

Good Morning

High: 90 Low: 61

Warm, mostly sunny skies. Details: B4

Times-News

THURSDAY July 19, 2007 50 cents

MagicValley.com

State orders new assessments in TF county

Assessor sends new notices on 206 parcels

By Jared S. Hopkins Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — If property assessments are the summer's hottest fashion, then the Twin Falls County commissioners are pretty hip. One week after finishing five days of hearing appeals, the commissioners

have been asked by the Idaho State Tax Commission to schedule time to do it again after the state said the county's residential property — about 40 percent of the approximately 36,000 county parcels — was inaccurately assessed and undervalued.

In a routine study of the recently finished county appraisals, the tax com-

mission found that residential county property was valued at 85 percent of market value. Once every five years, all property must be appraised by the county assessor between 90 percent and 110 of the market value.

As a result, County Assessor Gerry Bowden selected 206 parcels from four subdivisions in northwest Twin Falls near the Snake River Canyon Rim. Reassessments notices were sent out Tuesday and residents have 10 days to

file an appeal with the commissioners. All appeals must be filed by Aug. 3.

Bowden said the properties that have been reassessed were not appraised in the passed year and they're assessments were low due to inflation.

"If we had the crystal ball we'd be okay," he said. "The game has changed."

Please see ASSESSMENTS, Page A3

Iraq vote

Republicans scuttle Democrats' plan to pull U.S. troops out of Iraq. Idaho roll call: Sen. Larry Craig - No. Sen. Mike Crapo - No

See page A5

Also inside

US military denies existence of al-Qaida leader in Iraq.

See page C8

Limping to fall

Low storage levels mean less water for residents and irrigators

By Matt Christensen Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Each day that passes, Vince Alberdi gets a little more nervous.

Alberdi is director at the Twin Falls Canal Company that shuttles water to 202,650 acres in Magic Valley and to hundreds of residents in subdivisions.

Problem is, the company is running out of water, and there's a chance there won't be much left by summer's end.

The canal company relies heavily on two reservoirs — American Falls and Jackson Lake — that have significantly less water in them than this time last year. American Falls is about half as full as last summer. Jackson Lake is down almost 10 percent.

"We're very, very, very concerned," Alberdi said. The company, which also gets

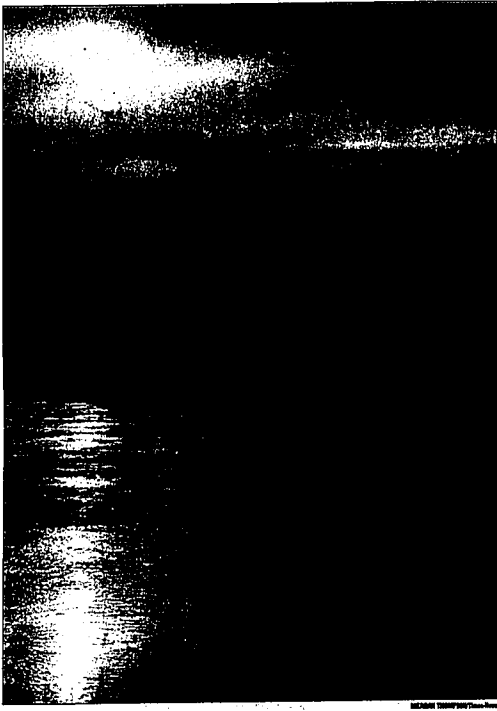
water from natural flows, tapped its storage water much earlier in the season than it wanted, drawing 8,000 acre feet in May, about 50,000 acre feet in June and 55,552 acre feet this month.

One acre foot is enough water to cover an acre in water one foot deep.

Water continues to flow through southern Idaho's river systems, making it hard for folks to understand the shortage. But water in the rivers is U.S. Bureau of Reclamation water that's flushed through the river system for fish under the Endangered Species Act, said Mike Beas, operations manager for the bureau in Burley. It's water that doesn't belong to the canal company.

"FPOC knew this spring it would have to provide less

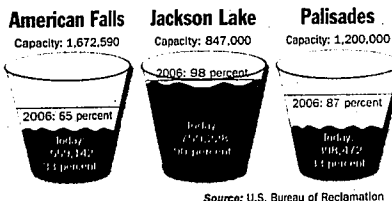
Please see WATER, Page A3



The sun reflects off a canal Wednesday night south of Twin Falls. Officials at the Twin Falls Canal Company are getting nervous because the company is running out of water.

Reservoir capacity

Capacity is measure in acre-feet. One acre-foot equals the amount of water it takes to cover one acre in one foot of water.



Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Water board signals policy shift

By Matt Christensen Times-News writer

BOISE — The board that governs Idaho's water is proposing dramatic changes to how the state's most precious resource is managed, stored and funded amid growing concern about climate change.

The Idaho Department of Water Resources Board wants to update the state water plan for the first time since 1996 and take a hands-on management approach unparalleled in the past four decades. The board's decisions will likely affect all Idahoans, especially irrigators

and municipalities.

"The policy shift is revolutionary," said Hal Anderson, a senior administrator with the board. "It was the late '60s the last time the water board was this assertive or aggressive," Anderson said.

In a work session late last week, the board discussed long-term strategies that could include building additional reservoirs or expanding existing facilities, recharging the aquifer and revamping management techniques to accommodate growth. The board could also ask the

Please see BOARD, Page A3

A legal dream team

Jerome overtime case draws three prominent lawyers

By Jared S. Hopkins Times-News writer

JEROME — In April, the Jerome County commissioners decided to pass on trying to recover more than \$70,000 that their predecessors received illegally.

They've since changed their minds and, as a likely draw-out legal battle begins to shape up, several prominent names have joined the fight — on both sides of the issue.

For four years starting in 2001, Veronica Lierman, Alvin Chojnackey and John Floricia received extra financial compensation under a system created by Lierman.

Please see JEROME, Page A3

For the defense



Kevin Cassidy

Laird Stone

For the prosecution



Fritz Haemmerle

Police pot delivery vanishes into thin air

By Cassidy Friedman Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — Until June 2006, Twin Falls police used the United Parcel Service to ship large volumes of seized illicit drugs and never asked themselves: Who handles the packages? Then, after sending thousands of

packages to and from the state lab, the department faced its first and only evidence-managing meltdown.

A portion of more than 2 pounds of seized pot shipped by UPS in June 2006 from the Twin Falls Police Department's evidence room to the state lab in Meridian vanished somewhere in between.

The package was damaged and a plastic bag inside the package marked "evidence" appeared torn open. Multiple UPS employees who

handled the package would later tell state police investigators they have smoked pot. One employee, caught by the smell, said he reached into the box and touched it, according to records the Twin Falls police showed the Times-News Wednesday of the state police's investigation into the matter.

After about a half-dozen interviews, Twin Falls police now know who handles their shipped drugs. But the investigation did not lead to

charges filed either against UPS employees or members of the Twin Falls Police Department. There were no citations of any Falls Police Department still uses UPS to ship illicit drugs, officials say they no longer allow UPS to ship such large quantities.

Please see POT, Page A3



At Your Service directory... E11
Bridge... E16
Classifieds... E3-16
Comics... D-23

Community... D1
Crossword... E10
Dear Abby... D3
Firm update... A2

Gargo Sales... E14
Horoscope... D3
Jumble... D9
Magic Valley... C1

Money... E1
Movies... C7
Obituaries... C2
Opinion... A6

Sports... B1
Stocks... E2
Sudoku... E3
Weather... B4

TODAY'S FORECAST

TWIN FALLS		
Today	Tonight	Friday
Mostly sunny with warm temperatures	Mostly clear and warm	Even warmer with less clouds
High 90	Low 61	96 / 62

MINI-CASSIA
Today: More sun than clouds with warm temperatures. Highs in the low 90s.
Tonight: Mostly clear overnight with mild temperatures. Lows in the upper 50s to lower 60s.
Tomorrow: A little warmer for Friday with sunny skies. Highs in the 90s.

Complete weather report: See page B4

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

"Noise Off," a presentation of Buhl West End Theatre, 7:30 p.m., Buhl High School Auditorium, \$6 for adults, \$5 for students and senior citizens, 490-1992.
Oakley Valley Arts Council's production of "Oklahoma," 7:30 p.m., Howells Opera House, Oakley, \$8, 677-2787.
The Twin Falls Municipal Band concert, 8 p.m., at the band shell, Twin Falls City Park, no cost, 733-2500, ext. 3654.

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

American Legion Bingo, 7:20 p.m., Bonanza bingo and 7:30 p.m. Regular bingo, 610 W. Main, Wendell, \$500 and \$1,195 Black outs, 536-6358.

BUSINESS

Ribbon cutting for Haymore & Ward Orthodontics, noon, 857 Polk St., Twin Falls, 734-4314.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Third Thursday Sons in Retirement, all retired men are invited to attend, 1 p.m., Wayside Café, Heyburn, no dues, 436-4918.
South Central Community Action Partnership, Inc., annual board meeting, 6 p.m., at SCCAP 314 E. Fifth St., Burley, general public invited, 733-9351.

FAMILY

Harry Potter Event, with craft projects, Quidditch, prize drawings, face painting, food and more, 7 to 9 p.m., Buhl Public Library, 215 Broadway Ave. N., no cost, attendees may dress as favorite Harry Potter book characters, 543-6500.

GOVERNMENT

Bellevue Planning and Zoning Commission, 7 p.m., City Hall, 115 E. Poplar, 788-2128.
Kimberly School Board, 7:30 p.m., district office, 141 Center St. W., 423-4151.
Minidoka County Planning and Zoning Commission, 4 p.m., courthouse, 715 G St., Rupert, 436-7180.
Sun Valley City Council, 3 p.m., City Hall, 81 Elkhorn Road, 622-4436.
Twin Falls County commissioners, 8:30 a.m., courthouse, 425 Shoshone St. N., 736-4068.
Wendell City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 300 Main St., 536-5161.

HEALTH AND RECOVERY

Take Off Pounds Sensibly ID No. 48 Chapter of Jerome, a weight-loss support group, 10 a.m., the Jerome Public Library, 100 First Ave. E., 420-3823.
Ongoing exercise program for people with Parkinson's disease, offered by Magic Valley Regional Medical Center, 11 a.m. to noon, the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 371 Eastland Drive N., Twin Falls, no cost, 737-2977.
Silvera-Sneakers Fitness Program, innovative exercise program designed specifically for Medicare beneficiaries' unique health and physical needs, 11:15 a.m. to noon, Twin Falls YMCA, 1751 Elizabeth Blvd., no cost for non-insured or YMCA members and \$5 per class for non-insured, 733-4384.
"Advanced Theosophic Counseling," Dr. Sharon Custer, facilitator, 8 p.m., Miracle Valley Care Center, 213 Eastland Drive N., Twin Falls, no cost, 734-9603.
Celebrate Recovery, a place to learn life-affirming, healthy behaviors, 7:30 p.m., Fireside Room of the Nazarene Fellowship Hall at Yakima and Main, Filer, 734-0557, 324-7237 or 326-7222.
A.C.T.S. Program, a 12-week, ongoing course based on self-help, recovery and education, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., Bethel Temple Apostolic Church, 929 Hankins Road (behind D & B Supply), Twin Falls, no cost, 733-4210.
"Overcoming Co-dependency," 7:30 p.m., Miracle Valley Counseling Center, 213 3rd Ave. E., Twin Falls, no cost (free-will offering accepted), 734-9603.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

Penuche, 1 p.m., Twin Falls Senior Center, 530 Shoshone St. W., 50 cents, open to the public, 734-5084.

MUSEUMS AND PARKS

Redfish Lake Visitor Center Activities, Junior Ranger "Animal Tracks" at 11 a.m. and "Bet You Didn't Know," at 1 p.m., Redfish Amphitheater; and "Nature Art" at 2 p.m., Alturas Lake dayuse inlet, Sawtooth National Recreation area, five miles south of Stanley, no cost, 208-774-3376.
Faultier Plantarium "Sky Quest," 2 p.m. (with live sky tour to follow), Herrett Center for Arts and Science, north end of the College of Southern Idaho campus, Twin Falls, \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, \$2 for students and \$9 for families, 732-6655.

REUNIONS

Members of the Twin Falls High School graduating class of 1947 reunion, includes buffet and live music, 6 p.m., Turf Club, Twin Falls, 733-7410 or 420-9435.

To list an event (including ongoing ones) in the August monthly calendar, submit the name of the event, a brief description, time, place, cost and contact number by noon July 23 to Suzanne Browne by e-mail to sbrowne@magvalley.com; by fax, 734-5538; or by mail, Times-News, PO Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0548.

MAGIC VALLEY



Wait ends Saturday for Harry Potter fans

The long-awaited seventh and final Harry Potter book arrives in southern Idaho bookstores this weekend. TNT, WITH TODAY'S TIMES-NEWS

Water supply worries canal company officials

TWIN FALLS — Each day that passes, Vince Alberdi gets a little more nervous. Alberdi is director at the Twin Falls Canal Company that shuttles water to 202,690 acres in Magic Valley and hundreds of residents in subdivisions. The problem is, the company is running out of water, and there's a chance there won't be much left by summer's end.

SEE PAGE A1

T.F. County reassesses hundreds of properties

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One week after finishing five days of hearing appeals, the commissioners have been asked by the Idaho State Tax Commission to schedule time to do it again after the state said the county's residential property — about 40 percent of the approximately 36,000 county parcels — was inaccurately assessed and undervalued.

SEE PAGE A1

Overtime case draws prominent lawyers

JEROME — In April, the Jerome County commissioners decided to pass on trying to recover more than \$70,000 that their predecessors received illegally. They've since changed their minds and, as a legally drawn-out legal battle begins to shape up, several prominent names have joined the fight — on both sides of the issues.

SEE PAGE A1

Commissioners target Red Cross changes

TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls County Commissioners are drafting a letter of concern to the head of the American Red Cross of Greater Idaho about the elimination of the Twin Falls director position and moving Magic Valley disaster management to Idaho Falls.

SEE PAGE C1

OBITUARIES

Joanne S. Schultz, 71
 Paul Almon "Dusty" Gay, 55
 Janice Irene Martach, a 59
 Mary Catherine (Hankins) Meyer

SEE PAGE C2

IDAHO LOTTERY

Old Hand	Wednesday, July 18	PRZ: 3
4 15 24 40 42	Power Play: 4	
WILD CARD Wednesday, July 18		
4 15 24 28 29	Jack of Clubs	
July 18	2 0 3	
July 17	6 5 6	
July 16	0 2 8	

For more information on Idaho Lottery, visit www.idaholottery.com or call 1-800-368-2609

CLASSIFIERS

Customer service 733-0931, ext. 2
 Classifieds manager Orval Hester 735-3187

ADVERTISING

Advertising director Janet Giffin 735-3347
 Retail sales manager Linda Fisher 733-3254

YOUR MORNING BRIEFING

Fire update

Elk Mountain Fire
 Combined with the Smith's Crossing fire, 14,375 acres 10-15 miles east of Murphy Hot Springs.

The Rowland Fire
 83,000 acres near the Bruneau Canyon and Jarbridge River. 5 percent contained.

Desert Fire
 200 acres 20-25 miles north of the Murphy Hot Springs.

Gun Canyon Fire
 150 acres burning north of

Albion. Threatened homes and structures. Rural fire department.

Black Pine 2
 73,000 acres six miles southeast of Malta.

IDAHO/WEST

Lightning-caused fires stretch resources
BOISE — Fire officials decided Wednesday to boost the nation's wildfire preparedness to its highest level as dry lightning blasted the West and sparked new blazes in Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and Utah. **SEE PAGE C4**

Apartment dwellers face soaring rents
SAN FRANCISCO — Apartment dwellers throughout the western United States are facing the biggest rent increases in years. **SEE PAGE C5**

Steam pipe blast rips through NYC street
NEW YORK — An underground steam pipe explosion tore through a Manhattan street on Wednesday, killing one person. **SEE PAGE A4**

Bring our soldiers home
 A number of us demonstrated against the war Tuesday evening. In World War II, we suffered from extreme homelessness for a long time, far from home. Sailing homeward in 1946, when we first saw the sweet Golden Gate Bridge, we simultaneously cried and cheered. Home! Our kids in Iraq must come home!
 — JACK HARTLEY, Twin Falls

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

CORRECTION
Baby's name wrong in stork report
 A baby's name in the stork report published July 15 was wrong due to incorrect information from the hospital. Samuel Douglas Bonar, son of Janet Lynn Mayo and Stephen Douglas Bonar of Buhl, was born June 28, 2007, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center.

SPORTS

Clean slate for CSI volleyball
TWIN FALLS — The Golden Eagles are cleared to fly as high as they dare this season. College of Southern Idaho athletic director Joel Tate announced to the college's Board of Trustees Monday that the National Junior College Athletes Association has officially released the Golden Eagles volleyball program from all probationary status. The program received a ban from 2006 postseason play after the NJCAA found seven rules violations surrounding the recruitment of Tasi Talia, a setter from Salt Lake City. Then-head coach Ben Stroud was released from his position on Aug. 25, 2006. **SEE PAGE B1**



Falcons quarterback due in court July 26

RICHMOND, Va. — This much we know: Michael Vick won't be on the field when the Atlanta Falcons open training camp next Tuesday. He'll be in a federal courtroom. What happens after that was anyone's guess Wednesday, and there was no shortage of opinion. Some think he's innocent. Cut him. Let him play until he's proven guilty of felony charges that he sponsored a gruesome dogfighting operation. **SEE PAGE B1**

Gary Player: Steroid use in golf a fact

CARNOTHOUT, Scotland — Gary Player put steroids at the forefront of the British Open on Wednesday, saying golf has to be a harder game than a hunkier if it thinks the sport is clean and he knows of one player using performance-enhancing drugs. **SEE PAGE B1**

Doping allegations surface again at Tour

MARSEILLE, France — Halfway through the Tour de France, Cedric Vasseur became the first French rider to win a stage this year, but his victory and the Tour were overshadowed by the announcement of the doping test on cyclist Patrick Sinkewitz during a training session last month that turned up high levels of testosterone. **SEE PAGE B2**

ON THE NET

See a photo gallery of the Twin Falls Cowboys All-Boys Band. www.timesnews.com

Times-News

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 Circulation director Trina Metzner 735-3207

FROM PAGE ONE

Assessments

Continued from page A1

The tax commission determines whether assessments are undervalued by looking at sales transactions, the commissioners said. Bowden and the commissioners said appraising without knowing the sale disclosure makes the process tough. Idaho and Vermont are the only states that allow sales of homes to remain undisclosed.

Commissioners said that the updated assessment notices are varied — from 10 percent increases to 50 percent.

The commissioners had previously finished the appeals process July 9 and heard more than 50 appeals. They had set aside five days for 130 assessments, but many cancelled or failed to show. The average increase in Twin

Falls County for property assessments was around 30 percent, but in many cases it was higher.

Although the commissioners acknowledged residents have the right to appeal, they said they are not looking forward to having to backpedal because of the inaccurate assessments.

"It's time-consuming to go through the process all over again with the appeals," said Commissioner George Urie.

Under state law, property owners have to explain why the assessor's estimate was wrong. Often, an appeal would be settled by having an official from Bowden's office travel to the property and evaluate something not included in the original estimate.

The reassessment was unre-

lated to how Bowden had fallen significantly behind the five-year appraisal process. He completed about half the parcels in the past year — a fact that commissioners said might account for the high number of appeals. Missing the deadline would have meant losing \$3.2 million in sales tax revenue, which the state would have redirected toward finishing appraisals.

The tax commission was unavailable for comment Monday, but a spokesman said it was unlikely the commission knew whether Twin Falls County was alone in being undervalued since all counties have not been studied.

"I can't remember the last time that happened," said Bowden, who's been assessor since 1995.

Water

Continued from page A1

Water to users than last year. A poor snowpack this winter led to low mountain runoff and depleted natural flows.

In 2006, the company provided 3/4 of an inch of water to its shareholders. This year, it is providing 5/8ths. The numbers are a measure of flow. 50 inches of water equals one cubic foot per second that's applied to 80 acres. Alberdi said the company may have to cut back even further.

Water administration by the

Idaho Department of Water Resources is compounding the problem, Alberdi said. The department issued on June 22 the amount of water the Surface Water Coalition will receive from groundwater pumps as part of a deal that requires pumps to provide water to surface users. FWCC is a member of the coalition. The surface users had expected to receive about 59,000 acre feet from the pumps, but the department cut that amount to 46,929 acre feet.

A hearing is scheduled Monday when the coalition will review the numbers with IDWR. But unless the department significantly ups the amount — or unless southern Idaho receives record rainfall, which no one expects to happen — canal company users are in serious jeopardy.

Times-News staff writer Matt Christensen covers the environment. He welcomes comments at 735-3243 and at matt.christensen@tn.com.

Board

Continued from page A1

Legislature next session to fund projects similar to a current aquifer-recharge plan.

"We're basically at the limit of our functioning water-management plans," Anderson said. "And we're in a veritable crisis mode on the Eastern Snake Aquifer" where Magic Valley gets much of its water.

The board is concerned climate change, especially a decade of nearly consecutive drought years, is affecting a system designed for cooler temperatures and fewer water users.

Warmer spring weather in recent years has caused earlier spring runoff and changed stream-flow patterns, making it harder to capture and

deliver water. In the last two decades, the department has also struggled to manage groundwater and surface water as a single resource, a process called conjunctive management.

IDWR's announcement signals a general shift in the state's water role. This spring, Gov. Butch Otter hosted a water summit where he told water users to find solutions to Idaho's water crisis or he'd do it for them.

Two sessions ago, the Legislature ordered the water board to develop a plan for managing the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer. And in July, the Supreme Court upheld the principle of conjunctive management in a landmark case.

Pot

Continued from page A1

"The package comes back damaged. We have 17.3 grams of marijuana missing. We want to act on that," said Twin Falls Police Capt. Brian Pike. "I don't know how many thousands of items we have shipped and never had a problem."

This item in particular carried a strong, pervasive scent. That whiff was impossible to miss from the moment it left the police station.

Megan Hall, a package-loader at the Twin Falls UPS branch told state police she smelled it as she loaded it onto a truck headed to Nampa. She did not recall the package being tampered with. Then at the Nampa station UPS loader Jay Bartolomeo caught the whiff and placed his hands inside the package to feel the marijuana before loading the package into a UPS van, he told investigators.

The van's driver, Joel Petersen, who shipped the package to the state lab in Meridian, got behind the wheel but not before he "smelled a strong odor of marijuana." The cardboard box was damaged "as if it had been crushed by other packages," he told investigators.

Sure, it was damaged, but Petersen said he "had seen other packages that were damaged worse."

When it arrived at the state lab, the first thing Judy Parker of the ISP did was return the tattered box to its sender. Parker told investigators she returned the box "exactly the way she had received it."

When the box returned to the Twin Falls police station, Community Service Officer Tracy Pereira immediately detected the smell. She took the box to her supervisor, Sgt. Mark Martin. The box was not only missing 17.3 grams of marijuana, but also Pereira noted the red evidence tape and chain-of-custody evidence label were missing.

Since the event, the Twin Falls Police Department has chosen to send its own staff to transport larger shipments.

"You handle so many items of illegal substances there is no way you could drive all those substances up to the state lab," Pike said.

The department sends drugs to the lab for testing. They are returned to the department in time for a court hearing, where they will be used as evidence.

Sending an officer along that route is not cost-effective, Pike said. "You would be driving every day if not every other day."

Public Safety reporter Cassidy Friedman can be reached at 735-3241 or cfridman@magicvalley.com.

Jerome

Continued from page A1

Lierman paid herself \$51,057 in overtime, Elorrieta, \$16,200 and Chojnacky, \$425.

The state's attorney general found in a 2006 report that although the three officers were paid for work-related reasons, the pay system was devised illegally because elected officials cannot be paid beyond base salaries and the year's budget was already set.

The former officials have said the decision was made within budget, legal counsel was present and a different interpretation can be made of state law.

Eventually, the current commissioners — Charlie Howell, Joe Davidson and Diana Obenaus — decided to try and recover the money, which has been adjusted to \$75,000.

But in recent weeks, two of the former officials — and the county — have signed on with popular legal counsel — suggesting that a once discarded conflict has emerged into a debate of elevated status.

Lierman has hired Laird Stone, a prominent lawyer in Twin Falls and member of the State Board of Education. Stone is active in the Republican Central Committee and Lierman has been

active within the party in Jerome.

Elorrieta hired Kevin Cassidy, who for three years has worked out of the well-known Keith Hoark law firm in Hailey. Previously, Cassidy spent nearly 10 years as a 5th District Court Magistrate Judge and about five years as an Idaho deputy attorney general.

Chojnacky said he does not plan on hiring an attorney.

Name recognition might not be limited to just the defense.

Fritz Haemmerle, a private attorney from Hailey, was hired to represent the county after its own prosecutor cited a conflict of interest.

Haemmerle has nearly 20 years of attorney experience, including six years as a prosecuting attorney. Last year he won a lawsuit on behalf of a resident who sued Blaine County for trying to incur debt on a voter-approved measure to expand its jail.

Howell said he's not necessarily surprised there are attorneys with long resumes.

"It's your reputation that's on the line," he said.

"Personally, I'd probably do the same thing if I were in their shoes."

But the two attorneys

brushed off the notion they bring along any sort of legal celebrity and were simply approached by their clients.

"I am an ex-judge but now I'm just another attorney in the ranks," Cassidy said.

Stone said that he believes he was hired because he has come to know Lierman through business and politics in the past few years.

"I think, hopefully, I have a good reputation in the area but also in the legal community," said Stone. He said, generally speaking, "if the question is, did the defendant go out and hire a lawyer based on some perceived status ... no, the attorney was based on their level of competence."

The former commissioners recently declined to return the money after Haemmerle mailed letters requesting it.

The next step is for Haemmerle to file a civil complaint.

Stone and Cassidy said they have briefly consulted, but it is unknown whether the former officials will be pursued jointly or separately.

Now Open!

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Tapanyaki Japanese St House

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Fri To Sat	4:00 - 11:00
Sun	4:00 - 9:00

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MVP

The SUN VALLEY Ice Show

Saturday, July 21
Evan Lysacek
2007 United States Gold Medalist
World Bronze Medalist

Saturday, July 28
Tatiana Totmianina & Maxim Marinin
2006 Olympic Gold Medalists
Two Time World Champions
Five Time European Champions

Saturday, August 4
Emily Hughes
2007 United States Silver Medalist
AND
Ryan Bradley
2007 United States Silver Medalist

See skating's superstars, supported by the best professional skaters from across the globe. Enjoy our buffet on the terrace, or just watch the show.

The excitement begins Saturday at dusk, through September 15th.

Come up for the weekend — or stay the week. The Sun Valley Ice Show, a unique Sun Valley tradition for 70 years.

For tickets call 622-2135 or go to www.sunvalley.com

Cost of skaters is subject to change due to injury or other unforeseen circumstances. Sanctioned by the USFSA.

22nd Annual Idaho International Dance and Music Festival ■ Burley, July 25th - 27th

July 25th
Parade and Dancing at Rupert Square and Park 6:30 pm

July 26th
Burley Youth Culture Day 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Burley High School



July 26th-27th
Pre-Show & Gala Performance
King Fine Arts Center 7:00 pm
Please Call 679-4793 For Your Tickets to This Memorable Event!

NATION



An abandoned school bus and a city bus are shown at the scene of an underground steam pipe explosion Wednesday in midtown New York.

Underground steam pipe explosion tears apart New York street; 1 dead

By Adam Goldman
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — An underground steam pipe explosion tore through a Manhattan street near Grand Central Terminal on Wednesday, swallowing a tow truck and killing one person as hundreds of others ran for cover amid a towering geyser of steam and flying rubble.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said the explosion was not terrorism, though the blast caused a brief panic about a possible attack.

"There is no reason to believe whatsoever that this is anything other than a failure of our infrastructure," he said of the a 24-inch steam pipe that had been installed in 1924.

Eighteen people were taken to local hospitals, officials said. One person was pronounced dead at Bellevue Hospital from an apparent heart attack, Bloomberg said. Two were in critical condition and another two were seriously injured. The others suffered minor injuries.

The explosion caused widespread chaos as residents and commuters heard a huge blast — and feared for the worst. Thousands of commuters evacuated the train terminal, some at a run, after workers yelled for people to get out of the building.

A titanic geyser of steam and mud shot from the center of the blast, generating a tremendous roar. The initial burst of steam rose higher than the nearby 77-story Chrysler Building, one of Manhattan's tallest buildings. The air near the site was filled with debris.

Debbie Tontodonato, 40, a manager for Clear Channel Outdoor, said she thought the rumble from the 6 p.m. explosion was thunder.

