

HISTORY IN LONGHAND

Long-gone rural lives are focus of Jerome man's hobby.

COUNTRY ROADS, SEE PAGE D1



COLLEGE BOUND

Twin Falls golf twosome headed for Division I.

SPORTS, SEE PAGE B1



GET A JOB

Area's No. 1 career fair is at CSI today, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Good Morning



High: 65
Low: 43

Partly to mostly cloudy, warmer. Details: B6

TUESDAY

April 24, 2007

50 cents

Times-News

MagicValley.com

Council approves Wal-Mart requests

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls City Council late Monday night approved the company's requests to change its land-use agreement with the city, allowing construction to begin in the largest city in Idaho without the world's largest retailer.

The 4-2 decision, which followed a nearly four-hour public hearing, concluded the company's more than 15 years of trying to get in between

Burley and Jerome, where it currently has stores.

"We need to acknowledge the fact that change is occurring very rapidly," said Councilman Shawn Bariger.

The company had requested the following changes to a 203,000 square-foot store at the corner of Washington Street, North and Pole Line Road, which is nearby the location of a new high school and hospital:

- 24-hour retail service operation.
- Increased signage.

• Garden center and pharmacy, both with drive-throughs.

• A tire and lube center.
The Twin Falls Planning and Zoning Commission approved the planned unit development 5-4 last month. Two earlier separate requests for changes were denied and, when appealed, upheld by the council.

Wal-Mart — which has 21 stores in Idaho — had brought nearly a dozen workers from Wal-Mart in support and company officials said the same

Please see WAL-MART, Page A3



Paul Smith, a Wal-Mart spokesman, discusses the company's proposed Twin Falls site with city council members Monday.

City will keep mail sorting facility

Postal service decides against move to Boise

By Chris Steinbach
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Consolidation couldn't help the U.S. Postal Service in its battle with snow, rain, heat and gloom of night.

After about a year of internal review, the postal service has decided to keep its area-mail processing center in Twin Falls instead of combining it with the center in Boise.

"This was a careful review," Lloyd Wilkinson, Spokane district manager for the postal service, said Monday. "The conclusion is that there will be no significant changes made at this time."

Denver-based spokeswoman Teresa Rudkin said the center in Boise could have handled the additional volume of mail. And transportation wasn't a problem except in one area, she said.

By consolidating services in Boise, she said, the postal service would not have been able to guarantee overnight service in the Wood River Valley.

"If we made the change, we didn't think we'd be able to keep the great service we provide," she said.

"I'm sure it would have been unacceptable to them," Rudkin said of postal customers in the Wood River Valley. "We weren't going to go there."

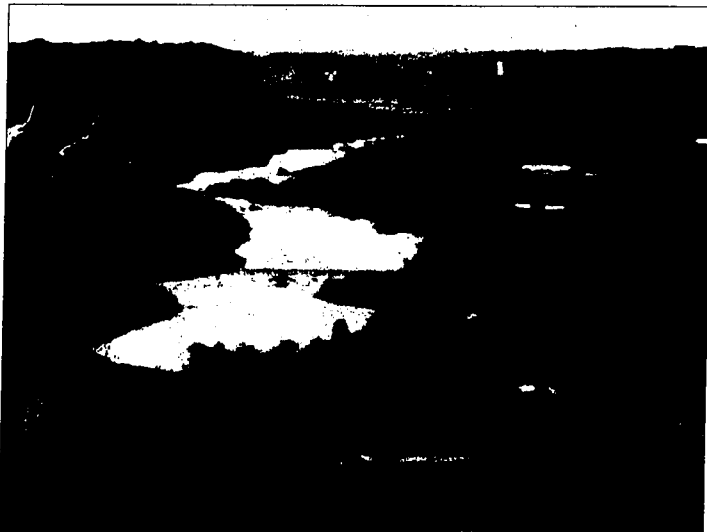
And that's good news to Kathleen Krewok at Iconoclast Books in Kelso. "If we lost our overnight service, it would be horrendous for us," she said. "There are important times when we really need overnight service — both to get things in and to get things out."

Internet sales have become a bigger part of the used-book store's business, Krewok said. And iconoclast typically mails those books.

Many of those customers live in the valley part of the year and buy books year-round.

"They order from us all the time when they are not in town, and oftentimes they want second-day delivery," Krewok said.

Body found at bridge



Twin Falls County sheriff's personnel look for a body from an overlook Monday afternoon along the Snake River near the Perrine Bridge.

Hiker reports seeing man's body under Perrine Bridge

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — About the only thing officials know about a body found below the Perrine Bridge Monday afternoon is that it was the body of a man.

A hiker called 911-dispatch just after 5

p.m. Monday to report a body below the south side of the Perrine Bridge.

Both Jerome and Twin Falls County sheriff's offices responded to the call. They used binoculars to search the canyon walls and floor for the body, which could not be located for about 20 minutes.

"We cannot release much more information at this time," said Nancy Howell, spokeswoman for the Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office. "But we should have more (information) available on Tuesday."

Officials did not release information about the cause of death.

Baghdad blast kills nine U.S. soldiers, injures 20 at outpost

Barriers being built around Sunni stronghold generates controversy

By Maria Brullard
The Washington Post

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A suicide bomber rammed an explosives-rigged truck into a U.S. military outpost near Baquba on Monday, killing nine soldiers and wounding 20 in one of the deadliest single ground attacks on U.S. forces since the start of the war in Iraq, military officials said early Tuesday. Suicide attackers rarely pen-

etrate defenses that surround American troops, but a 10-week-old U.S. counterinsurgency strategy has placed them in outposts and police stations that some soldiers say have made them more vulnerable. The military said the attack occurred near the capital of Diyala province, about 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, where U.S. soldiers have been engaged in increasingly fierce fighting with Sunni insurgents.

A 10th soldier was killed Monday in a roadside bombing in the Diyala town of Muqaddiyah, the military said. The truck bombing caused the highest number of U.S. fatalities in a ground attack since Aug. 3, 2005, when 14 Marines were killed after their amphibious assault vehicle hit a roadside bomb in Haditha. Another car bombing Monday at an Iraqi police checkpoint near Diyala's provincial council headquarters in Baquba killed seven Iraqi policemen and wounded 13, the military said.

Please see IRAQ, Page A3

BLM alters firefighting strategy to boost safety

By John Miller
Associated Press writer

BOISE — Federal firefighters in southern Idaho have revamped how they'll attack fast-moving grass blazes this summer in hopes of avoiding a repeat of an injury-ravaged 2006 season that briefly forced more than 150 firefighters in Twin Falls to lay down their shovels.

All firefighters in the Bureau of Land Management's Twin Falls District were ordered into a daylong safety stand-down Aug. 15 after their third injury accident since the beginning of July.

Among the changes this year, the district's engines will each have an experienced team leader, allowing them to operate independently, rather than responding to fires in three-truck teams. BLM crews in Twin Falls will operate 900-gallon engines, not the 300-gallon trucks used last year.

That will reduce the number of engines from 36 to 22, and firefighters from 155 to about 120. "I expect to make up some of that loss of crews by having better trained, more experienced crews," BLM

Please see FIRES, Page A3



Classified	.....C28	Dear Abby	.....D5	Magic Valley	.....B4	Nation/World	.....D6	Service directory	.....G1
Comics	.....D4-5	Horoscope	.....D4	Money	.....B4	Obituaries	.....A5	Sports	.....G1
Country Roads	.....D1	Idaho/West	.....A7	Morning Briefing	.....A2	Stocks	.....B5	Sudoku	.....C4
Crossword	.....C7	Jumble	.....C5	Movies	.....A5, A7	Obson	.....A8	Weather	.....D8

FROM PAGE ONE

Social Security, Medicare will last longer Fires

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fewer benefits, more tax money and some accounting magic have bought an extra year of life for Social Security and Medicare, trustees of the government's two largest benefit programs said Monday.

The upcoming crush of 78 million retiring baby boomers still will crash the Medicare trust fund by 2019 and the Social Security trust fund by 2041 unless Congress and the White House can agree on a way to

save the programs, the officials said. Those dates are each one year later than the trustees estimated in last year's reports.

For the first time, Medicare hit a trigger that requires President Bush to send the House and Senate legislation to deal with Medicare's funding problems with his 2009 budget.

Congressional Republicans, who crafted that trigger when they were in control of the House and Senate, immediately used the news to call for

changes in the programs.

"Today's report reinforces the need for Congress to address runaway entitlement spending that will bankrupt future generations of Americans," said House Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio.

The Medicare funding warning is triggered when two consecutive trustees reports conclude that the amount of general revenue needed to finance Medicare will top 45 percent of the program's outlays.

Continued from page A1

Fire Management Officer Chris Simonson told The Associated Press on Monday, "I don't expect to see a lesser response."

Other Idaho BLM districts whose crews avoided injury accidents said no changes were in the works. In Boise, for instance, the district will staff 12, 900-gallon engines, the same as a year ago, with 112 people, including dispatchers and helicopter firefighters.

Firefighting in Idaho can be dangerous. Last Aug. 12, three Payette National Forest firefighters and the pilot of the helicopter they were flying in were killed when they crashed fighting a fire in remote country north of Boise.

In the three Twin Falls accidents, one firefighter broke his leg on July 2 while operating a hose in front of a truck that ran over him. A month later, a firefighter severely injured his back when an engine backed over him. In the incident that finally prompted the safety stand-down, a BLM fire engine on Aug. 14 rolled over, injuring three firefighters, including one with a broken pelvis.

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Wal-Mart

Continued from page A1

Changes to the PUD — originally intended for an office park — are not harmful because the garden and tire shops would close at 9 p.m., and that the building would have brick walls and trees to curb its sight and sounds.

"You will absolutely not be able to see this store in 10 years or 12 years at all," said Paul Smith, a local attorney representing the company. "We just think there's change after change and we'd like to change with them."

Opponents were generally limited to residents in the Los Lagos and North Pointe lunch subdivisions, who have voiced opposition not necessarily to Wal-Mart itself but rather the requests to change the PUD.

Almost two dozen people spoke out against the requests, including Fran Tanner, who lives in the Los Lagos division.

"You have about worn me down," Tanner said. "We hope your conscience will let you vote for what Wal-Mart wants because after all you need to respect the integrity of neighbors and the lovely homes that are there."

Lanting, who voted against similar requests as a member to the city's Planning and Zoning Commission several years ago, maintained his stance Monday with Mayor Lance Clow.

"The North Pointe neighbors have to eventually feel like the American Indians because every treaty of theirs is being broken," Lanting said. "That's a hard working neighborhood. That's their slice of the American Dream."

issued a press release about the construction of a three-mile-long, 12-foot-high wall separating Adhamiyah from surrounding Shiite neighborhoods. The partition — dubbed "The Great Wall of Adhamiyah" by soldiers — was intended to curb sectarian violence in the area, the statement said.

The barrier quickly drew criticism from Adhamiyah residents, who said it would stoke sectarian tensions by separating them from Shites and likened it to the barriers Israel has constructed around the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, which are much-maligned in the Arab world. Other critics joined the outcry, among them human rights activists and representatives of anti-American Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, one of whom told reporters in Najaf that the walls amounted to a "siege of the city."

Iraq

Continued from page A1

The council was about to begin a meeting to discuss its 2007 budget, the U.S. military said.

As fighters have fled an ongoing security crackdown in Baghdad, attacks have risen against Americans. Six U.S. forces in Diyala, where the U.S. military is sending more than 2,000 additional troops to battle the insurgency.

U.S. soldiers have recently moved into at least seven small outposts in and around Baquba.

Monday's deaths bring to at least 56 the number of U.S. soldiers killed in Diyala since November. The province has become the third deadliest for Americans this year, following Baghdad and Anbar provinces.

The attack also injured an Iraqi civilian, the U.S. military said.

Bombings in different parts of the country Monday killed at least another 44 people and wounded more than 100, police said. Twin car bombings killed at least 19 outside Ramadi, about 60 miles west of Baghdad, and a suicide bomber detonated explosives inside a restaurant near Baghdad's fortified Green Zone, killing seven and injuring 14.

U.S. military officials say a Sunni insurgent stronghold, "Setting up barriers is one thing and building barriers is another. These are movable barriers that can be removed."

The Adhamiyah wall is part of a U.S. military plan to cord off at least 10 of the city's most violent neighborhoods in an effort to limit the movement of militants. In some of the sealed-off areas, which U.S. military officials refer to as "gated communities," Iraqi and American soldiers will issue badges to residents or use biometric devices to record their fingerprints and eye patterns, military officials said.

U.S. military officials say the walls are meant to protect, not divide, and were designed by both American and Iraqi commanders in the field.

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MONDAY SATURDAY
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"I'm as much of a county commissioner here as the rest of these guys and I get treated as if I'm the step-child and I'm tired of it."

— Jerome County Commissioner Diana Obenauer

Commission meeting tally: two walk out, one resolution drafted

Despite contentious day, Jerome County Commission approves resolution to make public meetings run smoother

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

JEROME — The Jerome County commissioners capped a contentious day Monday when they agreed to draft a resolution aimed at making its public meetings run smoother, a move that the board's chairman said is partly

due to some recent issues coming before them. The resolution will, among other things, prohibit items from being added to agendas after noon on the previous Thursday, allow online agendas to be updated routinely, permit only the chairman to allow people to speak on matters unless during public hear-

ings; enforce guests who wish to speak to do so at the newly installed podium; and set aside a block of time, perhaps one half-hour, in the afternoon for public input.

"It tightens up our procedures," said Commission Chairman Charlie Howell. "We've had some disruptions in our meetings."

The resolution partially starts from the ongoing discussion over whether the board will pursue recovering money that former commissioners received illegally over four years.

Howell — who has promised to vote on the matter in two weeks — and Commissioner Joe Davidson said items should not be placed on the agenda so late unless it is an emergency.

