
 "But his current rig has plain-vanilla '21' plates."
 "It's kinda nice in Idaho to look at a license plate and be able to tell where it's from," he said.
 You can, after all, get to know how well — or how badly — people from each county drive.
 "There are some stereotypes," he said.

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Bancroft

Continued from page D5
 hunting to sustain his family through the rest of the year. His adherence to traditional Blackfoot ways of life eventually cost Buckskin Joe his freedom to live that life.
 When his older wife was seriously ailing, Bancroft remembered, Buckskin Joe gathered a poisonous parsnip root to help him die peacefully.
 "After Idaho became a state, it was against the law to help someone kill themselves," Bancroft said. "They put him on trial for second-degree murder, but they wouldn't convict him."
 The jury recognized that Buckskin Joe hadn't had much of a chance and was instead following old traditions. After his acquittal, the government made the Blackfoot and his remaining wife move to a reservation, Bancroft said.
 He didn't want to go. He liked where he was, living on the creek," he said. "That was the last we ever saw of him, but we heard he didn't live very long after that."

Bancroft said his parents never did. Instead, the children gathered the fruit for preserves.
 "We'd put that jam on fresh bread, and jelly on a stack of hotcakes," he said. "We liked it better than the tasses."
 Like most children, though, Bancroft would turn down a sweet. During trips to Gooding or other small towns, his parents would give him a penny or two, just enough for a stick of licorice "as big around as your finger" or an ice cream cone.
 As he grew older, Bancroft learned that having a few spare pennies for a treat could be quite a luxury.
 "We had one of the first radios, and everybody would try to get done by six so they could hear 'Arno & Andy,'" he said. The family also listened to Jack Benny, Red Skelton and the news, where they heard stories of Depression headlines and the approach of war.
 "We had a good thing here if you lived on a farm," he said; because a farm could sustain a family without much additional income. "It was the people in the cities who stood in line all day to get a bowl of soup, they're the ones we should have been feeling sorry for."

work often led to conflict. Bancroft could still buy bootleg whiskey, and it was cheaper (than the legal post-Prohibition alcohol), so there was a lot of it being sold," Bancroft said. "We'd go to these dances, and they'd come up some fights."
 But he managed to keep his nose out of all of them, and it wasn't long before his wife would shift again. In 1939, as World War II broke out in Europe, George Bancroft asked Paul to buy out part of the Clover Creek cattle ranch. George had run since a bridge put in at Bliss made his ferry operation obsolete.
 Like many farmers, the cattle Paul Bancroft took over ranching were considered important to the war effort, so he was not drafted.
 "They said I'd do them more good on the ranch than in the war," he said. "To be truthful, I didn't hardly know whether I wanted to go or not. I liked it here on the farm, and I liked it when the price of cattle went from four cents a pound to 40 cents a pound."
 Although the only ranch hands left were the 4Fs, the men who had physical or mental reasons for being left out of the war, Bancroft managed to keep the ranch running and profitable. New methods of rotating the animals made small amounts of land earn more money, although it was more work than traditional ranching.
 "Wound up, I had enough to live on comfortably for the rest of my life," he said.
 It was a life he shared for 66 years with his wife, a woman he fell in love at the age of 14 but didn't marry until he was 24.
 He met her as a high school freshman when his family moved to Shoshone, then the

biggest town around. Shoshone was a pretty good town 100 years ago, and bigger than Twin Falls then," he said. "It was the crossroads for east and west, north and south."
 After spending years ranching cattle, Bancroft is back in Shoshone, living in a retirement home near downtown. His older daughter lives in California, the younger in Twin Falls, and a grandson now runs his cattle ranch. Though frequent visits from family and a fascination for The History Channel keep Bancroft's mind busy, he obviously misses ranching.
 "I'd always liked that, to go out and watch the cattle on the range," Bancroft said. "It was work, but work that I liked."

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Working up
 The towns that were closest to a ferry and a water mill were big, Bancroft remembered.
 "There'd be a little store, or in it would be the post office, or nearby. And a school and a church, and horse homes, that's all there'd be," he said.

Fighting fires, not war

When Bancroft graduated from high school, his dad gave him \$10 and told him he was on his own. For nine summers, he worked for the U.S. Forest Service, cutting trails and fighting fires, earning \$125 a month.
 They'd try to make nice with us, but we were really the rangers' flunkies," he said.
 According to Genry, the years that Bancroft was working with the Forest Service were particularly dry, and 1934 was an especially bad year for fires. Members of the Civilian Conservation Corps were working up in the mountains during those same years, and Bancroft often found himself working alongside them and playing alongside them as well.
 "Every Saturday, we'd go down to Stanley," Bancroft said, with his boss playing in the orchestra for the weekly dance. "I had the job to watch the groceries, but I'd leave and maybe go dance a bit."
 Bancroft remembers that the proportion of women to men was very low in Stanley, maybe 20 to 200.
 The hormonal strain, combined with men who were often drinking during their time off

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Gooding, by now a few years established, was a little bigger. Two Meyer brothers opened a hardware store in 1908 — according to history books at the Twin Falls Public Library, it soon became a local institution, a gathering place for "old timers" and young families alike.
 "It seemed like Saturday night was the time to come to town. It was a time to visit and see each other," Bancroft said. "I remember my dad going in there and buying bolts and nails and things like that."
 Another place in Gooding that stuck out in his mind? The Chinese restaurant.
 "We used to like to get mulligan stew; I forget what we called it," he said.
 Food figures prominently in many of Bancroft's early memories. His mother would make cheese, cottage cheese and butter, products that impressed visiting relatives.
 "They couldn't tell the difference between what she'd make and what we'd get from the store," he said, in terms of flavor and texture. With rennet added to replicate the store-bought color, "Relatives, they imagined they liked the boughten cheese the best."
 Though some families used chokecherries to make wine,

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