"I looked out the window and I saw these huge chunks that I thought were hail," she said. "We panicked, I think everyone thought the worst. Thank God it wasn't. It was like a cattle drive going down the stairs, with everyone pushing. I almost fell down the stairs."

Helko H. Thieme, an investment banker, had mud splattered on his face, pants and shoes. He said the explosion was like a volcano. "Everybody was a bit confused, everybody obviously thought of 9/11."

Streets were closed in several blocks in all directions. Subway service in the area was suspended.

There were also concerns about what was spread into the air. Some of the pipes carrying steam through the city are wrapped in asbestos. "The big fear that we have is there may or may not have been

asbestos release," Bloomberg said.

Officials wouldn't know until test results until later, the mayor said, but if there was a release it may have washed away with the water that came with the steam.

The steam cleared around 8 p.m., exposing a crater several feet wide in the street. A red tow truck lay at the bottom of the hole.

Con Edison spokesman Chris Oler said workers were

still trying to determine what caused the blast.

Millions of pounds of steam are pumped beneath New York City streets every hour, heating and cooling thousands of buildings, including the Empire State Building.

The steam pipes are sometimes prone to rupture, however. In 1993, a gigantic steam explosion ripped through a street, killing three people and sending mud and debris several stories into the air.

"I looked out the window and I saw these huge chunks that I thought were hail. We panicked, I think everyone thought the worst. Thank God it wasn't. It was like a cattle drive going down the stairs, with everyone pushing. I almost fell down the stairs."

— Debbie Tontodonato, 40, a manager for Clear Channel Outdoor

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Republicans scuttle Democrats' plan to pull U.S. troops

By David Espo
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Sleep or no sleep, the Senate isn't ready to order a change in President Bush's war policy in Iraq.

Republicans torpedoed legislation Wednesday to force the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq, bowing to Bush's adamant refusal to consider any change in strategy before September.

The 52-47 vote fell far short of the 60 needed to advance the legislation and marked the final act in an all-night session that Democrats engineered to dramatize their opposition to the war.

"Time and the American people are ... on our side," said a defiant Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada, who has made ending the war the Democrats' top goal since they took control of the Senate in January. "We will do everything in our power to change course in

Iraq," he said moments after the vote.

Equally unyielding on the other side, Arizona Sen. John McCain said, "As long as there is a prospect for not losing this war, then we must not choose to lose it."

"I do not know how I could choose any other course," said McCain, a Republican presidential contender.

The Senate's action left no doubt that Bush's decision last winter to deploy additional troops to Iraq will have at least two more months to produce results. Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. general in Iraq and architect of the president's latest strategy, is to deliver a report to Congress on Sept. 15.

Wednesday's vote unfolded as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice visited the Capitol for private meetings with lawmakers and the nation's top military officer cautioned that the United States faces decades of fighting

Voted down

ALL-NIGHT DEBATE: Senate Republicans scuttled a Democratic proposal ordering troop withdrawals from Iraq in a showdown that capped an all-night debate.

DEMOCRATS DEFEATED: The 52-47 vote fell short of the 60 votes needed to cut off debate.

TROOP WITHDRAWAL: The Democratic proposal would have required President Bush to start bringing home troops within 120 days and complete the pullout by April 30, 2008.

in the larger global war on terror. "We can vote to fight it in one place or another," said Gen. Peter Pace, whose term as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is nearing an end. "But the bottom line is that as long

as our enemy is sworn to destroy our way of life, we are going to be in a war," said Pace, addressing troops in Afghanistan.

Inside the Capitol, senators voted from their seats as they settled the fate of the withdrawal measure, a procedure usually reserved only for the most solemn of occasions.

But the outcome was no different from numerous other contested votes this year on the war, yet another demonstration that Democrats lack the votes to force a change in course without the acquiescence of Senate Republicans — if not the White House.

Expressions of Republican discontent on Iraq have grown in recent weeks, a trend reinforced by an administration report that showed little progress by Iraqis toward political goals. Even so, only four of the Senate's 49 Republicans, Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins of Maine, Gordon Smith

of Oregon and Chuck Hagel of Nebraska, chose to side with Democrats on their demand for a final vote. Idaho's Larry Craig and Mike Crapo voted against the measure.

One of them, Collins, said she opposed the legislation itself, which she said offered an "abrupt withdrawal date" that could have disastrous consequences.

The proposal, advanced by Democrats Carl Levin of Michigan and Jack Reed of Rhode Island, would have required Bush to begin pulling out the 158,000 U.S. troops stationed in Iraq within 120 days. The withdrawal would be completed by April 30, 2008, with the exception of a residual force to fight terrorists, train Iraqis and protect U.S. personnel and possessions.

Unlike a withdrawal bill that cleared the House last week, the measure does not contemplate assigning Iraqi border security to U.S. troops.

Marine convicted of kidnapping, conspiracy in Iraqi man's death

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (AP) — A military jury on Wednesday convicted a Marine of kidnapping and conspiring to murder an Iraqi man in a bungled attempt to abduct and kill a suspected insurgent in Honduras.

Cpl. Trent Thomas was acquitted of premeditated murder, making a false official statement and housebreaking. He faces a maximum sentence of life in prison, according to his defense attorney, Victor Kelly.

Thomas, 25, was the first of seven Marines and a Navy corpsman to go to trial in the killing, which squad members tried to cover up by planting a gun near the victim after he was gunned down in a ditch.

All but two of the others have entered guilty pleas. Thomas withdrew his guilty plea on the eve of sentencing after having an "epiphany." His lawyer claimed Thomas was only following orders.

Prosecutors said that during

a nighttime patrol on April 26, 2006, Thomas' squad hatched a plan to kidnap and kill a suspected insurgent from his home. When they couldn't find him, they instead kidnapped a man identified by prosecutors as Hashim Ibrahim Awad, a retired policeman and father of 11 who lived nearby.

Thomas, of Madison, Ill., the senior corporal in the squad and a fireteam leader, led a four-man team to take Awad from his home, prosecutors said.

During the eight-day court-martial, Thomas' attorneys argued that he was following orders of squad leader Sgt. Lawrence Hludich III. Thomas did not address the court during his trial, but made similar statements when he changed his plea.

Four Marines and a Navy medic pleaded guilty to reduced charges in exchange for their testimony. They received between one and eight years in the brig.

Feds give \$1 billion to fix post-9/11 radio problems

By Devin Barrett
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The government will distribute nearly \$1 billion to states and cities to fix communications problems that still hamper police and fire departments six years after the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

The biggest state recipients are California with \$94 million, Texas with \$65 million and New York with \$61 million, according to Wednesday's announcement.

In certain states, chunks will be specifically set aside for major cities: New York City will get \$34.8 million and the Los Angeles/Long Beach area was awarded \$22.3 million. Other cities getting specific amounts were: San Francisco Bay area, \$14.5 million; Chicago, \$16.2 million; Houston, \$14.6 million; Jersey City-Newark, \$17.5 million; and Washington, \$11.9 million.

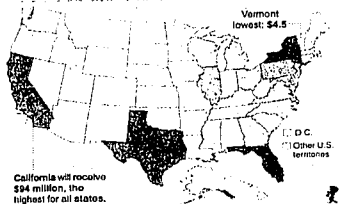
A total of \$968 million for interoperable communications grants was announced Wednesday by the heads of the

\$968 million for rescue communications

The government will distribute nearly \$1 billion to improve public safety communications during a natural or man-made disaster.

Funding for emergency communications, in millions, 2007

\$0 to \$9.0 10 to 19.0 20 to 29.0 30 to 39.0 40 and more



Source: Department of Commerce

departments of Homeland Security and Commerce, after a review earlier this year found that of 75 major U.S. cities, only six received a top grade in emergency communications. The money, said Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, will

answer "the urgent need for firefighters, police and other first responders to be able to communicate effectively with one another." Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said the money should get the

entire country up to a basic standard of effective emergency communication by 2009 — but only if the local authorities coordinate with each other and avoid turf fights.

"This is not something the federal government can make people do," said Chertoff. "We can put the tools on the table, but the training and the willpower to use the tools has to rest with state and local officials."

Congress provided the money in a 2005 bill, seeking to address lingering radio problems exposed when hijacked airliners struck the World Trade Center in New York in 2001.

Since then, Chertoff and others have insisted that agencies need to end any so-called "battleground of the badge" rivalries that historically exist between some departments, and, where needed, adopt new technology to handle a natural or man-made disaster.

"It's not necessarily the case that everybody's got to run out and buy new equipment," said Chertoff.

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EDITORIAL

Thinking outside the box to improve Idaho's highways

S ome day, as you drive your vehicle west-bound on Interstate 84 near the eastern city limits of Boise, you may find that traffic is backed up a ways.

Motorists up ahead could be stopped at toll booths, forking over a dollar or two for the privilege of traveling over Idaho's busiest road.

Far-fetched? Not as far-fetched as you might think. Idaho's highways are in parlous shape. Bad enough that Gov. Butch Otter wants to increase your taxes by \$200 million a year to fix them. Bad enough that State Controller Donna Jones recently proposed spending most of Idaho's \$2.7 billion budget surplus on road maintenance.

The scope of the problem is breathtaking, according to a report issued a year ago by the Idaho Transportation Department's Forum on Transportation Investment. The state is falling behind on highway construction and repair to the tune of \$200 million a year. And Idaho needs to spend \$20 billion on transportation infrastructure over the next 30 years.

How did we get on the road to ruin? Neglect, plain and simple.

The Legislature found other, more urgent and politically appealing uses for budget surpluses in the past, leaving the gasoline tax to bear most of the load for highway maintenance and repair. Trouble is, the gas tax is unpopular and Idaho's is already steep — 25 cents a gallon, 11th-highest in nation. And motorists are reminded of that every time they fill up.

Then along came former Gov. Dirk Kempthorne and his \$1.6 billion Connecting Idaho initiative. For a year, most of Idaho's attention was focused on building roads — borrowing the funds to do it — not on maintaining the highways we already have.

As a result, one way or another, Idahoans are going to be paying more — a lot more — in transportation taxes over the next decade.

Question is, how? Otter and the Legislature are likely to look first at raising the gas tax, but we're not thrilled with that idea. South-central Idaho motorists have little choice except to drive, and the gas tax disproportionately affects those who can least afford to pay it.

Raising vehicle registration fees, in our judgment, would be a better alternative. Idaho's are modest, by national standards. The state charges just \$16.08 to \$36.48 annually to register a passenger car, based on the model year. By contrast, North Dakotians pay up to \$271 a year.

Idaho's lawmakers should certainly impose fees on motor cars, and so seriously consider spending at least some of the surplus on highway repairs — despite Otter's opposition to the idea.

But as the Forum on Transportation Investment pointed out, no single source of revenue will suffice. It will require a basket of higher taxes.

Although it's one of the least likely alternatives, the notion of creating some toll roads — say, I-84 between Miron and the western outskirts of Nampa — should get close to the top. For the fact is that a plurality — perhaps a majority — of any new state highway dollars are going to the Treasure Valley because the Boise area already has two-fifths of Idaho's population and the most heavily used roads.

But why should motorists in Filer, Soda Springs, Ririe, Riggins, Moscow and Bonners Ferry have to pay, say, \$3.60 a gallon for gas to repair urban freeways?

Differences of opinion about highway spending have historically aggravated Idaho's already-pronounced regional polarization. But this isn't just Boise's problem; all of us are dodging potholes these days.

And those potholes are only going to get bigger.

Times-News

Brad Hurd . . . Publisher David Cooper . . . Opinion editor

The members of the editorial board and writers of editorials are Brad Hurd, David Cooper, Chris Baldus, Bill Blitzenburg and David Cooper.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

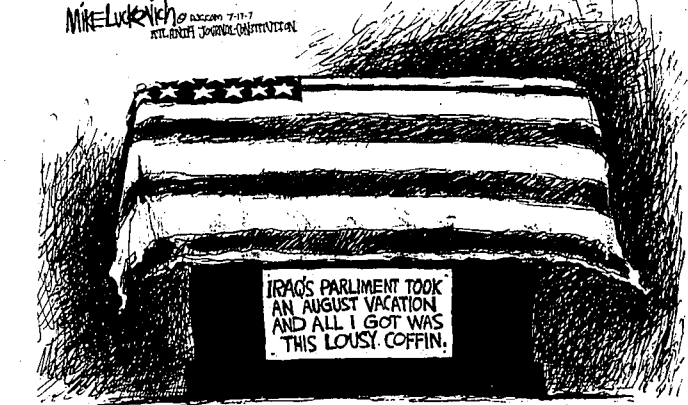
Quarter doesn't do Idaho any favors

Just returned from the local super-market. I received in change one of the most ugly coins I have ever seen, a 2007 Idaho quarter. What was former Gov. Kempthorne thinking when he chose this design? Were there political considerations involved in this choice? He did not do the state of Idaho any favors when he chose something that tells people nothing about the state. FRED RIPLEY, Buhl

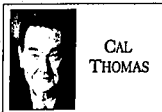


Our view: Idahoans are going to be paying higher taxes to repair our roads, but it doesn't necessarily have to be higher gasoline taxes.

What do you think? We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.



The Democratic wimp-out



CAL THOMAS

Senate Democrats, who had announced an all-nighter Tuesday to reiterate their anti-war position, pucked it in shortly before midnight, surrendering to a greater desire for a few hours sleep. Only a handful of stalwart senators kept the Senate — technically — in session. We know that Senate Democrats don't have the staying power to win the war in Iraq, but can't they even make it through the night without some slumkey?

"Harry, sweetheart," said Sen. Barbara Boxer of California, who led a group of Democrats in pleading with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid for a delay in voting. "5:30 or 6?" Reid complied and senators abandoned the chamber so fast you would have thought it was on fire. This was not a demonstration of the strength needed to strike fear in the hearts of those who can't cough it out in caves while plotting new ways to destroy us.

"Eliza Doolittle could have danced all night," but the prospect of staying awake all night was too much for the aging bodies and weakened spirits of most senators. Having surrendered to the loony left and having sent signals to our enemies that they are no longer in the fight to win it, they went to sleep. One never hears Democrats

speaking of victory, only retreat. They have embraced defeat, unwilling to wait for the "new strategy" they had demanded to work. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, Texas Republican, noted that the surge of 30,000 American troops is in its infancy and in fact has just been completed in the last two weeks "and yet we're pulling the rug out from under the new plan. . . . We cannot be the greatest country on earth and say, 'don't trust us if you're our ally and don't fear us if you're our enemy.' And that's exactly what we would be doing if we leave Iraq because Congress set a deadline, regardless of what's happening on the ground in Iraq."

Democrats are fond of saying that the United States should be fighting al-Qaida, but not in Iraq, and that if we pull out, or pull back, we will have more resources to fight terrorists. This is like saying we should not have fought the Japanese in World War II in order to devote more resources to defeating Hitler.

There were some who argued that way and others who, before 1933, said Hitler was not a threat to America and that we should stay out of a European war.

Since the American Revolution, there have always been maysaps, dealsters, fellow travelers and willing or duped enablers of America's enemies. There have been politicians, academics, clergy and journalists who claimed that U.S. foreign policy, whether promoted by a Democratic or Republican president, was the wrong policy and a different one should be tried. Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt had strong opposition to their conduct of the Civil War and World War II. Harry Truman left office with record low approval ratings. Those presidents eventually won favor from historians and most Americans because they stuck to their guns — figuratively and literally — and were proved right.

No one can predict whether the policy in Iraq and against terrorism by the Bush-Cheney administration will similarly be proven correct. We may not know until both men are long gone from politics and possibly many years after they have left this earth. This is a world we will make any way we ever fought and it cannot be fought like we fought our wars.

The latest National Intelligence Estimate concludes that al-Qaida is continuing to plan on high profile political, economic and infrastructure targets in America for the purpose of causing mass casualties, visually dramatic destruction, economic aftershocks and fear. Democrats argue that Iraq has emboldened them and served as a recruiting tool. But American troops were not in Iraq on Sept. 11, 2001, or in 1993 when the World Trade Center was first hit. Numerous other attacks against American forces and interests occurred before the Iraq War. Al-Qaida needs no excuse for recruiting and killing Americans.

There will be plenty of time for debate in September when the report on the effectiveness of the surge comes from Gen. David Petraeus. Do Democrats fear it will be a positive report and so they are doing their best to undermine it now? Has our politics become so cynical that some would prefer defeat for political advantage than victory because it might aid the "other side," meaning Republicans?

If so, God help us. Reach Cal Thomas at 2225 Kenmore Ave., Suite 114, Buffalo, N.Y. 14207 or tmscdtors@tribune.com.

Today's candidate pornifying politics



KATHLEEN PARKER

Four enemies don't hate you — it's an oversight. The confluence of the worst of modern American trends — national narcissism, the sexualization of all things anti-war and otherwise, and the devaluing of currencies from literature to public discourse — has reached a perfect storm of idiosyncy in the form of MTV-style political videos.

Can the culture possibly go any lower before the barbarians simply walk through America's front door, left lazily ajar by the last one to shake her booty?

The videos are the latest rage in virtual politics: Pouty girls in scant clad bump 'n grind their tush for this presidential candidate or that.

For which they are rewarded millions of views on YouTube, the favorite medium of narcissists gone wild, and recognition by the alleged mainstream media. For just a few humps and bumps, fame belongs to the teeniest bikiniest. The first of the new genre of videocommentary — a new silly word for a new silly breed — was titled "I Got a Crush on Obama" and received 2.1 million views on YouTube. Whaaaany too much attention for other aspiring famesters to suffer unnoticed. Next came "Obama Girl vs. Giuliani Girl," in which the already famous Obama gal

that she's just kidding. She's not a lesbian, she's not political. She's just a girl lookin' to have some fun.

She's also a former "American Idol" contestant who did not miscalculate the value such a video would bring her way.

Once discovered on YouTube, of course, it's a short shiny to the news shows, where producers are so bereft of actual news — or so convinced that bumper sticker America can't concentrate long without a sex infusion — that a hottie helps fill the gaps left vacant by retired generals lulled to sleep by the sound of their own voices.

On her Web site, Hillary's girl brautlessly blogs that between appearances on "Hardball" with Chris Matthews and various other shows, she's hardly had time to keep up her hair and other career demands.

Matthews even announced a contest for similar video wannabes.

Politics. What a grind. What to make of all this? The videos are apparently popular and add a dimension of shilly for voters already weary of the campaign that began two years too soon. Phenomena that attract the attention of millions can't reasonably be ignored by the larger media. Or can they? As these new forms of communication continue to

emerge, we will continue to be deluged by every hot new thing. But some of us miss every old thing — the quieter lessons of adults delivered without a rhythmic thump, and a moment or two free of libidinous tease.

The attention-seeking, self-important desperation that drives today's virtual world is boundless and, apparently, boundary-less. What's next? Photoshopped porn flicks featuring, well, take your pick.

I hate to be the one to break the news, but every person in the universe has a tush. There are only so many ways to display it. Yours is not that interesting. But tell that to the producers who can't resist bookending the latest tushette.

Deep-thinking pundits are wondering whether these videos help or hurt the candidates they purport to support. Some commentators even try to play up the lesbian angle from the Hillary tape by posing a gay-play theory in hopes of hurting the former first lady.

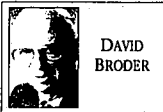
Here's the truth: The glib tapes of the 2006 election made Hillary Clinton look like Margaret Thatcher, reminding all that America has never been more in need of grown-up women in high places. Kathleen Parker's e-mail address is kyparker@kyparker.com

McGovern responsible for a landslide of heirs

The gathering last weekend to celebrate Governor McGovern's 85th birthday was more than a salute to a respected elder for his decades of work as a public official and a private citizen to end hunger in the world. Bob Dole, who has joined with him in that cause since they were both senators, spoke warmly of the friendship that crossed party lines and bridged years of disagreement on other issues. But most of the celebrants were there for another reason. They were veterans of McGovern's 1972 presidential campaign, reunited after 35 years to mark one of the great lost causes of American politics.

McGovern was swamped by Richard Nixon in that race, carrying only Massachusetts and the District of Columbia. As he noted recently in his reminiscences on Saturday, he decided to take a nap while awaiting returns and left the instruction to "wake me when we know the outcome. It turned out to be a very short nap."

But that campaign has had long-term consequences. As evidenced by the turnout for this reunion, McGovern's race



DAVID BRODER

attracted and trained a whole generation of young people who are the heart and soul of the Democratic Party today. Youthful rebels then, but gray-haired now, they still embody the two forces that define the Democratic Party — an insistence on openness and reform, and a commitment to peace. As Bill Clinton, one of the thousands who got his first national experience as a McGovern volunteer, put it in his message to the gathering, they are all "McGovern's heirs."

Gary Hart, who was McGovern's campaign manager, made the bold statement that McGovern had "saved the Democratic Party" by forcing open the doors of a closed system and allowing all those outsiders — the anti-Vietnam war amateurs — to come in.

At the time, it certainly didn't look like salvation to party

leaders, who saw the Democrats losing seat after seat in the McGovern debacle. But the energy and talent McGovern enlisted have proved to be the party's salvation in later decades. Without the reforms McGovern forged onto a reluctant Democratic establishment back then — including guaranteed representation for women and minorities in the convention hall — it is impossible to imagine that this year, the leading candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination would be Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama.

Though no one at this mostly partisan Democratic gathering noted the point, the parallel to the McGovern experience on the Republican side can be found in the 1964 Barry Goldwater campaign. Goldwater was a landslide loser to Lyndon Johnson, but he too brought a whole set of talented newcomers into national politics, among them Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

Unsuccessful campaigns can have that long-term benefit for their party, but only if that losing candidate identifies him-

self with causes much larger than himself. For McGovern, the causes were peace abroad and reform of the Democratic Party at home. For Goldwater, it was conservatism in its contemporary definition — low taxes, strong defense and skepticism about government.

It was the idealism of their campaigns — and their willingness to defy the pollsters and political odds — that endeared them to their young followers. And their vindication came with the success those followers achieved.

There's a lesson in this for those running for president today. There is more than one way to measure a successful campaign. Pragmatism — trimming positions to fit the current political winds — can yield short-term victories. But sticking to principle can build a legacy for a generation.

That may be a consolation for John McCain, who is the most stubbornly principled person in the Republican field. He is being punished now for saying what he believes about Iraq and Immigration, among other things. But the examples of Goldwater and McGovern tell us that battle-tested veter-

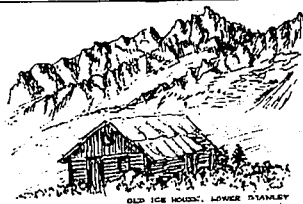
ans who take the abuse but don't abandon their beliefs can inspire a movement of enduring importance.

The day after Lyndon B. Johnson became president in 1963, his close friend, attorney James H. Rowe Jr., told me. "I don't know what kind of president Lyndon will make, but Lady Bird will be the best first lady ever." He was right.

She not only provided the steady support her temperamental husband needed to survive five stressful years of huge accomplishments and terrible failures, but she left a more beautiful, more caring country as her permanent legacy. Her 94 years were truly a gift to this nation.

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

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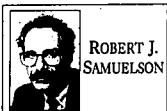
8 am - 11 am at the Community Building
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As we get frantic, we're killing off the commas

I have always liked commas. But I seem to be in a shrinking minority. The comma is in retreat, though it is not yet extinct.

In text messages and e-mails, commas appear infrequently, and then often by accident (someone hits the wrong key). Even on the printed page, commas are dwindling. Many standard uses from my childhood (after, for example, an introductory prepositional phrase) have become optional or, worse, have been ditched.



ROBERT J. SAMUELSON

When? And remember, she's also studying. Naturally, the story includes the obligatory quote from a brain scientist, who worries that so much multitasking will turn young minds into mush. "It's almost impossible," says the scientist, "to gain a depth of knowledge of any of the tasks you do while you're multitasking."

In reality, multitasking isn't confined to the young. It's hard to go anywhere these days — including restaurants and business meetings — without seeing people punching furiously on their BlackBerrys, cell phones or other handheld devices. More mush, maybe. At the least, serious questions of etiquette have arisen. In one survey, almost a third of the executives polled said it is never appropriate to check e-mails during meetings.

Next, there's work. Unlike most rich nations, the United States hasn't reduced the average workweek during the past quarter-century. In 2006, annual hours for U.S. workers averaged 1,804, barely different from 1,834 in 1979, reports the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

By contrast, the Japanese cut annual hours by 16 percent to 1,784, the Germans 20 percent to 1,421 and the French 16 percent to 1,564. A study by economists Daniel Hamermesh of the University

of Texas and Joel Slemrod of the University of Michigan argues that long working hours, especially among the well-off, can be an addiction, akin to alcoholism and smoking. (The paper is titled "The Economics of Workaholicism: We Should Not Have Worked on This Paper.")

I could go on, but the column is only 800 words, and more evidence would simply reinforce the point: de Tocqueville's "fervish and/or" endures. There's always too much to do, not enough time to do it. The comma is a small victim of our hustle-bustle. If we can save a few seconds a day by curtailing commas, why not? Commas are disparaged as literary clutter.

They're axed in the name of stylistic "simplicity." Once, introductory prepositional phrases ("In 1776, Thomas Jefferson ...") routinely took commas, once, compound sentences were strictly divided by commas; once, sentences that began with "once," naturally, "surprisingly," "inevitably" and the like usually took a comma to set them apart.

No more. These and other usages have slowly become discretionary or unacceptable. Over the years, copy editors have stripped thousands of needless commas from my stories. I have saved every last one of them and piled them all on a secluded corner of my desk. They deserve better than they're getting. So here are some of my discarded commas, taking a long-overdue

bow:
I'm not quibbling quietly. By my count, this column contains 104 commas. Note to copy desk: Leave them be.

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INSIDE: Local roundup & MLB, B2 | Scoreboard, B3 | Weather, B4

INSIDE: Doping allegations surface yet again as Tour de France reaches midway point, B2



Michael Vick due in court July 26 on dogfighting charges

Falcons QB won't be on field when training camp begins

By Hank Kurz Jr.
Associated Press writer

RICHMOND, Va. — This much we know: Michael Vick won't be on the field when the Atlanta Falcons open training camp next Thursday. He'll be in a federal courtroom.

What happens after that was anyone's guess Wednesday, and there was no shortage of opinions.

Suspend him. Cut him. Let him play until he's proven guilty of felony charges that he sponsored a gruesome dogfighting operation.

For the time being, that's what the NFL intends to do with the star quarterback — let him play.

After consulting with the Falcons, commissioner Roger Goodell and top league officials agreed to let the legal process determine the facts.

A person with knowledge of the meeting, who requested anonymity so the case would not be influenced, said the NFL would stick to that position for the foreseeable future, despite its new personal conduct policy.

In April, Goodell suspended Tennessee's Adam "Pacman" Jones for the 2007 season even though Jones had not been convicted of a crime. He did, however, have 10

Please see VICK, Page B4



Eric Banks of Corvys, Ga., shows his support for Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick during a baseball game between the Atlanta Braves and Cincinnati Reds in Atlanta, Wednesday.

Pacman precedent unlikely to be applied in Vick's case

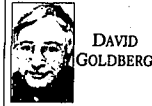
The NFL says it is ready to judge Michael Vick by the legal standard to which all Americans are entitled: Innocent until proven guilty.

The problem is that it didn't do the same for Adam "Pacman" Jones, who has yet to be convicted of anything but has been suspended for a year with no guarantee of a career even when that year is up.

That is commissioner Roger Goodell's bind. He suspended Jones, Cincinnati's Chris Henry and former Chicago Bear Frank Johnson to

emphasize he will not tolerate the kind of out-of-control behavior that seemed so rampant in the NFL last season.

It works with Henry and Johnson. Each was suspended for eight games. But Tennessee's Jones, who has had 10 encounters with the police since he was the fifth overall pick in the draft two years ago, was suspended before he was even charged with the most serious of his offenses —



DAVID GOLDBERG

Please see GOLDBERG, Page B4

A helping hand where it's needed

Mary Cortez sits in the small living room of her Heyburn Avenue home, her attention split between an old black-and-white movie and the 19, sometimes 20 strangers moving throughout her yard. Her two dogs sneak interested glances out the screen door, their lives brightened by such unexpected noise, such unexpected motion.



ERIC LARSEN

To the right of Cortez's armchair there is a view of the front yard, the street, and the world beyond. To the left is the wheelchair that reminds her of the difficulty of moving through that world. This Wednesday morning, Cortez is surrounded by impossible sounds: Ladders being moved, paint swishing off rollers, young men laughing in the sunlight.