They were referring to how Commission member Dianna Obenauer placed the illegal money item on Monday's agenda on behalf of resident Lee Halper, who is leading the legal battle.

Earlier, when the commissioners said they will vote on the item in two weeks after having gathered all the infor-

mation they need, Halper threw his hands up and stormed out of the room.

"I was offended today," Davidson said later as the resolution was being discussed. "He disrespected everyone in this room."

Prior to drafting the resolution, Jerome County Sheriff Deputy Nick Marashello sat quietly in the back of the room. He said Jerome County Sheriff Jim Weaver told him to "keep the peace."

But the tension continued to rise. Later in the afternoon, Jerome County Clerk Michelle

Emerson suggested "that the county Web site include a courtesy line that her secretaries would be responsible for updating the site."

Obenauer sharply criticized the move, calling it simple public service and then abruptly walked out of the meeting.

"It isn't really that hard. We're making a big mountain out of a damn mole hill here," she said. "I'm as much of a county commissioner here as the rest of these guys and I get treated as if I'm the step-child and I'm tired of it."

To protect, preserve and promote

CSI, others join to protect and enhance Minidoka Internment Camp

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — It may be the perfect partnership.

The College of Southern Idaho Board of Trustees approved a memorandum of understanding between the Minidoka Internment National Monument and the Friends of Minidoka, Inc.

The agreement defines each group's role to preserve and protect the Minidoka internment camp, as well as to provide educational opportunities about issues surrounding the camp. "It works out well for all of us because National Park System wants to preserve the monument, the Friends of Minidoka want to preserve the history, and CSI wants to provide educational activities that are related to issues surrounding the site," said Russell Tremayne, associate professor of history at CSI. "And a big part of the plan is to host the annual event."

Last year, CSI hosted the first annual event to commemorate the internment camp. The college will host the second annual event June 21, which will attract about 200 people — including Japanese-Americans who were imprisoned in the camp.

At its peak in 1943, the Minidoka camp became one of the largest cities in Idaho, housing 9,397 people, primarily from Seattle and Portland, Ore. It closed

CSI approves tuition hike

The College of Southern Idaho Board of Trustees approved a 5 percent increase in tuition and fees Monday night. The increase will consist of a \$15 increase in tuition, as well as a \$15 increase in fees. The increase is estimated to generate an additional \$280,000 each year, which the college says it will use to staff instructional and support services. The increase will be implemented in fall 2007.

Oct. 28, 1945. The 73-acre national monument was created in early 2001 by President Bill Clinton, and will soon include wayside markers that will help to tell the camp's story.

Over the years, several Japanese-Americans, who were imprisoned in the camp, made an annual pilgrimage from across the United States to what remains of the internment camp. But since 2000, the camp has attracted national attention — especially from educators who are teaching issues such as social and political science, as well as criminal justice.

"The conference we hold each year is really for teachers who need to renew their certification," Tremayne said. "But it has also attracted several students and other interested people. Right now our only concern is about accommodating all the folks that we think will come each year."

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

GLENN HONORED BY SAFETY COMMISSION



Idaho State Police Lt. Rob Storm, left, talks with trooper Chris Glenn Monday afternoon at the Twin Falls City Hall Chambers before Glenn received an award from the Traffic Safety Commission.

Mini-Cassia health facilities 'serve the underserved'

By Chip Thompson
For the Times-News

RUPERT — The waiting room is full, mostly with restless children and frazzled parents, as the professional staff rushes about in a chaos that seems familiar.

This scene could reflect any busy medical office in Mini-Cassia during the waning cold and flu season, but last Thursday it was the Family Health Services office in Rupert. The difference at this office is every patient will be seen, regardless of insurance coverage or income.

National Cover the Uninsured Week started Monday with the goal of raising awareness, in communities as well as Congress, of the roughly 9 million children in America living without health insurance.

Congress will be asked to authorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program this year, providing continued coverage for children whose parents work but can't afford

health insurance. Family Health Services operates three facilities in Mini-Cassia. Combined, the offices see roughly 8,000 patients annually, says Executive Director and CEO James Schroeder.

"Our mission is to serve the underserved, which includes anyone who has access to care issues including lack of insurance, being on Medicaid or Medicare if other providers aren't taking them, language, transportation and many other barriers," Schroeder said.

With 10 sites in the Magic Valley, Schroeder says the need in Mini-Cassia is probably the greatest, though all areas are above the national average for uninsured residents. The trend is unlikely to change, with demand for services increasing at an alarming 15 percent annually.

Dr. Matthew DeTemple, who heads the Burley medical office, says he sees a mixture of patients, including those who are employed but can't afford



Dr. Matthew DeTemple, left, examines Theron Wilkins of Rupert at the Burley facility operated by Family Health Services.

insurance. He and Raymond Paz, the other physician on the Burley staff, offer complete medical care, offered on a sliding scale fee schedule so no patient is turned away.

Dr. Brett Gochmour, a Burley native, sees patients at the Rupert facility, which includes a dental clinic in the same building. Like the Burley facility, Gochmour says Rupert sees a lot of patients on Medicaid or without any insurance coverage.

"It is not cost effective to not provide care to the uninsured," Schroeder said. "Many times they are forced to wait to obtain care until they are so bad off they can't put it off anymore."

As part of 1,500 similar health centers nationwide, Family Health Services receives just 22 percent of its funding from the federal government. The remaining budget comes from patient revenue, Medicaid and Medicare payments, private insurance or self pay.

Twin Falls County passes smoking resolution

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls County commissioners passed a resolution Monday requiring tobacco smokers — including county employees — to be at least 20 feet from county buildings, citing health concerns as well as workplace courtesy.

Smoking within 20 feet of a public building is prohibited by state law, but lawmakers said at a meeting last week that it is not being enforced.

The resolution gives elected county officers the authority to tell visitors and employees outside their departments to follow the rules.

Commissioner Terry Kramer said he often sees clusters of smokers — both of the general public and the

county government — huddled together outside county facilities, garages in hand. "It's for health reasons but it's also a pure annoyance," Kramer said.

Signs will be posted near entrances and the commissioners said they will soon designate two smoking-specific areas — the gazebo near the Theron A. Ward Judicial Building and a bench in front of the courthouse.

Asked about the smokers who might have to walk far from the building in order to smoke a cigarette, Kramer said, "That's right. It's called a nice concrete bench."

Commissioners, including Tom Mikesell, who stopped smoking 10 years ago, have talked about eventually making the entire county government campus smoke-free.

Hagerman resort sold to local family

By Karl Matthews
Times-News correspondent

HAGERMAN — Silgar's 1000 Springs Resort has changed and grown a lot since it first opened 52 years ago. Now, changes are happening again.

New owners will manage the business, which was sold early last week. The deal marked the end of an era for the Silgar family, who have cared for and operated the swimming pool and resort property since it opened in 1955.

The sale is bittersweet for former owner Marge Silgar.

She is sad to sell the business but is happy for the added time it will provide her with family.

"I'm 74 years old," she said. "I'm ready (for this)."

When Marge Silgar and her husband Bill started the business with in-laws Keith and Jeannie Silgar, they just wanted something fun for the community.

And it has been fun, Marge Silgar said.

"Where else would the kids go?" she said. Site of the resort, which is to be operated by a local family, the Hensleys.

The plan is to keep the business — newly named the 1000 Springs Resort — running as much as usual, said Mike Hensley.

But the family plans to take its time getting used to the resort.

The Silgar's will remain on-hand for the next several weeks to help the Hensleys as much as possible. But this also will be a time of transition for the Silgar family.

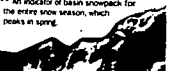
"It's been lots of fun over the years," said Marge Silgar, "so I still send personal Christmas cards to the visitors who has met over the

Snowpack Levels

Waterbody	% of Avg.	% Season Peak*
Salmon	67%	63%
Big Wood	50%	43%
Little Wood	28%	23%
Big Lost	42%	39%
Little Lost	57%	53%
Henry's Fork/Teton	63%	60%
Upper Snake Basin	65%	61%
Oakley	84%	71%
Salmon Falls	71%	61%

As of April 23

* A comparison of basin snowpack, on this date, with a 30-year average.
** An indicator of basin snowpack for the entire snow season, which peaks in June.



EDITORIAL

Wolves migrate south, to dismay of livestock

The reintroduction of gray wolves in Idaho grows more successful every year—unless you're in the cattle business. The removal of three wolves in south-central Idaho over the past two months is ample evidence that federal agencies need to remove endangered species protections for wolves. The highly adapted animals have flourished at the expense of livestock operators. Four new pieces of evidence proving wolves' predation were found in Blaine County this spring. Five weeks ago a rancher near Picabo gunned down a female wolf that took one of his cattle. Days later more wolves were spotted near the ranch. The wolf appearances continued last week with the two males preying on cattle north of Carey. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officers found the two wolves near the ranch. Officials took out the wolves by plane. Central Idaho and Yellowstone wolves have migrated as far as Hammett, Soda Springs, Preston and even Denver, this latest removal proves that wolves are now traveling much lower in the Wood River Valley. These are the first attacks on livestock in this region, but they're definitely not the last. The south-central area is laden with ranching and grazing territory. USFWS counted 63 confirmed cases of wolf-caused livestock depredation in 2006, including 41 cattle, 237 sheep and four dogs. Idaho's wolf count is now at about 670 from its initial 35 in 1995, but some current estimates are even higher. Public hearings around the West should provide ample proof that locals are ready for wolves to come off the federal lists. The growing impact of wolf predation only adds to the case.

A grizzly threat in Tetonia

Meanwhile, Idaho wildlife officials have also been defending themselves over the removal of a grizzly bear over the weekend in southeast Idaho. The 15-year-old, 350-pound bear was caught and killed by Idaho Department of Fish and Game officials on Saturday. The bear was the same one that had attacked Timothy Henderson outside his Tetonia cabin April 17. Officials planted road-killed deer near Henderson's home with a snare — a cable-loop trap — to catch the animal. The snare was 50 yards from the cabin near a moose carcass guarded by the bear. The animal had a tag, indicating that it had been caught before. Critics said officials were looking to kill a bear that was in its natural habitat outside the Grand Teton National Park region of Wyoming. The infringement, they say, has been on the part of booming development into the mountainous region, not a migration of bears. But Wyoming bears, much like Idaho wolves, have made a strong recovery and will in time be removed from federal lists. In the meantime, when an animal is not threatened and still attacks humans, it has to be taken out for a public safety factor. State and federal wildlife officials acted in the right fashion to prevent another attack.

Times-News

Brad Hurd . . . Publisher Chris Steinbach . . . Editor The members of the editorial board and writers of editorials are Brad Hurd, Chris Steinbach, Steve Cump, Traci Blass, Bill Bliznberg and David Cooper.

LETTERS

Act on your vote at the local school level

Many people in the Gooding community are angry and/or upset about decisions made by the school board. There are many questions of whether budgeting is being done properly. People are also questioning the appointment of the interim superintendent position. However, you elected and voted for these board members to represent your zone. Voice your opinion, yes; tell your trustee your concerns and offer suggestions. But remember, it is their decision in the end. You however, have the right — no, the obligation — to vote for your area's trustee. That is your part in building a strong school board — being involved. Now this moment is about the supplemental levy and our children's education. Everything else has been said and done. I'm not saying it's right or wrong. You can't change or dwell on the past, only better prepare for the future. Everybody learns from their mistakes. But, do

you want the education of children to suffer because your mistake wasn't being involved? Attend school board meetings faithfully, even if you don't have children in school, this is still your community. Let's show the children that their community cares about them and their future. CARRIE STIFFLER Gooding

From story sounded refreshing note of optimism

Congratulations to the Times-News for putting the heart-warming story ("A forever thing") on your front page. With all the gloom and sad news we read and hear every day, this was indeed refreshing. Isn't it great to know there are young people like Ashlee Linn and Luke Gosnell who have that much love, wisdom and compassion for their fellow human beings. Great job to the Times-News and these two outstanding young people. TOM NORTHCOPT Gooding

Biker club gives public something to stand for

I would like to take this time to express appreciation to the Veterans of Freedom Motorcycle Club for its participation as honor and color guards in St. Patrick's Day Parade! From what I saw, if it had not been for them, there would not have been any flags displayed to begin this wonderful parade tradition. To see the expression on the faces of those standing along the parade route, either saluting or covering their heart as the American Flag and Prison of War Flag rode by was very emotional. I could not help but feel more proud to be the wife of the veteran carrying the POW flag! In my opinion, the motorcy-

de turnout for the parade was the best ever, and it is my personal wish that the bikers in the community start the riding season off by participating in this parade. JUDY SEIBERLING Jerome

Times-News enlightenment improves a garage sale

Thank you, Times-News, for the help in holding a garage sale. Up to now I have always written my signs on cardboard with a pencil and listed everything that I have for sale on them. This has caused me to

have to write very small and some people have had a hard time reading them when placed in the middle of the block on a street with a speed limit of 35 mph. JANE EVERETT take down my signs because in the next week or so, someone will do it for me so they can put up one of their own. Besides, I get a kick out of people driving up and down the street, gawking all around for the next month or so. Also, I never would clean up my stuff as I thought that a half inch of dust would indicate that the item had never been used. I have found that you do not need change on hand because you will soon have enough coin to work. If there isn't enough, just have the customer wait while you sell more stuff. If he is trying to buy a \$10 item with a \$20, he deserves a couple extra coins. RAY EASTWOOD Jerome

Write to us

The Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Because of space constraints, please limit letters to 300 words, include your signature, mailing address and telephone number. Writers who sign letters with false names will be permanently barred from publication. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls office, mailed to: P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to (208) 734-5538; or e-mailed to letters@magicalvalley.com.