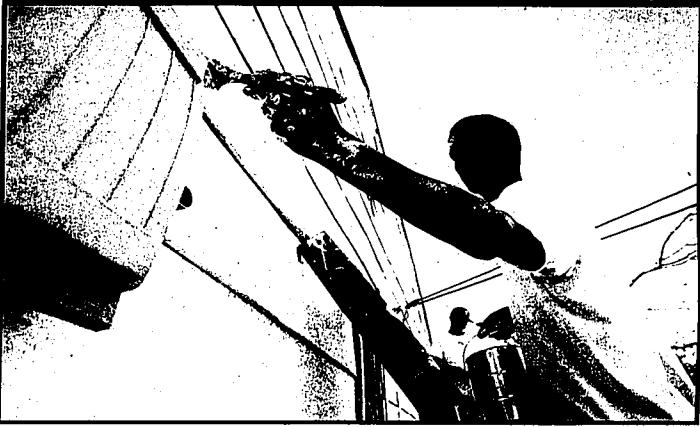
Outside, the Twin Falls Cowboys Class AA American Legion Baseball team is brightening Cortez's house with a crisp coat of white paint. Inside, Cortez's voice is ringing.

"Oh, it means something wonderful to me," she says, fighting back light tears. "I can't do it on my own. It's wonderful."

The Cowboys are participating in the Paint Magic program that aims to paint the homes of 20 disabled and elderly people in Twin Falls this month. Earlier this year, when the Twin Falls business

Household Finance Corporation was searching for a way to get more involved in the community, Ron Follingda

Twin Falls baseball program hopes to improve image



Jacob Costa, a pitcher with the Twin Falls Class AA Cowboys American Legion Baseball team, paints a house Wednesday in Twin Falls during the Paint Magic event. Costa, along with teammates and coaches spent the day painting and said, "It's nice to help out."

knew the small IHFC staff likely couldn't tackle this kind of project. However, his large (6-foot-3) son Bo and Cowboys teammates could.

"It's good for them to see something other than baseball," Ron Follingda said. "They're playing great on the field, but this is a good opportunity to come out and do something for the community."

It's also an opportunity for a successful, yet sometimes troubled Cowboys program to show its quality of character. The Cowboys have been a

model team this season, posting a 33-9 record and first-place standing in the Area C ranks.

Still, many in the community remember the 2006 season that saw head coach Tim Stadelmeier pull his team from its own midseason tournament after players violated team rules during a trip to South Dakota. Stadelmeier decided to forfeit six Area C games and suspend one player for the remainder of the season, sacrificing a shot at the top spot in the area for the greater good of developing solid young citizens. That

task has always been on Stadelmeier's mind, which is why his team was out sweating in the 98-degree weather on Wednesday.

"It's a good opportunity to show people that they're not just about what they can do in between the lines," Stadelmeier said of his players' participation. "It's what they can do outside and that they are good young adults trying to grow up and be good young men."

Nelther Stadelmeier, Twin Falls High baseball coach Mike Federici, nor any member of the Cowboys or Bruins

programs has taken a "boys will be boys" approach to discipline, which is commendable. Still, boys will be boys. Only through discovering the consequences of our youthful indiscretions do we learn to become men.

This year's Cowboys players are polite, articulate and approachable. They're also not satisfied with any misgivings about their overall character.

"We're showing the community what? That we care," third baseman Kasey Jerome

Please see LARSEN, Page B2

The real Carnoustie awaits at British Open

Gary Player says steroid use in golf a fact

CARNOUSTIE, Scotland (AP) — Gary Player put steroids at the forefront of the British Open on Wednesday, saying golf has its head buried in a bunker if it thinks the sport is clean and he knows of one player using performance-enhancing drugs.

The nine-time major champion urged golf organizations to start random testing.

"It's absolutely essential that we do that," Player said at Carnoustie, where he won the British Open in 1968. "We're dreaming if we think it's not going to come into golf."

Player says it already has.

Whether it's HGH, whether it's Creatine or whether it's steroids, I know for a fact that some golfers are doing it," he said.

Asked how he knew for certain, he said one golfer told him.

"I took an oath prior to him telling me — I won't tell you where — but he

told me what he did, and I could see this massive change in him," Player said. "And somebody else told me something, that I also promised I wouldn't tell, that verified others had done it."

The cryptic accusation put the Royal & Ancient Golf Club on the defensive over why it does not have drug testing at the British Open, with chief executive Peter Dawson being asked whether he was concerned that its winner could be using steroids.

"I don't know if Gary Player is right about golfers being on drugs, frankly, so I really can't comment," Dawson said. "One thing I do know is that we're not drug testing here at the Open championship this week."

The R&A and the USGA used drug testing for the first time last November at the World Amateur Team Championship in South Africa, where all 12 samples came back negative.

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press writer

CARNOUSTIE, Scotland — Colin Montgomerie is among the few who know the real Carnoustie.

He once walked off the course after an 81 at the Scottish Open with his curly hair twisted in a half-dozen directions, lamenting how he had to hit driver, driver and 1-iron simply to reach the par-5 sixth hole. And his mood did not lighten when a clueless reporter asked him, "Monty, was the wind a factor?"

This was one year after Montgomerie shot 64, still the lowest score ever at Carnoustie.

"This golf course is a sleeping giant," Gary Player said Wednesday, reminiscing about his British Open title at Carnoustie in 1968. "It's a giant when the wind blows, when conditions are difficult. And when it isn't, when it's only a calm day, it's not all that tough. The thing that makes

this golf course is that we breeze. Just a two-club wind here changes everything."

That's the nature of most links courses. But Carnoustie is a mystery in other ways.

For most, the only memories of these mean ol' links are from 1999, when the rough was so high and the fairways so narrow that more than 100 scores were 80 or higher during the week. Sergio Garcia cried in his mother's arms after he shot 89-83 in his first major as a professional. The winning score of 290 was the highest at a British Open in more than 59 years.

The tabloids referred to it as Carnasty.

Eight years later, there might be reason to call the course Gar-Nicely. "This year, it's a different course," Garcia said Wednesday. "The rain is not helping, that's for sure. If we don't



Today, Sunday, 5 a.m., TNT

Clean slate for CSI volleyball

Probationary status on Eagles' program lifted by NJCAA

By Eric Larsen
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — The Golden Eagles are cleared to fly as high as they dare this season.

College of Southern Idaho athletic director Joel Bate announced to the college's Board of Trustees Monday that the National Junior College Athletics Association has officially released the Golden Eagles volleyball program from all probationary status.

The program received a ban from 2006 postseason play after the NJCAA found seven rules violations surrounding the recruitment of Tiasi Tialia, a center from Salt Lake City. Then-head coach Ben Stroud was released from his position on Aug. 25, 2006. His contract with the college was terminated on Jan. 23.

First-year head coach Heidi Carlisser replaced Stroud one day before the 2006 season started and led the Golden Eagles to a 29-14 season record and second-place finish in the Scenic West Athletic Conference. As the Friday, Aug. 3, first day of practice neared, Carlisser and her 14 women staff members focused on starting a new page in CSI volleyball history.

Carlisser's 2007 team will feature four returning players and 10 incoming freshmen. The Golden Eagles finished last season with only eight players on the roster as sophomores Kaylene "Pudge" Finau, Aneli Cubi-Olineva and Christine Annuak set the season out, while Kawena Cubi-Olineva quit the team midway through the season. This year's team is the first CSI squad entirely recruited by Carlisser.

Please see CSI, Page B2

Eagle Eyes

2007 CSI volleyball Head coach: Heidi Carlisser, second year

Assistant coach: Babes Kalulu, second year

2006 record: 29-14 (second in SWAC at 8-4)

Returning players: Leslio Aki, so. S, Honolulu, Hawaii; Gabriella Bolowacz, so. MB, Sulchow, Poland; Chanette Esteban, so. Libero, Hawaii; Koi, Hawaii; Pudge Finau, red-shirt so. S, Salt Lake City. Incoming freshmen: Bri Barton, OH, Lebanon, Ore.; Nasty Fogo Neres, OH, Brazil; McKenzie Hawkins, OH, Roanburg; Jazmine Ma'afala, fr. MB, Honolulu, Hawaii; Bria Mordant, OH, Rutherford; Megan Parrish, OH, Jerome; Santia Sanders, OH, Olympia, Wash.; Jelena Savic, fr. S, Croatia; Savanna Silcock, MB, Moore; Alyssa Wittrock, MB, Longview, Wash.

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Warm with temperatures a few degrees cooler and mostly sunny skies. Highs in the low 90s.
Tonight: Mostly clear overnight with mild temperatures. Lows in the 60s.
Tomorrow: A warmer and sunny end to the week. Highs in the middle 90s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: More sun than clouds with warm temperatures. Highs in the low 90s.
Tonight: Mostly clear overnight with mild temperatures. Lows in the upper 60s to lower 60s.
Tomorrow: A little warmer for Friday with sunny skies. Highs in the 90s.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 5 columns: Today, Tonight, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges (High 90, Low 61, 90/62, 97/63, 98/66, 99/63).

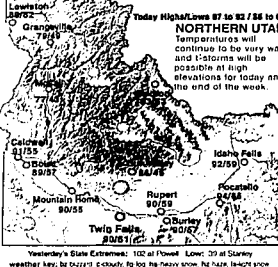
ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

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

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. Conditions today will be pleasant with warm temperatures and mostly sunny free skies.
BOISE Temperatures will be a bit cooler today, but conditions will remain warm. Hot and dry weather over the week, and will dominate the weekend.

NORTHERN IDAHO Temperatures will continue to be very warm and a bit of rain is possible all day.
SOUTHERN IDAHO Conditions for today and the end of the week.



MOON PHASES



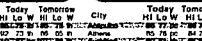
REGIONAL FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: Today, Tomorrow, Saturday. Lists cities like Boise, Burley, and Twin Falls with their respective weather forecasts.

NATIONAL FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: Today, Tomorrow, Saturday. Lists major US cities like Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, and New York with their respective weather forecasts.

U.V. INDEX



WORLD FORECAST

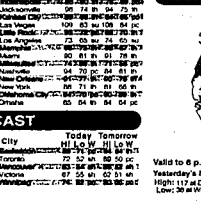
Table with 3 columns: Today, Tomorrow, Saturday. Lists international cities like London, Paris, Tokyo, and Sydney with their respective weather forecasts.

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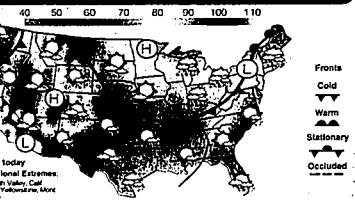
CANADIAN FORECAST

Table with 3 columns: Today, Tomorrow, Saturday. Lists Canadian cities like Calgary, Edmonton, Toronto, and Vancouver with their respective weather forecasts.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Bowden heads class of 20 in college hall

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Bobby Bowden believes the greatest accomplishment in his Hall of Fame career is he's never been fired.
'I know that sounds odd, but you look around every day at coaches who have been fired — coaches who last two years, coaches who last four years... I can't never been fired. But I've nearly been fired.'
The 77-year-old Florida State coach also has been successful enough that the National Football Foundation changed its rules so he could be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame while he's still coaching.



Florida State football coach Bobby Bowden speaks during an interview at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York, on Dec. 5, 2006.

'The thing I learned about it was how fickle fans are. They love you as long as you win. It's still true today.'
That idea was reinforced last season, when despite all his success in Tallahassee, some fans wanted him out following a 7-6 season — Bowden's worst finish since going 5-6 in his first season in 1976.
'That is frustrating,' he said. 'But there's nothing you can do about it. It's the same way all over the country.'
Bowden has been largely free from that in his 31 years of coaching at Florida State, though, because the Seminoles have been so good. He transformed Florida State into one of the nation's best programs, leading the Seminoles to 14 straight seasons in which they finished in the top five of The Associated Press rankings. During that span, the Seminoles rolled up a

152-19-1 record, an .864 winning percentage.
After a couple of field goals went wide right against rival Miami, though, some began to question whether Bowden could win the big one. That ended in 1993 when Nebraska missed a 45-yard field goal in the final seconds of the Orange Bowl to give the Seminoles their first national title.

Montana State names wide receivers coach

BOZEMAN, Mont. — Montana State football coach Rob Ash announced Wednesday he has hired former Kansas State quarterback Jonathan Besley as receivers coach for the Bobcats.
Besley played quarterback at Kansas State from 1996-2000, serving as team captain as a junior and senior. He was third team All-Big 12 in 2000, and earned MVP honors in the 2001 Cotton Bowl and 2000 Holiday Bowl. He also earned MVP and team captain honors for the 2001 Tula Bowl, and was team captain for the 2001 East-West Shrine Game.

Nebraska receiver Purify sentenced to probation

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska wide receiver Maurice Purify pleaded no contest to four charges Wednesday as part of a deal with prosecutors.
A Lancaster County judge sentenced him to a year of probation and fined him \$12,500. He has already been suspended from the team by coach Bill Callahan.

Purify was found guilty of driving while intoxicated, assault, disturbing the peace and hindering arrest. The charges stem from two incidents earlier this year.
While on probation, Purify won't be allowed to enter a bar or any business that primarily sells alcohol, and he must attend drug and alcohol counseling.

Rutgers assistant pleads not guilty in assault case

LONG BRANCH, N.J. — Rutgers assistant football coach Chris Demarest entered a not guilty plea Wednesday to a charge he assaulted his girlfriend in a bar.
Demarest waived a scheduled appearance in Long Branch Municipal Court. A trial date has not been set, according to municipal court administrator Theresa Woods-Coyne.
Demarest was arrested early Saturday after police responded to a call from an upscale bar-restaurant at the Jersey shore. According to police, an off-duty detective witnessed an altercation between Demarest and the woman, who has not been identified.
Demarest was seen grabbing and pushing the woman, and he was later escorted outside by security. Police officers ordered the woman to have bruises and abrasions on her arms.
'We believe the events of the morning of July 14, 2007, concerning Chris Demarest and his girlfriend have blown away out of proportion,' said Demarest's attorney, John Azzarello.
— The Associated Press

'Person of interest' denied killing Broncos' Williams

DENVER (AP) — A man considered a person of interest in the shooting death of Broncos cornerback Darwyn Williams wrote a letter in state prison saying he did not kill the player, a federal agent testified Wednesday.
Willie DeWayne Clark, 24, wrote to another inmate saying authorities had asked him about Williams' slaying "but I didn't do it." Special Federal Officer Robert Fuller said during a hearing an unrelated drug case against Clark.
Williams, 24, died from a gunshot wound in the neck as he and others were riding away from a New Year's Eve party at a Denver nightclub. Two other people with Williams in the stretch Hummer limousine were injured.
No one has been arrested on charges stemming directly from the shooting.
Authorities identified Clark as a person of interest because they allege he worked for a gang-linked drug organization run by Brian Hicks, the owner of a sport utility vehicle that authorities believe was used in Williams' slaying.
Hicks was in jail at the time, awaiting trial on attempted murder charges.
Fuller said Clark's letter denying responsibility for the slaying was written in March when he was serving a 180-day sentence for a parole violation.

Goldberg

Continued from page B1
Two felony counts of coercion during a shooting at Las Vegas strip club that left a man paralyzed.
League and Atlanta Falcons officials contacted Wednesday and agreed to stand by the statement the NFL issued immediately after Vick was indicted on charges of sponsoring a dogfighting operation.
The gist: Michael Vick's guilt has not yet been proven and we believe that all concerned should allow the legal process to determine the facts.
The NFL Players' Association issued a similar statement; executive director Gene Upshaw also has been involved in talks with the team and league.
'It's unfortunate that Michael Vick is in this position, as these allegations are extremely disturbing and offensive,' the union said.
'It's not new in the hands of the judicial system and we have to allow the legal process

Dog days for Falcons' Michael Vick

Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick's indictment on federal charges related to dog fighting may jeopardize his career.
April 28-28, 2007: During dog ring, local officials discover evidence that Vick is Surrey County Va., home site of a dog fighting operation.
April 27: Vick claims he never at house; his family members.
May 27: Informant tells ESPN that Vick is 'one of the heavyweights' in dog fighting clearing back to his college days.
May 31: Air Tran Airways announces dropping Vick as spokesman.
June 7: Father and state officials find remains of seven dog puppies; Vick dies after 'reaching conflict' in announcing his youth camp cancellation.
June 18: Williams & Mirra announces Vick's replacement at football camp.
June 18: Vick announces he has no plans to drop sponsorship of Vick.
July 6: Federal investigators conduct second search at property.
July 17: Vick and three others indicted by federal grand jury on charges related to dog fighting.
July 18: Court appearance scheduled for July 26, the same day the Falcons open training camp.

No sooner had he met with Goodell and promised that he'd stop going to clubs than he was stopped again at 3:30 a.m. Johnson had the same problem.
Vick will be punished by the league if he is convicted. The activities alleged are cruel, degrading and illegal,' the NFL statement said. He could go to jail and when he comes out, he could find himself without a job for at least a year.
Some fans, those who cry about a double standard will have their poster child, Patman Jones, of all people.

Vick

Continued from page B1
encounters with police and five arrests since he was drafted in 2005.
The NFL players' union took the same stance as the league.
'It's unfortunate that Michael Vick is in this position, as these allegations are extremely disturbing and offensive,' the union said in a statement. 'This case is now in the hands of the judicial system, and we have to allow the legal process to run its course. However, we recognize Michael still has the right to prove his innocence. Hopefully, these allegations are untrue and Michael will be able to continue his NFL career.'
Vick and three associates met with Richmond next week for bond hearings and arrangements on charges contained in a detailed, 18-page indictment handed up Tuesday.
The four are accused of committing dogfighting, procuring and training pit bulls for fight-

ing, and conducting the enterprise across state lines.
The operation was named "Bad Newz Kennels" according to the indictment, and the dogs were housed, trained and fought at a property owned by Vick in Surrey County, Va.
Prosecution carries up to six years in prison, fines of \$350,000 and restitution.
Among the grisly findings: Losing dogs either died in the pit or were electrocuted, drowned, hanged or shot. The indictment said purses climbed as high as \$20,000 for fights.
These and other allegations of animal abuse have already put Vick squarely in the center of strong and divided reaction.
In Atlanta, where Vick's name dwarfs all others in pro sports, about 40 percent of respondents in an overnight telephone poll conducted by Atlanta-based InsiderAdvantage think the dog should be put to death. About the same percentage said the team should keep him until a verdict is returned.

INSIDE: Obituaries, C2 | Community, C2-3 | Idaho/West, C4-5 | Nation, C6-7 | World, C8

Commissioners vent over Red Cross changes

Elimination of T.F. post prompts letter to agency's CEO

By Nick Coltrani
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — The Twin Falls County Commissioners are drafting a letter of concern to the head of the American Red Cross of Greater

Idaho about the elimination of the Twin Falls director position and moving Magic Valley disaster management to Idaho Falls.

"They haven't finished writing the letter yet, but Commissioner Terry Kramer said commissioners hope to air concerns about uncoordinated disaster response and other effects from losing the only full-time paid Red Cross position in the Magic Valley. In an early draft, the commissioners wrote that the elimination of the Twin Falls director position

"demonstrates a lack of concern for south Idaho and its 250,000 citizens."

Kramer said Twin Falls and surrounding counties rely on the Red Cross for emergency shelters and immediate response in time of disasters.

"They (Red Cross officials) made an executive decision, and while we weren't there directly it has a direct impact on us," Kramer said. "We just couldn't see this happen without saying something."

Dick Rush, chief executive officer

of the Idaho Red Cross, said the decision was both financial and part of a national effort for the Red Cross to return to its volunteer-based roots. Rush said paid Red Cross positions were halved to 10 in the past year.

Kramer didn't know when they would send the final draft of the letter because they want the wording just right. He said the final version will have the signatures of the three commissioners and input from county Emergency Service Coordinator Jackie Frey.

CAMAS COUNTY Proposed development causes concern at meeting

By Amy Ballard
Times-News correspondent

FAIRFIELD — Camas County residents are concerned about a proposed subdivision on the Camas Prairie.

Gooding County Commissioner Tom Faulkner proposed the Monument Gulch Subdivision on 160 acres a half-mile east and three miles south of Hill City near the state-owned Centennial Marsh. Designated a wildlife preservation area, the marsh is known for its concentration of camas lilies and its natural habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife. On Monday, residents expressed concerns to county commissioners about having a subdivision built too close to the marsh.

"This is a gem in our county that deserves better respect than we seem to be giving it," said resident Bob Rodman.

The proposed subdivision would consist of only four lots, three which Faulkner has agreed to sell to private individuals. The largest and northern-most lot is currently under consideration for purchase by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

But Terry Gregory, of Fish and Game, said he's concerned about flooding issues.

"To say the property never floods, that's a pretty big stretch," he said, referring to a report by Dwight Butlin, the county's planning and zoning administrator. He said despite it not being on a flood plane, parts of the property do flood occasionally, which makes it unsuitable for development.

Gregory said the land meets two of three requirements for a wetland determination — it has wetland vegetation and soils — but lacks the presence of water.

Faulkner said Swamp Road flooding, to which Gregory alluded, was not standing water over the road but creek waters that run over the road because of inadequate culverts. Swamp Road is a half-mile west of Faulkner's land.

Other opponents called for the preservation of the pristine landscape surrounding the marsh.

"The marsh is for short-term invasion by people," said resident Pamela Tucker. "Cattle are compatible with the marsh. People aren't."

"Those of us who come here from other areas really appreciate what we've got here," said resident Dennis Folsy.

Purditt Carmen Humphreys, who has lived on the Camas Prairie since 1940, spoke against the development. Her main con-

Please see LAND, Page C3

HISTORY SLEUTH PBS host shares her love of history with Twin Falls

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

TWIN FALLS — At one point, Elyse Luray was in two places Wednesday night as she watched herself examine a supposed letter from famous President Abraham Lincoln.

"It bothers me that there's two dates, and one of them is in completely different ink," her on-screen counterpart said, as Luray herself sat back in the audience.

Luray and about 90 members of the public were watching a sneak peek of an upcoming episode of "History Detectives," a PBS show that examines artifacts, most sent in by viewers, and traces their possible place in history. Luray, one of four "detectives" on the show, treated her audience to the clip and an example of how she examines the artifacts during her presentation at the Herrett Center for Arts and Science at the College of Southern Idaho.

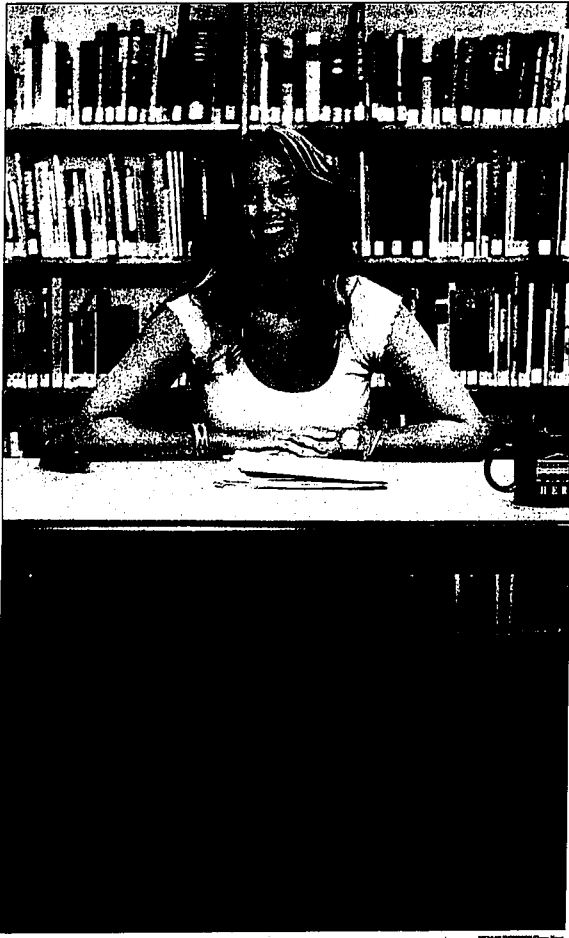
The letter turned out to be authentic, as was the animation cell Luray used as an example during her talk after the clip. The cell, from Boise, was created by Bill Justice, a Disney animator in the 1940s through 1960s who worked on cartoons and movies such as "Fantasia" and "Alice in Wonderland."

Luray said her favorite part of the show is the journey to answering a question, not the answer itself. So her examination of the film cell included a short history of the role of cartoons around the 1940s and '50s — specifically, their role in World War II once the government realized people responded to the 'toons.

"They felt that Americans at this time needed fantasy," she said. "You could do things (in cartoons) live people couldn't do on television."

An appraiser by trade, Luray spent 11 years working with the Christie's auction house before she joined PBS, first with appearances on "Antiques Roadshow." Her visit was part of a two-stop tour — she also presented in Idaho Falls this week — and a visit to family members in the Wood River Valley. Though she lives in New York, she said she steps in

Please see LURAY, Page C3



Elyse Luray, one of the hosts of PBS's 'History Detectives,' talks about the popular television show Wednesday during a press conference at the Herrett Center for Arts and Science on the campus of the College of Southern Idaho.

Buhl School Board opts not to proceed with supplemental levy

By Blake Koch
Times-News correspondent

BUHL — About \$3 million.

That's how much money is needed to get through a supplemental levy to complete several school district projects, Margaret Cox, superintendent of the Buhl School District, told trustees Tuesday.

Even though trustees Ken McDonald and Jay Anderson supported a motion to hold a special election on Sept. 11, it failed to garner enough support.

Trustees Jackie Frey and Steve Highberger voted no on the motion, and the issue was settled with a tie-breaking "no" vote by Board Chairman Gene Clemens.

"I'm sorry," said Frey. "I need to look at the project before jumping into something like this."

Clemens decided to back Frey and Highberger because he felt the board should not be on the same page before taking the issue before voters.

"I might now I just don't have many answers," Clemens told the Times-News during a phone interview. "I was not prepared to vote on the levy. I thought it would be a discussion item. Having a split board isn't a good situation. I feel that everyone needs to be on the same page."

The levy isn't the only thing the district's Parent Teacher Network backs either. Former president Tracy Hulse said they have pushed for years to get the district to repair and maintain Pappewell Elementary School. And while they applauded money for the school was included in the proposed amount, they felt that some of the items were inappropriate to be included in a levy, Hulse said.

"What the PTN mothers want is maintenance and upkeep at the elementary. Right now that is our priority," she said. "But when they step back with things like new district offices that we don't need, and a

Please see LEVY, Page C3

Fairfield becomes Capitol for a Day

By Amy Ballard
Times-News correspondent

FAIRFIELD — A panel of state leaders, including Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, gathered in Fairfield this week as part of Capitol for a Day — a day set aside for state representatives to meet with residents who live outside the capitol city.

It was a chance for leaders to meet with local residents and to hear their concerns on various issues. The event happened Tuesday.

The two most popular topics discussed were the lack of affordable electrical power, and drug use in the county.

"I think we can provide a fine product to Camas County. But at \$500,000 upfront, it's not going to happen," said Jason Roth, of Roth Real Estate in Halley, as he described to the panel the prohibitive expense of bringing electrical power to his Camas County property, where he hopes to develop a subdivision.

Strategies for reducing energy costs were discussed, including how to



Fairfield Mayor David Hanks, left, shakes hands with Gov. C.L. 'Butch' Otter in Fairfield Tuesday.

Photo by Jeff HANLEY

make better use of power sources closer to home. Otter said about 60 percent of Idaho's power currently is imported from other states.

"We're working very hard on that," he said.

Debbie Field, from the Idaho Office of Drug Policy, spoke about the county's meth problems.

"I've not found a place (in Idaho) that's free from what's happening

with meth," said Field, who is working to bring a restoration of the Idaho's successful Montana Meth Project to Idaho.

Camas County Sheriff Dave Sanders said he makes frequent visits to schools to educate students about the adverse affects of meth use.

"We've got to raise a generation of

Please see FAIRFIELD, Page C3

Ketchum police apprehend for suspect in shooting

No one hurt in morning incident

By Kelly Jackson
For the Times-News

KETCHUM — Ketchum police have arrested a suspect in a Wednesday morning shooting.

Ketchum dispatch received a call concerning shots fired into a home at 212 Glade Court in the Meadow Circle neighborhood at 8:41 a.m. Wednesday.

According to Blaine County records, Robert B. Dreyer owns the home, although it was not known if he was the intended victim.

No one was hurt in the shooting, but police arrested, Deborah A. Reimer, 54.

Ketchum police determined that the suspect was not in the secured vicinity of



the Meadow Circle neighborhood after combing the site for approximately four hours Wednesday. The center neighborhood and bike path from River Run Lodge to the south end of the neighborhood was closed to the public throughout the morning. Residents were allowed to re-enter the area about 1 p.m. Wednesday.

A number of officers throughout Blaine County responded to the initial call. At this time, evidence indicates the victim was the only target and that the violence was the result of an on-going domestic dispute, according to Ketchum police spokeswoman Kim Rogers.

Fire threatens homes north of Albion

Times-News

ALBION — A blaze north of Albion along Idaho Highway 77 threatened homes and structures Wednesday. The Bureau of Land Management estimates the Gun Canyon Fire at 150 acres. Brock Astle, spokesman for the BLM, said lightning sparked the fire but

didn't know the number of homes threatened. No residents in the town had been evacuated Wednesday evening.

Astle said a number of rural fire departments responded to the blaze. He said most of the BLM for south-central Idaho was concentrated on the 80,000-acre Rowland fire and the 14,375-acre Elk Mountain Fire.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mini Cassia Democrats meeting today

HURLEY — The Mini-Cassia Democrats will meet at 7 p.m. today at the Paul Fire Hall.

The agenda includes discussion about water issues and fundraising. For more information, call Joey Bryant at 679-7793.

Local student named to George Fox University honor roll

NEWBERG, Ore. — Bradley L. Paulin of Jerome has been named to the George Fox University dean's list for the 2007 spring semester.

To be included on the academic honor roll, a student must earn a 3.5 grade point average or higher while taking at least 12 graded credit hours of classes.

A junior majoring in business administration, Paulin is the son of Cindy Paulin of Jerome.

Local student to attend national conference

TWIN FALLS — Kelsey Petersen, class of 2008, has been selected to participate in the National Student Leadership Conference, on Forensic Science, this summer at American University.

During the conference, Kelsey will attend special work shops and classes designed to develop the skills and traits that define a leader. Professors and college students facilitate the programs and engage the stu-

dents in career focused, hands-on activities, simulating a career in the student's area of interest. Tips and tours also enhance the student's experience by tailoring them to their specific conference. She will also have the opportunity to meet and learn from recognized leaders in their field.

The NSLC was established in 1989 and offers leadership conferences to high school and junior high school students from around the world.

Fundraiser to benefit local soldier

HURBERT — A fundraiser for Army Spc. Cody Sibbett of Paul will be held from 5 to 10 p.m. Friday at Doc's Pizza on the Square in Rupert.

Sibbett was seriously injured south of Baghdad when the vehicle he was accompanying was struck by an improvised explosive device.

Doc's will offer table service for the event, and all tips and a portion of sales will go to the Sibbett family.

There will also be a raffle to raise money for the family. Tickets are \$1 each and are available at Doc's or by calling 219-9783, or Lacey at 670-1553. Raffle items include a mountain bike, barbecue grill, portrait sitting by Banner Images, movie passes, and gift certificates from area merchants.

An account has been set up in the name of Cody Sibbett at Wells Fargo Bank. Donations to the Sibbett family can be made at any Wells Fargo branch.

Evacuation ordered near Jarbidge, Nev. due to wildfire

ELKO, Nev. — The Elko County Sheriff's Office on Wednesday night issued a mandatory evacuation order for Murphy Hot Springs five miles north of Jarbidge and the Diamond A Ranch about 10 miles north of Jarbidge due to fires in the area.

Morey Way, in Elko or to another safe location with family or friends. The American Red Cross was setting up housing and food for evacuees Wednesday. People were told they could bring a fifth wheel trailer and park in the Convention Center parking lot. Elko County Road 74B is open north and south of Jarbidge.

Chip sealing on streets continues today

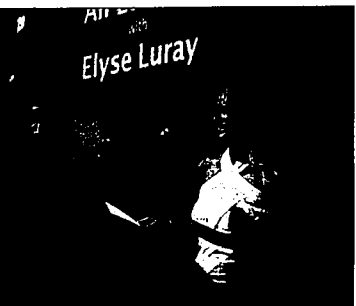
TWIN FALLS — Chip sealing continues today on several Twin Falls streets.

- Today's schedule:
- North Pointe Drive from Chissey Drive West to Wendell Street.
- Sarah Avenue from Tara Street to Northern Pine Drive.
- Tara Street from Sarah Avenue to Caitlin Avenue.
- Caitlin Avenue from Tara Street to Northern Pine Drive.
- Park Meadows Drive from North Pointe Drive to North College Road West.
- North College Road West from Grandview Drive North to Wendell Street.
- Grandview Drive North from Pole Line Road West to Filer Avenue West.

Southwick gets Eagle

KIMBERLY — Karl Southwick, 14-year-old son of Bill and Marcie Southwick of Kimberly, received his Eagle Scout award on July 14 at the Kimberly LDS Church. He earned 23 merit badges and is a member of Troop No. 88 sponsored by the Kimberly

2nd Ward. For his Eagle project, Karl built shelving units for the South Central Community Action Partnership to be used as increased food storage. His leaders were Joel Beck and Corey Solomon. A total of 58 hours was spent on the project. Karl will attend Kimberly High School and enjoys reading, playing the saxophone, programming video games, writing books, and school. He was recently elected Freshmen Class President.



Elyse Luray, one of the hosts of PBS's 'History Detectives,' speaks at the Herrett Center for Arts and Science Wednesday evening in Twin Falls.

Luray

Continued from page C1. Idaho at least twice a year to see her parents, and the chance to speak by sealed the deal on Idaho Public Television's invitation.

because of 'History Detectives.' Really, Luray said, she'll be happy if her talk Wednesday left her audience with an appreciation for public television. The network, she said, offers unique and valuable programming.

Levy

Continued from page C1. Of the \$3 million requested by Cox, just \$400,000 was included for elementary school repairs, including the fixing of a leaking roof, replacing dangerous cafeteria tables and chairs, and renovating the school's restroom facilities.

ers and they need (to be) taken care of," Hulse said. Cox would not release a complete list of projects the levy would have paid for, though Highbarger said about \$1.7 million was slated toward building a foyer, concession stands, an athletic storage district office at the 7th Street Gym once the demolition of the former Buhl High School, currently under way, is complete.

Fairfield

Continued from page C1. meth-free kids," Otter said. Col. Jerry Bussel, director of the Idaho State Police, said a holistic approach is needed to deal with the complex problem of meth, but that the most effective strategy is cracking down on traffickers who bring drugs from production labs in Mexico.

ing bull trout from the endangered species list, and the infringement of wolves and bears on private property. State and local agencies, including the National Guard, staged a mock terrorist episode that demonstrated effective communications capabilities.

Land

Continued from page C1. The development. Her main concerns are the increased traffic the subdivision would produce, and water issues. Humphreys said she already has watched the number of camas lilies diminish over the years, and fears more will diminish due to a subdivision. Faulkner owns 480 acres of land in Gamas County, and has for 15 years. The commissioners deliberated for three hours following the public hearing. They will revisit the topic at the July 23 meeting.

Local bookstores host Harry Potter events for book release

TWIN FALLS — The Magic Valley's two largest bookstores will be open at midnight Friday to sell copies of the seventh and final Harry Potter book, 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows' by J.K. Rowling. Noble Booksellers has planned a Harry Potter book release party Friday from 8 p.m. until midnight. At 12 a.m. Saturday the retailer will begin selling the new book and will remain open until its supplies run out or until everyone in the store at midnight is given the opportunity to buy a book.

Books, Music and Videos will host a Harry Potter party from 9 p.m. until midnight, and also begin selling books at 12 o'clock. The Twin Falls store says it will have a limited supply of the new books on hand, but that everyone who has reserved a book will get a chance to purchase a copy. The list price for 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows' is \$34.99, although many retailers are selling the book for less.

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In honor of Jerome's Centennial year the North Side News is publishing an 80 page tabloid on the First Hundred Years of the North Side. This will be the third special section of this nature that the North Side News has produced. The others were: the Golden Jubilee celebrating the first 50 years; a Bicentennial edition on our nation's 200th birthday and Jerome's 68th, and the History of the North Side, the First 75 Years. This special section will be distributed to our subscribers in the August 2 edition and extra copies will be made available for sale to non-subscribers for only \$5. Copies can be picked up at the North Side News office at 133 East Main in Jerome or can be mailed to you for an additional \$3 to cover postage and handling.

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IDAHO/WEST

Getting stretched thin



A slurry bomber drops its load Wednesday near Sweet, Idaho. Authorities closed State Highway 52 while firefighters worked to save threatened structures in the area.

Lightning-caused blazes stretch firefighting resources

By John Miller
Associated Press writer

BOISE — Fire officials decided Wednesday to boost the nation's wildfire preparedness to its highest level as dry lightning blasted the bone-dry West and sparked dozens of new blazes in Idaho, Nevada, Oregon and Utah.

"It's driven by a couple of things: The number of large fires we have, and also the fires are occurring in several states and in several geographic areas," Randy Gardley, a spokesman for the National Interagency Fire Center here, told The Associated Press. "The resources we have are being stretched thin."



A ranger station fire warns of the extreme fire danger near Augusta, Mont., Tuesday. The wildfire in the Bob Marshall Wilderness grew to 7,000 acres and burned closer to an area with about 65 summer homes as Montana's dryness and heat persisted.

across most of the Rocky Mountain West through next week, Gardley said.

In Idaho, dozens of new fires were reported Tuesday night and Wednesday, including from at least 40 lightning strikes in the Boise National Forest alone. Those joined 15 large fires already burning on 333 square miles scattered from Idaho's rugged central mountains to the state's southeastern corner.

In Nevada, crews Wednesday battled more than two dozen fires burning across nearly 200 square miles of rangeland and timber in the northern part of the state. One

threatened hundreds of homes on the edge of Reno.

The largest wildfire in Oregon, the Egley Complex near Burns in the southeast portion of the state, had grown to more than 200 square miles and was threatening a handful of homes, officials said.

And in Utah, two new large fires were reported, in addition to three already burning on about 640 square miles of grass, sage and timber. It was so dry there that some Utah communities banned traditional July 24 fireworks that members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints normally shoot off to

celebrate the 1847 arrival of Mormon pioneers in the Salt Lake valley.

Not all the new fires in Idaho were lightning-caused.

For instance, a truck laden with scrap iron likely started up to 10 fires on Wednesday in Gem County, local officials said, causing them to close State Highway 52 between Emmet and Horseshoe Bend. At least two large fires emerged, burning toward the ranching hamlets of Sweevid and Ola.

One abandoned home burned near Squaw Butte, northeast of Emmet. Some occupied homes nearby were evacuated, said Mary Ann Hanson, a Gem County clerk providing fire information. There were no reported injuries.

It's windy out there; it's dry and it's steep," said Jessica Gardetto, a fire spokeswoman for the federal Bureau of Land Management.

Gardetto said the Gem County fires, in addition to nine from lightning strikes near Boise that were largely contained by Wednesday, had stretched resources thin. Strike was also blowing up from the Wood Creek fire, burning on 2,500 acres of brush, downed timber and pockets of Ponderosa pine between the south fork of the Boise River and Interstate 84 about 20 miles east of the state capital.

West Wendover, Nev. fire captain charged in wife's death

ELKO, Nev. (AP) — A West Wendover fire captain has been arrested on a murder charge after a coroner's jury found him responsible in the death of his estranged wife, but the judge issuing the warrant said he had concerns about the finding.

Jeremy Loncar, 30, surrendered to police on a warrant charging him with first-degree murder. He posted \$100,000 bail and was released Monday from the Elko County jail.

A coroner's jury in June ruled that Loncar caused the death of his wife, Anne Marie Loncar, 30, of West Wendover, in January 2006.

Authorities said the two were in the process of divorce.

Elko Justice of the Peace Al Kaen issued the arrest warrant July 13, but also expressed concerns about the charge.

"Based upon the court's recall of the coroner's inquest testimony, the court is concerned at this point about whether there is probable cause to believe that the criminal agency of another caused the death of the alleged victim in this case, Anne Marie Loncar," Kaen said in the warrant.

The determination by the coroner's jury is not a conviction. Loncar will face a preliminary hearing where a justice of the peace will determine if there is sufficient evidence for the case to proceed to trial.

Loncar had been diagnosed with asthma, Woodbury said.

The district attorney said medical examiner Ellen Clark had not excluded suffocation or poisoning as possible causes of death.

Jeremy Loncar's attorney, Donald York Evans, disagreed. He said the pathologist ruled out those possibilities and that toxicology results were negative. Evans also said there was no physical evidence of asphyxiation and that Clark had signed off on the autopsy report.

Evans said his client was performing CPR on Anne Marie Loncar until emergency medical personnel arrived at her home.

Psychic tip prompts another search for eastern Idaho woman

IDAHO FALLS (AP) — Sheriff's deputies, acting on a tip from a psychic, searched a defunct sugar factory for the body of a woman missing since 2001 but did not find any evidence she had been there, officials said.

Amber Hoopes, 20 at the time, was last seen at her grandparents' house, which is just down the road from the former sugar factory in eastern Idaho.

A psychic called Friday to say she believed Hoopes was buried in a lime pit at the factory. On Tuesday, deputies dug an area about 4 feet by 6 feet for an hour but didn't find anything.

"We will continue to follow up on any lead or tip," Bonneville County sheriff's Sgt. Doug Metcalf told the Post Register.

On a previous psychic tip, authorities searched Ririe Reservoir for Hoopes on July 9, 2003.

Sheriff Byron Stommel said tips from psychics seldom help solve cases, but he said at least one turned out to be accurate enough that he doesn't automatically discount them.

"Just from my experience, you can't discredit psychics," Stommel said.

After Hoopes disappeared, Keith Hiescock became an early suspect. The home where Hoopes was last seen is near a body shop that employed Hiescock from 1992 to 1998.

On June 5, 2002, police say Hiescock abducted a 14-year-old girl who escaped and then led police to Hiescock's house.

Joe Conforte endorses new owner of Nevada's Mustang Ranch

By Tom Gardner
Associated Press writer

PATRICK, Nev. — Fugitive brothel baron Joe Conforte emerged from seclusion Wednesday to praise the man who plans to reopen his infamous Mustang Ranch holdout.

"Lance Gilman is just the man," Conforte said in a teleconference from Brazil, where he fled 15 years ago to avoid federal income tax charges.

Conforte said that when he first heard that somebody wanted to reopen the Mustang Ranch, he was opposed to the idea.

"Slowly, I took my mind," he said. "Finally I changed my mind. It was only my opinion."

Conforte, a Sicilian immigrant who is in his 80s, opened the Triangle River Ranch brothel in Wadsworth in 1955 and took over the Mustang Ranch in 1967, which was licensed by Storey County in 1971 as the state's first legal brothel. Prostitution is currently legal in 12 of Nevada's 17 counties.

He and his wife Sally were arrested in 1977 for income tax evasion, and Conforte fled the country in 1980.

After a decade of negotiations with the government and attempts to sell the brothel, Conforte fled to Brazil in 1991.

He telephoned IRS officials in 2004 with an offer to pay back \$500,000 in taxes if he could visit Nevada, but federal prosecutors nixed the deal.

"I would like to come back and spend a little while, but I want to come back to Brazil," Conforte said Wednesday.

Gilman opened the Wild Horse Resort & Spa just off Interstate 80 and four miles east of the Mustang Ranch in 2003, then set his sights on the pink succo brothel that was padlocked by the government in August 1989.

Gilman has invited the public to attend the Mustang Ranch's grand reopening Saturday.

He estimates he has spent \$5 million to renovate the dozen sections of the building from Mustang to the nearby town of Patrick — the parlor where the working girls stage their lineups had to be flown by helicopter — and on extensive renovations of the 104 rooms and the parlor. It combines Venetian, Sicilian and Tuscan motifs, rich paintings, furniture and a courtyard theme — a contrast to Conforte's often garish original.

"We kept the same pink succo exterior of the buildings and spent a lot of time, thought and effort into decorating the massive entry parlor," said Susan Austin, the

brothel's madam. "We kept the essence of what was the Mustang Ranch and just greatly enhanced and improved it."

Unlike the Wild Horse Resort across a parking lot from the Mustang, the reconstituted

ranch remains a lineup brothel as it was last century. That means the girls line up in the parlor when a customer walks in. At the Wild Horse, customers mingle informally with prostitutes in a lounge.

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NATION

Katrina contractors fume, parishes fret as FEMA payments lag in New Orleans

By Becky Bohrer
Associated Press writer

NEW ORLEANS — Contractors hired to clean up after Hurricane Katrina are fuming over delays in getting paid by FEMA, and some politicians fear the red tape will discourage companies from bidding on the big rebuilding projects that lie ahead for New Orleans.

One company claims it is owed about \$150 million, and some contractors have walked off the job or gone to court to get the money they say they should have been paid for demolition and debris removal completed as much as a year and a half ago.

"You better hope another storm doesn't hit you. You guys will be under water for six months," said Zach Johnson, a Kansas City, Mo., area contractor who is suing for about \$1.7 million for tree-clearing in 2005. "Everybody got a bad taste in their mouth from Louisiana."

Johnson called the whole situation "messed-up, frustrating, depressing" and said he will not pursue any more cleanup and recovery jobs in Louisiana.

"Oh, hell no. Noon," he said. "I won't be back."

In some cases, cleanup contractors were hired by New Orleans-area parishes on the understanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency would cover most, if not all, the costs.

Contractors must submit their bills to the local governments that hired them. Then the bills have to be sent to the state for approval, after which they are forwarded to FEMA for review.

FEMA is responsible for releasing the money back down the chain. FEMA said slow payments often stem from incomplete paperwork submitted by the contractors and parishes. The agency said it is trying to protect the taxpayer by making sure that the government is not overpaying and that the work was performed as promised.

"We've done our part," spokesman Andrew Thomas said. "The agency said it could not immediately pay a total value on delayed payments in the New Orleans region.

In hard-hit St. Bernard Parish, local officials fear the slow-pay reputation will discourage contractors from bidding on the next major phase — the major reconstruction projects involving roads, sew-

ers, schools, and police and fire stations.

The situation is so bad, officials said, that bidders are tough to find for demolition and debris-removal work that remains nearly two years after the storm.

"It's slowing us down, limiting the amount of contractors that will bid and costing us more," said St. Bernard Parish Councilman Joey DiFatta. "This is effectively stopping the recovery."

Local officials said one big reason for the delays is that FEMA underestimated cleanup costs. St. Bernard, for example, is appealing four projects the FEMA valued at nearly \$9.3 million but the parish says are worth \$16.5 million.

"It's been a nightmare," said Amy Blanchard, finance director for St. Bernard Parish. "The city of New Orleans let the Army Corps of Engineers handle the contracts for storm cleanup and deal with FEMA, and the Corps said it has seen few disputes with contractors. But St. Bernard, Washington

and, apparently, it can launch into the air if something goes wrong.

"The man who lives in the house was watching television Tuesday when he heard a crash and saw a cloud of dust. In the next room, he found the hunk of gray metal, 34 inches by 5 inches, with two hexagonal holes in it.

The part was being returned to Bayonne Police on Wednesday, Peters said.

"Everybody got a bad taste in their mouth from Louisiana."

— Zach Johnson, Kansas City, Mo.-area contractor who is suing for about \$1.7 million for tree-clearing



Workers with the United Rebuilder Group demolish a home in Chalmette, La., July 11. Contractors hired to clean up after Hurricane Katrina are fuming over delays in getting paid by FEMA, and some fear the red tape will discourage companies from bidding on the big rebuilding projects that lie ahead for New Orleans.

Woodchipper blamed for launching hunk of metal that crashed through N.J. roof

BAYONNE, N.J. (AP) — A hunk of metal that crashed through the roof of a home had NASA and Federal Aviation Administration officials scratching their heads.

It didn't look "very space-y," said Henry Kline, a spokesman for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. "It's obviously made for something, but we wouldn't know what to do with it."

It didn't appear to be an air-

plane part either, the FAA said. Finally, FAA spokesman Jim Peters said Wednesday, a colleague in his office solved the mystery: It was part of a commercial woodchipper. The same part from another woodchipper's grinder had caused similar confusion last year, he said.

How it got on a Bayonne roof was anyone's guess, but Peters had a theory. The grinder piece moves very fast

and, apparently, it can launch into the air if something goes wrong.

"The man who lives in the house was watching television Tuesday when he heard a crash and saw a cloud of dust. In the next room, he found the hunk of gray metal, 34 inches by 5 inches, with two hexagonal holes in it.

The part was being returned to Bayonne Police on Wednesday, Peters said.

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Buying cold medicine? Meth cops may get an e-mail

By Samira Jafari
Associated Press writer

LONDON, Ky. — For Marine Brian Lewis returns to his desk after lunch, scanning e-mails he missed.

One catches his eye: It says a suspected member of a methamphetamine ring bought a box of Sudafed at 1:34 p.m. at a CVS pharmacy.

Minutes later, Lewis is in his truck, circling the parking lot, searching for the woman.

Lewis did not find her that day, but the scenario illustrates the way law enforcement is increasingly relying on computerized tracking systems in their fight against meth, an illegal drug that is often brewed in makeshift labs and has become a particular scourge in Appalachia and the Midwest.

Tracking systems are gradu-

ally being installed in pharmacies nationwide in response to a federal law that, since March 2006, has regulated purchases of pseudoephedrine, a key ingredient in the manufacture of meth. Pseudoephedrine is found in many over-the-counter cold and allergy medicines, such as Sudafed.

Under federal law, customers must show photo ID to buy pseudoephedrine, and the legal limit for purchases is 9 grams per month — roughly the equivalent of two 15-dose boxes of 24-hour Claritin D, or three 10-dose boxes of Aleve Cold & Sinus, or six 24-dose boxes of Sudafed.

Tracking systems like the one in use in Kentucky, MethCheck, automatically collect the buyer's name, address and age with a swipe of a driver's license or state-issued ID card.

Then the system notifies detectives via e-mail when a customer has exceeded the purchase limit. It also allows law enforcement to quickly spot suspicious patterns — for example, someone who might be trying to skirt the purchase limits by going from pharmacy to pharmacy and buying a few packages at a time.

An updated version of MethCheck eventually will enable law enforcement to track purchases by neighborhood or street. That could help detectives spot instances in which a meth chemist enlists others in the neighborhood to buy pseudoephedrine for him, Lewis said.

In addition, the system can flag purchases by people already under suspicion among law enforcement authorities. Kentucky is the first state to

use MethCheck; it has been testing it out in Laurel County since mid-2005. MethCheck will be used at some 7,000 pharmacies in 43 states by next year, said Tom Hick Jones, spokesman for Louisville-based Appriss Inc., which developed MethCheck.

Lewis, who heads the MethCheck initiative at Operation UNITE, a federally funded drug task force in Kentucky, said he has used the system to build cases against dozens of people.

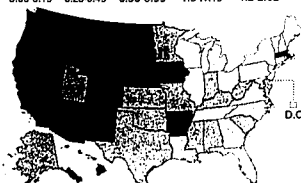
Consumer privacy watchdogs are troubled by the technology, worrying that people with colds or allergies could, under suspicion for unwittingly exceeding the purchasing limits by stocking up for themselves or family members. That has happened to at least eight people in Kentucky.

Meth abuse higher in Western states

Between 2002-2005, an estimated 1.4 million Americans age 12 and older—0.6 percent of the total population—admitted to using methamphetamine, a national study found.

Percentage of people aged 12 or older reporting past year methamphetamine use, by state, 2002-2005

0.06-0.19 0.20-0.49 0.50-0.99 1.0-1.19 1.2-2.02



SOURCE: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

As retirement nears, Joint Chiefs Chairman Pace examines a war he helped lead from the start

By Robert Burns
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD — For Marine Gen. Peter Pace, the last of the original military planners of the Iraq war, visiting U.S. troops this week was not exactly a victory lap en route to his earlier-than-expected retirement.

But neither did it evoke a sense of defeat. From the things he said and did, what may be his farewell tour seemed almost business-as-usual for the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: inspecting, questioning, encouraging commanders and troops.

Pace, a lanky man with a ready smile and a knack for public speaking without notes, is the only Marine to serve as chairman of the Joint Chiefs, the pinnacle of the American military hierarchy. He has been the principal military adviser to the president and the secretary of defense since October 2005, and for four years before that: he was the Joint Chiefs No. 2, "the guy going to run through the finish line," he said on the way into Baghdad this week. And then he did run, almost literally, from one commander's meeting to another, answering question-and-answer sessions with troops to another.

With obvious joy, he presided at a re-enlistment ceremony. With clear sorrow, he knelt at a 3rd Infantry Division monument to the soldiers it has lost here, sifting through dog tags to read each detail.



Outgoing Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Peter Pace, center, walks down a street in Ramadi, Iraq, Tuesday. With him, from left to right, Gen. Walter Gaskin, the top commander of U.S. forces in western Iraq, and retired Gen. Army Col. John Charlton, commander of 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, and Marine Lt. Col. Roger B. Turner, commander of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine

commanders ... taking the pulse on the ground, getting my own sense of the battle." It's a battle that almost no one who was involved at the start had imagined would still be in doubt.

During the run-up to the U.S. invasion in March 2003 and for the next two years Pace was vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs, second fiddle to Air Force Gen. Richard Myers. In that role he had a voice in war planning and Iraq policy but was not widely viewed as an architect of the strategy for toppling Saddam Hussein.

Even so, at a stage in the

war where prominent lawmakers of President Bush's own party are calling for troop withdrawals, Pace is now seen as part of the crowd that turned a quick military triumph into a quagmire.

"I think he had enormous influence over the planning for the war, the approach taken, the good parts and the bad parts," said Daniel Goure, a military analyst at the Lexington Institute in Arlington, Va. "He was deeply involved at all levels," and thus can be held responsible for the mistakes that were made.

Goure does not buy the argument that Pace failed to speak up when important decisions were discussed, even during the tenure of Donald Rumsfeld, the defense secretary who some critics say managed to cow the senior military leadership when they disagreed with his approach.

"I don't think it was a matter of them silently acquiescing," Goure said. Some thought Pace might be among the casualties when Bush, after last November's elections put Democrats in control of Congress, dumped Rumsfeld, switched generals in Baghdad and installed a new war strategy.

The break with Pace did not happen until June, when Robert Gates, the former CIA director whom Bush selected to succeed Rumsfeld, made the surprise announcement that Bush would not ask the Senate to confirm Pace for a second two-year term as Joint Chiefs chairman.

Two studies suggest restless legs syndrome a 'real' condition

By Mike Stobbe
Associated Press writer

ATLANTA — Scientists have linked certain genes to restless legs syndrome, suggesting the condition, described as "jimmy legs" in a "Seinfeld" episode is biologically based and not an imaginary disorder. New studies published this week in two top medical journals are being called the first to identify specific genes responsible for restless legs syndrome symptoms.

Research in the New England Journal of Medicine, linked a common gene variation to nighttime leg-twitching. It involved people in Iceland and the United States. A second study in Nature Genetics identified the same gene variation and two others in Germans and Canadians with restless legs syndrome.

"This discovery demonstrates the power of genetics not only for uncovering the biological causes of disease, but also for defining diseases such as ALS and establishing them as medical conditions," said Dr. Karl Stefansson, in a prepared statement.

Stefansson is a prominent Icelandic scientist who co-authored the New England Journal study.

Restless legs syndrome is a neurological condition characterized by an irresistible urge to move the legs. Sufferers say it often hits at night, preventing them from sleeping.

"It feels like something crawling inside your legs, biting on you," said Betty Shaw, a 68-year-old florist in Cowington, Ga., who was diagnosed with it. So was her 43-year-old daughter.

The condition gained cultural status through an oft-quoted episode of the sitcom "Seinfeld," in which the character Kramer is disturbed that his girlfriend has the "jimmy legs" and kicks in bed.

It's commonly treated with drugs, including the heavily advertised Requip, made by GlaxoSmithKline PLC. Sales of Requip hit about \$500 million last year. Shaw takes the blue-colored pill and says it's the only thing that's helped her.

The first study looked at blood samples from more than 1,000 Icelandic people and Americans, comparing the DNA of leg twitchers to the DNA of people without the symptom. Scientists found a certain variant in the human genome that, they say, probably accounts for 50 percent of restless legs cases.

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WORLD

Insurgent leader is not real, U.S. military says

By Tina Soman
Los Angeles Times

BAGHDAD, Iraq — In March, he was declared captured. In May, he was declared killed, and his purported corpse was displayed on state-run TV. But Wednesday, Omar al-Baghdadi, the supposed leader of an al-Qaida-affiliated group in Iraq, was declared nonexistent by a military officer who says he is a fictional character created to give an Iraqi face to a foreign-run terror group.

In reality, an Iraqi actor has been used to read statements

attributed to al-Baghdadi, who since October has been identified as the leader of the Islamic State of Iraq, said U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Kevin Bergner.

Bergner said the information came from a man whom U.S. forces captured July 4 and who was described as the highest-ranking Iraqi within the Islamic State of Iraq. The detainee, identified as Khalid Abdul Fatah Daud Mahmood Mashadani, has served as a propagandist chief in the organization, a Sunni Muslim insurgent group that claims allegiance to al-Qaida.