Virginia Tech and political fodder

What can be said about the Virginia Tech massacre? Very little. What should be said? Even less. The lives of 32 innocents, chosen randomly and without purpose, are extinguished most brutally by a deeply disturbed gunman. With an event such as this consisting of nothing but suffering and tragedy, the only important questions are those of theology, of divine justice. Unfortunately, in today's supercharged political atmosphere, there is the inevitable rush to get ideological mileage out of the carnage.



CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

It did not take long for the perennial debate about gun control to break out, preceded by the inevitable scolding and clucking abroad about America's lax gun laws. It is true that with far stricter gun laws, Cho Seung Hui might have had a more difficult time getting the weapons and ammunition needed to kill so ruthlessly. Nonetheless, we should have no illusions about what the laws can do. There are other ways to kill in large numbers, as Timothy McVeigh demonstrated. Determined killers will obtain guns no matter how strict the laws. And stricter controls could also keep guns out of the hands of law-abiding citizens using them in self-defense. After all, the psychotic mass murderer, the psychotic mass murderer, the psychotic mass murderer is not very rare; the armed household burglary is not. If we are going to look for a political issue here, the more relevant is not gun control but psychosis control. We decided a half a century ago that our more eccentric and, indeed, crazy fellow citizens would not



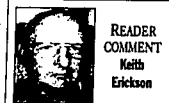
be easily locked up in asylums. It was a very humane decision, but with the inevitable consequence that some who really need protection and quarantine are allowed to roam the streets freely. It turns out that Cho's psychiatric impairment had been evident to many. It had been cited for stalking two women on campus. Virginia Tech police tried unsuccessfully to have him involuntarily committed. A teacher referred him to counseling and even his fellow students saw signs of dangerous disturbance. Cho's plays ... had really twisted, macabre evidence, writes former classmate Ian McFarlane. In a previous age, such a troubled soul might have found himself at the state mental hospital rather than a state university. But in a trade-off that a decent and tolerant society makes with open eyes, we allow freedom from strait-jackets to those on the psychic edge, knowing that such tolerance runs very rare but very terrible risk. It is inevitable, I suppose, that advocates of one social

policy or another will try to use the Virginia Tech massacre for their advantage. But it is simply dismaying that a serious presidential candidate should use it as the ideological frame for his set-piece issues. Politico columnist Ben Smith has brought attention to the speech that Barack Obama made in Milwaukee just hours after the massacre. It must be heard to be believed. After deploping and expressing grief about the shootings, he continues (my transcription): "I hope that it causes us to reflect a little bit more broadly on the degree to which we do accept violence in various forms. ... There's also another kind of violence ... it's not necessarily physical violence. ... What kinds does he have in mind? First, "Imus and the verbal violence that was directed at young women (of Rutgers). ... For them to be degraded ... that's a form of violence. It may be quiet. It may not surface to the same level of the tragedy we see today and we mourn. ... Good to know that Imus "violence" does not quite rise to

the level of Cho's. Second, outsourcing. Yes, outsourcing "the violence of men and women who ... suddenly have the rug pulled out from under them because their job has moved to another country." He then cites bad schools and bad neighborhoods as forms of violence, before finishing with, for good measure, Darfur — accusing America of conducting "foreign policy as if the children in Darfur are somehow less than the children here and so we tolerate violence there." Is Obama, who proudly opposed overthrowing the premier mass murderer of our time, Saddam Hussein, suggesting an invasion of Sudan? Perhaps in the spirit of Obama's much-heralded post-election policies we can suggest to observe a decent silence to label Idaho's violence before turning invisible evil and unfaithful grief into political fodder. Charles Krauthammer's e-mail address is kwtvcr@charleskrauthammer.com.

Solutions emerge in Wood River Legacy Project

When Gov. Butch Otter signed Senate Bill 1136 on March 29, it marked more than just another legislation-signing ceremony. It was yet another concrete example of how the Idaho water user community has both the expertise to craft outstanding legislative solutions for water issues and the will to do so. More importantly, it again validates that Idaho's intricate system of water law, anchored in the prior appropriation doctrine, provides the framework through which meaningful solutions can be found for Idaho's most pressing water conflicts. Beginning June 1, 2008, SB-1136 provides an outstanding vehicle to achieve what would appear to be mutually exclusive goals for water in the Big and Little Wood River and Silver Creek water systems — keeping more water in the streams for recreational and environmental purposes while at the same time providing more water for use in agricultural irrigation. In a nutshell,



READER COMMENT Keith Erickson

the measure lets water users donate water for recreational purposes in the Wood River Valley but which then can be used for downstream agricultural irrigation in the lower part of the Wood River Basin. Over the course of several months, representatives of various water user organizations such as the Big Wood Canal Co. and Water Districts 37 and 37M, plus the Idaho Water Users Association worked hard within their own ranks and with other parties to refine a legislative proposal by the Wood River Legacy Project. The extraordinary win-win nature of the legislation is perhaps best symbolized by the fact that it had strong support not only from irrigators, environmentalists, citizens and leg-

islators in the Wood River Basin but also from the water user community in eastern and southern Idaho. The end result was a measure that was basin specific with meaningful water right and use protections plus an effective local oversight committee built in a measure so well crafted and encompassing that it eventually passed both houses of the Idaho Legislature without a single dissenting vote. That is a tribute to the determination and hard work of a diverse coalition of individuals and organizations. SB-1136 now follows in the footsteps of the historic Lemhi Basin water legislation enacted some six years ago as proof of what water users and other local citizens can do to meet the new water challenges of the 21st century. SB-1136, like the Lemhi Model before it, demonstrates that irrigation, fisheries, recreation and other uses can coexist; that we can enhance and improve fisheries and in-stream flow conditions without the need to destroy our agricultural economy in

the process — so long as common sense prevails. Extreme environmentalists are often quick to label Idaho's water user community as unwilling to find new solutions. SB-1136 represents a concrete rejection of that claim. As with the Lemhi Model, SB-1136 is a product of the good stewardship of people whose lives have been dedicated to and dependent on the best possible use of Idaho's water. Lastly, SB-1136 is another — but certainly not the last — definitive example of just how valuable Idaho's system of water law is to the future well-being of our state when reasonable people seek reasonable solutions to water use conflicts. Contrary to what some would have you believe, Idaho's prior appropriation doctrine as expressed in our Constitution and legislative statutes, is not the problem, it's the solution. Keith Erickson of St. Anthony is the president of the Idaho Water Users Association.

LETTERS

Writer Halberstam, 73, killed in crash

By Lisa Loaf
Associated Press writer

SAN FRANCISCO — David Halberstam, a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer who chronicled the Vietnam War generation, civil rights and the world of sports, was killed in a car crash Monday. His wife and local authorities said. He was 73.

Halberstam, of New York, was a passenger in a car that was broadsided by another

vehicle in Menlo Park, south of San Francisco. San Mateo County Coroner Robert Foucault said. The cause of death appeared to be internal injuries, he said.

The accident occurred around 10:30 a.m., and Halberstam was declared dead at the scene, Menlo Park Fire Chief Harold Schappelhouman said.

The driver of the car carrying Halberstam and the person driving the car that

crashed into his were injured, but not seriously.

Halberstam was being driven by a graduate journalism student from the University of California, Berkeley, which had hosted a speech by the author Saturday night about the craft of journalism and what it means to turn reporting into a work of history. They were headed to an interview he had scheduled with Hall of Fame quarterback Y.A. Tittle.

Controversial Idaho Indian mural to stay put

BOISE (AP) — A legislative task force has decided to leave two controversial mural panels on display in a historic courthouse that now houses state offices and is scheduled to host the 2008 Legislature.

The hands-off approach comes despite recommendations that the state remove a panel depicting the lynching of an American Indian at the hands of white frontiersmen — be removed, covered or explained with a plaque.

Last week, state workers moved into offices in the old Ada County Courthouse, which will serve as temporary housing while the state Capitol undergoes a \$120 million expansion and renovation.

So far, not a single question or complaint has been lodged about the presence of the lynching mural, said Mike Nugent, manager of research and legislation for the Legislative Services Office.

"We haven't had a whole lot of foot traffic yet," he said.

Earlier this year, the Idaho Indian Affairs Council, consisting of lawmakers and tribal leaders, toured the courthouse and viewed the murals. Afterwards, tribal officials said they supported preserving the murals, but moving them to a less prominent location in the courthouse. They also recommended interpretive plaques be written with help from tribes to explain the context of the images.

The panels are two in a collection of 26 murals that were painted in 1940 as part of the Works Progress Administration Artists Project that put unemployed artists back to work. The two paintings in question show a half-skin-clad Indian as he apprehended by two white men before two other armed whites place a noose around his neck.

Because the 26 murals were never accompanied by interpretive signs, the origins of their themes have been at least partially obscured. Painted on canvas, they were meant to

depict events deemed significant in the founding of Ada County.

"It was very clear what the tribes wanted," said Sen. Mike Jorgenson, R-Hayden Lake, chairman of the Indian Affairs Council. "They absolutely wanted the paintings preserved and taken down."

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Cigarette smuggling case ends in guilty pleas

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP) — A cigarette smuggling case in which authorities said Washington state lost about \$56 million in tax revenue has ended in plea agreements with the man described as the ringleader and three other defendants.

Louie Mahoney, 61, who was said to have directed dealings in untaxed cigarettes from his home on the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation in Idaho, pleaded guilty Friday in U.S. District Court to racketeering conspiracy and other charges.

Others also were entered in U.S. District Court by his sisters, Margaret R. Jose, 61, and Christine Mahoney-Meyer, 55, also of Plummer, Idaho, and by Roger Flander, 67, of Wapato, Wash.

All four remained free on bond or other conditions pending sentencing Aug. 28 before Judge Robert H. Whaley.

Four others — Gerald G. George, 60, and Lyle W. Conway, 70, of Fife, Lyle Shawn Conway, 34, of Tucuma, and Kathleen S. Mahoney, 58, of Walla Walla — pleaded guilty to racketeering conspiracy earlier and also await sentencing.

Louie Mahoney, doing business as JKL Enterprises, did not have a Coeur d'Alene tribal license to sell tobacco, according to documents filed in court

by government lawyers. He and the others were accused of money laundering, mail fraud, interstate transportation in aid of racketeering and cigarette record-keeping violations.

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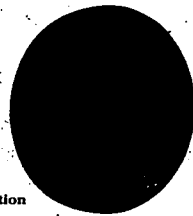
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INSIDE: A-Rod ties April home-run record with two against Devil Rays, B2



INSIDE: MLB, B2 | Scoreboard, B3 | Money, B4-5 | Weather, B6

Twin Falls golf twosome headed for Division I



By Bradley Cain
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Two of Twin Falls' best are about to storm the college ranks.
Bruins golfers Randy Fischer and Abby McNeley signed recently to McNeese State University and the University of Northern Colorado, respectively, where they will take their game to the next level.
The senior girls, both four-year varsity golfers, are two-time state champions and represent just a few of the talented strikers that have led the Bruins to eight girls championships during the last dozen years under the leadership of former coach Paul Stover. Under Mike Hamblin, Fischer and McNeley are looking for their third personal title and ninth for the program.
Fischer is headed to the school in Louisiana, which is a member of the Southland Conference. "I didn't want to go anywhere that was cold," she said. "I went down there and liked the girls. I liked the coach. It's new courses and new opportunities to play against different girls."

"And it's warm weather."
McNeley will stay closer to the West in Greeley. The Bears finished second in team and individual scores at the 2006 Division I Independent Women's Golf Championship, but Northern Colorado joined the Big Sky Conference this year.
"I was (first-year coach Brandon White's) first recruit that he officially signed," she said. "The program is new and improved."
Part of that appeal was the addition of an indoor facility for the sport.
Hamblin said that McNeley's status as a qualifier for both Girls Junior America Cup and the Callaway Golf Junior World Championship in 2006 carried over to this season, making her an attractive prospect to college programs. Fischer, he said, has improved a great amount since shifting her focus to golf once injuries ruled out a basketball career. He cited her best attributes as talent, strength and athleticism.
Besides swing technique and handicaps, the girls were recruited based on many other intangibles, such as their leadership around both school and community. Fischer and McNeley are two of

three seniors on a potential state championship team as well as president and vice president, respectively, of the senior class. Right now, they're planning the Class of 2007's graduation.
"They're great for the program," Hamblin praised. "Great with the little kids that look up to them at our clinics. I couldn't ask for more."
Personality also played a large role in getting to Division I.
"I'm driven and a hard worker," McNeley said. "If someone tells me to change something in my swing or telling me I'm doing wrong, I can take the criticism in a good way."
In a way, this season marks the end of an era for the teammates and friends. The girls have golfed together since they were 5 years old, so this will be their last few months together. But they have every intention of staying in touch and tracking each other's progress next year.
"The friendship's not gonna end at all. It'll probably grow stronger being so far apart," McNeley said. Much like a well-traveled rock band, they've made preliminary plans to reunite next summer for local tournaments.

NFL teams set draft goals

Tennessee must find receiver, replace returner 'Pacman' Jones

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans believe they found a franchise quarterback in the NFL draft in 2006. Now it's time to find someone to play catch with Vince Young.

For a team that missed a playoff berth by one game last season, the Titans go into this draft with lots of holes to fill thanks to the season-long suspension of top cornerback and NFL punt return leader Adam "Pacman" Jones, and the decision not to pay too dearly for veteran players.

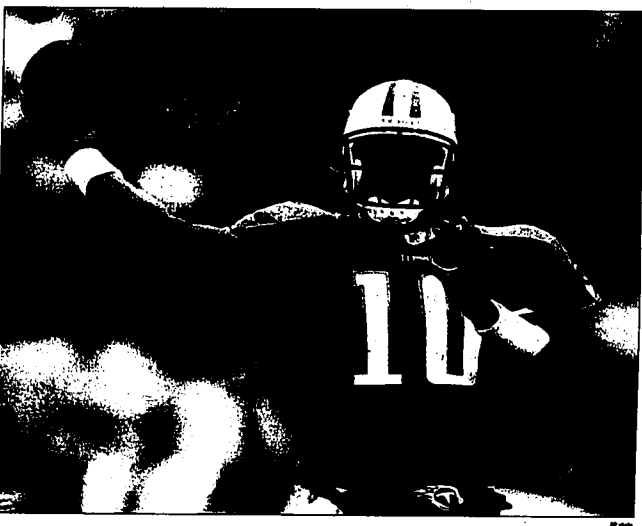
That is how Young, the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year, lost three of his top five targets. Receivers Drew Bennett and Bobby Wade signed for big money in St. Louis and Minnesota as free agents. The Titans released running back Travis Henry to avoid overpaying him.