According to Bergner, Mashadani helped create the Islamic State of Iraq as a "virtual organization" that is essentially a pseudonym for al-Qaida in Iraq, another group that claims ties to al-Qaida. The front organization was aimed at making Iraqis believe that al-Qaida in Iraq is a nationalistic group, even though it is led by an Egyptian and has few Iraqis among its leaders, Bergner told a news conference.

"The Islamic State of Iraq is the latest effort by al-Qaida to market itself and its goal of imposing a Taliban-like state on the Iraqi people," he said.

The Islamic State of Iraq had been widely described as an umbrella organization made up of several insurgent groups, including al-Qaida in Iraq.

There was no way to confirm the military's claim, which comes at a time of heightened pressure on the White House to justify keeping U.S. troops in Iraq. Critics of the Bush administration say he has been trying to provide that justification by linking the broader-based al-Qaida to the conflict in Iraq, even though Bin Laden's organization had no substantial presence here until after the U.S. invasion of March 2003.

"The same people that attacked us on September 11th is a crowd that is now bombing people" in Iraq, President Bush said Tuesday.

The military announcement was the latest twist surrounding the figure known as al-Baghdadi. Defense Ministry spokesman Mohammed Askari rejected the U.S. claim and insisted al-Baghdadi is real. "Al-Baghdadi is wanted and pursued. We know many things about him, and we even have his picture," Askari said.



In this photo released by the Department of Defense, Khalid Abdul Fatah Daud Mahmood Mashadani is seen after his July 4 capture by U.S. forces in Mosul, Iraq.

Quake-damaged nuclear plant in Japan shut, leak worse than thought; auto plants closed

By Eric Lalmage
Associated Press writer

KASHIWAZAKI, Japan — The Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear facility is a city unto itself, with parks, broad avenues, a pristine shoreline and dozens upon dozens of buildings linked by futuristic walkways, completely closed off from the outside world.

But Wednesday, authorities ordered the quake-wrecked power plant shut down indefinitely — its roads cracked, its sidewalks buckled, an electrical transformer charred by fire — as controversy swelled over conditions and delayed damage reports.

The plant posed no danger to the 93,500 people living nearby. "Everything is within acceptable legal levels," he said.

But concerns over the damage, the extent of which was still being assessed, echoed across Japan, whose people are wary of a resurgence of nuclear power. About 30 percent of their electricity and have seen a string of mishaps and cover-ups in the industry.

"Japan has a dense population so the human damage would be major here. There would be many deaths," Hideoyuki Ban, a director of the civil group Citizen's Nuclear Information Center, told reporters. "I think that a quake-prone country should phase out its use of nuclear power."

The International Atomic Energy Agency pressed Japan's government to undertake an open investigation to see if there are lessons that can be applied elsewhere in the world. "There will be no secrets," Katsumata insisted.

"We will conduct an investigation from the ground up. But I think fundamentally we have confirmed that our safety measures worked," he added. "It is hard to make everything go perfectly."

Tokyo Electric, Japan's largest power company, said the quake was stronger than planned for at the seven-reactor plant, where about 1,000 people work on a typical day. Only about 350 people were there Monday, which was a national holiday.

Masakazu Minamidate, the deputy superintendent of the plant, said the largest known quake in the area had been a magnitude 6.5, while the one that hit Monday was estimated at 6.8.

The company also revealed that the plant's planners hadn't known a fault line was just offshore. New data from after-shocks following Monday's offshore quake suggested the fault might run underneath the power plant itself, which was only 12 miles from the epicenter.

Minamidate said an onshore survey of fault lines had been completed, but not one offshore. While it was unclear how close the fault line involved in the quake is to the plant, Meteorological Agency official Osamu Kamigaitchi said it could launch a study of the ocean floor off Kashiwazaki starting Friday to better map fault lines in the area.



A Tokyo Electric Power Co. official, left, leading a group of journalists, points out a burnt generator at Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant in Kashiwazaki, northeastern Japan, Wednesday.

After a quick inspection, the head of the utility that runs the world's most powerful electricity-generating station summed up the situation succinctly: "To be honest, it's a mess."

Tokyo Electric Power Co. President Tsunenishi Katsumata said after accepting an offer from the mayor of this northern Japan city to shutter the plant until its safety can be assured.

Toyo and other Japanese utilities, meanwhile, suspended production at factories across the country because a major parts supplier sustained damage from Monday's magnitude-6.8 quake, which killed 10 people and left tens of thousands without power or water.

Tokyo Electric warned that the nuclear plant shutdown could lead to power shortages in Japan. It has asked six other power companies to consider providing emergency electricity to prepare for rising demand from summer air conditioning, spokesman Hiroshi Itagaki said.

Katsumata insisted the hob-

ble power company, said the quake was stronger than planned for at the seven-reactor plant, where about 1,000 people work on a typical day. Only about 350 people were there Monday, which was a national holiday.

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The company also revealed

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Study: Prehistoric floods cut off Britain from Europe

By Amber Dance
Los Angeles Times

Scientists using sonar to probe the floor of the English Channel have found that Britain was sliced from the European continent by massive prehistoric floods that cut it off from human migration for 120,000 years.

The new research, published today in the journal *Nature*, found evidence of at least two floods between 180,000 and 450,000 years ago.

The months-long gushes of water cut through the island's chalky land bridge to Europe "like a buzz saw" through Straitsford, said Steven Dutch, a geologist at the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay who was not associated with the study.

The mega-floods broke through at the present Straits of Dover, the narrowest part of the channel, leaving the white cliffs of Dover where the bridge once began.

"The land bridge had been there for 13 million years," said Phillip Gibbard, a geologist at the University of Cambridge, who was not part of the study.

The researchers map of the seabed found a valley that was miles wide and more than 150 feet deep in some places. They also saw scour marks, layers and islands carved in the rock, said Sanjeev Gupta, lead author of the study and a geologist at

Imperial College London.

Gupta compared the features with those of the Scablands in eastern Washington state — a scarred region covering thousands of square miles, comprising deep, dry canyons, giant holes and scattered boulders.

The region is a geological example of a landscape formed by mega-floods. The Scablands floods took place thousands of years ago when glacial lakes in Idaho drained into the area. To a geologist, the most striking feature of the Scablands is the ripples.

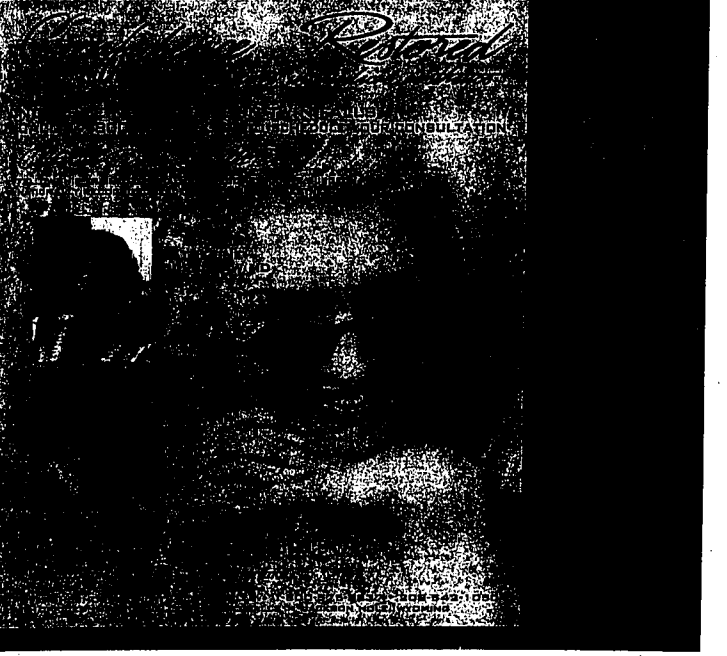
"This looks just like what you'd see in a stream, but it's scoured up 100 times," Dutch said. "There are places where you can see ripple marks that are 50 feet crest to crest."

The bottom of the English Channel has similar features that could only come from a giant flood, the scientists said.

The researchers surmised that the source of the flooding was a lake in the region of the modern North Sea that overflowed because advancing glaciers blocked water from draining elsewhere.

The water poured out at a rate of more than 250 million gallons per second, the scientists said.

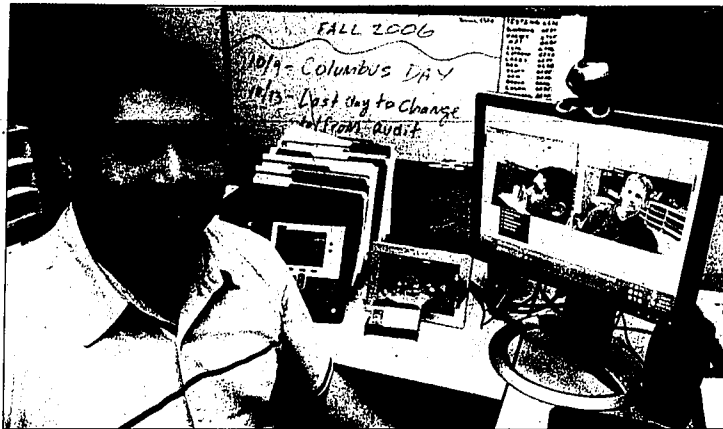
The mega-floods altered Britain's course in history, cutting early humans off from the island and temporarily halting migration.





"If you have ambitions and goals, to me that's a recipe for success. I really like getting the word out about college, that college is a possibility, no matter what walk of life."
— Cesar Perez Garcia, CSI director of advising

Starting out right



Cesar Perez, an adviser at the College of Southern Idaho, demonstrates last year the use of webcams with advising director Scott Scholes. Both Perez and Scholes use the technology to advise students in Italy and Gooding.

CSI advisor helps students meet their goals

By Jami Whited
Times-News Writer

TWIN FALLS — Cesar Perez Garcia, 28, knows all about starting college as a minority. He's been there.

As a director of advising for the College of Southern Idaho, Garcia strives to bring out the best in the students that he and his team of advisors see on a daily basis.

"It's all about visiting with others and letting them know there are opportunities for college," Garcia said.

The advising center is on the first floor of the Taylor Building, or the Matrix, on the second floor. CSI also has a multicultural office that helps out any international or minority student with admissions, different cultural elabors and various community questions.

CSI and the multi-cultural office puts on Abriendo Caminos "Opening Pathways," Cincos de Mayo, international dinners and more. Whatever they do, Garcia and his staff try to participate.

Garcia also runs SMART. Students Making a Right Turn. In that program, instructors notify Garcia of academic challenges that CSI students are having trouble overcom-

Cesar Perez Garcia can help both English and Spanish people start their college careers. He can be reached at 732-8250.

ing. That way, Garcia can work individually with the student and map out a plan of action.

"If you have ambitions and goals, to me that's a recipe for success," Garcia said. "I really like getting the word out about college, that college is a possibility, no matter what walk of life."

As a minority and first generation student himself, Garcia knows the struggles people can face.

Born in Mexico City, Garcia didn't move to the United States until he was 5.

"My parents wanted us to have different opportunities than what they had so having that support system really helped me out," he said.

He grew up and graduated high school in Jackson, Nev., in 1997 and received his associate's degree in education from CSI two years later.

When Garcia started college, he was usually the only Hispanic in his classes.

"I don't think the awareness was there," he said. "But over time I think the word has got-

ten out about college."

Garcia went on to receive a bachelor's degree in secondary education through Boise State University and a master's degree in educational training and development from Idaho State University in Pocatello. "My goals are to work with all students in all types of capacities and continually help retain students and see our numbers grow," Garcia said. "I want to help enrollment grow and spread the word about what college is and help people be comfortable with their surroundings."

Typically, Garcia and the other advisors at CSI work with first semester, undeclared or liberal arts students, but their doors are open to everyone looking for help.

Sometimes they'll even find people who need help. "One of the things I've been proud of has been working with the Hispanic Heritage Fiesta Committee, the Latinos Unidos Club and with the Bilingual Education Student Organization," he said.

By reaching out to the Hispanic community, Garcia is able to reach out to many people with ambitions of going to school. People that may not have thought college was an option.

"College opens doors that you may never have thought of," Garcia said. "It's not always an issue of college courses. It's about career planning... CSI has an open-door policy so visiting with administrators and staff allows you to visit with instructors, and once you have a network with instructors you're so much more comfortable talking about your goals and choices. We also offer video phone advising as well so people can see us and talk to us from our outreach centers in Gooding, Burley and Halley. We can do all their advising at a distance."

Having a network of people also helps Garcia and his staff track students that may otherwise fall through the cracks.

"Allowing students to empower themselves to make decisions based on their skills and seeing them grow is an important part of what we do," he said. "Helping students facilitate their skills is a shared responsibility between the advisor and the student. We need to work together to meet their goals and help them feel empowered to make effective choices in life."

Jami Whited can be reached at jwhited@magicvalley.com.

Some immigrants are prevented from marrying

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A federal law that requires people to supply their Social Security number when applying for a marriage license has forced thousands of couples around the country, particularly illegal immigrants, to put their wedding plans on hold.

The law has been on the books for about a decade and was intended to make it easier to collect child support payments. But in some places it has prevented even legal immigrants and some American citizens from getting married.

Some couples are traveling to other states or other countries willing to issue them marriage licenses.

Jonadad Luque, a Honduran immigrant legally in the U.S., wants to marry his girlfriend, with whom he has two children, ages 1 and 5. But the county clerk in Nashville would not issue them a license because his girlfriend is in the country illegally and does not have a Social Security number.

"I have a Social Security number, a driver's license and permission to work," Luque said in Spanish. "We want to get married, but we'll have to wait until they change the law."

John Arriola, the county clerk in Nashville, said he would like to see the law changed, but for now he has to stick to it.

Federal law requires states to record the Social Security numbers of all applicants for a professional license, driver's license, recreational license or marriage license. And Social Security numbers are not available to those who are in this country illegally or do not have permission to work.

But whether and how the law is enforced varies dramatically from state to state, and even from county to county, with some authorities interpreting the law as saying that only those people who already have Social

Security numbers are allowed to supply them.

Illegal immigrants are encountering less trouble getting married in places that have established immigrant communities. In Texas and New York City, for instance, officials ask for Social Security numbers but do not require them.

The Los Angeles County registrar's office says it does not require any proof of residency or citizenship status. And in North Carolina, people without Social Security numbers can present an affidavit stating they are ineligible for one.

The laws are often more strict in states where large immigrant populations are a recent phenomenon. In Tennessee and Alabama, for example, some county clerks are using the law to prevent illegal immigrants from getting marriage licenses.

Immigration attorneys say the law was not designed to keep people from getting married.

"There's a fundamental U.S. constitutional right to marry," said Charles Baesler, an immigration lawyer in Kentucky and chairman of the American Immigration Lawyers Association's Southeast chapter.

A federal judge in Pennsylvania ruled last month that a county official could not require a man to prove he was legally in the country before issuing a marriage license to him and his American fiancée.

The Rev. Joseph Green of Nashville's St. Edward Catholic Church, which has a large Hispanic congregation, said he became concerned about the number of couples in his parish, some with children who had been unable to marry legally.

So the church drove about 20 couples across the state line to Kentucky for licenses and a civil wedding ceremony before bringing them back to Nashville for a church wedding.

Please see MARRY, Page D4



Jonadad Luque reads to his daughter, Jarlin, 5, in their home in Nashville, Tenn., on July 10. Luque is a Honduran immigrant family in the U.S. under temporary protective status. He and his girlfriend have two children and want to get married, but the county clerk in Nashville would not give them a license because his girlfriend is in the country illegally and doesn't have a Social Security number.

Baja Balancing Nature and Tourism

By Hector Tobar
Los Angeles Times

SAN JOSE DEL CABO, Mexico — In a rocky, dun landscape dominated by saguaro and prickly pear, the estuary of the San Jose River is an oasis-

like explosion of green.

Lined with tall reeds, the river — or at least some of it — flows year-round into the Pacific. Even those parts of the riverbed that are usually dry hold a life-giving treasure: Dig into the soil a few feet and you

hit turquoise-colored groundwater. Two hundred species of birds call the wetland home.

But population growth in the Los Cabos region is placing the rich marsh under assault, environmentalists say. To build the newest big tourist project,

a marina called Puerto Los Cabos, developers carved out a huge chunk of the estuary.

"This is the most important wetland on the southern half of Baja, and it's the most

Please see BAJA, Page D4

MUSIC REVIEW

Raul Malo goes mellow country on 'After Hours'

By Tom Gardner
Associated Press Writer

Raul Malo, "After Hours," (New Door Records) Aged Scotch, a fine cigar and the voice of Raul Malo all are acquired tastes.

On "After Hours," the former frontman of the late Mavericks blends some country, some jazz and a touch of pop into a mix that would go well in a smoky joint with a cold drink

snarcs to accompany his soaring tenor in an often torching sound.

It's largely a fine makeout album, but Malo swings on his rendition of Hank Williams' "Cold, Cold Heart," a Louis Prima, and adds a bluesy sound with the Dwight Yoakam-Roger Miller tune "It Only Hurts Me When I Cry" — the closest he comes to the Latin-flavored country sounds of his Mavericks days.

Buck Owens, the father of the Bakersfield sound, wrote "Crying Time" and Ray Charles owns it, but Malo adds a wonderful interpretation.

CHECK THIS THICK OUT: Roger Miller will always be known for his spiky little ditties like "England Swings" and "King of the Road," but he wrote some serious stuff as well. Malo nails one of the best with a solid "Husbands and Wives."

On the Web

For more information, go to <http://www.raulmalo.com/> and a good friend.

"Welcome to My World," "Cold, Cold Heart" "For the Good Times" — are country chestnuts, but Malo makes them sophisticated country with a clarinet, saxes, a tinkly piano and hissing

Local daily newspapers reach **66%** of Hispanics in any 7-day week.*

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Comunidad
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*The 2004 National Study of Newspaper Readership (The Newspaper Council of North America) March 10 to April 12, 2004.

COMICS

B.C. By Johnny Hart

I CAN ONLY SEE ONE SOLUTION TO YOUR CREDIT PROBLEMS.

OH, YEAP? WHAT'S THAT?

IDENTITY THEFT.

PETERS BANK

Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

MAMA I THINK WE SHOULD MOVE TO THE LIVING ROOM.

OH?

YEAH, IT'S BEEN LONGER THAN A LONG TIME.

WE NEED SOME NEW CLOTHES AND NEW FURNITURE!

AND I WOULD START OUT WITH THE COUCH.

...I WANT TO HAVE A POUND OF BEEF, A POUND OF SAUSAGE, A POUND OF...

Baldo By Hector D. Cantu and Carlos Castellanos

MONEY MAKES THE WORLD GO 'ROUND, GO 'ROUND, GO 'ROUND.

I'VE HEARD THAT.

OOOH?

OF COURSE WORKING FOR IT TAKES YOU TOO TIRED TO GET 'ROUND.

Brevity By Guy & Rodd

LIKE MOST BILLIONAIRES, HUGH ANDREWS THE THIRD PREFERS TO BOWL WITH CRYSTAL PINS.

Dilbert By Scott Adams

EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION

THIS JOB WILL LEAVE YOU WITH NO TIME FOR EXERCISE.

YOU WILL WORK LONG HOURS AND CONSUME TRANS FATS UNTIL YOU ARE SHAPED LIKE THIS.

ON A POSITIVE NOTE, OUR PAYROLL DEDUCTION SERVICE ALLOWS YOU TO SAVE MONEY FOR DIRT TO TURN YOUR CUBICLE INTO A BURIAL SITE.

Doonesbury By Gary Trudeau

SO FINALLY I DECIDE I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE. I'VE GOT TO GO TO GERMANY TO THE COLOSSEUM LISTEN TO THE GREAT SPEECHES. I'LL WRITE MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

HE SAYS BEFORE HE LAUNCHES AN INVESTIGATION HE WANTS ME TO THINK ABOUT IT.

THANK YOU ABOUT THAT.

ABOUT THE GUYS AND GIRLS WHO ARE CHIEF MEDICINE MAN, WOULD HE FIND THEM REPRODUCED FROM OUT?

MAMA I WANT TO MAKE A SONG IN 15 MINUTES.

YOUR FATHER!

The Elderberries By Phil Frank and Joe Troise

Good afternoon! Even though I look like a lady, isn't it?

Are you mad? It's like the inside of an over!

The AC still broken? I didn't even notice.

Why is your head wet? Are those swim trunks? Gosh! You've been swimming!

Shh! I'll tell you my secret: I didn't even notice I kept it under your hat. It'll need to be replaced.

Carpool?

For Better or For Worse By Lynn Johnston

IS THIS A BIRTHDAY? WHO'S THE GUY? WHO'S LITTLE?

HE'S MY BIRTHDAY. HE LAUNCHED AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE MURDER OF HIS WIFE. HE'S HERE TO BRING HER HOME.

WHERE'S APRIL'S APPLIC?

APRIL WANTS TO KNOW WHEN THESE PICTURES WERE TAKEN. SHE'S ASKING ABOUT THE PAST.

BECAUSE MYSTERS CAN ONLY STAY SO LONG. I'D BETTA GO.

Frank and Ernest By Bob Thaves

NEWS AND MAGAZINES

HEATED IMMIGRATION DEBATE

THE MELTING POT IS BOILING OVER.

Luann By Greg Evans

THIS IS MY HOUSE. THAT'S MY DAD. I'LL HANDLE THIS, OK?

OH, DAD? YEAH, GO AHEAD.

HEY DAD, LOOKS LIKE YOUR LADDER FELL DOWN.

BRU, BRU, BRU?

IF HAMILATION COULD KILL, I'DVE BEEN DEAD FOR AN HOUR.

CAREFUL YOU GRAY?

Mallard Fillmore By Bruce Tinsley

EXPERTS AND MEDIA CONTINUE TO Ponder WEEK TO Ponder HORRIFIC AND TRAGIC EVENTS ASSOCIATED WITH PRO WRESTLING IN THE PAST FEW YEARS.

IF THEY'RE NOT CAREFUL, THEY COULD GIVE PRO WRESTLING A BAD NAME.

Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis

Zeeba, neighbor? WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU DONE TO MY HOUSE?

We go Home Depot. Spend savings on a deck and cement. Cover your doors and windows. And wendous. How you trapped. Now us feel you?

AND HOW DO YOU GONNA FEEL US?

Dis not proudest moment.

Pickles By Brian Crane

GIRL, DO YOU REMEMBER ALWAYS CALL PHONE NUMBER?

YES, I THINK I WROTE IT DOWN ON MY PALM PILOT.

REALLY? YOUVE GOT A PALM PILOT?

OH, YEAH! IN FACT, IVE GOT TWO OF THEM.

Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady

WE'RE OUT OF BEANS AND BROWNIES! PRODUCE!

ROSE!

SOME OF MY LOVELY CUSTOMERS GET TWO WIGS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

Zits By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott

FOR MORE YOU'LL GO TO SUPER SIZE THESE.

WELL GET YOU A FREE BEVERAGE.

Non Sequitur By Wiley

I DON'T WANT TO LIVE IN A LURIDLY WORLD AND SHE COULDN'T LIVE IN MINE, SO I WANTED TO GET OUT TO MAKE AN OWN WORLD.

WELL TRY.

ESSENTIALLY, WE HAD TO FACE REALITY AND DON'T DENY THAT IT WAS WHAT MEANT TO BE.

I'D GAN THAT THE GLOBE AT I'VE HAD GOT.

TO A WOMAN!

TO REALITY!

Strange Brew By John Deering

SOMEHOW I DID IT WITHOUT DISCONCERTING WHEN THEY USE THOSE KINDS OF MANIPULATIONS.

Face your problems today, Capricorn

IF JULY 19 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Your ambitions could be so strong that you can taste them as this year unfolds. You may be compelled to make dramatic changes and discard outworn ideas, things or people. The best time to make important plans or put crucial ideas into motion is December. Not only can you expect to receive helpful opportunities at that time and assistance from others with any major undertaking, but your street smarts and business ideas will be extremely sound.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't take things for granted. You can't rely upon a casual promise or a friendly assurance. The only way to be sure that things are done right might be to do them yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Patience will pay off. Don't let past experiences stop you from doing things you want when the time is right. Once you have made up your mind, nothing can block your path.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Focus on achieving the outcome you want. Work could become an all-consuming passion. Partners could set tight deadlines or stringent rules could be exacting. Be as good

HOROSCOPE Jeradine Saunders

as your word.

CANCER (June 21-July 23): Hold off. Mercury is in your sign so the personal and set you have been contemplating are moving toward a decision point. You might be overly confident or could need additional information. Do not act.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't dwell on problems. If you persist in reliving past events linked to negative feelings, those thoughts will continue to make you feel bad and paralyze your efforts. Time is your ally.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Pick a hero. Pay attention to the buzz of the beehive and set your sights on getting as close as possible to the queen. Be skeptical of casual assurances and promises that can't be met.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Let other people call the shots. It is necessary to get along with those who create the rules or have control of conditions. It is also important to complete tasks, jobs or projects as agreed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

Pour the good over the bad. Visualize a good feeling and amplify it, then use it to smooth any bad feeling that keeps nudging at your consciousness. Avoid initiating new business projects.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let frustrated ambitions force you to act. The obsessions or compelling desires that pop up now should be left to simmer on the back burner. Do not make changes or decisions.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): To conquer a problem, meet it head on and look it in the eye. While you are likely to receive a positive response or encouragement from others, don't depend on their advice or judgment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Overcome adversity by proving you are an isle of excellence in a sea of mediocrity. Just remember that those in charge might resent being outdone or outshone.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may be speared by a shaft of inspiration. Don't be emotional or sentimental when objectivity would serve better. Attend to the matters at hand and hold off on acting on your musings.

COMICS

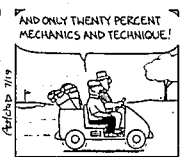
Beetle Bailey



Blondie



The Born Loser



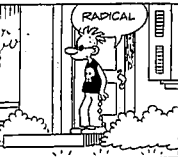
Garfield



Hagar the Horrible



Hi and Lois



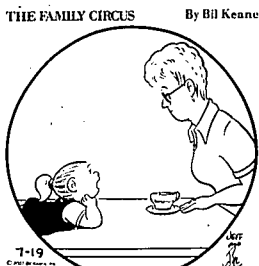
Classic Peanuts



The Wizard of Id



Dennis the Menace



"DON'T WORRY, DAD. IF I SEE ANY BIG WAVES COMIN', I'LL HOLD MY NOSE... AND YOURS, TOO!"

College degree doesn't come with a guaranteed paycheck

DEAR ABBY: I agree with your advice to "Looking Twice in Idaho" (May 21), who has concerns about his girlfriend's lack of a college degree. You suggested premarital counsel-



DEAR ABBY
Jeane
Phillips

Twenty years ago, I married a professional. I married him for "love" and thought that was why he married me. Over the years I have realized that in his eyes, love and money are on the same page. I have overheard him talking with his friends, saying, "Well, she only makes enough money for groceries!"

If "Looking" has doubts now, then there is a real problem. He should break up with that girl before she wastes any more time on him. She's still young enough to find someone who will love her for herself, and not the amount of money she'll bring in.

—GROGGER GIRLIN
GLEN ALLEN

DEAR ABBY: If "Looking" wanted a college-educated woman, then why did he date and start living with someone who is not? Was it just a fling? Was he thinking an uneducated woman was fine to use until college came along?

His girlfriend is the one who should be questioning their relationship and having major concerns about his ability to care for her. With his hang-ups, what values will he pass on to his children? Will he treat her as a second-class person, not an equal and respected partner in the marriage?

I think he is a shallow person, and I hope she has better sense than to marry him.

—NANCY IN HOUSTON

any marriage he enters into. There is nothing wrong with a wife who prefers to manage her home and devote herself to her children and husband. Get a grip, "Looking." Your immaturity is showing.

—TOM IN ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

DEAR ABBY: Since when does love require a college degree? This is the silliest excuse I have ever seen for trying to get rid of someone.

I never graduated from high school, having dropped out to pursue "life" as I saw it. I went back five years later and got my GED — for myself. My husband spent seven years in college and received his bachelor's and master's in English.

I started working for a furniture store when I was 17 and have been there ever since. My boss created a husband earns less than half of what I do — proof that a piece of paper does not make one a success! Love is blind, and it does not earn a salary.

—THE BREADWINNER IN CINCINNATI

DEAR ABBY: I, too, have only a high school education.

Not all college degrees are created equal, and a college degree does not automatically insulate one from life's misfortunes or economic setbacks. This couple should definitely make sure they have compatible financial and personal goals. However, the prospect that a lack of a college diploma will cripple his future wife's earning potential any more than his possession of one will guarantee it.

—LISA IN SAN JOSE, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: Many readers wrote to say that marriage should be based on love, not love of money. However, opinions regarding who should leave that relationship and why varied. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: It is the girlfriend who should exit the relationship — and the sooner the better!

"Looking" equates success with the future paycheck of a woman he admits is kind and considerate and who loves him. He not she, will be the problem in any potential marriage. He should value his girlfriend for who she is, not for her earning capacity. His attitude will inevitably destroy

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 19, the 200th day of 2007. There are 165 days left in the year.

Today's highlight

On July 19, 1848, a pioneer women's rights convention convened in Seneca Falls, N.Y.

On this date:

In 1533, 15-year-old Lady Jane Grey was deposed as Queen of England after claiming the crown for nine days. King Henry VIII's daughter Mary was proclaimed Queen.

In 1870, the Franco-Prussian war began.

In 1941, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill launched his "V for Victory" campaign in Europe.

In 1969, Apollo 11 and its astronauts, Neil Armstrong, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin and Michael Collins, went into orbit around the moon.

In 1975, the Apollo and Soyuz space capsules that were linked in orbit for two days separated.

In 1980, the Moscow Summer Olympics began, minus dozens of nations that were boycotting the games because of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan. In 1984, U.S. Rep. Geraldine A. Ferraro, D-N.Y., won the democratic nomination for vice president by acclamation at the party's convention in San Francisco.

In 1989, 112 people were killed when a United Air Lines DC-10 crashed while making an emergency landing at Sioux City, Iowa; 194 other people survived.

In 1996, opening ceremonies were held in Atlanta for the 26th Summer Olympic Games.

Ten years ago: The Irish Republican Army declared a new cease-fire and opened the way for supporters to join peace talks with Northern Ireland's pro-British Protestants. Eleven armored carriers from NATO gathered

in a show of force near the home of ousted Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, Bosnia's No. 1 war crimes suspect.

Five years ago: The Dow Jones Industrial dived below their post-terrorist attack lows in a 390-point sell-off. Conagra Beef Co. of Colorado announced plans to destroy 19 million pounds of hamburger meat because of E. coli concerns. Alejandro Avila was arrested in connection with the slaying of a 17-year-old Samantha R. Runtion of Stanton, Calif. Celebrated musician Alan Lomax died in Safety Harbor, Fla., at age 87.

One year ago: President George Bush issued his first presidential veto, rejecting a bill that could have multiplied federal money for embryonic stem cell research. Prosecutors reported that Chicago police beat, kicked, shocked or otherwise tortured scores of black suspects from the 1970s to the early 1990s to try to extract confessions from them. Actor Jack Wardian died in New York at age 85.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Former Sen. George McGovern is 85. Actor Pat Hingle is 83. Actress Helen Gallagher is 81. Country singer Sue Thompson is 81. Country singer George Hamilton IV is 70. Actor Dennis Cole is 67. Singer Vikki Carr is 66.

Country singer-musician Commander Cody is 63. Actor George Dzundza is 62. Rock singer-musician Alan Gorrie (Average White Band) is 61. Rock musician Brian May is 60. Rock musician Bernie Leadon is 60. Actress Beverly Archer is 59.

Actor Peter Batten is 51. Rock musician Kevin Haskins (Love and Rockets; Bauhaus) is 47. Movie director Atom Egoyan is 47. Actor Campbell Scott is 46. Actor Anthony Edwards is 45.

Country singer Kelly Shiver is 41. Actress Clio Lewis is 42. Classical singer Urs Buhler (Il Divo) is 38. Actor Andrew Kavovit is 36. Actress Rachel Miner is 27. Actor Jared Padalecki is 25. Actor Steven Anthony Lawrence is 17.

THOUGHT

"An optimist sees opportunity in every calamity. A pessimist sees calamity in every opportunity."

— Anonymous

Firefighters cut holes in roof for training drill, then discover it's the wrong house

BRAINTREE, Mass. (AP) — It looked like a textbook training exercise, but there was something amiss.

Firefighters drove to a vacant house on Tuesday, cut holes in the roof and walls, and broke windows to test their tools and their proficiency. The problem? It was the wrong house.

They were supposed to be two blocks away at a house slated for demolition.

The owners of the damaged home now want the town pay for the mistake, but they're trying to keep a sense of humor about it.

"Accidents happen," said Jeffrey Luu, who owns the house with his brother, Clayton. "Luckily, nobody got hurt," added Clayton Luu.

The home had been vacant since an electrical fire last year left a scorch mark up one side. The knee-high grass had

been cut in several weeks. The owners were planning a renovation of the house.

The fire department is conducting an internal investigation. Deputy Chief John Donahue said in a statement, but officials otherwise remained tightlipped and refused about the incident.

Meanwhile, the house where the firefighters were supposed to train was demolished later Tuesday as scheduled.

COMUNIDAD/WORLD

Jet skids off runway, killing 189 in Brazil

By Stan Lehman
Associated Press writer

SAO PAULO, Brazil — Brazil's deadliest jetliner crash was an accident foretold. For months, air safety concerns have been aired in congressional hearings, and pilots and traffic controllers have worried for years about the short, slippery runways at Brazil's busiest airport.

Landing on the 6,362-foot-long runway at Sao Paulo's Congonhas airport is so challenging that pilots liken it to an aircraft carrier — if they don't touch down precisely within the tarmac's first 1,000 feet, they're warned to pull up and circle around again. The ungrooved runway becomes even more treacherous in the rain when it turns into a slick landing surface.



Firefighters work at the site where a TAM airlines commercial jet crashed in Sao Paulo, Wednesday.

The runway appears to have been a key factor in Tuesday's crash, and critics condemned President Luis Inacio da Silva's government Wednesday for failing to invest in safety measures adopted by other urban airports.

None of the 186 people on board survived. TAM Linhas Aereas SA chief executive Marco Antonio Bologna said Wednesday. Three TAM workers on the ground also died and another 11 were hospitalized.

Firefighters pulled at least 17 charred bodies from the site where the Airbus-320 crashed, igniting in a 1,830-degree fireball. The plane slammed into a gas station and a TAM Airlines building after narrowly clearing the airport's perimeter fence and rushing traffic on a surrounding highway.

"What appears to have happened is that he didn't manage to land and he tried to take off again," said Capt. Marcos, a spokesman for the Sao Paulo Fire Department, who would

not release his last name in accordance with department guidelines.

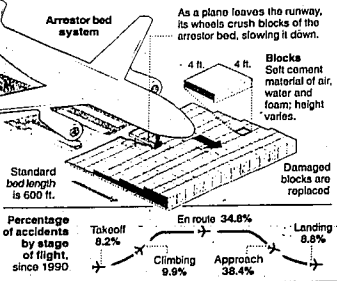
Also, video footage of the landing shows TAM Flight 3054 from Porto Alegre coming in faster than other planes, said Sen. Demostenes Torres, chief of a Senate commission investigating problems with Brazilian civil aviation.

"On parts of the runway that most planes took 11 seconds to traverse, this plane took three," Torres said.

Torres said the plane's two black boxes would be sent the U.S. for analysis. Meanwhile, French and U.S. safety investigators are assisting the Brazilians in probing the cause of the crash.

Safer alternative for runway extensions

For airports that do not have enough space for runway extensions, one alternative is to install soft ground beds, known as arrestor beds, which can provide extra overrun safety for landings.



SOURCES: Engineered Arresting Systems Corp.; Flight Safety Foundation

International air safety experts have long warned of the danger of just such an accident on the short runway at Sao Paulo's airport, especially in heavy rain. Only the day before, two other planes skidded off the runway's end.

But Bologna said it was too early to say what went wrong. "We have to wait for the results of the investigations to know the cause," he said. "It would be premature to make any assumptions about the runway."

Like many congested urban airports, Sao Paulo's domestic air travel hub is surrounded by development and has no room for the runway extensions recommended by air safety groups. New York's LaGuardia Airport, by contrast, has a 7,003-foot runway.

But the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations said Wednesday the accident shows the need for the next best thing — braking systems of soft cement beyond the runway, where wheels can sink in and slow the jets to a safe stop.

The soft cement is strong enough to support airport emergency vehicles, but disintegrates into fragments when a heavy aircraft runs over it, thus acting as a brake.

Known as an arrestor bed, the system has prevented several planes from ending up in the bay next to New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, said Gideon Ewers, the pilot group's spokesman.

Critics condemned Silva's government for its failure to fix Brazil's air traffic problems in the months since 154 people were killed in the September collision of a Gol Airlines Boeing 737 with a small jet over the Amazon rainforest.

"It's been 10 months since the last worst air accident in Brazilian history and now

we've had an accident worse than that," said David Fleischer, a political scientist at the University of Brasilia. "If you look at what's happened since September, the answer is nothing."

"It was a tragedy foretold," said political commentator Lucia Hippolito. "The government has done nothing because of administrative inefficiency and simple incompetence."

She has been unable to wrest control of the civil aviation system from the military, which oversees Brazil's air traffic controllers and has filled top positions at the national aviation agency with political appointees with little or no experience.

Defense Minister Waldir Pires warned people not to point fingers. "It's a moment for caution, and until the results of the investigation are known, it's better to maintain sobriety and avoid quick judgments," Pires said.

The accident is certain to have political ramifications, however, if only because the dead included Rep. Julio Redecker, 51, a leader of the opposition Brazilian Social Democracy Party and vocal critic of Silva's handling of the aviation crisis.

"President Lula needs to act and not speak. Or his term will be marked by the suffering and pain of so many Brazilians that could be still be alive," read a statement from Redecker's party.

Congressional investigations have raised questions about the country's underfunded air traffic control system, deficient radar and lack of investment in infrastructure, even as airlines struggle to cope with a surge in air travel caused by Brazil's booming economy.

FREEDOM SCREAM



Inmates of Reclusorio Oriente prison perform a musical drama called 'Don Quixote, freedom scream' in Mexico City, July 11. Inmates are allowed to perform cultural events as part of the prison's rehabilitation programs.

Baja

Continued from page D1

important source of fresh water," said Norma Sanchez of Angeles del Estero (Angels of the Estuary), an environmental group. "Why doesn't anyone care to save it?"

Only a narrow berm of earth separates the marina from the ocean, and the berm is removed, boats will be free to enter. Environmentalists are fighting to stop the project, which eventually is to include hotels and golf courses.

They argue that the excavation of the marina probably has already contaminated the area's freshwater aquifer, a charge the developers dispute. The full project could further affect the wildlife habitat.

"They are planning hotels,

beach clubs and condominiums," Sanchez said. "These and other developments will completely surround the ecological reserve" established to protect the estuary, she added.

Representatives of the project's Mexican developers, Grupo Quintero, said they have complied with all environmental laws. A hydrological study recently commissioned by the company found that the estuary would not be contaminated by the marina project, spokesman Agustin de la Barra said. The water pressure from the fresh-water aquifer is simply too great to allow ocean water to penetrate, De la Barra said.

The company Web site proclaims the marina "the area's

most ambitious development project in a generation." The marina will accommodate 500 boats, "including luxury mega-yachts," the site says.

The controversy over Puerto Los Cabos points to what is an eternal conundrum in this region: how to accommodate legions of tourists whose dollars are essential to the local economy without destroying the natural beauty that draws them.

"Our beaches are free of pollution, and that is a plus for our state," said Marco Gonzalez, the representative in Baja California Sur state for Mexico's federal Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources. "Unfortunately, all of this new development has proceeded very quickly."

New hotels, spas, golf courses and condominium complexes dot the coastal highway between here and Cabo San Lucas, 20 miles to the southwest. The growth has left state and local officials far behind in their environmental planning, Gonzalez said.

Developers paid a fee of about \$460,000 to ameliorate any environmental impact, Gonzalez said that if the project were found to be in violation of environmental regulations it could be halted and the builders forced to restore the area to its natural state. It remains unclear when the nearly complete marina might open.

Gonzalez said he did not think the outstanding issues were of "serious concern."

Marry

Continued from page D1

"We call ourselves a Christian country, but you've got to go to Georgia or Kentucky in order to get married," Breen said. "We're supposed to be pro-family."

The Rev. Neil Pezzulo, a Roman Catholic priest in rural Arkansas' Scott County, said immigrant couples keep coming in with marriage licenses issued in a neighboring county with a more liberal policy.

Scott County Clerk Sandy Staggs said state law requires a Social Security number, but for people who don't have one, her office also accepts a birth certificate, translated into English, and a photo ID.

As for how the policy could differ from one county to the next, Pezzulo said: "My suspicion is it has to do more with religious and political agendas than an understanding of the law."



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INSIDE: Get the early scoop on weekend garage sales. E14

Garage 49 sales

E
THURSDAY
July 19, 2007

INSIDE: Classifieds, E3-16 | Service directory, E11 | Sudoku, E3 | Jumble, E9 | Crossword, E10 | Bridge, E15

Market Watch

July 19, 2007

Dow Jones Industrials	-53.33
Nasdaq composite	2,099.49
Standard & Poor's 500	-3.20
Russell 2000	845.91

Stocks of local interest

ConAgra	26.66	▲ 0.24
Dell Inc.	28.99	▼ 0.20
Idacorp	31.83	▲ 0.28
Lithia Motors	23.93	▼ 0.04
Micron	13.68	▲ 0.49
Supervalu	49.67	▲ 2.17

Commodities

Aug. Oil	75.05	▲ 1.03
Live cattle	91.38	▼ 0.58
Aug. gold	673.7	▲ 7.8

For more, see page E2

Pump reprieve



Gas leaks out of the nozzle as Anne Koehn fills up her car at a Shell gas station in Menlo Park, Calif., July 1. Oil prices fell Monday as investors sold to lock in profits from last week's rally, which drove prices above \$70 a barrel for the first time since August.

MONEY BRIEFS

First Fed celebrates Buhl anniversary

BURLINGAME — First Federal will be having its 75th anniversary celebration for its Buhl branch from 5 to 7 p.m. today at 123 Broadway Ave. N.

Community Action holds annual meeting today

BURLEY — South Central Community Action Partnership Inc. will hold its annual board meeting at 6 p.m. today at 314 E. Fifth St., Burley.

Public is invited to attend. For more information, call Ken Rohbinette at 733-9351.

Micron workers could get job loss benefits

BOISE — Recently laid-off employees of Micron Technology Inc. might be eligible for additional benefits if the company persuades the federal government that the workers lost their jobs due to foreign competition.

The company filed a petition with the U.S. Labor Department this month requesting additional assistance for former employees under the Trade Adjustment Assistance program.

If approved, the nearly 900 workers let go from the Boise facility could be eligible to receive extended unemployment benefits, retraining opportunities, and help finding other jobs and relocating.

Micron reported it lost \$225 million in the third quarter that ended May 31, and as a result has to cut a reported 1,100 workers from its Boise facility.

Bancroft family still split on WSJ sale

NEW YORK — In the coming days the future of *The Wall Street Journal* will be determined by a fractious sprawling family descended from an early owner of Dow Jones & Co.

The Bancroft family — many of whose adult even names Bancroft — are deeply divided over whether to accept a \$5 billion takeover offer from media baron Rupert Murdoch. But with Dow Jones' board now in favor of a deal, the pressure is on them to make up their minds quickly.

The next step in the process comes on Monday, when family members are expected to meet to hear a full briefing on the general deal terms that Dow Jones' board signed off on late Tuesday. Then, they'll take several days to think it over.

Consumers got a temporary break in June as inflation moderated

WASHINGTON — Food costs kept rising in June, but motorists finally got some relief at the gas pump, helping to lower inflation to the smallest increase in five months.

The Labor Department reported Wednesday that consumer prices edged up by 0.2 percent in July. That was the best showing since January and far below the 0.7 percent surge in May, the biggest jump in nearly two years.

But with the use of corn for ethanol pushing up food costs and gasoline prices rising again in July, economists said the moderation in inflation could prove temporary.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, delivering the Fed's midyear economic report to Congress, said the Fed perceives inflation as its "predominant" concern.

The Fed closely watches core inflation, which excludes volatile energy and food costs. Those prices rose by 0.2 percent in June, extending a trend of moderation. The rise in the energy and food sectors has not led to wider inflationary pressures.

As long as this continues, analysts said, the fed will remain on hold on interest rates probably into 2008. The Fed has not changed rates for more than a year.

Wall Street did not react to the inflation report, which was in line with expectations. The report did not cause worries that rising inflation could get the Fed to resume raising rates to slow economic growth.

In a separate report, the Commerce Department said housing construction rose 2.3 percent in June to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.467 million units.

Analysts discounted the unexpected increase, noting that applications for building permits fell 7.5 percent, more than double the decline forecast. Permits are considered a better indicator of future trends.

Bernanke said the slump in housing "will likely continue to weigh on economic growth over-coming quarters, although the magnitude of the drag on growth should diminish over time."

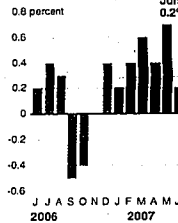
On inflation, Bernanke noted that core inflation has "moderated slightly" in recent months. But he added that some improvement might result from temporary factors.

Bernanke defended the Fed's use of core inflation rather than the overall inflation figure, which includes energy and food. He said the core figure was a better gauge of underlying inflation trends and more useful in forecasting.

Private economists, however, said that explanation probably would offer little comfort to people struggling to pay their gas and

Consumer prices

Changes from the preceding month in the consumer price index for all urban consumers:



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics AP

grocery bills.

"There is a growing gap between how the Fed and investors see inflation and how the average American feels about it," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com.

Gasoline prices, which hit a record of \$3.23 in late May, fell by 1.1 percent in June, the first drop since a 3 percent decline in January. Pump prices, however, have risen again in early July.

Court rejects claim by environmental groups against EPA farm emissions rules

DES MOINES, Iowa — Farms can't be sued over the pollution or odors they emit as long as they have entered into an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency, a federal appeals court ruled.

The ruling, issued Tuesday, was a rebuke to environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, which sued to change an EPA policy that says allows animal feeding operations to skirt environmental laws and only pay nominal fines.

The petitioners maintained that annual feeding operations pollute the air, emit terrible odors and attract droppings of flies that leave droppings on everything from cars to furniture.

"They argued that the EPA did not follow proper rule-making procedures in crafting an agreement to allow farms to avoid legal punishment and lawsuits for violating air emissions requirements. The agreement requires the farms to

pay a civil penalty and give the government permission to monitor the facility for an EPA study of emissions.

Nearly 2,600 animal feeding operations, the majority of them hog farms, have entered into agreement with the EPA.

The EPA intended to give them blanket amnesty in the form of, "You send us a check... and we'll guarantee that no one will sue you," said David Bookbinder, senior attorney for the Sierra Club.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, however, found in its 2-1 ruling that the EPA was exercising a valid use of the agency's enforcement discretion by entering into agreements with the farms.

A call to the groups' attorney, Brent J. Newell, was not immediately returned.

Luke W. Cole, the executive director of the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment, said it was reviewing the decision to determine its next course of action.

The season of flexible Fridays

Summer schedules allow employees longer weekends

The Baltimore Sun

Come summer time, many employees at public relations and marketing company Imre Communications in Towson, Md., take off early on Fridays to jump-start their beach weekend, spend a mother-daughter day at the salon or simply to run errands.

At 1 p.m., the stampede starts, said Martha Mallonee, Imre's vice president in charge of associations accounts.

But Mallonee and the other 20 or so stampedeers on a recent Friday aren't playing hooky. It's company policy.

Imre's half-days on Fridays is one example of how employers are offering flexible hours and schedules during summer's hazy days when distractions are plenty, workplace consultants say.

Of course, managers still expect work to be completed, deadlines met and offices staffed. So employers are using a variety of methods — including earlier start and end times and a compressed work week



Imre's Lisa Along, left to right, a human resources manager, and Kim Crogran, accounting manager, head out at 1 p.m. as marketing manager Melissa Dobros, working a full day, waves goodbye.

with either early Friday departures or taking every other Friday off — to provide their workers with this perk while maintaining productivity, consultants say.

Summer work schedules have been in place at universities, nonprofit organizations and government agencies and contractors for many years. In fact, Friday morning drives to Washington during the summer feels less congested, "except for the people going to the beach," said Jane Weltmann, a senior consultant at Watson Wyatt Worldwide, a global human resource and consultant company, who commutes from Annapolis, Md.

Still, summer hours remain a relatively unusual benefit at businesses such as professional services and consulting companies, which have year-round deadlines and serve clients in time zones across the globe. The number of large companies that offer summer hours has stayed constant at 10 percent to 12 percent for the last seven years, according to a survey of more than 500 large companies by global human resources firm Hewitt Associates. Other options such as telecommuting, compressed work schedules and job sharing are more popular, the survey found.

Much less for those with more

Wealthy farmers would get payed less in House version of farm bill

WASHINGTON — Government payouts to the wealthiest farmers would be blocked in a House committee's version of a wide-ranging, five-year farm bill.

The House Agriculture Committee approved amendments on Wednesday that would limit payments to wealthy farmers as part of the current legislation, which provides cash and other help to supplement farmers' incomes, support crop prices and manage supplies. Current law overseeing Agriculture Department programs expires in September.

The limits are a response to a growing number of critics, including the Bush administration, who say the country's farm subsidies need a major overhaul.

The legislation, by House Agriculture Chairman Colin Peterson, D-Minn., would ban payments to those who make an average of \$1 million or more a year over three years, and eliminate provisions that allow some farmers to collect payments for several different properties. Current law would limit payments to those with an average income of more than \$2.5 million.

At the same time, the bill would increase the maximum limit on direct payments, subsidies that are not based on current crop production or prices.

Peterson said the proposal "is a sound compromise that no one is satisfied with but nonetheless represents real reform," adding that the payment limits are expected to save the government \$226 million over five years.

But that is not enough for some critics who are hoping to wean farmers off subsidies altogether. Wisconsin Rep. Ron Kind, a Democrat, said Peterson's proposals are "a far cry from meaningful reform."

"Simply limiting payments to farmers whose adjusted gross income is \$1 million will not get to the heart of the problems with commodity programs," Kind said. "It will do very little to make our agriculture policies more equitable, will not address the real challenges we face at the WTO, and it will not do anything to help our farmers produce for the market rather than for the government paycheck."

COMING SUNDAY

The Times-News will publish a report on the Magic Valley's top farm-subsidy recipients in 2005.

MONEY

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg. Lists various financial instruments and their prices.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg. Lists mutual fund performance data.

MUTUAL FUNDS

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COMMODITIES REPORT

CLOSING FUTURES

Table with columns: Commodity, High, Low, Change. Lists commodity futures prices.

COMMODITIES REPORT

CHEESE

Block 1, 300 lbs. 4.20-4.25... Block 2, 300 lbs. 4.20-4.25...

POTATOES

Block 1, 500 lbs. 1.50-1.55... Block 2, 500 lbs. 1.50-1.55...

LIVESTOCK

Block 1, 100 lbs. 1.20-1.25... Block 2, 100 lbs. 1.20-1.25...

BEANS

Block 1, 100 lbs. 1.20-1.25... Block 2, 100 lbs. 1.20-1.25...

GRAINS

Block 1, 100 lbs. 1.20-1.25... Block 2, 100 lbs. 1.20-1.25...

METALS/MONEY

Block 1, 100 lbs. 1.20-1.25... Block 2, 100 lbs. 1.20-1.25...

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg. Lists NYSE stock prices.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with columns: NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ. Lists market summary data.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg. Lists NASDAQ stock prices.

INDEXES

Table with columns: Index Name, Value, Change. Lists market index values.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg. Lists local stock prices.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Here are the 525 most active stocks on the New York Stock Exchange... Name: Stock is listed alphabetically by the company's full name...

AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

Table with columns: Name, Div, Last, Chg. Lists American Stock Exchange prices.

209 General HAIR STYLIST If you're not smiling \$9-\$16/hour... Great Clips will offer you...

209 General HOTEL PT Server. Nights & weekends. Apply in person at Canyon Springs 1357 Blue Lakes, N.

209 General MAINTENANCE Person needed immediately. Please call 234-5677 for more details.

209 General RESTAURANT Kitchen Help. days & evenings. Call Stan at 734-4154 between 9am-12pm.

211 Medical MEDICAL We are expanding our team! Idaho Home Health & Hospice is now hiring for part-time and PRN LPN's to work in the schools & in-home nursing shifts.

213 Professional PROFESSIONAL Part time position for Planning & Zoning Administrator. Hours to be set by admin of commission.

216 Trades AUTOMOTIVE Full-time position available for Labate Tech. Health maintenance person M-F. Must have own tools & be self motivated 734-9062.

301 Business Opportunities 301 Business Opportunities KIMBERLY Shop, storage, office ready, scales, FRB, top floor, full monty.

REAL ESTATE 501 Open House 502 Homes for Sale 501 Out-Of-State Homes 511 Out-Of-State Homes 513 Farms/Homes/Lakes 514 Income Property 515 Commercial Property 517 Vacation Prop 518 Time Share 519 Time Share 519 Mobile Homes 519 Real Estate Wanted 521 Manufactured Home

Graphic Designer The Wood River Journal. The Wood River Journal, located in the Sun Valley area of Idaho, is looking for a Graphic and Page Designer to join our team.

RESTAURANT Chef/Server. We are looking for a dynamic individual to take on the role of Chef/Server at our new location in the Garden Cafe.

MEDICAL Home Health Care. We are looking for a dynamic individual to take on the role of Home Health Care Coordinator at our new location in the Garden Cafe.

MEDICAL Home Health Care. We are looking for a dynamic individual to take on the role of Home Health Care Coordinator at our new location in the Garden Cafe.

214 Retail Retail Sales. We are looking for a dynamic individual to take on the role of Retail Sales Associate at our new location in the Garden Cafe.

Mechanic Diesel. We are looking for a dynamic individual to take on the role of Diesel Mechanic at our new location in the Garden Cafe.

304 Investments DRACO INVESTMENT. We are looking for a dynamic individual to take on the role of Investment Advisor at our new location in the Garden Cafe.

OPEN HOUSE. We are looking for a dynamic individual to take on the role of Real Estate Agent at our new location in the Garden Cafe.

EARN EXTRA CASH BY DELIVERING THE Times-News. We are currently accepting applications for independent contractors to deliver the Times-News to our customers.

MEDICAL Home Health Care. We are looking for a dynamic individual to take on the role of Home Health Care Coordinator at our new location in the Garden Cafe.

216 Trades BURLEY. We are looking for a dynamic individual to take on the role of Tradesperson at our new location in the Garden Cafe.

MOTOR ROUTES. We are looking for a dynamic individual to take on the role of Motor Route Driver at our new location in the Garden Cafe.

SCHOOL. We are looking for a dynamic individual to take on the role of School Administrator at our new location in the Garden Cafe.

Homes For Sale. We are looking for a dynamic individual to take on the role of Real Estate Agent at our new location in the Garden Cafe.

Table with 4 columns of route information for Times-News delivery. Columns include location (e.g., TWIN FALLS, RUPERT), route number (e.g., 1, 2, 3), and contact information (e.g., Kathy Harman 735-3348).

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Homes For Sale
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 www.theinspecto.com
 For buyers & sellers
 Bill Baker 328-5115

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 208-308-0703

Homes For Sale
KIMBERLY Price reduced. New construction 07. 641 Gamat. 308-1152. Joe or 208-438-4787 Brian.
HAGERMAN
 1255 sq. ft., 3 bdrm., 2 bath. CHA. Pergo flooring. Large landscaped corner lot. Vinyl fence, extended garage, sprinklers. Near Oregon Trail Elementary 574 Placido Dr \$149,900 208-420-0782

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Homes For Sale
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 MLS #98380459
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 Betsy Florence 280-3800 **\$329,500**

962 STARLIGHT LOOP


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 Over 1550 sq ft sq ft, 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Laminated floors, separate tub & shower in master.
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 MLS #9879735
TWIN FALLS
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 Betsy Florence 280-3800 **\$352,000**


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 MLS #98306503
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 Kay Kendrick 948-9400 **\$319,900**

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 MLS #98383597
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 Val Hanks 421-0858 **\$336,900**

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 MLS #98312470
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Thursday

'Oklahoma!
In Oakley
Page 12

Also inside: 'Hahspray' a hit.....page 4

'Noises Off!' in Buht

The twilight of * magic

A black and white photograph of a hand holding a glowing orb against a starry night sky. The hand is on the left, and the orb is on the right, emitting a bright light. The background is dark with many small stars and a few larger, brighter stars. The overall mood is magical and ethereal.

Staples

MoviesPages 5-6
 New on DVDPage 7
 Events
 calendarPages 8-9
 Dining guidePage 10-11, 15
 Karaoke CornerPage 14-15

On the cover

Millions of Harry Potter fans of all ages are awaiting the Saturday release for the seventh and final Harry Potter book, 'Harry Potter and the Ghostly Hallows.'