Veteran David Givens, signed as a free agent a year ago, still is recovering from an ugly injury where his torn ACL may never be the worst of his knee problems.

The Titans' only move to add receiving help so far? Signing 6-foot-4 Justin Gage, who caught four passes last year for Chicago.

"It's still a 'need' position for us, and we're going to try to address it," coach Jeff Fisher said.

This will be new general manager Mike Reinfeldt's first draft since being hired in February. If he doesn't trade away any picks, the Titans would have at least 10 draft selections for a third straight year after having an NFL-high



Tennessee Titans quarterback Vince Young passes against the New England Patriots in Nashville, Tenn., on Dec. 31, 2006. The Titans believe they found a franchise quarterback in Young in the 2006 draft, and now it's time to find someone for him to throw to.

34 picks in the previous three drafts.

Will Texans improve O-line in draft?

HOUSTON — David Carr was run out of Houston without ever playing behind a solid offensive line.

Matt Schaub has taken over for the Texans, but no matter how talented the former Atlanta Falcons backup is,

the team will have to address its longstanding problems at left tackle if it wants him to avoid a similar fate to Carr, who was sacked 249 times in just five seasons.

Two left tackles, Levi Brown and Joe Thomas, are projected as top 10 picks in the draft, but both could be gone by Houston's first pick at No. 1.

The Texans thought they'd found their left tackle of the future in the

third round of last year's draft when they chose the gargantuan Charles Spencer. He looked promising early before breaking his leg in Week 2. Coach Gary Kubiak said Spencer's injury was one of the biggest disappointments of last year's 6-10 season and there's only about a 50 percent chance the 6-foot-4, 350-pound play-

Please see DRAFT, Page B2

Metal-bat ban passes as NY City Council overrides mayor's veto

By Sara Kagler
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Metal bats will be banned from high school baseball in the nation's largest school system starting this September after the City Council Monday overrode a mayoral veto of the bill.

The measure outlawed metal bats under the theory that they produce balls with greater velocity and raise the risk of injury because of less reaction time. Opponents, including Little League Baseball and

equipment suppliers, say there is no evidence metal bats are more dangerous.

Youth leagues and lawmakers are proposing similar bans in other areas, including New Jersey, where a 12-year-old boy went into cardiac arrest and suffered serious injuries after a batted ball struck him in the chest.

In New York City, Mayor Michael Bloomberg vetoed the bat ban this month, saying the issue should be left up to those who run the youth leagues, not the government. But the City Council

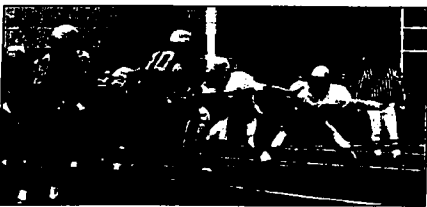
overwhelmingly knocked down the veto by a vote of 41-4.

"What we're trying to do is reduce risk," said Councilman James Oddo, the sponsor of the bill. Opponents argue that there is no scientific evidence proving metal bats pose a greater danger than wood bats and that the anti-metal movement relies on emotional anecdotes over data.

Shortly after the council's vote, a group of oppo-

Please see BAT, Page B2

Kimberly grad Shawver sees playing time as Akey readies 2007 Vandals



By Grant Joki
Times-News correspondent

MOSCOW — Kimberly High graduate J.J. Shawver (6-foot-2, 229 pounds) isn't high up on the University of Idaho tight-end depth chart, but it hasn't dampened his spirit as the Vandals continue spring scrimmages in Moscow.

The sophomore is one of eight tight ends for the Vandals this spring and is one of the key personnel in the special teams area, serving on the kickoff and place kicking teams. Although his reps are limited at tight end (playing behind veterans Rolly Lumbala, Eddie Williams and Peter Bjorvick) Shawver

is upbeat about his role on the team. "I am happy with the way things are going. My grades are up and that is what (Vandals head coach Robb) Akey wants. Coach Axman is great. The tight ends play a big part of the new offense with the H-back and all. I just need to stay focused and end strong on the Silver-Gold game this Friday," said an excited Shawver. "Things are different this year. I got a four point last semester. Akey has put academics at the top of the priorities list and I think that is a great thing."
Shawver's blocking ability and soft hands are assets that have put him in the hunt for playing time and anchored him on the special teams.

Rick Harrison, a junior tight end with plenty of experience, is out with a torn ACL. He is expected to be fully recovered by fall camp. With the talented departure of Luke Smith-Anderson who opted to forgo his last year of eligibility and try the NFL scene, the staff moved the massive running back Rolly Lumbala (6-2, 241 pounds) to shore up the tight end position.

Special teams are getting a lot of reps and Akey is playing a hands-on role to work with his special teams coordinator Roderick Plummer. Throughout Friday and Saturday's sessions, the spe-

Please see SHAWVER, Page B2

CSI BANQUET



This year's College of Southern Idaho Idaho booster Connie Hardy will be raffled off during the annual CSI athletic banquet, held Wednesday at The Ballroom in Twin Falls.

CSI holds athletic banquet tomorrow

Times-News

TWIN FALLS — The College of Southern Idaho Athletic Department will honor its sophomore athletes and name male and female athletes of the year during its annual athletic banquet, held Wednesday at The Ballroom in Twin Falls and will be catered by Outback Steakhouse.

Last year, men's basketball player Travis Gobblin and volleyball player Asta Kaczor were named respective men's and women's athletes of the year. Each program will hand out individual honors, as well as raffie off autographed memorabilia. A quilt made of CSI T-shirts made by Golden Eagles booster Connie Hardy will also be raffled off. Tickets run \$5 and can be purchased on site or at the CSI gymnasium.

A slideshow presentation of photographs taken throughout the year will also be featured.

The cost of the banquet is \$20 per person, while anyone wishing to sponsor a student-athlete may do so for \$10 per athlete. For more information, call Ginger Nukaya at 732-6466.

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 10. Mark Martin 1:44.355
 11. Brian Vickers 1:44.365
 12. Jamie Newman 1:44.375
 13. Kyle Busch 1:44.385
 14. Denny Hamlin 1:44.395
 15. Jeff Burton 1:44.405
 16. Casey Mears 1:44.415
 17. Mike Wallace 1:44.425
 18. Scott Speed 1:44.435
 19. Travis Kvapil 1:44.445
 20. David Reardon 1:44.455

BASEBALL

American League

AL East	NY Yankees	11	12	2
AL East	Baltimore Orioles	10	12	2
AL East	Tampa Bay Rays	10	12	2
AL East	Boston Red Sox	9	12	2
AL East	Detroit Tigers	8	12	2
AL Central	Minnesota Twins	10	12	2
AL Central	Chicago White Sox	10	12	2
AL Central	Cleveland Indians	9	12	2
AL Central	Kansas City Royals	9	12	2
AL Central	Seattle Mariners	8	12	2
AL West	Oakland Athletics	10	12	2
AL West	Los Angeles Angels	10	12	2
AL West	Houston Astros	9	12	2
AL West	Texas Rangers	8	12	2
AL West	San Francisco Giants	8	12	2

GAME PLAN

LOCAL
HIGH SCHOOL
BASEBALL
 Butl at Glenview, 4 p.m.
 Butl at Woodstock, 4 p.m.
 Mirko at Jerome, 4:30 p.m.
 Wood River at Jersey, 4:30 p.m.

MIAMI
 Kimbrey at Twin Falls, Municipal, 3 p.m.

COMMUNITY
 Butl Community School, Glenn Ferry, Gooding, Magic Valley Christian, Oatsley, Valley, Wendell at Canyon Springs, Twin Falls, 3 p.m.

SOFTBALL
 Fliter at Wendell, 4 p.m.
 Deco at Butl, OH, 4 p.m.
 Wood River at Butl, 4:30 p.m.

TENNIS
 Mirko at Twin Falls, 3:30 p.m.
 Butl at Highland, 3:30 p.m.
 Wood River at Jerome, 3:30 p.m.

TRUCK
 Gooding at Wood River, 3:30 p.m.

TV SCHEDULE

LEAGUE BASKETBALL
NBA BASKETBALL
 TDS — Atlanta at Florida

Atlanta Braves

Braves	11	12	2
Philadelphia	10	12	2
San Diego	10	12	2
San Francisco	9	12	2
Seattle	9	12	2
Los Angeles	8	12	2
San Diego	8	12	2
Los Angeles	8	12	2
San Francisco	8	12	2
Philadelphia	7	12	2
San Diego	7	12	2
Los Angeles	7	12	2
San Francisco	7	12	2
Philadelphia	6	12	2
San Diego	6	12	2
Los Angeles	6	12	2
San Francisco	6	12	2
Philadelphia	5	12	2
San Diego	5	12	2
Los Angeles	5	12	2
San Francisco	5	12	2
Philadelphia	4	12	2
San Diego	4	12	2
Los Angeles	4	12	2
San Francisco	4	12	2
Philadelphia	3	12	2
San Diego	3	12	2
Los Angeles	3	12	2
San Francisco	3	12	2
Philadelphia	2	12	2
San Diego	2	12	2
Los Angeles	2	12	2
San Francisco	2	12	2
Philadelphia	1	12	2
San Diego	1	12	2
Los Angeles	1	12	2
San Francisco	1	12	2
Philadelphia	0	12	2
San Diego	0	12	2
Los Angeles	0	12	2
San Francisco	0	12	2
Philadelphia	0	12	2
San Diego	0	12	2
Los Angeles	0	12	2
San Francisco	0	12	2

GOLF

PGA TOUR FedExCup Leaders
Through April 28

1. Tiger Woods	1,234
2. Bubba Watson	1,123
3. Matt Kuchar	1,012
4. Adam Scott	901
5. Steve Stricker	890
6. Zach Johnson	789
7. Rickie Fowler	678
8. Jason Day	567
9. Sergio Garcia	456
10. Matt Jones	345

SOFTBALL

Softball

1. Los Angeles	10	12	2
2. San Francisco	9	12	2
3. Philadelphia	8	12	2
4. Seattle	7	12	2
5. Los Angeles	6	12	2
6. San Francisco	5	12	2
7. Philadelphia	4	12	2
8. Seattle	3	12	2
9. Los Angeles	2	12	2
10. San Francisco	1	12	2
11. Philadelphia	0	12	2
12. Seattle	0	12	2

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
CLEVELAND BRUINS — Paced off Andy Hater on the 15th day of the season.
DETROIT TIGERS — Acquired Mitch Moreland from the Boston Red Sox.
DETROIT TIGERS — Acquired Mitch Moreland from the Boston Red Sox.
DETROIT TIGERS — Acquired Mitch Moreland from the Boston Red Sox.

HOCKEY

NHL Scores

1. Los Angeles	10	12	2
2. San Francisco	9	12	2
3. Philadelphia	8	12	2
4. Seattle	7	12	2
5. Los Angeles	6	12	2
6. San Francisco	5	12	2
7. Philadelphia	4	12	2
8. Seattle	3	12	2
9. Los Angeles	2	12	2
10. San Francisco	1	12	2
11. Philadelphia	0	12	2
12. Seattle	0	12	2

MLB

Braves offer 90-day, interest-free financing for tickets

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Braves are selling ticket packages with 90-day, interest-free financing.

The plan announced Monday is limited to ticket packages worth at least \$200.

"We've heard from lots of fans who say 'We want this ticket package and we don't have the amount of cash on hand as we speak,'" Braves senior vice president for sales and marketing Derek Schiller said.

Fans may use the financing program on ticket packages including full or half season, 20-game plans, flex plans or "all-in" packages of four-game packs valued at \$200 or more.

MAGIC VALLEY

T.F. Co-ed meeting nears

TWIN FALLS — Fees and rosters due for teams wishing to play in the Twin Falls Co-ed Softball Association's upcoming season are due at 7 p.m. meeting, Tuesday, April 24 at the Twin Falls Parks and Recreation building at 136 Maxwell Ave. in Twin Falls. For more information, call Rob Kelly at 423-4629.

JRD seeks softball umpires

JEROME — The Jerome Recreation District is seeking umpires for its Adult Softball League, which begins May 1. A meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 25, in the Conference Room. Certification exams will be available during the meeting.

Games will be played Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Forney Park. For more information, call the JRD at 324-3339 or e-mail jrdrec@cablenet.ne.

T.F. extend youth sign-ups

TWIN FALLS — Twin Falls Parks and Recreation has extended registration for youth baseball and softball through April 27. Baseball is for boys in grades K-6 and softball is for girls grade K-9. Teams usually play twice a week for eight weeks, beginning June 4. Volunteer coaches are needed. Fees are \$12-15. Call 736-2285 with any questions.

Jerome Fun Run/Walk planned

JEROME — The Jerome Recreation District's second annual Fun Run/Walk will be April 28. The run starts at 9 a.m. with registration at 8 a.m. The entry fee is \$25 per person, \$45 per family or four fee \$80 for the one-mile kids run. Participants receive a T-shirt and refreshments. Registration forms are available online at <http://www.jeromerecreationdistrict.com>. For more information, contact the JRD at 324-3389.

— Compiled from staff and wire reports

Suns speedster Leandro Barbosa wins NBA's Sixth Man Award

PHOENIX — Leandro Barbosa, among the fastest players in the NBA, ran away with the league's sixth man award Monday.