TNT

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Postmaster, please send change of address form to: P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, Idaho 83303.

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TOP 5

The week's most popular media, compiled by The Associated Press

TELEVISION

1. "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," CBS.
2. "Smarter Than a 5th Grader" (Thursday), Fox.
3. "CSI: Miami," CBS.
4. "60 Minutes," CBS.
5. "Two and a Half Men," CBS.

—From Nielsen Media Research

FILM

1. "Transformers," Paramount.
2. "Ratatouille," Disney.
3. "Live Free or Die Hard," Fox.
4. "License to Wed," Warner Bros.
5. "Evan Almighty," Universal.

—From Media By Numbers LLC

HOT FIVE

1. "Umbralla," Rihanna feat. Jay-Z, SRP/Dvd Jam/DJMG.
2. "Hey There Delilah," Plain White T's, Hollywood.
3. "Big Girls Don't Cry," Fergie, will.i.am/AM/Interscope.
4. "Party Like a Rockstar," Shop Boyz, OnDeck/Universal Republic.
5. "Buy U a Drink (Shawty Snappin')," T-Pain feat. Yung Joc, Konvict/Happy Boy/Live/Zomba.

—From Billboard magazine

ALBUMS

1. "I...vs...T.I.P.," T.I. Grand Hustle.
2. "Hallelujah Montana 2 (Soundtrack)/Meat Miley Cyrus," Miley Cyrus, Walt Disney/Hollywood.
3. "My December," Kelly Clarkson, RCA/RMG.
4. "Lost Highway," Bon Jovi, Mercury/Interscope/JMG/VJG.
5. "Libertal," Volbeat Revolver, RCA.

CONCERT TOURS

1. The Police.
2. Tim McGraw/Faith Hill.
3. Kenny Chesney.
4. Roger Waters.
5. Cirque Du Soleil — "Delirium."

—From Pollstar

VIDEO SALES

1. "Yoga Conditioning for Athletes," Galam Video.
2. "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (Special Edition)," Walt Disney Home Entertainment.

3. "Back Care Conditioning Kit," Galam Video.
4. "Men in Black II," Sony Pictures Home Entertainment.
5. "Notting Hill," Universal Studios Home Video.

—From Billboard magazine

VIDEO RENTALS

1. "Shooter," Paramount Home Entertainment.
2. "Ghost Rider," Sony Pictures Home Entertainment.
3. "Black Snake Moan," Paramount Home Entertainment.
4. "Bridge to Terabithia," Walt Disney Home Entertainment.
5. "Dead Silence," Universal Studios Home Video.

—From Billboard magazine

DVD SALES

1. "Shooter," Paramount Home Entertainment.
2. "Bridge to Terabithia," Walt Disney Home Entertainment.
3. "Ghost Rider," Sony Pictures Home Entertainment.
4. "Night at the Museum," 20th Century Fox.
5. "Fido," Lionsgate Home Entertainment.

—From Billboard magazine

BEST-SELLING BOOKS

1. "The Quicke," by James Patterson, Michael Ledwidge (Little, Brown and Company) (fiction/hardcover).
2. "A Thousand Splendid Suns" by Khaled Hosseini (Riverhead Hardcover) (fiction/hardcover).
3. "The Cliche AB: Sealed With a Kiss" by Lisl Harrison (Poppy) (fiction/paperback).
4. "The Secret" by Rhonda Byrne (Broadway Words) (non-fiction/hardcover).
5. "Lean Mean Thirteen" by Janet Evanovich (St. Martin's Press) (fiction/hardcover).

—From USA Today

TOP ITUNES DOWNLOADS

1. "Hey There Delilah," Plain White T's
2. "Umbralla," Rihanna
3. "Big Girls Don't Cry," Fergie
4. "The Way I Are," Timbaland
4. "A Bay Bay," Hurricane Chris

—From Apple Computers, Inc.

VIDEO GAME REVIEW



Federal agent Leon Kennedy is charged with saving the president's daughter from a mysterious culture in the new PC and Wii versions of 'Resident Evil 4.'

'Resident Evil 4' finds new life on Wii

BY GEORGE MATHS
 Cox News Service

The fabled survival horror game "Resident Evil 4" finally lurches onto the PC (\$19.99) and Wii (\$29.99) as a budget title — and two disparate video games.

While the PC version is largely an uninspired repackaging of the outstanding 2005 game release, the Wii's motion-sensitive controls bring new life to this action-packed zombie-fest. Those familiar with the series will feel right at home in the shoes of federal agent Leon Kennedy, charged with saving the president's daughter from a mysterious cult.

Visually, not much has changed in two years. The PC version looks similar to an earlier PlayStation 2 game, while the Wii version apes the graph-

cally superior GameCube version. Sonically, "RE4" is also as creepy as ever. Sound effects are among the best in gaming and add to the feeling that you're about to be eaten alive. But it's the controls that truly separate the PC and Wii ports.

On the Wii, chopping, slashing and shooting parasite-controlled humans have never been more visceral. Unlike some Wii titles, Wii-mote works without a hitch.

The PC version has no mouse support, and the keyboard controls are so bad that gamers will be forced to purchase a game pad. (Perhaps that's why the game costs less than \$20.)

The original "RE4" was considered one of the best games ever made. Two years later, it may be the best action game available on the Wii.

Growing up with Harry

Potter series ending, but allure will remain for young fan

BY MIANA BREED
For The Associated Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — My generation has grown up with Harry Potter. We've grown attached to him — whether on purpose or by just hearing Daniel Radcliffe say, "Expecto Patronum!" on-screen — and we don't want to let him go.

First, we fell in love with the wonderful books based on his adventures and then we fell in love with the movies that brought this story to life. We've grown attached to Harry and his merry band of mischievous pals. We've sympathized with him when he mourned for his parents. We've felt hatred with him when he confronted Malfoy. We've felt happiness with him when he found love.

Now, we're all wondering what "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" — the final book — will bring. Will it mean an end to Harry's life as such a young age? Will the triumph over evil?

To me, the end of this series coincides with the ending of middle school — seeing all your friends go, wondering if you'll ever see them again, crying while you hug those who are gone forever. Losing Harry is just like losing one of my best friends.

My relationship with Harry started so long ago, when I was 8.

At first, I didn't want to read the books because I'm just stubborn like that — everyone was reading them, so I didn't want to. And then, my mom read me the second one on the way to Kentucky. Yeah, most people read the series in order, but not me: I read the one I have in front of my face at any given moment. After I read "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets," I needed more Harry. So I whined in my dad, annoying voice to force my dad to stop and buy the first,



second, third and fourth books.

"Don't you want to wait until it comes out in paperback" my dad asked as I held the fourth book tight.

"NO!" I screamed, walking down the aisle of a bookstore toward the checkout counter. He sighed, shrugging, and followed me with the other three books in his hands.

On the way back from Kentucky, I made my mom read the first one to me while my dad drove. She was my free audiobook, and I wouldn't let her stop reading. Now, I read the books myself because: One, I don't think my mom would be too happy reading all the books in my bookshelf out loud to me; and, two, I enjoy reading a lot more now than I did back then.

Harry has given me a love for books and a love for knowledge that I wouldn't have had without reading the first line of the second book: "Not for the first time, an argument had broken out over breakfast at number four, Privet Drive." He got me to start reading all sorts of different books, and I don't think that I would be as big a fantasy fanatic as I am now without him. Because of Harry, I often stay up until 1 or 2 in the morning, finishing a book that has me hooked. And much to parents' chagrin, I read more than I go outside some days.

Harry also got me writing my own stories, some with my friends and some by myself.

So yes, I have love for Harry. I think everyone does, despite what my guy friends say. And despite criticisms of Harry and his world, he has had a large impact on our own world.

Most of us who've read the Harry Potter series have found ourselves wishing that our principal was more like Dumbledore, or that we had a friend like Ron.

The characters, though rooted in fiction, are very relatable and most of us can identify with Harry, Ron and Hermione on some level. The books have created a whole new world that could be right outside our doors, or inside our train stations. My friend and I used to pretend that we'd gotten accepted to Hogwarts, and, sadly, I think a letter from them might have outshone one from Harvard.

And now, letting Harry go might be one of the hardest things we've ever had to do so far. Every year, kids gathered in their local bookstore to welcome the newest adventure from Harry into their lives. This last one will be the most special to everyone: Harry is close to many people's hearts and no one wants to let him go.

Despite the finality it would bring to the series, I certainly don't want Harry to bite the big one. Someone so young shouldn't die, and I've grown too close to him to let him go in such a big way. The ending of the series is enough for me; Harry shouldn't die on top of it.

Even if Harry doesn't survive, the books will live on and be read and reread.

But I'll always miss Harry Potter.

Life at Hogwarts

For the past several years, Associated Press National Writer Allen G. Breed has taken his daughter, Miana, to the midnight release of the latest Harry Potter book and written a first-person story about the joy and angst of watching Miana and Harry grow up. Miana is 14 now, a rising high schooler and a writer in her own right. She tells readers in her own words what it's meant to grow up with Harry.



Miana Breed re-reads the sixth book in the Harry Potter series, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" at home in Wake Forest, N.C., July 16.

AP photo



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Movie review

Now playing

TWIN FALLS

Twins Cinema
 Evan Almighty
 Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix
 Hoot
 Knocked Up
 Over the Edge
 License to Wed
 Live Free or Die Hard
 Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End
 Ratatouille
 Shrek the Third
 Transformers

Odyssey Theater

1408
 Hairpray
 Ocean's Thirteen
 Paris, Je t'aime
 Sicko
 Waitress

The Orpheum

I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry

Grand Via Drive-in

Knocked Up
 Perfect Stranger
 Wicked Via Drive-in
 Live Free or Die Hard
 28 Weeks Later

HAILEY/KETCHUM

Magic Lantern

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix
 License to Wed
 Live Free or Die Hard
 Ratatouille
 Waitress

Big Wood Cinema

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix
 Live Free or Die Hard
 Ratatouille
 Transformers

SkiTime Cinemas

I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry
 Transformers

BURLEY

Century Cinema

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix
 I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry
 Live Free or Die Hard
 Ratatouille
 Transformers

Burley Theater

Meet the Robinsons

JEROME

Jerome Cinema

Hoot
 I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry
 Over the Hedge
 Ratatouille
 Transformers

Enormously entertaining 'Hairspray' takes hold

BY CHRISTY LEMIRE
 The Associated Press

The world probably didn't need another film version of John Waters' 1988 romp "Hairspray" any more than it needed a Broadway musical version of it. The whole cycle reeks of that movie-of-a-stage-production-of-a-movie debacle that has tainted the legacy of "The Producers."

Having said that, this new brand of "Hairspray" is a hybrid of its predecessors: an enormously entertaining but with only faint traces of Waters' signature dark, kitschy humor. It is, in a word, safe—one you would ordinarily never use to describe Waters' work.

Director and choreographer Adam Shankman keeps the tone light, the hair high and the pacing snappy, even while delivering the film's segregationist-bad message, which seems archaic and obvious 45 years after the movie's setting. (Shankman certainly shows a more deft touch here than he did with "Bringing Down the House" and "The Pacifier.")

But there is something refreshing in the innocence of the film, written by Leslie Dixon, based on both Waters' script and the 2002 Broadway hit. No winking, no mugging—just earnest, wholesome, knock-your-socks-off fun. You'll probably be tempted to burst into applause at the end of the preschool numbers, as several people in the audience did during a recent screening in Hollywood. (The music comes from Marc Shalmar with lyrics by Shalman and Scott Wittman, Tony winners for the stage version.)

Much of the movie's charm radiates from 18-year-old newcomer Nikki Blonsky, an absolute delight as the film's plussed protagonist, Tracy Turnblad, the role that made a then-unknown Ricki Lake a star 20 years ago. She's just so darn perky, so unflappably sunny as



John Travolta, at left, in drag, plays Nikki Blonsky's mom in the new musical version of 'Hairspray.'

'Hairspray'

Starring Nikki Blonsky, Amanda Bynes, Michelle Pfeiffer
 Rated PG for language, some suggestive content and momentary teen smoking.
 Starts Friday at the Odyssey Theater in Twin Falls

she belts her way through the opening tune, "Good Morning Baltimore," she makes it impossible to resist getting caught up in her enthusiasm.

Tracy's greatest dream is to make it as a dancer on "The Corny Collins Show," which she and best friend Penny Pingleton (a cute but stiff Amanda Bynes) scurry home to watch on TV after school—that is, until she discovers the racial discrimination that plagues the program. The show's regulars are billed as "the nicest kids in town," but they're not exactly a diverse bunch. That's why there's Negro Day with host Motormouth Maybelle (Queen Latifah),

which only comes once a month—though, as Tracy gushes, she wishes every day were Negro Day.

She gets her chance to shake things up when Coryn (a perfectly slick James Marsden) notices her during a dance competition. This allows her to show off the new moves she learned from the black kids in detention, including Seaweed (Elijah Kelley), who happens to be Maybelle's son. Kelley, whose biggest role before this was as a dancer in the forgettable "Like the Lead," is hugely charismatic—a great-looking, likable, a talented singer and dancer and as much of a discovery as Blonsky herself.

Trouble is, the brittle station manager Volma Von Tussle (Michelle Pfeiffer) isn't terribly fond of chubby girls or blacks, and feels especially inspired to unleash her wrath when Tracy starts stealing attention from her daughter, Amber (Brittany Snow), the show's spoiled star. From there, it doesn't take long

for Tracy to attract Amber's boyfriend, the dreamy Link Larkin (the dreamy Zac Efron from "High School Musical"). Scheming, romance and race riots ensue—and, of course, more singing and dancing.

Sitting at home in her robe, ironing and watching all these developments from the safety of her row house with a mixture of apprehension and excitement, is Tracy's tubby mother, Edna, played famously by John Travolta in drag. As inhabited by Divine in the original film and Harvey Fierstein on Broadway, the part is intended to be portrayed with high camp.

With Travolta, though, there's no sense of fun. He plays it straight, for lack of a better word, and with a touch of pathos. The joke is completely lost, and you never lose sight of the fact that you're watching the star of "Grease" and "Saturday Night Fever" this time brandishing his trademark dance moves while wearing a fat suit.

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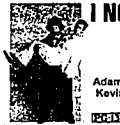
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MOVIES

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Chuck & Larry (13) Daily 7:00 - 9:30
Sat - Sun 4:40 - 7:00 - 9:30

JEROME 4 (Live Action Adventure) (PG)

Transformers (13) in Digital Sound
Daily 7:45 Sat - Sun 12:15 - 4:00 - 7:45

Chuck & Larry (13) Daily 7:00 - 9:30
Sat - Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 7:00 - 9:30

Harry Potter Order of Phoenix (13)
Daily 7:30 Fri - Sun 12:30 - 5:30 - 7:30

Ratatouille (G) Daily 7:15 - 9:45
Fri - Sun 1:00 - 7:15 - 9:45

Summer Matinee #8 July 20
Hoot or Over the Hedge (G)
Fri - Sun 11:30 - 2:00 All Seats \$1.50 - 1:50

Twin 12 (1960s Fantasy) (G)

Pirates of the Caribbean
at Worlds End (13)
Today 12:00 - 3:15 - 7:00 - 9:15
Summer Matinee #8 July 20
Hoot or Over the Hedge (G)
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Shrek the Third (PG)
Today 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30

Live Free or Die Hard (13)
Today 12:00 - 3:15 - 6:45 - 9:30

License to Wed (13)
Today 12:15 - 3:30 - 6:45 - 7:00 - 9:15

Harry Potter and the
Order of the Phoenix (13) (PG) July 20
Today 12:15 - 12:30 - 1:00 - 3:30 - 4:00
5:00 - 7:15 - 7:45 - 9:00 - 10:00

Evan Almighty (PG)
Today 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:30 - 9:45

Walt Disney's Ratatouille (G)
Today 12:30 - 3:00 - 7:30 - 9:45

Knocked Up (R) Daily 7:15 - 9:50
Fri - Sun 12:00 - 3:00 - 7:15 - 9:50

Transformers (13) in Digital Sound
Fri - Sun 12:00 - 3:00 - 7:15 - 9:50
Mon - Thurs 12:00 - 3:15 - 7:15 - 7:45 - 10:00

ODYSSEY 6 (Live Action Adventure) (PG)

Paris 'Je' T'aime (R) Daily 7:00 - 9:30
Fri - Sun 1:00 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:30

Wallace (13) Daily 7:15 - 9:50
Fri - Sun 12:30 - 2:45 - 5:00 - 7:15 - 9:30

Hairspray (PG) Daily 7:30 - 9:45
Fri - Sun 12:45 - 3:00 - 5:15 - 7:30 - 9:45

Ocean's 13 (13) Daily 7:00 - 9:30
Fri - Sun 1:00 - 4:00 - 7:00 - 9:30

"1408" (13) Daily 7:00 - 9:15
Fri - Sun 12:15 - 2:30 - 4:45 - 7:00 - 9:15

Slick (13) Daily 7:15 - 9:45
Fri - Sun 1:00 - 4:00 - 7:15 - 9:45


Motor-Vu (Live Action Adventure) (PG)

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Movies

• "Evan Almighty"/G-

This season's typical summer comedy with Steve Carell as a new congressman being asked by God to build an ark for a pending flood barely gets started before a big dog bites Carell in his privates and then places a little canine poop on his new lawn. Oh, those Hollywood film-makers. Do they know how to get the mundane yucks started or what? "Evan Almighty," a sequel of sorts to "Bruce Almighty" in which Carell played Jim Carrey's TV news nemesis, rarely lifts its comedy quotient much higher. PG. 1 hour, 28 minutes.

• "1408"/B-

The makers of this haunted-hotel thriller know that mutilated corpses are pretty disturbing. But also that, sometimes, there's nothing scarier than the voice of a hotel concierge—from hell, chattering on the wall with perky banality. Or the Carpenters' singing "We've Only Just Begun." John Cusack stars as a writer about paranormal activity who actually doesn't believe in the stuff. That is, until he checks into room 1408 of the Dolphin Hotel, against the manager's (Samuel L. Jackson) warnings. Since the film's trailer already gives away too much of what happens in the room, let's not go there. Just be prepared for some genuine surprises (visual and shock-wise) and a beautifully modulated sense of deep dread. PG. 1 hour, 34 minutes.

• "Hairspray"/No rating

This film adaptation of the Tony award-winning Broadway musical, "Hairspray" features new material based on John Waters' 1988 cult classic about star-struck teenagers on a Baltimore dance show. With John Travolta, Queen Latifah and Michelle Pfeiffer. PG

• "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix"/B-

The moodiest of the young wizard movie yet takes our young wizard down another long, dark path. The movie is at times brilliant with a powerhouse performance by Imelda Staunton. As Hogwarts' deliciously prim, proper and predatory new teacher Dolores Umbridge, she deserves to land the series' first Oscar nomination for acting. But "Phoenix" also has its dull moments. Actually, quite a few. There are scenes with shoddy special effects (the giant introduced in this film and the returning centaurs look particularly bad). And the long-awaited Potter kissing scene with Cho Chang arrives with the barest of plot setups. Most fans probably won't care. PG-13. 2 hours, 18 minutes.

• "I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry"/No rating
Pirelighter Adam Sandler versus Kevin James for saving his life in a fire, and James calls in for interview when civic red taps prevent him from naming his own two kids as his life insurance beneficiaries. Forced to improvise as low-struck newwyds. Sandler

and James must now fumble through a hilarious charade of domestic bliss under one roof. PG-13.

• "Knocked Up"/A-

"Knocked Up" featuring likable co-stars Katherine Heigl (TV's "Grey's Anatomy") and Seth Rogen (TV's "Undeclared" and "Freaks and Geeks") is more than just laugh-out-loud funny. It's the relationship comedy of the summer and likely the best boy-meets-girl movie of the year. Like "There's Something About Mary," this R-rated tale of unexpected pregnancy after a drunken one-night stand is awash in lush humor. Occasionally, the jokes get a little gross. R. 2 hours, 9 minutes.

• "License to Wed"/G-

This halting, sometimes sweet, sometimes silly, always insistent farce has a little romance, a little wedding wisdom, the odd nice moment and the nice odd moment, and Robin Williams, running at half speed. PG-13. 1 hour, 30 minutes.

• "Live Free or Die Hard"/B-

Bruce Willis' "Live Free or Die Hard" is the cinematic beach read of the summer. It's loud, yippee-ki-yay explosive, mostly watchable and, unfortunately, almost entirely forgettable after its final bang. Let's be perfectly clear — this is "Die Hard 4.0," with Bruce Willis as Guy New York Cop John McClane fighting computer badies attempting virtual terrorism to cripple the United States, can't hold a Twinkie to the 1988 original. Vacant-eyed Timothy Olyphant is our cold-stare villain? Gimme a break and gimme the first film's smoldering, funny, Shakespearian snake Alan Rickman any day. But "Live Free," rated a hard PG-13, has bullets and karate kicks to spare. An aging Willis may be a little less nimble, but he's game for any action sequence no matter how ridiculous and unbelievable. 2 hours, 10 minutes.

• "Ocean's Thirteen" PG-13
The "Ocean's Eleven...Twelve...Thirteen...Umpteen" series has always been little more than

a glamour-by-Dolce and Gabbana ad. You know, megastar standing around artfully placed bottles of Stella Artois lager. So it should be no surprise that "Ocean's Thirteen," which takes its overlarded star machine back to Vegas, packs on the glam, glitz and the dropping of the name Sinatra to beg street cred. Fortunately it does all that well enough. So well that in the film's second half, moviegoers may be looking at the best of all three movies. While our monied here-crooks (led by George Clooney and Brad Pitt) are scheming to take down a hotel and casino impresario (Al Pacino) who's done one of our modern-day Rat Packers wrong, the complicated setup comprises a tedious 38 minutes. But once the gig gets under way, this "Ocean's" begins to work. PG-13. 2 hours, 2 minutes.

• "Paris, je t'aime"/No rating

Bring together some of cinema's most eclectic, acclaimed directors (Alexander Payne, Alfonso Cuarón, the Coen brothers) and toss in some of the most intriguing actors working today (Steve Buscemi, Catalina Sandino Moreno, Maggie Gyllenhaal) for a series of shorts celebrating the spirit of Paris and you could either end up with an inspiring mix. As with any collection such as this, the results can be hit and miss. Some shorts tell a complete story and leave you feeling wowed, charmed or moved, while others barely register. R

• "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End"/B-

An exhilarating bit of adventure, eye-popping action, traps, betrayals, grand romance, and, most of all, Johnny Depp. As the impressive Capt. Jack Sparrow, he yet again seals the movie from his co-stars Keira Knightley, Geoffrey Rush, Bill Nighy, Orlando Bloom and newcomer Cloveely O'Connell. The convoluted plot has Jack being rescued from Davy Jones' Locker so he can join the Nine Pirate Lords in an alliance against the East India Trading Co. This installment is about 40 minutes too long, and some of

the dialogue is hard to understand. But the film carries things off with swashbuckling, even hair-raising, style (parent note: some characters are killed off, even nice ones), plus a hopped-for-hint of a "Pirates 4." PG-13. 2 hours, 48 minutes.

• "Ratatouille"/B-

Sure, children will probably enjoy watching the animated adventures of Remy (voiced by comedian Patton Oswalt), a plucky Parisian rat who leaves the colony to pursue his dream of becoming a gourmet chef. There's some slapstick physical comedy, and writer-director Brad Bird keeps things going at a lively, engaging clip. But there's nothing silly or childlike about the thin story. This latest from Disney/Pixar is also visually wondrous in ways that are both lush and intricately detailed, in ways that seem to have been tailored more toward grown-up tastes and sensibilities. It would seem that computer-generated technology couldn't get any better, but wow — it, just does. G. 1 hour, 50 minutes.

• "Shrek the Third"/G-

The third time is not the charm for the immensely popular ogre and his pals. It's tacky, overpopulated, even the ha-ha so-called adult jokes are stale (Ye Olds Boaters: try explaining that to your 6-year-old). When Princess Fiona's (Cameron Diaz) father dies, Shrek (Mike Myers) inherits the throne — no female rulers in Far Far Away, another nice message for the kids. But he just wants his swamp, so he, Donkey (Eddie Murphy) and Puss in Boots (Antonio Banderas) go in search of the next in line, a He-Yu-Du loser named Arnie (Justin Timberlake). PG. 1 hour, 33 minutes.

• "Sicko"/No rating
Oscar-winning documentary incendiary filmmaker Michael Moore takes on the health-care industry. PG-13.

— Review compiled from the *Los Angeles Times* and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

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New on DVD Synopses of films recently released for home viewing



Jim Carrey is just plain nuts in "The Number 23."

New Line Cinema

"The Number 23" R

In a chilling TV commercial that's been airing for a home security system, a mother snaps a photo of her two ballerina daughters. When she glances down at the viewfinder, she sees a man's face in the darkened window behind them. That 30-second spot has more scares in it than the entirety of the ridiculously inept thriller "The Number 23."

Written by newcomer Fernley Phillips and directed by veteran Jim Carrey as Walter Sparrow, an animal-control officer who goes off the deep end after being bitten by a spooky dog named Ned and reading an odd novel found in a used-book store by his wife, Agatha (Virginia Madsen in the lesser of her two supporting wife roles for the week).

The crudely self-published tome, called "The Number 23," details the dark doings of a gumshoe named Fingering who falls victim to a homicidal obsession with the eponymous digits of the book's title.

Sparrow (apparently no relation to Jack) begins to see connections between his life and the mysterious book and becomes likable fixated with the 2-3.

It's a Stephen King-like scenario and if handled with a little nuance might have made for a nice, scary ride. Instead, the

filmmakers get it all wrong from the get-go. Everyone seems to be approaching the material from a different direction with unintentional humor seeping in from all angles.

The story is maddeningly convoluted, and for the little narrative logic that eventually emerges, it might as well have been improvised. Every twist and turn — none of which really adds up in the end — appear to exist strictly for the sake of plot with no thought given to character motivation.

— Los Angeles Times

"Zodiac" R

"Zodiac" gets in trouble even before the title — on its poster it stumbles, though it tells the truth, with a marketing slogan that reads "There's More Than One Way to Lose Your Life to a Killer."

Actually, there's not. The only way that counts and the only way that's interesting is the old way, which is getting killed by the killer. Everything else is bull and spare change.

And that's exactly the problem with this movie: It's not about a killer, or his victims, or the manhunt, or the cops. They're all in it, of course, more or less. But it's about a writer. It's about a young man named Robert Graysmith (Jake Gyllenhaal), who becomes

so obsessed with it he gives up career and family time to pursue endless arcana. For his effort, he's rewarded with a — nervous breakdown? A descent into hell? A face-to-face with pure evil himself? Er, no. His reward is a couple of bestsellers and a new life as a successful and widely admired crime writer, plus the movie deal that resulted in this very film.

The movie is not without value, if it's largely without drama. It evokes the fear that gripped Sam Francisco when a monster calling himself "Zodiac" was on the prowl, emerging now and then from shadows to wreak ugly violence on the random innocent. Zodiac also had a nauseating flair for self-advertising, and like his inspiration, Jack the Ripper, loved to send letters to the papers, complete with boasts, puzzles and mispellings. He needed an editor almost as badly as he needed an executioner.

It also documents the way actual malfeasance enters pop culture and becomes a parody of itself. So sensational was a late Zodiac letter — "I shall wipe out a school bus some morning. Just shoot out the front tire & then pick off the kiddies as they come bouncing out" — that it inspired the movie "Dirty Harry," with its Scorpio villain who brings his wrath to bear on a school bus, but, alas, runs into Clint Eastwood's larger wrath. If that version of the story was infinitely satisfying in its melodramatic symmetry, the reality never achieved such compelling closure. It just eventually ran out of steam.

"Zodiac" gets off with a series of bangs, by dramatizing the third of the Zodiac killer's five "canonical murders."

It's mostly "Zodiac" is people talking. Newsroom politics, media politics, police politics, the friction between jurisdictions, ranks, factions, theorists, all the coming together of personalities and points of view in a massive police effort as tracked by a major journalistic effort, are delineated.

— Washington Post



Lions Gate Films

Ray Liotta and Jolene Blalock are part of the puzzling cross-cutting plot lines in "Slow Burn."

"Slow Burn" R

Anyone who has ever wondered what became of the screenwriter for the Wesley Stripes pot-potus "Murder at 1600" and "The Art of War" now has an answer, as Wayne Beach adds director to his resume with the equally unconvincing "Slow Burn."

In a generic mid-size city, a power-hungry district attorney running for mayor tries to quash the potential first term of his top prosecutor (also his girlfriend) having just killed a man. Things unravel quickly and soon it seems a plot to bring down the D.A. has been masterminded by the city's mysterious top criminal. Mo-

tives, allegiances and identities slip and flip faster than Beach can seem to credibly invent motives.

The problem with twist-riddled, shifting-sands thrillers like this is they require the audience to be engaged, in the sense of actually caring about what happens. If the movie can't earn that interaction, which "Slow Burn" definitely does not, then it becomes nothing more than an empty-handed parlor trick. Add wrong-headed fluff on race that Beach tries to weave into the story and the film quickly moves from being merely dopey to the precipice of offense.

— Los Angeles Times

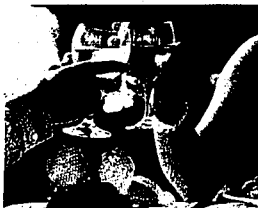
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Local

'Oklahoma!' brings romance back to Howells Opera House

BY LAURIE WELCH
For the Times-News

OAKLEY — Set after the turn of the 20th century in the state of the same name, Oakley Valley Arts Council's production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" is a classic Broadway love story — with classical music to match.

The musical, presented during the Oakley Pioneer Days festivities and in conjunction with Howells Opera House's 100th anniversary, features a true-life love story inside the classic tale of the fight for young love and the wistful memories of an old woman.

The show is co-directed by Christy Jensen and Wendy Morrison. Morrison also plays Aunt Eller, who opens the show churning butter and watching as young lovers Carly (played by Zane Mitton) and Laurey (Eliza Christensen) banter.

It's not the first time on stage in "Oklahoma!" for Morrison. She played Ado Annie in a 1991 OVAC production of the show, where she received her real marriage proposal during a dress rehearsal from her husband, Kevin Morrison, who was then playing Will Parker.

Morrison said bringing the



LAURIE WELCH/South Idaho Press
Alexie Robinson, playing Ado Annie, watches as her father, Andrew Carnes (Denny Davis), persuades reluctant suitor Kili Hakim (Aaron Martsch) to marry her in the Oakley Valley Arts Council's production of "Oklahoma!" The production opens Thursday at Howells Opera House in Oakley.

production back and playing Aunt Eller has been a special experience for her.

"This is an amazing cast," she said.

Leland Loyd plays Parker to Alexie Robinson's Annie, who sings about her troubles saying "no" to men. This leads to strife as her father (Denny Davis) de-

clares to press the marriage issue with one reluctant suitor, Kili Hakim, (Aaron Martsch.)

"The talent is absolutely amazing and there is non-stop entertainment," Morrison said. "There is no down time in this play."

The cast of 50 fills the stage with singing and dancing inter-

spered with the struggle for love — and a little gunfighting.

"Be ready to be entertained," Jensen said. "You will be engaged the whole show. The choreography is upbeat and it is high energy."

Jensen said for the theater's 100th anniversary, OVAC's board chose to bring best-loved pro-

Territory folks

What: The Oakley Valley Arts Council will present Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein's musical "Oklahoma!"
Where: Howells Opera House, Oakley.

When: Thursday, Friday, Monday, Tuesday and July 28-31 and Aug. 2-4, 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, 2 p.m.

How much: Tickets, which are \$8, can be reserved by phoning 677-ARTS.

ductions such as "I Hello Dolly" and "Oklahoma!" back to the stage.

Many of the cast and crew have long-standing ties with the theater — some literally growing up in it — so this production celebrating its 100th year is like coming home.

Jensen, who took a leave of seven years from the stage to raise her family, said it's great to be back working on a production in the theater.

"The people in this are so dedicated and many of us were raised in this building so it is close to our hearts," she said.

This article originally appeared in the South Idaho Press in Burley.

Oakley celebrates Pioneer Days this week

Times-News

OAKLEY — The longest-running community festival in the Magic Valley gets under way again Friday.

Oakleyites have been having fun during Pioneer Days for well more than a century. The town was founded in 1876.

Pioneer Days commemorate the arrival of Brigham Young and Mormon pioneers to the site of present-day Salt Lake City in 1847.

Highlight of the festival is Saturday's Clark's Famous Deep-Pit Barbecue from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Grocer John Clark started the event, which features 400-500

pounds of beef and all the trimmings, in 1962. A 6-foot-by-4-foot concrete barbecue pit is filled with hardwood 18 inches deep to cook the meat for about 18 hours.

Cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. The barbecue attracts between 800-900 people annually.

Other Pioneer Days fun includes two nights of rodeo at the arena, at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday. A dance will follow the rodeo tonight, while fireworks will cap the fun on Saturday.

The annual parade begins at 5 Saturday p.m. at Oakley High School.

There's also a chuckwagon

breakfast Saturday morning from 6:30-10 a.m., the Goose Creek Run at 6 p.m., a Pioneer Days program Saturday at 10 a.m., games for kids in the park at 10 a.m., and entertainment in the park Saturday from 12:30-3 p.m.

Rodeo tickets are \$6. Kids 6 and under get in free.

WETCo brings madcap 'Noises Off' to Buhl High stage

BY BLAIR KOCH

Times-News correspondent

BUHL— Looking for a good time beat the heat and have a way to beat it?

"Noises Off," a Broadway comedy by Michael Frayn, will keep audiences captivated by the high energy and action of slamming doors, lovers' spats and plenty of double entendres, said David Blaszkiewicz, director of the West End Theater Company.

The show opens tonight in the Buhl High School auditorium.

"I have been wanting to do this show since the beginning almost nine years ago because it is just a lot of fun, a great show," Blaszkiewicz said. "With our last production, 'Little Women,' we finally made enough money and had accumulated enough materials to pull it off."

WETCo's cast includes Billy Perry as Lloyd, Tyler Byers as

If you go ...

What: The West End Theater Company will present Michael Frayn's comedy "Noises Off."

Where: Buhl High School auditorium.

When: Today, Friday and Sunday and July 27, 28, 7:30 p.m.

How much: Tickets are available at the door and from cast members. Cost is \$6 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens.

Garry, Bert Ruffing as Freddie, Bill Woodfin as Selsdon, Will Sleep as Tim, Bonnie Berks as Dotie, Tina Hosman as Belinda, Jaime Nebeker as Brooke and Nicole Pearson as Poppy.

"It is hysterical," said Perry, of Twin Falls. "This is good old-fashioned British humor at its best. I hope it inspires others to join WETCo."

The idea for the "Noises Off" came to Frayn in 1970 while he was standing backstage watch-



West End Theater Company presents "Noises Off" starting tonight. Cast members, from left, are Billy Perry, Jaime Nebeker, Bill Woodfin, Tina Hosman, Bonnie Berks, Tyler Byers and Nicole Pearson. At foreground is Bert Ruffing.

ing a performance of "Chinamen," a farce he had written for actress Lynn Redgrave. At the time, he thought the production was funnier from behind than from the front.

The comedy opened on Broadway in 1983 and ran for 553 performances, earning a

Tony Award nomination for Best Play. Director Peter Bogdanovich made it into a movie in 1992.

"Audiences may remember the film version of 'Noises Off,'" which starred Carol Burnett, Michael Caine, John Ritter, Christopher Reeve, Marilu Hen-

ner and Nicolette Sheridan," Blaszkiewicz said. "I think that people will really enjoy the show."

As the story of a touring acting troupe's onstage and backstage antics unfold the set is rotated 180 degrees where the action behind stage becomes center stage. The entourage of "Noises Off" attempts to pull off their own play, "Nothing On," the title of the play-within-a-play. "I get to play Brooke and Vicki, in this business there is nothing like getting to play two characters at the same time. It has been challenging but so much fun," said Nebeker, of Twin Falls. "Not only is the play fast paced and full of physical comedy but there are a lot of hidden meanings so the play is funny on a lot of different levels."

Times-News correspondent Blair Koch can be reached by e-mail at blairkoch@gnmail.com or by calling 316-2607.

Kick up your heels at sprightly chamber music series

BY KAREN BOSKICK

For the Times-News

SUN VALLEY— Ever dance at a chamber music concert?

It's ready. You're about to. Jazz violinist Jeremy Cohen, founder of Quartet Sun Francisco, will close out the third of three chamber music concerts next week with his own arrangements of popular tangos, rumbas and Latin jazz.

"It's going to be really fun," said Jennifer Teisinger, executive director of the Sun Valley Summer Symphony. "It's not your usual classical chamber music series."

The Edgar M. Bronfman Chamber Music Series will kick off the 23rd Sun Valley Summer Symphony season a day earlier than usual— Sunday instead of Monday.

Two other chamber music concerts under the direction of

Steven Honigberg will follow on Tuesday and July 26 before the full symphony strikes up on July 29. The symphony season will run through Aug. 13.

Plankist Jon Nakamatsu, who received rave reviews for his performance of Tschanninoff's second Piano Concerto two summers ago, will perform with the Sun Valley String Quartet at each of the three Edgar M. Bronfman Chamber Music Series concerts.

One of the most sought-after pianists of his generation, Nakamatsu performs throughout the United States, Europe and Japan. He gained global attention in 1997 by being named gold medalist of the Tenth Van

Cliburn International Piano Competition and has subsequently appeared as a soloist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl and the Boston Pops at Tangle-

wood. He performed "Rhapsody in Blue" at the White House for President and Mrs. Clinton.

Mezzo-soprano Lara Nie will make a return appearance on the Sun Valley Summer Symphony stage on Tuesday.

The daughter of the summer symphony's board president, Carol Nie, she has performed at Carnegie Hall and at the Washington Holocaust Museum Chamber Series. She also has sung major roles in operas ranging from "Don Giovanni" to "Così fan Tutte."

Carol Nie said she had nothing to do with booking her daughter. But she's a very proud mama, nevertheless.

"For an amateur singer like myself to have a daughter who's an opera singer — it doesn't get much better than that," she said.

Cohen, a student of Itzhak Perlman and Anne Crowden, has performed as a soloist with nu-

merous orchestras. He recorded with the Turtle Island String Quartet and on numerous motion picture and TV soundtracks, including "The Dukes of Hazzard" and Jane Fonda's "Doll-maker."

Sunday's chamber music concert opens with Borodin's Spring Quartet No. 2. The ivory will then be put to the test on Mendelssohn's Piano Trio in D Minor, which is among the most popular of Mendelssohn's chamber works.

As Robert Schumann remarked after hearing the composition: "He has indeed himself so high that we can nudge say he is the Mozart of the 19th century."

The Tuesday concert opens with Rossini's Due for Cello and Bass, first performed in 1824. Sun Valley Summer Symphony's principal bass player, Stephen Truntonozzi, and his principal

cellist, Honigberg, will perform the fancy finger work for this piece.

Lara Nie then will sing Manuel de Falla's "Siete canciones populares espanoles" (Seven Spanish Folk Songs), accompanied by Nakamatsu.

The concert will close with Ralph Vaughan Williams' Piano Quintet in C Minor.

The final concert, on July 26, will feature Stanley Silverman's "In Celebration" for violin, cello and piano. It will close out with Cohen's arrangements of tangos, rumbas and Latin jazz.

All shows are free and start at 6:30 p.m. on the lawn near the Sun Valley Lodge. For information about the complete symphony season, log onto www.svs-symphony.org

This article first appeared in the Wood River Journal, a weekly newspaper in Halley.

Local

KARAOKE CORNER

DAILY

Twin Falls
Karaoke will be featured from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Klover Klub Lounge. No cover charge. Klover Klub is at 402 Main Ave. N.

DAILY (EXCEPT SUNDAY)

Burley
Karaoke will be featured at 9 p.m. at The Steakhouse and Convention Center. No cover charge. The Steakhouse is at 1340 Oakley Ave.

THURSDAY, JULY 19

Twin Falls
Karaoke will be featured at 9 p.m. at Kruezer's Night Life. No cover charge. Kruezer's is at 121 Fourth Ave. S.

Lone Wolf Entertainment will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Pioneer Club. No cover charge. Pioneer Club is at 1519 Kimberly Road.

P & D Karaoke will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Montana Steak House. No cover charge. Montana Steak House is at 1626 Canyon Crest Drive.

Burley
Knackers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Riverside. Cover charge is \$1. The Riverside is at 197 W. Highway 30.

Declo
Karaoke by Lou Brown will be featured from 8 p.m. to midnight at Shakers. No cover charge. Shakers is at 826 Highway 81.

FRIDAY, JULY 20

Twin Falls
P & D Karaoke will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Montana Steak House. No cover charge. Montana Steak House is at 1626 Canyon Crest Drive.

Lone Wolf Entertainment will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Pioneer Club. No cover charge. Pioneer Club is at 1519 Kimberly Road.

Burley
Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the 610 Club. No cover charge. The 610 Club is at 1054 Overland Ave.

Rupert
Knackers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Melody Bar. No cover charge. Melody Bar is at 502 Sixth St.

Please see **KARAOKE**, Page 15

Fair season starts in Shoshone, Glenns Ferry

Times-News

South-central Idaho's six week-long fair season gets under way when the Lincoln County Fair and Rodeo opens Saturday in Shoshone and the Elmore County Fair and Rodeo opens Monday in Glenns Ferry.

In Shoshone, nine days of fair activities begin with a team roping competition on Saturday in the Lincoln County Fairgrounds arena. On Sunday, a rodeo queen competition will be held on the free stage at the fairgrounds, and on Monday a buckhore rodeo is planned.

On Tuesday, a Mexican rodeo is planned for 7 p.m. in the arena and the popular pig-wrestling event will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday. The annual parade, scheduled for 5 p.m. on July 26, is themed "County Country Spirit."

The Idaho Cowboys Association/Intermountain Professional Cowboys Association rodeo is scheduled for 8 p.m. on July 26-28 with the crowning of the 2007 Lincoln County queen to take place during the rodeo on July 28. Rodeo tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for children.

There will be a tractor pull on July 29 in the arena and Cowboy



There's no time to waste for riders as they compete for the title of Rodeo Queen at the Lincoln County Fair and Rodeo in Shoshone.

Church at 11 o'clock that morning in the 4-H arena.

A display of antique dairy equipment will be set up in the Merchants Building at the fairgrounds by 4-Bros. Dairy of Shoshone.

Admission to the fair is free, and exhibit buildings open daily at 9 a.m. for various 4-H/Future Farmers of America livestock shows. On July 26, the action starts at 8 a.m. with the 4-H/FFA goat show, and the 4-H/FFA dairy show is slated for July 27 at 2 p.m.

The market animal sale — the fair's major event — is planned for 11 a.m. on July 28.

The carnival opens at 4 p.m. on July 26 and at 2 p.m. on July 27-28.

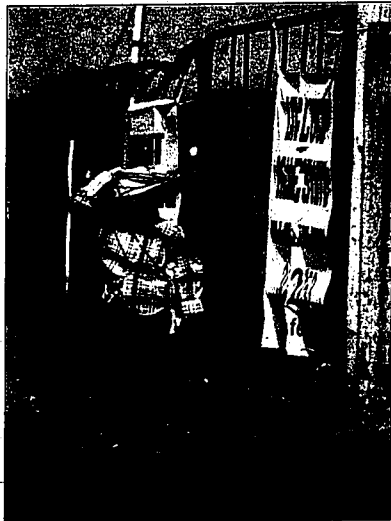
For more information, call 886-2406.

Meanwhile in Glenns Ferry, the fair starts with the 4-H horse show in the Elmore County Fairgrounds Arena at 8 a.m. Monday. The Optimist Youth Organization team sorting is set from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, with open-class judging at 1:30 p.m. and the OYO horse show at 2 p.m. At 7 p.m., a 4-H working horse ranch is planned.

On Wednesday, the Magic Valley Team Sorting is slated for 7 p.m. in the arena, with the Michael Heeb Band — an oldies and Neil Diamond tribute act — performing at 8 p.m. On July 26, there's the All-Youth Junior Rodeo starting at 8 p.m., with Octane to perform on the midway starting at 6 p.m.

On July 27, a working-dog exhibition is set for the arena at 4 p.m. and a concert by the Jeff Palmer Band — a country-western group — at 9 p.m. The opening go-round of the ICA/IMP/CA rodeo is scheduled for 8 p.m.

On July 28, the University of Idaho 4-H Livestock Sale will take place at 9 a.m., with the OYO Livestock Sale to follow at 11:30 p.m. Another working-dog demonstration is sched-



The July 26 junior rodeo is a popular attraction at the Elmore County Fair and Rodeo in Glenns Ferry.

uled at 4 p.m., and another concert by the Jeff Palmer Band at 9 p.m. on the midway. The final go-round of the rodeo starts at 8 p.m.

The Royal West Carnival opens at 4 p.m. on Wednesday and July 26-27 and at noon on July 28. The exhibit building will be open Wednesday from noon to 10 p.m. and July 26-28 from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Admission to the fair for ages 7 and older is \$2; kids 6 and younger get in free. Rodeo tickets are \$6 for adults, \$4 for youth, \$3 for seniors and free for under 6.

For more information call the fair office at (208) 587-2136, Ext. 287.



South-central Idaho dining guide

PAUL

• **Boody Ann Cafe, 323 E. Ellis** — Country breakfasts, chicken-fried steak, fish platter, \$3.25-7.25. **Hours:** Mondays through Fridays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturdays, 6 a.m.-11 a.m.; closed Sundays. **Glenn and Brent Robinson, owners.** 435-8166.

RUPERT

• **Alaska's Best, 504 Sovan St.**, Rupert — Grilled halibut and hot brooder, deep-fried cut, halibut chowder, fish sandwich, \$3.95-39.95. **Hours:** 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and to 8:30 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday and Monday. The July events will introduce patio seating and a room for groups of up to 15. **Ron and Deb Anderson, and Leonard and Betty Martin, owners.** 438-2447.

SHOSHONE

• **Edwardo's Mexican Restaurant, 113 Fall St.** — Enchiladas, specialty camarones, Eduardo's Mexican chicken shrimp beef fajitas, 24 combo combination meals, \$2.50-16.95. **Hours:** 11 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. **Edwardo Merin, owner.** 544-7710.

• **Manhattan Cafe, 133 S. Fall St.** W.—Burgers, chicken-fried steak, prime rib specials, steak, \$3.95-9.10. **Hours:** Sundays through Thursdays, 6 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 8 a.m.-10:30 p.m. **George and Jerry Hays, owners.** 686-2142.

• **New China Town, 222 N. Fall St. W.** — Family-style dining, Mandarin chicken wings, \$2.50. **Hours:** Daily, 11 a.m.-8:30 p.m. **Jing Wei, owner.** 686-7169.

SUN VALLEY

• **Bald Mountain Plaza, Sun Valley Village** — Pizza, pasta bowls, \$10-15. Beer and wine. **Hours:** Daily, 5:30-10 p.m. 622-2143.

• **Gutierrez's Restaurant, First Road, Sun Valley 10039** — Salads, sandwiches, pasta, breakfast, \$10-15. Full bar. **Hours:** Daily, 3 a.m.-10 p.m. 622-2144.

• **Inn Lobby Lounge, Sun Valley Inn** — Appetizers, sandwiches, seafood, \$5-10. Full bar. **Hours:** Daily, 7 a.m.-9:30 p.m.; breakfast buffet, 7-11 a.m. 622-2202.

• **Kamohorei, Sun Valley Village** — Pasta, seafood, breakfast, sandwiches, \$5-10. Beer and wine. **Hours:** Daily, 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. 622-2155.

• **Lodge Dining Room, second floor, Sun Valley Lodge** — Specialty seafood, poultry, game, \$27-52. Full bar. **Hours:** Mondays through Saturdays, 6:30-10 p.m.; Sunday brunch, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. 622-2159.

• **Ram Restaurant, Sun Valley Village** — Steaks, seafood, poultry, \$22-95-146. Full bar. **Hours:** Daily, 6-9:30 p.m. 622-2225.

"I've always seen myself as the hillbilly version of (Eric Clapton) — a heavier version."

— Vince Gill

Discover the many sides of Vince Gill

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Vince Gill was born a frequent visitor to XM Satellite Radio's studios here, particularly in December when he stopped in to tape three programs in support of his latest album, "These Days." Not surprisingly, Gill is also a fan of satellite radio because, he said, "I can tune in and listen to whatever I want."

And, he added, "That's the beauty of this record: It can get played on about eight of their channels."

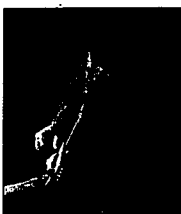
That's because "These Days" isn't just an album; it's a box set. And not just a box set, but one consisting of 43 new songs, all written or co-written and co-produced by Gill — surely a first for a major-commercial-artist. The songs were loosely arranged around four genre-focused discs: country-rock on "Workin' on a Big Chill," country-pop on "The Reason Why," traditional country on "Some Things Never Get Old" and bluegrass on the acoustic "Little Brother."

It was, Gill has joked, "recording in bulk, like Costco." Amazingly, Gill had only three records in mind, intending them to be released individually in the course of a year. It was his UMG Nashville label boss, Luke Lewis, who not only suggested the bluegrass project but decided to release the albums as a box set.

Lewis, obviously a fan as well as an executive, is still in charge at the label.

"Evidently," Gill said happily, "he's got enough artist selling a lot of records — he's OK."

And when was the last time a record company boss said, "I want more?"



"Radio has pretty much ignored (my latest album), hasn't played the singles. I hear it on satellite radio and in different places, so it's getting a neat across-the-board kind of support, but nothing major," Gill said.

"Exactly," Gill said approvingly. "It's so against the grain of what would make common sense in today's record industry."

It helped that UMG priced the box set at \$30, allowing retailers to sell it for as low as \$20 — that's \$5 a disc, '50s-style retro-pricing. Of course, it was also recognition that Gill has sold more than 25 million albums while piling up the most wins by any country artist at the Grammys (18).

"These Days" went platinum: The Recording Industry Association of America certified its sales at more than 300,000, and since each disc counts as a single record, that platinum the hard way.

"I don't think I've seen critical acclaim for anything I've ever done on a par with this," Gill said. "That and Don Imus" — who gave the set major support on its release when he was on the air — "were the catalyst for this record to do well. Radio has pretty much

ignored it, hasn't played the singles. I hear it on satellite radio and in different places, so it's getting a neat across-the-board kind of support, but nothing major."

That is noted in Gill's engaging, self-effacing manner. An easygoing balance of charm, good humor and good looks made him one of country's biggest and best loved stars in the '90s. For 12 straight years, he hosted the annual Country Music Awards, taking home 10 of those awards, the most for any single artist.

As big as he'd been, Gill found himself caught in a familiar pattern in 2003, also the last year he hosted the CMAs: His "Next Big Thing" album was one of his best, but the numbers didn't reflect that.

"For the last five or six years, I was not the favorite son of having his records, getting a lot of radio play," said Gill, who turned 50 in April. "The real fan base that I think I've always had was the one thing that consistently showed up for 'Next Big Thing,' and I thought: Why am I trying to convince all these other people that aren't on board — I really want to point to the ones that are. They like what I do, no matter how different, so everything (on 'These Days') was geared to myself and that hardcore fan base."

In 2004, legendary guitarist Eric Clapton invited Gill to participate in his fundraising Crossroads Guitar Festival, the only country artist so invited, in recognition of his reputation as one of the best pickers in Nashville; where great pickers are hardly a rarity. Gill and Clapton seem attuned temperamentally, with an approach to playing that balances virtuosly and sensitivity.

Dining/Music KARAOKE CORNER

continued from page 14

Report
Wanna-be Star Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Blue Room. No cover charge. The Blue Room is at 613 Fremont.

SATURDAY, JULY 21

Twin Falls
P & D Karaoke will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Montana Steak House. No cover charge. Montana Steak House is at 1826 Canyon Crest Drive.

Lone Wolf Entertainment will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Pioneer Club. No cover charge. Pioneer Club is at 1519 Kimberly Road.

Burley
Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the 610 Club. No cover charge. The 610 Club is at 1054 Overland Ave.

Kroakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Riverside. Cover charge is \$2. The Riverside is at 197 W. Highway 30.

Report
High Mountain Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Blue Room. No cover charge. The Blue Room is at 613 Fremont.

Declo
Miller Time Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Big Kahuna. No cover charge. Big Kahuna is at 9 E. Main.

MONDAY, JULY 23

Twin Falls
Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the Colfax Room at Woody's. No cover charge. Woody's is at 213 First Ave. S.

TUESDAY, JULY 24

Twin Falls
Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the Colfax Room at Woody's. No cover charge. Woody's is at 213 First Ave. S.

Burley
Kroakers Karaoke will be featured from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Cheers. No cover charge. Cheers is at 103 W. Highway 30.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25

Twin Falls
P & D Karaoke will be featured from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Montana Steak House. No cover charge. Montana Steak House is at 1826 Canyon Crest Drive.

Sound bites: RECENT CD RELEASES



Atlantic Records

T.I.
"TI vs. T.I."
 (Atlantic)

Back on 2003's "Trap Muzik," Atlanta rapper T.I. battled with his own alter-ego, T.I.P. Then the song was a near-but-skip-pable idea. Now he's gone and made it the whole premise of the follow-up album to "King," his biggest commercial success to date.

"T.I. vs. T.I.P.," which drops Tuesday, ends up being a kind of musical "Fight Club." T.I.P. would be Brad Pitt's Tyler Durden, with a tight fade and a black T-shirt, while his smooth but corporate counterpart, T.I., would be Ed Norton's character. (You can almost imagine T.I. rapping, a la the movie, "I am Jack's complete lack of backbone.")

The album is a result of the kind of creative claustrophobia that comes with making a record that sells 500,000 copies in its first week. After "King," T.I. seems to be wondering, "What do I do next?"

The problem with concept

records is that after a while no one cares about the concept.

T.I., who for simplicity's sake, will be called from here out by his government name, Clifford Harris, works his idea out by splitting the album into three acts. The first uses menacing beats and sandpaper rhymes to lay out the character of T.I.P., who could sell crack by the bushel if he wanted to. In the second act, Just Blaze's drums and Wyclef Jean's screams underline the cleaner, cooler, safer T.I., whose life is a big jet-riding, drink-sippin', girl-getting afterparty.

The hole in the concept is that the differences between the two characters aren't that great. There's a point in the third act where the two finally collide. It's hard to tell who's who, and after a while you really stop caring. All this ends up distracting from the important part, which is the music.

—Boston Globe

The boys who brought the world "Slippery When Wet" were in the midst of a second wind, having been rediscovered (in an entirely un-ironic way) by the iPod generation. Dishing out a few critically well-received but creatively inert records ("Bounce", "Have a Nice Day"), Bon Jovi saw the light with 2005's "Day." A duet with Sugarland's Jennifer Nettles ("Who Says You Can't Go Home") cracked open the country market for the rock band, making that cowboy hat fun. Bon Jovi always sports a little less goofy.

Bon Jovi is telling anyone who'll listen that its 10th studio album, "Lost Highway", is the New Jersey rockers' big foray into country, as though that means anything in 2007. Most major country stars these days incorporate so many of the rock ingredients into their sound (big

Bon Jovi
"Lost Highway"
 (Mercury Nashville)



Sony Music

guitars, hooky choruses) that the line between the two genres is nonexistent. Maybe earlier incarnations of these songs had more country flourishes, but save for a stray lick of pedal steel here and there, "Lost Highway" is standard-issue Bon Jovi. It's competent, a little cocky and sleek, but the only

track that comes genuinely close to bridging the two worlds is penultimate track "One Step Closer."

According to various sources, the band won't mount a world tour in support of "Lost Highway" until early 2008.

—Fort Worth Star Telegram

Bruce Springsteen
"Live in Dublin"
 (Sony)

If he is remembered for nothing else, Bruce Springsteen will go down as modern music's best reinterpreter of his own material. For years, as his fans will attest, he's managed to rework songs in a way that reveals new intricacies to them that even the most avid listener couldn't have seen coming.

This is most often apparent in his live performances and albums, of which "Live in Dublin"

is the sixth — and one of the best. Springsteen performs with the folksy, cobble-together "Sessions Band" that he used to produce his last studio album, a front-porch reading of great American folk music on which he put his own music-scholar stamp.

On the live album, he folds his own songs into the rootsy mix that includes the standards from the last album. They all blend together in a rich stew that voices

the intention that he considers his own work to stand alongside "We Shall Overcome" and "When the Saints Go Marching In" as important American music.

In the meantime, Springsteen's made one of the biggest artistic leaps in his long career, and shown us the direction he intends to stay on in the future. Not a bad one, probably.

—Dayton Daily News

Various artists
"High School Musical"
 (Disney)

leased in early May titled "High School Musical: The Concert."

The set includes a CD and DVD of live performances from a concert filmed in Houston. The vocals are impressive but there is little difference between the live performances and those heard recorded for the film. Four bonus

concert tracks feature solo performances from the actors such as Corbin Bleu and Ashley Tisdale who have made debut albums in the past year. The style of their songs are young and hip; blending into the familiar genre of the "High School Musical" songs.

—Dayton Daily News