The "Millennium Blue" received 101 of a possible 127 first-place votes from a media panel.

The honor came one day after Barbosa matched his career playoff high with 26 points in the Phoenix Suns' 95-87 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers Sunday in Game 1 of their opening-round series.

"Give him a soccer ball," the Lakers' Kobe Bryant said when asked what could be done to stop Barbosa. "Tell him Brazilians should be playing soccer, not basketball."

Barbosa was a reserve in 62 of the 80 games he played this season, adding extra speed to the already fast Suns.

"It's a fun team to win so many games," Barbosa said. "Coach Mike D'Antoni gives me a lot of minutes, and I try to do everything right so I can stay there on the court. I'm very happy. I've never been happy like I am right now in my life."

In his fourth NBA season, the 24-year-old Barbosa averaged a career-high 18.1 points, shooting 43 percent from 3-point range.

The Suns players and coaches were as happy for Barbosa as a person as they were as a basketball player.

"You get really privileged to coach certain and this is one of the good guys in the league," D'Antoni said. "We're really glad the privilege of coaching him and watching him mature into a great player. I think this is the first step of a lot

that he can do."

Barbosa credited his one-on-one work with D'Antoni's older brother Dan, who took the Brazilian under his wing after joining the coaching staff two seasons ago.

"Nothing would have happened if he wouldn't be here," Barbosa said. "He helped me a lot. He taught me a lot of things. We have a really good relationship. I'm happy to have him in my life and happy for what he has done for me."

Dan D'Antoni downplayed his role.

Barbosa had 578 overall points in the media voting.

Sports Shorts

National and Magic Valley briefs

GE Money, formerly known as GE Consumer Finance, is coordinating the promotional financing program with the Braves and will collect payments.

Dennis Murphy, GE Money vice president of sporting goods industry, said the finance charge on balances unpaid after 90 days is between 20 percent and 25 percent and based on the prime rate.

Barbosa had 578 overall points in the media voting.

MLB
Braves offer 90-day, interest-free financing for tickets
ATLANTA — The Atlanta Braves are selling ticket packages with 90-day, interest-free financing.

The plan announced Monday is limited to ticket packages worth at least \$200.

"We've heard from lots of fans who say 'We want this ticket package and we don't have the amount of cash on hand as we speak,'" Braves senior vice president for sales and marketing Derek Schiller said.

Fans may use the financing program on ticket packages including full or half season, 20-game plans, flex plans or "all-in" packages of four-game packs valued at \$200 or more.

Cheese maker still plans to open plant in Nov.

By Sven Berg
For the Times-News

Officials for Ohio-based Brewster Dairy, the company taking over the former Kraft facility in Rupert, say conversion of the plant is moving forward smoothly and they plan to have it operational on schedule come Nov. 1.

Tom Murphy, who was plant manager at the Kraft facility, was hired April 7 to hold the same position for Brewster. Murphy said he is excited to be working with Brewster, especially because it will enable him to stay in Mini-Cassia.

"My family and I moved out here with Kraft a few years ago and

we really liked the area," he said. "We're really excited to have the chance to work for Brewster. It's a well-run company."

Sherri Miles, Rupert's community and economic development director, echoed Murphy's enthusiasm about Brewster's quality. She said she and the rest of Rupert are ecstatic about the economic impact Brewster's arrival will have on the area.

"They're a great company. I have been working with them for a number of months and they're just tremendous. I think they will be a huge asset for the community," she said.

Miles said local contractors are

already being put to use on converting the facility to meet Brewster specifications.

Brewster and Rupert announced the cheese maker would be taking over the facility in mid-January, just two weeks after Kraft closed its doors. It will be Brewster's third plant, the others are in Brewster, Ohio and Stockton, Ill.

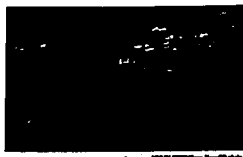
Brewster officials said they have received resumes from several employees of the former Kraft facility, but they have not set a firm timetable with respect to the 40 employees they plan to hire. Murphy did say he plans to have a full staff hired in time to train it for

the Nov. 1 opening.

Though Brewster is primarily known for producing Swiss cheese, it will produce bulk cheddar cheese at the Rupert plant and ship it to Kellogg Company facilities for use in the production of Cheez-It snack crackers.

Murphy said day-to-day operation of the plant will closely mirror that of the Kraft facility, because the fundamental "science of cheese-making" is constant no matter what kind of cheese is being produced.

"It's cheese making — from one style of cheese to another, there's a lot of similarity in making it," he said.



Larry Klimes stands in front of a memorial for his dog, Amy, at his Woodland, Idaho home recently. Klimes' dog died after eating tainted dog food.

Food supply still vulnerable

Increasing imports of ingredients make U.S. food supply susceptible to contaminants

By Justin Pritchard
Associated Press writer

LOS ANGELES — The same food safety net that couldn't catch poisoned pet food ingredients from China has a much bigger hole.

Billions of dollars' worth of foreign ingredients that Americans eat in everything from salad dressing to ice cream get a pass from overwhelmed inspectors. It's constant no matter what kind of cheese is being produced.

Well before contaminated shipments from China killed 16 cats and dogs and sickened thousands more, government food safety task forces worried about the potential human threat — ingredients are hard to quarantine and can go virtually everywhere in a range of brand products.

When U.S. Food and Drug Administration inspectors at ports and border checkpoints look, they find shipments that are filthy or otherwise contaminated. They rarely bother, however, in part because ingredients aren't a priority.

Because these oils, spices, flours, gums and the like haven't been blamed for killing humans, safety checks before they reach the supermarket shelf are effectively nonexistent. It's a U.S. buyers, as the pet deaths showed, however, that system is far from secure.

Meanwhile, the ingredient trade is booming — particularly since 2001, when the Sept. 11 attacks focused attention on the security of the nation's food supply.

Over the past five years, the AP found, U.S. food makers prospecting for bargains more than doubled their business with low-cost countries such as Mexico, China and India. Those nations also have the most shipments fall the limited number of checks the FDA makes.

"You don't have to be a Ph.D. to figure out that ... if someone were to put some type of a toxic chemical into a product that's trusted, that could do a lot of damage before it's detected," said Michael Doyle, a microbiologist who directs the University of Georgia's Center for Food Safety.

Doyle sat on several federal task forces studying threats to U.S. food security while they discussed ingredients, he said, their findings are classified.

Today, a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee will hold a hearing on the FDA's oversight of the food supply, with a focus on the recent case of contaminated spinach, peanut butter and pet food. The hearing is part of a broader investigation by lawmakers into the FDA's handling of food safety.

There are other reasons ingredients aren't thoroughly examined. Unlike rotting fish or moldy vegetables, ingredient testing often requires a laboratory. Analyzing samples takes days and can irk importers who don't like the chance of holding their product or risking a costly recall if they go ahead with distribution.

Money & Medicine

Bush vows resistance to changing drug benefit

By Kevin Fraking
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — After fending off legislation to let the government negotiate Medicare drug prices, President Bush made it clear Monday he would fight future attempts to alter the program for the elderly and disabled.

Bush praised the Medicare drug benefit for costing less than anticipated and for high satisfaction rates among customers.

"I just want to assure you that we'll do everything we can to jealously guard why this program is working," Bush told about a dozen Medicare participants and senior advocates at a White House meeting attended by the Associated Press.

"That basically means making sure seniors are still in charge of the decisions."

The president met with beneficiaries and supporters of the program shortly before Medicare's trustees issued a report saying the program would run out of money in 2019, absent any changes.

Bush met for about 30 minutes with seniors from Texas, Arkansas, North Carolina and New York. All shared their experiences with how the benefit, which began in January 2006, has saved them money.

Under the program, the federal government subsidizes the cost of medicine for beneficiaries who enroll in a private insurance plan.

Market Watch

April 23, 2007

Dow Jones Industrials	12,919.40
Nasdaq composite	2,523.67
Standard & Poor's 500	1,480.93
Russell 2000	827.55

Stocks of local interest

Dell Inc.	24.84	▲ 15
Litlle Motors	28.12	▼ 32
Supervalu	44.14	▲ 55

Commodities

June Oil	65.89	▲ 1.73
(Light sweet crude by barrel)		
May gold	691.2	▼ 1.6

For more, see page B5

Finding a home for DVD duds

Man's surplus DVD-buying business turning huge profits

By Lorenza Nunez
Los Angeles Times

BURBANK, Calif. — Ryan J. Kugler is known as the video industry's scrap collector, but he doesn't mind.

He sees himself as doing studios a favor by buying up the surplus DVDs they otherwise would be stuck with, then reselling them to retailers. Chances are that when you rummage through old movies in discount bins at Target, Wal-Mart, Best Buy or a local car wash, Kugler's fingerprints are on them.

"It's like guys who buy foreclosures — they get the house they want for a lower price," said Kugler, who runs Distribution Video & Audio Inc. with his brother, Brad.

With the DVD sales growth leveling, and stores such as Sam Goody and Tower Records closing, Kugler's DVD liquidation business is booming. Right now, the odds are good of finding "American Idol: The Search for a Superstar" or "Slurp" in the bins.

Last year, the company grew by 40 percent, generating about \$24 million in revenue on the sale of more than 17 million DVDs, CDs, video games and books. The only area Kugler steers clear of is pornography. About 10 percent to 20 percent of his revenue is profit, he said.

"A lot of these companies that go out of business need some place to dispose of the excess merchandise," said Thomas K. Arnold, publisher of trade magazine Home Media Magazine. "It's better than putting the stuff in a landfill."

While Kugler scores one of Hollywood's major headaches by liquidating its extra DVDs, don't expect the companies to acknowledge it.

That's because overestimating demand for DVDs sales can be a waste of money, not to mention an embarrassment. For example, despite being DVD hits, DreamWorks Animation SKG Inc.'s "Shrek 2" and Pixar Animation Studios' "The Incredibles" didn't sell up to expectations.



Ryan Kugler's Distribution Video & Audio Inc. in Burbank, Calif., helps to cure one of Hollywood's major headaches by liquidating its extra DVDs.

"He's the guy who nobody wants to talk about," one studio executive said of Kugler, proving his point by not wanting to be quoted by name.

Kugler estimates that there are about 10 companies nationwide that specialize in entertainment overstock business. There are at least 70,000 DVD titles out there, according to DVD Release Report, a tracking service.

Consultant Tom Adams of Adams Media Research said liquidators contributed to the overall health of the home video industry.

"A piece of (the studios') profit

would go away without being able to offload extra copies at a cheap price once demand is satisfied," Adams said.

Kugler's father, Ben, moved his family from Chicago to Los Angeles and bought Distribution Video Inc. in 1989. Kugler and his brother bought the company from their father in 2005.

The company stores its DVDs in three Florida warehouses, and Kugler says they are planning to buy one more. In stores, the videos are usually placed in bins near the cash register to take advantage of customers' impulse to buy.

Study: Fat workers cost more in injury claims, lost workdays than fit workers

By Carla K. Johnson
Associated Press writer

CHICAGO — Overweight workers cost their bosses more in injury claims than their lean colleagues, suggests a study that found the heaviest employees had twice the rate of workers' compensation claims as their fit co-workers.

Obesity experts said they hope the study will convince employers to invest in programs to help fight obesity. One employment attorney warned companies that treating fat workers differently could lead to discrimination complaints.

Duke University researchers

also found that the fattest workers had 13 times more lost workdays due to work-related injuries, and their medical claims for those injuries were seven times higher, than their fit co-workers.

Overweight workers were more likely to have claims involving injuries to the back, wrist, arm, neck, shoulder, hip, knee and foot than other employees.

The findings were based on eight years of data from 11,728 people employed by Duke and its health system. Researchers found that workers with higher body mass indexes, or BMIs, had higher rates of workers' compensation claims.

The most obese workers — those with BMIs of 40 or higher — had the highest rates of claims and lost workdays. BMI is a measure of height and weight. A 6-foot, 300-pound person, for example, has a BMI of just over 40.

Study co-author Dr. Truls Ostbye said the findings should encourage employers to sponsor fitness programs.

"There are many promising programs," Ostbye said. "We'd like to see more research about what is truly effective."

James Hill, who heads the Center for Human Nutrition at the University of Colorado, said managers will pay attention to the findings because

Heavy workers costing companies more

Workers with high body mass indexes (BMIs), have higher rates of workers' compensation claims. The most obese workers — those with BMIs of 40 or higher — had the highest rate of claims and lost workdays.

Workers' compensation claims and lost workdays by BMI, per 100 full-time employees

BMI	Claims	Lost work days
Under 18.5	5.53	40.97
18.5 to 24.9	3.90	14.19
25 to 29.9	7.05	60.17
30 to 34.9	6.81	78.21
35 to 39.9	10.80	117.61
40 plus	11.85	186.63

Body mass index = weight (lb.) ÷ height (inches) squared × 703

SOURCE: Archives of Internal Medicine, Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, AP

Injuries mean more immediate financial losses than the future health-care costs of diabetes and heart disease.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of mutual fund performance data including fund names, share classes, and returns.

COMMODITIES REPORT

Table of commodity prices for various metals and grains.

CLOSING FUTURES

Table of closing futures prices for various commodities.

BEANS

Table of bean market prices and trends.

GRAINS

Table of grain market prices and trends.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of New York Stock Exchange market data including volume and index values.

MARKET SUMMARY

Summary table of market activity for NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table of NASDAQ National Market data including volume and index values.

DIARY

Table of dairy market prices for various products.

DIARY

Table of dairy market prices for various products.

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Table of dairy market prices for various products.

INDEXES

Table of major market indices and their values.

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STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table of local stock market activity and prices.

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Table of local stock market activity and prices.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Explanatory text detailing how to interpret market data and reports.

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table of American Stock Exchange market data.

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: A bit warmer under partly to mostly cloudy skies. Highs reaching into the mid 60s.
 Tonight: Variable cloudiness. Lows low to mid 40s.
 Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy with a small chance for a few showers. Highs in the mid 60s.

BURLEV/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Partly to mostly cloudy and a bit warmer. Highs mid 60s.
 Tonight: Variable cloudiness. Lows near 40.
 Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy with a small chance for a few showers. Highs in the mid 60s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS.
 Plenty of mid and high level cloudiness will blanket the area of times today and tonight. A disturbance will cross over tomorrow with a chance for scattered rain and snow showers.

BOISE
 Today will see a fair amount of higher level cloudiness. There will be a chance for scattered showers tomorrow as an upper level disturbance passes through.

NORTHERN UTAH
 Today will see passing mid and high level cloudiness with mild temperatures. A chance for scattered showers moves in tomorrow.



Yesterday's State Estimates: 70 at Caldwell, 70 at Boise, 70 at Burley, 70 at Coeur d'Alene, 70 at Idaho Falls, 70 at Pocatello, 70 at Shoshone, 70 at Teton, 70 at Twin Falls, 70 at Wallace, 70 at Wooten.

BREGG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY
 "I'll give you a moment of decision that your destiny is shaped."
 —Ray Robben, Owner & Actor

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Yesterday's Weather
						City HI Lo Prev Coeur d'Alene 64 40 017 Burley 68 43 017 Juntura 62 41 017 Lewiston 68 48 017 Malden 48 43 017 Pocatello 48 33 017 Rupert 48 33 017 Shoshone 64 32 017
High 43	Low 43	65 / 40	68 / 40	73 / 40	75 / 41	

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Temperature	Precipitation	Humidity	Barometric Pressure	Sunrise and Sunset	Pollen Count
Yesterday's Low 41	0.00 in	63%	30.02 in	6:52 AM	Low
Record High 85	0.78 in	67%	30.02 in	6:52 AM	Low
Record Low 45	0.00 in	50%	30.02 in	6:52 AM	Low

Moons Phases	Moonrise and Moonset	U. V. INDEX
Apr 24 First Moon	6:52 AM	Low
May 1 Full Moon	6:52 AM	Moderate
May 10 Last Moon	6:52 AM	High

REGIONAL FORECAST			NATIONAL FORECAST			WORLD FORECAST		
City	Today	Tomorrow	City	Today	Tomorrow	City	Today	Tomorrow
Bozeman, MT	61 36	62 51	Atlanta, GA	63 68	63 68	London, UK	55 58	55 58
Chicago, IL	51 58	52 58	Boston, MA	58 64	58 64	Paris, FR	72 80	72 80
Dallas, TX	59 57	60 63	Denver, CO	58 64	58 64	Seoul, KR	53 62	53 62
Denver, CO	57 62	58 64	Detroit, MI	58 64	58 64	Sydney, AU	64 68	64 68
Houston, TX	58 62	63 66	Los Angeles, CA	62 68	62 68	Tokyo, JP	64 68	64 68
Los Angeles, CA	58 62	63 66	Miami, FL	62 68	62 68	Washington, DC	62 68	62 68
Madison, WI	58 62	63 66	Minneapolis, MN	58 64	58 64	Yokohama, JP	64 68	64 68
Memphis, TN	58 62	63 66	New York, NY	62 68	62 68			
Portland, OR	58 62	63 66	San Diego, CA	62 68	62 68			
Raleigh, NC	57 62	63 66	Seattle, WA	58 64	58 64			
San Antonio, TX	58 62	63 66	Wash. DC	62 68	62 68			
San Diego, CA	58 62	63 66						
San Francisco, CA	58 62	63 66						
St. Louis, MO	58 62	63 66						
Tampa, FL	58 62	63 66						
Wichita, KS	58 62	63 66						

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP
 -20 -10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100
 Fronts: Cold, Warm, Stationary, Occluded

CANADIAN FORECAST

City	Today	Tomorrow
Calgary	47 38	42 28
Edmonton	47 38	42 28
Halifax	10 24	10 24
Montreal	10 24	10 24
Ottawa	10 24	10 24
Regina	10 24	10 24
Saskatoon	10 24	10 24
Vancouver	10 24	10 24
Winnipeg	10 24	10 24

An offer Junior can refuse?

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Taking control of DEI, his late father's company, might come at too high a price for Dale Earnhardt Jr.

—Last week, ESPN reported DEI offered Dale Earnhardt Jr. 51-percent ownership, which NASCAR's most popular driver quickly denied. That's not to say there weren't informal discussions, rather it could be Junior simply stopped listening once he heard the asking price.

Several people familiar with the contract negotiations told The Associated Press that DEI has not made a formal offer and that any discussions centered around the 51-percent ownership share came with a steep asking price — \$55 million or more — that the Earnhardt Jr. camp didn't take seriously.

That number would be in line with the going rate for a stake in a NASCAR team. Boston Red Sox owner John Henry is believed to have spent about \$20 million in February for a minority stake in Roush Fenway Racing.

Those familiar with the negotiations requested anonymity because they were not intended to be public.

When reached Monday, Junior's sister Kelley Earnhardt Elledge declined comment, citing the reporting of inaccurate information over the weekend in her desire to refrain from commenting until a formal announcement.

Junior has been steadfast in his demand for majority ownership throughout the three-month negotiations. But who knows if he can even afford to meet the asking price?

And should he even be challenged to pay for a stake in the team?

He and Elledge have said they believe Dale Earnhardt started DEI as something to leave behind for his four children.

But Earnhardt were still alive, would he have sold shares to his son or simply handed over control when Junior was ready to run an empire?

Stepmother Teresa Earnhardt might know the answer, but she's not saying.

Earnhardt doesn't want control to get rich. He wants to win championships. And his desire to run the company is what he and Elledge believe he will take to get DEI to NASCAR's upper echelon. Although the team is competitive, it has yet to consistently challenge for a Nextel Cup title, and Earnhardt hasn't been a legitimate championship contender since 2004.

www.magicvalley.com

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814 Lawn Garden DIXON '01 42 inch deck, blower assist. Includes a list of lawn and garden equipment.

817 Musical Instruments PIANO 1975ish Everett upright piano. Includes a list of musical instruments.

820 Tools & Machinery AIR COMPRESSOR Ingersoll Rand, 175 CFM. Includes a list of tools and machinery.

804 Building Materials RAILROAD TIES sold, up to 22' long. Includes a list of building materials.

803 Bazaars and Crafts Buy It! Sell It! A Times-News Classified. Will fill every need. Includes a list of services and products.

716 AG Business and Service Directory HOGS FOR SALE. Includes a list of various services and businesses.

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COUNTRY ROADS

YOUR LANDSCAPE • YOUR LIVESTOCK • YOUR LIFESTYLE • TIMES-NEWS • FEATURES EDITOR VIRGINIA HUTCHINS: 735-3242

INSIDE:
Living at
home:
For Better
or Worse,
D4



D
TUESDAY
APRIL 24, 2007

INSIDE: Comics, D4-5 | Horoscope, D4 | Dear Abby, D5 | Bridge, D5

Send us your best shots of rural springtime

Times-News

Time is running out to send us your photos of swelling buds and falling rain. We want to see *Times-News* readers' photos of springtime in the Magic Valley countryside — whether that's planting in the backyard garden plot, or navigat-

ing the inevitable mud on country lanes, or attending animal births. Then in *Country Roads*, we'll showcase some of our favorite spring-photo submissions from readers, along with our judges' comments. Here are the rules for our no-prize spring contest:

- Photos must be taken in Magic Valley (including Mini-Cassia) or the Wood River Valley.
- Stick to recent photos, please. In this case, that means images of spring 2006 or spring 2007.
- For our ease of judging, please submit prints (they can be plain-paper printouts or stand-

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Rural history in

longhand



"I feel it's important to preserve the history of the areas as much as possible. It just makes life a little more worthwhile for me."
— David Freshour

Jerome man transcribes obituaries for museums

By Ariel Hanson
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Sitting at a folding table, David Freshour is surrounded by three things: a file folder thick with obituaries clipped from newspapers, a pile of blank 3-by-5 index cards, and a bottle of correction fluid. He has volunteered with the Twin Falls County Historical Museum for a week now, and he's already transcribed the details of name, birth date, wedding date, death date and number of survivors from more than 400 obituaries.

It's an odd pastime, and Freshour knows it. "A lot of people ... they ask, 'Does it bother you?'" Freshour said. "This type of thing doesn't bother me. It never has. It's been kind of a gift for me."

Since Freshour retired in 1994 as a self-described jack-of-all-trades, he has volunteered with the Jerome County Historical Museum transcribing milestones from old newspapers. In his first 10 years there, he wrote 33,228 index cards, logging 7,142 volunteer hours.

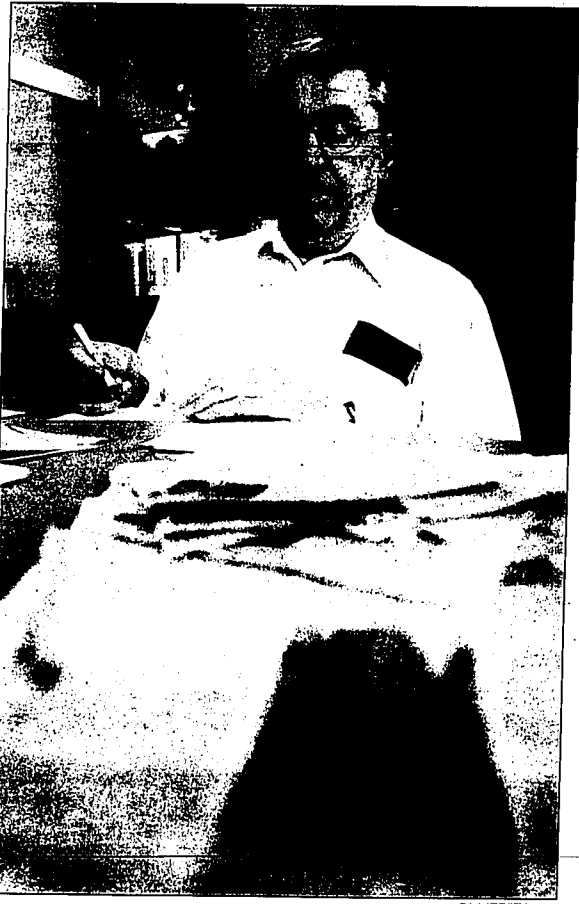
"I feel it's important to preserve the history of the areas as much as possible," he said. "It just makes life a little more worthwhile for me."

Freshour, 66, grew up in Jerome and often comes across obituaries of people he has known.

"There are quite a few that were my parents' friends, years ago," he said. These paper memorials to family friends don't depress him, though. "It doesn't make me sad. We're only here for a while, and everyone will be passing on. It's just something that's inevitable."

In the meantime, Freshour sees obituary evidence of many interesting lives. He particularly enjoys writing cards about members of families with connections to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, because those families tend to be large.

"They'll have several children, 40 grandchildren, up to 100 great-grandchildren, and that's interesting to read about," he said. "Every life is an experience, you know."



ABOVE: David Freshour of Jerome reprints newspaper obituaries onto index cards at the Twin Falls County Historical Museum. Freshour has been doing this for years at the Jerome County Historical Museum and recently began volunteering in Twin Falls. TOP: An unusual undertaking: Freshour has transcribed information from more than 30,000 obituaries onto index cards.

up obituaries is putting people into a historical context that Freshour has felt a bit disconnected from. "I think he gets a feeling of closeness to the people he's writing for," said Darleen Forter,

administrator for the Twin Falls museum. "And I need that, because I have no immediate family here," Freshour added. "This has really been an answer to a prayer."

Freshour said he isn't very patient in the rest of his life, but he is happy to sit at a desk all day, writing longhand with a blue-ink pen.

Please see LONGHAND, Page D2



About a quarter of the bee population in the U.S. has been lost since the 1990s. Chemical pesticides kill honeybees.

We need bees' help — and they need ours

By Joel M. Larsen
Special to The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Tireless workers, smart and social, honeybees are essential to the fertility of crops — from almonds in California to blueberries in Maine.

Shelley McNeal, master gardener and bee maven with the Howard County (Md.) Cooperative Extension, likes to share this with audiences for her talks on bees: "Every third bite of food we take is the result of pollinators."

There are other insect pollinators — bumblebees, some wasps and a fly that looks like a wasp — but fuzzy little honeybees are the biggies. They help make backyard flowers and fruits bloom, but their most important role is in agriculture. Every year, hundreds of thousands of bees are trucked from their home apiaries to farms, sometimes in distant states, where they are set out to pollinate crops.

"They are so important to our food sources and to our economy," said Michael, who has a beehive of her own on her family's 17-acre farm in Howard County. She began keeping bees about nine years ago because her family planted a small orchard and knew they needed bees as pollinators, and also because her father had noticed that his garden wasn't doing as well as it previously had.

The reason her family's garden lacked pollinators and part of the reason bees are being trucked in to carry pollen from one flower to another are the same: Bees are becoming endangered.

Perhaps a quarter of the bee population in the U.S. — in some places perhaps as much as 50 percent — has been lost since the 1990s, when hives were hit hard by mites. Now there's a new threat, colony collapse disorder.

Please see BEES, Page D2

The buzz on bees

- Queen bees live about five years; worker bees live only about six months.
- A hive that has 60,000 to 80,000 bees in the peak of summer may have only about 1,000 bees in the dead of winter.
- A full hive may have only about 1,000 bees in the winter.
- A healthy queen can lay 1,900 eggs a day.
- Bees use their wings and body temperatures to keep the inside of the hive at 92 degrees all year.
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- Bees use their wings and body temperatures to keep the inside of the hive at 92 degrees all year.
- Only about 10 percent of bees live in the wild. Even when they're tended by humans, however, they remain wild creatures.

COUNTRY ROADS

Longhand

Continued from page D1
 "If it takes me till the rest of my life, that'll be fine," he said. "This is something nobody else wants to do."

So why do it?
 Porter is grateful that Freshour spends his free time writing these index cards, because they make his job of coordinating historical evidence easier. The cards are particularly useful to people doing genealogical research, she said.

"What he's doing is a valuable service to us," she said. "This surge of interest in people's families is leading them more and more to search for records. It's nice when we can say, 'Yes, we have something on that family.'"

Freshour turned to the Twin Falls museum because, he said, he exhausted the available historical records in Jerome. He has written every obituary, and many wedding and birth announcements,

aged photographs of the deceased.
 "That's interesting, to see the similarities," he said.
 For Freshour, reading about people who suffered from illness or disability for a long time is encouraging, as he struggles with health problems.
 "To see how they handled their life or coped with their situation; a lot of people overcome their affliction," he said. "It makes me appreciate my life, that I am able to get around and I can function quite well."
 Freshour said he will continue putting pen to index card to transcribe obituaries until he cannot any longer; until he's forced by circumstance or illness to stop creating longhand records of the lives of others.
 Times-News features writer Ariel Hansen can be reached at 735-3376 or ariel.hansen@lee.net.

Dumbbells pollinate flowers such as verbena.

Bees

Continued from page D1
 in which whole hives suddenly become empty of adult bees. No one knows why the collapse occurs. It might be from a fungus, parasites, poison from insecticides, bacteria or virus, or some combination. We have no solution.

When the problems arose with the mites, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and university researchers came up with some chemicals that kill them, McNeal said. That worked for a while, and then the mites became resistant, so practices were altered to make the treatment more effective. But there were still problems, so the department took another approach: finding and breeding bees that are mite-resistant.

They found a mite-resistant bee in Russia, and beekeepers can now buy a Russian queen that will lay eggs that grow up into mite-resistant adults. But they're not very plentiful or widely available yet.
 McNeal says chemical pesticides should be a last resort. Use integrated pest management to balance beneficial insects and pests. For example, if you handpick Japanese beetles from your roses instead of spraying insecticide to control them, the honeybees won't be killed. If you have to use pesticides, use horticultural oil; insecticidal soap; or BT, a bacterium that controls such pests as caterpillars.

Check your clover and dandelions for honeybee activity before applying any treatment to your lawn. McNeal says bees love dandelions. You may want to leave some for them as a food source. Dandelion greens are a tasty and healthy addition to your own salads as well, so



Shelley McNeal, master gardener and beekeeper with the Howard County (Md.) Cooperative Extension, works her honeybee hives. 'Every third bite of food we take is the result of pollinators,' she says.

hand-pull these whenever possible. Install plants bees like, such as holly, serviceberry, blueberry, verbena, echinacea or lavender.

If you notice bees swarming, call your local cooperative extension service. They have lists of beekeepers in your area who would be delighted to come and get the bees. Swarming is perfectly natural behavior and not dangerous to humans. This activity indicates that the bees are in search of a new home.

Honeybees are not dangerous and will not attack people. Kill bees unless they are threatening. "They only sting in self-defense," McNeal said. Stinging kills them, so it's a bad strategy for the bee. Its only purpose in life is to go out and get nectar, then go back and get more nectar.

Arborvitae: Taking the lead

**By Scott Aker
 Special to The Washington Post**

Q. I have three 40-year-old arborvitae on the east side of the house. Two are shaded by a maple, the other gets sunlight all day and is at least one-third larger. It is also dropping needles into the roof gutter. Can an arborvitae be pruned, and when?

A. You can head back your arborvitae to a more manageable height, but it will look odd for some time.

Cut the main leader back to a large side branch, which you can encourage to take over as the tree's new leader. If the branch is horizontal, tie a stake to the trunk, bend the branch upward and attach it to the spilt. This will speed its transformation from side branch to dominant leader. Spring is a

good time for this.

You should make your cut lower than the desired top of the arborvitae to give room for the new leader to grow. Next year, the lateral should grow more rapidly and be on its way to filling out the top. Don't forget to remove the spilt after a couple of years, when the leader will remain vertical on its own.

If you don't want to do all that, you could replace the arborvitae. There are many good varieties of Hinokii cypress: Nana Gracilis or Filicoides (often marketed as Fernspray) are good substitutes and remain green all winter, unlike most arborvities which can turn brown in cold weather.

Scott Aker is a horticulturist at the U.S. National Arboretum.

Cutting your forsythia

**By Scott Aker
 Special to The Washington Post**

Q. I want to cut back my forsythias. They have become top-heavy from constant shaping over the years. When and how severely should I prune?

A. And what is the regimen for fertilizing?

A. The best time to prune forsythias is right after it blooms. If you haven't thinned out the oldest canes before, you

may just want to cut the whole thing back to the ground in May as the flowers fade.

Forsythias don't need much fertilizer, and excess nutrients will cause them to produce rampant growth with few flower buds.

Avoid fertilizing for a year or two, especially if you cut them back hard, because that will promote vigorous new growth naturally.

Lifelong gardener offers pest tips in book

Newsday
 A lifelong organic gardener, Fern Macchall Bradley is a freelance editor and writer of garden and nature books who studied gardening and horticulture at Cornell and Rutgers universities. She resides in New York's Hudson Valley region and manages a market garden on an organic farm in New Jersey.
 Bradley has written "Rodale's Vegetable Garden Problem Solver: The Best and Latest Advice for Beating Pests, Diseases, and Weeds and Saving Step Ahead of Trouble in the Garden" (Rodale, \$19.95). Encyclopedic in style, information in this comprehensive, authoritative guide is simple and straightforward to find. It is not divided into chapters. Instead, its table of contents lists more than 100 vegetables, diseases and blights alphabetically for easy reference.
 Each entry follows a simple formula that includes fire categories: Crop Basics, Secrets of Success, Regional Notes, Preventing Problems and

Troubleshooting Problems. Tips on blight and disease include information on fighting infection as well as preventing recurrences.
 Suggestions for dealing with pests, from aphids to wood-

chucks, is provided. Concise and user-friendly, "Rodale's Vegetable Garden Problem Solver" is a valuable go-to reference for those who want quick and easy facts at their fingertips.

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HORSE MONTHLY

New vaccine could prevent deadly bacterial pneumonia.

Selective genes and an impressive lineage can determine a young foal's athletic career from birth. But those credentials can be all for naught if a foal falls ill with pneumonia. Even if a sick foal survives, its athletic potential is rarely unscathed. Sickness can hinder performance potential before training ever begins.

Now, researchers at the University of Guelph are developing a vaccine that will help prevent pneumonia in the lungs of large numbers of North American foals each year. The vaccine will attack *Rhodococcus equi*, a bacterium that lives in soil and manure. Prof. John Prescott, post-graduate fellow Chris Dupont and graduate students Jun Ren and Hamid Haghighi of the Department of Pathobiology hope the vaccine will be protecting foals soon.

"Foal pneumonia is one of the most serious threats to foal crops each year and one of the most difficult to detect and treat," says Prescott. "This bacterial infection results in considerable expense, heavy use of antimicrobial drugs and general demoralization for horse breeders around the world." *R. equi* causes disease symptoms that are difficult to identify until infection is severe. And it's difficult to eliminate because it thrives in horse manure, heat and dust. Nor-mally when an infection occurs, the body inhales bacteria, which settle in the lungs. The immune system responds by sending macrophages, "fighter cells" that eradicate unwanted organisms by eating them. But that's not how the body fights *R. equi*. Macrophages ingesting the bacteria are unable to kill them. In fact, the bacteria multiply inside the macrophages, causing large abscesses to develop. The lungs fill with abscesses, slowly suffocating the foal.

Once the symptoms are visible, treatment is difficult and prolonged. Antibiotics aren't always effective because some strains of the bacterium are resistant. That's why Prescott wants to see a vaccine eliminate the problem before it starts.

He has discovered that only certain strains of *R. equi* cause pneumonia. These strains contain a plasmid — a special type of DNA molecule — that carries genes that aren't activated until they're inside the macrophage. Once the bacteria are inside the macrophage, they actually suppress the foal's immune system to enhance their own chances of survival. The altered immune response of young horses will release antibodies to fight only disease, not the *R. equi* inside the macro-phages.

Prescott will base the vaccine's development on an understanding of these genes and their role in immunity.

"Ongoing work in the laboratory suggests that it's possible to produce a vaccine that is 100-per-cent effective in preventing *R. equi* pneumonia in foals," he says. "This would eliminate the need for the lengthy and expensive treatment that exists today."

This research was sponsored by the E.P. Taylor Equine Research Fund and the Ontario Harness Racing Industry Association. This information received for All About Horses.

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COMICS

B.C.



By Johnny Hart



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

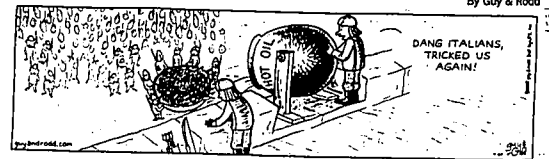


Baldo



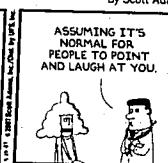
By Hector D. Cantu and Carlos Castellanos

Brevity



By Guy & Rodd

Dilbert



By Scott Adams

Doonesbury



By Gary Trudeau

The Elderberries



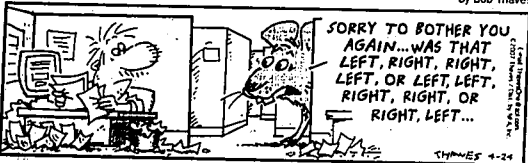
By Phil Frank and Joe Troise

For Better or For Worse



By Lynn Johnston

Frank and Ernest



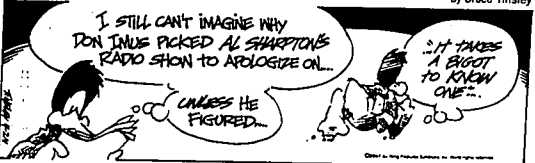
By Bob Thaves

Luann



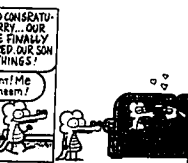
By Greg Evans

Mallard Fillmore



By Bruce Tinsley

Pearls Before Swine



By Stephan Pastis

Pickles



By Brian Crane

Rose is Rose



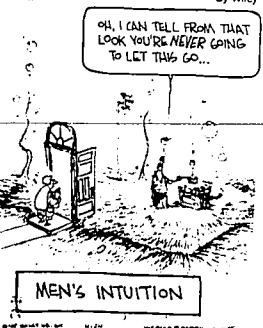
By Pat Brady

Zits



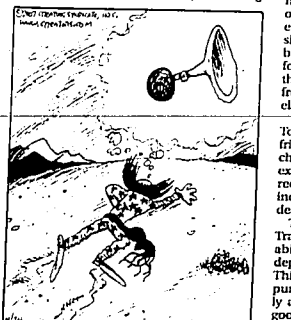
By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott

Non Sequitur



By Wiley

Strange Brew



By John Deering

Don't be afraid to share secret passion, Sagittarius

IF APRIL 24 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Your long-term goals and ambitions can become a reality if you wait until late December or early January to put your ideas into motion. That's a prime time to receive the answer to your prayers or obtain a favor from someone in the position to help you succeed. Between mid-August and mid-October, be responsible and avoid starting anything new—such as buying a house or starting a new business—enthusiastic and as accurate as possible, as no one will give you a break if you make a mistake or forget to pay a bill. Rest assured that you will have great help from the universe on many levels near the end of the year.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Tonight's the night. A new friend could strike a responsive chord and set the stage for an exciting romance. Your wallet is receptive to new sources of income, so accept an offer or deal.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Trade on a trademark. Your ability to charm others may depend upon unique qualities. This is a good time to make purchases on a whim, especially apparel that enhances your good looks.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20):

HOROSCOPE Jeradine Saunders

Stand out in a crowd. Your people-pleasing skills give you the advantage. Dig up hidden gems. If you have planned a romantic evening this evening, all your secret dreams may come true.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Maintain your balance. Study all pros and cons before you make a firm decision. You could underestimate hidden talents. Try to be a bit more confident of your charms.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Knowledge is power. Information can be manipulated in your favor. Friends, caned in your favor, introduce you to a new third-or could give you a leg up into the saddle so you can control a new situation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Conversations could be enlightening. Fresh lines of communication might lead to ideas about business endeavors or widen certain spheres of influence. Buy something beautiful and enjoyable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Breathe deeply. The perfume of love may hide inner hot spots and awaken hidden yearnings. This could be a great time to

impress others with your expertise at work or desirability at home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Win a heart. You can make a killing in the career arena or attract a soul mate under these stars.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Love justifies everything. Your amorous senses could be attracted to a special someone who digs deeply into your motivations. Don't be afraid to share a secret passion or personal idea.

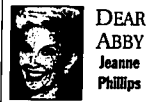
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Singles must mingle. Home, family and career successes depend upon your ability to commit wholeheartedly. Calculate your moves; make someone's heart beat just a little faster.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The ball is in your hands. Under these stars you can score a touchdown on the playing field of love. Your creative genius might earn you gold stars or a pat on the back in the work place.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Set the stage. Soft lights and soothing music could put someone in the mood for love later this evening. You are likely to appear in a flattering light if you attend a public function.

MEN'S INTUITION

Manager has no business spreading gossip at work



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne Phillips

DEAR ABBY: After reading the letter from "Invaded" (March 9), and her description of the behavior of "Thelma," the gossip coordinator, I was disgusted. That woman should be reported to personnel for her nastiness and big mouth. Medical and mental health information is private. And the card, to the woman who had a miscarriage may have been extremely hurtful if she didn't want anyone to know. Most women who have had multiple miscarriages don't tell anyone until they are sure they will carry the fetus to term. Returning to work and talking to people who do not have the need to know is hard for them. I can't believe the gall of that woman. Maybe she needs a heavier workload to keep her busy, or to be dismissed!

—DISGUSTED IN FORT COLLINS, COLO.

DEAR ABBY: A number of people who like you, were appalled by "Thelma's" behavior, or had similar stories to share, weighed in on "Invaded's" letter. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: "Thelma" has exposed herself and her employer to fines up to \$25,000 and other regulatory action. "Invaded" should immediately contact the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office for Civil Rights. This woman's "gossip" is far more than annoying, it's a violation of the Health

Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). This law was designed to protect the privacy of all Americans with regard to their medical information. The Office for Civil Rights specifically handles violations of the act. A person on how to file a complaint is available at www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/howtofile.htm.

—JOE IN ATLANTA

DEAR ABBY: With regard to "Thelma" asking her co-workers about their private medical business, I went through the same thing at one of my previous jobs. I found that if you turn the tables, things change rapidly.

A woman in our office always asked the most inappropriately personal questions and made everyone around her uncomfortable. We squirmed for months, until one of my friends suggested the following idea.

All of us in the office got together and made a list of the top 100 worst questions you could ever be asked. We all kept copies of them in our desks, and whenever "our Thelma" came around to one of us, we

picked one to sincerely and innocently ask her. After trying to hem and haw her way out of questions about her sex life, her hair dye and various other things, she finally started avoiding us—to the point of turning around and heading the other way whenever she saw one of us coming.

Problem solved! We found that a little of her own medicine worked wonders.

—TERRY T. ST. JOSEPH, MO.

DEAR ABBY: Tell "Invaded" to focus on medical information! When asked for a reason for medical leave, give the most complicated explanation of the illness. Words like "projectile vomiting," "explosive diarrhea" or "stomach" will usually stop the conversation.

—JANE IN BERKELEY, CALIF.

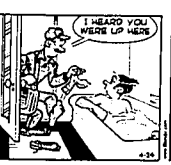
DEAR ABBY: I also live in New Bern, N.C., and gossip in this town is not limited to law firm — it's pervasive. I know the focus of "Invaded's" letter was labor law, but there's also the issue of emotional pain that gossip can cause when a person is going through a difficult time. If you're not a close friend or family member, it's best to avoid emotional support during a time of need, you should not be discussing the person's personal life. Period.

—CAN'T WAIT TO MOVE

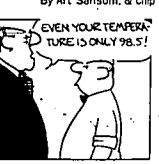
Beetle Bailey



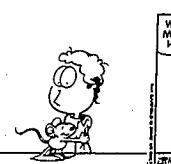
Blondie



The Born Loser



Garfield



Hagar the Horrible



Hi and Lois



Classic Peanuts



The Wizard of Id

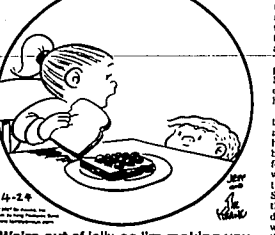


Dennis the Menace



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Keane



"We're out of jelly, so I'm making you a sandwich out of a few grapes."

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, April 24, the 114th day of 2007. There are 251 days left in the year.

1776 - The British evacuated New York on April 24, 1916, some 1,600 Irish nationalists landed the Easter Rising by seizing several key sites in Dublin.

1953 - The national anthem of France, "La Marseillaise" was composed by Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle.

1980 - Congress approved a bill establishing the Library of Congress.

1977 - Federal troops were ordered out of New Orleans, ending the North's post-Civil War rule in the South.

1938 - Spain declared war on the United States after rejecting American ultimatum to withdraw from Cuba.

1915 - The Ottoman Empire began the brutal mass deportation of Armenians

during World War I.

1953 - British statesman Winston Churchill was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.

1968 - Leftist students at Columbia University in New York began a week-long occupation of several campus buildings.

1970 - The People's Republic of China launched its first satellite, which kept transmitting a song, "The East is Red."

1980 - The United States launched an abortive attempt to free the American hostages in Iran, a mission that resulted in the deaths of eight U.S. servicemen.

1986 - Wallis, the Duchess of Windsor for whom King Edward VIII had given up the British throne, died in Paris at age 89.

Ten years ago: The prosecution and defense presented evidence in the Oklahoma City bombing trial of Timothy McVeigh. The Senate voted 74-26 to approve the chemical weapons treaty.

five days before the pact was to take effect. Comedian Pat Paulsen died in Mexico at age 69.

Five years ago: After an extraordinary meeting at the Vatican sparked by an abuse scandal, American Roman Catholic leaders agreed to make it easier to remove priests who were guilty of sexually abusing minors. Richard McDermott, a software engineer who claimed he was insane when he shot to death seven co-workers, was convicted of murder in Cambridge, Mass.

One year ago: Terrorist bombings killed at least 21 people at a beach resort on Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. Speaking in Irvine, Calif. President Bush said those calling for massive deportation of the estimated 11 million foreign-born illegal in the United States are not being realistic. Rabbi Moses Teitelbaum, the spiritual leader of an ultra-Orthodox Jewish sect, died in New York at age 91.

THE ACES ON BRIDGE

Bobby Wolff

"And what is so rare as a day in June?"
Then, if ever, come perfect days."
— James Russell Lowell

Quick: what is the rarest contract you are ever likely to see, regardless of the number of tricks taken?

If you said five no trump, close but no cigar. If you gave the right answer, five no-trump redoubled, you win today's big prize. In the history of bridge I'm betting this contract has been reached fewer than 10 times.

And remarkably, the pair declaring that contract — Andy Stark and Mark Aquino — had reached the optimum spot. Here's the deal from a knockout match at the Dallas Spring Nationals.

The auction makes perfect sense in a perfected sort of way. Aquino's call of five no-trump is one of those bids much beloved by modern players. It showed a two-suited hand (partner tends to assume the minors or two lowest unbid suits) and asked his partner to pick a slam. The double by East asked his partner not to sacrifice. The redouble suggested a place to play, and you have to admire North's stoicism for passing it out; don't you? I'm not sure I would have had the nerve.

West led a spade and East continued spades when with diamonds ace, so East never scored his club ace. Five no-trump redoubled, this scored plus 400 good for a 17-IMP pickup when slam went down in the other room. But there was no happy ending for Stark and Aquino — they lost their knockout semifinal match despite this deal. I suppose these who live by the sword get shot by the sword too!

NORTH ♠ 10 8 4
♥ A Q 8 6 4
♦ K Q 10 7 5 4 3
♣ K 5

WEST 10 ♠ 8 5 3 2
♦ 10 9 8
♣ 10 8 4 3

EAST ♠ J 8 7 4
♥ 9 2
♦ A 8 6 2
♣ A 6

SOUTH ♠ A Q
♥ K J 5 3
♦ A J 10
♣ Q J 9 7 2

Vulnerable: North-South
Dealer: East

The bidding:
South West North East
1NT 4♠ 3NT 1♠
1♠t All pass

Opening lead: Spade 10

DID YOU GET THE ACES

South holds:
• A Q
• K J 5 3
• Q J
• A Q 9 7 2

South West North East

ANSWER: This is the rare hand with a five-card minor and four-card major that should be opened no-trump. If you open one club and partner responds one spade, you are well short of the miles to bid two hearts. A one-no-trump rebid would show 12-14, while two clubs would promise six. Incidentally, make the club queen the king, and I would reverse: make the club jack the queen, and you would downgrade the hand to a balanced 12-14.

BIRTHDAYS

Today's Birthdays: Film and drama critic Stanley Kaufmann is 91. Movie director-producer Richard Donner is 77. Actress Shirley Maclaine is 75. Statue of Liberty is 67. Actor-singer Michael Parks is 67. Actress-singer-director Barbara Streisand is 65. Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley is 65. Rock musician Paty Smith is 40. Rock musician Aaron Copland (Spin Doctors) is 39. Actor Melissa Clarke is 38. Latin pop singer Alejandro Fernandez is 38. Actor Derek Luke is 33. Actor Eric Burdour is 30. Country singer Rebecca Lynn Howard is 28. Singer Kelly Clarkson is 25.

THOUGHT

"The door to the past is a strange door. It swings open and things pass through it, but they pass in one direction only. No man can return across that threshold..."

— Loren Eiseley, American anthropologist (1907-1977)

"OKAY IF I USE YOUR TUB & MY MOM'S TAKIN' A BATH AN TOLD ME TO FLOAT MY BOAT SOMEWHERE ELSE."

If you would like to contact Bobby Wolff, his e-mail address is bobby@acesonbridge.com.

AROUND THE WORLD

RUSSIA

Yeltsin, former Russian leader, dead at 76

MOSCOW — Former President Boris Yeltsin, who hastened the collapse of the Soviet Union by scrambling to stop a tank to rally opposition against a hard-line coup and later pushed Russia to embrace democracy and a market economy, died Monday at age 76.

The first freely elected leader of Russia, Yeltsin was initially a mild reformer abroad for his defiance of the monolithic Communist system. But many Russians will remember him mostly for presiding over the steep decline of their nation.

Mikhail Gorbachev, the last Soviet president, summed up Yeltsin's complex legacy Monday by referring to him as one "on whose shoulders are both great deeds for the country and serious errors."

Defense Secretary Robert Gates called Yeltsin "an important figure in Russian history."

"No Americans, at least, will forget seeing him standing on the tank outside the White House (the Russian parliament building) resisting the coup attempt," Gates said while visiting Moscow.

The Kremlin said the funeral would be Wednesday, a day of national mourning, and that Yeltsin would be buried at Moscow's Novodevichy Cemetery, where many of Russia's most prominent figures are interred.



Yeltsin

a goal of a complete pullout six months later.

"No more will Congress turn a blind eye to the Bush administration's incompetence and dishonesty," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said in a speech in which he accused the president of living in a state of denial about events in Iraq more than four years after the U.S.-led invasion.

Bush, confident of enough votes to sustain his veto, was unambiguous in his response. "I will strongly reject an artificial timetable (for) withdrawal and/or Washington politicians trying to tell those who wear the uniform how to do their job," he told reporters in the Oval Office as he met with his top Iraq commander: Gen. David Petraeus.

Taken together, the day's events marked the quickening of a confrontation that has been building since Democrats took control of Congress in January and promised to change policy in a war has claimed the lives of more than 3,200 U.S. troops.

Gonzales a 'distraction' for Bush Huckabee says

Republican presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee on Monday called Alberto Gonzales a "major distraction" for President Bush and the GOP and suggested the attorney general voluntarily step down.

The former Arkansas governor also left open the possibility that, if elected, he would increase the number of U.S. troops in Iraq and change the Pentagon's policy on gay service members, although he insisted he would take his cues from military commanders on both fronts.

In an interview with Associated Press reporters and editors, Huckabee deferred to Bush on whether to fire Gonzales even as the candidate implied that the country's top law enforcement official should leave the post on his own given the furor over the dismissals of eight federal prosecutors.

"Sometimes the best position would be for the appointee to make the decision and not force the president to do so. You best serve the person you work for when you can decide that if you are a distraction that you no longer will create that level of problem for your boss," he said.

ILLINOIS

Obama: Bush falls short as leader of the free world

CHICAGO — Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama said Monday that President Bush has fallen short in his role as leader of the free world and the 2008 election is a chance to change that.

"This president may occupy the White House, but for the last six years the position of leader of the free world has remained open. And it is time to fill that role once more," Obama said in a speech to the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

The Illinois senator was in his hometown to deliver a foreign policy address that was rescheduled last week after the shootings at Virginia Tech.

Obama said the world is disappointed in the United States, but it would be a mistake to "cede our claim of leadership in world affairs" because Americans might be tempted to turn inward in the face of negative world opinion.

STEREO spacecraft (for Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory) are available on the Internet and at museums and science centers nationwide.

The twin spacecraft, launched in October, are orbiting the Sun, one slightly ahead of the Earth and one behind. The separation, just like the distance between our two eyes, provides the depth perception that allows the 3D images to be obtained.

That depth perception is also particularly helpful for studying a type of solar eruption called a coronal mass ejection. Along with overloading power lines and disrupting satellite communications, the eruptions can endanger astronauts on spacewalks. Scientists would like to improve predictions of the arrival time from the current day or so to a few hours, said Russell Howard, principal investigator for the Naval Research Laboratory project.

STEREO program scientist Madhulika Guhathakurta said scientists have until now been "modeling in the dark" when it came to predicting solar storms. The twin spacecraft give researchers the vantage point to "provide the observations needed to validate the models."

GEORGIA

Study: Breast-feeding won't prevent later obesity

ATLANTA — While breast-feeding has many benefits, it won't prevent a child from becoming fat as an adult, says a new study that challenges a dogma from U.S. health officials.

The research is the largest study to date on breast-feeding and its effect on adult obesity.

"I'm the first to say breast-feeding is good. But I don't think it's the solution to reducing childhood or adult obesity," said the study's lead author, Karin Michels of Harvard Medical School.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention promotes breast-feeding as a way to reduce children's excess weight, and the guidelines for federal chronic disease prevention grants to states call for breast-feeding promotion. Some health officials say 15 to 20 percent of obesity could be prevented through breast-feeding.

A CDC official said he couldn't comment on the new research because he hadn't fully reviewed it.

— The Associated Press

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MARYLAND

3D images of sun may help predict solar storms

GREENBELT — NASA released the first three-dimensional images of the sun Monday, saying the photos taken from twin spacecraft may lead to better predictions of solar eruptions that can affect communications and power lines on Earth.

"The first reaction was great, but beyond that the first reaction was wow!" scientist Simon Plunkett said as he explained the images to a room full of journalists and scientists wearing 3D glasses.

The images from the

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WASHINGTON

Dems set for showdown with Bush on Iraq

A historic veto showdown assured, Democratic leaders agreed Monday on legislation that requires the first U.S. combat troops to be withdrawn from Iraq by Oct. 1 with

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